



11 years of bringing
S&T good news

Inside

DOST-funded study recommends policy to boost bamboo industry p2
 DOST-TAPI awards IP certificates to stakeholders p3
 DOST-VIII chief bags 2018 Presidential Lingkod Bayan Award..... p4
 InFocus..... p4

DOST-IX receives Philippine Quality Award

By Michael Daryll Ericson de Leon, DOST-IX



President Rodrigo Duterte presented the PQA award to DOST-IX Regional Director Martin A. Wee. (Photo from DOST-IX)

The Department of Science and Technology-Region IX (DOST-IX) recently received the Philippine Quality Award (PQA) Recognition for Proficiency in Quality Management (Level 2).

The award was conferred by President Rodrigo Duterte himself during the PQA conferment ceremony held at the Heroes Hall of Malacañan Palace on 24 October 2018. DOST-IX Regional Director Martin A. Wee received the award on behalf of the agency.

DOST-IX is the lone national line agency in the country to be awarded with PQA Level 2 as of this writing.

This award recognizes organizations that demonstrated a thorough implementation of quality and productivity management principles and had significant progress in building sound and notable processes. Moreover, an organization must have demonstrated a solid approach to system-

level quality and productivity management to receive the award.

The Regional Office’s incessant improvement of its services to the public led to this award. In 2012, DOST-IX received the Recognition for Commitment to Quality Management (Level 1). The assessment period was during the stint of then DOST-IX Regional Director Brenda L. Nazareth-Manzano, now DOST Undersecretary for Regional Operations.

The conferment ceremony was graced by key DOST officials including Secretary Fortunato T. de la Peña and Usec. Nazareth-Manzano. Also present during the ceremony were the PQA Organizers and Steering Committee members headed by Secretary Ramon M. Lopez of the Department of Trade and Industry, Atty. Engelbert C. Caronan, president of the Development Academy of the Philippines and administrator for PQA-Public Sector, and Warren M. Enteria, president of the Philippine Society

for Quality, Inc. and administrator for PQA-Private Sector.

This year’s Philippine Quality Award Ceremony is intended specifically for 16 agencies and organizations across the country that successfully bagged the award for the 18th to 20th cycles of PQA (2015-2017). Aside from the DOST-IX, the DOST-CALABARZON (Region IV-A), and the DOST-Philippine Council for Industry, Energy and Emerging Technology Research and Development were also conferred with PQA Level 1.

The PQA is the highest level of national recognition for exemplary organizational performance. It is a national award program that recognizes the achievements of public and private sector organizations in their journey towards performance excellence. The PQA criteria focus on the areas of leadership, strategy, customer, measurement, analysis and knowledge management, workforce, operations, and results.

DOST-funded study recommends policy to boost bamboo industry

By **Monica B. Castillo**, DOST-PCAARRD

A study funded by the Department of Science and Technology-Philippine Council for Agriculture, Aquatic, and Natural Resources Research and Development recommends a comprehensive policy to address issues that were found during the course of the research.

The study titled “Creating an Enabling Environment for a Vibrant Philippine Bamboo Industry: Addressing Policy Constraints and Information Needs” was conducted to provide scientific basis for policy environment on bamboo that is in sync with societal needs and to generate database information for dissemination. The research team also aimed to propose a draft policy that will encourage bamboo resource development by both the government and private sectors.

The study’s initial findings suggest that imposing the Certificate of Verification (CoV) for harvested bamboo dampens private sector investment, discourages planting of bamboo, and breeds bureaucracy.

Further, the study found that the government does not have enough basis and lacks coordination in implementing the existing bamboo policies, particularly on the issuance of CoV. The study concludes that there is a need for a more comprehensive policy that would ensure sustainability of the bamboo industry, economically and environmentally.

To address these issues, the study advocates a comprehensive policy that will include the following: advocacy programs for bamboo planting in forest and private lands, sustainable management of bamboo resource, community-based data collection and monitoring system, protection of bamboo traders and transporters from undue harassment, provision of incentives and loans, and institutionalization of an agency

that will oversee the bamboo development in the country.

Per the Department of Natural Resources and Environment Administrative Order No. 59, series of 1993, CoV is a legal document used by traders and shippers for the movement of bamboo from point of origin to destination. It serves as a proof of the legality of source.

The use of CoV, as a control mechanism against the unauthorized movement and disposition of illegal bamboo products, is inconsistent with the bamboo plant’s persistence and ability to grow, develop, and expand. It fails to recognize the ecological nature of bamboo as a grass—bamboo grows more as it is cut.

CoV does not achieve the desired protection of this plant resource. It becomes a hindrance in maximizing its economic benefits as a raw material in housing, construction, and furniture industries.

Furthermore, there are inconsistencies in the implementation of CoV in terms of the application procedure and fees collected. In areas where CoV is strictly implemented, some respondents reported that some authorities were taking advantage by collecting higher fees as payment for the release of CoV.

