

Republic of the Philippines  
**NATIONAL ACADEMY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY**  
DOST Complex, Bicutan, Taguig, Metro Manila

## **RESOLUTIONS**

WHEREAS, issues on health care, environment, climate change, transportation and traffic management, information and communications technology, and modern biotechnology are vital and pressing concerns that continue to affect the daily lives of Filipinos;

WHEREAS, cognizant of the paramount importance, multidimensions, and complex interrelationships of these factors, the NAST adopted "Challenges in the New Millennium for Science and Technology" as its theme during its 22nd Annual Scientific Meeting (ASM) held on 5-6 July 2000 at the Manila Hotel;

WHEREAS, the ASM provided a venue for the generation, flow, and exchange of ideas on the issues from invited experts, speakers, and participants;

WHEREAS, the Government and society need to address the issues and concerns on health care, environment, climate change, transportation and traffic management, information and communications technology, and modern biotechnology in the dawn of the New Millennium;

### **HEALTH**

WHEREAS, the prices of drugs in the Philippines are much higher than those in neighboring Asian countries and way beyond the reach of the majority of Filipinos;

NOW, THEREFORE, the NAST, as the Government's highest advisory body on science and technology, hereby resolves that the following proposals be immediately acted upon by the proper authorities:

Support transformation of products of research on bio-active components into commercially viable local medical products;

Support the development of support systems and incentives for the development of drugs from locally available bio-resources.

## CLIMATIC AND ENVIRONMENTAL CHANGES

WHEREAS, historical surface and satellite data show that global warming is enhanced by greenhouse gases such as carbon dioxide that is emitted through the human use of fossil fuels;

WHEREAS, satellite technology is a powerful tool in detecting climate and environmental changes;

NOW, THEREFORE, the NAST, as the Government's highest advisory body on science and technology, hereby resolves that the following proposals be immediately acted upon by the proper authorities:

Support the establishment of improved database network to monitor climate and environmental changes that are of local interest. This will include the use of satellite data and the establishment of more meteorological stations around the country;

Support the development of a sophisticated numerical model to simulate local climate conditions and be able to forecast future conditions;

Support the establishment of a program that will generate greater awareness of human impacts on climate and environment. More specific examples are the use of less fossil fuel, proper disposal of harmful chemicals, less deforestation, and encouragement of curtailed population growth.

## TRANSPORTATION AND TRAFFIC MANAGEMENT

WHEREAS, there is a real and pressing traffic congestion problem in Metro Manila;

WHEREAS, there is a need to improve existing solutions to the traffic congestion problem;

WHEREAS, conditions of traffic facilities in Metro Manila are fast deteriorating;

WHEREAS, there is a need to improve coordination among government agencies involved in transportation and traffic management;

NOW, THEREFORE, the NAST, as the Government's highest advisory body on science and technology, hereby resolves that the following proposals be immediately acted upon by the proper authorities:

Support the construction of new roads over highways in Metro Manila;

Support the rehabilitation of existing road networks;

Support the introduction of mass transport systems;

Support the application of short-term travel demand management schemes, e.g., one-way scheme, car-pooling, bus lanes, etc.

Support programs to retain, retool, and educate traffic enforcement agencies and the general public.

## **INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATIONS TECHNOLOGY**

**WHEREAS**, the Philippines needs to transform its economy into a knowledge-economy;

**WHEREAS**, e-commerce and e-business are now possible;

**NOW, THEREFORE**, the NAST, as the Government's highest advisory body on science and technology, hereby resolves that the following proposals be immediately acted upon by the proper authorities:

Support the initiation of incentives for setting up of e-business in cyberparks which are situated nationwide.

## **BIOTECHNOLOGY**

**NOW, THEREFORE**, the NAST, as the Government's highest advisory body on science and technology, hereby resolves that the following proposals be immediately acted upon by the proper authorities:

Support safe and responsible applications of modern biotechnology to agriculture and food production, health and medicine, environmental protection, and trade and industry;

Support the information and educational campaigns on modern biotechnology to enlighten the public about the benefits and risks of the technology;

Support government efforts in biotechnology; and

Support regulatory bodies for biotech activities and products, and biotech research institutions in the universities in their efforts to develop biotechnology.

**RESOLVE AS IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED THAT THE NAST (PHILIPPINES) ADOPTS THIS SET OF RESOLUTIONS FOR ENDORSEMENT TO THE DEPARTMENT OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (DOST), DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE (DA), DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH (DOH), DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENT AND NATURAL RESOURCES (DENR), DEPARTMENT OF TRADE AND INDUSTRY (DTI), DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION AND COMMUNICATIONS (DOTC), AND OTHER RELEVANT AGENCIES FOR CONSIDERATION AND ACTION.**

**DONE** this 6th day of July 2000 in Manila, Philippines.

