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DOST VIII develops “Balik-Otso” online portal to monitor returning residents in Eastern Visayas

The Department of Science and Technology Regional Office No. VIII in collaboration with RIATF-8 and RTF-8 recently launched the online portal called “Balik - Otso.ph”, last July 13, 2020 at the Emergency Operation Center (EOC) of OCD VIII, located at the CCA Building, Leyte Park Hotel, Tacloban City.



Official Launching of the Balik-Otso.ph portal spearheaded by Regional Directors of national government agencies in Eastern Visayas



OCD VIII Regional Director Lord Byron Torrecarion, encouraged all LGUs to help in populating the portal with all necessary data in order for everyone to access reliable information.

Balik-Otso.PH provides information of the total number of returning residents in Region 8. The basis of these information

Balik-Otso portal was developed by the Department of Science and Technology Regional Office No. VIII (DOST VIII) headed by its Regional Director Engr. Ernesto M. Granada upon the request and authority given by the joint RIATF and RTF. The purpose of this information system is to document and monitor all returning residents in Eastern Visayas. This is to make sure that all returnees are strictly following the mandatory self quarantine directive of the IATF.

are gathered from the forms accomplished by the returning residents prior to their departure. It also contains a map that shows markers for every returning resident as well as a summary which indicates the total number for each province in the region.

Director Granada mentioned in his opening message that DOST VIII accepted the challenge in creating a database for documenting the status of returning individuals in the region which then materialized into the development of the online portal known as the "Balik-Otso.PH".

The development of the Balik-Otso.ph portal is another milestone for Eastern Visayas as the demand for these kinds of technologies become prominent in our nation's current situation. With the increasing number of locally-stranded individuals (LSIs), Overseas Filipino Workers (OFWs), Balik Probinsya and Balik Pag-asa (BP2) program beneficiaries arriving in the region, this advancement would be of great help in fighting the spread of COVID-19.

Office of the Civil Defense Region 8 DRRM Division Chief Rey Gozon who represented the

By: Fernando D. Buzon III, DOST VIII



DOST VIII has its new Regional Director

Department of Science and Technology Regional Office VIII (DOST VIII) has its new Regional Director.

Engr. Ernesto M. Granada will now lead the DOST VIII in bringing science closer to the people of Eastern Visayas, the post previously held by Engr. Edgardo M. Esperancilla, who retired from office last August 2019.

Granada was the former Assistant Regional Director for Technical Operations of DOST VIII and has been in the agency since 1991. DOST Secretary Fortunato T. de la Peña administered the Oath of Engr. Granada as the new Regional Director on March 9, 2020

He has also been the Director of the Eastern Visayas Health Research and Development Consortium (EVHRDC) since May 2017. The DOST Samahan ng Ikauunlad ng mga Kawani ng Agham at Teknolohiya (SIKAT) elected him as one of the Board of Directors in 2015, which he held up to the present. He is also the current Chairperson of the Regional Research, Development and Innovation Committee (RRDIC) under the Regional Development Council of Region VIII (RDC-8).

He finished his Bachelor of Science in Civil Engineering at the then Leyte Institute of Technology (now Eastern Visayas State University), Tacloban City in 1981. He also earned his Bachelor of Laws at the Justice Romualdez Law College, Tacloban City in 1998. He finished his Master in Management at the Palompon Institute of Technology in the year 2000. Presently, he has an on-going dissertation for his Doctor of Management at the Leyte Normal University, Tacloban City. Last September 5, 2019, he was conferred the degree of Juris Doctor.

Known and loved in the DOST System, he is evidently clever, generous, approachable and hands-on in leading the DOST VIII in achieving the Department's Mission and Vision, and is highly committed in directing the organization in carrying-out S&T services to the people in the region.

