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Notes from the Editors

As the world continues to face and recover from the pandemic that struck, political developments continue to occur in different parts. Our experience of a global crisis transformed the lives of people all around the globe. However, such a crisis is close to an end that leads us to 'new normal' developments that can reflect the resilience of the world's populace. In this context, 2022 edition of ASSEMBLEA focused on the following theme: Global Crisis, New Normal Developments, and Resilience. More specifically, the submissions for this edition focused on the Philippine milieu. There are seven (7) publications for this edition.

The first publication that is featured for this edition falls under the sub-theme 'International Relations and Local Development.' The co-authors are Ybañez Pio C. del Prado, Niña Pamela F. Macaspac, & Amr Solon S. Sison and their research is entitled **One Belt One Road: An analysis on the Philippines' Official Development Assistance pivot to China**. The research essentially discusses how the Duterte administration shifted from the PPP (Public-Private Partnership) framework to the ODA (Official Development Assistance) framework. This features the pivot towards a closer relationship with China despite the territorial dispute in the West Philippines Sea/South China Sea. Moreover, the study is a qualitative analysis on the financial resource system in the Philippines vis-à-vis the ODA. The research finds that this pivot by the Duterte administration can lead to a challenging situation for the country.

The second study in this edition is entitled **Examining the Operative Capacity of the Departments of Makati City and Malabon City at the Onset of the Build. Build. Build. Program** by Reginald Arvin C. Hidalgo, Andre' Alex Lorenzo, & Jazztin Jairum P. Manalo. Under the sub-theme 'Democratic Consolidation and Development,' the article assesses the operative capacity of the bureaucracy of Makati and Malabon. By using of Wu, Ramesh, and Howlett's Governmental assessment framework, they were able to prove the assumptions made in the study. The first one is that the major shifts in policies affect LGUs in a multitude of ways (e.g. decision-making). The second one is that the operative capacity is related to the ability of institutions to respond effectively and efficiently.

The third articles also falls under the sub-theme 'Regional Conflict and Resolution' like the first one. However, this article is more phenomenological in its approach. It is entitled **A Case Study On The Intersectional Realities Of Muslim Women Residing In Muslim Towns In Quiapo, Manila And Maharlika Village, Taguig And Their Voting Preferences** and the main proponents are Gerome Rafael D. Austria, Veronica

Gayle D. Chua and Anna Esperanza Aquino. The main purpose of the study is to analyze the complex intersectional realities of Muslim women and how it relates to their voting preferences. By using the theory of Politicized Collective Identities (PCI), the proponents were able to establish the inequalities experienced by Muslim women. Hence, it would lead to their larger concerns about policies, platforms, and political initiatives – inside and outside their domain.

Under the sub-theme ‘Democratic Development in Transition,’ the fourth article written by Danilo Lorenzo S. delos Santos provides a historical-comparative study of the technological innovation system implemented by different Presidents of the Philippines since the end of the Second World War. The paper is entitled **Comparative Analysis of Democratic Transitions through Science and Technology Policies Using Innovation System Functions in the Philippines: 1946-2020**. The paper discusses the different policies implemented by the chief executives in their respective regimes. By using Hekkert’s framework, Mr. delos Santos analyzed these technological innovations beyond the institutional level. He also included both technological transitions and socio-technical shifts. In this light, the discussion provides richer and newer insights to the various policies implemented by Presidents throughout history.

The fifth article is entitled **Lungs of the Metro: Analyzing LGU-NGO Partnerships through Green Space Management in Manila City**. These were written by the following proponents: Julia Cruz, Trisha Mae Mariano, & Amr Solon Sison. The discussions in this article fall under the sub-theme ‘Post-Pandemic Development.’ Basically, the study aims to investigate the partnership between the Manila LGU and environmental advocates (NGOs). By using the lens of Urban Political Ecology, the study was able to tackle the success of the partnership between the LGU and NGO. Furthermore, the development of the city can be attributed to the vibrant participation of different NGOs.

Under the sub-theme ‘Regional Conflict Resolution,’ the sixth publication is entitled **Normalization of Violence and Othering: Trans-colonial Imprints in the Contemporary Philippines** by Mr. Kebart Licayan. The core argument of this article is that the existence of violence in Mindanao is a result of colonial influences (trans-colonial imprints) in the region. By looking at the lens of political co-optation, psychological othering, and theological justification, the author was able to explain the similarities of colonial violence and Islamist violence. It is in this light that the author hypothesizes that treaties (like the Bangsamoro Peace Agreement) cannot really address the roots of the problem. Thus, violence and othering are normalized.

The seventh article discusses something related to the Bangsamoro Peace Agreement. But this time, it can be under the sub-theme ‘International Organizations and Power Relations.’ The second one is written by Ms. Anne Laurice Enriquez and Mr. Francis Esteban. Their paper entitled **INGOs and Participative Democracy: Westminster for Democracy (WFD) and its initiatives in the Bangsamoro Autonomous Region in**

Muslim Mindanao (BARMM) discusses how international non-government organizations (INGOs) contribute to the capacity development and shaping a democratic parliament. In particular, the paper looks at the programs implemented by the UK-funded Westminster for Democracy (WFD). Basically, the paper describes how the programs from the aforementioned INGO improves the receptivity of the BARMM government and encourages more political participation from the stakeholders. More specifically, it encourages participation by aiding CSOs (civil society organizations), increasing women's participation, and promoting participatory governance.

With all these new and promising research papers, the editors of ASSEMBLEA hope to continue contributing to the gamut of literature and studies in the field of Political Science and allied disciplines. It is our hope that this leads to more discourse about a variety of topics that are relevant to our world.

THE EDITORS