

Notes from the Editor

If you are holding a hard copy of Diliman Review right now, or reading a soft copy of this issue right at this moment, I wholeheartedly thank you. You are precisely the reason why Diliman Review continues to exist and still be relevant, and why we worked so hard to revive it after two years of hiatus.

Perhaps not many of you know that Diliman Review has been around for almost seven decades now. It was established in 1952 as a quarterly publication of the College of Liberal Arts that was “devoted to letters, arts and discussion.” The first issue of DR was released in 1953, only a year after its establishment, featuring works of celebrated academicians in the university, including N.V.M Gonzalez — who was also DR’s founding editor, Salvador P. Lopez, Carlos P. Romulo, and Claro M. Recto among others. Since then, Diliman Review became an important avenue for both thought-oriented pieces and creative works — many of them provocative and unconventional. Many of the contributors also became important figures in the academe and/or the national government, a testament to the level of scholarship in the works that were being published in DR.

Diliman Review also endured the Marcos Regime and even became a platform for essays and creative works that were critical of the dictatorship, particularly during the Martial Law period. Together with the Philippine Collegian, Diliman Review became instrumental in ensuring that dissenting voices are heard and the intellectual life in the university flourished in spite of the continuing state repression even after the lifting of Martial Law. In the face of censorship and various forms of threat during the Marcos years, Diliman Review stood its ground and remained true to its character — unwavering and fearless.

However, the developments in higher education that spurred changes in hiring, retention, and promotion policies, and the reformulation

of assessment instruments by higher educational institutions, somehow influenced Diliman Review's directions in the years that came after EDSA Revolution. Global metrics started to be introduced to Philippine universities and consequently, regional and global university rankings began to pervade academic institutions, redefining what would typically constitute the body of "scholarly work" by a faculty member. These developments compelled the Board of Advisers to transform Diliman Review into a peer-reviewed journal in 2005. The intention was to augment the peer-reviewed publications of the faculty members who at that time were the main contributors to DR. Several peer-reviewed volumes of DR came out until 2013, when it finally succumbed to both scanty submissions and increasing competition among peer reviewed publications in the University.

When I assumed the Editorship in 2016, my task was to help revive Diliman Review and formulate ways to drum up submissions and re-introduce the journal to the academic community. It was not easy—I only have one (1) managing staff and two Associate Editors, the latter remotely working with me to screen submissions from their respective colleges. We decided to keep DR as a peer-reviewed journal but with more diverse content. We are also now accepting contributions from students, graduate and undergraduate alike, as we move to become a repository of excellent student papers from the three domains covered by the journal—Social Sciences & Philosophy, Arts & Literature, and the Natural Sciences. I am proud that we were able to release our comeback issue last year, signaling another era of DR and officially marking our initial attempt to regain the glory that DR had during the first decades of its publication. DR's comeback issue would not have been possible without the support and prodding of CSSP's immediate past Dean, Dr. Grace H. Aguilin-Dalisay, the excellent contributions by the authors, the insightful evaluations by the reviewers, the hardwork and patience of DR's lone managing staff—Mr. Darius L. Martinez, who had to endure all sorts of demands from me— and the assistance extended by Dr. Ben Vallejo and Dr. Issy Reyes, the journal's Associate Editors.

As you have probably seen in DR's comeback issue last year (Vol. 61, No.1), no preface or front matter material came from the Editor. My decision to pen a few words in this particular issue is not only to share to you what the journal has gone through in the past but also to relay to you the wonderful news that some of the journal's operational guidelines have already been revised last year, thanks to the encouragement and guidance of the journal's Board of Advisers including Dean Dette Abrera (CSSP), Dean Ami Bonifacio-Ramolete (CAL), and Dean Perry Ong (CS). Their support was key to the approval of our recommendation to revitalize DR, including the increase

in the administrative load credit of its Editors and the payment of modest honorarium to both the contributors and the reviewers. In addition, we now have specific budget for ancillary activities, including lectures and writeshops, which we could utilize whenever necessary. The approval of our revitalization request last year has been a huge boost to DR's capacity to work on its backlog and publish on time in the next few years.

As mentioned above, please do not expect this "Notes from the Editor" to appear regularly on every DR issue. But rest assured that one is in order for every milestone that DR reaches and for every development— or even individual— that deserves either a celebration and/or a tribute.

Matamang salamat!

ALDRIN P. LEE, PhD
Editor