The current national public health emergency brought about by the COVID-19 pandemic brings a big challenge but also an opportunity to implement and contribute solutions to critical issues beneficial not just to DOST VIII employees, but also region-wide and nationwide considering that he is also an active member of the Health Cluster of the Regional Inter-Agency Task Force (IATF). He is also at the forefront in the development of Balik-Otso Returning Residents in Region VIII, among others. **By: Carlyn P. Rosada, DOST VIII**

DOST VIII joins PRLEC convergence activity in Southern Leyte

By: Mark Anthony Degamo, PSTC Southern Leyte

The Department of Science and Technology Regional Office No. VIII (DOST 8) through its Provincial Science and Technology Center in Southern Leyte was one of the various government agencies which participated in the three-day convergence activity of the Poverty Reduction, Livelihood and Employment Cluster (PRLEC) and the Basic Services Cluster of the Provincial Task Force to End Local Communist Armed Conflict (PTF-ELCAC) held on August 11-13, 2020 at Brgy. Kauswagan, Brgy. Benit, Brgy. Milagroso, and Brgy. Kahupian in Sogod, Southern Leyte. The activity was dubbed as "Lokal Serbisyo Caravan and Grand Pulong-pulong". Major DOST programs were promoted to the local residents and associations such as the GIA, Undergraduate and Junior Level Science Scholarships, iFWD PH and SETUP.

The consultative dialogue was an opportunity to bring the different agencies' programs and services to the aforementioned communities to assist their constituents in their economic and development needs. Some of the needs identified in the four barangays were skills training, livelihood opportunities, interventions to their community's commodity production, farm-to-market and access roads, poor or lack of mobile phone reception, and loan opportunities for the farmers. These economic and development needs were responded with the commitments of the different national government agencies and provincial government offices.

In conjunction with the local caravan was the launching of Project AKKAP (Agrikultura at Kasanayan Tungo sa Kaunlaran at Pangkapayapaan) in which a ceremonial signing of the Covenant of Support was done. The said project aims to transform the identified barangays into integrated food production sites, to develop self-reliant, resilient and sustainable communities through livelihood and income opportunities, and to attain food security.

The activity was spearheaded by the current Provincial PRLEC Chairman, TESDA-Southern Leyte, in coordination with the 14th Infantry Battalion of the Philippine Army.





DOST-Northern Samar ties partnership with TESDA VIII During the Project GLADYS launching

By: Veronica A. Laguitan/ DOST-PSTC, Northern Samar

By: Veronica A. Laguitan, DOST-PSTC, Northern Samar

In the morning of August 20, 2020, various government agencies did coalesce at TESDA-Las Navas Agro Industrial School to witness and partake in the ceremonial launching of the “Project GLADYS”, graced and led by none other than the Director General of the Technical Education and Skills Development Authority (TESDA), Secretary Isidro S. Lapeña.

As introduced by TESDA-8 Regional Director Dante J. Navarro, Sec. Lapeña was designated by President Rodrigo Roa Duterte as the Poverty Reduction, Livelihood and Employment Cluster (PRLEC) head to support Executive Order 70, otherwise known as an act institutionalizing the whole-of-nation approach in attaining peace, creating a national task force to end local communist armed conflict (NTF-ELCAC) and development of an insurrectionary-oriented community into a resilient and prolific one.

According to Sec. Lapeña, the PRLEC is a convergence of different agencies, not only TESDA because it will only give training but other inputs will be provided by the members of the cluster such as DA, DAR, DTI, DOST and other member agencies, through their respective programs and services.

Project GLADYS on the other hand, which stands for Ganap na Serbisyo Laban sa Kahirapan, Agrikultura at Teknolohiya, Dagdag na Kaalaman at Kasanayan, Yaman ng Sambayanan, is a joint project of the PRLEC in Northern Samar in honor of the late Deputy Director General Gladys F. Rosales of TESDA who hails from San Jose, Northern Samar. She succumbed to death due to Covid-19 while on service in the government particularly in TESDA Central Office.

