

# Editor's Notes

Since there is a growing concern on women in contemporary times, this issue focuses on this particular topic. Four articles are presented which all explore the plight of Filipino women in the local and international scene and their place in public policy and governmental action.

Belinda Aquino discusses sexual harassment of women in their places of work in the United States. She points to the need to document similar experiences of women in the Philippines in order to assist decisionmakers in formulating relevant public policies.

The phenomenon of mail-order brides which resulted to interracial marriages particularly between Australians and Filipinas has caused so much degradation on the part of some of our women. Pinay migration to Australia is dealt with by Proserpina Domingo Tapales. She examines the factors sustaining outmigration despite the tragic experiences of some Filipina brides married to Australians. Tapales concludes that there is a need to integrate government and NGO efforts to formulate sound migration policies and to define measures to respond to the social problems encouraging outmigration.

An analysis of the nature, forms and quality of political participation by Filipino women is documented in this issue by Luzviminda Tancangco. She traces the historical background of women's organizations in the country which are perceived to be an essential requisite to women's power. Orthodox and unorthodox forms of political participation of women are also comprehensively discussed. The author concludes that substantive participation of women in politics in the Philippines is long overdue to attain a meaningful partnership between men and women.

Filipina outmigration to Singapore is tackled in the last article by Bienvenida Amarles. The author analyzes the information gathered regarding the plight of domestic helpers in Singapore and the institutions responsible in regulating outflow of women labor in the country. Amarles raises two issues which need to be resolved to protect the Filipinas from abusive and unfair labor practices.