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GETTING TO KNOW DUMALNEG, ILOCOS NORTE

Dumalneg is a fifth-class municipality and one of the province's 21 municipalities, with four (4) barangays, namely, San Isidro, Cabaritan, Quibel, and Kalaw. Dumalneg is located about 73 kilometers north of the province's capital, Laoag, and is bordered on the north by the Municipality of Pagudpud, on the east by the Municipality of Adams, on the south by the Municipality of Vintar, and on the west by the Municipality of Bangui.

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DOST 1-2022 AUTOMATED ELECTIONS UPDATE

Have you ever wondered what it's like to sit in on elections and serve? What preparations are being made to ensure the election's success? How do they prepare the front-runners for the big day? The Electoral Boards (EBs) are used to be known as Board of Election Inspectors (BEIs) who are made up of teachers from the Department of Education chosen based on the criteria of the Commission on Elections (COMELEC). They're the real players when it comes to Election Day.

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DOST 1 KICKS OFF WOMEN'S MONTH CELEBRATION

The Department of Science and Technology Region 1 (DOST 1) conducted a kick-off activity for the 2022 National Women's Month Celebration through its Radio Program, Tekno PreSyensya: Syensya ken Teknolohiya para Kadagiti Umili, on March 3, 2022, via Zoom and streamed live via DOST Region 1 Facebook Page. The annual celebration of the national women's month slated every March.

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EDITORIAL



ANGEL LYN O. LEANDADO
Editor-in-Chief, Ilocos S&T Trends
DOST 1

A pleasant day to all S&T enthusiasts! I am proud to present to you another seal of DOST 1's excellence in providing quality scientific and technological products and services on the ground, through this first quarter issue of the Ilocos S&T Trends.

The first quarter of this year was a breather from the 2-year pandemic. It gave us an opportunity to move forward as we hope for a better Philippines.

This issue provides us a glimpse of what the agency has accomplished for the quarter highlighting of course our National Women's Month Celebration. The DOST 1 workforce takes pride as we transform our Gender and Development (GAD) program each year. This also covers the areas of Kaayusan, Kabuhayan, Kalusugan and Kinabukasan. To name a few...

On Kaayusan...

DOST 1 was handed a key role in the 2022 National and Local Elections where Electoral Boards will be certified by the DOST to facilitate the Automated Election System. Thus, the DOST certifiers were trained to be fully equipped with the knowledge necessary in the DOST Certification Program for Electoral Boards.

On Kaayusan...

The Community Empowerment through Science and Technology (CEST) program has now reached the Municipality of Adams in Ilocos Norte. The CEST core group were tasked to plan for the interventions to the municipality. CEST also continues its implementation in Salcedo, Ilocos Sur. The DOST Secretary, Fortunato T. de la Peña himself graced the awarding of processing equipment to the town's beneficiary associations.

On Kalusugan...

Secretary de la Peña, together with DOST Undersecretary for Regional Operations Sancho A. Mabborang, also visited the first face mask production facility in Northern Luzon located in Barangay San Marcos, Agoo, La Union.

On Kinabukasan...

To bridge educational gaps and to promote learning of Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics, the Provincial S&T Center in Ilocos Norte brought DOST's very own digital library, STARBOOKS, to Carasi, Ilocos Norte.

These are products of collaborative efforts of the DOST 1 Juans and Juanas who are governed by the organization's core values, these are, innovation, excellence, leadership, integrity, teamwork and empowerment.

To know more, I encourage you to give every page of this newsletter a time and I promise, it will be all worth it.

Thank you for your never-ending support to DOST 1, fellow Ka-Aghams. Mabuhay!

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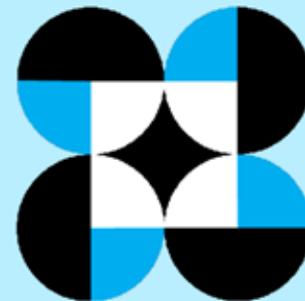
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DOST 1 KICK-STARTS CEST-CNA IN ADAMS, ILOCOS NORTE

BY: KENT J. RAMIL

In its effort to sustain its initiatives in combating poverty and promoting resiliency among marginalized communities in the Province of Ilocos Norte, the Department of Science and Technology Region 1 (DOST 1) through the Provincial Science and Technology Center-Ilocos Norte (PSTC-IN) has expanded its implementation of the Community Empowerment through Science and Technology (CEST) program to the Municipality of Adams for 2022.



A Rapid Rural Appraisal (RRA) a.k.a Community Needs Assessment (CNA) was launched and conducted on April 12, 2022, at the Municipal Auditorium of Adams. The CNA was spearheaded by DOST-PSTC IN Provincial Director Engr. Benjamin S. Mercado, Jr. and his staff together with DOST 1 Regional CEST Coordinator, Mr. Decth-1180 Libunao, and staff, in partnership with the Mariano Marcos State University (MMSU), the official academic institution partner of DOST in Ilocos Norte.

Also present during the CNA is the DOST 1 Regional Director, Dr. Armando Q. Ganal, who is committed to strengthening the efforts of the agency to develop the lives of the marginalized along the five (5) priority sectors of the CEST Program in the said municipality.

A total of 25 key informants participated in the activity, these are the leaders of associations and organizations in the barangay, school principals, barangay health workers, and barangay officials with Adams Mayor Rosalia D. Dupagen.

Mayor Dupagen expressed her gratitude to DOST-1 for the opportunity given to the municipality and its townpeople. "Dakkel a panagyaman mi iti DOST ta ada iti umay yo ited a tulong a pagsayaatan iti umili iti Adams," (We express our utmost gratitude to DOST for providing help towards the development of the Municipality of Adams) Mayor Dupagen said.



Ms. Wilfremi B. Llama, National Commission on Indigenous Peoples (NCIP) representative, also gave her full support and commitment to the implementation of the program in Adams.

Meanwhile, Mr. Libunao discussed the importance of the activity as part of the planning and conceptualization of appropriate Science and Technology interventions. Further, he provided a brief background and overview of the CEST program. In addition, Dr. Marilou P. Lucas with the core group members from MMSU showed their utmost support by joining in the assessment and site visit in the town.

It was determined during the CNA that there are insufficient IT and laboratory facilities, insufficient training on advanced technologies, lack of knowledge in financial management, health concerns, and malnutrition including the need for potable water supply, knowledge on farm planning, value-adding for fruit crops that are highly abundant in the municipality. Also, there is a relatively high input cost on farming and agricultural produce, DOST Ilocos Norte CEST Coordinator, Mr. Jahmai O. Grande, is in consultation with the core groups of MMSU and other stakeholders for the potable water supply, knowledge on farm planning, value-adding for fruit crops that are highly abundant in the municipality. Also, there is a relatively high input cost on farming and agricultural produce.

EMPOWERING DUMALNEG, ILOCOS NORTE THRU DOST 1'S CEST PROGRAM

BY: CARLA JOYCE B. CAJALA

from Page 1

According to the 2015 census, the municipality has a total population of 2,947 people and covers an area of 88.48 square kilometers. The municipality of Dumalneg is entirely home to indigenous peoples, largely from the Isneg tribe, who speak a dialect known as Yapayao. The community's political growth guides dramatic alterations from a purely tribal territory to a thriving agricultural community and one of Ilocos Norte's top eco-cultural tourist destinations. Isnegs (50%) are the majority in Dumalneg, followed by Ilocanos (47%) and Bicolanos (0.8%), Tagalog (0.4%), Bisaya (0.5%), Kankana-ey (0.03%), and other cultural connections (0.7%).

The people of Dumalneg benefit from the area's natural riches, potential tourism attractions, and a primarily agricultural economy. Root crops such as "gabi", "camote", and "tugue" are major crops planted by the locals. Furthermore, some residents earn money by farming "maliket", an upland rice variety, while others collect forest items such as firewood, rattan, and "nito". According to the Philippine Statistics Authority's Small Area Estimates on Poverty Incidence for Municipalities and Cities, Dumalneg placed top in poverty incidence in 2012, with 25.7 percent, hence became priority for community empowerment and development.

Here comes CEST...

In 2018, the Department of Science and Technology Regional Office I launched the Community Empowerment through Science and Technology (CEST) program in Dumalneg, with the goal of bringing science closer to the people and empowering underserved communities in the face of rapid transformations that threaten the ability to sustain development and progress. The DOST's CEST initiative is a national response to poverty alleviation and aims to empower underserved communities in geographically isolated and disadvantaged areas (GIDA) by implementing a package of



science and technology interventions across five entry points: (1) Human Resource Development; (2) Health and Nutrition; (3) Disaster Risk Reduction and Management and Climate Change Adaptation; (4) Environmental Protection and Conservation; and (5) Livelihood/Economic Enterprise Development. These entry points are in line with addressing the basic needs of people in the community to improve their standard of living, quality of life, and continuing opportunities for growth and development. With the implementation of the program, closer collaboration, cooperation, and commitments were established among the stakeholders. The expertise of the Mariano Marcos State University (MMSU) on extension services was tapped and the steadfast support of the barangay and local government officials were likewise established.



To start...

Gearing towards community empowerment and development, a series of community preparation processes such as advocacy and consultative meetings, CNA or Rapid Rural Appraisal (RRA), planning and identification of appropriate S&T interventions, and signing of the Memorandum of Agreement were carried out with the stakeholders. The results of the RRA offered a clearer picture and a glimpse of Dumalneg's awareness about the current state of the community especially on science and technology demands, and its potential for development in the five areas of the program.

Human Resource Development

The DOST-1 awarded educational facilities and equipment to introduce knowledge-enhancing activities to rural schools and to enhance the learning of Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM) discipline. San Isidro Elementary School and Dumalneg Elementary School received a computer set with printer, Smart TV with home theater sound system, Science and Technology Academic and Research-Based Openly Operated Kiosk Stations (STARBOOKS) developed by DOST-Science and Technology Information Institute (STII),



S&T modules, and augmented reality from DOST- Science Education Institute (SEI). Teachers learned how to handle and use these teaching tools as well. Furthermore, an enrichment program was held for four (4) consecutive Saturdays, including a review and mock exam, to enable students to take exams with a higher possibility of passing and to give them the opportunity to become DOST scholars while also encouraging them to enroll in S&T courses. One (1) student qualified for the DOST-SEI Undergraduate Scholarship program out of the 16 students who participated in the enrichment program and took the scholarship exam. The event was held in collaboration with the Philippine Science High School – Ilocos Region Campus (PSHS IRC) and three (3) DOST Ilocos Norte patriot scholars.

Health and Nutrition

The CEST Program established and delivered several interventions that addressed people's health and nutrition concerns in order to achieve and maintain a healthy community. The DOST-Package for the Improvement of Nutrition of Young Children (PINOV), a nutrition intervention plan, was established with the goal of addressing the malnutrition problem in the communities, which at the time affected 16.03 percent of children aged 6-59 months. The Operation Timbang (OPT) Plus, spearheaded by the Barangay Health Workers (BHWs) and Barangay Nutrition Scholars (BNSs), began with the calibration of weighing scales for dependable data collection, followed by training on the DOST PINOV Modules and the OPT Plus to equip the community health workforce with basic information and knowledge on meal planning, backyard gardening, basic food safety, basic nutrition, and complementary feeding.

In partnership with the DOST-Food and Nutrition Research Institute (FNRI) and LGU-Dumalneg, a two-phase 120-day supplemental food feeding program was undertaken. Undernourished toddlers aged 6-59 months were given complementary foods such as Rice Mongo (RiMo) instant blend, RiMo curls, brown rice nutty bar, Iron Fortified Rice, and Go & Grow Nutrient Growth Mix. The children gained considerable weight from severely underweight to underweight, underweight to borderline or normal, or borderline to normal weights, equivalent to 64 percent, 54.05 percent, and 54.05 percent effectiveness ratings, respectively. Without a doubt, malnutrition impacts children's development and activity due to a lack of food or an unsuitable diet. Similarly, equipping the community's health personnel with knowledge of how to deal with nutritional issues is critical. Also, DANUM (Disinfecting Aqua's Noxious and Unwanted Microorganisms) initiative was planned and launched to ensure access to safe drinking water. Water resource mapping, provision of adequate water filters or disinfection treatments, and installation of water distribution systems are all part of Project DANUM's intervention package to address water safety and adequacy. Water Resource Mapping was carried out in partnership with MMSU in the four barangays, with 16 samples collected for Microbial Test and another seven (7) for Physicochemical Test. Due to the presence of coliform or fecal contamination, all of the samples were found to be unfit for human consumption.



Environmental Protection and Conservation

A 6000L biogas digester was installed in the neighborhood to promote environmental protection and conservation through the adoption and use of environmental friendly technologies. This strategy efficiently handled waste from the communal piggery, solving concerns about odor and contamination while also safeguarding the environment. Similarly, under the agriculture strand, it will serve as an instructional venue for high school students. Around 20 hog raisers were served by this biogas system, which also served as a source of lighting.



Disaster Risk Reduction and Management and Climate Change Adaptation

The project "Naglilinang ng Kahandaan sa Sakuna Gamit ang Napapanahong-teknolohiya (Na-KaSaGaNa)," was conceptualized by the DOST 1 CEST Unit under the priority area on Disaster Risk Reduction and Management and Climate Change Adaptation (DRRM/CCA). It is a package of interventions that includes disaster preparedness training, distribution of DRRM/CCA-related Information, Education and Communication materials (IEC) materials.

