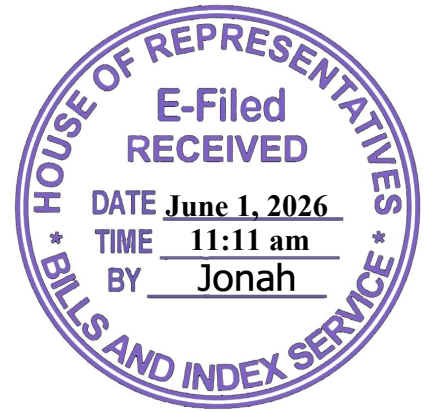


Republic of the Philippines  
**HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES**  
Quezon City, Metro Manila  
**TWENTIETH CONGRESS**  
First Regular Session  
**House Bill No. 9572**



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**Introduced by Representative**  
**BRIAN POE, PhD, MNSA**

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**AN ACT**  
**INSTITUTIONALIZING AND MAINSTREAMING SCIENCE DIPLOMACY IN**  
**PHILIPPINE GOVERNANCE AND FOREIGN POLICY, CREATING THE**  
**PHILIPPINE SCIENCE DIPLOMACY OFFICE UNDER THE OFFICE OF THE**  
**PRESIDENT, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES**

**EXPLANATORY NOTE**

The Constitution commands the State to give priority to science and technology and to recognize them as essential for national development and progress (Article II, Section 17; Article XIV, Section 10). In an interdependent world, the great challenges confronting the Philippines — climate change, disasters, pandemics, food and water security, energy transition, and the governance of emerging technologies — are transboundary in character and cannot be addressed by any nation acting alone. They demand that scientific evidence and international scientific cooperation be placed at the center of how the country conducts its foreign relations and plans its development.

The discipline now widely known as “science diplomacy” was articulated in its modern form by the American Association for the Advancement of Science and the Royal Society in their 2010 report, *New Frontiers in Science Diplomacy*, which set out three mutually reinforcing dimensions: science in diplomacy, diplomacy for science, and science for diplomacy. Since then, numerous States have adopted national strategies that harness science as an instrument of cooperation and soft power. The Philippines has engaged in this practice through the Department of Science and Technology, the Department of Foreign Affairs, the academic community, and its active participation in ASEAN scientific cooperation. Filipino scientists and practitioners have helped advance the field in the regional context; among them, Science Diplomat Glenn Banaguas, through *Climate Smart Philippines* and his work with the ASEAN science diplomacy community, has contributed to popularizing the practice and to building a network of science diplomats across Southeast

Asia. These efforts, however, remain fragmented and have not been organized under a single, coherent legal framework.

This bill addresses that gap. It institutionalizes science diplomacy as a whole-of-government policy and mainstreams it across foreign policy, development planning, disaster risk reduction, public health, education, and environmental governance. It creates the Philippine Science Diplomacy Office under the Office of the President to coordinate, mainstream, and monitor the implementation of this policy — expressly in coordination with, and without supplanting, the mandates of the Department of Foreign Affairs over the conduct of foreign relations and of the Department of Science and Technology over science and technology.

By embedding scientific evidence into the conduct of its foreign affairs, the Philippines will strengthen its capacity to respond to shared regional and global challenges, deepen its cooperation within ASEAN, and assert a constructive, evidence-based voice in international affairs. The measure will help ensure that the country's development is informed by the best available knowledge and that its diplomacy advances the welfare and resilience of the Filipino people.

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

  
HON. BRIAN POE, PhD, MNSA  
Representative  
FPJ Panday Bayanihan Party-List

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

**SECTION 1. Short Title.** — This Act shall be known as the “Philippine Science Diplomacy Mainstreaming Act.”

**SECTION 2. Declaration of Policy.** — It is the policy of the State to give priority to science and technology and to harness scientific knowledge, innovation, and international scientific cooperation as instruments of national resilience, sustainable development, and peace. Toward this end, the State shall institutionalize science diplomacy as a coherent, whole-of-government approach that integrates scientific evidence and collaboration into the formulation of foreign policy, development planning, disaster risk reduction, public health, education, and environmental governance — consistent with the Constitution, with the conduct of foreign relations vested by law in the Department of Foreign Affairs, and with the commitments of the Philippines under the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) and other international agreements.

