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Beaming at 15th DOA

The DOST-STARBOOKS brought together its deployment officers for the 15th STARBOOKS Deployment Officers Assembly at Berjaya Makati Hotel, Makati City from 26-28 November 2025.



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Philippine Science High School - Southern Mindanao Campus (PSHS-SMC)'s pride, Osric Zoe Abellana Paman, was hailed as champion at the conclusion of the 2025 STARBOOKS Whiz Bee (Davao Region Edition) held at Sotogrande Hotel Davao, Davao City, on September 26, 2025.

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Editor's Note



Beaming at Fifteen! marks a milestone not just in years, but in purpose. Since its launch in 2011, STARBOOKS has illuminated classrooms, libraries, and communities, bringing science, technology, and credible information closer to Filipinos wherever they may be. What began as an innovative idea has grown into a trusted learning platform, shaped by partnerships, strengthened by dedicated deployment officers, and sustained by the shared belief that access to knowledge empowers lives.

On the occasion of the 15th STARBOOKS Deployment Officers' Assembly, we took the opportunity to express our deepest gratitude to our DOST regional and provincial foot soldiers: partners who, right at the onset, believed in us and shared our conviction that curiosity never retires. Within these pages are highlights from our journey, stories of impact, and a glimpse of the new projects and partnerships that continue to keep STARBOOKS relevant in a fast-changing world.

As we continue the remarkable voyage that is STARBOOKS, we pause to look back with pride and move forward with renewed purpose. The stories in this issue show how this S&T library in a box continues to grow—embracing new content, new technologies, and new collaborations—while remaining firmly rooted in its mission to make learning accessible, inclusive, and inspiring. Now approaching fifteen years of service to the Filipino nation, STARBOOKS is not just shining; it is beaming boldly toward a future where informed, empowered communities lead the way.

Alan C. Taule

*Editor-in-Chief,
STARBOOKS Insider*

STARBOOKS Insider

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

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Beaming at 15th DOA

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



The DOST-STARBOOKS brought together its deployment officers for the 15th STARBOOKS Deployment Officers Assembly at Berjaya Makati Hotel, Makati City from 26-28 November 2025.

Serving as a STARBOOKS tradition since 2016, the assembly serves as the main platform for unveiling STARBOOKS' activity plans, showcasing technological and technical updates, and strengthening collaboration within the network.



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

STARBOOKS and Salesforce brought a day to remember in the west outskirt

by Louella L. Pestaño, DOST-STII



Photos by Louella L. Pestaño, DOST-STII



11 September 2025 – Despite the pervasiveness of technology in our rapidly changing world, there are still remote communities in the country that rely on the most basic forms of learning and communication. These communities often struggle with limited access to electricity and a lack of timely, science-based information. It is in places like these that STARBOOKS introduces a new perspective to the learning process—particularly in the fields of science, technology, mathematics, and more.

Situated in Brgy. Binaritan, Morong, Bataan, the humble Kanawan Integrated School serves a community where nearly half of its students belong to Indigenous Peoples. Reaching the school—mainly on foot—is both challenging and rewarding, as the bright smiles on the students' faces reflect a hopeful glimpse into their future.

“Ang pag-akyat namin sa Kanawan Integrated School nang hindi sumasakay sa habal ay isang paraan para lubos naming maunawan ang araw-araw ninyong pinagdaraan upang marating ang ating munting paaralan,” says Dr. Carolina S. Violeta, Superintendent of SDO Bataan. She emphasized that empathy is critical in discerning the actual needs of the community like Sitio Kanawan.

Indeed, it takes a village to raise a confident generation of children. It may be a whim for most

of us, but through public-private partnership, nothing is impossible. Through Salesforce Philippines, a cloud-based software company with a strong Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) focus on supporting education and one of STARBOOKS active partners, Kanawan IS received one STARBOOKS kiosk integrated with local WiFi and essential electrical and water equipment. Also provided is the Knowledge Channel educational teaching materials that the teachers can use as supplemental resources together with STARBOOKS.

“Palagi naming tinatanong, ‘bakit Kanawan Integrated School ang napili ninyo?’ at paulit-ulit din kaming nagpapasalamat sa tulong na aming natatangap sa kabila ng hamon upang marating lamang ang ating munting paaralan,” expressed by Dr. Leovigildo E. Domingo, Jr., Kanawan IS Principal. He stressed that STARBOOKS will enable the students of Kanawan IS to discover the subjects they want to learn, watch, and experience about science and technology.

Leaving Kanawan IS carried a life lesson: there could be many more communities waiting to be reached. This is the driving force behind STARBOOKS' commitment to never stop until every inch of the country is powered by digital science and technology library, ensuring no one is left behind.



Flora NHS wins the 2025 STARBOOKS Whiz Bee (CAR Edition)

by Precious T. Biraquit, DOST-STII



Photos by Xyrus Ivan S. De Gracia, DOST-STII

A senior high school student from Apayao province was declared champion of the 2025 STARBOOKS Whiz Bee-CAR Edition.

The champion, Grade 12-STEM student Roel Jeremy S. Daradar of Flora National High School, hurdled past the challenging questions in the preliminary rounds to land as among the five finalists of the competition held at Albergo Hotel in Baguio City.

Daradar prepared hard by going over review materials on science, technology and innovation as well as other related materials on the STARBOOKS website.

Moreover, he added that he made full use of STARBOOKS content in preparing for the UPCAT or the UP Central Admissions Test, which he took almost a full week before the STARBOOKS Whiz Bee.

"Gustong-gusto ko po talaga sumali sa mga competition, especially last year ko na dito [Flora NHS]. Second time ko na pong sumali sa quiz bee." Daradar said as he shared his motivation in joining the contest. "Medyo mahirap ang mga questions. Akala ko di ako makakapasa, baka sa top 50 lang. Pero na-overcome ko yung challenges in three ways: first, I prayed to God;

second, logical guessing; and lastly, high acceptance and low expectations."

Emphasizing a memorable experience of the whiz bee competition, Daradar said he would not make it without the support of his family, friends, crush, and his coach, Kristel Joy Somera.

The winners and their coaches received gift certificates, medals, and electronic gadgets such as mobile phones, tablets, and smart watches sponsored by several STARBOOKS partners. As the STARBOOKS Whiz Bee Champion, Daradar brought home a brand-new

MacBook laptop from Cerebro Solutions Inc., while his coach received a new mobile phone.

Gathering over a hundred SHS student participants from schools in CAR during the first round of eliminations on 28-29 July 2025, the 2025 STARBOOKS Whiz Bee - CAR Edition is a contest organized by the Department of Science and Technology - Science and Technology Information Institute (DOST-STII) and DOST - Cordillera Administrative

Region (DOST-CAR) in conjunction with the 2025 Regional Science, Technology, and Innovation Week.

The Whiz Bee was made possible thanks to the following partners: Saint Louis University, Association of Science and Mathematics Educators of Public and Private Schools (ASMEPPS), C&E Adaptive Learning Solutions, Erovoutika, Cerebro Solutions, Inc., FrontLearners, Inc. and BPI Foundation, Inc.

The first STARBOOKS Whiz Bee was held at the Governor Ferrer Memorial Integrated National High School in 2023, and the second at the Philippine International Convention Center (PICC) Forum Tent during the 2024 National Youth Science, Technology, and Innovation Festival (NYSTIF).



STARBOOKS and BPI Foundation head to Capiz; 40 schools receive PHP 3.1M donation

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

The province of Capiz saw two of its schools become the beneficiaries of STARBOOKS thanks to the partnership between DOST-STII and BPI Foundation.

This initiative seeks to enhance the learning experience of learners from Sinamongan Integrated School and Pagbunitan Elementary School by providing them with free science, technology, and innovation (STI) and K-12 learning resources from STARBOOKS. This third wave of donations from BPI Foundation, Inc., worth PHP 3.1 million, will enable 40 remote schools across the Philippines to access free, state-of-the-art learning resources.



PSHS-SMS takes the mantle of victory at the 2025 STARBOOKS Whiz Bee (Davao Region Edition)

by Emmanuel D. Cadeliña, DOST-STII

Philippine Science High School – Southern Mindanao Campus (PSHS-SMC)'s pride, Osric Zoe Abellana Paman, was hailed as champion at the conclusion of the 2025 STARBOOKS Whiz Bee (Davao Region Edition) held at Sotogrande Hotel Davao, Davao City, on September 26, 2025.

Together with his fellow schoolmate, Sean Bryn Dajao Opiso, bagged the second place in the competition. Securing the 3rd spot was Princess

Catherine A. Nacito of Sto. Tomas High School, Doniko D. Maglana of the University of the Immaculate Conception claimed 4th place, and Bien Margaret B. Jamisola from Brokenshire College Inc. ranked 5th place.

Winners, including players and coaches, received valuable prizes such as medals, gift certificates, and gadgets like mobile phones, tablets, and smartwatches generously sponsored

by various STARBOOKS partners. Notably, Paman was awarded a brand-new laptop from Revlv Solutions Inc.

This event is among the featured activities in the annual celebration of Regional Science and Technology Week 2025 in Davao City, conducted by the Department of Science and Technology – Science and Technology Information Institute and DOST-XI Regional Office. The elimination round,

which was participated in by a total of 488 students, was conducted through Zoom on September 18, 2025.

The 2025 STARBOOKS WHIZBEE Davao Region Edition was made possible through the invaluable support and collaboration of our esteemed partners: C&E Adaptive Learning Solutions, Erovoutika, Cerebro, FrontLearners, Inc., BPI Foundation Inc., Revlv Solutions Inc., the Department of Education Region 11, and the Schools Division of Davao City.



Photos by Emmanuel D. Cadeliña, DOST-STII

DOST-STII receives honor as Pillar of Learning from DepEd NCR

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



The Department of Science and Technology – Science and Technology Information Institute (DOST-STII) was recognized as a valuable pillar of learning in the DepEd NCR@50: Stronger Together (Partners' Appreciation Day) held on October 1, 2025 at Luxent Hotel, Quezon City.

DepEd presented DOST-STII with a Plaque of Appreciation for demonstrating exceptional support and unwavering commitment to its key priorities and to advancing the educational landscape, which STARBOOKS Unit Head Louella L. Pestaño received on behalf of the Institute.

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

PARTNER'S CORNER



DOST-STII's STARBOOKS gives tribute to its partners

by Julie Ann De Guzman, ABS-CBN Foundation Programa Genio



On June 24, 2025, the ABS-CBN Foundation Programa Genio was honored at the Department of Science and Technology-Science and Technology Information Institute's (DOST-STII) STARBOOKS Stakeholders' Appreciation Day, held at the Kalayaan Hall in SM Aura, Taguig City.

The event recognized key partners, collaborators, and advocates who have worked tirelessly to expand the reach of STARBOOKS, the Science and Technology Academic and Research-Based Openly Operated Kiosk System. This is a pioneering digital library

in a box that provides free access to valuable science, technology, and innovation resources even in the most remote areas of the country.

"This recognition is our way of conveying our deep appreciation for your immense hard work in bringing this 'digital library in a box' throughout the farthest, most remote reaches of the country," as emphasized by Assistant Secretary for Technology Transfer, Communications, and Commercialization, Napoleon K. Juanillo Jr., PhD, Officer-in-Charge, DOST-STII. Through its ever-dedicated

partnership with Programa Genio, led by Program Head Maricar B. Estole, STARBOOKS has been successfully installed in 173 schools across the divisions of Sorsogon City, Romblon, and Capiz. The initiative is set to expand to an additional 43 schools in Antique and the Province of Sorsogon — communities where access to books and online resources is still a challenge, leaving many learners with fewer tools to explore their full potential in today's digital age.



STARBOOKS seals 2 new partnerships

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

Taguig City – The Department of Science and Technology – Science and Technology Information Institute (DOST-STII) manifested its commitment toward greater synergy by inking partnerships with the National Library of the Philippines (NLP) and Quipper Philippines in ceremonies held at DOST-STII Training Room, Taguig City on July 11, 2025.

