

## PRESS RELEASE

### **DOST 1 participates in the 3-day Planning Workshop on Anti-Trafficking, Child Pornography, Violence Against Women and Children**

The Department of Science and Technology Region 1 (DOST 1) participated in the blended 3-day review, evaluation and planning workshop activity of the Regional Inter-Agency Committee Against Trafficking – Child Pornography – Violence Against Women and their Children (RIACAT-CP-VAWC) on 16-18 August 2021 at Kahuna Beach Resort and Spa, San Juan, La Union.

The activity was conducted to strengthen the capacity of member agencies in implementing programs and services and directs RIACAT-CP-VAWC to perform its functions towards policy formulation, systems and mechanisms development, and provision of technical assistance to local committees at the provincial, city, and municipal level.

"We should not be afraid of the pandemic as to addressing the issues brought about by the perpetrators. We should create a comprehensive and integrated programs and activities within our agencies to prevent and suppress the trafficking, child pornography and VAWC in the community," Director Marie Angela S. Gopalan, Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD) Region 1 Regional Director and RIACAT-CP-VAWC Chairperson said as she encouraged the participants' involvement in the committee's mandate.

Review on the salient features of Republic Act 9208 or the Anti-Trafficking in Persons Act, RA 9775 or the Anti-Child Pornography Act, and RA 9262 or the Anti-Violence Against Women and their Children Act was discussed by Prosecutor Maribelle C. Uminga, Assistant Regional Prosecutor of Department of Justice (DOJ) Region 1.

Further, presentations of National Strategic Plans of Inter-Agency Council Against Trafficking (IACAT) by Ms. Carina Urbano of Department of Justice, Inter-Agency Council on Violence Against Women and their Children (IACVAWC) by Ms. Prossy Dumlao of Philippine Commission on Women, and Inter-Agency Council Against Child pornography (IACACP) by Ms. Jennylyn Imbat of DSWD, highlighted the first day of the activity.

Also, a presentation of the Regional Development Council (RDC) and its connection to the RIACAT-CP-VAWC, as well as the topics on the Concept of Completed Staff Work, Management of Meeting and Policy Process in the Context of RDC were shared by Ms. Zenaida L. Garcillan, Senior Economic Development Specialist of National Economic Development Authority (NEDA) Region 1.

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"Women and Children Protection Desk (WCPD) was created by law to particularly administer and attend to cases involving crimes against chastity, sexual harassment, abuses committed against women and children, and even the investigation of cases involving Gender-based violence," shared by Police Major Monette C. Balderas, Chief of the WCPD of the Philippine National Police (PNP) Region 1 during the second day.

The planning workshop and presentation of the 3-year Strategic Plan took place on the third day where the participants were grouped into three (3) based on the laws on trafficking, child pornography and VAWC.

DOST 1, being an active member of the Committee, focuses on the conduct of proactive and preventive measures like advocacy campaigns informing the DOST-SEI Scholars and other stakeholders.

Science Education  
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