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**Info drive on amended IP policies held**

By **Mary Anichie C. Itoh**, DOST-TAPI

Photo from DOST-TAPI

The Technology Application and Promotion Institute of the Department of Science and Technology (DOST-TAPI) conducted an information drive to orient representatives from DOST regional offices, as well as from state universities and colleges and higher education institutions, on the DOST's amended Intellectual Property (IP)-related policies.

Almost 100 participants participated in the event dubbed "Information Drive on the Amended DOST Intellectual Property-related Policies" which was held 09-10 October 2019 at Midas Hotel in Pasay City. According to DOST-TAPI, the event is the first in a series of information campaigns planned throughout the country to disseminate the amended IP-related policies.

"We would like to help you clearly identify your roles in IP Protection and Management of your R&D (research and development) works," said Romeo M. Javate, officer-in-charge of the Investment and Business Operations Division (IBOD) of the DOST-TAPI, as he addressed

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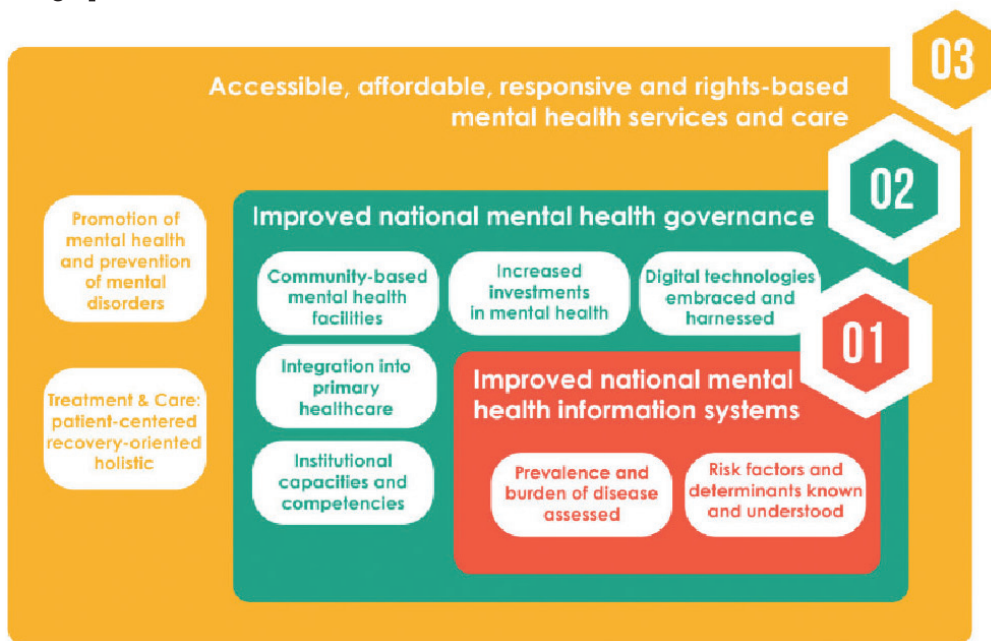


Romeo M. Javate of DOST-TAPI's IBOD welcomes the participants.

**DOST launches first nat'l research agenda for mental health**

By **Christine Jane M. Gonzalez**, DOST-PCHRD

Infographics from DOST-PCHRD



The new mental health research agenda seeks to support the current policy reforms in mental health, as it is informed by developments at the global level and continues to support a life course perspective on mental health research.

The country's lead in health research, Department of Science and Technology-Philippine Council for Health Research and Development (DOST-PCHRD), announced the conception of the first National Mental Health Research Agenda (NMHRA) during the World Mental Health Week on 11 October 2019 at the Philippine International Convention Center, Pasay City.

Intended to set direction for the country's future mental health research investments, the development of NMHRA 2019-2022 was facilitated by DOST-PCHRD and the World Association for Psychosocial Rehabilitation (WAPR)-Philippines, working with various stakeholders. The selection of NMHRA research priority areas is based on the provisions of the Philippine Mental Health Act of 2017.

"We still have much to do in the field of mental health research, and I hope with the NMHRA, we can inspire more evidence-informed research programs on mental health in the country," said Dr. Jaime C. Montoya, executive director of DOST-PCHRD.

According to the Principal Investigator of NMHRA and the President of WAPR-Philippines, Lucita Lazo, mental health is not a national priority over the years, but now solutions to address the problems are being brought out. Lazo expressed her high hopes that more government and non-government organizations will initiate and support mental health research efforts in the country.

