

# ASIA-PACIFIC SOCIAL SCIENCE REVIEW

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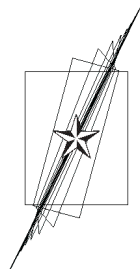
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## From the Editor

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Asia-Pacific continues to locate its position and role on the global stage. Countries in the region, individually or collectively, strive to identify, examine, and address a multitude of attendant challenges. This June 2014 issue of the *Asia-Pacific Social Science Review* discusses empirical information related to some of these challenges. The offered knowledge is hoped to help inform the prospective agenda and action setting in the region as it seeks its rightful social location in the world.

Tom Erik Julsrud and Ma. Divina Gracia Z. Roldan discuss the utilization of mobile phones in micro and small enterprises in Malaysia. The authors note that mobile phones are the most frequently used media among managers and employees alike in retail, farming, and professional sectors; but they also point out that the largest share of the mobile traffic on the business phones is devoted to friends and family rather than to work relations. In the authors' words, "there is a high degree of overlap between family and work relationships". The findings appear to suggest a blurring of personal and work relations, which is perhaps more pronounced in much of the Asia-Pacific region, since work environment and work tools (e.g., mobile phones) tend to be regarded therein as extensions of personal and social spaces. It is important to further investigate the complexities of the overlap in order to better understand its role in the operations of the small-scale industries, which are so-called "Asia's engines of economic growth".

Kyung Han You, MiSun Lee and Sohyun Oh examine the statistical relationships between online usage and civic engagement in South Korea. The fundamental premise is that usage—in the form of comments posted under a news article (daet-geul) or online news consumption and news-related online activities—is associated with community and political participation. In general, online usage is found having a limited statistically-significant relationship with civic engagement factors. However, the authors underscore a strong association between civic attitude and civic engagement, albeit such an attitude, as the authors qualify, is anchored more strongly on individual rather than on community trust. That individual prevails over collective trust or interest is hardly surprising; as the authors add: "Korean citizens are likely to distrust institutions in general". Citizen participation in community and political affairs, which has current and potential challenges to national developments in the region, needs to be carefully examined for its intricate nexus with online usage. Internet-based discussions and communities having specific rather than generalist substance are a critical inclusion for analysis.

Maddaremmeng A. Panennungi et al. elaborate on development issues in the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC). Based on triangulated data, the authors outline, in rich details, the APEC issues and determinant factors across more than two decades (1989-2013). The pool of evidence presented by the authors appears to suggest that the contexts within which issues have been identified, developed, and evolved in APEC are highly linear and structured. On the contrary, the determinant contexts could have been far complex and even convoluted to say the least, due to the fact that APEC involves a layer after layer of actors, interests, and structures at national, international, regional, and sub-regional circles. Among others, the authors acknowledge the predominance of economic agenda in APEC and the subsequent transformation of the concept of economic growth into a comprehensive agenda—one that is seen as balanced,

inclusive, innovative, secure, and sustainable. Overall, the APEC experience will be a valuable learning resource for Asia-Pacific, specifically that a main event is coming its way in 2015—the formation of the ASEAN Community. The Community, with a total population of about 600,000 million people, is bound to be a major challenge not only to its 10 member-countries but also to the entire Asia-Pacific.

Vicente Angel S. Ybiernas's piece on politics and economics of recovery in colonial Philippines and Raniel SM. Reyes's accounts of the series of EDSA Revolutions in the Philippines are this issue's other research articles; both provide vital lessons and insights into the country's two most critical historical events. The research briefs focus on youth participation in South Korea (by Eunsun Cho) and Nepal's international labor migration (by Joakim Arnoy); these are phenomena with myriad challenges but, fortunately, the region has a treasure trove of knowledge and wisdom based on relevant and colorful national experiences of some of its countries. The book review by Diana Therese M. Veloso dwells on a historical context of the insurgency and peace and security challenges in Mindanao, the Philippines.

Have a great read, and do make the Asia-Pacific Social Science Review your preferred home for your articles.

**Romeo B. Lee**

*Editor*