

## *Editorial*

This issue of the *Review of Women's Studies* features two special sections of current significance. The section on Gender and Governance takes off from the 2002 special issue on the topic. The second section is on Women in the Philippine Labor Movement, which highlights women's participation in the labor force, and marks the centennial of the Philippine labor movement celebrated in 2002-2003.

These two topics are complementary since labor issues are concerns of law and governance. Some of the papers indeed present government's answers to problems of women in society, with labor and the economy as thrusts of many laws and administrative actions.

The section on Gender and Governance opens with the Manila Declaration, crafted by participants in the Summit of Women Local Chief Executives and Legislators held on May 13-15, 2003. The Declaration is of special significance in that it calls for government strategies to enhance women's participation in local governance. As companion piece of the Manila Declaration, the Summary Proceedings of the Summit of Women Local Chief Executives and Legislators provides readers information on the events and substance of the Summit.

Different aspects of women's participation in governance are explored in the next set of papers. Marilyn Barua-Yap provides an extensive review of governmental responses to issues of gender empowerment in her paper, "Engendering Development: an Overview of the Philippine Experience". LaRainne Abad

Sarmiento compares Philippine and Pakistani approaches to expand women's political participation in "Fostering Gender Equality in Local Governance: An Overview of the Philippine Experience". Women's empowerment at the community level is discussed in terms of small credit for livelihood projects. Ma. Eloisa Almario-Zabat documents this in "Puhunang Pangkaunlarang Sikap Buhay: A Microfinancing Program of the Quezon City Government".

The section on Women in the Philippine Labor Movement features papers presented in a conference held on March 28, 2003, specifically the "Seminar-Workshop in Filipino Women and Work: Milestones in a Century." We are grateful to the National Commission on the Role of Filipino Women, the International Labour Organisation, the Friedrich Ebert Stiftung, and the International Labour Organisation for permission to print the papers in this Journal.

The section opens with a portrait of women workers in the Philippines as presented by Jurgette Honculada in "Women Workers in Herstory". Joel Lasam assesses the impact of globalization on women workers in "Addressing the Challenges of Globalization: Gender, Governance and Development". "Women in the Informal Sector in the Philippines" by Maybelle Frianeza focuses on the growing group of women who have less labor protection. Jean Enriquez discusses the problems met by a special group of women in "Trafficking of Women: Updates, Trends, and Challenges". Lastly, problems of returning migrant workers and strategies to assist them are discussed by Vivian F. Tornea in "Reintegration Program for Migrant Women".

*THE EDITOR*