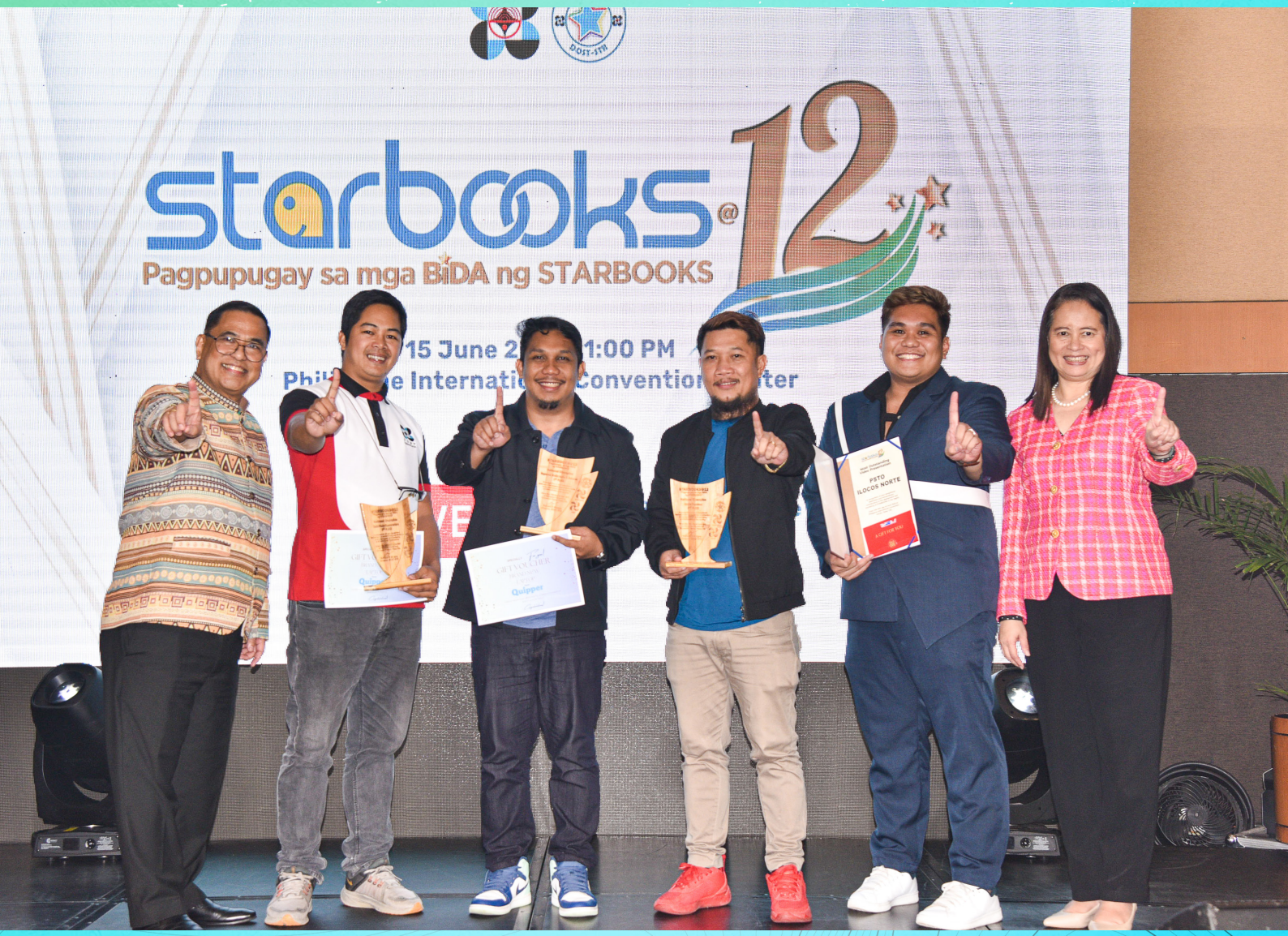
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The First Philippine Science Digital Library-in-a-Box

starbooks insider

Your access to a wealth of Science and Technology Information at your fingertips

Volume 5 No. 1 **January - June 2023**



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Publisher Note



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STARBOOKS Insider
is a bi-annual newsletter publication of the Department of Science and Technology - Science and Technology Information Institute (DOST-STII) on the latest news about STARBOOKS, the digital science library-in-a-box.

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Contributors



DOST-STARBOOKS named as national winner of the 2022 CSC Presidental Lingkod Bayan Award in the 2022 Awards Rites for Outstanding Government Workers on 8 March 2023 at the Rizal Ceremonial Hall, Malacañang.

The Civil Service Commission confers the Presidential Lingkod Bayan Award on an individual or group for exceptional or extraordinary contributions resulting from an idea or performance with nationwide impact on public interest, security, and patrimony.

DOST Romblon, DepEd Romblon, Programa Genio Conduct STARBOOKS Mass Installation

19 March 2023 | Photos and Text by Rommel M. Azucena, Jr.

Romblon - STARBOOKS in partnership with Programa Genio of ABSCBN Lingkod Kapamilya Foundation Inc. (ALKFI), Department of Education - Romblon, and Department of Science and Technology - Romblon conducted a STARBOOKS mass installation to public schools in the province of Romblon last 13-16 March 2023.



The installation for the first batch of beneficiaries was conducted in Odiongan National High School on 13 March. 36 public elementary and secondary schools were convened for the activity in coordination with DepED Romblon's representative Mr. Nick Stanley M. Mendoza.

The STARBOOKS team together with DOST-Romblon conducted the installations and user-training.

The second batch of the installation was also conducted in Odiongan NHS on 14 March wherein 26 schools participated. School representatives participated in the orientation/training on how to manage and use the STARBOOKs system.

The next batch of STARBOOKS installation and users training to different public schools were then conducted in the islands of Romblon, Romblon and Corcuera, Romblon on 15-16 March.

The first team composed of Jonathan Abalon, Rommel M. Azucena, Jr. and representatives from DOST-Romblon and DepEd-Romblon conducted the STARBOOKS installation and training at Romblon East Central School.



Despite the challenges encountered due to fluctuating supply of electricity, the STARBOOKS was successfully installed to 23 out of 36 public schools in the area. The deployment officer of DOST-Romblon will handle the re-installation on the 13 remaining schools.

Meanwhile, the second team composed of Arjay Escondo, Jomar Rabanera, and representatives from DOST-Romblon and DepEd-Romblon conducted STARBOOKS installation at Corcuera National

High School on 15-16 March.

24 schools participated in the mass installation, users training, and orientation.

STARBOOKS was installed on 98 public elementary and secondary schools, providing free access to Science, Technology, and Innovation (STI) information to public schools in the province.

Romblon is the hometown of current DOST Secretary Dr. Renato U. Solidum, Jr.











Together, Once Again: 11th Deployment Officers Assembly

21 April 2023 | Photos and Text by Rommel M. Azucena, Jr.



The participants of the 10th STARBOOKS Deployment Officers Assembly together with DOST-STII Director Richard P. Burgos and DOST XII Regional Director Engr. Sammy P. Malawan (center).

General Santos City - The DOST - STARBOOKS convened its deployment officers on the occassion of the 11th STARBOOKS Deployment Officers Assembly at The Greenleaf Hotel, General Santos City last 19-21 April 2023.

The face-to-face event was participated by more than 100 deployment officers from DOST regional and provincial offices with some attending virtually via Zoom.

Regularly held since 2015, the assembly served as an avenue to present STARBOOKS' accomplishments and milestones, and major updates from the previous year.

In his opening message, Engr. Sammy P. Malawan expressed his gratitude to all the participants, particularly DOST-STII, for their efforts in promoting growth in science, technology, and innovation through delivering interactive learning platforms to various communities.

Director Malawan also presented a plaque of commendation to DOST-STII Director Richard Burgos for his unwavering dedication and tireless advocacy for digital education, human resource development, and in bringing transformative change to the last mile in SOCCSKSARGEN through the DOST STARBOOKS.

In addition, Engr. Malawan presented Director Burgos with a T'nalak Doll, a symbolic gesture believed to bless the recipient with the goddess of T'boli's blessing.



For his special message, Director Burgos delivered a brief presentation on the journey of STARBOOKS, highlighting its humble beginnings, challenges, achievements, and recognitions.As of April 2023, there are now 6,289 STARBOOKS sites nationwide. He also expressed his gratitude to all the deployment officers for their unwavering dedication in bringing STARBOOKS to the people.



STARBOOKS Unit Head Marievic Narquita presented a status report of STARBOOKS highlighting the new things that deployment officers should know about; the total number of STARBOOKS deployed in 2023, the introduction of the new STARBOOKS installer which includes FinEd Unboxed from BPI Foundation, the deployment of complete STARBOOKS unit to 10 last mile schools in different regions of the country, STARBOOKS inclusion in NEDAs National Priority Program, and the celebration of the 12th Anniversary of STARBOOKS: Pagpupugay sa mga BIDA ng STARBOOKS.

To continue the morning activities, DOST-STII Senior Science Research Specialist Mr. Alfon Narquita discussed the power of Artificial Intelligence (AI) tools. He introduced the use of ChatGPT, GPTZero, Quillbot, and Synthesia.

Mr. Narquita reminded the participants to verify the information provided by AI and use these tools with caution. These tools are here to assist human beings but not to replace them.

On the afternoon session, all DOST regional offices presented the deployment status of STARBOOKS in their area, current partners and collaborations, and STARBOOKS related events or activities.

The presentation of cluster report was followed by awarding of DOST provincial offices for deploying STARBOOKS to at least 30% of public schools in the province.

PSTO Davao del Sur was awarded for the successful installation of STARBOOKS to 30% of public and private schools in Davao del Sur.

PSTO Batanes was awarded for the successful installation of STARBOOKS to 33% of public and private schools in the province of Batanes.







(l-r) PSTO Davao del Sur, PSTO Batanes, and PSTO Marinduque were recognized for deploying STARBOOKS to at least 30% of public schools in their respective provinces.

And PSTO Marinduque was awarded for the successful installation of STARBOOKS to 34% of public and private schools in the province of Marinduque.

All DOST regional offices were also given a certificate of recognition for their unwavering support and commitment to STARBOOKS through the years.

The three-day event was a celebration full of fun and cheers brought about by several energizers and games prepared by the STARBOOKS team.

STARBOOKS also paid tribute to Director Richard Burgos and to Region VII deployment officer Ms. Ma. Arleen Enucando who will be both retiring from service this year.

On the second day of the assembly, STARBOOKS conducted a training seminar on Data Visualization in Excel with resource speaker Mr. Dan Anthony Dorado.

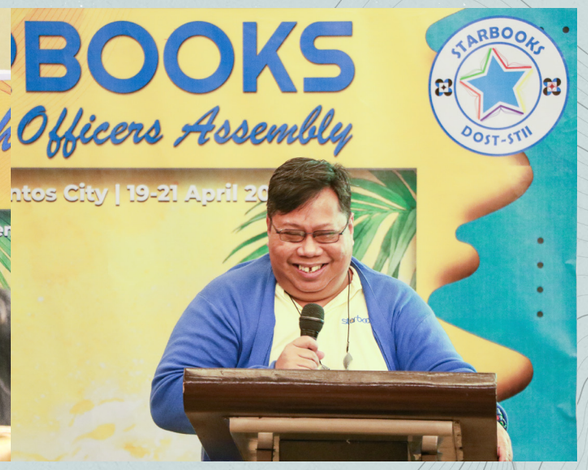
Dorado is the director of UP Diliman Learning Resource Center and full time faculty of UP School of Library and Information Studies. Dorado discussed the importance of data collection in realizing the visions of STARBOOKS. The collected information must have a connection to the goals of STARBOOKS.

