

**GLOBAL COMPETITIVENESS IN ENGINEERING  
AND TECHNOLOGY PRACTICE**

**Academician Angel L. Lazaro III, Ph.D.**

Managing Partner, Angel Lazaro and Associates  
Consulting Architects and Engineers  
Panay Ave. cor EDSA, Quezon City  
email: alazaro@yahoo.com

The paper first points out the many aspects of global competitiveness, then identifies the limit of discussion to global competitiveness in Engineering and Technology Practice. The various stakeholders are identified. Indicators of global competitiveness are identified and discussed, distinguishing between those applicable to individual Filipinos and to Filipino entities (companies/firms). Conclusions on the current competitiveness of Filipinos and Filipino entities are presented. The various issues affecting competitiveness are presented and analyzed. Finally, recommendations to improve or achieve global competitiveness are presented, including specific detailed course of actions and identifying the implementing agencies or organizations.

**Keywords:** global competitiveness, engineering, and technology practice

***HEALTH SCIENCES***

**THE NATIONAL HEALTH INSURANCE PROGRAM  
IN THE FACE OF THE DEMOGRAPHIC CRISIS**

**Francisco T. Duque III, MD, Msc**

President and CEO, Philippine Health Insurance Corporation  
City State Centre, 709 Shaw Blvd., Pasig City

The population of the Philippines is growing at an annual rate of 2.36 percent or an additional 1.5 million Filipinos everyday. If the growth rate remains at such level, the population would double in 29 years. The population structure is triangular suggesting a high young age dependency. Due to population

momentum, the country is expected to have a young population in the next three decades.

Actual fertility is one and half births more than replacement fertility and one birth more than desired fertility, suggesting unmet need for family planning. Unwanted fertility remains high due to inadequate access to FP supplies and services and as a result of the devolution of responsibility for services to the local government units.

The country is one of the developing countries that is expected to make the demographic transition between 2015 and 2025. The population will be characterized by a peak ration of workers to dependent population. Past mortality and fertility gains coupled with rising life expectancy and improvement in the health situation will cause an irreversible and inevitable graying revolution, the increase in the elderly population. The Philippines has to be ready for this looming crisis. The National Health Insurance Program is a potential system that can help meet this challenge with its feature of universality, with an increasing membership base, improved benefits provision, and expanding administrative infrastructure. It will soon have an effective and efficient information and communication system that will complement the reengineered business process, and most important of all, the ability to leverage its robust financial position for better delivery of quality health care by both public and private health care providers.

Universal health insurance coverage can help bring back the glorious days of an integrated health care system that the Philippine populace truly deserves. When the country is confronted with the demographic dividend, PhilHealth can help the country get rich before it gets old.

**Keywords:** insurance, demographic crisis