

## FOREWORD

### AN ACCOMPLISHMENT REPORT ON THE 29TH ANNUAL SCIENTIFIC MEETING

The 29th ASM steered by the Chemical, Mathematical and Physical Sciences Division (CMPSD) with Acad. Evelyn Mae Tecson-Mendoza as chair, carried the theme “**A Progressive Philippines Anchored on Science: *Building a Culture of Science in the Philippines.***” The ASM focused on possible strategies that can accelerate the building of a culture of science in the country. These strategies include: a) a strategic change in science education in elementary schools which involves disco-very- and inquiry-based method of teaching; b) increasing support for young talent and genius; and c) strengthening institutions of research and scholarship.

There were six plenary sessions, each topic dealing with issues and concerns plaguing science and mathematics education in the country. The papers presented were subjected to analysis, debate, and discussion. These were: “Strengthening Basic Education,” “Government Support to Science Education,” “Problems and Possibilities at the Heart of Science Education,” “University-Industry-Government Linkages” and “Mentoring, Ethics and Media.”

The six divisions of NAST each conducted concurrent technical session in the afternoon of 11 July 2007. Papers presented dealt with enhancing the competitiveness of the graduates of their respective fields and presentations on strategies and approaches in improving science and mathematics educations. Each division came up with their roadmaps to further strengthen the curricular programs and related matters in their fields respective of concern and make them relevant to the country’s socio-economic needs. The roadmaps were presented in the sixth plenary session on 12 July 2007.

Acad. Bienvenido F. Nebres, SJ, Ateneo President and member of the Academy keyed the affair while luminaries like Secretary Jesli A. Lapus of DepEd, Secretary Estrella F. Alabastro of DOST, Dr. Lee Yew

Jin of the National Institute of Education in Singapore, UP President Emerlinda Roman, and Ms. Cecilia “Cheche” Lazaro of PROBE Team, shared their expertise as plenary speakers. Participants included officers of the Korean Research Foundation, and members of the diplomatic community, researchers, scientists, educators, and students. The two-day affair presented scientific posters session that also featured the electronic poster version, investiture, and awarding ceremonies.

The 29<sup>th</sup> ASM was organized with the assistance from the Department of Science and Technology (DOST), Monsanto Philippines, Inc. Office of Senator Ramon B. Magsaysay Jr. and Science Education Institute (SEI) as patrons; Centro Escolar University, and Shoemart, Inc. as sponsors; Ateneo De Manila University, Department of Agriculture through its Biotech Program, ISAAA, PCASTRD, PCHRD, Resins, Inc., SEARCA, Unilab Laboratories, Inc., UPLB Foundation, Inc., Institute of Plant Breeding, UPLB, Aspen Multisystem Corporation, Biotechnology Coalition of the Philippines, Crop Life Philippines, De La Salle University, Dr. Lino Ed. Lim, Emilio Aguinaldo College, Mapua Institute of Technology, Manila Central University, National Research Council of the Philippines, Omnibus Bio-Medical Systems, PCAMRD, Pascual Laboratories, Inc., Philippine Women’s University, PhilRice, Program for Biosafety Systems, RFG Photography and Souvenir, Syngenta Philippines, Inc., University of the East, and University of Santo Tomas as donors, exhibitors and advertisers.

The 29<sup>th</sup> ASM Steering Committee was composed of Acd. Evelyn Mae Tecson-Mendoza, (Chair), NS Lourdes J. Cruz, NS Bienvenido O. Juliano, Acd. Jose O. Juliano, NS Clara Y. Lim-Sylianco, Acd. Apolinario D. Nazarea, Acd. Bienvenido F. Nebres, SJ, Acd. William G. Padolina, and Acd. Caesar A. Saloma.

**Scientific Posters.** *There were 178 accepted entries for the scientific posters session: ASD - 47; BSD – 62; CMPSD – 26; ESTD- 10; HSD -22; and SSD – 11. (based on 2007 Transactions, Abstracts Vol 29, Issuc No.1) The winners of the 2007 NAST Best Poster Competition were:*

### ***Agricultural Sciences***

*Post-commercialization monitoring of Asia corn borer *Ostrinia furnacalis* (Guenee) Resistance to Bt corn in the Philippines and the impact of pollen dispersal on non-target Lepidoptera* by Bonifacio F. Cayabyab, Edwin P. Alcantra, Augusto C. Sumalde, Wilma R. Cuaterno, Blair D. Siegfried, and Ma. Charisma Malenab.

### ***Biological Sciences***

*Species identification and genetic diversity analysis of yeast isolates from Philippine rice wine starters by DNA fingerprinting* by Elaine V. Lim, Vivian Panes, and Gabriel Romero.

### ***Chemical, Mathematical and Physical Sciences***

*Morphological evolution of diverse zinc oxide nanostructures* by Ian Harvey J. Arellano, Eduardo R. Magdaluyo, Denis Aquino, Roland V. Samargo and Leon M. Payawan Jr.

### ***Engineering Sciences and Technology***

*Automating the classification of tomato (*Lycopersicon esculentum*) maturity using image analysis and neural networks* by Alona V. de Grano and Jaderick P. Pabico.

### ***Health Sciences***

*Decreased invasion of respiratory pathogens in human pharyngeal cells due to subinhibitory concentrations of carboxymethyl-cysteine* by Ronald R. Matias, Frederick de la Cruz, Elena Tuano, Katherine M. Santiago, Leila M. Florentino, Rodolfo Pagcatipunan, and Alexander O. Tuazon.

### ***Social Sciences***

*From Pailis to Pasungko: Negotiating the present, ascertaining the future (indigenous knowledge systems and opportunities for biodiversity management and conservation)* by L.C. Sevidal Castro, Liwayway S. Vilorio, Johanna E. Hanasan, and Reymund T. Bago.

Two resolutions were presented to the plenary and later endorsed to DOST Secretary Alabastro and DepEd Undersecretary Ramon Bacani. These were resolutions on **Requesting Congress to Enact an Animal Health Code and the Resolution for NAST to Actively Participate in the Implementation and Activities of Joint Resolution No.1 entitled “Joint Resolution Creating a Congressional Commission to Review and Assess the State of Competitiveness of Science and Technology, and Engineering Research and Development (R&D) Sector in the Country” and to Provide an Initial Agenda for the Proposed Congressional Commission on Science and Technology, and Engineering (COMSTE).**