

## Editor's Note

I am pleased to introduce the maiden issue of the *Philippine Journal of Public Policy: Interdisciplinary Development Perspectives* (PJPP IDP). The PJPP takes off from the University of the Philippines Center for Integrative and Development Studies' (UP CIDS) *Public Policy Journal* (PPJ), which was launched in 1997. As noted by then UP President Emil Q. Javier<sup>1</sup> who was also the chair of the Editorial Board, the PPJ is:

one more contribution to the critical analyses and enlightened formulation of public policy on matters of national import. Our aim is to make *Public Policy* an authoritative journal for public policy guidance in the Philippines as a source of information, insights and analyses of domestic policy concerns that may help the public and private sectors and the international academic community understand the policy processes and determinations of Philippine democracy...

As in all our institutional undertakings, the publication of this journal is founded on the principles of scholarship and academic freedom which have enabled the University of the Philippines, the national university, to fulfill its mandate to provide an intellectual framework for national life.

As the University of the Philippines' policy unit, the UP CIDS, through the PJPP, seeks to further enhance these goals twenty years later. Under the current administration of UP President Danilo L. Concepcion, the PJPP is part of the University's 2017-2023 Strategic Plan, which recognizes "knowledge creation and public service as its primary conditions toward national development." Under knowledge creation, UP CIDS, by its mandate is intimately linked with the strategic initiative of "enhancing research, publications, and creative work"<sup>2</sup> of which the PJPP is one of its major expressions.

With this in mind, the re-conceptualized PJPP:

seeks to promote the broadening of discourse on public policy to accommodate more dynamic contemporary policy realities in the Philippines as well as in developing and/or industrialized countries in Southeast Asia and East Asia. The PJPP publishes policy research covering the following major themes: education, paradigms of development, social and political change, strategic studies, ethnicity and religion, health, and science and technology. The PJPP also accommodates scholarly work on issues such as peace and conflict transformation, migration, constitutional change, and disaster risk and reduction. With this thrust, the PJPP welcomes theoretical articles containing relevant literature, well-designed and analyzed empirical studies, and policy studies that are widely applicable.<sup>3</sup>

In this light, I would like to welcome the PJPP's new Editorial Board and Editorial Advisory Board composed of renowned scholars in the disciplines of political science, economics, political economy, history, sociology, communications, agrarian studies, civil engineering, Asian studies, psychology, cultural and literary studies, Islamic studies, medical anthropology, English studies, and education. I am most thankful for their generous support and encouragement in this new endeavor.

The current PJPP issue carries two articles that highlight pressing concerns in Philippine development with global implications. Nicole Curato's "A Discursive Trap?: The Power and Danger of the Middle-income Trap Discourse" and Adrian R. Mendoza's "Economic and Social Upgrading in Global Value Chains: Insights from Philippine Manufacturing Firms" focus on the problematique of the inability of middle-income countries in segueing into the high-income status. These two articles are research outputs of the UP CIDS Program on Escaping the Middle-income Trap: Chains for Change (EMIT C4C).

Curato examines the basis of the discursive logic of the concept of the middle-income country trap. She points out that this is important as the discourse has an impact on economic planning and policy formulations. The main objective is to critique this development discourse to enable the search for alternative possibilities to the economic status quo to favor "middle-income" countries.

Escaping the middle-income trap also means being highly competitive in a perennially globalizing environment. This is the focus of Mendoza's article, where he examines the results of the 2012

Survey on Adjustments of Establishments to Globalization (SAEG) to analyze the economic and social upgrading experience of Philippine manufacturers inside global value chains (GVCs). He specifically looks at three dimensions of upgrading—purely economic (e.g., employment size), purely social (e.g., training), and both (e.g., contractualization). Mendoza highlights the important implications of all these in the need for a holistic upgrading to improve the Philippines' comparative advantage from cheap labor to innovative local industries and highly skilled workers.

This 2018 PJPP issue also carries with it eleven book reviews and one review essay on Philippine and international publications covering topics that include Philippine and Southeast Asian politics and regional dynamics.

Teresa S. Encarnacion Tadem  
Editor-in-Chief

*Philippine Journal of Public Policy:  
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## Notes

1. Javier, Emil Q. "From the Editorial Board." *Public Policy* 1 (2009); Javier, Emil Q. "The Crisis of Succession." *Public Policy* 1 (2009).
2. University of the Philippines Center for Integrative and Development Studies Mid-Year Report, January-June 2018, p. 5.
3. "Public Policy Journal: Open Call for Papers." Accessed April 1, 2019. <http://cids.up.edu.ph/open-call-papers/>.