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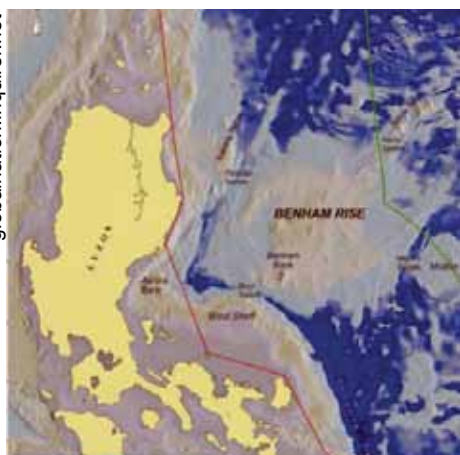
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Pioneering research on Benham Rise among topics in DOST presscon on agri-aqua projects

By Cesar Villanoy
S&T Media Service, *DOST-PCAARRD*

globalnation.inquirer.net



From May 3-18, 2014, Filipino scientists aboard the research vessel M/V BFAR conducted oceanographic exploration and surveys at Benham Bank, the shallowest area of Benham Rise with a depth of 50 meters. The objective was to determine the resources available in the territory for future economic benefits.

The initiative, dubbed "Exploration, Mapping, and Assessment of Deep Water Areas," was funded by the Department of Science and Technology's Philippine Council for Agriculture, Aquatic and Natural Resources Research and Development (DOST-PCAARRD).

It was a collaboration of the UP Marine Science Institute, UP National Institute of Geological Sciences, UPLB - School of Environmental Science and Management, and Department of Agriculture-Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources. The project was likewise backed by researchers, scientists and seasoned dive specialists from UP Mindanao, UP Baguio, Xavier University, Ateneo de Manila University and the local diving industry.

The Philippines was given sovereignty over the Benham Rise Region when, on April

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Its More Fun at NSTW 2015

By Joy L. Lazcano
S&T Media Service, *DOST-STII*



Last year's NSTW celebration.

Want to see the latest developments in science and technology? Come to the 2015 National Science and Technology Week where technology, fun, and learning come together in this week-long celebration.

The NSTW is an annual showcase of the country's biggest breakthroughs and strides in science and technology (S&T) presented through interactive technology exhibits, robotics, scale model displays, product displays, science career talks, science and business fora, research, and many more. Through these activities, NSTW aims to create greater appreciation of S&T among Filipinos by highlighting technologies and research programs that help transform and influence the lives of ordinary Filipinos.

With its theme "Philippines: A Science Nation Innovating for Global Competitiveness," NSTW will also highlight the country's competitive capabilities against its neighboring ASEAN countries as the region prepares for the ASEAN Economic Integration this year.

For 2015, the Department of Science and Technology (DOST) prepares an array of activities anchored on its programs for agriculture, enterprises, industry, IT-BPM, government

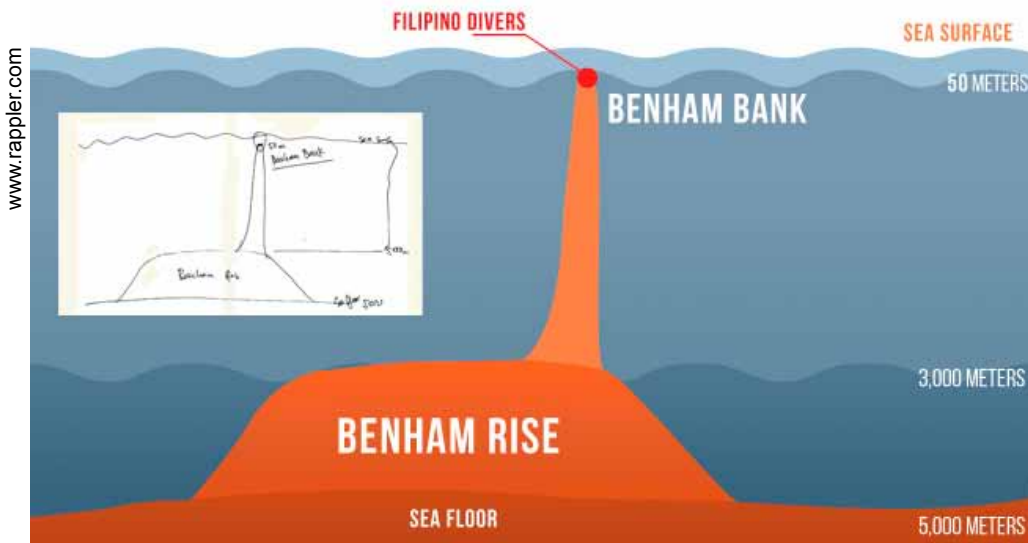
connectivity, health, S&T education, disaster mitigation and climate change.

