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Message

Four and a half years ago, I met Mr. Shigeo Takizawa, Vice-President of Biophilia Rehabilitation Academy of Japan, during the International Conference on Disability at California State University, Northridge. On that same year, I was invited to attend their rehabilitation research meeting in Tokyo, Japan. In 2001, I proposed to Mr. Takizawa to have the 1st CNMI International Conference on Assistive Technology and Biophilia Rehabilitation Conference in Saipan which I coordinated and it became a reality in November 2002. Thereafter, I recommended that our next conference be held in the Philippines, however, it was held in Canada.

Last year, I again recommended to Mr. Takizawa to have a joint disability and rehabilitation conference in the Philippines and his organization agreed with my proposal. Through the initiative and coordination of the Northern Marianas College Disability Support Services of the Counseling Programs and Services, commitment of Dr. Jorge A. Sison (Chairman of the Conference), consultants and administration of the Medical Center Manila, Biophilia Rehabilitation Academy and collaboration of different experts, agencies and organizations from the Philippines and other countries, this 3rd Joint International Congress on Disability and Biophilia Rehabilitation Conference became a reality.

I would like to thank my family for their love, understanding, support, and inspiration while I was coordinating this conference. To everyone who unselfishly dedicated their time, efforts, services, expertise, support and collaboration, thank you very much and Maraming Salamat Po.

Welcome and enjoy the conference!

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