The DOST-8 GIA intervention to the above-mentioned project was made possible through the “Community Empowerment thru Science and Technology (CEST) Project for Las Navas, Northern Samar”, a DOST-8 GIA (Internally Managed) project of PSTC, Northern Samar for CY 2020. Two (2) units of Science and Technology Academic and Research-Based Openly Operated Kiosks (STARBOOKS) was provided to Brgy. San Miguel High School and TESDA-Las Navas Agro-Industrial School (LNAIS) as recipients of this technology

STARBOOKS is the first Philippine science and technology digital library designed to provide S&T-based educational learning resources in various formats to geographically isolated schools and local government units throughout the country. Students, teachers and parents will be able to get relevant information such as investigatory projects, K-12 learning materials, DOST technologies and other publications without the need for internet connection. Orientation and hands-on training will also be conducted to capacitate the project beneficiary.

Also in attendance during the meritorious event were Hon. Gary M. Lavin, the Vice Governor of the Province of Northern Samar, RD Dante J. Navarro of TESDA-8, Ms. Felicidad M. Aniban, OIC of TESDA Northern Samar, Hon. Arlito A. Tan, Municipal Mayor of Las Navas, Northern Samar with Hon. Vice-Mayor Minda M. Tan, Col. Lowell R. Tan, Commander of the 803rd Brigade, Engr. Veronica A. Laguitan, PSTD of DOST-PSTC, Northern Samar, Ms. Mimosa B. Regis, PD of DTI-NSPO, other PRLEC members, Ms. Ailene Nalazon-Diaz, PIA-Northern Samar Manager, TESDA-LNAIS Administrator Ms. Yolanda A. Pajenado and Staff, project beneficiaries/ recipients from Brgy. San Miguel of Las Navas, other guests and visitors.



DOST 6M worth of Project will address the anemia problem in Northern Samar Province

By: Kent Mavric B. Macariola

The Department of Science and Technology Regional Office No. VIII in collaboration with the Provincial S&T Center Northern Samar served out funds for DOST GIA amounting to 6.0 Million pesos worth of project funds to the Province of Northern Samar through the Community Empowerment thru Science and Technology (CEST) Program, under the Health and Nutrition Intervention.

A project entitled “Science and Technology Intervention to address the Anemia Incidence in the Province of Northern Samar” dedicated these funds for the establishment of a processing facility for Iron Fortified Rice. This rice fortification technology is developed by the Food and Nutrition Research Institute of DOST where an Iron Rice Premix, a rice-like kernel, is produced from the mixture of rice flour, iron fortificant (food grade) and other ingredients using a twin-screw extruder machine. This Iron Rice Premix is added to ordinary rice in 1:200 ratio to produce Iron Fortified Rice without changing its texture, taste and aroma. “Ang maganda sa technology na to ay walang mala-kalawang na lasa ang bigas” said Dir. Mario V. Capanzana of DOST-FNRI, hence, it will be palatable especially to children.

The benefiting community of the project is the Mainland Farmers Producers Cooperative (MAFPC) of Brgy. Lawaan, Laoang, Northern Samar. This organization is composed of sixty-five (65) members, 18 females and 47 males, majority of whom are rice farmers and with a few rice millers and rice dealers. Committed to the Project, the officials of MAFPC with the members of the Brgy. Lawaan Council met DOST VIII and PSTC-Northern Samar and discussed their preparations for the project. They mentioned that they have coordinated with PLGU-Northern Samar for additional Rice mill as counterpart of the province. Moreover, Mr. Enrico T. Acedera, the leader of the organization pledged his and MAFPC’s commitment to the success of the project.

With this technology, the Iron Fortified Rice will be available in the Province of Northern Samar. Through the efforts of Provincial Science and Technology Center-Northern Samar and its strong partnership with LGU, DSWD, and DepEd, and further with the commitment of MAFPC, anemia incidence in the province will now be addressed.



