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STARBOOKS, Stronger than Ever @13

◀ story on page 3

In this issue

News Feature

Deployment officers get together in 12th STARBOOKS Deployment Officers' Assembly

◀ story on page 7

Regional News

DOST-III, Don Bosco Technical Institute (DBTI) partners for STARBOOKS

◀ story on page 30

Partners Corner

DOST-STII's STARBOOKS Receives Php 2.1-M worth of Donations from BPI Foundation, Inc.

◀ story on page 24



Director's Note

For more than a decade, STARBOOKS has been a shining light to students and other information seekers in need of a learning adventure across various topics to expand their horizons.

The goal of making science, technology, and innovation (STI) information more accessible to learners and educators is achieved through the passion and dedication of the entire STARBOOKS team, our Deployment Officers across regions, and our committed partners.

In its 13th year, STARBOOKS has stretched its bounds to cater to more diverse learners, including educators and other stakeholders who seek to arm themselves with knowledge and skills that could help them overcome challenges and grab opportunities brought about by the ever-changing educational landscape.

Envisioning a brighter future for STARBOOKS has been a luminous path as we realize that there is strength in numbers, making success in delivering quality educational resources to the remotest communities realizable as we walk side-by-side with our STARBOOKS Deployment Officers and with our longstanding and newfound partners.



Richard P. Burgos
Director, DOST-STII

STARBOOKS, beyond being an educational repository, has served as a platform for fostering meaningful partnerships and collaborations with organizations that share our vision and aim to reach new heights.

With a positive outlook and a shared commitment to growth, STARBOOKS is poised to face tomorrow united and stronger than ever.

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, Stronger than Ever @13

by Precious T. Biraquit, *DOST-STII* | 📷 by Rommel M. Azucena, Jr., *DOST-STII*



The 13 Strongest STARBOOKS Deployment Officers together with Director Richard P. Burgos and Engr. Sancho A. Mabborang, DOST Undersecretary for Regional Operations.

▶ Pasay City, 11 June 2024 – STARBOOKS held its 13th anniversary, dubbed “STARBOOKS@13: Stronger Together”, at The Heritage Hotel to celebrate the progress and milestones the digital library-in-a-box reached since its inception in 2011.

Going stronger in its 13th year, the Science and Technology Academic and Research-Based Openly Operated KioskS, or STARBOOKS, marked another significant milestone in disseminating S&T information to geographically isolated areas nationwide. Thus, on its anniversary, STARBOOKS recognized the people involved in its continuous growth,

including its deployment officers, partners, and newly named ambassadors.

Following the number 13, STARBOOKS bestowed awards to its 13 strongest and longest deployment officers who have been devoted to the cause of delivering S&T information to far-flung communities across the country.

“Come hell, or high water, ideliver natin ang STARBOOKS.” proclaimed Richard P. Burgos, Director of the Department of Science and Technology - Science and Technology Information Institute (DOST-STII).

The deployment officers recognized were the following: Michael John S. Rivera, DOST III (8 years); Kristine Mae N. Solis, PSTO-Antique (8 yrs.); Arnaldo T. Amosco Jr., PSTO – Eastern Samar (8 yrs.); Jeric F. Gagama, PSTO – Davao Oriental (8 yrs.); Anorly R. Narca, PSTO-Northern Samar (9 yrs.); Kristal Joy M. Guevarra, PSTO-Camarines Sur (10 yrs.); Eunice Raiza R. Panagsagan, PSTO-Aklan (10 yrs.); Florentino L. Quiñones Jr., DOST-VIII (10 yrs.); Benjie T. Francisco, DOST-XII (11 yrs.); Venus D. Retuya, DOST-VII (12 yrs.); Reynel T. Revilla, PSTO-North Cotabato (13 yrs.); Nabil A. Hadji Yassin, PSTO-Sarangani Province and General Santos City (13 yrs.);

News Feature

and Dr. Michael T. Mayo, PSTO-North Cotabato (13 yrs.).

Afterward, STARBOOKS acknowledged its strongest partners, who have been actively improving the project's system and content by donating educational materials, ICT equipment, and a vehicle.

“Our partnership allows us to combine strengths because we all have areas where we excel, but by working together, we can leverage each other's skills to achieve something greater. Our partnerships also help us to fill the gaps,” said Dir. Burgos.

The valued partners were the following: FrontLearners, Inc.;

FlipScience; Governor Ferrer Memorial Integrated National High School (GFMINHS); Atty. Gilbert T. Arbon of PSTO-Negros Oriental; Asia Pacific College; Enchanted Kingdom, Inc.; Quipper Philippines, Inc.; BPI Foundation, Inc.; Pagbilao Energy Corporation; Local Government of Pagbilao, Quezon; Programa Genio of ABS-CBN Lingkod Kapamilya Foundation, Inc.; Mountain Support PH, Inc.; Association of Science and Mathematics Educators of Philippine Private Schools (ASMEPPS); Hyundai Motor Philippines, Inc.; Presidential Communications Office; DOST-Philippine Science High School System; Unilab Foundation,

Inc.; DOST-Advanced Science and Technology Institute; VST ECS Phils., Inc.; Saint Louis University; DOST-Food and Nutrition Institute; DOST-Philippine Council for Agriculture, Aquatic and Natural Resources Research and Development; and DOST-Science Education Institute.

Five (5) people were declared as the STARBOOKS Ambassadors for their steadfast support and dedication to the project.

STARBOOKS Ambassadors: Edric C. Calma, Director of Operations, Knowledge Channel; Maria Elaine P. De Velez, CEO and Co-Founder, FrontLearners, Inc.; Eloisa E.



Some of the awardees of the STARBOOKS Strongest Partners (upper left-right): Quipper Philippines, Inc., Pagbilao Energy Corporation, Hyundai Motor Philippines, and BPI Foundation, Inc.



The newly declared Strongest STARBOOKS Ambassadors holding the 3D-printed STARBOOKS Kiosks

Olivera, President, ASMEPPS; Maricar B. Estole, Program Head, Programa Genio of ABS-CBN Lingkod Kapamilya Foundation, Inc.; and Richard P. Burgos, Director, DOST-STII.

With Dir. Burgos' retirement coming on the 20th of June, STARBOOKS honored him for all his contributions during the eight years he served as the director of DOST-STII. His strong public relations personality brought people together and opened doors of opportunity to everyone affected by the STARBOOKS project.

Aside from the awarding ceremonies, STARBOOKS hosted three contests for the event: STARBOOKS Spoken Poetry in TikTok, STARBOOKS Fanart, and STARBOOKS Deployment Video Story.

The winners received cash prizes, laptops, and a tablet sponsored by Quipper Philippines, Inc.

Spoken Poetry winners: Viewer's choice, Hannah Competente; third place, Carl John Griño; second place, Tricia Mae Rosario; and first place, Charles Ivan Solis.

Fanart winners: Viewer's choice, Christian Biay; third place, Michelle Saro; second place, Migs Maaba; and first place, Johnry Cornico.

Deployment Video Story winners: Viewer's Choice, PSTO-Nueva Ecija of DOST Region III; third place, Davao City Science and Technology Office of DOST Region XI; second place, PSTO-Pangasinan – DOST Region I; and first place, PSTO-Tarlac of Region III.

As one of the DOST-STII's flagship projects, STARBOOKS has been deployed to 8,034 sites nationwide as of 18 June 2024. Along the way, it has achieved numerous awards, the most special being the 2022 Presidential Lingkod Bayan Award from the Civil Service Commission (CSC).

Aside from the prestigious accolade, STARBOOKS has been included in the National Priority Plan (NPP) of the National Economic and Development Authority (NEDA) for eight (8) consecutive years.

