

## **Curriculum Vitae**

### **Benjamin R. Quiñones, Jr., PhD**



**Benjamin R. Quiñones, Jr., PhD** is a distinguished development economist, organizational development specialist, and pioneer of Social and Solidarity Economy (SSE) in Asia, with over four decades of international experience in development finance, poverty reduction, and institutional innovation.

#### **Professional Profile and Expertise**

Dr. Quiñones is recognized for his strategic leadership in designing and scaling high-impact development programs across Asia and beyond. His expertise spans development finance, policy analysis, knowledge management, capacity building, and multi-stakeholder coordination. He has worked extensively in South Asia, Southeast Asia, East Asia, and other regions, collaborating with major international organizations such as the Asian Development Bank (ADB), International Labour Organization (ILO), International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD), and the German development cooperation (GTZ).

#### **Key Contributions**

One of his most influential contributions is the design and implementation of the Self-Help Group–Bank Linkage Program (SHG-BLP) during his tenure as Secretary General of the Asia Pacific Rural and Agricultural Credit Association (APRACA). This model linked informal savings groups with formal banking systems, significantly expanding financial inclusion. Today, it is the largest poverty alleviation initiative in India, reaching over 100 million households.

Earlier in his career, he contributed to the establishment of the Philippine Crop Insurance Corporation through feasibility studies on crop insurance. His Master’s degree research on informal rural financial markets provided a theoretical foundation for integrating formal and informal financial systems.

He also played key roles in major development initiatives, including: i) Designing rural savings mobilization systems for agricultural cooperatives in the Philippines (ADB project); ii) Developing sustainable financial systems for small farmers in Bangladesh (GTZ/IFAD); (iii) Coordinating regional microfinance and capacity-building programs through the Asian and Pacific Development Centre (APDC).

#### **Legacy**

Dr. Quiñones is widely regarded as a leading advocate of SSE in Asia, known among peers as the “Father of Social Solidarity Economy in Asia.” He founded the Coalition of Socially Responsible SMEs in Asia, later institutionalized as the Asian Solidarity Economy Council (ASEC).

## **Awards**

**The 2024 Outstanding UPLB Alumnus Award.** “For his significant contributions in research on rural financial markets that laid the groundwork for the Self-Help Group-Bank Linkage Program, now a leading poverty alleviation initiative in Asia. His expertise extended to designing and supervising microfinance programs across Asia.

**Outstanding Alumni Award -Entrepreneurship Category, University of Southern Mindanao (2017).** “For his significant and outstanding accomplishments in the field of Entrepreneurship as shareholder, board member, consultant and Executive Director of Livegreen International Incorporated which does contract growing and distribution of organic vegetables. With his designations and positions, he is responsible for organization development and corporate planning, thereby increasing the sales of organic vegetables of the company and its attractiveness to investors”.

**APRACA Service Award: (Bangkok, Thailand. 1992).** “For his crucial role in developing the Asia Pacific Rural and Agricultural Credit Association (APRACA) into a financially sustainable organisation while serving as Secretary General.

**Distinguished Alumnus Award - College of Economics and Management, University of the Philippines in Los Baños (1989)** “For his important achievements in the field of rural credit, towards making financial resources more accessible to the agricultural and rural population in the Philippines and in other Asian countries, thereby promoting rural development in the region”.

**Distinguished Alumni Award -Management, University of Southern Mindanao (1988).** “For his exemplary achievements in strengthening the institutional capabilities of agricultural banks and rural financial institutions in Asia and the Pacific through the innovative programme of ‘Linking Banks and Self-Help Groups’ which enabled poor and small farmers to have access to financial services of banking institutions”.

## **Recognition/Commendation**

**Cooperative Development Authority (CDA) (2017):** "For his expertise in shedding light on the role of cooperatives in advancing social solidarity economy”.

**United Nations Office for South-South Cooperation (Geneva,2014):** "In recognition of special contribution to South-South and Triangular Cooperation through the promotion of social solidarity economy in Asia”.

**Peace and Equity Foundation (Manila, 2013):** “For his research and knowledge sharing on Social Solidarity Economy Emerging Concept Models and extensive work on building strategic investment platforms for inclusive value chains and social enterprises”.

**TEAR Fund: (Manila, 2010):** “For his support and assistance to TEAR Fund Partners in adopting innovative development strategies.

**Association of Development Financing Institutions in Asia and the Pacific: (Manila, 2008).** “For his valuable contributions in advancing sustainable development finance”

**FPH Alliance 21: (Paris, France. 2005)** “For organizing and providing leadership to the Workgroup on Solidarity Finance from 2001 to 2005”.