Dorado also emphasized that less is better in data visualization. Dorado said that the goal is to communicate the information to its users, stakeholders, or the general public.

The event was formally closed by Information Resources and Analysis Division Chief Alan C. Taule. He thanked the hard work and dedication of all the deployment officers in making sure that STARBOOKS reach all learners in all walks of life in the country.

Taule also mentioned that the National Lingkod Bayan Award that STARBOOKS received would not have been possible if not for the deployment officers' unwavering support and commitment to STARBOOKS through the years.





DOST Gives Science Learning Equipment to Remote Schools in Mankayan

05 May 2023 | Redjie Melvic Cawis (Philippine Information Agency)

La Trinidad, Benguet (PIA) - The Department of Science and Technology – Cordillera thru the Benguet Provincial Science and Technology Office turned over science learning equipment to the two remotest schools of Mankayan.

The DOST team with the support of the community and the school personnel turned over STARBOOKS or science digital library, digital microscopes, and television to Camanpaguey Integrated School which was reached after a two-hour ride using an all-terrain vehicle and to Las-igan Elementary School, a three-hour hike from the Camanpaguey IS. Both schools are in Barangay Cabiten.

The team also conducted training on operation of the STARBOOKS and digital microscopes for the students and teachers.

DOST Benguet Provincial Director Dr. Sheila Marie Claver said the project is in collaboration with the local government of Mankayan to provide the much-needed science and technology support for learners in geographically isolated and/or disadvantaged areas.

Claver said about 70 learners and seven teachers from Camanpaguey IS while 14 learners and two teachers from Las-igan ES will benefit from the project. She said interested members of the community can also access the learning resources.



The DOST STARBOOKS (Science and Technology Academic Research-based Openly Operated Kiosks) is the first science digital library in the Philippines that can be operated without internet connection. It contains digitized science and technology resources such as K-12 learning materials, disaster risk reduction management resources, livelihood videos, investigatory projects, theses and dissertations and others.

The microscopes have electronic eyepiece that can be connected to a laptop and television for digital and expanded image viewing.

Camanpaguey IS Head Johnny Anno and Las-igan ES Head Noreen Espenocilla expressed gratitude to the DOST and the local government for the assistance to their schools which will greatly benefit the learners, school personnel as well as community members.

They said that despite being located in the remotest areas and having lesser learners, they are recipients of such science learning project equipment.





STARBOOKS Celebrates 12-year Success, Fetes its Champions

18 June 2023 | Edwin Galvez (Business Mirror) | Photos by Gerardo Palad



The Starbooks Regional Champions, the DOST's regional deployment officers, who made Starbooks available to people in far-flung areas. With them are DOST-STII Director Richard Burgos and Undersecretary Maridon Sahagun.

PICC, Pasay City - From 1,000 units in 2016, Starbooks's number grew to 6,788 all over the country in the past seven years, and became an important source of science and technology information for students, especially in isolated parts of the country.

With its success, the Department of Science and Technology's Science and Technology Information Institute (DOST-STII) feted on Thursday the "bida," or "stars," in the implementation of its innovative and award-winning digital science library-in-a-box, the Starbooks, or the Science and Technology Academic and Research-Based Openly-Operated KioskS project.

Recognized were its champions—the regional and national deployment officers, media, and content and promotion partners—during Starbooks's 12th anniversary appreciation program held at the Philippine International Convention Center.

The champions contributed to the installation of 85 percent of Starbooks kiosks in the last seven years, according to DOST-STII Director Richard P. Burgos.

"There are now 6,788 Starbooks units across the Philippines since our 1,000th installation in a [public] high school in Calauan, Laguna, in 2016," he said.

At its 1,000th site at the Dayap National High School, DOST-STII upgraded the program into "Super Starbooks" with 15,000 more materials added to its system.

Burgos also revealed in his message during the event that the Taguig City council—its "host LGU [local government unit] should be properly considered the home of Starbooks—has approved the agency's proposal for the city to provide Starbooks to its 38 schools and 28 reading hubs.

He said the memorandum of agreement that will be signed between the Taguig City mayor's office and its Division of City Schools, DOST-STII and the DOST-National Capital Region will have Taguig City allot a total of P6 million for the project.

Upon signing, Taguig will become the "first LGU in the country" to have Starbooks in "all its public schools."

S&T library-in-a-box

DOST-STII introduced Starbooks in 2011 as a stand-alone information portal on science and technology (S&T) installed in various schools, communities, LGUs and private institutions in the country.

From deploying offline kiosks that needed no Internet connection, DOST-STII has also developed an online version that improved the project's monitoring mechanism and made it easier to upgrade the content of each kiosk.

"We have achieved a lot since then because we polished Starbooks to contain so much materials today," Burgos said.

"It is now complete, thanks to people like Frontlearners who gave access to the entire curriculum of teaching modules for K-12 [based on] the Department of Education's competency-based instruction," he added.



The Starbooks National Champions, who are the DOST top deployment officers from the regions.

DOST-STII also introduced "mobile applications, engaging websites and alternative ways of engaging the public and various stakeholders" at the height of the Covid-19 pandemic.

These include two mobile applications, the Starbooks Quiz Mobile App and the Starbooks Online App, and four videos to provide additional information on the project.



The Starbooks Media Champions promoted Starbooks in their respective platforms to inform the people about its services.

National, regional, media, partner champions

The event with the theme, "Pagpupugay sa mga Bida ng Starbooks," gathered project partners and stakeholders for the past 12 years "to celebrate our accomplishments and honor individuals and organizations who have been instrumental in our journey."

Burgos cited the efforts of the DOST's regional deployment officers who made Starbooks available even to far-flung destinations for the benefit of our people "even if it will take them their weekends."

He also acknowledged the project's partners who donated content to make Starbooks "practicably used by our students and learners" and institutions that gave equipment and funding.

The program also recognized members of the media whose



"exceptional support" to the project "played a pivotal role in spreading awareness about Starbooks and its immense potential."

Bridging the digital divide

Starbooks was designed to bridge the digital divide between those who have access to the Internet and those who have no connection at all, especially in the country's geographically isolated and disadvantaged communities.

It ultimately aims to create interest among learners and students in S&T to be able to increase the number of Filipinos enrolling in science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) courses.

The project brings the library collection of DOST-STII, K-12 interactive courseware on mathematics and science developed by DOST's Science Education Institute, livelihood videos under "TamangDOSTkarte," and digital resources from various institutions to the Starbooks's system and network.

"We even have now reviewers for PISA [Programme for International Student Assessment], an international assessment where Filipinos fared very poorly, in Starbooks to prepare learners to take the exam," Burgos said.

"Our greatest crisis today is really in education, and Starbooks holds the key to improve our performance and deliver content to our young learners," he added.

Burgos added: "[This] way, we will have more policy-makers who are scientists, engineers, mathematicians, [or] researchers because these are the kinds of people who will propel our country forward into a very technology-driven future."

From Batanes to GenSan

DOST Undersecretary Maridon O. Sahagun pointed out that Starbooks kioks are in Itbayat, Batanes, the northernmost point of the country, to General Santos City in the southernmost part, due to the work of deployment officers.

She noted that these efforts might result to having future scientists from among the students who are currently using Starbooks.

Sahagun shared the situation of Barangay San Jose in the outskirts of General Santos City with 14,000 residents, mostly from the B'laan Tribe.

San Jose and many other surrounding areas have no reliable





internet connections and gadgets. Students struggled to keep up with their studies.

"Those predicaments were the same reasons why Starbooks brought its technology to Barangay San Jose and other GIDAs [Geographically Isolated and Disadvantaged Areas] in the Philippines. We continue to hope to spur learning in hard-to-reach areas by making science information accessible,"Sahagun pointed out.

"DOST would not be able to reach these areas without the power of collaboration. We have built a network of strong partnerships.... Together, with our youth in mind, we make Starbooks constantly viable and relevant despite the challenges of the Internet age and the uncertainties of the future," she added.

Evolving and adapting

"Starbooks has become a shining beacon of hope," DOST-STII's Information Resources and Analysis Division Chief and Starbook's Project Leader Alan C. Taule said in his message, acknowledging the "incredible advancements we have made in technology and the digital landscape."

Taule said Starbooks is at the forefront in embracing these changes as the project constantly evolves and adapts "to meet the needs of our ever-changing world." "We have integrated new features, expanded our resources, and ensured that everyone, regardless of their background or circumstances, can access the wealth of knowledge that Starbooks provides," Taule said.

He challenged Starbooks proponents and stakeholders to "continue pushing the boundaries, innovate and inspire" as "we have witnessed firsthand the transformational impact it has had on our communities, schools, and libraries."

"Our commitment to empowering individuals, fostering a love for learning, and nurturing the leaders of tomorrow remains steadfast," Taule added.

Starbook Champions

The following Starbook champions were recognized during the event:

Regional champions: Rey B. Teofilo, DOST-Cordillera Administrative Region; Benjie T. Francisco, DOST Region 12 (DOST-12); Napoleon Medin Jester T. Babaran, DOST-2; Keith Paolo A. Buenaventura, DOST-Mimaropa; Enrique M. Mariano, DOST-9; Jeric Felix Gagama, DOST-11; Kent Jerico Ramil, DOST-1; Ma. Mae Z. Petajen, DOST-5; Laurence Angelo Bago, DOST Calabarzon; Nicholas G. Zapanta, DOST NCR; and Mary Beth D. Grecia, DOST 6.



National champions: Third place, Keith Paolo A. Buenaventura, DOST Mimaropa; second place, Benjie T. Francisco, DOST-12; and first place, Napoleon Medin Jester T. Babaran, DOST-2.

A Special Award for Most Outstanding Video Presentation was given to Kent Jerico Ramil of the Ilocos Norte Provincial Science and Technology Office.

Champion partners: Frontlearners Inc.; FlipScience; Philippine Rice Research Institute; Silliman University; Asia Pacific College; Presidential Communications Office; DOST-Food and Nutrition Research Institute; DOST-Philippine Science High School System; DOST-National Academy of Science and Technology; DOST-Philippine Council for Agriculture, Aquatic and Natural Resources Research and Development; DOST-Philippine Nuclear Research Institute; Quipper Philippines Inc.; BPI Foundation Inc.; Pagbilao Energy Corp.; ABS-CBN's Programa Genio; Lenovo Philippines; Telstra Foundation (Philippines) Inc.; Association of Science and Mathematics Educators of Philippine Private Schools; Infinit-O Group Foundation; Rotary Club of San Pedro; Saint Louis University; and DOST-Advanced Science and Technology institute.

