

FOREWORD

International law has once again become prominent in the Philippine legal landscape because of issues such as the unresolved matter of enforcement of the South China Sea Arbitration decision and alleged extrajudicial killings, to name a few. To ensure that developments on these matters become part of the academic and legal discourse in our country, the University of the Philippines Law Center - Institute of International Legal Studies (UPLC-IILS) and the Philippine Society of International Law (PSIL) have provided us with this 2019 volume of the *Philippine Yearbook of International Law*.

Through this year's edition, significant issues that our country is confronting were examined through the lens of international law. One of the works featured in this year's edition focused on the legal status of the Philippine territorial water claim in international law. Another paper discussed DOJ Opinion No. 11 which recognized same-sex marriages between foreign diplomats assigned to the Philippines and their spouses. In addition to these practical issues, theoretical developments were also reviewed in this year's edition such as the identification of customary international law. The 2019 volume also includes the International Criminal Court (ICC) Prosecutor's Report on Preliminary Examination Activities in the Philippines, specifically on the South China Sea and Extrajudicial Killings. We are also provided with a listing of treaties and agreements that entered into force, as well as notable judicial decisions touching upon international law that were promulgated during the year. Finally, this edition features the year's significant international law developments such as the election of Raul Pangalangan as ICC Judge and the entry into force for the Philippines of the Apostille Convention, to name a few.

Through the hard work of the UPLC-IILS, the PSIL, the volume contributors and the editorial staff, we are able to perpetuate the tradition of putting out a publication that advances international law in our country. Congratulations and many thanks to all of you!

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