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## Foreword

"Development" is such a big word. Even when circumscribed within the phrase "regional development," it remains intriguingly vague, keeping social scientists and other interested parties busy just arguing about how to define it. Aggravating the situation is the fact that there are those who conceptualize development as a one-way process characterized by direct or positive linear progression and those who would admit of "backward" movement.

One way of resolving the issue is to discuss the different facets of development. This is exactly how the First Eastern Visayas Regional Conference of the Philippine Political Science Association attempted to tackle the problem. With "Agenda for Regional Development" as conference theme, knowledgeable people from different disciplines were invited to contribute their insights about development, particularly as it applied to the region.

The meeting was actually the third of a series of regional conferences organized by the PPSA in its desire to involve more of the political scientists outside the Metro Manila area in its activities. The paper readers discussed the various dimensions of development and the way these affect the Eastern Visayan region. Thus the political, cultural, bureaucratic, administrative, and social aspects of regional development in Eastern Visayas were scrutinized by the conferees.

This issue of the *PPSJ* presents the papers and proceedings of that regional conference. It is hoped that, through this publication, the reader will gain a better understanding of the issues and concerns that confront those that are charged with the task of developing "Region VIII"—i.e., Eastern Visayas—and perhaps contribute to the achievement of their development goals.

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