Media champions: Lyn Resurreccion, Science Editor of the BusinessMirror was recognized, along with Edric Castillo Calma, director of operations, Knowledge Channel Foundation, Teleradyo host; Lyndon Plantilla, Information Officer III, Philippine Information Agency, Program Management Division; Kaithreen Cruz, News Correspondent, CNN Philippines; Glendel David Nazario, Senior Reporter, Manila Bulletin; and Radyo Agila DZEC 1062KHZ, Nelson M. Lubao, Station Manager, Radyo Agila DZEC 1062Khz.

Tiktok contest winners: Third place, Jefferson Natnat, a teacher, who hopes to ignite his students' passion and curiosity in science, technology, engineering, arts and mathematics subjects; second place, Jamille Anne B. Cañones, who loves wandering and wondering about science, technology, and innovations; first place, Babelyn Bo, whose love for the arts led her to the fascinating world of STEM; and champion, Apple Myr Agmohol, who pursued STEAM because of her idol, Leonardo Da Vinci.











PARTNERS CORNER



RENEWED PARTNERSHIP. **DOST-STII Director Richard P. Burgos shakes hand with Quipper CEO Yusuke Takagi during a MOA signing event last 8 February 2023 in STII CAST Room. (story on page 21)** ***Photo by Rommel M. Azucena, Jr.***

DOST-STII, BPI Foundation Partner for STARBOOKS Deployment to Last-mile Schools

16 January 2023 | Photos and Text by DOST-STII



DOST-STII, Taguig City - The DOST-Science and Technology Information Institute (STII) led by Director Richard P. Burgos formally received a monetary donation from the Bank of the Philippine Islands (BPI) Foundation Executive Director Owen Cammayo which intended to help in the deployment of the STARBOOKS to 10 pre-identified last-mile schools in remote communities throughout the Philippines.

In his statement, Cammayo underscored the role of STARBOOKS in providing free S&T learning content to underserved communities in marginalized areas.

The simple ceremony was held at DOST-STII office in Bicutan, Taguig City.

Witnessing the ceremony also were Alan C. Taule, chief of DOST-STII's Information Resources and Analysis Division, Arlene E. Centeno, chief of DOST-STII's Finance and Administrative Division, Melanie P. Magbuhos, program manager of BPI Foundation, and Juvylyn S. Revina, associate director of BPI Foundation.







DOST-STII, BPI Foundation Partner for Students', Teachers' Financial Literacy

30 April 2023 | Text by Rosemarie C. Señora | Photos by Rommel M. Azucena, Jr.

DOST-STII, Taguig City - From being a platform for sharing content, Starbooks, short for Science and Technology Academic and Research-Based Openly Operated KioskS, has now evolved as a platform for sharing advocacies.

Director Richard P. Burgos of the Department of Science and Technology-Science and Technology Information Institute (DOST-STII) described this recent advancement as the agency partners with BPI Foundation Inc. in its efforts to bring science, technology, and innovation (STI) information to learners in geographically isolated and disadvantaged areas (GIDAs).

Since its inception as the first science library-in-a-box in 2011, Starbooks now has thousands of digital resources on science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) that are easily retrievable both in its offline and online platforms, as well as various advocacies of its partner institutions, the latest of which is the addition from the BPI Foundation.



BPI Foundation Inc. Executive Director Owen L. Cammayo talks about the foundation's advocacy on financial education.

FinEd Unboxed is a customized financial education program that seeks to improve the financial capability of the country's everyday heroes, such as the Department of Education (DepEd) teaching and non-teaching personnel, and migrant domestic workers and their families.



Through the program, it is hoped to empower its audiences to become financially responsible by unpacking and simplifying lessons on personal money matters, such as saving, budgeting, investing, insurance, retirement planning and managing credit.

In a ceremony held at DOST-STII early this month, BPI Foundation Executive Director Owen L. Cammayo said they are grateful for the opportunity to share with DOST-STII the advocacy for financial literacy and wellness.

"We are here today because we see the value and we believe that education is a viable tool for financial wealthness," he said, adding that



the modules are perfect for students, teachers, and even non-teaching personnel.

BPI Foundation is also currently developing financial education materials for young learners which will not only enrich the learning experience of the students but also equip them with the financial knowledge and skills they need to thrive in the future.

With this, Cammayo also encouraged everyone to not just promote STEM but also help encourage financial wellness as well.

In her message, DOST Undersecretary for Scientific and Technical Services Maridon Sahagun acknowledging that furthering science and technology causes in the country would go hand-in-hand with the foundation's advocacy of teaching financial literacy.

"We believe that financial literacy is an important foundation in entrepreneurial skills and that this is truly a promising opportunity as it is important that we arm our learners with financial literacy," she said.

Moreover, Education Undersecretary for Administration Michael Kristian R. Ablan, in his message, congratulated DOST-STII and BPI Foundation for the collaboration, and wishes that more partnerships will arise with DOST-STII and other DOST agencies to further promote equity and equality in education in the country.

"Equality is where we provide information to all. Everybody can go to Starbooks Kiosks, at all can access the materials. Second is equity, to reach people with no access, such as GIDAs. Nobody should be left behind," Ablan said, highlighting the mantra of DepEd that no learner should be left behind.

He also congratulated DOST-STII's Starbooks for filling the gap until such time that Internet connection can be accessed all throughout the country, and BPI Foundation's advocacy which he said can help teachers to learn and be able to overcome their financial challenges.

BPI Foundation also sponsored P700,000 worth of Starbooks-enabled computer sets, printer and wifi routers to be donated to 10 selected schools and communities in GIDAs. First to receive was the Doña Paz Sumulong Tanjuatco Elementary School in Tanay, Rizal.

Nieva Tongohan, school head of the elementary school with about 185 pupils, expressed her gratitude for the donation, saying their pupils and teachers no longer need to download materials.

The rest of the beneficiaries were Lagnas Elementary School, Uguis Integrated School, Legua Integrated School, Magsayap Integrated School, Kinablangan Elementary School, Kitub-bao High School, IP Community of Barangay Tabon, Busay National High School, and Solangon Elementary School.



STARBOOKS, Quipper Renew STI Partnership

08 February 2023 | Photos and Text by Rommel M. Azucena, Jr.



IRAD Chief Alan C. Taule, DOST-STII Director Richard P. Burgos, Quipper CEO Yusuke Takagi, and Quipper Business Planning Manager Maia Higashi.

DOST-STII - Following a successful partnership in 2022, the Department of Science and Technology- Science and Technology Information Institute (DOST-STII) and Quipper Philippines, Inc. renewed their agreement with STARBOOKS through the signing of a fresh Memorandum of Agreement recently at the STARBOOKS headquarters in Bicutan, Taguig City.

Headlining the new agreement were DOST-STII Director Richard P. Burgos and Chief Executive Officer Yusuke Takagi. Meanwhile, Information Resources and Analysis Division (IRAD) Chief Alan C. Taule and Quipper Business Planning Manager Maia Higashi were also present during the signing ceremonies.

Also present were STARBOOKS Program Head Marivic Narquita and Quipper Senior Manager Reilyn Remetio.

The renewal of the agreement signifies the continuation of the successful partnership between DOST-STII and Quipper. It reinforces their dedication to delivering science, technology, and innovation (STI) information, particularly to learners from geographically isolated and economically challenged areas all over the country.

"We are very happy that Quipper adds to our more than 80 partners. Without partners, we couldn't have delivered STARBOOKS to 6,300+ sites across the country," DOST-STII Director Richard Burgos said during his welcome remarks.

"Our collaboration has resulted in substantial growth and success, and we look forward to continuing to provide STARBOOKS to our learners. This renewal demonstrates the strength of our relationship and our commitment to bringing STI information to our stakeholders," Burgos added.

Quipper also expressed their excitement about the renewal of the agreement.

"We appreciate our partnership with DOST STARBOOKS, and we are delighted to continue working together," Takagi stated.

"This kind of partnership, in which we can provide technology and science content, is very great for us to maximize our privilege to distribute our wisdom to every corner of the world," Takagi added.

"Slowly, we are positioning ourselves toward that exalted position wherein all our partners will be able to benefit from partnering with DOST-STARBOOKS. We don't know what the future holds, but we can shape the future," Taule concluded.

STARBOOKS' partnership with Quipper Philippines, Inc. started in 2021.

Quipper is an education technology company that provides e-learning services in Japan, Indonesia, Mexico, and the Philippines.







Embassy officials from the Peoples Republic of China take a look at STARBOOKS during their institutional visit at DOST-Science and Technology Information Institute last 23 February.

STARBOOKS, Rotary Club of San Pedro Renews STI Partnership

25 April 2023 | Text by Marievic V. Narquita | Photos by DOST-STII



Taguig City - The Department of Science and Technology Information Institute (DOST-STII) renewed its STARBOOKS Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) with Rotary Club of San Pedro (RCSP) during the Brown Bag Meeting of Development Partners 2023 last 25 April 2023 held at the DOST-STII Mini Theater.

Additionally, Rotaract Club of San Pedro (RASCP) has been added to the roster of new partners in bringing free science, technology, and innovation (STI) information to our learners.

These partnerships signify the continuation of the DOST-STII mission of reaching learners from geographically isolated and economically challenged areas all over the country.

Present in the ceremonial MOA signing were DOST-STII Director Richard P. Burgos, RASCP President Ariel John Zantua, RCSP President Marcelito De Leon, Information Resources and Analysis Division (IRAD) Chief Alan C. Taule, and Rotariat Mr. Elliot Ngo.





STARBOOKS Inks S&T Partnership with SLU

09 May 2023 | Photos and Text by Rommel M. Azucena, Jr.



DOST-STII Director Richard P. Burgos and Saint Louis University President Rev. Fr. Gilbert B. Sales, CICM shakes hand during the MOA signing event in SLU.





Baguio City - The DOST-Science and Technology Information Institute (DOST-STII) and DOST - Cordillera Administrative Region (CAR) ink Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) for STARBOOKS with Saint Louis University and Catholic and Private Schools in CAR at a signing event at Fr. Gevers Hall of Saint Louis University, Baguio City on 09 May 2023.

The agreement was made possible following a meeting with Dr. Joselito C. Gutierrez, Executive Assistant to the President of Saint Louis University (SLU), discussing the possibility of installing STARBOOKS in SLU-affiliated private schools.

STARBOOKS also conducted a mass installation and users training participated by schools administrator & IT staff of recipient schools from more than 40 schools in the province.

STARBOOKS Inks Partnership with DOST 1 and DepEd Ilocos Sur to boost STEM learning

21 June 2023 | Photos and Text by Rommel M. Azucena, Jr.



DOST-STII Director Richard P. Burgos and Saint Louis University President Rev. Fr. Gilbert B. Sales, CICM shakes hand during the MOA signing event in SLU.

PSHS Ilocos Region Campus - The DOST-Science and Technology Information Institute (DOST-STII) and DOST-Regional Office I together with Provincial Science and Technology Office – Ilocos Sur inked partnership for STARBOOKS with Schools Division Office (SDO) – Ilocos Sur at a memorandum of agreement (MOA) signing event at Philippine Science High School (PSHS) – Ilocos Region Campus on 20 June 2023.

This partnership will bring STARBOOKS to 157 public elementary and secondary schools in the province.
STARBOOKS also conducted a mass installation and users training participated by teachers, schools administrator, & IT personnel of recipient schools in Ilocos Sur.