To learn more about STARBOOKS, visit starbooks.ph. Follow the official STARBOOKS Facebook page or email us at starbooks@stii.dost.gov.ph.



Winners of the Deployment Video Story Contest (upper left-right): Viewer's Choice, 3rd placer, 2nd placer, and Winner.



Fanart winners: Viewer's choice, Christian Biay; third place, Michelle Saro; second place, Migs Maaba; and first place, Johnry Cornico.



Spoken Poetry winners: Viewer's choice, Hannah Competente; third place, Carl John Griño; second place, Tricia Mae Rosario; and first place, Charles Ivan Solis.

Deployment Officers Get Together in 12th STARBOOKS Deployment Officers' Assembly

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

Together Again! The STARBOOKS deployment officers from different DOST regional and provincial offices.



► Panglao, Bohol, 18 April 2024 – The Department of Science and Technology (DOST)-STARBOOKS convened its deployment officers again at the 12th STARBOOKS Deployment Officers Assembly at BeeFarm Bohol, Panglao, Bohol, from 17-19 April 2024.

The face-to-face event was attended by deployment officers from DOST regional and provincial offices.

Regularly held since 2016, the assembly served as an avenue to present STARBOOKS' accomplishments, milestones, and major updates from the previous year.

STARBOOKS also awarded the top regional and provincial performers for installing STARBOOKS at hundreds of sites from the program's inception in 2011 up to 2023.





Atty. Gilbert R. Arbon, Director of PSTO Negros Oriental, welcoming the 12th STARBOOKS DOA participants.



Director Richard P. Burgos delivering his special message to the participants.



Ms. Marivic V. Narquita, STARBOOKS Unit Head, discussing the latest important STARBOOKS updates STARBOOKS in 2024.



The top STARBOOKS provincial and regional performers from 2011 to 2023.



Participants engaged in an ice-breaker called Tumpakners wherein partners must say the exact same word after a category is given.



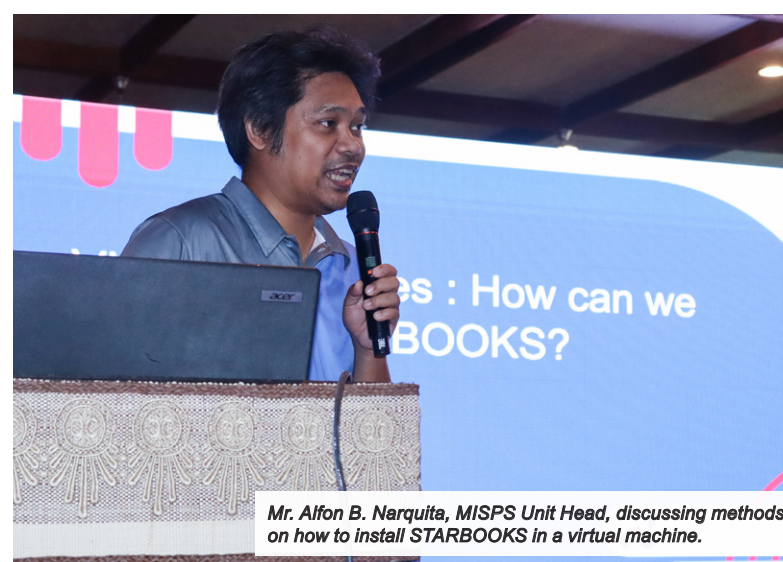
Participants engaged in an ice-breaker called Tumpakners wherein partners must say the exact same word after a category is given.



Mr. McGyver C. Basaya, STARBOOKS Programmer, discussing the latest update and feature of STARBOOKS.



Mr. Lloyd Frederick Mandapat addressing questions about the new STARBOOKS installer and hands-on Installation.



Mr. Alfon B. Narquita, MISPS Unit Head, discussing methods on how to install STARBOOKS in a virtual machine.



Hands-on STARBOOKS installation using the newly-updated installer with the deployment officers.



Hands-on STARBOOKS installation using the newly-updated installer with the deployment officers.



Ms. Marievic V. Narquita, STARBOOKS Unit Head, discussing the new partner institution profile form.



Ms. Juvylyn S. Reniva, Associate Director of BPI Foundation, Inc. giving an overview of their program.



Mr. Ryan V. Labrador, CEO of REVLV Solutions, Inc., discussing about STARLINK and its benefits.



Mr. Philip Martinez of Project REIINN, DOST-ASTI, discussing their partnership with STARBOOKS.



Mr. Alan C. Taule, DOST-STII IRAD Chief, officially closing the 12th STARBOOKS DOA in Bohol.

STARBOOKS remains a part of NPP for the 8th straight year!



From 2017 to 2024, NEDA has included STARBOOKS in its list of priority programs under the National Priority Plan (NPP).

What is the National Priority Plan?

The National Priority Plan (NPP) is a list of government programs, projects, and activities that support government's priority areas in education, health, youth and sports development, human settlements, science and culture, and economic development.

The government offers perks and incentives to donors to encourage them to help finance expenditures in these areas.

Become a STARBOOKS partner!

Donations to programs, projects, or activities listed in the National Priority Plan are tax deductible in full.



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STARBOOKS, DOSTv, and Science Journo Ako have made it to the National Economic and Development Authority's National Priority Plan for 2024.



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For the eight straight year, STARBOOKS is included in NEDA's National Priority Plan!

This is validation of the special niche STARBOOKS has carved in uplifting the state of science and mathematics learning especially in marginalized communities throughout the country.

STARBOOKS Reaches 77 Schools in Ifugao

by Ma. Giselle M. Geraldino, DOST-STII | by Rommel M. Azucena, Jr., DOST-STII

► *Lagawe, Ifugao, 27 June 2024* – A total of 77 beneficiary schools in Ifugao are now equipped with free science, technology, and innovation (STI) information resources following the STARBOOKS mass installation at the DepEd Schools Division Office in Lagawe, Ifugao, from June 25-27, 2024.

Alongside the installation, STARBOOKS signed a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) with DepEd Ifugao, the Sangguniang Panlalawigan ng Ifugao, and the Provincial Science and Technology Office.

A STARBOOKS Training and Orientation session was conducted to familiarize more than 65 public school teachers, schoolheads, and administrators with the STARBOOKS system in the DepEd SDO Ifugao Conference Room.

The STARBOOKS User Training and Information session was led by Mr. Reynaldo A. Morales Jr., a member of the STARBOOKS unit. He demonstrated the range of content available in the digital library, acquainted the focal persons from the beneficiary schools with the platform, and outlined expectations for its use.

The MOA signing event was attended by Hon. Jerry U. Dalipog, Governor of the Province of Ifugao; Dr. Gloria B. Buya-ao, School Division Superintendent of SDO Ifugao; Dr. Joseph J. Odan, MSc, Board Member of the Provincial Local Government Unit of Ifugao; and Mr. Don S. Ognayon, Supervising SRS of PSTO Ifugao.

Mr. Don S. Ognayon delivered the opening message, emphasizing the importance of providing these resources to both learners

and educators in the province.

Governor Jerry U. Dalipog, an engineer by profession, expressed his hope that this partnership will enhance the quality of education in Ifugao and across the country especially in the field of STEM.

Board Member Dr. Joseph J. Odan, MSc, saw STARBOOKS as a vital tool for achieving his vision of an improved educational experience for Ifugao’s students.

Finally, Dr. Gloria B. Buya-ao, School Division Superintendent of SDO Ifugao, formally closed the program and extended her gratitude to all participants and guests.





STARBOOKS Deployed to Four Region XI Schools

by Rommel M. Azucena, Jr., *DOST-STII* |  by *PSTO Davao del Norte*

► *Tagum City, Davao del Norte, 17 May 2024* – STARBOOKS-ready computer units from the DOST-Science and Technology Information Institute and BPI Foundation, Inc. were deployed to three Negros Occidental schools during turnover rites held at the School Division Office (SDO) in San Carlos City on May 14, 2024.

