

CHINA IN THE  
ASIA-PACIFIC CENTURY

亞太世紀的中國

Edited by  
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## PREFACE

This bilingual volume of *Chinese Studies* presents the proceedings of two symposia on "China in the Asia-Pacific Century" organized and sponsored by the Philippine Association for Chinese Studies and *World News*, a Chinese-language daily, on 30 November and 2 December 1996. At the first of these fora, held at the auditorium of Philippine Cultural High School, the medium used was Chinese Mandarin while at the second forum, held at the audio-visual room of the Social Science Building of the Ateneo de Manila University, English was the language used.

The world has been watchful of China since it opened itself up to the outside world in 1979. We have witnessed its sustained economic growth and have followed closely its political developments since. What will China be in the next century? How will the reversion of Hong Kong to China, the death of Deng, the unrelenting economic progress which has raised the standard of living of the

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Chinese people, as well as the accompanying social ill of bringing in materialism affect China and the rest of the Asia-Pacific Century region? On the eve of the Asia-Pacific century, the board of directors of the Philippine Association for Chinese Studies feels that it is a most propitious time to hold a forum where the future scenarios of China can be discussed. To do this, we invited our very own Beijing-based international journalists Mr. Chito Sta. Romana, Beijing bureau manager for *ABC News*; Mr. Ericson Baculinao, NBC bureau manager in Beijing; and Mr. Jaime FlorCruz, *Time Magazine* bureau chief in Beijing, to speak to audiences here. Since all of these Filipino journalists speak flawless Chinese Mandarin, aside from the initially planned forum for academicians and interested China watchers, we also organized another symposium with the same title "China in the Asia-Pacific Century" (or in Mandarin, *Yatai Shigi de Zhongguo*) for the Chinese-Filipino community. Curious to listen to Filipinos speaking Mandarin, hundreds attended this forum. The other symposium, where the speakers delivered their talks in English, attracted many academic and media personalities.

These three expats, having lived in China for the last twenty-five years, are extremely knowledgeable about China. In his paper, recognizing that China is an emerging global power, Mr. Sta. Romana analyzes its standing in international politics and presents some scenarios of China's internal politics after Deng's death. The economic prowess of China in the Asia-Pacific region is expected to increase significantly when Hong Kong becomes part of China. This is noted by Mr. Ericson Baculinao who analyzes the economic strategy of China and the place China occupies in the world economy today and in the future.

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Mr. FlorCruz's paper dwells on the social effects of China's open-door policy--crime, drugs, prostitution--more basically, an ideology crisis as people do not subscribe to Maoism or Confucianism anymore. The very interesting questions and comments from the floor were also documented by and form part of this publication. Lastly we include the very interesting anecdotes about the three speakers of Ms. Nona Zaldivar, the former chargé d'affaires at the Philippine Embassy in Beijing, who gave the closing remarks at the conference.

The Philippine Association for Chinese Studies and *World News* take great pride in being able to have Messrs. Chito Sta. Romana, Ericson Baculinao, and Jaime FlorCruz together in two fora to share with the Philippine community their insights of events going on in China and their analysis of how things will be in the next century. We are indeed grateful to them for taking out from their very busy schedules to make possible the event.

ELLEN H. PALANCA, Ph.D.  
President  
Philippine Association for  
Chinese Studies (PACS)  
15 April 1997

## ABOUT THE SPEAKERS

**M**essrs. Ericson Baculinao, Jaime FlorCruz, and Chito Sta. Romana arrived in China in August of 1971 as part of the Philippine Youth Delegation invited by the China Friendship Association. Before they left for China, they were staunch anti-Marcos student leaders very much involved in the First Quarter Storm of 1970. The writ of habeas corpus was suspended on August 23, 1971, and a year later martial law was declared. The three therefore found themselves in exile in China. It was only after the fall of the Marcos regime in 1986 that they returned to the Philippines. While in China all three of them studied, traveled extensively to remote places, and worked in state farms and factories.

**ERICSON BACULINAO** has lived in China since 1971. He is now Bureau Manager for *NBC News* in Beijing. In 1989, he won an Emmy Award as a member of the *NBC News* Team that covered the events at Tiananmen. His previous employment includes working as a researcher, columnist and freelance reporter for various English-language publications, including the *Hong Kong Standard*. He has also lived and worked in Chinese state farms and factories in the Hunan and Shandong provinces in the

1970s.

Before leaving for China in 1971, Eric was Chairman of the Student Council of U.P., from where he graduated *cum laude* with an A.B. in Political Science.

**JAIME FLORCRUZ** joined the *Time* Magazines Beijing Bureau in 1982 and has since been covering the successes and failures of Deng Xiaoping's reform. He is dean of the foreign press corps as well as president of the Foreign Correspondents Club of Beijing for the third time. In 1989, he co-authored the book entitled *Massacre at Beijing*.

Jimi's earlier experiences in China included working in a state farm, teaching English by singing on Chinese national television, and being a stringer for *Newsweek*. He holds a B.A. in Chinese history from Peking University where he was cited as one of its outstanding foreign alumni three years ago. Earlier, before leaving to China in 1971, Jimi had finished a B.A. program in advertising at the Polytechnic University of the Philippines (PUP) where he was editor-in-chief of the college paper *Ang Malaya (The Free)*.

**CHITO STA. ROMANA** is presently the TV news producer and Beijing bureau manager for *ABC News*. His work is frequently shown on the popular programs *Nightline* and *The World News Tonight with Peter Jennings*. He has also worked as researcher and translator for the *Washington Post* and earlier, as translation editor for the *Chinese Academy of Social Sciences* and the *Chinese New World Press*.

Chito has a Master of Arts degree in International Relations from the Fletcher School of Law and Diplomacy, a B.A. in Economics as well as a B.S. in Commerce from

De La Salle University. As a student leader in pre-Martial Law days in Manila, he was the Manila regional chairman of the National Union of Students in the Philippines (NUSP) and spokesman of the Movement for a Democratic Philippines (MDP).