

# philippine studies

Ateneo de Manila University · Loyola Heights, Quezon City · 1108 Philippines

---

## National Science Week

William J. Schmitt

*Philippine Studies* vol. 10, no. 1 (1962): 151–153

Copyright © Ateneo de Manila University

---

Philippine Studies is published by the Ateneo de Manila University. Contents may not be copied or sent via email or other means to multiple sites and posted to a listserv without the copyright holder's written permission. Users may download and print articles for individual, noncommercial use only. However, unless prior permission has been obtained, you may not download an entire issue of a journal, or download multiple copies of articles.

Please contact the publisher for any further use of this work at [philstudies@admu.edu.ph](mailto:philstudies@admu.edu.ph).

<http://www.philippinestudies.net>  
Fri June 30 13:30:20 2008

the skilled training resources, which are located mostly in that city, to be readily available. Staff officers for the Corps are too few. More than the usual ill-considered, if not ignorant, public comment about the Corps affected the morale of the volunteers. Comfortably placed American government personnel considered the Corps an affront to themselves, while some American businessmen labelled the whole operation jejune. Americans in Manila could have done more to lighten the burden laid on the staff officers, who often had to work around the clock.

Many Filipinos, noticeably the young, received the volunteers of the Corps with great hospitality and thus made a very positive contribution to the training program. The University of the Philippines was host to the group, while Ateneo de Manila supplied orientation lectures.

As the program develops, more effective training methods will be instituted and experience will define more clearly the goals of the Corps locally. These clearer goals, it is hoped, will break the relationship out of the traditional government-to-government mold and make it instead a true people-to-people thing. Resources outside of government circles have yet to be exploited by the Corps.

Meanwhile, the young people of the first group are already in the barrios, learning as they go, and from all reports making a fair start towards the ideal of warm *personal* contact.

JOHN W. MCCARRON

## *National Science Week*

The *mañana* spirit may be "accepted" in the Philippines, but the impossible can also be accomplished with speed and efficiency. The National Science and Technology Week, held from November 20th to the 26th, can certainly be viewed with the pride of accomplishment.

As late as June it was decided to postpone the annual Science and Technology Week from July to November so that it would become part of the Rizal Year Centennial celebration. It was also decided to vastly expand the activities of the Week. The result had everyone's eyes popping.

Outstanding scientists from Australia, Israel, the United Kingdom of Great Britain, West Germany, Thailand, India, and a large group from the United States were on hand to lend counsel, prestige and encouragement to the growing science-consciousness of the Philippines.

Dr. Paulino J. Garcia, Chairman of the National Science Development Board, was the inspiration and driving force responsible for producing a week of activities which left both foreigners and Filipinos very pleasantly surprised. Backed by a remarkably efficient staff, Dr. Garcia organized events which occupied the enthusiastic interest of all, from the grade-school toddler to the research scientist.

The center of activity was the two new science structures built by the National Science Development Board. The stately Science Pavilion with its UN-style conference hall was filled with scaffolding from top to bottom only two days before the opening, but it was ready on time to provide a luxurious setting for the plenary sessions. The Planetarium Building, which also houses the quarters of the Philippine Academy of Science and Humanities, was the scene of much "small fry" activity as thousands of school children gathered around the many display booths to gape at the very presentable exhibits. It is true that a number of the displays featured jejune but eye-catching gadgetry, yet a number of them showed that science is definitely on the up-swing in the Philippines.

Throughout the week, both morning and afternoon, two types of sessions were held, Scientific Sessions and Plenary Sessions. It is from these that any lasting accomplishment from the Week's activities can be expected.

The Plenary Sessions centered around addresses by visiting scientists. These were of a general nature and served to prevent too much of a provincial attitude among these present.

The Scientific Sessions occupied the major portion of the week and were divided into five areas: Natural Resources, Industry, Health and Nutrition, Science Education, and the Social Sciences. Of these the area of greatest activity was that of Science Education.

The week was brought to a significant close at a formal dinner which saw the launching of the Philippine Academy of Sciences and Humanities. The formation of this top-level body underlines the growing recognition of the importance of scientific development in the Philippines.

#### EVALUATION

The National Science and Technology Week was impressive and undoubtedly produced some results. This much is certain, it produced a tremendous *potential* for a real improvement in our scientific climate. Whether or not the potential is actualized depends entirely on what concrete steps will be taken to implement the resolutions that resulted from the various sessions.

The Science Education Area sessions brought to light some remarkable unanimities among the educators. It was agreed that many of our science curricula are out of date. It was agreed that the government should have far less control over curricula. It was agreed that the schools should be more serious in providing adequately trained professors and in providing these professors with schedules and facilities which will allow them to mature scientifically. Many of the roadblocks to improvement were pinpointed and responsibilities were fixed.

But what will come of all this agreement? Unless the Department of Education, unless the administrators of universities are willing to *actually* make use of the findings of the various sessions, nothing but talk will be the result.

One thing seems clear, however. The National Science Development Board is willing to assume the leadership in assisting both the government and the universities to implement the suggested changes. It can be hoped, therefore, that the prodigious laborings of the mountain will bring forth a more worthy progeny than the "ridiculous mouse" mentioned by Horace. The way is clear and well-marked for significant changes in the science climate of the Philippines. It only remains to *take* the forward step.

WILLIAM J. SCHMITT

## *The National Mental Health Conference*

The Second National Mental Health Conference, held at the Pines Hotel in Baguio City from October 22 to 27, 1961, brought together from all over the country educators interested in an exchange of ideas about guidance, especially as related to the Conference's theme: *The Problems of Counseling in Philippine Colleges and Universities*. Besides the dozen members of the Conference Committee there were in attendance about 30 delegates and an equal number of observers.

Dr. Gumersindo Garcia, Sr., president of the Association, in his opening talk praised those present for taking time and care to examine personal problems in their local and personal context, but emphasized that in any solution we must ultimately turn to God; that is, a person's values stem from his attitude toward God. He was followed by President Vicente G. Sinco of the University of the Philippines, the keynote speaker. Mr. Sinco remarked that, while education plays a multiple role in the life of the individual as such, concern for the betterment of