This event was conducted in coordination with DOST Region VI, the Negros

Occidental Provincial Science and Technology Office, Colegio de Sto. Tomas - Recoletos, and SDO San Carlos City.

The recipients of the complete computer packages include Ansulag Elementary School, Katiclan Elementary School, and Nabataan Elementary School.

This initiative is part of BPI Foundation’s “Kasama Lahat sa Pag-unlad” advocacy, which aims to build a sustainable,

inclusive, and financially well Philippines. It also aligns with DOST-STII’s mission of disseminating science, technology, and innovation learning resources through STARBOOKS.

This partnership will allow 30 remote schools across the Philippines to access free, state-of-the-art learning resources.



STARBOOKS Deployed to Three Neg Occ Schools

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

► *San Carlos City, Negros Occidental, 14 May 2024* – STARBOOKS-ready computer units from the DOST-Science and Technology Information Institute and BPI Foundation, Inc. were deployed to three Negros Occidental schools during turnover rites held at the School Division Office (SDO) in San Carlos City on May 14, 2024.

This event was conducted in coordination with DOST Region VI, the Negros

Occidental Provincial Science and Technology Office, Colegio de Sto. Tomas - Recoletos, and SDO San Carlos City.

The recipients of the complete computer packages include Ansulag Elementary School, Katiclan Elementary School, and Nabataan Elementary School.

This initiative is part of BPI Foundation’s “Kasama Lahat sa Pag-unlad” advocacy, which aims to build a sustainable,

inclusive, and financially well Philippines. It also aligns with DOST-STII’s mission of disseminating science, technology, and innovation learning resources through STARBOOKS.

This partnership will allow 30 remote schools across the Philippines to access free, state-of-the-art learning resources.



STARBOOKS Deployed to Three Bohol Schools

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

► *Candijay, Bohol, 07 May 2024* – STARBOOKS-ready computer units from the Department of Science and Technology-Science and Technology Information Institute (DOST-STII) and BPI Foundation, Inc. were deployed to three Bohol schools on a turnover rite held at Tugas Elementary School on 19 April 2024.

Short for Science and Technology Academic and Research-Based Openly-Operated Kiosks, STARBOOKS is a stand-alone information source created to reach those with limited or no access to S&T information resources. Through STARBOOKS, the students, researchers, and the general public may access a database of livelihood videos,

learning materials, general information, and other IEC materials for free without the use of the internet.

The recipients of the complete computer packages include Tugas Elementary School, Tabunoc Elementary School, and Catungawan Elementary School.

This initiative is part of BPI Foundation's "Kasama Lahat sa Pag-unlad" advocacy to build a sustainable, inclusive, and financially well Philippines and DOST-STII's mission



of disseminating science, technology, and innovation learning resources through STARBOOKS.

This second round of donation from the BPI Foundation worth Php 2.1 million will allow 30 remote schools across the Philippines to have access to free state-of-the-art learning resources.



STARBOOKS 4G Launched to Boost Information Awareness and Access for LGUs

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



▶ *Tagbilaran City, 17 April 2024* – To make local governance learning and information materials accessible to its constituents across the province, STARBOOKS for Governance (STARBOOKS 4G) was launched on 17 April 2024 at the ceremonial opening of the 2024 Central Visayas Regional Science and Technology Week at Island City Mall, Tagbilaran City, Bohol.

A joint project between DOST-STII, DOST-Region VII through

its Provincial Science and Technology Office in Bohol, and the Department of Interior and Local Government (DILG) – Bohol, STARBOOKS 4G is a one-stop source of local governance information and learning materials from DILG – Bohol.

STARBOOKS 4G aims to enhance the capabilities of the Local Governance Resource Center of the DILG-Bohol Province across 47 local government units by making local governance learning

and information materials accessible to its constituents across the province.

Other projects launched alongside STARBOOKS 4G were the Bohol Food Safety Team, Asin Tibuok Innovative Packaging, STARBOOKS for Tagbilaran City Alternative Learning System, and the memorandum of agreement signing for the DOST iSTART Program.



DOST-STII Conducts STARBOOKS Mass Installation in Cainta, Rizal

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

► *Cainta, Rizal, 14 March 2024* – DOST-STII presided over the installation, user training, and mass orientation on STARBOOKS at the Francisco P. Felix Memorial National High School in Cainta, Rizal on March 14, 2024.

The event, which also drew the participation of DOST Rizal and MilliConnections Inc., is intended to benefit deaf and hearing-impaired students who have little or no previous access to science and technology learning resources.

Reynaldo A. Morales, Jr., a member of the STARBOOKS unit, explained the functionalities, features, and contents of STARBOOKS through a hands-on demonstration with the learners and teachers from the beneficiary schools.



STARBOOKS User Training and Orientation for DepEd Schools in NegOr

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



► *Dumaguete City, 07 March 2024* – DOST-STII, in collaboration with the Provincial Science and Technology Office (PSTO) of Negros Oriental, conducted a STARBOOKS Nature User Training and Orientation for public school teachers at the DepEd Schools Division Office Conference Room on February 27, 2024.

STARBOOKS Unit Head Marievic V. Narquita, led a comprehensive user orientation session on the background and history of STARBOOKS Nature. This orientation provided the focal persons of the beneficiary

schools with a glimpse of what to expect when using STARBOOKS Nature.

Ms. Narquita also discussed the content available in STARBOOKS, the platforms through which this content can be accessed, and the options for making the STARBOOKS Nature server accessible on various devices such as laptops, tablets, and mobile phones.

Reynaldo A. Morales, Jr., a member of the STARBOOKS unit, explained the functionalities, features, and

contents of the STARBOOKS Nature Unit through a hands-on demonstration with the participants.

He also showcased all the content available in the system, with a particular focus on the STARBOOKS Nature interface and the learning materials designed for Grades 1-12 students, which are also beneficial for teachers.

PSTO Director Atty. Gilbert R. Arbon closed the activity with a message of gratitude to the participants.

PARTNERS CORNER



STARBOOKS Ready to Install DRRM-related Information

by Rhea Mae B. Ruba, *DOST-STII* / Photos by Rommel M. Azucena, Jr., *DOST-STII*



► *Taguig City, Metro Manila, 08 February 2024* – With the aim of strengthening and extending disaster awareness and preparedness in the country, the Office of Civil Defense (OCD), the Department of Science and Technology (DOST), and the DOST-Science and Technology Information Institute (DOST-STII) officially solidified collaboration through a memorandum of agreement held at the Executive Lounge, DOST Central Office on 8 February 2024.

This partnership supports the OCD’s campaign in disaster risk reduction and management

(DRRM) by including their related activities, materials, and publications in the DOST-STII flagship product, the digital library called STARBOOKS, or Science and Technology Academic and Research-Based Openly Operated Kiosks.

“With the signing of the memorandum of agreement, the DOST and OCD reaffirmed their commitment to providing free and accessible DRRM-related information, empowering individuals, communities, government agencies, and other partners with essential knowledge and resources required for effective responses

to a variety of disaster or emergency scenarios,” said DOST Undersecretary for Scientific and Technical Services Maridon O. Sahagun.

According to Usec. Sahagun, this collaboration with the OCD enriches the content of STARBOOKS by incorporating scholarly information on DRRM that aids in the disaster response operations of local government units and remote communities, which are the primary recipients of these kiosks.

In the message of OCD Administrator Ariel F.

Nepomuceno delivered by OCD Deputy Administrator for Administration Bernardo Rafaelito R. Alejandro IV, the OCD expressed its gratitude to the DOST, especially with their program on STARBOOKS as it increases the level of awareness and knowledge of people by integrating information and educational content about science and technology, as well as other areas linked to it.

