## TRANSACTIONSNASTPHL ISSN 0115-8848 (print) ISSN 2815-2042 (online)

https://transactions.nast.ph/

# MESSAGE

## Renato U. Solidum, Jr.

Secretary, Department of Science and Technology

My warmest greetings to the participants of the 45<sup>th</sup> Annual Scientific Meeting (ASM) hosted by the National Academy of Science and Technology, Philippines (NAST PHL), with the theme "Agham at Teknolohiya para sa Demokrasya (Science and Technology for Democracy)."

The Department of Science and Technology (DOST) recognizes the crucial role that science, technology, and innovation (STI) play in our society. This is exhibited through the implementation of programs and initiatives to address environmental and social challenges in the country. The Harmonized National Research and Development Agenda 2022-2028 of the DOST outlines its commitment in making scientific and technological advancements in agriculture, natural resources, health, disaster risk reduction, and climate change adaptation for equitable and sustainable development in the Philippines. The programs of the Department prioritize the application of STI for community transformation, environmental protection, and socio-economic development, ensuring that these are accessible to all Filipinos particularly in underserved communities.

I would like to express my appreciation to NAST PHL for their dedication and commitment to the promotion of STI through events such as the ASM. My gratitude also to all DOST Regional Offices and Provincial Science and Technology Offices (PSTOs) throughout the Philippines for their continuing partnership with NAST PHL in inspiring more Filipinos to engage in scientific discovery, innovations, and breakthroughs in the conduct of the three (3) regional scientific meetings in Luzon, Visayas, and Mindanao.

May the 45<sup>th</sup> ASM serve as a platform to discuss and exchange valuable insights and inspire collaboration with one another in developing applications of STI to create and promote a more democratic and inclusive society. May this gathering serve as an excellent opportunity to explore new horizons, expand our knowledge, and strengthen our bonds

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### Citation:

Solidum RU Jr. 2023. Message: 45th NAST PHL Annual Scientific Meeting July 2023. Transactions NAST PHL: 44. doi.org/10.57043/transnastphl.2023.3311

**Copyright** © 2023 Solidum RU Jr. Dr. Renato Solidum is a geologist who has served in various capacities at the Philippine Institute of Volcanology and Seismology (PHIVOLCS) and the Department of Science and Technology (DOST). He has a BS degree in Geology from UP Diliman and MS and PhD degrees in Earth Sciences from the University of Illinois at Chicago and Scripps Institution of Oceanography, respectively. He was appointed as DOST Secretary in 2022. He is a recipient of several awards for his contributions to disaster risk reduction and government service.