



## DOST SECRETARY SOLIDUM UNITES REGION 1 GOV'T LEADERS TO PROMOTE DISASTER RESILIENCE THROUGH DOST 1'S ALERTO! REHIYON UNO

The Department of Science and Technology Regional Office No. 1 (DOST-1) in partnership with the Provincial Government of Ilocos Norte and Pangasinan together with Mariano Marcos State University and Pangasinan State University conducted the Alerto! Rehiyon Uno: Forum on Geological Hazards in Region 1 on July 19-20, 2023, at the MMSU Teatro Ilocandia, Batac City, Ilocos Norte, and Provincial Training and Development Center 2, Lingayen, Pangasinan, respectively.

*read more in page 3...*

### OTHER DOSTONESCIGLAT NEWS:



MEIC trains PISAY ISKOLARS through  
Science Immersion Program



Organiko nga Mannalon ti San Nicolas,  
Ilocos Norte Inc. receives Packaging and  
Labeling Support



DOST 1-CEST conducts calibration  
caravan and water sampling in Bolinao  
Pangasinan

page 2

page 2

page 3

## MEIC TRAINS PISAY ISKOLARS THROUGH SCIENCE IMMERSION PROGRAM

The Metals & Engineering Innovation Center (MEIC) at Don Mariano Marcos Memorial State University recently hosted 16 students from the Philippine Science High School - Ilocos Region in a 10-day School Internship Program (SIP). The collaboration, supported by the Department of Science and Technology, aimed to provide hands-on experience in metals and engineering to talented students. Of the participants, 12 were in grade 9, and 4 were in grade 10, chosen for their academic excellence and interest in science and technology, with 7 of them being female.

MEIC, equipped with advanced facilities and experienced faculty, offered an ideal learning environment. The students engaged in practical activities such as metalworking, machining, and design, guided by professionals. They learned manufacturing processes like

welding, cutting, bending, and the use of equipment like Hydraulic Shearing Machine and AutoCAD.

Encouraged to explore creativity and problem-solving, the interns completed hands-on projects. The program not only exposed them to the world of metals and engineering but also nurtured their passion for STEM. Miss Denisse Marthy Miranda, an intern, described her experience as "transformative," emphasizing valuable knowledge gained in machinery operation, welding, cutting, bending, and AutoCAD.

The collaboration between the Philippine Science High School and Don Mariano Marcos Memorial State University aims to inspire and empower young minds for a future generation of innovative engineers and scientists. Dr. Victorio C. Palabay heads DMMMSU-MEIC, with support from DOST Region 1 led by Dr. Teresita



A. Tabaog and Jonathan M. Viernes. Faculty and staff, including Mr. Jessie D. Panganiban, Ms. Brenda Aribon, Mr. Frank Jacla, and Mr. Edrussell S. Castillo, played crucial roles in training the student scholars.

## DOST 1 BOOSTS AGROBUSINESS VENTURES: ORGANIKO NGA MANNALON TI SAN NICOLAS, ILOCOS NORTE INC. RECEIVES PACKAGING AND LABELING SUPPORT

The Department of Science and Technology Region 1 (DOST 1), through the Provincial Science and Technology Office - Ilocos Norte (PSTO-IN), awarded Organiko nga Mannalon ti San Nicolas, Ilocos Norte, Inc. Php 100,000.00 worth of packaging and labeling on July 3, 2023. Organiko nga Mannalon ti San Nicolas, Ilocos Norte Inc. is one of the seven (7) DOST-CBP grantees in the province last year. The association specializes in selling pigmented rice (brown, red, and black rice) to the market.

As part of the Science and Technology (S&T) Intervention through the Community-Based Project (CBP) program, the association received 25,000 pieces of rice packaging. Furthermore, in March 2023, the office provided the association with assistance and training on operating the vacuum sealer machine they received in December 2022. The training aimed to ensure that the association could effectively utilize the machine to seal their products.

Prior to participating in the DOST program, Organiko nga Mannalon

faced challenges in marketing their products due to the lack of proper labels and packaging. However, with the S&T intervention provided, the association expects a 20% increase in sales and income as they can now effectively market and present their products to the target market.

In addition to equipment upgrading and packaging support, the cooperative also received Technical Assistance and Consultancy Services (TACS). The association's members underwent training on Good Manufacturing Practices, Food Safety, and Seminar on Business Continuity Planning. Moreover, their firm underwent a Food Safety Assessment to ensure compliance with safety standards.

The CBP aims to assist associations and cooperatives in continuing and expanding their productive activities by identifying commodities with high production potential. The program also encourages the establishment of technology-based businesses by providing technology, equipment, and updates to organized organizations.



