

**NATIONAL ACADEMY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY
18TH ANNUAL SCIENTIFIC MEETING
Insular Century Hotel, Lanang
8000 Davao City
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WELCOME ADDRESS

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My Fellow Academicians, my Fellow Workers in Science, the Very Reverend Invocators, Ladies and Gentlemen, Friends. In behalf of the Academy and its Members, the Academicians, I welcome you all to this 18th Academy Meeting.

This is, as our Secretary has mentioned, the first time that we bring these meetings out of Manila, and this year we selected Mindanao, to discuss how science and technology can be made to contribute more effectively towards a more dynamic Mindanao. Not that Mindanao has not been dynamic. The importance of Mindanao to the Philippines has long been recognized as the Land of Promise.

I remember that when we graduated from the Ateneo, some of my classmates and friends were enticed to come to Mindanao to homestead by President Quezon himself and they established their farms here. That was way back in the 1940s. But, it must be admitted that of the three principal regions of the Philippines, Mindanao has always played not second, but third fiddle to Luzon and the Visayas. Now this must change.

The Philippines cannot afford to ignore this big island and its people anymore. And the best way for Mindanao to catch up is, we think, through science and technology. We are here therefore, gathered together this morning with the scientists, industrialists, academicians, and science workers of this island to discuss how this land, these resources, the industries here can be improved, maximized; how her manpower can be developed; and how her health and environmental problems can be resolved. We will want to know how science and technology can best be applied and used to bring all these about. Realizing full well that only by full cooperation and

coordination at the national level can there be lasting success, prosperity, and peace with understanding. The peace talks between the government and the Mindanao National Liberation people must go on to start the peace and then science and technology can have a chance to take over. How do you say this can be brought about by science and technology? How can they improve this situation?

One of my favorite Aesop fables is the contest between the wind and the sun as to who could remove a man's coat from him. So the wind blew and blew and blew and blew until it was blue in the face but the man just held onto this coat, held it tighter until the wind just gave up. The sun merely smiled, turned his rays on the man, and the man started to feel warmer, fanned himself more vigorously, and when he started perspiring, he removed his own coat. The sun didn't do it; it was the man who did it himself. This is the big difference I can see between force, which often fails, and the environmental changes brought about by science and technology whose effects, although more subtle, are certainly more effective. Thus may science and technology improve the situation here in Mindanao.

Well, I hope that all of us will have a very worthwhile and fruitful stay in the City of Davao and relish the hospitality here and learn from this interchange between our scientists and our industrialists and our health workers and all who are interested in the future of Mindanao. Again, welcome to all.

Thank you.