CEST Coordinator, Engr. Ramil T. Uy (2nd from left) and Provincial S&T Director, Engr. Veronica A. Laguitan (2nd from right) together with the representatives of MAFPC during the community profiling conducted at PSTC Northern Samar



Rice Fortification Equipment developed by DOST-FNRI

DOST VIII-PCIEERD-SSU launches TBI – LAMBAT to support local entrepreneurs

By: Fernando D. Buzon III, DOST VIII



DOST VIII Director Ernesto M. Granada delivers his message during the soft launching of the TBI-LAMBAT



DOST VIII Director Ernesto M. Granada (second from left) together with Samar State University President Dr. Marilyn Cardoso (right) during signing of the Memorandum of Agreement (MOA)

The Samar State University (SSU) spearheaded the soft launching of the DOST-PCIEERD Funded Technology Business Incubator entitled “Local Alliance of Marine-Based Businesses and Food Technology (LAMBAT) last July 20, 2020 at the Audio Visual Room, Research and Innovation Center, Samar State University, Catbalogan City.

TBI-LAMBAT is a project established by Samar State University (SSU) through the Technology Business Incubator (TBI) program of the Department of Science and Technology – Philippine Council for Industry, Energy and Emerging Technology Research and Development (DOST-PCIEERD), which aims to create job opportunities, develop local entrepreneurs, and promote public-private partnerships in Region VIII by providing the necessary assistance to local start-ups for the commercialization of their products and innovations.

Samar State University (SSU) is one of the recipients of the Higher Education Institution Readiness for Innovation and Technopreneurship (HEIRIT) program developed by the DOST-PCIEERD last 2017 intended to help prepare universities in their future role as TBI managers and administrators by providing them with necessary skills and knowledge needed in

running their own TBI's. DOST-PCIEERD has allotted a total sum of PHP171 Million for 2017-2019 under the HEIRIT program for the establishment of the new 20 TBIs including SSU, being the only TBI in the Region under the said program.

The soft launching was attended by representatives from several government and non-government agencies namely; Engr. Ernesto Granada, DOST VIII Regional Director; Ms. Russel Pili, DOST-PCIEERD chief technology transfer officer; Dr. Aldrin Darilag, CHED Commissioner, Chairman-SSU Board of Regents ; Dir. Araceli Laraga, DTI-Samar Provincial Director; Atty. Dennis Cosmod, City Administrator, Representative of the City Mayor's Office-City of Catbalogan; and representatives of Pasalubong Center and HiBes.

Dr. Marilyn Cardoso, SSU President in her opening remarks said, *“There is a need to establish a foundation of inclusive growth, a high trust and resilient community and a globally competitive knowledge economy by increasing the country's potential growth. This is exactly what TBI-LAMBAT is – it is a potent avenue for economic growth”.*

Ms. Russel Pili on the other hand, presented the TBI and HEIRIT program of DOST, wherein she highlighted the

importance of having a local business incubator as well as the accomplishments of the TBI program since 2009.

TBI-LAMBAT project leader, Dr. Vivian Moya presented the project's overview including the TBI-LAMBAT's official logo; what they are working on; vision, mission and core values; their team; programs and services; and their incubatees and partners.

Presently, the SSU TBI-LAMBAT has a total of nine (9) incubatees, six (6) of which are from the food processing sector and three (3) from the ICT sector. During the introduction of the TBI-LAMBAT incubatees, each start-up representative presented the innovations in their products and services.

Director Granada, in his message congratulated Samar State University for its success in establishing the TBI-LAMBAT. Director Granada emphasized the commitment of DOST VIII to provide technical consultancy services to TBI-LAMBAT particularly to the incubatees. Likewise, Director Granada provided information about the DOST VIII's project on the establishment of sensory analysis laboratory of which TBI-LAMBAT incubatees can be assisted through the sensory testing of their products hence increasing its market acceptability.

