A Communist Goes Abroad: 
Searching for a "New Internationale"

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Abstract:

This talk is about EQ, a cadre of the Communist Party of the Philippines (CPP) who was sent abroad with the mission of seeking military and related assistance for the Philippine revolution. He has since written a memoir of his fascinating encounters with different kinds of "comrades" (including senior CPP cadres) of which very few people in the Philippines and elsewhere know about. The talk shares segments of that memoir (which will be published by Ateneo de Manila University Press) and suggests a couple of ways in which to look at this extraordinary story.

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“Jojo,” as he is called, grew up on the northwestern side of the Philippine island of Mindanao. He graduated with a degree in History from the University of the Philippines-Diliman (UP), and Ph.D. in Government and Southeast Asian Studies from Cornell University. He taught at the Department of Political Science at Ohio University from 1997 to 1999 before moving to the Center for Southeast Asian Studies at Kyoto University in 2000. From 2010-2011, Jojo was a visiting scholar at the Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars in Washington DC, where he did research on the political economy of US economic assistance in Muslim Mindanao. In 2011 he joined the faculty of the Asian Studies Program at UH- Mānoa.

Apart from his academic work, Jojo also writes political commentaries and book reviews for two e-magazines – Rappler in the Philippines, and Positively Filipino which is based in San Francisco.