

PRESS RELEASE

DOST 1 concludes 2021 National Women's Month Celebration, supports Gender Equality and Women Empowerment

The Department of Science and Technology Region 1 (DOST 1), through its Gender and Development (GAD) Program, actively participated in the annual celebration of the 2021 National Women's Month this March. With the sub-theme, "Juana Laban sa Pandemya: Kaya!", the celebration posed both challenges and opportunities for women.

This year's celebration serves as a tribute to the extraordinary roles of all Juanas as trailblazers and harbingers of change; and also a call for concrete, sustainable, and inclusive actions towards gender equality.

DOST 1's GAD Focal Point System (GFPS), led by DOST 1 Regional Director Dr. Armando Q. Ganal, organized various activities for both internal and external clients of the agency. GFPS is a mechanism established to advocate and lead in mainstreaming gender perspective in agency policies, plans and programs, as well as in spearheading the preparation of agency's annual GAD plans in response to gender issues.

DOST 1's Kick-Off program on air

Through DOST 1's radio program entitled, "Tekno PreSensya: Syensa ken Teknolohiya para kadagiti Umili", the Kick-Off program was conducted on the 1st day of March 2021 via FB live of the official FB Page of DOST 1, in partnership with DZAG Radyo Pilipinas Agoo,

The Program highlighted the activities prepared by the agency in celebration of the 2021 National Women's Month encouraged every Juan and Juana to partake in all the activities set. *and*

DOST 1 received awards during the International Women's Day

On March 8, known and celebrated to be the International Women's Day, DOST 1 received the Program to Institutionalize Meritocracy and Excellence in Human Resource Management (PRIME-HRM) Bronze Award from the Civil Service Commission Region 1 (CSC 1).

CSC 1 Regional Director, Hedy Jose B. Lardizabal said that "From the very start, we really believe that DOST 1 can make it. There is really something with the DOST people, it is a bragging right on your part. This award recognizes your collective efforts. *Kinaya ni Juan at Juana ng DOST 1, and for that, congratulations at ipagpatuloy natin ang magandang naumpisahan.*"



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According to Ms. Liwayway R. Navalta, Chief Human Resource Specialist of the Policies and Systems Evaluation Division (PSED), "In the history of PRIME-HRM, DOST 1 ang pinakamabilis nabigyan ng PRIME-HRM resolution. Hence, Bronze Award entitles DOST 1 with various incentives and privileges."

The PRIME-HRM Bronze Award is conferred to institutions based on the evaluation of the CSC Policies ad Systems Evaluation Division. Based on CSC Memorandum Circular No. 19 series of 2016, agencies evaluated as meeting human resource maturity level II in all four (4) systems shall be awarded accordingly.

The conferment of the PPRIME-HRM Bronze Award to DOST 1 is based on the CSC Resolution No. 2001017, dated 03 December 2020. The award was presented by CSC 1 Officials headed by the Regional Director Lardizabal; accompanied by Assistant Regional Director Josephine R. Altura; PSED Chief Navalta; PSED Supervising Human Resource Specialist Walfredo C. Laudencia, Jr.; and PSED Human Resource Specialist I Bernice Raya Dumaoang.

PRIME-HRM is a mechanism that empowers government agencies by developing their human resource management competencies, systems and practices toward HR excellence.

The awarding coincides with the ISO 9001:2015 Re-Certification, and the Launching of New Testing and Calibration Services of the Regional Standards and Testing Laboratory.

In the afternoon, a webinar entitled "Women in Science Leadership" was conducted to highlight the notable contributions of Juanas in the field of Science and Technology. The activity was organized by the Research and Development Management and International Linkages Unit (RDMILU) headed by Ms. Annalie L. Rosales, Science Research Specialist II.

The identified Resource Persons for the webinar were: Dr. Rowena Cristina L. Guevara, DOST Undersecretary for Research and Development; Dr. Aimee Lynn B. Dupo, University of the Philippines Los Baños Professor 10; and Dr. Milflor S. Gonzales, Chief Science Research Specialist of the DOST-Food and Nutrition Research Institute.

All about COVID-19 Vaccines for every Juan and Juana

It is very timely that the GFPS of DOST 1 has organized a webinar on covid-19 vaccines to be one of the most essential topics that must be disseminated to every Juan and Juana.

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Dr. Veronica G. De Guzman from the Department of Health Region 1 (DOH 1) served as the Resource Person during the webinar conducted last March 11, 2021 via Microsoft Teams and FB Live of DOST 1's Official FB Page.

