

National Capacity Building on: The Convergence of Emerging Ethics of Science and Technology in the 21st Century

Day 1 Recap - September 26, 2007

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My pleasant greetings to all distinguished guests, resource speakers, organizers, and participants in this three-day National Capability Program on the Convergence of Emerging Ethics of science and Technology in the 21st Century. This time I will be presenting the summary of the discussions that we have taken yesterday. I am quite aware of the fact that this summary may not be comprehensive recapitulation of the rich and fruitful discussions that have taken place during the seminar. May I beg to be excused for any omissions of some of the details discussed?

Sixty-three (63) participants coming from different colleges, universities and other institutions of our country attended the seminar and this was presented to us by Dr. Andres Taguim, Dean of the College of Industrial Education - TUP.

Dr. Salas in his welcome message stated that God created man much superior than any other things, we are highly relevant and that we need natural environment rather than artificial environment.

Dr. Gallega, gave an inspirational message about converge and emerge, he defined emerge as something new to coming out that can be converged to some point, and Science and Technology (S & T) are two things that emerged and converged to provide a better quality of life to our people.

Our keynote speaker, Dr. Mona D. Valisno, which was introduced by Dr. Dayap, presented the distinct possibility of balancing scientific progress and ethical principles. According to her, the 21st century world is viewed to change dramatically with the high surge of four most important driving forces behind it - Globalization, the Information and Communication Technology (ICT) Revolution, the new Knowledge-Based Economy (KBE) and the Biotechnology Revolution. She said that we should expect more advancement in the different sectors to gradually or perhaps plunge in, making our lives highly vulnerable to continuous change. She also quoted one prominent adage, and it goes - "*Science without ethics is blind, and ethics without science is blind,*" which she explained that scientists with their special knowledge and scientific abilities have the responsibility to unselfishly produce knowledge that are beneficial to society and at the same time environmentally sustainable. She also stressed that placing people's well-being on the top of the priority list and performs every action with a sense of responsibility, transparency and integrity is a critical ingredient for socio-economic development.

Ms. Luningning Samarita, Executive Director of NAST, differentiated the mandates of two DOST advisory bodies. These bodies are the National Research Council of the

Philippines (NCRP) and the National Academy of Science and Technology (NAST) Philippines. According to her, NCRP provides promotion and support for fundamental or basic research for the continuing improvement of research capability, where as NAST gives recognition and provides meaningful incentives for the outstanding achievements in Science and Technology (S & T). She also mentioned a guidebook, which I think is necessary guide for a researcher; the book is entitled "*Guidelines for Research of Ethics and Procedures.*"

The afternoon program inspired and touched the hearts of everybody by the lecturer Dr. Federico Niduasa. He explained about Family culture, defined family structure, school structure, and government structure.

The stability of culture lies in our attitude. He also stated the structure (body) is the manifestation of culture (mind).

Dr. Niduasa also discussed the culture of heart, sense of ownership and teamwork.

Most of all, he declared that transformation is what people need. In the discussion, many transformational characteristics can be described - shared purpose, a trusting atmosphere, core values, empowerment, and concern for others - create a high performance climate. In such environments, members are more committed, work harder, share information, and act responsibly; maintain a positive relationship with other people; take more initiative and generate more ideas that are creative and persist in the face of obstacles.

Finally, the participants were given a workshop with coordination activities and socially constructed.