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Brilliance, Stories, and Timelessness

Celebrating 15 years of the STARBOOKS crystal arch

The Department of Science and Technology - Science and Technology Information Institute (DOST-STII) marked the 15th anniversary of STARBOOKS by gathering partners, stakeholders, and regional deployment officers at Acacia Hotel, Alabang, to celebrate the program's journey of expanding access to science and technology information for Filipino learners

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Editor's note



When we embarked on our journey 15 years ago, our mission was clear and straightforward: to make STARBOOKS a learning partner in making science, technology, and innovation accessible to every Filipino, regardless of location or connectivity. Fifteen years later, as we celebrate this remarkable milestone, we look back with pride on the faces and places we've encountered along the way that have shaped our resolve to empower schools and communities through knowledge.

This special anniversary issue of STARBOOKS Insider highlights the milestones, innovations, and stories that have defined STARBOOKS since its launch in 2011—from bringing STEM resources to remote, economically-challenged areas to its steady evolution into a dynamic platform for science learning and engagement. Within these pages are stories of how STEM knowledge has inspired curiosity, opened opportunities, and created lasting, positive change for students, teachers, and communities.

As we celebrate our crystal anniversary, we also look ahead with renewed purpose. Guided by our commitment to inspiring curiosity, fostering lifelong learning, and promoting a culture of science, STARBOOKS will continue to grow and innovate in the service of every Filipino learner.

ALAN C. TAULE
Editor-In-Chief
STARBOOKS INSIDER

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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2026

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NEWS feature









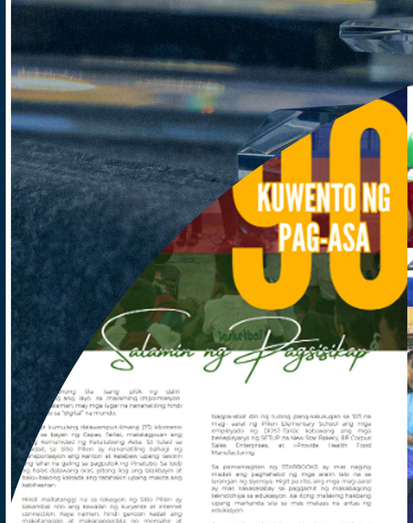










photo by Rommel M. Azucena, Jr.

THINKING FORWARD:

STARBOOKS seals robotics partnership with FELTA Multi-Media

by Rommel M. Azucena Jr., DOST-STII

The Department of Science and Technology–Science and Technology Information Institute (DOST-STII) reaffirmed its commitment to enriching learning and expanding access to quality educational resources by inking a partnership with Felta Multi-Media Inc.

Held on January 13, 2026 at the DOST-STII Training Room in Taguig City, this strategic partnership brings together STARBOOKS' digital science library and Felta's STEAM-focused robotics programs to expand access to innovative learning tools and shape future-ready Filipino learners in communities nationwide.

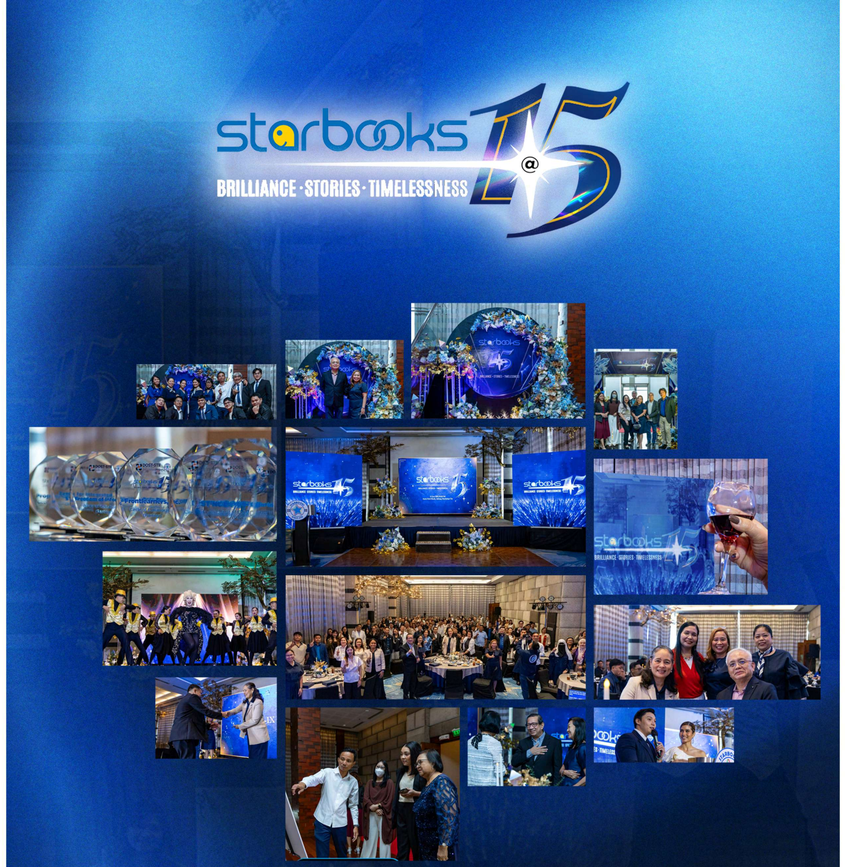
"STARBOOKS has always been driven by the belief that knowledge should be inclusive and accessible, and this partnership with Felta Multi-Media aligns perfectly with that mission," said Alan C. Taule, chief of the Information Resources and Analysis Division of DOST-STII, in his welcome message.

"By combining STARBOOKS' nationwide reach with Felta's expertise in innovative educational content and multimedia solutions, we open new opportunities to make science, technology, and learning more engaging, relevant, and impactful—especially for schools and communities with limited access to information resources," he added.

This partnership will also co-organize events promoting robotics, such as STARBOOKS Whiz Bee, virtual or on-site training workshops, webinars, exhibits, and more.

"Through this MoA, we are proud to contribute our robotics learning content to the STARBOOKS digital library–both offline and online–at no cost. This ensures that students, educators, and communities across the country can explore robotics concepts regardless of connectivity or location," said Mylene Abiva, president and chief executive officer of Felta Multi-Media Inc.
"Ultimately, this partnership is not just about sharing content or co-hosting events. It is about building a future-ready generation-curious, skilled, innovative, and empowered to contribute meaningfully to our nation's progress," Abiva added.

Felta Multi-Media Inc. is an academic technology and educational support company in the Philippines, dedicated to empowering learners and educators through innovative technology solutions.



NEWS FEATURE

BRILLIANCE, STORIES, TIMELESSNESS

Celebrating 15 years of the STARBOOKS crystal arch

by Emmanuel D. Cadelina, DOST-STII

The Department of Science and Technology - Science and Technology Information Institute (DOST-STII) marked the 15th anniversary of STARBOOKS by gathering partners, stakeholders, and regional deployment officers at Acacia Hotel, Alabang, to celebrate the program's journey of expanding access to science and technology information for Filipino learners.

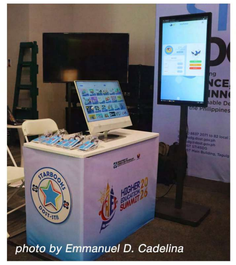
The celebration was led by DOST Undersecretary for Scientific and Technical Services Maridon O. Sahagun together with former DOST Assistant Secretary and National Privacy Commission Commissioner Raymund E. Liboro, whose vision brought STARBOOKS to life in 2011.

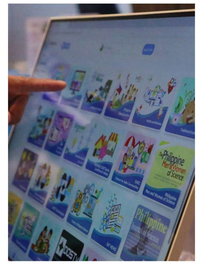
The event recognized the invaluable contributions of deployment officers and institutional partners, as well as the winners of the Deployment Officers Video Contest and the STARBOOKS Best Scribe Award. It concluded with a message of gratitude and a renewed commitment to ensuring that quality knowledge remains accessible to every Filipino, especially those in underserved communities.

STARBOOKS exhibit at the Higher Education Summit 2026

by Emmanuel D. Cadelina, DOST-STII




photo by Emmanuel D. Cadelina





In support of the Department of Science and Technology's (DOST) Science, Technology, and Innovation for Sustainable Development Goals (STI4SDGs) initiative and the Commission on Higher Education (CHED), STARBOOKS participated as an exhibitor at the Higher Education Summit 2026, held from March 10–12 at the SMX Convention Center in Clark.

The three-day event brought together representatives from public and private institutions dedicated to advancing innovation, research, and academic collaboration.

Highlights of the summit included a tour led by DOST Secretary Renato U. Solidum Jr., who visited various exhibition booths showcasing breakthrough inventions and educational innovations from participating organizations.

The event concluded with a closing program celebrating new partnerships and a shared vision for the future of higher education.

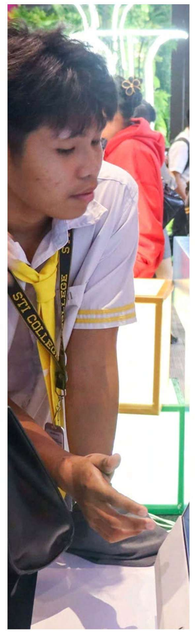
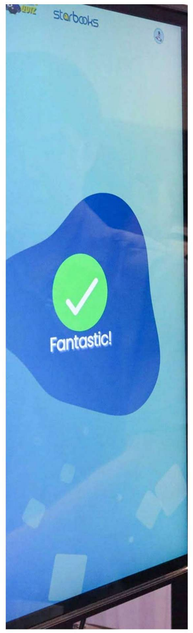





photo by Emmanuel D. Cadelina



16th STARBOOKS Deployment Officers' Assembly:

Sustaining Growth, Strengthening Alliances

by Emmanuel D. Cadelina, DOST-STII











Fresh from the successful celebration of its 15th anniversary, STARBOOKS once again gathered its regional and provincial deployment officers for the 16th STARBOOKS Deployment Officers' Assembly on June 25, 2026 at Acacia Hotel Manila in Alabang. The assembly focused on new initiatives, practical strategies, and partnerships to expand the program's reach in communities across the country.

Deployment officers from DOST's regional and provincial offices met to share experiences and explore new opportunities to enhance the implementation of STARBOOKS. Also participating in the event were two STARBOOKS valuable partners to feature programs that complement STARBOOKS and promote science, technology, and innovation in local communities.

Edric C. Calma, vice president of the Knowledge Channel Foundation, shared approaches to building partnerships with local stakeholders. As Vice-Chairperson of the League of Corporate Foundations, he also introduced corporate foundations that regional and provincial offices can engage for community projects related to science and education through corporate social responsibility (CSR) programs.

Representatives from Erovoutika, Jeramel Marie M. Llona and Engr. Dominik Niño, showcased educational robotics through live demonstrations. They also presented opportunities for free robotics training for teachers and students and discussed possible participation in the Regional Science and Technology Week exhibits. The presentation generated strong interest among deployment officers looking to introduce robotics learning in their respective regions.

Bringing the conversation back to grassroots impact, Minister MP Baileng S. Mantawil of the Ministry of Science and Technology-BARMM shared a special message about the program's role in the Bangsamoro region. She pointed out that for many local teachers and students, STARBOOKS is an essential tool that helps them get past educational challenges they face daily.

"Malaking tulong po iyan, sa mga Kabataang Bangsamoro, sa mga malalayong lugar. Walang signal, walang internet, walang kuryente," Minister Mantawil stated.

The assembly also featured upcoming innovations in STARBOOKS. McGyver G. Basaya introduced STARBOOKS Whiz 2.0, a gamified mobile application that encourages users to explore science, technology, health, sustainability, and innovation through interactive missions and challenges.

Further, Jomar Rabanera presented the new offline Alternative Learning System module developed in partnership with the Department of Education-Bureau of Alternative Education, allowing learners and teachers to easily complete all ALS learning resources even without an internet connection.

New DOST-STII initiatives were also shared with participants. Jonathan D. Abalon introduced the agency's online inquiry support platform, Project ONEOwl, while Khasian Eunice M. Romulo discussed the DOST Multimedia Collection, an online repository that provides public access to DOST photos and videos.

This assembly highlights the continuous growth of STARBOOKS and its commitment to forging strong partnerships, ensuring that science and technology education becomes even more accessible, engaging, and enjoyable for Filipino learners nationwide.

DOST-STII's programs gain renewed national priority status for 2026!

by Andrea Mei B. Resane, DOST-STII



The DOSTv and STARBOOKS, flagship programs of the DOST-Science and Technology Information Institute, have once again been included in the National Priority Plan (NPP) for 2026 by the Department of Economy, Planning, and Development.

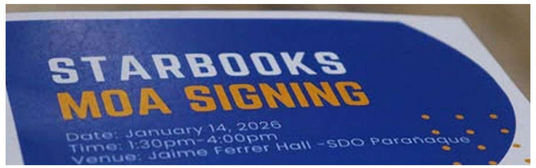
This recognition underscores the strategic value of our initiatives in bringing science and technology closer to every Filipino.

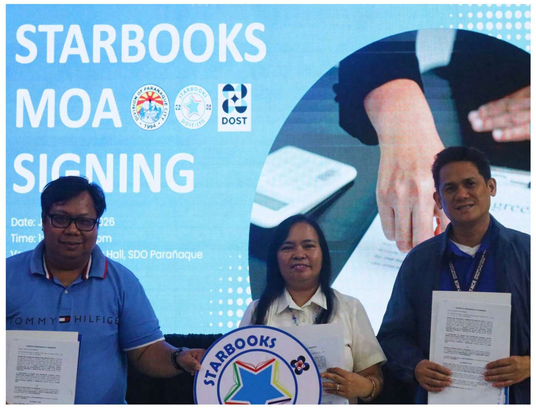
The NPP is the government's annual priority list of programs, projects, and activities as a guide for the private sector to support by allocating resources to advance national development across key sectors. The private sector receives tax incentives for donations made to the listed programs and projects.

Through DOSTv and STARBOOKS, learners, researchers, and communities nationwide are continuously empowered by making science and technology information accessible to the public.

STARBOOKS
rolls out at SDO Parañaque

by Emmanuel D. Cadelina, DOST-STII





The Department of Science and Technology–Science and Technology Information Institute (DOST–STII), through its STARBOOKS program, formalized a partnership with the DOST–National Capital Region (DOST–NCR) and the Schools Division Office (SDO) of Parañaque through a memorandum of agreement (MoA) signing held at the Jaime Ferrer Hall, SDO Parañaque.

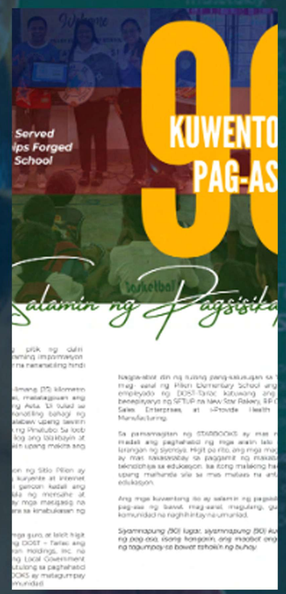
The program was led by Florante D. Garcia, PhD, education program supervisor, with signatories Kim L. Atienza, officer-in-charge of the Clustered Area Science and Technology Office of Muntinlupa, Taguig, Paranaque, and Las Piñas (CASTO-MUNTAPARLAS) representing DOST–NCR Regional Director Engr. Romelen T. Tresvalles; Alan C. Taule, IRAD chief of DOST–STII STARBOOKS; and Loretta B. Torrecampo, CESO V, schools division superintendent of SDO Parañaque.

The partnership strengthens efforts to expand access to science and technology information and promote transformative learning. A training orientation for teachers and school administrators followed, focusing on the effective use of STARBOOKS as a classroom learning tool.

Ahead of the MoA signing, a mass installation of STARBOOKS was completed in 10 schools, benefiting about 6,000 learners and 100 teachers. The initiative supports digital literacy, deeper classroom engagement, and the continuing improvement of science and technology education.



BEST SCRIBE ARTICLES











Unlocking opportunities: STARBOOKS reaches last mile indigenous learners in Bayugan City

by DOST Agusan Del Sur







For decades, the Department of Science and Technology had always stood by its "science for the people" core principle. Yet, the question on whether the services are felt is one that our main clientele: the public, only can answer.

In the landlocked province of Agusan del Sur, deployment officers of the Provincial Science and Technology Office journey through mountains and rivers, trailing rocky terrains and moss-laden paths, in the mission to respond to the challenge of citizen-centric service.

True enough, PSTO-ADS was welcomed by two elementary schools from the DepEd Bayugan City Division; Datu Hugmakan Elementary School and San Lorenzo Elementary School. Kilometers away from the city proper, with little to no internet connectivity, and if going analog, a blank stare of a non-existing library. They both house Manobo young learners all eager to discover a world already geographically distant. Because to teach children inside the four walls of the classroom is one thing, but to immerse them in something even greater than what their minds could only imagine is a whole different other.

However, things changed when a sliver of hope for these schools came on November 6, 2025 and March 19, 2026, where the silence of limited access was met with the spark of discovery.

Through the deployment of the DOST–Science and Technology Academic and Research-Based Openly Operated Kiosks (STARBOOKS), led by the PSTO Agusan del Sur with the DOST Caraga Regional Office, DOST–Science and Technology Information Institute, DepEd Bayugan City Division, and the Bank of the Philippine Islands Foundation, learners and teachers now have access to a wealth of science and technology resources; all offline, free, and within reach.
Braving past knee-deep currents and steep slopes, deployment officers carried STARBOOKS equipment on their backs for the turnover of the library-in-a-box to 80 pupils of Datu Hugmakan ES, and 18 pupils of San Lorenzo ES.