International renowned College Pinoy Faculty inspires Region VIII's S&T Scholars

By: Evelyn B. Tablante, PhD, DOST VIII

On June 9, 2020, The Department of Science and Technology Regional Office VIII (DOST VIII) in cooperation with the Science Education Institute (SEI) conducted an enriching and motivating webinar entitled “**Seminar-Workshop on Personal Excellence and Creating a CV that Stands Out for DOST Scholars in Eastern Visayas**”. The objective was to nurture the youth to become effective instruments of unifying change and to mold a generation of honest and responsible leaders.

DOST VIII Regional Director, **Engr. Ernesto M. Granada**, in his welcome message, gave empowering and nurturing words to the scholars, while **Dr. Josette T. Biyo**, DOST SEI Director, massively inspired the scholars in her talk.

The resource person, **Dr. Rex B. Bacarra**, Head for Faculty Development in the American College of Dubai, is an inspirer of the students. He was consistently rated as an excellent professor by the multi-cultural students for 10 years in a row, and hailed as the most ideal professor and the most decorated educator in the United Arab Emirates. Dr. Bacarra is a native Samarnon coming from Jiabong, Samar.

In attendance were seventy-five (75) young government scholars. Many of them are COVID 19 volunteers and frontliners, giving their hearts in service to the people in need. The webinar was focused on Dr. Rex insights on personal excellence and sharing his knowledge on Curriculum Vitae creation.



EVHRDC coordinator Dr. Lucia Daus installed as 2nd EVHRDC Director

By: Sherrie Ann Cananua-Labid, EVHRDC-RUC Member

The Executive Committee (EXECOM) of the Eastern Visayas Health Research Consortium (EVHRDC) elected Dr. Lucia P. Daus, former EVHRDC Coordinator, as its 2nd Consortium Director effective July 1, 2020.

Dr. Daus took her oath of office online administered by the newly appointed Department of Science and Technology Regional Office 8 (DOST RO8) Regional Director Engr. Ernesto M. Granada at the 2nd Quarter Executive Committee Meeting via Zoom. Dr. Daus succeeds Engr. Granada, former DOST Assistant Regional Director for Technical Operations, Region 8 and former EVHRDC Director, as the new Consortium Director.

Dr. Daus is a Science Research Specialist II and was the Head of the Technical Consultancy Services Unit from 2005-2019. As such, she acts as the Regional Coordinator of the Manufacturing Productivity Extension (MPEX) Program. She also coordinates with Provincial

S & T Centers (PSTCs) in the identification of beneficiaries from Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) to avail of the MPEX Program. Her other functions include the supervision and provision of Technical Consultancy Services identified by PSTCs. As member of the Review and Technical Evaluation Committee (RTEC), she reviews proposals submitted by proponents identified by the Provincial S&T Centers.

For Dr. Daus, strengthening and maintaining a strong partnership with the Department of Health and other EVHRDC member institutions in the implementation of health related activities in the region should be among its immediate priorities. Moreover, to encourage prompt completion and full utilization of EVHRDC-funded projects, she is proposing to incentivize researchers of active member institutions. In an interview, she said: “Researchers of the different member institutions are the life-blood of the consortium. They need to be challenged, capacitated and inspired to create solutions by conducting researches that would benefit the society. Despite the current pandemic crisis, all the more that the consortium should shine particularly in the area of health research.”

Present during the online installation of the new EVHRDC Director are the following: Dr. Minerva P. Molon, DOH-EVCHD Regional Director and EVHRDC Chair; Engr. Ernesto Granada, DOST 8 Regional Director and EVHRDC Co-chair; Dr. Filedito Tandinco, UPM SHS Dean and ExeCom member; Dr. Edgardo E. Tulin, VSU president and ExeCom member; Ms. Erleta S. Piñero, ERC Member and representative of Dr. George M. Colorado, CHED RO8 Regional Director and ExeCom member; and Ms. Ma. Victoria Cuayzon, RUC Member and representative of Ms. Meylene Rosales, NEDA RO8 OIC Regional Director. The committee chairs of the consortium were also present during the installation and the EVHRDC RPO, Ms. Anicia P. Catameo.

