

10 years of bringing
S&T good news

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DOSTv now on free TV

By Romelie Janelle Maranan, DOST-STII



DOSTv, the official science channel of the Department of Science and Technology (DOST), started airing on free TV this last week of May. The shift from online to regular channel gives more people easier access to the latest weather and science updates.

DOSTv will air Monday to Friday via PTV4 starting May 29, 2017, Monday at 9:00 to 9:30 in the morning. The transition of the program from the online platform to free TV marks DOSTv's first anniversary on May 30, 2017. To date, DOSTv has aired 251 episodes online.

For its pilot episode on PTV4, DOSTv featured the coral reef reforestation project of the DOST-

Philippine Council for Agriculture, Aquatic, and Natural Resources Research and Development on the majestic waters of Tawi-Tawi on its SineSiyensya segment.

Programming contents will still include weather reports from DOST- PAGASA; interview with S&T experts and officials; SineSiyensya (documentaries); Balitang RapiDOST (S&T local news); Global Science (S&T worldwide news); Sci-Facts (S&T trivia); Sustansyarap (DOST-Food and Nutriton Research Institute's healthy recipes); DOST-PHIVOLCS update; and a lot more.

Aside from its 9am airing on PTV4, DOSTv will continue its daily online streaming at 11:00am

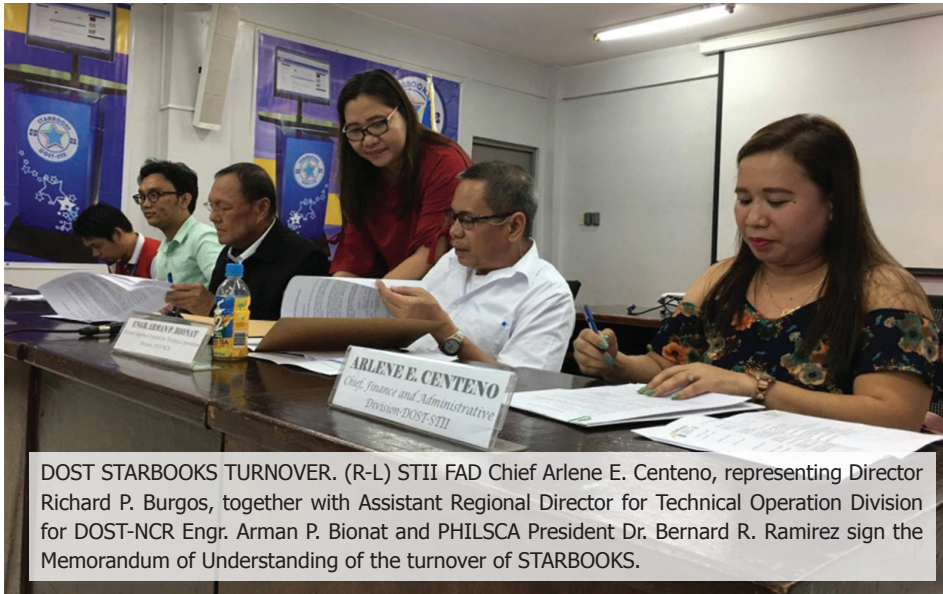
via www.dostv.ph, www.dostv.ph/youtube, and facebook.com/DOSTvPH. DOSTv also streams weather updates from DOST-PAGASA every 5:00 am and 5:00pm on its online platforms.

The science program will also air soon on Global News Network at 11:00am and 4:00pm, and on some local cable channels.

Produced by DOST- Science and Technology Information Institute, DOSTv is DOST's initiative in communicating science for the people, promoting a culture of science and technology, and raising the aspirations of the youth to pursue careers in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics and be the leaders of the future.

STARBOOKS lands on flying school

By Karl Raven A. Ramon, DOST-STII



DOST STARBOOKS TURNOVER. (R-L) STII FAD Chief Arlene E. Centeno, representing Director Richard P. Burgos, together with Assistant Regional Director for Technical Operation Division for DOST-NCR Engr. Arman P. Bionat and PHILSCA President Dr. Bernard R. Ramirez sign the Memorandum of Understanding of the turnover of STARBOOKS.

