

FOREWORD

Sometime last year, National Scientist Gelia T. Castillo proposed a review of the country's progress in meeting the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). With the manifold specialties represented by the National Academy of Science and Technology (NAST) membership, NS Castillo averred that the Academy members had the appropriate expertise to conduct this review. The Social Sciences Division being in charge of the 32nd Annual Scientific Meeting (ASM) in July 2010, took up NS Castillo's challenge and proposed as the 32nd ASM theme: *MDGs and Beyond: Are we Making Progress?*

The 32nd ASM Organizing Committee composed of representatives of the six NAST Divisions met and assigned the following Academicians to take charge of seven out of the eight MDGs. Acd. Arsenio Balisacan, Social Sciences Division, and an internationally recognized authority on poverty, was given the task of organizing Round Table Discussions (RTDs) on the topic and the presentation of a plenary session paper on MDG 1: *Poverty Alleviation and Hunger Mitigation*. Acd. Allan Bernardo, also of the Social Sciences Division, was assigned MDG 2: *Achieving Universal Primary Education* while MDG3: *Gender Equality and Women Empowerment* was turned over to Acd. Mercedes B. Concepcion, Chair of the Social Sciences Division. Acd. Carmencita Padilla, Health Sciences Division, graciously accepted the task of covering MDGs 4 and 5 on the *Reduction of Child Mortality* and the *Improvement of Maternal Health Care*. Acd. Jaime Montoya, also of the Health Sciences Division, was given charge of MDG 6: *Combating HIV/AIDS, Malaria, and Other Infectious Diseases*. The MDG 7: *Ensuring Environmental Sustainability* was assigned to Acd. Rhodora Azanza of the Biological Sciences Division. All six were asked to organize Round Table Discussions (RTDs) on the topic and the presentation of a plenary session paper during the 32nd ASM.

An RTD on poverty was held on 2 February 2010 featuring Dr. Romulo Virola, Secretary-General, National Statistical Coordination Board (NSCB), who spoke on *MDG 1: Will the Philippines Make it by 2015?*, Dr. Jocelyn A. Juguan of the Food and Nutrition Research Institute presented the latest data on malnutrition of children from the 7th National Nutrition Survey. Dr. Dennis Mapa, Associate Professor, UP School of Statistics, presented his paper on *Food Inflation, Underemployment and Hunger Incidence: A Vector Autoregressive (VAR) Analysis* and Dr. Mahar Mangahas, President of Social Weather Stations (SWS), analyzed the trends in poverty incidence as gleaned from the various SWS rounds since 1990. The plenary session paper

entitled, *MDG:1 Setting the scores Right and Achieving the Targets* was presented by Acd. Balisacan during the 32nd ASM. Acd. Bernardo organized an RTD on MDG 2 *Achieve Universal Primary Education: Reviewing the Data, Identifying Gaps and Assessing Performance* and invited Dr. Michael Alba of De la Salle University's Department of Economics and Dr. Dalisay Maligalig, Senior Statistician of the Asian Development Bank, as speakers. Dr. Alba's paper centered on the theme: "*Achieving Universal Primary Education: Data Issues and Strategies*" while Dr. Maligalig focused on the educational data quality in her paper entitled, "*How Can We Avert the Decline of MDG 2 Indicators?*". Acd. Bernardo invited Dr. Cynthia Rose Banzon-Bautista, Professor of Sociology, College of Social Sciences and Philosophy, University of the Philippines, to deliver the ASM plenary session paper entitled, *Universal Primary Education in the Philippines by 2015: An Impossible Dream?* Acd. Concepcion organized an RTD on the status of gender equality and women empowerment which featured three papers: one of a study of rural households in selected Philippine provinces presented by Ms. Joyce Luis, IRRI, the second on the recently approved Magna Carta on Women as described by Ms. Jemelle Z. Milanese, National Commission on the Role of Filipino Women, and the third on the *Philippines MDG Progress Report: Monitoring Indicators for Gender Equality and Women Empowerment* by Ms. Marites Lagarto of NEDA. Dr. Carol Sobritchea, Professor, UP Asian Center, gave the plenary session paper on this topic. Acd. Padilla held a consultation on 25 March 2010 and invited Dr. Alberto Romualdez, former Secretary of Health and now Dean of the Pamantasan ng Lungsod ng Maynila's Graduate School of Health Sciences, to speak on the Universal Health Care System with discussants Drs. Ramon Paterno, Dr. Zelda Zablan, Dr. Liezel Lagrada, Dr. Lilibeth David, Dr. Marilyn Lorenzo and Dr. Shirley Domingo. Dr. Romualdez was the ASM plenary session speaker on MDGs 4 and 5. Three papers on Tuberculosis (Dr. Charles Yu), Malaria (Dr. Vicente Belizario) and HIV/AIDS (Dr. Jessie Fantone) were commissioned and presented at three separate RTDs. The synthesis of these three papers was prepared by Acd. Montoya for presentation during the 32nd ASM. Since the MDG 7 was too vast to cover in one RTD, Acd. Azanza organized three RTDs on Agriculture and Forest Areas, Coastal and Water Resources and Urban and Industrial Areas, respectively. Dr. Rey Cruz prepared a paper on Agriculture and Forestry, while Drs. Marie Antonette Juinio-Menez and Maria Zita Toribio were commissioned to write a state-of-the-art paper on Coastal and Water Resources. Urban and Industrial Areas were covered by Dr. Aura Matias. Acds. Alcalá and Azanza synthesized the discussion of the three RTDs in a plenary session paper entitled, *Ensuring Environmental Sustainability*. In addition, the Organizing Committee invited Dr. Nimfa Ogena, Associate Dean for Academic Affairs, UP College of Social Sciences and Philosophy,

to present a background paper on *Population Growth and its Implication on the Realization of the MDGs* and Acd. Raul Fabella to describe *MDGs: Economic Performance and Governance A Broder Perspective*. Both these papers served as background to the above MDGs and were presented during the first ASM plenary session.

The following pages will feature the presentations given during the 32nd ASM on 14-15 July 2010, including the Keynote Speech of Dr. Jaime Galvez-Tan, former Secretary of Health and now with the National Institutes of Health, UP Manila. The early publication of the Transactions would not have been possible without the unstinting cooperation of the paper presentors who edited their papers in record time. The close collaboration of the various Academicians assigned to take on the seven MDGs is greatly appreciated. The 32nd ASM would not have been successfully held without their readiness to take on the tasks assigned to them. The NAST secretariat headed by Executive Director Luningning Samarita and supported by all her hardworking staff is to be commended for the successful organization of the RTDs and the commissioning of the papers which served as background for the ASM presentations. Special mention is made of Ms. Guada Ramos, Information Officer V, who typed and went over the manuscripts and coordinated with the publisher to ensure that these Transactions would be printed in time. To them all goes my most profound thanks.

The commissioned papers and invited papers for the RTDs will be featured in a separate monograph to be published early next year.

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Chair, 32nd ASM Organizing Committee

