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# MESSAGE

**Arsenio M. Balisacan**

Secretary, National Economic and Development Authority

I am pleased to welcome our distinguished speakers, guests, and participants of the 44<sup>th</sup> Annual Scientific Meeting to its first in-person gathering since the start of the pandemic. On behalf of the National Economic and Development Authority, I would like to congratulate the National Academy of Science and Technology, Philippines for organizing this annual activity that serves as the leading forum for the presentation of scientific and policy research in the country.

“What do you want to be by 2040? What do you want to do? What do you want to have?” These are the questions that NEDA asked Filipinos back in 2015 and 2016. The answers represent the collective long-term vision and aspirations of the Filipino people, referred to as the *AmBisyon Natin 2040*. It is summarized as enjoying a comfortable life in a predominantly middle-class society, where no one is poor and where everyone can feel secure about their future. This long-term vision is intended to serve as an anchor for development planning transcending political periods.

As the country’s science, technology, and innovation (STI) foresight document, *PAGTANAW 2050* supports the *AmBisyon 2040* by offering a strong foundation for strategic planning focused on STI as development enablers and/or disruptors. Delving into local and global drivers of change that could affect the needs and aspirations of the Filipino people on, developments in areas of national interest before 2050 could be anticipated towards a more secure and competitive economy.

I look forward to the policy recommendations resulting from this year’s Annual Scientific Meeting. With NEDA and NAST PHL working hand in hand, I am confident that our visions of *AmBisyon Natin 2040* and *PAGTANAW 2050* will truly become a reality.

As the theme goes, let us look ahead to a sustainable and resilient future.

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