

WELCOME ADDRESS*

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President
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Republic of the Philippines

Distinguished Guests, Honored National Scientists, Fellow Academicians and Friends;

We are gathered today for the 8th consecutive year to offer once again to our compatriots and to the world at large some of the best researches and papers we have done in this country in the recent past – this is possibly one of the most important functions of the NAST.

There are of course a few other roles we have to cover; and despite being repetitive, permit me to recall them with you briefly:

- I. Advisory
 1. Acts as an advisory body to the President and Cabinet Ministers, to various Government agencies, and other institutions.
 2. Promotes a free scientific inquiry and communication as well as improvement of the scientific climate in the country through relevant policy recommendations.
- II. Promotion and Recognition of Scientific and Technological Effort and Achievement
 1. Gives recognition to outstanding achievements in science and technology.
 2. Provides meaningful incentives to those engaged in research.
 3. Promotes scientific productivity.
- III. International Linkages
 1. Promotes collaborative effort among our scientists and their colleagues abroad through Science and Technology agreements.
 2. Comes out with publications which are used as exchange materials with science academies and libraries.
 3. Encourages and supports participation of scientists in international conferences, seminars and workshops.

*Delivered during the 8th Annual Scientific Meeting of the Academy, July 8, 1986 at the Philippine International Convention Center.

Today, we are to discuss, among others, science policy; in other words, the direction our new NSTA management will take.

Let me remind my colleagues, however, that as an academy of science we have a commitment to honor the universality of science and to the rest of the science community around the world. These are free exchange of ideas irrespective of national boundaries and ideologies; the commitment to use the fruits of science for the welfare and benefit of humanity not for its destruction; and to share with our brother scientists around the world, our experience, our work, and our opportunities.

With this brief introduction, permit me to welcome you all to this year's Annual Scientific Meeting of NAST.