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Volume 6 No. 2 July-December 2024



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Photo by Rommel M. Azucena Jr., DOST-STII

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Director's Note



NAPOLEON K. JUANILLO JR., PhD.
Assistant Secretary for Technology Transfer, Communications and Commercialization and OIC, Office of the Director, DOST-STII

STARBOOKS has become a valuable avenue for exploring and expanding knowledge in science, technology, engineering, the arts, and mathematics (STEAM).

The unwavering support and passion of every STARBOOKS user in the country is our driving force behind the mission to make science, technology, and innovation (STI) information accessible to learners beyond the confines of the traditional classrooms.

STARBOOKS has also extended its focus to include educators. STARBOOKS equips them with the knowledge and skills essential to navigate the constantly evolving educational landscape.

STARBOOKS owes its success to the regional deployment officers who traverse rivers, mountains, and difficult terrains to reach far-flung communities. STARBOOKS has also achieved success by providing educational and learning resources to both longstanding and newfound partners.

Without their invaluable support, STARBOOKS would fall short of its mission to reach those who need these resources the most.

STARBOOKS will continue its goal and advocacy of extending learning and educational resources to every learner in the country.

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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Carmona NHS Crowned Champion of 2024 STARBOOKS Whiz Bee

20 September 2024 | text by Precious T. Biraquit | photos by Rommel M. Azucena Jr., *DOST-STII*

Student from the Carmona National High School (CNHS) was declared champion of the 2024 Whiz Bee Championship at the 2024 STARBOOKS Whiz Bee competition held at the Philippine International Convention Center (PICC) Forum Tent, Pasay City.
The competition was held in support of the 2024 National Youth Science, Technology, and Innovation Festival (NYSTIF).

During the competition, Jan Patrick B. Gelasana bested his opponents including a schoolmate who also made it to the final round.

Niño Ryan B. Matutina, CNHS coach, said that the students trained every day for three (3) hours before their classes started.

"I'm proud, kasi out of more than 160 students, kami yung pinalad na manalo," declares Matutina. "Achievement ito para sakin kasi as a teacher, makita mo yung students mong successful."

Other finalists were ranked accordingly: Abednego T. Sucgang, Francisco E. Barzaga Integrated High School (2nd place); Janna Marianne B. Sena, Sisters of Mary of Banneux, Inc. (3rd place); Stephen Blaize L. Gabor, Pasay City National Science High School (4th place); Princess Hannah G. Benaloga, Carmona National High School (5th place).



Winners, along with their coaches, received prizes including electronic gadgets, gift certificates, and other notable items.

The event was supported by the following organizations: Association of Science and Mathematics Educators of Philippine Private Schools (ASMEPPS), FrontLearners, Inc., C&E Adaptive Learning Solutions, Enchanted Kingdom, Revlv Solutions, Inc., BPI Foundation, Inc., Pagbilao Energy Corp., and TeaM Energy Foundation.

The quiz bee has garnered 165 Grade 10 student participants from the National Capital Region, Region III, and IV-A during the elimination round, which was trimmed to 50 participants.

The 2024 STARBOOKS Whiz Bee was organized by the Science and Technology Information Institute and aimed to promote STEM proficiency through quiz bees.

The first Whiz Bee competition was held at the Governor Ferrer Memorial Integrated National High School in 2023.





IN PHOTOS: Snaps from the Semi Final and Final Round of the 2024 STARBOOKS Whiz Bee at the Philippine International Convention Center (PICC) Forum Tent, Pasay City.

CALABARZON School Reps Convene at the 2024 STARBOOKS Regional Stakeholders Convention

20 November 2024 | text by Precious T. Biraquit | photos by Rommel M. Azucena Jr., *DOST-STII*



The Department of Science and Technology – Science and Technology Information Institute (DOST-STII), in collaboration with DOST-CALABARZON and Cerebro Solutions, Inc., held its annual STARBOOKS Regional Stakeholders Convention at the Monte Vista Hot Springs and Conference Resort, Laguna recently.

The one-day seminar was attended by the teachers, librarians, and administrators from various public and private school beneficiaries of the STARBOOKS across the CALABARZON region to provide and exchange ideas about education and technology.

With the theme "STARBOOKS: Toward a Sustainable and Resilient Future," this learning session focused on the application of modern solutions to the declining status of Philippine education. Included in the discussions were the pedagogical approach utilizing the power of artificial intelligence (AI), a basic understanding of AI, educational resources and growth mindset, and proper data visualization using Microsoft Excel.

The invited speakers who shared their expertise were the following: Ms. Maria Elaine P. De Velez and Mr. Leo R. De Velez, founders of FrontLearners, Inc.; Mr. Alfon B. Narquita, Head of the DOST-STII Management Information System and Planning Section (MISPS); Mr. Edric C. Calma, Director of Operations of Knowledge Channel Foundation, Inc.; and Mr. Dan Anthony D. Dorado, Assistant Professor in the School of Library and Information Studies of University of the Philippines (UP) Diliman.

The event's partnership with Cerebro Solutions, Inc., an accredited Continuing Professional Development (CPD) provider of the Philippine Regulation Commission (PRC), credited the participants with five (5) CPD points.













DOST-STII Honored as FOI Champion

26 November 2024 | text by Precious T. Biraquit | photo by Jonathan D. Abalon, *DOST-STII*

The Department of Science and Technology - Science and Technology Information Institute (DOST-STII) was honored as among the Freedom of Information (FOI) Champions in the 2024 FOI Awards held recently at Hilton Manila in Pasay City.

DOST-STII was presented with a plaque of appreciation for its significant contribution to the development of the FOI program, which was received by its representatives Louella L. Pestaño and Jonathan D. Abalon from the Information Resources and Analysis Division.

The Presidential Communications Office (PCO), through the Freedom of Information – Program Management Office (FOI-PMO), has partnered with the Institute by providing digital copies of the FOI data collection to the Science and Technology Academic and Research-Based Openly-Operated Kiosks (STARBOOKS) to empower the citizens by protecting their right to access to information and to combat misinformation in the country.





IN PHOTO: Louella L. Pestaño (2nd from L) and Jonathan D. Abalon (3rd from L) from the Information Resources and Analysis Division (IRAD) receiving the award on behalf of DOST-STII.

Deployment Officers Get Together in 13th STARBOOKS Deployment Officers' Assembly

10 December 2024 | text and photos by Rommel M. Azucena Jr., *DOST-STII*



Deployment officers from different DOST regional and provincial offices convened at the 13th STARBOOKS Deployment Officers Assembly (DOA) at Berjaya Makati Hotel, Makati City.

Regularly held since 2016, the event served as avenue to present STARBOOKS' accomplishments, milestones, and major updates to be implemented on the following year.

The 13th STARBOOKS DOA also featured advocacy presentations from six STARBOOKS partners.



In her welcome message, DOST-NCR Director, Engr. Romelen T. Tresvalles acknowledged the hard work and dedication of the deployment officers in bringing STARBOOKS to those who need it the most.



In a special message, Napoleon K. Juanillo Jr., PhD, OIC of DOST-STII, commended STARBOOKS' accomplishments and thanked the regional and provincial offices for making STARBOOKS one of their priority program.



Engr. Sancho A. Mabborang, DOST Undersecretary for Regional Operations emphasized deployment officers' as the driving force behind the success of STARBOOKS.



Marievic V. Narquita, STARBOOKS Unit Head, presenting the accomplishments, updates, and future activities of STARBOOKS.



McGyver C. Basaya, lead programmer of STARBOOKS offline, sharing STARBOOKS AI, a question-and-answer system derived from the STARBOOKS' database.



Alfon B. Narquita, Management Information Systems and Planning Section (MISPS) Head, discussing the Knowledge Management (KM) project which will create a one-stop search engine for all DOST-related information.





Deployment Officers know how to have fun too!



Jonald Justine U. Itugot, CEO of Cerebro Solutions, Inc., presenting the school-management platform and its benefits to the deployment officers.



John Garcia, Head of Customer Success Wealth Management Group of G-Xchange, Inc., discussing the significance of saving and investing to wealth building and how their platform help clients.



Jhun Christopher B. Gana, Sales Accounting Manager of Bluetti Energy PH, Inc., showcasing their products, such as portable power stations and solar panels.



Bluetti's power stations are fast-charging and compact, have a long lifespan, and can be controlled via the Bluetti App.



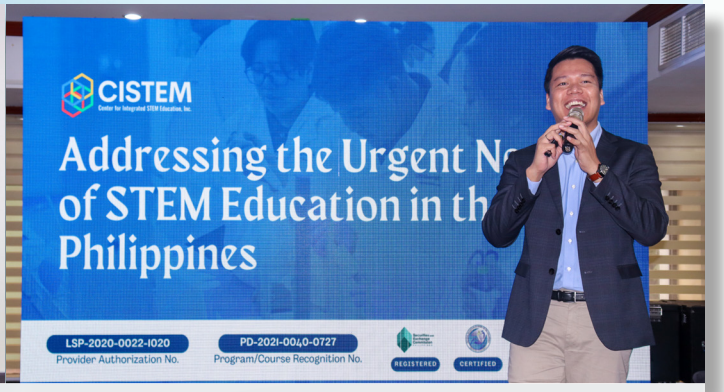
Maricar B. Estole, Program Head of ABS-CBN Foundation's Programa Genio, presenting the result of Programa Genio's partnership with DOST-STII and STARBOOKS.