Among those to be featured in these activities are Project NOAH, DOST-LiDAR, Science and Technology Academic Research-Based Openly Operated Kiosks or STARBOOKS, DOST scholarships, Small Enterprises Technology Upgrading Program or SETUP, Food Innovation Centers, and many more.

There will be talks on the following: Dengue Control and Prevention, Government Network: Faster Delivery of Services to Citizens, Telang Dekalidad:Pinoy ang Tatak, Coconut Scale Insect Management Strategies, Osteoarthritis and Food Technology, Packaging Innovation, E-Health, Bamboo Technology, Intelligent Transport Systems, and "The Big One" entitled Living with Faults, among others.

There will also be a workshop on science journalism titled "The Art in Science Journalism."

NSTW is open to the public from July 24-28 2015 at the SMX Convention Center, MOA, Pasay City. For more details, please log on to www.nstw.dost.gov.ph and www.science.ph. Like us on Facebook at NSTW2015 and use #nstw2015.



The graphic, based on a sketch by UP's Dr. Cesar Villanoy

12, 2012, the Commission on the Limits of the Continental Shelf of the United Nations adopted in full the country's declaration of the Benham Rise as part of the Philippine Extended Continental Shelf.

Benham Rise covers a seabed area of 135,506 sq km. within which emerges the peak of an isolated seamount, one among over 30,000 seamounts found in the world's oceans.

Seamount habitats can be biodiversity hotspots because of available substrates for macrophyte and invertebrate recruitment

and settlement, abundance of food, and the interaction of dynamic currents with the supply of nutrients from the deep.

To assess the biological features and resources of the Benham Bank Seamount and contribute to the efforts of documenting deep-water biodiversity in the Philippines, the pioneering research project was implemented.

Results of the survey will contribute to resource planning and management as well as scientific understanding of this globally significant area, thus benefiting the scientific

community, government line agencies tasked to manage the resources, and the general public.

At the same time, knowledge about Benham Bank Seamount's biodiversity may be linked to the productivity of the entire Benham Rise Region which had already been the site of fishing activities even before the country was awarded its claim.

"Exploration, Mapping, and Assessment of Deep Water Areas," is just one among several R&D projects on aquatic concerns supported by PCAARRD.

The Council is slated to showcase the rest of its leading R&D initiatives and innovations in agriculture, aquatic and natural resources that will raise the agri sector's productivity to world-class standards in DOST's upcoming National Science and Technology Week (NSTW) on July 24-28, 2015 at SMX Convention Center, Pasay City. PCAARRD will give the media a peep into

its plans for some agri-aqua commodities at the 2015 NSTW Outcome One Press Conference on July 3, 9 am at Sulo Riviera Hotel, Diliman, Quezon City. These commodities include banana, goat, mud crab, plant growth promoters, abaca, and Benham Rise. Bearing the theme Strategic Industry Program for Agri-Aqua Growth (SIPAG) ni Juan, the presscon will have DOST Secretary Mario Montejo and DOST Assistant Secretary for Climate Change and Disaster Risk Reduction Raymund Liboro among the panel of resource persons. (S&T Media Service)

About us

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DOST roadshow banners programs for MSMEs in Region VII

By **Rodolfo P. de Guzman**
S&T Media Service, DOST-STII

The Department of Science and Technology (DOST) bannered the many inroads it has created in science, technology and innovations on the occasion of its recent Science Nation Tour for Region VII in Cebu City.

Now on its 5th leg, the Science Nation Tour is a nationwide roadshow highlighting the many DOST Filipino inventions, state-of-the-art technologies and innovations geared at improving global competitiveness, attaining inclusive growth and cultivating a culture of science and technology (S&T) in the Philippines.

DOST aims to provide innovative, cost-effective and appropriate technologies for micro, small and medium enterprises (MSMEs) to

aid them in developing world-class products, said DOST Assistant Secretary Raymund E. Liboro in his keynote address at the Technology and Innovation Exposition, one of the many activities in the roadshow.

