

## WELCOME ADDRESS

Honored guests, Undersecretary Ancog, honorable national scientists of the land, fellow academicians, Secretary Habito, friends, ladies and gentlemen.

I bid you welcome to the 16th Annual Scientific Meeting of the National Academy of Science & Technology. Today and tomorrow, we shall once more try to envision our visions for Philippines 2000. We have set five plenary sessions to do this: issues on population, challenge of economic restructuring, states-of-the-art in animal and crop sciences, issues on environmental sciences and sustainable development and energy needs of industry. And besides those, we have a profusion of poster sessions, with about 87 papers. I invite you all to also view these papers that are in the other room. As I welcome you today. I would like to solicit your full and enthusiastic participation.

We scientists are being challenged. The NICDOM of 2000 is being made to depend on science. This means that science must be made to work in the practical world. The key words now being used are science utilization and operationalization. The scientists, in other words, must learn to go down to the market place and perhaps indulge in product development, marketing, and financing. From our post annual meetings we also have come to realize that there is one other important obstacle we have to solve, and that is the Filipino idiosyncracies. The Filipino is an artist and he seems to be a born politician, so when it comes to art and politics, he is "in" there. But when it comes to science and industry, he lags far behind.

So my friends, let us put our heads together and see how we can solve this problem that appears to be unique to the Filipino. We have the science and we have the scientists. But while other countries have used our scientists and our science and have succeeded in furthering their economic development, we have failed to do so quite miserably. Now Father Nebres has prayed to the Almighty for leaders. Having thus prayed to God on whom everything depends, I suggest that we scientists work now during these two days and in the very near future. Furthermore, let us work as though everything depended on us and as though we are masters of our own destinies.

So welcome to this 16th Annual Scientific Meeting. Thank you.

Conrado S. Dayrit, M.D.  
President