**SECTION 3. Definition of Terms.** — For purposes of this Act:

(a) **Science diplomacy** refers to the use and exchange of scientific knowledge, expertise, and collaboration to advance the foreign policy and development objectives of the

State, to foster international cooperation, and to inform evidence-based decision-making. It encompasses three mutually reinforcing dimensions:

(1) **Science in diplomacy** — the integration of scientific advice and evidence into the formulation and conduct of foreign policy;

(2) **Diplomacy for science** — the use of diplomatic relations and instruments to facilitate international scientific cooperation, including research agreements, exchange programs, and shared facilities; and

(3) **Science for diplomacy** — the use of scientific cooperation to build and strengthen relations between and among States;

(b) **Office** refers to the Philippine Science Diplomacy Office created under this Act;

(c) **DFA** refers to the Department of Foreign Affairs;

(d) **DOST** refers to the Department of Science and Technology; and

(e) **Thematic areas** refers to the priority fields of cooperation enumerated in Section 5 of this Act.

**SECTION 4. Mainstreaming of Science Diplomacy.** — All departments, bureaus, offices, agencies, and instrumentalities of the national government shall, within their respective mandates and existing appropriations, integrate science diplomacy into their plans, programs, and international engagements. The DFA, the DOST, and NEDA shall ensure that science diplomacy objectives are reflected, as appropriate, in the country's foreign policy, in the Philippine Development Plan, and in the national science and technology agenda.

**SECTION 5. Priority Thematic Areas.** — In mainstreaming science diplomacy, the Office and the concerned agencies shall give priority to, among others, the following thematic areas:

(a) **Human Security, Gender Equality, Peace, and Diplomacy** — the application of scientific evidence to human security, gender equality, conflict prevention, peacebuilding, and the protection of vulnerable populations;

(b) **Water Governance and Resource Diplomacy** — cooperation on transboundary water systems and shared natural resources, including their equitable allocation and sustainable management;

(c) **Food Systems and Nutritional Security Diplomacy** — agricultural innovation, food security, and nutritional equity through scientific research and cooperation;

(d) **Health Security and Pandemic Preparedness Diplomacy** — pandemic preparedness, disease surveillance, and equitable access to medicines and vaccines;

(e) **Infrastructure and Manufacturing Diplomacy** — sustainable infrastructure, industrial innovation, technology transfer, and the harmonization of standards;

(f) **Energy Transition and Sustainable Systems Diplomacy** — clean energy technologies, climate mitigation, and equitable access to energy;

- (g) **Climate Resilience and Disaster Diplomacy** — disaster risk reduction, climate resilience, and adaptive governance;
- (h) **Environmental Stewardship and Biodiversity Diplomacy** — conservation, the sustainable use of natural resources, and the cross-border protection of biodiversity;
- (i) **Digital Transformation and Artificial Intelligence Diplomacy** — the setting of ethical standards, the fostering of innovation, and inclusive digital transformation;
- (j) **Cybersecurity and Digital Trust Diplomacy** — the building of digital trust, the prevention of cybercrime, and cooperation on cybersecurity;
- (k) **Sustainable Finance Diplomacy** — sustainable investment, green finance, and economic resilience through evidence-based cooperation;
- (l) **Space, Satellite, and Frontier Science Diplomacy** — peaceful cooperation in outer space, satellite technology, and the frontier sciences;
- (m) **Education and Knowledge Diplomacy** — academic mobility, knowledge exchange, and collaborative research;
- (n) **Transport Connectivity Diplomacy** — sustainable transport, logistics, and mobility systems; and
- (o) **Marine and Ocean Science Diplomacy** — sustainable ocean governance, marine biodiversity, oceanographic research, and maritime cooperation, consistent with international law and with the rights and interests of the Philippines as an archipelagic and maritime State.

**SECTION 6. Creation of the Philippine Science Diplomacy Office.** — There is hereby created the Philippine Science Diplomacy Office, hereinafter referred to as the Office, under the Office of the President, which shall serve as the primary body responsible for coordinating, mainstreaming, and monitoring the implementation of this Act. The Office shall coordinate with, and shall not supplant or diminish, the powers and functions of the DFA, the DOST, and other concerned agencies.

**SECTION 7. Composition and Term.** — The Office shall be headed by a Director-General, who shall have the rank, salary, and privileges of a Secretary, and who shall be assisted by two (2) Deputy Directors-General, namely: a Deputy Director-General for Scientific and Technical Affairs, who shall coordinate with the DOST, CHED, the Department of Education, and academic and research institutions; and a Deputy Director-General for Diplomatic and International Affairs, who shall coordinate with the DFA, ASEAN bodies, and international partners. The Director-General and the Deputy Directors-General shall be appointed by the President. The Director-General shall serve for a term of five (5) years: Provided, That nothing in this Act shall be construed to limit the power of control and the power of removal of the President over the Office and its officials as executive officers under the Constitution.