“This event marks a significant milestone in our shared commitment to education, knowledge access, and digital inclusion. STARBOOKS – the Science and Technology Academic and Research-Based Openly Operated Kiosk Station – has always aimed to bring high-quality science and technology information to every Filipino, especially in remote, marginalized, and economically-challenged communities. With this partnership, we take another bold step forward,” said Alan C. Taule, Chief of the Information Resources and Analysis Division of DOST-STII, in his welcome message.

“The challenge for us is to make this MOA more than just a formal agreement, but a promise. A promise to the

Filipino learner, to the teacher striving to make a difference, and to the communities waiting for opportunities to grow,” Taule added.

These partnerships aim to expand the reach of STARBOOKS by coordinating with the NLP on deployment schedules to public libraries, providing free user training and orientation to administrators and librarians, and supplying STARBOOKS-ready computer units to public libraries.

“This memorandum of agreement signing is part of our [DOST-STII] shared advocacy to provide Filipino public libraries with science and technology learning resources,” said Atty. Cesar Gilbert Q. Adriano, Director of the National Library of the Philippines.

Adriano emphasizes that the National Library believes in the potential of the STARBOOKS initiative as an innovative information tool for all curious minds, especially the youth.

Meanwhile, Quipper will co-organize activities that promote STEAM (science, technology, engineering,

the arts, and mathematics) education, such as quiz bees, virtual training workshops, and seminars, as well as promote the benefits of STARBOOKS to its partner institutions.

As proof of their strong commitment to the partnership, they also donated three laptop computers and two tablet computers.

“It is an honor to be part of this meaningful gathering as we celebrate another milestone in our shared journey towards accessible and quality education. Our collaboration driven by our common goal to bring the best education to every corner of the Philippines,” said Katrina Miranda, GTM Manager of Quipper Philippines.

Miranda underscores that Quipper empowers learners and educators by integrating Quipper’s digital learning solutions with STARBOOKS’ innovative offline learning platforms.



DOST-STII, DLSAU partner to expand access to S&T info

by Carl Miguel S. Lusuegro, DOST-STII



Photos by Xyrus Ivan S. De Gracia, DOST-STII

The De La Salle Araneta University (DLSAU) and the Department of Science and Technology - Science and Technology Information Institute (DOST-STII) signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) recently that will significantly promote science communication in the campus.

The partnership enhances DLSAU's collaboration with the two DOST-STII's programs, namely the Science Journalists and the Science and Technology Academic and Research-Based Openly Operated Kiosks (STARBOOKS).

The MoU outlines the joint efforts in respect to content

development and dissemination, student and teacher engagements through quiz bees, publications, and capacity-building activities aimed at making science, technology, and innovation (STI) more accessible and engaging to students, educators, and its community.

"We have been forging partnerships with many institutions, and I consider this one of the most important," said Dr. Marie Allison E. Parpan, Chancellor of DLSAU. *"It's encompassing - you have student publications, research, and library resources. I am excited and very much looking forward to this collaboration. We will try as*

much as we can to support in whatever capacity we can."

Echoing her remarks, Rodolfo P. de Guzman, Chief Science Research Specialist of the Communication Resources and Production Division (CRPD) under the DOST-STII, emphasized the value of the partnership:

"This opportunity to now be a part of the DLSAU family is a significant milestone for our institution, as well as a great honor for the DOST to walk with you, side by side, in our shared journey to make science, technology, and innovation more relevant today, and harnessing the power of science communication

so that scientific knowledge is easily understood, readily accessible to our stakeholders, and greatly appreciated by the Filipino people.”

Also in attendance was Dr. Jeniffer R. Reyes, DLSAU Vice Chancellor for Academic and Research, who highlighted the benefits of the partnership to the academic community.

“This collaboration will not only provide our institution with

greater access to S&T resources, but it will also open up new platforms for our faculty and students to share their work. Our student publication, in particular, will benefit from having more resources and models to learn from.”

Mr. Christopher N. Polanco, DLSAU Vice President for Advancement, Linkages, and Special Projects, thanked DOST-STII for initiating the partnership that will

open doors for learning, innovation, and public service.

As part of the ceremonial activities, DOST-STII turned over copies of its publications—the Philippine Journal of Science and S&T Post—to the DLSAU Learning Resource Center, marking the beginning of a dynamic knowledge-sharing relationship.

DOST-STII STARBOOKS PARTNERS



REGIONAL NEWS



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Photos by DOST-Batangas



VISSER kits and STARBOOKS deployed in Calatagan school

by DOST Batangas

The Department of Science and Technology (DOST)-Batangas, in partnership with the Enrique Zobel Foundation, Inc. (EZFI), deployed the Versatile Instrumentation System for Science Education and Research (VISSEK) and the Science and Technology Academic and Research-Based Openly Operated KioskS (STARBOOKS) to schools in Calatagan during a turnover ceremony held at the Function Hall of the EZFI Compound, Brgy. Gulod, on November 26.



The beneficiary of the VISSEK kits was Lucsuhi National High School, while STARBOOKS units were turned over to Enrique Zobel Technical Center (ENZOTech), Calatagan National High School, and Calatagan Senior High School.

Ms. Maila T. Alvarez, Executive Assistant of Mayor Rico B. Puno from the Local Government Unit of Calatagan; Mr. Mhark Ellgine A. Libao, Supervising Science Research Specialist of DOST-Batangas; Mr. Paulino M. Buenconsejo, Executive Director of EZFI; Mr. Emerson B. Dalangin, Learning Manager and Science

Coordinator of DepEd Batangas; Mr. Noah Duque, Education Program Specialist II of DepEd Batangas; Angelita C. Afalla, Master Teacher I of Lucsuhi National High School; and Dr. Rommel Peñaranda, Principal of ENZOTech, spearheaded the turn over ceremonies.

The VISSER kits were highlighted as tools that bridge theory and practice, enabling students to conduct experiments with handheld devices and sensors that prepare them for future STEM careers. A training session on VISSER was conducted by Mr. Seanuel Joash P. Uyangoren of Making.technology, who guided teachers and students in exploring its interactive

features and applications. Meanwhile, STARBOOKS, the DOST's digital library of science and technology resources, was introduced to the beneficiary schools through a training session led by Mr. Mhark Ellgine A. Libao of DOST-Batangas. The platform provides offline access to thousands of S&T materials, empowering schools with

valuable references for research and classroom instruction. Through this initiative, DOST-Batangas and EZFI reaffirmed their commitment to strengthening science education in Calatagan by equipping schools with modern tools that foster curiosity, innovation, and practical learning among students.



DOST brings STARBOOKS to Sallapadan, Abra

by DOST-Abra

The Department of Science and Technology–Cordillera Administrative Region (DOST-CAR), through the Provincial Science and Technology Office of Abra (PSTO-Abra), formally turns over units of the Science and Technology Academic and Research-Based Openly Operated Kiosk Stations (STARBOOKS) Digital Library to LGU-Sallapadan in a ceremony held at the LGU Conference Hall on December 12, 2025.

As part of the activity, school heads and ICT teachers took part in a Users' and Administrators' Training, where they learned how to utilize STARBOOKS for teaching, research, and community-based learning.

STARBOOKS Provincial Coordinator Engr. Markjay A. Trinidad also provided a hands-on walkthrough of the platform, guiding participants through system features, account creation, and offline functionality.

This collaboration between PSTO-Abra and LGU-Sallapadan reinforces the municipality's commitment to accessible and inclusive learning—echoing the spirit of “One Sal-lapadan” and its dedication to ensuring that every school has the opportunity to benefit from digital innovation.

Bringing science closer to Dalipuga National High School students through STARBOOKS

by DOST-10



Photos by DOST-10

region10.dost.gov.ph info@region10.dost.gov.ph /dost10ph @dost10ph

The Department of Science and Technology-Lanao Del Norte (DOST-LDN) has set another milestone in addressing educational issues as it orients Dalipuga National High School in Iligan City on October 14, 2025 about STARBOOKS.

During the visit, Principal Ferdelyn Gomez, Library-in-Charge Sol Saylan, Computer Laboratory-in-Charge Junvir Canama, and several dedicated teachers warmly welcomed the DOST-LDN team. Principal Gomez shared her excitement, saying that the innovative platform will greatly enrich classroom learning for both students and teachers.

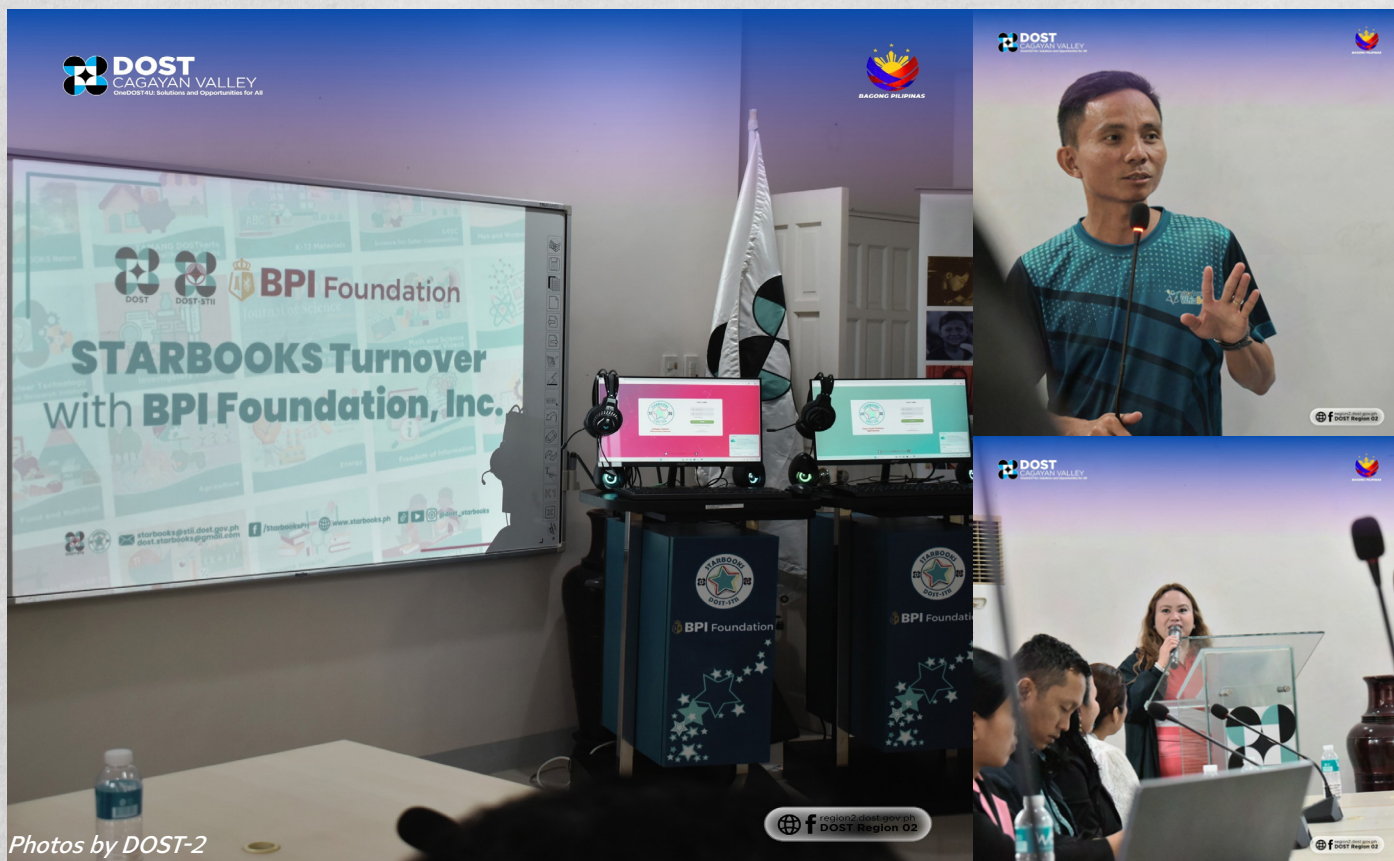
To solidify the collaboration, both parties are preparing to sign a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) and install STARBOOKS before the end of the year. This is seen to pave the way for accessible, tech-driven, and research-based education in the community.