Mary Anne Eugenio, Product Division Head of C&E Adaptive Learning Solutions (C&E ALS), presenting their expansive portfolio and how their programs help the education sector.



Judith Sombilon, Foundation Project Officer of C&E ALS, introducing Project READ, their book donation program which enables access to quality learning and reading materials to far-flung communities.

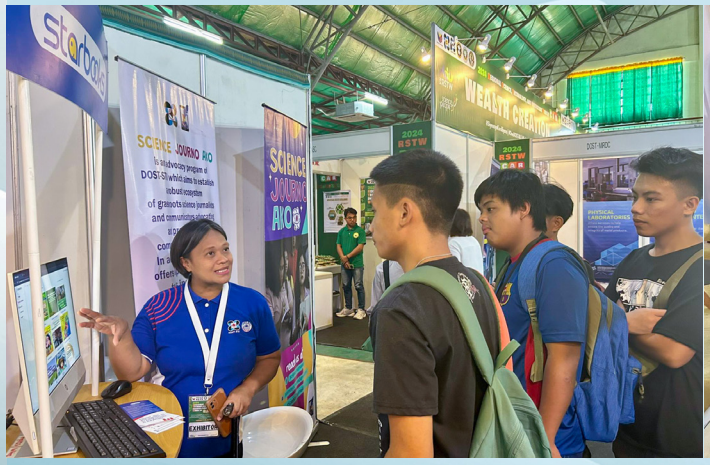


Melvin T. Magsayo, Executive Director of the Center for Integrated STEM Education (CISTEM) talking about CISTEM's contribution to education, environment, and agriculture sector through STEM Education and training programs.



Alan C. Taule, Chief of the Information Research and Analysis Division, congratulating everyone on a year of success in STARBOOKS and wished everyone safe travel in his closing remarks.

The Year in Exhibits




STARBOOKS Exhibit at the 2024 Regional Science, Technology, and Innovation Week (RSTW) in the Cordillera Administrative Region on 8-10 August 2024 at the Ifugao State University Gymnasium in Lamut, Ifugao. *Photos by Elmer B. Generalao*






STARBOOKS Exhibit at the celebration of the 2024 National Youth Science, Technology, and Innovation Festival (NYSTIF) on 19-21 September 2024 at the Philippine International Convention Center (PICC) Forum Tent in Pasay City. *Photos by Rommel M. Azucena, Jr.*



STARBOOKS Exhibit in celebration of the 2024 SOCCSKSARGEN Regional Science, Technology, and Innovation Week (RSTW) and Handa Pilipinas: Mindanao Leg on 2-4 October 2024 at the Veranza Mall Atrium and KCC Convention Center, General Santos City. *Photos by Rommel M. Azucena, Jr.*



STARBOOKS Exhibit at the the Freedom of Information (FOI) Workshop for Librarians titled, "LibVOCACY in Practice: Empowering Libraries through Institutional Initiatives and FOI" on 6 November 2024. *Photos by Rommel M. Azucena, Jr.*



STARBOOKS Exhibit in celebration of the 34th Library and Information Services Month at the National Library of the Philippines on 19 November 2024. *Photos by Rommel M. Azucena, Jr.*

Partners Corner









DOST-STII, BPI Foundation Bring STARBOOKS to Region V Schools

31 July 2024 | text by Rommel M. Azucena, Jr. | photos by Jonathan D. Abalon, *DOST-STII*



The DOST-Science and Technology Information Institute (DOST-STII), in collaboration with BPI Foundation Inc., delivered two STARBOOKS-equipped computer packages to Balogo National High School (BNHS) and Sorsogon Pilot Elementary School (SPES) in Region V on July 25 and 26, respectively.

The turnover rites were conducted in partnership with DOST Regional Office V and the DOST-Albay.

In his message, Engr. Domingo Peña Jr., Provincial Director of DOST-Albay, emphasized that STARBOOKS can be a valuable tool for the more than 1,000 learners of Balogo National High School, helping them to develop 21st-century skills essential for their future careers.

Both beneficiary schools received a comprehensive user orientation and training on how to effectively use STARBOOKS.

This initiative is part of the BPI Foundation's "Kasama Lahat sa Pag-unlad" advocacy, that aims to build a sustainable, inclusive, and financially well Philippines. It also supports DOST-STII's mission of disseminating science, technology, and innovation learning resources through STARBOOKS.

This second round of donations from the BPI Foundation, worth PHP 2.1 million, will enable 30 remote schools across the Philippines to access free, state-of-the-art learning resources.









DOST-STII, BPI Foundation Take Digital Library to E. Visayas

06 August 2024 | text by Rommel M. Azucena, Jr. | photos by Rowel S. Huera, *DOST-STII*



The Department of Science and Technology - Science and Technology Information Institute (DOST-STII) has partnered with the BPI Foundation Inc. to bring STARBOOKS to select schools in Eastern Visayas.

A turnover ceremony took place at Luntad Elementary School in Palo, Leyte to mark this partnership.

The six recipient schools receiving STARBOOKS-equipped computer packages are as follows: Luntad Elementary School in Palo, Leyte; Pulang Yuta Elementary School in Caibiran, Biliran; Hanginan Elementary School in Maasin City, Southern Leyte; Cuyting Uy National High School in Jiabong, Samar; Eugenio S. Daza Pilot Elementary School in Borongan City, Eastern Samar; and Galutan National High School in Catarman, Northern Samar.

The beneficiary schools received comprehensive orientation and training on how to effectively utilize the STARBOOKS system. This initiative is part of the BPI Foundation's "Kasama Lahat sa Pag-unlad" advocacy, which aims to foster a sustainable, inclusive, and financially sound Philippines. It also supports DOST-STII's mission to disseminate science, technology, and innovation learning resources through STARBOOKS.

This second round of donations from the BPI Foundation, worth PHP 2.1 million, will enable 30 remote schools across the Philippines to access state-of-the-art learning resources for free.









DOST, DILG Rolls STARBOOKS 4G

09 August 2024 | text and photos by Precious T. Biraquit, *DOST-STII*

The Department of Science and Technology – Science and Technology Information Institute (DOST-STII), in coordination with the DOST- Bohol rolls out the mass installation of STARBOOKS for Governance or STARBOOKS 4G at the Department of the Interior and Local Government-Bohol.

Forty-eight computer units were installed with STARBOOKS 4G, containing local governance-related information and education materials, program information, and S&T-related contents such as science and technology information, livelihood, disaster risk and reduction management, financial literacy, and K-12 learning materials.

The units were slated to be distributed among the forty-eight local government units of the Bohol province.



STARBOOKS 4G Orientation at the Metro Center Hotel, Tagbilaran

09 August 2024 | text and photos by Precious T. Biraquit, *DOST-STII*



Field officers and IT representatives from different local government units (LGUs) of Bohol participated during the STARBOOKS 4G Users' Orientation and Training at the Metro Centre Hotel, Tagbilaran City.

Attending this special event were DILG-Bohol Provincial Director Jerome G. Gonzales and DOST-Bohol Provincial Director Vina R. Antopina, who also delivered their message of support to the 4G project.

DOST-STII Information Resource and Analysis Division Chief Alan C. Taule gave a brief overview of STARBOOKS while STARBOOKS Unit Head Marievic V. Narquita presented the salient features of STARBOOKS 4G.

The LGU representatives had the opportunity to test STARBOOKS 4G by interacting with the available kiosks set up at the event.

STARBOOKS 4G aims to enhance the information accessibility of the Local Governance Resource Center (LGRC) of the DILG-Bohol Province by making the local governance learning and information materials accessible to its constituents across the province.





STARBOOKS 4G Unveiled at the DILG-Bohol

09 August 2024 | text and photos by Precious T. Biraquit, *DOST-STII*

The STARBOOKS for Governance (STARBOOKS 4G) kiosk was presented in a Memorandum of Understanding signing ceremony at the Department of Interior and Local Government (DILG) – Bohol.

DILG Region VII Director Leocadio T. Trovela unveiled the kiosk that will be displayed in their office and used by both personnel and clients.

Witnessing the significant event was the DILG-Bohol Provincial Director Jerome G. Gonzales, the Department of Science and Technology - Science and Technology Information Institute's (DOST-STII) Information Resources and Analysis Division Chief Alan C. Taule and the Provincial Science and Technology Office Director Vina R. Antopina.

STARBOOKS 4G was developed to be a one-stop offline source for local governance-related materials throughout the local government units of Bohol.









STARBOOKS 4G Deployed to 4 Bohol LGUs

09 August 2024 | text and photos by Precious T. Biraquit, *DOST-STII*

STARBOOKS for Governance (STARBOOKS 4G) has officially included four local government units of Bohol as its initial adopters that aim to deliver information and learning materials on local governance.

Tagbilaran, along with municipalities of Baclayon, Panglao, and Sikatuna, received the STARBOOKS 4G equipped units.

