The academic colloquium is organized by the University of the Philippines Asian Center. The colloquium's theme, "Putting Equitable Development at the Center of the Asian Century", caps the Center's two-year "Bugkos: Asia in Transition" institutional research program, aimed at examining emerging development problems, patterns, and paradigms during this period of greater regional integration. The colloquium will present seven studies accomplished under the Bugkos program as well as other works by scholars and policy analysts in and outside Metro Manila.

Since the 2000s, Asia has been at the center of world politics and the global economy. Much of the interest comes from the dramatic changes unfolding in the region, but where it is headed remains open-ended. Asia is home to some of the world's biggest and fastest growing economies, yet it continues to be weighed down by age-old problems: growing inequality within and across countries, relatively low technology and productivity, unsustainable energy consumption and environmental degradation, and poor governance. As such, as the push toward regional integration gains momentum, there is a need to examine how this interacts with national actors, interests, and institutions in order to get a more-grounded appreciation of how the transition is unfolding.

The colloquium objectives are as follows:

- To examine and update analytical frameworks identified with Southeast Asian and Asian development
- To identify new institutional arrangements structuring the interaction among national and regional actors, interests, and processes in relation to specific policy domains,
- To provide a space for an exchange of ideas and perspectives toward advancing a political economy approach to the study of national and regional development dynamics, and
- To explore how the Philippines can benefit from opportunities and minimize risks arising from the changes in the region