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Photos by DOST-2

DOST-STII, BPI Foundation extend support to three GIDA schools in Cagayan Valley

by DOST-2

The Department of Science and Technology-Science and Technology Information Institute DOST-STII and BPI Foundation, Inc., in collaboration with DOST-2, turn over three STARBOOKS-ready computer units with routers and pods to three public schools in Cagayan Valley on December 9, 2025.

The initiative aims to help students in the beneficiary schools, namely Napo-Tuyak National High School (Nueva Vizcaya), Calayan National High School (Cagayan), and Antagan National High School (Isabela) by giving them more tools to learn and explore.

Through the support, the schools will now have access to STARBOOKS, a digital library that offers free and user-

friendly science, technology, and K-12 learning materials.

During the program, DOST-2 Assistant Regional Director Dr. Laila A. Taguinod welcomed the attendees, followed by special messages from Melanie P. Magbuhos, Program Manager of BPI Foundation, Inc. Their messages emphasized the importance of bringing digital learning resources closer to students who have limited access.

The ceremony also included the signing of the Deed of Donation and a ceremonial photo session to mark the partnership.

Representatives from the beneficiary schools also shared their appreciation through short acceptance messages.

The event concluded with a message from Rowena A. Guzman, Science Research Specialist II.

Afterwards, a STARBOOKS User Training and Orientation was led by Reynaldo A. Morales Jr., Science Research Analyst from DOST-STII, who guided the participants on how to use STARBOOKS effectively and integrate it into learning sessions.

Through this joint effort, DOST-STII, BPI Foundation, Inc., and DOST-2 continue to support learners by widening access to digital knowledge and strengthening learning opportunities in the region.



Photo by Justine Rey E. Bagalay, The Voice Publication

Roxas Campus Library launches DOST's 'STARBOOKS' offline digital library

by Louie Jay T. Boscato, The Voice Publication

Access to scientific information online has been made easy. As the Campus Library of Roxas Campus aims to bring information, science, and technology closer to its constituents, it launches the DOST's digital information access STARBOOKS. This standalone information kiosk can work even without internet access.

Witnessed by the PTC Board of Directors, the Campus Director, and some other guests, Roxas Campus Library formally introduced the innovation on September 5, 2025, through a Ribbon Cutting Ceremony with a theme "Bringing Science and Technology closer to the Campus Community."

"This project shows and implies our goals and objectives to continuously provide accessible and free learning materials to support the lifelong learning of our stakeholders," according

to Roxas Campus Library Staff Jeram Q. Ladrillo in a separate interview with The Voice team.

In this quest, PSU-Roxas was the first external campus of the Palawan State University to embrace the Department of Science and Technology (DOST) program, which is aimed at being helpful to the campus community, students, faculty, and staff. STARBOOKS is the first Philippine Science Digital Library and a remarkable milestone for the nation's science and technology department.

The acronym STARBOOK stands for "Science & Technology Academic and Research Based Openly Operated KioskS." It contains hundreds of thousands of digital science and technology resources in text, video/audio, and specially designed "pods" with a user-friendly interface.

Besides science and technology,

this portal provides e-learning materials on K12, financial literacy, social studies, nature documentaries, and research.

The kiosks special features are: it is a standalone information kiosk hence information access is possible without internet connection, information available is on "read only" which can be printed out but not downloaded, it is a compendium of S&T information gathered from all over the world as a one stop S&T information source, and it features videos dubbed "Tamang DOSTkarte" livelihood videos to stimulate every Filipinos entrepreneurial capacity.

"Magagamit rin po ito ng mga estudyante ng BEED at BSSED 'pag magka-craft na po [sila] ng lesson plan," Ladrillo said.

Ladrillo added that this initiative can help PalawanSU-Roxas Campus community access a vast

collection of digital academic learning resources for free.

"This project aims to motivate our learning community to value the essence of reading

and to enhance their interest in Science and Technology.

"STARBOOKS is now available in our Campus Library. Please visit and try to explore the

user-friendly features.... Let's explore and dive into the world of Science and Technology.... It is also your weapon to unlock your potential in science and technology," Ladrillo added.

Paaralan sa Olutanga, Zamboanga nakatanggap ng STARBOOKS Digital Library, mula sa DOST Region 9

by Shaider

Ipinagkaloob sa pamamagitan ng Provincial Science and Technology Office o PSTO-Zamboanga Sibugay, ang isang yunit ng Science and Technology Academic Research-Based Openly Operated Kiosks Station o STARBOOKS digital library sa Noque Elementary School sa bayan ng Olutanga, Zamboanga Sibugay noong Setyembre 27, 2025.

Ang turnover ceremony ay dinaluhan ng lokal na pamahalaan ng Olutanga sa pangunguna ni Mayor Arthur Ruste Sr.; mga guro ng Noque Elementary School sa pangunguna ni Ginoong Rogie Ruiz, school head; mga miyembro ng Noque United Coconut Farmers Association (NUCFA) sa pamumuno ni Ginang Elizabeth Lamberte; at mga tauhan ng Provincial Science and Technology Office ng Zamboanga Sibugay.

Matapos ang seremonya, isinagawa ng mga tagapagturo at ICT coordinator ng Noque Elementary School ang oryentasyon tungkol sa tamang paggamit at operasyon ng STARBOOKS system.

Ang pamamahagi ng STARBOOKS digital library ay bahagi ng package of assistance ng DOST na ibinigay sa Noque United Coconut

Farmers Association may kaugnayan sa nagpapatuloy na proyekto sa ilalim ng Grants-In-Aid (GIA) program.

Ang STARBOOKS ay isang offline library-in-a-box na naglalaman ng libu-libong digital resources sa iba-ibang science and technology-based

educational learning areas ng K-12 materials, investigatory projects, agriculture, math and science educational videos, at audio format.





DOST and BPI foundation strengthens science learning with STARBOOKS deployment in Surigao del Norte

by Julius Cagampang, DOST-Surigao del Norte

To provide the school with accessible and high-quality learning resources in science and technology, the Department of Science and Technology-Science and Technology Information Institute (DOST-STII), together with the BPI Foundation, Inc. and in coordination with the DOST-CARAGA and DOST-Surigao del Norte, turns over and deploys STARBOOKS to Tapi-An Elementary School in Mainit, Surigao del Norte on December 1, 2025.

STARBOOKS, or the Science and Technology Academic and Research-Based Openly Operated Kiosk Station, is the country's first offline digital science library, especially designed to cater to areas with limited internet connectivity. It contains thousands of

curated science and technology resources, including K-12 learning modules, science and research articles, educational and livelihood videos, career guides, and interactive content.

The system was installed onsite and introduced to the school through a guided demonstration by the deployment team.

Since STARBOOKS operates without the internet, students of Tapi-An Elementary School can now have reliable access to science information. This consistent exposure is seen to help strengthen their foundational knowledge, encourage independent exploration, and nurture their interest in topics related to science, technology, and innovation.

By making these materials accessible within their own school, learners gain more opportunities to discover new ideas, understand science concepts more clearly, and engage in a self-paced learning that can inspire future STEM pathways.

Engr. Roger Abucejo, deployment officer of DOST-Surigao del Norte, conducted the orientation and hands-on session with the teachers and administrators to guide them on how to fully utilize STARBOOKS for lesson preparation, research activities and school-based learning programs.

SorSU goes 100%! STARBOOKS completes digital S&T rollout, powering up agriculture at Castilla Campus

by DOST-Sorsogon



The Department of Science and Technology-Bicol (DOST-Bicol), through its Provincial Science and Technology Office-Sorsogon (PSTO-Sorsogon) and in partnership with Sorsogon State University-Castilla Campus (SorSU-Castilla), conducted a “STARBOOKS Launching, Orientation, and Users’ Hands-on Training”, held at Brgy. Mayon, Castilla, Sorsogon.

The Science and Technology Academic and Research-Based Openly-Operated KioskS (STARBOOKS) bring online and/or offline digital learning to the students and faculty of SorSU. The system is designed to be accessible to all students, including Persons with Disabilities (PWDs), promoting inclusive and equitable education by ensuring every learner can utilize its vast knowledge repository.

This digital library also serves as a vital tool to augment classroom

instruction and support research, directly improving the quality of science and technology education at SorSU-Castilla.

The partnership was formalized through a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) signing between DOST-Bicol and SorSU-Castilla.

The agreement was represented by Engr. Sandro B. Noguera, Provincial Science and Technology Director of DOST-Sorsogon; Dr. Geraldine F. De Jesus, SorSU President; and Andrew F. Detera, Campus Director of SorSU-Castilla.

Bon Carlo D. Salonga, a Science Research Specialist II from DOST-Sorsogon, and John Nebrej Rempis, Project Administrative Aide III, spearheaded the training by providing a technical overview of STARBOOKS.

The training was designed to equip participants with the

necessary knowledge and skills for operating, maintaining, and submitting reports through the STARBOOKS system. Following the introductory session, a hands-on activity was conducted focusing specifically on system operation and content access.

STARBOOKS, a multi-awarded, stand-alone S&T library-in-a-box developed by DOST-Science and Technology Information Institute, provides a wide range of science and technology-based educational resources in various formats.

This initiative and training are part of DOST’s continuous efforts to promote Science, Technology, and Innovation (STI) in remote areas, raising awareness of its importance for rural development.



Photo by DOST-Davao Del Norte

From access to action: STARBOOKS reaches more schools in Davao del Norte

by **DOST-Davao Del Norte**

A significant milestone for science and technology education—as the country’s first digital library-in-a-box makes its way across Davao del Norte from November 17 to 21, 2025.

This initiative is part of the province’s long-term plan to equip all schools with STARBOOKS by 2030, providing learners and educators with wider access to digital science and technology resources—even in areas with limited internet connectivity.

With a memorandum of agreement between DOST-11 and the DepEd Division Offices, all four DepEd Divisions—Panabo City, Tagum City, IGACOS, and Davao del Norte—actively participated, with 82 new schools

availing of the installation. A total of 141 laptops were installed and fully configured with STARBOOKS, expanding its reach across the province.

The installation was led by the DOST-STII team, assisted by DOST-11 and DOST-Davao del Norte personnel, ensuring smooth deployment and technical support.

The installation team from DOST-STII is composed of Reynaldo A. Morales, Etienne Wayne M. Amparado, Jomar G. Rabanera, John Michael Q. Cagadas, Emmanuel D. Cadelina, and Precious T. Biraquit, whose dedication made this initiative possible.

Guiding the process and

leading the capacity-building component, Morales provided invaluable support to ICT Coordinators from all beneficiary schools. On November 21, the coordinators underwent hands-on training to manage and integrate STARBOOKS effectively into teaching, learning, and research activities.

This milestone highlights the power of collaboration between national and local stakeholders and reaffirms a shared commitment to inclusive, technology-enabled education, bringing science, technology, and innovation closer to every learner in Davao del Norte.



Photo by Reynaldo A. Morales, Jr., DOST-STII

STARBOOKS now up-to-date at Davao del Norte State College Library

by DOST-Davao Del Norte

Great news for students, faculty, and researchers at Davao del Norte State College!

As of November 20, 2025, all computers in the college library now have the latest version of STARBOOKS installed. This upgrade gives everyone access to the most current science and technology resources, making research, learning, and teaching easier and more effective.

The update is part of a broader effort to expand STARBOOKS across Davao del Norte, ensuring learners and educators can enjoy digital learning resources even in areas with limited internet access. With the library now fully equipped, students and faculty have a stronger, more reliable tool to explore science, technology, and innovation.

The STARBOOKS collection also includes publications funded by DOST, which provide easy access to valuable research and reference materials that are usually behind paid subscriptions, making learning and research more affordable and convenient.