Meanwhile, traders of bamboo are stopped at checkpoints, where they still end up shelling out token amounts to avoid being inconvenienced, despite having secured CoV for their shipment.

The project runs for 18 months until November 2018. The project team is led by Dr. Ramon A. Razal, professor at the Department of Forest Products and Paper Science of the College of Forestry and Natural Resources at the University of the Philippines Los Baños. So far, the team has conducted review of existing policies; gathered statistics and related literature; and held workshops, roundtable discussion, site visits, key informant interviews, and focus group discussions.



DOST-TAPI awards IP certificates to stakeholders

By Maricon R. Avila, DOST-TAPI

Various DOST research and development institutes, state universities and colleges (SUCs), high schools, and private inventors received their intellectual property (IP) certificates from the Department of Science and Technology-Technology Application and Promotion Institute (DOST-TAPI).

DOST-TAPI hosted an awarding ceremony to hand over 554 granted IP certificates from the Intellectual Property of the Philippines (IPOPPL), on 25 October 2018 at the Philippine International Convention Center in Pasay City.

The Institute has been assisting technology generators and inventors in securing IP protection through its IP Rights Assistance Program (IPRAP) for the past decades.

DOST-TAPI Director Edgar I. Garcia recognized that the event only proves that the stakeholders own their innovations and technologies by obtaining IP protection.

"We want those certificates to be of use as innovations in the industry and enterprise development or in your own businesses," said Dir. Garcia.

He also said that commercialization of these protected technologies is the next step and that the Institute is very willing to assist them further.

"DOST-TAPI takes responsibility in the commercialization of these innovations which

you have already generated," added Dir. Garcia.

Subsequently, Atty. Lolibeth R. Medrano, director of the Bureau of Patents of the IPOPPL, said that they acknowledge DOST-TAPI's support for IP protection and technology commercialization to the market through technical and financial assistance.

"I have recognized the critical role and the value of partnership with DOST-TAPI as among the most vital in developing a national culture of innovation and creativity," said Medrano.

She added that IPOPPL looks forward to further partnership with DOST-TAPI.

Moreover, Atty. Marion Ivy D. Decena, chief science research specialist of DOST-TAPI's Invention Development Division informed the awardees and guests that through the IPRAP, the number of quality local patent filings has increased in recent years.

"From 2008 to 2018, the Institute has assisted more than 4,000 IP applications with our increasing targets of 1,000 IP applications filed per year," said Decena.

The University of the Philippines Diliman, Capiz State University, and the DOST-TAPI received 65 copyrights, 36 copyrights and 23 utility models, and 40 copyright certificates, respectively.

Meanwhile, Polytechnic University of the Philippines received 212 copyright

certificates, and Ruth O. Yanga, an inventor, received two utility model certificates.

DOST-TAPI patent agents, Caesar Angelito Arceo, Engr. Janeth Cruzada-Vidal, Engr. Roberto Verzosa, and Anna Liza B. Saet were also recognized for their efforts in working closely with the researchers and inventors to draft and file their technologies.

The Institute's in-house patent agents have accumulated an estimated total savings of around PHP 1.8M pesos from January 2017 to present.

Members of the Association of Patent Professionals, Inc. were present during the event, including Atty. Neptali Bulilan of Sapalo Velez Bundang and Bulilan Law Offices, Atty. Bayani Loste of Fortun Narvasa and Salazar Law Offices, and Atty. Editha Hechanova of Hechanova & Co., Inc.

These law firms and offices have been providing assistance to DOST-TAPI's clients in the preparation of patent documents and prosecution of IP applications.

A total of 61 copyrights, 19 utility models, and one industrial design were handed over to DOST-attached agencies; 335 copyrights and 37 utility models were handed over to SUCs; 89 copyrights and one utility model were handed over to science and national high schools; and three copyrights and eight utility models were handed over to private inventors.

ABOUT US

The DOST Digest is published by the Department of Science and Technology-Science and Technology Information Institute. For comments, suggestions or queries, contact: (02) 837-2071 to 82 loc. 2148/839-2193 local 107 or email: dost.digest@gmail.com

Framelia V. Anonas

Editor-In-Chief

Sheila Marie Anne J. de Luna

Managing Editor

James B. Intia

Layout Artist

Jasmin Joyce P. Sevilla

Proofreader

Allan Mauro V. Marfal

Circulation

Department of Science and Technology-
Science and Technology Information Institute
Bicutan, Taguig City 1631
Metro Manila
Philippines

www.stii.dost.gov.ph

Like us on Facebook/DOST-Science and
Technology Information Institute



(L-R): Glenda Rima and Atty. Marion Ivy Decena of DOST-TAPI, Director Lolibeth Medrano of IPOPPL, Prof. Adeline Pacia and Dr. Adel Nemenzo of UP Diliman, and Director Edgar Garcia of DOST-TAPI. (Photo from DOST-TAPI)

DOST-VIII chief bags 2018 Presidential Lingkod Bayan Award

By Jean Gay Octaviano-Ragub, DOST-VIII

In recognition of his exemplary performance as a visionary leader and public servant, Engr. Edgardo M. Esperancilla, regional director of the Department of Science and Technology (DOST)-Region VIII received the Presidential Lingkod Bayan Regional Award.

