

STARBOOKS Regional Stakeholders Conventions: Toward a Sustainable and Resilient Future

The STARBOOKS Regional Stakeholders Conventions held at three different regions in the second half of 2023 was a blazing success.

With the theme “STARBOOKS: Toward a Sustainable and Resilient Future,” these academic conventions brought together more than 780 passionate teachers and school administrators from public and private schools in Cordillera Administrative Region, National Capital Region, and Regions I, III, and XI.

The first leg of the regional convention was held on 02 August 2023 at Saint Louis University - Senior High Campus, Navy Base, Baguio City. The second leg was held on 18 August 2023 at Mahogany Grand Ballroom, Sequioa Hotel, Parañaque City. And the third leg was at Philippine Women’s College of Davao on 19 October 2023.

STARBOOKS: Toward a Sustainable and Resilient Future focused on empowering educators and stakeholders with the knowledge...

◀ [story on P3](#)

STARBOOKS Nature Launched in Dumaguete City

STARBOOKS Nature was officially launched at the Central Visayas 2023 Regional Science, Technology, and Innovation Week (RSTW) celebration at Robinsons Dumaguete, Dumaguete City on September 20, 2023.

A joint project by DOST-STII and DOST-Region 7 through the Provincial S&T Office - Negros Oriental and support coming from the Provincial Government of Negros Oriental, DENR-Region VII, Silliman University, and Negros Oriental State University.

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Director's Note

STARBOOKS has become a beacon of hope for students and learners across the country, providing them with an avenue to explore diverse subjects and expand their horizons.

The unwavering dedication and boundless passion of individuals using STARBOOKS serve as a driving force behind the mission to make Science, Technology, and Innovation (STI) information accessible to learners and educators beyond the confines of traditional classrooms.

STARBOOKS also extended its focus beyond learners to include educators.

“STARBOOKS: Toward a Sustainable and Resilient Future” is centered on empowering both educators and stakeholders, equipping them with the knowledge and skills essential to navigate the challenges and seize the opportunities presented by the constantly evolving educational landscape.

STARBOOKS also owes its success in delivering educational and learning resources to communities in need to both longstanding and newfound partners.



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

STARBOOKS serves not only as an educational repository but also a platform for fostering meaningful collaboration and partnerships with various organizations that share the common goal and advocacy of extending learning and education to every learner in the country.

STARBOOKS Insider

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

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STARBOOKS Regional Stakeholders Conventions: Toward a Sustainable and Resilient Future

Photos and Text by Rommel M. Azucena, Jr.



These academic conventions brought together more than 780 passionate teachers and school administrators from public and private schools

► (...cont'd from page 1) and skills needed to embrace the challenges and opportunities of the ever-evolving educational landscape.

The regional conventions were conducted in partnership with DOST-CAR, DOST-NCR, DOST-Region XI, Saint Louis University, and the Philippine Women's College of Davao.

Topics discussed were: *The Development of Interactive Content for STEAM; The Power of AI Tools; Education Resiliency with Growth Mindset and Learner-Centered Strategies; and Data Visualization Using Microsoft Excel.*

Important milestones and updates on STARBOOKS were also discussed during the regional conventions.



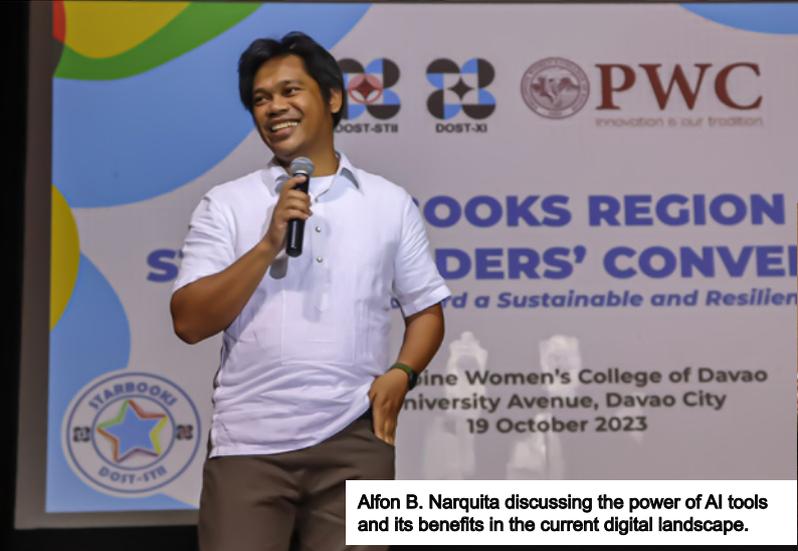
DOST-STII Director Richard P. Burgos delivering an inspirational message to the participants of the convention.



IRAD Chief Alan C. Taule introducing the training objectives to the participants.



Maria Elaine P. De Velez (r), and Ma. Eloisa I. Ferrer (l), discussing how interactive STEAM contents help off-load teachers' tasks and workload.



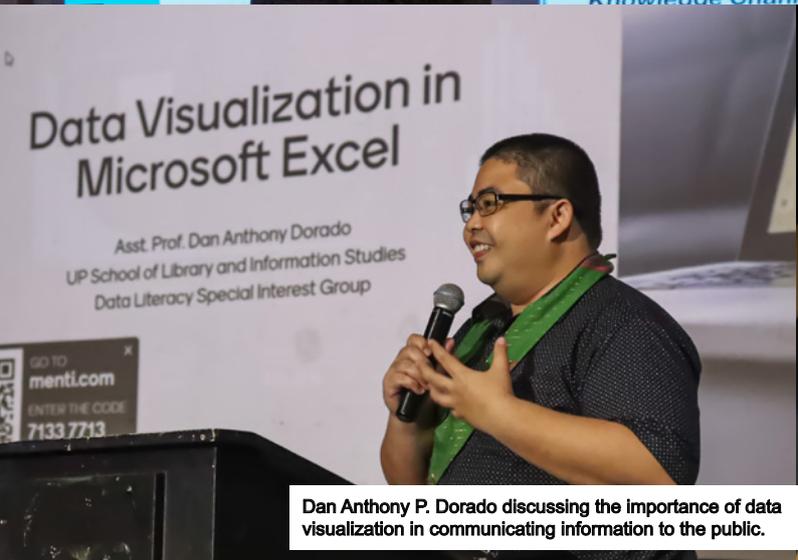
Afon B. Narquita discussing the power of AI tools and its benefits in the current digital landscape.



Edric C. Calma emphasizing the importance of growth mindset in creating positive impact to learners.



Dr. Felina P. Espique, discussing the adoption of inclusive and accessible teaching modes in education.



Dan Anthony P. Dorado discussing the importance of data visualization in communicating information to the public.



Marievic V. Narquita discussing the latest updates about STARBOOKS in 2023.





The Year in Exhibits



STARBOOKS Exhibit on the occasion of St. Joseph's Academy (SJA) of Las Pinas, Inc.'s STREAM (Science, Technology, Reading, Engineering, Arts, Mathematics) Festival on 22 and 24 of May 2023 at SJA School Library.



STARBOOKS joined the "BPI Financial Wellness Fair: Kasama Lahat sa Pag-Unlad" in celebration of the BPI Foundation's 45th Anniversary at Palm Drive Activity Center, Glorietta 2, Makati City on 20-23 July 2023.



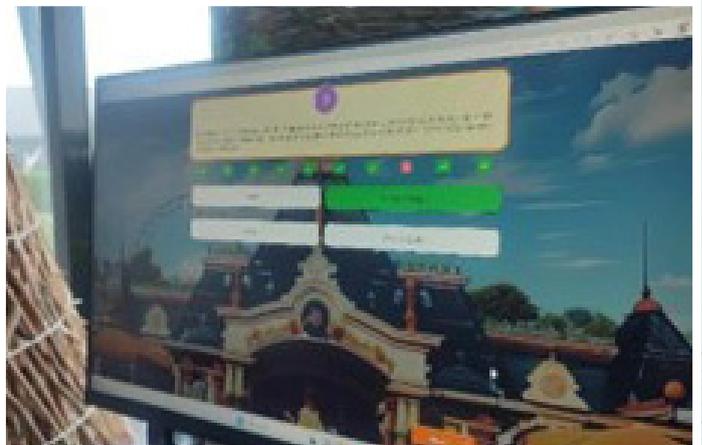
STARBOOKS made its mark at the 2023 Regional Science and Technology Week (RSTW) in SOCCSKSARGEN held at the Sultan Kudarat Gym and Cultural Center in Isulan, Sultan Kudarat, on 13-15 September 2023.



STARBOOKS and STARBOOKS Nature exhibit at the celebration of the Central Visayas 2023 Regional Science, Technology, and Innovation Week at Robinsons Dumaguete, Dumaguete City from 20 to 23 September 2023.



STARBOOKS joined the celebration of the 2023 Regional Science, Technology, and Innovation Week (RSTW) in Abra at the Abra Sports Complex, Bangued, Abra, on 27 to 29 September 2023.



STARBOOKS team installed a customized version of STARBOOKS Whiz at Enchanted Kingdom's Agila the EKsperience lobby on 07 October 2023. This edition of STARBOOKS Whiz edition features quizzes focused on the science behind the amusement park's rides.



STARBOOKS joined the celebration of the 2023 National Youth Science, Technology, and Innovation Festival (NYSTIF) from October 25 to 28, 2023, at the Philippine International Convention Center (PICC) Forum Tent in Pasay City.

Experience Nature with STARBOOKS

20 September 2023 | Photos and Text by Rommel M. Azucena, Jr.



► (...cont'd from page 1) STARBOOKS Nature seeks to contribute to overall efforts toward the preservation of wildlife, promotion of environmental education, and enhancement of ecotourism in Negros Oriental by leveraging suitable ICT solutions.

