Overview of Urbanization in the Philippines

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Outline of Presentation

Concepts in Urbanization

Urban Development Phases

Trends in Urbanization in the Philippines

Impacts of Urbanization

Challenges and Recommendations
Concepts in Urbanization

- **Urbanization** - process which leads to a higher proportion of the total population of an area to live in cities and towns
  - Urbanization can be quantified in terms of:
    - the level of urban development relative to the overall population, or
    - the *rate* at which the urban proportion of the population is increasing.
- **Urban growth** - absolute or simple growth in the number of urban dwellers
- **Urbanism** - characteristic way of life of urban dwellers
- **Development** inevitably entails an increase in urbanization - because the engines of economic growth lie in the cities
Phases of Urban Developments and Settlement Patterns in the Philippines

- Pre-Spanish settlements
  - Well-organized/large settlements
  - Pre-existing customary laws
  - Commerce and trade relations with Ming Dynasty China and the Kingdom of Java.
Plaza complex

- Introduced by the Spanish colonizers which required that houses should be built around an open space which they called the plaza.

- The plaza has been the core of every Spanish colonial settlement in the Philippines.

- It consisted of an open space, usually rectangular or square in shape, a chapel or church, a convent, a municipio or tribunal, a market place, a cemetery, and the residences around it.

- This physical set-up enabled the Spaniards to effectively manage and control the natives and to bring them closer to Catholicism - Spanish strategy of church-centered spatial organization.
City Beautiful Movement

The City Beautiful Movement was a reform movement in North American architecture and urban planning that flourished in the 1890s and 1900s with the intent of using beautification and monumental grandeur in cities. (e.g. Washington DC, New Delhi, Canberra).

Archt. Daniel H. Burnham was the leading exponent of the City Beautiful Movement and was also responsible for the masterplans of the capital city, Manila and the Baguio Hill Station in 1905.

Known for his motto, “make no little plans”, his Manila plan included a central civic core to house government buildings in a formal pattern around a rectangular mall (modelled after the National Mall in Washington DC), radial street patterns, large parks and parkway system.

Other cities that were planned following the city beautiful pattern included Cebu and Zamboanga. Manila landmarks built in the early American period were the Army and Navy Club, YMCA, Elk’s club, and the Manila Hotel.
Does this look like a "poor, third-world country" anymore?

Growth of the City, as viewed through skyscrapers

MAKATI Skyline
Philippine Population and Urbanization Trends

12th most populated country in the world (between Mexico and Ethiopia)

- Population in 2013: 98,734,798
- Growth rate per annum: 1.89% (2010 national census)

July 27, 2014: Philippine population officially hits 100 million
Philippine Population and Urbanization Trends

- Urban Population (2011): 49% of Total Population
- Rate of Urbanization: 2.16% (2010-2015 est.)

Projected to increase to 65% by 2030

Source: UNICEF, NSO Census Data, and Human Settlement 2004-Philippines
Greater Manila urban area: NCR and nearby urban areas of Bulacan, Rizal, Cavite, and Laguna

- 25 million population

Uneven pattern of urban growth among geographical regions

Top largest cities (Pop.): Quezon City, Manila, Caloocan, and Davao.

Davao City: Only city outside M.Mla with a million population
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<th>Name</th>
<th>Country</th>
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Source: Compiled from UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs. World Urbanization Prospects 2011. 2012.
Varying Rates of Urbanization

- Is population size related to level of urbanization?

- Some variations in levels of urbanization could be attributed to the varying levels of industrialization and/or economic opportunities.

- Must distinguish however between ‘true’ urbanization where there is a concurrent expansion of non-agricultural activities and ‘false’ urbanization where people live in cities but do not really have fulfilling jobs.
Chronic under-employment

- Inadequate housing
- Overcrowding / Congestion
- Decreasing green area
- Decreasing water supply
- Increasing GHG emission from construction, industries, transport and other sectors, & urban lifestyle

Large scale urban Development eating up food production & protection area

- Risks of disasters, e.g. flooding
- Health risks
- Overall decrease in quality of life
Challenges of Urbanization

Acute shortage of potable water

Inadequate sanitation coverage and poor services

Frequent flooding and rising flood damage

Poor solid waste disposal

Inefficient urban transport
Conclusions/Recommendations

Increasing urbanization require major adjustments in:
- housing and employment provisions
- Consumption patterns
- Social interactions and infrastructure management

Need to formulate/improve and implement an overall urban development plan to:
- include strategic infrastructure investments to shape urban development and growth corridors
- facilitate the circulation of people between production spaces and social spaces
- decongest the metropolis
- enforce slum clearance and urban renewal
- Flood control management strategies and infrastructure
- Require cities to plan for smart growth and liveability
Thank You!

The bay skyline of the City of Manila as viewed from Harbour Square in the CCP Complex. (2009)