

FROM THE EDITOR

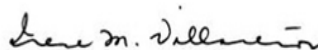
Welcome again to *Science Diliman!* In this second issue of Science Diliman for 2017, we present four articles and one short communication with rather diverse topics. The layman's abstracts will make the technical papers more comprehensible to non-specialists.

In the first article, Engineers Tanguilig and Danao studied the aerodynamic performance of a cut-out hollow pipe blade profile in small horizontal axis wind turbines, which have the potential to replace conventional blades with aerofoil profiles. Initial results show poor aerodynamic characteristics, and improvements thereof will be investigated again.

According to the website of the Department of Health, schistosomiasis, caused by the *Schistosoma japonicum*, is still endemic in 12 regions, affecting about 12 million Filipinos. The intermediate host of this parasitic fluke is a snail, which is the object of morphometric and genetic studies by a group of doctors and biologists, with Chua as principal author. Preliminary results show the presence of four haplotypes of the snail.

The paper by Cabarrubias et al. shifts the topic from animals to plants, specifically hibiscus. The group of agricultural scientists characterized 57 hibiscus hybrid progenies to select hybrids with unique morphological traits, such as the color and size of flowers, among others. Another research on plants, specifically herbal products, was conducted by a group of chemists. The quality and safety of herbal products are very important, which make the research of De Vera et al. on trace metal analysis timely. Results show that most herbal products they tested contained trace metals that were below the maximum limits in herbal products. Another paper on medicinal plants by Singson and Hernandez measured the ability of plants to inhibit the activity of angiotensin-converting enzyme, which is one mechanism to lower blood pressure.

Allow me to thank the authors and reviewers for their contributions in making Science Diliman a CHED Journal Incubation Grant recipient for 2017-2019, on top of being selected for coverage in the Web of Science Emerging Sources Citation Index.



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Editor-in-Chief