



SYSTEMS PLUS COLLEGE FOUNDATION

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Demographic Research and Community Service Pegged as Key Goals of the Philippine Amerasian Research Center (PARC) at Systems Plus College Foundation

ANGELES CITY, Pampanga, Luzon, the Philippines – The recently formed Philippine Amerasian Research Center (PARC) at Systems Plus College Foundation (SPCF) in Balibago outlined demographic research and community service to Amerasians as two of its most immediate goals. Prof. Jose G. Maria Pelayo III, MASD, senior research officer at the SPCF Centre for Social Research and PARC's deputy director, said the new Filipino Amerasian study unit at the college "is in the process of developing in a number of strategic directions; demographic research and community service are two of our most logical options. Our primary concern is meaningful research and community service to marginalized and at risk Amerasians here locally and regionally as a way of ultimately improving their human condition."

PARC, co-located with the College of Social Work and Social Research Centre at SPCF, was authorized by the college's board of director's in December, 2011. It is believed to be the first and only study research center in either the Philippines or the U.S. focused solely on the plight of African, Anglo or Hispanic Filipino Amerasians. An estimated 50,000+ mixed heritage Amerasians were left by U.S. servicemen, federal employees or private defense contractor fathers when U.S. bases were withdrawn in 1991-1992.

"There is a tremendous research deficit in both countries when it comes to empirical knowledge on socioeconomic and psychosocial issues confronting this population," said Dr. P.C. "Pete" Kutschera, PHD, a New York licensed social worker who is PARC's director. "SPCF, as a growing college in central Luzon, is uniquely configured to help fill that deficit. We believe that the largest known concentration of Amerasians in Southeast and East Asia – from 6,000 to 12,000 -- may well reside in this region. That number would be even larger if second generation Amerasians are factored into the equation."

Among other targets, PARC representatives outlined the following demographic research goals:

--Commence enumeration or census research of Amerasians in the Angeles City-Pampanga province area, identifying aspects of socioeconomic status with a view towards formulating and developing an expanding data research base for purposes of social work and social scientific and related research.

–Perform empirical studies and seek publication in Philippine, U.S. American, U.K., Canadian, Australian, Hong Kong, and Singapore academic journals publicizing results of research findings and results involving Filipino and Pan Amerasian populations.

–Build an enhanced, interactive PARC home page within the main SPCF website, focusing on current and emerging Amerasian research and community activities and issues. Through the Internet and publication initiatives, PARC will also seek to establish empirical research dialogues, publication linkages and affiliations with international level universities engaged in Asian and Pacific Islander academic research.

Under community service initiatives, PARC seeks to:

--Assist and cooperate with grass roots Philippine and U.S.-based organizations supporting the reunification of Amerasian families to include assisting individuals, groups and organizations in locating their biological fathers and other family loved ones. PARC will also seek further cooperation with such organizations by advocating for easement of U.S. immigration regulations with a view towards supporting family unification through visa entry or emigration of those Amerasians who seek U.S. permanent residency or citizenship.

–By establishing an academic research presence, PARC aims to create scholarships for low income and deserving Amerasians working in conjunction with local, national and international merchants, businesses, foundations and NGO organizations and agencies.. It will also aim to establish collaboration with the local government for education and health services for Amerasians in Angeles City.

Dr, Paulo O.J. Fuller, who holds his PHD from the University at Oxford, serves as the Dean of the SPCF College of Social Work and Director of the Social Research Centre.”PARC and its work on behalf of Amerasians adds a much needed perspective on social research we are undertaking in Angeles City,” he said. The U.K. educator also heads the Renew Foundation which is involved in research and protection of human rights for prostituted women and victims of human trafficking in the region.

PARC and SPCF entered into a research collaborative partnership with the New York-based National Amerasian Research Institute [Provisional] (NARI-P) when the college’s Board of Directors approved PARC’s formation last December. The action occurred after Dr. Kutschera had presented his multiple-case study dissertation, “Stigma, Psychosocial Risk and Mental Health Symptomatology,” at SPCF’s Spring, 2011 Guest Lecture Series III and was named visiting professor at the College of Social Work later that year. Kutschera is NARI’s founder and chief academic officer. He said NARI-P would file for non-profit, non-government organization registry with the office of the New York Department of State later this year.