As an intervention, an Automated Weather Station was installed in the neighborhood to provide trustworthy information on current weather conditions in the area. Because disasters are unavoidable and no region is immune, communities must plan ahead to mitigate the effects of disasters.

These efforts in DRRM/CCA are all anchored to its tagline "Tungo sa Handa at Ligtas na Pamayanan."

Livelihood/Economic Enterprise Development

There are many resources in any far-flung settlement, but they are often underutilized for their economic value. As a result, relevant interventions were made in order to build a livelihood industry/enterprise at the barangay level. CEST in Dumalneg, bannered with "Developing Communities via Sustainable Livelihood Programs," assisted a variety of livelihood/economic enterprise activities, including resource-based technological training and equipment/machine provision, among other things. The first was a technology Training for 17 people on how to make wine and vinegar. The method of manufacturing ginger and ube wine, ginger beer, ginger tonic drink, and banana vinegar was demonstrated by experts from the DOST1-PSU Food Innovation Center.



Furthermore, as an IP community, Dumalneg's CEST program, in collaboration with MMSU's Sustainable Livelihood thru S&T for Community Preparedness and Resiliency, launched Project INABEL (Innovations on Native Attires, Bracing and Encouraging Livelihood), which aimed to (a) conduct loom weaving training to promote DOST-developed technologies and for cultural preservation and promotion, and (b) provide instructions to the 17 people who were from various sectors on how to use the thera-loom weaving machine and make their own traditional clothing.

Moving forward...

The CEST development program in Dumalneg, is continuously taking place as of date. The DOST remains committed to leading the way through science, technology and innovation. True to this, all of DOST's programs, projects, and services are provided through the CEST Program to empower and assist underprivileged communities.

DOST 1 BRINGS COMMUNITY EMPOWERMENT THROUGH SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY PROGRAM TO UMINGAN, PANGASINAN

BY: LYNGEL B. ULANDAY



The CEST program has continuously transformed disadvantaged and marginalized groups of society into a progressive, resilient, and empowered community through Science and Technology. This year, the Provincial Science and Technology Center (PSTC) - Pangasinan Field Office, proposed the municipality of Umingan.

The Department of Science and Technology Regional Office 1 (DOST 1), in partnership with the Pangasinan State University (PSU) visited barangays Luna Weste, Luna Este, and San Juan in Umingan, to assess and understand the current situation of the barangays through a Community Needs Assessment on March 24-25, 2022.

The communities were identified through the recommendation of the Municipal Planning and Development Coordinator Atty. Vi Marie N. Mugas-Vengua following the selection guidelines of the program. "We want to introduce Kalabasa as our One Town One Product (OTOP) and promote different squash products in provincial caravans," said Atty. Vengua.

In undertaking the CNA, the DOST 1 core group led by the CEST project leader Decth-1180 P. Libunao and experts from PSU interviewed 75 key informants representing their community on the 5 priority areas namely: Livelihood/ Economic and Enterprise Development, Health and Nutrition, Environmental Protection and Conservation, Human Resource Development, and Disaster Risk Reduction and Management and

Climate Change Adaptation. "We are here to ask for your participation as we gather the information, we need in order to bring appropriate package of interventions to help your community," DOST Pangasinan Provincial Director Arnold C. Santos, said in his opening message.

The residents cannot hide their smiles after watching the videos of successful CEST communities in the North. "That is the program we are bringing here in your barangay and your cooperation is important to achieve that," Ms. Jennifer Fernandez said pertaining to the success of the project. "CEST is a holistic approach of DOST in response to the government's national program on poverty alleviation," Ms. Fernandez added.



DOST 1 CONDUCTS LIVELIHOOD TRAINING ON CAMOTE FLOUR PRODUCTION AND BY-PRODUCT UTILIZATION IN SUYO, ILOCOS SUR

BY: RAYMOND ALIP



The Department of Science and Technology Regional Office 1 through its Community Empowerment thru Science and Technology (CEST) programs in partnership with the PSU – DOST-1 Food Innovation Center (FIC), conducted a Livelihood Training on Camote Flour Production and By-product Utilization to the Kimpatubbog Camote Growers Association on March 11, 2022 at Sitio Kimpatubbog, Poblacion, Suyo, Ilocos Sur.

The activity aims to provide hands-on training to enhance the association's skills and knowledge in producing good quality camote flour through the provision of Pulverizer machine and the development of by-product out of the waste produced during the process.

During the program, Engr. Jordan L. Abad, Officer-In-Charge of the Provincial Science and Technology Center – Ilocos Sur (PSTC-IS), enlightened the participants on the objectives of the training. "We want to help you boost your production and enhance the quality of your products," he said.

The training focused on the production of Camote flour and the utilization of wastes produced from the process to produce Camote Wine. Ms. Meryl A. Bernardino, Senior Science Research Specialist (SSRS) of the PSU – DOST-1 Food Innovation Center (FIC), served as the resource speaker of the training. She discussed and demonstrated the processes and methods for Camote flour and Camote wine production.

The training was conceptualized after evaluation of the Association's produce of Camote Polvoron and Pastillas.

"Thank you DOST-1, because you are always there to support us and provide projects even when our community is very far, I am very thankful. We assure you that this training will not remain as a training only," said Ms. Lina Biteng, one of the participants, during the closing program.

"Thank you also sirs and ma'am from DOST-1 for providing us trainings and equipment to help us improve our production will help not only our association but also our whole community," added by Ms. Zenaida Reyes, President of Kimpatubbog Camote Growers Association.

The association was provided with a pulverizer after the training which will complement the Multi-Commodity Solar Tunnel Dryer (MCSTD) earlier provided by the project.



DOST 1 AWARDS TIGER GRASS DEPOLLENATOR TO PANGASINAN BROOM MAKERS

BY: MONIQUE C. ESGUERRA



The Department of Science and Technology Region 1 (DOST-I) awarded a Tiger Grass Depollenator to the soft broom makers in Bugallon, Pangasinan on March 29, 2022 as one of the identified interventions in the municipality through the innovation, Science, and Technology for Accelerating Regional Technology-Based Development (iSTART) Program.

DOST-I Regional Director Armando Q. Ganal mentioned about Bugallon as the pilot municipality in the 2nd district of Pangasinan to have been chosen as recipient of the iSTART Program, emphasizing the significance of the program to the development of the municipality. During the Focus Group Discussion (FGD) in 2021 with the DOST-I iSTART team, Tiger Grass Depollenator was one of the identified interventions to aid the soft broom makers increase their production.

Tiger Grass Depollenator is a technology developed by Dr. Victorio Palabay of Don Mariano Marcos Memorial State University Mid La Union Campus (DMMMSU-MLUC) to address the manual process of soft broom makers in depollinating the tiger grass. The machine was fabricated by Mr. Ruzzel A. Abuan, Metals Engineering Innovation Center (MEIC) personnel of DOST-I headed by Dr. Palabay.

LGU Bugallon Administrator Amado L. Aquino stated, "Dapat ang walis tambo ay tatak (the soft broom should be branded in) Bugallon. While we are looking for the improvement of our product, we will also increase the production of the tiger grass." He also mentioned some variety for soft brooms named tanubong. He wanted the people of Bugallon especially the people under small scale industries to earn more in promoting their own local businesses.

Before awarding, Mr. Abuan demonstrated the proper use of the machine to the members of the Dimantal Tribes Council with its President Ms. Evelyn Camoda. Also present in the awarding ceremony are the LGU Bugallon Municipal Agriculturist Christopher Ballesteros, Municipal Planning and Development Coordinator Corleto P. Calicdan and iSTART Coordinator Rina Castillo, along with other LGU staff.

Meanwhile, DOST 1 Field Operations Officer-in-charge Jonathan Viernes remarked, "Through this iSTART Program, sana sa paraan na ito alagaan ninyo at mapaunlad. Tutulong at tulong pa rin ang DOST (Hopefully, you can take care of this and lead to your development. DOST will continue to assist and support people)." He expressed his support to the needs of the micro, small and medium enterprises (MSMEs) to boost the number of local products in Bugallon.

DOST-I, through the iSTART Program, pledged to support, provide, and extend the necessary S&T assistance and intervention to all municipalities in nurturing their own local products.



DOST 1 CONDUCTS ENERGY AUDIT TO 5 FIRMS IN ILOCOS SUR

BY: LAURINE R. SALES

To provide recommendations towards energy conservation measures, the Department of Science and Technology (DOST) thru its Provincial Science and Technology Center – Ilocos Sur (PSTC-IS) conducted series of energy audits to several prospected SET-UP cooperators in the province from February 21-23, 2022.

Brenest Furniture Shop of Salcedo, Ilocos Sur; Alger Printing Services of Sta. Maria; SBR Electron Iron Works of Narvacan; Torres Rice Mill of Cabugao; and EP Medrano Furniture of Bantay, Ilocos Sur were subjected to the audit as pre-requisite to their application to the SET-UP program of the agency.

The audit team comprised of experts from the University of Northern Philippines (UNP) and Ilocos Sur Polytechnic State College (ISPSC) together with PSTC-Ilocos Sur Staff.

The energy assessment involved random checking of the energy-consuming equipment and facilities of the firms and identify strategies and alternatives to improve their energy efficiency and performance. A technical report containing recommendations for improving energy efficiency with cost benefit analysis and an action plan to reduce energy consumption were presented and provided to the owners after the audit.



DOST 1 AWARDS PROCESSING EQUIPMENT AND PACKAGING ASSISTANCE TO NAGBUKEL, BURGOS TOWNS

BY: JOSEPH EISMA



The Department of Science and Technology Regional Office 1 through the Provincial Science and Technology Center- Ilocos Sur (PSTC-IS) awarded Processing Equipment and Packaging Assistance to Nagbukel and Burgos, Ilocos Sur last March 18, 2022 as part of the Community Empowerment thru Science and Technology program implementation there.

The Taleb Ladies Mango Processors Association (TLMPA) of Nagbukel, Mapanit Squash Association (MSA) and Bessang Food Processors Association (BFPA) of Burgos received processing equipment such as stainless tables with sink and packaging supplies for their mango and squash products. Two stainless tables with sink, chest freezer, heat gun, wine bottles, and jam bottles were awarded to TLMPA, while two stainless tables with sink, heat gun, impulse sealer, wine bottles, and jam bottles were given to BFPA. MSA accepted a stainless table, stainless table with double sink and an impulse sealer.

"Our program does not end with training, we want to help you boost your production, enhance its quality, package your product and sell it not only within your municipality but also outside the municipality. These equipment will help you attain these objectives," said Engr. Jordan L. Abad, OIC-PSTC-Ilocos Sur.

Meanwhile, Mayor Nathaniel D. Escobar and Sangguniang Bayan Member Consuelo D. Brillantes, of Burgos, expressed their gratitude to DOST for the provision of processing equipment and packaging assistance to the beneficiaries. Mayor Escobar also emphasized to take care of the equipment and materials that were provided them as well as use it to their maximum benefit.

"Thank you very much DOST-1, for providing us with processing equipment and packaging materials that we can use to improve and upgrade our production, as well as for all of your sacrifices and unwavering support for

our barangay, particularly for our association, the Taleb Ladies Mango Processors Association," said Ms. Mayleen P. Manzano, President of the Association.

Like Ms. Manzano, Ms. Marinel Cablay of Mapanit Squash Association and Ms. Flordeliza Doña of Bessang Food Processor Association were thankful of the facilities and equipment provided, "these could significantly improve our production."

An on-site assessment and visit to the existing processing centers of these firms was also conducted after the awarding ceremony, ensuring proper lay-out of the production area.



PGIN RECEIVES VENDO MACHINE FOR oneSTore FOOD PRODUCTS

BY: KENT J. RAMIL



The Provincial Government of Ilocos Norte employees and guests can now grab some yummy snacks and refreshing drinks at the drop of some coins or paper bills while visiting the Provincial Capitol. The Department of Science and Technology through its Provincial Science and Technology Center Ilocos Norte awarded a Vendo machine on February 16, 2022 deployed at the Provincial Capitol as part of the oneSTore hub operated by the Province.

Part of the awarding was the training and orientation to operate the machine. During the turnover and training, Micro Small Medium Enterprises Office (SMEO) headed by Ms. Elma Gabriel and some PGINs IT experts were present.

Mr. Dhemsy Delos Santos, Manager of the Blankspace, INC., conducted the orientation together with Engr. Jamaica A. Topinio and Mr. Kent Ramil of DOST-PSTC Ilocos Norte.

"With the presence of the Vendo machine at the Provincial Capitol, guests including the employees will have easier access to locally produced products in the province, thus helping the MSMEs in the province cope with the effects of the pandemic" said Gabriel.

The Vendo dispenses products from DOST-assisted enterprises through the Small Enterprise Technology Upgrading Program or SETUP. Products available include Banana Chips, Taro Chips, Camote Chips, Probiotic Drinks and local chocolate bars from Ilocos Norte. Meanwhile, all products on display at the shelves are also available online through the DOST shopping portal called OneSTore.ph and at the DOST-PGIN oneSTore.ph hub in Paoay. DOST, under its partnership with PGIN continues to help the local entrepreneurs of the province in maximizing their full potential.

ICE CREAM MAKERS ASSOCIATION IN PANGASINAN RECEIVES TECHNOLOGY ASSISTANCE FROM DOST

BY: ELIZA MAE E. FERNANDEZ

The Department of Science and Technology – Regional Office 1 (DOST-1) through its Provincial Science and Technology Center (PSTC) in Pangasinan awarded P180,000.00 worth of financial assistance to Bani Delicious Ice Cream, Sustainable Livelihood Program Association (SLPA) beneficiary under the Community-Based Project (CBP) of the DOST 1.

