Thesis: Philosophy, New Challenges and SPC Concept

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Background:

Acadamia.edu Team initiated thesis preparation for this discussion. Theses reacts on Dr Rolando Gripaldo paper CAMBODIAN INTELLECTUAL DEVELOPMENT THROUGH PHILOSOPHY (2004), and following papers:

- THE PHILIPPINES: PAST, PRESENT, AND FUTURE (Rolando Gripaldo, 2006) and FILIPINO PHILOSOPHY: PAST AND PRESENT (Rolando Gripaldo, 2013)
- ACCOUNTABILITY FOR DISASTER RISK REDUCTION – LESSONS FOR THE PHILIPPINES, (Polack, E., Luna, E.M. and Dator-Bercilla, J., 2010), and
- A GUIDE TO DISASTER RISK REDUCTION AND CLIMATE CHANGE (TOWARD RESILIENCE, prepared by Marilise Turnbull, Charlotte L. Serrett, and Amy Hilleboe, 2013).

Thesis advocate the SPC Concept on the Acadamia.edu website represented by the SCP CONCEPT BLUEPRINT, 2013 prepared by Zdenek Chalus and 5Pforres team *(more please see on the www.5pforres.eu).*

Initial notes:

Philosophy is an excellent science and new challenges exist. It's very good. Thesis stimulates a discussion whether and how communities focused on new challenges and interprets community's position in the present world. The most crucial is the everyday appearance of philosophy, which is disseminated by political and religious ideologies. We see an option to diversion from too general and "all-inclusive" theorizing in favour of testing of specific results by pilot applications.

Philosophy and intellectualization: Mr. Rolando M. Gripaldo discuss how philosophy can contribute to the development of the Intellectual Project (IP), intellectual theorizing aimed at uplifting groups or nations less developed to a stage where benefits of intellectualization become a positive contribution to the general welfare of the people.
The IP can be approached from various academic disciplines and, when viewed from an interdisciplinary holistic perspective, it can provide the utmost positive benefit for a given group or nation.
Philosophy is presented as an intellectual discipline that essentially uses reason as a faculty of finding solutions to philosophical issues. In the field of science, both social and natural, it takes the form of scientific theorizing.
It tests natural laws (e.g., by Newton, Einstein) and new discoveries in universe and in the micro world (e.g. new field of physics and biology).
The author prefers genuine philosophizing, or what he called as a “philosophy proper” derived from ethnophilosophy (folk philosophy). Philosophic sagacity is perceived as the articulation of folk wisdom derived from folk philosophy.
Philosophy is a science with principles that should be respected by all the objects mentioned above (coming from both science and folk levels, e.g., quantum theory is for scientists but the principle of a double lever, it is a practical output for day-to-day life).
Philosophy, or more precisely, philosophy's everyday appearance, which is a political or religious ideology, guides and misguides the lives of human beings, and every human being meets daily many philosophical ideas and makes or avoids many of his or her daily choices by appealing to and relying on philosophical considerations.
Why? Because philosophy was coined from two Greek words “philia” (love) and “sophia” (wisdom).

New Challenges: Earlier optimism for "Territorial Development" and the hypocrisy of "waging war" is complicated by new challenges of "resilience of life in the territories" and "vulnerability of individuals, families and nations" everywhere from the impact of natural disasters and new methods of killing of life nature (e.g., by nuclear weapons or by unbridled terrorism).

For the proposed discussion two issues are relevant: Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) and climate change adaptation (CCA):

a) **A Guide to Disaster Risk Reduction and Climate Change – Towards Resilience** the guide provides

essential introductory information, principles of effective practice, guidelines for action in a range of sectors and settings, case studies and links to useful tools and resources for the application of an integrated, rights-based approach to disaster risk reduction and climate change adaptation.
The guide is also a useful resource for other stakeholders, including staff from local, district and national government offices, the United Nations, donors, as well as social and natural scientists.

b) **A working paper Accountability for Disaster Risk Reduction – Lessons for the Philippines** (Emily Polack, Emmanuel M. Luna, Jessica Dator-Bercilla):
The Philippines has the Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Law in 2010 and the Climate Change Law in 2009.
The Philippines has created many legislative and institutional structures to address DRR and CCA. On the other hand, the law enforcement is difficult and the sectoral and local development planning is critical and a required quality is lacking.
Common goal is to increase the resilience of the Philippines to disasters and thus decrease the damaging effects of disaster to its society and economy in the future. Implementation should be complementary to ensure synergistic outcomes at the local level where action is needed most.
Accountability principle for equitable, effective, efficient, and transparent delivery of services must be an integrated part of the socio-economic system on central and local levels. It is a fundamental criterion for success in projects focused on DRR and CCA results.

