

Editor's Notes

Saddled with gargantuan problems and crises after crises last year, this year's issue of the *Journal* starts with an earnest effort to find solutions and alternatives to such problems at the policy level. The article captioned "Super-Optimizing Analysis and Philippine Policy Problems" by Stuart S. Nagel offers some interesting perspectives on systematizing our problem-solving approaches. Super-optimum solutions (SOS) is a mode of analysis and finding out solutions to policy problems whereby conservatives, liberals and other major viewpoints can all come out ahead of their best initial expectations. In this piece, SOS exponent Nagel utilizes this framework to analyze the issues concerning the minimum wage, commuting to and from Manila, land reform, trilingualism and the American military bases in the Philippines.

Another current concern is the present dispensation's decentralization project. Alex B. Brillantes, Jr. and Jocelyn C. Cuaresma jointly devote time and effort to closely look at this government project. In their article "Assessment of the Aquino Pilot Decentralization Project," Brillantes and Cuaresma scrutinize the manner by which the projects were implemented in the provinces of Laguna, Tarlac, Negros Occidental, and Davao del Norte.

The succeeding two articles delve on the discussion of development.

Antonio P. Contreras invites the readers to join him in analyzing the "Genealogy and Critique of the Upland Development Discourse." He emphasizes the primacy of the issues accompanying social forestry, among which count dissecting the conceptual entanglements of the discourse. Seeking the real motive behind the social forestry program is a focal point of his discussion.

Lastly, Ma. Lourdes Genato-Rebullida focuses on the development perspective of the church as culled largely from the explicit pronouncements and practices of the churchers from 1972 to 1990. In her article entitled "Church Development Perspective: Policy Formulation and Implementation," Rebullida brings to fore the growing significance of the church group as a force to reckon with in policymaking.