

The
PHILIPPINE GEOGRAPHICAL JOURNAL

VOL. XVI

OCTOBER-NOVEMBER-DECEMBER, 1972

NUMBER 4

THE 22ND INTERNATIONAL GEOGRAPHICAL CONGRESS

by

DOMINADOR Z. ROSELL¹

The first International Geographical Congress was held in Belgium in 1871. Congresses have taken place on the average of four-year interval during the hundred-year period, most of them in Europe. Two Congresses were held in Washington, D.C. one in Cairo, and another in Rio de Janeiro. The most recent ones were in Stockholm in 1960, in London in 1964, in New Delhi in 1968 and this year in Montreal, Canada, August 10-17, 1972.

In order to keep the subject of geography alive among geographers during the four-year interval between congresses, the International Geographical Union was founded in 1922 to further international cooperation in the field of geography. This year's congress in Canada was considered the first scientific congress in geography sponsored jointly by the Canadian National Committee for Geography, the Canadian Association of Geographers, the Royal Canadian Geographical Society and the Government of Canada. Geographers throughout the world were invited.

The Philippines is a member of the International Geographical Union since 1968 with the National Science Development Board as the adhering organization. As member country, the head of the delegation has a vote in scientific and policy matters in the general assembly of the Union. There were 79 countries represented during the 1972 International Geographical Congress and in the 13th General Assembly.

The number of delegates was about 2,800. Ranked according to number of delegates, Canada was first with 721, United States of America second with 514, United Kingdom third with 165, and France fourth with 112 delegates. The Philippines, like the other twelve countries, has only one delegate.

The international exhibits during the Congress was located in the University of Montreal. Of the 79 participating countries, 21 countries provided exhibits for national display and 20 countries on books and

¹ Philippine delegate to the 22nd International Geographical Congress in his capacity as Chairman, National Committee on Geographical Sciences, National Science Development Board, August 10-17, 1972, Montreal, Canada.

journals. The Philippines participated in the exhibits on national display and on books and journal. The Philippine Board of Technical Surveys and Maps, a member agency of the National Committee on Geographical Sciences (NCGS) and represented by Commander Marcelino S. Tabin, provided the materials for national display. On books and journals, the Philippine Geographical Society, also a member agency of NCGS and represented by Prof. Dominador Z. Rosell, provided bound volumes I to XIV of the Philippine Geographical Journal. These exhibits have identified the Republic of the Philippines as having geographical materials worthy of display in the International Geographical Congress.

During the days from August 10-17, 1972 while in attendance in this Congress, a number of significant things relevant to Philippine geography have focus my inquiring mind. That geography and geographic education in this age is alive and play important role in man's activities is well expressed by the number of countries (79 countries) and 2800 delegates. The number of technical papers presented were 590 on program papers and 125 commission papers. These were all published before the congress convened.

The Philippines, in its effort to make geography alive and relevant to the country's economic development program, organized the Philippine Geographical Society in 1950 — twenty two years ago. The University of the Philippines at Diliman has to this day, the Department of Geography and Geology and also the U.P. Geographical Society composed of students taking subjects on geography and geology. The Philippine Geographical Society has sustained and maintained the publication of the "Philippine Geographical Journal" now in its 16th volume inspite of the financial handicaps. The journal has survived and continued to publish because of benevolent assistance through advertisements of Philippine Wallboard Corporation, Nasipit Lumber and Anakan Lumber Company, F. F. Cruz & Co., Inc., San Miguel Corporation, Pacific Banking Corporation, ARCA & Co., Republic Flour Mills, Industrial Textiles Manufacturing Co. of the Philippines, Inc., Certeza International Inc., Filoil, International Harvester Macleod Inc., GAMI, Marsteel, Victorias Milling Inc., M. Y. San, and Permaline, Inc., to mention a few firms.

The kind hearted people who in one way or another provided financial assistance to the life of the journal never realized that their generosity contributed largely to the geographical prestige of the Philippines. In 1968, the National Science Development Board injected into the geographical institution by supporting the Philippine membership to the International Geographical Union and creating the National Committee on Geographical Sciences with fifteen members coming from agencies of the government and private sector representing certain area of geographical knowledge.

It is hoped that through the National Science Development Board, U.P. Department of Geography and Geology, the Philippine Geographical Society, the U.P. Geographical Society, and the National Committee on Geographical Sciences, geographical education and geographical information will come back to its own position as among the scientific discipline of the world.