

IMPACT of an EEPSEA TRAINEE on *Education at UPLB*

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The Beginning

Way back in mid 1996, after my term as Chair of the Department of Economics at the University of the Philippines Los Baños, I was so exhausted with administrative work and I want to have a fresh start.



Figure 1 - Picture of the entrance of UPLB

During that time the issue of environmental problem was already pressing. My knowledge about natural resource and environment was limited and I thought of attending an environmental economic short course. While there are existing natural resource economics courses at UPLB, these focus on the efficient use of resources but nothing about the externalities caused by this use. Through Dr. Hermi Francisco, I learned that EEPSEA is giving post doctoral grants to faculty members to pursue enrichment courses in natural resource and environmental economics. I immediately sent an email to Dr. David Glover, the Director of EEPSEA during that time, and inquire about the grant. The response was immediate and positive. I was told that EEPSEA is funding post doctoral studies in a Canadian University. I immediately wrote Dr. George Kennedy, a faculty member of the University of British Columbia (UBC) in Vancouver, Canada and the coordinator of the Southeast Asian Regional Center for Graduate Study and Research in Agriculture (SEARCA) University Consortium where UBC is an associate member, about the possibility for me to have my post doctoral enrichment course at UBC. The process went on smoothly and by the Fall Term of 1997 I was at UBC where I met well known people in natural resource and environmental economics. I took advanced courses in Natural Resources Economics, Policy Analysis, Economics of Conservation and, since I have no background about environmental economics, both the intermediate and advanced Environmental Economics Courses. Despite my being special student in each class I attended the courses religiously and comply with all the requirements. It was also here at UBC where I developed the first of my three EEPSEA funded research studies.

Grants from EEPSEA

In addition to the post doctoral fellowship, EEPSEA provided me research grants and attendance to short courses. The three research studies that I conducted through EEPSEA

included the following: a) Transaction Costs of Implementing a Coastal Resource Management Program: The Case of San Miguel Bay, Philippines; b) Aquaculture Pollution in Lingayen Gulf, Northern Philippines: The Case of Bolinao; and c) Financing Solid Waste Management Program and Implementation Constraints of the Local Government Units. Results of these studies were published as EEPSEA Research Reports or Working Paper.



EEPSEA bi annual workshop,
May 1998, Anna Hotel, Singapore



PES Training in Chiangmai Thailand, April 2009

The short-term courses that I availed off through EEPSEA are the following: a) The Science, Economics and Institutions of Managing and Paying for Environmental Services. Training Workshop; b) Contingent Valuation and Choice Modeling; c) Environmental Econometrics training Course; d) Coastal Ecology Raining Course; and e) Environmental Science and Engineering for Economists; Management of Air and Water Pollution.

Impact of the Trainings on UPLB Environmental Economics Program

The knowledge gained from all these EEPSEA grants provided me with the opportunity to strengthen the natural resource economics program which is already existing at UPLB. The courses from UBC provided me with the background for the institution of a course on Environmental Economics that further enriched our offering of the natural resource and environmental economics as a major field. Since it will take time before a course is approved by the University, I offered Environmental Economics during the second semester of 1998 – 1999 as a Special Topic with 12 junior and senior students of the BS Economics degree. The course was taught as special topic every second semester for four years. This was to make sure that everything is polished before instituting it as a regular course. The feedback of the students inspired me pursue the institution of a regular course in environmental economics. Similar with other courses at

UPLB the process of instituting it as a course did not happen overnight. It passed through several committee levels for comments and approval before final endorsement to the President of the University of the Philippine system for the final action. After years of struggling it out in these committees, the course was finally approved for institution by the President of the University of the Philippine System in January 2006 as ECON 172 (Economics Analysis of Pollution Control Policies and Regulations). It is offered every second semester and is taken by major students of Economics and graduate students from the school of Environmental Science and College of Forestry and Natural Resources. The knowledge and experiences gained from the research studies and the training that I attended provided me with the information that were used as examples to illustrate the environmental problems and the relevant policy approaches. I believed that the institution of this course broaden the knowledge of our graduates on natural resource and environmental economics. It is hoped that through these students, my experience from EEPSEA would have multiplier effects on education not only in the Philippines but other ASEAN countries as well through our foreign students.

Career and Opportunities

In addition to the institution of a course on environmental economics, the knowledge that I gained from my post doctoral training opened me the door for further professional growth. I have been chosen by local and foreign graduate students in Economics, Agricultural Economics and Environmental Science to serve as member if not chair of their advisory committee. In this way I am able to impart my knowledge on resource and environmental economics and hopefully would have ripple effects in the growing body of knowledge in resource and environmental economics. I cannot do all these without the support of EEPSEA. At the moment, I am the only one teaching ECON 172 in our department. I see this as an opportunity to mentor our junior faculty members who eventually will take over in teaching the course.

ECONOMICS 172 The Economics of Pollution Control and Regulations Second Semester 2009 - 2010	
Lecturer: Z. M. Sumalde Office: Rm 6 Dept of Economics Consultation Hrs: WF = 8:00 - 10:00; Th = 9:00 - 12:00; 1:00 - 4:00	
Course Description:	
The course focuses on the consequences of economic activities on environmental quality and on the analysis of alternative policies and regulations to deal with environmental pollution. Emphasis will be on the analysis of different policies and control instruments of air, land and water pollution. Experiences of environmental policies and regulations in different countries will be discussed. Issues about climate change, solid waste management and link between international trade and environment will also be discussed.	
Prerequisite: ECO 102	
A. Course Outline	
1. Objectives of the Course:	
At the end of the course, the students should be able to:	
a. explain the link between economic activities and the environment;	
b. identify and explain the problems associated with the different types of pollutants;	
c. identify and discuss the different policies to control pollution;	
d. analyze the effects of the different pollution regulations in mitigating pollution; and	
e. explain the linkage between economic growth, international trade and pollution	