**FPH Workgroup on Social Economy & Solidarity (Paris, France. 2004).** “For his key role in organizing the Solidarity Economy Conference and Trade Fair at the World Social Forum in Porto Alegre, Brazil (2001, 2002, and 2003) and in Mumbai (2004)”

**Mekong Institute (Khon Kaen, Thailand, 2004).**”For developing the course curriculums and conducting training on Poverty Alleviation in the Mekong Sub-Region, Project Management in the Mekong Sub-Region, and Developing Agricultural Value Chains in the Mekong Sub-Region from 2002 to 2004 for Member Countries of Mekong Sub-Region”.

**Cambodia Community Savings Federation (CCSF, Battambang, Cambodia, 2004).** “For his technical assistance in developing a community savings program through self-help groups and enabling CCSF to register as a microfinance service provider with the National Bank of Cambodia”

**Association of Asian Confederation of Credit Unions: (Bangkok, 2003):** “For his beneficial advocacy of social solidarity economy among credit unions.

**Asian and Pacific Development Centre (APDC, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, 2003).** ‘For his leadership and expertise in managing and running the Poverty Alleviation Programme and the SME Development Programme of APDC from 1996 to 2003”.

**Rangpur-Dinajpur Rural Service (RDRS, Bangladesh. 1993)** “For his valuable assistance in designing a rural savings mobilization programme, enabling the small and marginal farmers to organise self-help groups and gain access to bank credit.”

**Agricultural Cooperative Development International (ACDI): (USA, 1985)** “ For his valuable contributions towards strengthening small farmer credit systems in Asia and the Pacific”

### **Relevant Professional Experience (Highlighting International Leadership & Strategic Roles**

<b>Employer (Duration)</b>	<b>Position held</b>	<b>Key Role/Achievements</b>
Asian Solidarity Economy Council (ASEC) (2011-present)	Founder/ Founding Chairperson	<b>Strategy/Coordination:</b> Leading ASEC, the regional network promoting SSE and localizing SDGs in Asia, covering 15 countries.

National Anti-Poverty Commission _Workers in Informal Sector Council (NAPC-WISC) (May 9,2025- present)	Institutional Development Adviser	<b>Capacity Building:</b> Provides technical support to NAPC-WISC member organizations in establishing the People's Bayanihan Fund (PBF)
Bayan Family of Foundations (Sept 2024- [present)	Impact Investment Specialist	<b>Planning/Resourcing:</b> Leads the transition from microfinance to impact investing, encompassing fund sourcing, fund utilization, deal structuring, and impact measurement.
RIPESS (Intercontinental Network for the Promotion of Social & Solidarity Economy) (June 2012-May 2014)	Executive Coordinator	<b>International Leadership/Coordination:</b> Provided leadership to the global Solidarity Economy network and coordinated the participation of member networks in the World Social Forum.
Asian & Pacific Development Centre (APDC), Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia (Apr 1996-Sept 2003)	Programme Coordinator, Poverty Alleviation; & SME Development	<b>Development Program Oversight:</b> Managed and ran the Poverty Alleviation Programme and the SME Development Programme. Promoted the development of "socially responsible small & medium enterprises".
Asia Pacific Rural & Agricultural Credit Association(APRACA) Bangkok, Thailand (Dec 1983-Feb 1993)	Secretary General (1986-1992); Asst. Sec Gen (1984-85)	<b>Institutional Strengthening/Strategy:</b> Developed APRACA into a financially sustainable organization. Program Design & Scale: Designed the highly successful "Self-Help Group-Bank Linkage Programme"; supervised its implementation in India, Indonesia, Thailand, and the Philippines,
GTZ (German Agency for Technical Cooperation), (1988-1992)	Regional Program Coordinator( SHG-Bank Linkage Program); Managing Editor of Asia Pacific Rural Finance	<b>Knowledge Management/Capacity Building:</b> Designed training courses on SHG-Linkage Banking and trained over 1,000 middle and senior officers of agricultural banks in 13 countries of Asia and the Pacific. Managed key industry publication, demonstrating strong editing skills
Technical Board for Agricultural Credit, attached to Central Bank of the Philippines (Sept 1977-December 1985)	Chief Economist (1981-1986); Supervising Economist (1979-1980)	<b>Agricultural Credit Research and Policy Development.</b> Conducted evaluations studies of agricultural credit programs and formulated agri-credit policies.
National Economic and Development Authority (NEDA) (1974-1976)	Economic Researcher	Prepared estimates of Philippine GDP. Conducted research on microeconomic development trends..

