

## FOREWORD

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Each country of the world aspires for change that will eventually lead to development and progress. National leaders would like to observe progress and development in all facets such as economy and economic growth, health and wellness, and peace and security, aimed at attaining good global economic index and better international stance. Ultimately, the goal is to provide quality life and living to the humanity, which the country and the leader serve.

A developing country like the Philippines also desires the same security for its people. Currently, the new administration provided strategic directions for the country to achieve quality life and living for its citizens, carved in its Philippine Development Plan (PDP, 2017-2022). Significantly, this document directs all process, practices, and routes of its constituent to eventually attain quality life for Filipinos. As such, PDP (2017-2022) longs to see the fulfillment of the dream of every Filipino through its advocacy entitled, "*Ambisyon Natin 2040*," underscoring three broad themes: "*malasakit*" (enhancing social fabric), "*pagbabago*" (inequality reducing transformation), and "*patuloy na pagunlad*" (increasing growth potential). Each of these themes spell out strategic plans, schemes, process and approaches to approximate how the country may reach its goal through small chunks of success, consequently summing up to realizing the set vision by 2040.

Higher Education Institutions (HEIs) have a share of these chunks. Particularly, HEIs nourish these three themes through teaching-learning processes, research production and innovations, and community service. Significantly, the Philippine Normal University—Publication Office, along with other respectable state colleges and universities, continuously contribute to these chunks through the scholarly and academic outputs and products of the faculty, staff and student, disseminated through publication

to showcase both in the national and international virtual research world, top-notch articles from authors of remarkable calibre across the Philippines. Currently, the Asia-Pacific Higher Education Research Journal (APHERJ) proudly presents seven researches that may stimulate the minds of our patron readers on how these research products may benefit the country and be of help in attaining "*Ambisyon Natin 2040*."

The multidisciplinary nature of APHERJ is what sets it apart from other specialized journals recognizing the contribution of different disciplines in education. Featured in this journal issue are the following Higher Education Institutions (HEIs) that contributed greatly in solidifying research-based claims, paving the way for colleagues to venture to the exciting world of research writing and how it may contribute to developing quality Filipino living- Camarines Sur Polytechnic Colleges, Centro Escolar University, Batangas State University, Partido State University, St. Anne College of Laguna, and Iloilo Science and Technology University. The participating researchers from the aforementioned HEIs have exhibited inner desire to provide knowledge and product to contribute to the thrust and vision of the Philippine government through their competence and competitiveness in patiently tweaking and calibrating their work to make them fit for publication and dissemination.

A review of our manuscript submissions provides a glimpse of how research may inform practices in the society and the community to achieve the first theme of *Ambisyon Natin 2040*, "*malasakit*" or enhancement of social fabric. Two of our articles hold a promise for the future. Tabernal developed an intervention bundle for Barangay Health Workers to highly enhance their performance and be able to serve and help the people in the community attain a healthy lifestyle. By modeling

descriptive correlational research, the author determined the level of competence of barangay health workers (BHW) in terms of their three-fold function: community organizer, health educator, and health care provider. Correlates to personal, political and environmental factors determine which connections need enhancement and what intervention is most appropriate. The research envisions better health care and ensures ensuring health security to the community as serviced by BHW if these factors that relate to enhancement of their level of competence are addressed.

Another article provides a glimpse of management in relation to social fabric. Almario's work distinguished the **Creative Problem Solving (CPS)** scheme of managers as either convergent managers, who are generally described as "*implementers*" (getting things done) and "*optimizers*" (turn in abstract ideas into practical solutions and plans) or **divergent managers**, who are "*generators*" (getting things started) and "*conceptualizer*" (putting ideas together). He found that most of the sampled academic managers indicated distinct and unique convergent (optimizers and implementers) rather than divergent (generator and conceptualizer) managers. Significantly, Almario did not detect any correlation of personal attributes of managers to their CPS styles. Furthermore, he accentuated on the findings that the capability of the academic manager to transcend from being convergent to being divergent may sustain local and indigenous knowledge of the locality. Thus, his proposed intervention method may render a vital role to good governance for a better social fabric.