Lazo co-developed the NMHRA along with Dr. Lourdes L. Ignacio, Founding President of WAPR-Philippines.

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### Mental health situation in the Philippines

"In a developing country like the Philippines, the shortage of human and financial resources along with the stigma on anything "mental", and the low prioritization for mental health hamper the national capacity to respond to the increasing needs of the Filipino to sustain a good quality of life," said Dr. Ignacio.

Mental health is listed as the third most prevalent form of illness in the Philippines, according to a 2018 study of John Lally, John Tully, and Rene Samaniego entitled, "Mental health services in the Philippines." The Department of Health reported that one in every five Filipino adults has some form of mental illness.

Every year, around 3,500 Filipinos commit suicide, according to the World Population Review in 2019. Additionally, the highest percentage of depression affects teenagers and young adults aged 16 to 29.

In terms of healthcare, there are only two to three mental health workers for every 100,000 Filipinos, according to the World Health Organization and Department of Health in 2006. This, according to experts, accounts for a severe shortage of mental health specialists in the country. Moreover, researchers argue that

mental health in the Philippines remains an under-resourced aspect in healthcare.

### National developments in mental health

There are two major waves of mental health development in the Philippines, said Dr. Ignacio. The first was initiated in 2001 by the National Mental Health Policy issued by the Secretary of Health as the country's commitment in observance of the World Health Day. The second was done in the last two years: the enactment of the Philippine Mental Health Act of 2017, the promulgation of its implementing rules and regulations, and the enactment of the Universal Health Law. These recent developments are all deemed to change the landscape of mental health in the country.

Mental health is one of the research priorities in the National Unified Health Research Agenda (NUHRA) 2017-2020. However, no mental health research framework existed that the DOST-PCHRD could follow in supporting mental health programs.

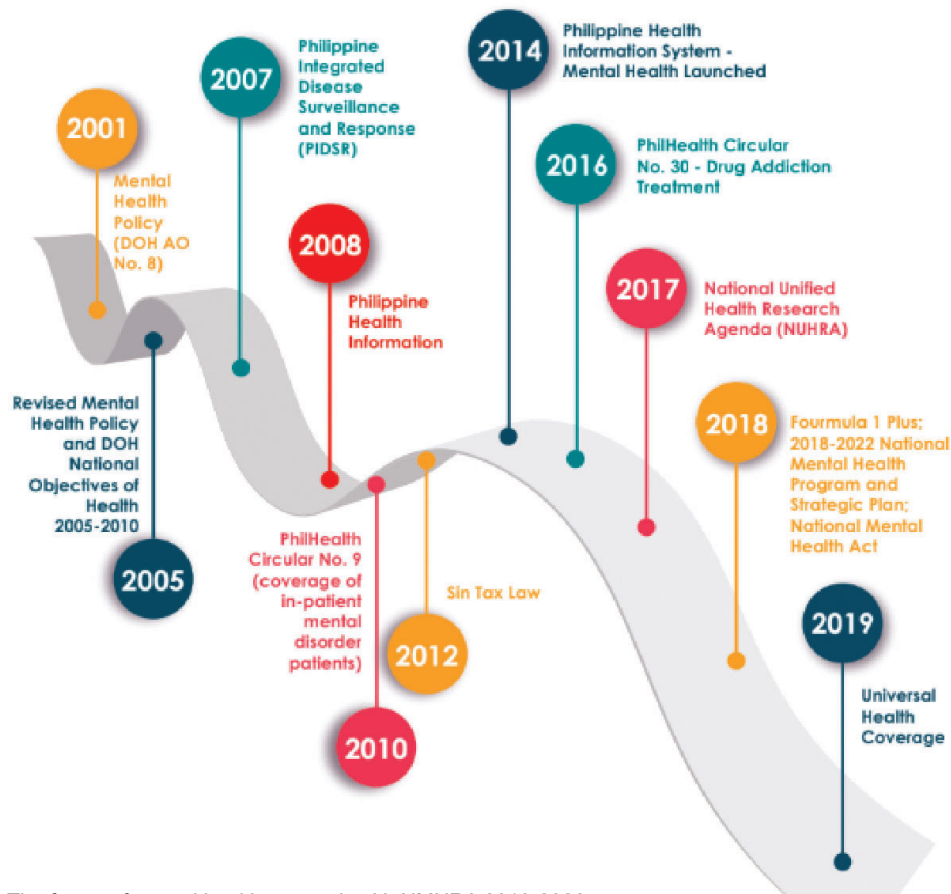
With the NMHRA 2019-2022, future mental health research projects are expected to achieve three major outcomes as follows: improved mental health information system;

strengthened leadership and governance; and accessible, available, affordable, and responsive mental health services.