Photo by DOST-Davao Del Norte



Photos by DOST-2

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DOST-2 installs STARBOOKS to 11 Schools in District III

by DOST-2

The Department of Science and Technology (DOST)-Region 2, with the support of the Schools Division Office (SDO) of Cagayan, has installed STARBOOKS in more schools—this time in District III.

STARBOOKS stands for Science and Technology Academic and Research-Based Openly Operated KioskS. It is a digital tool that gives learners and teachers offline access to thousands of science and technology materials. This is especially useful for schools that do not have reliable internet access.

Eleven schools in District III received STARBOOKS, including:

1. Solana Fresh Water Fishery School

2. Tuao Vocational and Technical School

3. Itawes National Agricultural and Technical School

4. Itawes National High School

5. Magalalag National High School

6. Lemu National High School

7. Enrile Vocational High School

8. Western Cagayan School of Arts and Trade

9. Western Enrile Vocational High School

10. Sampaguita National High School

11. Andarayan National High School

This move shows the strong teamwork between DOST-Region 2 and SDO Cagayan. Both offices aim to give learners equal access to learning tools, no matter where they live.

The goal is to improve science learning, digital skills, and research—especially in far-flung areas. With STARBOOKS, learners can continue learning even without internet access.

DOST-Region 2 and SDO Cagayan will continue working together to bring innovative learning tools to more schools. Their shared goal is to help build a smarter, more prepared, and more connected future for the youth.

DOST's "Science Library in a Box" reaches 2 more Bicol Schools

by DOST-Bicol

The Dominican School of Pilar in Sorsogon and Our Lady of LaPorteira Academy in Camarines Sur are the newest additions to the growing network of schools benefiting from the DOST's "science library in a box" — the Science and Technology Academic and Research-Based Openly-Operated KioskS (STARBOOKS).

DOST-Bicol officially turned over the digital resources as part of the program's continuing regional rollout. The initiative was made possible through a partnership with Quipper, an education technology company specializing in e-learning services.

To ensure the effective use of the platform, DOST-Bicol's STARBOOKS implementers conducted orientations and hands-on training sessions for teachers and students from both schools, guiding them on how to navigate and maximize its learning and research features.



DOST Brings STARBOOKS to 20 Public Schools in Nueva Vizcaya

by PSTO-Nueva Vizcaya

Nueva Vizcaya — Twenty public schools in Nueva Vizcaya have been equipped with STARBOOKS, the Science and Technology Academic and Research-Based Openly-Operated Kiosk Station developed by the Department of Science and Technology (DOST), bringing science and technology resources closer to learners and educators.

The installation, led by Engr. Jay-vee T. Lanchon, STARBOOKS Focal Person of DOST Region 2, and Ms. Rowena G. Da-ang of the Provincial Science and

Technology Office - Nueva Vizcaya, aims to benefit schools in areas with limited or no internet connectivity. The initiative was made possible through a partnership with the Department of Education - Nueva Vizcaya, headed by Schools Division Superintendent Dr. Orlando E. Manuel.

To ensure effective use of the platform, Engr. Lanchon conducted an orientation for librarians and STARBOOKS coordinators from the 18 beneficiary schools. The session highlighted system navigation,

content access, and strategies for promoting digital learning within the school community.

PSTO Nueva Vizcaya Provincial Director Engr. Jonathan D. Nuestro underscored the value of STARBOOKS in enhancing education. He emphasized that the digital library provides thousands of science and technology materials that can support teaching and learning even in remote schools.

Mr. Chester C. Cortez, Librarian II of the Schools Division Office's Learning Resource Management

Section, also encouraged school librarians and coordinators to actively promote STARBOOKS. He challenged them to be innovative in making the platform a key learning resource in their respective schools.

Developed by DOST-Science

and Technology Information Institute (STII), STARBOOKS serves as the country's first digital science library-in-a-box. It offers free access to thousands of science articles, research papers, video lessons, K-12 resources, and livelihood guides without an internet connection.

The project reflects DOST and DepEd's shared commitment to making education more accessible, innovative, and inclusive for Filipino learners—wherever they may be.



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PSTO NV UPDATES

DOST Brings STARBOOKS to 20 Public Schools in Nueva Vizcaya

July 14-16, 2025

Photos by DOST-02, Nueva Vizcaya



BPI Foundation, in partnership with DOST, turns over STARBOOKS units to Dumaguete City schools

by DOST-7

Held on July 17, 2025, at Dumaguete City National High School, the ceremony marked the official handover of DOST's offline digital library, STARBOOKS (Science

and Technology Academic and Research-Based Openly Operated Kiosk Station – a flagship program of DOST-Science and Technology Information Institute), to five public schools: Dumaguete City NHS, Junob NHS, South City ES, North City ES, and Cadawinonan ES.

The event featured messages of support and collaboration from the Department of Education – Dumaguete City Division, the BPI Foundation, and the DOST-NIR Regional Office, highlighting the importance of accessible digital learning in public schools.

The event concluded with a brief orientation and user training on STARBOOKS conducted by the DOST-STII Team, underscoring the shared commitment of DOST and BPI Foundation in making science-based learning more accessible to Filipino learners.



DOST 7 UPDATE 17 July 2025

BPI Foundation, in partnership with DOST, turns over STARBOOKS units to Dumaguete City schools

Photos by DOST-Region 7

Science at their fingertips: Four Makilala Elementary Schools benefit from DOST's STARBOOKS

by PSTO-Cotabato



November 11, 2025 | The Department of Science and Technology (DOST) through DOST XII Cotabato officially distributed STARBOOKS units to Libertad Elementary School, Jose Rizal Elementary School, Concepcion Elementary School, and Garsika Elementary School in Makilala, Cotabato.

With the support of Municipal Councilor Hon. Dimple Caoagdan, the initiative aims to give students and teachers free access to a digital library containing thousands of science, technology, and innovation resources even

Photo Credits: Hon. Dimple Caoagdan

without an internet connection. literacy, and inspire young learners to pursue science and technology-related fields. tools to improve instruction. It also complements the local government's education programs, ensuring that no learner is left behind in the growing digital era.

The DOST-STARBOOKS (Science and Technology Academic and Research-Based Openly Operated KioskS) serves as an offline digital learning hub designed to enhance classroom instruction, promote scientific

Through this initiative, DOST XII Cotabato hopes to strengthen science education, nurture curiosity among learners, and equip teachers with digital

DOST-Batangas deploys STARBOOKS at Calaca City Global College

by DOST-Batangas

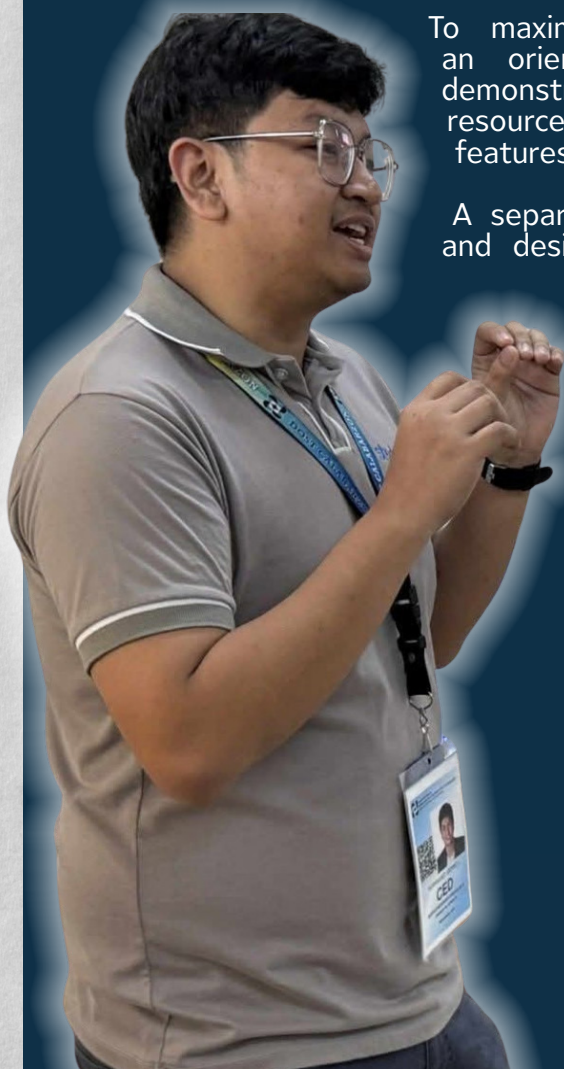
The Department of Science and Technology (DOST)-Batangas deployed the Science and Technology Academic and Research-Based Openly-Operated Kiosks (STARBOOKS) at Calaca City Global College (CCGC), giving students offline access to thousands of science and technology resources, on September 5, 2025.

STARBOOKS, developed by the DOST-Science and Technology Information Institute (DOST-STII), is a digital library that contains thousands of science and technology resources. It provides access to information even without an internet connection and aims to inspire students to engage in research, innovation, and scientific learning.

To maximize the use of STARBOOKS, DOST-Batangas conducted an orientation and training session for teachers. The session demonstrated how STARBOOKS can be used as a supplementary resource for academic and research purposes, highlighting its features, content, and potential to support classroom instruction.

A separate site administrator training equipped the school's librarian and designated staff with skills to manage and maintain the kiosk. They were trained on data registration, navigation of articles, use of interactive math and science games, and the admin module for user assistance, file transmittal, feedback review, and content updates.

Mr. Cedric L. Rodriguez, STARBOOKS coordinator of DOST-Batangas, facilitated the deployment and training. He emphasized the role of STARBOOKS in making science and technology information accessible to students and in encouraging independent learning.



Photos by DOST-Batangas

DOST-6 bridges educational gaps through S&T Access in Semirara Island

by Eden Dorothy A. But, PSTO-Antique



DOST-6 bridges educational gaps through S&T Access in Semirara Island

Braving the sea from mainland Antique to the island of Semirara, the Department of Science and Technology VI (DOST VI), through the Antique Provincial S&T Office (Antique PSTO), successfully deployed the Science and Technology Academic and Research-Based Openly Operated Kiosks (STARBOOKS) at the Divine Word School of Semirara Island, Inc. (DWSII) on June 25-26, 2025.

Semirara Island in Caluya, Antique, rich in natural resources yet challenged by its remote location, continues to face limitations in access to quality S&T learning tools. To bridge this gap, DOST-Antique is intensifying efforts to bring equitable access to science, technology, and innovation (STI) resources to underserved communities through innovations such as STARBOOKS.

STARBOOKS, the first digital science library in the Philippines, houses thousands of digitized S&T materials from local and international sources which are accessible offline. This digital science library is installed in the junior and senior high school libraries, and even extended to a barangay-based satellite library, to provide wider access to both students and educators.

Fr. Lawrence Llona, SVD, DWSII School Principal underscored that STARBOOKS is not a mere tool but a gateway of opportunity that bridges gaps, enriches curriculum delivery, and ignites curiosity to DWSII learners. Fr. Llona further added that the DWSII community embraces this technological leap to raise a generation that is not only digitally literate but morally grounded and culturally rooted.

"Maraming salamat po sa pagtiwala, DOST. Magsusumikap

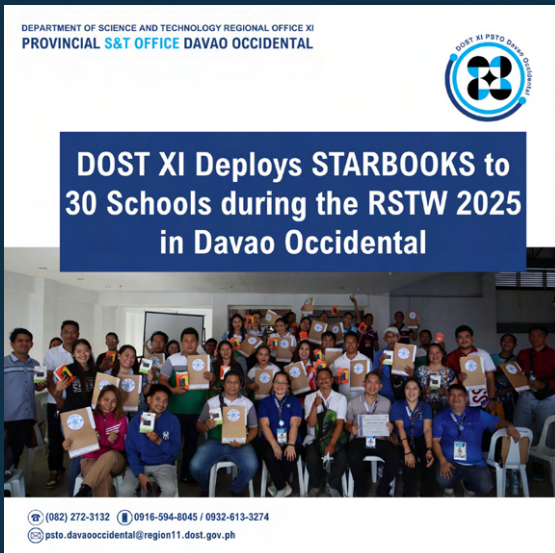
po kami na ang biyayang ito ay lubusang mapakinabangan— hindi lamang para sa aming paaralan, kundi sa mas malawak na layunin ng DWSII, SMPC, at ang namumuno ng isla ng Semirara," Fr. Llona expressed.