The financial assistance was used to purchase an Ice Cream Maker Machine to boost the local livelihood of the association as well as to improve their production process and product quality.

The association is composed of 17 men from Barangay Bani, that was officially organized in April 2018. Today, they continuously produce delicious ice cream and proved that ice cream making is viable in the long run, as the group continued to capitalize on Filipinos' weakness for sweet cold treats, especially in the summer months.

As the pandemic continues to affect many livelihoods in their area, the ice cream makers are grateful for the Ice Cream Maker Machine they were able to lessen production time from 180 minutes to 20 minutes, eliminating the manual mixing of the ingredients. They also introduced two (2) new additional ice cream flavors, the malunggay and carrot ice cream and established four (4) additional markets.

With the Ice Cream Maker Machine, smoother, softer, and finer ice cream texture and consistency was achieved.



DOST's SEC BOY SEC AWARDS PROCESSING EQUIPMENT IN SALCEDO, ILOCOS SUR

BY: LAURINE R. SALES



SALCEDO, ILOCOS SUR – Department of Science and Technology (DOST) Secretary Fortunato T. de la Peña awarded food processing equipment to Lucuban Coconut Processors' Association and Sinabaan Farmers Association this town during his project visit on February 18, 2022.

Together with DOST 1 Regional Director, Dr. Armando Q. Ganal and Officer in-Charge of the Provincial Science & Technology Center – Ilocos Sur, Engr. Jordan L. Abad, Secretary de la Peña turned over the equipment to the associations with Salcedo Mayor Leopoldo Gironella, Jr. and Vice Mayor Grazielle Itchon.



According to Engr. Abad, the assistance given to the municipality is under the Community Empowerment thru Science and Technology (CEST) program which is a response of the DOST to the Executive Order no. 70 of the administration under the Poverty Reduction, Livelihood and Employment Cluster. The program aims to provide livelihood interventions to the areas affected by armed conflict where Salcedo is one of those identified.

After the awarding, the LGU through Mayor Gironella awarded a plaque of appreciation to the Secretary in grateful recognition of his leadership and efforts in providing science, technology, and innovation interventions that foster development of MSMEs and the geographically isolated and depressed communities contributing to the development of the municipality.

Mayor Gironella also expressed his warmest appreciation to the agency for the technology assistance to the communities. He mentioned that it is the first time for the humble municipality to be visited by a Department secretary.

Moreover, Dr. Ganal hopes that the assistance provided will be of help in the product development of the

beneficiaries. "Agkakaysatayo kuma tapno agtultuloy iti panagrang-ay ken panagprogreso iti biagtayo," (May we all unite to continue the success and progress of our life) he remarked.

Further, Secretary de la Peña stated that the DOST services are really for the people as the tagline of the agency- "Science for the People." He also emphasized program and projects implemented in the region including CEST and the Small Enterprises Technology Upgrading Program (SETUP) intended for LGUs (Local Government Units) and MSMEs. "Tinitignan namin yung technology na applicable sa mga produkto dito sa komunidad para tumaas ang kanilang value," (We look at the technology that allows products here in the community to increase their value) he emphasized.

Lucbuban Coconut Processors Association is currently producing virgin coconut oil, coconut flakes and coconut jam after adopting the trainings conducted by DOST. They are recipient of coconut grater, coconut presser, stainless-steel tables with deep sink, and packaging and labeling materials.

Meanwhile, the Sinabaan Farmers Association were taught on meat processing last year and received meat mixer, meat grinder, stainless tables with deep sink, and a chest freezer.

As part of the activity, DOST assisted firms within Salcedo such as the Minyang's Food Products, Wynn's Food Products, Lucbuban Coconut Processors Association, Sinabaan Farmers Association, and Bayanihan Farmers Association exhibited their products for the public.

SECOND iFWD PH PROGRAM BENEFICIARY IN REGION 1 RECEIVES TECHNOLOGY ASSISTANCE FROM DOST

BY: CECILIO R. REPANCOL

The Department of Science and Technology – Regional Office I (DOST-I) through its Provincial Science and Technology Center (PSTC) in Pangasinan Field Office, awarded P175,000.00 worth of technology assistance to Angelique's Premium Quality as the second beneficiary of Innovations for Filipinos Working Distantly from the Philippines (iFWD PH) program in the region.

After due evaluation and completion of requirements as a beneficiary of the program, Angelique's Premium Quality represented by Mrs. Mariliza B. Ortiz of Brgy. Pugaro, Manaoag, Pangasinan entered into a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) with DOST 1.



The assistance will be used to acquire Heavy Duty Peanut Grinder Machine and Thick Liquid Filling Machine for production along with the Shelf-life Testing, Microbial Testing, Chemical Testing, and Nutritional Facts expenses as well as for the packaging & labeling of the product.

DOST staff Catherine Lictao showed the beneficiary how to make peanut butter, specifically how to prepare and roast peanuts. During the presentation, Ms. Lictao emphasized that warming the oil before roasting the peanuts produces a good outcome and that adding butter to the product makes it tastier and adds a pleasant aroma.

The equipment performed well throughout the testing and demonstration.

Mrs. Ortiz extended her gratitude and appreciation for the assistance "Thank you DOST for extending help to us, surely, I will give my full cooperation for the effective and efficient implementation of the Project," she added.

iFWD PH tends to provide support and opportunities for OFWs and their immediate families to establish technology-based enterprises in the country.

DOST 1 AWARDS P2.622M TO SETUP BENEFICIARIES IN NAGUILIAN, LA UNION

BY: ENGR. EIRYZ CLYDE ANGELIQUE D. ORPILLA



CITY OF SAN FERNANDO, LA UNION- The Department of Science and Technology Region 1 (DOST-1), through its Provincial Science and Technology Center- La Union (PSTC-LU), awarded P2.622 Million worth of financial assistance to R.A. Dumuk & Family Corporation and Green Valley United Cooperatives at the DOST 1 Regional Office on March 24, 2022.

Both firms are located in Naguilian, La Union and are beneficiaries under DOST's Small Enterprises Technology Upgrading Program (SETUP), a nationwide strategy encouraging and assisting micro, small and medium enterprises to adopt technological innovations to improve their products, services,

operations and increase their productivity and competitiveness

Engr. Edison M. Acosta, Officer-in-Charge of PSTC-La Union, assisted them from technology needs assessment until the approval of the projects and will continue to assist them until project completion.

R.A. Dumuk & Family Corporation is engaged in contract growing of chicken under Foster Food Incorporated. The firm received P2.427 Million to address the electricity requirements and cost savings of their poultry operation and to promote renewable energy source and waste management system through the acquisition of a grid-tie solar PV system and dewatering machine.

On the other hand, Green Valley United Cooperatives is into sugarcane wine (Basi) and vinegar production. These serve as the One Town One Product (OTOP) of the municipality of Naguilian. The cooperative received P195,000.00 for the acquisition of a sugarcane crusher machine to improve their production process and service quality.

Before awarding the check to the SETUP beneficiaries, DOST-1 Regional Director Armando Q. Ganal reiterated the responsibilities of both parties throughout the duration of the project.

DOST AWARDS SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY AND INNOVATION CHAMPIONS IN PANGASINAN LGUS

BY: GINEE R. TACASA

The Department of Science and Technology Region 1 (DOST 1) recognized the Local Chief Executives (LCEs) of the six (6) pilot Local Government Units (LGUs) in the Province of Pangasinan as Science, Technology and Innovation (STI) Champions for the DOST's innovation Science and Technology for Accelerating Regional Technology-based Development (iSTART) program.

The six (6) LCEs were exulted in recognition of their commitment and support to the Program in an Awarding Ceremony conducted last March 10, 2022, at the Sison Auditorium, Pangasinan Provincial Capitol in Lingayen. Plaques of Recognition were awarded to Mayor Liseldo D.Q. Calugay of Sual, Mayor Priscilla I. Espino of Bugallon, Mayor Noel Anthony M. Geslani of Malasiqui, Mayor Constante B. Agbayani of San Fabian, Mayor Jojo B. Callejo of Alcala and Mayor Maria Theresa R. Peralta of Balungao.

DOST 1 Regional Director Armando Q. Ganal conveyed his deep appreciation to the six (6) Local Chief Executives and their focal persons for their all-out cooperation in the implementation of the activities for the iSTART program. He stated that it is just the beginning of another milestone for the LGUs with the funding support they provided for the continuous implementation of the program.

Meanwhile, DOST Undersecretary for Regional Operations Sancho A. Mabborang expressed his high commendation to the six (6) Municipal Mayors through his recorded video message. He expressed the commitment and support from his office to reciprocate the same given by the Municipal Heads for the iSTART program. He highlighted that through the iSTART program, science-based planning tools are infused as a support mechanism for STI in the municipal development plan for sustainable economic growth, particularly in improving the industry, efficiency, and productivity according to their priorities and growth areas.

DOST 1 Consultant Dr. Lily Ann D. Lando also expressed her congratulations to the municipalities and mentioned that they deserve the recognition and they are the exemplary municipalities of the program.



The Local Chief Executives showed their gratitude through their testimonies. Mayor Geslani of Malasiqui town expressed his gratitude for the Bamboo Splitter which will facilitate the production of "Tiklis" used for containing mangoes and vegetables. He mentioned that the Basket Industry has been a long-time business of the people and that the presence of the equipment will assist the Basket Makers Association in making the quality of their products better.

Mayor Callejo of Alcala remarked that the S&T interventions for their Solid Waste Management Program really helped the municipality and the people by converting them into products that can be used as additional resources for their community.

Mayor Peralta of LGU Balungao expressed optimism for the outcome and direction of the iSTART programs and activities focused in enhancing its goat industry, especially on the establishment of the Goat Academy, Chevron product development, extending the shelf life of Tuba, and their Patupat delicacy packaging and labeling. "iSTART, You START, We START," she said at the end of her address, referring to their program's tagline.

DOST 1 Officer-in-Charge for Field Operations and iSTART Project Leader Jonathan M. Viernes expressed his heartfelt gratitude to all six (6) Local Chief Executives..

DOST CHIEF VISITS THE FIRST FACE MASK PRODUCTION FACILITY IN NORTHERN LUZON BY: ENGR. EIRYZ CLYDE ANGELIQUE D. ORPILLA



CITY OF SAN FERNANDO, LA UNION - Department of Science and Technology (DOST) Secretary Fortunato T. de la Peña, together with Undersecretary for Regional Operations Engr. Sancho A. Mabborang and Filipino Inventor's Society Producer Cooperative (FISPC) President Francisco "Popoy" Pagayon visited the first face mask production facility in Northern Luzon located at Brgy. San Marcos, Agoo, La Union on February 18, 2022.

The face mask production facility is owned by Mr. Richard S. Chan of Modulhaus Incorporated, a DOST- 1 Small Enterprise Technology Upgrading Program (SETUP) beneficiary since 2016. Modulhaus Inc. is one of Luzon's manufacturer of modular cabinets and uses top-of-the line materials that made it competitive in the industry.

With the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic and the pressing issue on the scarcity of supply, Mr. Chan thought of establishing a production plant for surgical masks, as his way of helping the province in this fight against COVID-19.

He led the tour around the facility and mentioned how he came up with idea. "The pandemic isn't over pero 'yung demand ng face masks and PPEs for the health workers tuluy-tuloy pa rin" he said.

Secretary de la Peña recognized the initiative of Modulhaus Inc. in addressing the impact of COVID-19 pandemic, particularly on the health workers.

Also present during the visit were DOST 1 Regional Director Dr. Armando Q. Ganal, Assistant Regional Director for Technical Services Division Ms. Racquel M. Espiritu, Officer-in-Charge for Field Operations Mr. Jonathan M. Viernes, Officer -in-Charge Provincial Director Engr. Edison M. Acosta and DOST 1 staff.

A token of Appreciation was awarded to Secretary de la Peña and Undersecretary Mabborang for their full support and commitment to Modulhaus Inc. through the SETUP program.

After the tour, the DOST Secretary answers questions from the DOST 1 media partners, Philippine Information Agency- La Union (PIA-LU) and DZAG Radyo Pilipinas Agoo.

DOST 1 ON THE GO! GETTING READY FOR THE 2022 AUTOMATED ELECTIONS

BY: CARLA JOYCE B. CAJALA

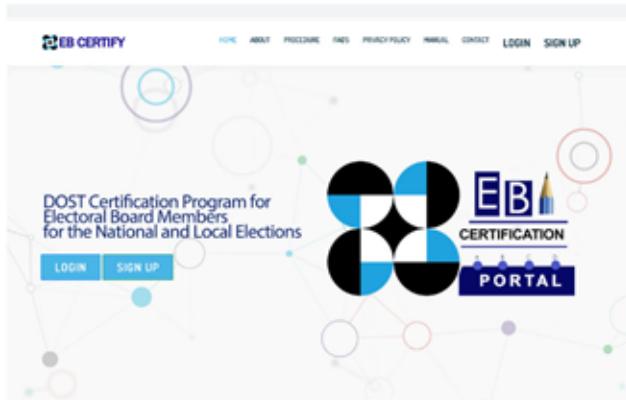
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Conduct of DOST Certification Program

The Amended Automated Election Law, Republic Act No. 9369, requires DOST to oversee the certification of members of the EBs as information technology-capable people who can operate the Vote Counting Machine (VCM). Its goals are to implement the DOST Certification Portal and train certifiers on how to use it; incorporate/update certification materials/ paraphernalia in light of



enhancements, modifications, or changes in the vote-counting machines to be used in the 2022 National and Local Elections (NLE); and conduct certification of Electoral Boards in preparation for the 2022 AES.