**SECTION 8. Qualifications.** — The Director-General and the Deputy Directors-General shall be natural-born citizens of the Philippines, at least thirty-five (35) years of age, of recognized integrity, competence, and probity, holders of at least a master's degree in science, technology, engineering, public policy, law, international relations, or a related field, and shall possess at least ten (10) years of aggregate experience in science, technology, research, foreign affairs, public policy, or international cooperation..

**SECTION 9. Powers and Functions of the Office.** — The Office shall have the following powers and functions:

- (a) Formulate, and periodically update, a Philippine Science Diplomacy Agenda, and integrate its objectives into the country's foreign policy, the Philippine Development Plan, and the national science and technology agenda, in coordination with the DFA, the DOST, and the Department of Economy, Planning, and Development (DEPDev);
- (b) Serve as the principal body for coordinating international scientific cooperation, agreements, and partnerships, without prejudice to the treaty-making and foreign-relations functions vested by law in the DFA;
- (c) Provide scientific and technical advice to the President, the Cabinet, and the Congress on matters of foreign policy and international cooperation;
- (d) In coordination with the DFA, support the representation of the Philippines in ASEAN and in other international fora on science diplomacy;
- (e) Develop and implement capacity-building programs to train science diplomats, scholars, and practitioners, in coordination with the Commission on Higher Education (CHED), the DOST, and the Foreign Service Institute;
- (f) Establish monitoring and evaluation mechanisms to assess the impact of science diplomacy initiatives;
- (g) Convene and chair the inter-agency coordination mechanism under Section 10 of this Act; and
- (h) Submit an annual report to the President and to the Congress on the implementation of this Act.

**SECTION 10. Inter-Agency Coordination Mechanism.** — The Office shall convene and chair an inter-agency coordination mechanism composed of representatives, at the rank of at least Undersecretary, of the DFA, the DOST, DEPDEV, CHED, the Department of Education, the Department of Environment and Natural Resources, the Department of Health, the Department of Agriculture, the Department of Information and Communications Technology, the Department of Energy, the Department of Trade and Industry, and such other agencies as may be necessary, in order to harmonize science diplomacy initiatives across the government and to avoid duplication of functions

**SECTION 11. Non-Derogation Clause.** — Nothing in this Act shall be construed to amend, repeal, or diminish the powers and functions vested by law in the DFA over the

conduct of the foreign relations of the Philippines, in the DOST over science and technology, or in the President as the chief architect of the foreign policy of the State. In case of conflict between this Act and the laws governing the conduct of foreign relations, the latter shall prevail insofar as the conduct of foreign relations is concerned.

**SECTION 12. Annual Report and Congressional Oversight.** — The Office shall submit to the President and to the Congress, within the first quarter of each year, a report on the implementation of this Act, including the status of its programs, the funds utilized, and its recommendations. The appropriate committees of the Senate and the House of Representatives shall conduct a regular review of the implementation of this Act.

**SECTION 13. Appropriations.** — The amount necessary for the initial implementation of this Act shall be charged against the current appropriations of the Office of the President. Thereafter, the amount necessary for the continued implementation of this Act shall be included in the annual General Appropriations Act.

**SECTION 14. Implementing Rules and Regulations.** — Within ninety (90) days from the effectivity of this Act, the Office, in consultation with the DFA, the DOST, DEPDEV, and other concerned agencies, and after public consultation, shall promulgate the rules and regulations necessary for the effective implementation of this Act.

**SECTION 15. Transitory Provision.** — The Office shall be organized and made operational within one hundred eighty (180) days from the effectivity of this Act. Pending its full organization, the Office of the President shall designate an office or official to perform the functions of the Office on an interim basis.

**SECTION 16. Separability Clause.** — If any provision of this Act is declared invalid or unconstitutional, the remaining provisions not affected thereby shall remain in full force and effect.

**SECTION 17. Repealing Clause.** — All laws, presidential decrees, executive orders, rules, regulations, and other issuances or parts thereof that are inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are hereby repealed, amended, or modified accordingly.

**SECTION 18. Effectivity.** — This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its complete publication in the Official Gazette or in a newspaper of general circulation.

*Approved,*

  
HON. BRIAN POE, PhD, MNSA  
Representative  
FPJ Panday Bayanihan Party-List