The 44 additional municipalities in the island province will soon receive their own digital library-in-a-box as details of the partnership will soon be finalized between the Department of Science and Technology-Science and Technology Information Institute, DOST Regional Office VII, DOST-Bohol, and the Department of Interior and Local Government -Bohol.

STARBOOKS 4G is the governance version of the regular STARBOOKS that houses DILG-issued ordinances, laws, program information, and related news.















Oriental Mindoro IP Schools Receive Solar-Powered STARBOOKS

19 August 2024 | text by Rommel M. Azucena, Jr. | photos by Rommel M. Azucena, Jr | Reynaldo A. Morales, Jr. | Arjay C. Escondo, *DOST-STII*



The DOST-Science and Technology Information Institute (DOST-STII) partnered with Mountain Support PH, Inc. (MSPI), a youth-led nonprofit organization to install solar-powered STARBOOKS at Sinariri Elementary School and Panaytayan Elementary School in Mansalay, Oriental Mindoro on 13-14 August 2024.

Sinariri ES is a 4-hour hike away from Panaytayan ES. More than 690 elementary students and 23 teachers from both schools will benefit from the wide range of free science, technology, and innovation information resources in STARBOOKS.

Earlier, MSPI turned over two portable solar power stations and two laptop units to DOST-STII for deployment as a STARBOOKS server unit in two pre-selected IP schools in the province.

Mountain Support PH, Inc. provides human-centered solutions to socially vulnerable and off-grid mountainous communities.









Mindoro IP School Receives Digital S&T Library from IT Donor

05 September 2024 | text by Rommel M. Azucena, Jr. | photos by Ma. Giselle M. Geraldino, *DOST-STII*







The Department of Science and Technology-Science and Technology Information Institute and Salesforce struck a partnership by giving a remote Indigenous school in Roxas, Oriental Mindoro a STARBOOKS unit to raise the learner's science aptitude.

The E.M. Fabella-Ansaldo Elementary School is now a proud recipient of the offline digital library STARBOOKS, along with two laptops, three smart TVs, and a Starlink kit with a two-year internet subscription, all set to supercharge their learning experience.

This community service was made possible through the support of partners including Salesforce, Erie Digital Technology, Slack, Make Sense, and Knowledge Channel.

The support also included donations of school bags and groceries to aid the Mangyan learners.

How awesome is that, Kamangyan?









STARBOOKS Delivered to Four Remote Schools in Central Luzon

06 September 2024 | text and photos by Rommel M. Azucena Jr., *DOST-STII*



The Department of Science and Technology-Science and Technology Information Institute (DOST-STII) and the BPI Foundation partnered yet again to install STARBOOKS in a number of remote, isolated schools in Region III.

The following schools received a complete STARBOOKS computer package with the pod on a series of deployments in four provinces from 27-29 August 2024.

Lauis National High School in Candelaria, Zambales, Sto. Tomas National High School in Sasmuan, Pampanga, and Dueg Resettlement Elementary School in San Clemente, Tarlac, and Pantabangan West Integrated School in Pantabangan, Nueva Ecija.

More than 2,600 elementary and high school students from the four schools will benefit from the thousands of K-12 and STI (science, technology, and innovation) learning resources available in STARBOOKS Offline. A total of 128 teachers can also utilize the vast repository of STARBOOKS.

All beneficiary schools received a comprehensive user orientation and training on effectively utilizing STARBOOKS conducted by STARBOOKS deployment officers from the different DOST offices of Zambales, Pampanga, Tarlac, and Nueva Ecija with support from the DOST Regional Office III.

This initiative is part of DOST-STII's mission of disseminating science, technology, and innovation learning resources through STARBOOKS. This also supports BPI Foundation's "Kasama Lahat sa Pag-unlad" advocacy, aiming to build a sustainable, inclusive, and financially well Philippines.

This second round of donations from the BPI Foundation, worth PHP 2.1 million, enables 30 remote schools across the Philippines to access free, state-of-the-art learning resources.









Cerebro Partners with DOST-STII

03 October 2024 | text and photos by Justine Itugot, Cerebro Solutions, Inc.

Cerebro has officially entered into a partnership with the DOST-Science and Technology Information Institute (STII) for the continuing professional development of teachers, particularly those who are implementing the DOST-STARBOOKS project within their institutions.



This partnership is the third engagement of Cerebro within the DOST Philippines system, with the other two being with the DOST-Philippine Council for Industry, Energy, and Emerging Technology Research and Development and the Technology Application and Promotion Institute.

The Science and Technology Academic and Research-Based Openly Operated KioskS (STARBOOKS) contain hundreds of thousands of digitized science and technology resources in text, audio, and video formats housed in specially designed "pods" that function as a digital library, which are also intended to be highly transportable to reach the furthest locations in the Philippines including the off-grid sites, conflict areas, and the remotest Indigenous communities.

Aside from assisting in the capacity building of STARBOOKS implementers, Cerebro has also committed to include its collection of digital content in the various STARBOOKS kiosks located in different public and private schools nationwide that can be operated even without internet connection.

Three New Content Partners Team Up with STARBOOKS

11 December 2024 | text by Precious T. Biraquit | photos by Rommel M. Azucena, Jr., *DOST-STII*

On 10 December 2024, the Department of Agriculture-National Fisheries Research and Development Institute (DA-NFRDI), the Department of Agriculture-Agricultural Credit Policy Council (DA-ACPC), and the Philippine Business for Education (PBEd) inked partnership with the Department of Science and Technology – Science and Technology Information Institute (DOST-STII) in a ceremonial Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) signing at the Berjaya Makati Hotel.

These collaborations will bring agriculture and civic education resources to the STARBOOKS database, helping users learn more about fishery research and development, agricultural credit and financing, and citizenship rights and responsibilities.

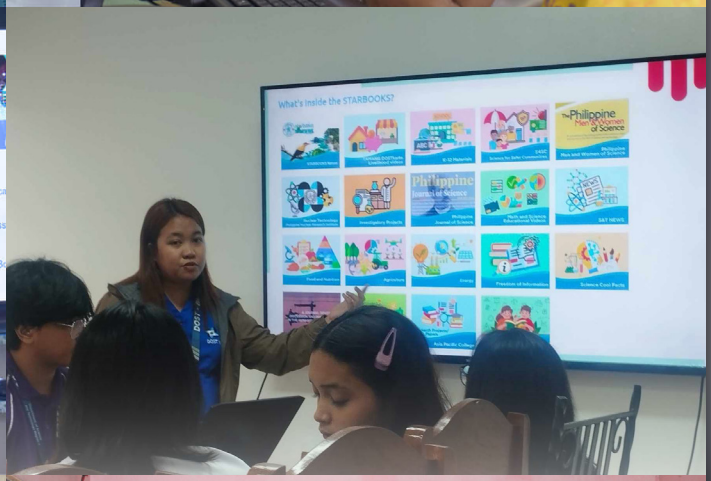


Regional News





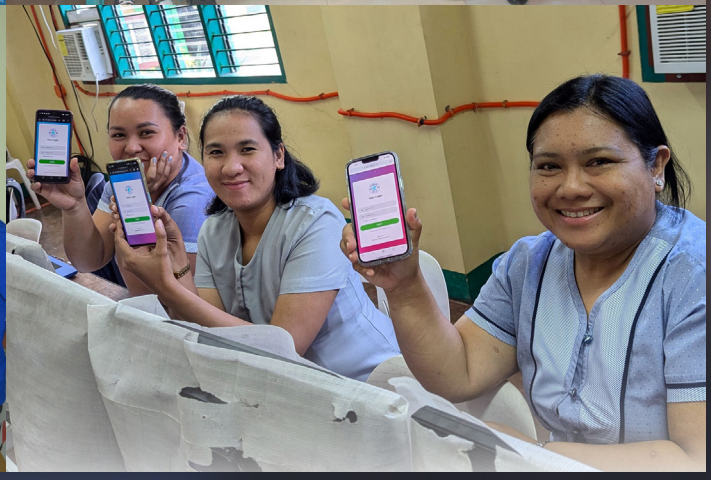












DOST-Bicol Trains District Schools in Bulusan

11 July 2024 | text and photos by DOST-Bicol

DOST-Bicol conducted the STARBOOKS orientation and hands-on training for teachers and Information and Communications Technology personnel to capacitate 24 schools in the Bulusan Schools District.

The training held at the Multipurpose Hall of Bulusan Central School in Bulusan, Sorsogon aims to equip participants with the necessary skills to maximize the utilization of the newly installed STARBOOKS digital library.

By empowering educators to harness this valuable resource, DOST - Bicol reaffirms its commitment to bridging the digital divide and strengthening the foundation of science and technology education throughout the province.



S&T Digital Library Goes to Cadalagan Elementary School

11 July 2024 | text and photo by DOST-Region IX



The Department of Science and Technology-Science and Technology Information Institute (DOST-STII) and BPI Foundation Incorporated in collaboration with DOST Regional Office IX, handed over the STARBOOKS unit to Cadalagan Elementary School in La Paz, Zamboanga City.

