

## **ERNESTO M. PERNIA, PH.D.**

Secretary of Socioeconomic Planning, Director-General  
National Economic and Development Authority (NEDA)



Socioeconomic Planning Secretary and NEDA Director-General Ernesto M. Pernia has close to 18 years' experience at the Asian Development Bank (ADB), starting as Economist, rising to Senior Economist, Principal Economist, and then Lead Economist.

He developed and directed projects in various Asian countries on investment climate and productivity, economic growth and poverty reduction, education and health, human resource development, and regional economic cooperation. In 1996, he led staff and a dozen consultants that produced the seven-volume study "East ASEAN Growth Area: Brunei Darussalam, Indonesia, Malaysia, Philippines" which provided the roadmap for the implementation of the landmark regional cooperation undertakings. Besides Asia, he represented ADB at various international development conferences in North and Latin America, Europe and Africa.

Concurrently, he is also a Professor Emeritus at the University of the Philippines School of Economics.

For several years, Sec. Pernia was granted several trusteeships from eminent institutions in the country. From 2011 to 2014, he chaired the Board of Trustees of the University of San Carlos. He was director of the board of the Philippine-American Academy of Science and Engineering from 2008 to 2013. At present, he sits on the boards of Holy Name University in Tagbilaran City, Philippine-Russian Business Assembly and a number of NGOs, such as the Philippine Center for Population and Development, which are involved in promoting quality education and health, science and technology, poverty reduction, improved governance, and population and development.

During his days in the academe, Sec. Pernia served as Director for Research and was a Visiting Research Fellow at the East-West Center Resource Systems Institute in Hawaii. In tandem with the International Labour Organization, he did consultancy work for population and employment policies for the Asia-Pacific region. Other international organizations like the World Bank and United Nations also consulted him in various projects.

Sec. Pernia is a celebrated author of economics, having published books and articles about the field in international professional journals. In February 2015, he was chosen by the Philippine-American Academy of Science and Engineering (PAASE) for Science Award. In March 2011, he received the prestigious Achievement Award for Social Sciences from the National Research Council of the Philippines of the Department of Science and Technology (DOST). In 2009, he was given the Outstanding Boholano Around the World Award for exemplary practice in the field of economics.

Sec. Pernia obtained his PhD from the University of California Berkeley on a Ford Foundation scholarship and a Smithsonian Institution dissertation grant. He was granted the *Balik Scientist* award by the DOST. He received the first award as Outstanding Young Scientist for economics and social sciences from the National Academy of Science and Technology.

He ranks 7th among 250 scientists in the Philippines according to Google Scholar Citations public profiles.