

FOREWORD

The complete diversification of international society has posed serious challenges to how countries adapt and develop their own domestic laws in relation international law. Security threats and terrorist networks, the emergence of new states with different needs, capacities, and outlooks, and the evolution of the way people do business, all contribute to increased efforts by international courts and tribunals in enforcing and further developing international law. Still, in these turbulent times, when States become more inclined to challenge or disregard international norms, there is a need to protect the international rule of law.

The *Philippine Yearbook of International Law* aims to do just that, by providing a comprehensive look at the current state of the country's international affairs. The Philippines is experiencing a resurgence of interest in international law, particularly because of our participation in the South China Sea arbitration and the release of various scholarly publications. The *Yearbook* seeks to spark discussion among students and academics and encourage spirited debate in issues relating to state practice and enforcement. It should be the vocation of scholars of international law to be well-versed in the actual rules and stay current with key developments in modern international law.

The 2018 issue of the *Philippine Yearbook of International Law* showcases articles written by distinguished experts in international law, as well as the abstracts presented at the 2018 Inaugural National Conference of the Philippine Society for International law. It contains a comprehensive listing of treaties and agreements entered into by the Philippines and significant judicial decisions affecting international law for the Year 2018.

The University of the Philippines College of Law and the UP Law Center are instrumental to this publication. Congratulations are due to the UP Law Center – Institute of International Legal Studies (UPLC-IILS) and the Department of Foreign Affairs – Office of Treaties and Legal Affairs (DFA-

OTLA), without whose tireless and ceaseless dedication, this endeavor would not have come into fruition.

Despite the challenges faced by educators, lawyers, and scholars in applying, enforcing, and developing the international legal system, I commend them for taking on this immense responsibility. Without their hard work, the important issues in international law would undoubtedly be relegated to the sidelines.

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