

## THE REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES

### The Republic of the Philippines

The Philippine archipelago is situated in the Western Pacific Ocean, between latitudes 5°N and 21°N, and longitudes 112°E and 127°E. It comprises more than 7,100 islands having a total area of 299,900 km<sup>2</sup>.

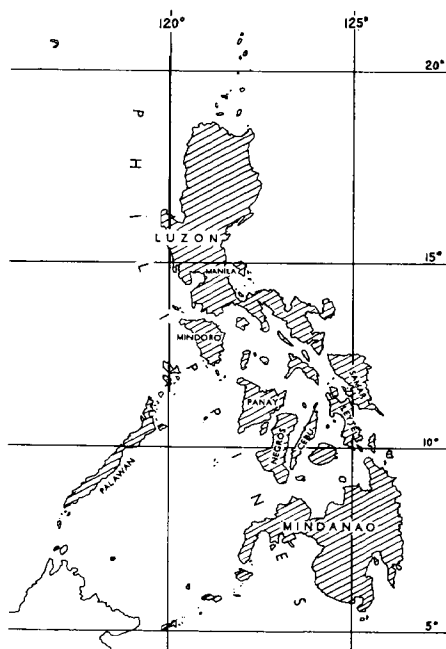


FIG. 1.- Philippines.

Manila is the capital city. Luzon, in the north and Mindanao, in the south are the two largest islands; the others are Samar, Negros, Panay, Palawan, Mindoro, Leyte, Cebu, Bohol and Masbate. These islands comprise 94% of the total land area. The population as of 1995 was 68.6 million. Over 90% of the Filipinos are Christians; the rest belong to Muslim and other religious groups. Industrial production, agriculture, fishing and mining are the principal economic resources of the country.

Although the Chinese and Arabs had traded with the predominantly Malay inhabitants earlier, the Philippines was first brought to the attention of Europe when Ferdinand MAGELLAN, a Portuguese navigator under the employ of Spain, visited the

islands in 1521. It was officially annexed by Spain in 1565. Following the Spain-United States war, the islands were ceded to the US in 1898 by virtue of the Treaty of Paris. The country was about to attain its independence from the US when it was occupied by Japanese forces in 1942. It attained its independence on 4 July 1946, after World War II, with the establishment of the Republic of the Philippines as a sovereign nation.

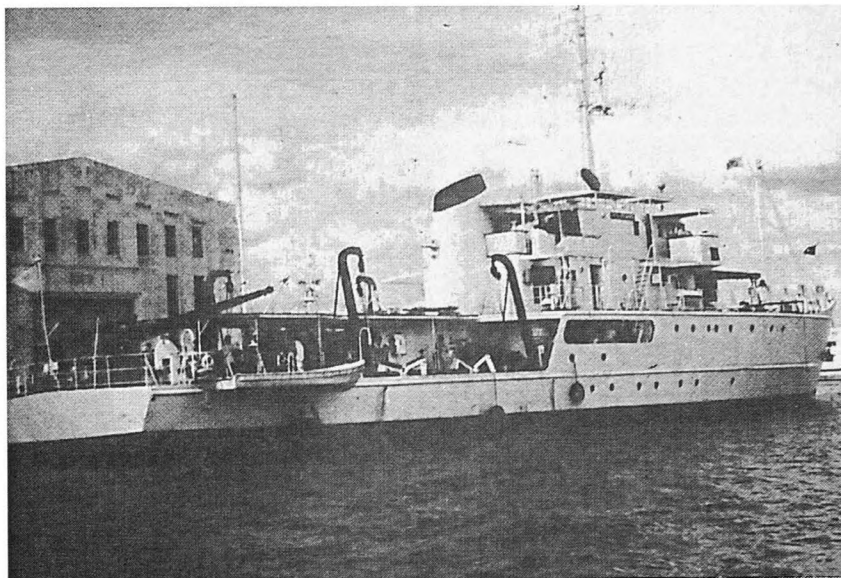


FIG. 2.- RPS ATYIMBA.

The Philippines is governed by a new constitution that was adopted in 1987. The government has three branches namely: the Executive, Legislative and Judiciary. Executive power is vested in the President who is elected every six years, and assisted by an elective Vice President and appointive Cabinet. Legislative power is vested in a bicameral Congress consisting of the Senate and House of Representatives. The Judiciary consists of a Supreme Court, Court of Appeals, provincial, city and municipal court.

### **The Hydrographic Service**

The Coast and Geodetic Survey Department (CGSD) of the National Mapping and Resource Information Authority (NAMRIA) is the national Hydrographic Office. It is mandated to conduct hydrographic, oceanographic, geodetic and geophysical surveys of the national territory. It publishes nautical charts, Notices to Mariners, tide and current tables, coast pilot books and other related publications. It maintains the National Geodetic Network, Geodetic Information System, National Oceanographic Data Center, a network of tide stations and a Magnetic Observatory.

### **History of Hydrography**

The Hydrographic Service in the Philippines was originally organized in 1900 as a field station of the US Coast and Geodetic Survey. Made a bureau on 1 July 1902, the Bureau of Coast and Geodetic Survey (BCGS) operated under the

supervision and control of the US Government until the Fall of Bataan in 1942. It was totally destroyed under the Japanese Military occupation during World War II. It was reorganized with the help of the US Army in 1945 and on 4 July 1946, placed under the administrative jurisdiction of the Republic of the Philippines with Captain Andres HIZON as the first Filipino director.

Geodetic, hydrographic, topographic and magnetic surveys comprise the bulk of work that was then performed by the Bureau. The Luzon Datum for horizontal controls was established in 1911 and printing charts started in 1922. During the rehabilitation efforts after World War II, many initiatives were introduced, among them the installation of a magnetic observatory in 1950, prediction of tides and currents in 1951, establishment of an extensive vertical control network in 1952, and adoption of photogrammetric method of mapping in 1953.

The following decades ushered in a progressive growth as well as expansion of activities of the BCGS. In 1972, it absorbed the Board of Technical Surveys and Maps and became the principal mapping and charting agency of the government. It became an adhering member of several international organizations such as IHO, IUGG, ICA and IOC, and undertook several mapping and charting ventures with UNDP and Japan.

In 1987, the BCGS was merged with three other natural resources information agencies to form the NAMRIA. The land mapping function was vested in the new agency's Mapping and Reprography Department, while the hydrographic, oceanographic and geodetic functions were retained under the CGSD. It is under this new organization that CGSD, with the assistance of Australia, completed in 1992 the GPS survey of the new geodetic control network called the Philippine Reference System of 1992 (PRS92).

### **Present Organisation**

The CGSD's personnel set-up was organized to cope with the varying requirements of its survey and nautical charting activities through a division of responsibilities among its commissioned, enlisted and civil services. Fieldwork is performed by the commissioned and enlisted services of the Survey Operations Division, while data processing and nautical cartography are performed by civilian personnel of the Hydrography, Oceanography and Geodesy divisions.

The survey flotilla consists of two 28 metre and one 40 metre ships and several small launches. Procurement of two new 50 metre ships including shore-based processing facilities is being finalized for possible delivery in early 1998. Automation of data processing and nautical charting is also being pursued progressively.

CGSD is currently maintaining 185 charts covering Philippine waters. This number is expected to increase significantly in the next few years as the new vessels start surveying the EEZ, sealanes and newly-built or rehabilitated ports.