

FROM THE EDITOR

Thirty years ago, Stephen Hawking began working on a “Theory of Everything”. He sought to combine Einstein’s Theory of General Relativity (which describes forces that affect “very big” things like planets, stars, and galaxies) and Quantum Mechanics (which describes forces that affect “very small” things like atoms) in an attempt to explain the birth of the universe. It is a continuing effort.

In the same way, the fields of business and economics seek to explain forces that affect “big” things like countries, regions, and the world and forces that affect relatively “small” things like individuals, firms, and industries. This edition of our journal seeks to highlight this contrast of the “big” and the “small”.

The contributions of Marvin Raymond Castell and Lawrence Dacuycuy (*Exploring the Use of Exchange Market Pressure and RMU Deviation Indicator for Early Warning System (EWS) in the ASEAN+3 Region*), which highlights the need to continue exploring the applicability of regional monetary units in the ASEAN+3 region; of Lawrence Dacuycuy (*The Functional Specification of the Wage-Experience Relationship and Male Wage Inequality in the Philippines: A Decomposition Analysis*), which analyzes the factors that have contributed to the increase in wage inequality among male workers in the Philippines; and of Stephanie Chan (*Exchange Rate Pass-Through for Selected Southeast Asian Countries*), which explores long- and short-run exchange rate pass-through for Malaysia, Indonesia, Thailand, and the Philippines; all look at forces that are present in the national and regional level.

On the other hand, the contributions of Nimpha Aquino (*An Evaluation of Financial and Non-Financial Environmental Disclosures of Ten Publicly-Listed Mining Companies in the Philippines*), which determines the environmental disclosure practices of 10 mining companies in the Philippines; of Gina Manaligod (*An Excerpt from the SEC Commissioned Report: A Balance Sheet Disclosure Compliance Check of Ten Publicly-Listed Companies*), which investigates the extent of compliance of 10 publicly-listed finance companies with regard to the provisions of relevant PFRS/PAS on balance sheet disclosure requirements; and of Emilina Sarreal (*Stock Diversification and Integer Programming*), which shows how investors can maximize returns by preparing and monitoring their own stock portfolio by using an integer programming model; all looked forces that are present at the industry level.

Finally, the contribution of Tamma Koti Reddy and Subhayan Basu (*Risk Management in the Indian Petrochemical Industry (with special reference to Haldia Petrochemicals Ltd.)*), which deals with the foreign exchange risk management policy of a petrochemicals company, looks at forces that are present at the firm level.

The authors of the articles in this edition of the *DLSU Business & Economics Review* aim to highlight the “big” and the “small”. As the world becomes more integrated due to globalization and

advances in information technology, the ability to understand the forces that affect how the “big” ultimately interact with another, and how the “small” ultimately behave, become more and more paramount.

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