“I am grateful knowing this partnership with DOST STARBOOKS will support our shared goal of providing people with more access to science and technology, alongside

DRRM information,” OCD Administrator Nepomuceno said.

Meanwhile, DOST-STII Director Richard P. Burgos shared that by bringing OCD activities, materials, and publications to STARBOOKS, people will better understand what to do before, during, and after the unexpected occurrence of natural disasters. He also took the opportunity to share that many agencies, institutions, and organizations recognize the value of STARBOOKS in bringing science and technology closer to communities and individuals.

“Today, our STARBOOKS is really our anting-anting. Because it allows us to perform, shine, and be recognized,” he affirmed.

STARBOOKS, a stand-alone information source, has successfully disseminated and installed its 7,535 kiosks nationwide, providing more accessible science, technology, and innovation information and education for the people.

DOST-STII Seals partnership with SDO Rizal Morong Sub-Office, LIKAS-Morong for STARBOOKS

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



▶ *Morong, Rizal, 23 February 2024* – DOST-Science and Technology Information Institute and DOST-CALABARZON inked a Memorandum of Agreement with the DepEd School District Office of Rizal (Morong sub-office) and the Lipunang Pangkasaysayan ng Morong (LIKAS-Morong) in ceremonies held at the Timoteo Reyes Memorial Elementary School in the municipality.

This collaboration is set to bring much-needed teaching and learning resources on STEAM to 13 beneficiary schools in Morong.

Present during the ceremonial signing were DOST-STII Director Richard P. Burgos, SDO Rizal SDS April Dream A. Rabago, LIKAS-Morong President Edric C. Calma, Education Program Supervisor

Dr. Paul Ian D. Robles, PSTO Rizal Director Fernando E. Ablaza, IRAD Chief Alan C. Taule, TRMES Principal Evangeline S. Cleofe, LIKAS-Morong Representative Charito Portillo Angeles, and STARBOOKS Unit Head Marievic V. Narquita.

DOST-STII partners with Unilab Foundation and CISTEM to enhance STEM Education

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

▶ *Taguig City, Metro Manila, 23 February 2024* – In a significant move aimed at advancing STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics) education, the Department of Science and Technology-Science and Technology Information Institute (DOST-STII) has forged a partnership with Unilab Foundation and the Center for Integrated STEM Education, Inc. (CISTEM) in a signing ceremony held at the DOST-STII Training Room on February 23, 2024.

This collaboration will integrate the Women in STEM and Youth in STEM collections curated by CISTEM into STARBOOKS offline and online databases. DOST-STII will also advocate and promote STEM-focused activities, such as virtual trainings, workshops, or webinars with Unilab Foundation and CISTEM.

Present during the ceremonial signing are DOST-STII Director Richard P. Burgos, Unilab Foundation Executive Director

Elizabeth Aristorenas, CISTEM Executive Director Melvin T. Magsayo, CISTEM Program Operations Manager Nora Mae C. Gareza, DOST-STII Information Resources and Analysis Division Chief Alan C. Taule, and STARBOOKS Unit Head Marievic V. Narquita.



DOST-STII, DOST-NCR seal partnership with DepEd SDO Valenzuela City for STARBOOKS

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



▶ *Valenzuela City, Metro Manila, 29 February 2024* – DOST-Science and Technology Information Institute and DOST-National Capital Region inked a Memorandum of Agreement with the DepEd School District Office of Valenzuela City in ceremonies held at the Caruhatan West Elementary School.

This collaboration is set to bring much-needed teaching and learning resources on STEAM to public schools in the city.

Present during the ceremonial signing were DOST-STII Director Richard P. Burgos, DOST-NCR OIC on Technical Operations Division Warren D. Gomez, Assistant SDS Noel D. Bagano, Chief of Curriculum Implementation Division Filmore R. Caballero, and Chief Education Supervisor Dr. Baltazar M. Gayem.

Reynaldo A. Morales, Jr. of the STARBOOKS team also gave a user training and orientation explaining the functionalities,

features, and contents of the STARBOOKS Unit through a hands-on demonstration with the participants.

Morales also discussed and demonstrated how to manage STARBOOKS by presenting the administrator's dashboard to the participants.

ASMEPPS Turns Over STARBOOKS Unit to 2 Public Schools

by Rommel M. Azucena, Jr., DOST-STII | by Reynaldo A. Morales, Jr., DOST-STII



► *Baguio City, Benguet, 11 March 2024* – The Association of Science and Mathematics Educators of Private and Public Schools (ASMEPPS), in collaboration with DOST-Science and Technology Information Institute and the Department of Education,

turned over STARBOOKS-ready computer units to Casilagan Integrated School and Anini-y Central School in regions I and VI respectively on the occasion of the 10th National Battle of Math and Science Champions at the University of Baguio on March 9, 2024.

Reynaldo A. Morales, Jr., a member of the STARBOOKS unit, explained the functionalities, features, and contents of STARBOOKS through a hands-on demonstration with the representatives of the beneficiary schools.

IP Schools in Oriental Mindoro receive solar-powered STARBOOKS from MSPI

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

► *Taguig City, Metro Manila, 25 March 2024* – Mountain Support PH Inc. (MSPI), a non-stock, non-profit youth and women-led organization that aims to give support to socially vulnerable communities, has donated two solar-powered STARBOOKS to two IP schools in Oriental Mindoro: Panaytayan Elementary School and Sinariri Elementary School.

On March 21, 2024, MSPI turned over two portable solar power stations and two laptop units to the DOST-Science and Technology Information Institute (DOST-STII) for



deployment as a STARBOOKS server in the beneficiary schools, providing both learners and teachers from far-flung communities access to a wide range of science, technology, and innovation information resources.

Present during the signing and turnover ceremony were DOST-STII Director Richard P. Burgos, MSPI Chairperson Carmela O. Bautista, and MSPI Corporate Secretary Shiara Gem G. Salazar.

DOST-STII's STARBOOKS Receives Php 2.1-M worth of Donations from BPI Foundation, Inc.

by DOST - Science and Technology Information Institute



▶ *Taguig City, Metro Manila, 15 April 2024* – The Department of Science and Technology – Science and Technology Information Institute (DOST-STII) – Science and Technology Academic and Research-Based Openly Operated KioskS (STARBOOKS) recently garnered a substantial donation of Php 2.1 million from BPI Foundation, Inc (BPIFI). A turnover ceremony, held on 11 April 2024 at DOST-STII, marked the occasion.

The turnover ceremony was attended by key representatives from DOST-STII, headed by Director Richard P. Burgos, DOST-STII Information Resources and Analysis Division (IRAD) Chief Alan C. Taule, STARBOOKS Unit Head Marievic V. Narquita, BPIFI Associate Director Juvylyn S. Revina, BPIFI Program Manager Melanie P. Magbuhos, and BPIFI Program Coordinator Benrick M. Dulay. The event was also graced by the presence of DOST Undersecretary for Scientific

and Technical Services Maridon O. Sahagun.

In his opening remarks, DOST-STII Director Richard P. Burgos expressed his gratitude for the continued partnership between BPI Foundation and DOST-STII, emphasizing the significance of public-private collaborations in driving meaningful change in education.

“I’m so happy to embark on the next chapter of our relationship with the BPI Foundation. This is a strong testament to public-private partnership,” said Dir. Burgos.

Dir. Burgos underscored the pivotal role of the STARBOOKS project in democratizing access to information, particularly in underserved areas. “STARBOOKS, really, is a digital solution to bridge the gap between those who access and those who do not have access to the information,” he continued.