Log-frame of the proposed thesis for discussion

Theses for discussion are split into two parts: “Why philosophy” and “What the SPC Concept offers”. Both parts are integrated into five questions with brief comments.

	Why philosophy and engineering	What the SPC Concept offers	Questions
1.	Intellectualization	Private & Public	Q1
2.	Resilience & Vulnerability	SPC Concept	Q2
3.	**Ideologies**	SPC Utility	Q3
4.	Technique of life	Synergy	Q4
5.	Engineering	Pilot Project	Q5

Why Philosophy

1. **Intellectualization:** in a positive sense, intellectualization is a 'flight into reason', where a person, a group or a nation (an object) has the chance to avoid uncomfortable emotions by focusing themselves on strategy of facts and logic.
Such object has an opportunity to act on a rational basis and should strive for a professional control of its own behaviour declining and fight for its self-confidence.
Intellectualization is a type of therapy that dispenses "sense" to the object through receptors, and the object is strengthening more by intelligence rather than by emotions or instincts.
The receptor is not a mechanical or a biological component, it is a soft social long-term system based on communication, advocacy, benchmarking, and cooperation, and resulting in a consensus of shared opportunities and benefits, and responsibility.
The receptor reacts on risks and costs of cultural differences and on impacts of changes in the technique of lifestyle of a community in a specific territory.
The global goal is to balance differences in education and skills anywhere where it is needed, and where the receptor is needed, accepted, and treated.

2. **Resilience and vulnerability:** there are a strong necessity to underline resilience and react on growth of vulnerability of nature across the world. It provokes a re-joining to fundamental question of old West/East philosophies about human life on levels of a family and a municipality.
The reason is simple: people on this level have a natural sense instinctively to reject bureaucracy and through principles of democracy they can obtain more freedom in an environment of rules and regulations which are created also by themselves.
A common language is a "return into reason" the decisions of which, coming from families and municipalities where internal communication is transparent, are more responsible, because control

mechanisms are more efficient and successful.
Resilience is about a penetration of intellectualization into individuals, households, population groups or systems to anticipate, evaluate, act and if they survive to be strong to recover themselves from hazards and/or effects of shocks and stresses from human globalized society and from impacts of climate change. There are many aspects of vulnerability, arising from various physical, social, economic and environmental factors.
Classification of vulnerability is not the primary task, the most important for any individuals is to take care of strengthening resilience and distinguish who and where of such strengthening is the priority and how it engages. Vulnerability varies significantly within a community lifestyle and over time.
Faith in God and humility towards nature and the universe is the inner strength of the individual and intellectualization is the way how to strengthen resilience and protect a vulnerability against disasters and impacts of climate change, no matter whether they are initiated by people (war, terrorism) or not (floods, earthquakes).

3. **Ideologies:** appearance of everyday philosophy is presented to public and private entities through political or religious ideology. The first philosophical conception of the public life in contrast to private needs appeared in Classical Greece (5- 4th cent. BC).
   Political ideology is till now a certain ethical set of ideals, principles, doctrines, myths or symbols of individuals or groups that explain how a society should or could work. History maps differences in results and impacts of political ideologies on a society.
   Two influences are dominant: development and speculation. The first creates material value (e.g. buildings, products), the second of these values lives (e.g. market, discords). Development acts on end users through skills (from a science to a final product sale) and speculation through skills in market and judiciary (from a legal system to flooding of arbitration).
   This thesis is focused on the oldest subject of human communication based on engineering skills (this is proved by existence and results of religious missions).
   Missionaries inter alia have disseminated engineering skills in many different countries for centuries till present.
   Political and religious ideology and faith of religions (Christianity, Buddhism, Hinduism, Islam, and others) disseminated by missionaries are a hope for growth of integrity of engineering skills and understanding how a polarity of climate change and "technique of life" of the present population will form near future of the global world.

4. **Technique of life:** globalization uncovers cultural roots of communities and confronts their population with impacts of fast changes and uncertain future. We can see how one community might be using knife and fork and another one chopstick and at the same time members from both communities might be driving the same kind of car or use the same brand of tablet.
   How responsible it is to disseminate simple rules through the world, e.g., to use a toilet and to wash hands, and how difficult it is to accept such a simple rule if it is set by standards of developed countries.
   How important it is to distinguish cultural roots (e.g., jewellery for women, folk song and dances, mother's care of children) and technique of life (e.g., to solve waste management or climate change).
   The technique of life is under pressure. On one hand technical products and services flooding the market in developed countries, and on the other hand this market is undeveloped for needs of municipalities and towns of developing countries.
   In time of the Industrial Revolution in developed countries, engineering and technical professions used to be a social priority and now we can see priorities in legal services and in judicial disputes.
   This is a memento for communities of developing countries. They should navigate themselves on understanding of principles of local development and human and nature resilience and start building strong domestic engineering services.
   The goal is to bring up skilled technical professionals and to involve local inhabitants in infrastructures project preparation and implementation.