This effort is part of the BPI Foundation's "Kasama Lahat sa Pag-unlad" crusade, which seeks to build a sustainable, inclusive, and financially stable Philippines, and it supports DOST-STII's purpose to spread science, technology, and innovation learning resources via STARBOOKS.

Ms. Juvylyn S. Reniva, the Associate Director of BPI Foundation Incorporated, shared in her closing remarks, "Inclusive progress is our goal – 'Kasama Lahat sa Pag-unlad.' Good education is the key to economic growth; so let's focus on math, science, and technology."

Ms. Eda R. Salipan, BPI Relationship Manager of the Zamboanga Area - VISMIN Division, attended the ceremony, as did the outgoing Principal of Cadalagan Elementary School, Mr. Glenn E. Lusaya and the new Principal, Mr. Jerome Lucilo C. Lozano, and the CES faculty.

The installation of STARBOOKS at Cadalagan Elementary School is projected to improve students' educational experiences by providing them with current knowledge and interactive learning tools that can help them achieve academic success and overall growth.

Partnership in Championing Science Education up to the Last Mile!

17 July 2024 | text and photo by Department of Science and Technology Tarlac

The Department of Science and Technology-Regional Office III (DOST III) and Chevron Holdings, Inc. (CHI) joined forces in rolling out the digital offline library at Pilien Elementary School.

This project was formalized through the signing of the Deed of Donations that provided 20 secondhand laptops to identified schools in Central Luzon wherein STARBOOKs will be installed.

The hand-over activity was attended by Chevron Holdings, Inc. as represented by their Corporate Affairs Manager, Arlita T. Narag, and Yshee Babali, CHI Culture and Engagement Specialist.

The DOST III was represented by Tarlac Provincial S&T Director Karen Y. Dañez and Cristina T. Isla, STARBOOKS deployment officer.



Present during the turnover was Pilien Elementary School head teacher Cyril E. Dionida who was present to receive the donations.

The partnership will enable last-mile schools access to a wealth of knowledge that STARBOOKS offers.

The turnover marks the 85th STARBOOKS site in the Province of Tarlac.

In preparation for the upcoming school year, CHI and its employees also donated school and office supplies for the students and faculty of Pilien Elementary School.

CEST Project Pitches Inclusive Growth in N. Cotabato

18 July 2024 | text and photos by DOST XII – Cotabato Provincial Office



Inclusivity is not just about opening doors but ensuring everyone has a stake and voice that leads to equitable development.

Driven by this principle, the Department of Science and Technology-Regional Office XII turned over its Community Empowerment through the Science & Technology (CEST) Project in Tapodoc, Aleosan, Cotabato. This project aims to empower local communities by leveraging science and technology to address various socio-economic challenges.

The community of Tapodoc has received a solar-powered water system and a unit of STARBOOKS. The solar-powered water system will provide a sustainable and reliable source of potable water, addressing the critical need for clean drinking water in the community. This initiative is part of the health and nutrition component of the CEST program, which aims to improve public health outcomes and ensure access to essential resources.

The DOST-STARBOOKS unit is a digital library developed by the DOST-Science and Technology Information Institute (STII), which will give students at Tapodoc Elementary School access to a vast repository of science and technology information without the need for internet connectivity.

This is especially beneficial for Tapodoc, where internet access is limited, thus enhancing educational opportunities and supporting literacy and learning.





Following the turnover, Mr. Benjie Francisco, STARBOOKS Regional Project Assistant, conducted a comprehensive training session for the community on how to use STARBOOKS effectively.

The training familiarized residents with the functionalities of the digital library, ensuring they can utilize this resource for educational and informational purposes. The session included demonstrations equipping the community with the knowledge needed to maximize the benefits of STARBOOKS. DOST XII Regional Director Sammy Malawan, represented by Provincial Director Michael Ty Mayo, emphasized that through the CEST Program, DOST XII aims to promote inclusivity by prioritizing Geographically Isolated and Disadvantaged Areas (GIDAs) and communities affected by the End Local Communist Armed Conflict (ELCAC).

In partnership with Hon. Governor Emmylou Lala Taliño-Mendoza, DOST XII highlighted that this effort supports the Whole-of-Nation Approach, a peace and development strategy designed to prioritize and harmonize the delivery of basic services and social development packages in conflict-affected and vulnerable areas, fostering stability and growth.

This initiative aligns with the DOST's mantra, #OneDOST4U, which aims to make science and technology accessible and relatable for everyone, ensuring that no one is left behind.

By bringing science and technology interventions to remote and underserved communities, DOST seeks to bridge the gap between urban and rural areas, promoting inclusive development and enhancing the quality of life for all Filipinos.

Offline S&T Library Reaches Remote Quezon School

23 July 2024 | text and photo by DOST Quezon

To make science and technology information accessible to students of Quezon, DOST turned over the STARBOOKS at the Cesar C. Tan Memorial National High School (CCTMNHS).

The Team Energy Corporation, which spearheaded the donation to three computer units, a 75-inch television, a WiFi modem, and several computer accessories, enables the more than 700 students and faculty personnel to gain access to a treasure trove of S&T information and educational materials.

STARBOOKS, a digital library in a box, was developed by the DOST-Science and Technology Information Institute.



It has thousands of digitized science and technology resources, including books, journals, theses, technical reports, and even the K-12 Curriculum, which can be accessed online and offline.

A STARBOOKS orientation and training was attended by CCTMNHS teachers and was facilitated by DOST Quezon staff, Unice Faith N. Cataquiz, PTA I, and Aldwin T. Royena, Science Research Specialist II.



Also, DOST Quezon delivered 500 pieces of SIGLA Crunchies, a complementary food developed by the DOST-Food and Nutrition Research Institute to provide supplementary nutrition to students once classes have started.

The CCTMNHS is located at the Alabat Island, Municipality of Quezon, which belongs to the geographically isolated and disadvantaged areas in Quezon Province.

BPI Foundation Brings STARBOOKS to Sorsogon School

26 July 2024 | text and photo by DOST V Provincial S&T Office – Sorsogon

The Department of Science and Technology-Science and Technology Information Institute (DOST-STII), in collaboration with DOST Regional Office V and DOST-Sorsogon, along with the BPI Foundation, Inc., has provided a STARBOOKS-ready computer unit to the Sorsogon Pilot Elementary School in Talisay, Sorsogon City.

This initiative is part of the BPI Foundation's "Kasama Lahat sa Pag-unlad" advocacy, which aims to promote a sustainable, inclusive, and financially stable Philippines. It also aligns with DOST-STII's objective to disseminate science, technology, and innovation learning resources through the Science and Technology Academic and Research-Based Openly-Operated KioskS (STARBOOKS).

The turnover ceremony and training were attended by twenty-three participants, including teaching staff and students. Mr. Reynaldo A. Morales, Jr., a Science Research Analyst from DOST-STII, provided a detailed overview of STARBOOKS, explaining its background and history.

During the STARBOOKS Orientation and Hands-on Training, he highlighted the system's content, which includes learning materials designed for students in Grades 1-12, as well as resources beneficial for teachers.



The training aimed to equip participants with the necessary knowledge and skills to operate, maintain, and submit reports using the STARBOOKS system.

This initiative is expected to positively impact over 2,500 students and 93 teaching staff members, empowering them and addressing gaps in available learning materials. It aims to spark interest in science and technology among students and promote financial literacy through an integrated financial module.

"We are very grateful to DOST and BPI Inc. This will be particularly useful for Brigada Eskwela 2024, especially as the start of classes approaches. Together, we can educate learners and achieve our goal of producing Sorsoganon scientists," stated SPES Principal Jeannie C. Dellosa during her closing remarks.

Representatives from DOST Regional Office V, DOST-Sorsogon, and Department of Education SDO-Sorsogon City and Province were also present at the event.

STARBOOKS is a multi-awarded, stand-alone science and technology (S&T) library in a box, developed by the DOST-STII. It provides a wide range of educational and learning resources based on science and technology in various formats.





STARBOOKS Widens S&T Knowledge in Region 8

01 August 2024 | text and photos by DOST Regional Office No. VIII



A total of six STARBOOKS units were successfully handed over recently to help students from Luntad Elementary School in Palo, Leyte widen their knowledge in science and technology through STARBOOKS.

Among the recipient schools were:

- Luntad Elementary School Palo, Leyte
- Pulang Yuta Elementary School Caibiran, Biliran
- Hanginan Elementary School, Maasin City, Southern Leyte
- Cuyting Uy National High School, Jiabong, Samar
- Eugenio S. Daza Pilot Elementary School, Borongan City, Eastern Samar and
- Galutan National High School, Catarman, Northern Samar.

STARBOOKS is an offline digital library designed to provide access to a wider S&T resources that can be used in Geographically Isolated and Disadvantaged Areas (GIDAs).

The DOST-STII conducted the comprehensive STARBOOKS User Training and Orientation to equip faculty personnel on how to troubleshoot and operate the STARBOOKS.

On the other hand, the BPI Foundation pledged its support to the STARBOOKS initiative, advocating for a brighter future for everyone under the slogan "Kasama Lahat sa Pag-unlad."