One of its programs, the Small Enterprise Technology Upgrading Program orSETUP, allows entrepreneurs to adopt local technologies



DOST supports Filipino creativity via Materials Innovation Center in Cebu

By **Rodolfo P. de Guzman**
S&T Media Service, *DOST-STII*

Do you have what it takes to be a Kenneth Cobonpue?

Or are you an upcoming couturier of the same caliber as Rajo Laurel or Inno Sotto?

Maybe you are following the footsteps of well-known Cebuano painter Gabriel Abellana?

Whatever form of art you are inclined to take, the Materials Technology Innovation Center (MATIC) may be your home away from home – a sanctuary conducive to unleashing the creative juice of a struggling master of the canvas, a craftsman extraordinaire or a visual artist from out of this world.

Recognizing the overflowing talent of the Filipino in almost all forms of art, the European Chamber of Commerce of the Philippines (ECCP) partnered with the Department of Science and Technology (DOST) in establishing MATIC which is housed at the DOST Complex in Banilad, Cebu City – a center of creative industries in the country.

The facility was put up to support ECCP's materials research and development program for the promotion of creativity and competitiveness in the local design industries through the use of new materials, innovation of indigenous materials, reinvention of designs and utilization of new and efficient technologies.

According to ECCP Branch Manager Rosemel D. Calderon, MATIC is a venue for those who want to increase their design capabilities and make use of mixed media and other innovative materials. At the same time, it will bridge the gap between the academe and the business sector in providing world-class services that will upgrade the capability of local talents to be more competitive in the international market.



DOST Asec. Liboro points to one of the innovative designs created by Filipino designers at the facility.

The facility has three main features: the app zone, the dashboard and the chatroom. The app zone serves as both the workshop and the library where students can find material swatches, semi-processed materials and books on product development and design. The dashboard is a platform where products are displayed. Lastly, the chatroom is a meeting room for creative discussions and presentations.

Small and medium enterprises engaged in the production of furniture, home decors, fashion design and accessories, woven products, and bamboo-made products among others, will benefit from MATIC. The upgraded skills of artists and craftsmen will be instrumental in creating unique designs and products that will be more competitive in the world market.

"The DOST strongly believes in the Filipino talent and capacity to excel in any field, be it in science and technology or the visual arts. That is one of the reasons why the Department

fully supports this initiative aimed at further enhancing our skills and talents to be at par with the world's greatest artists and artisans," DOST Assistant Secretary Raymund E. Liboro said during a recent visit to the facility.

To date, products displayed at MATIC come from locally based producers like Anthill Fabrics Gallery, Avatar Accessories, Tubigon Loom Weavers of Bohol, Cebu Interlace Weavers Corporation and Earthworks.

DOST provides assistance and support to other local industries as well with its array of programs and world-class facilities. Among these are the Food Innovation Centers for food processing, Advanced Materials and Analysis Testing and Laboratory or ADMATEL for the semiconductor industry and the Die and Mold Center for metal fabrication and engineering.

These one-stop-shop facilities will be featured come July 24-28, 2015 at the National Science and Technology Week at the SMX Convention Center, SM Mall of Asia, Pasay City. Details of NSTW can be viewed at www.science.ph and nstw.dost.gov.ph. (S&T Media Service)

to minimize their cost of production such as machineries that they would otherwise import, and maximize innovative manufacturing procedures that will save time and resources.

Under the SETUP program, eight key business categories are included, namely: food processing; horticulture and agriculture; marine and aquatic resources; gifts, decors and housewares; furniture; metals and engineering; pharmaceuticals and information and communications technology.

Liboro also presented another DOST development initiative - the Regional Food Innovation Centers which serve as nerve centers for food production and processing that meet international standards.

For Central Visayas, the center will be hosted at the Cebu Institute of Technology University and will formally be launched in July 2015.

The regional centers will provide MSMEs with technical support for product and process development, food testing, shelf life and sensory evaluation, consultancy, packaging and labeling, short-run production, incubator facilities and an information resource center.

"It is the 'after' that matters most and this would mean that such efforts of the DOST should lead to something beneficial to both the Filipinos and the Philippines and hope that our programs become the catalyst to transform the Filipinos and our country as we all walk

toward change; living in a country described as a Science Nation," Liboro concluded and called on all sectors to join the Department in making the Philippines a Science Nation meeting global challenges.