Philippine State College of Aeronautics (PHILSCA) recently installed STARBOOKS or Science and Technology Academic and Research-Based Openly-Operated Kiosks in its library to upgrade its services to students. STARBOOKS, developed by the Department of Science and Technology - Science and Technology Information Institute (DOST-STII), is a library-in-a-box that provides reliable and free science and technology (S&T) information to the public in an offline mode.

PHILSCA President Dr. Bernard R. Ramirez remarked that STARBOOKS “will enhance the data gathering of students taking up research subjects, and it will also enhance the research capability of faculty members.”

He likewise underscores the importance of having this kind of resource which they can use while their request for budget for research is pending.

He also committed that PHILSCA will contribute to STARBOOKS its own researches in the field of aviation.



Dr. Yago successfully registers to STARBOOKS



STII staff give hands-on training to faculty and students

To formalize the turnover of STARBOOKS, a Memorandum of Understanding was signed on May 4, 2017 in PHILSCA Villamor campus by Arlene E. Centeno, DOST-STII’s finance and administrative chief representing Director Richard P. Burgos; Dr. Ramirez; and Engr. Arman P. Bionat, assistant regional director for technical operation division of DOST-NCR. The MOU signing was witnessed by PHILSCA College Librarian Dr. Estrella E. Yago.

Dr. Yago, when asked about the status of their library, admitted, “We have 10 computer units with very poor internet connection. Last semester we didn’t have Internet connection yet.”

She also said that although their library contains almost 10, 000 books, some students still struggle to gather information in the

library. Paula Manzano, a third year aeronautics engineering student, said that three sections are sharing two books, and this give them very limited time to review.

Now that STARBOOKS landed on their school, Dr. Yago is enthusiastic that it will strengthen their collection especially on e-resources. She is also positive that STARBOOKS will give impact on the library accreditation in 2018.

Meanwhile, Manzano is excited to experience STARBOOKS, expecting a hassle-free data gathering compared with the current inconvenient online data gathering. Thankful for the printability feature of the data, “I can review more,” she excitedly exclaimed.

To give initial experience on the capability of the STARBOOKS, STII staff conducted training on how to use it. Representatives from various PHILSCA campuses took turns to explore STARBOOKS’ collection of thousands of S&T information materials which include books, journals, researches, and others, including livelihood videos.



Hands-on training was conducted by STII IT unit

Sec. FTP bullish on bolstering R&D

By Rodolfo P. De Guzman, DOST-STII



Photo by Gerardo G. Palad, DOST-STII

JOHAN HAY, Baguio—The Department of Science and Technology (DOST), in a scientific meeting held recently, underscored the need to strengthen research and development (R&D) initiatives in various fields particularly in agriculture, including the fisheries sector. Strengthening R&D is part of the development strategy under this administration to reduce economic inequality in the regions.

To have a look on R&D carried out in agriculture, DOST Secretary Fortunato T. de la Peña led the opening of the Luzon Regional Scientific Meeting (RSM) at the CAP John Hay Convention Center, Baguio City on May 15-17, 2017. The Luzon RSM is organized by the DOST-National Academy of Science and Technology (NAST) Philippines which is mandated to formulate policies pertaining to the development of science and technology in the country.

This event, the last of a series of RSM with the first two held in Cebu and Davao, is a prelude to the NAST 39th Annual Scientific Meeting to be held on July 12-13, 2017 in Manila. This year's theme is "Attaining Sustainable Development Goals: Philippine Fisheries and Other Aquatic Resources 20/20."

This year's events focus on the fisheries sector and fishing industry in the country with presentations of research studies in various fields forums on issues and prospects affecting the fisheries sector.

The Luzon RSM focuses on six plenary sessions with topics that include the following:



Photo by Henry A. de Leon, DOST-STII

Fish Health and Its Implication to Food Security, Water Quality Issues Linked to Fish production, Environmental Contamination of Aquatic Resources: Implications on Health, Fish in the Filipino Diet, Philippines Seas: Frontier of Pharmaceutical Discovery and Development, and Fresh Water Aquaculture: Status, Prospects and Problems in the Philippines.

"There is a need to harness potentials through the blue economy with practical green infrastructures, secretary de la Peña said. "These include strategic marine mapping for sustainable development as the Philippines is at the center of biodiversity where there can be economic activities like food processing and transportation".