STARBOOKS Nature features the following protected areas: Apo Island Protected Landscape and Seascape, Balinsasayao Twin Lakes Natural Park, and Tañon Strait Protected Seascape.

Tourists and visitors experienced the interactive kiosk at science,

and innovation exhibits showcased on the celebration of the Central Visayas 2023 RSTW with the theme Siyensya, Teknolohiya, at Inobasyon: Kabalik sa Matatag, Maginhawa, at Panatag na Kinabukasan.



STARBOOKS Nature: A New Way to Experience and Appreciate Nature

20 September 2023 | Photos by PSTO–Negros Oriental |
Text by Engr. Reinhold Jek Y. Abing



Dumaguete City, Negros Oriental - A new and innovative information kiosk that showcases the natural wonders and conservation efforts of three protected areas (PAs) in Negros Oriental was launched today at the Atrium of Robinsons Dumaguete.

The launching of STARBOOKS Nature was one of the highlights of the 2023 Central Visayas Regional Science and Technology Week.

The launching of STARBOOKS Nature was attended by DOST officials, including DOST Undersecretary for Special Concerns Teodoro Gatchalian and DOST Regional Director Engr. Jesus F. Zamora, Jr.; DOST VII Assistant Regional Director for Technical Operations Division Dr. Tristan L. Abando, DOST-STII Chief Science Research Specialist Alan C. Taule, among many others.

They expressed their support and appreciation for the project, which they said will enhance

the tourism potential and environmental awareness of the PAs.

STARBOOKS Nature is a customized, environment-oriented version of STARBOOKS, or Science and Technology Academic and Research-Based Openly Operated KioskS, a one-stop repository for learning and livelihood information designed by the Department of Science and Technology–Science and Technology Information Institute (DOST-STII) to reach those with limited or no access to information.

“STARBOOKS Nature will store and exhibit the scientific and technical information of Apo Island Protected Landscape and Seascape, Balinsasayao Twin Lakes Natural Park, and Mount Talinis Natural Park, which are the three PAs in Negros Oriental that are rich in biodiversity and cultural heritage,” said Atty. Gilbert R. Arbon, Provincial S&T Director of DOST Negros Oriental. During the press conference,

DOST VII Regional Director, Engr. Jesus F. Zamora underscored the significance of STARBOOKS Nature. “It showcases the beauty of nature in Negros Oriental to promote not only education but also responsible tourism. We plan to set this up at the airport or any conspicuous location for tourists to see where they are headed and what to expect when they arrive there. When we launched it, the only one as of now was what we call ‘STARBOOKS Nature.’ DOST-STII created this specifically for Negros Oriental; this is the first ‘STARBOOKS Nature’ in the country”, stressed Engr. Zamora.

Through STARBOOKS Nature, DOST hopes to inspire more people to visit, appreciate, and protect the PAs in Negros Oriental, which are vital for the ecological balance and economic development of the province. STARBOOKS Nature will also serve as a model for other PAs in the country who want to showcase their natural beauty and conservation efforts through science and technology.

STARBOOKS Nature is a collaboration between DOST-STII and DOST Regional Office No. VII through DOST Negros Oriental, in coordination with the Provincial Government of Negros Oriental, DENR-Region VII, Protected Area Management Board, Silliman University, and Negros Oriental State University.

STARBOOKS Nature App Promotes Protected Areas in Negros Oriental

21 September 2023 | Photos and Text by
Mary Judaline Partlow (Philippine News Agency)

► **Dumaguete, Negros Oriental** - A new application launched recently by the Department of Science and Technology (DOST) aims to promote and preserve at least three protected areas in Negros Oriental.

Rommel Azucena Jr., Science Research Specialist - I of the DOST, is referring to Dubbed STARBOOKS Nature, an app that contains all the information of the protected areas that they intend to visit.

These areas are the Apo Island Protected Landscape and Seascape in Dauin, the Balinsasayao Twin Lakes protected area in Sibulan, and the Tañon Strait Protected Seascape.

“The app contains all the information of the protected area so that tourists will have enough details and particulars before or upon visiting the featured destination,” he said.

The DOST has come up with two prototypes of the kiosk that are expected to be piloted in Apo Island once specific details have been ironed out, he said.

The offline interactive kiosk is user-friendly and touch-screen, complete with information about the protected areas, sights to see, wildlife and habitat, ecotourism, conservation, threats, research, and management.



An added feature is a quiz that would encourage users to test their knowledge after having visited a particular protected area where STARBOOKS Nature is available, Azucena said.

The DOST will deploy the STARBOOKS Nature kiosk for free in the three protected areas initially identified as pilot areas, he added.

This is a joint project of DOST-Region 7 through the provincial science and technology office in Negros Oriental, in partnership with DOST-Science and Technology Information Institute (DOST-STII), which is the developer of STARBOOKS, Department of Environment and Natural Resources-Region 7, Silliman University and Negros Oriental State University in this capital city, and the Negros Oriental provincial government.

The two universities have collaborated with the DOST in providing the information and research materials of the three protected areas that are uploaded in the STARBOOKS Nature app.

The STARBOOKS Nature app was launched on September 19 during the opening of the Regional Science and Technology Week held at the Robinsons Place shopping mall in this capital city.

Exhibitors are from various schools and groups that feature their respective innovations and inventions.

DOST-STII Taps Enchanted Kingdom to Enhance Students' Interactivity

21 September 2023 | Photo by Gerardo D. Palad and
Text by Rhoven Del Rosario (Manila Bulletin)



▶ **DOST-STII, Taguig City** - The Department of Science and Technology – Science and Technology Information Institute (DOST-STII) renewed its partnership with the Enchanted Kingdom (EK) to enhance students' interactivity and to strengthen its “Edutainment” (Education Entertainment) advocacy.

The DOST-STII on Tuesday, September 12, signed the Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) with EK headed by DOST STII Director Richard P. Burgos and EK Chief Operating Officer (COO) Dr. Cynthia Romero Mamon at the DOST Complex in Taguig City.

During the agreement, Burgos emphasized the significance of having partners as they contribute essential resources and networks to projects.

“The Enchanted Kingdom officers share our vision that you can also be

entertained and at the same time be educated,” Burgos said.

For its part, DOST-STII will bring its two units of Science and Technology Academic-Research-Based Openly Operated KioskS (STARBOOKS) — the country’s first fully digital Science and Technology (S&T) library in a box— containing thousands of curated knowledge content for Grades 1 to 12 students at the theme park by the end of September, before EK’s 28th Anniversary celebration on October 28.

The organization also stated that STARBOOKS is aimed at making students interested in the field of S&T and increasing the number of Filipino learners enrolling in S&T courses.

In addition, EK is collaborating with the new DOST application “STARBOOKS Whiz.”

Through this interactive application, students may enjoy answering questions about the science behind the rides.

Meanwhile, Mamon underscored that EK has been a “home to more than 600,000 students every year.”

“We are one with DOST-STII in their mission to educate everyone, especially the youth on Science and Technology. We are committed to ensuring that learning never stops while they are having fun through our edutainment program,” she said.

“For example, through Enchanting Classroom, students can learn the physics behind our rides and utilize the Park as their laboratory,” she added.

STARBOOKS Tests Students' Mettle in First-Ever Whiz Bee

21 September 2023 | Photos by Rommel M. Azucena, Jr. and
Text by Jacqueline R. Parairo (DOST-STII)

► **General Trias, Cavite** - Students from Governor Ferrer Memorial Integrated National High School (GFMINHS) showcased their intellectual prowess during the first-ever Department of Science and Technology-Science and Technology Information Institute (DOST-STII) STARBOOKS Whiz Bee in General Trias, Cavite.

"It was historic on the part of Governor Ferrer Memorial Integrated National High School to host and, at the same time, conduct this kind of very important activity," said Dr. Ramy R. Dalida, Principal IV of GFMINHS, in his opening remarks. "Thank you so much, DOST-STII, for this opportunity na ibinigay niyo po sa amin, sa aming mga teachers, at sa aming mga learners."

More than ninety students from Grades 9 and 10 competed at



The winners of STARBOOKS Whiz Bee (L to R: Anthony Gelenno L. Caliwig, Jewel Rose T. Bacquian, Alex G. Mahabague, Jankia Iju P. Vallejos, and Aeron Karl A. Talosig) proudly present their medals, certificates, and prizes after the conclusion of the event on September 28, 2023, in General Trias, Cavite.

the beginning of the contest on September 26, 2023. The top twenty contestants made it to the semifinal round held on September 28. The five best scorers out of the group battled head-to-head during the grand finals later the same day.

Alex G. Mahabague emerged victorious as the first-ever STARBOOKS Whiz Bee Champion, followed by Jewel Rose T. Bacquian as First Runner Up, Anthony Gelenno L. Caliwig as Second Runner Up, Jankia Iju P. Vallejos as Third Runner Up, and finally Aeron Karl A. Talosig as Fourth Runner Up. The winners received medals and gift certificates from the event's sponsors.

"Nahirapan pa rin po kasi konti lang din po 'yung time ng paghahanda. Sa tingin ko po, practice lang po talaga before mag-start ang Whiz Bee," Whiz Bee Champion Mahabague answered when asked about his experience during the contest and his path to victory.

The Whiz Bee questions were curated by GFMINHS teachers from the STARBOOKS library and covered topics involving



The Top 20 contenders for the STARBOOKS Whiz Bee ponder their answers during the semifinals round of the competition held at Governor Ferrer Memorial Integrated National High School on September 28, 2023.

mathematics and science. The aim of STARBOOKS Whiz Bee is to contribute to improving the quality of mathematics and science education by encouraging students to strive for excellence in the subjects with the help of STARBOOKS.

On the other hand, winners of the DOSTv and GFMINHS's Video-Making Contest for teachers were also awarded cash prizes. Mathematics teacher Jeziah Jahziel T. Bombay won first place, while Loren Mae P. Montealto and Myrose G. Noche got second and third place, respectively.

