SPECIAL VOLUME
IN HONOR OF GELIA T. CASTILLO

I  Philippine Social Science Study in the 1990s:
   Status, Methodology and Relevance

II  Philippine Agriculture
    and Rural Development

III  Human Capital:
    Issues and Monitoring Concerns

IV  Environmental Concerns:
    Of Revisits and New Paradigm

V   A Word from the Honoree:
    Rural Development Reconsidered

VI  Symposium-Testimonial
    in Honor of Dr. Gelia T. Castillo

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Printed in the Philippines, 1995

**ISSN 0115 - 9143**

**RP 7 - 95 - 500**
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Preparations for this special volume in honor of Dr. Gelia T. Castillo began as early as two years ago in March 1993 when the undersigned put forward the idea in one of the Institute’s management committee meetings. At that time, the Institute learned that Dr. Castillo was about to retire from the University of the Philippines.

The Institute had long wanted to hold a symposium and publish a book touching on various social and economic issues wherein the insights and viewpoints of a number of experts/authorities are presented. It had also long wanted to pay tribute to former members of its Board of Trustees who have contributed immensely to its growth and development over the years. The news about Dr. Castillo’s retirement provided the opportune occasion.

As a former member of the Institute’s Board and advisor to many of the Institute’s research projects, Dr. Castillo is one of those who have vastly helped in building up the Institute’s research agenda and in establishing linkages with other local and international institutions. Her perspective from a noneconomics point of view and her multidisciplinary approach to looking at key policy and development issues has, on many occasions, urged the Institute’s researchers to take a second look at the problem on hand and view it outside the context of purely economic theories and principles.

With the concurrence of the Institute’s management committee and consultations with members of its present Board, the Institute, led by the undersigned and Ms. Jennifer P.T. Liguton, began conceptualizing, planning and implementing the project and its related activities. Meetings were held on the themes/topics for the volume and the prospective line-up of article contributors. Consultations were likewise made with the honoree on
possible names to be included. The idea of presenting the papers in a special symposium prior to their publication was also firmed up, with the accompanying suggestion to tap funding support from an external source. As soon as the line-up of authors/contributors was finalized, letters were sent to them, inviting them to contribute a paper/article for the special volume that the Institute is planning in honor of Dr. Castillo. The choice of topics was left to the paper writers, with the caveat that the theme is something within the research and intellectual interests of the honoree.

All invitations were accepted. At the same time, the International Development Research Centre (IDRC) of Canada, an institution with whom Dr. Castillo has had a long-standing professional and advisory relation, graciously agreed to finance the publication of the special volume.

From thereon, it was “all systems go.” The symposium was held on September 27-28, 1994, with some of the country’s great minds in the social sciences in attendance. The two-day symposium was proof that not one field of discipline is sufficient to respond to the country’s development and policy concerns. If at all, it became even more evident during the symposium that the interaction of all fields — and social scientists — was crucial in addressing our people’s social and economic woes.

The papers presented in the symposium, together with the comments, reactions and highlights of discussion in some of the modules, are included in this volume. In addition, four other articles whose authors were not able to make it during the symposium are also included. A special article on gender issues is likewise included. This article, which was originally written for and presented during the 6th Rafael M. Salas Forum, is being reprinted here with the permission of the Rafael M. Salas Foundation. The topic is one of the issues that is of close interest to the honoree. Hopefully, all the paper will help shed light on major developments in social issues and, at the same time, tickle our brains into thinking of numerous and innovative ways of resolving them.

A number of individuals and institutions are responsible for putting this publication and the symposium together. Foremost, of course, is IDRC without whose assistance this volume may not have been completed. We
tried to list down as much as possible all the other names in the Acknowledgment. In the event, however, that some were inadvertently omitted, it is simply because there are too many. Outright, we apologize for it.

Finally, we thank the honoree herself for serving as our inspiration to push for and complete this project.

PONCIANO S. INTAL, JR.
PIDS President
ACKNOWLEDGMENT

We sincerely thank the following for contributing to this special volume and the symposium-testimonial in honor of Dr. Castillo:

- the International Development Research Centre (IDRC), through its Singapore regional director, Dr. W. Randy Spence, for the financial support given this publication;
- the PIDS Board of Trustees and PIDS Management Committee for their all-out support in the various stages of preparation of both the symposium and this volume;
- Dr. Emil Javier, president of the University of the Philippines system, for his testimonial in honor of Dr. Castillo during the symposium;
- Dr. Samuel Hsieh for sending his warmly-written tribute to Dr. Castillo, thereby lending further proof to the “internationality” of the honoree’s works;
- Dr. Gordon Prain for his words of appreciation to Dr. Castillo, showing once again the honoree’s all-consuming desire to see ideas put into action and rendered useful to the target beneficiaries;
- all the paper writers/contributors, namely, Dr. Arsenio Balisacan, Dr. Cynthia Bautista, Dr. Romeo Bautista, Dr. Ledivina Cariño, Dr. Mercedes Concepcion, Dr. Cristina David, Dr. Marian delos Angeles, Dr. Robert Evenson, Dr. David Glover, Dr. Alejandro Herrin, Dr. Ponciano Intal, Jr., Mr. Paul Quintos, Dr. Bruce Koppel, Dr. Exaltacion Lamberte, Dr. Mario Lamberte, Dr. Celia Reyes, and Dr. Edita Tan;
the commentators/reactors, namely, Dr. Jose Abueva, Dr. Fermin Adriano, Dr. Rodolfo Florentino, Dr. Sylvia Guerrero, Dr. Mahar Mangahas, Dr. Corazon Raymundo, and Dr. Gwendolyn Tecson;

Professor Solita Collás-Monsod for her special article on gender issues;

the Rafael M. Salas Foundation, through its Executive Vice-President, Atty. Francisco L. Llaguno, for giving us the permission to reprint Professor Monsod’s article in this special volume;

the moderators/facilitators of the symposium modules, namely, Dr. Emmanuel de Dios, Mr. Mario Feranil, Dr. Ponciano Intal, Jr., Dr. Mario Lamberte, Dr. Gilberto Llanto, and Dr. Aniceto Orbeta;

the rapporteurs, namely, Ms. Mildred Belizario, Ms. Loretta Jovellanos, Ms. Marife Magno, Ms. Lezyl Ponce, Mr. Mervin Samadan, and Ms. Suzy Ann Taparan, as well as Ms. Odette Salcedo who supervised the preparation and reformatting of the documentation of the module highlights;

the Research Information Staff which handled the organization of the symposium and the publication of this volume, headed by Ms. Jennifer Liguton with the able assistance of Odette Salcedo as well as Jane Alcantara, Necty Aquino, Ann Cleofas, Cora Desuasido, Genna Estrabon, Gali Godes, Lezyl Ponce, Wilbert San Pedro, Suzy Ann Taparan, Tina Tolentino, and Ores Ulzame;

the Operations and Finance Staff, especially its head, Ms. Andrea Agcaoili, its reproduction and messengerial units, and Ms. Pelagia Holasca; the Management Information Staff, especially Doris Remolador; and the Project Services Staff, especially Laila Garcia; and

finally, the honoree herself, Dr. Gelia Castillo, and the participants in the symposium for their insights and stimulating comments.
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Number Thirty-Seven  Second Semester 1993  Vol. XX, No. 2

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