Moreover, alongside the installation, DOST-Antique also conducted an orientation and a hands-on training on how to use STARBOOKS. Support programs of DOST to raise awareness were also presented, and inclusive access to these services was promoted.

Through this initiative, DOST-6 reaffirms its commitment to bringing science and technology closer to every Filipino, regardless of distance or location. With STARBOOKS, Semirara's educators and learners now have a powerful tool to unlock a world of knowledge.

DOST-11 Deploys STARBOOKS to 30 Schools in Davao Occidental “Bringing science, technology, and innovation closer to every learner.”

by PSTO-Davao Occidental



As part of the Regional Science, Technology, and Innovation Week (RSTW 2025) celebration in Davao Occidental, DOST-11, through the PSTO Davao Occidental, in partnership with the DepEd Schools Division of Davao Occidental, officially turned over 30 STARBOOKS through a Ceremonial MOA Signing held at the SPAMAST Auditorium, Malita.

The activity was headed by Provincial Director Maria Victoria I. Dado, together with Dr. Rommel R. Jandayan, CESO VI, duly represented by Mr. James Robert M. Firman, Information Technology Officer I.

Known as the “S&T Digital Library in a Box,” STARBOOKS provides offline access to thousands of science and technology resources, including K-12 modules, livelihood guides, journals, and other learning materials, especially benefiting schools with limited or no internet connectivity.

This mass deployment marks a significant milestone in bringing science, technology, and innovation closer to every learner in Davao Occidental. To date, a total of 74 STARBOOKS have been deployed across the five municipalities of the province, extending the reach of knowledge to more communities.





DOST-MIMAROPA extends offline learning access through new STARBOOKS installation in Mindoro schools

by DOST-MIMAROPA

DOST-MIMAROPA, through its Provincial S&T Office in Oriental Mindoro, continues to strengthen digital learning access in the province with the recent installation of Science and Technology Academic and Research-Based Openly Operated KioskS (STARBOOKS) at two academic institutions: Oriental Mindoro Institute (OMI) and Porfirio G. Comia Memorial National High School (PGCMNHS).

The digital kiosk was deployed at PGCMNHS in Barcenaga, Naujan on June 25, 2025, followed by the installation at OMI in Pinamalayan on

June 26, 2025. Each activity included an orientation and hands-on demonstration to guide students and faculty in navigating and utilizing the digital library effectively.

To formalize the collaborations, a ceremonial signing of the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) was also held between DOST-MIMAROPA and the respective schools, signifying their shared commitment to promoting inclusive, technology-enabled learning environments.

Developed by the DOST-Science and Technology Information Institute (DOST-STII),

STARBOOKS is the country's first digital science library-in-a-box that offers offline access to thousands of science, technology, and innovation (STI) resources, empowering students and educators even in areas with limited internet connectivity.

The installations reaffirm DOST-MIMAROPA's commitment to expanding access to quality S&T resources, empowering students with offline learning tools that support inclusive and equitable education across the region.



Photos by DOST-MIMAROPA

“Bridging Knowledge Through Technology” — DOST-STARBOOKS Turnover Ceremony at Sta. Monica Academy

by PSTO-Cebu



In a significant stride towards democratizing access to education, the Sta. Monica Academy in Pinamungajan, Cebu welcomed a new era of digital learning with the official turnover of the STARBOOKS digital library, made possible through the generous donation of educational technology startup, CEREBRO.

During the turnover ceremony, Engr. Adrian D. Cruz, Supervising Science Research Specialist from DOST-VII, emphasized the pivotal role of sustainability through education. “What better way to take advantage of technology than through STARBOOKS,” he noted, pointing out the growing comfort of students with smartphones and digital platforms. He concluded by expressing the region’s pride in seeing the digital library reach Sta. Monica Academy, commending CEREBRO’s proactive efforts in supporting the initiative.

Mr. Justine Itugot, CEO of CEREBRO, shared the broader vision behind the partnership. This deployment marked the sixth nationwide for CEREBRO—and notably, the first in Region 7. With ambitious plans to install nine more STARBOOKS units in Cebu and twenty in Bohol, Itugot highlighted how

CEREBRO, incubated at UST’s TBI and supported by various DOST arms like PCIEERD and TAPI, plays a key role in STARBOOKS’ promotion and deployment. “With 74 more deployments scheduled for this academic year, we aim to continuously enrich schools’ teaching resources,” Mr. Itugot stated.

Rounding out the event, Rev. Fr. Jerald Pinay, principal of Sta. Monica Academy, reflected on the impact this collaboration has on both the institution and its students. He noted that beyond supporting the school’s accreditation goals, STARBOOKS significantly broadens access to knowledge, empowering learners through this DOST and CEREBRO partnership.

The turnover of STARBOOKS is more than a donation—it’s a digital bridge to knowledge, unlocking new possibilities for both educators and students in Sta. Monica and beyond.



DOST-STII Turns Over 3 STARBOOKS Units to DepEd-Ifugao

by PSTO-Ifugao



Significant milestone in advancing digital education was celebrated during the 2025 Regional Science and Technology Week in the Cordillera Administrative Region (CAR). In a ceremonial event held at Albergo Hotel, Baguio City, five (5) STARBOOKS (Science and Technology Academic and Research-Based Openly Operated KioskS) units were officially turned over to five different schools across Ifugao, Benguet, and Mountain Province.

This initiative was made possible through the generous support of the BPI Foundation, in partnership with the Department of Science and Technology - Science and Technology Information Institute

(DOST-STII) and the Department of Science and Technology - Cordillera Administrative Region (DOST-CAR).

STARBOOKS aims to bring science, technology, and educational resources closer to learners, especially in geographically isolated and disadvantaged areas.

For the Ifugao Province, three schools were beneficiaries of the program, namely, Eastern Potia National High School, Namillangan National High School, and Pinto National High School. These institutions are now equipped with digital tools that provide access to a wealth of scientific and educational content, greatly

enhancing Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics learning opportunities within their communities.

In addition to the schools in Ifugao, Ambacbac Elementary School in Mountain Province and Adoyunan Elementary School in Benguet also received STARBOOKS units—further extending the program's reach and impact across the region.

This collaborative effort reflects a shared commitment to inclusive, innovative, and accessible education for all.



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#OneDOST4U
#SolutionsOpportunitiesforAll
#Photo by PSTO-Ifugao

Back-to-Back STARBOOKS turnover: CEREBRO partners with DOST in Cebu

by DOST-7

In a meaningful step towards making education more accessible for every learner, two schools in Cebu officially welcomed digital learning through the turnover of the STARBOOKS Digital Library, made possible through the generosity of educational technology startup CEREBRO.

On August 19, 2025, the Immaculate Heart of Mary Academy in Minglanilla, Cebu, proudly received its STARBOOKS unit. While on August 20, 2025, the Saint Augustine Academy Inc. in Alcantara, Cebu, became the latest institution to be empowered by this digital knowledge hub.

During the turnover ceremonies, Engr. Adrian D. Cruz, Supervising Science Research Specialist of DOST-VII, expressed the agency's gratitude to CEREBRO for being a partner in advancing the STARBOOKS program of DOST-STII. He emphasized

how STARBOOKS aligns with the five outcomes of DOST, ensuring that the benefits of science, technology, and innovation are truly enjoyed by everyone.

Mr. Justine Itugot, CEO of CEREBRO, also shared the vision behind this collaboration. These back-to-back events marked the 2nd and 3rd STARBOOKS deployments in Region 7, with more on the way: seven additional units in Cebu and 20 in Bohol.

The schools' principals, Sr. Briggette G. Parba of Immaculate Heart of Mary Academy and Sr. Elizabeth G. Tano of Saint Augustine Academy Inc., expressed their gratitude, sharing how STARBOOKS will broaden students' horizons by giving them wider access to quality

knowledge and resources.

The turnover of STARBOOKS is more than just a donation; it is a digital bridge to knowledge, unlocking new possibilities for both teachers and learners in Cebu and beyond. Together, we continue to bring science closer to the people.



Photos by DOST-7



DOST deploys STARBOOKS at Baybayin Elementary School in Rosario, Batangas

by DOST-Batangas

The Department of Science and Technology (DOST)-Batangas deployed and conducted training on the Science and Technology Academic and Research-Based Openly Operated Kiosk Station (STARBOOKS) at Baybayin Elementary School, Rosario, Batangas, October 09.

The activity aimed to introduce STARBOOKS as a digital science and technology learning tool that provides students and teachers access to thousands of educational materials even without an internet connection.

Developed by the DOST-Science and Technology Information Institute (DOST-STII), STARBOOKS is the first science and technology library-in-a-box in the Philippines. It contains digitized journals, books, videos,

and interactive multimedia content covering various fields of science and technology. The platform includes gamified lessons and interactive modules designed to enhance classroom instruction and support independent learning.

Mr. Cedric L. Rodriguez, Science Research Specialist II of DOST-Batangas, facilitated the training sessions. Participants included teachers and student government representatives of Baybayin Elementary School. The session introduced the background and history of STARBOOKS, demonstrated its features and navigation, and showed how its resources can be integrated into classroom lessons.

To ensure the sustainability

and proper management of the unit, a separate training was conducted for teachers focusing on STARBOOKS' administrative management features. This included user account creation, content management, and system maintenance procedures to help the school effectively manage and maintain the kiosk.

The deployment and training form part of DOST's continuing efforts to promote inclusive access to science and technology information and to strengthen digital learning capabilities in schools across Batangas province.

DOST-12 conducts STARBOOKS orientation and users' training for beneficiaries across North Cotabato

by PSTO-Cotabato

During the recent visit of DOST Secretary Renato Solidum Jr. at the University of Southern Mindanao (USM), the Department of Science and Technology (DOST) SOCCSKSARGEN has significantly advanced its mission to extend the reach of science and technology (S&T) information by successfully turning over 50 units of Science and Technology Academic and Research-Based Openly Operated KioskS (DOST-STARBOOKS) to beneficiaries across North Cotabato Province.

Following the turnover, the DOST SOCCSKSARGEN conducted a STARBOOKS Orientation and Users' Training on October 17, 2025, held at the USMARC Auditorium, USM, Kabacan, Cotabato.

The training was essential for maximizing the effectiveness of the digital kiosks. Mr. Benjie T. Francisco, DOST-12 Regional Deployment Officer, led the discussion, providing a detailed overview of the STARBOOKS' functions, features, and optimal use. He emphasized

its capacity as a standalone digital library, which can function without an internet connection, making it ideal for schools and communities with limited online access.

A key part of the day's event included the distribution of the remaining deliverables to complete the STARBOOKS set for each of the beneficiaries. This ensured that all recipients received fully operational and ready-to-use digital libraries.

Under the guidance of Regional Director Engr. Sammy P. Malawan, through Provincial Director Michael T. Mayo, DOST-12 championed the program's core objective: to spread S&T knowledge and bridge the digital divide. By placing these advanced information kiosks in strategic locations, particularly in schools and LGUs, the DOST is directly investing in the intellectual capital and future development of the SOCCSKSARGEN region.



Photos by PSTO-North Cotabato

DOST-CAR trains STARBOOKS users and administrators of Mungayang National High School

by PSTO-Ifugao



participated in the training, gaining essential knowledge and skills in using and managing STARBOOKS (Science and Technology Academic and Research-Based Openly Operated Kiosk Station)—a standalone digital library developed by DOST-STII.

As a highlight of the event, a complete STARBOOKS kiosk system was officially turned over to the school, granting offline access to thousands of science and technology resources, educational references, and research materials to support both teaching and learning.

On August 15, 2025, the Department of Science and Technology - CAR PSTO Ifugao, in collaboration with the Local Government Unit of Kiangán, successfully conducted the STARBOOKS Users and Administrators Training at Mungayang National High School.

