The *Philippine Journal of Development*: Its Beginning and Evolution

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THE BEGINNING

As early as 1973, during his initial years as director-general of the then newly organized National Economic and Development Authority (NEDA), the Philippinesí central planning coordination body, Dr. Gerardo P. Sicat had wanted to put up a publication outlet that would churn out studies/research written by the NEDA staff as well as by Filipino economists/social scientists on certain development issues. This, according to him, would enable them to present their views and findings based on their analysis of issues and thereupon provide a venue for communicating to all those involved in and concerned about the development process the various factors and perspectives affecting such process.

After consultations with his deputies at NEDA and other economists, Dr. Sicat spearheaded the preparations for the production and publication of a technical journal by NEDA. Dubbed as *NEDA Journal of Development*, the publication was meant primarily as a venue for inhouse studies and articles even as it also welcomed contributions from other Filipino economists and scholars.

First published in 1974, the journalís objectives were as follows:

a) To serve as a vehicle to disseminate technical information among professionals within and outside the government; and

b) To provide a forum for airing developmental issues

through an interplay of professional views from the standpoint of economics and, whenever applicable, the social sciences.

Drawing from the NEDA’s core of technical staff, Dr. Sicat then designated Rodrigo Bernal from the Economic Planning and Research Staff (EPRS) as the first managing editor of the journal. Among Bernal’s duties and responsibilities were to solicit potentially acceptable papers for the journal, identify studies that may be considered for repackaging as journal articles, and oversee the review, production and dissemination of the journal.

NATURE OF THE JOURNAL

The NEDA Journal of Development was conceived to be a semestral journal that would serve as a vehicle for disseminating research-based papers on development issues affecting the Philippines and which had policy implications. As such, its inclusion of articles/papers was not confined solely to those of the economy but also to other aspects of development like public administration, foreign relations, political economy, business and the like.

The target audience of the journal included:

a) policymakers/planners
b) key government officials
c) researchers
d) professionals

Providing the overall direction and policy for the journal was the Editorial Advisory Committee whose composition included the following NEDA officials:

a) Dr. Gerardo P. Sicat - Chairperson
b) Dr. Jaime C. Laya - Member
c) Mr. Antonio M. Locsin - Member
d) Mr. Ruben B. Ancheta - Member
e) Mr. Nicanor Y. Fuentes - Member
f) Dr. Filologo Pante, Jr. - Member

The more specific responsibilities of the Committee were as follows:
(a) To recommend themes for certain issues and/or papers for possible inclusion in the journal;
(b) To resolve conflicts, if any, in perspectives in terms of review/refereeing of articles;
(c) To act as final arbiter in the determination of articles to be included in the journal;
(d) To meet at least once a year or whenever necessary; and
(e) To serve for a period of five years.

Through the years, the composition of the Committee has changed, as shown in Annex A. Its name was also changed from Editorial Advisory Committee to simply Editorial Board. Its functions and responsibilities, however, largely remained the same although the level of involvement varied, depending on the composition.

For the journalís maiden issue, the papers touched mostly on the economy and economic methodologies and analyses. Its contributors were Mahar Mangahas and Victor Tan, Romeo Bautista, Gonzalo Jurado, José Encarnación, Jr., Ricardo Ferrer, Ruperto Alonzo, Bienvenido Noriega, Jr. and Leonardo Frianeza. The scope and topics covered by the 48 issues (from 1974 to 2000) of the journal and their contributions to the understanding of key development issues amid the changing landscapes in the national and international arenas are captured in the review paper written by Fernando Aldaba, which is included in this issue.

In 1976, the position of managing editor of the journal changed hands. Rodrigo Bernal moved to NEDAís Bicol Region office while Jennifer Liguton, then technical assistant to Dr. Sicat and newly arrived from her graduate studies abroad, was appointed as the journalís managing editor on a concurrent basis.

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The journal also changed its name to *Journal of Philippine Development* (JPD) to give emphasis to the principal objective of promoting technical studies and information on Philippine development.