The video-making contest was part of the seminar-workshop

given by DOST-STII for the teachers who attended the recent Science Journo Ako lecture with DOSTv segment producer Antonio Capinpin as the resource speaker.

”From the Department of Science and Technology—Science and Technology Information Institute, ito ang aming promise sa inyo: tulong-tulong tayo para sa isang maunlad, mapanatag, at mapayapang bayan,” DOST-STII Director Richard P. Burgos said in his video message during the event.

STARBOOKS is an interactive kiosk system developed by DOST-STII. It aims to provide science, technology, and innovation (STI) information to students

and other constituents in geographically isolated and economically challenged schools and communities throughout the country through digitized formats set in a user-friendly interface. Incidentally, both the STARBOOKS and DOSTv are two of the flagship programs of the institute that have been included in the National Priority Plan of the National Economic and Development Authority and have received numerous awards for being innovative and game-changing.



STARBOOKS Joins National Youth Science, Technology, and Innovation Festival

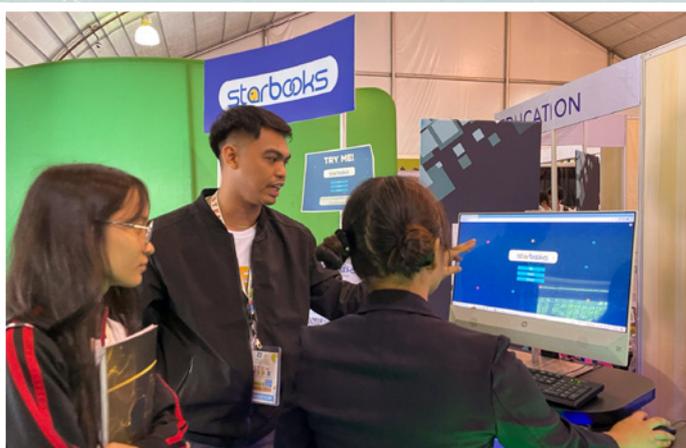
25 October 2023 | Photos and Text by Rommel M. Azucena, Jr.

► **PICC, Pasay City** - STARBOOKS joined the celebration of the 2023 National Youth Science, Technology, and Innovation Festival (NYSTIF) from October 25 to 28, 2023, at the Philippine International Convention Center (PICC) Forum Tent in Pasay City.

Visitors were encouraged to try the STARBOOKS Quiz for a chance to win exciting prizes from both STARBOOKS and Enchanted Kingdom.

Visitors also had the opportunity to navigate and explore STARBOOKS' offline platform. NYSTIF aimed

to increase awareness of science and technology among youth and motivate them to pursue career opportunities in Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM).



STARBOOKS Nature Stakeholders Forum and Product Demonstration

15 November 2023 | Photos and Text by Rommel M. Azucena, Jr.



► **Dumaguete City** - STARBOOKS, in partnership with the Provincial Science and Technology Office-Negros Oriental, conducted the STARBOOKS Nature Stakeholders Forum and Product Demonstration at Ayang's Place Dumaguete on 15 November 2023.

The event was graced by stakeholders from the Negros Oriental Provincial Tourism Office, Negros Oriental Hotel Resort Restaurant Association Inc., the Provincial Environment and Natural Resources Office, the Department of Environment and Natural Resources, Silliman University, the Department of Education, and community leaders from Apo Island.

Atty. Gilbert R. Arbon, Provincial S&T Director of Negros Oriental, delivered the opening remarks. In his message, he stated that several of the stakeholders present were from DepEd. Atty.

Arbon said that DOST Negros Oriental will also cater to students and they have already identified schools on Apo Island in Balinsasayao for the deployment of STARBOOKS Nature.

DOST-STII Director Richard P. Burgos delivered a special message. He started his message by expressing his gratitude for the presence of people from both the public and private sectors. Burgos said that he has a special interest in the project because he lives along the Tañon Strait.

The product demonstration was conducted by Ms. Marievic V. Narquita, STARBOOKS Unit Head.

Narquita gave a concise overview of the technical aspects of the interactive kiosk and highlighted key sections and contents, as well as the embedded feedback system and the built-in quiz.

Additionally, Narquita addressed the financial aspects associated with acquiring, setting up, and implementing a system unit.

Following the presentation, stakeholders were given the opportunity to engage with STARBOOKS Nature.

They were given time to navigate and explore the system, allowing them to experience its features and functionalities firsthand.

Pioneering Safe Listening Initiative: Milliconnections Partners with DOST STII to Promote Hearing Health

30 November 2023 | Photos and Text by The Good News Pilipinas Team

Taguig City - In a significant move during National Children's Month, November 2023, Milliconnections, led by its young founder, Bettina Claire Carpio, partnered with the Department of Science and Technology Science and Technology Information Institute (DOST STII). This collaboration aims to enhance the Make Listening Safe Workgroup advocacy by integrating World Health Organization (WHO) guidelines and expanding hearing health education.

The ceremonial MOA signing at DOST-STII's main building in Bicutan, Taguig City, marked the official launch of this partnership. It focuses on providing accessible hearing health information, particularly in economically challenged communities lacking internet access. A noteworthy plan includes identifying 100 beneficiaries for the Digital Library, a direct outcome of this initiative.

Carpio, a passionate safe listening advocate, has been instrumental in bridging gaps in the educational system by promoting hearing health and well-being services. This collaboration with DOST STII, under the leadership of Director Richard Burgos, signifies a positive step towards inclusive health education.

Make Listening Safe Activities

Educational institutions have actively participated in the Make Listening Safe activities from 2020–2023, highlighting the importance of young people's roles in spreading safe listening practices. Milliconnections' establishment is a strategic step to fill content gaps in educational



Milliconnections' Bettina Claire Carpio with DOST STII's Director Richard Burgos at the MOA signing of their partnership to make listening safe. Milliconnections photo.

materials, specifically regarding safe listening. This aligns with DOST STII's objectives, particularly as the world prepares for World Hearing Day 2024.

The relevance of safe listening is underscored by the fact that approximately 1.1 billion individuals aged 12 to 35 risk hearing loss. Experts like Paul Howard Surridge emphasize the interconnectedness of hearing health with overall well-being, including the risks of cognitive decline, dementia, and other health issues.

Young Founder Bettina Claire Carpio

Bettina Claire Carpio's journey as a changemaker began with her participation in the World Hearing Forum webinar and her subsequent efforts to integrate DOST STARBOOKS into educational institutions. Her work, alongside that of Laguna State Polytechnic University (LSPU) Campus Director Atty. Rushid

Jay Sanco and other committed individuals have significantly advanced safe listening advocacy.

The MOA signing event was a platform for Carpio to express gratitude and highlight the partnership's potential to enhance community learning resources. The joint effort aims to address hearing-health disparities, challenge stigmas, and promote urgent healthcare reforms.

As preparations for World Hearing Day on March 3, 2024, continue, this initiative is a crucial step in making ear and hearing care accessible to all. Milliconnections and DOST-STII's partnership, leveraging WHO materials, is set to drive significant changes in health practices and policies, empowering young people as agents of change.

PARTNERS CORNER



DOST-STII, DOST Batangas, and PRISAB Partner for STARBOOKS Deployment in Private Schools

14 July 2023 | Photos by Rowel S. Huera | Text by Rommel M. Azucena, Jr.



► **MataasNaKahoy, Batangas City** - DOST-STII signed a Memorandum of Agreement with DOST Batangas and the Private Schools Association of Batangas, Inc. (PRISAB) for the deployment of STARBOOKS to 54 member schools of PRISAB at Dante's Event Venue & Exclusive Resort, Mataasnakahoy, Batangas City last 14 July 2023.



This partnership provides learners and teachers from the beneficiary schools free access to science, technology, and innovation (STI) information resources.

STARBOOKS team also conducted a mass installation and user training attended by teachers, school administrators, and IT personnel of the recipient schools.



DOST-STII, DOST-NCR Ink STARBOOKS Partnership with SDO Mandaluyong

17 July 2023 | Photos and Text by Rommel M. Azucena, Jr.



► **Mandaluyong City** - DOST-STII signed a Memorandum of Agreement with DOST NCR and Schools Division Office Office, Mandaluyong City, at Jose Fabella Memorial School, Mandaluyong City, on 17 July 2023 for the deployment of STARBOOKS to 31 public schools in the city.

This will provide free access to science, technology, and innovation (STI) information resources to learners and teachers in the recipient schools.

STARBOOKS team also conducted a mass installation and user training attended by teachers, school administrators, and IT personnel of the schools.



STARBOOKS Joins BPI Foundation 45th Anniversary Celebration

20 July 2023 | Photos and Text by Rommel M. Azucena, Jr.



► **Makati City** - STARBOOKS joined the “BPI Financial Wellness Fair: Kasama Lahat sa Pag-Unlad” in celebration of the BPI Foundation’s 45th Anniversary at Palm Drive Activity Center, Glorietta 2, Makati City on 20-23 July 2023.

STARBOOKS set up two interactive kiosks, which feature the STARBOOKS offline platform and STARBOOKS Quiz, an interactive game that can be played in three difficulty levels (easy, average, and advanced).

Also featured in the STARBOOKS offline kiosk is FinEd Unboxed: A Financial Wellness Journal, produced by the BPI Foundation.



STARBOOKS Receives Brand New Laptops from Quipper Philippines

28 July 2023 | Photos and Text by Rommel M. Azucena, Jr.

Taguig City - Quipper Philippines, Inc. turned over five laptop units to be used for STARBOOKS promotional activities at the DOST - Science and Technology Information Institute on 28 July 2023. Quipper DOST-STII Director Richard P. Burgos and Officer-in-Charge of STII Communication Resources and Production Division (CRPD) Rodolfo De Guzman received the units from Quipper CEO Yuki Naotori and National Sales Manager Julie Anne Porol. Quipper representatives in attendance include Regional Team Leader Mary Grace Prilles, Regional Account Coordinator Angelica Sotto, and Client Support Officer Team Leader Gracielle Espiritu.



