

Foreword

This year, the long-standing ambition of the Philippine Political Science Association to "go regional" was finally realized. As part of the overall strategy to bring the Association to colleagues in the places that are distant from the metropolitan center where the organization is based, the Association organized conferences in four regions of the Archipelago — Northern Mindanao, Western Visayas, Eastern Visayas, and Northern and Central Luzon. The articles appearing in this issue represent the papers read in the first two regional conferences of the PPSA — the First Northern Mindanao Regional Conference and the First Western Visayas Regional Conference.

It was only natural that attention focused on the problems in the respective regions. Frequently, however, these problems, far from being isolated conditions peculiar to the areas covered, brought to the fore certain issues that had a national import.

Thus, problems of peace and order easily implied the more general issues of security and national integration. Questions related to administration really had implications with respect to decentralization, devolution of authority, and regional autonomy. The spectre of foreign intrusion lurking behind separatist movements was also a cause for anxiety for some of the conferees.

All these and other issues are discussed at length by the paper writers and conference participants. It is hoped that their publication in this *Journal* will help shed some light on and somehow contribute to the intelligent resolution of such issues.

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