



About this Special Issue

The Editorial Board of the Philippine Journal of Science is pleased to release this Special Issue in honor and recognition of the extraordinary impact of the scientific contributions of Leonardo Co (b. 29 December 1953) whose premature and sad passing in November 2010 was a severe loss to the entire science community especially to his fellow biologists in the country.

The short life of Leonardo Co is a profound study of that rare Filipino scientist. He did not fancy collecting official academic degrees nor was he much bothered by institutional recognition – his BS Botany degree was granted by the University of the Philippines only in June 2008 or nearly 36 years after he first studied in the UP Diliman campus. His tremendous passion to accurately understand Nature was more than enough to keep him going as a scientist under unfavorable conditions of work and research. I was Dean of the College of Science when the College Assembly agreed to recommend the conferment of his BS degree.

Accomplished scientists and researchers from different institutions around the world contribute the articles that appear in this Special Issue. These articles are a collective testament of the genuine respect and professional recognition that Leonardo Co was able to earn from his peers and colleagues.

The Editorial Board is grateful to Professor Benito Tan for generously sharing his valuable expertise and time to serve as the Guest Editor of the Special Issue. We also thank the many reviewers for their precious technical advice and the Department of Science and Technology as well as the National Academy of Science and Technology for their critical support.

Caesar A. Saloma
Editor-In-Chief