Echoing Dir. Burgos’s sentiments, Usec. Sahagun extended her gratitude to BPI Foundation for its unwavering support in advancing science and technology education in remote communities.

“To BPI Foundation, our extreme gratitude for your generous donations of 2.1 million pesos to provide 30 complete STARBOOKS and newly bought computer sets to selected last-mile schools across the country. We are indeed very happy with this partnership as this serves as a testament to our ongoing commitment to enhance the learning experiences of all our STARBOOKS full beneficiaries in every region.”

Usec. Sahagun also thanked the BPI Foundation for its valuable addition to STARBOOKS database called “FinEd Unboxed”, which aims to promote financial literacy to level up the financial skills in the community.



STARBOOKS, a flagship program of DOST-STII, harnesses digital technology to provide students and educators in remote areas with comprehensive STI learning materials, thereby fostering a culture of innovation and scientific inquiry.

Following its first donation of Php 700,000 in early 2023, this second run of donation from BPI Foundation, will allow thirty (30) remote schools across the Philippines to have access to the state-of-the-art learning resources, empowering students to explore and engage with the exciting world of science, technology, and innovation.

“This is really something that will really cement our partnership and you can rest assured that we will continue to be worthy of your trust in

achieving our mutual goals and objectives for this project,” added IRAD Chief Taule.

The DOST-STII initially provided each STARBOOKS computer set donations for Alitagtag Senior High School and San Felipe Elementary School in Calabarzon.

Other school beneficiaries of the BPI Foundation donations also include, Pantabangan West Integrated School, Dueg Resettlement Elementary School, Luis National High School, Sto. Tomas National High School, San Jose Agricultural High School, Agripino Armedilla National High School, San Agustin National Trade School, Pascual Catajay Linao National High School (PCLNHS), Balogo High School, Sorsogon Pilot Elementary School, Anslag

School, Catungawan Elementary School, Busay National High School, Cuyting Uy National High School, Hanginan Elementary School, Eugenio S. Daza Pilot Elementary School, Galutan National High School, Pulang Yuta Elementary School, Luntad Elementary School, Katualan Elementary School, P. Changco Elementary School, Magdum National High School, Dujali CES, and Cadalagan Elementary School.

“On behalf of DOST community, we humbly extend our sincerest gratitude by accepting these valuable resources, together with DOST, DOST-STII, and BPI Foundation, we reaffirm our commitment to providing free and accessible S&T-related information, furthering the advocacy of financial literacy, empowering individuals, institutions and communities with the essential knowledge and resources to advance scientific and technological education,” concluded Usec. Sahagun.



Elementary School, Nabataan Elementary School, Katiclan Elementary School, Tabunoc Elementary School, Tugas Elementary

Panabo City Schools Empowered with STARBOOKS from BPI Foundation, Inc. and DOST-XI

by Department of Education – Panabo



► *Panabo City, Davao del Norte, 03 May 2024* – In a significant step towards enhancing educational resources in rural schools of Panabo City Division, P. Changco Elementary School and Katualan Elementary School are the proud new recipients of the STARBOOKS digital library.

This initiative, courtesy of the BPI Foundation, Inc. (BPIFI) in partnership with the Department of Science and Technology-XI (DOST-XI), was marked by a celebratory turnover ceremony attended by notable education and community leaders.

The event, held at Brgy. Tibungol, Panabo City, featured key speakers including OIC-Superintendent Jinky B. Firman, CESO VI, who extended heartfelt thanks to BPIFI and DOST-XI for this program expanded to Panabo City. Firman underscored the importance of the STARBOOKS facilities in fostering a robust educational environment, urging school heads and teachers to integrate this tool into their lesson planning and research activities.

Expressing mutual appreciation, Engr. Judy Donna dA. Nueva Ecija, Provincial S&T Director of PSTC Davao del Norte, thanked the Department of Education (DepEd) for embracing the partnership, which aims to enrich the learning experience through advanced technology.

Representatives from BPIFI, including its Associate Director Juvilyn S. Reviva and Program Manager Melanie Magbuhos, reiterated their commitment to supporting DepEd’s mission. They underscored their message, “Love for Humanity, Aahon Tayong Lahat,” which reflects their vision for uplifted communities through accessible, quality education.

Reynaldo Morales Jr., a unit member of STARBOOKS, detailed the functionalities and new features of the STARBOOKS units, enhancing attendees’ understanding of how these tools can benefit students and teachers alike.

Oscar Pales from PCES and Mac Donald Jabonillo from Katualan

ES, in turn, expressed their gratitude and commitment to maximize the use of these resources for the advancement of their educational engagements.

The event also saw participation from various stakeholders, including curriculum supervisors EPS Ylcy B. Mangulimotan, PSDSs Maria Nenita G. Tuazon, Marissa Y. Manginsay, and Reynaldo P. Deocampo Jr.; BPI officials with Briand Romano, Branch Manager Panabo, and Jayson Juanillo, Loan Associate; DOST-XI personnel, Leselle Abatol, Senior Science Research Specialist, Engr. Jhunrey Vistal, Project Technical Aide; Clint James Pardilla, Science Research Specialist; Nikko Paña, Project Technical Aide; and local community leaders with PTA President Rev. Ryan Gumapac, Brgy. Officials Leizel Batoon and Jonelyn Solomon, all underscore the collective effort toward educational development in Panabo City.

STARBOOKS Welcomes 2 New Partners

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



► *San Carlos City, Negros Occidental, 15 May 2024* – In the current technological landscape, access to quality learning resources remains a significant challenge, especially in remote and marginalized communities. Recognizing this, the DOST-Science and Technology Information Institute, in collaboration with DOST-VI and Provincial

Science and Technology Office-Negros Occidental, signed a memorandum of agreement with Colegio de Sto. Tomas - Recoletos (CST-R) and the DepEd School Division Office - San Carlos City in Negros Occidental to bring STARBOOKS to learning institutions in the city. The signing event was held at the CST-R Cultural Hall on 15 May

2024. This collaboration aims to enhance STEAM (science, technology, engineering, the arts, and mathematics) literacy in the city by providing students and educators with free access to STARBOOKS offline, a vast repository of e-learning resources that can be used even without internet connectivity.



DOST-STII Signs MOA with DepEd Schools Division of Bacoor City

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

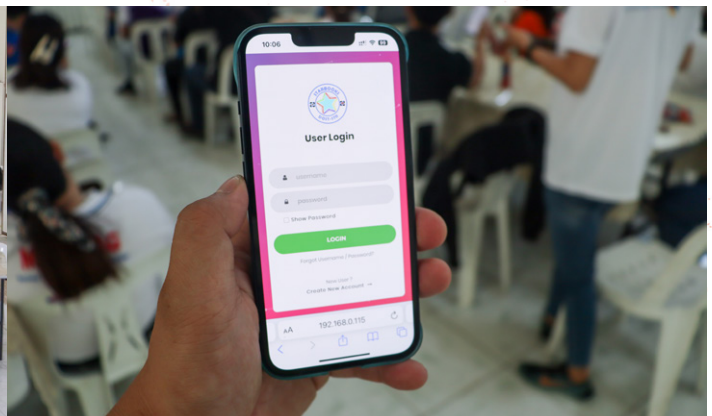


Bacoor City, Cavite, 24 May 2024 – A Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) was signed between DOST-Science and Technology Information Institute, DepEd Schools Division of Bacoor, and DOST-CALABARZON to bring STARBOOKS to learning institutions in the city.

The signing event was held at the Multipurpose Hall,

Bacoor Elementary School, Cavite on 24 May 2024. This collaboration aims to enhance STEAM (science, technology, engineering, the arts, and mathematics) literacy in the city by providing students and educators with free access to STARBOOKS offline, a vast repository of e-learning resources that can be used even without internet connectivity.