ELECTORAL BOARD CERTIFICATION PORTAL
DOST Certification Portal is an innovative technology, a project of the DOST to facilitate the DOST Certification Program for the National and Local Automated Election System. The Portal is a web application that provides information on the certified Electoral Boards who will serve on the

There are a total of 23 Regular Certifiers and 4 Quick Response Team (QRT) members from DOST 1 as well as representatives from the State Universities and Colleges (SUCs) namely Mariano Marcos State University (MMSU), Pangasinan State University (PSU), and University of Northern Philippines (UNP). Supervising Certifiers are selected and designated from the DOST Certifiers in the four provinces of Region 1.

The Certifiers are selected based on their proficiency in ICT hardware and software troubleshooting; experience in handling training or certification activities; communication skills; and efficiency in addressing issues and concerns.

Before they can fully train the EBs, the Certifiers underwent rigid training to hone their skills and expertise so that they can be effective in training the real players.

What's done?

The DOST Certifiers went through an orientation on the process and the EB Certification Portal was introduced last November 25, 2021. On December 17, 2021, another training session was performed to prepare them for VCM operation. They also had to pass a theoretical exam as part of their accreditation on January 20, 2021, before they could be deemed suitable to train real players.

What's new?

With the presence of the pandemic, there are various adjustments that need to be applied to proceed with the event without compromising the health of the public. These are the utilization of the DOST Certification Portal and digital signatures.



The DOST 1 Certifiers of La Union during their VCM operation training.

The DOST Certification Portal is a project of the department that aims to make the DOST Certification Program for National and Local Automated Election Systems more accessible. It is a web application that has been created to act as a platform for EB registration and assessment. The system will also keep track of exam outcomes and create valuable information for the Certification Program. Similarly, the portal provides information on the certified Electoral Boards that will be serving in the National and Local Elections as mandated by Republic Act No. 9369. Pre-pandemic, the EBs usually conduct physical submission, application, and examination. But due to the limited movement at present, this portal was established.

A digital signature is a mathematical approach for verifying the integrity and validity of a message, software, or digital document. It is the digital counterpart of a handwritten signature or a stamped seal, but it has a lot more security built-in. The purpose of a digital signature is to prevent tampering and impersonation in digital communications. Electronic papers, transactions, and digital messages can all benefit from digital signatures as proof of origin, identity, and status. This will be the first election where digital signatures will be used in lieu of the physical signatures where the EBs traditionally sign the documents prior to submission for the final canvassing.

Moving forward...

In March 2022, the EBs will begin their training for the election on May 9, 2022. Its success lies in the collaboration of the different agencies involved.

ITANONG KAY DOC! FREEWHEELING WEBINAR FOR DOST SCHOLARS ABOUT LIFE CONCERN

BY: VENUS P. ANDAYA



The Department of Science and Technology Regional Office I (DOST I), through the Science Education Institute (SEI), conducted a webinar entitled, "Itanong mo kay Doc! Freewheeling Webinar for DOST Scholars about Life Concerns" on February 14, 2022, via Zoom platform and broadcasted live at DOST Region I – Scholarship Unit Facebook Page.

The activity intended to raise awareness and break the stigma associated with Mental Health. Seeking a professional help is still a taboo to most Filipinos, but the activity gave an introduction regarding consultations from medical practitioners like the licensed psychologist.

The resource speaker Dr. Dem Mamaat or Doc Dem, a licensed psychologist and a professional teacher, gave a quick pep talk on balancing life. According to Doc Dem, "We are all jugglers who strike the balance between school and life. We have so many roles, duties and responsibilities in school, our personal and social life and we don't know what we are going to prioritize. The keyword aside from balance is coordination. It is how you cope with all the things associated with your different roles and juggling one after another."

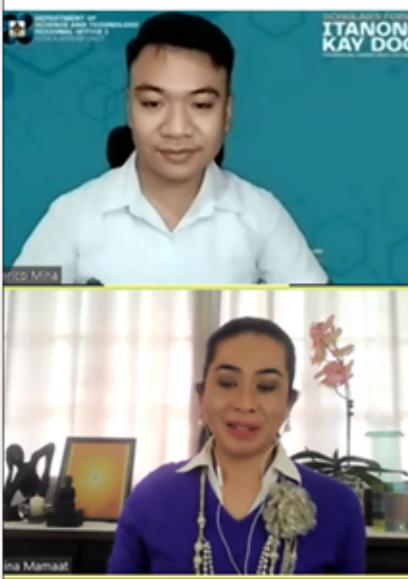
Doc Dem also emphasized some important points. First, you must establish a work-school-life balance to put things in order by managing to organize things to eradicate chaos. Having sense of order will help you to perform at your best and will have a better way of coping with your responsibilities. In addition, learn to interact with others, be present and mindful, take time to play as "All work and no play makes Jack a dull boy" because you also need a break. Learn to say "NO!", and keep expectations in check. Don't procrastinate. Do it now. Most importantly get support, ask for help and this activity will provide professional help and consultations for the concerns of the scholars. Lastly, live normally as you can learn to balance all the turns in your life just like a bicycle.

The moderators started the Pep talk with Doc Dem. Questions about academics, family matters and life and love concerns raised by the scholars and participants were answered by Doc Dem.

Participants were able to share their concerns and programs that need professional solutions and advice. We are in chaotic world nowadays and what we need is to help and give care to each other. DOST Assistant Regional Director

for Technical Services Racquel Espiritu remarked towards the end of the webinar, that she is very grateful for the conduct of the activity since it is very timely and helpful to the scholars.

"If you look for purpose, you look for life's meaning and when you find it, do it at the best of your abilities. Be it in life, be it in school, be it in love, choose your battles, not everything you have to fight. There are battles that you have to fight and there are battles that you have to retreat from because it is not worth fighting for. At the end of the day, remain powerful and claim the best power that you can get which is from within and that power is called love and happiness", Doc Dem said.



DISASTER PREPAREDNESS TOWARDS RESILIENCY: DOST 1 STAFF JOIN FIRST QUARTER NSED

BY: GAEL MYCA A. DACANAY



The Department of Science and Technology Regional Office 1 (DOST1), together with the Provincial Science and Technology Centers (PSTCs), actively participated in the First Quarter Online National Simultaneous Earthquake Drill (NSED) – Ceremonial Pressing of the Button on March 10, 2022, spearheaded by the Office of Civil Defense in partnership with various national and local agencies.

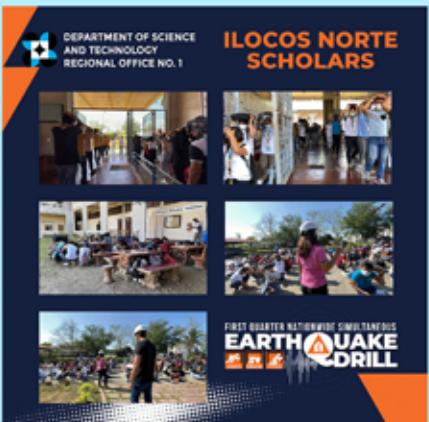
The NSED which is done quarterly, aims to enhance and simulate scenario-based preparedness, response, and recovery and increase participation of the general public in promoting individual and family earthquake preparedness towards community resilience as it is integrated with the public health measures and standards.

Department of National Defense Secretary and National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council

Chairperson Sec. Delfin N. Lorenzana said that the focus for this quarter's NSED is for those who belong to the Women, Children, Youth and Students, Senior Citizens sectors. He added, "Sa ating unang NSED sa taong ito, layunin nating mas lawakan pa ang partisipasyon ng iba't ibang mga sector ayon sa ating Whole of Nation at Whole of Government approach. Bibigyang halaga natin ang ambag ng mga kababaihan, kabataan at mga mag-aaral at ng mga senior citizens sa pagsasakatuparan ng ating layuni'ng gawing handa ang ating mga komunidad" (this year, we aim to further expand the participation of various sectors according to our Whole of Nation and Whole of Government approach. We will value the contribution of women, youth and students and senior citizens in realizing our goal of preparing our communities).

With the emphasis of Sec. Lorenzana, "sa lindol o anumang sakuna, bida at ligtas ang laging handa" (in earthquakes or any disaster, safe are those who are always prepared), the DOST 1 took active participation and performed the "Duck, Cover and Hold" during the ceremonial pressing of the button to ensure that all staff know and understand the actions to undertake during an earthquake. Science and Technology (S&T) Scholars, belonging to the Youth and Students sector were also enjoined to participate during the activity.

The DOST 1 Disaster Risk Reduction and Management (DRRM) Unit will lead the conduct of earthquake drills in the next quarters of the year focusing on the ten (10) basic sectors of society namely Urban Poor, Non-Government Organizations, Formal Labor and Migrant Workers, Informal Sector Workers, Farmers and Landless Rural Workers, Indigenous Peoples, Cooperatives and MSME sector, Persons with Disabilities, Victims of Disasters and Calamities, and Fisherfolks to highlight the earthquake preparedness efforts for and by the basic sector in building more resilient communities.



DOST 1 CONDUCTS FOOD SAFETY ASSESSMENT IN ILOCOS SUR

BY: LAURINE R. SALES



VIGAN CITY, ILOCOS SUR – With the goal to assist micro, small, and medium enterprises (MSMEs) in their compliance to Good Manufacturing Practices (GMP), the Department of Science and Technology Region 1 (DOST R1), thru the Provincial Science and Technology Center – Ilocos Sur (PSTC-IS) conducted food safety assessment to three (3) firms in Ilocos Sur last February 22.

DOST 1 Food Safety experts Mr. Hero D. Galamgam, Mr. Ramon S. Sumabat, and Dr. Gloria D. Tuzon together with PSTC-IS Staff Engr. Jordan L. Abad, and Ms. Laurine R. Sales conducted the on-site assessment to the processing facilities of Solid East Agrarian Reform Cooperative in San Esteban, Nanang Sion Empanada in Vigan City, and Arnap Sunrise MPC in Cabugao, Ilocos Sur. These firms are subject for project evaluation and approval for the SET-UP and CBP innovation funds provided the adoption of short-term recommendations of the assessors.



These firms were evaluated based on the criteria of assessment: organization, premises, plant construction and design, equipment, sanitation and hygiene, production and process control, quality control, documentation, storage and distribution, and product recall and retention of samples.

Discussion on the initial findings between the experts and the owner was done after the assessment. A copy of the final assessment report will be provided to the firm as basis to their compliance with the basic regulatory requirements of the Food and Drug Administration (FDA).

Food safety assessment is one of the technical assistance and consultancy services provided to MSMEs who are engaged in the manufacture of food products, food service, and marketing and trading to help them comply with food safety regulations and good manufacturing practices.

DOST 1 CONDUCTS TRAINING ON TILAPIA FARMING AND AWARDING OF FINGERLINGS IN 3 MUNICIPALITIES OF ILOCOS SUR

BY: REYNALDO C. CABATU JR.



The Department of Science and Technology Region I (DOST 1) thru the Provincial Science and Technology Center – Ilocos Sur (PSTSC-IS), conducted series of trainings on Good Aquaculture Practices and Training on Fish Health Management on Tilapia Production in Caoayan and Cabugao, Ilocos Sur on March 9 and 10, 2022.

Forty-five (45) participants joined the training from the two sites with seventeen (17) coming from Caoayan and Sta Catalina and twenty-eight (28) participants from Cabugao.

Engr. Jordan L. Abad, OIC-PSTC-Ilocos Sur, stated that the training is part of the project entitled Tilapia para sa Pamayanan sa Amianan which is a component of GALING-PCAARRD Food and Livelihood Program for COVID- 19 affected areas which aims to improve the capacities of the poor to develop and implement livelihood activities during the post lockdown period.

"This intervention will impart proper technologies on tilapia farming that would help increase your income and provide support for starting and continue your tilapia

production," said Engr. Abad emphasizing that the assistance comes with full package materials and fingerlings as well as feed supplies.

Dr. Elsie J. Cacho, Assistant Professor IV of Ilocos Sur Polytechnic State College-Narvacan Campus introduced the Good Practices on Aquaculture specially in Tilapia Culture and Production.

Meanwhile, Mr. Gilbert B. Pulido, Aquaculturist I from Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources Provincial Office-Ilocos Sur, discussed on Feeding Ratio of Tilapia in different sizes and gave background on stocking density of Tilapia Culture.

Furthermore, Ms. Sancho V. Bilog, OIC-Regional Fisheries Laboratory Division of the Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources, shared her knowledge on Fish Health Management focusing on the different Fish Parasites and Diseases and their Preventative Measures and Treatment.

After the training, tilapia fingerlings as well as starter feeds were



awarded to the beneficiaries. A total of 24,500 freshwater tilapia fingerlings were distributed to three Sta Catalina fisherfolks, two fisherfolks of Caoayan and two fish cages of NISAC. Also, 19,000 saline tilapia fingerlings were awarded to five fisherfolks of Caoayan on March 11, 2021. These fingerlings specie was recommended to the fisherfolks after a thorough assessment to the production sites by the DOST.