**NEW MANAGEMENT AND EDITORSHIP**

When Dr. Sicat left NEDA in 1981, publication of the journal stopped. Its last issue under NEDA management appeared in 1980. Concerned that there was no other journal in the Philippines that dealt with the economy and overall development issues as well as their policy implications, a group of economists met in 1982 to discuss the possibility of reviving the JPD. They were Dr. Romeo Bautista, Dr. Armand Fabella, Dr. Tito Mijares and the late Dr. Jos✦ Encarnaciôn, Jr., all of whom believed that there was a need to revive the JPD, which they did. The group also agreed that it would be a good idea to have the management and editorship of the newly revived journal transferred under the auspices of a relatively new institution engaged in doing policy-oriented research on Philippine economic and social development. This new institution came to be known as the Philippine Institute for Development Studies (PIDS), a government research corporation attached to the NEDA and whose staff included promising young economists and professionals. Its research base would be a perfect support to the publication of the journal.

The journalís first two issues under PIDS covered the years 1981 and 1982. The members of the editorial board were Dr. Romeo Bautista, Dr. Jos✦ Encarnaciôn, Jr., Dr. Armand Fabella, Dr. Tito Mijares, Dr. Filologo Pante, Jr. and Dr. Gerardo Sicat. The managing editor position was reassigned to Jennifer Liguton who at that time had moved to the PIDS as head of its information and dissemination department.

As a PIDS-based publication, the journal retained the name *Journal of Philippine Development* (JPD). It remained as a semestral

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2 The PIDS would grow to be one of the countryís respected government think tanks.
3 The two years were covered to provide a continuity for the journal from its NEDA days.
publication with basically the same audience, format and design. Its objectives, while remaining fundamentally the same, were re-cast as follows:

a) To serve as an outlet of technical studies by the PIDS research staff and researchers from other institutions, focusing on various aspects of development and bearing implications for policy; and

b) To present development issues not only from a strictly economic perspective but also from an interplay of economic and social science perspectives, thus highlighting the implications for policy decisions.

To ensure high-quality papers for the journal, PIDS prepared two sets of criteria/guidelines in determining which papers to publish. One set referred to the general guidelines which served as the basis for making the “first cut” by the managing editor while the other set was meant for the referees/reviewers of each article/paper being considered. (Please see Annexes B and C for these sets.)

For the review process, a list of possible reviewers/referees was prepared, identifying the area(s) of specialization for each name. The procedure and various stages for the publication of the journal were also improved. Annex D identifies the process step by step.

Over the years, the journal, as Aldaba’s review paper indicates, has played several roles in the development community. And as the issues and concerns of development shift in priority through the years, so have the topics covered in the journal. This is to address the challenges and questions brought about by emerging environments.

**ADJUSTING TO THE TIMES**

The global phenomenon that continues to affect trade, industry, the economy and various other aspects of development requires one to look at development from a wider perspective. The same is true of Philippine development, which is intertwined with global development issues.
Given this interconnection, the journal’s present editorial board deemed it best to change the name of the journal to *Philippine Journal of Development* (PJD) beginning with its 2001 issues.

While the change of name will not, in any way, change the journal’s focus on Philippine development issues nor relegate the primacy of Philippine authors/contributions in the consideration and acceptance of papers for the journal, as reflected in the journal’s mandate, it will highlight the fact that the Philippines is a global player and part of the global developments.

The rationale for making the change is succinctly explained by the present chair of the editorial board, Dr. Gonzalo M. Jurado, in his *Editor’s Notes* (Annex E).

**THE YEARS AHEAD**

The journal’s continued publication after 28 years of existence is testimony to the fact that it has carved a niche in the development community.

However, it must continue to ensure the high quality of its articles and further improve its set of procedures, especially in the screening and review process. Recognizing this, the editorial board has decided to appoint an associate editor for each issue who will come from the members of the board. While the managing editor will continue to do the initial screening, assist in the search and solicitation of articles and oversee the production process, the associate editor will determine the final list of articles and facilitate the review/refereeing process.

Moreover, to truly address the diversity and multiplicity of the facets of development, the journal must actively encourage the contribution of studies dealing with other fields like sociology, political economy and the like, as they interact with economics and affect development on the whole.