For many of the pupils, seeing and using STARBOOKS was an eye-opening experience. It was far from what they know in the spreads of their dog-eared books. Now, they have digital resources tailored to spark curiosity among young minds of a growing nation. Teachers, learners, and even parents watched with joy as the kiosk opened new possibilities for learning in their school. In that moment, STARBOOKS transcended its mission from being a project to reinventing itself as a bridge between these learners and the world that awaits them.

Among the 80 pupils of Datu Hugmakan ES, one Grade 5 pupil, Princess stood testament to the wonder that DOST-STII's longstanding STARBOOKS brought to their community.

"Bisan pa sa kalayo sa among dalan, ang STARBOOKS mahimong tulay aron aduna pa kami'y daghan makat-onan. Salamat, DOST sa inyong walay hunong nga suporta sa amo nga mga kabataang lumad," she shared.
(Despite the remoteness of our community, STARBOOKS serves as a bridge that allows us to learn many more things. Thank you, DOST, for your unwavering support for us indigenous youth," she shared.)

Beyond the installation of equipment, the deployment activities for both schools included orientation and training for teachers and learners to ensure that STARBOOKS will be effectively used as a tool for teaching, learning, and curiosity-building. Encompassing access and capacity, it helps schools make science and technology a core part of learner-centered learning.

For the deployment team, the long trek and heavy lifting was a powerful reminder of what public service means. After all, what is intent without genuine impact? It is a constant mental note that science and technology must not be put on a pedestal and just remain in places that are easy to reach, serving only those who have everything at the click of a button. It must travel to the mountains, cross rivers, enter classrooms with books that we can count by the fingers on our hands, and sit beside learners whose dreams are just as bright as anyone else's. Learners who are not just numbers we scribe into our accomplishment reports, but dreamers that are our country's future.

While the rest of their peers enjoy overwhelming access to the internet, these schools remind us that what is a norm for most is a privilege to some. Through STARBOOKS, two last-mile schools in Bayugan City now have a gateway to science and gives them a chance to level the playing field. More importantly, their learners now have a stronger reason to believe that knowledge can reach them, wherever they are.

We are all for science that is felt—not performative, but genuine and grassroots-oriented. In these last mile schools in Bayugan City, the true essence of "agham na ramdam" is sustained; the kind of science and service that walks the distance, crosses barriers, and sparks dreams.

OVERCOMING CURRENTS. PSTO-ADS deployment officers introduce STARBOOKS to 18 pupils and 3 teachers in San Lorenzo Elementary School.

Mukha ng Pag-asa



SALAMIN NG PAGSISIKAP

DOST TARLAC
OneDOST4U: Solutions and Opportunities for All

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS
SUSTAINABILITY HUMAN WELL-BEING

MUKHA NG PAG-ASA

Salamin Ng Pagsisikap

Sa gitna ng mga hamon ng modernong edukasyon, may isang digital na silid-aklatan na patuloy na naghahatid ng liwanag sa iba't ibang sulok ng lipunan. Ito ang STARBOOKS ng DOST, isang offline digital library na nagsisilbing tulay upang ang kaalaman ay maging inklusibo, patas, at abot-kamay para sa lahat. Sa pamamagitan ng makabagong teknolohiyang ito, nabibigyan ng pantay na pagkakataon ang bawat indibidwal anuman ang kanilang katayuan sa buhay.

Pinatutunayan nito na ang edukasyon ay walang pinipiling distansya, maging ito man ay para sa mga katutubong mag-aaral sa mga liblib na sitio at bulubunduking pamayanan ng GIDA na walang kuryente o internet. Hindi rin hadlang ang edad o kakulangan sa pamasahe, dahil ang digital na kaalaman ay mismong lumalapit sa mga pamilyang nagnanais magsimulang muli sa tulong ng mga mobile classroom. Higit sa lahat, nagbubukas ito ng ligtas at mapagkalingang espasyo para sa mga mag-aaral na neurodiverse upang matuto sa sarili nilang bilis, habang binibigyang-lakas ang mga senior citizen at mga may kapansanan na sabay na lumaban at magtagumpay.

Ang bawat pag-click sa STARBOOKS ay hindi lamang pagbukas ng inpormasyon; ito ay pagbabalik ng tiwala sa sarili at pagbuo ng mga dakilang pangarap. Sa bawat komunidad na naaabot nito, ipinapaalala ng STARBOOKS na ang tunay na dunong ay walang itinatangi. Isang patunay na sa likod ng anumang dilim o unos ng buhay, palaging may sisilang na pag-asa basta't may sandata ng karunungan.

LOLA

"Maganda po na naka-experience kami na magcomputer gamit ang STARBOOKS. Nasisiyahan po ako na may matatapos at mayroon ding maipagmamalaki. "

Elvi A. Soriano
62 taong gulang
ALS passer
STARBOOKS User

INA

"Araw-araw may pinanghahawakan tayong pag-asa na balang araw, ang mga pangarap nating naudlot ay muling matutuloy."

Pastora Julie Ann Sumaoang
37 taong gulang
Junior High School student
Ina at Miyembro ng Ayta-Abelling
STARBOOKS User

MAY ESPESYAL NA PANGANGAILANGAN

" Madali po akong madistract at hirap magfocus sa isang bagay lang. Nakakaenjoy po ang paggamit ng STARBOOKS. Noon po ay hindi ko hilig ang mathematics, pero dahil may mga tutorial videos, mas madali ko na pong matutunan"

Johnfrey Nool
21 taong gulang
Junior High School Student
STARBOOKS User

KATUTUBONG AETA-SAMBAL

"Marami po akong natutunan sa STARBOOKS lalo na sa agham, kalikasan, at iba-ibang kaalaman na makatutulong sa aking pag-aaral"

Princess Yhassie C. Ramos
10 taong gulang
Grade 5 student
Miyembro ng Aeta-Sambal
STARBOOKS User

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS
SUSTAINABILITY HUMAN WELL-BEING

MULING SUMILAY ANG PAG-ASA: STARBOOKS AT ANG TAGUMPAY NI LOLA STUDENT

May mga kwentong tila hango sa serye sa telebisyon, ngunit mas makirot dahil hindi lang ito basta kwento na gawa ng isang scriptwriter bagkus ay hango sa tunay na buhay.

Si Lola Elvi ay dating Overseas Filipino Worker (OFW). Ilang taon din ang itinagal nya sa ibang bansa pero pagbalik sa Pilipinas, nadiskubre nya na ang lahat ng kanyang pinaghirapang ipon ay napunta sa wala. Hindi pa natapos doon ang kalbaryo ni lola, ipinaubaya din sa kanya ang pagpapalaki sa apo niyang si Christian, na visually impaired simula nang isinilang.

Sa mga pagkakataong ito, marahil susuko na lamang ang isang tao, subalit, ibang bagay ang piniling tahakin ni Lola Elvi, ang itinaguyod sa araw-araw ang buhay nila ni Christian. Namasukan siya bilang isang kasambahay at naglako ng paninda. Dahil hindi nakakakita si Christian, siya ang nagsilbing "mata" nito na matiyagang nagbabasa ng mga leksyon. Sa bawat salitang kanyang binibigkas, unti-unting nagising ang isang matagal nang natutulog na pangarap sa kanyang sarili, ang makapagtapos din ng pag-aaral.

Sa kanilang laban, naging katuwang nila ang makabagong teknolohiya ng DOST-STARBOOKS. Bilang isang digital science library na hindi nangangailangan ng internet, ang STARBOOKS ang nagbigay ng de-kalidad na impormasyon na madaling naituro kay Lola Elvi at Christian. Pinatunayan ng tool na ito na walang limitasyon ang edukasyon, mapa senior citizen man na sumasabay sa modernong kurikulum o isang batang may kapansanan.

Sa gabay ng kanilang guro, kamakailan lang ay matagumpay na nakapasa sa assessment at pagsusulit ang mag-lola. Si Christian ay nagtapos ng *Junior High School* habang si Lola Elvi ay magtatapos na sa *Senior High School*. Ang kwento ni Lola Elvi ay patunay na ang edad at kapansanan ay hindi hadlang sa pag-abot ng pangarap.

“Gusto ko din pong makapagtapos para kung sakali ay nais kong magtayo ng sariling negosyo. Maganda po na naka-experience kami na mag computer gamit ang STARBOOKS. Nasisiyahan po ako na may matatapos at mayroon din maipagmamalaki”, pahayag ni Lola Elvi.

Sa tulong ng ALS at STARBOOKS, ang PAG-ASA na minsan nang lumipas ay muling sumilay upang magbigay ng maaliwalas na bukas.

Elvi A. Soriano
62 taong gulang
ALS passer
STARBOOKS User



ANG LULAN AY PAG-ASA: STARBOOKS AT G-IRIDE



Sa edad na 16, isinantabi ni Pastora Julie Anne Sumaoang, isang Ayta-Abelling, ang kanyang pag-aaral upang maging ina at asawa. Lumipas ang dalawang dekada, at ang mga pangarap niya ay unti-unting nabaon sa limot. Kaya nang alukin siya ng isang Alternative Learning System (ALS) teacher na mag-aral muli, siya ay nagdalawang-isip. Ang takot na mapalayo sa pamilya ang naging hadlang sa kanyang magandang kinabukasan.

Ngunit ang pag-asa ay may sariling paraan upang ikaw ay balikan. Sinagot ng kanyang guro ang kanyang pangamba: hindi niya kailangang lumayo, dahil ang paaralan mismo ang lumapit sa kanya. Dito pumasok ang G-iRIDE, lulan ang STARBOOKS ng DOST-Tarlac. Ang makabagong "paaralang de-gulong" na ito ay naghatid ng digital na kaalaman kahit walang internet. Sa bawat pag-ikot ng gulong nito patungo sa kanilang komunidad, muling nagising ang naudlot na pangarap ni Pastora Julie.

Sa mga paksa ng STARBOOKS, ang livelihood module ang naging paborito niya. Hindi lang ito leksyon kundi totoong solusyon; natuto siyang gumawa ng tocino na nakakatulong sa pinansyal na pangangailangan ng kanyang pamilya sa pang-araw-araw na gastusin.

Kasalukuyan nang naghihintay ng *certificate of completion* sa ALS Junior High School si Pastora Julie. Ngunit simula pa lamang ito. Ang mas matayog niyang pangarap ngayon ay ang kumuha ng kursong Edukasyon sa kolehiyo upang maging isang ALS teacher din. Nais niyang balikan at gabayan ang mga out-of-school youth na naniniwala ring tapos na ang kanilang pagkakataon. Bilang pastora, sanay siyang umakay sa iba. Ngayon, sa tulong ng teknolohiya, siya naman ang naakay pabalik sa kanyang sariling pangarap.

"***Habang may buhay, may pag-asa***," ani Pastora Julie. "*Araw-araw, may pinanghahawakan tayong pag-asa na ang mga pangarap nating naudlot ay muling matutuloy.*" Salamat sa gabay ng G-iRIDE at STARBOOKS, kahit ang panahon ay tila lumipas, ang pag-asa’y muling sumilay upang bagong bukas ay bigyan ng kulay.

Pastora Julie Ann Sumaoang
37 taong gulang
Junior High School student
Ina at Miyembro ng tribung Ayta-Abelling
STARBOOKS User

SA LIKOD NG SIGLA, TANGLAW AY PAG-ASA: STARBOOKS AT ADHD

Para sa mga mag-aaral na may *Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD),* ang mundo ay puno ng ingay at mga bagay na umaagaw sa kanilang atensyon. Madalas nilang maramdaman na sila ay hindi kabilang sa isang tradisyunal na paaralan. Ang sistema ng edukasyon na idinisenyo para sa pangkalahatan ay tila ba isang pader na humaharang sa kanilang potensyal.

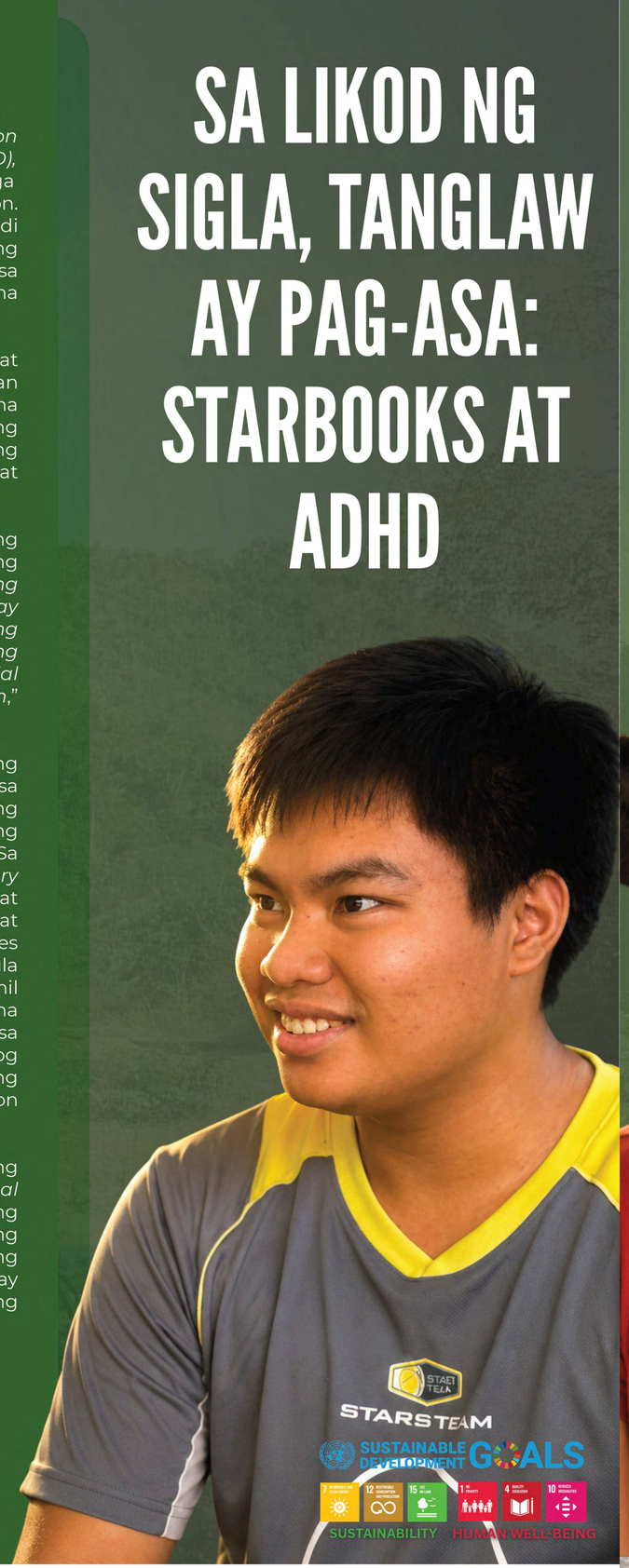
Ngunit ang tunay na pag-unlad ay inklusibo at hindi nang-iiwan ng sinuman. Sa pamamagitan ng DOST STARBOOKS, pinatunayan ng DOST na ang teknolohiya ay maaaring maging pinakamabisang plataporma kung saan ang bawat uri ng isip ay may puwang, may halaga, at may pag-asa.

Isang buhay na patunay ng inklusibong pagbabagong ito si Johnfrey Nool, 21 taong gulang, na may ADHD. *"Madali po akong madistract at hirap magfocus sa isang bagay lang. Nakakaenjoy po ang paggamit ng STARBOOKS. Noon po ay hindi ko hilig ang mathematics, pero dahil may mga tutorial videos, mas madali ko na pong matutunan*," pahayag ni Johnfrey.

Ang kagandahan ng STARBOOKS ay ang disenyo nitong nakatutugon sa pangangailangan ng mga mag-aaral sa loob ng spectrum dahil ang teknolohiya nito ang mismong umaangkop sa kalikasan ng bata. Sa pamamagitan ng inklusibong *multisensory learning*, ang mga *interactive courseware* at *tutorial videos* nito ay nagbibigay ng visual at auditory stimulation na pumupukaw sa interes ng may ADHD. Ligtas din ang mag-aaral mula sa magulong *online ads* at *notifications* dahil gumagana ang system nang offline, na nagbibigay ng isang payapang espasyo para sa self-paced learning. Higit sa lahat, naghahandog ito ng edukasyong walang panghuhusga kung saan malayang nauulit-ulit ang bawat leksyon nang walang takot na mapag-iwanan.

Ang kuwento ni Johnfrey ay patunay na ang DOST STARBOOKS ay higit pa sa isang *digital library*, ito ay sumasagisag ng inklusibong pagtanggap at pag-asa para sa lahat, na ang agham at teknolohiya ay walang pinipili, walang itinatangi. Dahil sa aspeto ng karunungan, may puwang ang bawat isa, sa kabila ng ating pagkakaiba-iba.

Johnfrey Nool
21 taong gulang
Junior High School Student
Batang may espesyal na pangangailangan
STARBOOKS User



PAGTAHAK SA PAG-ASA: STARBOOKS SA GIDA COMMUNITY



Halos dalawang libong talampakan (1,968 ft ASL) taas ng bulubundukin ng San Clemente, Tarlac, ay matatagpuan ang Sitio Dueg. Kilala sa kanyang "sea of clouds" at tinaguriang "The Little Baguio" ng mga turista dahil sa taglay nitong natural na lamig at sa nag-uumapaw na init ng pagtanggap ng mga katutubong Abelling, Aeta, at Sambal.

Ngunit sa likod ng magagandang tanawin, may nakakubling mabigat na katotohanan. Ang Sitio Dueg ay isang *Geographically Isolated and Disadvantaged Area (GIDA).* Dito, ang kawalan ng maayos na daan, kuryente, at signal ay tila mga nagtataasang bundok na naghihiwalay sa mga kabataan mula sa modernong edukasyon. Sa loob ng mahabang panahon, ang pangarap ng maraming bata rito ay tila nanatiling nakakulong sa kanilang liblib na pamayanan.

