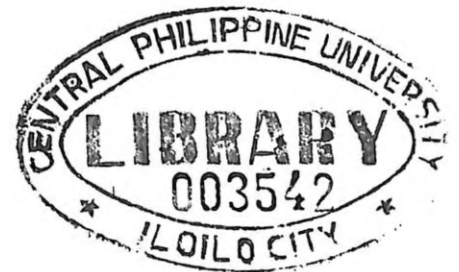


**RURAL-URBAN INTERACTIONS AND INTERDEPENDENCE:
POLICY IMPLICATIONS FOR THE ENHANCEMENT OF
LINKAGES BETWEEN ILOILO CITY AND THE
PROVINCE OF GUIMARAS**

A Dissertation

**Presented to
The Faculty of the School of Graduate Studies
Central Philippine University
Iloilo City**



**In Partial Fulfilment
of the Requirements for the Degree
Doctor of Management
(Development Management)**

EVAN ANTHONY V. ARIAS

April 2019

**RURAL-URBAN INTERACTIONS AND INTERDEPENDENCE: POLICY
IMPLICATIONS FOR THE ENHANCEMENT OF LINKAGES
BETWEEN ILOILO CITY AND THE
PROVINCE OF GUIMARAS**

Evan Anthony V. Arias

ABSTRACT

This study was conducted to analyze the rural-urban interactions and interdependence between Iloilo City and the Province of Guimaras with the aim of identifying policy implications for the enhancement of linkages. Mixed methods approach was employed involving both quantitative and qualitative analysis based on secondary and primary data gathered through service statistics, key informant interviews, focus group discussions and direct field observations. The study found out that there is interdependence between the two areas which has been in existence for over a century based on historical records. The nature and characteristics of linkages are consistent with theories on rural-urban interactions in terms of the flow of goods and sectoral activities. There were mechanisms established in the past for the establishment of a metropolitan arrangement which served as facilitating factors but were not sustained primarily due to changes in local leadership and priorities. There were also barriers that limited its development arising from lack of an enabling policy at the national level to sustain the alliance. Policy gaps at the national and local levels likewise hindered the development of rural-urban linkages primarily on transportation and infrastructure. Despite the challenges, there are prospects that can be pursued towards the development of tourism and livelihood opportunities anchored on the attributes and assets of both areas which can be maximized through the improvement in the value chain. There is also a prospect for the

revival of the metropolitan arrangement which can pave the way for the integrated development of the Metro Iloilo-Guimaras (MIG) region.