Newly Accredited DOST consultants undergo Lean Six Sigma Training

By: *Julianne D. Contapay, DOST VIII*

The Department of Science and Technology Regional Office VIII (DOST8) tapped the expertise of the UP ISSI to design and conduct a 2-day webinar series entitled “Project Assessment and Evaluation: Lean Six Sigma” to enhance the knowledge and skills, specifically, of the DOST consultants, last August 11 & 13, 2020 through an online platform. The training was a combination of lecture-discussions, exercises, and workshop.

A total of 108 participants attended and participated nationwide, including professors and instructors from different State Universities and Colleges (SUCs), Accredited Consultants, DOST employees, and other National Government Agencies and private companies.

DOST8 Regional Director Engr. Ernesto M. Granada, in his opening message, emphasized that this training aims to capacitate local experts with necessary knowledge responsive to the MSME’s challenges. Dir. Gonzalo A. Campoamor, Office-in-Charge, UP ISSI, wished for a meaningful and successful activity. The 2-day training webinar was facilitated by Dr. Henry O. Palaca, President and Managing Director of Quality Plus Management Consulting Co. He also served as the Resource Speaker for the entire duration of the activity

On the 1st day, the discussion focused on the overview of Lean Six Sigma philosophy. After the discussions, participants were



able to explain the Lean Six Sigma philosophy as it is applied in their organization. They prepared and presented a waste map as an output during the workshop. On the 2nd day, participants were able to learn the Lean Six Sigma methodology, and its tools and techniques through the Define, Measure, Analyze, Improve and Control (DMAIC) process. As an output, participants were able to create a Lean Six Sigma Project Brief.

DOST VIII Takes Part in the RxBox Onboarding Program for the Regional Training Team

By: *Doris Cadion*

The UP Manila National Telehealth Center has conducted the "RxBox Remote Onboarding Program of Regional Training Team" last September 23-30, 2020 in coordination with DOST IV-A, spearheaded by Mr. Luis Macabasag, the RxBox Training Officer and Mr. Patrick Pascual, RxBox Clinical Technical Support.

DOST VIII RxBox Regional Training Coordinator, Ms. Doris S. Cadion and Project Staff, Ms. Lovelene B. Maceda attended the said training for trainers together with other RxBox Regional Project Leaders, Regional Project Coordinators, Regional Training Coordinators and Project Assistants from the different Regions.

RxBox is a multi-component, biomedical device which promotes eHealth (Electronic Health) through the use of TELEHEALTH, TELEMEDICINE, TELE CARE and EMR (Electronic Medical Record) in providing better access to life-saving healthcare services in Geographically Isolated and Disadvantaged Communities.



DOST VIII Works on developing Halal Human Resource Component

By: *Raymund Xavier Naboya*

The Department of Science and Technology Regional Office No. VIII is one of the implementers of the project titled “Training Needs Assessment and Development and Deployment of Training Modules on Halal”. The said project led by DOST Regional Office No. XI aims to develop training modules and learning tools based on Training Needs Assessment (TNA) among various stakeholders of the Halal industry. These training modules on Halal will serve as references to develop competent human resources on Halal.

In the first semester of this year, the HALAL TNA Team of DOST Regional Office No. VIII conducted activities to achieve project objective and help improve the Halal Industry in Eastern Visayas that is at the initial phase. This state is generally expected as the Halal Industry is less developed in the regions and the whole country in general.