## Key Expertise and Milestones

### A. Knowledge Strategy, Advisory, and Capacity Building

**Academic Leadership in Development and SSE:** Established the first course on Social and Solidarity Economy (SSE) for PhD students in the Doctor of Social Development Programme of the University of the Philippines, College of Social Work and Community Development (AY 2016-2019, AY 2023-2026).

**Knowledge Framework Development: Conceptualized the "5 Dimensions of Social and Solidarity Economy (SSE)"** (socially responsible governance, edifying ethical values, people, planet, and profit) adopted by ASEC and acknowledged by the ILO/Seoul National University as a framework for evaluating SSE organizations/enterprises.

**International Knowledge Project Oversight:** Served as the Regional Consultant for the ILO study on Strengthening Social & Solidarity Economy In Asia, Phase II across 5 Asian countries (Cambodia, Kyrgyzstan, Mongolia, Thailand & Vietnam) (2022-2024). Concurrently served as National Consultant for the Philippines, ILO study on Strengthening SSE in Asia, Phase I (covering China, Japan, Indonesia, Malaysia, Philippines, and Republic of Korea (2019-2021).

**Capacity Development Design:** Developed a capacity-building program for workers in the informal sector of the National Anti-Poverty Commission (NAPC) focused on establishing the People's Bayanihan Fund (BPF), a savings-investment program mechanism for NAPC-WISC members (2025-present).

**Designed and conducted training courses on Poverty Alleviation Programs and Project Management** for the member countries of Mekong Sub-Region -Cambodia, Lao PDR, Myanmar, People's Republic of China, Thailand, and Vietnam (2002-2004).

**Advisory Roles:** Served as an Observer on the UN Task Force on Social Solidarity Economy (2013- 2014). Led the professional group on solidarity economy for the Alliance for Responsible & Sustainable Societies (2016).

### B. Strategy, Planning, and Results Measurement (Planning Division Focus)

**Strategic Policy Formulation:** Study Leader for the ILO project on "Public policies on SSE in Philippines" (2015). Co-authored the implementation plan for the ASEAN SDG-SSE Roadmap 2026-2030.

**Impact and Performance Metrics:** Expertise in designing and evaluating performance systems, including the Social Performance Indicator (SPI) developed by CERISE. Conducted evaluations of microfinance institutions in Asia. Designed and supervised the implementation of a savings-based financial intermediation system for the GTZ/IFAD Marginal and Small Farm Crop Intensification Project in Bangladesh.

**Financial Planning Oversight:** Serves as an Independent Director of Aurora Bank (a rural bank) (Nov 2023–present), demonstrating governance and financial oversight capacity.

### **C. Crisis Communications and Reputation Management**

**Institutional Governance and Ethics:** Served as Team Leader for the formulation of the Universal Declaration of Human Responsibilities (2009-2013), focusing on universal ethics and responsibility proportionate to power/wealth.

**Reputation Management through Development:** The SSE approach itself focuses on "triple bottom line goals" of people, planet, and profit/prosperity, ensuring the alignment of development goals with institutional practices to uphold and protect the reputation of the Asian Solidarity Economy Council.

**Conflict Resolution and Dialogue:** Experience in promoting dialogue and participatory governance in high-conflict situations, such as the promotion of bank-self help group linkages in conflict areas of BARRM, West Java in Indonesia, and the promotion of organic vegetable farming among Orang Asli in Pahang, Malaysia

### **Research Papers and Publications**

The following selection highlights writing skills and intellectual contributions central to ASEC's mission of promoting SSE and sustainable development and its role in knowledge management, strategy, policy analysis.

- Quiñones, Benjamin Jr. (2020). "Organizational Landscape of Social Solidarity Economy in the Philippines". Research study under the "Strengthening Social and Solidarity Economy (SSE) Policy in Asia" project of the ILO Cooperatives Unit (COOP) and the Korea Social Enterprise Promotion Agency (KoSEA).
- Quiñones, Benjamin Jr & Lacsamana, Jay (December 2020). "Design, feasibility and strategy for the setting up of a cooperative resiliency mechanism". Manila: Agriterro Philippines/USAID
- 4. 2018. "Collective Enterprise as a Workplace: The Case of Payoga-Kapatagan Multipurpose Cooperative". Quezon city: U.P. Center for Integrative & Development Studies
- \_\_\_\_\_. 2017. "The Role of Social & Solidarity Economy and Social Finance in Sustainable Development and the Future of Work. The Case of the Philippines". Belgium: HIVA KU Leuven
- \_\_\_\_\_. 2015 "Public Policies on Social & Solidarity Economy: Towards an Enabling Environment. The Case of the Philippines". Geneva: ILO
- \_\_\_\_\_. 2015. "Social and Solidarity Economy in Asia: A South-South and triangular cooperation perspective". Geneva: ILO.
- \_\_\_\_\_. 2014. "Rediscovering Social Solidarity Economy in Community-based Supply Chains". In Philippine Journal of Social Development Vol. 6 No. 1, 2014.

