

THE EDITOR'S NOTES

THE SPECIAL ISSUE



It is rare, in fact very rare that the *Philippiniana Sacra* features a Special Issue this year 2012. We assure you that it was certainly due to incontrovertible reasons like the quality of conference presented at the Graduate School of the University of Santo Tomas, the 400th anniversary celebration and the kind of talks delivered by a select group of invited speakers. This issue of *Sacra* compiles an anthology of the plenary and parallel talks delivered during the eventful Conference.

THE ORGANIZING COMMITTEE

When I made the final address to cap the closing ceremony of the Conference on the noontime of October 22, 2012, I made a side comment that the idea to mount the *Global Conference on Ethics in Science and Technology*

(*GCEST*) at the University of Santo Tomas, Manila was initiated by a circle of chemists who are concurrently professors and administrators at the University of Santo Tomas, Manila.

The circle consisted of a long-standing group of professionals who seemed to vibrate so naturally through the passage of time during various pursuits of several projects in the past. Despite divergent opinions, backgrounds and professional concerns, maturity always reigned. Like other great ideas when gestated and conceived, the idea to hold the GCEST sparked a friction, followed by an ignition, and the combustion spread with its soft and slow invariable flame that burned and consumed.

This can only happen with like-minded persons whose passions connect and together one sees through with one heart. This phenomenon does not jell easily. A



person-magic can only happen to people who believe in the fundamental goodness of the human heart. Strangely, my personal experience have etched its trails and prints that people who have historically immersed their younger years in empirics and numbers are more prone to obey the muse of inspiration of the *logos* with a remarkable common sense and memory. The more profound the task like the theme which the GCEST adopted, the more challenges it raised, and the more decisive the force it marshaled to impel the project to the finish.

THE PROGRAM OVERVIEW

October 20, 2012

The Opening Ceremonies were held at the Medicine Auditorium featuring the Inaugural Speech and the Keynote Address. The international roster of speakers of the conference was headed by the Nobel Prize Winner in Chemistry in 1986 in the person of **Professor Yuan Tseh Lee** who delivered the Keynote Talk. He is currently the President of the International Council for Science (ICSU).



The Inaugural Address was delivered by **H.E. Most Rev. Mgsr. Marcelo Sánchez Sorondo**, the current Chancellor of the Pontifical Academy of Social Sciences and the Pontifical Academy of Science (Vatican).

Symposium 1

The afternoon was followed by talks on Ethical Issues & Information Technology by **Dr. William Torres** of the National Academy of Science and Technology (Philippines) and Ethical Standards in the IT Industry by **Damian Mapa**, National Technology Officer (Microsoft Philippines).



The Symposium 1 was chaired by Prof. Josefin de Alban, Dean, Faculty of Engineering, UST.



Symposium 2

The second set of speakers were **Dr. Darryl R. J. Macer**, UNESCO Regional Office, Thailand, who spoke on Asia-Pacific Perspectives of Bioethics and **Professor Marita V.T.**



Reyes, of the Philippine Health Research Ethics Board, who spoke on Ethical Issues in Genomics.

The Symposium 2 was chaired by Dr. Patrick Gerard Moral, M.D. of the Faculty of Medicine, University of Santo Tomas.

October 21, 2011

Symposium 3



Professor Johan Hattingh, Stellenbosch University, South Africa, spoke on Environmental Ethics and Climate Change. **Professor Clive Hamilton**, Charles Sturt University, Australia, spoke on The Ethics of Climate Change.

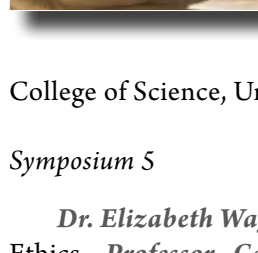
Symposium 3 was chaired by Professor Michael Anthony Vasco, Dean of the Faculty of Arts and Letters, University of Santo Tomas.

This was followed by the Parallel Technical Sessions chaired by Dr. Bernard John Tongol, Professor Marita Dimaano, Dr. Paolo Bolaños and Professor John D. Ramos. There were a total of 20 presentors in this session.



Symposium 4

Professor Joachim Schummer, Karlsruhe University, Germany, spoke on Ethical and Social Issues of Nanotechnology. **Professor John Weckert**, Charles Sturt University, Australia, spoke on Ethics of Care and Societal Impacts of Nanotechnology.



Symposium 4 was chaired by Professor Fortunato Sevilla III of the College of Science, University of Santo Tomas.



Symposium 5

Dr. Elizabeth Wager, Committee on Publication Ethics, U.K. spoke on Publication Ethics. **Professor Cameron Richards**, Universiti Teknologi, Malaysia, spoke on

Global Knowledge Convergence: Policy Studies as a Focus for the Renewed Role of Ethics in S & T. **Professor Syun Tutiya**, National Institution for Academic Degrees and University Evaluation, Japan, spoke on Information Ethics as Global Ethics.



Symposium 5 was chaired by Professor Lilian Sison, Dean, Graduate School, UST.



Symposium 6

Dr. Tom Borsen, Aalborg University, Copenhagen, Denmark, spoke on Teaching Ethics to Science and Engineering Students. **Professor Guido Van Steendam**, Catholic University of Leuven, Belgium, spoke on Ethics of Science and Technology: A University Course in the Catholic University of Leuven. **Mgsr. Paul Tighe**, Pontifical Council for Social Communication, Vatican, spoke on Ethics for Media Professionals: Guiding Insights and Principles.



Symposium 6 was chaired by Rev. Fr. Nilo Lardizabal, O.P.

This Special Issue does not contain all the talks made by the Plenary Speakers. For one reason or another, some written texts did not arrive on our desk at deadline time.

Some of the articles which appear in this Special Issue were full papers. Others were transcribed via the AV materials which recorded the proceedings. The task of transcribing was quite a challenge, the transcribers sighed. We convey our gratitude to Dr. Lilian Sison and Allan Salcedo. The transcribed articles were sent to the authors with deadlines set for re-submission.



It is quite understandable to read varying formats regarding footnoting and bibliography notations in the articles published here. The speakers were very diversified in their career specialization, e.g. scientists are used to accepted formats in their respective areas, while medical doctors do have their own too. We thought it was just appropriate and proper to leave these accomplished professionals to their own respective formatting styles.

The line-up of Plenary Speakers took months to compose and to finalize. That is understandable considering the fact that the Organizing Committee made it clear (though humbly) with its request to the speakers to respond to the participation at the 400th Anniversary Conference with the startling condition for them to cover their respective airfare bills through the agency of granting institutions. The Organizing Committee was however ready to endorse any request presented to its desk. Strangely, the strategy worked. There is nothing like honesty. The Conference inched its way laboriously to the very month when the Conference was about to commence. Requests for financial grants from experimental scientists, I was informed, bear the history of being twice more lucky in finding their applications with a higher success rate.

There were a total of 14 Plenary Speakers and 20 Parallel Speakers from the Philippines and other ASEAN countries. Of the total 278 attendees, there were 49 foreign delegates.

Roundtable Discussions on *Publication Ethics*, *Research Agenda on Ethics in Science and Technology*, and *ASEAN Network for Ethics in Science and Technology* were held.

CORPORATE SPONSORS

The corporate sponsors were the ASEAN Foundation, the DOST, the UNESCO-Philippines, the Century Pacific Group, the Net Ship Management Incorporated, the Northwest Placement, the Auburn Power Technologies, Inc. and the Chinabank.

