

Guest Editors' Note

The Philippines has been named one of the most disaster-prone countries in the world. Our location, plus our lack of financial and human resources, make us particularly vulnerable to disasters. Happily, Filipino psychologists have always lived up to their profession and the psychology community has always stepped up to extend help to survivors. Unfortunately, the science of disaster response is quite young especially in the Philippines and psychological research on disasters is just emerging. This was the impetus for this special issue.

The creation of a special issue on disasters was one of the goals set in 2013 during a planning meeting of the Mental Health and Psychosocial Support Special Interest Group of the Psychological Association of the Philippines because there was not enough local literature to guide action. Two years later, the dream has finally come to fruition. This issue would not have been possible without all those who participated in the Special Issue Writing Workshop and our resource persons PJP Editor Dr. Melissa Macapagal and PJP staff Ms. Eds Lantin. We also are very grateful to those who served as reviewers for our special issue: Marshaley Baquiano, Joy Calleja, Grace Evangelista, Johnrev Guilaran, Erald Ilac, Rosanne Jocson, Niño Mateo, Ivan Pesigan, Alfred Presbitero, Ruffy Ramos, Joal Reyes, Marc Reyes, Melissa Reyes, Antover Tuliao, Jay Saplala, and Marge Udarbe-Alvarez.

In this issue, we feature eight papers that focus on various topics. We begin with papers that focus on the impact of disasters. The first paper, "Cognitive Processing, PTSD Symptoms, and the Mediating Role of Posttraumatic Cognitions," by Ma. Jenina N. Nalipay, Imelu G. Mordeno, and Rhea Lina J. Saavedra, tackles posttraumatic stress disorder symptoms and the role of cognitions. The next paper, "Adaptive Coping, Resilience, and Absence of Anxiety among Displaced Disaster Survivors" by Pierce S. Docena, takes a positive psychology approach in looking at resilience and the absence of anxiety.

The third paper, "Vicarious Trauma and Natural Disasters: A Transcendental Phenomenological Analysis of the Experiences of Families of Typhoon Haiyan Survivors" by Arvin Jeremy N. Tan, Andrew O. Jardeleza, Florian Antoinette P. Sta Maria, and Mendiola

Teng-Calleja, describes how disaster can affect not only the survivors themselves but also their families.

The next papers focus on interventions and responses. The paper, "The Application and Adaptation of Psychological First Aid: The Filipino Psychologists' Experience after Typhoon Haiyan" by Bernice Landoy, Ma. Regina M. Hechanova, Pia Anna P. Ramos, and Niel Steve Kintanar, describes how psychological first aid was applied and adapted among local psychologists. The paper, "The Development and Initial Evaluation of Katatagan: A Resilience Intervention for Filipino Disaster Survivors" by Ma. Regina M. Hechanova, Lynn C. Waelde, Pierce S. Docena, Liane Peña Alampay, Arsenio S. Alianan, Mary Jane B. Flores, Pia Anna P. Ramos, and Maria Isabel E. Melgar, describes the development of a resilience intervention for survivors. The paper, "The Use of Expressive Arts in Making Sense of Traumatic Experiences" by Rachel Ann Parr, showcases how survivors' experiences can be elicited and understood using expressive arts.

The brief paper "A Social Cognitive Approach to Disaster Preparedness" by Ervina A. Espina and Mendiola Teng-Calleja describes the factors that influence disaster preparedness.

Finally the paper, "Breaking News: How Hardiness Moderates the Impact of Burnout on the Psychological Well-Being of Filipino Journalists Covering Disasters and Emergencies" by Anna Gabrielle F. Cerezo, Alison D. Galian, Maria Caridad H. Tarroja, Gianina Kyla Q. Mañalac, and Ma. Patricia R. Ysmael focuses on the moderating role of personality on burnout among journalists covering disasters and emergencies.

In this special issue, we wanted to showcase the emerging researches on disasters so that the knowledge may help those who help survivors. At the same time, we hope this special issue inspires others to do research on disasters so that we can continue building our understanding on the impact of disasters and provide appropriate responses to assist Filipino survivors of disasters.

Ma. Regina M. Hechanova
Maria Caridad H. Tarroja
Bernice Vania N. Landoy