

Republic of the Philippines
Congress of the Philippines
Senate
Pasay City

Nineteenth Congress

First Regular Session



RESOLUTION NO. 46

RESOLUTION EXPRESSING THE PROFOUND
SYMPATHY AND CONDOLENCES OF THE SENATE
OF THE PHILIPPINES ON THE DEMISE OF
NATIONAL SCIENTIST DR. ANGEL C. ALCALA

WHEREAS, Dr. Angel Alcala, Filipino biologist, National Scientist, the first Filipino ASEAN Biodiversity Hero, former Secretary of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR), former Chairperson of the Commission on Higher Education (CHED), and former President of Silliman University, passed away on 01 February 2023 at the age of 93;

WHEREAS, in 2014, Dr. Alcala was named a National Scientist of the Philippines through Proclamation No. 782

signed by former President Benigno Aquino III, in recognition of his research on the ecology and diversity of Philippine amphibians and reptiles, marine biodiversity, and marine-protected areas (MPAs);

WHEREAS, through his research, Dr. Alcala, along with his peers, added 50 new species of amphibians and reptiles out of the 400 known species in the Philippines. This gave international conservationists a reliable basis for establishing conservation programs on Philippine vertebrate biodiversity. Other subjects of his research were taxonomy and ecology of Philippine amphibians and reptiles supported by grants from the US National Science Foundation in Stanford University and the California Academy of Sciences, of which he is an Honorary Fellow;

WHEREAS, Dr. Alcala established the Sumilon Marine Reserve in Southern Cebu in 1974 and the Apo Marine Reserve in Southern Negros in 1982. Thereafter, a dozen similar marine reserves in Bohol Sea were established because of his advocacy;

WHEREAS, in 2017, Dr. Alcala was named an ASEAN Biodiversity hero, making him the first Filipino to be awarded such accolade, in recognition of his pioneering advocacy in the establishment of MPAs in the Philippines, as well as his contributions to biodiversity conservation and in helping communities make their natural resources sustainable;

WHEREAS, Dr. Alcala received many other recognitions for his passionate work toward protecting the Philippine marine ecosystem, including the Guggenheim Fellowship for Natural Sciences in the category for Organismal Biology and Ecology in 1963, the Ramon Magsaysay Award for pioneering scientific leadership in 1992, the Field Museum Founders' Council Award of Merit for his contributions to environmental biology in 1994, and membership to the Fulbright Philippines Hall of Fame in 2018;

WHEREAS, Dr. Alcala authored or co-authored more than 200 papers and books on Philippine herpetology, marine science, MPAs and biodiversity conservation in collaboration with noted scientists like Dr. Walter C. Brown and Dr. Garry

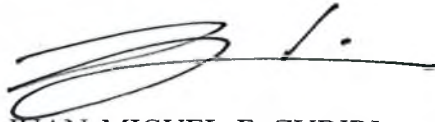
Russ. Named in his honor are two (2) species of Philippine snakes (*Lycodon alcalai* and *Opisthotropis alcalai*) and one species of nudibranch (*Chromodoris alcalai*);

WHEREAS, as the Filipino nation mourns his passing, it is important to strengthen the institutional support for efforts toward marine biodiversity conservation in honor and continuation of Dr. Alcalá's work and advocacy: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the Senate of the Philippines, To express its profound sympathy and condolences on the demise of National Scientist Dr. Angel C. Alcalá.

Resolved, further, That a copy of this Resolution be furnished to the bereaved family of Dr. Alcalá.

Adopted,



JUAN MIGUEL F. ZUBIRI

President of the Senate

This Resolution was adopted by the Senate on March 1, 2023.



RENATO N. BANTUG Jr.

Secretary of the Senate