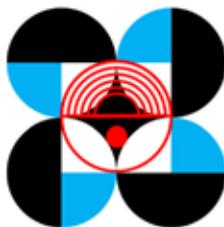
"My fish cage was devastated by the typhoon before, so this project is a big help for me.(Nabagyo idi jay bagik nga fish cage isu tatta agyamanak ta dakkel nga tulong atoy kanyak)," said by Mrs. Ernanie Pacada, a beneficiary of the project from Caoayan, as she expressed her gratefulness for being one of the beneficiaries.

Like Mrs. Pacada, Mrs. Melody Baclig of Cabugao is thankful of the project and that they will do their best to raise the fingerlings and roll out another set from it once sold, for the sustainability of the project.

The training was in collaboration with the Local Governments of Caoayan and Cabugao, the Ilocos Sur Polytechnic State College (ISPSC-Narvacan), and the Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources (BFAR).

LA UNION NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL GETS 2-DAY FREE ONLINE LIBRARY LITERACY PROGRAM FROM DOST STII

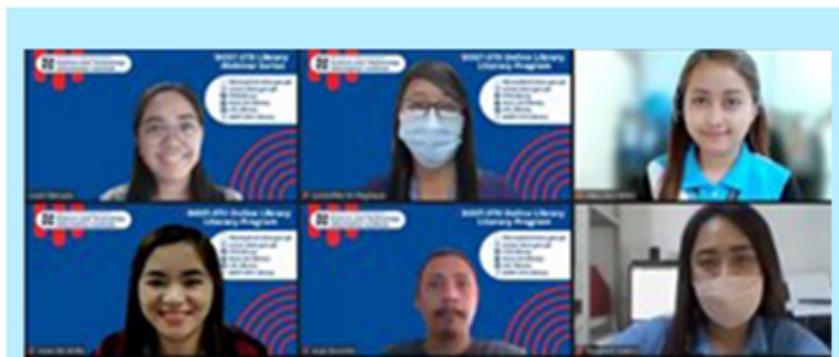
BY: MARY ANN C. BELEN



The Department of Science and Technology Region 1 (DOST 1), in partnership with the DOST- Science and Technology Information Institute (STII) conducted five (5) sessions of the Free Online Library Literacy Program to 849 participants from La Union National High School (LUNHS) last February 21 and 22, 2022.

Along with the students from Grade 7 and Grade 11 were Principal IV Brenda A. Sabado, AP Department Supervising Head of Grade 7 Glenda E. Fontanilla, EsP Department Supervising Head of Grade 7 Edna E. Liwanag, Senior High School focal person Sheryl A. Boado, Grade 7 Curriculum Chairperson Rowena C. Tremor, Grade 11 Curriculum Chairperson Jeffrey N. Olbinado, School Librarian Suzette Castro and advisers from Grades 7 and 11.

The orientation was an online version of a library tour. Participants were taught how to avail of the DOST-STII free resources, services, and products, how to research in DOST-STII Library by using the library's Online Public Access Catalog (OPAC), and how they can request materials online as well as how to navigate the different versions of the Science and



Technology Academic and Research-Based Openly Operated Kiosks (STARBOOKS).

DOST-STII Supervising Science Research Specialist Lynderlytte M. Maglaque, Science Research Specialist II Irene A. Brillo, and Information Systems Researcher III Arjay C. Escondo, served as resource speakers.

DOST-STII published titles are available for free and full-text download at stii.dost.gov.ph, according to Ms. Maglaque. Additionally, the STII-Library replies to online material requests within eight (8) working hours of receiving them.

Furthermore, STARBOOKS, the country's first S&T digital library, is now available online at www.starbooks.ph, and its mobile app and Quiz app can be

downloaded for free from the Google Play Store.

The LUNHS officials extended their appreciation for granting their request which will empower not only the learners but even the teachers, the school, and the community towards achieving quality education, especially in this time of the pandemic.

To avail of the free Online Library Literacy Program, just email at library@stii.dost.gov.ph and indicate your preferred date and time. The service is available from Monday -Thursday between 8:00 AM to 5:00 PM. It is open to all public and private schools at all levels with a minimum of 50 to a maximum of 500 participants via ZOOM with a duration of two (2) hours.

REGION 1 COLLEGE STUDENTS QUALIFY FOR DOST'S JUNIOR LEVEL SCIENCE SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM

BY: CARLA GRACE R. PACHECO



103 junior college students from different academic institutions in region 1 qualify for the 2021 Junior Level Science Scholarship Program (JLSS) of the Department of Science and Technology – Science Education Institute (DOST-SEI).

Out of 103 qualifiers, 22 qualified under RA 7687, 19 under Merit Program, and 62 for RA 10612. For the provincial distribution, 69 qualifiers are from the Pangasinan, La Union has 15 qualifiers and 14 and 5 qualifiers from Ilocos Norte and Ilocos Sur, respectively. Qualifiers who will avail of the scholarship will enjoy the scholarship privileges such as P7,000.00 monthly stipend and P5,000.00 book allowance starting from the First Semester of Academic Year 2021-2022.

Qualifiers will be receive a notice of award within March from DOST Regional Office 1 stating the schedule of virtual orientation on S&T Scholarship Policies and Procedures.

The JLSS program aims to ensure a steady, adequate supply of qualified S&T human resources who can steer the country towards national progress. JLSS consists of three (3) scholarship types which include: Republic Act No. 7687 which is awarded to talented and deserving students who belong to economically challenged families; Republic Act No. 2067 (Merit) which is awarded to students who have high aptitude in science and mathematics, and who are willing to pursue careers in the fields of science and technology, and Republic Act No. 10612 which aims to strengthen the country's science and technology education by fast-tracking graduates in the sciences, mathematics, and engineering who shall teach science and mathematics in secondary schools throughout the country.

Data and analytics, as well as the evaluation of proxy indicators, were used to establish the qualifiers in last year's procedure for selecting scholars.

You may check the full list of qualifiers through this link: <https://sei.dost.gov.ph/2021jlss/>

SCIENCE CHIEF LAUDS FOOD INNOVATION CENTER IN PANGASINAN

BY: BERNALYN P. MARTINEZ



Department of Science and Technology (DOST) Secretary Fortunato T. de la Peña lauded the Pangasinan State University (PSU)-DOST 1 Food Innovation Center (FIC) during his visit on February 17, 2022, at PSU-Bayambang Campus, Bayambang, Pangasinan.

"Marami doon sa nakita ko ngayon ay malaki ang potential sa market," ("A lot of what I've seen today is a lot of potential in the market," he said.) he said. He tasted all the 33 FIC R&D-generated technologies showcased during the exhibit.

Secretary de la Peña first visited the facility during its Inauguration in April 2018. "Yung mga sinabi ko noon bago ako umalis 3 years ago na aralin nila ay naarial nila, kaya natutuwa naman ako," ("I said before I left 3 years ago that they had learned, so I'm glad,") de la Peña

He said that there are more products that FIC can research since Pangasinan has many resources. He also mentioned the potential of ready-to-eat food, especially during extreme events or calamities in the country.

The PSU-DOST 1 FIC team is composed of researchers from PSU and DOST 1 namely, Dr. Racquel Pambid, Dr. Wilma De Vera, Ms. Veronica Austria, Ms. Meryl Bernardino, Mr. Emmanuel Abenes, their former researcher, Mr. Cyril John Domingo, and technical assistants.

The PSU officials led by President Dexter R. Buted warmly welcomed Secretary de la Peña and toured him around the facility along with DOST Undersecretary for Regional Operations Sancho A. Mabborang and other DOST officials.

Undersecretary for Regional Operations Sancho A. Mabborang and other DOST officials.

Dr. Buted described the FIC as one of the greatest gifts from the DOST aside from other research-funded projects and scholarship grants for their students and faculties. He mentioned that the facility is not only for research but also for providing technical assistance to private sectors, students, and local government units who also wished to innovate their products such as the Tupig of San Fabian, onions, tomatoes, and other commodities.

FIC encouraged more entrepreneurs to adopt and commercialize the technologies.



DOST 1, SM PRIME HOLDINGS STRENGTHEN SUSTAINABILITY AND RESILIENCE IN REGION 1

BY: CARLA JOYCE B. CAJALA

The Department of Science and Technology Region 1 (DOST 1) in partnership with SM Prime Holdings, launch an exhibit entitled, 'Connecting Today to Tomorrow' featuring the Sustainability and Disaster Resilience initiatives on March 28, 2022, at SM City Rosales, Pangasinan.

Mr. Herald D. Eleria, SM City Rosales Mall Manager, stated that the activity is an initiative of SM Prime Holdings towards reinforcing its commitment to protecting the environment and the community and fostering sustainability and disaster resiliency, not only for the private sector but also for the public sectors and the individuals.

DOST 1 Regional Director Armando Q. Ganal remarked, "The Department of Science and Technology (DOST) continues to take initiatives to equip the people and the community towards resiliency and to create a culture of preparedness. DOST plays a big part in comprehensive and advanced disaster science research, systematic assessment of hazards, development of accessible tools for prevention and mitigation of disasters to the different Local Government Units (LGUs), policymakers, communities including MSMEs or the Micro Small Medium Enterprises, individuals and of course families."

Director Ganal cited the numerous DOST technologies that address disaster resiliency and preparedness. "Let us work hand in hand to strengthen



disaster management systems (such as the DATOS Project, GeoRiskPH, Emergency Disinfection System, Emergency Food Reserve, and Ready-to-Eat Food) by applying practices, experiences, and appropriate technologies and innovations. Let us invest in the continuity of operation plans for organizations and in the promotion of strong community systems that address the many factors in disaster resiliency. There is a lot more that we can do as we achieve our main goal, and that is to become a resilient Filipino nation," Dr. Ganal encouraged.

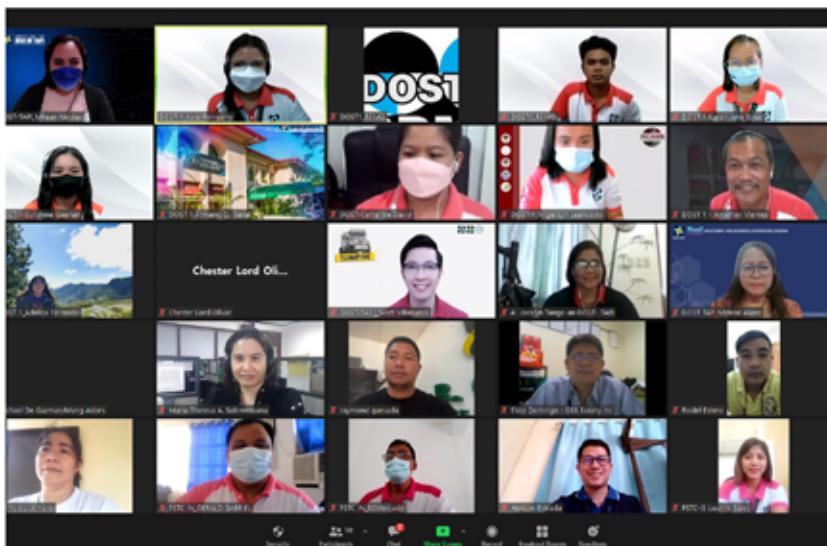
The various measures executed by SM Prime Holdings towards maintaining a 'Green Community' were presented through an audio-visual presentation which was then followed by the Ceremonial Ribbon Cutting of the exhibit.

The head units, school administrators and representatives from the LGU of Rosales, Pangasinan were also in attendance during the activity.



DOST 1, DOST-TAPI PROMOTE VENTURE FINANCING PROGRAMS TO MSMES

BY: KATRINA F. RONQUILLO



CITY OF SAN FERNANDO, La Union – The Department of Science and Technology Region 1 (DOST 1) through the Regional Program Management Office (RPMO), spearheaded a virtual orientation on the various Venture Financing Programs (VFPs) for micro, small and medium enterprises (MSMEs) in collaboration with the DOST-Technology Application and Promotion Institute (TAPI) on February 28, 2022 via Zoom and Facebook Live.

In view of DOST-TAPI's call for proposals under the Purchase Order Financing Program, DOST 1 organized the virtual orientation for its assisted MSMEs under the Small Enterprise Technology Upgrading Program (SETUP). The activity was also attended by some DOST 1 staff to orient them on the programs and the necessary requirements able to assist applicants in the region.

Prior to the discussion on the VFP for MSMEs, Mr. Matthew Bryan P. Villanueva, Science Research Specialist II from DOST-TAPI presented the program. Formerly known as the DOST-Academe

Technology-based Enterprise Development (DATBED), the Program primarily caters college students in selected academic institutions and young professionals with research projects viable for commercialization. It promotes and supports entrepreneurial competencies among the youth. Moreover, the Program supports income-generating projects with technological innovation, market potential, and technical viability when commercialized. As far as the submission of proposals for the YET Program is concerned, the DOST-TAPI accepts proposals throughout the year.

Considering the plight of MSMEs in this time of pandemic, Mr. Villanueva introduced the programs of assistance for commercialization of the DOST-TAPI. The VFP aims to accelerate the commercialization of innovative technologies and inventions by providing the necessary funding for startups, SETUP beneficiaries, and other MSMEs. The VFP offers funding assistance to MSMEs that belong to the priority sectors of the DOST as follows: Food Processing; Furniture;

Gifts, Decors and Handicrafts (GDH); Agriculture/ Marine/ Aquaculture; Metals and Engineering; Information and Communications Technologies (ICT); Pharmaceuticals; Health and Wellness Products; and Manufacturing and Industrial Processing.