Reynaldo A. Morales, Jr., a member of the STARBOOKS unit, led a comprehensive user orientation session on the background and history of STARBOOKS. Morales also explained the functionalities, features, and contents of STARBOOKS through a hands-on demonstration with the participants.



REGIONAL NEWS



DOST-III, Don Bosco Technical Institute (DBTI) Partners for STARBOOKS

by DOST PSTO Tarlac



Department of Science and Technology Tarlac



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▶ *Tarlac City, 16 January 2024* – The Department of Science and Technology III and Don Bosco Technical Institute (DBTI) of Tarlac jointly signed a Memorandum of Agreement for the installation of the Science and Technology Academic

and Research-Based Openly Operated Kiosk or STARBOOKS.

STARBOOKS is an offline digital library developed by DOST – Science and Technology Information Institute (STII) and is continuously being deployed

throughout the country- free of charge.

Present during the MOA Signing are PSTO – Tarlac Provincial Director Karen Y. Dañez and DBTI Research Officer, Mr. Karl Josh M. Guillermo.

Remote Schools in Sagay City Get E-libraries from DOST

by Nanette Guadalquiver, *Philippine News Agency*

▶ *Bacolod City, 19 January 2024* – Public elementary schools in two islands and an upland village in Sagay City, Negros Occidental got a learning boost through the computerized information kiosks or electronic (e)-libraries of the Science and Technology Academic and Research-Based Openly Operated KioskS or Starbooks

project of the Department of Science and Technology (DOST).

In a statement on Friday, Mayor Narciso Javelosa Jr. welcomed the opportunity for the schoolchildren to embrace the learning technology.

“We hope this will help them in their endeavors in doing their

science-related projects and activities,” he said.

Councilor Perfecto Maraño represented Javelosa during the turn-over rites on Thursday at the Department of Education-Schools Division Office of Sagay City.

In Sagay City, the DOST is implementing the Starbooks project, which seeks to benefit geographically isolated and economically challenged communities in cooperation with the Satoca Agrarian Reform Cooperative.

The recipients include the island schools of Matabas Elementary School, Molocaboc II Elementary School and Molocaboc Integrated School located in Molocaboc Island, plus the Suyac Elementary School in the mangrove island of Suyac.

Another recipient is the upland Manara Elementary School, with learners mostly from the Ata community in Barangay Puey.

In a separate statement, Schools Division Superintendent Marsette Sabbalucca said the e-libraries will infuse technology into classes and

instructions in these remote schools. a user-friendly interface.

Starbooks are stand-alone computerized information kiosks or offline digital libraries, providing students and faculty access to science and technology information resources in specifically designed “pods” in

Each Starbooks contains hundreds of thousands of digitized science and technology resources in various formats like text, audio and video, where an individual can print the information right at the kiosks.



Photo from I Love Sagay Page

#STIIintheNEWS

Remote schools in Sagay City get e-libraries from DOST

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Source: Philippine News Agency

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DOST-STARBOOKS Reaches the Unreachable GIDA Through Partnership

by DOST Region 2

► *Tuguegarado City, 29 January 2024* – Aiming to improve education, especially in rural areas across the region, the Department of Science and Technology Regional Office II (DOST-II), through its Community Empowerment through Science and Technology (CEST) program, awarded Science and Technology Academic

and Research-Based Openly Operated Kiosks STARBOOKS) to seven (7) Department of Education schools in the region on 29 January 2024 at the DOST-II Conference Hall.

Serving as homes of indigenous people (IP), the seven beneficiaries, namely: Aridowen Integrated School, Gabut Integrated School, and

Dalin Elementary School from the province of Cagayan; Oyao Elementary School, Cawacao Integrated School, and Cabuan Elementary School from the province of Nueva Vizcaya; and Wasid Integrated School from the province of Quirino, all received a package that includes a STARBOOKS-installed unit and materials for Smarter Education.

Regional News

Moreover, an orientation was led by STARBOOKS Project Staff in-charge, Mr. Carl Joshua Reyes, who discussed the fundamentals such as registration, key features, especially the contents in the form of video and text, and the steps on how to navigate the unit.

Meanwhile, the CEST Regional Coordinator, Ms. Rowena A. Guzman, briefly discussed the major programs and new plans of DOST-II, emphasizing the target outcomes this year, such as SETUP, IFWD, iSTART, scholarships, Smart Communities, and the CEST program, in which the STARBOOKS program is under, targeting human resource development.

In her message, DOST-II Regional Director Virginia G. Bilgera emphasized the

importance of the collaboration of various government agencies to have a wider reach in helping communities in need.

“Let us all be together to help and reach out, lalo na iyong mga nasa laylayan ng komunidad,” she added.

The event also included the signing a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the partner agencies, such as the Philippine National Police (PNP), Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP), Department of Education (DepEd), and local government units (barangay officials), to establish a strong partnership by providing a basis for negotiations and outlining key terms and expectations between parties.

STARBOOKS, a comprehensive repository of knowledge containing thousands of

resources related to science and mathematics in text or video format, aims to help academic institutions improve the level of education particularly in Geographically Isolated and Disadvantaged Areas (GIDA).

Furthermore, this program supports the MATATAG curriculum of DepEd to accelerate the delivery of basic education services and provision facilities, promoting learner well-being, inclusiveness learning, and positive learning environment, and give support for teachers to teach better.

Now, DOST-II STARBOOKS has already reached more than 500 barangays in the far-flung areas of the region, including four indigenous communities such as the Bugkalot, Ayangan, Kalanguya, and Aeta tribes.



Lord's Angels Montessori School, Inc. and STARBOOKS successfully forge innovative partnership to elevate STEM education

by Lord's Angels Montessori School, Inc.

▶ *Malolos, Bulacan, 30 January 2024* – In a momentous event that signifies a collaborative leap towards educational innovation, Lord's Angels Montessori School, Inc. (LAMS) celebrated the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) Signing Ceremony with esteemed officials from the Department of Science and Technology (DOST) and key figures from the school's administration.



DOST officials present at the ceremony included:

- Dr. Julius Caesar V. Sicat, SECO III, Regional Director, DOST-III;
- Engr. Romeolito Tacbian, Assistant Regional Director for Technical Operations, DOST-III;
- Ms. Angelita Q. Parungao, Provincial S&T Director, DOST-PSTO Bulacan; and
- Mr. Michael Carlo Mariano, Supervising Science Research Specialist, DOST-PSTO Bulacan.

Their presence underscored the commitment of DOST to support Lord's Angels Montessori School Inc.'s dedication to Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM) education.

Among the esteemed leaders from Lord's Angels Montessori School, Inc. in attendance were:

- Miss Belinda B. Bartolome, Chairman of the Board of Trustees;

- Miss Ma. Myra M. Pinca, Vice President and Principal of the Elementary and Junior High School Department; and
- Miss Corazon S. San Pedro, Principal of the Senior High School Department.

The project, which is a groundbreaking initiative integrating DOST-STARBOOKS into the academic curriculum, was spearheaded by Mr. Floperl B. Abiog, the school's Academic Support and Student Development Services Coordinator and a dedicated member of the LAMS Board of Trustees.

The ceremony, held at the LAMS Annex Pavilion, radiated an atmosphere of excitement and anticipation as the collaboration between LAMS and DOST was officially sealed. This was

attended and witnessed by the student leaders and learners from LAMS Malolos and Plaridel Campuses. This partnership is poised to propel LAMS. to new heights, providing students with cutting-edge resources and opportunities in STEM education.

The joint commitment of DOST and Lord's Angels Montessori School, Inc. sets the stage for a transformative educational experience, laying the foundation for a future where innovation and excellence go hand in hand.

