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National Scientist Gavino C. Trono Jr.

National Scientist Prof. Gavino C. Trono Jr. was born in La Castellana, Negros Occidental, Philippines on 11 November 1931. He obtained his B.S. (Botany) from the University of the Philippines, Diliman, Quezon City in 1954; M.S. from Araneta University in 1961; and Ph.D. in Marine Botany from the University of Hawaii, Honolulu, Hawaii, USA in 1968. He served as a professor at the Department of Botany of the University of the Philippines (UP) Diliman, and later at the UP Marine Science Institute since 1981 and is currently a Professor Emeritus of the Marine Science Institute.

Throughout his more than 50 years of scientific career, Prof. Trono has completed at least 45 research projects, published more than 120 internationally refereed papers, including 10 books and technical manuals. His earlier publications on algal floristics of different parts of the Philippines laid the foundation for biodiversity research on marine macroalgae in the Philippines. These pioneering works also helped set the ground for algal studies in Southeast Asia. Prof. Trono has described more than 20 new species and subspecies of algae and a red algal species *Chondrophyucus tranoi* (Ganzon-Fortes) K.W.Nam and a brown algal genus *Tronoella* Santiañez & Kogame were named in his honor. His other legacies include the establishment of the Gregorio T. Velasquez Phycological Herbarium (MSI), the country largest collection of marine algal materials, at the Marine Science Institute. His three volumes on Field Guide and Atlas of the Seaweed Resources of the Philippines, published in 1997, 2004 and 2017, remain the most authoritative references for the taxonomic study of Philippine marine algae.

Prof. Trono was active in participation and organization of local and international scientific conferences and had presented many invited talks at various international venues—including the International Seaweed Symposium, where he also served as the chair of the local organizing committee for the 16th of such meeting held in Cebu, Philippines in April 1998.

Prof. Trono is a pioneer not only in basic research on marine algae but is also a pioneer in the application of seaweeds, including the development of seaweed farms in the Philippines. He led the field surveys in western Mindanao, southern Philippines, that identified sites in Sakol Island in Zamboanga and Tapaan Island in



Prof. Gavino C Trono Jr. on his 75th birthday celebration at Bahay ng Alumni, University of the Philippines, 11 Nov 2006. Photo credit: Mike Joshua Palomar.

Siasi, Sulu for setting up the first commercial seaweed farms for the red alga *Eucheuma* in the world in 1972. He is therefore dubbed as the “Father of *Eucheuma/Kappaphycus* Farming”. He later served as a technical consultant and training director for various training courses on seaweed farming organized by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), among others. Prof. Trono also served as a consultant or technical adviser to various government agencies in the Philippines, the Seaweed Industry Association of the Philippines (SIAP)—as well as international institutions like SEAFDEC Aquaculture Department, FAO (Aquaculture, Seaweed R&D), Commission on Ecology, International Union for the Conservation of Nature and



Left photo: Prof. Gavino C Trono Jr. on a field survey trip to Calauag, Quezon *circa* 1991–1993 (photo courtesy of Grace Tolentino-Publico). Middle photo: Inspecting seaweed being grown at the UP Marine Science Institute Bolinao Marine Laboratory, August 2015 (photo credit: Christian Ace Guerta). Right photo: field work in Ilocos, *circa* 1996 (photo courtesy of Johanna Pe Montebon).

Natural Resources (IUCN), on various areas of scientific concerns.

Prof. Trono's contributions to the scientific community have been well-recognized. He is a recipient of more than 35 national and international honors, awards, citations, and recognitions, including:

- *Likas-Yaman* Award, Ministry of Natural Resources, Philippines (1978);
- Ralph Nubla Professorial Chair in the Natural Sciences and Mathematics, University of the Philippines (1981);
- Golden Jubilee Professorial Chair, University of the Philippines (1987);
- Award of Recognition, Seaweed Industry Association of the Philippines (1992);
- President's Award for Outstanding Publication, University of the Philippines (1993);

- Elvira O. Tan Memorial Award for Outstanding Research in Marine Fisheries, Philippine Council for Agriculture and Resources Research and Development (PCARRD) (1994);
- Second Prize Winner, MARINALG International Award for outstanding work made at XIVth International Seaweed Symposium, France (1994);
- Most Outstanding Researcher of the University of the Philippines for 1996, *Gawad Tsanselor* (1996);
- Best Published Book for 1998, *Gawad Tsanselor*, University of the Philippines (1998); and
- 2006 Outstanding Book Award, National Academy of Science and Technology (NAST), Philippines (2006).

Prof. Trono was elected Academician of the National Academy of Science and Technology (NAST), Department of Science and Technology (DOST) of the Philippines in 2008. His scientific career reached the highest point when

he was conferred with the rank of a National Scientist by the Philippine National Government on 13 March 2014.

Prof. Trono was instrumental in the development of the marine biology and marine science programs of the University of the Philippines. He has trained many undergraduate students and more than 30 M.S. and Ph.D. students who are now serving important positions as professors or chief scientists in various universities and research institutes, or as high-ranking officials in government ministries both in the Philippines and overseas.

REPRESENTATIVE PUBLICATIONS OF PROF. GAVINO C. TRONO JR.

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