

Introduction of the Keynote Speaker

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President, PPSA

Mr. President, distinguished guests, colleagues, ladies and gentlemen.

Our keynote speaker this morning does not really need an introduction because he is well-known not only in our country but also abroad. He had served the Republic of the Philippines as Secretary of Education. He is President of the University of the Philippines System, and concurrent President of the Development Academy of the Philippines. He is, moreover, a top official in several very important government agencies. *Magna cum laude* in political science from the University of the Philippines and Ph.D. from Harvard University, he is also the distinguished and internationally known author of *The Philippines* and *The Bureaucracy in the Philippines*. On these matters, our keynote speaker needs no introduction.

However, there are very interesting matters where probably our keynote speaker may not be widely known, and these are related to a part of our conference theme, that is, to national development. Our keynote speaker is one of the very few scholars and researchers who had tapped the rich ore of data on the Philippines in the 17th and 18th centuries at the Spanish archives. These data will shed much significant light on the processes of the early phases of modernization and development of the Philippines—and I know that he had been working on them as early as 1964—and will be major contributions to the academic enterprises on the study of modernization and development, especially of the Philippines.

I can also mention that our keynote speaker is an avid, meticulous, and dedicated student of Plato and Aristotle. He used to teach in our Department courses in political theory and the Seminar on Plato and Aristotle. I am wondering—is Plato, the giant among political philosophers who founded the Academy in Athens and taught many aristocrats and other students on political science and

philosophy, the inspiration of our speaker in training career civil service executives and technocrats at the Development Academy of the Philippines? Is Aristotle, the father of political science and tutor of Alexander the Great, and whose main concern in the *Politics* and the *Nichomachean Ethics* was justice, and whose theory of nature, whether of man or the *polis*, was in terms of process or development, the key to our speaker's views on human habitat and his concept of liberty interpreted in terms of the Aristotelian idea of development and entelechy?

Colleagues, friends, ladies and gentlemen: here's the man who can shed light on these interesting questions: President Onofre D. Corpuz.