

Project Title: *Political Leadership and Culture: Implications for Development in Selected Asian and Latin American Countries*

Project Researcher: Joseph I. B. Gonzales

Project Description: Quantitative associations have been demonstrated among empirical measures of culture, governance, corruption, and development, showing that cultural factors directly affect economic development. However, it is argued that culture changes slowly, if at all, so that any attempt to influence culture in the direction of supporting development will be minimally effectual if not wholly inutile. On the other hand, it has been shown rather extensively that corporate leadership powerfully influences corporate culture, and that the values and attitudes of employees significantly affect the exercise of corporate leadership. Similarly, political leadership and culture reveal a reciprocal dynamic, although it has been less robustly demonstrated and deeply explored. The purpose of this study is to investigate the relationship between political leadership, culture, and development and to draw the implications for development in general and for the Philippines in particular. Both quantitative and qualitative methods of analysis will be used. The scope of the study will be limited mainly to South, Southeast Asian, and Latin American countries, because of their cultural proximity to the Philippines and their relative parity in level of development. Besides the analysis of associations among empirical measures of political leadership, culture, and development, in-depth investigation of specific countries will be undertaken to account for the quantitative results. Implications will be drawn for the exercise of political leadership in the Philippines.