

Republic of the Philippines
Congress of the Philippines
Metro Manila
Fourteenth Congress
Third Regular Session

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Begun and held in Metro Manila on Monday, the twenty-seventh day of July, two thousand nine.

JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 7

JOINT RESOLUTION EXTENDING THE TERM OF THE CONGRESSIONAL COMMISSION ON SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY AND ENGINEERING (COMSTE) UNTIL THE END OF THE FIFTEENTH CONGRESS

WHEREAS, Joint Resolution No. 1 created the Congressional Commission on Science & Technology and Engineering (COMSTE) to undertake a national review and assessment of the science and technology (S&T), and engineering research and development (R&D) system of the country;

WHEREAS, in light of the wide scope and depth of the key focus areas under S&T and engineering R&D and due to the difficulty in acquiring the relevant data to fulfill the assessment stage, and in being able to build and develop the necessary consensus from the appropriate stakeholders, Joint Resolution No 2 was enacted by both Houses of Congress, subsequently approved by Her Excellency, President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo last 07 April 2009;

WHEREAS, Joint Resolution No. 2 extends the term of the COMSTE until the end of the Fourteenth Congress to enable the Commission to completely and effectively carry out its mandate of reviewing the true state of S&T and R&D in the Philippines, and correspondingly propose and recommend the necessary projects, policies and programs that will authentically aid the nation's thrust to be globally competitive in S&T and engineering R&D;

WHEREAS, the Commission, in the course of its assessment and action planning phases of its work plan, was able to recommend certain policies and projects jointly in the energy, electronics, health, agriculture, education and information technology (IT) sectors of S&T;

WHEREAS, the COMSTE panels, dealing on these vital sectors, initiated, among others, the creation of the Industrial R&D Institute (IRDI), the Renewable Energy R&D Institute (RERDI) and the National Telehealth Center, which shall help raise the country's competitiveness in R&D thru innovation, effective R&D and sustained public-private partnership;

WHEREAS, the institutes, and proposed projects and policies are still being finalized by the COMSTE in cooperation with the Department of Science and Technology (DOST), the Department of Health (DOH), the Department of Energy (DOE) and the Department of Budget and Management (DBM);

WHEREAS, in anticipation of the release of the funding for these projects and policies, as well as their completion and implementation, there is a need for the COMSTE to be present in order to monitor and ensure that these initiatives are genuinely realized;

WHEREAS, these initiatives by the Commission from part and parcel of its actionable items under its proposed National Science and Technology Strategy, wherein it intends to realistically aid the nation's thrust to be globally competitive in S&T and engineering R&D;

WHEREAS, the COMSTE's output is essential to the promotion and fulfillments to the 1987 Philippine Constitution in prioritizing, among others, S&T, to foster patriotism and nationalism, accelerate progress and promote total human liberation and development;

WHEREAS, the Constitution also provides that the State shall further give priority to R&D, invention, S&T, education, training and services. It shall support indigenous, appropriate and self-reliant scientific and technological capabilities and their application to the country's productive system and national life: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the Senate and the House of Representatives, That the term of the Congressional Commission on Science & Technology and Engineering (COMSTE) shall be extended until the end of the Fifteenth Congress.

Approved,

JUAN PONCE ENRILE
President of the Senate

PROSPERO C. NOGRALES
*Speaker of the House
of Representatives*

This Joint Resolution which is a consolidation of House Joint Resolution No. 49 and Senate Resolution No 36 was finally passed by the House of Representatives and Senate on February 1, 2010 and May 31, 2010, respectively.

EMMA LIRIO-REYES
Secretary of the Senate

MARILYN B. BARAU-YAP
Secretary General
House of Representatives

APPROVED:

GLORIA MACAPAGAL-ARROYO
President of the Philippines