Vaccination aims to save lives, mitigate the impact and the most effective way to protect against the covid-19 pandemic. Covid-19 vaccine prevents symptomatic and severe infection, and transmission. Also, the vaccine strengthens the immune system by training it to recognize and fight against the virus.

Before Dr. De Guzman ended her presentation, she encouraged every Juan and Juana to partake and support the BIDA BAKUNATION Program of DOH against covid-19. She added that "The vaccine is free and effective, high quality, and however, the priority are those most-at-risk and most vulnerable."

Learning about the 7S of Good Housekeeping

The webinar was entitled "*7S of Good housekeeping: Setting the Pathway to a Safe and Healthy Workplace in the Period of Pandemic*" which informed the participants in the identification of the costs of unsafe workplace to enterprise profitability and workers' productivity. This was conducted on March 15, 2021 via MS Teams platform and FB Live.

From the original 5S, it was upgraded into 7S: Sort; Systematize; Sweep, Standardize; Self-Discipline; Sustain; and Safety. It is from identifying to eliminating unnecessary items from the workplace down to the maintenance of safe and healthy workplace, 7S helps us to optimize limited resources, comply with workplace new normal protocols and to boost productivity despite the reduction in business capacity.

"Let us all remember that a safer place creates a healthy ambiance which in turn improves the productivity of the workers and in this time of pandemic it is also an effective preventive measure to control or minimize the spread of various illnesses caused by bacteria and viruses." Mr. Ben A. Donglayan, Productivity Trainor of Regional Tripartite Wages and Productivity Board Region 1, shared during his discussion. The webinar was participated by 445 individuals.

Launching of the TechTalk Webinar

Through the RDMILU of DOST 1, a TechTalk webinar was conducted on March 17, 2021 via MS Teams and FB Live on the Official FB Page of the agency. The activity highlighted two (2) female researchers in the region to promote matured DOST-generated and funded technologies.

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Professor Anabella G. Valdez of Don Mariano Marcos Memorial State University talked about the Chevron-based Products she developed. Chevron or goat meat were processed into Bulgogi, entrails into Pinapaitan, lean trimmings into Sinampalukan, and skin into Sisig.

On the other hand, Ms. Meryl A. Bernardino, Project Staff based at the PSU-DOST 1 Food Innovation Center (FIC), showcased various FIC-developed food products. She highlighted the DOST-developed vacuum fryer in their product innovations for okra, squash, mushroom and native onions, among others.

These innovations are a solution for the oversupply of agricultural food products. The food products were not only preserved, but also made healthier and of higher quality. With prolonged shelf-life, local food products are available throughout the year and easier to export. Thus, increasing income and business opportunities for MSMEs. As a way of adapting to the new normal, TechTalk is created to connect with the public virtually.

Training on Ube Processing for All

A livelihood training webinar on Ube Processing was conducted on March 18, 2021 via FB Live close group.

The training webinar was organized by the GFPS to provide alternative source of income to all participants. Ms. Princess P. Abuan, Project Assistant II of Provincial Science and Technology Center (PSTC) – La Union, served as the trainor. A total of 143 participants joined the training webinar.

Serbisyo para kay Juan at Juana ng DOST 1

Through the initiative of the GFPS and the Human Resource Management Unit, an activity entitled “Serbisyo para kay Juan at Juana ng DOST 1” was organized on March 22, 2021 via MS Teams platform participated by all DOST 1 staff.

The activity was steered by inviting selected Government agencies to showcase their programs which in turn, benefit DOST 1 staff. This serves as a special treat to all staff since they do not have the time to go visit and/or process their needs to these offices due to travel restrictions brought about by the pandemic.

Five (5) National Government Agencies were invited, to wit: Department of Information and Communications Technology Luzon Cluster 1; Government Service Insurance System La Union Branch; Social Security System La Union Branch; PAGI-IBIG Fund La Union Branch; and PhilHealth Regional Office 1.

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WEE Care, WE Share Forum organized by DOST GAD Luzon Cluster

The WEE Care, WE Share forum was conducted to unlock the doors of success and unblocking MSMEs' avenues of opportunity so that women can become actors in building community resilience and in alleviating the lives of those living in the communities.

WEE stands for Women Economic Empowerment while WE stands for Women Empowerment.

The Philippine Commission on Women (PCW) Executive Director Atty. Kristine Rosary E. Yuzon-Chaves gave her message emphasizing the extraordinary roles of Juan and Juanas in the society as trailblazers and harbingers of change especially during this time of pandemic.