The coming years will therefore pose a number of new challenges to the journal. It is hoped that the journal will live up to these challenges.
Annex A. Composition of the Editorial Board through the years

**Past Board Members**

**1974**

Chairperson: Dr. Gerardo P. Sicat
Members:
- Dr. Jaime C. Laya
- Mr. Antonio M. Locsin
- Mr. Ruben B. Ancheta
- Mr. Nicanor Y. Fuentes
- Dr. Filologo Pante, Jr.

**1975-1980**

In addition to the members assigned in 1974, the following were added:
- Dr. Manuel S. Alba
- Dr. Tito A. Mijares
- Mr. Eduardo G. Corpuz

**1981-1985**

- Dr. Romeo M. Bautista
- Dr. José Encarnación, Jr.
- Dr. Armand V. Fabella
- Dr. Tito A. Mijares
- Dr. Filologo Pante, Jr.
- Dr. Gerardo P. Sicat

**1986-1988**

Chairperson: Mrs. Solita Collás-Monsod
Members:
- Dr. Florian A. Alburo
- Dr. Ledivina V. Cariño
- Dr. Isidoro P. David
- Dr. Filologo Pante, Jr.
- Dr. Emmanuel T. Velasco

**1989-1990**

Chairperson: Dr. Florian A. Alburo
Members:
- Dr. Cynthia S. Bantilan
- Dr. Ledivina V. Cariño
- Dr. Ponciano S. Intal, Jr.
- Dr. Rosario G. Manasan
- Dr. Ernesto M. Femia
- Dr. Emmanuel T. Velasco

Dr. Florian Alburo left the chairmanship in 1991. Dr. Ponciano Intal also resigned as member. Two new members were added, namely, Dr. Cristina David and Dr. Felipe Medalla. The rest remained as members.

**1995-2000**

- Dr. Arsenio M. Balisacan
- Dr. Gilberto M. Llanto
- Dr. Emmanuel T. Velasco
- Dr. Romeo M. Bautista
- Dr. Felipe M. Medalla
- Dr. Wilfrido V. Villacorta

**1991-1994**

Dr. Florian Alburo left the chairmanship in 1991.
Dr. Ponciano Intal also resigned as member.

**Present Editorial Board**

**2001-2005**

Chairperson: Dr. Gonzalo M. Jurado
Members:
- Dr. Michael M. Alba
- Dr. Hal Hill
- Dr. Mario B. Lamberte
- Dr. Gilberto M. Llanto
- Dr. Federico M. Macaranas
- Fr. Noel D. Vasquez
Annex B. Criteria/guidelines in considering articles for the Journal

1. Must be policy- and/or action-oriented, i.e., they must address contemporary policy issues or must have a forward-looking and anticipatory perspective that will translate into better policy decisions.
2. Must be research-based.
3. Must be technically sound.
4. Must be original and never been published before except in exceptional cases.
5. Must focus on the Philippines or on a cross-country perspective with implications on the Philippines.
6. Must contribute to the overall stock of knowledge and advancement of the processes of planning, policy formulation and decisionmaking.
7. Must express views that are devoid of political, religious or racial bias.
8. Studies on methodology/models may be considered provided that they are to be used for planning/policy formulation and tested and applied against empirical data.
9. Special issues like workshop proceedings may be considered provided there are integrative papers that show the unifying thread for all the workshop papers. Festschrifts may also be published.

Annex C. Guidelines for referees

Please use this sheet as a guide only to assist you in formulating your comments regarding the enclosed manuscript. Your comments will assist the Institute in making a decision and benefit the author when revising his text.

