

## FROM THE EDITOR

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Climate change and environmental degradation, together with poverty, are the contemporary issues that most countries across the globe face. Environmental degradation can be attributed to underdevelopment and development. Meanwhile, poverty exists due to the unequal and inequitable distribution of income in an economy. Despite the remarkable economic growth that has transpired over the previous years, a number of economies continue to remain in poverty. As such, in the midst of environmental degradation and persistence of poverty, governments and non-government organizations (NGOs) are steadfast in conserving the environment and at the same time combating poverty in all its aspects by exploring on the utilization of green technology and alleviating the inequity and inequality in the distribution of income.

Two articles focused on environmental themes. The article of Rachel C. Reyes (*The Green Solow Model with Natural Resources Constraint: A Theoretical Note*) demonstrated how the limit of the natural resources and emissions abatement activities figure in determining the level of steady state capital per effective worker and exploring the dynamics of vital macroeconomic variables such as output growth and emissions growth, together with their corresponding per worker values. With society's desire for output expansion and carbon emissions reduction, there is a need to look into the significance of convalescing emissions abatement technology in accomplishing these goals. Likewise, the article of Michael Angelo A. Cortez (*Resource Productivity of Japanese Manufacturing Companies in the Philippines: Comparative Case Study*) explored how Toyota Motor Philippines and Toshiba Information Equipment, Inc. maximize their resource productivity considering the inherent and structural limitations in the Philippines. At present, these firms depend on eco-friendly product designs from their Japanese headquarters but improvise on waste reduction, pollution prevention, and the adoption of clean and green technologies.

A number of articles dealt with poverty and other socio-economic issues. First, the article of Divina M. Edralin (*Gender Responsive Budgeting and Its Impacts on the Status of Women and Men in Pasay City*) revealed that programs in Pasay City have not been responsive to gender differentials in different aspects of the quality of life. As such, it was recommended that there is a need to provide more employment opportunities and skills training for women; increase support for family planning programs in terms of budget and services; strengthen maternal health care services; and strengthen the peace and order programs of the city, among others. Second, the article of G. Balachandar, N. Panchanatham, and K. Subramanian (*Social Variables Motivating Policyholder to Invest in Life Insurance Products*) emphasized on the need to invest money, specifically in life insurance, in the early stages of an individual's life period. The article determined the extent of influence of socio-economic variable in motivating policyholders to invest in life insurance products for it protects the policyholder's family from financial crisis due to sudden death. Third, the article of Emily S. Salcedo (*Romantic Paternalism in Philippine Labor Law – Revisiting the Tradition, Realizing its Folly, and*

*Proposing Reconstruction in the Light of American Experience*) highlighted that the Philippine labor laws' approach towards breastfeeding, among others, is another indication that paternalism remains vital in the country's labor policies. The ruling of the Philippine Supreme Court in the case of Philippine Association of Service Exporters, Inc. smacks of the same paternalist stance. It is unfortunate to see such unanimous *en banc* decision at a time when the Philippine Supreme Court had three incumbent female justices who were all acclaimed for upholding gender equality.

Going further on an industrial perspective, the article of Rosemary R. Seva, Kimberly Go, Kathleen Garcia, and Winnie Grindulo (*Predictive Model of Attention in Viewing Selected Grocery Products*) explored on how marketers can maximize consumers' attention towards grocery products by considering the effect of shelf position, number of facings of a product, image type, information content, color, and packaging to the number of eye fixation and duration of fixation on a grocery shelf containing junk foods. It was revealed that shelf position is

more significant than packaging, with vertical shelf position being the most significant of all factors followed by the horizontal shelf position. On the other hand, the article of Cesar C. Rufino (*Forecasting International Demand for Philippine Tourism*) employed a modeling framework which accounted for prominent events that impact on the level and direction of arrival series. As such, the study established 12 time series models for the monthly incoming tourism traffic from the top tourists sending countries to the Philippines for use in predicting future visitor arrivals scenarios.

The authors of the articles in this edition of the *DLSU Business & Economics Review* laid emphasis on some of the changes in the field of business and economics and how stakeholders can adapt to these changes for the purposes of sustainability given the high incidence of poverty among least-developed countries and developing economies.

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