

40th
ANNUAL
SCIENTIFIC
MEETING

After Event Report

Date
Venue
Theme

- NAST PHL conducted the 40th Annual Scientific Meeting (ASM) last July 11-12, 2018 at the Manila Hotel with the theme “Science and Technology-Enhanced Transformation for Sustainability and Resiliency (2018-2030)”.

Rationale

- This year's ASM centered around the Philippine performance and achievements of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) and Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) initiatives in:
 - SDG No. 6 - Clean water and sanitation
 - SDG No. 7 - Affordable and clean energy
 - SDG No. 8 - Decent work and economic growth
 - SDG No. 9 - Industry, innovation and infrastructure
 - SDG No. 11 - Sustainable cities and communities
 - SDG No. 12 - Responsible consumption and production
 - SDG No. 15 - Life on land
- Emphasis on the interrelatedness of these goals with the other SDG's.
- **Host Division:** NAST Biological Sciences Division

Pre-ASM ACTIVITIES

- Three regional scientific meetings (RSM) in **Luzon, Visayas, and Mindanao** through the generous support and active participation of the DOST Regional Offices all over the country.
- These RSMs highlighted the performance and challenges of the regions and local communities in in the achievement of the identified SDGs.

Resolutions

- The 40th ASM resulted in the crafting of resolutions tailor-made for various government agencies with the intent of providing them accurate and relevant scientific advice.
- These resolutions were then transmitted to the following:
 - Office of the President
 - Cabinet-level departments
 - government agencies
 - and lawmakers
- The NAST PHL accompanied the resolutions with a request for a meeting to be able to discuss them in detail and garner necessary support and action from the agency/institution.

After ASM Activities

- Since the conclusion of the 40th ASM and the transmission of the resolutions, various government offices heeded NAST PHL's request and scheduled a meeting.
- The first office that responded was the **OFFICE OF SENATOR JUAN EDGARDO "SONNY" ANGARA**. NAST PHL discussed talent retention, amendments to the procurement law, and the blue economy to Senator Angara's office and has resulted into positive responses from the senator's office.
- This resulted in the filing of the Senate resolution calling for an inquiry on the country's blue economy --- **PHILIPPINE SENATE RESOLUTION 1017**.

Blue Economy

Changwon Declaration, 2012

- a practical ocean-based economic model using green infrastructure and technologies, innovative financing mechanisms, and proactive institutional arrangements for meeting the twin goals of protecting our oceans and coasts and enhancing its potential contribution to sustainable development, including improving human well-being, and reducing environmental risks and ecological scarcities.

- **Blue Economy Industries**

1. Fisheries and Aquaculture
2. Ports, Shipping, and Marine Transport
3. Tourism, Resorts, and Coastal Development
4. Oil and Gas
5. Coastal Manufacturing
6. Seabed Mining
7. Renewable Energy
8. Marine Biotechnology
9. Marine Technology and Environmental Services

After ASM Activities

- The **DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY** (DOE) also responded to NAST PHL's request for a meeting.
- Last October 19, 2018, DOE Secretary Alfonso Cusi met with the NAST PHL team led by Academician Alvin Culaba, NAST Focal Person on Energy, and discussed various energy issues such as nuclear energy, waste-to-energy, electricity, and renewable energy sources.
- The meeting has resulted in a meeting between NAST PHL and DOE USec. Posadas on electricity and oil industry.
- A meeting regarding the development of waste-to-energy and other renewable energy sources is also being scheduled between NAST and PNOC-Renewables Corporation (PNOC-RC).

After ASM Activities

- The **DEPARTMENT OF INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATIONS TECHNOLOGY** (DICT) also gave a briefing to NAST PHL regarding the ongoing National Broadband Plan and the development of the country's ICT industry.
- The NAST PHL team led by ICT pioneer Academician William Torres met with the NBP project manager Ms. Alona Isidro and other DICT officials last November 13, 2018, and agreed on key issues such as the importance of ICT to the operations of the government.
- As a result, NAST PHL and the DICT agreed on conducting a roundtable discussion (RTD) in 2019 to discuss ICT in the health sector. Preliminary meetings are being set to prepare for the RTD and continuous collaboration between the two agencies.

