



Mining and Natural Hazard Vulnerability in the Philippines
 Digging to Development or Digging to Disaster?
 William N. Holden and R. Daniel Jacobson

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Description

An exploration of the dangers of mining in the Philippines, and the exacerbating effect of natural hazards upon these dangers.

“This text provides an exhaustive and engaging review of the literature surrounding issues of development in the Philippines. Holden and Jacobson leave no stone unturned as they uncover some of the most detrimental effects of modern mining practices on the surrounding natural environment and the human communities.” —*Professor Kathleen Nadeau, California State University, San Bernardino*

“This book speaks well of mining disasters that are accelerated and amplified by natural hazards in the Philippines such as typhoons, earthquakes and volcanic eruptions. I recommend this superb work to the general public and readers with a specific interest in mining, especially those with similar situations in their own countries.” —*Dr Emelina Regis, Director of the Institute for Environmental Conservation and Research, Ateneo de Naga University*

The archipelago of the Philippines is well endowed with nonferrous mineral resources, and in recent years the Philippine government, acting under the influence of the dominant and seemingly ubiquitous neoliberal development paradigm, has liberalized its mining laws in order to accelerate economic development. Yet the Philippines is also a country highly prone to a variety of natural hazards that have the ability to interact adversely with mining’s potential for environmental degradation. Thus there are great dangers inherent in pursuing such a development paradigm: earthquakes can destabilize tailings storage facilities, typhoons can flood tailings ponds, and mine-pit dewatering can enhance the competition for groundwater resources during droughts. This study explores how these hazards amplify the environmental harm prevalent in mining, and reveals the substantial threat posed to the livelihoods of the archipelago’s poor, as well as the inadequacies of the very institutions designed to protect their environment.

Readership: This book will appeal to environmental activists in the Philippines, students of the Philippines, and academics conducting research into mining.

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