

# Acknowledgments

I would like to express my gratitude to those who helped and guided me in the completion of this volume. I am indebted to my colleagues at the Institute of Developing Economies (IDE) who have always encouraged and supported me, especially Professor Ikuo Iwasaki and the late Professor Yoshiyuki Hagiwara who have been my guides in the field of political studies on Southeast Asia since I joined IDE. Mr. Shigeaki Fujisaki also provided me with many insights. Dr. Shin'ichi Shigetomi gave me opportunities to examine my framework during several study meetings. Mr. Masashi Nakamura and Mr. Kōichi Kawamura were good “sparring partners” in discussions on Southeast Asian politics. Mr. Yukio Saitō and Ms. Akiko Akemine patiently edited this book.

I also thank my professors during my college days, especially Professors Tokushirō Ōhata, Hidetake Satō, Hiromichi Hayakawa, Kōjirō Nishimura, Ken'ichi Gotō, and Yasushi Kikuchi, who initially guided me toward becoming a researcher.

Regarding Philippine politics, Professors Yutaka Katayama, Ki'ichi Fujiwara, and Temy Rivera have been my teachers. I have been encouraged by their comments and advice. I am also indebted to Dr. John Sidel for his kind and insightful comments on my initial paper on the topic, from which I learnt a great deal. My comrades in Philippine studies, especially Professor Satoru Nishimura, Professor Makito Kawada, Professor Nobutaka Suzuki, Professor Itaru Nagasaka, Mr. Kōki Seki, Mr. Tsutomu Yonashiro, Professor Jun Akamine, Mr. Shingo Mikamo, Ms. Michiyo Yoneno-Reyes, and Ms. Yūko Kasuya always stimulated me. I also thank those who gave me insightful comments on various occasions. Especially Professors Midori Kawashima, Motoko Shutō, Minoru Ōuchi, Yoshiko Nagano, and Hiromu Shimizu gave me crucial comments as well as encouragement. I am also grateful to Mr. Yoshihisa Ishikawa and Mr. Yūdai Ueno for their kind support in my research.

In the Philippines, I am indebted to numerous people. I want to thank faculty members and staff of the Department of Political Science, University of the Philippines, who accepted me as a visiting research associate. Professor

Malaya Ronas, ex-chair of the department, organized a seminar for me to get important comments on my research. I am also grateful to Fr. Jojo Magadia and Atty. Popoy Pilando who provided me with warm friendship and made my stay in the Philippines enjoyable. I thank Ms. Josie Paren-Esteban for her patient assistance in my research. I am also thankful to Dr. Wilfrido Villacorta and Mrs. Ma. Lourdes Villacorta for their insights on Philippine politics as well as their kindness.

In Naga City, I owe a debt of gratitude to many people who supported my research. I greatly appreciated Mr. Jesse Robredo's generosity and friendship. He gave me his full understanding and cooperation regarding my research. Atty. James Jacob and Mr. Cho Roco kindly provided me with chances to observe their election campaign and gave me many insightful comments. I thank the late Mr. Pemp Valiente who continuously provided his support and advice. He was my adviser in the field. I also thank Mr. Vic Villaflor for patiently helping me with my interviews in Naga City. I am grateful to Mr. Gabby Bordado, Mr. Frank Mendoza, Mr. Jun Lavadia, Mr. Melo Reyta, and the late Mr. Aton Nabua for their friendship and assistance in my research. All city councilors, all barangay chiefs, officers of people's organizations, and officials of the Naga City Government were very helpful and kind in their cooperation with my interviews. I thank them very much. I am also grateful to the political leaders, business leaders, NGO leaders, and scholars who allow me to interview them. Professor Jesus Volante and professors of the Social Science Research Center of Ateneo de Naga gave me helpful suggestions for conducting research in Naga City and conducted a seminar where I could get many significant comments on my research. I am indebted to Atty. Alfredo Tria and Ms. Teresa Aureus for letting me borrow their very valuable back issues of *Handiong*. I thank Professor Tito Valiente and Professor Danny Gerona for directing me to Naga City at the start of my research.

In finalizing this book, I want to thank the two anonymous readers who gave me crucial comments. I also thank Dr. William Swan for his patient proofreading.

I am also grateful to Fr. John Kanzaki, who gave me the very first chance to set foot in the Philippines. I thank my in-laws, the Aguac family, who always supported me during my stay in the Philippines. I am grateful to my parents who have been generous in their understanding in letting me pursue my research since my graduate school days. Finally, I would like to express my gratitude to my wife, Emmalyn, who has always encouraged me. I am very glad that I could produce this book simultaneously with the birth of our daughter, Mayu.

# Map of the Bicol Region