On the other hand, DOST Secretary, Hon. Fortunato T. dela Peña also gave his message and shared an anecdote about the life of Maria Ilagan Orosa, a well-known Filipina Chemist. Secretary dela Peña also commented "All women can make an impact, can make change no matter what you are called in life. Be encouraged to think ahead of technologies, products and innovations that will not only impact today but also for the next generations to come. May the work of your hands help the people and serve the nation."

Region 1's representative, Mr. Racky D. Doctor shared his company's covid-19 initiatives that benefitted the community. Nutridense Food Manufacturing Corporation based in Sta. Barbara, Pangasinan is a leading manufacturer of research-based nutritious food products and is committed to support programs on healthy snacking and reduction of malnutrition in the country. Mr. Doctor is also the President of Pangasinan Entrepreneurs Development Association, Inc. or PEDAI, an association that opens access to financial, technological, and marketing opportunities to its member-MSMEs. Mr. Doctor, on the other hand, leads in assisting and guiding fellow entrepreneurs, who are mostly women, in the province of Pangasinan.

The WEE Care, WE Share forum taught every Juan and Juana that working together creates workforce that can do wonders in achieving common goal. The half-day activity was conducted simultaneously with the Training-Workshop on News and Feature Writing for DOST 1 staff.

News and Feature Writing Training-Workshop for DOST 1 staff

In order to capacitate the Media Core members of DOST 1 in doing their S&T works, specifically in writing S&T news, a Training-Workshop on News and Feature Writing was conducted on March 23, 2021 via MS Teams platform.

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The activity covered basic methods of writing effective news and feature articles led by five (5) skilled staff of the agency: Mr. Kent Jerico Ramil of PSTC-Ilocos Norte, Engr. Maura Andrea Ortega of the RDMILU, Ms. Mae Grace Copleting and Ms. Thea Mitzi So of the S&T Promotion and Advocacy, and Ms. Marinique Guerrero of the RSTL.

Participation to the First Ilocos GAD Convention

DOST 1 participated in the First Ilocos GAD Convention conducted last March 25-26, 2021 via Zoom and FB Live hosted by University of Northern Philippines. The activity was organized by the Regional Gender and Development Committee (RGADC).

RGADC is one of the support committees of the Regional Development Council (RDC) in consonance with Joint Memorandum Circular No. 2016-01 by the National Economic and Development Authority (NEDA) and the Philippine Commission on Women (PCW) that prescribes the acceleration and gender mainstreaming at the regional and local levels.

Ms. Racquel M. Espiritu, GFPS-Technical Working Group Head, presented and shared Innovative Programs of DOST 1 that address the Gender Needs During Covid-19 pandemic.

The convention with the theme: "Strengthening and Sustaining Gender Mainstreaming at the Regional and Local Level," will further enhance the knowledge of the participants about gender concepts, analysis and agenda setting.

Recognizing staff in their contribution to the Women's Month Celebration

As culminating activity, GFPS of DOST 1 organized an activity dubbed as "*Pagkilala kay Juan at Juana ng DOST 1*", where 16 staff, 6 Females and 10 Males, were awarded with Certificate of Appreciation during the flag raising activity of the agency held on March 29, 2021.

DOST 1 Regional Director, Dr. Armando Q. Ganal said that "Today culminates our celebration of the 2021 National Women's Month. Our activities for this month highlighted and focused on we, us and women in harnessing the services in fighting the pandemic, harnessing the services of institutions, and we also have given techniques on how to adopt available technologies – easy, low investment requirements, doable and livelihood generating. We have done a good job and I would like to commend all those personnel behind these successful activities as well as to all organizers of our women's month celebration headed by Ms.



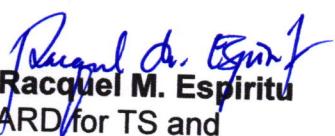
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Racquel M. Espiritu, and to all GFPS Members. This will not be the last but we will continue this as we are in the organization as well as recognizing the role of women in our midst."

As the agency continues to give recognition to its staff, this annual celebration also poses a challenge to all: Making Change Work for Women, especially in grappling with the effects of COVID-19 pandemic.

This year's celebration is different from the previous ones which highlighted women's participation in battling the pandemic as well as discussed gender issues exacerbated by the pandemic. It is the time to delve deep into the gender issues that emerged during the health crisis, feature women who thrived despite the circumstances, and share support systems and government programs that address women's issues and concerns.

The cuminating activity was aired in the DOST 1's radio program, "Tekno PreSensya: Syensa ken Teknolohiya para kadagiti Umili" through the facilities of DZAG Radyo Pilipinas Agoo.

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