

**PHILIPPINES-CHINA RELATIONS AT 45
DURING THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC:**

*NEW DISCOVERIES, RECENT DEVELOPMENTS,
AND CONTINUING CONCERNS*

Rommel C. Banlaoi

Editor

PHILIPPINES-CHINA RELATIONS AT 45
DURING THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC:
New Discoveries, Recent Developments, and Continuing Concerns
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TABLE OF CONTENTS

Contributors	vi
Acknowledgments	xiii
Preface	xv
In Memoriam: Professor Aurora Roxas Lim <i>Teresita Ang See</i>	xvii
1 Introduction: Commemorating Philippines-China Relations at 45 Amidst the COVID-19 Pandemic <i>Rommel C. Banlaoi</i>	1-26

PART ONE: NEW DISCOVERIES

2 Shared History, Shared Heritage, Shared Destiny: Discovering New Narratives on Philippines-China Relations <i>Teresita Ang See</i>	27-57
3 Song, Ming, and Other Chinese Sources on Philippines-China Relations <i>Carmelea Ang See</i>	58-84
4 Policing the Chinese: <i>Tenientes Mayores de Chinos</i> and “Undesirable” Chinese in the Philippines, 1870-1898 <i>Jely A. Galang</i>	85-116

PART TWO: RECENT DEVELOPMENTS

- 5** Current Chinese Migration to the Philippines:
Law Enforcement Concerns and Security Challenges
in Philippines-China Relations Before and
During the COVID-19 Pandemic
Rommel C. Banlaoi 117-151
- 6** Filipino Migration to China: New Trend
in Philippines-China Relations
Sidney Christopher Bata 152-164
- 7** Burgeoning of the Chinese Domestic Economy:
Understanding Chinese Internal Migration and
Rural Development
Charles Joseph G. De Guzman 165-185
- 8** Belt and Road Initiative and Opportunistic Employment
Strategies: Chinese Offshore Gambling Workers in the
Philippines and its Implications for the Local Society
Dai Fan 186-216
- 9** Chinese Retirees: Emerging Risks and Trends of
the Chinese Influx in the Philippines
Ivy Ganadillo 217-231
- 10** China's place in the Philippines' 'Build, Build, Build'
Lucio Blanco Pitlo III 232-253
- 11** Philippine Partnership with China's Belt and Road
Initiative: Lessons from the Philippines'
Official Development Aid Experiences
Joahanna Pia A. Esquivias 254-267

**PART THREE: CONTINUING CONCERNS
DURING THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC**

- 12** Understanding China's International Behavior
Wilfrido Villacorta 268-280
- 13** On the Governance of China: Views on the
Two Centenary Goals, A New Type of Revolution,
and International and Political Reforms
Paulo Benedicto C. Villar 281-297
- 14** 45 Years of Philippines-China Relations and the
South China Sea Disputes: Towards Comprehensive
Strategic Cooperation During the COVID-19 Pandemic
Rommel C. Banlaoi 298-322
- 15** A Perception Based Study: Chinese Filipinos' Response to
China's COVID-19 Prevention Measures
Jane Yugioksing and Dai Fan 323-343
- 16** Economic Impacts of Covid 19: A Look into China,
United States, and Philippine Stock Market Performances
Sharlene May C. Cua 344-376
- 17** China and the Philippines: Joining Hands to Overcome
Disruptions and Challenges in the Fast Changing World
Huang Xilian 377-380
- 18** Building Philippines-China Relations for the Future
During the COVID-19 Pandemic
Jose Santiago L. Sta. Romana 381-384
- 19** Conclusion: Overcoming Persistent Challenges in
Philippines-China Relations Beyond the COVID-19
Pandemic
Rommel C. Banlaoi 385-391

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We also acknowledge the active cooperation of all members of the PACS Board of Directors and PACS Board of Advisers for their dedication to the association. Their strong spirit of volunteerism gives the association the will to persist in many trying times like the COVID-19 pandemic. We are also thankful

to all PACS members who continue to make PACS relevant through the years.

Finally, we congratulate all contributors to this volume. Without their scholarly products, it will be difficult for PACS to advance our knowledge about China, the Chinese in the Philippines, and Philippines-China relations.

Though many individuals supported the publication of this volume, possible errors in judgment, factual inaccuracies, and lapses in analysis are sole responsibilities of the editor and individual contributors.

PREFACE

For many centuries, the Philippines and China have peacefully coexisted as friendly neighbors. Though the Cold War interrupted their friendly relations from 1949 to 1974, both countries reinvigorated their friendship in 1975 during the formal establishment of their bilateral relations. Since 1975, the Philippines has been observing a one-China policy.

The year 2020 was a milestone in Philippines-China relations as it marked the 45 years of their diplomatic relations. The year was also a turning point in their bilateral ties as they commemorated the 45 years of their relations amidst the COVID-19 pandemic, a global crisis that tested the strength and stability of Philippines-China relations.

I am, therefore, very pleased to see the publication of this volume as it covers new discoveries by unearthing ancient sources that offer new perspectives in the two countries' bilateral ties. It also discusses recent developments in Philippines-China relations such as migration, China's Belt and Road Initiative, and the Philippines' Build Build Build Program. Moreover, it examines continuing concerns in their bilateral ties like China's international behavior and governance, South China Sea disputes, and the COVID-19 pandemic.

Presenting all these issues in a single volume marking the 45 years of diplomatic relations in the time of the pandemic is timely, relevant, and useful. Produced by established experts and rising scholars on Chinese studies and the study of Philippines-China relations, there is no doubt that this volume adds value to the existing literature on the topic. Chapters prepared by His Excellency Ambassador Huang Xilian and His Excellency Ambassador Jose Santiago L. Sta. Romana also give this volume policy relevance.

I, therefore, commend the Philippine Association for Chinese Studies (PACS) for its persistent efforts to produce knowledge on China and Philippines-China relations. The Philippines and China need scholars from your association to raise the awareness of our people about the history and current developments of the two countries' bilateral ties. We need scholars who will present a more nuanced, balanced, and truthful understanding of the many issues surrounding China, the Chinese in the Philippines, and Philippines-China relations.

Many misunderstandings and confusions about several issues are largely caused by ignorance. It is our ardent desire to see PACS producing more volumes of its Chinese Studies Journal in order to continuously inform and educate our people on the many issues about China, the Philippines, and the whole world.

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