



Republic of the Philippines
OFFICE OF THE MAYOR
City of Manila

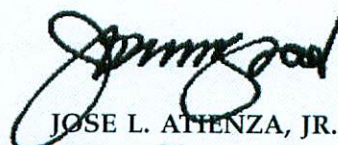
My warmest greetings to the officers and members of the Organizing Committee of the 3rd Joint International Congress on Disability and Biophilia Rehabilitation Conference as you hold your convention, in cooperation with the Northern Marianas College Disability Support Services, Biophilia Rehabilitation Academy of Japan and Medical Center Manila, on September 16-18, 2004 at The Pearl Manila Hotel.

Your convention theme, "From Care Reliance to Independence," bespeaks of your steadfast commitment to introduce up-to-date interdisciplinary research in the rehabilitation of disabled people of all ages with the end goal of giving them confidence in themselves and move ahead without requiring much assistance. May the outcome of this convention be translated into concrete action for the greater benefit of our people.

As Father of the City of Manila, I warmly welcome all the convention delegates from different countries to our proud capital city and I thank you for choosing Manila as your venue. As you discuss your myriad agenda, it is my hope that you take time to enjoy the new Manila Baywalk along Roxas Boulevard, a product of the combined efforts of our people; a project we relentlessly pursued to give our people the confidence in themselves so that they, too, believe in our collective ability to introduce meaningful changes in the city.

May you remain steadfast in your sworn duty, and our common commitment, to provide for the medical and rehabilitation needs of our people, performing your task with utmost respect for the dignity of each individual. Indeed, the reward for true service, if given from the heart, is deep fulfillment: this is the essence of service. One, through in varying capacities, we have sworn to give.

Buhayin natin ang Maynila upang maging huwaran ng bansa! MABUHAY!


JOSE L. ATIENZA, JR.
Mayor