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Business incubators meet to improve SME competitiveness

By **Kathy Lyn A. Bolotoalo, Ma. Josefina P. Abilay, DOST-MIMAROPA**; and **Rizaldy Bustamante, Palawan State University**



ABINet delegates at the "ASEAN Business Incubation Model Implementation: A Two-Day Workshop" held on 17-18 December 2018. (Photo from DOST-MIMAROPA)

Members of the ASEAN Business Incubator Network (ABINet), a system of business incubators that aims to strengthen small and medium-sized enterprises (SME) in the Association of Southeast Asian (ASEAN) region, convened in a two-day workshop to support technopreneurship in the region.

The "ASEAN Business Incubation Model Implementation: A Two-Day Workshop", held on 17 to 18 December 2018 in Manila, was one of the key activities under the ASEAN-Japan ASEAN Integration Fund Project entitled "Promoting SME Competitiveness through ABINet".

The event was organized by the ABINet and Palawan International Technology Business Incubator, a joint initiative of the Department of Science and Technology-MIMAROPA (DOST-MIMAROPA), Palawan State University (PSU), and MAD Incubator of Malaysia.

Ten technology business incubators (TBIs) from the ASEAN member states (Brunei Darussalam, Cambodia, Indonesia, Laos,

Malaysia, Myanmar, Philippines, Singapore, Thailand, and Vietnam) participated in the workshop and presented different business models including their best practices and challenges met in their respective TBIs.

In her opening remarks, DOST-MIMAROPA Regional Director Dr. Ma. Josefina P. Abilay was positive that the workshop would be a good venue for fruitful collaborations.

"I am certain that this will serve as a platform for valuable insights and cooperation to pave the way for yet another milestone in our commitment to fortify ASEAN TBIs to support technopreneurship in the Southeast Asia," Dir. Abilay said.

Meanwhile, PSU President Dr. Ramon M. Docto emphasized that it is only when the technology is used to make people productive and eventually become economically better off that technology gains its importance and meaning.

The importance of TBIs to spur economic growth especially in developing countries like the Philippines was further emphasized by

DOST-IX recognized in int'l best practice competition

By **Michael Ericson T. de Leon, DOST-IX**
 Photos from **DOST-IX**

The Department of Science and Technology-Region IX (DOST-IX) added another feather in its cap after it was hailed as one of the top 10 agencies with the best practice at the recently concluded 6th International Best Practice Competition.

The awarding ceremony was held at the Jumeirah at Etihad Towers in Abu Dhabi, UAE on 10 to 12 December 2018.

The International Best Practice Competition encourages organizations to share their best operational and managerial practices, processes, systems, and initiatives and learnings. It provides an opportunity to celebrate the achievements of individuals and teams that have been responsible for creating and/or managing the introduction and deployment of best practices.

Among the 74 entries submitted and assessed, only 36 were qualified to present during the said event. Out of the initial qualifiers, five hailed from the Philippines, including DOST-IX's

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The certificate received by DOST-IX during the 6th International Best Practice Competition 2018.

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DOST Undersecretary for Regional Operations Brenda L. Nazareth-Manzano.

"To date, the DOST has established 20 TBIs and two innovation hubs across the country, which are mostly hosted by state universities and colleges including the PSU," said Usec Nazareth-Manzano.

"Various services such as technical assistance, intellectual property management and legal counseling services, analytical laboratory services, and business development and marketing assistance among others, are made available or provided for the incubates," she added.

During the workshop, I Wayan Dipta, ABINet's project manager and also deputy

minister for the Ministry of Cooperatives and SMEs, discussed the five strategic objectives of the project.

These are: adoption of ASEAN business incubation model, development of the ASEAN database on TBIs and their stakeholders, strengthening of the ABINet resource building and development of the ABINet sharing community, leveraging the SME competitiveness when entering the ASEAN economic community (business matching and co-incubation program), and creation and integration of virtual platform to link the incubators and entrepreneurs across ASEAN member states.

Professor Hadi K. Purwadaria, ABINet project coordinator, emphasized the importance

of creating the incubators' own sustainable business model without relying too much on government funding.

