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Philippine Center for
Economic Development

present a seminar on

Love thy neighbor: An analysis of the incidence of violent conflicts in the Autonomous Region of Muslim Mindanao

by

Joseph J. Capuno

28 September, Wednesday

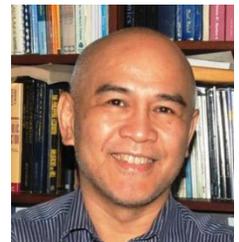
4:00-5:00 p.m. – Room 303

Abstract:

Violent conflicts – including skirmishes among tribes, clans or groups, and armed challenges against the State – are widespread and persistent. They exact heavy economic and social toll, even after they have ceased. Like other developing countries, the Philippines has a long history of internecine warfare or violent conflicts, especially in Mindanao where the secessionist strife since the 1970s alone have resulted in enormous human and economic costs. That these conflicts continue to this day underscore the need for a better understanding of their causes to guide policy. Applying regression analysis on the conflict dataset for 2011-2014 of the Bangsamoro Conflict Monitoring System, we identify the important correlates of the incidence of violent conflicts in the cities and municipalities of the Autonomous Region of Muslim Mindanao. In general, we find that the incidence of violent discords is not strongly associated with the internal revenue allocations of the local governments, locality's poverty rate, the mayor's re-election status, or the mayor's kinship relations with the vice mayor or the district representative to Congress. However, the mayor's kinship tie with governor is negatively correlated with the incidence. The incidence is generally higher in cities, especially in Cotabato City, than in municipalities, and in provincial capitals. Further, Lanao de Sur appears less violent than Maguindanao, where the incidence is similar to that in Basilan, Sulu or Tawi Tawi. Landlocked LGUs also appear less prone to identity conflicts, whereas island municipalities are neither more nor less susceptible to violent conflicts than LGUs that share land borders. While not necessarily causal, the observed correlations can be used to identify “flash points” or “hot spots” to where policy interventions can be focused.

About the speaker:

Joseph J. Capuno is professor and research director at the University of the Philippines School of Economics.



Free and open to the public

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