STARBOOKS and BPI Foundation Deployment to 10 Last-mile Schools in the Country

Photos by Rommel M. Azucena, Jr. , Reynaldo A. Morales, Jr., & Khasian Eunice M. Romulo



Doña Paz Sumulong Tanjuatco Elementary School in Tanay, Rizal | 11 April 2023



Kitub-Bao High School in Alamada, North Cotabato | 18 April 2023



Lagnas Elementary School in San Jose, Occidental Mindoro | 03 May 2023



Solangon Elementary School in San Juan, Siquijor | 16 May 2023



Busay National High School in Moalboal, Cebu | 18 May 2023



Magsayap Integrated School in Caraga, Davao Oriental | 23 May 2023



Kinablangan Elementary School in Baganga, Davao Oriental | 25 May 2023



Malonoy National High School in Dao, Capiz | 06 June 2023



Legua Integrated School in Orani, Bataan | 20 June 2023



Uguis Integrated School in Nueva Era, Ilocos Norte | 05 July 2023



SMARTER GENSAN. **DOST 12 turned over 53 STARBOOKS-ready computer units to 44 schools in General Santos City last February 7, 2023. (story on page 36)** ***Photo by DOST Region XII***

Ballay Integrated School in Kabayan Receives Science Digital Library from Lions Int'l Club-Cavite

23 January 2023 | Photos and Text by DOST- PSTC Benguet



Kabayan, Benguet - A bundle of knowledge package of STARBOOKS was turned over by the Lions International Club- Cavite and the Association of Science and Mathematics Educators Philippine Private Schools (ASMEPPS) to Ballay Integrated School in Kabayan, Benguet.

STARBOOKS, which contains thousands of digitized science and technology resources packaged in various formats from text to video, is the first science digital library in the Philippines that can be operated even without an internet connection.

DOST STII Director Richard P. Burgos and the Provincial S&T Director Ms. Sheila Marie Singa-Claver joined the Lions Club - Cavite team during the turnover, user training, and signing of the Memorandum of Agreement at the said school.

In his brief message, Burgos encouraged the school to maximize the use of STARBOOKS as it is very helpful in accessing the learning resources in science and technology, as internet connectivity is one of the perennial limitations in the area.

BIS Principal Bhede Martin said the learning resources would benefit about 195 learners in the school, including Alternative Learning School students in the area.

Martin further extended her gratitude to the donors.

Moreover, aside from STARBOOKS, other learning resources and school supplies, hygiene and eyewear kits, health supplements, and some Agricultural tools were distributed to BIS learners and parents. This activity is part of the advocacy activities of Lions International - Cavite ASMEPPS, Baguio City Family and Friends Lions Club, and Saint Francis Assisi College.





STARBOOKS now in Cagayan Valley Schools

23 January 2023 | Photos and Text by DOST Region 2



Cagayan Valley - To assure that all students are provided with advanced Science and Technology knowledge, the Department of Science and Technology (DOST) Region 02 installed Science and Technology Academic Research Based Openly Operated Kiosks (STARBOOKS) at Enrile North Central School and Sto. Niño Central School SPED Center.

STARBOOKS is a stand-alone, on -site research and information kiosk that provides free access to information.

It is the country's first S&T digital library in a box, aims to bridge the digital divide for many of our far-flung schools without access to the internet, and is also highly appropriate for public libraries.

With this, the students could improve their studies specifically for their future research, as it also increases their competency among the students in urban areas.

This activity also aims to promote new and available technologies of the agency to students, teachers and faculty members in Cagayan Valley.

DOST I Conducts STARBOOKS Training in Lyceum

07 February 2023 | Photos and Text by PSTO Pangasinan



Dagupan City - DOST Regional Office 1 through the DOST- Pangasinan conducts training and orientation on Science and Technology Academic Research-Based Openly Operated Kiosk Stations (STARBOOKS) at Lyceum Northwestern University, Dagupan City.

Mr. Edward E. Ugale, STARBOOKS Deployment Officer of DOST-Pangasinan, shares the knowledge about the STARBOOKS with some 600 Grades 4-12 students and faculty members, including LNU's Dr. Elizalde Berba, Information Technology head, and Ms. Melanie Agbay, head librarian.

STARBOOKS is a standalone S&T information resource designed to reach students with limited internet access to S&T information resources. It contains hundreds of thousands of digitized science and technology resources in various formats placed in specially designed "pods" set in a user-friendly interface.

North Cotabato School Gets Warm Up by STARBOOKS

03 February 2023 | Photos and Text by DOST Cotabato Provincial S&T Office

Kabacan, North Cotabato - Faculty and students warm up with the coming of the STARBOOKS, the offline S&T knowledge in a box, as 40 participants from the Upper Paatan Elementary School in Kabacan, North Cotabato, have recently participated in a training conducted by the Department of Science and Technology-Cotabato.

About ten teachers and 30 students had the privilege of participating in the training session designed to familiarize them with this innovative educational resource.

The DOST-STARBOOKS system is a revolutionary platform that provides students and teachers with access to a wealth of educational resources, including books, videos, and interactive activities. It is designed to improve academic performance and enhance learning by providing students with personalized educational experiences.

As the training session got underway, the teachers and students were eagerly learning about the features of the STARBOOKS platform. The expert trainers provided hands-on demonstrations and guided the participants through the various features, ensuring that everyone had a solid understanding of the platform's capabilities.





The school principal, Mrs. Elena J. Pajarillo, was thrilled with the training session and emphasized the importance of technology in education. "We are thrilled to have the STARBOOKS platform in our school," said Pajarillo. "It will play a crucial role in providing our students with the resources they need to succeed and achieve their academic goals."

The STARBOOKS training was a resounding success, with teachers and students leaving the session feeling confident and equipped to use the platform effectively. With the STARBOOKS system in place, the students at Upper Paatan Elementary School now have access to a wealth of educational resources and are set to embark on a more engaging learning journey.

The STARBOOKS User's Training at Upper Paatan Elementary School was met with warmth among the school faculty and students. The program provided the participants with the knowledge and skills they need to make the most of this innovative platform, and the future looks bright for the school.

DOST Holds Super STARBOOKS Training for Madrasa Islamic School

09 February 2023 | Photos and Text by DOST Cotabato Provincial S&T Office

Kabacan, North Cotabato - The Department of Science and Technology (DOST) Cotabato recently conducted a Super STARBOOKS user's training for Mahad Kabacan Al-Arabie Al-Islamie, a Madrasa Islamic School in Kayaga, Kabacan, North Cotabato. The event was attended by several Ustadz (religious teachers) and students, with the school being headed by Mr. Faisal A. Pagalad.



Under the direction of the DOST Regional Office 12 Director Sammy P. Malawan and through the Regional Office's Community Empowerment through Science and Technology program, the Madrasa Islamic School was provided computer sets with WiFi, loaded with the STARBOOKS S&T content and other learning materials.



The Super STARBOOKS training was aimed to equip the attendees with the knowledge and skills to effectively use the STARBOOKS technology, which is a digital learning platform designed to enhance the teaching and learning experience.

The provision of the computer sets and the STARBOOKS technology is a significant step towards empowering the Madrasa Islamic School and providing its students with access to modern and dynamic learning resources.



Through the support of DOST, the school can now keep up with the fast-changing technological advancements and provide its students with a wide selection of S&T learning resources.

Smart GENSAN Gets Smarter, DOST Distributes STARBOOKS to 44 Schools

09 February 2023 | Photos and Text by DOST Region XII

General Santos City - FAs one of the most progressive cities in the region, the city of General Santos takes pride in its efforts to advance every facet of governance, from connectivity to automation.

And to sustain its pursuit of advancement, the city now boasts of being SMARTER Gensan.

Complementing this brand, the Department of Science and Technology Regional Office 12, through the efforts of its Regional Director Sammy P. Malawan, and the Department of Education– General Santos City, have brought STARBOOKS to every school in General Santos – permitting every student in the locality access to new learning possibilities.

Consistent with the mantra to bring science, technology, and innovation closer to every learner in the region, DOST 12 turned over 53 STARBOOKS-ready computer units to 44 schools in General Santos City last February 7, 2023.

The turnover ceremonies were held at Dadiangas West Central Elementary School during the STARBOOKS Turnover Ceremony and Users Training.

The STARBOOKS symbol was also awarded during the program symbolizing the strong partnership of both agencies in distributing the country's first "library-in-a-box" in the entire city. It was received by the Curriculum Implementation Division – Chief Juliet F. Lastimosa together with Education Program Supervisors Dr. Edilbert A. Reyes, and Aileen Jamero, representing School Division Superintendent Romelito G. Flores.

Malawan, in his message as delivered by Provincial Director Hadji Yassin pointed out "SMART Gensan is getting SMARTER. As we all know, General Santos City excels in a lot of aspects, and most especially in its technological prowess. [And] this turn-over ceremony only pushes us to be smarter, further noting that "STARBOOKS connect our learners into a wider scope of global learning".

Over a hundred participants witnessed the momentous event; principals from every recipient school attended to personally receive their computer units installed with the STARBOOKS system courtesy of Mr. Benjie Francisco, DOST XII STARBOOKS technical person.

Dr. Reyes later expressed his gratitude coupled with his hope for more batches of STARBOOKS to be dispensed within their division, remarking STARBOOKS as the most inexpensive yet exceptional library resource that every General Santos City School could ever possess.

Right after the turnover, the DOST XII team led by PD Hadji Yassin and Mr. Francisco proceeded with the users' training subjecting the ICT coordinators of each school present to equip them with the essential skills and knowledge in implementing the STARBOOKS in their respective stations.

Ending the activity on an inspiring note, PD Hadji Yassin said- "Convergence. A very meaningful work which is one of our mantras in DOST XII. [For] there is strength in number. Convergence makes every program and project for our public be really felt and be impactful. Again, on behalf of our RD Engr. Sammy P. Malawan, we stand together with DepEd – GenSan in shaping our country's future, our learners. And rest assured, we will continue to support you in your endeavors in science, technology, and innovation."

In the end, investing in children's education is one sure way to assure national headway. Education is an asset, and affording the young generation a great one, is a holistic approach to improve the nation.













Breaking Barriers: STARBOOKS Brings Science and Technology to Madrasa Schools and LGUs

11 February 2023 | DOST Cotabato Provincial S&T Office



Kabacan, North Cotabato - The Department of Science and Technology (DOST) Region XII has made a significant impact on the local community by providing a complete set of STARBOOKS to another Madrasa Islamic School in the municipality. This gift of knowledge, complete with a PC server, WiFi router, and computer table, is part of the DOST-STARBOOKS initiative, a program aimed at providing science and technology-based learning resources to schools and LGUs in remote and economically disadvantaged areas.

STARBOOKS, developed by DOST-Science and Technology Information Institute, is the first digital science library in the Philippines. This standalone S&T information source serves as an alternative to the traditional physical library for students who have limited or no access to the Internet. It provides science and technology-based educational resources in various formats to support the DOST mission to promote public interest in science and technology.

