

## Editors' Notes

This year's issue of the *Philippine Political Science Journal* features a special section on "Studies in Visayan and Mindanao Politics". Reflective of the traditional priorities of academics and the overall lopsided distribution of resources in favor of the center, few scholarly studies have been done to understand the important political practices and events that have animated these two crucial regions. Moreover, much of the locally produced significant studies have not been easily accessible to the reading public.

To encourage more academics and researchers to focus studies on these two regions, the *PPSJ* commits itself to set aside space in the journal to publish worthy outputs. In these two regions, many urgent political issues in their manifold diversity and complexity compel our systematic study and research.

Just to mention the more critical ones: the unresolved Muslim and communist armed movements that have achieved their strongest challenges in the region; the internationalization of these conflicts in the post-cold war era; the viability of the ARMM experience as a political response to the continuing Muslim demand for separatism or autonomy; understanding the rich experience of civil society, particularly NGO and PO practices in the region; local government practices in light of the Local Government Code; the regionally-rooted campaign for a federal state as an alternative to traditional unequal center-periphery relations; electoral practices and outcomes in the region; and underpinning

all of these, re-examining the interplay of political actors and forces between the traditional political center and its increasingly assertive local constituencies in a more global environment.

Patricio N. Abinales  
*Kyoto University*

Temario C. Rivera  
*International Christian  
University*

Issue Co-Editors