5. **Engineering:** philosophy is important for engineering, and vice versa. Both seek to understand each other, especially in the interpretation and presentation of ethics. Philosophy (science) and engineering (practice) have been helping people to understand and address current challenges for centuries.
   In the Roman Empire “ingeniare" meant “to contrive” something. Engineering comes from the Latin word ingeniare, which means to devise (more in Google).
   During the Industrial Revolution the engineering was flooded by demands of fast-growing industry and trade and “engines” were the priority.
   Now, a modern definition presents engineering broadly, as an application of scientific principles to the

optimal conversion of natural resources into structures, machines, products, systems, and processes for the benefit of humankind. In such a broad definition of the engineering cannot be missed an understanding of an integrity of engineering and technologies.
In Greek times, “techne” meant “skills, cunning hands”. In a nutshell a couple of engineering and technologies represents a human capability to “contrive” something and by accessible “cunning hands” to develop, to use and to maintain a "technique of life" in a specific environment of nature and business.
We can see many white places both in philosophy itself and in philosophy of engineering.
There are two examples. The first presents a fundamental human need and a basic human right to have access to drinking water, and the second presents a reality of human business communication and basic human skills in financing.
So, we can e.g., talk about water engineering that integrates content of the philosophy category: "human and water", and e.g. financial engineering that integrates content of the philosophy category: "humanity and jobs".
We can see a lot of interests in philosophy and plenty of standards in engineering. What we need is integration of both, not at a general level, however, but for a practical life.

What the SPC Concept offers

1. **Public & Public**:

Private & Public in a polarity (in relations between pairs) is a philosophical category presenting a nature, people and ownership principles from perspectives of three of directions of human thinking: philosophy, engineering and partnership in business.
Philosophy presents polarity of nature (a public source for people) and people (both rich and poor together). Engineering offers polarity of nature (a book of wisdom) and job (both for skilled and unskilled).
An ownership principle as an attribute of human society has a capacity to form a partnership in a polarity of private and public partners. From this follow: the most serious tasks: disaster risk reduction and climate change adaptation, anomalies between poor and rich people, and relations between human rules and nature-universe laws needs cohesion of people for intellectualization, solidarity, and humility to be equipped for a sustainable partnership.
The most popular principle called "Public-Private Partnership, PPP" is presented as a tool for a socio-economic development that seeks to achieve infrastructure development objectives.
The PPP involves a contract between a public sector authority and a private party, and both sides share financial, technical, and operational risk of common project.
The SPC Concept accepts the PPP principle as a pragmatic solution of specific tasks and respects the content of the "Public & Public" category.
The goal is to design, implement and for a long time (at least 30 years) sustain in projected operations with a Self-Powered initiatives and participation; to succeed in strengthening of own Self-Powered Community (SPC).

2. **SPC Concept:**

SPC Concept uses PPP and drivers of socio-economic development as key synergy tools for gaining a financial independence of territory (province) for investment of its threads, needs and plan.
The SPC Concept is a tool supporting synergy effects in investment into the development of local infrastructure, into reduction of disaster risks and climate change adaptation.
It is a tool for a province (about 1 mil. inhabitants), for local governments, private investors and NGO motivated to participate in a joint public-private effort.
Three critical drivers are proposed for the Philippines: decentralized electrification (e) based on locally available renewable energy sources, rainwater management (w), representing investment into disasters reduction and climate change adaptation, and biomass management (m) based on local wealth represented by bamboo and coconut trees.
A business model was proposed and there is a high probability that similar drivers are acceptable for other countries and regions (e.g., in Asia, Africa and Latin America).
The SPC Concept policy is focused on urban, peri-urban, and rural provinces in development countries and the idea is to open more pilot projects (PPs) in different countries, evaluate results and develop standards and templates for a wider use.
The goal is to build strategic relationships and to add value to Local Government Units (LGUs) and to Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSME) in a province.

The SPC Concept has five years of development behind it. We have contacted both individuals and organizations from the public, private and NGO sectors and it confirms how critical it is to have a test of Pilot Project (PP) "in situ" for understanding of benefits of the SPC Concept by stakeholders of the province.

