

FOREWORD

Since its establishment as the Institute of Asian Studies in 1955, the Asian Center has encouraged and supported research of Filipino scholars, particularly members of its faculty, who undertake research on Asian society and culture as well as issues and problems related to domestic and foreign involvements of Asian countries.

One of the main concentrations of the Center's research activities deals with the study of Philippine external relations, especially with neighboring Asian countries. This monograph of Professor Lily Ann G. Polo is one such study. Covering the Philippines' bilateral transactions with the Republic of South Korea since 1948, it is a first attempt by a Filipino at a systematic study of the relationship.

Under a scholarship grant from the Ministry of Education, Republic of Korea (1975-1977), Professor Polo studied Korean history, society, language and culture at Seoul National University and Ewha Woman's University. While in Korea, she gathered data relevant to the relationship between the two countries. She also availed herself of data from published and documentary sources found in libraries and other depositories within Metro-Manila. Among them, the libraries of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Ayala Museum which is the depository of President Elpidio Quirino's papers, the National Library and the University of the Philippines. In order to fill in the gap of information yielded by written records, she interviewed some of those involved in the relationship between the Philippines and the Republic of Korea during the period covered by her study.

The publication of this monograph, it is hoped, will not only increase understanding of Philippine relations with the Republic of Korea but will also arouse interest in Philippine as well as Korean history, society and culture.

JOSEFA M. SANIEL

Dean

Asian Center

8 December 1984

PREFACE

This work was originally presented as a thesis for the masteral degree in Asian Studies at the Asian Center, University of the Philippines. Upon encouragement of senior colleagues, particularly Dean Josefa M. Saniel and Dr. Silvino V. Epistola, it was rewritten for this monograph series published by the Center. This is the first part of the author's continuing study on Philippine Relations with Korea. It provides a framework upon which historical relations between the Philippines and South Korea can be better understood and analyzed.

The reader may note that this work confines itself to a specific time frame: from the initial establishment of relations between the Philippines and the South Korean Republic in 1948, to the period of a trend towards multi-polarization in the East Asian region in the 1970s. The author's research on this topic, however, is a continuing one. Subsequently, a sequel to this initial study was funded by the Asian Center and presented early in 1984 in one of its Faculty Colloquia. Entitled "Philippine-South Korean Relations: Current Trends and Directions," it takes off from where the first study ends. Eventually the updated findings presented in the Colloquium will be shared with a wider audience through another publication.

This monograph would not have been made possible without the support of the following: Professors Eva Duka Ventura, Josefa M. Saniel and Silvino V. Epistola, who composed the members of my thesis committee: Eric Lacanlale, who helped in the initial conceptualization and organization of this work; Ajit Singh Rye, who was then the Director of the Asian Studies Program; Lilia Tengsico-Gacerez, a former colleague who accompanied me in some of my library-hopping trips around Metro-Manila; Hermie Garcia, who assisted in editing the manuscript; Millie Espinas who, as a colleague, gave the much needed moral support; the members of the Asian Center staff: Evelyn, Elvie, Larilyn, Mamerta and Sally, who assisted in the preparation of the manuscript for publication; Pancho de Guzman, my brother-in-law, who took time out from his busy schedule to assist in the final organization of the manuscript; my sister, Nanie, who patiently read the drafts for last minute comments and editing; and finally to the Asian Center of the University of the Philippines, for sponsoring the publication of this maiden attempt.

Above all, my deepest gratitude to the members of my family for their constant support and encouragement.

LILY ANN G. POLO

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