STARBOOKS Inks S&T Partnership with Governor Ferrer Memorial Integrated High School

07 August 2023 | Photos and Text by Rommel M. Azucena, Jr.



▶ **Taguig City** - The Department of Science and Technology—Information Institute (DOST-STII) inks partnership with Governor Ferrer Memorial Integrated High School (GFMINHS) on a signing event on August 7, 2023.

As part of this collaboration, the students and teachers of GFMINHS will now have access to various DOST-STII's products and services, such as STARBOOKS, the Online Library Literacy Program, Science Journo Ako, and

a series of trainings and seminars. GFMINHS is also the pioneer school to host the very first STARBOOKS Whiz Bee during the school's Science Month celebration in September.

Present during the ceremonial signing are DOST-STII Director Richard P. Burgos, Information Resources and Analysis Division (IRAD) Chief Alan C. Taule, and Communication Resources and Production Division (CRPD) OIC Rodolfo P. De Guzman.

Schools Division Superintendent Dr. Daisy Z. Miranda, CESO V, School Principal Dr. Ramy R. Dalida, and Senior Education Program Specialist Leah Anne A. Misenas represented GFMINHS and the Schools Division Office of General Trias City.



STARBOOKS Partners with Schneider Electric Philippines; Renews Commitment with Enchanted Kingdom

12 September 2023 | Photo by Gerardo D. Palad | Text by Rommel M. Azucena, Jr.



▶ **Taguig City** - The DOST-Science and Technology Information Institute (DOST-STII) signed a Memorandum of Agreement with Enchanted Kingdom, Inc. (EKI) and Schneider Electric Philippines at a signing event at the DOST-STII Mini Theater on 12 September 2023.

The first agreement was a renewal of partnership between DOST-STII and EKI, with DOST-STII being represented by Director Richard P. Burgos, Information Resources and Analysis Division Chief Alan C. Taule, and Communication Resources and Production Division OIC Rodolfo P. De Guzman, while EKI was represented by its Head of Sales, Ms. Merlinda G. Adante.

This partnership with Enchanted Kingdom, Inc. involves the placement of a STARBOOKS unit filled with science and technology content in the Agila The Eksperience main

lobby in EK. Additionally, educational materials about “Physics Behind the Rides” from Enchanting Classroom will be uploaded to the STARBOOKS online and offline platforms.

DOST-STII, through its DOSTv programs, will additionally support Enchanted Kingdom by incorporating their logos into promotional materials and featuring them in a report titled “The Science in Amusement Parks.” This report will highlight the fascinating scientific aspects of each amusement ride at EK.

In return, EKI will generously provide 50 EK tickets per month for a duration of 12 months, which will be utilized to promote DOST-STII’s events and initiatives.

The next signing event took place between DOST-STII and Schneider Electric Philippines. DOST-STII

was represented by Director Richard P. Burgos and IRAD Chief Alan C. Taule, while Schneider Electric was represented by Director for Business Development Carlo Antonio Leviste and Head of Government Affairs Norman Roland Ocana III.

This collaboration with Schneider Philippines has resulted in the inclusion of their valuable digital content in both the offline and online databases of STARBOOKS, offered at no cost. These resources will significantly enhance STARBOOKS’ collection, particularly in the realm of engineering and energy.

Schneider Electric will also coordinate with their affiliated institutions, agencies, and libraries for related science and technology materials for potential inclusion in STARBOOKS’ collection.

Hyundai Motor Philippines Grants Three Hyundai Staria Vans to DOST-STII

18 December 2023 | Photos and Text by Henry A. De Leon and Andrea Mei B. Resane



▶ **Taguig City** - The Hyundai Motor Philippines, Inc. has granted three Hyundai Staria vans dedicated to boosting operation of DOSTv and STARBOOKS in communicating science, technology, and innovation. The Vehicle Handover Ceremony was held at the Science and Technology Information Institute Building on 14 December 2023.



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

20 December 2023 | Photos and Text by Rommel M. Azucena, Jr.



► **Taguig City** - BPI Foundation, Inc. (BPIFI) donates P2.1 million to DOST-STII, boosting the STARBOOKS project to provide 30 remote schools across the country with a free, complete package of science, technology, and innovation (STI) learning materials, empowering education in last-mile communities.

Present at the turn-over on 14 December 2023 were DOST Secretary Renato U. Solidum, Jr., DOST-STII Director Richard P. Burgos, DOST-STII Information Resources and Analysis Division Alan C. Taule, STARBOOKS Unit Head Marievic V. Narquita, BPIFI Associate Director Juvlyn S. Revina, BPIFI Program Manager Melanie

P. Magbuhos, and BPI Foundation Program Coordinator Benrick M. Dulay.

In early 2023, BPIFI's first donation was P700,000 for the deployment of STARBOOKS to 10 last-mile schools in the country.



STARBOOKS Receives Cutting-Edge ICT Equipment from VST ECS Phils. Inc.

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



➤ **Pasig City** - STARBOOKS received cutting-edge ICT equipment valued at over P500,000 from VST ECS Phils. Inc. This incredible donation will supercharge STARBOOKS' day-to-day operations to reach more learners in the communities. The official turn-over, held at the MSI-ESC Complex in Pasig City on

December 18, 2023, was graced by key figures including DOST-STII Director Richard P. Burgos and the fantastic team from VST ECS Phils., led by President and CEO Jimmy D. Go, Chief Operation Officer Princess Chua, Vice President and Value Group General Manager Cherry L. Centeno, and VP and Group Manager for Volume Business Paul M. Alcantara.

This collaboration marks the start of an exciting journey as DOST-STII and VST ECS Phils., Inc. join forces to end 2023 with innovation and excellence at the forefront.



REGIONAL NEWS



DOST, Partners Improve Science Info Access through STARBOOKS

09 July 2023 | Photos and Text by Manila Times



Representatives from DOST, LGU of Pangantucan and the DepEd Division of Bukidnon during the turnover ceremony of STARBOOKS.

► **Pangantucan, Bukidnon** - The Department of Science and Technology (DOST), in partnership with the Local Government Unit (LGU) of Pangantucan and the Department of Education Division of Bukidnon, provides seven STARBOOKS units in seven public high schools in Pangantucan.

The school beneficiaries are the Pangantucan National High School, Bacusanon National High School, Bangahan Integrated School, Kimanait National High School, Langcataon National High School, San Isidro High School, and Pangantucan Bukidnon Community College.

The project holds immense potential for the 4,944 high school students, 1,389 college students, and 890 teachers who have long depended on limited books and unreliable internet access.

These schools serve Indigenous Peoples (IP) students belonging to the Manobo tribe.

The significance of the STARBOOKS project was further highlighted by the Science Research Specialist of DOST Bukidnon Grazelle dela Cruz.

STARBOOKS is a digital library that offers free access to hundreds of thousands of theses, K to 12 modules, DRRM materials, research papers, theses, dissertations, and S&T news.

The Science and Technology Research-Based Openly Operated KioskS (STARBOOKS) is an innovation of the DOST Science and Technology Information Institute.

Expressing gratitude for the initiative, Dr. Ellen Azuelo, Education Program supervisor who is also the project leader, commended the DOST for its efficient and comprehensive project implementation process.

By providing accessible and up-to-date information, the project aims to empower students to pursue STEM courses and become valuable contributors to the S&T human capital of the country.

With the collaborative efforts of the DOST, DepEd and local educational institutions, the future of S&T education in Pangantucan is set to be brighter than ever before.

Present at the turnover ceremony are Assistant Schools Division Superintendent Dr. Lanila Palapar, School Principal of Pangantucan National High School Dr. Ligaya Gonzales, and LGU Pangantucan's Executive Assistant Rolando Franco.

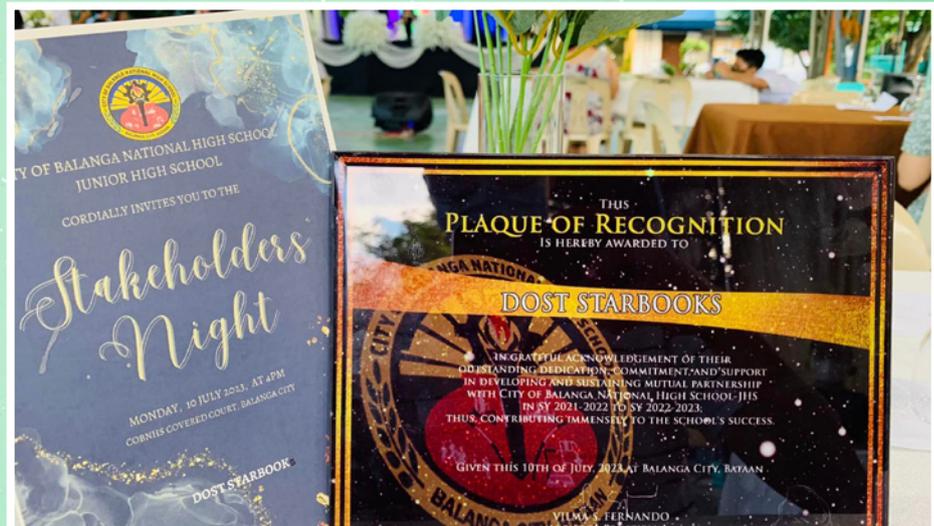
STARBOOKS receives recognition from City of Balanga National High School

10 July 2023 | Photos and Text by DOST- PSTO Bataan

▶ **Balanga, Bataan** - Department of Science and Technology—Bataan Provincial S&T Director Catalina V. De Leon-Cruz (Center) received a plaque of recognition from the City of Balanga National High School.

