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## **About This Special Issue**

The PJS Editorial Office received a good response to its Call for Papers for the Second Special Issue on Philippine Nuclear Science and Technology Research that was first made in January 2023. A total of fifty (50) manuscript submissions were peer-reviewed, and twenty-four (24 or 48%) were approved for inclusion in this issue. In comparison, thirty-three (33) submissions were processed for the First Issue, of which 22 (67%) were approved to appear in February 2020 (Volume 149).

Seventy-seven (77) authors are featured here—including scientists and researchers from the Philippine Nuclear Science Research Institute of the Department of Science and Technology or DOST (43 or 55.8%), the University of the Philippines Manila (7), the Philippine Rice Research Institute of the Department of Agriculture (3), and the University of the Philippines Diliman (3). A total of 74 authors contributed in the First Issue.

The content of this issue is made possible by the careful perusal and generous involvement of 84 patient peer-reviewers—57.14% of whom being affiliated with non-Philippine institutions. The average duration of review from receipt of manuscript to the final decision of the Editor-in-Chief was 14.93 weeks. In the First Issue, 43 reviewers (foreign based: 64%) participated, and the average review duration was 13.31 weeks.

The current issue, together with the first one in February 2020, provides an instructive picture of the current state of research and development in nuclear science and technology in the country, as performed by Philippine-based scientists and researchers. The information is crucial in the formulation of a viable national roadmap for allocating strategic investments that are aimed at realizing alternative cost-effective energy sources for the Philippine manufacturing sector and a robust food supply, as well as inclusive access to public health services for all Filipinos.

On behalf of the Editorial Board and the Journal Publisher, the DOST, I thank all stakeholders—especially the authors, reviewers, and funding agencies—for their valuable participation in the various stages leading to the publication of this special issue. The invaluable support of our two Issue Guest Editors, Dr. Alvie Asuncion-Astronomo and Dr. Jordan Madrid, is distinctly acknowledged.

**CAESAR A. SALOMA**  
*Editor-in-Chief*