

Republic of the Philippines  
Congress of the Philippines  
Metro Manila

Thirteenth Congress  
Third Special Session

Begun and held in Metro Manila, on Monday, the nineteenth day of February, two thousand seven.

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**JOINT RESOLUTION CREATING A  
CONGRESSIONAL COMMISSION TO REVIEW  
AND ASSESS THE STATE OF  
COMPETITIVENESS OF THE SCIENCE AND  
TECHNOLOGY, AND ENGINEERING RESEARCH  
AND DEVELOPMENT (R&D) SECTOR IN THE  
COUNTRY**

**WHEREAS**, science, engineering, and technology are essential to national development and progress;

**WHEREAS**, no less than the Constitution provides that the State shall give priority to education, science and technology, arts, culture and sports to foster patriotism and nationalism, accelerate social progress and promote total human liberation and development;

**WHEREAS**, the State shall further give priority to research and development, invention, innovation, science and technology education, training and services. It shall support indigenous, appropriate and self-reliant scientific and

technological capabilities, and their application to the country's productive systems and national life;

**WHEREAS**, in the 2005 World Competitiveness Yearbook, our country's overall infrastructure is 55th among the 60 countries surveyed;

**WHEREAS**, the constraint on government financial resources requires stricter accountability and efficiency in their use and more effective coordination with non-governmental agencies concerned with science, engineering, and technology research and development;

**WHEREAS**, an exhaustive review and assessment of the state of competitiveness of the science, engineering, and technology are imperatives for developing countries towards building and strengthening their knowledge-based economies;

**WHEREAS**, indeed, the fields of science and technology and engineering are the fields we need to tap into because they provide the capability required in the areas of research, development, innovation as well as utilization;

**WHEREAS**, science, technology and society will continue to co-evolve. The nature of this evolution will certainly be affected by the extent to which governments set funding and development priorities. Societies whose governments recognize the dependence of the development of successful novel technologies on broadly supported basic and applied research are more likely to be healthier and economically prosperous in the future than those that do not;

**WHEREAS**, the necessity for vital reforms in science, engineering, and technology sector today require us to articulate the philosophy and development perspective which should guide legislation for nowhere else will our investments as a nation pay higher dividends than in improving the state

of Philippine science, engineering and technology education and R&D; and

**WHEREAS**, if we are to grow as a nation, we need to prioritize our spending and improve our capacity for innovation. We must therefore work towards putting Filipino talent and skill in the forefront of national competitiveness.

**Now therefore, be it resolved as it us hereby resolved**, That a Congressional Commission on Science and Technology, and Engineering (COMSTE) be created to be composed of five (5) members of the House of Representatives and five (5) members of the Senate to be designated respectively by the Speaker of the House and the President of the Senate, who shall endeavor to have the various regions of the country represented.

The Commission shall undertake a national review and assessment of the science, engineering, and technology research and development system of the country with a view to: (a) enhancing the system's internal capability to satisfactorily implement the constitutional provisions on science and technology; (b) providing the system with the necessary funding requirement and other infrastructure support; (c) strengthening the linkages with all sectors concerned with science, and technology and engineering R&D; and (d) assisting the science and technology and engineering sector in achieving its goals and targets through policies and approaches that are consistent with the nation's development perspectives.

**RESOLVED FURTHER, AS IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED**, That, to carry out its objective, the Commission shall exercise the following functions and powers:

The Commission shall review and assess the formal educational system in both public and private schools at all levels, including graduate education. The Commission shall

also review and assess the non-formal educational system. It shall produce a report of its findings and shall formulate short and long term policy and program recommendations to include each of the following areas: (i) Philosophy, goals and objectives of science and technology and engineering, (ii) Sectoral targets; (iii) Governance and management; (iv) Educational / manpower development programs; (v) Financing; (vi) Functional linkages among all departments and sectors concerned with science and technology and engineering R&D; and (vii) Educator's training, benefits and retirement.

For the foregoing purposes, the Commission shall:

- (a) Prescribe and adopt the guidelines that will govern the national review and assessment;
- (b) Approve the work plan for the conduct of the national review and assessment;
- (c) Approve the budget for the programs of the Commission and all disbursements therefrom, including compensation of all personnel;
- (d) Hold hearings; receive testimonies, reports and expert advice on the status of Philippine science, engineering, and technology research and development and on available remedies to identify problems;
- (e) Pass upon the recommendation of the Technical Secretariat which it shall organize, to be headed by an executive director, to provide the necessary technical, management, and staff services;
- (f) Study and report to the President and to Congress its findings and make recommendations on actions to be taken by the Congress and the departments concerned with science, engineering, and technology;

(g) Secure from any department, bureau, office or instrumentality of the Government such assistance as may be needed, including technical information, preparation and production of reports and the submission of recommendations or plans as it may require;

(h) Hire and appoint such employees and personnel whether temporary, contractual, or on consultancy, subject to applicable rules;

(i) Summon by *subpoena* any public official or private citizen to testify before it, or require by *subpoena duces tecum* to produce before it such records, reports, reports or other documents as may be necessary in the performance of its functions; and

(j) Define other priority areas of concern in science, engineering, and technology that arise from the research and consultations conducted by the Commission and exercise all the powers necessary to attain the purposes for which it is created.

The report and the recommendation for both executive policy and legislative action will be drawn from the analysis by the Commission of the Philippine science and Technology and engineering research and development system, based on research of existing studies and other secondary sources of data, on extensive consultations with relevant stakeholders from both government and private sectors, and on interviews with key persons in the system.

**RESOLVED FURTHERMORE, AS IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED**

That the members of the Commission shall elect from among themselves a Co-Chairman and may establish sub-committees as may be needed and may call on any government agency or resource persons from the public and private sectors for assistance. The members of the

Commission shall receive no compensation, but traveling and other necessary expenses, shall be allowed.

**RESOLVED, FINALLY, AS IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED,** That the Commission shall accomplish its mandate within twelve (12) months from its organization and that in order to carry out the objectives of this Resolution, the initial sum of Ten Million Pesos (P10,000,000.00) shall be charged against the current appropriations of the Department of Science and Technology (DOST) under the Fiscal Year 2007 General Appropriations Act. Thereafter, such amount as may be necessary for its continued operation shall be included in the Fiscal Year 2008 General Appropriations Ad.

**Approved,**

SGD. JOSE DE VENECIA, JR.  
*Speaker of the House  
of Representatives*

SGD. MANNY VILLAR  
*President of the Senate*

This Joint Resolution which is a consolidation of Senate Joint Resolution No. 9 and House Joint Resolution No. 20 was finally passed by the Senate and the House of Representatives on February 8, 2007 and February 20, 2007, respectively.

SGD. ROBERT P. NAZARENO  
*Secretary General  
House of Representatives*

SGD. OSCAR G. YABES  
*Secretary of the Senate*

Approved APR 25, 2007

SGD. GLORIA MACAPAGAL-ARROYO  
*President of the Philippines*