Balanga NHS was represented by Ms. Vilma Fernando (2nd from left), School Principal I, and Ms. Jessica Malicdem (Extreme Left), School Brigada Eskwela Coordinator, together with key officials from the Department of Education-Schools Division of Balanga, namely Ms. Gemma Rose C. Loyola (2nd from right), Division Brigada Eskwela Coordinator, and Mr. Salvador Isip (Extreme Right), Education Program Supervisor-MAPEH.

The recognition was given for being instrumental in the installation of the STARBOOKS Digital S&T Library at the school.



DOST-STII, DOST-CALABARZON sign STARBOOKS MOA with PRISAB

19 July 2023 | Photos and Text by DOST Batangas

MataasNaKahoy, Batangas - The Department of Science and Technology-Science and Technology Information Institute (DOST-STII), DOST-CALABARZON, and the Private Schools Association of Batangas Inc. (PRISAB) formalized their agreement to adopt and install units of the Science and Technology Academic Research-Based Openly-Operated KioskS (STARBOOKS) at PRISAB member schools.

STARBOOKS is a standalone digital library that provides S&T information and references developed by DOST-STII. It contains videos, pictures, articles, and research papers among others that students can access through an offline kiosk.

Around 50 STARBOOKS software will be deployed to PRISAB by joint efforts from DOST-STII and DOST-CALABARZON.

STII Director, Richard P. Burgos, DOST-CALABARZON Regional Director, Ms. Emelita P. Bagsit, DOST-Batangas Provincial Director,



Ms. Felina C. Malabanan, Chief of Information Resources and Analysis Division of STII, Mr. Alan C. Taule, PRISAB President, Ms. Catherine Recto-Banta, and PRISAB Member, Atty. Jessie M. Patron spearheaded

the MOA signing activity. Principals, academic coordinators, and IT personnel of the member schools were also present during the activity.



DOST, TESDA Partner to Boost Learning through STARBOOKS

19 July 2023 | Photos and Text by Jett T. Feliciano, DOST-III eCEST

San Fernando, Pampanga - In the era of digital advancements that aim to improve all aspects of life, including education, ironically, access to quality education remains a significant challenge, especially for marginalized communities in the country.

Recognizing this challenge, the Department of Science and Technology (DOST), through its Regional Office III, in collaboration with the Technical Education and Skills Development Authority (TESDA) Region III, has signed an agreement that will jointly implement the STARBOOKS project in the region, aimed at bridging the learning gaps and empowering learners in the communities by leveraging technology and a wealth of knowledge in science.

The partnership was made possible through the steadfast support of Senator Joel “TESDAMAN” Villanueva for DOST’s Community Empowerment through Science and Technology (CEST) Program, which hopes to build progressive and resilient communities.

DOST Undersecretary for Special Concerns Teodoro M. Gatchalian was present during the ceremonial Memorandum of Agreement signing and turnover of 18 STARBOOKS units between DOST III Assistant Regional Director Belen Q. Garcia and TESDA III Regional Director Toni June A. Tamayo.

Usec. Gatchalian emphasized the importance and commitment of DOST to the STARBOOKS program and the department’s support for TESDA.



The STARBOOKS, the digital library in a box, is expected to bring an array of science content and information that are helpful to technical and vocational learners, teachers, trainers, and communities.

It can enhance technical education and skills development for teachers and trainers through its repository of updated teaching materials and methodologies, enabling them to enhance their instructional techniques and stay ahead of the latest advancements in their respective fields.

The STARBOOKS consists of a customized computer system loaded with digitized learning materials, ranging from textbooks and modules to interactive videos and simulations.

By promoting digital inclusion, DOST and TESDA are leveling the playing field, enabling individuals from all walks of life to pursue educational opportunities and gain vital skills for a brighter future.

DOST, SLU Host Stakeholders' Convention

07 August 2023 | Photos by Rommel M. Azucena, Jr. | Text by Saint Louis University



workshop emphasized the role of innovation in ensuring effective lesson delivery to learners.

Moreover, various experts share their perspectives on their respective fields, including Ms. Ma. Eloisa I. Ferrer, who talked about the “Development of Interactive Content for STEAM,” Mr. Alfon B. Narquita, on “Unlocking the Power of AI Tools,” Mr. Edric C. Calma, who discussed “Education Resiliency with Growth Mindset and Knowledge Channel Resources,” and Dr. Felina P. Espique, who talked about “Learner-Centered Strategies.”

The event realizes the continuous commitment of Saint Louis University to be the instrument of the STARBOOKS project as the institution’s mission of assisting other schools in promoting academic excellence—a clear manifestation of implementing United Nations Sustainable Development Goals, specifically SDG 4 Quality Education; SDG 16 Peace, Justice, and Strong Institutions; CEAP Advocacy on Justice and Peace; and the CICM Advocacy on Justice.

► **Navy Base, Baguio City** - The DOST-Science and Technology Information Institute (DOST-STII) and Saint Louis University hosted the STARBOOKS Stakeholders Convention at the Fr. Gerard Decaestecker Function Hall, Navy Base, Baguio City on 02 August 2023.

With the theme “STARBOOKS: Towards a Sustainable and Resilient Future,” the event gathered affiliate private and public elementary and secondary schools in the region. More than 300 teachers and school administrators from CAR, Region I, and Region III participated in the convention.

Science and Technology Academic and Research-Based Openly-Operated Kiosks (STARBOOKS) provides science and technology resources that teachers, students, and other stakeholders can use to enhance the quality of science education in their localities by providing access to thousands of scientific information in various forms.

Officials from the three organizations have all pointed out the readiness of schools to embrace and maximize the use of science and technology in enhancing the delivery of learning to students. The seminar



STARBOOKS Reaches Out to More Learners

14 August 2023 | Photos by DOST XI | Text by Jeanevive D. Abangan and Carina L. Cayon (Philippine Information Agency)

► **Davao Del Norte** - Science and Technology Research-Based Openly Operated Kiosks, popularly known as STARBOOKS, will be reaching out to more learners, as this standalone digital offline library can now be installed in all public and private schools.

Engr. Jhun Rey Vistal, Project Technical Aide V of the Provincial Science and Technology Office (PSTO) of Davao del Norte province, emphasized that this offline library can be established in all schools.

He also shared that through the provincial offices of the Department of Science and Technology (DOST), the STARBOOKS can also be established in learning centers, local government units (LGUs) information offices, LGU libraries, and even in computer laboratories.

The DOST Science and Technology Information Institute has been establishing STARBOOKS in off-grid areas nationwide since 2011. It was designed to contain hundreds



First Batch of STARBOOKS User Training and Orientation at Odiongan National High School.

of thousands of digitized science and technology information and reference materials, aimed at providing library information to communities with no internet connection.

Vistal elaborated that a range of science and technology, and K to 12 data and information are compressed in STARBOOKS. DOST has transformed this into user-

friendly software that can be installed on a standalone computer.

In Davao Region, DOST-XI has already installed 414 STARBOOKS in all five provinces and in Davao City, with 101 updated kiosks and 11 solar-powered.

Davao Oriental was provided with the highest number of kiosks with 117, followed by Davao del Sur with 113.

In Davao Oriental, the solar-powered STARBOOKS was also introduced and piloted at the Patong Elementary School in Barangay Malibago in the Municipality of Cateel.

In Davao del Norte, a total of 77 schools have been equipped with STARBOOKS since 2016, and five solar-powered kiosks have been established.

Vistal also revealed that DOST-XI has recently installed STARBOOKS on a standalone computer to the



Pupils are usually amazed by the various knowledge they acquire from STARBOOKS.



DOST XI and DepEd Davao del Norte signs MOA for the implementation of STARBOOKS in schools.

far-flung Dagohoy Integrated School in the Municipality of Talaingod.

He stressed that DOST basically provides the STARBOOKS software for free while the provision of computer set is based on the assessment and the recommendation of the Department of Education (DepEd).

Meanwhile, Davao del Norte Science and Technology (DNSC) will also be providing a computer set for STARBOOKS installation in another school in Talaingod town.

In the province of Davao Occidental, a total of 35 STARBOOKS have been established with 12 updated kiosks and three solar-powered. Two of the kiosks were delivered to the island Municipality of Sarangani, located at the south of Mindanao island of the Celebes Sea and bordering Indonesia.

PSTO Davao Occidental Director Maria Victoria Dado shared their experience just to reach the grassroots and extend science for the people. There are no other means of transportation to go around the island, but to walk or ride a pump boat. So, the team took a three-kilometer walk to reach Jose de Arce Memorial National High School, the

only secondary school in Sarangani.

It then entailed another two-kilometer walk from the high school to reach Laker Elementary School, where the solar-powered STARBOOKS had also been established in 2018.

Davao Occidental is the farthest province, geographically located at the southwestern tip of the Davao Region, consisting of nearly 80 percent hilly, rugged and sloping mountains with unstable internet connectivity.

Moreover, the province of Davao de Oro has also received 43 STARBOOKS with 21 updated kiosks and one

solar-powered. While Davao City has 29 STARBOOKS with 12 updated kiosks.

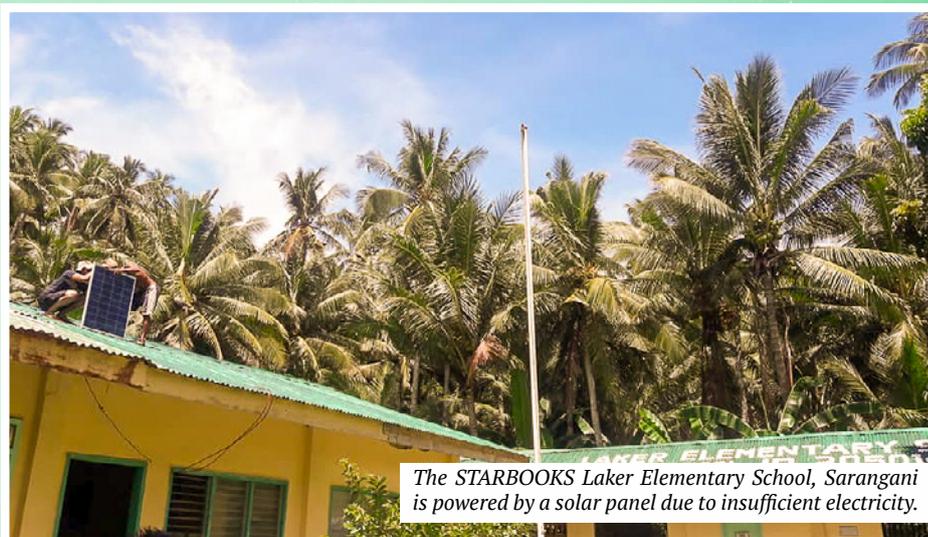
For over a decade of successfully deploying STARBOOKS throughout the region, accolades have been conferred on DOST-XI and to some individuals.

