

LETTER FROM THE EDITORS

As we take pride in giving our readers the last issue of the first volume of the *Philippine Population Journal*, we also wish to share our experiences during its first year of publication as it seeks to find its place in the world of scholarly publications. The road has not been easy but it has not been completely devoid of achievements, albeit modest, either. While its primary concern is to fill information gaps on population and population-related matters, it has to contend with creating the readers' and potential contributors' awareness on the existence of the *Journal*, which it is, we are proud to say, slowly accomplishing.

The *Journal* has set the stage for an organized system of sharing a wide range of information that can be useful to various types of users both locally and internationally. It has managed to compile and make more widely known new scientific knowledge on: (1) updated indicators of the three components of population change, i.e., fertility, mortality, and migration and their determinants; (2) improved and expanded analysis of determinants of population variables; (3) evaluation of the process and impact of population projects and programs; and (4) innovative planning and organizational efforts in improving the grasp on population events. It will be recalled that this is precisely the direction originally set for the *Journal*.

The articles for this issue continue to respond to the challenge.

In an attempt to assist decentralized planning, two articles provide regional measures of program and population indicators. The Raymundo and Ruiz paper provides regional baseline data on adolescent fertility and presents some dimensions of the behavior that might be useful for program planning. The paper breaks new grounds in the area of fertility by presenting a new dimension in the contribution of the young single women who have always been taken as non-entities in the fertility question. Their current and future roles in their own welfare, as well as their children's and society's, are speculated on the basis of their fertility and fertility-related attitudes and behavior. Cabigon, on the other hand, traces trends in contraceptive practice and the corresponding fertility performance of the regions. It attempts to explain changes in regional fertility behavior as brought about by actual changes in fertility within marriage and in the pattern of marriage.

The Medina and Natividad paper looks deeper into the international migration issue and demonstrates the importance of the Filipino kinship network in the more permanent moves to the United States within the context of changes in migration policies of the receiving country. To the extent that the latter opens its shores to migrants, Filipino migration will continue to increase in volume due to chain migration which, in turn, is spurred by family ties.

Feranil, in her paper, assesses the present status of the implementation of the local government's take-over of some of the responsibilities of the population program in their areas of jurisdiction. Still at infancy stage, this integration process has already offered insights to convince us that this process can succeed.

With these papers, we complete the first volume of the *Journal*. It is our hope that we shall continue to fill some gaps in population information and to make a significant impact in expanding the information base of our scholars, researchers, policy makers and program practitioners.