Both Lazo and Dr. Ignacio believe that a strengthened mental health information system is crucial as it will lay the basis for innovations in the field. More so, this will help steer the provision of mental healthcare services for Filipinos.

Subsequently, an improved leadership and governance will ensure adequate supply of resources needed for mental health services in the country. Well-informed duty bearers will fuel the provision of treatment and care in local mental health facilities and mental hospitals, which will increase the availability of mental health services among local communities all over the country.

"Now, it seems like there can be reality to the movement towards approaching mental health from a transformative framework to being more wide-ranging, as it's going to traverse the whole of life, because that's what mental health is all about, the whole total well-being. So exciting!" said Dr. Violeta Bautista, head of University of the Philippines Diliman Clinical Psychology Program.



The future of mental health research with NMHRA 2019-2022.

## ABOUT US

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# Electronics dev't center gets ISO accreditation

By Beatrice Marie S. Basi, DOST-PCIEERD

Photo from DOST-PCIEERD

**E**lectronic products from the Philippines have a better chance of cracking into the international market as the Department of Science and Technology (DOST)'s Electronics Product Development Center (EPDC)—the Philippines' premiere electronics testing center—gains its ISO 17025:2017 accreditation for electrical testing or electromagnetic compatibility (EMC) testing.

Awarded by the American Accreditation for Laboratory Accreditation (A2LA)—an independent, non-profit, internationally-recognized accreditation body in the United States for laboratory and laboratory-related accreditation services—the ISO 17025:2017 positions the EPDC at par with electronics testing centers around the world as it recognized EPDC's several testing methods for its international compliance.

The accreditation recognizes the technical competence and the laboratory quality management system of the EPDC for EMC testing.

DOST-Philippine Council for Industry, Energy, and Emerging Technology Research and Development (DOST-PCIEERD) Executive Director Dr. Enrico C. Paringit congratulated the EPDC for getting the ISO 17025:2017 accreditation.

"The recognition that the A2LA awarded to EPDC is a testament to the continuous innovation that we have committed to the Filipino people. We are optimistic that more electronics companies will be trooping to the EPDC to have their products tested or create new designs using our machines," said Dr. Paringit.



In preparation for the accreditation of the EPDC, DOST staff participated in a Global Compliance Consulting (GCC) Technical Training conducted by Thomas Dickten (third from the left). DOST staff were (from left to right): Lemuel Borgonia, Victor Gruet, Hilary de Leon, Julius Solomon, Janel Sito, Jhonatan Tapay, and Darwin Bernabe Mendez.

A2LA awarded the ISO 17025:2017 for commercial and automotive component tests for both radiated and conducted emissions tests of EPDC for the following products: Internet of Things (IoT) equipment, information technology equipment, multimedia equipment, power supplies, uninterruptible power supplies, 3D printers, medical equipment, and on-board automotive devices (i.e., camera, sensor, ECU, etc.).

DOST created the EPDC in response to the industry need for facilities to improve product design, development, test, and to spur even

more electronics manufacturing in the country, a call championed by the Electronic Industries Association of the Philippines (EIAPI).

With EPDC, companies can have their product tests done in the country instead of sending them abroad. Inaugurated in 2017, the DOST-Advanced Science and Technology Institute manages the EPDC in partnership with EIAPI.

Through the EPDC, small, medium, and large enterprises can have easy access to testing facilities for their electronics products and even help them create their own through the various innovation programs of the facility.

*Info drive...*

from page 1

the participants during the event's opening ceremonies.

Javate emphasized that the changes made in the DOST IP-related policies affect the participants' different research processes and transactions.

Since the enactment of the Philippine Technology Transfer Act of 2009 or Republic Act (RA) 10055 into law in 2010, the DOST has been vigorously initiating activities to support the RA's goal to successfully transfer government-funded R&D results for the benefit of the Filipino people.