3. SPC Utility:

SPC Utility is an organization unit (e.g., joint-stock company) to stimulate, control and manage synergy processes in preparation and implementation of the SPC Concept in a province.
It is founded by representatives of public and private sectors (by key actors of a province) and financially lenders control it.
It represents a strategy of preparation and implementation of project portfolio of infrastructure and agricultural investments into territories administered by LGUs.
Both local public and private sectors must gain interest of donors to cooperate with the province on contractual basis.
Such interest must be expressed and anchored in documents like provincial Master Plan, Citizen's Charter, applications for loans, etc. SPC Utility must build a reputation of a strong and flexible investor.
The SPC Utility has an opportunity to be a "flagship" of the public budgeting improvement in the public sector generally (e.g., new innovations in lending, long-term controls by creditors, participatory budgeting by acquisition on local level, etc.).
The structure of the SPC Utility operates through a Revolving Loan Fund (RLF) and Special Purpose Vehicle (SPV) services.
Board of Directors is responsible for services in procurement, acquisition of Micro, Small and Middle Enterprises (MSME), evaluation of project portfolio, internal and external audit services and takes care of education and coaching of SPC Utility staff.
SPC Utility is a practical demonstration of Public Private Partnership (PPP) for a portfolio of projects preparation, operation, and maintenance on a territory unit (province).

4. Synergy:

In Classical Greece the word "synergia" means "working together" in a sense "Synergy is the creation of a whole that is greater than the simple sum of its parts".
Next example is an organizational skill entitled "Three Sisters", where Indian groups in North America used a rule for planting and harvesting three crops together on one field (squash, corn and climbing beans). This innovation of agriculture took place over 5,000–6,500 years.
At present ICT technologies assist us in solving much more complex tasks but what is still the same is a skill and ability to organize and sort relevant inputs and outputs and to stay "task oriented" during all the time of his/her responsibility.
Decision makers must live in a communication environment and have time for a consensus making. If a society, community, municipality is eligible to cooperate and is willing to accept priorities of tasks that need to be performed to meet certain goals, it is a blessing for people living there.
But such an environment cannot be prepared by a project; it is a challenge for a smart stakeholder on local level.
We know how it is difficult to transform conclusions of summits, conferences, seminars, and workshops into a specific project with outputs whose positive impacts will be registered by families and entrepreneurs on local level.
This is the core reason why to open a discussion on feasibility of preparation and implementation of the SPC Concept in a specific developing country through a pilot project. The Philippines is one opportunity.

5. Pilot Project:

Pilot project (PP) is a proven way to verify that the new technical and organizational solution is feasible. A technical PP examines and addresses new technologies and organizational PP designs, and tests transfer of proven technologies from one to another social-economic environment. SPC Concept solves the feasibility of this approach.
The goal is the application of simple technologies proven in developed countries and its domestication for local needs of developing countries.
PP in this case is a multidisciplinary project focused on the integration of soft skills into a package that proves the feasibility of the SPC Concept in a specific developing country.

The PP preparation identifies these critical tasks:

- To unlock human potential and build the capacity at central and local levels for the PPP.
- To gain an interest of International Financial Institutions (IFIs) and local banks.
- To test long –term financial loans (e.g., for 30 years) and a BOT techniques acquisition.
- To strengthen regulations readiness (e.g., by Master Planning, Citizen's Charter, etc.).
- To establish the SPC Utility through professional skills and citizens' participation.
- To motivate the SPC Utility to perform transparent and competitive procurement.
- To hire, educate and coach SPC Utility staff.

The PP preparation offers specific results of regional, economic, social, and demographic analysis, drafts of case studies and a financial model with brief survey of costs and yields
(e.g., citizens of all incomes categories as well as other investors have a chance to add value to the SPC Utility while making an attractive investment which gives them – by 2045 - $9 for every 1$ invested in 2015).

Questions

Q1: How to motivate philosophers to be involved in a definition of a principle of ownership relations between nature and people, and among people through the intellectualization?

Q2: Is a resilience strengthening and vulnerability reduction of people the strongest challenge for motivation of individuals and nations to accept new solutions (e.g., the SPC Concept)?

Q3: Fundamental human need and basic human right is access to water (to survive), access to electricity (a better life) and access to jobs (a sustainable community). Yet, what are risks projecting a such multidisciplinary tasks into environment of different ideologies (e.g., for SFC Utility services)?

Q4: On one hand technical products and services flooding the market in developed countries, and on the other hand this market is undeveloped for needs of municipalities and towns of developing countries. There is a free space for a new engineering and technologies throughout of the world. How tell this message to all?

Q5: Philosophy and engineering discussions on the World's future is a subject of science, problem solving of the present time is subject of engineering approaches and pilot projects. Through the intellectualization principle both ideologies and policy making should be a service for effort to solve multidisciplinary and global tasks. Who is the decision maker of gripping of this challenge (United Nation, Banks, Governments, Venture capitalists or Philanthropies)?