The Program has distinct features that provide assistance depending on the MSMEs' technology needs and commercialization objectives: a) Venture Financing for Startups and Techno-based Projects which aims to accelerate the commercialization of innovative technologies by providing funding to the Intellectual Property (IP) rights of the owner or technology-based startup projects with a maximum assistance of PhP2 million to cover equipment purchase or fabrication; b) Venture Financing for Environmentally - sound Technologies (VFEST) that supports MSMEs that adopt locally developed environmentally-friendly technologies with a maximum funding of PhP2.5 million in the acquisition of equipment intended for pollution control, sustainable energy, conservation or abatement, and waste pollution and reduction; c) Venture Financing for Commercialization of DOST-generated/funded Technologies which provides funding to MSMEs that commercialize DOST-generated technologies as evidenced by a valid Technology Licensing Agreement (TLA), with a maximum assistance of Php 5 Million to cover equipment purchase/fabrication or fees for local and international standard certifications; and

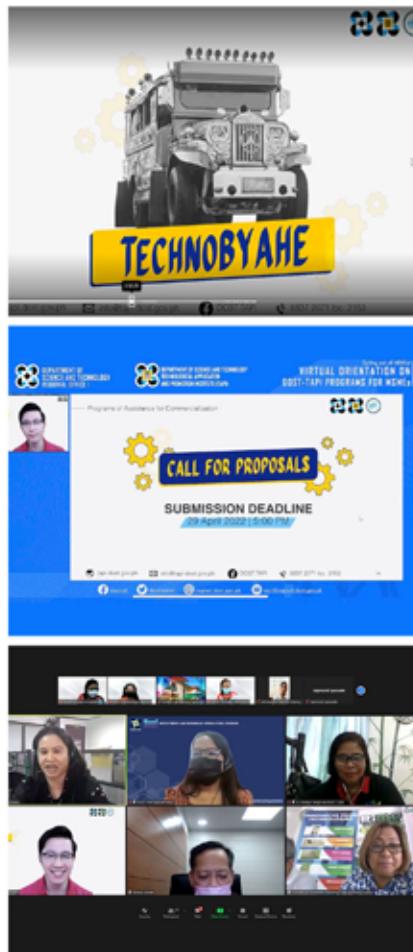
d) Purchase Order Financing Program that advances the cost of raw materials to facilitate the Purchase Orders (POs) of qualified MSMEs. Composed of two (2) funding cycles, beneficiaries of the PO Financing Program can avail an assistance amounting to PhP1 Million for the first cycle and a maximum of PhP2.5 Million for the second cycle, provided that they have fully refunded the amount from the first cycle.

Aside from these PO Financing Programs, Mr. Villanueva also presented DOST-TAPI's Level-up Innovation Government Support for Technologies Against the Spread of COVID-19 (LIGTAS COVID-19) Program which provides financial assistance to qualified MSMEs to acquire raw materials for the production of relevant products against the spread of the dreaded virus. The assistance covers the cost

of raw materials to deliver unserved purchase orders, with a maximum funding of PhP1 million.

Mr. Villanueva emphasized that the financing scheme for these programs comprise 70% of the project cost to be funded by the DOST-TAPI while a counterpart of at least 30% of the cost will be required from the proponent. The project funds provided by these programs shall be refunded at 0% interest.

Interested MSMEs may submit their proposals and requirements for the PO Financing Programs through email at info@tapi.dost.gov.ph not later than April 29, 2022. Interested applicants may also request for orientations and workshops that will guide them in the proposal preparation through a letter of request and endorsed by the DOST Regional Director.



DOST,DMMMSU METALS & ENGINEERING INNOVATION CENTER BUILDS STEEL A-FRAME

BY: RUZZEL MARVIN ABUAN



The Department of Science and Technology Regional Office 1 (DOST 1), in partnership with Don Mariano Marcos Memorial State University – Mid La Union Campus (DMMMSU-MLUC), fabricates A-Frame which is one of the expected outputs in the recently conducted 2-day Hands-on Training on Metal Fabrication through SMAW and TIG by the DOST-Metals Industry Research and Development Center (MIRDC).

The excellently designed and manufactured A-Frame is a powerful machine made of black iron S40N pipe, mild steel plate, and wide flange I-Beam achieves high in quality, reliability, and safety. The

main beam is comprised of a horizontal member fabricated from rolled steel section, fitted with end plates and cheek plates suitable for connection to the rolled hollow steel leg sections. This is a basic structure designed to bear a load in a lightweight economical manner. The simplest form of an A-frame is two similarly sized beams, arranged in an angle of 45 degrees or less, attached at the top, like an uppercase letter 'A'.

This machine will have a variety of important uses to stakeholders such as state university students and metals and engineering micro, small, and medium enterprises (MSMEs) in the locality to use better and new technologies.

DOST'S STARBOOKS: BRIDGING EDUCATIONAL GAPS IN CARASI TOWN

BY: KENT J. RAMIL



The Department of Science and Technology in Region 1 through the Provincial Science and Technology Center - Ilocos Norte awarded two (2) units of educational Science and Technology Academic and Research-Based Openly-Operated Kiosk Stations (STARBOOKS) and science and technology modules and augmented reality to local schools in the Municipality of Carasi on March 9, 2022, aiming to provide Ilokano students with greater opportunities, particularly by enhancing the facilities of rural schools and promoting the learning of Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics in Region 1.

Two (2) elementary schools, Carasi Elementary School and Virbira-Angset Elementary School, received two (2) computer units with installed STARBOOKS software, while Carasi National High School was awarded with one SMART TV with DOST courseware.

STARBOOKS is the first digital library in the Philippines with science and technology resources available in text and video/audio format.

The awarding of educational equipment tools aims to close the gap between technology and rural schools as the 'new normal' brought the challenge to both teachers and students forcing them to shift from traditional to blended learning methods where the use of technology is required.

During the program, orientation regarding the use and operation of STARBOOKS coincides with the awarding and signing of the agreement. Ms. Mary Anne Belen, STARBOOKS Regional Coordinator, conducted the orientation.

"We thank you for considering the Municipality of Carasi, this will also help the learners from the two nearby towns, Piddig and Solsona since we have learners from

adjacent towns of the municipality," said Mrs. Gloria C. Notarte, Principal II of VAES and CES.

Teachers and staff who attended the awarding and orientation were excited to share the learning tools with their students. "This is not only for the learners but it will be of help to our teachers as well" Principal Notarte added.

Also present during the program, are Mr. Jahmai O. Grande, CEST Ilocos Norte Focal Person, and Ms. Edith Indongsan, Regional CEST Coordinator.

The Municipality of Carasi is one of the beneficiaries of the Community Empowerment thru Science and Technology in Region 1. The program focuses on improving the livelihood, health and nutrition, environmental protection and conservation, basic education, and disaster risk reduction management of the community beneficiary.

DOST-1 MICROBIOLOGY LABORATORY GETS RECOMMENDATION FOR ISO/IEC 17025:2017 RE-ACCREDITATION

BY: MARINIQUE A. GUERRERO

San Fernando City, La Union – The Department of Science and Technology Region I – Regional Standards and Testing Laboratory (DOST-1 RSTL) undertakes a special assessment of biological testing on February 7-8, 2022 via Microsoft teams meeting.

The special assessment is a requirement for the International Organization for Standardization/International Electrotechnical Commission (ISO/IEC) 17025:2017.

The assessment team was composed of Ms. Flor R. Cuanan as team leader, Ms. Chester Lou Allores as team member and Ms. Abigail E. Marcos as the technical assessor.

The DOST-1 RSTL team includes the top management headed by Laboratory Head Lena C. Rosario, Microbiology Laboratory Personnel Hero D. Galamgam, RSTL



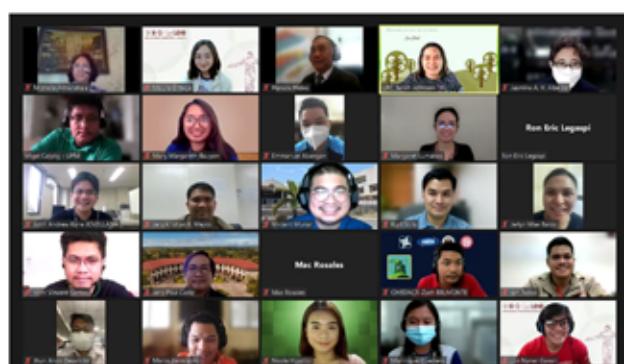
Document Custodian Cyrille M. Maneja, Customer Receiving Officer (CRO) Paul Stanley Ramos and Ms. Maricar Nieva as representative from the Purchasing unit. In addition, Mr. Decth-1180 P. Libunao joined the team and subjected to the same assessment for continuing recommendation as a Philippine Accreditation Bureau (PAB) approved signatory for Biological Testing. Also present during the assessment were Ms. Marinique A. Guerrero and Ms. Jasmine Ericka Casaclang as observers.

Applied Scope on Biological Testing includes Food and Beverages, Water and Wastewater.

After the two-day assessment, it was concluded by the assessment team that the microbiology laboratory is still recommended for continual accreditation and both Mr. Galamgam and Mr. Libunao are still recommended as Philippine Accreditation Bureau (PAB) signatories for the covered scope.

DOST-1 STAFF RECEIVE TRAINING ON REACTOR ENGINEERING

BY: ENGR. MAURA ANDREA A. ORTEGA



Two (2) staff of the Department of Science and Technology – Regional Office 1 (DOST-1) graduated from the Follow-up Training Course on Reactor Engineering (FTC-RE) organized by the DOST - Philippine Nuclear Research Institute (PNRI) in cooperation with the University of the Philippines – Manila, Technological University of the Philippines – Taguig and the Japan Atomic Energy Agency held virtually from February 1, 2022 to March 8, 2022.

Engr. Maura Andrea Ortega of the DOST-1 Research and Development and International Linkages Program Management Center and Ms. Marinique Guerrero of the DOST-1 Regional Standards and Testing Laboratory are among the 47 participants who completed the course. Both are graduates of Bachelor of Science in Chemical Engineering that made them eligible to take the course.

Aligned with PNRI's human resource development program, the FTC-RE is intended to equip the participants with understanding of the advanced theoretical concepts associated with various nuclear reactor facilities. As a result, the training enabled the participants to completely comprehend the foundations of nuclear energy's safe and effective utilization.

The training consisted of 24 lectures and 5 experiments with the following topics: radiation, nuclear physics, nuclear reactor technology, research reactor technology, reactor physics, reactor kinetics, reactor simulator, nuclear reactor calculations, nuclear fuel and

materials, nuclear thermal hydraulics, non-destructive testing, radioactive waste management, nuclear infrastructure in the Philippines, radiation protection, nuclear safety, and more.

Furthermore, a short proposal on the possible application of research reactors, including, but not limited to the Philippine Research Reactor 1 (PRR-1) situated in PNRI is a requirement of the course. Engr. Ortega's team presented their proposal entitled "In-Situ Small Angle Neutron Scattering on Lithium-Ion Batteries". On the other hand, Ms. Guerrero's group suggested the understanding of

earthquakes' structure and dynamics through neutron scattering techniques.

"The Training Course is beneficial and will be beneficial to its future students," said Ms. Guerrero on her training testimonial.

EO No. 164, signed on February 28, 2022, detailed the country's national position for a nuclear energy program, which considers economic, political, social, and environmental objectives. It also states that nuclear power can aid in the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions and has a promising capability for the decarbonization of the power sector.

DOST I INITIATED THE "SARAI E-SKWELA SA REGION I"

BY: GINEE R. TACASA



The Department of Science and Technology Region 1 (DOST 1) conducted the "Smarter Approaches to Reinvigorate Agriculture as an Industry in the Philippines (SARAI)" for the implementation of the innovation, Science and Technology for Accelerating Regional Technology-Based Development (iSTART) program in the six (6) pilot municipalities in the Province of Pangasinan-Sual, Bugallon, Malasiqui, San Fabian, Alcala and Balungao.

The SARAI Project is an action-research program, funded by the Department of Science and Technology-Philippine Council for Agriculture, Aquatic and Natural Resources Research and Development (DOST-PCAARRD), working towards reducing climate risks by providing agricultural stakeholders with site-specific crop advisories. Project SARAI is implemented by the University of the Philippines

Los Baños (UPLB), together with 11 State Universities and Colleges (SUCs) and six National Government Agencies.

The SARAI Training entitled "e-skwela sa Region I" is a series of online training on smarter technologies, practices, and innovations for agriculture and primarily objective is to train and promote stakeholders- Municipal Agriculture Officers, Agriculture Technicians and academe involved in Agriculture Course and Practice, and among others on the SARAI developed technologies, data products, and systems.

DOST I planned to promote the program not only in the six pilot municipalities but also to other 7 municipalities-Bayambang, Mangatarem, Urdaneta, Mabini, Bautista, Manaoag, and Sison thru the recommendation from the Provincial Agriculture Officer, Ms. Dalisay A. Moya, whose prime commodities are into agriculture in order to maximize the opportunity to obtain essential and relevant training highlighting the advance developed technologies in the agriculture sector.

The training was conducted in six parts/sessions; Session 1 –Trainers Training on the use of SARAI Rice Toolkit; Session 2 –Trainers Training on the use of SARAI Corn Toolkit; Session 3 – Navigating SARAI Knowledge Portal, CAPHE, and SPIDTECH; Session 4 – Training on

Portal, CAPHE, and SPIDTECH; Session 4 – Training on crop-water stress and WAISS; Session 5 – Training on AWS and Weather Data Acquisition and Session 6 – Training on Soil Properties and Management.