Subalit, sa pagdating ng DOST-STARBOOKS, ang makapal na hamog ng kawalan ng katiyakan ay unti-unting napapalitan ng sinag ng pag-asa.

Kilalanin si Princess Yhassie C. Ramos, isang sampung taong gulang na batang Aeta-Sambal. Sa tulong ng STARBOOKS, ang mga araling dati ay mailap ay abot-kamay na ngayon ng mga batang katutubo nang walang dumedepende sa internet.

"Marami po akong natutunan sa STARBOOKS lalo na sa science, kalikasan, at iba-ibang kaalaman na makatutulong sa aking pag-aaral," masayang kwento ni Princess. *"Nagbibigay ito ng madaling mahanap na impormasyon at mga aralin na nagpapalakawak ng aking kaalaman at nagpapaunawa sa mga paksa sa paaralan."*

Para kay Princess, ang teknolohiyang ito ay hindi lang kagamitan sa eskwela, ito ay bintana sa mas malawak na mundo.

"Pangarap kong makakuha ng kursong edukasyon upang maging guro balang araw, para makatulong sa paghubog ng kaalaman ng mga kabataan."

Ang kwento ni Princess ay patunay na kahit gaano kalayo ang isang pamayanan, walang distansya ang kayang humadlang sa pangarap basta't may sandata ng karunungan. Sa bawat pagbukas ng STARBOOKS, dahan-dahang binabasag ng Sitio Dueg ang isolasyon, isang hakbang patungo sa bukas na wala nang batang katutubo ang maiiwan.

Princess Yhassie C. Ramos
10 taung gulang,
Incoming Grade 5 student,
Galing sa tribo ng Aeta-Sambal
STARBOOKS User



- *100 Deployment*
- *1,500 students served*
- *20 schools*

- *100 Deployment*
- *1,500 students served*
- *20 schools*

- *100 Deployment*
- *1,500 students served*
- *20 schools*

90 KWENTO NG PAG-ASA

Deployments with a Heart

Sa panahong tila isang pitik ng dalirl lamang ang layo sa maraming impormasyon at kaalaman, may mga lugar na nananatiling hindi konektado sa “digital” na mundo.

Humigit kumulang dalawamput-limang (25) kilometro mula sa bayan ng Capas, Tarlac, matatagpuan ang isang komunidad ng Katutubong Aeta. ‘Di tulad sa siyudad, sa Sitio Pilien ay nananatiling bahagi ng transportasyon ang kariton at kalabaw upang tawirin ang lahar na galing sa pagputok ng Pinatubo. Sa loob ng halos dalawang oras, pitong ilog ang lalakbayin at baku-bakong kalsada ang tatahakin upang makita ang kabihasnan.

Hindi maitatanggi na sa lokasyon ng Sitio Pilien ay kakambal nito ang kawalan ng kuryente at internet connection. Kaya naman, hindi ganoon kadali ang makatanggap at makapagpadala ng mensahe at impormasyon. Gayunpaman, may mga masigasig na guro na nananatiling matatag para sa kinabukasan ng bawat mag-aaral na aeta sa sitio.

Bilang suporta sa edukasyon, sa mga guro, at lalo’t higit sa mga mag-aaral, ay inihatid ng DOST – Tarlac ang STARBOOKS. Kasama ng Chevron Holdings, Inc. na syang nagbigay ng laptop, at ang Local Government Unit ng Capas na patuloy na tumutulong sa paghahatid ng serbisyo sa lugar, ang STARBOOKS ay matagumpay na naipakilala sa isang liblib na komunidad.

Nagpa-abot din ng tulong pang-kalusugan sa 103 na mag- aaral ng Pilien Elementary School ang mga empleyado ng DOST–Tarlac katuwang ang mga benepisyaryo ng SETUP na New Star Bakery, RP Corpus Sales Enterprise, at i-Provide Health Food Manufacturing.

Sa pamamagitan ng STARBOOKS ay mas naging madali ang paghahatid ng mga aralin lalo na sa larangan ng siyensya. Higit pa rito, ang mga mag-aaral ay mas nakasasabay sa paggamit ng makabagong teknolohiya sa edukasyon. Isa itong malaking hakbang upang maihanda sila sa mas mataas na antas ng edukasyon.
Ang mga kuwentong ito ay salamin ng pagsisikap at pag-asa ng bawat mag-aaral, magulang, guro, at komunidad na naghihintay na umunlad.

Siyamnapung (90) lugar, siyamnapung (90) kuwento ng pag-asa, iisang hangarin, ang maabot ang rurok ng tagumpay sa bawat tahakin ng buhay.

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS

SUSTAINABILITY HUMAN WELL-BEING

MILESTONE BUILT ON CARE

Reaching 90 Deployments with a Heart

Knowledge is a vital instrument for every people. Through DOST-STARBOOKS, learning has never been closer and more accessible.

In Tarlac, STARBOOKS has reached its farthest community. Marking its 90th deployment in one of the highest and most remote areas of the province, the initiative brings knowledge closer than ever before.

Located approximately 25 kilometers away from the municipality, crossing the Pinatubo lahar, rocky roads, and seven rivers is what it takes to reach Pilien Elementary School, the 90th STARBOOKS beneficiary in Tarlac. Knowledge is a vital instrument for every people. Through DOST-STARBOOKS, learning has never been closer and more accessible.
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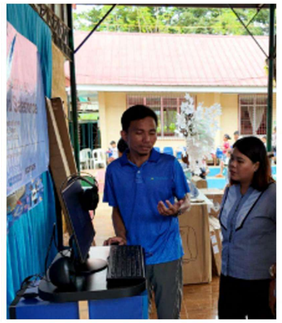


Pagtawid sa Tulay ng Karunungan

by Jerwin Vianzon, PSTO Bataan







May isang komunidad dito sa bayan ng Morong, Bataan na hindi lang basta nakatira sa tabi ng kalikasan. Sila ay mismong bahagi ng bundok. Upang marating ang Kanawan, kailangang hamunin ang isang hanging bridge — lsang matatag ngunit umuugang tulay na nagsisilbing tanging ugnayan nila sa labas ng mundo.

Dito sa itaas, kung saan ang oras ay mabilis na nakatigil, ang paghahanap ng karunungan ay isang marangyang kahirapan. Pangarap ng mga kabataang Ayta at iba pang nakatira rito ang matuto, ngunit ang kanilangt mga silid-aralan sa Kanawan Integrated School ay saksi sa isang maingay na katahimikan — limitadong aklat at internet.

Ngunit dumating ang araw na ang malamig na pag-asa ay dahan-dahang nagpasiklab sa puso ng mga taga-rito. Ang Kagawaran ng Agham at Teknolohiya o DOST, na pinangunahan ng DOST Central Luzon sa pamamagitan ng DOST-Bataan at ng Science and Technology Information Institute, kasangga ang iba pang kapartner na ahensiya gaya ng Salesforce, sama-samang binitbit ang STARBOOKS — isang digital na bersyon ng silid-aklatan na hindi nangangailangan ng koneksyon mula sa internet. Ito ay isang makabagong teknolohiya at paraan upang ihatid ang siyensya sa malayong komunidad ng Kanawan. Bukod dito, nagpamigay rin ang grupo ng food packs, LED TV, water tank at marami pang iba bilang karagdagang suporta sa paaralan at sa pamayanan.

Ang STARBOOKS ay nagdadala ng libo-libong kaalaman sa agham, teknolohiya, at iba't ibang larangan kahit sa mga lugar na walang internet. Sa pamamagitan ng STARBOOKS, ang kaalaman ay hindi na limitado sa siyudad. Ito ay umaabot hanggang sa pinakamalayong komunidad.

Sa pagbubukas ng screen, dinala ng computer ang liwanag ng karunungan sa buhay ng mga bata. Ang mga nakapikit na kaisipan, ngayon ay mas naging mulat pa. Sa bawat click ng mouse, lumilipad ang kanilang imahinasyon lampas sa mga matatarik na rurok ng bundok.

Para sa kanilang Punungguro na si G. Leovigildo E. Domingo Jr., ang sandaling ito ay isang malungkot na ligaya. Masaya dahil may bago nang sandata ang kanyang mga guro at mag-aaral, ngunit may kalungkutan pa rin kung maiisip na matagal na nilang pinapangarap na mas marami pang komunidad ang makakita sa kanilang pangangailangan.

Sa isang pagpupulong, ipinabatid ni G. Domingo ang kanyang pasasalamat sa DOST maging sa mga kapartner nito gaya ng Salesforce, dahil ang kanilang paaralan ay napili ng proyektong ito. Aniya, malaki ang naitutulong ng mga kagamitan na ibinigay sa kanila lalo na ang STARBOOKS na nagbibigay ng kaalaman sa kanilang mag-aaral.

Ang Kanawan Integrated School ay isa lamang sa 50 benepisyaryo ng STARBOOKS na nasa iba't ibang bahagi ng probinsya ng Bataan na gumamit o patuloy na nakikinabang sa sa teknolohiyang ito.

"Bilang teacher sa Kanawan Integrated School, lubos pong tulong sa pag-tuturo namin at sa pag-aaral ng mga bata dito ang mga gamit na ibinigay sa amin," saad ni Bb. Shyrill D. Cruz, guro sa paaralan.

Para sa atin na nasa kapatagan, isang click lang ang layo ng mundo. Ngunit para sa mga kapatid nating katutubo at iba pang nakatira sa bahaging ito ng bundok, ang bawat click ay parang pagtawid sa isang mahabang tulay ng karunungan.

Sa paglisan ng DOST sa pamayanan, naiwan sa Kanawan ang isang maingay na bulong ng pag-asa. May mga tulay na gawa sa bakal at lubid, ngunit may mga tulay din na gawa sa karunungan… mga tulay na maaaring maghahatid sa kanila sa mas magandang bukas.



Bicol's STARBOOKS-Powered Project Represents PH at Kiwanis Asia-Pacific Convention

by Jay Ray Masayda, DOST-Bicol

KAOHSIUNG CITY, TAIWAN — A collaborative science and technology education initiative between the Department of Science and Technology-Bicol (DOST-Bicol) and the Kiwanis Club of Daragang Magayon (KCDM) led to the selection of KCDM's K-Mobile and Digital Library Project as the official entry of the Kiwanis International Philippine Luzon District (KIPLD) to the 50th Kiwanis Asia-Pacific Convention on March 14-16, 2025.

While the initiative is led by KCDM, integrating DOST-Bicol's Science and Technology Academic and Research-Based Openly-Operated KioskS (STARBOOKS) digital library provided the technological enhancement that elevated the project to international convention standards.

The KCDM initiative operates through two distinct educational models. The first is K-Mobile (Community Outreach), a mobile library providing weekly access to educational materials at Sawangan Park in Legazpi City. This mobile unit functions independently and does not carry the digital kiosk system.

The second model is the Digital Library (Institutional Integration), a stationary digital installation established on December 16, 2024. While DOST-Bicol deploys STARBOOKS across various schools regionwide, this specific deployment embedded the digital kiosk system into a pre-existing Reading Hub established by KCDM at Daraga National High School (DNHS).

Integrating this offline system successfully upgraded the school facility into a dynamic digital library. For this institutional integration, KCDM provided the complete computer workstation hardware, while DOST-Bicol supplied the STARBOOKS software system, preloaded with thousands of digitized Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM) resources, interactive content, and scientific journals. Operating entirely offline, the workstation ensures uninterrupted access to high-level research materials even without an internet connection.

While the project did not receive an award at the Kaohsiung convention, its selection as the sole representative of the Philippine Luzon District underscores the impact of structured local partnerships. By complementing KCDM's grassroots community presence and hardware provision with DOST-Bicol's technical infrastructure, the initiative serves as a scalable model for regional development. This international milestone directly reflects the agency's commitment to Agham na Ramdam—proving that strategic science and technology interventions can elevate local community projects to the global stage.

STARBOOKS Turnover Highlights DOST Support for the Mamanwa Community in St. Bernard

by DOST - Southern Leyte PSTO



May 20, 2026 — The Provincial Science and Technology Office of Southern Leyte in partnership with the Local Government Unit of Saint Bernard – Civil Society Organizations Office, formally conducted a Ceremonial Turnover of the Science and Technology Academic and Research-Based Openly Operated KioskS (STARBOOKS) to Malinao Multigrade Elementary School in Brgy. Malinao, St. Bernard, Southern Leyte.

The activity was attended by Hon. Jocelyn L. Bungcaras, Municipal Mayor of LGU St. Bernard; Dr. Ramil T. Uy, Provincial S&T Director of PSTO Southern Leyte; Hon. Felix M. Olor, Jr., Barangay Captain of Brgy. Malinao; Hon. Elna S. Gomo, Barangay Captain of Brgy. Bantawon represented by Hon. Juliet Sibay, Barangay Councilor; and Mr. Irvin Cabales, Municipal Administrator of LGU St. Bernard. Also present during the activity were the teachers of Malinao Multigrade Elementary School headed by Ms. Juvelyn Telen.

The provision of STARBOOKS aims to address the school's limited access to learning resources, particularly the absence of a library and limited educational materials that affect the teaching and learning experience in Mathematics and Science subjects. Through the STARBOOKS unit, learners and teachers will now have access to a wide range of offline science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) resources that can enhance classroom instruction and improve learning opportunities for students.

A total of twenty-four (24) Mamanwa learners enrolled in the school are expected to directly benefit from the technology, providing them with greater access to educational knowledge and interactive learning resources that may inspire them to pursue future opportunities in science and technology.

In her message, Mayor Bungcaras encouraged the Mamanwa community to continue trusting and cooperating with government agencies such as DOST, emphasizing that the government prioritizes programs and interventions for their welfare and future. She highlighted the importance of community participation in ensuring that these opportunities will not only benefit the younger generation through education, but will also help improve their livelihood opportunities, particularly in enhancing and supporting their rattan products and other community-based enterprises.

Meanwhile, Dr. Uy explained that STARBOOKS is intended to provide learners with greater access to science, technology, and educational resources that may help them achieve better opportunities in the future, including becoming future DOST scholars. He also shared that PSTO Southern Leyte will be exploring and intends to establish a Science, Technology, and Innovation (STI) Ecosystem for the Mamanwa Community in St. Bernard to strengthen collaboration among government agencies such as DOLE and DTI. Through this initiative, the community may be further supported through livelihood assistance, product development, and market opportunities that can contribute to improving their economic condition.

This initiative forms part of the STI interventions under the DOST-CEST project entitled "Empowerment of the Mamanua Community in St. Bernard, Southern Leyte thru STI Interventions," which aims to support the Mamanwa community through STI-based interventions for their rattan products.



DOST Southern Leyte Empowers Bontoc's GIDA Communities Deploys STARBOOKS

by Jay Ray Masayda, DOST-Bicol

The DOST Southern Leyte PSTO, together with the LGU Bontoc, formally turned over units of the DOST STII's Science and Technology Academic and Research-Based Openly Operated Kiosk Stations (STARBOOKS) to Barangay Olisihan and Barangay Pamigsian of Bontoc, Southern Leyte, in a ceremonial event graced by Hon. Noel Alinsub, Mayor of Bontoc, on October 21, 2025.

This initiative forms part of the Community Empowerment through Science and Technology (CEST) project being implemented in LGU Bontoc. The intervention aims to enhance S&T human resource development in geographically isolated and disadvantaged areas (GIDAs), helping communities gain access to vital science-based learning materials even in the absence of reliable internet connectivity.

Representing the beneficiary barangays during the turnover were Hon. Cirilo Papa, Jr., Barangay Chairperson of Pamigsian, and Hon. Ranie Trazo, Barangay Chairperson of Olisihan. Both expressed their gratitude to DOST and LGU Bontoc for extending opportunities that bridge the information gap between urban and rural areas

Leading the turnover on behalf of DOST Southern Leyte PSTO was Supervising Science Research Specialist Emmanuel Lagdamen. The DOST team demonstrated how STARBOOKS can be used as a valuable tool for students, teachers, and lifelong learners seeking access to a wide collection of science and technology information.

Integrating this offline system successfully upgraded the school facility into a dynamic digital library. For this institutional integration, KCDM provided the complete computer workstation hardware, while DOST-Bicol supplied the STARBOOKS software system, preloaded with thousands of digitized Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM) resources, interactive content, and scientific journals. Operating entirely offline, the workstation ensures uninterrupted access to high-level research materials even without an internet connection.

While the project did not receive an award at the Kaohsiung convention, its selection as the sole representative of the Philippine Luzon District underscores the impact of structured local partnerships. By complementing KCDM's grassroots community presence and hardware provision with DOST-Bicol's technical infrastructure, the initiative serves as a scalable model for regional development. This international milestone directly reflects the agency's commitment to Agham na Ramdam—proving that strategic science and technology interventions can elevate local community projects to the global stage.

DOST Southern Leyte PSTO, LGU Liloan Boost Digital Learning with STARBOOKS for Himayangan NHS

by DOST - Southern Leyte PSTO



In a significant stride toward digital transformation in education, the DOST Southern Leyte PSTO, led by Provincial S&T Director Dr. Ramil T. Uy, with the Local Government of Liloan, formally turned over 2 units of STARBOOKS or the Science and Technology Academic and Research-Based Openly Operated KioskS to Himayangan National High School in Himayangan, Liloan, Southern Leyte.

The turnover ceremony coincided with the school's Brigada Eskwela Kick-Off on June 9, 2025, attended by school officials, faculty, students, parents and local government representatives. The installation of the STARBOOKS digital library is one of the human resource development interventions under the Community Empowerment through Science and Technology (CEST) project implemented in collaboration with the LGU Liloan.

