

# philippine studies

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## Introduction

Editor

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## INTRODUCTION

Among the nations of the Third World, the significance of the seventies shall derive mainly from what seems to be a new dynamism running through their development activities. A sense of "response-ability", nurtured by a deepening consciousness of the fundamental need to self-create, has begun to give fresh strength to their struggle for development. The most immediate consequences of the presence of this new dynamism will be self-directed programs of growth conceived and planned according to exigencies and a hierarchy of priorities rooted in real Third World situations. If, therefore, the decade of the seventies promises to be one of genuine progress, and of excitement, in the countries of the Third World, the reason shall be in the peoples' own emerging self-presence.

The events that have led to this self-presence are many. One of the more significant ones in Asia was the AECD Conference held in Tokyo in July 1970. An attempt was made then, on the international level, to come to self-understanding and to the understanding also of the requirements of development. Each participating nation has since then conducted seminars of its own in order to appropriate for itself the insights of Tokyo according to local conditions. To the Philippines' "echo" of the AECD Conference, held on three consecutive Saturdays, 26 September, 3 and 10 October 1970, and sponsored by the Ateneo de Manila University and the John XXIII Ecumenical Center, the present issue of *Philippine Studies* has been devoted. Rev. Horacio de la Costa, S.J., in his remarks as moderator for the seminar on "Theological Perspectives", very beautifully expressed the purpose of the entire "Echo" Conference. His words seem to be the most apt introduction to this issue of *Philippine Studies*. He said:

It is hoped, in short, that this echo seminar will not merely give an echo—a mere reduplication of an original sound, like a hall whose acoustics are not what they should be. What is expected of us, I suspect, is not so much an echo as variations upon a theme; the

strings and woodwinds of the Philippines, as it were, restating, after their own fashion, the melody so masterfully stated by the French horns of Tokyo.\*

We hope then that these in turn will move the Filipino heart to the heroism that the times demand.

THE EDITOR

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\* The texts of the Workshop Reports are published here (pp. 141-218) for our readers' easy reference with the kind permission of the AECD office in Bangkok, Thailand.