

MESSAGE

Jaime C. Montoya

President, National Academy of Science and Technology

On behalf of the members of the National Academy of Science and Technology, Philippines (NAST PHL), I welcome all participants to this special occasion, the 45th Annual Science Meeting (ASM) with the theme “*Agham at Teknolohiya para sa Demokrasya* (Science and Technology for Democracy)”.

This occasion is significant not only because it comes at a crucial time, but also because it relates to how important it is for us in upholding our mission as a scientific institution leading the path toward making the country excellent.

I am very much convinced that with our combined efforts and preparations we will be able to achieve and deliver expected outcomes. Clearly, our capacity to process and make well-informed decisions to handle things consciously will propel our goals to strive and excel in every facet of our responsibilities.

We hope to learn from our partners’ viewpoints, the difficulties they are facing and most importantly, their innovations, which will help us develop a strong and progressive S&T community through the creation of policies and further enhance our capacity in a strategic position. We believe that by working together, we can build a better future for our S&T community as well as for the society as a whole.

I thank all of our scientific colleagues and partners, our esteemed National Scientists, Academicians, and Corresponding Members of NAST PHL, the 45th ASM Steering Committee, the 2023 NAST Awardees, to the DOST Regional Offices for the successful implementation of the RSMs, officials of the Department of Science and Technology, particularly our dedicated DOST Secretary Dr. Renato U. Solidum Jr., devoted public servants, academic experts, students, researchers, community development practitioners, the media, and other stakeholders for attending this event.

Maraming salamat po!

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Dr. Jaime C. Montoya is a highly accomplished infectious disease specialist with a wealth of experience. He is a Fellow of the Philippine College of Physicians, the Philippine Society of Microbiology and Infectious Diseases, the American College of Physicians, and the Royal College of Physicians, Thailand. He is currently a Professor at the University of the Philippines College of Medicine, the President of the National Academy of Science and Technology, the Executive Director III of the Philippine Council for Health Research and Development, and the lead secretariat of the ASEAN Network for Drugs, Diagnostics, Vaccines, and Traditional Medicine Innovation.