1. Does the subject fall within the scope and objectives of the publication?
2. Is this a new and original contribution?
3. Does the title of this paper clearly reflect its contents?
4. Is the statement of objectives of the paper adequate and appropriate in view of the subject matter?
5. Is the organization satisfactory and are the results clearly presented?
6. Are interpretations and conclusions sound and justified by the data?
7. Is the length appropriate to the content?
8. Is the method correctly exposed and sufficiently informative to allow replication of the experiment?
9. Are all the illustrations and tables necessary and complete (e.g., titles)?
10. Are the references adequate and in agreement with the Guide for Authors?
11. Can you suggest changes that will improve or increase the value of this paper for its intended audience?
12. Please feel free to write down whatever other comments/observations/suggestions you may have regarding the article/manuscript.
Annex C (continued)

13. Finally, would you recommend:
   a) That the article/paper be published, largely as is, in this publication? or
   b) That the paper be published, with certain revisions? or
   c) That the paper be turned down for publication? or
   d) That the paper be considered for another publication venue/outlet?
      Please suggest possible outlet(s).

Annex D. Process/Procedures

* Submission

   • Manuscripts may be submitted and considered for review any time.
   • Manuscripts should be in duplicates and typed double-space in 8.5” x 11” bond paper.
   • Manuscripts must be accompanied by diskettes and an abstract of not more than 500 words. The average length of manuscript is 25-35 pages, including tables, charts, figures and annexes, if any.
   • Manuscripts are addressed to the managing editor of the PJD.

* Review

   • Initial Screening

      Upon receipt of manuscript, the managing editor conducts an initial screening to determine whether (a) the topic is within the thematic coverage of the Journal; (b) the findings have possible implications to policy; (c) the paper is well within the length requirement of an article for the Journal; and (d) the paper has not been previously published in its exact version in other journals, whether here or abroad.

   • Refereeing

      After the initial screening, the managing editor forwards the article/paper to two referees/reviewers, chosen from a pool of referees with expertise in various areas of specialization, for a more thorough review (please see Guidelines for Referees).

      Period of review ranges from 1 to 2 months, effective upon receipt of conforme from the referees to do the review.

      Review is done anonymously, i.e., name(s) of author(s) is/are deleted when sent to referees, and referees’ identities are withheld from the author(s).
Annex D (continued)

* Revision

- If review is positive, comments and evaluation are forwarded to author for feedback and revision.
- Period for revision is one month.
- Revised paper is sent back to referee for final review/additional comments and suggestions.
- If review is negative, comments and evaluation are forwarded to author and paper is returned.
- In case of conflicting views/reviews, the decision and views of all or any one of the Editorial Board members are sought.

* Production

- Once a paper is finally accepted without further comments by the referee(s) and the final revised paper is submitted to the managing editor, the production work, e.g., editing, layout, typesetting, etc., begins.
- Edited copies of articles are shown to authors for review.

* Complimentary Copies

- Six complimentary copies of the Journal and 24 offprints of the article are given to the author. In cases where there are more than one author, the copies are shared equally among them.
 Annex E

 Editor’s Notes

Once again, we introduce the Journal of Philippine Development under a new name – the Philippine Journal of Development. The change is motivated by three considerations, the first of which is to give recognition to the growing diversity of articles being submitted to the journal, truly a measure of the globalization that is now sweeping Planet Earth. No longer are these articles focused strictly on Philippine development, as required by the original title. They are rather aimed at varied and more encompassing subjects, including sectoral policy concerns in various countries and development issues in general. This change and enlargement of subjects does not mean an abandonment of the journal’s original intent; it merely acknowledges the universal character of development, that even analyses directed at particular concerns can have general implications, including some of urgency to the Philippines.

Another reason is to take cognizance of the increasing internationalization of the journal’s authors. Contributors used to come almost entirely from the Philippines, specifically from the country’s research institutions and implementing departments. At the present time, many come from countries in the region and a few from “the rest of the world.” The new name should make them feel at home in this Philippine journal.

Lastly, we wish to acknowledge the growing expansion and diversification of the field of interest of our own homegrown scholars and researchers. As time passes, their analytical efforts are taking them to issues transcending Philippine horizons; their contributions can be of interest to foreign readers, not only to Philippine scholars. We wish to give them a vehicle for their discoveries.

Those points having been made, the Philippine Journal of Development will continue to give first priority to articles of direct pertinence to Philippine development policy issues, second to those of indirect relevance, and third to those of interest to economic, social and political development in general.

As we found the change necessary, so we hope our readers and writers will find it in accord with their preferences.

DR. GONZALO M. JURADO
Chairperson
Editorial Board