"It's a good thing to have a supportive government but do not rely too much on this because government funds might be depleted," Prof. Purwadaria stressed.

The exchange of learnings and ideas among the delegates throughout the workshop will provide further opportunities across the TBIs to work together in addressing the gaps and challenges within their operations.

The workshop was also complemented with visits to DOST-assisted TBIs like De La Salle University Animo Labs and QBO Innovation Hub.

DOST-IX...
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Laboratory Online Referral System, an innovation in government service delivery.

The Laboratory Online Referral System is one of the information technology (IT) platforms developed by the DOST-IX's in-house IT staff under the project one-stop laboratory services for global competitiveness (OneLab). The referral system allows for the sample receiving officer of the laboratory to check the services offered by the member laboratories to facilitate referral of samples.

Through the system, samples can already be tracked. The system also provides the laboratory management a platform to readily monitor the performance of the laboratory through generation of data such as number of transactions referred, number of samples and tests or calibration conducted, laboratory fees collected, and cycle time per transaction.



DOST-IX representatives Rosemarie S. Salazar and Dir. Martin A. Wee with Philippine Ambassador to UAE H.E. Hjayceelyn M. Quintana (second from left) and Vice Consul Anna Marie Mae R. Guerra (right) who happens to be a former science research specialist of the DOST-IX.

To date, 22 private and other government laboratories both in and out of the country have joined the OneLab network of DOST laboratories to further cater to the needs of the community.

The International Best Practice award was founded by the Centre for Organisational Excellence Research, the developers of the Business Performance Improvement Resource and the TRADE Best Practice Benchmarking methodology.

It is also supported by the Abu Dhabi Chamber of Commerce, Asia Pacific Quality Organization, and the Global Benchmarking Network to encourage the sharing of work practices to help organizations quickly raise their performance and improve business results.



DOST-IX was represented by DOST-IX Regional Director Martin A. Wee (third from right) and Rosemarie S. Salazar (fourth from right), assistant regional director for Finance, Administrative Support, and Technical Services of DOST-IX.

DOST-TAPI intensifies promotion of aquaculture technologies

By Pierre Sonia S. Dela Corte, DOST-TAPI



Participants of the 3rd Technology Demonstration and Forum held on 10 December 2018 at the Subic Bay Travelers Hotel, Zambales. (Photo from DOST-TAPI)

To promote the use of aquaculture technologies to drive technological innovation on the practical needs of the aquaculture industries in Region III, the Department of Science and Technology-Technology Application and Promotion Institute (DOST-TAPI) held a technology forum and demonstration on 10 December 2018 at the Subic Bay Travelers Hotel in Zambales.

DOST-TAPI's 3rd Technology Demonstration and Forum dubbed as "Enhancing the Promotion of Agriculture, Aquatic, and Natural Resources (AANR) Technologies through Complementary Platforms" was held in partnership with the DOST-Philippine Council for Agriculture, Aquatic and Natural Resources Research and Development (PCAARRD).

The technology forum and demonstration served as a venue for DOST-TAPI to promote research outputs in the regions. The featured AANR technologies are research outputs of DOST-PCAARRD-funded technologies in line with its regional research and development consortia.

Among the featured technologies in the forum include the "Drying and Processing Technology for Sea Cucumber" by Dr. Kevin F. Yaptenco of the University of the Philippines

Los Baños; "Loop-Mediated Isothermal Amplification (LAMP) Kit" by Dr. Mary Beth B. Maningas of the University of Sto. Tomas; "Biosensor Kit" by Dr. Erwin P. Enriquez of Ateneo de Manila University; and "Automatic Bottom Feeder" by Ernesto L. Del Rosario of Cagayan State University.

The forum aims to use university-developed technologies through the help of DOST-PCAARRD's assistance not only to empower micro, small and medium enterprises (MSMEs) but also to improve existing production and create new enterprises.

"It requires technology and innovation to improve production systems of the MSMEs," said Eilleen S. Fernando, project leader of DOST-PCAARRD's promotion of AANR Technologies.

