

Guest Editor's Foreword

This special issue on Marine Botanical Research of the Philippines was inspired and initiated as a tribute to National Scientist Prof. Gavino Trono Jr. of the Marine Science Institute, University of the Philippines, on the occasion of his 90th birthday on 21 November 2021. A brief *curriculum vitae* of Prof. Trono follows.

At the initial stage of planning, we received more than 30 shows of interest to contribute to a special issue to honor Prof. Trono. The Editor-in-Chief of the Philippine Journal of Science (PJS) and Academician Prof. Caesar Saloma has kindly agreed to host this special issue. However, instead of limiting this special issue to contributors by invitation only, we agreed to open this special issue to all contributors who may be interested in marine botanical research, with a special focus on all aspects of studies on marine algae—the main area of research of the over 50 years of Prof. Trono's scientific career.

We are truly grateful to Prof. Saloma and the staff of the PJS—especially Mr. David Matthew Gopilan and Mr. Allyster Endozo—for their continuous support throughout the production of this special issue. We are also thankful to all the reviewers for their comments and suggestions. We appreciate the patience and understanding of each of the contributors, many of them have to wait a considerably longer time than usual to receive the feedback on their submissions. In this special issue, we have set a very stringent set of criteria to evaluate the manuscript. Our purpose is not to reject any submission but to find ways to help improve the quality of each of the manuscripts submitted, hence the need to have several rounds of review and revisions. We understand that behind each manuscript is a lot of time and effort of the researchers. Each set of data is important and, hence, should be presented in the best way possible to the scientific community and the public. We hope that this special issue will not only showcase the latest development of marine botanical research in the Philippines but will also serve as a benchmark for high-quality papers on marine botanical studies—at par with international standards—to be published in the PJS.

We are very pleased to have received 26 contributions for this special issue that cover a very wide range of topics—from phytoplankton to benthic macroalgae; from floristic and ecological studies to phylogeography; from red tide and harmful algal bloom to seaweed ethnobotany, culture, and applications; from molecular works to the historical comparison of algal records. This is truly an excellent representation of the wide range of marine botanical research that has been going on in the country. We also noticed that many contributions are made by young researchers from institutions throughout the countries, especially from universities which were not known to be active in marine science research before. This is a very welcome and encouraging sign indicating that marine botanical research in the country is very vibrant and active, and we can expect to find a greater level of scientific success and productivity in this area of research in the coming years.

Prof. Trono should be very pleased that many of the contributors to this special issue are his former students, students of his students, or his former colleagues. Throughout the years, Prof. Trono has been a model and an inspiration that motivated a lot of us to get involved in marine botanical research or to take up a scientific career in many different fields. As guest editors, we are dedicating this special issue in honor of Prof. Trono on the occasion of his 90th birth anniversary with our best wishes for his continuous good health and good cheers—that he will continue to serve as the inspiration for many generations of marine botanical scientists and students to come.

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