The RSM in Baguio is conducted with the cooperation of the DOST Luzon Cluster composed of Regions I, II, III, IV-A, IV-B, V, CAR and NCR. This event is also made possible through the collaboration of other stakeholders: DOST-Philippine Council for Health Research and Development, DOST-Food and Nutrition Research Institute, Department of Health, National Economic and Development Authority, Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources, Laguna Lake Development Authority, University of the Philippines Baguio, University of the Philippines Los Baños, University of

the Philippines Manila, Central Luzon State University, Marine Science Institute, Mariano Marcos State University, Far Eastern University, and Baguio General Hospital and Medical Center.

Also in attendance are other DOST officials from the central office and regional offices, local government officials, representatives from the academe such as National Scientists Raul V. Fabella, chair of the Social Sciences Division and Ernesto O. Domingo of the Health Sciences Division, other NAST officials include Acd. Rafael D. Guerrero III of the Agricultural Sciences Division, Acd. Agnes C. Rola and Acd. Michael L. Tan of the Social Sciences Division; Acd. Jaime C. Montoya, Chair of the Health Sciences Division and Executive Director of the Philippine Council for Health Research and Development; Luningning E. Samarita-Domingo, Director IV; and Baguio City Mayor Mauricio Domogan.



Photo by Henry A. de Leon, DOST-STII

More research on fishery resources, Benham Rise, DOST chief urges

By **Rodolfo P. De Guzman**, *DOST-STII*

Secretary Fortunato T. de la Peña asked researchers to do more scientific studies on high potential fishery resources like seaweeds and Benham Rise, also known as the Benham Plateau.

Speaking before 300 delegates composed of scientists, academicians, researchers and various industry stakeholders, Sec. de la Peña said, "The Department of Science and Technology is focusing on strengthening research and development initiatives in various fields including the fisheries sector because this will provide more opportunities for our marginalized fishermen in the regions and will help them uplift their economic condition."

The Secretary emphasized, in particular, the importance of Benham Rise in the present administration's thrust of reducing economic inequality through creation of more income opportunities coming from marine resources. In fact, according to the Food and Agriculture Organization, the country ranked 8th among the top fish producers in the world in 2016, with Central Visayas at the forefront.

Benham Rise is a seismically active undersea region estimated to cover an area of about 13 million hectares located east of Luzon and is 35 meters underwater with the shallowest point located off the provinces of Aurora and Isabela.

In April 2012, the United Nations Convention of the Law of the Sea already recognized and officially approved the Philippines' claim on Benham Rise as part of its continental shelf and territory.

Based on initial studies Benham Rise is rich in mineral, oil and gas deposits like solidified methane that could help the country achieve self sufficiency in energy.

Sharing DOST's thrust on R&D is Bohol 2nd District Representative Erico Aristotle C. Aumentado, chair of the Science and Technology Committee in the Lower House.

"I fully recognize the importance of science and technology in developing our economy and I am supporting R&D activities particularly of the DOST in the fisheries sector as these will open doors to more opportunities without compromising the future," said Rep. Aumentado.

The congressman also called for stronger cooperation of different sectors of society, government, the private sector, and the academe.

Sec. de la Peña and Rep. Aumentado were speakers at the Visayas Regional Scientific Meeting (RSM) held this April in Cebu City.

Rep. Aumentado expressed his support for the regional scientific meetings as a means to share ideas in creating income opportunities in the provinces. Said meetings also address R&D initiatives in protecting the environment through science and technology, he said.

"We can only do this with the free exchange of ideas and to follow one path for sustainable development," he added.



(Image from DOST-PCAARRD)

inFOCUS



The Department of Science and Technology- Philippine Council for Industry, Energy, and Emerging Technology Research and Development (PCIEERD), together with De La Salle University (DLSU) launches the Contactless Apprehension of Traffic Violators on a 24-Hour Basis and All-Vehicle Detection System



(CATCH-ALL) Project on May 15, 2017. It aims to solve the behaviour-based congestion which is among the reasons of worsening traffic situations in Metro Manila. The CATCH-ALL software application can detect the following: vehicle detection and tracking, plate number recognition, vehicle profiling, and violations such as number coding, beating the red light and swerving. (Photos from DOST-PCIEERD)