According to DOST-XI, the regional office ranked 3rd based on the number of STARBOOKS installed in 2018, following the lead of Region I with 158 units, and Region II with 125 units deployed, respectively.

These number of STARBOOKS installed by DOST-XI increased significantly from 36 in 2017 to 122 units for 2018 alone.

During their 36th anniversary in June this year, the DOST-STII recognized Jeric Felix Gagama, STARBOOKS deployment officer of PSTO-Davao Oriental, for his exemplary performance in deploying and installing the digital library.

In a DOST-XI news write up, DOST-STII acknowledged Gagama's "unwavering commitment to deploying STARBOOKS in the



The STARBOOKS Laker Elementary School, Sarangani is powered by a solar panel due to insufficient electricity.



DOST-STII recognized Jeric Felix Gagama, STARBOOKS deployment officer of PSTO-Davao Oriental for his contributions.

Rogationist Academy in Davao City in August, and in Davao Doctors College in September.

DOST-XI will also be organizing a STARBOOKS Regional Convention in October 2023.

Students who participated in a survey found STARBOOKS handy, user-friendly, and very essential for learners.

They cited the digital library as helpful for their homework, research, projects, and science classes.

Geographically Isolated and Disadvantaged Areas (GIDA) in Davao Oriental, where he successfully deployed 114 STARBOOKS in the province including two solar-powered STARBOOKS.”

DOST-XI said that out of 307 schools in the Davao del Sur province, 91 public schools have been provided with STARBOOKS since its initial distribution in 2011.

Since 2012, Gagama has been deploying STARBOOKS to various communities in Davao Oriental and has conducted various trainings and seminars for teachers and students on the proper use of the digital library.

Engr. Howell Ong, unit head of DOST-XI Innovation and Support Section, said they will continue to install STARBOOKS, prioritizing geographically isolated and disadvantaged areas in the region.

“It’s very helpful, especially when we are searching for documents or searching for answers in our research, because you don’t need any internet connection to log in,” a student highlighted. (JDA/CLC, PIA-XI)*

“Gina-priority namo ang mga lagyo kay kabalo kami na limited lang jud kaayo ang access sa mga bata sa educational materials and malipay kami nga nakaserve ta ug sa makalampos pud sila sa ilang kaugmaon (We prioritize far-flung areas because we are aware that their access to various educational materials are very limited and we are happy that we can serve them with something that will help them in their future),” Gagama was quoted saying in a news write-up.

Ong noted that STARBOOKS projects lined up for the second semester this year include the installation at the

In May 2023, the PSTO Davao del Sur was conferred with a plaque of appreciation by DOST-STII “for successfully deploying and installing STARBOOKS across public schools in the province.”



DOST-XI Regional Director Dr. Anthony Sales (2nd from right) is being interviewed by a TV network about STARBOOKS in the region.

DOST-VII turns-over STARBOOKS Ready Units to DepEd Toledo

24 August 2023 | Text by Bernadith G. Famador, Teacher III, General P. Del Rosario Elem. School



► **Toledo City, Cebu** - The Schools Division of Toledo City received 30 units of Science and Technology Academic and Research-Based Openly-Operated KioskS (STARBOOKS) from the Department of Science and Technology (DOST) Region VII after the orientation and hands-on training for STARBOOKS management and utilization.

A signing of the Memorandum of Agreement and turn-over ceremonies were held at Bato National High School afterward.

DOST VII STARBOOKS Regional Deployment Officer Venus D. Retuya conducted the orientation

on STARBOOKS management and utilization with the Learning Resource Center Coordinators and Information and Communication Technology Coordinators of the 30 beneficiary schools in the division.

Aside from the STARBOOKS units, they also received computer keyboards, automatic voltage regulators, speakers, LED monitors, and computer tables.

Beneficiary elementary schools are:

- Apid Elementary School
- Awihao Elementary School
- Bato Elementary School
- Bunga Elementary School
- Calong-calong Elementary School

- Canlumampao Elementary School
- Cantabaco Elementary School
- Captain Claudio Elementary School
- Carmen Elementary School
- Don Andres Soriano Elementary School
- Gen. P. del Rosario Elementary School
- Ibo Elementary School
- Lower Campo 8 ES
- Magdugo Elementary School
- Mainggit Elementary School
- Matab-ang Elementary School
- Media Once Elementary School
- North City Central School
- Poog Elementary School
- South City Central School
- and Talavera Elementary School

While beneficiary secondary schools are:

- Bunga National High School
- Canatabaco National High School
- Gen. Climaco National High School
- Luray II National High School
- Magdugo National High School
- Matab-ang National High School
- Media Once National High School
- Toledo City Science High School
- and Toledo National Vocational School.

STARBOOKS contains hundreds of thousands of digitized science and technology resources in various formats placed in specially designed pods set in a user-friendly interface that are accessible even without an internet connection.

The newest addition to the STARBOOKS is K-12 resources, as per demand by users in schools that comprise most of DOST's beneficiaries.

Innovative Learning Now Made Accessible: Deploying STARBOOKS Units to 30 Public Schools in Toledo City

04 September 2023 | Photos and Text by Niño Joshua C. Tanggaan



Toledo City, Cebu - “The additional STARBOOKS units deployed here will (definitely) aid in the academic advancement of our students.”

These were the words of Dr. Eden C. Lequigan, the Education Program Supervisor of the Learning Resource Management Section (LRMS) of the Department of Education, Toledo City Division, Cebu.

The Science and Technology Academic and Research-Based Openly-Operated KioskS (STARBOOKS) program under the Department of Science and Technology-Science and Technology Information Institute (DOST-STII) has continuously deployed new units to various public schools all over the Philippines.

The STARBOOKS unit is a digital library/information kiosk that contains

a plethora of science and technology information resources designed to be accessible to students, especially in geographically isolated areas.

However, with its latest update, its contents also expanded to include K-12 materials that elementary and high school teachers can use.

In August 2023, the DOST VII STARBOOKS team, led by Ms. Venus D. Retuya, conducted an orientation and hands-on training on the management and utilization of STARBOOKS. This was followed by a Memorandum of Agreement signing and turnover ceremonies for the 30 Department of Education-Toledo Division beneficiary schools at Bato National High School.

The participants were mostly IT personnel and librarians from each school, who were tasked with

managing and maintaining the units. It can be said that the 30 new STARBOOKS units were the outcome of the previous year’s STARBOOKS Stakeholders Convention held in Central Visayas, where officials from the DepEd Regional Office, led by Dr. Bryant Acar, Education Program Supervisor, attended.

Through this convention, more DepEd officials were encouraged to acquire more STARBOOKS units for deployment to different public schools throughout Central Visayas.

The program has caught the attention of Dr. Lequigan, who said that she has already heard about STARBOOKS since 2018, when she became the LRMS Supervisor. After attending many conferences, her division has now finally procured 30 additional STARBOOKS units to be installed in 30 beneficiary schools.

The turnover ceremonies were officially held through an orientation and hands-on training. It was formalized through the signing of the MOU between Dr. Lequigan and Engr. Adrian D. Cruz, the Officer-in-Charge, Office of the Cebu Provincial Director.

Dr. Lequigan has assured its partners that the units will be of great help to the division as their content is periodically updated and will particularly aid senior high school students on the STEM track with their research through the various theses and dissertations contained in STARBOOKS.

STARBOOKS now accessible in Looc Nat'l High School

08 September 2023 | Photos and Text by Erwin Marquez

▶ **Looc, Romblon** - Scientific knowledge and information are now accessible to students and teachers at Looc National High School as DOST personnel Sherwin M. Magbojos and Richard M. Cawaling updated and set up centralized access for the one-stop digital science library-in-a-box, STARBOOKS, of the DOST-Science and Technology Information Institute.



STARBOOKS goes wireless in Looc Nat'l High School

09 September 2023 | Photos and Text by DOST-PSTO Romblon

▶ **Looc, Romblon** - Personnel of the Department of Science and Technology-Romblon went to Looc National High School to update the STARBOOKS and set up the wireless connection via routers.

STARBOOKS is an offline digital library that is loaded with thousands of scientific learning materials in various forms for students, faculty members, and even community members who need access to hundreds of livelihood “how-to” videos and digitized materials.

Additionally, the personnel also installed the STARBOOKS mobile applications for students with smartphones.



BPI, DOST-STII deploy STARBOOKS in Malonoy National High School

13 September 2023 | Text by DOST Region VI

Dao, Capiz - The Department of Science and Technology (DOST) and Bank of Philippine Islands Foundation, Inc. (BPIFI) deployed a unit of Science and Technology Academic and Research-Based Openly-Operated KioskS or STARBOOKS in Malonoy National High School (NHS), Dao, Capiz.

