

## 25 YEARS OF THE PHILIPPINE GEOGRAPHICAL SOCIETY<sup>1</sup>

by

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A quarter of a century ago a group of twenty-one scholars and scientists headed by the late Dr. Jose M. Feliciano who was then the head of the Department of Geology and Geography, University of the Philippines, organized the Philippine Geographical Society. The first set of officers who administered the affairs of the organization were: Dr. Jose M. Feliciano, President; Dr. William J. Ellis, then principal science officer of the United Nations in Manila, Vice-President; Prof. Dominador Z. Rosell, Secretary; and Prof. Arturo Alcaraz, Treasurer.

The objective of the organization which was spelled out in its Constitution shall be to foster geographic interest and geographic education and to encourage the application of geographic knowledge in education, government, business and other forms of human activity.

Geography is both a social and a natural science discipline. It studies the earth as the home of man. Because of the breadth of its contents, Geography is accurately described as the queen of the sciences and the core in the unity of knowledge. The study of geography has become more relevant in our times because of monumental changes affecting the economic, social, and political structures of nations. These changes are brought about by complex factors including the advances in science and technology, rapid growth of population, depletion of natural resources and the degradation of the environment to which the geographer has a primary interest. In our own country, the environmental problems, such as the energy crisis, the pollution of air, land, and water, the rural-urban migration, the conservation of natural resources, socio-economic development and the problems of human settlements are proper subjects in geographical study.

Like any organization, the Philippine Geographical Society needs a dedicated leader so that it can grow and develop as a scientific and scholarly organization worthy of its name. During its 25 years of existence the presidency of the As-

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sociation was held by Dr. Jose M. Feliciano for two years; Dr. Charles O. Houston, two years; Prof. Dominador Z. Rosell, 15 years, Dr. Alejandro R. Apacible, three years and Dr. Domingo C. Salita, three years. While all the officers and members have contributed to the growth and development of the organization, the leadership of Prof. Dominador Z. Rosell deserves to be cited for the long and distinguished service that he has rendered to the Philippine Geographical Society and for advancing the profession of geography in our country.

It is not uncommon for the members to say that Prof. Rosell is the Philippine Geographical Society for almost single-handedly he carried the brunt of keeping the organization alive and recognized not only locally but also internationally. Through his initiative and resourcefulness the Society managed to publish the Philippine Geographical Journal, the official publication of the Association which is being sent to about 100 countries of the world. During the last regional conference of the International Geographic Union held in New Zealand last year copies of our Journal were presented by Prof. Rosell which created a good impression about our country and people.

In order that our local geographers can be abreast with geographic knowledge abroad, Prof. Rosell successfully persuaded the National Science Development Board to serve as the adhering organization so that the Philippines can be admitted a member of the International Geographic Union. The NSDB subsequently created the National Committee on Geographical Sciences as its clearing house and research arm on geographic matters. Within the progressive outlook and support of the NSDB, the Philippines became a member of the International Geographic Union in 1969.

In recognition of its reliability and scholarly performance as shown in the contents and regular publication of its Journal the Philippine Geographical Society was admitted a member of the Philippine Social Science Council in 1974, an organization dedicated in the promotion and advancement of research in the field of social science.

On the occasion of its 25th year anniversary, we say Mabuhay to the Philippine Geographical Society and its Journal.

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#### PHILIPPINE ASSOCIATION FOR THE ADVANCEMENT OF SCIENCE

To the Honorary Members, Founder Fellows, Fellows and Members, remember that on October 26, 27 and 28, 1976, will be the 25th Anniversary celebration of the Association. Watch for the program to be published in the PHILAAS Newsletter.

D. Z. ROSELL