STARBOOKS, a free and offline digital library developed by DOST STII offers thousands of digitized science and technology resources, covering topics in science, mathematics, engineering, and other fields. With its offline capability, STARBOOKS aims to bridge information gaps in underserved communities with limited or no internet connectivity.
With approximately 600 enrolled learners, Himayangan National High School stands to benefit significantly from this technological intervention. The new resource is expected to enhance students' access to quality learning materials, support teachers in instruction, and boost the school's overall academic performance.

In his message, Dr. Uy reaffirmed DOST's mission in nurturing future scientists, engineers, and innovators. "Through STARBOOKS, we are laying the groundwork for future S&T human resources by providing students and teachers with vital access to scientific knowledge and learning tools," he said.

The turnover of STARBOOKS to Himayangan National High School marks a vital step in empowering the local community through strengthened access to education and information, reinforcing DOST's commitment to inclusive development through science and technology.

Building a New Life Behind Bars

by DOST Nueva Ecija

In the quiet corners of Bureau of Jail Management and Penology (BJMP) –Talavera Municipal Jail, where the weight of time often feels unyielding, a spark of hope ignites.

Magdalena, a name that shields her identity but not her spirit, speaks with a voice that trembles with gratitude and determination. "Gusto ko pong magpasalamat sa STARBOOKS program po na ito kasi noong napanood ko po ay nagkaroon po ako ng idea sa gusto kong business na napaglilibangan ko at pagkakakitaan ko sa paglabas ko po dito sa BJMP. Para na rin po sa pagbabagong buhay ko sa paglaya." Her words carry the quiet strength of someone who has seen life's shadows yet chooses to step into the light.

Once a devoted housewife and mother to a single child, Magdalena's world had been confined not just by walls but by the weight of her circumstances. But within the cold, unyielding confines of the facility, a STARBOOKS kiosk became her beacon—a digital window to dreams she thought were lost.

On May 5, 2026, the Department of Science and Technology in Nueva Ecija gifted the jail's 162 residents more than a kiosk; they gifted them possibility. For Magdalena, it was not just a screen but a portal to a future she could shape, a chance to redefine herself beyond the mistakes of her past. With every lesson she absorbs, every idea she nurtures, she is not just learning—she is rebirthing.

Her story is a testament to the unbreakable human spirit, to the power of second chances, and to the quiet miracles that happen when opportunity meets resilience. In this place where time once stood still, Magdalena is moving forward, one dream at a time, proving that even behind bars, the heart can soar free.

The Power of a Second Chance

Magdalena's story is the heart and soul of this project, a testament to the resilience of the human spirit. As she delves into the offline digital resources of STARBOOKS, she uncovers a treasure trove of knowledge on poultry management—from the fundamentals of egg production to the unique needs of breeds like Babcock, Dekalb, and Lohmann LSL.

With every lesson, she builds a foundation for her dream, learning the trade step by step, from brooding and rearing to breeding and housing. "Ayon po sa napanood ko sa STARBOOKS about livelihood industry, poultry general information, egg laying business, egg production suppliers, feed, vaccines, brooding, growing, rearing, laying stage, breeding, housing. Kaya po ito ang napili kong pag-aralan kasi po may plano ako pag-laya ko po, mag-aalaga po ako ng paitluging manok."



Her words echo with quiet determination, a spark of hope kindled in the most unlikely of places. Through her dedication, Magdalena transforms idle hours into a journey of self-improvement, proving that even within walls, growth is not only possible—it is unstoppable.

Breaking the Barriers to Learning

The STARBOOKS initiative is more than a tool; it is a lifeline for residents like Magdalena, many of whom were unable to complete their formal education. Jail Chief Inspector Daniel P. Sumedca underscores its transformative role: "Interventions like the Alternative Learning System (ALS) and the addition of STARBOOKS support the educational journey and personal development of every person here."

Through a partnership with the Department of Education and ALS Talavera North District, twenty-nine residents are pursuing their studies, empowered by the freedom to learn at their own pace. A pre-loved laptop donated by Chevron Holdings, Inc. serves as their gateway to a world of knowledge, breaking down barriers that once seemed insurmountable.

A Partnership for Growth

This collaboration between Department of Science and Technology – Nueva Ecija represented by Provincial Director Leidi Mel B. Sicat and Bureau of Jail Management and Penology – Talavera represented by Jail Chief Inspector Daniel P. Sumedca is not just about resources—it is about opening doors to possibility.

For the residents of BJMP–Talavera, STARBOOKS is a symbol of hope, a reminder that their circumstances do not confine their potential. In the stillness of the facility, education becomes a bridge from where they are to where they dream of going.

As Magdalena immerses herself in her studies through STARBOOKS, she is doing more than planning a poultry business—she is crafting her future. With every page turned, every video watched, and every lesson learned, she is rewriting her story.

Her journey reminds us all that while life may pause our progress, it can never extinguish the flame of learning, rebuilding, and hoping again. In the quiet halls of BJMP–Talavera, Magdalena's determination whispers a powerful truth: it is never too late to dream, to grow, and to rise.



PARTNER'S CORNER







DOST-STII and FELTA sign MoA for STARBOOKS

by Felta Multi-Media Inc



Mr. Alan Taule, Chief, IRAD, DOST-STII and Mylene Abiva, President/ CEO, FELTA Multi-Media Inc., with Jed Abiva Sazon, Brand Activation Officer, FELTA Multi-Media Inc., sign a memorandum of agreement at DOST STII Building.

This partnership between FELTA and DOST-Science & Technology Information Institute (STII) is rooted in a shared vision:

To make science, technology, and innovation accessible, engaging, and relevant to every learner—especially in the area of robotics and emerging technologies. This partnership is about building a future-ready generation—curious, skilled, innovative, and empowered to contribute meaningfully to our nation's progress.

FELTA Multi-Media is a forward-thinking school technology and educational support company dedicated to empowering Filipino learners and educators through innovative technology solutions.

For 60 years, FELTA has worked hand in hand with schools, teachers, and industry partners to provide tools, platforms, and learning experiences that enhance academic success and bridge education with real-world industry needs.

Cerebro facilitates DOST-STII's STARBOOKS turnover to GreATMinds Leadership Academy

by Cerebro

Cerebro, in partnership with the DOST-Science and Technology Information Institute (DOST-STII), recently facilitated the turnover of one unit of DOST-STARBOOKS to GreAtMinds Leadership Academy on March 16, 2026, to enhance the school's digital library resources for students.

STARBOOKS, short for "Science and Technology Academic and Research-Based Openly Operated Kiosks," is a DOST initiative that provides schools with curated digital science and technology content, serving as a library-in-a-box even without internet access.



For this initiative, Cerebro provided funding for the successful implementation of the project, marking its first STARBOOKS turnover in the Bohol region. The turnover was officially received by the school administrators and witnessed by representatives from DOST-Bohol, as well as members of the school community.

This milestone reflects the shared commitmenof Cerebro and DOST to expand access to science and technology learning resources and strengthen education in the region.

Erovoutika strengthens partnership with STARBOOKS at the 15th anniversary celebration and 16th STARBOOKS DOA

by Erovoutika



Erovoutika proudly participated in the STARBOOKS 15th Anniversary: Brilliance, Stories, Timelessness on June 24, 2026, and the 16th STARBOOKS Deployment Officers' Assembly (DOA) on June 25, 2026, held at the Acacia Hotel, Alabang, Muntinlupa City.

During the STARBOOKS 15th Anniversary celebration on June 24, Noel Deplomo, president of Erovoutika Robotics and Automation Solutions, was honored with a Plaque of Recognition as a member of the Circle of Collaborators, acknowledging Erovoutika's valuable partnership and unwavering support in promoting science, technology, engineering, and mathematics education through the STARBOOKS program.

On June 25, Erovoutika actively participated in 16th STARBOOKS DOA by presenting its educational programs and initiatives that align with the mission of STARBOOKS to make science and technology knowledge more accessible to Filipino communities.

These initiatives are designed to inspire students, educators, librarians, and communities to embrace emerging technologies throughout the Philippines.

Erovoutika extends its gratitude to DOST-STARBOOKS.

DOST, SCMBT ink MOA for STARBOOKS integration

by The Starboard, Southwestern College of Maritime, Business & Technology Inc.

The Department of Science and Technology (DOST) has signed a memorandum of agreement (MOA) with Southwestern College of Maritime, Business and Technology Inc. for the integration of STARBOOKS into the institution's library.

STARBOOKS, short for Science and Technology Academic and Research-Based Openly Operated KioskS, is an interactive digital library system developed by the Science and Technology Information Institute (STII), an attached agency of DOST. The system provides access to a wide range of science and technology resources, even without internet connectivity, making it a valuable tool for students and researchers.

Before the MOA signing, an information drive conducted to introduce the system and its features. During the session, Jesmine Mikaela S. Cuasay explained the purpose, functions, and benefits of STARBOOKS.

The formal signing ceremony was led by Armando S. Fernandez, CEO/president of the institution, together with librarian Monina Krishia Bautista, and Philip Lawrence V. Collera, representative of DOST, marking the official implementation of the partnership.

The collaboration aims to enhance access to scientific knowledge and digital learning resources within the institution, supporting academic development and innovation among students.



DOST, BPI turn over STARBOOKS to Cordillera schools, learning centers

by Rod G. Asurin, Philippine Information Agency

More than 1,200 learners, teachers, Alternative Learning System (ALS) beneficiaries, and community members across the region are expected to benefit from science-based learning resources and livelihood opportunities. This is following the turnover of STARBOOKS digital libraries and innovation-based livelihood packages to schools and learning centers in the region.

A total of 27 STARBOOKS packages were turned over by the Department of Science and Technology (DOST), in partnership with its attached agency Science and Technology Information Institute (DOST-STII) and BPI Foundation Inc., to various schools and community learning centers in Abra, Apayao, Benguet, Ifugao, Kalinga, and Mountain Province.

According to DOST-CAR, the STARBOOKS deployment will directly benefit an estimated 1,164 learners, teachers, and community members, particularly in geographically isolated and disadvantaged areas (GIDAs) where internet access remains limited.

DOST-CAR Regional Director Nancy A. Bantog said the initiative helps expand access to science and technology learning materials in underserved communities through partnerships that complement the agency's Community Empowerment through Science and Technology (CEST) Program.

Bantog said STARBOOKS continues to serve as an important tool for delivering offline access to valuable science and technology resources.

DOST Secretary Renato U. Solidum Jr. had said programs like STARBOOKS help bridge information gaps by bringing learning resources closer to learners, teachers, and communities.

Alongside the digital learning resources, DOST also turned over six science, technology, and innovation (STI)-based livelihood intervention packages intended to benefit an estimated 224 learners and community members.

The livelihood projects were distributed to selected schools and learning centers across the region, including a sewing and apparel production project in Pilar Rural High School in Abra; loom weaving and sewing in a community learning center in Pudtol, Apayao; urban smart agriculture in Benguet; hydroponics-based smart agriculture projects in Tinoc Central School in Ifugao and Macutay-Palao National High School in Kalinga, and a bread and pastry production project in a community learning center in Sabangan, Mountain Province.

DOST said this is the first time STI-based livelihood interventions are being implemented alongside STARBOOKS under the partnership with BPI Foundation.

BPI Foundation Associate Director Juvylyn S. Reniva said the initiative reflects the foundation's commitment to inclusive development, particularly in geographically isolated and disadvantaged communities.

Reniva said the partnership highlights the importance of collaboration between government and the private sector in expanding access to education, livelihood, and development opportunities.

The DOST-STII and BPI Foundation also deployed STARBOOKS units in selected schools in Ifugao, Benguet, and Mountain Province in 2025. The latest rollout expands coverage to more schools and learning centers across the Cordillera.



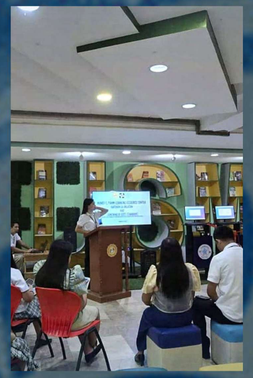


2026

REGIONAL news











DOST and Binangonan Launch Digital Science Library in Rizal

by Nel B. Andrade, Manila Bulletin

Learners residing in Binangonan now have access to the digital world for their school research needs, even without internet connectivity.

This came after the Department of Science and Technology Information Institute installed its Science and Technology Academic and Research-Based Openly-Operated Kiosk Station (STARBOOKS) in the e-library, following an agreement with the municipal government recently.

STARBOOKS, the country's first digital science library-in-a-box, is an offline, stand-alone digital library that provides free access to science and technology resources -- including journals, e-books, research papers, educational videos, and other learning materials -- even without an internet connection. Developed by DOST-STII, the project was first launched in 2011.

Binangonan Vice Mayor Russel Ynares, presiding officer of the Sangguniang Bayan, told Manila Bulletin that under Resolution No. 277, Mayor Maria Elvira Cecille Rivera Ynares has been granted authority to sign an agreement with DOST-Rizal for the deployment and implementation of STARBOOKS in the municipality.







Upgrading the Future!

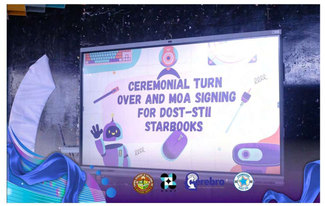
by AMYA Polytechnic College Inc - Senior High School

The official signing of the Memorandum of Agreement (MoA) for STARBOOKS between AMYA Polytechnic College, Inc. and DOST-Davao Region occurred on February 27, 2026, marking a significant milestone in the commitment to academic excellence

Through this partnership, AMYA Polytechnic College, Inc. students and faculty will now have access to thousands of digitized science and technology resources—even without an internet connection. By bringing the "Science Digital Library in a Box" to our campus, we are empowering the next generation of innovators with world-class information at their fingertips.

With this, science and technology is now made more accessible for every AMYA learner.





DOST-STII Brings STARBOOKS to Carmel Academy of Balilihan, Inc.

by Carmel Academy of Balilihan Inc.

Carmel Academy of Balilihan Inc. conducted the ceremonial turnover and memorandum of agreement (MoA) signing for the Department of Science and Technology-Science and Technology Information Institute's STARBOOKS, strengthening access to science, technology, and research resources for the school's students and educators.

This meaningful partnership, in collaboration with Cerebro, aims to enhance digital learning and provide more opportunities for knowledge discovery and academic growth.

With this, learners are empowered through technology, information, and collaboration.



Cebu, DOST, and DepEd

distribute digital science libraries to schools

by Daryll Galindo, Philippine Daily Inquirer

LAPU-LAPU CITY, Philippines — The Provincial Government of Cebu, alongside the Department of Science and Technology (DOST) and the Department of Education (DepEd), distributed digital library equipment to select schools on March 11, 2026, at the Cebu Provincial Capitol.

The digital libraries are called STARBOOKS, short for Science and Technology Academic and Research-Based Openly Operated KioskS.

These serve as a digital repository of scientific journals, research materials, and educational content. Additionally, it features K-12 curriculum support materials, including ready-made quizzes, lesson guides, and instructional resources tailored to specific subjects.

The eight beneficiaries of the STARBOOKS from the Cebu province include the following:
- Badian National High School
- Minglanilla Science High School
- Buanoy National High School in Balamban
- Compostela National High School
- Medellin National Science and Technology School
- Bantayan Science High School
- San Remigio National High School
- Luciano B. Rama Memorial National High School

The STARBOOKS turnover held at the Cebu Provincial Capitol was led by Cebu Governor Pamela Baricuatro and attended by DepEd Cebu Province Schools Division Superintendent Dr. Senen Priscillo Paulin, DOST officials, as well as supervisors and principals of science high schools across the province.

Launched back in 2011, DOST-Science and Technology Information Institute's (DOST-STII) STARBOOKS program aims to alleviate the digital gap in education by providing access to thousands of science and technology resources.

The STARBOOKS contain digitized science and technology resources in text, audio, and video formats. Additionally, these resources can be accessed offline, making it easier for remote and low-connectivity areas to access them.

According to the program's website, there are more than 8000 STARBOOKS deployed nationwide, which can be found in educational institutions, local government units, national government agencies, as well as non-government organizations and other private institutions.

Besides its offline version, STARBOOKS also has an online version and several mobile applications, such as the STARBOOKS Mobile App (for accessing the contents via Android phones), STARBOOKS Whiz App (a math and science quiz app), and STARBOOKS Finder App, which shows the STARBOOKS sites nationwide.

Isang makasaysayang hakbang para sa agham at teknolohiya

by Sto. Domingo Elementary School, Camarines Sur



Opisyal na ginanap noong ika-17 ng Hunyo 2026 ang DOST STARBOOKS Site Launching sa Paaralang Elementarya ng Sto. Domingo.
Sa pamamagitan ng paglagda sa Memorandum of Understanding, opisyal na ipinagkaloob ang mga kagamitan at itinalaga ang STARBOOKS digital library para sa mga mag-aaral.

Ang matagumpay na proyektong ito ay bunga ng pagtutulungan ng DOST Region V, Sto. Domingo Elementary School Alumni Association, Inc., YRAGA Eagles Club, at ng pamunuan ng Paaralang Elementarya ng Sto. Domingo.





Layunin ng inisyatibang ito na maghatid ng mas malawak at makabagong kaalaman sa agham at teknolohiya para sa ating mga kabataan—isang hakbang patungo sa mas maliwanag na kinabukasan.







STARBOOKS Orientation, Isinagawa sa CSIS Sipocot

by DOST-Camarines Sur

Mas pinalawak ang access ng mga mag-aaral sa kaalaman sa agham at teknolohiya sa Camarines Sur International School, Inc. Sipocot sa pamamagitan ng pagdadala ng Science and Technology Academic Research-Based Openly Operated Kiosks (STARBOOKS) ng Department of Science and Technology (DOST)-Bicol, sa pamamagitan ng DOST Camarines Sur.

