

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Constitution Hills, Quezon City

SEVENTEENTH CONGRESS
Second Regular Session



HOUSE BILL NO. 6647

Introduced by Hon. Salvador B. Belaro, Jr.

EXPLANATORY NOTE

The most recent London-based Quacquarelli Symonds' (QS) Ranking¹ of the top 600 universities and higher education institutions in the world reveals the Philippines' poor performance. While the University of the Philippines (UP) saw an improvement in its 2017 ranking at 367 from its 2016's 374, the De La Salle University (DLSU) sustained its rank (701-750), but the two other universities ranked lower: Ateneo de Manila University (ADMU, 551-600) from 501-550 and University of Santo Tomas (UST, 801-1000) from 700+.²

It is important to note the lack of priority being given to research and development in the country, which is also considered a matter of concern in the fields of sciences and engineering, as compared to other countries which are allocating a larger percentage of its budget to research and development.

During the 1st National Conference of Scholars of the Accelerated Science and Technology Human Resources Development (ASTHRD) program of the Department of Science and Technology (DOST) in 2012, the then Sen.

¹ Quacquarelli Symonds (QS) Rankings is an annual publication of university rankings composed of global overall and subject rankings. The methodology includes academic reputation, employer reputation, students-to-faculty ratio, citation per faculty, international faculty ratio and international student ratio.

² Rappler. 2017. *UP inches up in latest QS world university rankings*.

Edgardo Angara disclosed the deficiency in the local science and technology (S&T) manpower.³

Accordingly, the Philippines only has 165 S&T professionals such as scientists and researchers—for every million Filipinos, far from the prescribed ratio of 380 S&T professionals of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO). Moreover, the Science Education Institute (DOST-SEI) said the Philippines lost around 25,000 S&T professionals to employment in other countries in 2009 alone.⁴

It is vital for the state to intervene and take action on the state of research and development in the country. As the obsolescence of old technology becomes faster, the need for critical mass of world-class scientists and researchers should be done in an accelerated manner and the need for greater funding and state support continues to increase.

The presence of annual science and technology expos in the country would not just ensure an avenue for our young scientists to showcase their inventions but this would also serve as path towards establishing our country's very own scientific cultural heritage.

This bill would steer inventions among our high school and college students by promoting science and technology in the country through the proposed expos.

In view of the foregoing, the approval of this bill is earnestly sought.


CONG. SALVADOR B. BELARO, JR.
Representative
1-Ang Edukasyon Party List

³ GMA News. 2012. *PHL population sorely lacks S&T workers—UNESCO*.

⁴ Ibid.

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AN ACT
ESTABLISHING THE ANNUAL PHILIPPINE SCIENCE AND
TECHNOLOGY INVENTION EXPO, APPROPRIATING FUNDS
THEREFOR AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

Be it enacted by the Senate and the House of Representatives of the Philippines in Congress assembled:

SECTION 1. This Act shall be known as the “Science and Technology Invention Expo Act of 2017”.

SECTION 2. The State recognizes the indispensable and essential role of science and technology in the globalized world. Thus, the State shall give priority to research and development, invention, innovation, and their utilization; and to science and technology education, training, and services.

SECTION 3. There shall be an annual Science and Technology Invention Expo in all schools in the country. Provincial competition shall be participated in by school level winners. Provincial level winners shall compete in the regional level. Finally, the winners in the regional competition shall compete in the national level.

Moreover, awards and prizes shall be given to the winning student presenters and their coaches to further foster a culture of research and innovation among our students.

SECTION 4. The Science and Technology Invention Expo shall have the following objectives:

- a) To organize local, regional and national science and technology invention expo in the country;
- b) To inform and organize the participating high school and college students from various schools and universities;
- c) To design and implement the categories and criteria to be used for judging of awards and prizes; and
- d) To consolidate, publish and disseminate all participating inventions and make appropriate recommendations to interested parties.

SECTION 5. The Department of Science and Technology (DOST), in coordination with the Commission on Higher Education (CHED) and Department of Education (DepEd), is herein tasked to formulate the implementing rules and regulations.

SECTION 6. An initial amount of One Hundred Million Pesos (P100,000,000.00) necessary for the implementation of this Act shall be included in the Annual General Appropriations Act.

SECTION 7. If any provision hereof is held invalid or unconstitutional, the remainder of the law or provision not otherwise affected shall remain valid and subsisting.

SECTION 8. All laws, presidential decrees, executive orders, rules and regulations contrary to or inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are hereby repealed or modified accordingly.

SECTION 9. This Act shall take effect upon its approval.

Approved.