The awarding was held during the Pasidungog Awarding Ceremony of the Civil Service Commission (CSC)'s Search for Outstanding Government Workers on 24 October 2018 at the Summit Hotel in Tacloban City.

Engr. Esperancilla's notable initiatives and accomplishments in leading the implementation of DOST's programs in the region propelled his nomination, which eventually led to him bagging the award.

Among his noteworthy contributions is the implementation of the Yolanda Rehabilitation and Recovery Project, wherein Yolanda-stricken communities were provided with livelihood projects, employment opportunities, and trainings on various DOST-developed technologies.

Moreover, because of his leadership as the national program coordinator of DOST's Community Empowerment through Science and Technology (CEST) program, two proposals were drafted with approved budgets amounting to Php22,385,015.67 and Php43,656,084.87, respectively. CEST interventions along the areas of health and nutrition, environmental protection and conservation, human resource development, economic development/livelihood opportunities, and disaster risk reduction and management and climate change adaptation, are now being delivered in selected CEST communities in the different regions of the country.

Under Dir. Esperancilla's governance, DOST-VIII was able to strengthen the implementation

of DOST-Science Education Institute's scholarship program in the region by having "one scholar per municipality," attaining an evident increase in the number of scholarship examinees and qualifiers.

Furthermore, DOST-VIII was the first among the regional offices to conduct the Filipino Patriot Scholars Project in 2017 that aims to instill in each scholar the core values of patriotism, professional excellence, social responsibility, and servant leadership, making them a future contributing force to the country's national development.

Dir. Esperancilla, together with the staff of DOST's Small Enterprise Technology Upgrading Program (SETUP) in Region VIII, has been spearheading the conduct of the Best SETUP Adopter Awards, which aims to recognize outstanding entrepreneurs nationwide who have availed of the DOST's banner program. Among the successful SETUP adoptors from the region were Trophy Farm, hailed as 2016's National Best SETUP Adopter; Ormoc Mac Mercury and Island's Best Calamansi Processing, which were the region's Best SETUP Adoptor finalists for 2015 and 2017, respectively.

In addition, DOST-VIII, through Dir. Esperancilla's ingenious leadership, has continuously pushed for the achievement of an effective science, technology, and innovation governance by maintaining its ISO 9001 and ISO 17025 certifications, as well as by enhancing office operations through the utilization of harmonized information systems. Through DOST-VIII's best practice of encouraging and supporting its workforce, the organization has produced eight employees who are officially recognized as technology or subject matter experts.

In 2011, Dir. Esperancilla was among the five recipients of the Gawad CES Presidential Award for his strong support to the development of the region's micro, small, and medium entrepreneurs, and also for his various commendable accomplishments in leading the DOST-VIII's program implementation.

According to the CSC, the Presidential Lingkod Bayan Award is conferred to an individual or group of individuals for exceptional or extraordinary contributions resulting from an idea or performance that had nationwide impact on public interest, security, and patrimony. The contribution may be a suggestion, innovation, invention, or superior accomplishment.



DOST-VIII Regional Dir. Esperancilla proudly holds his trophy during the CSC's Search for Outstanding Government Workers on 24 October 2018 at the Summit Hotel, Tacloban City. (Photo from DOST-VIII)

inFocus



Filipinnovation towards entrepreneurship and inclusive growth. Department of Trade and Industry (DTI) Secretary Ramon M. Lopez delivers the keynote address during the Inclusive Innovation Conference 2018: Filipinnovation for Entrepreneurship and Inclusive Growth held on 2 to 3 October 2018 at the Sofitel Philippine Plaza Manila. It was during this event that the Philippine Inclusive Filipinnovation and Entrepreneurship Roadmap: Bridging the Gaps, Setting the Milestones was launched. The Roadmap was produced after a year of consultation with regional stakeholders, analysis, and conduct of validation workshops. In June 2017, the DTI and the Department of Science and Technology, led by Secretary Fortunato T. de la Peña, signed a memorandum of understanding to jointly formulate and implement the innovation roadmap. This will be expanded to include other government agencies like the National Economic and Development Authority, Department of Education, Commission on Higher Education, Department of Agriculture, and the Department of Information and Communications Technology, as part of the whole-of-government approach in establishing the inclusive and entrepreneur ecosystem. Sec. Lopez shared that the ultimate goal of the roadmap is to activate innovation and entrepreneurship as the main levers to reduce, if not to completely eliminate poverty in the country. "Let us all work together to make this happen. Kaya natin 'yan!" he said. (Text and photo by Rosemarie C. Señora, DOST-STII)