

Statement of the
The Honorable Secretary Mario Montejo
Department of Science and Technology
Ministerial Round table on
"Science, Technology and Innovation for the Post-2015 Development
Agenda"
Commission on Science and Technology for Development, 17th
Session
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Thank you, Mr. Chair.

Excellencies, fellow Ministers, distinguished delegates, ladies and gentlemen:

The agenda item before us this afternoon is of crucial importance to all countries, developed and developing alike. Indeed, science, technology and innovation (STI) have played important roles in achieving internationally agreed development goals such as poverty eradication, job generation, food security, energy security, the enhancement of national competitiveness, and other related goals.

The Philippines recognizes the strategic role of STI in the economic growth of our nation, a growth that we believe should be inclusive for poverty alleviation. STI should be harnessed by creating value from the available resources in the countryside by leveraging new and fresh approaches/strategies in implementing

STI programs. While we are always grateful and willing to collaborate and share with other nations, we realize that our growth must be driven from within. This we believe is the right approach for developing countries, or any other country for that matter.

Please allow me, at this stage, to share with you an example of what the Philippine Department of Science and Technology is doing to help to achieve our development goals:

Being an archipelago of more than 7,000 islands that is visited by more than 20 typhoons a year, we are developing our local capacity in disaster management through STI. Our Disaster Risk, Exposure and Assessment for Mitigation or DREAM Program provides information, early warning and advisories to communities affected by flooding.

The DREAM Program introduced the use of Light Detection and Ranging (LiDAR) technology to generate high resolution 3D maps of our major river basins for emergency response, identification of evacuation and access routes, road closures during disasters, siting of key resource facilities and comprehensive land use planning. The high-resolution maps are being distributed to our local government units through our nationwide "Science for Safer Communities"

disaster information and preparedness campaign. With updated and high-accuracy maps, our government can undertake quick response measures as well as post-disaster assessment.

At the same time, the Program created a large pool of highly skilled and trained LiDAR and flood mapping experts, many of whom have taken their knowledge to build further applications.

We are pleased to inform delegates attending this year's session of the CSTD that the 2014 Geospatial World Forum held last week recognized our efforts under the DREAM Program. Our Department, together with the National Engineering Center of the University of the Philippines, were conferred the Geospatial World Excellence in Policy Implementation Award for Disaster Mitigation last week.

This we believe affirms the validity of our approach that an internally driven STI reaps the greatest benefits, not only through the targeted output, but more so from the derivative opportunities: products and services that stem from developed knowhow and capacities generated through the original initiative. This starts with collaborating with institutions willing to share knowhow, acquiring the best tools and equipment; and, most importantly, building one's own internal capacity.

Under the National R & D Agenda, each agency shall contribute to the Agenda taking into consideration their respective mandates, and shall commit to successfully carrying out the Agenda. As such, and in our efforts to make the benefits of STI more broad-based, we have partnered with our Labor Department to conduct a nationwide livelihood program that will be technology-driven, resource-based and sustainable. This program is intended for our people who are economically displaced and marginalized due to natural and man-made calamities, including returning or displaced overseas Filipino workers and their families. The purpose is not only to rebuild the communities but also to enhance the resilience of our communities with the aid of technology.

In terms of encouraging entrepreneurship and developing entrepreneurial competencies, our Small Enterprises Technology Upgrading Program encourages and assists small and medium entrepreneurs to adopt technological innovations that improve their operations and boost their productivity and competitiveness. Businesses thus improve their productivity through better product quality, human resources development, cost minimization and waste management, and other operation-related activities.

We believe in investing in our youth and in building their STI capacities. Through our Science Education Institute, several scholarship programs in S&T are being implemented to invite our youth to pursue lifetime productive careers in science, and ensure a steady adequate supply of qualified S&T human resources which can steer the country toward economic progress. About 3,500 scholarship slots for baccalaureate and technology courses are made available each year to deserving students.

Indeed, science, technology and innovation have a crucial role to play in our country's development. We are hoping that our National R & D Agenda would be able to contribute to a better life for our people through STI, as well as to globally competitive capacity for STI. We believe that STI should be embedded as a cross-cutting

theme of the post-2015 development agenda to continue to address global challenges.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.