

3. Do you consider the Philippines as a “third world” country? If YES, why? If NO, why not?

I personally don't consider the Philippines as a 3rd world country. By one definition, a 3rd world country is one that has high mortality (infant), and has limited natural resources which is not the case for the Philippines. Naturally, we possess massive natural resources allowing our people, even those that have limited access to modernization to survive and maintain a decent living.

The Filipino people are resilient, resourceful making us very well able to compete globally. We are actually being sourced by first world countries for our skillset.

Unfortunately, despite all these, I think the dysfunction lies in the kind of governance we choose to have. Having said that, it is good to go back to one of the definitions of countries considered to be 2nd world. They mostly practice the communism form of government which I don't think the Philippines is completely ready for since we have so gotten used to the democratic form of government we currently have. Both forms, as with everything, have its advantages and disadvantages, and it may be a good time for us to consider and discuss option which of both will benefit our country better, because in essence, I think if the governance improves, all factors will take flight.

In conclusion, no country has it all. It is only through cross-border sharing of skills and resources that a country fully thrives, therefore, can not be solely recognized and accredited for its progress that leads it to be termed as “first-world”.

A country's progress for me is a combination of factors - educational, political and economic, and nations termed as “3rd world” may possess such status because of dysfunction in some of these factors. Having said that, the roots of this dysfunction, should just not be a country's internal discussion, but should be made to be the main focus of global organizations' summits such as the ASEAN, in order to attain global progress, instead of focusing on the country's ranking, in order for countries to achieve equal opportunities and recognition therefore resulting to equal chances for growth and development without discrimination.