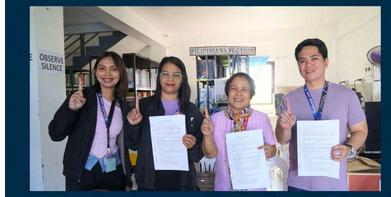
Sa tulong ng offline digital library na ito, nagkakaroon ng mas madaling access ang mga guro at mag-aaral sa malawak na koleksiyon ng mga resources sa science, technology, and innovation (STI) na makikita sa anyong teksto, audio, at video.

Nagbigay si Engr. Licelle M. Evangelista, science research specialist, ng pangkalahatang pagpapakilala tungkol sa STARBOOKS, habang pinangunahan naman ni John Nebrej N. Rempis, project technical aide, ang isang interaktibong hands-on na sesyon upang aktuwal na maipakita sa mga guro at mag-aaral kung paano gamitin at tuklasin ang sistema.

Samantala, ang computer unit na ginamit para sa STARBOOKS ay donasyon ng Quipper Philippines Inc., na nagbigay ng mahalagang suporta upang higit pang mapalawak ang akses ng mga mag-aaral sa mga digital na sanggunian sa agham at teknolohiya—isang hakbang tungo sa patuloy na pagsusulong ng #ScienceForThePeople para sa bawat mag-aaral na Bikolano.

Colegio de Naujan Enhances STEM Learning with DOST STARBOOKS

by DOST-PSTC-Oriental Mindoro



The Department of Science and Technology (DOST)-MIMAROPA, through the DOST-Oriental Mindoro (DOST-OrMin), has successfully installed the Science and Technology Academic and Research-Based Openly Operated KioskS (STARBOOKS) at Colegio de Naujan in Naujan, Oriental Mindoro, on March 11, 2026. This initiative was was formalized through a memorandum of agreement (MoA) between the school and DOST-MIMAROPA.

The installation of STARBOOKS provides students and teachers with offline access to thousands of science and technology resources. As a library-in-a-box, STARBOOKS is designed to serve communities with limited internet connectivity, ensuring that learners can still benefit from valuable academic and research materials.

An orientation was conducted to familiarize faculty and students with the system's features and functions. The session highlighted how STARBOOKS can be used for classroom instruction, research projects, and independent study, further promoting a culture of science and innovation within the school.

Through this partnership, DOST-MIMAROPA continues to expand the reach of STARBOOKS in Oriental Mindoro. The initiative underscores the agency's commitment to making science and technology resources more accessible to schools and communities across the province.







DOST, CAPSU bring STARBOOKS and BIDA systems to learners in Dumarao through SAGIP project

by Salingsing Publication CAPSU Dumarao Satellite College

Learners at Aglalana Integrated School (AIS) in Dumarao, Capiz now have greater access to digital learning resources following the turnover of STARBOOKS and BIDA systems by the Department of Science and Technology (DOST), in partnership with Capiz State University (CAPSU) Dumarao Satellite College on June 23, 2026.

The activity was conducted under the Sustainable Agriculture and Guided-Education for Indigenous People (SAGIP) Project, which seeks to improve educational opportunities and learning outcomes among learners in geographically isolated and underserved communities through science, technology, and community-based interventions.
During the turnover ceremony, Aglalana Integrated School, represented by Officer-in-Charge Ruth Hilapad, received a 65-inch Smart TV and an all-in-one personal computer for the STARBOOKS facility.

Barangay Aglalana, through Barangay Captain Jeus Cerus Hitalia, received an all-in-one personal computer for the implementation of the BIDA System. Members of the indigenous community likewise received gardening tools, seeds, seedlings, and an incubator to support livelihood and sustainability initiatives under the project.

A major highlight of the event was the introduction of the STARBOOKS, short for Science and Technology Academic and Research-Based Openly Operated Kiosks, and the Barangay Infosystem for Development and Accountability (BIDA) System, innovative platforms designed to provide learners, educators, and community stakeholders with access to educational resources, information, and digital services, even in areas with limited internet connectivity.





























Stakeholders express support for the SAGIP Project

The morning program commenced with a welcome address from Hilapad, who expressed her gratitude to DOST and CAPSU for bringing valuable educational resources and opportunities to the school and the wider community.

In his inspirational message, Dumarao Mayor Mateo Hachuela encouraged learners to remain hopeful and determined in pursuing their dreams, emphasizing that poverty should never be viewed as a barrier to success.

Representing DOST-Capiz, Assistant Provincial Director for Science and Technology Ryan Vilmor Dumpit underscored the significance of the project in expanding educational access in remote communities. He also reminded stakeholders of their shared responsibility to preserve and maximize the benefits of the newly installed technologies.
"We shall create opportunities and find solutions. Alagaan natin ang mga equipment na ibinigay sa atin," Dumpit said, emphasizing the importance of sustainability and community ownership.

Also present during the activity were Rubie Capada, community development officer III of the National Commission on Indigenous Peoples (NCIP) Capiz Community Service Center; Dr. Jocelyn S. Legaspi, university director for extension and development of CAPSU; and Leah Panes, faculty member and Indigenous Peoples coordinator of Aglalana Integrated School.
Faculty members from CAPSU Dumarao Satellite College, AIS teachers, parents, students, and community stakeholders likewise attended the event, demonstrating strong support for the initiative and its objectives.
The gathering was further strengthened by the presence of local leaders, including Barangay Captain Hitalia, Pastor Valencia, and the chieftains of the Aeta and Bukidnon communities, underscoring a collective commitment to advancing education, community development, and inclusive growth.

Literacy and numeracy program introduced

Another key component of the activity was the introduction of the literacy and numeracy intervention program under the SAGIP Project. Prof. Jane Tropico, project implementer, presented the program framework, objectives, implementation strategies, and expected outcomes designed to strengthen foundational literacy and numeracy skills among learners.

The initiative forms part of the broader SAGIP Project led by Dr. Marneth Barrios, project head, which integrates educational support, technological innovation, and community engagement to address learning challenges and improve educational outcomes among underserved populations.

Hands-on training promote sustainability

To ensure the effective utilization of the newly installed systems, the afternoon session focused on capacity-building through an orientation and hands-on training on the operation, utilization, and maintenance of the STARBOOKS and BIDA platforms.
Facilitated by Mia Pielago, a DOST staff member, the training equipped selected AIS faculty members and Barangay Aglalana officials with the technical knowledge and practical skills needed to operate and maintain the systems.

Participants were guided through the platforms' features, content navigation, troubleshooting procedures, and maintenance protocols to ensure their long-term functionality and sustainability. The training also highlighted how the systems can support classroom instruction, independent learning, and community-based educational activities.

Advancing inclusive and technology-driven education

The collaboration among DOST, CAPSU, the National Commission on Indigenous Peoples, and the Local Government Unit of Dumarao reflects a shared commitment to bringing science, technology, and quality education closer to underserved communities.

With the learners of Aglalana Integrated School as the primary beneficiaries, the SAGIP Project aims to strengthen literacy and numeracy competencies, expand access to educational resources, and create meaningful learning opportunities that empower young learners and contribute to the long-term development of their communities.

Through the integration of innovative technologies such as STARBOOKS and the Barangay Infosystem for Development and Accountability (BIDA) System, coupled with literacy and numeracy interventions and livelihood support initiatives, the project demonstrates how strategic partnerships can bridge educational gaps, promote digital inclusion, and create sustainable opportunities for future generations.
As the SAGIP Project continues to expand its initiatives, DOST and CAPSU remain committed to empowering learners and communities through innovative, technology-driven, and sustainable educational interventions that foster lifelong learning, community resilience, and inclusive development.

MOST brings STARBOOKS to Lanao Sur schools

by Michaella S. Aguilar, Philippine Information Agency

The Ministry of Science and Technology (MOST) of the Bangsamoro region distributed Science and Technology Academic and Research-Based Openly Operated KioskS (STARBOOKS) units to eight secondary schools in Lanao del Sur, on June 4, 2026 to expand access to science and technology learning resources.



STARBOOKS is a stand-alone digital library containing science and technology resources in text, audio, and video formats. The platform can be accessed without an internet connection, making it available to schools in areas with limited connectivity.

Dr. Rocaya G. Edres, chief of the Science, Education, Scholarship, and Grants Division of MOST, said the platform gives learners access to information across various fields, including science, technology, agriculture, health, and engineering.

"STARBOOKS is more than a digital library. It is a doorway to opportunities, discoveries, and lifelong learning. Through this platform, our students can explore science, technology, agriculture, health, engineering, and many other fields that can help shape a stronger Bangsamoro future," she said.

Edres said access to information remains a challenge in some communities, making alternative learning resources important for students and teachers.

"Through the STARBOOKS program, we are bringing science and technology closer to our people, especially to our learners in areas where access to information and learning resources remains limited," she added.

The recipient schools are Mindanao State University (MSU)-Marantao Community High School, MSU-Siyawadatu Community High School, MSU-Malabang Community High School, MSU-Binidayan Community High School, MSU-Tamparan Community High School, MSU-Taraka Community High School, MSU-Marawi Senior High School, and Lakitan National High School.

Dr. Samsia Paitao-Dumrang, MSU assistant vice chancellor for Academic Affairs, thanked MOST for providing STARBOOKS units to several MSU community high schools in Lanao del Sur.

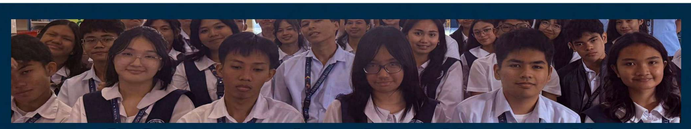
She said the digital libraries would support both learners and teachers by providing access to educational materials for use inside and outside the classroom.

"For our students, STARBOOKS will serve as a window to a wider world of learning. For our teachers, it will be a valuable tool in enriching classroom instruction. And for our communities, it is a reminder that every learner deserves access to quality educational resources regardless of location," Paitao-Dumrang said.

Hanifa S. Guro, principal of MSU Marantao Community High School, said STARBOOKS would allow students and teachers to access educational resources even without internet connectivity.

She thanked MOST-BARMM for providing the unit to the school. "Thank you, MOST-BARMM, for bridging the digital divide and investing in inclusive, quality education. We commit to maximizing STARBOOKS in our classrooms and nurturing a culture of curiosity and innovation," Guro said.

To date, MOST has turned over 22 STARBOOKS units to schools in Lanao del Sur.



LCCN students attend the DOST–STARBOOKS Orientation

by La Consolacion College of Deparo, Novaliches

Our learners were introduced to DOST–STARBOOKS (Science and Technology Academic and Research-Based Openly Operated KioskS)—a powerful learning resource that provides easy access to science, technology, and innovation (STI) information. This initiative aims to support students in their research needs and inspire them to explore, discover, and satisfy their curious minds as future innovators.



STARBOOKS Key Features Highlighted in Kapehan sa Aklatan at USM KEPLRC

by DOST-Cotabato

The University of Southern Mindanao's Kundo E. Pahm Learning Resource Center (KEPLRC) conducted the Kapehan sa Aklatan and the launching of the Department of Science and Technology (DOST) STARBOOKS on January12, 2026 at the USM Main Campus in Kabacan, Cotabato.

During the launch, DOST-SOCCSKSARGEN presented and demonstrated the key features and functions of STARBOOKS, short for Science and Technology Academic and Technology Academic and Research-Based Openly Operated Kiosk System, to KEPLRC library staff, faculty members, and students.

The demonstration highlighted STARBOOKS as a digital, offline repository of science and technology (S&T) information, containing thousands of resources such as e-books, journals, instructional videos, and reference materials in the fields of science, agriculture, health, engineering, and innovation. Emphasis was given to its value in supporting teaching, learning, research, and extension services.

Through this activity, USM and DOST reaffirm their shared commitment to enhancing access to information, fostering a culture of research and innovation, and empowering students and educators with reliable S&T knowledge resources.

USM holds Kapehan sa Aklatan, launches DOST STARBOOKS

by USM-Kundo E. Pahm Learning Resource Center

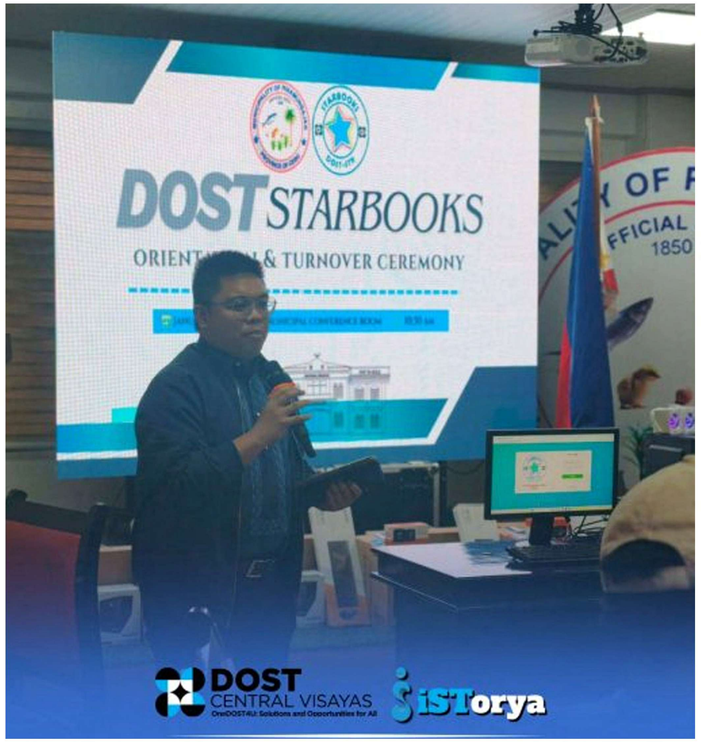


The University of Southern Mindanao, Kundo E. Pahm Learning Resource Center (KEPLRC) successfully held Kapehan sa Aklatan and the launching of the Department of Science and Technology's (DOST) STARBOOKS, short for Science and Technology Academic and Research-Based Openly Operated KioskS, on January 12, 2026, at the KEPLRC.

This meaningful activity brought together administrators, faculty, staff, students, and partners in celebrating access to science, technology, and research-based information. The program highlighted the importance of digital learning resources in strengthening academic research, innovation, and inclusive knowledge-sharing within the university community.

The event featured messages from university officials and representatives from the DOST, an overview and live demonstration of the DOST STARBOOKS Project, and a symbolic launching that marked another milestone in advancing library and information services at USM.





DOST-7, LGU Pinamungajan nagpalig-on sa pagkat-on sa siyensya, gamit ang STARBOOKS

by Jositte Ann Tista, Philippine Information Agency

CEBU CITY, Cebu (PIA)—Aron mapalig-on ang katakus sa mga magtutudlo ug kabataan sa Pinamungahan, gibansay sa Department of Science and Technology (DOST)-Central Visayas ang mga magtutudlo sa unom ka mga pampublikong tunghaan sa pagpahimong mas makaagni ang siyensya ug teknolohiya pagpalapad sa kahibalo paggamit sa usa ka offline nga digital library alang sa research, classroom discussions, ug independent learning sa mga estudyante.

Ang pakigtambayayong sa local government unit (LGU) sa Pinamungajan ug sa DOST-Central Visayas, alang niining programa aron mahatagan og sayon ug kasaligan nga access sa offline digital research materials ang mga magtutuon sa maong lungsod, ilabi na sa mga lugar nga limitado ang internet connectivity.

Ang STARBOOKS o Science and Technology Academic and Research-Based Openly Operated KioskS usa sa mga flagship programs sa DOST nga nagtumong sa pagpasiugda sa kaikag sa pagtuon sa syensya ug teknolohiya sa mga tinun-an.

"This initiative is a meaningful step toward strengthening science learning, supporting teachers, and encouraging curiosity among learners," matod sa DOST-Central Visayas sa ilang opisyal nga Facebook page.

(Kini nga inisyatiba usa ka mahinungdanong lakang aron mapalig-on ang pagkat-on sa syensya, masuportahan ang mga magtutudlo, ug mapukaw ang kaikag ug pagkamausisaon sa mga magtutuon.)

Ang STARBOOKS usa ka digital apan offline lamang nga kahinguhaan sa syensya ug teknolohiya, nga gidisenyo alang sa mga komunidad nga limitado o wala gyuy access sa internet.

Aduna kini og computer kiosk o local server nga mahimong ma-access pinaagi sa mga computer sa tunghaan o sa library.

Pinaagi sa STARBOOKS, mahimong mapahimuslan sa mga tinun-an ang basic hangtod sa advanced level nga mga leksyon sa syensya ug matematika, mga reference materials alang sa engineering ug teknolohiya, impormasyon kabahin sa panlawas ug medikal, mga hisgutanon sa agrikultura, pangisda (fisheries), ug food technology. Aduna usab kini mga kahinguhaan kabahin sa panginabuhian, pagnegosyo, ug mga inobasyon.

"With STARBOOKS, schools can access thousands of science and technology publications and learning materials anytime—especially helpful for communities with limited connectivity," dugang pa sa DOST.

(Pinaagi sa STARBOOKS, adunay access ang mga tunghaan sa liboang mga publikasyon ug learning materials sa syensya ug teknolohiya sa bisan unsang oras—ilabi na nga dako'g tabang alang sa mga komunidad nga limitado ang internet connectivity.)

Sa mga lugar nga walay internet connection, dako ang tabang sa STARBOOKS sa mga magtutuon aron mapalawom ang ilang pagsabot ug mapasiugda ang kaikag sa pagtuon sa syensya.

Gisiguro usab sa gobyerno nga husto ug kasaligan ang tinubdan sa mga impormasyon, ug libre kini nga magamit.
Gi-implementar ang STARBOOKS pinaagi sa DOST–Science and Technology Information Institute (DOST-STII).

