

Message of Jose T. Sio
FFCCCII 30th BIENNIAL CONVENTION
SMX Convention Center
March 27, 2015

His Excellency President Benigno S. Aquino III, Secretary Gregory Domingo, Federation Chairman Emeritus Dr. Lucio Tan, President Dr. Alfonso Siy, officers and members of the Federation, distinguished guests, ladies and gentlemen.

First of all, I would like to congratulate the Federation for its 30th Biennial Convention. On behalf of SM, I would like to welcome you to SMX Convention Center. This facility now sits on an emerging tourism capital as the Mall of Asia Complex finds new company in the integrated resorts not too far away from here, including the recently launched City of Dreams Manila.

The Philippines today is one of the most vibrant economies in the world. We are notably the second fastest growing economy in Asia, next only to China. Our monetary and banking systems are strong and healthy, and our international reserves are brimming with US dollars, more than enough to pay for our sovereign debts and our importations. We have become credit worthy as a nation and a much more attractive investment destination.

Therefore, for all of us in this hall, there is no better time than now to explore and take advantage of the new opportunities that are presenting themselves as we catch up with our more developed Asian neighbors. This is the time to keep an open mind to new ideas and technology.

We, at SM, are bracing ourselves for faster growth amidst more intense competition. We have big dreams for the business and for this country even as the group has grown remarkably over the last ten years.

Just this morning, we also marked a significant milestone in the public life of SM Investments Corporation. Today is the 10th Anniversary of our listing at the Philippine Stock Exchange.

Looking back, ours is a story of tremendous growth and a testament to SM's commitment to the Philippines and to be a catalyst for progress wherever we go.

In a matter of ten years, our assets grew almost seven-fold to Php711 billion, delivering an average annual growth of 21 percent over the last ten years.

Just as critical to us is social inclusion. Through SM Foundation, our host communities are empowered by college scholarships and donation

of school buildings. SM Foundation also prioritizes health and wellness through its medical missions as well as through refurbished wellness and health centers. SM Foundation also has livelihood programs that train and bring the local farmers and entrepreneurs into our supply chain. Our malls have SM Cares programs for people with special needs, while the whole SM group has initiatives not just to preserve, but also to promote greater environmental sustainability.

These days, SM remains to be a growth story that continues to unfold amidst a much stronger economy, and greater economic cooperation among ASEAN.

On behalf of the SM group, allow me now to thank you for this opportunity to speak before you. Rest assured that SM will always be, 'happy to serve' as 'we find ways' to make sure that 'we've got it all for you'. After all, 'we're the good guys'.

Mabuhay kayo, at mabuhay ang Federation. Maraming salamat po!