This successful turnover was made possible through the partnership of the Department of Science and Technology Region VIII through the efforts of the MIS Unit Head, Engr. Florentino L. Quiñones, with the Bank of the Philippine Islands (BPI) Foundation, Department of Education (DepEd), DOST-Science and Technology Information Institute (DOST-STII), Local Government Unit (LGU) of Palo, and the Provincial Science and Technology Offices (PSTOs) across Region VIII.

The activity also received notable support from the Municipality of Palo, Leyte with the presence of its active Mayor, Hon. Remedios "Matin" L. Petilla; the Schools Division Superintendents of Tacloban City and Borongan City, Dr. Mariz S. Magan and Dr. Edgar Tenasas, respectively; the Provincial S&T Directors, Dr. Evelyn B. Tablante



of PSTO Samar, Engr. Veronica A. Laguitan of PSTO Northern Samar, OIC-PSTD of Leyte, Mr. Roderick B. Pacañot, OIC-PSTD of Southern Leyte, Mr. Emmanuel E. Lagdamen; representatives from PSTO Biliran, Ms. Gracevillalyn R. Saldo, and PSTO E. Samar, Engr. Michaela Padagdag; as well as teachers from all the recipient schools.



Represented by Mr. Pacañot, DOST VIII Regional Director, Dr. John Glenn Ocaña emphasized that STARBOOKS represents a significant investment in knowledge. He highlighted that STARBOOKS provides access to a wide range of educational resources, which not only enhances students' academic performance but also drives socio-economic progress in the region.

DepEd hopes the initiative will continue, leading to all schools in the region eventually acquiring STARBOOKS. They believe this collaboration will foster educational advancement and significantly contribute to the development of students throughout the region, preparing them for future challenges and opportunities.

STARBOOKS Goes to Josefina Fetalino-Malayo Elementary School

09 August 2024 | text and photo by DOST-PSTO Romblon

STARBOOKS is an information kiosk packed with educational videos, interactive course ware, and publications on DOST-generated technologies.

The DOST-MIMAROPA PSTO-Romblon went to Josefina Fetalino-Malayo Elementary School and showcased the STARBOOKS technology. Thirty-one participants composed of students, teachers, and parents joined the orientation and enjoyed firsthand the interactive learning programs in STARBOOKS.







DOST Trains Cam. Norte School Personnel

12 August 2024 | text and photos by DOST V Provincial S&T Office - Camarines Norte

The DOST-Camarines Norte successfully conducted a 2-day orientation aimed at enhancing access to science and technology resources through the DOST-STII STARBOOKS.

Mr. Mark Lyndon Orogo, PTAide V, STARBOOKS IT staff from DOST Regional Office V, with the assistance of DOST-Camarines Norte Science Research Specialist I Kurt Robin A. Jalgalado, provided teachers and students of Leocadio Alejo Entienza High School in Sta. Elena, Camarines Norte with valuable knowledge on using and maintaining the STARBOOKS system, empowering them to explore a wealth of educational resources.



The training orientation on STARBOOKS continued at BLGU Matacong, participated by BLGU personnel and San Lorenzo Ruiz Technological College Inc. IT Staff, in San Lorenzo Ruiz, Camarines Norte on the following day, 09 August 2024.



This session was guided by Mr. Orogo and Kristal Joy M. Guevarra, Science Research Specialist II/ STARBOOKS Deployment Officer.

Their expertise ensured that participants were well-prepared to maximize the use of STARBOOKS for their learning and research needs.



These consecutive orientations highlight DOST's dedication to fostering knowledge and innovation, making science and technology resources accessible to communities and educational institutions throughout Camarines Norte.

Caloocan City Schools Gain Access to Digital S&T Library

13 August 2024 | text and photo by DOST-National Capital Region CAMANAVA Cluster

The Department of Science and Technology-National Capital Region through its CAMANAVA Cluster Office, DOST-Science and Technology Information Institute, and the Caloocan City Schools Division Office have partnered to install more than 80 units of the STARBOOKS at Caloocan City public schools.



The official launch and orientation for the STARBOOKS was held at the SDO Caloocan Conference Hall in Grace Park, Caloocan City.

Present at the launch were officials from SDO-Caloocan including Dr. Brian Ilan, Assistant Schools Division Superintendent; Ms. Jenilyn Rose Corpuz, Schools Division Superintendent; Mr. Dennis Mendoza, Regional LR Education Program Supervisor, and Dr. Jocelyn Aliñab, Chief Education Program Supervisor. They were joined by Mr. Rommel Azucena Jr. and Mr. Nicholas Zapanta from the DOST team.

STARBOOKS is the Philippines' first digital S&T Library, which was developed by the DOST-Science and Technology Information Institute. The digital library contains various learning resources, mainly on science, technology, engineering, and mathematics.

The Curious Case of STARBOOKS: One Site Leads to Another

21 August 2024 | text and photo by Anthony Ian H. Reyes , DOST Regional Office No. 1



In a fast-changing, digitally dominated knowledge economy, the Department of Science and Technology (DOST) finds its niche on a groundbreaking initiative that could transform the education model in the country once the majority of the education sector recognizes the impacts and benefits of the STARBOOKS in enhancing the S&T proficiency among learners.

In the province of La Union, a curious case has been witnessed.

One STARBOOKS installation has led to a chain of new sites. Developed by DOST-STII and with support from various DOST regional offices including the DOST Regional Office I, the STARBOOKS is a digital offline science library that contains thousands of STEM materials accessible with just a click away.

What is good is that the science content on STARBOOKS can be updated regularly, to keep more learners from learning, and more readers, from reading.

For years, the DOST I has deployed STARBOOKS in La Union, but just recently has seen a rise in deployments of new sites to expand its reach in the province.

Starting in January 2024, STARBOOKS has been installed in Lingsat Rullaniana Library Parklet

in San Gabriel. According to retired nurse Eleazar M. Rullan, a lifelong learner and a wide reader himself, this led to the integration of STARBOOKS Online into the library, providing the community with a wealth of digital resources. "We want to make sure that our community has easy access to knowledge in this digital age," Mr. Rullan stated, emphasizing the library's commitment to merging tradition with modern technology.

The initiative gained momentum with San Gabriel Vocational High School's adoption on March 1, 2024. The school held an orientation and training session led by Mr. Anthony Ian Reyes and Engr. Bernadine Suniega. Head Teacher III Deo Tarnate highlighted STARBOOKS' potential to enhance research and learning, even in areas with limited internet access, marking a significant step towards a more tech-savvy educational environment.





On March 15, 2024, Pugo Central National High School joined STARBOOKS, with an MOU signing that showcased the school's dedication to integrating digital resources into its curriculum. PSTO-LU Provincial Director Mr. Jonathan M. Viernes and Principal Ross U. Rivera praised STARBOOKS for its positive impact on academic performance, underscoring its potential to transform learning experiences.

Prime Aces College, Incorporated, in Bauang, La Union, joined the STARBOOKS network on March 22, 2024, marking a significant advancement in blending traditional and digital resources. College President Mr. Keneth N. Gozun and Mr. Jonathan M. Viernes led the MOU signing, reflecting the college's forward-thinking approach.

The momentum continued as Eulogio Clarence De Guzman Jr. Vocational National High School (ECDGJNHS) joined on May 30, 2024, with Principal Dr. Jennifer B. Mejia and nineteen teachers participating in an MOU signing, orientation, and training session led by Ms. Katrina Ronquillo and Mr. Anthony Ian Reyes.



Union Christian College (UCC) in San Fernando City, La Union, became the latest institution to adopt STARBOOKS on August 1, 2024. The event, attended by 323 faculty members and students, highlighted the platform's broad material and user-friendly interface, with notable attendees acknowledging the boost STARBOOKS will bring to the college's educational offerings.

The STARBOOKS initiative stands as a testament to DOST's commitment to modernizing education and making high-quality resources accessible nationwide.

In La Union, STARBOOKS is paving the way for a new era of technology-driven education, with DOST 1's ongoing efforts aiming to enhance educational quality, spark interest in science and technology, and encourage students to pursue STEM careers and become DOST scholars. The story of STARBOOKS in La Union is one of progress and innovation, bringing the vision of a digitally empowered educational landscape closer to reality.

DOST-Bicol Installs STARBOOKS to Bote Integrated School

21 August 2024 | text and photos by DOST V Provincial S&T Office – Catanduanes

DOST Regional Office V, through its DOST-Catanduanes, has turned over the STARBOOKS at the Bote Integrated School in Bato, Catanduanes.

This project is part of the Community Empowerment through Science and Technology program and aims to broaden access to scientific and educational materials for the local community.

STARBOOKS, a standalone digital kiosk, offers offline access to a comprehensive range of scientific articles, research papers, and educational videos, providing a vital resource for areas with limited internet connectivity.

To facilitate effective use of the kiosk, DOST-Catanduanes conducted an orientation and hands-on training for 51 participants, including students and faculty members.



STARBOOKS Orientation Isinagawa sa Muntinlupa City Public Library

27 August 2024 | text and photo by Muntinlupa City Public Library Official Mcpl

Ang Muntinlupa City Public Library ay nagsagawa ng isang pagbibigay-impormasyon o orientation hinggil sa STARBOOKS upang bigyang-pansin ang kahalagahan ng teknolohiya sa pagpapalawig at pagpapabuti ng edukasyon lalo na sa basic education.