Recognizing the importance of proactive safety measures and the need for DOST 1 leaders to be always resilient, the DOST 1's Alerto! Rehiyon Uno: Forum on Geological Hazards in Region 1 seeks to inform and advocate stronger disaster resilience through the expertise of our keynote speaker, Dr. Renato U. Solidum Jr., DOST Secretary, together with our panel of experts from DOST-Philippine Institute of Volcanology and Seismology (PHIVOLCS) which was represented by Dr. Ma. Mylene Martinez Villegas, Mr. Jeffrey S. Perez, Mr. John Harold Tabuzo, and Ms. Robelyn Mangahas.

Secretary Solidum discussed the importance of investing and prioritizing resilience as part of LGUs sustainable development agenda which will be an opportunity to improve environmental, social, and economic conditions in order to attain a more prosperous

and safer community. Sec. Solidum also highlighted the importance of collaboration of the government, local governments, and science community in building resilience on the ground going up, hence, focusing on the local communities who really need disaster resilience options at a household level in order to have an information system that does not leave anyone behind.

Towards the end of his speech, Sec. Solidum reminded everyone that we must, as a nation, be united in pursuit of resilience by harnessing the power of science and technology so that we can mitigate the destructive impact of geohazards and foster sustainable development.

DOST 1 believes that knowledge is power and preparedness is the key, and we recognize that everyone has a role in building a safer and disaster-resilient society.



## DOST 1-CEST CONDUCTS CALIBRATION CARAVAN AND WATER SAMPLING IN BOLINAO



The Department of Science and Technology 1 (DOST 1), through the Provincial Science and Technology Center (PSTO) Pangasinan, conducted a calibration caravan and water sampling to Community Empowerment through Science and Technology (CEST) beneficiaries on July 11-12, 2023, in Bolinao, Pangasinan.

Under the priority area of Health and Nutrition, the CEST program seeks to ensure the safety and potability of the drinking water sources in the communities. The calibration of scales is equally essential for ensuring the accuracy of the equipment used to measure weight and height.

The DOST 1 CEST staff collected a total of 62 water samples from deep and shallow wells in the households of Brgy. Binabalian and Goyoden in Santiago Island, Bolinao. The samples will undergo Microbial Analysis and Physical Chemical Analysis at the DOST 1-Regional Standards and Testing Laboratory (RSTL). A total of 19 samples for Physical Chemical Analysis amounting to Php 74,100.00 and 62 samples for Microbial Analysis amounting to Php 74,400.00 were collected from the identified water

sources. The total value of assistance is Php 148,500.00.

Moreover, the Mass Calibration Caravan was also held to guarantee that the weighing scales used by Rural Health Units (RHU) and Barangay Health Centers are calibrated for accurate collection of data use in assessing the nutritional situation in the community and to the Public Market to ensure fair trade in the market in accordance to the RA 7394 or the Consumer Act of the Philippines.

Mr. Julian R. Viray, focal person on Calibration of PSTO-Pangasinan spearheaded the mass calibration caravan together with Mr. Geamboy D. Morata and Mr. Edward E. Ugale. 316 weighing scales were calibrated and stamped with calibration stickers valid for one (1) year. Php 90,500.00 total value of assistance was served to the 231 clients composed of market vendors and representatives in the government units.

DOST 1 through its CEST banner program will continue to provide sustainable assistance and interventions that would ensure good health and well-being in the community.



DEPARTMENT OF SCIENCE  
AND TECHNOLOGY  
REGIONAL OFFICE NO. 1



DOST - PHILIPPINE INSTITUTE OF  
VOLCANOLOGY AND SEISMOLOGY

in partnership with



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***There's no such thing as natural disaster, only natural hazards. Earthquakes, tsunamis, volcanic eruptions, tropical cyclones and even climate change are natural hazards. These are part of natural phenomena. What makes this unnatural is when this natural hazard becomes a disaster.***

***Please bear in mind that preparing for disaster is not an individual problem. It is not only your community's problem. It is all our problem. Hence, we need to be working together to make sure we are all safe and resilient after these hazards. If we can do something, then natural hazards will not become disaster.***

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during the Alerto! Rehiyon Uno: Forum on Geologicla Hazards in Region 1 held at MMSU Teatro Ilocandia, Batac City, Ilocos Norte on July 19, 2023

**DR. RENATO U. SOLIDUM, JR.**  
**SECRETARY**  
**DEPARTMENT OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (DOST)**



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Mid La Union Campus, Catbangen, City of San Fernando, La Union

Telefax: (072) 888-3399  
CP No.: 0917-840-8695 or 0998-962-0232  
Email: mail@region1.dost.gov.ph

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