

Foreword

The theme running through most articles in this two-volume issue of the *Philippine Political Science Journal* is the political dynamics underlying the continuing saga in the restoration of democracy in the Philippines and the institutions that continue to play a central role in this effort. The topics cover several subfields in the discipline of political science—Philippine government, politics and administration; political parties, interest groups, and non-government organizations; foreign policy and international relations; and political theory. The focus of the articles vary: the legislature and executive-legislative relations; the role of women legislators; religion, politics and development; foreign policy and diplomacy; the issues of ethnic conflict, regional autonomy and governance; political leadership and political stability; and women and political theory. The approaches and theoretical frameworks used by the contributing authors include the traditional historical/institutional approach; development theory; public policy analysis; the study of political dynamics within the framework of a weak state in a strong society; and the feminist perspective in political studies.

The article by Olivia C. Caoili on *The Philippine Congress: Executive-Legislative Relations and the Restoration of Democracy* reviews the performance of the legislature during the Aquino Administration. It focuses on the dynamics underlying the role of Congress as both arena and actor in the restoration of democracy in the Philippines.

Socorro L. Reyes's article on *The Role of Women Legislators in the Democratization Process: A Case Study of the Philippines* assesses the contribution of the growing number, albeit still a minority, of Filipino women in the House of Representatives and the Senate. The author observes that there is "the lack of a legislative agenda among most women in Congress either in terms of feminism or democratization."

Maria Lourdes G. Rebullida relates the efforts of selected *Churches in the Philippines* to define and contextualize the notion of "development" in Philippine conditions in her study on *Reconceptualizing Development: The View from the Philippine Churches*.

Natalia M.L.M. Morales focuses on the record of Philippine-Japan relations in her article on *PM Kaifu's ASEAN Trip: Learning from the Past*. She cautions that the diplomatic attention paid by Japan should not lure the RP government into complacency as real problems remain and will continue to affect relations between the two countries.

Francisco A. Magno uses Migdal's state-policy model in analyzing the political constraints to sustainable upland management in the Philippines in *Weak State, Ravaged Forests: Political Constraints to Sustainable Upland Management in the Philippines*. Magno concludes that partnership between the state and local communities in forest protection should serve as the new institutional mode for sustainable upland management.

Steve Rood shares the results of his research on the interaction between non-government organizations (NGOs) and elections in his article on *Non-Government Organizations and the 1992 Philippine Elections*. He sums up his findings and observations thus: "...NGOs seem somewhat successful in forcing the pace of change when we consider the injection of policy issues into electoral campaigns...."

P. N. Abinales provides a brief historical background into the continuing conflict and violence in Mindanao in his article *Mindanao in the Politics of the Philippine Nation-State: A Brief Sketch*. Abinales uses the literature on "strong societies, weak states" as a framework to analyze and explain "a violent mosaic and (a) politically fragmented landscape" in Mindanao.

Felipe B. Miranda's *Leadership and Political Stabilization in a Post-Aquino Philippines* is a comprehensive review of leadership, politics and governance during President Corazon C. Aquino's administration and proposes policy recommendations for President Fidel V. Ramos's government as it "inquires into the nature of political stability as a challenge to Philippine political authorities." He uses the relationship between a weak state in a strong society as framework of his analysis.

The last but not the least article in this issue, Athena Lydia Casambre's *Women and Political Theory*, looks into the intersection of feminist theory and political theory. It asks the question "what have political thinkers said about women?" and focuses on the texts of some of the works of Plato, Aristotle, Hobbes, and John Stuart Mill. Casambre blazes a trail in a very interesting field of political science.

Finally, the Journal continues to feature a section on research abstracts in Ranjit Rye's *Abstracts of Selected Theses and Dissertations in Political Science and Public Administration Submitted to the University of the Philippines, 1990-1992*.