Ang STARBOOKS ay isang offline digital library na naglalaman ng iba't ibang mga learning materials na magagamit ng mga estudyante sa kanilang pananaliksik sa agham, teknolohiya, inhinyero, at matematika.

Layunin ng ating City Library na mas mapalaganap ang kaalaman tungkol sa mga benepisyo at gamit ng Starbooks at kung paano ito makakatulong sa pag-enhance ng learning experience sa mga paaralan at komunidad.



Ito ay ginanap noong 22 August 2024 sa Muntinlupa City Public Library 2nd Floor Plaza Central Building Poblacion, Muntinlupa City. Kasama sa pakikinig ang mga Batang Muntinlupeño na mag-aaral mula sa Putatan Elementary School.

Breaking Barriers, Bridging Knowledge: STARBOOKS Orientation-Training for 18 Public High Schools in Rizal

28 August 2024 | text and photo by DOST Rizal

Following the successful signing of the Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) inked last May 27, the Department of Science and Technology (DOST) through its DOST-Rizal conducted a comprehensive orientation and training at the San Isidro National High School (NHS), Brgy. San Isidro, Antipolo City, province of Rizal for learners and administrators of the Science and Technology Academic and Research-Based Openly Operated KioskS (STARBOOKS), a joint initiative between DOST and the Department of Education (DepEd)-City Schools Division Office (CSDO)-Antipolo.



The orientation and training were attended by principals, librarians, ICT coordinators, and selected students from the 18 public senior high school beneficiaries of the STARBOOKS. Present in this momentous activity were Dir. Fernando E. Ablaza, Provincial S&T Director of DOST-Rizal and Dr. Cristina C. Salazar, Chief for the Curriculum and Implementation Division (CID) of DepEd-CSDO-Antipolo to represent Dr. Lerma L. Flandez, Schools Division Superintendent (SDS) of DepEd-CSDO-Rizal.

To formally start the orientation program, Mr. Ronaldo I. Ata, Principal IV of the San Isidro NHS acknowledged the attendance of the guests and participants. Dr. Shielah May M. Villamor, Education Program Specialist (EPS) for Science then stated the objective of the event which was to integrate the distributed digital library into their instructional materials. In his message, Dir. Ablaza highlighted the benefits of STARBOOKS for both learners and teachers, emphasizing its potential to make lessons more engaging and interactive. Dr. Salazar acknowledged the ongoing advancements in Science and Technology (S&T) education and how STARBOOKS aligns and complements the goals of 21st-century learning.

Next, Ms. Arthea Marie M. Genova, Project Technical Aide IV and Alternate Provincial STARBOOKS Focal from the DOST-PSTO Rizal began the orientation proper with a brief overview of the recent installation of STARBOOKS in 18 Antipolo City public high schools.

She has also provided background information on STARBOOKS, its goals and mandate, and its inclusion in the national priority plan for academic institutions and local government units (LGUs). Ms. Jennefer Jeazon P. Medina, Science Research Specialist II and Provincial STARBOOKS Focal from the DOST-PSTO Rizal then guided the participants through the STARBOOKS application, focusing on navigation for learners and user manuals for administrators.

An open forum concluded the orientation and training. To date, the provincial STARBOOKS team has installed 32 units of STARBOOKS across 13 Antipolo City public high schools and plans to complete the installations in the remaining 5 schools within the month.



STARBOOKS is a public good initiative by the DOST-Science and Technology Information Institute (STII) which includes kiosks that serve as information access portals in key areas in the Philippines. LGUs, non-government organizations (NGOs), academe, and private institutions can avail of this one-stop Science and Technology (S&T) information source.

STARBOOKS Unit Installed in Pantabangan West Integrated School

29 August 2024 | text and photo by DOST – Nueva Ecija



The Department of Science and Technology-Nueva Ecija, in partnership with DOST-Science and Technology Information Institute (DOST-STII) and the Office of Nueva Ecija 2nd District Board Member, Hon. Jason J. Abalos, awarded one unit of STARBOOKS to Pantabangan West Integrated School (PWIS).

This deployment is under the initiative of the BPI Foundation as they donated the offline digital library that contains thousands of resources to PWIS, one of the four recipients in Region III.

NE STARBOOKS Deployment Office Mr. Ralph Louie C. Binene and DOST-STII STARBOOKS Coordinator Mr. Rommel M. Azucena, Jr. discussed with the recipient the process of the utilization of the technology and how it can be maximized for their benefits.

PWIS School Head Mr. Fermin Estil Jr. mentioned in his acceptance speech how this intervention could boost the students' interest in S&T resources, as well as guide them in their education.

DOST NE Provincial Director Ms. Leidi Mel B. Sicat, NE 2nd District Board Member Hon. Jason J. Abalos, and BPI Foundation BPI-Direct Banko Business Manager Ms. Emile M. Cabulay were present in the turnover activity.

This collaboration is a testament to the continuous efforts of private and government agencies to push through progressive interventions to assist rural communities towards development.

Upper Bicutan NHS, STARBOOKS sign MOA

06 September 2024 | text and photos by DOST-National Capital Region MUNTAPARLAS Cluster

Thousands of students from Upper Bicutan National High School (UBNHS) are now benefiting from the innovative science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) courses offered through DOST's Science & Technology Academic and Research-Based Openly Operated KioskS (STARBOOKS) technology.

This initiative is made possible by a memorandum of agreement (MOA) signed between UBNHS and DOST- National Capital Region (DOST-NCR) last 22 August 2024 at the Audio-Visual Room UBNHS Campus, General Santos Avenue, City of Taguig.

STARBOOKS is a digital library that offers thousands of scientific journals, books, references, and



science and technology resources through specially designed "pods" in a user-friendly interface. This is also one of DOST-NCR's efforts to provide S&T resources to students, out-of-school youth, and the public who lack easy access to libraries and science information.

To learn more about the DOST-NCR's human resource and development interventions, you may send us an email at muntaparlas@ncr.dost.gov.ph or contact us at 8772-6157.

USC SHS partners with DOST VII, STARBOOKS

01 October 2024 | text and photos by University of San Carlos SHS



USC Senior High School has sealed a groundbreaking partnership with the Department of Science and Technology VII to introduce the DOST-STARBOOKS program, marking a significant step toward advancing STEM education. The collaboration, formalized through a Memorandum of Agreement on 26 September 2024, is the first of its kind for USC Senior High School and aims to foster a research-driven learning environment.

With STARBOOKS now integrated into the USC Basic Education library system and computer labs, students and teachers can access a wealth of offline science and technology resources, empowering the next generation of innovators.

This initiative aligns with USC Senior High School's commitment to advancing the Sustainable Development Goals, promoting inclusive access to quality education and technological innovation.

DOST Rizal, DepEd-CSDO Antipolo Pioneers Local STARBOOKS Whizbee and TUKLAS Investigatory Project Competition

08 October 2024 | text and photo by DOST Rizal

In celebration of the annual Science Month, the Department of Education (DepEd) City Schools Division Office (CSDO) of Antipolo, in collaboration with the Department of Science and Technology -Rizal, successfully hosted the first-ever STARBOOKS Whizbee in Region IV-A.

The competition aimed to recognize the exceptional knowledge and skills of students from Antipolo City's public high schools. Eighteen (18) schools participated in the three-round quiz competition, which tested the participants' understanding of various scientific topics, including astronomy, life and earth sciences, technology, mathematics, and notable Filipino scientists. The STARBOOKS platform served as the primary source for the contestants.

Prior to the main day events, DOST-Rizal representatives judged 20 investigatory research papers under four main categories for the TUKLAS Investigatory



Project Competition, namely Life Science, Physical Science, Robotics & Intelligent Machines, and Mathematical and Computational Sciences. TUKLAS aims to provide opportunities for Junior and Senior High School learners to showcase their research projects based on their field of interest and/or real-world problems, issues, and concerns.

Mr. Alan C. Taule, Chief of the Information and Resources Division of the DOST-Science and Technology Information Institute (DOST-STII) graced the competition to extend his good luck to the participants and expressed hope that students will continuously maximize utilizing STARBOOKS as one of their learning materials.

The roundabout was a resounding success, with students demonstrating their diverse and impressive knowledge and quick thinking skills. Joshua R. Jabagat



from Antipolo City Senior High School emerged as the champion while Leona Patricia D. Lim from Muntidilaw National High School and Ehra Gwyneth L. Apostol from Antipolo City National Science & Technology High School secured the 1st and 2nd runner-ups, respectively for the Grade 11 division; Marvin L. Petalver from San Juan National High School secured the top spot in Grade 12 division while Floyd John G. Montaño from Antipolo City National Science & Technology High School and Ramis L. Germata from Dela Paz National High School placed 1st and 2nd runner-up, respectively.