After ASM Activities

- The **BUREAU OF FISHERIES AND AQUATIC RESOURCES** (BFAR) also responded by scheduling a meeting with NAST PHL last December 19, 2018.
- The NAST team led by its President, Academician Rhodora V. Azanza briefed BFAR Assistant Director Sammy Malvas regarding the role of NAST PHL as the premier science adviser to the government.
- BFAR officials expressed their
 - Support to the NAST PHL endeavors in fisheries and the blue economy, although they reiterated their neutrality with regards to the creation of a separate Department of Fisheries and Oceans.
 - Willingness to provide information on fisheries and get sound scientific advice in crafting policies that will benefit the people.

Way forward

- The NAST PHL is scheduled to have a plethora of roundtable discussions, policy and information fora, meetings, and events for 2019 on various topics such as energy, fisheries, and ICT.
- These efforts are expected to boost NAST's role as the premier advisory body to the government on science and technology.

NAST ADVISORY FUNCTION HIGHLIGHTS

Meeting with the Office of Senator Sonny Angara

September 24, 2018
Senate Building,
Pasay City



Meeting with Department of Energy

October 19, 2018
DOE Office,
Bonifacio Global City



Meeting with Department of Information and Communications Technology

November 13, 2019
DICT Office, UP Diliman,
Quezon City



Meeting with Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources

December 19, 2018
BFAR Office,
Elliptical Road,
Quezon City



Meeting with PNOC – Renewables Corporation

January 25, 2019
PNOC Building 5,
Bonifacio Global
City



Universal Healthcare Law

UNIVERSAL HEALTH CARE LAW A DREAM FULFILLED – NAST PHL

The National Academy of Science and Technology, Philippines (NAST PHL) commends the signing of a law that will provide health care assistance and coverage to all Filipinos.

Last February 20, 2019, President Rodrigo Roa Duterte signed the Universal Healthcare Act that will provide all Filipinos access to health products and services and will automatically enroll them to the National Health Insurance Program (NHIP). The law ensures that all Filipinos will have a guaranteed access to various health services and affordable health products.

It can be remembered that during its 38th Annual Scientific Meeting (ASM) last July 2016, the NAST PHL, through its ASM Resolutions, called on the President to include all Filipinos to a Universal Healthcare mechanism, which was also known as “Kalusugang Pangkalahatan”.

Considering the gargantuan task of pooling funds for an inclusive healthcare program, NAST PHL also identified potential funding sources such as contributions from the Philippine Health Insurance Corporation (PhilHealth), proceeds from the increased excise taxes in liquor and tobacco (sin taxes), and revenues from the Philippine Amusement and Gaming Corporation (PAGCOR).

In one of his interviews with the Philippine Daily Inquirer last 2013, NAST PHL member and National Scientist Ernesto O. Domingo, M.D. expressed his utmost desire for a universal healthcare in the country.



Senate Resolution 1017

“Philippine Blue Economy”

NAST PHL LAUDS SENATE RESOLUTION ON PHILIPPINE BLUE ECONOMY

The National Academy of Science and Technology, Philippines (NAST PHL) hails the filing of the Senate resolution calling for an inquiry on the country's blue economy.

The Senate Resolution 1017, filed by Senator Juan Edgardo “Sonny” Angara, seeks to conduct an inquiry and investigation on the current policies and programs of the government regarding the Philippine blue economy. The “Blue Economy” refers to the country's ocean-based economy, which includes aquaculture and capture fisheries, marine tourism, marine biodiversity, and shipbuilding among others.

The Resolution highlights the country's maritime history and culture, dating back to the Malay migration through “balangays” during the ancient times and the Galleon Trade during the Spanish Era. It also mentioned the potential of the country's maritime territories, which includes the West Philippine Sea and the Philippine Rise, which is believed to be rich in mineral and fisheries resources.

It can be recalled that the NAST PHL has repeatedly called for the development of the Philippine blue economy, highlighting its potential contribution to the overall economic progress of the country. In July 2016, during its 38th Annual Scientific Meeting (ASM), NAST PHL discussed the potentials of a Philippine blue economy. One of its recommendations during the 39th ASM in 2017 was the creation of a separate Department of Fisheries and Oceans that will handle the country's maritime/ coastal and marine resources.



“A progressive Philippines anchored
on science.”

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