Human Resource Development component of the “Community Empowerment through Science and Technology (CEST) Project for Kiangán, Ifugao - Phase II,” aimed at empowering local schools by providing access to vital digital learning tools.

This activity forms part of the

Students and teachers of Mungayang NHS actively

We extend our heartfelt thanks to all participants, partners, and stakeholders who contributed to the success of this initiative. Together, we continue to promote science, technology, and innovation for inclusive education and community development.

PSTO-Leyte conducts orientation on STARBOOKS

by PSTO-Southern Leyte

The DOST Southern Leyte PSTO successfully conducted an orientation on the Science and Technology Academic and Research-Based Openly Operated Kiosk Station (STARBOOKS) for school heads of the Department of Education (DepEd) Schools Division Office of Southern Leyte on September 12, 2025 at the Schools Division

Office of Southern Leyte. The activity aimed to familiarize school administrators with the features and benefits of STARBOOKS, a digital library developed by the DOST-Science and Technology Information Institute (DOST-STII). Known as the country’s first science and technology e-library,

STARBOOKS provides offline access to thousands of digitized science and technology resources—ranging from books, journals, and instructional videos to livelihood modules and other learning materials.

Through the orientation, school heads were introduced to the system’s user-friendly interface



and content, designed to support both teaching and learning. The technology is especially valuable in areas with limited or no internet connectivity, ensuring that students and teachers alike can access updated, science-based knowledge.

By equipping school leaders with the knowledge and confidence to adopt the technology, the initiative reinforces the shared goal of DepEd and DOST to strengthen access to quality educational resources and promote digital literacy in Southern Leyte.

Lagawe NHS STARBOOKS users, admins undergo orientation from PSTO-Ifugao

by PSTO-Ifugao



will surely support teaching and research in the school.

With STARBOOKS, Lagawe NHS is now equipped with a valuable tool to enhance classroom learning, encourage research, and make science and technology knowledge more accessible to both educators and learners.

STARBOOKS is created by DOST Science and Technology Information Institute as part of their mandate to promote science and technology information. It contains hundreds of thousands of digitized science and technology resources in text, audio, and video formats housed in specially designed "pods." Learn more about STARBOOKS through this link: www.starbooks.ph or visit us at the PSTO-Ifugao office, IFSU Main Campus, Nayon, Lamut, Ifugao.

On September 5, 2025, PSTO-Ifugao conducted an orientation and training on STARBOOKS for the teachers and students of Lagawe National High School (LNHS), as part of the CEST project entitled, "Strengthening Lagawe Through Sustainable Solutions for Environmental Conservation, Economic Development, and Accessible Quality Education."

During the session, participants were introduced to the features of the Science and Technology Academic and Research-Based Openly Operated Kiosk Station (STARBOOKS), a digital library of S&T resources that can be accessed even without an internet connection. Afterwards, they were able to explore the platform themselves and discover the wide collection of learning materials that

STARBOOKS Upland School Turnover in Cebu City Continues: Taptap Integrated School Receives Unit

by DOST-7

Following the successful STARBOOKS turnover ceremonies at Sirao Integrated School and Babag Integrated School, the Department of Science and Technology Region 7 (DOST-7), together with the Department of Science and Technology-Science and Technology Information Institute (DOST-STII), in partnership with the Bank of the Philippine Islands (BPI) Foundation, Inc., conducted the second leg of the STARBOOKS ceremonial turnover at Taptap Integrated School on October 24, 2025.

This event marked the second venue (2/2) of the STARBOOKS Ceremonial Turnover initiative, which aims to empower learners in upland areas of Cebu City through access to digital science and technology information, even without internet connectivity.

This initiative aims to empower learners in upland areas of Cebu City through access to digital science and technology information—even without internet connectivity.

Mr. Benjie Vargas Paragsa, Principal of Taptap Integrated School, expressed his gratitude, noting that *"STARBOOKS is a vital tool in shaping our learners' future."*

Mr. Geronimo G. Tores, Program Manager of BPI Foundation, recognized the dedication of educators and shared BPI Foundation's advocacy of Explore, Discover, Learn (EDL)—a call to nurture curiosity and lifelong learning.

Dr. Bryan B. Ybañez, Provincial Director of DOST-PSTO Cebu, lauded the integration of high-level technology in education. "Our students are the future of the country, and our teachers are our heroes. With STARBOOKS, access to information is now easier, even without an internet connection. It supports teachers in lesson planning and enhances classroom learning."

The event featured the signing of the Deed of Donation,

distribution of school supplies from BPI Foundation, and a STARBOOKS User Training led by Mr. Reynaldo A. Morales Jr. of DOST-STII.

Through this continued collaboration, DOST-STII, BPI Foundation, and DOST-7 reaffirm their commitment to promoting inclusive, technology-based education and advancing digital empowerment in Cebu City's upland communities.





Photo by DOST-Nueva Ecija

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region3.dost.gov.ph

DOST-Nueva Ecija seals MOA with Saint John Nepomucene Parochial School and Divina Pastora College for STARBOOKS installation

by DOST-Nueva Ecija

The Department of Science and Technology (DOST) - Nueva Ecija, Saint John Nepomucene Parochial School, and Divina Pastora College formally entered into a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) for the installation of the Science and Technology Academic and Research-Based Openly-Operated KioskS (STARBOOKS) technology on October 22, 2025 at the DOST Nueva Ecija Office.

STARBOOKS is an offline digital library developed by the DOST-Science and Technology Information Institute (STII) that aims to spark interest and

promote learning in the fields of science and technology.

In line with the MOA signing, an orientation and hands-on session was conducted for student leaders and teachers from both schools to help them better understand and appreciate the features and benefits of the STARBOOKS technology. Mr. Ralph Louie C. Binene, Science Research Specialist II, facilitated the session, demonstrating the operation of the system and discussing the roles and responsibilities of the partner schools in its implementation and maintenance.

Present during the activity were Ms. Leidi Mel B. Sicat, DOST Nueva Ecija Provincial Director; Mr. Rodolfo P. De Guzman, Chief, CRPD, DOST-STII, and Rev. Fr. Jose Salvador D.C. Mallari, School Director, together with school faculty members and students who expressed their full support for the initiative.

DOST-12 showcases STARBOOKS at Kidapawan City National High School Library inauguration

by PSTO-Cotabato



Kidapawan City, led by Schools Division Superintendent Miguel Fillalan Jr., CESO V, received five DOST-STARBOOKS units from DOST during the visit of DOST Secretary Renato U. Solidum Jr. at the University of Southern Mindanao in Kabacan. These were provided to further promote digital literacy and expand educational opportunities for the students in the division.

The participation of DOST-12 Cotabato Province in this milestone event reflects the agency's strong commitment to promoting literacy, advancing science and technology education, and supporting the development of a knowledge-driven community in Kidapawan City and the entire province.

Kidapawan City, North Cotabato | The Department of Science and Technology (DOST)-Region 12 - Cotabato Provincial Office, participated in the Inauguration Program of the newly established Library of Kidapawan City National High School (KCNHS) on September 9, 2025.

enhance the learning experience in the newly inaugurated library.

Recently, the DepEd RXII SDO

The DOST Cotabato team, guided by Regional Director Engr. Sammy P. Malawan through Provincial Director Dr. Michael T. Mayo, showcased the features and functions of the DOST Science and Technology Academic and Research-Based Openly Operated Kiosk Station (STARBOOKS). This digital library will serve as a valuable resource for students, teachers, and researchers providing access to thousands of science and technology materials, e-books, and interactive content. It is expected to significantly



Photos by PSTO-Cotabato

Expanding Educational Opportunities in Region VIII with the Deployment of STARBOOKS

by Mary Grace Tariao, DOST-08

Six (6) STARBOOKS were successfully handed over today to their recipient schools in the region. The Six (6) STARBOOKS were successfully handed over today to their recipient schools in the region. The turnover ceremony was held at Luntad Elementary School in Palo, Leyte, wherein the recipient schools are as follows:

1. Luntad Elementary School, Palo, Leyte

2. Pulang Yuta Elementary School, Caibiran, Biliran

3. Hanginan Elementary School, Maasin City, Southern Leyte

4. Cuyting Uy Elementary School, Jiabong, Samar

5. Eugenio S. Daza Pilot Elementary School, Borongan City, Eastern Samar

6. Galutan National High School, Catarman, Northern Samar

STARBOOKS, which stands for Science and Technology Academic and Research-Based Openly-Operated KioskS, is a digital library designed to provide access to Science and Technology (S&T) resources, especially for those schools located in the Geographically Isolated and Disadvantaged Areas (GIDA).

Before the formal start of the program, the DOST-STII



conducted the comprehensive STARBOOKS User Training and Orientation for the teachers of the recipient schools to ensure they were well-prepared to effectively use the new resources and integrate them into their teaching practices.

This successful turnover was made possible through the partnership of the Department of Science and Technology Region 8, 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 8.

The event also received notable support by the presence of

Palo Mayor Hon. Remedios “Matin” Petilla, Schools Division Superintendents of Tacloban City and Borongan City, Dr. Mariz S. Magan, and Dr. Edgar Tenasas, respectively, Provincial S&T Directors, Dr. Evelyn Tablante of PSTO Samar, Engr. Veronica Laguitan of PSTO Northern Samar, OIC-PSTD of Leyte Mr. Rhoderick Pacañot, OIC- PSTD of Southern Leyte, Mr. Emmanuel Lagdamen, and representatives from PSTO Biliran, Ms. Grace Villa Lyn, and Ms. Michaela Padagdag, superintendents, and teachers from all the recipient schools in Eastern Visayas.

Represented by Mr. Rhoderick Pacañot, OIC Provincial S&T Director of PSTO Leyte, the DOST-8 Regional Director Dr. John Glenn Ocaña emphasized that STARBOOKS represent 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 serves as a driver of economic development in the region.

Moreover, Hon. Petilla expressed her support and gratitude, noting that STARBOOKS aligns with the digitization efforts of her son, Leyte Governor, Hon. Jericho Petilla. She also highlighted her commitment to student nutrition through her program "Gulayan sa Paaralan," which aims to combat malnutrition and promote locally grown vegetables in schools.

In addition, BPI Foundation pledged its full support for the STARBOOKS initiative, advocating for a brighter future for everyone under the slogan

"kasama lahat sa pag-unlad."

Additionally, DepEd expressed appreciation to DOST-STII, DOST-8, and BPI for their efforts, hoping that the initiative will continue and that all schools in the region will eventually acquire STARBOOKS. They believe that this collaboration will foster educational advancement and contribute significantly to the development of students across the region, preparing them for future challenges and opportunities.

All the teachers from the recipient schools delivered acceptance speeches, expressing their gratitude for being selected. They assured that they would maximize the use of STARBOOKS to enhance knowledge delivery and stimulate

student interest through the readily available materials.

With the effort of the DOST-8 MIS Unit Head, Engr. Florentino L. Quiñones, disclosed in his message that, unlike other regions, Eastern Visayas is fortunate to be one of the few regions in the country to receive six (6) STARBOOKS.

As to recall, DOST-8 was recognized this year as the top region for deploying STARBOOKS. He hopes that more kiosks will be introduced in the future to help DepEd reach additional schools and expand access to S&T information.

DOST Southern Leyte empowers Bontoc's GIDA Communities, deploys STARBOOKS

by PSTO-Southern Leyte

Bontoc, on October 21, 2025.

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

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



Photo by PSTO-Southern Leyte

The DOST Southern Leyte PSTO, together with the LGU Bontoc, formally turned over units of the DOST STII's Science and Technology Academic and Research-Based Openly

Operated Kiosk Stations (STARBOOKS) to Barangay Olisihan and Barangay Pamigsian of Bontoc, Southern Leyte, in a ceremonial event graced by Hon. Noel Alinsub, Mayor of

urban and rural areas.

Leading the turnover on behalf of DOST Southern Leyte PSTO was Supervising Science Research Specialist Emmanuel Lagdamen. The DOST team demonstrated how STARBOOKS can be used as a valuable tool for students, teachers, and

lifelong learners seeking access to a wide collection of science and technology information.