A turnover ceremony conducted at Malonoy National High School grounds was attended by Ms. Kathylyn Mae “Jhaja” B. Fuentes from the Sangguniang Bayan of Dao, Ms. Lalaine E. Delos Santos from the Department of Education-District of Dao Office, Atty. Arthur John H. Biñas from the Capiz Provincial Administrator Office, Dr. Quinto L. Tagoc Jr., Malonoy NHS School Principal, BPIFI Associate Director Juvylyn S. Revina, BPIFI Program Manager

Melanie P. Magbuhos, and representatives from DOST-Science and Technology Information Institute (DOST-STII), DOST Regional Office VI, and DOST-Capiz.

In her message, Ms. Juafe M. Abareles, DOST-Capiz Provincial Director, emphasized the importance of having STARBOOKS units in schools with limited internet connectivity.

The activity is part of BPI’s project, in collaboration with DOST, to provide a total of 10 STARBOOKS



BPI, DOST deploy STARBOOKS unit in Malonoy NHS

Department of Science and Technology-Science and Technology Information Institute (DOST-STII) staff, Mr. Reynaldo A. Morales, gives an orientation and demonstration about the Science and Technology Academic and Research-Based Openly-Operated KioskS or STARBOOKS to faculty and students of Malonoy National High School. This allows faculty and students to familiarize with the functions and features of the technology.

DOST VI

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units to identified geographically isolated and disadvantaged areas of public schools nationwide.

DOST Tarlac Turns Over STARBOOKS to Makabulos Memorial High School

22 September 2023 | Photos and Text by DOST Tarlac



Tarlac City, Tarlac - Makabulos Memorial High School is now a partner in disseminating science and technology to its learners.

A STARBOOKS orientation and turnover ceremony was conducted on September 20, 2023. It was attended by 317 students and 24 teachers.

Moreover, part of the activity is the Signing of a Memorandum of Agreement between DOST Regional Office III and its beneficiary school.

STARBOOKS Installed in Two Aklan Schools

25 September 2023 | Photos and Text by DOST Region VI

▶ **Nabas, Aklan** - Pawa Primary School and Tagororoc Integrated School, both located in the municipality of Nabas in Aklan, were installed with two units of STARBOOKS, or the Science and Technology Academic and Research-Based Openly Operated KioskS.

The installation and deployment of the STARBOOKS units were made possible through the DOST Community Empowerment through Science and Technology, or CEST Program, in Nabas, Aklan.

With this, two separate turnover ceremonies were conducted by the DOST Aklan Provincial Science and Technology Office in partnership with the local

government of Nabas. In each of the ceremonies, an orientation and actual demonstration of STARBOOKS were given by DOST Aklan staff member Ms. Eunice Raiza R. Panagsagan.

STARBOOKS was developed by the Department of Science and Technology-Science and Technology Information Institute (DOST-STII). It is a stand-alone information source for science, technology, engineering, and mathematics, designed to provide students with limited access to S&T resources. It contains



Two schools in Nabas, Aklan installed with DOST's STARBOOKS

Ms. Eunice Raiza R. Panagsagan from the Department of Science and Technology (DOST) Aklan Provincial Science and Technology Office (PSTO) gave an orientation and actual demonstration of STARBOOKS or the Science and Technology Academic and Research-Based Openly Operated KioskS to Pawa Primary School and Tagororoc Integrated School in Nabas, Aklan. The schools were beneficiaries of the DOST Community Empowerment thru Science and Technology or CEST Program.

DOST VI

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thousands of digitized S&T materials in various formats (text and video/audio) placed in specially designed “pods,” set in a user-friendly interface.

STARBOOKS Units of Ambulong Elementary School Upgraded

25 September 2023 | Photos and Text by DOST Region IV-A

▶ **Ambulong, Batangas** - The STARBOOKS, or Science and Technology Academic and Research-Based Openly-Operated KioskS units of the Ambulong Elementary School in Brgy. Ambulong and Batangas City were upgraded to provide students with updated S&T information and resources, facilitated by the Department of Science and Technology-Batangas in partnership with the Pilipinas Shell Foundation.

STARBOOKS is the country's first digital library, designed to house thousands of digitized science and



technology resources in different formats (text, video, and audio) placed inside specially created “pods” set in a user-friendly interface. The technology was created by the DOST-Science and Technology Information Institute (DOST-STII).

As a standalone information kiosk, information access through STARBOOKS is possible even without an internet connection. Because it provides a compendium of S&T information gathered from all over the world, it is regarded as a one-stop S&T information source. It is also fitted with the latest K-12 learning materials as well as interactive activities to engage students with learning.

STARBOOKS was first introduced to Ambulong Elem. School in 2019. Since their deployment, the units have

been extensively used to strengthen academic infrastructure and boost the academic performance of the school. However, due to the shift in the learning modality at the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic, the units have not been fully used. To provide the students with expanded content and a new user interface, DOST-Batangas upgraded the units and conducted deployment orientation training. Grade 6 students and faculty members of Ambulong Elementary School also joined the orientation-training activity. The activity covered the discussion on the background and contents of the STARBOOKS. A hands-on training on the use of the STARBOOKS units was also conducted.

The students had the chance to enjoy the friendly interface as well as the

newly added interactive activities for STARBOOKS. A separate training for the admin module and the networked capabilities of STARBOOKS was likewise provided to the faculty members. Mr. Cedric L. Rodriguez, DOST-Batangas STARBOOKS Coordinator, facilitated the activity.

The faculty members of Ambulong Elementary School thanked DOST for this assistance and stressed that the new interactive nature of the units will be more enticing for their students and useful for the learning experience at the school.

The Pilipinas Shell Foundation, Inc. also thanked DOST for its continuous support of its BOOKS (Building, Organizing, and Operating Libraries and Knowledge-Based Systems) program.

Apostolic Vicariate of Calapan Equips Parochial Schools with STARBOOKS

12 October 2023 | Photos and Text by AVCPS Formare

▶ **Calapan, Oriental Mindoro** - A great partnership is off to a good start as the Apostolic Vicariate of Calapan Parochial Schools joins the thousands of academic institutions in the country that have rolled out their Science and Technology Academic, Research-Based, Openly Operated Kiosks or STARBOOKS to boost their S&T

information resources to be used by students and faculty members alike. The acquisition of STARBOOKS will enhance the learning capabilities of students by providing access to its science content in various forms. STARBOOKS is a digital S&T library-in-a-box that needs no internet connectivity to access

its thousands of S&T materials. It is designed for easy access and navigation of its information. Joining the parochial schools on October 12, 2023 are the Science and Technology Information Institute and the Department of Science and Technology - MIMAROPA.



PSTO–Pangasinan Conducts STARBOOKS Orientation in Tondol National High School

14 October 2023 | Photos and Text by DOST PSTO Pangasinan

▶ **Anda, Pangasinan** - DOST 1 through Provincial Science and Technology (PSTO)-Pangasinan conducts STARBOOKS Orientation and User's Training at Tondol National High School, Anda, Pangasinan.

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

The project aims to provide science, technology, and innovation (STI)-based content in various formats to students and other constituents in geographically isolated and economically challenged



schools and communities throughout the country. Mr. Edward E. Ugale, STARBOOKS deployment officer, conducted an orientation for 114 students and their teachers on the proper usage and monitoring of STARBOOKS.

Crafting Reunification and Evacuation Plans Through STARBOOKS

14 October 2023 | Photos and Text by AJ Balanay (Dagumbaan IS)

▶ **Talakag, Bukidnon** - This initiative aims to streamline and expedite evacuations by identifying key elements, such as designated family members for student pickup, custodianship procedures, and efficient evacuation strategies.

During this event, students, parents, and stakeholders were guided in formulating personalized student-parent disaster and evacuation plans through STARBOOKS

The goal is to ensure the safety of students and faculty during potential disasters while classes are in session.



DOST-STARBOOKS and CAPSA Collaborate for a Brighter Educational Future in Antipolo City

31 October 2023 | Photos and Text by Antipolo STAR

▶ **Antipolo City, Rizal** - In a momentous event held at the elegant Patio De Cecilia Events Place, Antipolo City, a transformative Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) was signed between the Department of Science and Technology's Science and Technology Academic and Research-Based Openly Operated KioskS (DOST-STARBOOKS) and the City of Antipolo Private Schools Association (CAPSA). This collaboration is poised to bring innovation and knowledge to the doorstep of Antipolo's private schools, promising a brighter future for education in the region.



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The gathering commenced with a warm welcome from Dr. Marlu Bersamin-Cundangan, the Principal of Hillcrest School, setting the stage for a day filled with promise and potential. Following this, Dr. Reynaldo D. Faustiono, EdD, President of CAPSA, extended his heartfelt congratulations and gratitude to all participants, emphasizing the significance of this partnership.

Mr. Alan C. Taule, Chief of the Information Resources and Analysis Division at DOST-STII, delivered an enlightening speech, shedding light on the essential role DOST-STARBOOKS plays in advancing scientific and technological knowledge. Fernando E. Ablaza, Provincial

Science and Technology Director of DOST PSTO - Rizal, added his voice to the occasion, expressing the importance of this collaboration in promoting science and technology education in the region.

The highlight of the event was a detailed presentation about STARBOOKS, a digital library that offers access to thousands of resources on science, technology, and innovation (STI). Attendees learned how this innovative platform would empower both students and educators.

The symbolic moment arrived when STARBOOKS, in its entirety, was installed onto the computers of every school that is a member

of CAPSA, marking the official launch of this valuable resource in Antipolo's private schools.

