

DOST 1 Initiates Conversation on Masculinity and Mental Health in 'MENTally Strong' Webinar

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In a proactive move towards fostering inclusivity and equality, the Department of Science and Technology Region 1 (DOST 1) recently conducted a comprehensive Gender-Fair Language and Communication Training for all its staff as part of the 2023 Campaign Activities to End Violence Against Women last December 7, 2023, via Zoom platform.

Assistant Regional Director for Technical Operations Services and the GAD Focal Point System Technical Working Group (TWG) Chairperson, Racquel M. Espiritu, delivering the opening remarks, emphasized the significance of promoting gender-fair language within the organization. She highlighted its role in creating a more inclusive and respectful working environment.

The distinguished resource speaker for the activity was Dr. Eleanor R. Belizar, a renowned member of the National GAD Resource Pool (NGRP) of the Philippine Commission on Women. Dr. Belizar delved into a variety of critical topics, including the pervasive issue of sexism in languages, its profound impact on socialization, and how it reflects cultural norms. The training also provided insights into appropriate word choices and explored relevant memorandum circulars regarding the use of gender-fair language in official communications. She urged the DOST 1 staff to embrace non-sexist language in all official documents, issuances, and communications. The training aimed to equip participants with the knowledge and tools necessary to contribute to a workplace culture that values diversity and equality.

As part of the training initiative, participants were encouraged to take a Pre-test and later respond to a Post-test, promoting self-assessment and continuous improvement. The following participants were awarded in recognition of their exceptional growth in the understanding of GAD throughout the training:

Post-test highest: Ms. Manilyn L. Agra, Accountant III

Highest -Positive Variance: Mr. Daryl Dela Cruz, Project Technical Assistant I

This Gender-Fair Language and Communication Training aligns with DOST 1's commitment to promoting gender sensitivity, diversity, and an inclusive workplace environment. The event marks a significant step towards fostering a culture of respect, understanding, and equality within the organization.

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