The STARBOOKS initiative was one of the focal programs of DOST XII, including the DOST Community Empowerment thru Science & Technology (CEST) project. This project's goal is to facilitate public access to science and technology information, thereby promoting literacy and empowerment in the field.

In addition to providing the Madrasa Islamic School and the Local Government Unit (LGU) of Kabacan with STARBOOKS sets, the DOST Team also conducted STARBOOKS super users training sessions for both organizations. The Madrasah Pedtamanan Al-Arabie Al-Islamie was represented by seven Ustadz, including its principal, Mr. Camaludin K. Pedtamanan, and the LGU was represented by its personnel.

The STARBOOKS training sessions aim to equip the recipients with the knowledge and skills needed to effectively utilize the digital library and maximize its benefits. With the STARBOOKS sets and the training provided, the Madrasa Islamic School and the LGU of Kabacan can now offer their students and constituents access to science and technology resources that would otherwise be unavailable to them.



Empowering the Community through Science and Technology

The STARBOOKS initiative is a testament to DOST's commitment to its mantra, "One DOST for U" and to everyone. The provision of STARBOOKS sets to the Madrasa Islamic School, and the LGU of Kabacan is another step towards realizing the goal of science and technology for all. By providing access to educational resources, DOST and the LGU are empowering the community to explore new knowledge and improve their lives through science and technology.

The STARBOOKS initiative is a promising and necessary step toward promoting science and technology literacy and empowerment in the Philippines. With programs like STARBOOKS, the DOST, and its partners are bringing science and technology to the people, bridging the gap between knowledge and access, and providing the community with the resources they need to access information.

DOST Region IX Conducts STARBOOKS User Training in Zamboanga Schools

14 February 2023 | DOST Regional Office IX

Lison, Zamboanga Del Sur - Anchored with the policy under the Executive Order No. 70 (the Whole of Nation Approach), Department of Science and Technology Regional Office 9 through its DOST – Zamboanga del Sur conducted a one-day training and orientation on DOST STARBOOKS to the teachers of Lison Valley Elementary and High School, facilitated by Mr. Christian Carl R. Resente, Science Research Specialist ll.

The said activity is part of the interventions identified for the local GIA project titled "Science, Technology, and Innovation to Empower Local Communist Armed Conflict-Affected Community in Lison Valley, Pagadian City".

This will provide STI (Science, Technology, and Innovation)-based content in various formats to students and other constituents in geographically-isolated and economically-challenged schools and communities throughout the country.

STARBOOKS is a standalone information source designed to reach those with limited or no access to S&T information resources. It also contains hundreds of thousands of digitized science and technology resources in various formats (text and video/audio) placed in specially designed "pods" set in a user-friendly interface.



PSTO Cotabato Joins Serbisyong Totoo Caravan

16 February 2023 | Photos and Text by DOST Cotabato Provincial S&T Office

Kabacan, North Cotabato - The Department of Science and Technology (DOST) joins several organizations in preparation for the forthcoming "Serbisyong Totoo Caravan" in the Province of Cotabato.

The caravan is part of the government's efforts to implement Executive Order No. 70 or "The Whole-of-Nation Approach to End Local Communist Armed Conflict" (ELCAC).

As part of the government's commitment to bring inclusive development to conflict-affected areas, the Serbisyong Totoo Caravan will provide various services and programs to ELCAC barangays in Cotabato Province. These include medical and dental missions, livelihood and skills training, and distribution of agricultural inputs and equipment.

DOST will be participating in the caravan through its Community Empowerment through Science and Technology (CEST) Program. The program aims to provide scientific and technological interventions that can improve the quality of life of communities in conflict-affected areas.

During the meeting, DOST officials discussed the specific interventions that they would be provided through the CEST Program.

These include the installation of solar-powered streetlights, the distribution of water filtration systems, the conduct of technology training on food processing, the provision of DOST-STARBOOKS, and handicraft-making.

DOST Regional Office 12 Director Sammy P. Malawan, represented by DOST- Cotabato expressed his commitment to support the government's efforts in addressing the challenges in conflict-affected areas. He emphasized that the CEST aims to empower communities through science and technology and that the interventions provided are tailored to the specific needs of the communities.

The Serbisyong Totoo Caravan is just one of the many initiatives being undertaken by the government under the leadership of Governor Emmylou Lala Taliño-Mendoza to bring peace and development to conflict-affected areas. With the participation of DOST through its CEST Program, the government hopes to provide sustainable and innovative solutions that can improve the quality of life of the people in these areas.





PSTO Cotabato Conducts STARBOOKS User Training for Barangay Kitacubong Personnel

22 February 2023 | Photos and Text by DOST Cotabato Provincial S&T Office

Alamada, North Cotabato - The Department of Science and Technology (DOST) Cotabato Provincial Office recently led the STARBOOKS users training for students in Brgy. Kitacubong, Alamada, North Cotabato.



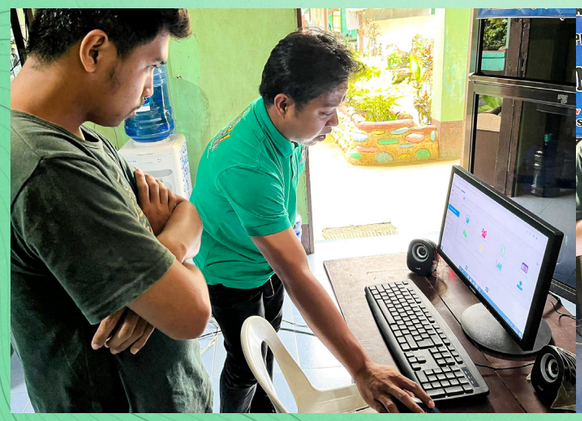
The training was attended by barangay personnel led by Brgy. Chair Nelson B. Palomero.

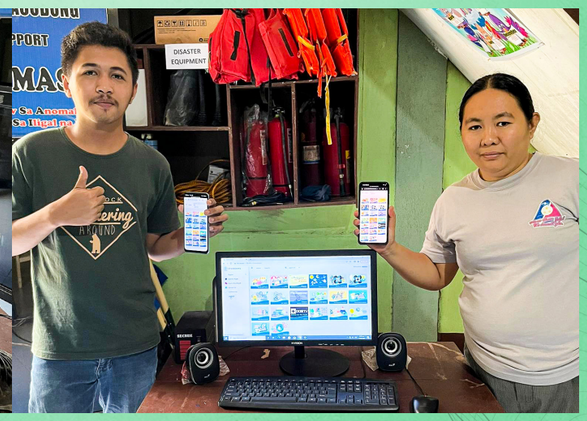
Under the direction of DOST Regional Director Sammy P. Malawan, the community was provided with computer sets loaded with the DOST-developed STARBOOKS technology and other learning materials, along with WiFi connectivity.

The primary goal of the STARBOOKS Users training was to equip attendees with the skills and knowledge necessary to effectively use the STARBOOKS technology, which is a digital learning platform designed to enhance the teaching and learning experience.

The provision of computer sets and STARBOOKS technology is a significant move towards empowering students with access to modern and dynamic learning resources. The Madrasa Islamic School in the area, in particular, can benefit from this initiative as it is now equipped with the latest technology and learning materials. This move also highlights the importance of bridging the digital divide in remote areas and improving access to quality education.

With the support of the DOST to enhance the learning capacities of the students of the community, the community can now keep up with fast-changing technological advancements and provide students with a wide array of S&T resources. The STARBOOKS users' training is a step towards ensuring that the DOST can bridge the digital gap and bring education to the forefront of development initiatives in the region.





Zamboanga Sangguniang Panglungsod, Satellite Offices Now Equipped with STARBOOKS

27 February 2023 | Photos and Text by DOST Regional Office IX

Zamboanga City - The Satellite Offices of Councilor James Siason at Culianan, Sangali, Curuan, and Vitali; and Sangguniang Panglungsod ng Zamboanga are now equipped with STARBOOKS.

The Department of Science and Technology IX thru its Zamboanga City S&T Center Head, Mr. Ricardo J. Apolinario III, successfully turned over 5 units of STARBOOKS to Councilor James Siason which are intended for its Satellite Offices and for Sangguniang Panglungsod ng Zamboanga; and conducted an orientation and hands-on training to the staff who will serve as the site admins in the assigned area.

STARBOOKS is a Digital Library developed by the Science and Technology Information Institute (STII) of DOST that stands for Science and Technology Academic and Research-Based Openly-Operated KioskS. It contains 80,000 digitized science and technology resources in various formats (text and video/ audio) set in a user-friendly interface that can be accessed even without an internet connection.









Three More Academic Institutions in Region XII Equipped with STARBOOKS

27 February 2023 | Photos and Text by DOST Region XII



Koronadal, South Cotabato - With its aspiration of growing its network of STARBOOKS-ready facilities in Region 12, Department of Science and Technology Regional Office XII under its Regional Director Engr. Sammy P. Malawan has partnered with the Department of Education for easy linkage to public schools and learning institutions in need of supplemental learning resources specifically on Science and Technology.

Recently, three more potential beneficiaries from T'Boli and Lake Sebu have partnered with DOST 12 in a simple ceremonial signing conducted last 23 February in Brgy. Paraiso, Koronadal City, South Cotabato.

The Lake Sebu Indigenous Women Weavers Association, Inc. (LASIWWAI) Learning Institute with its School Administrator Jenita B. Eko; T'Daan Leteng Elementary School represented by Ms. Leonor D. Dellava, Teacher-in-Charge; and the Kule Elementary School - Barangay Salacafe represented by Mr. Kervee Jastien P. Aberde, were present during the ceremonial signing along with Ms. Marichu Jean R. dela Cruz and the host agency, DOST-South Cotabato Provincial Director Mohammad Naif Z. Abdulazis.

participation of DOST through its CEST Program, the government hopes to provide sustainable and innovative solutions that can improve the quality of life of the people in these areas.

In his message, delivered by Ms. Giselle Eve O. Siladan, DOST XII-SSRS, RD Malawan emphasized- "Education after all is the antidote to destitution. And we in the Department of Science and Technology operate in the aspiration to enhance the population's quality of life purposefully utilizing Science and Technology, and a big part of it entails tending the young generation."



DOST CAR Deploys Three More STARBOOKS Unit in Pasil

08 March 2023 | Photos and Text by DOST PSTC Kalinga

Pasil, Kalinga - In a bid to strengthen the basic education in the Geographically Isolated and Disadvantaged Areas (GIDAs), the Department of Science and Technology-Cordillera Administrative Region (DOST-CAR) through its Provincial Science and Technology Office – Kalinga (PSTO – Kalinga) deployed three (3) more units of the Science and Technology Academic and Research-Based Openly Operated KioskS or STARBOOKS in Pasil, Kalinga on March 02, 2023.



Funded under the "Community Empowerment through Science and Technology (CEST) for Pasil 2022" project under the Human Resource Development entry point, Bagtayan Elementary School, Batong Buhay Elementary School, and Dalupa Elementary School were provided with one (1) unit each of the technology.

Through the conducted community needs assessment in 2022, these schools were identified as beneficiaries due to the status of their learning facilities and the number of target users. These schools join the other two STARBOOKS-equipped schools in Pasil; strategically located at Pasil National High School and Pasil Central School. At present, there are already 341 units of STARBOOKS deployed in the Cordillera Administrative Region; 41 of which were deployed in the province of Kalinga.