Sa ilang post, nagpasalamat ang DOST-Central Visayas sa lungsod sa Pinamungajan sa padayon nga suporta sa maong inisyatiba, nga nagtumong sa paghatag og mas daghang bililhon nga kahinguhaan sa pagkat-on alang sa mga estudyante sa lungsod. (JJT/PIA7)





STARBOOKS Library-in-a-Box:

Narito Na! Makabagong kaalaman, abot-kamay na sa Pilar

by DOST-Sorsogon

Pinagtibay ng Department of Science and Technology-Bicol (DOST-Bicol), sa pamamagitan ng DOST-Sorsogon, ang kaalaman sa siyensya, teknolohiya, at inobasyon (STI) ng mga mag-aaral at kawani mula sa LGU-Pilar, Pilar Community College (PiCC), at Pilar National Comprehensive High School (PNCHS). Ito ay matapos maisagawa ang "STARBOOKS Launching, MOU Signing, Orientation, and Users' Hands-on Training" sa Parau Hall A, Municipal Hall ng Pilar, Sorsogon.

Ang STARBOOKS, o Science and Technology Academic and Research-Based Openly-Operated KioskS, ay naglalayong maghatid ng online at offline na digital learning para sa mga Pilarnon. Formal na pinagtibay ang kolaborasyong ito sa pamamagitan ng paglagda ng pamamagitan ng paglagda ng memorandum of understanding (MOU) sa pagitan ng DOST-Bicol, LGU-Pilar, PiCC, at PNCHS. Ang kasunduan ay kinatawan nina DOST-Sorsogon Director Engr. Sandro B. Noguera, Mayor Dennis Sy-Reyes, PiCC OIC-College Administrator Dr. Sanny S. Maglente, at PNCHS Science Dept. Head Lalaine Malto.

Pinangunahan nina Bon Carlo D. Salonga, science research specialist II mula sa DOST-Sorsogon, Guirald Malone E. Escober, project technical assistant I at John Nebrej Rempis, project technical aide V mula sa DOST-Bicol, ang pagsasanay kung saan tinalakay ang teknikal na aspeto ng STARBOOKS.

Layunin nito na bigyan ang mga kalahok ng sapat na kaalaman sa paggamit, pagpapanatili, at paggawa ng ulat gamit ang system.

Pagkatapos ng pagpapasinaya ng kaalaman, nagpatuloy ang mga kalahok sa isang hands-on activity upang aktwal na masubukan ang pag-access sa mga mahahalagang nilalaman nito.

Ang STARBOOKS ay isang multi-awarded at stand-alone na S&T library-in-a-box na binuo ng DOST-Science and Technology Information Institute na naglalaman ng iba't ibang educational resources. Ang inisyatibong ito ay bahagi ng patuloy na pagsisikap ng DOST na itaguyod ang STI sa mga malalayong lugar upang mas mapabilis ang pag-unlad ng ating mga komunidad sa kanayunan.

Agham na Ramdam:

DOST-STII deploys STARBOOKS to a last-mile school in Bayugan City

by DOST-Agusan Del Sur

On March 19, 2026, the Department of Science and Technology (DOST)-Agusan del Sur, in collaboration with the DOST-Caraga and the Department of Education (DepEd)–Bayugan City Division, conducted the deployment and installation of one unit of the DOST–Science and Technology Academic and Research-Based Openly Operated Kiosks (STARBOOKS) at San Lorenzo Elementary School, a last-mile school in Barangay Sto. Niño, Bayugan City.

As part of the activity, learners and teachers were oriented and trained on the proper use and operation of STARBOOKS, enabling them to maximize this offline digital library as a valuable tool for teaching and learning.

STARBOOKS serves as a gateway to knowledge by providing free access to a wide range of science and technology resources. Through this initiative, DOST continues to strengthen science education, foster curiosity, and promote innovation among learners in geographically isolated and disadvantaged communities.

More than the provision of equipment, this initiative builds capacity within schools, ensuring that science and technology resources are not only accessible, but also effectively utilized to support quality education in even the most remote areas.





DOST, DSWD Deploy Digital Science Library at Batangas Regional Haven

by DOST-Batangas

The Department of Science and Technology (DOST)-CALABARZON and the Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD) IV-A formalized their partnership for the deployment of the Science and Technology Academic and Research-Based Openly Operated KioskS (STARBOOKS) digital library at the Regional Haven for Women and Girls in Rosario, Batangas through a memorandum of agreement (MoA) signing held at South Park Center, Alabang, Muntinlupa City, on February 16, 2026.

STARBOOKS, developed by the DOST–Science and Technology Information Institute, is a digital library that contains thousands of science and technology resources accessible even without an internet connection. The platform aims to provide learners with access to scientific knowledge and references to support research, innovation, and continuous learning.

The deployment at the Regional Haven for Women and Girls seeks to support the center's modular learning system by providing residents with access to educational and science-based materials that can supplement formal and non-formal learning activities.

Present during the MoA signing were DSWD IV-A Regional Director Mr. Barry R. Chua, Assistant Regional Director for Operations Ms. Mylah S. Gatchalian, Regional Center Coordinator Mr. Rodolfo Narciso Jr., Ms. Marivi Elnar of the Protective Services Division, and Ms. Lea M. Perez, officer-in-charge, Center head of the Regional Haven for Women and Girls. Representing DOST-CALABARZON were Regional Director Ms. Emelita P. Bagsit and DOST-Batangas Provincial Director Felina C. Malabanan.

In his opening message, Regional Director Chua expressed appreciation to DOST for its support of the center's educational initiatives. He emphasized that access to science and technology resources will help strengthen the rehabilitation and learning programs of the Haven and provide additional educational opportunities for its residents.

In her message, DOST-CALABARZON Regional Director Bagsit emphasized the potential of STARBOOKS to add value to the rehabilitation and development programs of the center, including possible future initiatives related to livelihood, technology adoption, and skills enhancement. She also reaffirmed DOST's commitment to support DSWD IV-A in advancing programs that promote knowledge access, capacity development, and inclusive opportunities for vulnerable sectors.

Installation of the STARBOOKS kiosk was carried out following the signing ceremony. DOST-Batangas will conduct a user orientation and training session at the Haven in Rosario, Batangas to maximize utilization of the platform. A separate site administrator training will also be provided to designated staff to ensure proper management and maintenance of the system.
The initiative forms part of the continuing collaboration between DOST and DSWD to expand access to science and technology information for vulnerable sectors through institutional partnerships.

Bringing S&T closer to the community: SLSU to launch e-CEST in Quezon

by SLSU Office of the Vice President for Administrative and Financial Affairs







Southern Luzon State University, through the Office of the Vice President for Research, Extension, Production, Development, and Innovation (OVP-REPDI), is proud to launch the Enhanced Community Empowerment through Science and Technology (e-CEST) project in Calauag, Quezon.

As part of the university's commitment to being "responsive to community needs," SLSU is officially turning over to the community desktop units equipped with Department of Science and Technology (DOST) STARBOOKS—the first Philippine science and

This "one-stop S&T information source" provides hundreds of thousands of digitized resources that can be accessed even without an internet connection.

Together with the community of Calauag, SLSU and DOST are moving Beyond the Bookshelf to build a more resilient and innovative tomorrow.

Binangonan Municipal e-Library becomes 1st STARBOOKS-equipped municipal hub in Rizal

by DOST-Rizal

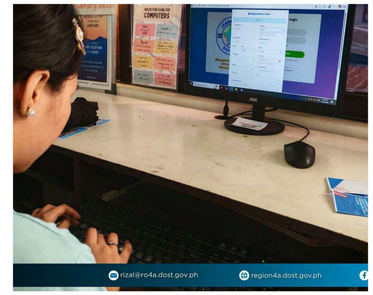


Binangonan, Rizal — Championing digital literacy and accessible science education, the Department of Science and Technology (DOST), through its Provincial Science and Technology Office (PSTO) Rizal, officially equipped the Binangonan Municipal E-Library with STARBOOKS on February 23, 2026. This milestone makes Binangonan the first municipality in the province to integrate the DOST-developed digital library into its local e-library system.

The deployment was formalized through a ceremonial memorandum of agreement (MoA) signing at the Sangguniang Bayan Conference Room, attended by Municipal Mayor Ma. Elvira Cecille R. Ynares, Municipal Vice Mayor Russel Guiller C. Ynares, and members of the Sangguniang Bayan. During the event, Una Grace M. Dollete, official-in-charge of the Office of the Provincial S&T Director of PSTO Rizal, presented DOST's flagship programs and services tailored as strategic S&T interventions for local government units (LGUs).

Following the ceremony, a technical orientation was conducted at the Municipal e-Library for administrators and patrons. Arthea Marie M. Genova, project technical aide and alternate provincial STARBOOKS focal, served as the resource person, providing an in-depth overview of the system's features and its status as a National Priority Plan (NPP) initiative for both the academe and LGUs.

Participants were guided through offline navigation and account registration to ensure efficient usage monitoring. To further enhance accessibility, an in-house router was installed, allowing library-goers to access the vast STARBOOKS database directly via their mobile devices.



STARBOOKS, a flagship project of the DOST-Science and Technology Information Institute (DOST-STII), serves as a one-stop information portal that provides students and researchers with a wealth of S&T resources even without an internet connection. By bringing this technology to the Binangonan Municipal E-Library, the DOST and the LGU aim to foster a culture of scientific exploration and a lifelong love for learning among the Binangonan community.



DOST's STARBOOKS Strengthens Science Program at Medellin National Science High School

by MNSTS Official

Reinforcing its status as a premier institution for scientific learning, the Medellin National Science and Technology School (MNSTS) was officially recognized as one of the recipients of the STARBOOKS digital library during the official turnover rites held at the Provincial Capitol on March 11, 2026.

The inclusion of Medellin NSTS in this initiative is a strategic move by the Provincial Government and the Department of Education (DepEd), highlighting the school's critical role as a premier provider of the Special Program in Science (SPS).

The acquisition of STARBOOKS, short for Science and Technology Academic and Research-Based Openly Operated Kiosks, is a direct response to the school's need for high-level research materials that can be accessed even without an internet connection. This library-in-a-box contains thousands of digitized scientific resources, journals, and K-12 instructional materials.

The MNSTS community expressed profound gratitude for the visionary leadership that made this acquisition possible.

The school administration extended its sincerest thanks to Governor Pamela Baricuatro for her unwavering commitment to modernizing classrooms, to Dr. Senen Priscilo P. Paulin, schools division superintendent, for prioritizing science-centric institutions, and to Dr. Josephine Dela Torre for her dedicated support in elevating the standards of the SPS.

"This is not just a turnover of equipment; it is an investment in the brilliance of our Medellin students," said the memorandum, emphasizing that the school's recognition as an SPS provider earned it this prestigious privilege. With these new digital kiosks, Medellin NSTS is better equipped to bridge the digital gap, proving that world-class science education is accessible right in the heart of Medellin.



Macgum IS learners unlock the world of knowledge with STARBOOKS

by Macgum Integrated School

Macgum Integrated School learners participated in the Virtual STARBOOKS Walkthrough on March 12, 2026, an initiative that introduced students to the Science and Technology Academic and Research-Based Openly Operated KioskS (STARBOOKS), a digital library-in-a-box developed by the Department of Science and Technology.

Through the virtual session, learners were guided on how to explore the platform's rich collection of science and technology resources, including e-books, research materials, and educational videos that support learning and research even without internet connectivity.

The successful conduct of the activity was made possible through the support of the school administration under School Head Urbano Q. Jumamil Jr. and the initiative of the school's ICT Coordinator, Haydee G. Agudong, who managed and coordinated with the STARBOOKS officials for the said walkthrough.

STARBOOKS strengthens maritime education at SCMBT

by DOST-Oriental Mindoro

The Southwestern College of Maritime Business and Technology Inc. (SCMBT) has strengthened its academic resources by requesting the assistance of DOST-Oriental Mindoro for the installation of STARBOOKS in its library. The partnership was formalized through a memorandum of agreement (MoA) signing, followed by installation, orientation, and demonstration activities attended by Grade 11 students, teachers, the high school principal, and the school owner.

STARBOOKS, or Science and Technology Academic and Research-Based Openly Operated KioskS, is the Philippines' first digital science library-in-a-box. It provides offline access to thousands of science and technology resources, addressing the challenge of limited research materials for students and educators.

For SCMBT, a maritime and technical institution, STARBOOKS bridges the gap between maritime training and scientific innovation, ensuring learners have the tools to connect classroom knowledge with real-world applications.

During the event, school principal Zaldy Andal underscored that in today's generation, "one of the greatest currencies is



access to resources." He highlighted how STARBOOKS empowers students by providing a vast collection of reliable knowledge that enriches and strengthens their learning.

Meanwhile, the school's President and CEO, Armando S. Fernandez, added that the initiative is especially timely in an era dominated by AI tools and QR codes, where information is instant but not always authentic.

STARBOOKS ensures that learners can engage with curated, science-based materials that preserve academic integrity and foster deeper understanding.

With STARBOOKS now part of SCMBT's library, students and teachers are better positioned to thrive in a knowledge-driven economy. The integration of science and technology into maritime education ensures that graduates are globally competitive, resilient, and equipped with both technical skills and scientific expertise.

This partnership underscores how maritime education and science can sail together toward innovation, service, and excellence for the next generation.

DOST-Central Visayas Joins Cebu Lighthouse Launch with STARBOOKS

by DOST-Central Visayas



DOST-Central Visayas joined the grand opening of the Cebu Lighthouse at Il Corso Cebu, welcoming people into a space where learning, culture, and shared experiences come together.

Organized by Il Corso Cebu in partnership with Anjo World Theme Park, the event brought families, students, and visitors together to explore an attraction that blends history, discovery, and scenic views.

Through exhibits on parola (lighthouses), guests were able to connect with Cebu's maritime heritage in a simple and engaging way. Interactive QR codes made learning more accessible, allowing each visitor to explore at their own pace.

On the second floor, visitors can access STARBOOKS, offering free science and technology resources for everyone. Through this initiative, DOST-Central Visayas continues to bring knowledge closer to the people—especially students and lifelong learners.

From meaningful learning moments to the breathtaking view at the top, the Cebu Lighthouse offers something for everyone.

More than a landmark, it is a space where people can explore, learn, and grow together.

DOST-Ilocos Region bridges academe-LGU partnership through STARBOOKS, CEST initiatives in Ilocos Sur

by DOST-Ilocos Sur





The Department of Science and Technology(DOST)-Ilocos Region, through its Ilocos Sur Provincial Office, formalized partnerships with the Ilocos Sur Polytechnic State College (ISPSC) and the Municipality of Banayoyo on April 15, 2026, at ISPSC Main Campus in Candon City.

The initiatives include a memorandum of understanding (MOU) for the STARBOOKS program and a memorandum of agreement (MoA) for the Community Empowerment through Science and Technology (CEST) program, both aimed at expanding access to science and technology-driven solutions in education and local development.

The activity was led by Regional Director Teresita A. Tabaog, Assistant Regional Director Decth P. Libunao, and Provincial Director Jordan L. Abad, together with representatives from partner institutions, underscoring a shared commitment to strengthening collaboration among DOST, academe, and local government units.

The program brought together key stakeholders from ISPSC, led by President Mario P. Obrero, along with faculty members, librarians, and representatives from its seven campuses. Also in attendance were Campus Director Mary Grace R. Navarro of the Philippine Science High School – Ilocos Region Campus (PSHS-IRC) in Ilocos Sur, as well as local government officials, including Mayor Alexander G. Galanga and Vice Mayor Oscar S. Gandalera Sr., reflecting strong support from the Municipality of Banayoyo.

In her welcome message, Dr. Sheryl Morata emphasized the importance of sustained partnerships in advancing community development through science and technology. Regional Director Tabaog highlighted DOST's commitment to bringing science-based solutions closer to communities and encouraged ISPSC to further expand its collaboration with the agency. She also noted Banayoyo's potential to develop as a soybean-producing community through the CEST program.

Messages of support were delivered by Dr. Obrero and Dr. Navarro, who reaffirmed ISPSC's commitment to strengthening educational access through STARBOOKS and related initiatives. Mayor Galanga also expressed gratitude for the partnership, citing its long-term benefits for education and local development in Banayoyo.

Engr. Abad presented the CEST Banayoyo framework, outlining the specific roles of DOST, ISPSC, Philippine Science High School – Ilocos Region Campus, and the LGU of Banayoyo in implementing the program. This was followed by the ceremonial signing of the MoA, led by Dr. Tabaog, Dr. Navarro, Dr. Obrero, and Mayor Galanga, witnessed by ARD Libunao, Engr. Abad, and Vice Mayor Gandalera.

The STARBOOKS MOU signing followed, with ISPSC campus representatives committing to expanding access to digital science and technology resources.

In the afternoon, training for STARBOOKS users and administrators was conducted by Roger C. Pido of DOST-Ilocos Sur to help partners better use the system. The event ended with closing remarks from Mr. Buasen, who highlighted the importance of STARBOOKS in improving access to knowledge in academic institutions.

This initiative of DOST reflects the continued commitment to supporting communities and schools through science, technology, and innovation for inclusive growth in Ilocos Sur.

DOST-Tarlac entry wins STARBOOKS 15th Best Scribe Award

by DOST-Central Luzon

DOST-Tarlac proudly celebrates another remarkable achievement after being recognized as the 1st Place Best Scribe Awardee for their exemplary reporting of STARBOOKS activities and engagements during the STARBOOKS Stakeholders' Appreciation Day on June 24, 2025.

This recognition reflects DOST-Tarlac's commitment to capturing every milestone of the STARBOOKS program. Through impactful storytelling, it showcased how STARBOOKS goes beyond the classroom, bringing science, technology, and innovation closer to Geographically Isolated and Disadvantaged Areas and Indigenous Peoples communities.

