

EDITOR'S NOTE

After a slumber of almost eight (8) years, the *Public Policy Journal (PPJ)* of the University of the Philippines Center for Integrative and Development Studies (UP CIDS) is being reawakened with the printing of a new volume this year. While we regret this lengthy inactivity, we hope this volume makes up for it as it covers the period 2007-2013. Beginning in 2015, we plan to publish the journal biannually once again.

The articles in this volume are contributions by scholars who were recipients of the University of the Philippines President Edgardo J. Angara (UP PEJA) Fellowship Award.

GERARDO P. SICAT's "Reform of Philippine Labor Policies" suggests that the Philippines should free itself from the trap of poor economic outcomes by not hurting the employment-generating process of the economy. Sicat says there is no need to legislate or directly reform labor laws, especially in labor zones; instead, the Philippines should offer new opportunities for employment as a matter of policy.

RAUL V. FABELLA's "Deconstructing the Philippine Investment Puzzle: The Role of the State and Collective Action" recognizes that in a society plagued by deeply entrenched rent-seeking behavior where it is a rarity to have an inclusion-oriented leadership, it is important that a collaborative action of trust building is enhanced. Fabella suggests that to build trust, the state has to give way to what he calls "collective action" by minimizing the state agenda and calling in other players, including the market, to pitch in their bit as non-state actors.

RAMON PEDRO P. PATERNO's "How Do We Finance Universal Health Care in the Philippines?" argues that health is a human and constitutional right. As such, low income groups, of which there is a sizeable percentage in the population, pose key challenges to health care in terms of financial protection and access to quality services and facilities. It is a puzzle whether the Philippines can achieve the health objectives under the Millennium Development Goals by 2015.

MICHAEL L. TAN's "From Sangley to Tsinoy: Changing Identities among Ethnic Chinese in the Philippines" recognizes the cultural, historical, and identity features of being ethnic Chinese in the country. The so-called *Tsinoy* dabbles in a

duality of behavior, mind-set, and language, as well as other cultural features which do not necessarily pose contradictions. The Tsinoys are comfortable as they are.

EDNA E. A. CO's book review on "The Rise of Sharing: Fourth-Stage Consumer Society in Japan" by author Miura Atsushi describes the book as an interesting insight into conversion from an "individuality" consumption culture to an altruism consumption and a new way of sharing and living in Japanese society.

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