Engr. Karl Ian Martinez, Science Research Specialist II, together with Mr. Dejoia Lee Andres, STARBOOKS staff, spearheaded the deployment activity including the conduct of the users training and orientation which was participated by five (5) faculty staff from the schools. Present also in the activity is the S&T coordinator for Pasil, Engr. Marife A. Bintocan.

Participants were oriented on the know-how of the technology for its optimum utilization. Likewise, its mandate and the concept behind this Philippines' first S&T digital library in a box were discussed including the DOST's scholarship programs. Subsequently, hands-on training was conducted to capacitate the teachers, particularly in the registration of users and generation of reports.

In areas where access to books and internet connectivity is limited, STARBOOKS, as one of the many inventive technologies of DOST, aims to provide students and teachers, with a better learning and teaching experience, respectively.

Since then, quality education has always been one of the goals of the agency, strategically channeled through its different effective projects and programs focused in the advancement of Science, Technology, and Innovation literacy in the countryside, especially those situated in the GIDAs. With the tagline- "Your access to a wealth of science and technology information right at your fingertips.", this platform will empower everyJuan with access to modern, interactive, and dynamic resources with just a click.

STARBOOKS Now in San Roque Arbol High School

13 March 2023 | Photos and Text by DOST PSTO Pampanga

Lubao, Pampanga - With the recent STARBOOKS system updates and to get the teaching force ready for optimal unit utilization and upkeep, the Department of Science and Technology- Pampanga led the orientation of the school faculty members in this province.



The STARBOOKS is a project under the DOST-Science and Technology Information Institute (DOST-STII) that intends to serve as an information access portal in critical areas in the Philippines.It includes millions of digitized science and technology resources in different media (text, video, and audio) organized in specially created "pods" with an easy-to-use interface.

STARBOOKS Orientation at Mary Our Help Technical Institute for Women

23 March 2023 | Photos and Text by DOST PSTO Pampanga



Mabalacat, Pampanga - STARBOOKS Orientation at Mary Our Help Technical Institute for Women (Pampanga) Inc. in McArthur Highway Mabiga, Mabalacat, Pampanga.

As part of the provincial office's activities for the Women's Month Celebration, a training was organized recently to promote and create awareness towards STARBOOKS.

Developed by the DOST-Science and Technology Information Institute (DOST-STII), STARBOOKS is the country's first offline science and technology library-in-a-box, with thousands of S&T information in various formats, is an essential technology to up the knowledge and aptitude of students on science and math.

The orientation, which was attended by female teaching personnel from the beneficiary institution, was organized to instruct them on how to operate and fully utilize STARBOOKS.

Itogon School Receives Science Digital Library from DOST, Lions Club

28 March 2023 | Photos and Text by DOST PSTC Benguet

Itogon, Benguet - Students and teachers of Pacalso Elementary School at Bua, Tuding, Itogon, now have free access to science and technology information resources.

The Department of Science and Technology - Science and Technology Information Institute (DOST-STII) recently turned over a digital library, dubbed Science and Technology Academic Science and Technology Academic Research-Based Openly-Operated Kiosks or STARBOOKS, to the said school. This is in partnership with LIONS Club International - Cavite Association of Science and Mathematics Educators of Philippine Private Schools (ASMEPPS) through its Learning Enhancement Legacy Project.

As part of the turnover program, the DOST-CAR, thru Provincial S&T Office represented by Rey Teofilo, LIONS CLUB - Cavite President Janet De Guzman, and PES Head Nestor Asiong signed a Memorandum of Understanding for the partnership on the use of STARBOOKS.

PES is second from Kabayan - Ballay Integrated School, which received STARBOOKS from the LIONS Club in the Province of Benguet.

DOST-STII STARBOOKS Staff Mr. Reynaldo Morales conducted the STARBOOKS Users' Training, where the number of users can be reported online for the monitoring of the usage of the digital library.

Aside from STARBOOKS, other learning resources and school supplies, hygiene, and health supplements were distributed to the learners and parents. This activity is part of the advocacy of Lions International - Cavite ASMEPPS.

Itogon Mayor Bernard Waclin joined the turnover ceremony, where he extended his gratitude to the donors for the said assistance to benefit the learners and teachers of the said school in the municipality.

STARBOOKS contains digitized science and technology resources in various formats, such as text, video, and audio.

It is the first science digital library in the Philippines that can be operated without an internet connection to aid in science education.







STARBOOKS training held at Antique National School

14 April 2023 | Photos and Text by DOST Region VI



San Jose de Buenavista, Antique - As students returned to face-to-face classes in public schools, the Department of Science and Technology (DOST) held a training to promote the use of the Science and Technology Academic and Research-Based Openly Operated KioskS or STARBOOKS.

STARBOOKS is a digital library developed by the Department of Science and Technology - Science and Technology Information Institute (DOST-STII), which was recently introduced at the Antique National School (ANS).

The program was highlighted by the introduction of STARBOOKS features that promise to help students gain information on S&T through the help of its thousands of S&T information packed in user-friendly "pods" that can be accessed even without the use of the Internet.

The resource speaker, Mr. John Jowil D. Orquia, presented an overview of the software, followed by a system demonstration and the installation of the STARBOOKS software on two desktop computers. The participants were then given a chance to explore and check the system after the lectures.

With the successful training, ANS can now have access to a wide range of S&T information, which can be used as reference materials for academic and scientific research purposes. With STARBOOKS, ANS can enhance the learning experience of students and encourage them to pursue S&T studies in the not-so-distant future.

DOST X Turns-over STARBOOKS to Magsaysay College

18 May 2023 | Photos and Text by DOST Region 10

Misamis Oriental -Science and Technology Academic and Research-Based Openly-Operated KioskS (STARBOOKS) is a stand-alone information source designed to reach those with limited or no access to S&T information resources.

The project aims to provide STI (Science, Technology, and Innovation)-based content in various formats to students and other constituents in geographically-isolated and economically-challenged schools and communities throughout the country. It contains hundreds of thousands of digitized science and technology resources in various formats (text and video/audio) placed in specially designed "pods" set in a user-friendly interface.



DOST Deploys Science Learning Equipment to Remotest Schools in Mankayan, Benguet

May 2023 | Photos and Text by DOST PSTC Benguet



Mankayan, Benguet - To aid in science and technology learning, the Department of Science and Technology – Cordillera Administrative Region (DOST-CAR), thru its DOST– Benguet, installed the STARBOOKS, the digital science library, digital microscopes, and television to Camanpaguey Integrated School and Las-igan Elementary School on April 26-27, 2023.

Camanpaguey IS, and Las-igan ES are the remotest schools of Mankayan, located in Barangay Cabiten. CIS can be reached through a two-hour ride using an all-terrain vehicle, while LES can only be reached through a three-hour hike from Camanpaguey ES.

This project is in collaboration with the Local Government Unit of Mankayan to provide much-needed assistance to Geographically Isolated and/or Disadvantaged Areas (GIDAs) in the municipality. It is geared towards giving S&T support for learners in these far-flung areas.

During the turnover of the equipment, the DOST-CAR and PSTO-Benguet team conducted training on the operation of the digital science library and digital microscopes for the students and teachers.

The digital library, dubbed as DOST STARBOOKS – Science and Technology Academic Research-based Openly Operated Kiosks, is the first science digital library in the Philippines that can be operated without an internet connection.

STARBOOKS contains digitized science and technology resources such as K-12 learning materials, Disaster Risk Reduction Management resources, livelihood videos, investigatory projects, theses and dissertations, and others.

Meanwhile, the deployed microscopes have an electronic eyepiece that can be connected to a laptop and television for digital and expanded image viewing.

About 70 learners and seven teachers from CIS, while 14 learners and two teachers from LES will be benefitted from this project, aside from interested community residents who can access the learning resources.

CIS Head Johnny M. Anno and LES Head Noreen Espenocilla extended their grateful appreciation to DOST for the said assistance, citing that the distance of the schools was not a hindrance in bringing science, technology, and innovation to the areas.

"You did not see the few numbers of students and how far the place is in bringing the assistance", said Ms. Aurelia Soliken as she expressed how the equipment will be of big help to students and even to teachers, especially to science learning."





STARBOOKS Training at Datu Panguluhan, Zamboanga

18 May 2023 | Photos and Text by DOST Region IX

Zamboanga City - Establishing Mechanisms to Benefit, Revitalize, and Advance Community Empowerment (CEST-EMBRACE) continues mission at Datu Panguluhan Elementary School! The Department of Science and Technology IX together with ABRAZA Mindanao successfully deployed STARBOOKS and conducted an orientation and hands-on training at Datu Panguluhan Elementary School, in Zamboanga City.

STARBOOKS is a Digital Library developed by the Science and Technology Information Institute (STII) of DOST that stands for Science and Technology Academic and Research-Based Openly Operated KioskS.

It contains hundreds and thousands of digitized science and technology resources in various formats through texts, audios and videos set in a user-friendly interface that can be accessed even without an internet connection.



The orientation and hands-on training were facilitated by Mr. Enrique Mariano. The STARBOOKS focal person for Zamboanga City, Mr. Enrique Mariano oriented the faculty of Datu Panguluhan Elementary School.

The training proper were comprised with the registration of an account and demonstration of the OFFLINE platform. Through STARBOOKS, students can now have better resources in relation with Science and Technology.

STARBOOKS at the NJSOMS Science and Math Fair

04 May 2023 | Photos and Text by DOST CALABARZON



San Pablo, Laguna - DOST-CALABARZON features DOST-developed learning tools for young learners during the Nino Jesus Science Oriented Montessori School, Inc. (NJSOMS) Science and Math Fair last May 3-4, 2023.

With the theme "Thriving Science and Mathematics in the New Normal, Turning Challenges into Opportunities of Learning and Enjoyment," the Regional Office brought the DOST STARBOOKS of the DOST-Science and Technology Information Institute and DOST Courseware of the DOST-SEI for the appreciation of students and teachers in NJSOMS and neighboring schools.

From Ordinary to Extraordinary: DOST XII Ignites Education Excellence in Brgy. Marbel with STARBOOKS

19 May 2023 | Photos and Text by DOST Region XII

Matalam, North Cotabato - In a bid to elevate teaching and learning within the community, the DOST XII Cotabato Provincial Office orchestrated an event known as the Super STARBOOKS Users Training.

This transformative gathering took place in Brgy. Marbel, Matalam, North Cotabato, and showcased the unwavering dedication of educators and Barangay Workers who wholeheartedly embrace the mission of advancing education.

Leading the charge was Carmencita L. Magoncia, the esteemed School Principal of Matalam National High School, along with Punong Barangay Hon. Ramon S. Beboso, an inspiring figure at the helm of the Barangay Workers.

Under the leadership of DOST XII Regional Director Engr. Sammy P. Malawan, Brgy. Marbel experienced an educational revolution with the introduction of Super STARBOOKS. Equipped with state-of-the-art computer sets, complemented by a rich array of supplementary learning materials, this initiative aimed to unlock the potential for exceptional education.



Seamless access to a world of knowledge was ensured through the provision of WiFi connectivity, setting the stage for a truly immersive learning experience.

