

# Asian Studies

SOUTHEAST ASIA ISSUE

Volume II, Number 2, August 1964

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Founded on an idea of the late President Ramon Magsaysay, the Institute of Asian Studies was established in 1955 as a separate unit of the University of the Philippines, to lend impetus and substance to the Philippines' intellectual outlook on Asia. At the start it functioned to coordinate the Asian offerings of supporting disciplines in the arts and social sciences. Today, with augmented facilities and staff, and with the encouragement of the University President, Dr. Carlos P. Romulo, it is an active center for the sharing of insight and the results of research among Asian and non-Asian scholars, regarding Asia. It undertakes a varied publications program, of which this journal is a part. Primarily a research unit, the Institute also administers scholarships and a degree program leading to the Master of Arts in Asian Studies in each of three areas of Asia: Southeast Asia, South Asia, and East Asia, as well as the Philippines as a special area. All four programs are expected to be in full operation within five years. The program of study is designed to provide advanced training in research on Asian cultures and social systems on the basis of an undergraduate concentration in social science, humanities, or the arts, and seeks to develop an area or regional orientation, with an interdisciplinary approach as the primary mode of analysis.

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## M E S S A G E

from

*Dr. Carlos P. Romulo*

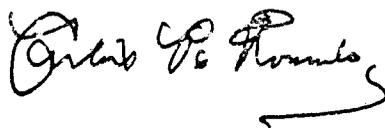
President, University of the Philippines

These are difficult but challenging years for the Filipino or his fellow Asian. He wishes to speak out strongly, when before he was anything but articulate; he is asked to make decisions, when not so long ago he was not responsible even for his own needs. The magnitude of the transformation required of him defies estimation. Together, the Asian peoples comprise over one-half of the world's population; Asian countries cover one-sixth of the earth's habitable surface. Many of his fellows are wholly unprepared for the exactions of modern life; some are understandably wary of new influences.

Yet the sources of ingenuity and strength are rich, and have hardly been tapped. Some of the most successful social and cultural systems the world has ever known existed in this region; the Asian is aware of this and has begun to recall and reflect, with an eye to their contemporary relevance. On this basis alone there should be little doubt about the quality of the decisions—a matter of universal concern—the Asian will have to take. His voice, which will be heard in more vibrant timbre in his own land and in world affairs in the days to come, shall be, we earnestly hope, urbane, wise, and informed. But for it to be so requires higher learning and the benefits of un-remitting scholarship.

To this end I have dedicated one more dimension to the expanding task of the University of the Philippines in this region—that of academic collaboration among all students whose interest is in Asia. Here, in this University, and especially in the Institute of Asian Studies, will take place a confrontation of ideas on equal and fraternal grounds.

No better way to inaugurate this new theme can be found than in the effort that has been put behind the present issue of the *Asian Studies* journal, devoted to *Southeast Asia*, and the succeeding number on *South and East Asia*. To our contributing authors from all over the world, a most cordial welcome. I wish you and our scholars success in the same spirit that brings you to Asia, and shall bind our efforts together: the desire to be of mutual assistance, to share in the joys of discovery, in order that the cause of humanity shall be served, impartially and in fulsome measure, throughout Asia.

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Carlos P. Romulo". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long, sweeping underline that extends to the right.



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