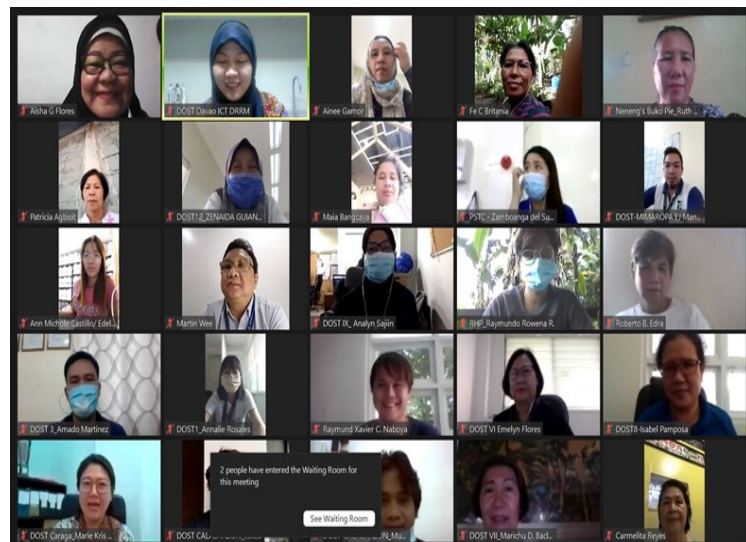
In the second week of February 2020, the team conducted a survey of Halal-certified fats and oil at the supermarkets and grocery stores in Tacloban City to update the list of Halal-certified fats and oil based on the survey conducted in the second week of August 2019. Based on the new survey, there were fourteen (14) local and twenty-five (25) imported Halal-certified products available at the supermarkets and grocery stores. There were three (3) new Halal-certified imported products added to the consolidated list.

The Halal TNA Team of DOST Regional Office No. VIII crafted and submitted an activity proposal to Samar State University (SSU) for the conduct of “Orientation on Hazard Analysis and Critical Control Points (HACCP) and Halal Certification Requirements for Food Processors”. SSU approved the said proposal.

On February 20, 2020, the DOST Regional Office No. VIII conducted the “Orientation on Hazard Analysis and Critical Control Points (HACCP) and Halal Certification Requirements for Food Processors” at DOST VIII Conference Room. Food Safety Consultant Alfred B. Calibuso and Halal Lead Auditor Isabelita M. Pamposa served as the resource speakers during the activity. Twenty (20) DOST VIII-assisted Micro, Small, and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) and food processors participated in the said activity that aimed to expand the knowledge of the food processors about HACCP and Halal Certification Requirements and to encourage the local food processors to apply for Halal certification.

On June 18-19, 2020, DOST VIII and DOST VI HALAL Training Needs Assessment Team coordinated with DOST VII, DTI VII, and Cebu Technological University for comments on the crafted training modules for food manufacturers. These modules include Halal Concepts and Principles, Halal Management System, and Halal Assurance System. This process is a component of the training module validation.

Thereafter, DOST CAR, DOST CARAGA, and DOST VIII Team revised the training module on Halal Assurance System based on the comments from the different validators in Luzon and Visayas Clusters. Halal Assurance System is a systematic planning, implementation and documentation in managing Halal integrity in relation to food production. The objective of the said module is to identify different areas of the Halal Assurance System (HAS) and determine the steps in setting up of Halal Assurance System in



Halal Food Industry. Figure 3 shows the cover page of the aforementioned training module.

On July 29, 2020, the Halal TNA Team of DOST Regional Office No. VIII participated in the Launching of Halal Training Modules, Recognized Lead Auditors and Trainers via Zoom app. The activity was led by DOST Sec. Fortunato T. de la Peña and facilitated by DOST Regional Office No. XI. The training modules on Halal Concepts and Principles, Halal Management System, and Halal Assurance System for Food Manufacturers were launched. Moreover, Ms. Isabelita M. Pamposa of PSTC Samar pledged commitment as an official Halal Lead Auditor.

