

In Memoriam: PROFESSOR AILEEN SAN PABLO-BAVIERA

Rommel C. Banlaoi and Fr. Aristotle Dy, SJ

Aileen San Pablo-Baviera passed on March 21, 2020. She succumbed to pneumonia caused by COVID-19, falling sick in Paris, France while participating in an international academic conference.

Before her death, Aileen was an active member of the Advisory Council of the Philippine Association for Chinese Studies (PACS), where she served as president from 2006 to 2010 and member of the Board of Directors from 2010 to 2018. She was recognized as one of the Philippines' leading experts on China/Chinese Studies in the context of Asian geopolitics, Philippine foreign policy, and the West Philippine Sea dispute.

At the time of her death, she had been a full professor for 15 years at the University of the Philippines Diliman (UPD) Asian Center, serving as dean from 2003 to 2009. She also taught at the UPD Department of Political Science from 1987 to 1990, where she obtained her PhD in Political Science in 2003 and Bachelor of Science in Foreign Service (cum laude) in 1979. It was also in UPD that she finished her Master of Arts in Asian Studies in 1987.

Prior to her academic career at UPD, Aileen spent some years in China after her undergraduate studies, studying the Chinese language and Modern Chinese History while also taking time to see much of the country. Upon returning to Manila, she spent the next 40 years teaching and researching about China.

Her research interests included Contemporary Chinese Studies (multidisciplinary), ASEAN-China relations, regional integration, Asia-Pacific security, territorial disputes, and maritime security issues.

Aside from her involvement with PACS, Aileen was also the executive director of the Philippine-China Resource Development Center from 1998 to 2001. She became the head of the Center for International Relations and Strategic Studies at the Foreign Service Institute of the Department of Foreign Affairs from 1993 to 1998 and a lecturer at the Department of Political Science at the Ateneo de Manila University from 1996 to 1997.

At the time of her death, Aileen was the president and chief executive officer of the Asia Pacific Pathways to Progress Foundation, Inc., which she founded in 2014, and the chief editor of the *Asian Politics & Policy Journal*. She was still very active delivering talks at local and international conferences and publishing in different academic journals. She mentored many young scholars and was very active in various Track Two activities in order to promote mutual understanding between the Philippines and China and to uphold peace and stability in the Asia-Pacific region.

Aileen's untimely demise is a great loss not only to the academic and policy-making communities but also to her friends, colleagues, family, and loved ones. Through the knowledge she produced for more than four decades, she left behind strong intellectual legacies benefiting current and future scholars, and wonderful memories of her guidance, care, and support for the people around her. We will sorely miss her.