

Edgardo D. Gomez
07 Nov 1938–01 Dec 2019



NS Gomez with son Jose Edgardo in 1975 (picture courtesy of JEG).

National Scientist Edgardo Dizon Gomez was the Founding Director of the Marine Science Institute (UPMSI) of the College of Science, University of the Philippines (UP) in Diliman, Quezon City. The UPMSI was first established as the Marine Sciences Center by the Board of Regents on 28 Mar 1974 and commenced operations in February 1975 as part of Natural Sciences Research Institute. The UPMSI began offering Ph.D. and M.Sc. programs after the Center was transformed into an institute on 23 Apr 1985.

Dr. Gomez was appointed University *Professor Emeritus* in 2005 and proclaimed as National Scientist by Philippine President Benigno Aquino III in 2014. He was also a recipient of the Presidential *Lingkod Bayan* Award from the Civil Service Commission in 2000. He obtained his bachelor's degree in Education, major in English and Social Science (*summa cum laude*) from De La Salle University in 1962, his master's degree in Biology as a Fulbright Travel Grantee from St. Mary's University of

Minnesota in 1967, and Ph.D. degree in Marine Biology from University of California San Diego in 1973.

Even after his retirement as a regular UP faculty, Dr. Gomez continued to work and contribute towards the well-being of the UP Diliman community. For instance, his advice and expertise were invaluable during the completion years (2007–2012) of the 21.9-hectare National Science Complex (NSC) that is operated by UP through the College of Science. The scores of Manila palms (*Adonidia merrilli*) that now line up the roads of the NSC were first patiently tended as delicate saplings by him and the Office of the Dean. The numerous endemic Philippine tree varieties currently found in the UPMSI, in the NSC, and even in the *Balay Tsanselor* of UP Diliman are a testament to his remarkable and exemplary effort towards greening and enriching biodiversity in the campus in the right way.

Dr. Gomez was a dedicated practitioner and selfless public servant who did figure out how to promote and advance the public good in a palpable manner. He did it without offering himself to be a College Dean, a UP Diliman Chancellor, or even a UP President. He will be missed.

CAESAR SALOMA

National Institute of Physics

College of Science

University of the Philippines Diliman