Three of our articles may inform and provide ideas on the third theme: "*patuloy na pag-unlad*" (increasing potential growth), cutting across other fields such as cost efficiency and economics, health and wellness, and risk reduction. The work of Ilustre, Maullion, Rado and Magundayao showed that cement plaster, the most common plastering material in the local

industry can be made better and at low cost with proper proportioning of sand, water and cement. The group developed several proportion samples, specifying the sand proportion with the source of sand, water and cement and tested the products for cracks and defects. Significantly, they found that the sand from Lobo provided best results as plaster among the sampled proportion and sand sources. This research product and breakthrough may help builders and contractors produce resilient infrastructure using local materials.

Cost efficiency is not the only factor to consider when it comes to products of research. Other benefits such as health and wellness of the community may also be given priority and importance. Romero, Romero, and Romero fabricated insulated metal sheet roofing to protect human from the excessive effects of global warming. They used coconut fibers to insulate corrugated galvanized iron (GI) sheets, but presented two models: model 1 included mortar and model 2 does not, and they compared these models to the conventional GI sheets. The researchers investigated occurrences of physical defects and found that model 1 incurred the least physical defects and internal temperature. Thus, the proponents believed that model 1 will qualify as a good insulating sheet to protect people from very hot and harsh environmental conditions. As a roofing sheet, though, further research may be undertaken to establish its usefulness in the aspect of health protection of the community. Global warming may be a threat to mankind's environment and health, but with proper mindset and innovation, we get to be protected and insulated after all.

Risk reduction defines the century we are in, and technology is seen as a way out of risk. The country is known to encounter at least 22 typhoons in a year, which bring about other natural calamities such as flooding and landslides. Underscoring safety and infrastructure resilience, Ronquillo, Andaya, Asa, and Bacay developed "FloodAlert," an automatic flood warning system. The project

is a response to Project Hazard Notification, Dissemination and Awareness (HaNDA) of the science and technology agency of the country. Particularly, the project developed a contemporary technology that can be used to improve the dissemination of disaster-related information. With its unique features such as ICT-enabled data manipulation and SMS real-time notifications, the researchers believed in its capability to reduce risk through early information.

Knowledge and information are becoming the most important commodities in today's era. Fair share of knowledge to everyone may generate heaps of success in uplifting the life condition of the Filipino people. Inclusivity in terms of knowledge sharing and dissemination eventually provides equitable improvement of life through better human resource. This ideal targets the second theme: "*pagbabago*" (inequality-reducing transformation) of the Philippine Development Plan (2017-2022). Apparently, knowledge dissemination and sharing can be done in print and online. Our sixth article underscores the use of highly customized print material in the teaching and learning process. Aureada's work-text in logic intended for tertiary students mediated a smooth communication between the teacher and the learner leading to better student performance and exuding student confidence as self-directed learners. Self-directed learning may be viewed as way to target transformations of the country through self-transformations.

Many researchers would claim that our young learners, commonly labelled as digital learners prefer online learning using technology such as the internet, social media, and mobile devices. A qualitative study conducted by Lumauag de ined learners' access to and adaptability to technology as they maneuver the learning grounds. He found out that learners used technology as portal of knowledge, in which the availability of online information motivates them to learn new concepts, and thereby promoted self-directed and independent learning.

Importantly, learners share significant information through collaboration and interaction online platform. Caution, though may need to be emphasized with this mode of teaching and learning so that unnecessary information do not distract the learners.

The Higher Education Institution (HEI) is really a rich ground from which knowledge may be sourced to fill the gaps yielded from the implementation of PDP (2017-2022). From our featured articles, scholarly and academic outputs and products may very well inform and improve practices, policies, standards, and implementation of the country's development plan. Thus, as advocates of change and transformation, the country looks into research and knowledge dissemination as our way to evaluate and assess what we know and currently have (sensegiving) and act on the identified discrepancies and gaps. Awareness of what is presently existing and which are not, may trigger actions to fill in gaps within the context of the three themes: *malasakit*, *pagbabago*, and *patuloy na pag-unlad* for social reform and transformation for a better Philippines.

***The Editor***



