

WORLD BULLETIN HISTORY

The World Bulletin started in 1985 as a periodical of the International Studies Institute of the Philippines (“ISIP”), which former Dean Merlin M. Magallona headed as Founding Director. Materials published were generally long papers and short research notes on current world, regional, and national events prepared by ISIP staff members, faculty across the University of the Philippines (“UP”), and foreign experts.

Consistent with ISIP’s objective of offering solutions to the country’s most pressing problems in its international relations, the World Bulletin was a regular publication devoted to the analysis and documentation of relevant changes in the international situation. Thus, in all four issues from the very first World Bulletin volume, Dean Magallona wrote articles exploring the context and implications of the United States Subic and Clark Military Bases Agreement (“MBA”) on Philippine sovereignty and security in light of the ongoing Senate debates on renewing the 1947 MBA treaty.

Other notable experts who contributed works to the ILSJ were then Secretary of Foreign Affairs Raul S. Manglapus, now Supreme Court Senior Associate Justice Marvic F. Leonen, prominent historian Renato Constantino, and International Committee of the Red Cross Press Attaché Françoise Bory. Transcripts from Senate Privilege Speeches of Alberto G. Romulo on the foreign debt crisis in 1989 and Wigberto E. Tañada advocating for a “world free of nuclear weapons” in 1988 were likewise published.

After ISIP was reorganized into the Institute of International Legal Studies (“IILS”), IILS took over the World Bulletin in 1990. In its first release as IILS, it included two articles highlighting the intersection between global issues and women, authored by Dr. Rosalinda Pineda-Ofreneo (formerly an ISIP Graduate Researcher in 1985, and later became Dean of the College of Social Work and Community Development in 2013), and Sister Mary Soledad Perpiñan, RGS, among others.

Papers published in the World Bulletin have been cited in other literature, such as on maritime law,¹ human rights,² environmental law,³ and in the 2014 Supreme Court decision on *Arigo v. Swift*.⁴

Today, the World Bulletin has been renamed the International Legal Studies Journal (“ILSJ”) to highlight that it has evolved into a peer-reviewed annual publication offering a rigorous peer-review process, a commitment to high-quality publications, and a long-held tradition of honor and excellence. The publication is a response to the need to systematize the analysis of international legal issues, particularly as they impact and apply to the Philippines, especially from an interdisciplinary lens. It will continue to build on the legacy of *World Bulletin*, which expanded the treatment of international law from the siloed and compartmentalized to a broader reflection of the cross-section of issues that occur in the international legal environment.

¹ L. B. Bautista, “The Historical Background, Geographical Extent and Legal Bases of the Philippine Territorial Water Claim”, *Journal of Comparative Asian Development*, Vol. 8, No. 2, 2009, pp. 365–395. <https://doi.org/10.1080/15339114.2009.9678488>; Jay L. Batongbacal, *The Maritime Territories and Jurisdictions of the Philippines and the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea*, 76 PHIL. L.J. 123 (2001); Jay L. Batongbacal, *The Philippines' Right to Designate Sea Lanes in Its Archipelagic Waters under International Law*, 1 OCEAN L. & POL'Y SERIES, January-June 1997, at 81; L. B. Bautista, “International Legal Implications of the Philippine Treaty Limits on Navigational Rights in Philippine Waters”, *Australian J. of Maritime & Ocean Affairs*, Vol. 1, No. 3, 2009.

² Nina Cascio, “Human Rights in South and Southeast Asia: A Selective Bibliography”, in *Human Rights in South and Southeast Asia* 211 (Routledge, 2017).

³ Alan Khee-Jin Tan, *All That Glitters: Foreign Investment in Mining Trumps the Environment in the Philippines*, 23 PACE ENVTL. L. REV. 183 (2005).

⁴ G.R. No. 206510, September 16, 2014.