"Also, it takes more collaborative efforts with our stakeholders to effectively promote DOST-developed AANR technologies in the countryside," added Fernando.

The first and the second series of technology demonstration and forum were held in Bulacan and Nueva Ecija, respectively for agriculture, alternative farming, and rice technologies earlier in 2018.

The next technology demonstration and forum, which will focus on cacao processing technologies, will be held in Cebu in February 2019.

ABOUT US

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DOST-NRCP collaborates with Roxas Kalaw Foundation

By Jenny Leigh A. Daquioag, DOST-NRCP

At an event that honored Dr. Manuel Luz Roxas, the first president of the Department of Science and Technology-National Research Council of the Philippines (DOST-NRCP), the awardee's son offered to collaborate with the research council to help eradicate poverty through science and technology-based, data-driven solutions.

Dr. Sixto K. Roxas, the 91-year old son of the elder Dr. Roxas, offered to work with DOST-NRCP through the Roxas Kalaw Foundation, which was also founded by his late father.

"With the new ICT connectivity, and if there will be connectivity in the whole country, we can eradicate poverty in less than 10 years," said Dr. Roxas during DOST-NRCP's 85th Founding Anniversary at the Philippine International Convention Center on 10 December 2019.

"I would like to offer the operation of Roxas Kalaw Foundation to NRCP in order to solve this particular problem. Hopefully I'll see it finished before it's time for me to go," added Dr. Roxas.

The Roxas family currently operates the Roxas Kalaw Foundation, a science-based and data-driven solutions provider. The foundation organizes communities to possibly lift them out of poverty and enable them to build an ecologically sustainable livelihood system that accelerates local economic development.

In response, Dr. Marietta Bañez Sumagaysay, executive director of DOST-

NRCP, accepted the collaboration with the Roxas Kalaw Foundation. She said that the DOST-NRCP is strong in its social sciences division, which can help the foundation in fulfilling its goals.

Likewise, Dr. Sumagaysay said that the Roxas Kalaw Foundation will help the council in one of its priority areas, that is inclusive nation building under DOST-NRCP's National Integrated Basic Research Agenda. Dr. Sumagaysay added that this is in cognizance of the Sustainability Development Goals' philosophy that says "No one is left behind and the farthest first."

The younger Dr. Roxas received the Posthumous Institutional Service Award for his father from DOST-NRCP in recognition of Dr. Manuel Luz Roxas' initiative and support that led to the creation of the DOST-NRCP on 8 December 1933. DOST-NRCP was created through the Ninth Philippine Legislature Act 4120 or An Act Creating a National Research Council of the Philippine Islands for the Promotion of Research Work Along Scientific Lines.

Dr. Manuel Luz Roxas served as a charter member, then as chairman for four years, and was later on considered as the "Father of the National Research Council of the Philippines."

On behalf of his family, Dr. Sixto K. Roxas extended their gratitude to DOST-NRCP for both remembering and honoring the role of his father in the establishment of DOST-NRCP.



Dr. Sixto K. Roxas accepts the Posthumous Institutional Service Award for his father Dr. Manuel Luz Roxas, during the DOST-NRCP's 85th Founding Anniversary on 10 December 2018 at the Philippine International Convention Center. (Photo from DOST-NRCP)

inFocus



DOSTv receives Anak TV Seal. DOSTv: Science For the People, the official weather and science program of the Department of Science and Technology, recently received the 2018 Anak TV Seal Award as one of the television programs that feature child-sensitive and family-friendly content. DOST-Science and Technology Information Institute (STII) Director Richard P. Burgos (left) and Mona Carina E. Montevirgen (right), supervising science research specialist of DOST-STII, received the recognition for DOSTv: Science For the People. The awarding ceremony was held at the Soka Gakkai Building in Quezon City on 7 December 2018. DOSTv: Science For the People airs from Monday to Friday at 9:30 AM on PTV4 and at 11:00 AM and 4:00 PM on Global News Network. It also streams online through Facebook and on YouTube. (Text by Jasmin Joyce P. Sevilla, DOST-STII and photo from DOSTv).