



10 years of bringing
S&T good news

Inside

- PH, TH ink accord to strengthen S&T cooperationp2
- Pisay-CAR studies get gold in China for robot soccer operation skills.....p3
- Tuburan coffee brewing in Cebu.....p4
- InFocusp4

DOST's S&T library-in-a-box wins Anvil Awards

By Framelia V. Anonas, DOST-STII



(Left): DOST-Science and Technology Information Institute Director Richard P. Burgos receives the Gold Anvil Award for STARBOOKS, library-in-a-box that makes science and technology (S&T) information materials available to students and researchers even in remote areas. Receiving the award with Dir. Burgos is DOST Asst. Secretary Leah J. Buendia representing DOST Secretary Fortunato T. de la Peña. (Right): Two Anvil Awards this year for DOST-Science and Technology Information Institute's STARBOOKS.

A library-in-a-box that offers science and technology (S&T) information materials to students and researchers even in remote areas recently knocked two awards in the recent 52nd Anvil Awards at Shangri-La Makati. STARBOOKS, or the Science and Technology Academic and Research-Based Openly Operated Kiosks, got the Gold in the Anvil Award for Public Relations Program: Directed at Specific Stakeholders, Students, Entrepreneurs, LGUs, Communities, and Indigenous Peoples; and Silver in the Anvil Award for Public Relations Tool: Multimedia/Digital.

STARBOOKS also made it to the top three contenders in the Grand Anvil, the highest category aimed by 402 entries from brands, media, and PR agencies.

"It was the first foray of DOST's Science and Technology Information Institute (STII) into the competitive world of excellence in public relations," revealed STII Director Richard P. Burgos.

STII, DOST's information and marketing arm, developed STARBOOKS to enable more efficient access to S&T information materials even in areas that are without Internet. To date, STARBOOKS is already available in more than 1,200 sites nationwide through the DOST Regional Offices that deploy the units to respective communities.

"Kaalaman sa Kahon: The Story of STARBOOKS" is DOST-STII's first and lone entry to the Anvil Awards.

"We thank the Public Relations Society of the Philippines for giving us this great

honor," Dir. Burgos said. "Team STII shares this honor to our deployment officers in the regional and provincial DOST offices, our partners and collaborators in the STARBOOKS project for working hard and well to deserve the recognition."

STARBOOKS earlier won the 2015 Presidential Citation for Innovative International Library Projects by the American Library Association and the 2015 Outstanding Library Program of the Year Award by the Philippine Association of Academic/Research Librarians Inc.

Since its inception in 2011, STARBOOKS has exemplified DOST's thrust "Science for the People" for being able to bring S&T information to the countryside and to communities that lack library facilities and internet connection.



PHILIPPINE PRESIDENTIAL PHOTOGRAPHY
Photo from newsbytes.ph

PH, TH ink accord to strengthen S&T cooperation

By Framelia V. Anonas, DOST-STII

Scientific and technological (S&T) activities in the Philippines and Thailand recently got a big push as science and technology leaders in both countries signed a legally binding agreement to work together in promoting the development of S&T cooperation between said countries.

Representing the Philippines and Thailand are Department of Science and Technology Secretary Fortunato T. de la Peña and Ministry of Science and Technology Minister Atchaka Sibunruang respectively.

According to the agreement, the Philippines and Thailand shall carry out S&T cooperation in joint research and development; exchange of scientists, specialists, and representatives of academic, research, industrial, and trade organizations; exchange of technical documentation and information; arrangement of bilateral conferences and symposia on

subjects of mutual interest; and other forms of cooperation in the field of science and technology.

The two governments also concurred to include visits and exchanges of S&T specialists in fields beyond the agreed areas in the current agreement.

According to Sec. de la Peña, representatives of both Philippines and Thailand shall meet as soon as possible to negotiate the programmes and approve the areas and terms of S&T cooperation. They shall also agree on ways and means to accomplish programme items and discuss other matters related to the cooperation.

The Philippine-Thailand agreement shall also pave the way to link up organizations, agencies, universities, and firms in both countries, and conclude implementing arrangements. To run for five years, the program shall start this March 2017 and end in March 2023.

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Pisay-CAR studes get gold in China for robot soccer operation skills

By Freda M. Wong, PSHS-CAR

Philippine Science High School (also called "Pisay") students from the Cordillera Administrative Region Campus, Caleb Joshua R. Abrazaldo (Grade 11) and Rei Arion Videl D. Buena (Grade 10), bagged the gold medal during the 8th ASEAN + 3 Student Camp and Teacher Workshop for the Gifted in Science (ACGS) held in Beijing, China last January.

Abrazaldo and Buena who made an edge over other participants from 12 countries got the gold for their performance in the workshop. They were rated in various aspects such as recitation, speed in disassembling and assembling the soccer robot, and poster presentation.

During the student camp, the participating students had a two-day lecture-workshop on assigned subject tasks then presented their outputs through posters.

