



PRESIDENT'S CORNER

June 30, 2021

Dear PAASE Colleagues and Friends,

At 40 years old, life begins again, and flourishes! That's how I feel about PAASE turning 40 in Year 2020 - re-energized with S&T conversations in our PAASE googlegroup, weekly Fireside Chats and Webinars. We are re-invigorated by the viewpoints of new PAASE members of all age groups and with a broad range of expertise.

I am excited about the new, "navigatable" PAASE website, re-engineered with moving banners and 12 clickable boxes on various categories of information. I love the subtle look of it! How easy will it become our "GO TO" site for any and all information about PAASE. All our events' recordings are found here!

In the President's Corner, I will write you every two weeks on PAASE highlights, so will our next President Dr. Mario Sto. Domingo. And we can all be active on social media in PAASE's Facebook (The Filipino Scientist), Twitter, Instagram, and soon, we can discuss matters on DISCORD!

We celebrated our 40th year with a content-rich, fully online APAMS* conference in July-August 2020, consisting of ~200 talks in plenary and parallel sessions with the theme "S&T outreach to Philippine regions". We had 8 group discussions on STEM* education and various R&D-related topics, and there were poster sessions and a rapid-fire competition for students. Now we know it can be done - at little or no cost!

This year, 41st APAMS* will be held in Baltimore, Maryland on October 8-11, 2021. With the theme "Celebrating the Filipino Scientist and the Four Decades of PAASE", the conference will be a hybrid of face-to-face and online sessions.

With origins in the U.S.A. in 1980, PAASE has grown to what is now the largest group of PhD-level scientists and engineers and MDs of Philippine descent from all over the world. The search continues for more Filipino S&T experts who share our vision and goals. We are actively seeking out more of you in the Philippines, U.S.A. and the rest of the world.

We are open and inclusive. We encourage members to join 3 or even 4 of the 14 PAASE Research Expertise Clusters or RECs depending on each one's interests. We are fostering interdisciplinary linkages and collaborations, and forging friendships among ourselves for the rest of our scientific lives! Also, we have honored important persons as PAASE Honorary Members, PAASE Vanguard of Science, and we have a growing list of PAASE friends from academe, government and the private sector whom we invite to all our events.

A real lasting impact would be creating S&T value chains at the LGU* level as our major outreach to Philippine regions. Knowing S&T experts can't do it alone, we are actively seeking partners from government, academe, and industry. We've signed MOUs with the DOST*, USAID STRIDE* and the Technological Institute of the Philippines. Several more MOUs are being signed this year.

At the onset of COVID, we frantically set out to provide advice to various stakeholders through PAASE COVID Bulletins written by our experts for particular applications, along three strategic thrusts: Containment and Mitigation, Triage and Treatment, and Fast Tracking and Mass Testing. We provided advice to major private sector groups such as Ayala Health and Go Negosyo.

The current "COVID-VUCA*" situation all the more underscores our dire lack of S&T experts, as the Philippines reels from its grave impacts on our health and economy. There is no shortcut to building a resilient society facing adversity. Only a long-term investment to build a strong S&T and innovation workforce can effectively solve the most pressing problems of a country, in our case, relating to governance, poverty, hunger, malnutrition, food security, agriculture, fisheries, health, disease, environmental disasters, and socio-cultural concerns.

Early this year, PAASE prepared a position paper on S&T Human Capital Development and sent it to selected members of the Philippine legislature. Focus was on improving STEM education at the secondary level, increasing PhD faculty and research productivity in SUCs* in the regions, and strengthening academe-industry-government linkages. Each thrust came with several proposed implementable actions. We have received a very positive response which I will be happy to share with you next time.

Meantime, PAASE is poised to receive major support from various sources. Through the PAASE-Philippine Science High School Foundation, Inc., (PSHSFI) MOA, we are able to help support the training of "PiSci" teachers. Also, PAASE is taking the lead in planning the annual national STEM Bee competition with support from private partners.

In the US, as a tax-exempt status organization, and with DUNS and SAM numbers in place, PAASE is soliciting donations for our priority projects and seeking partnerships with U.S. research groups and science advocacy groups. On our website, we have a DONATE (through PayPal) button for you to press!

The future bodes well for PAASE. At the very heart of PAASE are members who commit to science as a way of life. Stay with us. Be with us. For the long haul. And see science led by Filipinos flourish in the Philippines and the rest of the world.

Cheers,


Gisela "Giselle" P. Concepcion, PhD
PAASE President, 2020-2021

*APAMS-Annual PAASE Scientific Meeting and Symposium, STEM-Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics, LGU-Local Government Units, DOST-Department of Science & Technology, STRIDE-Science, Technology, Research and Innovation for Development, VUCA-Volatile, Uncertain, Complex, Ambiguous, SUC-State Universities and Colleges.