"The STARBOOKS is a crucial initiative that bridges the digital divide and provides access to educational resources to learners and equips schools with digital libraries," said DOST-Rizal Provincial Director Fernando Ablaza's video message for the event. He also commended the students for participating in the competitions available in the Division Science and Technology Fair and for embracing the intellectual challenge it presented. The STARBOOKS Whizbee Competition underscores the ongoing collaboration between DOST-Rizal and DepEd-CSDO Antipolo in promoting science education and equipping schools with digital libraries. This successful event serves as a testament to the positive impact of these efforts on the learning experiences of students in the region.

STARBOOKS is a public good initiative by the DOST-STII which includes kiosks that serve as the information access portals in key areas in the Philippines. LGUs, non-government organizations (NGOs), academe, and private institutions can avail of this one-stop Science and Technology (S&T) information source.



Bringing S&T in Rural Schools of La Union with STARBOOKS

21 October 2024 | text and photos by DOST Provincial Science and Technology Office - La Union



The Community Empowerment through Science and Technology (CEST) Program, through the Department of Science and Technology- La Union (DOST-LU), conducted a STARBOOKS Users Orientation and Training for educators from LGU Luna and Sudipen last October 17, 2024.

STARBOOKS, the country's first S&T digital library in a box, was developed by the DOST-STII (Science and Technology Information Institute) to provide access to science and technology information for those with limited or no resources.

At the opening program, Dr. Joel B. Nava, Principal IV of Rimos National High School, welcomed DOST representatives and participants, expressing his gratitude for the project's introduction to their school. Mr. Chino Roy Estacio, CEST Coordinator of La Union, spoke on behalf of PSTO-LU's Provincial Director, Mr. Jonathan M. Viernes. He provided an overview of the CEST program and emphasized its focus on Human Resource Development in education.

"This activity is part of the Project (ACAD) Accelerating Community Academics for Development initiative under the CEST Program, aimed at integrating upgraded technology into teaching and learning, bridging the gap between technology and rural schools, and equipping them with modern educational tools developed by DOST STII," stated Mr. Estacio.

The seven recipient schools included Rimos National High School, Rimos Elementary School, Rimos Del Norte Elementary School, Santo Domingo Elementary School, Basig Elementary School, Maliclico Elementary School, and Badang Elementary School, each will be receiving a set of desktop computers equipped with STARBOOKS.

Mr. Justin N. Madrid and Ms. Mary Ann Belen-Ofiana from DOST I served as resource persons, orienting teachers on STARBOOKS' features and operations. A total of seven teachers, two administrative staff, two principals, and two Municipal Planning and Development Coordinators from the LGUs of Luna and Sudipen participated in the training.

During the open forum and sharing of insights, Ms. Mercy Colidso from Basig Integrated School expressed her appreciation for the opportunity, stating, "We assure you that we will utilize this for our teaching.

The children will be motivated to learn through this interactive technology as a platform for education." Similarly, Ms. Femarie Ann N. Corpuz, a teacher from Santo Domingo Elementary School, thanked the DOST CEST Program for providing educational tools and training.







"Thank you very much; the DOST has found a way to help teachers innovate in their teaching methods. We feel fortunate to be the beneficiaries of this Technology" she remarked.

In the closing program, Dr. Michelle E. Jaramilla, Principal II from Sudipen, congratulated the participants on completing the training and expressed her gratitude to the trainers, and coordinators from LGU Luna and Sudipen and to DOST I for their support, highlighting the positive impact of the STI intervention on both educators and students.

S.Kudarat Gets STARBOOKS to Lessen the Digital Gap in the Province

04 November 2024 | text and photo by DOST Region XII



The Department of Science and Technology Regional Office XII (DOST XII) turned over 49 units of STARBOOKS to various municipalities and schools in Sultan Kudarat.

The turnover ceremony was held at the Sultan Kudarat Sports and Cultural Center, Isulan, Sultan Kudarat during the interagency flag-raising hosted by the provincial government.

DOST XII Regional Director Sammy P. Malawan highlighted the significance of this initiative in advancing educational resources and promoting digital inclusivity in Sultan Kudarat.

STARBOOKS, an initiative pioneered by the DOST– Science and Technology Information Institute (DOST-STII), embodies the science department's unwavering commitment to addressing the pressing need for accessible science information and learning materials, particularly to Geographically Isolated and Disadvantaged Areas across the nation.

Recognizing the digital divide faced by communities in various rural areas, STARBOOKS is designed to function as an offline, library-in-a-box, that requires no internet connection.

As RD Malawan emphasized that since its launch 2011, STARBOOKS has been trusted ally in learning, providing students and educators with a vast repository of science and technology knowledge right at their fingertips – effectively bridging educations gaps and inspiring curiousity.

The activity facilitated the turnover of an additional 45 STARBOOKS units to selected schools and municipalities, bringing Sultan Kudarat's total to an impressive 171 units and marking the 673rd units installed nationwide. RD Malawan further noted, "Each unit represents a gateway to the boundless world of science and technology, bringing essential learning resources to classrooms that may have been limited by geography but are now limitless in potential.

Parallel to this, the Honorable Governor Datu Pax Ali S. Mangudadatu of the Province of Sultan Kudarat expressed profound gratitude to DOST XII for its steadfast support in advancing the development of the SOCCSKSARGEN Region and contributing to national progress.

The Governor also highlighted that these inter-agency initiatives exemplify public service at its finest, showcasing a unified effort to elevate local communities, empower stakeholders, and promote inclusive economic growth.

Meanwhile, Provincial Director Ms. Zenaida D. Guiano of PSTO Sultan Kudarat passionately reiterated DOST's mission of bringing its programs and services to every corner of the countryside.

She emphasized the commitment of DOST in ensuring that even the most remote communities experience the tangible benefits of science, technology, and innovation, making a real difference in the lives of Sultan Kudarat residents.

Following the ceremonial turnover, the STARBOOKS Administrators' Orientation was held at Kalimudan Hall in the Division of Sultan Kudarat Office. This vital session brought together 49 dedicated administrators and ICT coordinators, eager to learn about the STARBOOKS kiosks.

The orientation provided a comprehensive understanding of the STARBOOKS system, guiding participants on its functionality and value as a digital library resource. Attendees were briefed on their roles and responsibilities as outlined in the previously signed Memorandum of Understanding, emphasizing their commitment to managing the kiosks effectively and maximizing their potential as learning hubs.







Davao Oriental Receives Digital Library

06 November 2024 | text and photos by DOST Davao Oriental



DOST Davao Oriental | psto.davaooriental@region11.dost.gov.ph | 087-388-4085 | 0905 177 5628

The Department of Science and Technology (DOST), through its DOST-Davao Oriental, in partnership with Davao Oriental State University, deployed and installed the STARBOOKS in schools in Caraga and San Isidro.

In Caraga, STARBOOKS was installed at Santa Fe Elementary School and Potenciano A. Mabanding Integrated School, while in San Isidro, installations took place at San Isidro Central School SPED Center, San Roque Elementary School, Manikling Elementary School, Baon Elementary School, and La Union Elementary School.

Teachers from these schools also underwent onsite orientation to help them get familiarized with basic access, operation, and troubleshooting.

STARBOOKS was developed by the Science and Technology Information Institute. It is an offline, digital science library-in-a-box designed to make science and technology information accessible to the public, especially for those with no internet access.

By utilizing technology and digitized resources, the program ensures that students in remote areas have access to quality learning materials that contribute to the development and advancement of science literacy in the country.



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DOST-MIMAROPA Enhances Learning Opportunities for Children with Special Needs through STARBOOKS

08 November 2024 | text and photo by DOST MIMAROPA





In a significant step towards inclusive education, DOST-MIMAROPA is poised to improve educational resources for children with disabilities in Odiongan, Romblon through the recent signing of a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) between DOST-MIMAROPA and Local Government Unit (LGU) of Odiongan.

The initiative seeks to improve the quality of science education for students enrolled in the special education curriculum at Odiongan South Central Elementary School (OCSES), Odiongan North Central Elementary School (ONCES), and Odiongan National High School (ONHS). The school will receive information and communication technology (ICT) resources, such as wireless router systems and computer tablets with DOST-Science and Technology Academic and Research-Based Openly Operated Kiosks (DOST-STARBOOKS).

STARBOOKS also known as "Library in a Box" contains a wide range of digitized science and technology resources in various formats that are accessible without internet connection.

The meeting also included a collaborative session with Romblon State University (RSU) and the Department of Information and Communications Technology (DICT)-Romblon, focusing on potential digital and AI-driven solutions for promoting a smarter, more sustainable community in Odiongan. Both RSU and DICT-Romblon expressed strong interest in joining DOST-MIMAROPA and LGU-Odiongan in future initiatives to advance smart and sustainable community projects within the province.

DOST-MIMAROPA Extends Access to STI Resources in Oriental Mindoro Schools

13 November 2024 | text and photo by DOST MIMAROPA

In its ongoing efforts to promote science, technology, and innovation (STI) education, DOST-MIMAROPA introduced its flagship digital library initiative, STARBOOKS, at two schools in Oriental Mindoro in September and October 2024, aiming to bridge the digital divide in communities with limited internet access.