Mayor Alinsub lauded the initiative, emphasizing the importance of providing educational and digital access to far-flung communities.

Through the deployment of STARBOOKS, DOST continues to bring “Science for the People”, ensuring that even the most remote communities are equipped with tools for knowledge, growth, and empowerment.

DOST-1 reaches more communities, expands access for STARBOOKS

by DOST-1

The Department of Science and Technology Region 1 (DOST Region 1) continues to expand access to knowledge as the Science and Technology Academic and Research-Based Openly-Operated KioskS (STARBOOKS) reaches more communities in Region 1.

Featured in the recent episode of Tekno Presensya in partnership with DZAG Radyo Pilipinas Agoo, Ms. Mary Ann B. Ofiana, STARBOOKS Region 1 Focal Person, highlighted the importance of the program in bridging the information gap in remote and geographically areas.

STARBOOKS is the country's first digital “Library-in-a-Box,” a stand-alone information source designed to provide access to thousands of science, technology, and innovation (STI) resources. It was developed by DOST Science and Technology Information Institute (DOST-STII) to serve communities with little or lack of internet connectivity. Some of its contents are thousands of digitized science and technology resources, including interactive lessons, educational videos, storybooks, livelihood guides, and research materials aligned with Department of Education

(DepEd) and Commission on Higher Education (CHED) curricula. This makes it a vital resource for students, teachers, researchers, and communities who face difficulties because of limited internet access.

With STARBOOKS, the beneficiaries can access a wide collection of educational materials—from interactive science and math resources, livelihood and health information, storybooks, video lectures, and research publications—all available offline.

A total of 9,747 STARBOOKS

sites have been installed nationwide, including schools, libraries, LGUs, NGOs, and community learning centers. In Region 1, STARBOOKS has reached even the most geographically isolated barangays. Through DOST provincial offices, deployment officers transported across rivers and mountains—equipped with computers, routers, solar panels, and other tools to ensure accessibility.

“Through STARBOOKS, we are bringing science and technology closer to the grassroots, to every barangay



of the Philippines. It provides opportunities for learning and development, especially in far-flung communities where internet access remains a challenge,” Ms. Ofiana emphasized during the interview.

Ms. Ofiana said that the interested schools, libraries, and local institutions in

Region 1 may avail STARBOOKS free of charge by coordinating with the DOST Regional office. The office also provides free training and orientation for designated focal persons to ensure the sustainability of the project.

The initiative continuously benefited schools, libraries,

LGUs, and learning centers across the region, especially the local communities. DOST Region 1, STARBOOKS further extends their efforts to provide an effective tool in empowering learners, enhancing teaching strategies, and supporting communities through relevant and accessible S&T information across the region.

S&T reaches Barangay Midpapan II through DOST-Cotabato’s Participation in ELCAC Serbisyon Tootoo Caravan

by PSTO-Cotabato



The residents of Barangay Midpapan II, Pigcawayan availed of essential public services during the recent stop of the ELCAC Serbisyon Tootoo Caravan. The initiative, organized by the Provincial Government of Cotabato under the leadership of Governor Emmylou Lala Taliño-Mendoza, aims to bring public services closer to residents in ELCAC-identified communities through a whole-of-nation approach.

The Department of Science and Technology - Region 12 (DOST-12), through its Cotabato Provincial Office, joined the caravan to extend science,

technology, and innovation (STI) support to the community. The team showcased nutrition technologies developed by the DOST-Food and Nutrition Research Institute (FNRI), including the Enhanced Nutribun, Nutribunnet, and Nutricookies—innovations designed to help combat malnutrition among children and nutritionally at-risk groups. These products serve as practical and evidence-based solutions to improve local nutrition outcomes while supporting livelihood activities for community-based producers.

The DOST-12 team also

conducted information sessions to raise awareness about the agency’s major programs and services. They highlighted opportunities under the Community Empowerment thru Science & Technology (CEST) Program, the Small Enterprise Technology Upgrading Program (SETUP), and the DOST-STARBOOKS digital library initiative. In addition, they promoted the ongoing nationwide application for the 2026 DOST-Science Education Institute (DOST-SEI) Undergraduate Scholarship, encouraging qualified students to apply and pursue careers in science and technology.

Through its participation, DOST-12 reaffirmed its commitment to making STI more accessible and relevant to communities, particularly in geographically isolated and disadvantaged areas (GIDAS). This initiative supports the government’s continuing efforts to promote inclusive growth, peace, and development in Cotabato Province.

Lighting minds, connecting Communities: DOST STARBOOKS reaches Sarangani's Madrasahs

by DOST-XII

In its continuing mission to make “Agham na Ramdam” — science that is felt and lived — the Department of Science and Technology (DOST) – SOCCSKSARGEN brings the power of knowledge closer to the hearts of learners in Sarangani Province through the Science and Technology Academic and Research-Based Openly Operated Kiosks (STARBOOKS).

A total of 25 STARBOOKS units were provided to selected Madrasahs across the province, opening a digital gateway to science, technology, and innovation (STI) resources even in areas where internet connectivity remains a challenge.

To ensure meaningful use and sustainability of these digital libraries, the STARBOOKS Orientation and Technical Training was conducted by the DOST SOCCSKSARGEN led by Regional Director Engr. Sammy P. Malawan through the Provincial Science and Technology Office – Sarangani and General Santos City (PSTO

SarGen) headed by Provincial Director Ms. Babai K. Tagitican.

During the training, participants were equipped with essential skills on the installation, configuration, and utilization of STARBOOKS. DOST SOCCSKSARGEN Deployment Officer, Mr. Benjie Francisco, as the technical resource person, guided the attendees through hands-on sessions covering system setup, troubleshooting,

and user management, ensuring that every Madrasah representative left ready to operate their own hub of learning.

Beyond technology, this initiative is a reflection of DOST SOCCSKSARGEN's commitment to inclusive education – ensuring that no learner is left behind in the digital age. Through STARBOOKS, students and teachers in Madrasahs gain access to thousands of curated S&T resources, empowering them to explore, discover, and innovate even without the internet.

By lighting up classrooms with digital knowledge, DOST SOCCSKSARGEN continues to bridge worlds through science, nurturing curiosity, and inspiring a generation of learners who see science not as a distant concept, but as a living, empowering force within their reach.



Photos by DOST-XII

DOST's 'Starbooks' brings digital learning to remote schools

by Pia Lorraine Francisco, PIA-Capiz



ROXAS CITY, Capiz (PIA) — The Department of Science and Technology (DOST) Capiz Provincial Science and Technology Office (PTSO) brought digital learning through Science and Technology Academic and Research-Based Openly Operated Kiosk System (STARBOOKS) to remote schools in Capiz.

Capiz PTSO Project Technical Assistant Princess Mae Bautista said that the Sinamongan Integrated School in Pilar town and Pagbunitan Elementary School in Sigma town are the recent beneficiaries of the STARBOOKS digital kiosks and vital learning equipment from the Department of Science and Technology Science and Technology Information Institute (DOST-STII), DOST Western Visayas, and BPI Foundation, Inc.

Bautista added that STARBOOKS is a stand-alone digital library

that provides thousands of curated science and technology resources without the need for internet connectivity.

She emphasized that although the project has expanded online and now has a mobile version, the digital science library is still offline-based and has less content than its offline counterpart.

To support the project implementation, the DOST Western Visayas also turned over desktop computers, tablets, printers, scanners, tables, and chairs for the schools to help establish a more conducive learning environment for both students and teachers.

Capiz PSTO director Juafe Abareles highlighted the importance of collaboration in strengthening education.

"The project reflects the strong

partnership between the government and private sector in promoting innovations at the grassroots level," she noted.

Department of Education (DepEd) Capiz Schools Division Superintendent Roel Bermejo expressed gratitude to the donors and emphasized DepEd's mission to provide inclusive and equitable quality education.

Bautista stated that by providing better access to digital content and learning tools, STARBOOKS helps close the digital gap and promote STEM learning.

"The combined support for educational technology and teacher training ensures that learners in these communities are better prepared to explore, discover, and thrive in a knowledge-driven world," she added. (AGP/PLF/PIA Capiz)

DOST's STARBOOKS goes to Bernardo College Library

by Bernardo College Library – Basic Education Department



On August 12, 2025, our library became a hub of curiosity and discovery as we welcomed DOST STARBOOKS (Science and Technology Academic and Research-Based Openly Operated Kiosks), bringing a wealth of science, technology, and livelihood resources right to our fingertips.

We extend our heartfelt thanks to our incredible Resource Speaker, Mr. Nicholas G. Zapanta, STARBOOKS Regional Focal Person for NCR, for sharing his expertise and inspiring our learners and

teachers to explore knowledge beyond the pages of a book. Special thanks as well to Sir Anthony Dula for providing an overview of DOST services and programs, and for his valuable support throughout the training—ensuring everything ran smoothly and successfully.

We also acknowledge with gratitude the presence and support of our School Principal, Mrs. Emelyna B. Legaspi, and our Deputy Registrar, Mr. Alfonzo Miguel B. Guinto, whose encouragement made this training and partnership possible.

A big salute to all the participants from Junior High School, Senior High School, College, and our faculty members who actively engaged in the training, and to the dedicated individuals behind organizing this event. Your teamwork made this learning experience possible.

Here's to more opportunities to bridge the digital divide and empower Bernardians through greater access to knowledge and information.

MOA Signing at DOST STARBOOKS Launch, Isinagawa Kasabay ng Youth Forum sa Legazpi

by Bell Jasareno, Radyo Siram 101.1 News FM



Photo by Mayor Hisham Ismail

Isinagawa sa Lungsod ng Legazpi ang Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) Signing sa pagitan ng mga katuwang na ahensya, na sinundan ng pormal na paglulunsad ng DOST Starbooks at ng “Red Flag and Safe Paths: A Youth Forum on Health, Gender, and Rights” kasama ang Bicol Regional Hospital and Medical Center (BRHMC) nitong Lunes, Agosto 11, 2025.

Nagsimula ang programa sa paglagda ng MOA bilang simbolo ng pagtutulungan para sa pagpapalawak ng kaalaman at pagbibigay ng access sa mahahalagang impormasyon para sa kabataan. Kasunod nito, inilunsad ang DOST Starbooks na nag-aalok ng offline access sa libu-libong educational resources para sa mga mag-aaral, partikular

sa mga lugar na limitado ang internet connection.

Matapos ang opisyal na paglulunsad, isinagawa ang Youth Forum kung saan tinalakay ang mga paksang may kaugnayan sa responsableng pagpapasya, kalusugan, at kahalagahan ng pagkilala sa sariling karapatan. Sa forum na ito, binigyang-diin ng BRHMC at ng Pamahalaang Lungsod ng Legazpi, sa pamumuno ni Mayor Hisham Ismail, ang layunin ng lungsod na magsulong ng pagkakapantay-pantay, inklusibidad, at kaligtasan ng kabataan.

Karugtong nito, ang nasabing kolaborasyon ay naglalayong magbigay sa susunod na henerasyon ng mga kasanayan, kaalaman, at oportunidad upang maging handa at ligtas sa komunidad.

AES, tumanggap ng DOST STARBOOKS App—bagong yugto sa pagkatuto

by Ambitacay Elementary School Agoo La Union Page

Napakapalad ang AES dahil isa sa mahigit 200 na paaralan sa probinsya ng La Union ang tumanggap ng libheng STARBOOKS App mula sa DOST noong ika-20 ng Agosto, 2025 sa Division Conference Center sa San Fernando La Union.

Hatid ng STARBOOKS App ang kauna-unahang digital library na naglalaman ng mga leksyon lalo na ang Science, Technology & Innovations o ST&I at iba pa na magagamit ng mga mag-aaral at mga guro na maaring i-access offline kaya't napaka-ganda ito sa mga malalayong lugar na lalo sa mga mahihina ang access sa internet katulad ng ating paaralan.

