



## **PhilAAST Holds 72<sup>nd</sup> Annual Convention**

Convening bright scientific minds since 1951, the Philippine Association for the Advancement of Science and Technology (PhilAAST) held its 72<sup>nd</sup> Annual Convention on September 22, 2023 at the Centennial Hall of The Manila Hotel as well as via Zoom platform and Facebook Live, with the theme *“National Wealth Creation and Sustainable Development through Science, Technology, and Innovation”*.

PhilAAST President and former DOST Secretary Prof. Fortunato T. dela Peña and current Secretary Dr. Renato U. Solidum Jr. led the ribbon cutting of the poster exhibits, likewise giving insights to the various poster presentations. The former and current DOST Secretaries also gave the Opening Remarks and the Keynote Message, respectively.

These preliminaries were followed by the awarding of the nine PhilAAST Awards and presentations of the highlights of the three webinars leading to the Convention, namely *Strengthening Established Industries and Leapfrogging Ones; Strategies for Sustainable Wealth Creation and Inclusive Development; and STI as an Essential Factor in Sustainable Development*.

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Two plenary lectures reflecting the theme were also delivered by Mr. Ferdinand A. Ferrer, Chairman and CEO of EMS Group of Companies, and NAST Academician Dr. Eufemio T. Rasco.

Among the highlights of the event was the judging for Best Posters submitted by DOST researchers as well as from the academe, led by PhilAAST Poster Committee Chair Dr. Lucille Abad. Emerging victorious were DOST-ITDI, Pampanga State University, and University of Santo Tomas, earning Third, Second, and First Place honors, respectively.

Ms. Luningning E.S. Domingo, Overall Chair of the 2023 PhilAAST Convention and Vice-President, Division B of PhilAAST delivered the closing remarks. Capping the event was the President's Report by Prof. dela Peña who also sworn in the new members coming from the media, academe, and the private and industry sectors.

Congratulations, PhilAAST!

*(RRUdela Cruz//DOST-ITDI S&T Media Service)*

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