The Food Innovation Center and SETUP are just two of the many DOST knowledge products and services promoted during the Science Nation Tour. Other DOST inventions and innovations will be featured in the National Science and Technology Week on July 24-28, 2015 to be held at the SMX Convention Center, SM Mall of Asia, Pasay City. Details of the celebration can be viewed at www.science.ph or at nstw.dost.gov.ph. (S&T Media Service)

General Program of Activities

July 24-28, 2015

SMX Convention Center, Seashell Lane, Mall of Asia Complex, Pasay City

2015 SCIENCE NATION
NATIONAL SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY WEEK

Time	Program	Lead Agency	Venue
24 JULY (FRIDAY)			
9:00 - 10:00 AM	Opening Ceremonies		Main Stage
1:00 - 2:00 PM	Launch of Free Wifi Internet Access in Public Places	ICTO	Main Stage
1:00 - 5:00 PM	Dengue Project	PCHRD	Forum Hall 1
1:00 - 4:00 PM	Nano Technology: Small but Terrible	PCIEERD/ ITDI	Forum Hall 2
3:00 - 5:00 PM	Government Network: Faster Delivery of Services to Citizens	ICTO	Main Stage
6:00 - 9:00 PM	Stakeholder's Night		Main Stage
25 JULY (SATURDAY)			
9:00 - 12:00 AM	TELANGDekalidad, Pinoy ang Tatak	PTRI	Forum Hall 1
9:00 - 12:00 NN	SET-UP Forum	NCR	Main Stage
9:00 - 12:00 NN	Stakeholders' Convention for STARBOOKS	STII	Forum Hall 2
1:00 - 4:00 PM	Forum on Food Innovation	NCR	Main Stage
1:00 - 5:00 PM	Technology Forum	PCHRD	Forum Hall 1
1:00 - 6:00 PM	Science Journalism Writeshop for Communications Students and College Campus Writers	STII	Forum Hall 2
26 JULY (SUNDAY)			
7:00 - 8:00 AM	Health & Wellness	PCHRD	Main Stage
9:00 - 12:00 NN	e-Health Summit	PCHRD	Main Stage
9:00 - 11:00 AM	Living with Faults: Be Aware, Be Prepared	PHIVOLCS	Forum Hall 1
9:00 - 12:00 NN	Awarding of Poster Making & Essay Writing	PCAARRD	Forum Hall 2
1:00 - 2:00 PM	Coconut Scale Insect Management Strategies	PCAARRD	Main Stage
1:00 - 5:00 PM	Digital Literacy with Digibayanihan	ICTO	Forum Hall 2
27 JULY (MONDAY)			
9:00 - 12:00 NN	Forum on Packaging Innovation	NCR	Forum Hall 1
9:00 - 5:00 PM	Pisay, maka-SCIENCE dito Robotic and Science Interactive Exhibits	PSHS	Main Stage
9:00 - 5:00 PM	International Forum (JSPS)	PCHRD	Forum Hall 2
1:00 - 4:00 PM	Forum on Community Empowerment thru Science & Technology	NCR	Forum Hall 1
	Clash of Class		Manila Ocean Park, Roxas Blvd, Manila
28 JULY (TUESDAY)			
9:00 - 12:00AM	E-Health Summit	PCHRD	Main Stage
	That Thing Called Kawayan	FPRDI	Forum Hall 2
1:00 - 5:00 PM	Rural Impact Sourcing: Promoting High Value Online Jobs in the Countryside	ICTO	Main Stage
	Be Road Smart: The Philippines' Intelligent Transport System and New PUV Standards	PCIEERD	Forum Hall 1
	Tech Meets Business		AIM, Makati City
	In Touch with Excellence		TBA

in focus



DOST'S INT'L FAIR PICKS TOP STUDENT SCIENCE PROJECTS

Photo shows the winners of the poster making contest and the Best Project awards during the recent 2nd Philippine International Science Fair by the Department of Science and Technology-Philippine Science High School System (DOST-PSHS). The fair was participated by high school students from Indonesia, Japan, Malaysia, Korea, Singapore, Sweden and the Philippines who had the chance to be mentored by top Filipino scientists. Selected as Best Projects were "Taal Lakers," a solution for effective management of Taal Lake; "Sphyder" for faster, efficient and cheaper removal of garbage in bodies of water; and "Maximizing Efficiency of Water Usage," an innovation to enhance crop production at a permaculture farming site in Nueva Ecija. The fair serves as a ramp-up to DOST's National Science and Technology Week on July 24-28 at SMX Convention Center where students will display their robot inventions to the general public. (Text by Espie Angelica A. de Leon / Photo by Ceajay N. Valerio, S&T Media Service, DOST-STII)