RA 10055 expanded DOST's function in calling for a regular national conference of government funding agencies and research and development institutes (RDI) to promote multidisciplinary, joint, and cross collaboration in R&D; coordinate and rationalize the R&D

agenda; and harmonize all R&D priorities.

Moreover, the Implementing Rules and Regulation (IRR) of the Act requires the DOST to define a policy on IP and lay down the institutional mechanisms for technology transfer activities.

"The amended DOST IP-related policies are for the efficiency and effectiveness of the implementation of the law," explained Atty. Lucieden Raz, consultant of IBOD during her discussion of the amended IRR, DOST IP Policies, and Technology Transfer Protocol of DOST-RDIs.

Likewise, Atty. Marion Ivy Decena of DOST-TAPI's Invention Development Division, presented the "Guidelines on Fairness Opinion Report and Written Recommendation," while Atty. Ma. Gladys C. Vilchez, tackled the "IP Management Protocol of DOST-Government

Funding Agency and Policy on Governing Contract Research."

## Launching of the Technology Transfer Day Website

Subsequently, the official website for the Technology Transfer Day (TTD) was launched during the event.

The TTD website is a one-stop online source of all the technologies generated and funded by the DOST RDIs and councils.

Included in the website are brief descriptions of the technologies, photos, contact information of the technology generators, as well as the technology licensing offices and basic information and requirements for licensing agreements.

For more information on technology transfer, visit [techtrans.dost.gov.ph](http://techtrans.dost.gov.ph).

# DOST-NegOr holds STARBOOKS demo, scholarship test review

By Engr. Reinhold Jek Y. Abing, PSTC-Negros Oriental

Photos from PSTC-Negros Oriental

**H**igh school students from Bayog High School in Canlaon City, Negros Oriental will now have access to thousands of science and technology (S&T) information with the arrival of STARBOOKS or the Science and Technology Academic Research-Based Openly Operated Kiosks in their school.

The Department of Science and Technology (DOST), through the Provincial Science and Technology Center (PSTC), brought STARBOOKS to Bayog High School in an effort to bring S&T information to hard-to-reach areas like Bayog.

Branded as “library-in-a-box”, STARBOOKS contains thousands of digitized science and technology resources in various formats (text and video/audio) set in a user-friendly interface.

Students and teachers of Bayog High School had the chance to interact with the Philippine’s first digital science library during the STARBOOKS technical demonstration conducted by PSTC-Negros Oriental on 09 October 2019.

Bayog High School’s Principal Francisca Villocillo said that she aims to include STARBOOKS in the school’s priority plans for the coming school year. She is hoping as well that all the school’s computers under the Department of Education Computerization Program will be connected to STARBOOKS in order to maximize its use.

In addition to STARBOOKS, PSTC-Negros Oriental also provided the school with S&T information, education, and communication (IEC) materials.



Students undergo a mock exam after the conduct of the review for those who will be taking the DOST-SEI scholarship examination. It was held at Jose Cardenas Memorial National High School in Panubigan, Canlaon City, Negros Oriental.

Coincidentally, PSTC-NegOr conducted a review class for students who will be taking the DOST-Science Education Institute (SEI) scholarship examination. The review class was held at the Jose Cardenas Memorial National High School in Panubigan, Canlaon City, Negros Oriental.

Participated in by 34 students, the review class aims to increase the awareness of the students on the nature of the exam, and thereby increase their probability of passing the actual scholarship examination.

DOST-SEI’s S&T Undergraduate Scholarship Program aims to stimulate and entice talented Filipino students to pursue productive careers in S&T and ensure a steady, adequate supply of qualified S&T human resources who can steer the country toward national progress.



Students of Bayog High School in Bayog, Canlaon City, Negros Oriental explore the different science and technology digital content after the conduct of the technical demo.

## inFOCUS



**AMMSTI leadership turnover.** Department of Science and Technology Secretary Fortunato T. de la Peña (left) officially turned over the leadership of the ASEAN Ministerial Meeting on Science, Technology and Innovation (AMMSTI) to His Excellency Dr. Koh Poh Koon - (right), senior minister of State, Ministry of Trade and Industry of the Republic of Singapore during the 18th AMMSTI held 11 October 2019 in Singapore. The Ministers expressed their support to the development of the ASEAN Innovation Roadmap 2019-2025 among other agendas. (Text and photo by Enrico A. Belga Jr., DOST-CO)