This achievement highlights the importance of preserving the stories behind every deployment and partnership—stories that inspire learning, promote innovation, and demonstrate the lasting impact of STARBOOKS in empowering communities.

The DOST-Central Luzon extends its heartfelt gratitude to partner institutions, stakeholders, and beneficiaries whose unwavering support and collaboration have made this accomplishment possible.
It also assured its commitment to documenting every step of STARBOOKS' journey as it continues to expand access to knowledge and create more opportunities for every Tarlaqueño.



Rizal PDLs get S&T learning kiosk for education and livelihood training thru a DOST, BJMP collab

by Raphael Dorutheo Martin A. San Antonio, DOST-Rizal

The Department of Science and Technology (DOST) Provincial Science and Technology Office (PSTO) Rizal partners with the Bureau of Jail Management and Penology (BJMP) deploy its first STARBOOKS (Science and Technology Academic and Research-Based Openly Operated KioskS) unit tailored specifically for a female dormitory through a ceremonial Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) signing on May 6, 2026.

Jail Chief Inspector Atty. Jessela L. Tariman of Antipolo City Jail Female Dormitory welcomed the DOST personnel and highlighted how the digital library will serve as a vital tool for personal development and rehabilitation within the facility.

On the other hand, Engr. Mhark Ellgine A. Libao, Officer-in-Charge of DOST PSTO Rizal, presented a briefer on the STARBOOKS system, highlighting the various science and technology modules and instructional livelihood videos that expand educational opportunities as part of the holistic rehabilitation process for persons deprived of liberty (PDLs).

To properly introduce the platform, a short audiovisual presentation on the history of STARBOOKS was played, followed by a presentation on the next steps for installation and user capacity development training, delivered by Ms. Arthea Marie M. Genova, STARBOOKS focal of PSTO Rizal. She also mentioned that even jail officers may use this technology for their advanced studies, and that the livelihood technology and instructional videos may be used for PDLs' activities. The initial deployment is set to benefit 72 female PDLs and 26 jail officers.

OIC Libao further highlighted the specific groups that will benefit from the deployment, noting that the kiosk will serve as a valuable educational resource for individuals studying under the Alternative Learning System (ALS), the children of PDLs, and those looking to develop new livelihood skills for their families.

Speaking on the broader vision of the initiative, former OIC Ms. Una Grace M. Dollete noted, "We want to remove the stigma of interacting with PDLs and be engaged with science and technology while undergoing their rehabilitation program."

She added that the STARBOOKS deployment at BJMP reflects DOST Rizal's commitment to making science, technology, and knowledge accessible to everyone, regardless of circumstances.

"We believe that learning and innovation can transform lives, and by bringing digital information resources closer to persons deprived of liberty, we hope to inspire continuous learning, skills development, and opportunities for personal growth and reintegration into society. This project embodies our belief that access to knowledge can empower individuals and create pathways for a better future," she said.

Through these digital resources, DOST aims to provide inclusive interventions for the marginalized sector, empowering institutionalized individuals to continue their personal growth.

DOST-La Union wins 3rd place in STARBOOKS 15th anniversary deployment video contest

by DOST Region 1



The Department of Science and Technology Information Institute recognizes DOST-La Union for securing 3rd place in the STARBOOKS 15th anniversary deployment video contest, held during the STARBOOKS 15th Anniversary Celebration on June 24, 2026, at Acacia Hotel Manila in Alabang, Muntinlupa City.

The award recognizes DOST-La Union's video documentation showcasing its efforts in bringing and strengthening science and technology initiatives in communities across La Union, highlighting the impact of making S&T resources accessible to the public.

Featured in the video was Katrina F. Ronquillo, senior science research specialist and STARBOOKS deployment officer of DOST-La Union. These initiatives were made possible through the efforts, support, and guidance of DOST-Ilocos Region Director Teresita A. Tabaog, DOST-La Union Provincial Director Jonathan M. Viernes, and DOST-Ilocos Region STARBOOKS focal person Justin M. Madrid.

The award was personally received by Provincial Director Viernes and Ronquillo, together with Assistant Regional Director for Technical Operations Services Racquel M. Espiritu and Lemuel G. Castigo, science research specialist. The winning entry was produced by the Regional Science and Center of DOST-Ilocos Region under the leadership of Castigo.

This recognition inspires DOST-La Union and DOST-Ilocos Region to continue making science, technology, and innovation more accessible and to ensure that these resources remain beneficial and responsive to the needs of communities throughout the region.

Watch the award-winning video and learn more about how DOST-La Union continues to bring science, technology, and innovation closer to communities across the province.

DOST-Central Visayas receives STARBOOKS Circle of Collaborators (Partner) Award

by DOST-Central Visayas



The Department of Science and Technology (DOST)-Central Visayas was recognized as a STARBOOKS Circle of Collaborators (Partner) during the STARBOOKS 15th Anniversary Celebration held on June 24, 2026 at the Acacia Hotel Alabang, Muntinlupa City.

The award recognizes the agency's valuable partnership with the DOST–Science and Technology Information Institute (DOST-STII) in advancing science communication and expanding public access to science, technology, and innovation through the STARBOOKS program.

STARBOOKS, short for Science and Technology Academic and Research-Based Openly Operated KioskS, is the country's first digital science library, providing offline access to thousands of science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) resources, research publications, and educational multimedia materials, particularly in areas with limited or no internet connectivity. In Central Visayas, DOST integrates STARBOOKS into its Community Empowerment through Science and Technology program by establishing digital knowledge hubs in underserved communities to improve access to science-based learning and livelihood information.

The technology is likewise deployed under the Smart and Sustainable Communities Program to support digital learning, evidence-based governance, and innovation-driven local development by providing communities and local government units with accessible science and technology knowledge resources.

Beyond limited signal, coastal students in Manito turn to STARBOOKS to break through 'digital isolation'

by DOST-Oriental Mindoro

Thirty kilometers away from the bustling streets of Legazpi, the quiet roads of Manito, Albay lead to Barangay Cawayan. Here stands a community disconnected from the mainland's progress, separated from the city not only by rugged geography but by a digital and scientific divide.

In Barangay Cawayan, infrastructure is not the problem; connectivity is. While the paved roads make the physical journey possible, the digital highway ends long before you reach the campus. For the children here, cellular signal is a fleeting, precious commodity.

Silent horizons

When the school's former officer-in-charge, Amada A. Rempillo, first stepped into leadership at Cawayan High School in 2017, the reality on the ground was rough.

"So, dati po ano, that was year 2017 when I started my leadership as a school head here in Cawayan High School. Ang school po namin ay mayroon lang isang reading center wherein ang mga books ay very limited... As to digital literacy naman, zero pa talaga ang mga bata noon kasi wala akong nakita noon na merong mga gadgets like cellphone or even laptop," she recalls.

(So before, that was the year 2017 when I started my leadership as a school head here in Cawayan High School. Our school only had one reading center where the books were very limited... As for digital literacy, the children were really at zero back then because I didn't see anyone who owned gadgets like a cellphone or even a laptop...)

The turning point didn't come from a grand initiative, but from a persistent aunt. During a family gathering, the school head discovered that her nephew worked with an offline digital library called STARBOOKS from the Department of Science and Technology (DOST).

"Sabi niya 'tita, meron kaming bagong programa sa DOST, yung STARBOOKS.' So syempre, sabi ko ano naman ang STARBOOKS eh kailangan talaga ng school namin, akala ko nga mga books yun pala ay digital library so sobrang excited talaga ako. Kinulit at kinulit ko talaga siya..."

(He said, 'Auntie, we have a new program, STARBOOKS.' So of course, I said, 'What is STARBOOKS? Our school really needs that.' I actually thought they were physical books, but it turned out to be a digital library, so I was so excited. I pestered him over and over...)

Curious Tides

The day the digital kiosk was rolled out, a wave of curiosity hit the coastal community. Because the system functions offline, it bypassed Cawayan's greatest adversary: the lack of connectivity.

"Syempre, first curiosity muna ano, curious sila ano ba talaga ang STARBOOKS... tapos sobra talagang excitement na naramdaman nila kasi yung scheduling namin hindi naman pwede ma-accomodate lahat... yun sobrang excited sila pag oras na ng pagpasok nila sa computer room," the former school head shares.

(Of course, first came curiosity, they were curious about what STARBOOKS really was... and then they felt an overwhelming excitement because our scheduling couldn't accommodate everyone at once... they were so excited when it was time to enter the computer room)

The offline kiosks began shifting the academic landscape. Students who had never operated a computer before were suddenly navigating a vast scientific database.

"Honestly, masaya, sobrang masaya... kasi kahit papaano, in a small way, nakatulong tayo sa mga bata na ma-increase ang knowledge, information, and ability, but of course to browse information through a digital form," she explains.

(Honestly, I felt happy, so happy... because somehow, in a small way, we helped the children increase their knowledge, information, and ability to browse information through a digital form)

Driven by the students' hunger to learn, the community's dedication caught national attention and was awarded as the 3rd Best Performing STARBOOKS site. Thanks to the diligent reporting of their ICT Coordinator, this small, isolated campus earned a prestigious national recognition for maximum platform utilization.

Anchored Dreams

Today, the mission is spearheaded by the current school head, Joel Daen, who operates under a powerful local banner: #MaliitnaPaaralanMalakingPangarap (Small School, Big Dreams).

"Una po talaga, yun yung hashtag po namin is yung #MaliitnaPaaralanMalakingPangarap, isa po sa mga naging daan para yung ating mga kabataan ay mangarap ay itong programa... na ma-widen yung kanilang kaalaman and then yung magkaroon sila ng parang ma-motivate sila to dream bigger and higher," Principal Daen states.

(First of all, our hashtag is #SmallSchoolBigDreams. One of the avenues that allowed our youth to dream is this program... to widen their knowledge and motivate them to dream bigger and higher)

For Daen, the future of science education means dismantling the walls of the computer lab and bringing the digital library directly to where the students are.

"Future plans, yun na nga po, unang-una kung pwede madala sa classroom... kasi kung doon

STARBOOKS Empowers Residents at Regional Haven for Women and Girls

by DSWD Field Office IV-A



The residents of the Regional Haven for Women and Girls now have access to science and technology learning resources through the Science and Technology Academic and Research-Based Openly Operated Kiosks (STARBOOKS) program of the Department of Science and Technology (DOST).

During the training facilitated by the DOST-Batangas last March 6, 2026, the staff and residents of the center were guided in navigating the platform to access information, including exploring its interactive lessons and games.

According to Erica Bianca Anog, teacher I at the Regional Haven for Women and Girls, the STARBOOKS will be a big help for the residents, particularly in ensuring that they continue to expand their knowledge on science, technology, livelihood, and health all throughout their stay at the center.

The Regional Haven for Women and Girls, located in Rosario, Batangas, is a facility managed by the DSWD Field Office IV-A providing rehabilitative services to women and girls, including their dependents, who are victim-survivors of different forms of abuse.

Last February 16, 2026, the DSWD Field Office IV-A and the DOST-CALABARZON signed a memorandum of agreement for the use of the STARBOOKS at the said center as well as collaboration for other initiatives aimed at helping in the rehabilitation of the center's residents through education and technology. [with reports from EBLAnog]



Digital learning boost: DOST-Ilocos Norte awards two STARBOOKS units to Badoc Schools

by Marc Andrew Batangan, DOST-Ilocos Norte

The Department of Science and Technology (DOST)-Ilocos Norte, through its Community Empowerment through Science and Technology (CEST) Program, formally awarded two computer sets equipped with Science and Technology Academic and Research-Based Openly-Operated Kiosks (STARBOOKS) to beneficiary schools in Badoc, Ilocos Norte, as part of its continuing efforts to strengthen access to science and technology-based learning resources on March 25, 2026.

The units were distributed to Madupayas Elementary School and Nagrebcan National High School, benefiting a total of 593 students and faculty members. The initiative aims to enhance digital learning by providing offline access to a comprehensive collection of science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) resources.
Alongside the awarding ceremony, an orientation and users' training on the operation and utilization of STARBOOKS was conducted to ensure effective use of the digital library system in classroom instruction and learning activities.

The training was led by Kent Jerico Ramil, senior science research specialist and STARBOOKS deployment officer of DOST-Ilocos Norte, with technical assistance from Engr. Marc Andrew C. Batangan, who guided participants in maximizing the platform's features and applications in education.

This deployment underscores the CEST program's commitment to human resource development and digital governance, bridging



technological divide in local communities and empowering the next generation of learners in Ilocos Norte.

Madupayas Elementary School and Nagrebcan National High School expressed their appreciation for the support, highlighting its importance in improving learning opportunities, particularly in geographically remote areas where access to learning resources may be limited despite the availability of internet connectivity.

CAS student clinches 1st place in DOST nat'l photo collage tilt

by Krizhelle Mae D. Almazan, News CAS Publication (UNP)

Eshana Rhymel L. Parra, an incoming second-year BA Communication student under the College of Arts and Sciences (CAS), secured first place in the national 'Certified Ka-STARBOOKS Ako Photo Collage' Competition, held as part of the 15th-anniversary celebration of the Department of Science and Technology - Science and Technology Academic and Research-Based Openly-Operated Kiosk Stations (DOST-STARBOOKS), from March 30 to June 10.

With the theme "STARBOOKS@15: Crystal Years. Countless Stories. Infinite Knowledge," the contest invited participants to look back on their most memorable STARBOOKS experiences by creating a photo or video collage that captures the platform's impact in promoting accessible knowledge of science and technology.

Parra's winning piece perfectly captures the impact of accessible science and technology in communities. Her entry bested submissions from across the country, bringing pride to the University of Northern Philippines (UNP) community.

Winning the national competition came as a surprise to Parra, who shared that her journey involved numerous revisions to both her artwork and its description before finally submitting her entry.

"It was unexpected, and I feel really happy. I went through so many revisions, and there was even a time when my description was accused of being AI-generated, but I stood by my work. After



t everything, I'm grateful that all the effort paid off," she said.

She added, "Behind those pictures is my growth. Even if I couldn't visit their main office, I still gained a lot of knowledge through their digital services. Whether you're young or old, there's always something to learn from the different activities they offer."

Developed by the DOST–Science and Technology Information Institute (STII), STARBOOKS is the Philippines' first science digital library-in-a-box, providing science and technology resources to schools and communities, especially those without internet access. This June, STARBOOKS celebrated its 15th Crystal Year, marking over a decade of bringing knowledge to thousands of schools, local government units, and even Persons Deprived of Liberty (PDLs) nationwide.

DOST-Kalinga, LGU Tanudan boost community development with S&T interventions



by DOST- Kalinga

The Department of Science and Technology–Kalinga (DOST-Kalinga), in partnership with the Local Government Unit of Tanudan (LGU-Tanudan) led by Municipal Mayor Jaedicke Rhoss P. Dagadag, formally held a ceremonial turnover of a glass crusher and STARBOOKS to the residents of Barangay Mangali Centro on May 11, 2026 at the Municipal Hall of Tanudan.

Funded under DOST's Community Empowerment through Science and Technology (CEST) Program, the glass crusher aims to address the barangay's growing concern about glass waste management.
t
Meanwhile, the desktop computer installed by DOST with STARBOOKS, short for Science and Technology Academic and Research-Based Openly-Operated KioskS, forms part of the LGU's counterpart support to enhance access to science and technology information within the community.

An orientation on STARBOOKS was conducted for department heads and representatives from LGU Tanudan, the Department of Education, local schools, and barangay LGUs to promote adoption, proper utilization, and maximize the benefits of the technology.

This was followed by a focused training for STARBOOKS users and admins. Participating schools included Mangali Centro Elementary School, Tanudan Central School, Mantopngan Elementary School, and Anggacan Elementary School.

STARBOOKS is a technology launched by the DOST-Science and Technology Information Institute (DOST-STII) in 2011 to serve as a free stand-alone supplemental tool for research, teaching, and learning needs of users, even without the internet.



DOST-Pangasinan awards STARBOOKS to expand S&T access in Bani

by Eliza Mae E. Fernandez

The Department of Science and Technology (DOST)-Pangasinan awarded four computer sets equipped with the Science and Technology Academic and Research-Based Openly-Operated KioskS (STARBOOKS) to selected schools and a public library in the Municipality of Bani, Pangasinan on March 19, 2026, at the Conference Hall.

The initiative forms part of the continuing implementation of the Community Empowerment through Science and Technology (CEST) program.

The activity opened with a welcome message from Mayor Facundo O. Palafox Jr., who expressed strong support for initiatives that expand access to quality education through technology. There were also messages of support from Principals Arlyne L. Cucal, Arlene A. Corpuz, and Mary Grace V. Suyat, who highlighted the importance of integrating STARBOOKS into teaching and learning to improve students' access to reliable educational resources.

Developed by the DOST–Science and Technology Information Institute (DOST-STII), STARBOOKS is a stand-alone digital library that offers a wide range of science and technology resources, making it especially useful for schools and communities with limited internet connectivity.

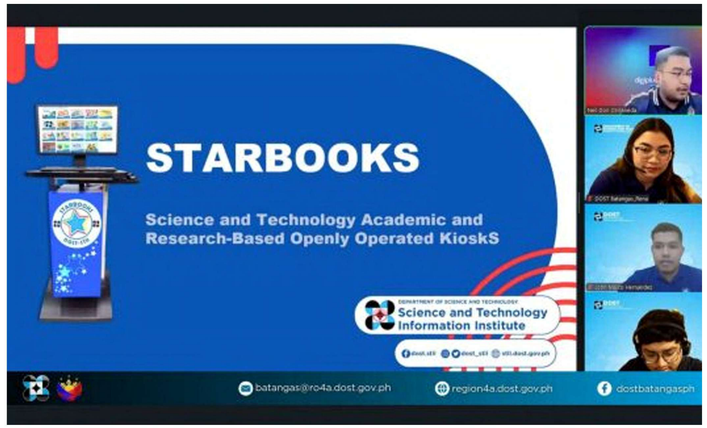
Beneficiaries of the deployment include Banog Norte Elementary School, Bani West Central School, Bani East Integrated School, and the Bani Municipal Library.

