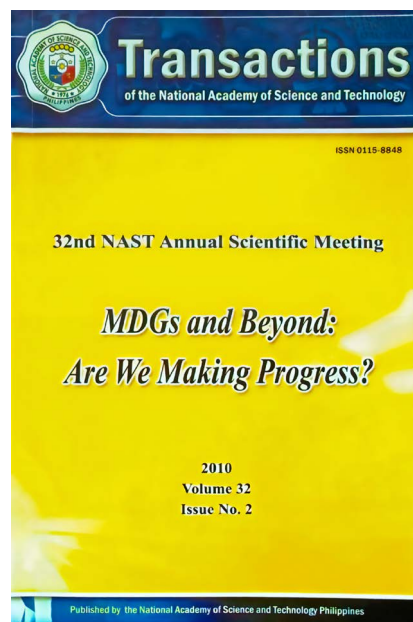


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Resolutions on the Imperatives to Heighten the Progress of the Philippines in Meeting the Millennium Development Goals

RESOLUTIONS

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**RESOLUTIONS ON THE IMPERATIVES TO HEIGHTEN THE
PROGRESS OF THE PHILIPPINES IN MEETING THE
MILLENNIUM DEVELOPMENT GOALS**

Whereas, the Philippines is a signatory of the 2000 UN Millennium Development Declaration setting down the UN Millennium Development Goals for each country to achieve;

Whereas, the NAST selected as the theme of its 32nd Annual Scientific Meeting: “MDGs and Beyond: Are we making Progress?” to review the progress of the Philippines in meeting its targets and suggest research- and evidence-based remedies for shortfalls;

Whereas, the newly installed administration of President Benigno Aquino III pledged itself to the goal of “walang maiiwan” which is totally congruent with the pro-poor and inclusive philosophy underlying the MDGs;

Whereas, the likelihood as of 2010 of some MDG targets being achieved by 2015 is low and time is fast running out;

Whereas, the recent crises in food, energy and global economy have heavily eroded and in some cases reversed the tenuous progress made towards the targets;

Whereas, the various fact-finding roundtable discussions (RTD) organized by NAST revealed that relevant data were inadequate, non-harmonized or not accessible to researchers and policy makers in a timely manner;

Whereas the engagement of local stakeholders, such as LGUs, private sector, local communities, and academe, will be crucial in assuring the attainment of the MDGs;

Whereas, the attainment of the MDGs will be a significant achievement for President Aquino and his pro-poor program;

NOW, THEREFORE, THE NATIONAL ACADEMY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY RESOLVES, as it is hereby resolved, that to hasten the achievement of the MDGs, the Philippines urgently undertake the following:

A. ON OVERARCHING ISSUES

A.1. On a Presidential Commission

That the President form a Presidential Commission on the MDGs to formulate new modalities and approaches to realize the MDGs and continually remind and counsel the various agencies to mainstream the MDGs.

A.2 Budget for R & D

That the budget to finance the R & D sector be raised from current 0.1 percent to 0.5 percent of GDP by 2015 with an eventual target of 1.0 percent.

A.3 On Inclusive Growth

1. That the Philippine government pursue an economic growth path that is rapid, job creating and inclusive;
2. That the Philippine polity address with severity and resolve corruption, that hinders the attainment of the MDGs;

A.4. On Social Protection

3. That greater social protection be pursued via a larger budget allocation for social spending and the provision of safety nets rather than through distortions of the market;

A.4. On the Management of Population Growth

4. That the President, in recognition of the crucial importance of population management on the MDG outcomes and pending the re-filing and passage of a new RH bill, issue an EO that mandates the different agencies to include responsible parenthood in their programs and increase their budget allocation;

A.5 On Data Access and Harmonization

5. That census and national survey data collection activities of government agencies be adequately supported as a matter of national priority. Provided further that these agencies be

brought under the close technical supervision, control, and harmonization of the NSO.

6. That the President certify the Freedom of Information (FOI) Bill as urgent and in the meantime a Presidential directive be issued mandating all the data collected by the government to be placed in the public domain within 12 months;
7. That the data be collected and processed in harmony with internationally accepted definitions and standards;
8. That data collection be granted higher and adequate budget allocation to strengthen the availability and integrity of data for evidence-based policy formulation;

B. ON SPECIFIC RECOMMENDATIONS

9. That the out-of-pocket financing of medical services for PhilHealth members be dramatically brought down to allow the very poor to avail themselves of the PhilHealth Fund;
10. That, in recognition of the need to reduce the likelihood of environmental disasters including climate and eco-systems change, environmental sustainability and disaster prevention be mainstreamed in the policies and programs of government to protect habitats and increase biodiversity;
11. That our watersheds so long neglected be resolutely rehabilitated and maintained, through government jobs program and community initiatives, to ensure the availability of clean water in the coming years;
12. That small scale, low-cost water supply and sanitation facilities in remote areas and small islands be provided and adapted to the existing natural and socio-economic conditions;

13. That the DepEd, in recognition that the education crisis extends beyond the lack of class rooms and textbooks, encourage and adopt new and flexible modalities of teaching and pedagogy which compensate for the inadequacies of our school system;
14. That the share in GDP of the education budget be benchmarked relative to the Asian countries;
15. That the Conditional Cash Transfer Scheme be scaled up to partly address the problem of high dropout rate among elementary school children; and
16. That the linking of the unserved and underserved areas to the national networks, through accessible and affordable ICT, be accelerated.