

About This Special Issue

We are pleased to publish this Special Issue on Marine Botanical Research in the Philippines for the year 2022. Our aim is to produce an issue that focuses on recent results of various research investigations in marine biology that have been conducted by Filipino scientists and their collaborators in different locations of the Philippines—an archipelagic country of 7,641 islands with the fifth-longest coastline (36,653 kilometers) in the world.

The Philippines (2020 population: 109,035,343) has an exclusive economic zone covering 2,263,816 square kilometers of sea. Its total land area, including inland bodies of water, is 300,000 square kilometers. The country is bordered by the Philippine Sea to the east and north, the West Philippine Sea to the west, and the Celebes Sea to the south. Clearly, the inclusive wealth that can be created from the strategic economic zone is enormous and, more importantly, critical to the future socio-economic well-being of every Filipino.

The First Call for Papers for this Special Issue was issued on 18 March 2021. A total of 26 manuscripts were submitted, with the last one received on 04 October 2021. Close to a hundred scientists and researchers from 30 local and foreign institutions contributed as co-authors. All submissions underwent a three-level peer-review process. The first-level evaluation was conducted by at least two independent reviewers, whose findings were then adjudicated by the Guest Editors. Their recommendations were then transmitted to the Editor-in-Chief for his decision. Papers typically underwent at least two rounds of revision before final decision was made. The initial number of articles featured in the Special Issue is partial and will increase as the publication suitability of the remaining others is finally decided upon.

This issue provides our stakeholders with an earnest reflection of the state of marine biology research in the country at the start of the third decade of the 21st century. The scientific information that is presented will be a critical resource of reliable information for all stakeholders. This issue will serve as a veritable reference guide for the next generation of scientists and researchers that will continue the work which has been started by their predecessors.

A proper appreciation and accurate understanding of Philippine marine resources are essential in our continuing search as a people for more effective laws, regulations, and communal practices that will enable our society to attain a high level of socio-economic development that is equitable and sustainable for all sectors across time.

On behalf of the Journal Editorial Board and the Publisher, I thank Dr. Marco Nemesio Montaña and Dr. Put Ang for their invaluable support as Guest Editors of this Special Issue. I also express my appreciation to all the manuscript contributors and reviewers for their patience and generosity in the conduct of the tedious review process. This Special Issue also pays tribute to National Scientist Gavino C. Trono Jr. for his pioneering research in marine biology in the last 60 years that resulted not only in new scientific knowledge but also in the training of generations of marine biologists in the country.

CAESAR SALOMA
Editor-in-Chief