The activity also featured the signing of the memorandum of understanding (MOU) and deed of acceptance, followed by the formal turnover of computer sets to the beneficiary institutions.

To support effective utilization, a user's orientation and admin training were conducted for educators, school administrators, and students. The session, facilitated by Edward E. Ugale, science research specialist I, and Geamboy D. Morata, project technical assistant I of DOST-Pangasinan, focused on the proper operation and management of the system. A total of 35 participants attended the training.

Through initiatives like STARBOOKS, DOST continues to promote inclusive and technology-enabled education across communities.





DOST-Batangas, DigiPlus Foundation Partner to Expand STARBOOKS Access

by Bhaby De Castro, Philippine Information Agency

The Department of Science and Technology (DOST)-Batangas and DigiPlus Foundation Inc. have discussed a potential partnership aimed at expanding access to science, technology, and innovation learning resources across the province through the distribution of Science and Technology Academic and Research-Based Openly Operated Kiosk (STARBOOKS) units.

During a meeting held on June 11, 2026, representatives from both organizations explored possible collaboration initiatives, including the sponsorship and deployment of STARBOOKS units in schools and communities throughout Batangas.

STARBOOKS, the country's first digital library, provides offline access to thousands of science and technology resources, making it particularly beneficial for areas with limited or unreliable internet connectivity.

The initiative seeks to improve access to quality educational materials, especially in schools and communities where internet services remain inadequate.

According to Neil Don Orillaneda, senior program manager for education and livelihood of DigiPlus Foundation, supporting education-focused initiatives, particularly those that promote digital learning and community development, is among the foundation's key priorities.

Meanwhile, DOST-Batangas highlighted STARBOOKS as an effective platform for enhancing public access to science and technology information.

The program operates as a standalone system that does not require an internet connection and is designed using computer "pods," making it ideal for remote and geographically isolated communities.
STARBOOKS also offers an extensive collection of digitized resources, including books, journals, theses, research papers, and interactive materials such as "Tamang DOSTkarte" livelihood videos and interactive mathematics and science games that help enrich learners' knowledge and entrepreneurial skills.

STARBOOKS ng DOST, inilunsad sa Tuy Senior High School

by Expose Newspaper

TUY, Batangas — Mas marami nang mapagkukunan ng impormasyon sa agham at teknolohiya ang mga mag-aaral at guro matapos ilunsad ng Department of Science and Technology-Batangas ang Science and Technology Academic and Research-Based Openly Operated Kiosk Station o STARBOOKS sa Tuy Senior High School noong Hunyo 2, 2026.

Ang STARBOOKS ang kauna-unahang digital science and technology library sa bansa na binuo ng DOST-Science and Technology Information Institute. Naglalaman ito ng libo-libong digitized learning materials gaya ng mga aklat, magasin, journal, scientific at research papers, video, audio, disaster preparedness materials, interactive courseware at K–12 learning resources.

Maaaring mabasa o mapanood ang mga materyal sa STARBOOKS kahit walang internet connection, kaya malaking tulong ito sa mga estudyante at gurong nangangailangan ng mapagkakatiwalaang sanggunian sa kanilang pag-aaral, pananaliksik, at pagtuturo.

Bilang bahagi ng deployment, nagsagawa rin ang DOST-Batangas ng orientation at training para sa mga mag-aaral, guro, at magulang. Pinangunahan ni Renalee L. Reyes, science research specialist II ng DOST-Batangas, ang talakayan tungkol sa layunin, mga platform at wastong paggamit at pangangasiwa ng STARBOOKS.

Ipinakilala rin sa mga kalahok ang STARBOOKS Online at ang STARBOOKS mobile application na maaaring ma-download sa Google Play Store.



Naging posible ang paglalagay ng digital library sa paaralan sa tulong ni Tuy Municipal Councilor Jerome Patulot, na nagkaloob ng computer set na ginamit sa paglalagay ng STARBOOKS.

Nagpasalamat naman si Tuy Senior High School Principal Dr. Ma. Rhoda E. Panganiban sa DOST sa pagpili sa kanilang paaralan bilang benepisyaryo ng programa.

Ayon sa punong-guro, magiging mahalagang kagamitan ang STARBOOKS para sa mga mag-aaral at guro sa kanilang pag-aaral at pagtuturo.

DOST-Central Luzon shines at STARBOOKS 15th Anniversary Celebration

by DOST Central Luzon



DOST-Central Luzon brings home multiple awards and recognitions during the STARBOOKS 15th Anniversary Celebration themed, "STARBOOKS@15: Crystal Years. Countless Stories. Infinite Knowledge," held on June 24, 2026 at Acacia Hotel, Alabang, Muntinlupa City.

The milestone event gathered STARBOOKS deployment officers, focal persons, and partners from across the country to celebrate fifteen years of advancing science, technology, and innovation (STI) information access through the Science and Technology Academic and Research-Based Openly-Operated Kiosks (STARBOOKS).



DOST-Central Luzon proudly received several awards that showcased the region's dedication and excellence in STARBOOKS implementation.

DOST-Nueva Ecija won 1st Place in the STARBOOKS Deployment Video Contest for its video showing how the digital library has helped communities across the province, while DOST-Tarlac won 1st Place for the Best Scribe Award for its excellent documentation and reporting on STARBOOKS activities.

Meanwhile, DOST-Bataan took home the 3rd Place for the Best Scribe Award for its great work in writing about local STARBOOKS projects. In addition to these individual recognitions, DOST-Central Luzon was honored for its remarkable achievement in expanding access to science and technology information across the region.

To date, the region has successfully installed 724 STARBOOKS units in schools, local government units (LGUs), libraries, and communities throughout Central Luzon, significantly contributing to the dissemination of STI resources, especially in underserved and geographically isolated areas.

These accomplishments reflect the unwavering commitment, dedication, and hard work of the STARBOOKS deployment officers and support personnel across the region who continue to ensure that knowledge and innovation remain accessible to every Filipino.

Representing DOST-Central Luzon during the celebration were the STARBOOKS deployment officers from the provincial offices, together with Michael John S. Rivera, regional STARBOOKS focal.



The awards and recognitions serve as a testament to DOST-Central Luzon's continuing efforts to bridge information gaps and empower communities through science, technology, and innovation.

As STARBOOKS celebrates fifteen years of transforming lives through knowledge, DOST-Central Luzon remains committed to creating more success stories and expanding opportunities for learning across the region.



Beyond limited signal, coastal students in Manito turn to STARBOOKS to break through 'digital isolation'

by DOST-Oriental Mindoro

Thirty kilometers away from the bustling streets of Legazpi, the quiet roads of Manito, Albay lead to Barangay Cawayan. Here stands a community disconnected from the mainland's progress, separated from the city not only by rugged geography but by a digital and scientific divide.

In Barangay Cawayan, infrastructure is not the problem; connectivity is. While the paved roads make the physical journey possible, the digital highway ends long before you reach the campus. For the children here, cellular signal is a fleeting, precious commodity.

Silent horizons

When the school's former officer-in-charge, Amada A. Rempillo, first stepped into leadership at Cawayan High School in 2017, the reality on the ground was rough.

"So, dati po ano, that was year 2017 when I started my leadership as a school head here in Cawayan High School. Ang school po namin ay mayroon lang isang reading center wherein ang mga books ay very limited... As to digital literacy naman, zero pa talaga ang mga bata noon kasi wala akong nakita noon na merong mga gadgets like cellphone or even laptop," she recalls.

(So before, that was the year 2017 when I started my leadership as a school head here in Cawayan High School. Our school only had one reading center where the books were very limited... As for digital literacy, the children were really at zero back then because I didn't see anyone who owned gadgets like a cellphone or even a laptop...)

The turning point didn't come from a grand initiative, but from a persistent aunt. During a family gathering, the school head discovered that her nephew worked with an offline digital library called STARBOOKS from the Department of Science and Technology (DOST).

"Sabi niya 'tita, meron kaming bagong programa sa DOST, yung STARBOOKS.' So syempre, sabi ko ano naman ang STARBOOKS eh kailangan talaga ng school namin, akala ko nga mga books yun pala ay digital library so sobrang excited talaga ako. Kinulit at kinulit ko talaga siya..."

(He said, 'Auntie, we have a new program, STARBOOKS.' So of course, I said, 'What is STARBOOKS? Our school really needs that.' I actually thought they were physical books, but it turned out to be a digital library, so I was so excited. I pestered him over and over...)

Curious Tides

The day the digital kiosk was rolled out, a wave of curiosity hit the coastal community. Because the system functions offline, it bypassed Cawayan's greatest adversary: the lack of connectivity.

"Syempre, first curiosity muna ano, curious sila ano ba talaga ang STARBOOKS... tapos sobra talagang excitement na naramdaman nila kasi yung scheduling namin hindi naman pwede ma-accomodate lahat... yun sobrang excited sila pag oras na ng pagpasok nila sa computer room," the former school head shares.

(Of course, first came curiosity, they were curious about what STARBOOKS really was... and then they felt an overwhelming excitement because our scheduling couldn't accommodate everyone at once... they were so excited when it was time to enter the computer room)

The offline kiosks began shifting the academic landscape. Students who had never operated a computer before were suddenly navigating a vast scientific database.

"Honestly, masaya, sobrang masaya... kasi kahit papaano, in a small way, nakatulong tayo sa mga bata na ma-increase ang knowledge, information, and ability, but of course to browse information through a digital form," she explains.

(Honestly, I felt happy, so happy... because somehow, in a small way, we helped the children increase their knowledge, information, and ability to browse information through a digital form)

Driven by the students' hunger to learn, the community's dedication caught national attention and was awarded as the 3rd Best Performing STARBOOKS site. Thanks to the diligent reporting of their ICT Coordinator, this small, isolated campus earned a prestigious national recognition for maximum platform utilization.

Anchored Dreams

Today, the mission is spearheaded by the current school head, Joel Daen, who operates under a powerful local banner: #MaliitnaPaaralanMalakingPangarap (Small School, Big Dreams).

"Una po talaga, yun yung hashtag po namin is yung #MaliitnaPaaralanMalakingPangarap, isa po sa mga naging daan para yung ating mga kabataan ay mangarap ay itong programa... na ma-widen yung kanilang kaalaman and then yung magkaroon sila ng parang ma-motivate sila to dream bigger and higher," Principal Daen states.

(First of all, our hashtag is #SmallSchoolBigDreams. One of the avenues that allowed our youth to dream is this program... to widen their knowledge and motivate them to dream bigger and higher)

For Daen, the future of science education means dismantling the walls of the computer lab and bringing the digital library directly to where the students are.

"Future plans, yun na nga po, unang-una kung pwede madala sa classroom... kasi kung doon ang sila may access sa ating mga IT, ICT rooms, okay na yun pero much better na yung kanilang access ay [nandoon] mismo sa classroom para mas madali..."

(For future plans, first of all, if we could bring it into the classroom... because if they only have access in our IT and ICT rooms, that's okay, but it would be much better if their access is right inside the classroom so it's easier...)



Unplugged wonder

For the students who live in this coastal community, this offline library is a major equalizer. It gives them access to thousands of high-quality science, math, and research resources that are usually difficult to reach without a strong internet connection, all without costing a single peso for data load.

"Kapag kailangan ko po ng mga dagdag na kaalaman, naghahanap po ako sa internet kagaya po ng Google upang makasagot po ako sa aking mga assignments and school studies," shares Janine Macapili, a student at Cawayan High School.

(Whenever I needed extra knowledge, I used to look things up on the internet like Google just to answer my assignments and school studies)

The best part for Janine and her classmates is that not having money for internet load cannot stop them from learning anymore.

"Opo, malaking-malaki po talaga ang naibigay na tulong... marami po akong bagong natutunan... at ang pinakamaganda po dito ay pwede ko po siyang gamitin ng walang internet... Dahil po [dito] nadagdagan po ang interest ko sa science, naging mas maganda at mas masaya ang aking pag-aaral," she added.

(Yes, it has provided a massive amount of help... I've learned so much new information... and the best part about it is that I can use it completely without an internet connection. Because of this, my interest in science grew, and studying became much more beautiful and fun.)

When asked how this tool changed her life as a student, Janine's perspective reveals a simple but powerful truth: "Binago... ang aking karanasan bilang isang mag-aaral, naging mas madali ang aking pag-access sa mga kaalaman, lumawak ang aking pag-unawa at mas naging inspirado akong matuto."

(It changed my entire experience as a student. It made accessing knowledge so much easier, broadened my understanding, and made me feel truly inspired to learn.)

Deep ripples

As this offline digital library celebrates its 15th anniversary, the teachers and leaders of Cawayan High School look back at how far their community has come. For them, this tool helped bridge the barrier of digital isolation

"Congratulations po DOST kasi umabot po kayo ng 15th anniversary ng STARBOOKS, so thank you also at our end for giving us this opportunity to be part of the STARBOOKS... sapagkat malaking tulong po talaga, it gives us a lifelong learning among the learners actually, 'yan kasi ang isa sa pinaka-mission ng DepEd," says the former school head.

(Okay, so, well of course, congratulations DOST because you have reached the 15th anniversary of STARBOOKS. Thank you also from our end for giving us this opportunity to be part of STARBOOKS... because it really helps a lot, it gives lifelong learning to the learners, which is actually one of the main missions of DepEd.)

Principal Joel Daen agrees, looking forward to keeping this resource available for the community along the coast.

"Ang amin pong pagbati galing po sa Cawayan High School, sa inyong ika-15 anibersaryo... at nagpapasalamat din po kami kay Director Rommel R. Serrano sa kanyang walang sawang tulong na ibinibigay sa mga paaralang nasa malalayong lugar... sana po patuloy pa rin ang inyong suporta sa aming paaralan at para sa ating mga kabataan na mas lalo nilang matupad ang kanilang mga pangarap. Salamat po."

(Our greetings from Cawayan High School on your 15th anniversary... and we also thank Director Rommel R. Serrano for his endless help given to schools in far-flung areas... we hope your support continues for our school and for our youth so they can fulfill their dreams even more. Thank you.)

Thirty kilometers away from the city, the youth of Barangay Cawayan found a reliable bridge across the digital divide. Equipped with a library that requires no internet connection—only an eager mind—these young shore-side learners are proving that a small school by the sea can harbor some of the biggest dreams in the region.

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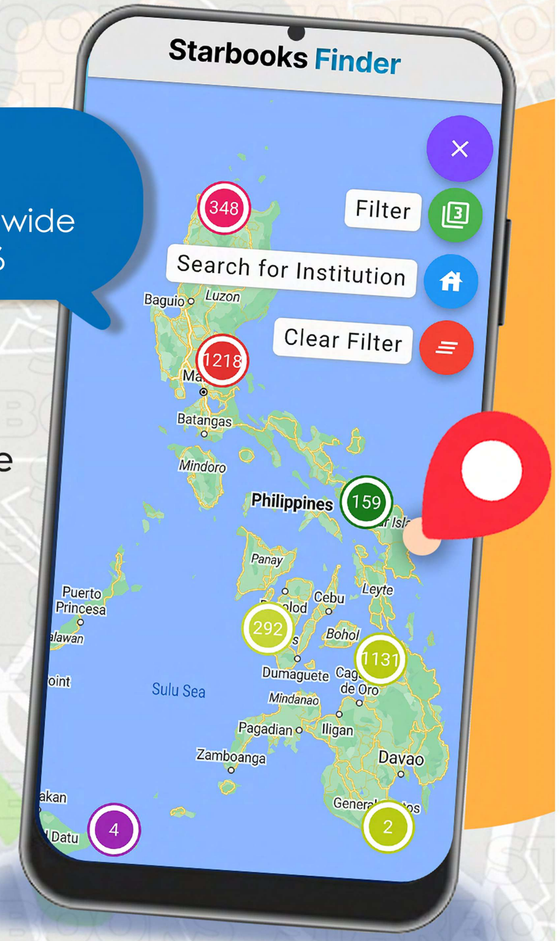
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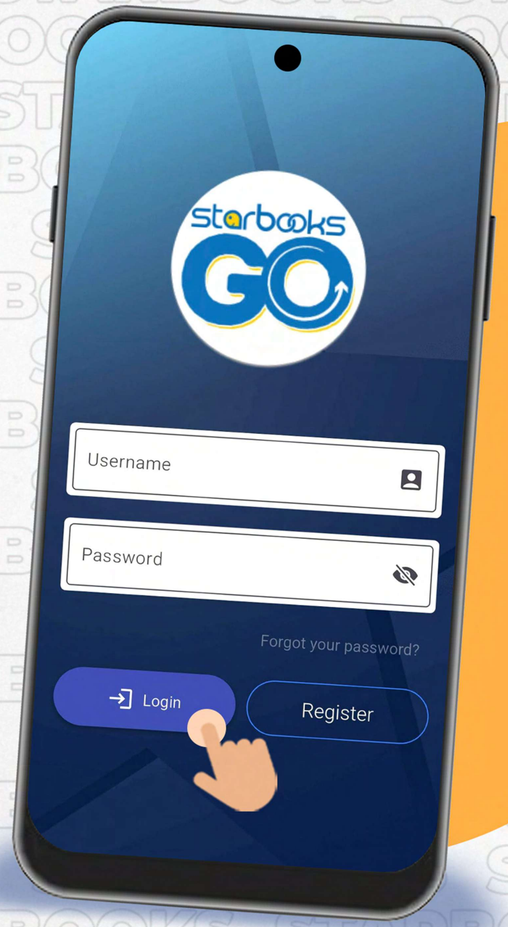
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