

FROM THE EDITOR

Charles Darwin's *The Origin of Species*, originally published in 1859, introduced the theory that populations evolve over the course of generations through the process of natural selection. Darwin, discussing "the struggle for existence", stated in Chapter III of the book:

How have all those exquisite adaptations of one part of the organisation to another part, and to the conditions of life, and of one distinct organic being to another being, been perfected? We see these beautiful co-adaptations most plainly in the woodpecker and mistletoe; and only a little less plainly in the humblest parasite which clings to the hairs of a quadruped or feather of a bird; in the structure of the beetle which drives through the water; in the plumed seed which is wafted by the gentles breeze; in short, we see beautiful adaptations everywhere and in every part of the organic world.

An important anchor of Darwin's theory is the idea of *adaptation*, that is, that populations of organisms change over time as a result of natural selection. There is a special connection between organisms and the environment, and changes in the environment force organisms to adapt.

While Darwin's work is clearly linked to evolutionary biology, we cannot deny that change and adaptation apply to individuals, households, firms, industries, and economies as well. This edition of our journal seeks to establish this analogy.

Four articles in this edition examine changes through a fundamental economic indicator: prices. The contribution of Cesar Rufino (*Forecasting Philippine Monthly Inflation Using TRAMO/SEATS*) discussed price changes by exploring the feasibility of the adoption of a sophisticated expert system for inflation forecasting. Meanwhile, the contributions of Try Sothearith and So Sovannarith (*Impact of Hiked Prices of Food and Basic Commodities on Poverty in Cambodia: Empirical Evidences from Five CBMS Villages*), of Felix Asante, Cynthia Tagoe, and Alfred Boakye (*Effects of Rising Food and Oil Prices on Rural Households in Ghana: A Case Study of Selected Communities in the Dangme West District Using the CBMS Approach*), and of Celia Reyes, Alellie Sobrevinas, Joel Bancolita, and Jeremy de Jesus (*Analysis of the Impact of Changes in the Prices of Rice and Fuel on Poverty in the Philippines*) discussed price changes *ex post facto* by exploring, using the Community-Based Monitoring System (CBMS), the effects of rising prices of food, fuel and other commodities on poverty in their respective countries. Rufino's work can help central banks establish achievable inflation targets, while the CBMS papers give us an inside look at how individuals and households cope with rising prices.

On the other hand, the article of Arnel Onesimo Uy, Edward Murphy, and Regina Greenwood (*Values of Females and Males in the East and West: Are They Similar or Different?*), the research note of Paulo Jose Mutuc (*Prospect Theory and the Financial Markets: A Review*), and the book review of Emiliano Hudtohan (*The Context of Cultural Intelligence – A Book*

Review of David Livermore's Leading with Cultural Intelligence: The New Secret to Success) examine how individuals and firms can adapt to the emerging trends in the business landscape and in the economic environment. Uy, Murphy, and Greenwood explored cross-cultural sex-based value structures, finding similarities and differences among males and females in Eastern and Western nations. Meanwhile, Mutuc explored the literature on the Prospect Theory and the changes to the investment behavior of individuals. Finally, Hudtohan explored Livermore's work on cultural intelligence, which addressed culture as a key factor of leadership in a global context.

The authors of the articles in this edition of the *DLSU Business & Economics Review* aim to highlight some of the changes in the world of business and economics and how individuals, households, and firms, industries, and economies can adapt to them in the same way that organisms adapt to their environment in their struggle for existence.

JEDEN O. TOLENTINO

Managing Editor