

WELCOME ADDRESS¹

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Kagalang-galang na Ceferino Follosco, Kalihim ng Kagawaran ng Agham at
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Excellencies . . .

Mga dalubhasa ng Agham . . .

Kapwa ko Academician . . .

Mga kasama at kaibigan

Lahat kayo ay magiliw at malugod kong tinatanggap sa taunang pulong ng
Akademia ng Agham at Teknolohiya.

Malabis kaming nagpapasalamat sa inyong pagdalo.

Isang araw napag-usapan ng mga kaklase ng anak kong bunso tungkol sa
propesyon ng kanilang mga magulang. Ang sabi ng anak ko, "*Sayang ang aking
ama. Nabibilang siya sa sayang na mga tao. Siya ay SA YANGTIST.*"

Kung talagang tutuusin, ang sayang ay ang ating Bansa. Sagana ang ating
bansa sa likas na kayamanan. Mayaman ang ating lupain at sagana sa ulan at araw;
dati'y sagana rin ang ating mga gubat at sagana ang ating mga ilog, lawa at dagat.
Ngunit bakit 69 na por ciento ng ating mamamayan ang naghihirap at nagugutom?
Of this number 80 percent are from the rural areas.

They suffer from the lack of food and shelter, poor health, and inadequate
education. The problems of the urban poor: the slum dwellers, squatters, and
scavengers of Smoky Mountain is just an extension of rural poverty.

Poverty has less tangible but equally destructive features. The poor are
isolated as they are often remote from center of power and government. They
are neglected. They are not organized so they lack power. Often they are mani-
pulated. As a consequence, their access to land, water, technology, and other
productive support services is at best tenuous. They are the first to suffer from
natural calamities, from social unrest or political upheaval. As we all know, the
root of insurgency is poverty.

To a large measure, this deplorable situation is mainly due to our failure
to fully use the magic tools of science. Our present means to produce food, cloth-

¹Remarks of D. L. Umali during the Opening Session of the *Annual Scientific Meeting of the National Academy of Science and Technology* at the Hotel Nikko Manila Garden on July 12, 1989.