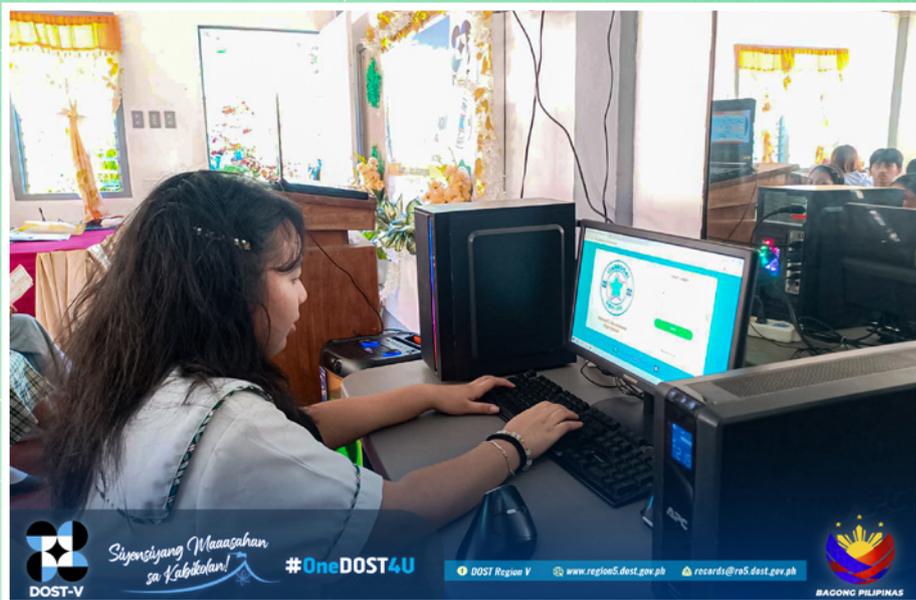
The day's festivities didn't conclude with the formalities; instead, the participants celebrated this remarkable MOA signing with a simple feast, highlighting the spirit of collaboration and the promise of a brighter educational future in Antipolo City.

STARBOOKS Now in Manuel T. Sia National High School

10 November 2023 | Photos and Text by DOST Region V

Pilar, Sorsogon - The Department of Science and Technology Regional Office V allied with the Science and Technology Information Institute to ensure students are abreast of the latest information in the scientific community.

To formalize the partnership, an orientation and hands-on training on Science and Technology Academic and Research-Based Openly Operated KioskS (STARBOOKS) were held at the Manuel T. Sia National High School in Pilar, Sorsogon.



STARBOOKS Now Accessible in Albay Learning Hub

10 November 2023 | Photos and Text by DOST Region V



and Technology Academic and Research-Based Openly Operated KioskS (DOST-STARBOOKS) at Mirisbiris Garden and Nature Center in Sto. Domingo, Albay.

This learning hub is part of Innodata Knowledge Services, Inc.'s ongoing project, dedicated to enhancing access to quality education through technology transfer, aligning seamlessly with DOST V's objectives.

STARBOOKS is an innovative digital library system that thrives even in remote places. Learners from Mirisibis and its adjacent barangays will gain valuable advantages—nurturing an environment of science information accessibility to aid quality science learning for all.

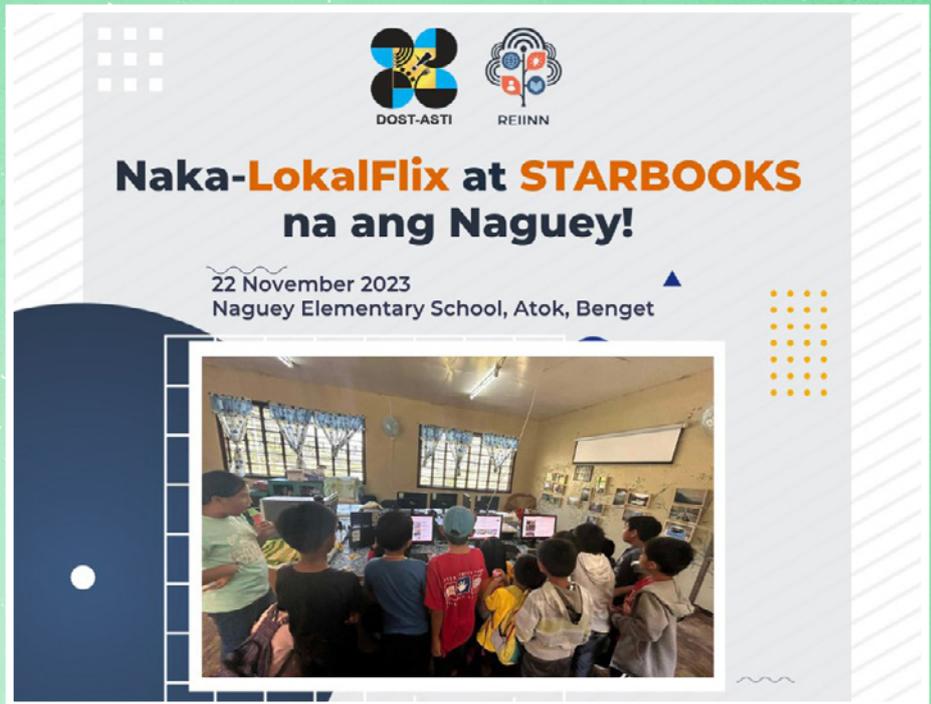
Sto. Domingo, Albay - Achieving of Science and Technology Inclusive Learning Initiatives Regional Office V has successfully conducted an orientation and hands-on training on the Science

Project REIINN Brings STARBOOKS to Naguey, Benguet

22 November 2023 | Photos and Text by Resilient Education Information Infrastructure for the New Normal-REIINN

▶ **Naguey, Benguet** - Kasabay ng pagdaraos ng 2023 National Science, Technology, and Innovation Week, matagumpay na naipagsama ang inisyatibang Resilient Education Information Infrastructure for the New Normal-REIINN ang iba't ibang sistema tulad ng LokalFlix at DOST-STARBOOKS sa ICT Facility ng Naguey Elementary School, Naguey, Benguet.

Sa pamamagitan nito ay mayroon nang access ang mga mag-aaral mula sa nasabing paaralan sa mga academic resources mula sa DOST at Department of Education kahit na walang internet connectivity sa nasabing lugar.



STARBOOKS Your Digital S&T Library in a box!

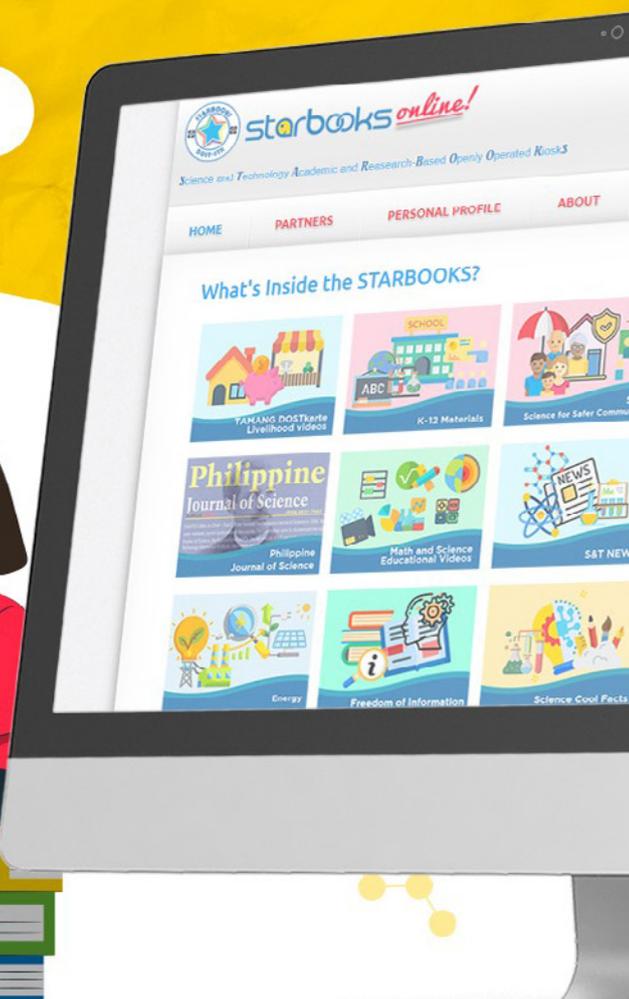
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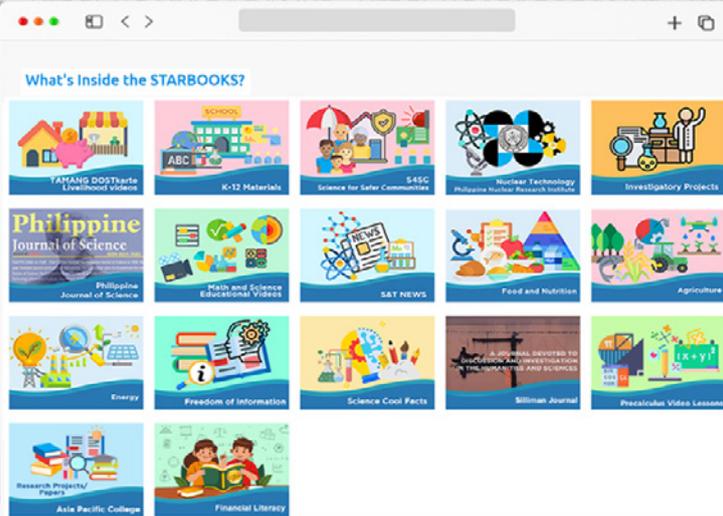
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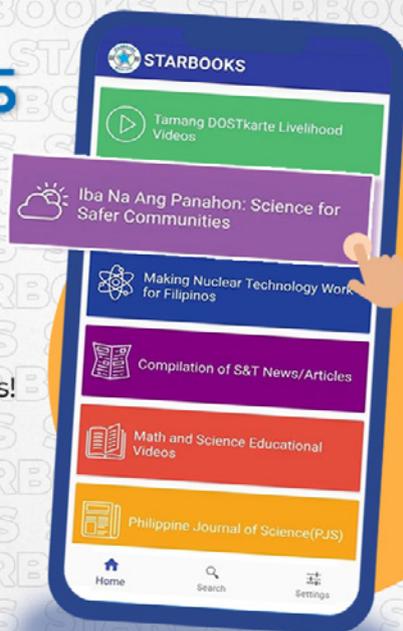
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