

## WELCOME ADDRESS

Distinguished guests, fellow colleagues in science, good morning.

The National Academy of Science and Technology (NAST) welcomes every one for attending this 14th Annual Scientific Meeting of the Academy this October 1-2, 1992.

The topic of annual meeting last year was "*Managing the Ecosystem for Long-Term Human Survival*". In that meeting, it was revealed that the ecosystem suffers from mostly man-made disasters.


Now in 1992 our topic is "*Coping with Natural Disasters*".

William Samson, the Vice-President of the Asian Development Bank in his opening address on the Regional Disaster Mitigation Seminar in 1990 spoke of the Asian Pacific Region as disaster-prone. If the Asian Pacific Region is disaster-prone, the Philippines may be "magnet" for these disasters. We appear to be a favorite target of typhoons, drought, earthquakes, and now volcanic eruptions.

The man-made disasters that were last year's topic were pollution (urban, aquatic and marine); as well as deforestation. These are man-made and I regret to say that the Filipino nature, culture, character and politics may have had much to do with these disasters. We know however, that there is little we can do with these natural disasters except to try to cope with them. But we know that man himself can worsen the effects of natural disasters.

We hope that in these sessions, we will be able to arrive at some solutions to our problems. I welcome you to this symposium.

Thank you.



CONRADO S. PAYRIT  
Acting President