DOST-STARBOOKS Now Available at The City of Imus Public Library

by DOST PSTO Cavite



of Science and Technology (S&T) information.

This innovative platform aims to enhance the learning experience and foster science and knowledge creation in rural areas.

During the recent S T A R B O O K S Orientation and User's Hands-on Training, Mr.

Laurence Angelo F. Bago and Mr. Mark Anthony B. Acidella from DOST-Cavite, having served as the Resource Speakers/Trainers, provided insights into the system's operation, methods for accessing program content, the reporting process, and system maintenance.

Following the informative session, participants had hands-on experience - learning to operate and navigate the STARBOOKS system.

To ensure the seamless operation of STARBOOKS, attendees were encouraged to maintain regular communication with DOST-Cavite. They were advised to report the status of STARBOOKS usage and any encountered issues, to facilitate the prompt resolution of concerns.

With this, DOST continuously provides S&T interventions to ensure the adoption of technologies and application of S&T intervention towards maximum economic and social benefits for the people.

Select Elementary Schools in Ivisan, Capiz Undergo STARBOOKS Orientation

by DOST Region VI

► *Ivisan, Capiz, 06 February 2024* – Head of schools and ICT teachers of Balaring Elementary School, Cabugao Elementary School, and Victor A. Umiten Memorial School, all located in Ivisan, Capiz, participate in the orientation and demonstration of Science and Technology Academic and Research-Based Openly-Operated KioskS (STARBOOKS).

S T A R B O O K S is a free offline library containing digitized S&T educational and learning resources created by DOST-Science & Technology Information Institute.



STARBOOKS arrives in Jordan National High School

by MASA Salazar | photos by RAG Llaneta., Guimaras PSTO



► *Jordan, Guimaras, 07 February 2024* – Thirty (30) senior high school learners and twelve (12) faculty members of Jordan National High School in Guimaras province participated in the orientation and deployment of STARBOOKS or the Science and Technology Academic and Research-Based

Openly Operated Kiosks, a flagship product of the Department of Science and Technology.

One unit of STARBOOKS computer system loaded with information materials on science and technology was turned over to Jordan National High School on 7 February 2024. Guimaras Provincial S&T Office Director, Mr. Allen Daryl F. Asuelo, led the orientation and deployment activity.

The computer was installed with software containing hundreds of thousands of digitized books, livelihood videos, instructional materials for teachers, interactive games, and math and

science quizzes. It also contains theses, dissertation, materials on disaster risk reduction and management (DRRM), and K–12 materials for both students and teachers.

As an interactive kiosk system, STARBOOKS is a stand-alone kiosk, which means it does not require an Internet connection. Likewise, it can accommodate multiple users who can access resources on science, technology, and innovation (STI) simultaneously when STARBOOKS is connected via local Wi-Fi or a local area network (LAN). Moreover, system installation, content updates, system support, and training for all users are free.

STARBOOKS Reaches Colegio De Puerto Galera in Oriental Mindoro

by DOST PSTC Oriental Mindoro



Three (3) DOST-MIMAROPA, and the computer units institution.

were installed with the software application during the technical intervention provided by DOST-MIMAROPA through the Provincial Office- Oriental Mindoro.

Developed by DOST-STII, STARBOOKS (Science and Technology Academic and Research-Based Openly-Operated KioskS) is a stand-alone information source created to reach those with limited or no access to S&T information resources. Through STARBOOKS, the students, researchers, and the general public may access a database of livelihood videos, learning materials, general information, and other IEC materials for free without the use of the internet.

► *Puerto Galera, Oriental Mindoro*
08 February 2024 – The library-in-a-box by the Department of Science and Technology dubbed as STARBOOKS is now available at Colegio de Puerto Galera in Oriental Mindoro.

Ms. Mylene M. Aguilar, the librarian, was given an orientation and an actual demo of how the platform works and its contents. A Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) was also signed between DOST-STII,



STARBOOKS Launches at Don Bosco Technological Institute-Tarlac

by DOST PSTO Tarlac

▶ *Tarlac City, 14 February 2024* – The Department of Science and Technology-Tarlac under the leadership of Provincial Director Karen Y. Dañez, together with Don Bosco Technical Institute (DBTI)-Tarlac as represented by Fr. Edwin L. Ulanday, Principal/Rector and Mr. Karl Josh M. Guillermo, Research Officer of the Institutional Affairs, signed a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) for the installation and implementation of the Science & Technology Academic and Research-Based Openly Operated KioskS (STARBOOKS).



STARBOOKS features hundreds of thousands of digital resources related to science and technology in several formats (text, video, and audio), installed

in specifically designed “pods” with an intuitive user interface that is accessible to students, researchers, and faculty members.

STARBOOKS now at Alcantara National High School

by DOST PSTO Romblon



▶ *Odiongan, Romblon, 16 February 2024* – The Department of Science and Technology-MIMAROPA, through its Provincial Science and Technology Office-Romblon, recently conducted the installation of STARBOOKS and orientation on its use and features

at Alcantara National High School. In collaboration with the school, three computer units were installed with STARBOOKS to cater to the Junior High School (JHS), Senior High School (SHS), and Alternative Learning System (ALS) departments.

STARBOOKS or short for Science and Technology Academic and Research-Based Openly-Operated KioskS is an information kiosk designed to enhance STEM education. Packed with educational videos, interactive courseware, and publications on DOST-generated technologies, as well as resources for livelihood and disaster mitigation, STARBOOKS serves as a valuable tool for students' academic development.

One of STARBOOKS' notable features is its offline accessibility, ensuring that all students can benefit from its wealth of knowledge regardless of internet connectivity.

DOST-Bicol Revolutionizes DCOMC's Library Services with STARBOOKS

by DOST PSTO Bicol

► *Daraga, Albay, 19 February 2024* – Daraga Community College (DCOMC) received a major upgrade to its library system through the Department of Science and Technology-Bicol's orientation and hands-on training session on Science and Technology Academic and Research-Based Openly-Operated Kiosks (STARBOOKS) at DCOMC's campus in Salvacion, Daraga, Albay.

More than just improving accessibility, this initiative empowers students and educators with instant access to information, facilitating a more efficient process of research and inquiry.



STARBOOKS turnover and MOA Signing with Valenzuela City Library

by DOST National Capital Region

► *Valenzuela City, 21 February 2024* – Department of Science and Technology - National Capital Region (DOST-NCR) Regional Director Engr. Romelen T. Tresvalles and City of Valenzuela Vice Mayor Lorena Natividad-Borja representing Mayor Weslie T. Gatchalian, signed a Memorandum of Agreement to formally turn over a DOST Science and Technology Academic and Research-Based Openly-

Operated Kiosks (STARBOOKS) to enhance STEM learning of students in the city.

The signing ceremony took place on 21 February 2024 at the City of Valenzuela library and was witnessed by Mr. Noel D. Bagano of the Office of the Schools Division Superintendent, Valenzuela City Library Officer-in-Charge Ms. Rochelle Silverio, and Valenzuela City Councilors.

The agreement will further foster collaborative efforts in advancing STEM education and access to technology, potentially creating avenues for innovative learning programs and enhanced research opportunities for the students.



PSTO-Pampanga In Action (PIIA): DOST-III and DBA-Mabalacat Join Forces to Drive STEM Learning

by DOST PSTO Pampanga



► *Mabalacat City, Pampanga, 21 February 2024* – Don Bosco Academy (DBA) Mabalacat inked a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) with the Department of Science and Technology (DOST) for the installation and implementation of STARBOOKS or the Science & Technology Academic Research-Based Openly Operated Kiosk Station.

STARBOOKS is a digital science & technology library in a box that can be accessed online and offline. DOST-Pampanga Provincial Director Mary Michelle Quiambao and DBA Principal Mia M. Bognot jointly signed the MOA today.