Meanwhile, three other grade 9 students from PSHS Ilocos Region Campus got their share of silver and bronze medals. Adrian Charles Tiu Lao clinched the silver while Kristine Marie C. Jardiolin and Elizabeth Rae S. Peralta got bronze medals.

The 8th ACGS is participated in by 11 Asian nations, namely Brunei, Cambodia, China, Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia, Myanmar, Philippines, Republic of Korea, Thailand, and Vietnam. Sweden was a guest country for this year's event.

The 8th ACGS focused on innovation. The student camp was grouped into five subject tasks: Bridge Model Design and Making, Model Airplane Design and Making, Soccer Robot Operation, Small Rocket Model Design and Making and 3D Print Study. Abrazaldo and Buena were assigned to the Soccer Robot Operation.

The ACGS, established to discover young intelligent students, is participated in by high school students who are gifted science and are 15 years old and below.

Organizers of the 8thACGS are the Children & Youth Science Center of CAST, Beijing No.35 High School, and China Association of Children's Science Instructors. It was hosted by the Department of International Cooperation under the Ministry of Science and Technology of the People's Republic of China, and the Department of International Affairs under the China Association for Science and Technology.



Bemedalled | The Philippine delegates with their medals (L-R): Elizabeth Rae S. Peralta, Adrian Charles Tiu Lao, Rei Arion Videl D. Buena, Caleb Joshua R. Abrazaldo and Kristine Marie C. Jardiolin.



Buena and Abrazaldo explain to the judges what the soccer robot can do.

Tuburan coffee brewing in Cebu

If there is anything brewing in Department of Science and Technology (DOST) Cebu nowadays, it is on how to make Tuburan ground coffee hot. This is not about temperature but about packaging coffee grounds to make it more competitive in the local and global market.

“We designed the label and developed the appropriate packaging for the Tuburan Coffee,” DOST Cebu Provincial Director Engr. Tristan Abando revealed.

From transparent stand-up pouch plastic packaging, Tuburan coffee now sports a more elegant black opaque, matte-finish, stand-up, zip-locked, aluminum composite plastic, Dir. Abando said.

DOST-Cebu has been shouldering the cost of the packaging materials since the initial coffee production as part of the Accelerated and Sustainable Anti-Poverty Program (ASAPP) team.

“The DOST team is continuously studying on how can we further improve the coffee packaging to extend its shelf life and to make the product world-class,” Engr. Abando added.

Engr. Abando said that improving the Tuburan Coffee packaging for the world market is one of DOST’s initial assistance that would benefit the coffee farming communities in Tuburan. ASAPP is spearheaded by the National Economic and Development Authority which convened government agencies & stakeholders to help improve and develop the local Tuburan coffee

as a poverty reduction program.

DOST 7 Regional Director Edilberto Paradela pointed out that the Tuburan Coffee project is a showcase of the maximum impact of the convergence of different government agencies through ASAPP to improve an industry. Engr. Paradela cited that the significant contributions of the different government agencies and other stakeholders are very critical in making the Tuburan Coffee program successful.

DOST is currently allocating funds for the technology upgrading of the current coffee production and for further packaging improvement through its ASAPP’s counterpart program, the Community Empowerment through Science and Technology.

“Currently, the coffee production in Tuburan is still small-scale. We are now studying on



how to boost its production capacity through equipment and skills upgrading,” Engr. Paradela added.

Engr. Paradela also commends the Municipality of Tuburan through Mayor Democrito Diamante, Jr. for its efforts and commitment in making this breakthrough of developing a Cebu homegrown coffee product. From a mere 500 hectares in nine barangays in Tuburan, Cebu, the industry now spread to 2,850 hectares in 16 barangays of the town. About 1,000 farmers in Tuburan, Cebu, are now enjoying the fruits of the government-assisted coffee plantation. **(By S&T Media Service, DOST-VII)**

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Ramon “Bong” Osorio discusses “Crisis Response Planning” at the DOST Crisis Communication Seminar-Workshop, Bayview Park Hotel Manila, 09-10 March 2017. He stresses the importance of planning for a crisis but “the best way to manage a crisis is to prevent it.”



DOST information officers from all over the country were brought together for the Crisis Communication and DOST Media Core Communication Planning Workshop last March 9-10, 2017 at the Bayview Park Hotel, Manila. The two-day event was filled with lectures from experienced speakers to provide skills needed in dealing with crisis situations, including handling the media, assessing risks and vulnerabilities and crafting effective strategies and messages. Mr. Ramon “Bong” R. Osorio, Communications Consultant of ABS-CBN and Business Life Columnist for the Philippine Star discussed Crisis response on the first day. Dr. Dante M. Velasco, Chair and CEO of Creative Point International, Inc. (seated second from left) provided a lecture on crisis communication while Ms. Karen Alparce-Villanueva, President and Managing Partner of Health PRX Communications (seated third from left) offered her response and shared her experiences. **(Text by Janina Myn Z. Villapando and photos by Gerardo G. Palad, DOST-STII)**