During the Opening Program of the 1st session, DOST I Regional Director, Dr. Armando Q. Ganal stated that the SARAI project is very informative and relevant to the agriculture sector to have insights on the advance method and approach in the different farming activities. He extend his warm welcome to all the participants and encouraged them to

actively participate and focus on the different topics especially designed for them by the SARAI team,. On the succeeding sessions, countless queries and concerns from the participants which were handled clearly, precisely and diligently by the technical experts of the SARAI team.

As also mentioned during the last session by one of the experts, Ms. Joana Rose M. Vergara, the SARAI e-skwela sa Region I has the most number of participants by far as compared from their previous conducted trainings.

And to conclude the SARAI e-skwela six session training, Director Ganal congratulates to all the participants of the 13 municipalities and reiterated that the training is a continuous endeavor for a stronger partnership and collaboration. With other existing programs, projects and activities that DOST can deliver and offer, it is indeed Science is For The People.

DOST 1 SURPASSES 1ST SURVEILLANCE AUDIT, CONDUCTS ITS FIRST MANAGEMENT REVIEW FOR CY 2022

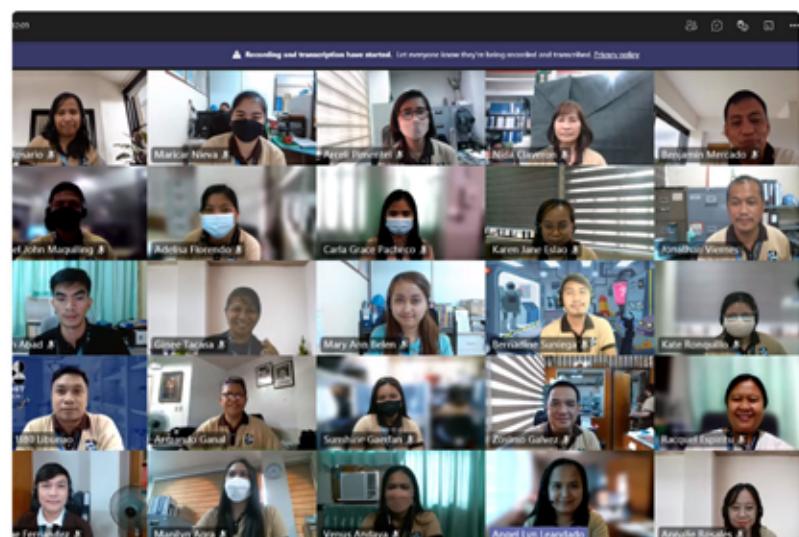
BY: CARLA JOYCE B. CAJALA

The Department of Science and Technology Region 1 (DOST 1) undertook its 1st Management Review on February 23, 2022, via Microsoft Teams.

As a result of the 1st Surveillance Audit conducted last February 2-3, 2022, the management review was held to review and evaluate the effectiveness of the Management System, and to determine its continued suitability and adequacy.

Aced at exemplary performing at their best, the DOST 1 was able to gauge each unit's performance in terms of meeting the organization's requirements, functioning in accordance with defined operating procedures and processes, identifying non-conformities, and monitoring subsequent corrective and preventative actions.

The various units, led by DOST Regional Director Armando Q. Ganal, collaborated with the Assistant Regional Directors, Provincial Science and Technology Directors, and unit heads to ensure that all levels of management



were informed of any changes, updates, or revisions to the agency's quality objectives and scope of certification.

The Management Review resulted in an agreement to improve, harmonize, and adapt their procedures in accordance with the recommendations of previous audits. The team has committed to stepping up its efforts towards leading the way through Science, Technology, and Innovation in Region 1.

Director Ganal stated that the organization's quality management system remains suitable, effective, adequate, effective, and aligned with the strategic direction of the organization.

DOST 1 TALKS ABOUT ITS TECHNOLOGY TRANSFER PROGRAM ON WOMEN'S MONTH CELEB

BY: CARLA JOYCE B. CAJALA



The Department of Science and Technology Region 1 (DOST 1), in partnership with DZAG Radyo Pilipinas Agoo, held an interview focused on the Technology Transfer Program and Support Services through Zoom and the DOST 1 Facebook page on March 17, 2022, as part of the National Women's Month celebrations.

In attendance were DOST 1 Regional Director Armando Q. Ganal, Officer In Charge (OIC)-Assistant Regional Director (ARD) for Field Operations Jonathan M. Viernes, Community Empowerment thru Science and Technology (CEST) Project Leader Senior Science Research Specialist Decth-1180 P. Libunao, and Science Research Specialist Michael John C. Maquiling.

Director Armando Q. Ganal listed DOST 1's discussed on for the previous week and lauded the accomplishments and efforts of the agency's personnel in undertaking their responsibilities to the various programs and projects in the region.

OIC-ARD Viernes presented an overview of DOST 1's Technology Transfer Program, focusing on the Small Enterprises Technology Upgrading Program (SETUP), Community-based Projects (CBP), and CEST project. He also gave a brief introduction to the support services, which include Technical Assistance and Consultancy Services (TACS) and Packaging and Labeling Services.

DOST 1's Technology Transfer Program is distinct as it offers a 36-month refund plan with no interest. This is offered to micro, small, and medium enterprises (MSMEs) under the agency's priority industry sectors

- Food processing
- Furniture, Gifts, Decors, Handicrafts
- Agriculture/Marine/Aquaculture/Forestry/Livestock
- Metals and Engineering
- Information and Communications Technology (ICT)
- Health and wellness products
- Halal products & services
- Other Regional Industry priorities

Mr. Libunao on the other hand, explained the technical and consultation services through technological training. He also spoke about the CEST project, including how communities are chosen for the program and what issues are being addressed for each chosen community.

The CEST initiative aims to improve the quality of life in rural communities by fostering progressive, empowered, and resilient communities through science and technology. It focuses on the following key areas: a.) Livelihood/Economic Enterprise, b.) Health and Nutrition, c.) Water and Sanitation Environmental Protection and Conservation, d.) Basic Education and Literacy Human Resource Development, and e.) Hazard Mitigation and Climate Change Adaptation. Mr. Libunao explained that the beneficiaries can be categorized as those communities with armed conflicts, are marginalized, geographically isolated, and disadvantaged, and those with women's and Indigenous People's groups.

Moreover, Mr. Maquiling spoke about the agency's packaging and labeling capabilities. He emphasized the significance of the service, which aims to improve product quality and marketability. DOST 1's interventions include designing food product labels, providing packaging materials, and providing consultation on acceptable packaging materials and labels. Packaging and labeling

serve as the product's container, protection, and marketing face. Mr. Maquiling also shared some helpful hints on how to properly pack and label food products.

With the help of Packaging and Labeling, The products will be able to address issues such as non-compliance with regulations, limited shelf life, and early food

product degradation. These will also aid in increasing product sales, marketability, and exportability.

For those who are interested to apply and take advantage of these programs and services, they are encouraged to pen a request and confer with the nearest Provincial Science and Technology Centers around them.

TEKNO PRESYENSYA 2022: DOST 1 GAZES BACK AT SUCCESS AND ADVANCES FORWARD WITH iSTART

BY: CARLA JOYCE B. CAJALA



The Department of Science and Technology Region 1 (DOST 1), in collaboration with DZAG Radyo Pilipinas Agoo, started up the first episode of Tekno PreSyensya 2022: Syensya ken Teknolohiya para kadagiti Umili featuring the accomplishments of DOST 1 in 2021 and talking about the Innovation, Science and Technology for Accelerating Regional Technology-based Development (iSTART) program, on January 13, 2022, via Zoom and DOST 1 Facebook page.

The episode was attended by DOST 1 Regional Director Dr. Armando Q. Ganal, DOST- Provincial Science and Technology Center (PSTC) Pangasinan Provincial

Director Engr. Arnold C. Santos, and representatives from the two (2) beneficiary Local Government Units (LGUs) of Pangasinan, Ms. Marilyn Lilagan, Municipal Agriculturist Officer of LGU Balungao, and Ms Michelle Retoria, Municipal Planning Officer II of LGU Alcala.

Director Ganal highlighted the accomplishments of the Disaster Risk Reduction and Management (DRRM) unit, RxBox Project, Scholarship unit, Community Enhancement through Science and Technology (CEST), Regional Science and Technology Promotion Program Center (RSTPPC), Regional Standards and Testing Laboratory (RSTL), Regional Metrology Laboratory (RML),

Regional Project Management Office (RPMO), and Regional Science and Technology Promotion Program Center (RSTPPC). Director Ganal also gave an overview of the achievements of the 2021 National Science and Technology Week (NSTW) and Regional Inventions, Contests, and Exhibits (RICE).

During the second part of the program, Director Ganal discussed the iSTART program that led to a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) with Pangasinan Governor signed by Hon. Amado T. Espino III. He then staged the accomplishments of the program in the six (6) pilot LGUs of Pangasinan.

The iSTART program aims to support the gains of Pangasinan in the different fronts of development thru science, technology, and innovation (STI). Further, it will review existing plans and determine the development fronts, identify appropriate STI interventions in the various development fronts where necessary through sectoral groups, and package technology-based sectoral development plans.

The program being implemented in the six (6) local government units as pilot municipalities, focuses on disaster resilience, alternative energy, livelihood and enterprise development, business, and waste management.

Engr. Santos reported the program's varied outcomes in the towns of Balungao, Alcala, San Fabian, Malasiqui, Bugallon, and Sual. When asked about the

program's timeline, he stated that the agreement will go until March, but that he is optimistic that the program will continue to benefit other LGUs in Pangasinan.

Ms. Lilagan and Ms. Retoria, representing the towns of Balungao and Alcala, respectively, expressed their gratitude to DOST 1 and explained how this program might benefit their communities. With the aid of iSTART, they hope to make

even more improvements in their communities.

Director Ganal hailed the towns for their cooperation in the effective execution of iSTART and encouraged them to use the program's benefits for the improvement of their communities in his closing message. He also remarked that the region's efforts to enhance science, technology and innovation are incessant.

DOST 1 KICKS OFF WOMEN'S MONTH CELEBRATION

BY: MAUREEN HEIDI L. PEREZ



The Department of Science and Technology Region 1 (DOST 1) had its kick-off activity for the 2022 National Women's Month Celebration through its Radio Program, Tekno PreSyensa: Syensa ken Teknolohiya para Kadagiti Umili, on March 3, 2022, via Zoom and streamed live via DOST Region 1 Facebook Page.

The annual celebration of the national women's month slated every March, highlights women's achievement and the emerging women's empowerment and gender equality issues, concerns, challenges, and commitments.

This year's theme "We Make Change Work for Women: Agenda ng Kababaihan Tungo sa kaunlaran", informs and engages women as stakeholders of government programs and services to promote citizen-centric governance.

DOST 1 Regional Director Armando Q. Ganal started the program by presenting the various accomplishments of the agency for the past weeks. "DOST 1 has always been passionately driven with the desire to extend S&T interventions to the community. And in connection to this month's celebration, DOST 1 has prepared various activities," he remarked.

month's celebration, DOST 1 has prepared various activities," he remarked.

"Ang mga inihanda ng GAD Focal Point System o GFPS ng DOST 1 ay mga aktibidad na para sa lahat. Tiniyak naming ang bawat aktibidad ay talagang mapapakinabangan ng bawat Juan at Juana," (Those prepared by the GAD Focal Point System or GFPS of DOST 1 are activities for everyone. We made sure each activity would be of the benefit of every John and Juana) Assistant Regional Director for Technical Operations and GFPS Technical Working Group Head, Ms. Racquel M. Espiritu said.

The highlights of the 2021 National Women's Month celebration were also presented and the lineup of activities for this year's celebration was emphasized by the respective Assistant Regional Directors of DOST 1.



DOST 1 CELEBRATES INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY WITH RAGE – 1

BY: MAUREEN HEIDI L. PEREZ



The Department of Science and Technology Region 1 (DOST 1) actively participated in the 2022 National Women's Day celebration cum Kick-off Activity of the Region 1 Advocates for Gender Equality (RAGE – 1) on March 8, 2022 via Zoom platform.

RAGE – 1 is an association of government agencies and Local Government Units (LGUs) that are represented by their GAD focal persons who are advocates for gender equality and gender and development in general. It was established in October 2003 and has been conducting various programs and activities geared towards raising awareness on GAD issues, especially gender equality.

International Women's Day celebration every March 8, on the other hand, is a global day celebrating the historical, cultural, and political achievements of women. The day is also observed in support of taking action against gender inequality around the world.

Honorable Joy C. Ortega served as the Keynote Speaker and shared that "In previous years, women were expected to take their rightful roles in their homes, in feeding and caring for their families. Our great grandmothers dreamt of bringing the light to other places. They dreamt of a world where they would be given equal rights and opportunities as their male counterparts – to vote, to access resources, to get an education, to take jobs, and receive fair wages. Today, we enjoy the benefits of what the women who came before us fought for, we dare to break the stereotypes of what woman can or can't do."

Honorable Ortega also stressed that "Women have shifted from thinking I am not ready to do that to thinking I want to do that and I will learn from doing it!"

