

Foreword

Hukay Volume 21 represents the first issue released with me as **Hukay** Editor. The opportunity to work on **Hukay** was passed to me back in 2018 shortly after I became faculty of the Archaeological Studies Program. I was enthralled to the challenge as Editor because **Hukay** is an expedient avenue for the ASP community, particularly its graduate students, to learn the process involved in disseminating knowledge while capturing contributions from archaeological practitioners in the Asia-Pacific region. As a peer-refereed academic journal that believes in the paramount importance of communicating knowledge to the public, young researchers are given the opportunity to experience the rigor of the review process. This will instill the value of discipline, patience, and perseverance.

Since the last issue of **Hukay** in 2016, Philippine archaeology has achieved monumental milestones that placed us in the global scene of the ever-expanding discourse on human evolution. These are the recent discovery of a new member of the genus *Homo*, the *H. luzonensis* from Callao Cave, Cagayan Province (Détroit et al. 2019) and the rhinoceros finds from Kalinga Province (Ingicco et al. 2018). These prove and further demonstrate that the Philippines has evidence for deep-time human activity.

It is anticipated that the said discoveries will predicate more archaeological research in the region, and hopefully a corresponding increase in publications from the Philippines. Since the onset of archaeological research in the country, we have accumulated an enormous number of artifacts, many of which remains to be described, documented, and reported. **Hukay** is in the position to provide the opportunity to publish information from these assemblages. We encourage graduate students, young researchers, as well as practitioners of archaeology and allied disciplines to take advantage of this avenue.

Along with all members of the **Hukay** editorial team, I am delighted to welcome readers to Volume 21 of **Hukay** journal. In this issue, there are three articles and one book review. Whilst not following a specific theme, it presents an eclectic spread of topics illustrating the inherently diverse approaches we employ in the practice of archaeology to arrive at the closest possible understanding of humanity's becoming.

Edwin A. Valientes' paper on *The Archaeology and Meaning of the Boat-*

shaped Stone Markers in Vuhus Island, Batanes Province, Northern Philippines provides a critical review on the surveys and excavations made on Vuhus Island. It explores the symbolic associations and meanings that the boat-shaped stone markers are relaying. It also touches on the social lives, burial practices and cosmology of the past peoples of Batanes. The contribution of Robles and co-authors on *The Dinagat Corridor: Preliminary Explorations on the Archaeology of Samar and Siargao Islands* presents the results of the explorations made on Samar and Siargao islands, as well as the potential of the area for future archaeological research. It also highlights the efficiency that Geographic Information Systems (GIS) can offer as a platform for collecting, storing, analyzing, and inferencing data for the reconstruction of palaeogeographies. The last article on *Philippine Indigenous Forts from Pre-Contact to the American Colonial Period* by Ma. Elena Wright explores the different fortifications found in the country. The paper attempts to consolidate accounts on Philippine forts from various sources, such as archival collections, journals, epics, folklore and many more. This issue also includes a book review on Peter Bellwood's *"The First Islanders, Prehistory and Human Migration in Island Southeast Asia,"* a Wiley and Sons, Inc. publication, by Victor J. Paz. Here, he engaged the book as well as offered reservations and alternative insights on certain point discussed in the book.

I would also like to thank many people who put a lot of time and energy into the production of **Hukay** Volume 21. The list includes all Hukay editorial team members, reviewers, and contributors.

Michael James B. Herrera
Hukay Editor

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