Furthermore, the Halal TNA Team of DOST Regional Office No. VIII actively participated in various web seminars in the first semester of this year. The said web seminars include “Halal Awareness” conducted by the Department of Science and Technology Regional Office No. XI; “Doing Business with Indonesia under Law No. 33 of 2014 on Halal Product Assurance” facilitated by the Department of Trade and Industry; and “State of the Global Halal Ecosystem amid COVID-19” facilitated by the Department of Trade and Industry. The objective of the team is to acquire an up-to-date knowledge of Halal that can be transmitted to customers.

DOST VIII provides instrument calibration and verification trainings to Local Government Units

By: Ms. Julianne D. Contapay

Local Government Units (LGUs) are the mandated institution who have the primary responsibility in ensuring that the weights and measures being used in trade of their jurisdiction shall be verified to provide the correct, reliable, and accurate measurements.

The Metrology and Calibration Laboratory, which is under the Regional Standards and Testing Laboratory (RSTL) of DOST VIII together with the Microbiology laboratory and Physico-Chemical Laboratory, has been conducting on-site trainings on calibration to various Local Government Units to ensure the compliance on RA 7394, otherwise known as the Consumer Act of the Philippines. However, mobility has been limited due to COVID-19 pandemic.

On September 22, 2020, the Metrology and Calibration Laboratory of DOST VIII conducted a Virtual Training on Introduction to Metrology and Verification of Non-Automatic Weighing Instruments (NAWI) thru the initiative of LGU Borongan, E. Samar Mayor Jose Ivan Dayan C. Agda and efforts of OIC– Treasurer of LGU Borongan, Ms. Imari Plana.

DOST VIII Regional Director Ernesto M. Granada welcomed and acknowledged the participants from the different departments of LGU Borongan including his colleagues at DOST VIII for being part of the activity. He also commended the

City's effort in complying with the RA 7394 as well as in their interest to further enhance the capabilities and competency of the LGU personnel with regards to their role on ensuring consumer safety and fair trade. He also hopes to conduct the same training in other Local Gov't Units in the Region in the near future.

The resource speakers of the activity were RSTL-MC Laboratory Technical Manager, Engr. Marcelino M. Nicer, Jr. and RSTL-MC Laboratory SRS II, Engr. Rodeon Niño Mercader. Engr. Nicer discussed about Metrology and the Non-Automatic Weighing Instruments (NAWI). Whereas, Engr. Mercader provided a Live Demo on Verification of NAWI.

Before the continuation of the afternoon discussion, the SRS II of PSTC Eastern Samar, Mr. Melvin Joel Sacmar gave a message and emphasized the importance of the activity, He looks forward for LGU Borongan to grow with DOST VIII, as partners for the progress and development of Borongan.

Lastly, Dr. Marilyn O. Radam, the Quality Manager of DOST8-RSTL extended her gratitude to LGU Borongan for giving DOST8 and RSTL the opportunity to serve them and be able to share technical-know-how on the basics of metrology and how to verify NAWI. "We know that LGU Borongan has a very critical role in E. Samar in ensuring the reliability of measurement used in trade in the different LGUs because Borongan, at the same time, serves as the center of commerce in E. Samar, so we assure the Local Government that DOST VIII, particularly RSTL, Metrology and Calibration Laboratory is behind you in this function."

LGU Borongan was the first recipient of the virtual training on metrology and verification. Other requesting units for Metrology related trainings include LGU Tacloban, LGU Catbalogan, LGU Calbayog, and LGU Maasin.




Engr. Rodeon Mercader and Ms. Allaine Alejandre demonstrates the verification of Non Automatic Weighing Instruments



Engr. Marcelino Nicer Jr. discussing the introduction and basic concepts of metrology



DEPARTMENT OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY
Regional Office No. VIII


National Science & Technology Week
In Region VIII
A Virtual Celebration

*“Agham at Teknolohiya:
Sandigan ng Kalusugan, Kabuhayan,
Kaayusan at Kinabukasan”*

**09-13
November
2020**

Link: <https://nstw2020.dost8.ph>



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