During the Super STARBOOKS Training, participants were equipped with vital skills and knowledge, fueling their passion for teaching and learning. Designed to revolutionize the educational landscape, STARBOOKS emerged as an interactive and cutting-edge platform, paving the way for a new era of academic excellence in Brgy. Marbel.



This remarkable endeavor has ignited a profound enthusiasm for education throughout Matalam's vibrant community.

By embracing the power of STARBOOKS technology, students embark on an extraordinary educational journey where modernity and dynamic learning intersect.

With unwavering support from DOST, Brgy. Marbel is poised to keep pace with rapid technological advancements, ensuring students receive a comprehensive education that empowers them for a successful future.

Prepare to witness an awe-inspiring transformation as Brgy. Marbel's educational landscape is set ablaze by the Super STARBOOKS training, propelling teaching and learning to new heights of excellence!

DOST V, DepED V Inks Partnership for STARBOOKS Deployment to CEST-Assisted Communities

22 May 2023 | Photos and Text by DOST Region V

Albay, Bicol - The Department of Science and Technology Region V (DOST-V), in partnership with the Department of Education Region V, conducts the MOA Signing and Turn-over Ceremony of DOST-STARBOOKS for CEST Communities last 22 May 2023.

The STARBOOKS or Science and Technology Academic and Research-Based Openly Operated Kiosk Stations (STARBOOKS), is a stand-alone information source designed to reach those with limited or no access to S&T information resources. It provides STI (science, technology, and innovation)-based content in various formats to students and other constituents in geographically isolated and economically-challenged schools and communities throughout the country. STARBOOKS contains hundreds of thousands of digitized science and technology resources in various formats (text, video, and audio).

Through the Community Empowerment through Science and Technology (CEST) Program under the Human Resource Development Interventions, 22 units of DOST-STARBOOKS are turned-over to the following school beneficiaries: Cavit Elementary School and Nagotgot National High School in Manito, Albay; Batan National High School and Rapu-Rapu National High School in Rapu-Rapu, Albay; L. Opeda Elementary School and Fabrica High School in San Viicente, Camarines Norte; Bagong Lipunan Elementary School and Francisco Elementary School in Balatan, Camarines Sur; Gainza National High School and Loob Elementary School in Gainza, Camarines Sur; Siruma Central School and Vito Elementary School in Siruma, Camarines Sur; Carorian Elementary School and Bote Integrated School in Bato, Catanduanes, San Miguel Rural Development High School (Mabato Annex) and San Marcos Elementary School in San Miguel, Catanduanes; San Atonio Elementary School and Lupi Elementary School in Prieto Diaz, Sorsogon; Allanaraiz- Marfil National High School and Santos E. Conag National High School in Esperanza, Masbate; Francisco Alindogan National High School and Burgos National High School in batuan, Masbate.



Present during the MOA Signing and Turn-over Ceremony are DOST Regional Dir. Rommel R. Serrano, CESO III, DepEd Regional Dir. Gilbert T. Sadsad, Atty Domilyn G. Silerio, Supply Officer, School Pricipals/representative, Mayor's/ Representative, PSTD-Albay Engr. Domingo A. Peña Jr., PSTD-Camarines Norte Hermogenes Miguel G. Pormento, PSTD-Camarines Sur Patrocinio N. Felizmenio, PSTD-Catanduanes Engr. Marie Grace T. Molina, PSTD-Sorsogon Engr. Sandro B. Noguera, PSTD-Masbate Josie D. Albao, STARBOOKS Coordinator Ralph Martin R. Roque, Head, Supply Office Ruby A. Asuncion, SRS II/ CEST Coordinator Fae B. Banda, and PTA III Joan C. Ceriola.





DOST-STII Partners with BPI Foundation: Introducing STARBOOKS to Solangon Elementary School

23 May 2023 | Photos and Text by DOST Siquijor



San Juan, Siquijor - DOST-STII (Department of Science and Technology – Science and Technology Information Institute) and the BPI Foundation have formed a dynamic partnership to bring the extraordinary power of STARBOOKS to Solangon Elementary School in San Juan, Siquijor. The highly anticipated deployment, which took place on May 16, 2023, ignited a wave of excitement and garnered overwhelming support from the local community.

Recognizing the critical role that access to knowledge plays in shaping young minds, the BPI Foundation generously donated a comprehensive set of high-quality equipment to Solangon Elementary School. The donation included a CPU, monitor, mouse and keyboard, speakers and headsets, a reliable WiFi dongle, a printer, and a WiFi router. This technology infrastructure will empower the students to explore the vast world of knowledge through the immersive learning experience provided by STARBOOKS.

STARBOOKS, an innovative science and technology digital library, is a treasure trove of valuable resources and information. The collaboration between the DOST and BPI Foundation aims to provide Solangon Elementary School students with limitless opportunities to access the extensive knowledge encompassed within STARBOOKS. Through the integration of technology, young learners will embark on a journey of exploration and discovery, unraveling the wonders of science and unleashing their full potential.

Both DOST-STII and the BPI Foundation share a common vision of nurturing and empowering young minds in their pursuit of knowledge and discovery. Together, they are excited to witness the transformative impact that STARBOOKS will create on Solangon Elementary students, as they develop a deeper understanding of science and the world around them. This collaborative partnership serves as a resounding testament to the unwavering dedication of the two organizations to enhance science education and foster a brighter future for generations to come.

The impact of this initiative is poised to reverberate beyond the school gates, transforming the lives of students, their families, and the entire community.

This undertaking is a shining example of the remarkable achievements that can be attained when organizations unite for a common cause – the advancement of education and the empowerment of young minds.





ABACANOBASYON 2023: PSTO Catanduanes Turns Over STARBOOKS to Five Communities in Virac

25 May 2023 | Photos and Text by DOST Region V





Virac, Catanduanes - DOST-V, through Provincial Science and Technology Office-Catanduanes, conducts turn over of STARBOOKS and RxBOX Technologies to Five Beneficiaries at the Virac Sports Complex, Virac, Catanduanes.

STARBOOKS or the Science and Technology Academic and Research-Based Openly-Operated KioskS is a stand-alone information source designed to reach those with limited or no access to S&T information resources.

The project aims to provide STI (Science, Technology, and Innovation)-based content in various formats to students and other constituents in geographically-isolated and economically-challenged schools and communities throughout the country.

STARBOOKS contains hundreds of thousands of digitized science and technology resources in various formats (text and video/audio) placed in specially designed "pods" set in a user-friendly interface. Present during the event for STARBOOKS Turn -over Ceremony are DOST-V ARD – TO Ma. Theresa D. Alcantara, PSTD - Catanduanes Engr. Marie Grace T. Molina, MIS Unit Head Ralph Martin R. Roque, Admin Officer V, CEST Coordinator Fae B. Banda, SRS II, School Principals namely, Lina T. Tayas of Bote Integrated School, Aileen A. Tabilog of San Miguel Rural Development High School (Mabato Annex), Jupiter I. Torno of Carorian Elementary School, and Janet T. Tapar of San Marcos Elementary School.

These CEST beneficiary schools are from the municipalities of Bato and San Miguel.

On the other hand, RxBox is a Telehealth System that is designed to provide better access to life-saving health care services in isolated and disadvantaged communities nationwide.

Present during the event for RxBox turn-over ceremony are DOST-V ARD – TO Ma. Theresa D. Alcantara, PSTD Catanduanes Engr. Marie Grace T. Molina, PTSD Masbate/RxBox Coordinator Josie D. Albao.

The equipment are received by the Doctor to the Barrio of LGU Caramoran Catanduanes, Dr. John Dayag.

Both of these technologies will greatly help our fellow Catandungan for a better future ahead in terms of education and health wellness.



628 Subanen Learners from Misamis Occidental Benefit from DOST STARBOOKS

24 May 2023 | Photos and Text by DOST Misamis Occidental

Misamis Occidental - About 628 Subanen learners from Geographically Isolated and Disadvantaged Areas (GIDA) in Conception, Misamis Occidental, are now actively using STARBOOKS, the country's first Science and Technology (S&T) digitized library, in seven public schools.



After six months of deployment, teachers have observed significant improvement in learners' competence. The beneficiary schools were Concepcion National High School, Malvar Elementary School, Migubay Elementary School, Balongkot Elementary School, Debaloy Elementary School, Concepcion Central School, and San and Francisco Elementary School.

"In the few months of using this offline teaching tool, we have noticed great results on the side of our learners through their actions and the way they respond to given commands and directions during classes. They are now much more eager to come to school compared to those last times when the said scientific referencing tool hadn't yet been installed. They become more attentive, energetic, and participative in class if the STARBOOKS is the teaching tool to use during discussions", said Ms. Winilyn C. Magdusa, San Francisco Elementary School.



Learners can now explore and learn science and technology in a more comprehensible and enjoyable way despite their isolated geographical location since its installation on September 16, 2022.

Moreover, teachers expressed gratitude to DOST-10 for the assistance, as it helped them deliver their classroom lectures innovatively. "It revolutionized my teaching strategies to the extent that I can explore and connect my subject to interdisciplinary schemes, and for the scientific referencing tool", said Jamael Marohombsar, Debaloy Elementary School.

STARBOOKS is a science digital library developed by the Science and Technology Information Institute of the Department of Science and Technology (DOST-STII) to make S&T information accessible and available to the public, especially those without access to the Internet.

With STARBOOKS installed, learners in these seven GIDA schools can now easily access thousands of digitized science and technology resources, meanwhile, teachers' dilemma of accessing relevant S&T-related information for their lectures has been addressed.

Bringing the Best of Innovative Literature to the Hinterlands: STARBOOKS Light Up Caraga and Bangaga

25 May 2023 | Photos and Text by DOST PSTC Mati



Davao Oriental - The Department of Science and Technology XI through the Provincial Science and Technology Office of Davao Oriental successfully installed STARBOOKS in two schools in Davao Oriental with the main sponsor, BPI Foundation who provided the funds for the purchase of computer sets and WiFi router and assistance of the Department of Science and Technology – Science and Technology Information Institute (DOST-STII) in the procurement and installation of the equipment.

STARBOOKS has provided a wealth of knowledge for students in Davao Region. However, it is worth noting that only two schools in this region have had the opportunity to receive the benefits of this project. These schools are the Magsayap Integrated School in Caraga and Kinablangan Elementary School in Baganga.

On May 23, 2023, Magsayap Integrated School in Caraga, Davao Oriental, received the latest version of STARBOOKS. Magsayap Integrated School of Caraga, Davao Oriental is located in a Geographically Isolated Disadvantaged Area in the province of Davao Oriental.

This school faces various challenges due to its remote location, including poor access to basic amenities such as electricity, poor road infrastructure, and a limited number of teachers. The following day, the DOST-STII team headed to Diat Elementary School, also in Caraga, Davao Oriental, to monitor and updated the system installed solar-powered STARBOOKS in 2018. On May 25, the installation of STARBOOKS was also completed in Kinablangan, Baganga, Davao Oriental.

STARBOOKS is a digital library that contains thousands of digitized scientific and technical materials that can be accessed offline. It is designed to provide students and teachers in remote areas with access to information that is not readily available in textbooks.