Quezon city: University of the Philippines College of Social Work & Community Development.

- \_\_\_\_\_. 2014. "Social solidarity economy: An alternative to neoliberal economy?" Tokyo: Pacific Asia Resource Center (PARC).
- \_\_\_\_\_. 2013. "State of the Art of Social Solidarity Economy in Asia". Quezon city: Intercontinental Network for the Promotion of Social Solidarity Economy.
- \_\_\_\_\_. 2013. "Are mental models shaping SSE reality: Conceptualizing, Measuring, & Evaluating Social Solidarity Economy Performance". Geneva: UNRISD.
- \_\_\_\_\_. 2012. "Organization Development finding its way into the Bayanihan Learning Journey". PhD Thesis. Antipolo, Philippines: SAIDI School of Organization Development.
- \_\_\_\_\_. 2011. "Social enterprise as a vehicle for social inclusion". Kuala Lumpur: Ministry of Higher Education of Malaysia.
- \_\_\_\_\_. 2011. "Sowing the Seed of Solidarity Economy in Asia". Kuala Lumpur: Binary University.
- \_\_\_\_\_. 2008. "Facets of Solidarity Economy". in Marcos Arruda, 2008. "Enhancing Visions of a Responsible, Plural, Solidarity Economy". Rio de Janeiro: Institute of Alternative Policies for the Southern Cone of Latin America.
- \_\_\_\_\_. 2006. Financial Linkages in the Philippines: Constraints and Success Factors. Rome: FAO and Ford Foundation.
- \_\_\_\_\_. 2004. An Evaluation Study of the Fairtrade Labelling Organization (FLO) International. GTZ Rockefeller Foundation-Pi Environmental: Pully, Switzerland.
- \_\_\_\_\_. 2004. Strategic Plan for Community Savings Mobilization and Networking, Battambang, Cambodia: Cambodian Community Savings Federation
- \_\_\_\_\_, 2003. Project Management for Sustainable Development of the Mekong Sub-Region. Khon Kaen, Thailand: Mekong Institute
- \_\_\_\_\_ 2003. Corporate Governance and Social Responsibility. Kuala Lumpur: Asian & Pacific Development Centre (APDC).
- \_\_\_\_\_ 2001. An Overview of Social Capital: Towards an Understanding of the Normative Principles of Finance of Solidarity. Paris: Charles Leopold Mayer Foundation.
- Quiñones, B., & H. D. Seibel, 2000, Social Capital in Microfinance: Case Studies in the Philippines. The Netherlands: Kluwer Publishing House.

Remenyi, J., & B. Quiñones, 2000. Microfinance and Poverty Alleviation: Case Studies from Asia and the Pacific. London: Continuum, Wellington House.

- Quiñones, B., 1997. Linkage Banking in South Asia – The Experience of India, Nepal, and Bangladesh. Bangkok, Thailand: APRACA.
- Remenyi, J., I.P. Getubig, & B. Quiñones, 1997. Creating the Vision: Microfinancing the Poor in Asia Pacific, Kuala Lumpur: APDC.
- Quiñones, B., 1995. Biblical Principles of Economics. Quezon City, Philippines: All Nations Publishing, Inc.

## V. REFERENCES

**Dr. Cielito Habito**, former Economic Secretary and Director General of NEDA. Currently he is Professor of Economics at the Ateneo de Manila University, where he is the Director of the Ateneo Center for Economic Research and Development (ACERD). <cfhabito@gmail.com>

**Dr. Romulo “Omy” Romero**, President, SAIDI School of Organization Development. Katipunan Rd., Quezon city. <omyromero@gmail.com>

**Dr. Hans Dieter Seibel**, Professor Emeritus, Koln University, Germany. and former Rural Finance Adviser of IFAD <seibel@uni-koeln.de>

**Datuk Dr. Denison Jayasooria**, Head of Secretariat, All-Party Parliamentary Group of Malaysia for the SDGs (APPGM-SDGs); Former Principal Research Fellow, Universiti Kebangsaan <jayasooriadenison@gmail.com>