It was during Hon. Ortega's speech when she mentioned that men and women are partners that continue to fight against gender-based violence and discrimination, and they can be vulnerable and strong. Whereas women are complimentary and not secondary to men by recognizing both sexes' worth.

Furthermore, the presentation of RAGE-1 Officers was made and various topics were also discussed. The activity was actively participated by various national government agencies and local government units of the region.



DOST 1 ORIENTS NEW STAFF ON BASIC GAD CONCEPTS

BY: MAUREEN HEIDI L. PEREZ

The Department of Science and Technology Region 1 (DOST 1) conducted an Orientation for new staff on the Basic Gender and Development (GAD) concepts on February 8, 2022, via Zoom platform.

Said orientation is part of DOST 1's onboarding process wherein new employees must be briefed on the agency's organizational structures, policies, and job responsibilities. It will also assist them in settling into their responsibilities with DOST 1.

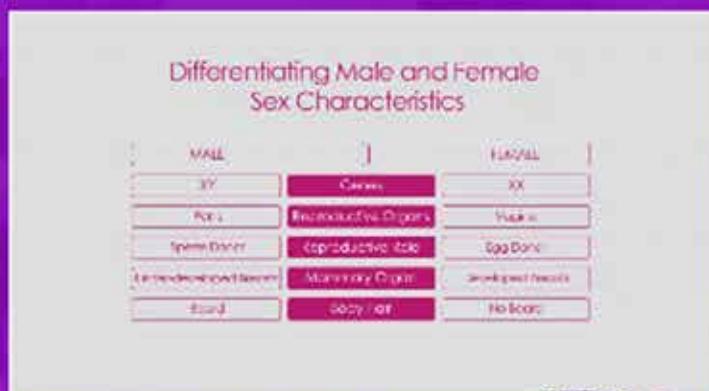
Ms. Angel Lyn O Leandado, Administrative Assistant III and member of the GAD Focal Point System (GFPS), started the orientation by presenting GAD mandates and legal bases, DOST 1 GAD policies, and the difference of sex and gender.

"Sex is a biological fact. It is what you are born with. While gender is a socially learned behavior and what happens to an individual afterward," Ms. Leandado remarked.

Meanwhile, Ms. Maureen Heidi Perez, Project Assistant II and GFPS Secretariat, talked about Sex and Gender Roles, Gender Role Socialization, the Manifestation of Gender Biases, and a short discussion on Sexism.

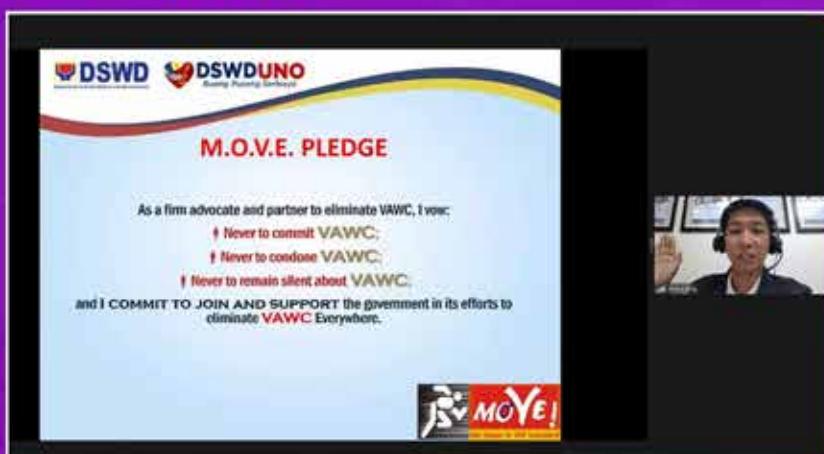
Ms. Perez encouraged her fellow staff to take part in pursuing a gender-responsive DOST 1. "We must all be gender-sensitive by being able to appreciate the differences between men, women or all genders, understand how gender shapes each one's roles in the society, and how it affects the relationship between them. We must be aware of gender concerns especially in dealing with our clients in order to respond to gender issues," she added.

The orientation was participated by 27 new staff composed of 15 males and 12 females, two (2) are permanent employees and the rest are Contract of Service (COS) staff deployed in various programs and projects implemented by the agency in the region.



MALE EMPLOYEES OF DOST 1 TO MOVE UP AGAINST VAWC

BY: MAUREEN HEIDI L. PEREZ



The Department of Science and Technology Region 1 (DOST 1) conducted Men Opposed to Violence Against Women Everywhere (MOVE) Orientation on March 3, 2022, via Zoom platform.

The activity was exclusive for DOST 1 male employees as part of the kick-off activity for the 2022 National Women's Month celebration.

DOST 1 Regional Director Armando Q. Ganal said on his opening and welcome remarks, "Ang mga kababaihan ay dapat minamahal at hindi sinasaktan. Para sa Buwan ng mga Kababaihan, napapanahon ang ating topiko na tatalakayin ngayon. Hinihikayat ko ang bawat kalalakihan na empleyado ng ating ahensya na maging bahagi ng MOVE para sa pagpuksa ng violence against women." (Women should be loved not hurt. For Women's Month, our topic is timely to discuss today. I encourage every male employee of our agency to be part of the MOVE for the fight against women.)

MOVE is an organization of men who committed themselves to being actively involved in the elimination of violence against women or VAW. It is also a group of caring, pro-active, and principled men who are dedicated to the cause of making the Philippines VAW-free. MOVE members are men from various government and private organizations.

Mr. Mark C. Castro, Administrative Assistant I of Department of Social Welfare and Development Field Office 1, served as the Resource Person.

"The key objective of MOVE is to institutionalize and to support the national quest for a VAW-free Philippines. Samahan po ninyo kami sa adbokasiya ng MOVE," Mr. Castro emphasized.

Furthermore, a MOVE Pledge was conducted for all participants towards the end of the orientation which was participated by 38 DOST 1 male staff.

DOST 1 GFPS CONDUCTS ITS FIRST QUARTER MEETING

BY: MAUREEN HEIDI L. PEREZ

The Department of Science and Technology Region 1 (DOST 1) Gender and Development Focal Point System (GFPS) conducted its first quarter meeting on February 4, 2022, via the Microsoft meeting platform.

GFPS catalyzes gender mainstreaming across the organization to ensure that in its development, there is equality in the participation and empowerment of its people towards effective implementation of gender-sensitive strategies for equality services to its clientele.



The meeting was conducted to discuss the reconstitution of the DOST 1 GFPS, to present the 2021 GAD Accomplishment Report, and to tackle possible activities in the upcoming 2022 National Women's Month celebration.

"GFPS Top Management is always in support of all the activities that we are conducting. It is part of doing our mandate as well as our PPAs, as the GAD program of the government is concerned. And I appreciate all of you for initiating all these activities and doing what we have to do," Regional Director Armando Q. Ganal said.

DOST 1 JOINS THE NORTH LUZON CLUSTER GAD FORUM

BY: MAUREEN HEIDI L. PEREZ



The Department of Science and Technology Region I (DOST 1), through its Gender and Development (GAD) Unit, co-hosted the activity entitled Gender Mainstreaming in the Community on March 22, 2022, organized by the GAD Focal Point System (GFPS) of DOST Cordillera Administrative Region (CAR) in partnership with the GFPS of DOST North Luzon Cluster (NLC) via Zoom platform and Facebook Live.

The webinar showcased the best practices of the Community Empowerment thru Science and Technology (CEST) beneficiaries from DOST NLC composed of Regions I, II, III, and CAR.

Dr. Diana L. Ignacio, DOST Assistant Secretary for Human Resources Management Services, and Special Concerns and the GAD and Regional Support Service said, "Through this forum, we learn more about CEST on how it provides livelihood and alleviate poverty in remote communities."

The CEST program is a package of science and technology intervention that aims to build progressive, resilient, and empowered rural communities specifically those that are in geographically isolated and disadvantaged areas.

Ms. Gerlyn V. Arciaga, Development Management Officer III of Davao City, shared their best practices on gender mainstreaming dubbed as "The Role of Gender in Volunteerism for Community Resilience". She explained that they are in charge of overseeing the full implementation of the women's development code and ensuring that gender mainstreaming is done in the following ways: (1) increasing gender-sensitive policies; (2) addressing gender concerns in the development process; and (3) developing clear concepts and strategies for gender equality and women empowerment.

Davao City is one of the first five pioneer local government units (LGUs) recognized by the Philippine Commission on Women (PCW) in 2015 for its notable GAD initiatives and programs.

As the highlight of the activity, successful DOST CEST projects of DOST NLC were presented. Among the staged projects was the successful intervention of DOST 1 for the Indigenous People of LGU Dumalneg in Ilocos Norte. The presentation featured how the DOST 1 brought science closer to the people with the vision to empower these less-privileged communities amid rapid transformations that affected the capability to sustain development and progress.

The reactors, Ms. Queenie C. Militar, Senior GAD Specialist of PCW, and Ms. Sonia M. Capio, Media Person and GAD Educator of DOST- Science and Technology Information Institute (STII) praised all the presentations and encouraged the agency implementers to continue igniting the initiatives of science and technology in the far-flung communities of the country.

The webinar was organized by the GAD Focal Point System (GFPS) of DOST CAR in partnership with the GFPS of DOST I, II and III.

"DOST 1 ALSO GOT TALENTS", SAYS DOST 1 REGIONAL DIRECTOR

BY: MAUREEN HEIDI L. PEREZ



The Department of Science and Technology Region 1 (DOST 1), through its Gender and Development (GAD) Unit, conducted an activity entitled DOST 1 Got Talent on March 15, 2022, via Microsoft Teams.

The activity which was spearheaded by the DOST 1 GAD Focal Point System (GFPS) with the theme "Sama-sama sa Saya at Tagumpay ng Kababaihan Tungo sa Kaunlaran" aimed to showcase DOST 1 staff talents.

DOST 1 Regional Director Armando Q. Ganal said, "One of the best activities we are having annually is the National Women's Month Celebration (NWMC). This is really one of the most awaited celebrations of the year. The most important thing is that we adhere to the essence of the competition that DOST 1 also Got Talents."

Nine (9) talented DOST 1 staff shared their talents through playing instruments, singing, speaking poetry, and dancing. The winners won cash prizes and a Certificate of Recognition. The DOST 1 Got Talent winners were:

CHAMPION:

Geanboy Morata, playing an instrument

1st Runner Up: Gael Myca Dacanay, singing

2nd Runner Up: Carla Joyce Cajala and Lemuel Castigo

Dancing

3rd Runner Up: Nikko Ofo-ob, singing

Consolation Prizes:

Nikky Milanes, singing

Reynan Paragas, singing

Maricar Nieva, spoken poetry

Enrique Fernandez, singing

Assistant Regional Director for Technical Services Racquel M. Espiritu commended the winners and encouraged all staff as she remarked, "Congratulations to the nine (9) brave staff who proudly shared their talents. I encourage and challenge all DOST 1 staff to showcase your talents."



DOST 1 CONCLUDES WOMEN'S MONTH CELEBRATION

BY: MAUREEN HEIDI L. PEREZ



Presenter

The Department of Science and Technology Region 1 (DOST 1) conducted its culminating activity for the 2022 National Women's Month Celebration through its Radio Program, *Tekno PreSyensa: Syensya ken Teknolohiya para Kadagiti Umili* on March 31, 2022, via Zoom and streamed live via DOST Region 1 Facebook Page.

Dr. Diana L. Ignacio, DOST Assistant Secretary for Human Resource Management Services and Special Concerns and DOST GAD Focal Person, served as Guest in the activity. ASec Ignacio applauded DOST 1 GAD Focal Point System for organizing various activities relative to the celebration.

A presentation of the highlights of the 2021 National Women's Month celebration, awarding of Poster-Slogan Making Contest, and Pagkilala kay Juan at Juana ng DOST 1 were conducted.

Winners of the contest were:

Champion:

"Be the change, break barriers" by Joed Cayabyab

1st Runner Up:

"Sulong kababaihan sa bagong normal, kaakibat ang puso at tapang, aariba, yayabong tungo sa kaunlaran!" by Jericho Navasca

2nd Runner Up:

"Careers have no gender. Women hold no border" by Jocelyn Millano

3rd Runner Up:

"There is NO force more powerful than a woman determined to rise." By Jobert Ferrer

DOST 1 is in full support to the celebration and pursues a gender-responsive agency.



DOST 1 PROGRAMS & SERVICES

TECHNOLOGY TRANSFER AND COMMERCIALIZATION PROGRAM

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SMALL ENTERPRISE TECHNOLOGY UPGRADING PROGRAM

iFWD PH

INNOVATION FOR FILIPINOS WORKING DISTANTLY FROM THE PHILIPPINES

CEST

COMMUNITY EMPOWERMENT THROUGH SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

COMMUNITY-BASED

COMMUNITY-BASED PROJECTS

SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY SERVICES

RSTL

REGIONAL STANDARD AND TESTING LABORATORIES

TACS

TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE AND CONSULTANCY SERVICES

P&L

PACKAGING AND LABELING ASSISTANCE

TECH TRAININGS

TECHNOLOGY TRAININGS

SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAMS

JLSS

JUNIOR LEVEL SCIENCE SCHOLARSHIPS

UNDERGRADUATE

UNDERGRADUATE S&T SCHOLARSHIPS

GRADUATE

GRADUATE S&T SCHOLARSHIPS

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STARBOOKS

SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY ACADEMIC AND RESEARCH-BASED OPENLY-OPERATED KIOSK STATIONS

TransDi

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