

## Editorial Preface

The articles in the SPJRD Volume 27, Number 2, deal with topics in aquaculture, literary and cultural studies, and linguistics. These articles address issues of development of crucial importance to our country, in particular, and the ASEAN, in general.

In the first article of this issue, Rosannie Joy T. Paglinawan, Ruby A. Paylangco, Jesil Cris C. Paylangco, Archie A. Along, and Florence Jhun F. Almadin of Caraga State University contribute to the environmental monitoring and conservation of Lake Mainit, one of the most valuable freshwater resources in the Caraga Region by conducting a study to determine the association of endo-parasite present in the gut, diet composition, and length and weight of *C. striata* Bloch, locally known as *haluan*.

The following three articles in this issue feature literary and cultural studies. The second article focuses on *Aswang*, White Lady, and *Diwata* in Philippine creature urban legends. Employing the structuralist framework by Leach (1973) and folktale category by Propp (1958), Joseph P. Casibual, Jr. of Western Mindanao State University explores the relevance of folklore in the digital age as a way of understanding our cultural and literary identity.

The third article by Takashi Tsuji of Saga University in Japan examines the mouse deer, *pilanduk*, as a trickster based on the folktales from four indigenous cultural communities in the Philippines: Tausug, Samal, Maranao, and Manobo. Tsuji concludes that developing a deeper understanding of the mouse deer will help further the investigation of the relationship between them and the Filipinos.

The fourth article by Angelo Lenard E. Yu of USEP, Ezzedin M. Manidoc of Kolehiyo ng Pantukan in Davao de Oro, and Takashi Tsuji of Saga University investigate the social, economic, political, and religious practices present in the Kagan folktales from Davao Oriental and Davao de Oro, Philippines. The study of Yu, Manidoc, and Tsuji enlarges our cognizance of the cultural history of the *Kagan* and their ethno-relationships with the indigenous cultural communities in Mindanao and Sulu.

The final section of this issue highlights the Cebuano language. Joseph Araneta of Davao Doctors College and Sajed S. Ingilan of USEP analyze the pragmatic functions of agreeing and disagreeing formulaic expressions in the Cebuano language, namely *o/oo*, *lagi*, *mao*, *bitaw*, *wala*, and *dili*. The study of Araneta and Ingilan widens our knowledge in understanding the idiosyncrasies of the Cebuano language.

Reviewed by Filipino and non-Filipino scholars, the articles in this issue will not only facilitate our consciousness of the resources and culture in the Philippines but, more importantly, will lead to the creation of research and development projects in the Philippines and beyond.

**Sajed S. Ingilan**  
SPJRD Editor-in-Chief