

Editor's Notes

This second issue for 1989 deals primarily with vital issues concerning the administration of government in the Philippines and a major Asian country, and the implementation of socio-economic development programs in the countryside. The first article by Olivia C. Caoili, "Governance: Issues/Problems in the Philippines and the Role of the University of the Philippines," examines the general concept of governance and the concrete steps the University should undertake to maximize the use of its intellectual and material resources for the effective governance of the country.

Governance, to be effective, requires careful review of its structure to really reflect the true sentiments of the governed and it behooves the government to institute changes in the governing structure if it is unresponsive. Rizal Buendia's "The Prospects of Federalism in the Philippines: A Challenge to Political Decentralization of the Unitary State," attempts to highlight the compelling need to restructure the nation's unitary political structure in view of its perceived failure to integrate into the decision-making process the disparate and distinct needs of the country's populace. He argues further that federalism can be seen as a form of political decentralization.

An evaluation of the government's program on health development particularly in the rural areas is done by Victoria Bautista in her article "How Effective is the PHC Strategy?: Highlights of the Results of a Survey." She posits that the PHC strategy, which capitalizes on active citizen participation has effectively improved the health practices and knowledge on health matters of the rural population.

Romeo Quieta, in his article evaluating the Department of Social Welfare and Development's Self-Employment Assistance Program (SEAP), discloses the effectiveness of this program in improving the conditions of the target beneficiaries through the capital assistance extended for livelihood projects. However, program inputs need to be improved to further enhance the effectivity of SEAP.

The issue of politics-administration dichotomy is again re-examined, but this time within the context of the political environment of Communist China. The last article by Edna Co entitled "Public Administration in the People's Republic of China: Challenges on Political-Administrative Entanglements," presents the Chinese experience during the Mao era. It was pointed out that the Mao Regime showed no separation between ideology and organization and therefore resulted to the overconcentration of power in the Party committees. However, China's current leader, Deng Xiao Ping has started to institutionalize reforms which are beneficial to more than one billion Chinese.