

MESSAGE

Jaime C. Montoya

President, National Academy of Science and Technology

On behalf of the National Academy of Science and Technology, Philippines (NAST PHL), I warmly welcome you all to the 46th Annual Scientific Meeting (ASM), with the theme, *“Beyond Farm Productivity: Transforming the Philippine food system to address equity, consumer health, and environmental issues.”*

The ASM is an annual platform where the science community across the country gathers to discuss pressing and relevant issues, exchange perspectives, and foster collaborations. Through this event, scientists connect with educators, industry leaders, policymakers, and other stakeholders to collectively develop policy recommendations and ways forward. This year, we continue this storied tradition with the 46th ASM, where we will feature the Philippine food system, its issues, and opportunities. The Academy recognizes how past approaches toward agricultural and rural development have largely been myopic, interested solely in improving farm productivity. Through the 46th ASM, we boldly strive to widen our gaze and broaden our discussions to extend beyond productivity, exploring the interconnectedness of agriculture, health systems, environmental sustainability, and other domains.

I sincerely thank our Academy members for spearheading the many months of preparation leading up to the 46th ASM. I also thank our esteemed resource speakers for generously sharing their time and expertise with us for this important gathering. To all our colleagues, friends, and fellow stakeholders across different disciplines, may the 46th ASM be an avenue where we can cultivate meaningful discussions and lasting partnerships.

I am hopeful that through this gathering, we will plant the seeds of powerful ideas that grow into impactful actions. Together, we can transform our food systems and move toward a green, healthy, and food-secure future.

Once again, welcome to the 46th Annual Scientific Meeting. *Mabuhay!*

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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.