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K11 - Cosmic Encounter: When Space Rocks Become Extraordinary

Wednesday, 25 November 2026 16:00 (15 minutes)

Meteorites are among the oldest materials that humanity can physically encounter. Formed during the early history of the Solar System and traveled across space before reaching our planet, these extraterrestrial materials provide a tangible connection between Earth and other celestial bodies. The growing meteorite collection of the National Museum of the Philippines (NMP), as well as the dedication of the private meteorite-collecting community, allows this connection to extend beyond display cases and translate into meaningful public engagements.

"Cosmic Encounter" explores how meteorites can become effective tools for promoting space science by sharing the extraordinary stories contained within seemingly ordinary rocks. Their worth transcends monetary value, as every specimen can represent scientific discovery, a historical record, or an opportunity to spark curiosity.

Through exhibitions, research projects, and outreach programs, the NMP and its partners continue to make space rocks more accessible to diverse audiences. From a meteoritical perspective, this fusion of geology and astronomy offers a multidisciplinary approach to understanding not only the cosmic environment surrounding us, but also the processes of our dynamic world. Moreover, the roles of the NMP in preserving and conserving meteorites as part of the country's scientific heritage, together with its future initiatives for advancing the field of meteoritics in the Philippines, will also form part of the presentation.

Ultimately, the keynote seeks to demonstrate that small fragments from space can make significant impacts when they are understood and shared. In this sense, there is beauty in things that people may initially consider unnecessary.

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