Ito'y napakalaking hakbang patungo



Photos by Ambitacay Elementary School Agoo La Union Page

sa mas makabagong edukasyon kaya't nagpapasalamat ang AES sa pangunguna ng Ulong Guro na si Dr. Nelrisa B. Fortea.

Salamat DOST STARBOOKS sa pagsuporta sa aming misyon para sa kalidad na edukasyon!

DOST supports education in Aurora through expansion of offline digital libraries

by Bonifacio P. Olit, PIA Region 3-Aurora



Photo by PIA Region 3-Aurora

BALER, Aurora (PIA) — Students and teachers in three geographically isolated and disadvantaged area (GIDA) schools in Aurora now have access to thousands of educational materials through the offline digital library initiative of the Department of Science and Technology (DOST), in line with President Ferdinand Marcos, Jr.'s directive aimed at bridging the digital divide.

Villa Aurora, Diotorin, and Dibayabay Elementary Schools each received a refurbished laptop preloaded with the Science and Technology Academic and Research-Based Openly Operated Kiosk Station (STARBOOKS), developed by DOST to support learning in

areas without internet access.

DOST Aurora Science Research Specialist Regine Maines-Agumboy said the laptops were donated in partnership with Chevron Philippines to strengthen access to learning in underserved schools.

"By bringing these resources directly to schools in remote areas, DOST is helping build a stronger foundation for inclusive and equitable education that empowers both students and teachers to thrive despite connectivity challenges," she said.

STARBOOKS is a stand-alone digital library that provides offline access to curated

science and technology content, helping bridge the digital divide in GIDA schools.

It allows multiple users to connect through a local area network or Wi-Fi, making it an effective tool for classrooms without reliable internet.

Meanwhile, Agumboy disclosed that 36 additional STARBOOKS units will be delivered this year under the Community Empowerment through Science and Technology program, strengthening the 12 existing installations already operating in other parts of the province.

"DOST wants to ensure that no learner is left behind just because they don't have access to the internet," she pressed.

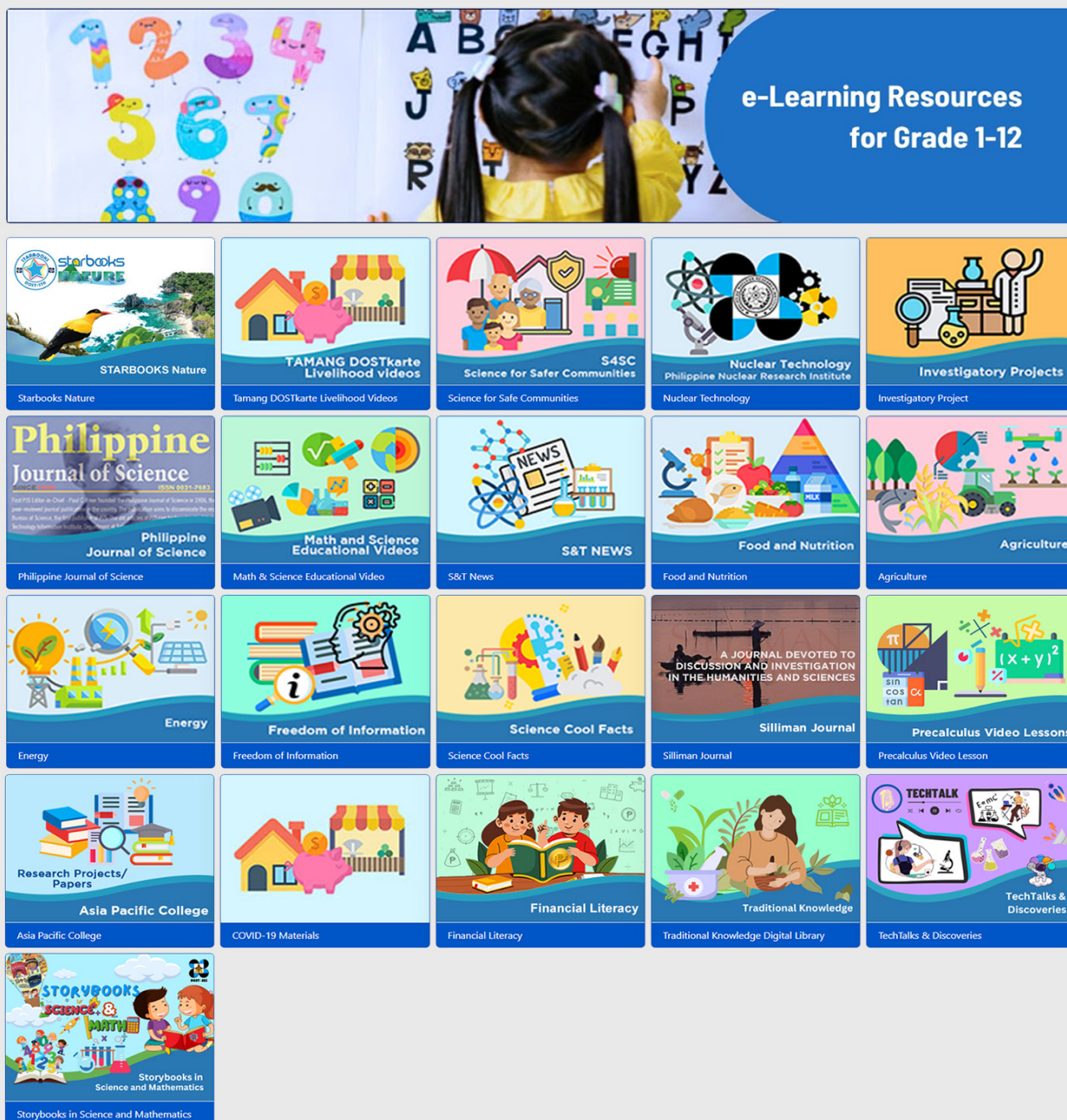
In his 2024 State of the Nation Address, President Ferdinand R. Marcos Jr. emphasized the importance of bridging the digital divide alongside addressing classroom shortages, highlighting the government's goal to equip all students with digital tools, electricity, and connectivity.

By aligning national priorities with on-the-ground implementation, the continued rollout of STARBOOKS in Aurora's GIDA schools moves the country closer to an inclusive, tech-enabled education system.

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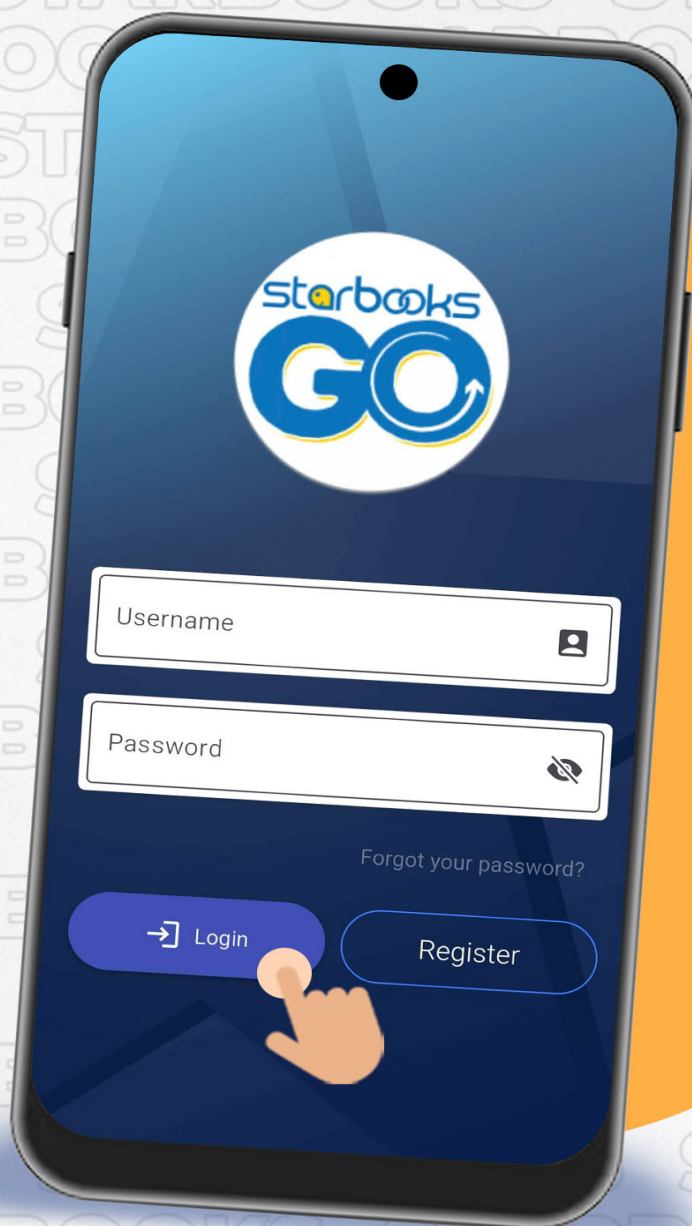
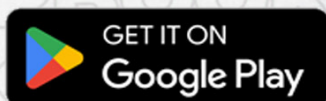
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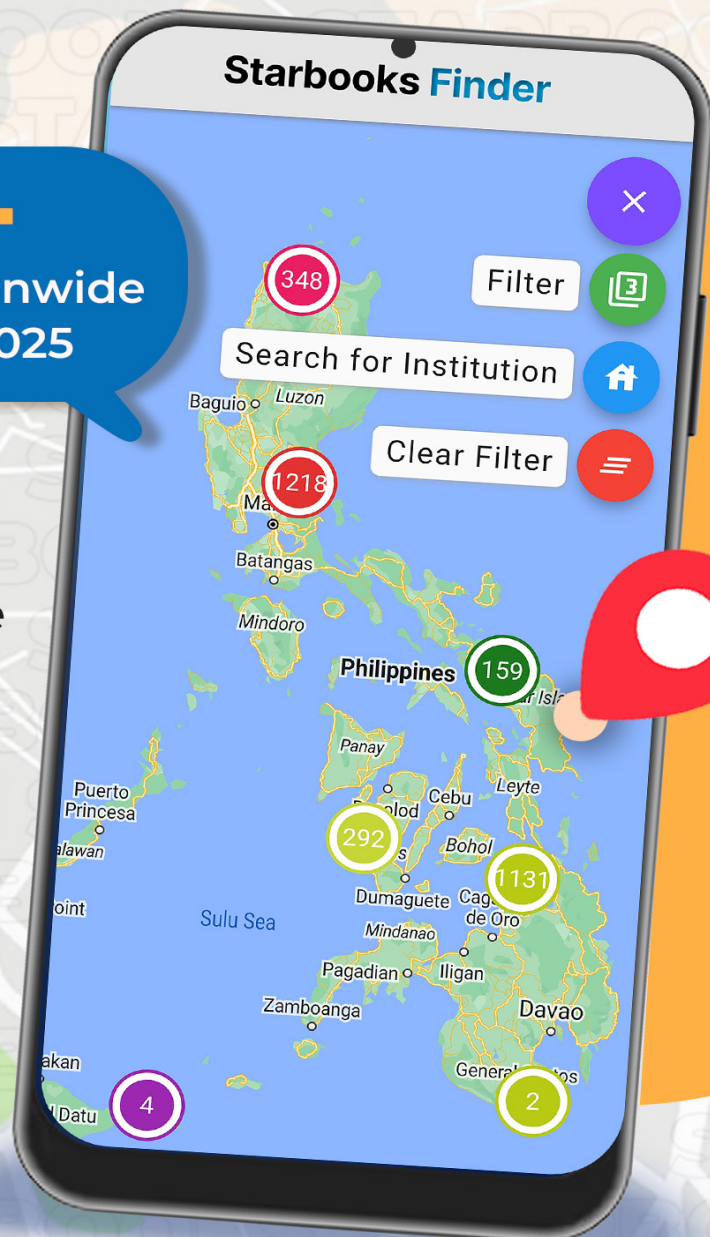
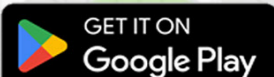
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