According to the school principals of Magsayap IS and Kinablanagan ES, the installation of STARBOOKS is a game-changer for their students and teachers. The students are more excited to learn because they can explore and discover new things using this innovative technology. They expressed gratitude to DOST XI, BPI, and DOST-STII for making the installation possible.





DOST XI Equips Taga-Ibo NHS with STARBOOKS

21 May 2023 | Photos and Text by DOST XI

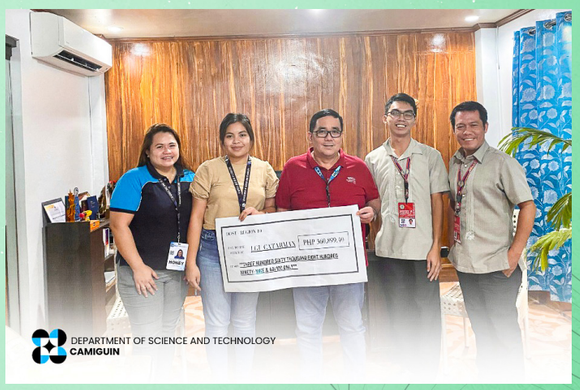


Marilog, Davao City - The Department of Science and Technology XI deployed Science and Technology Academic and Research-Based Openly Operated Kiosk Stations (STARBOOKS) in the remote area of Taga-Ibo National High School, Barangay Malamba, Marilog District, Davao City last April 25.

Established in 1981, Taga-Ibo National High School is composed of 176 students in elementary and more than a hundred in junior high school, with six teachers and one principal. The school is 45 kilometers (27.81 miles) away from Davao City downtown proper.

DOST PSTO Camuigin Turnover Funds for STARBOOKS Project through CEST

02 June 2023 | Photos and Text by DOST Camiguin



Catarman, Camiguin - On May 31, 2023, through the Community Empowerment thru Science and Technology (CEST) project, DOST 10 in partnership with the Local Government Unit of Catarman successfully turnover Php 360, 899.40 worth of project funds for Camiguin National High School and Sto. Niño Integrated School of Catarman, Camiguin.

The project aims to provide access to science and technology information to students and teachers in Camiguin National High School and Sto. Niño Integrated School.

The project funds is intended for the installation of the First Philippine S&T Digital Library which is the Science and Technology Academic and Research-Based Openly Operated Kiosks or STARBOOKS. Project also includes an orientation and training-workshop for the two (2) schools that will be benefited by over 1,500 students and teachers.

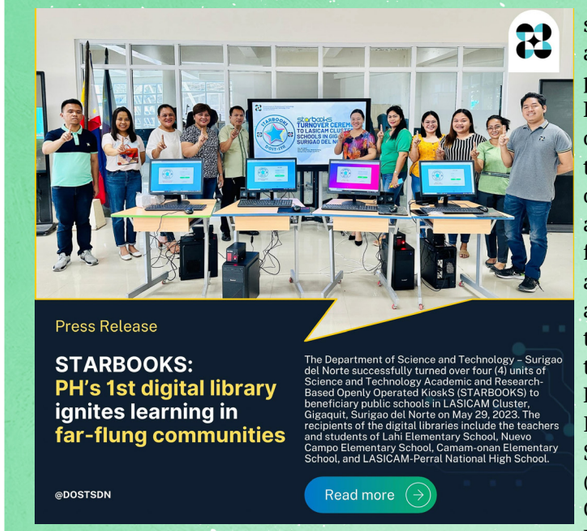
Among the highlights of the turned over is the brief discussion of the stipulations of the Memorandum of Agreement and Orientation of STARBOOKS.

Present in the activity is Mayor Kiterio Antonio U. Palarca II, Ms. Christine S. Jardin, Science Research Specialist II of DOST Camiguin together with Ms. Nice Nerjay C. Delada, Project Technical Assistant III, Mr. Arniel M. Canales of Camiguin National High School and Mr. Carlito J. Sagocsoc Jr. of Sto. Niño Integrated School.

Mayor Palarca expressed his gratitude to DOST for the project and said that it will be a valuable and reliable resource for students and teachers in Camiguin and that the project will help to improve the quality of education in the province.

STARBOOKS: PH 1st Digital Library Ignites Learning in Far-flung Communities

03 June 2023 | Photos and Text by DOST Surigao del Norte



Surigao del Norte - The Department of Science and Technology – Surigao del Norte successfully turned over four (4) units of Science and Technology Academic and Research-Based Openly Operated KioskS (STARBOOKS) to beneficiary public schools in LASICAM Cluster, Gigaquit, Surigao del Norte on May 29, 2023.

The recipients of the digital library include the teachers and students of Lahi Elementary School, Nuevo Campo Elementary School, Camam-onan Elementary School, and LASICAM-Perral National High School.

The deployment of the STARBOOKS is one of the components of DOST-SDN's interventions for the geographically isolated, disadvantaged, and conflict-affected (GIDCA) areas under its Community Empowerment through Science and Technology (CEST) Program.

The project aims to promote S&T culture and improve the educational system in remote areas of the province, particularly in LASICAM Cluster, offering a gateway to a vast realm of knowledge and information for students and educators alike. During the ceremonial turnover held at the Provincial Research, Innovation, and Science Museum (PRISM) in Surigao City, Ms. Mariel P. Makinano, DOST-SDN Provincial Director, presented the overall feature, content overview, and different platforms of the STARBOOKS technology.

STARBOOKS is the first Philippine digital science library that functions as an offline library for students. Inside are digitized technology resources, research and dissertations, investigatory projects, video lessons in science and math subjects, and more materials for instruction and research.

After the orientation, the representatives of the beneficiary schools were capacitated by the DOST-SDN technical personnel on STARBOOKS system management. The hands-on training and demonstration covered generating reports, teaching students to create accounts, and navigating resources for smooth use of the digital library.

The STARBOOKS technology was developed by DOST-Science and Technology Information Institute (STII) to create interest in the field of Science and Technology especially in the countryside; encourage great and curious minds to develop new ideas, inventions, and innovations; and inspire one's capacity for entrepreneurship and research.

With more digital libraries installed in the province, DOST-Surigao del Norte hopes to spark interest in science and technology especially in far-flung communities. For more inquiries about the DOST STARBOOKS, follow and like our official Facebook page Department of Science and Technology - Surigao del Norte.



Santa Cruz Central ES Now Equipped with STARBOOKS

07 June 2023 | Photos and Text by Santa Cruz Central Elementary School

Davao del Sur - Santa Cruz Central Elementary School, headed by Verleto C. Florentino, Principal III, would like to thank the Department of Science and Technology for the successful installation of STARBOOKS or the Science and Technology Academic and Research-Based Openly-Operated KioskS, a stand-alone information source designed to reach those with limited or no access to S&T information resources.



Definitely, this information resource would be very helpful in the school's effort to strengthen its literacy program and improve student literacy.

DOST IX Inks STARBOOKS Partnership with DepEd Zamboanga del Norte

16 June 2023 | Photos and Text by DOST Region IX

Zamboanga del Norte - DOST-IX through its Provincial Science and Technology Office - Zamboanga del Norte (PSTO-ZDN) inked a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) with the Department of Education - Zamboanga del Norte Schools Division Office (DepEd-SDO) for the project entitled "Deployment of STARBOOKS to Provide Access to S&T Information to Rural Schools in Zamboanga del Norte" on Thursday, 15 June 2023, at Mibang Hotel, Dipolog City.



DOST-IX was represented by PSTO-ZDN Director Nuhman M. Aljani and DepEd-SDO was represented by it Schools Division Superintendent Dr. Roy C. Tuballa. Mr. Mickrel C. Duller, Science Supervisor together with some officials of the DepEd-SDO and PSTO-ZDN witnessed the MOA signing.

The project will fund the deployment of 16 units STARBOOKS kiosks to selected schools in the province.

It is funded under DOST's Grants-in-Aid (GIA) program with total cost amounting to Php1,181,600.00.

The project aims to provide access to S&T information to students and teachers of the identified school beneficiaries in Zamboanga del Norte.

The DOST's GIA program aims to harness the country's scientific and technological capabilities to spur and attain a sustainable economic growth and development. Through the funding of relevant science and technology (S&T) undertakings, the GIA program aims to contribute to productivity improvement and quality of life of Filipinos by generating and promoting appropriate technologies.

STARBOOKS Updates Installed in Caluya NHS

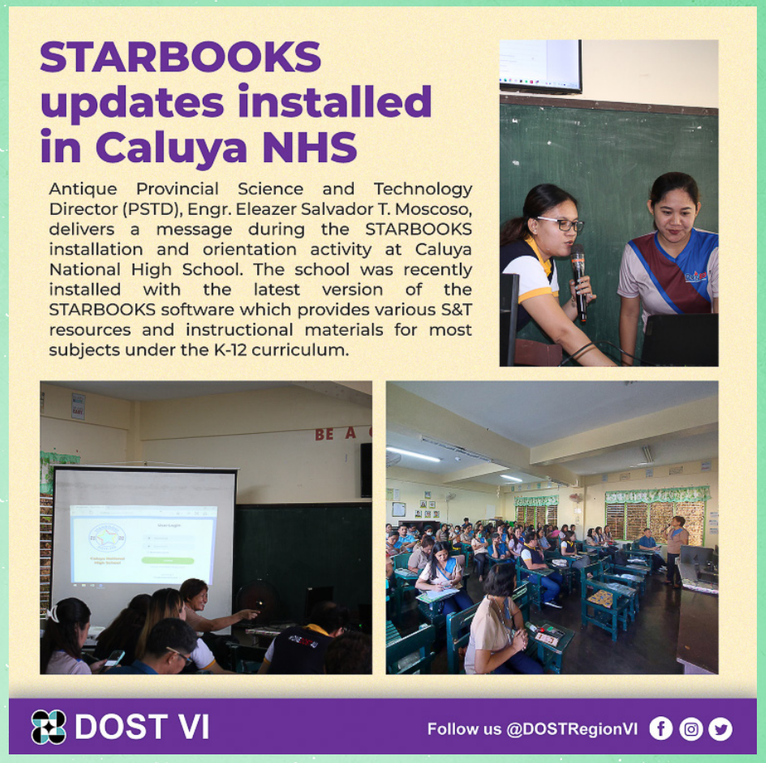
23 June 2023 | Photos and Text by DOST Region VI

Caluya, Antique - Caluya National High School (NHS) was recently installed with the latest version of the STARBOOKS or the Science and Technology Academic and Research-Based Openly-Operated KioskS software.

School teachers were also given a re-orientation of STARBOOKS' updated features and a system demonstration to better showcase its functions.

The STARBOOKS activity was spearheaded by the Department of Science and Technology (DOST) Antique Provincial Science and Technology Office (PSTO) headed by Engr. Eleazar Salvador T. Moscoso, Provincial S&T Director, and staff.

STARBOOKS is a stand-alone information source designed to reach those with limited or no access to science and technology (S&T) information resources. The technology was developed by the DOST-Science and Technology Information Institute (STII).



Caluya NHS have been using STARBOOKS since 2018. The STARBOOKS software was updated to provide instructional materials for most subjects under the K-12 curriculum. With this, teachers are better equipped to enhance their instructional practices.

