



Characteristics of Natural Science Research

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Rigor in research is a *conditio sine qua non* for relevant and socially responsive research, whether in the De La Salle University System or elsewhere. The talk will explore what is meant by rigor in the natural sciences and how it is developed. The prerequisites and conditions required will be proposed and discussed drawing mainly from the speaker's experience in developing and observing a world class research institute in the Philippine setting. Lessons and threads will be drawn from decades of actual research experience and in observing others, leading to a wish list of desiderata to consider for the ways forward.

About the Speaker:



Ed Gomez started in U.P in 1974 as the founding Director of the U.P Marine Science Institute which has become the leading marine science department in the Philippines and Southeast Asia. Having just earned a Ph.D. in Marine Biology from the Scripps Institution of Oceanography, University of California-San Diego in 1973, he returned to the Philippines and started studying corals and coral reefs as well as the reproduction of important invertebrates, which eventually led to his work on the reestablishment of the true giant clam, *Tridacna gigas*.

Graduating *summa cum laude* in 1962 with two degrees, B.Sc.Ed. and B.A., from the De La Salle University in Manila, he started his professional life as a Christian educator. As a Fulbright travel grantee, he obtained a Master's degree in biology from St. Mary's University in Winona, Minnesota in 1967. Two years later he pursued his doctoral studies in marine biology as a scholar of the NSDB (now the DOST).

Today Ed is well-known internationally, having been a member of a number of associations and committees such as the International Society for Reef Studies and the Executive Committee of the International Union of Biological Sciences. He served as Chairman of the Scientific and Technical Advisory Committee of the Global Coral Reef Monitoring Network, the Scientific Committee on Coral Reefs of the Pacific Science Association, and the Inter-agency U.N. Joint Group of Experts on the Scientific Aspects of Marine Environmental Protection (GESAMP), among others.

He has been honored repeatedly, the most recent national distinction being the Presidential *Lingkod Bayan* Award in 2000. Prior to this, he had been named an Academician in the National Academy of Science and Technology in 1993, the year after he became a University Professor. His notable international award was being named a laureate in UNEP's Global 500 Roll of Honour for his efforts in the protection of the oceans as early as 1989. In 2001, he was awarded a fellowship in the Pew Marine Conservation Program and was elected as an Honorary Member of the Asian Fisheries Society. Upon his retirement in 2005, he was given the title of University Professor Emeritus.