DOST-MIMAROPA, through the Provincial S&T Office in Oriental Mindoro, installed the Science and Technology Academic and Research-Based Openly Operated KioskS (STARBOOKS) at Malad Elementary School, marking the school as the latest recipient of this innovative resource.



A memorandum of understanding was signed between DOST-MIMAROPA and the school, followed by a ribbon-cutting ceremony led by Calapan City Mayor Marilou F. Morillo, officials from the local government, teachers, and Barangay Chairman Hector Africa.

"The installation of STARBOOKS marks an exciting milestone for Malad Elementary School and the City of Calapan, made possible by DOST-MIMAROPA.

This digital library will provide our students with invaluable access to a wealth of information and learning resources.

We believe that education is the key to empowerment, and this initiative is a testament to our commitment to fostering a brighter future for our youth. Thank you to everyone involved in making this project a reality.", Mayor Morillo said.

The installation was supported by a donation of a desktop computer from Farmwell Agrimac, the manufacturer of the Palatak Palay Seeder technology, a DOST -MIMAROPA assisted beneficiary.

On the other hand, DOST-MIMAROPA also turned over STARBOOKS to Aurelio Arago Memorial National High School (AAMNHS).

The system was deployed on 50 laptops, providing students and teachers with offline access to a wide collection of STI educational resources.



More than 100 senior high school students and teachers attended an orientation and training session on the platform's applications and benefits, with a focus on how the digital library can enhance learning and encourage careers in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) fields.

As of 2024, DOST-MIMAROPA has distributed a total of 55 STARBOOKS units in Oriental Mindoro and 541 across the entire MIMAROPA region.

This initiative underscores DOST-MIMAROPA's commitment to making scientific and educational resources widely accessible, especially in remote and underserved areas.

Developed by the DOST-Science and Technology Information Institute (DOST-STII), STARBOOKS is the Philippines' first "science library in a box," designed to offer vital scientific knowledge to communities that lack reliable internet connectivity.

With these installations, DOST-MIMAROPA continues to bridge educational gaps and foster interest in STEM, empowering the next generation of students to pursue careers in STI fields.

Tagabuli Elementary School Joins Growing List of STARBOOKS Recipients in Davao del Sur

03 December 2024 | text and photo by DOST-PSTO Davao del Sur

In an exciting development for the local education community, Tagabuli Elementary School has officially joined the list of recipients of STARBOOKS from the DOST XI office.

This initiative will boost students' and teachers' access to science and technology resources.

The partnership was formalized recently through the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between DOST XI and Tagabuli Elementary School.

Present during the event were representatives including Rane A. Gemperoso, School Head, Tagabuli Elementary, Leah Mayol Sumalinog, and Zhaira M. Rabaño, DOST Davao del Sur.

Following the signing of the MOU, units of the STARBOOKS were installed at the school. STARBOOKS provides a wide array of digital S&T materials designed to enrich the learning experience of students and even teachers.



They can now access resources including instructional videos, DOST publications, reference materials, serials, and other interactive materials.

Through this initiative, the Tagabuli Elementary School is taking a significant step towards achieving S&T proficiency among elementary and high school students.

DOST Visits Maribojoc for STARBOOKS MOA Signing

17 December 2024 | text and photos by LGU Maribojoc, Bohol



The Municipality of Maribojoc proudly hosted representatives from the Department of Science and Technology (DOST) for the signing of a Memorandum of Agreement on the implementation of STARBOOKS.

Vice Mayor Engr. Emilio Castilla represented the Municipality during this significant event, demonstrating Maribojoc's commitment to fostering knowledge and innovation in the community.

STARBOOKS is an award-winning digital library developed by the DOST-Science and Technology Information Institute (DOST-STII).

It provides offline access to thousands of resources on science, technology, engineering, mathematics (STEM), and other fields of knowledge, aiming to empower schools, students, and communities.

This partnership is a leap forward for Maribojoc's educational landscape, ensuring that even those in remote areas can access valuable learning materials.

Dasig Maribojoc!

DOST-Bicol installs its 131st STARBOOKS Site in Barcelona

23 December 2024 | text and photos by DOST V Provincial S&T Office – Sorsogon

The Department of Science and Technology Bicol (DOST-Bicol), through DOST-Sorsogon, in partnership with the Local Government of Barcelona launched its 131 STARBOOKS.

Barcelona has formalized its innovation project by prioritizing the development of digitally literate individuals, making digital resources accessible to all Barcelonanons.

A total of 12 participants including LGU's Information Technology personnel and three students from Barcelona National Comprehensive High School attended the training.

Marianne Sheena A. Loria, Science Research Specialist II of DOST-Bicol, and Vincent B. Reperoga, Computer Programmer I, spearheaded the training, providing a technical overview of STARBOOKS.

The training aimed to equip participants with the knowledge and skills to operate, maintain, and submit reports using the STARBOOKS system. Additionally, a hands-on session was conducted on system operation and content access.



Also present during the training were DOST-Sorsogon Provincial Director Sandro B. Noguera, Hon. Cynthia Falcotelo-Fortes, Municipal Mayor, and Agnes F. Yap, Municipal Planning and Development Coordinator. Also present were Bon Carlo D. Salonga, Science Research Specialist II, Judith A. Caraig, PTAide V.

PSTO Davao de Oro Launches STARBOOKS to All Public Schools Across the Province

25 December 2024 | text and photo by DOST Davao de Oro

Marking a key highlight for 2024, the Provincial Science and Technology Office of Davao de Oro, in collaboration with DepEd, has initiated the province-wide installation of STARBOOKS, a digital library designed to provide accessible science and technology resources.

The initiative, formalized through the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) was attended by 393 school heads.

PSTO Davao de Oro Provincial Director Ms. Mayan Jane J. Inni highlighted the deployment of STARBOOKS as a vital step toward nurturing future researchers and innovators in the region.

DepEd Schools Division Superintendent OIC, Ms. Phoebe Refamonte expressed appreciation for the partnership, underscoring the collaboration's potential to uplift learners and communities.





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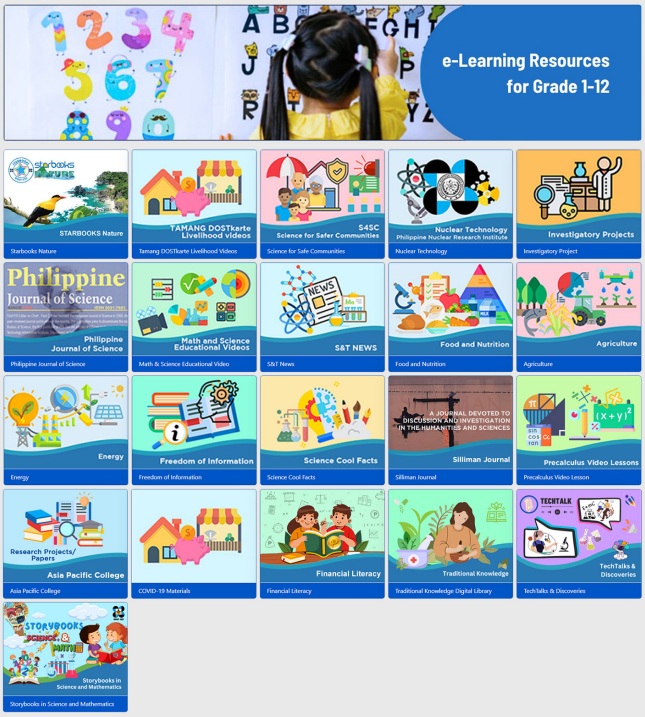
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What's Inside STARBOOKS?

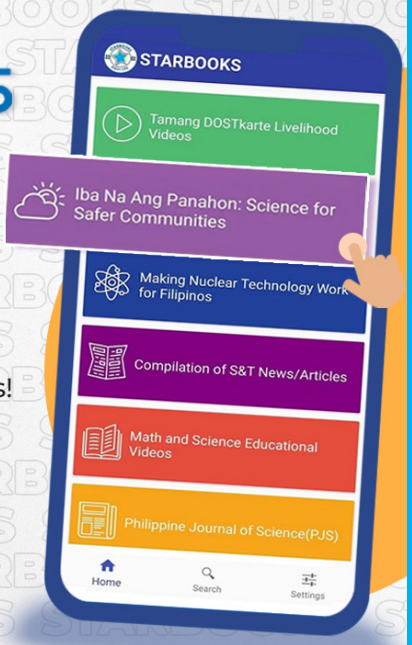


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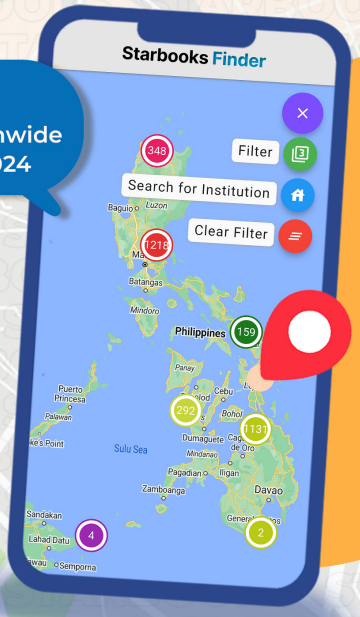
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