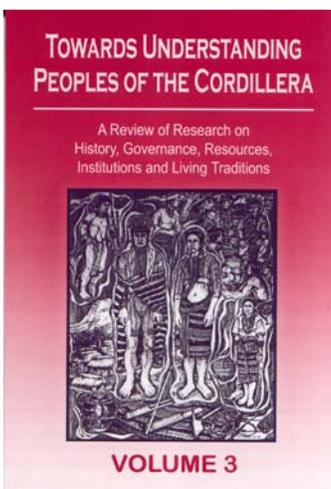
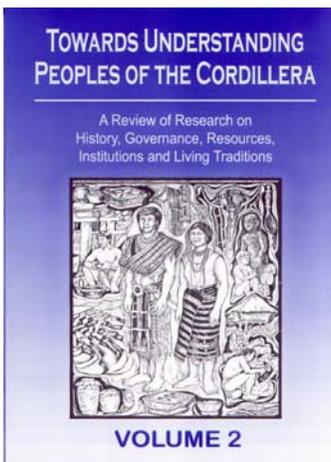
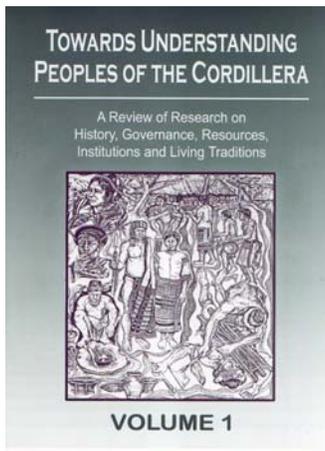




# CORDILLERA RESEARCH BRIEF

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## Books on Cordillera research conference to be launched January 25

The Cordillera Studies Center (CSC) is pleased to announce the launching of the three-volume book of proceedings of the 1<sup>st</sup> National Conference on Cordillera Research on January 25, 2002 at the multi-purpose hall of the new UP College Baguio building. The books are a compilation of papers with various themes that were presented during the First National Conference on Cordillera Research. The 3-day national conference held 9-11 November 2000 at Teachers' Camp, Baguio City had, for its theme, "Towards Understanding Peoples of the Cordillera: A Review of Research on History, Governance, Resources, Institutions and Living Traditions."

The wealth of information generated in this conference is preserved in this rich compilation of books. Volume 1 contains papers with the following themes: Cordillera Autonomy and Local Governance, Local Histories and

Local Institutions; Volume 2 contains papers on Indigenous Knowledge, Language and Women and Gender Studies; and Volume 3 carries natural sciences papers on biodiversity and environment and resources.

The Cordillera Studies Center (CSC), the research arm of the UP College Baguio, celebrated its 20<sup>th</sup> year on June 26, 2000 with the staging of the Conference that featured the research work of faculty members of UP College Baguio, visiting CSC researchers and invited scholars on the following themes: 1) Local Histories; 2) Governance and Public Policy; 3) Local Institutions; 4) Indigenous Knowledge, World Views and Philosophy; 5) Environment and Resources; 6) Living Traditions; 7) Art, Literature, Language and Communication; and 8) Women and Gender Issues.

The Conference saw two distinguished speakers deliver

separate lectures in plenary sessions as a way of introducing the selection of topics for the conference. Dr. Gilda Rivero of the Institute of Biology in UP Diliman presented a discussion (“Biodiversity and Strategies for Conservation”) on a new science called conservation biology otherwise referred to as “a crisis discipline.” The U.S.-based Dr. Albert Bacdayan traced ambivalence toward the Igorots through a legacy of colonialism. The rest of the paper presentations were as varied as the individuals and institutions represented in the conference. Day 1 saw discussions on unsettled issues on Cordillera autonomy; ethnicity concerns in local histories of the Cordillera; indigenous knowledge and its role in education; and the concern over the fate of the remaining biodiversity in the Region as well as the environmental tragedies that have occurred.

Day 2 confronted concerns on land use and environment, local institutions, governance and gender discourses in the Cordillera. Day 3 looked into the current status of Cordillera linguistics and the interplay of language, culture and indigenous knowledge; the issues related to Cordillera art and literature; and technical papers on Mount Pulag vegetation and local medicinal plant extracts.

This final day of the conference featured the participants’ forum where the future of research in the Cordillera was mapped. Among others, requests were made to bring back research results to the communities in terms understandable to the people, to put order in research undertakings in the Region with a coordinating body to oversee this, to have an inventory of past researches in the Region so as to prioritize other endeavors, to stretch the coverage of researches from Benguet and Mt.

Province to other less-researched areas in the Cordillera, and to forge linkages with institutions represented in the conference.

Apart from the presentation of papers, participants viewed posters laid out in the lobby of the conference venue. Subject matters ranged from studies on essential oil-producing plants in the Cordillera, environmental concerns, biodiversity studies and ethnoarchaeology.

The conference became the forum through which foreign and local researchers, national and local policy-makers and community members of the Cordillera exchanged views regarding research findings generated from twenty years of research activities. It brought together different perspectives and viewpoints to enable an assessment of what has been achieved and provided directions for a research agenda on issues that confront the mountain peoples of the Cordillera. On the whole, the national conference provided an occasion to celebrate the plurality and diversity of histories, traditions and institutions of the peoples of the Region.



*This issue of the **Cordillera Research Brief** is published by the **Cordillera Studies Center (CSC)** to disseminate research results to a wider audience. For more information, contact:*

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