Along with the MOA signing was an orientation and walkthrough of the system with students and teachers of DBA.

STARBOOKS Helps Empower Women Educators and Leaders in 7 Schools in Porac

by DOST PSTO Pampanga



During the session, participants, particularly the inspiring women educators, commended the features of STARBOOKS, especially its K-12

Present in this activity were the Principals and Teachers from the following Schools:

- Porac National High School (Host)
- Porac Model Community High School
- Porac Elementary School
- Eastern Porac National High School
- Planas High School
- Sta. Cruz Elementary School
- Pulong Santol National High School

▶ *Porac, Pampanga, 05 March 2024* – On March 1, 2024, seven (7) public schools in Porac enthusiastically joined the STARBOOKS project. Principals and teachers gathered at Porac National High School (PNHS), led by Mr. Joel S. Mendoza, for a training and orientation session facilitated by the PSTO-Pampanga STARBOOKS team.

interactive content designed to enhance teaching and learning.

The team facilitated the installation of the system initially at the PNHS Library, while the remaining schools have also prepared and submitted the required documents and are now gearing up with the hardware preparations to acquire this innovative learning tool.

As a testament to our commitment to women's empowerment, the signing of the MOA between the recipients and DOST-3 followed right after the training.



STARBOOKS Empowers Women in Brgy. Maimpis with TAMANG DOSTkarte Livelihood Videos

by DOST PSTO Pampanga

► *San Fernando, Pampanga, 11 March 2024* – PSTO-Pampanga introduced STARBOOKS to the Women’s Association of Brgy. Maimpis on March 11, as part of the Women’s Month celebration. This initiative aims to empower women, enabling them to contribute to the sustainability of their community by leveraging the TAMANG DOSTkarte Livelihood Videos which is one of the components of STARBOOKS. These are science and research-based

videos tailored to stimulate entrepreneur mindset and skills, as well as to provide essential knowledge for livelihood opportunities.



WE Gender Equality Inclusive Society
2024 NATIONAL WOMEN'S MONTH CELEBRATION
 Provincial Science & Technology Office-Pampanga

Brgy. Maimpis is the pioneer BLGU in the City of San Fernando to embrace STARBOOKS, marking a significant partnership with the City LGU to establish community learning hubs equipped with this offline digital science library.

Representatives from the City’s GAD Focal Point System/TWG, Ms. Amalia A. Catacutan, and the CICT Officer, Atty. Francis Villanueva, were present to grace the event and highlight the continuing partnership of the DOST PSTO Pampanga with the City LGU. This collaboration aims to provide all BLGUs with this learning facility for the continuous growth and promotion of science culture and innovation throughout the city.



WE Gender Equality Inclusive Society
2024 NATIONAL WOMEN'S MONTH CELEBRATION
 Provincial Science & Technology Office-Pampanga

STARBOOKS Empowers Women in Brgy. Maimpis with TAMANG DOSTkarte Livelihood Videos

by Rizalie A. Calibo, *Philippines Information Agency*

► *Siquijor, 20 March 2024* – The Department of Science and Technology (DOST) recently signed an agreement with 69 public elementary schools and nine public high schools here for the rollout of the Science and Technology Academic and Research-Based Openly-Operated KioskS (STARBOOKS) program.

The partnership aims to boost science, technology, and research education in the province.

The MOA signing was done by Siquijor Provincial Science and Technology Director Mario E. de la Peña and the heads of the schools.

This initiative aims to bridge the information gap in Siquijor’s schools by providing students with accessible and interactive learning resources on various science and technology topics.

“The STARBOOKS program is a testament to DOST’s commitment to empowering our learners in Siquijor.



These kiosks will not only provide readily available information but will also foster a culture of curiosity and exploration among our students,” said De la Peña in a press statement.

He said the MOA signing signifies a collaborative effort between DOST and the Department of Education (DepEd) Division of Siquijor in achieving quality science education.

Edisa Calvadores, education program supervisor of DepEd’s Learning Resource Management and Development Division, said the STARBOOKS program aligns with DepEd’s vision of equipping students with the 21st century skills they need to thrive in today’s environment.

“The STARBOOKS kiosks will be a valuable resource for

both teachers and students, promoting interactive and engaging learning experiences,” said Calvadores.

Jennyvie A. van Rozelaar, teacher-in-charge of Banban National High School-Junior High School, expressed her excitement about the initiative.

“Students at our school could benefit from the STARBOOKS program in a number of ways. First of all, it makes a large variety of instructional resources, such as e-books, articles, films, and interactive learning tools, easily accessible. Students’ grasp of a variety of subjects and topics can be improved by this access beyond what is provided by standard textbooks,” shared van Rozelaar.

She also highlighted the program’s potential to promote collaborative learning.

“STARBOOKS program promotes collaborative learning by making it easier for students to share ideas and materials. Students can meaningfully interact with their peers through discussion boards, group projects, and shared annotations, which promotes a sense of community and cooperation,” explained Ms. van Rozelaar.

STARBOOKS are stand-alone computerized information kiosks or offline digital libraries, providing students and faculty access to science and technology information resources in specifically designed “pods” in a user-friendly interface.

Each STARBOOKS contains hundreds of thousands of digitized science and technology resources in various formats like text, audio, and video.

DOST-Bicol Revisits Cawayan High School to Boost STARBOOKS Use

by DOST PSTO Bicol



► *Manito, Albay, 02 April 2024* – The Department of Science and Technology Regional Office V (DOST-Bicol) returned to Cawayan High School (CHS) in Manito, Albay for a refresher on the Science and Technology Academic and Research-Based Openly-Operated KioskS (STARBOOKS) program.

Originally launched in 2017, CHS saw a surge in student use of STARBOOKS, gaining recognition regionally and nationally. However, to further improve, CHS requested updated materials and a renewed focus on implementation to benefit even more students.

This collaboration aims to strengthen STARBOOKS utilization, improving the learning experience and knowledge of students in the academe.

STARBOOKS Bridges S&T Learning for IP Schools in Tubungan, Iloilo

by DOST PSTO Iloilo



Regional News

▶ *Tubungan, Iloilo, 02 April 2024* – DOST-developed S&T information system, STARBOOKS, or the Science & Technology Academic and Research Based Openly Operated KioskS, was provided to indigenous peoples (IP) schools in Tubungan, Iloilo.

On 8 March 2024, representatives from the Department of Science and Technology (DOST)-VI Iloilo Provincial Science and Technology Office (PSTO)

conducted the turnover and training of STARBOOKS to Igtuble Integrated School, Victoria Integrated School, and Igpaho Elementary School.

The activity, funded through DOST's Community Empowerment through S&T (CEST) Program, aims to empower the indigenous cultural communities in the municipality by giving them free and better access to S&T information.

Attending the event were Hon. Leo Cezar T. Taypen, Vice Mayor of Tubungan, Juan G. Gepullano, Public Schools District Supervisor of Tubungan, Aldren Dalisay, Officer-in-Charge of Southern Iloilo Community Service Center National Commission on Indigenous Peoples (CSC NCIP), Emelyn E. Tano, CEST Project Leader, elders in the communities, and the Punong Barangays.

DOST-STARBOOKS Revolutionizes Learning at Pugo Central NHS

by DOST PSTO La-Union

▶ *Pugo, La Union 15 April 2024* – With the aim of providing students with advanced learning resources, the Department of Science and Technology Regional Office I (DOST-I), through its Provincial Science and Technology Office – La

Union (PSTO-LU), spearheaded the signing of Memorandum of Understanding (MOU), an orientation and deployment of Science and Technology Academic Research-Based Openly-Operated KioskS (STARBOOKS) on 15 March

2024 at Pugo Central National High School (NHS), Barangay Cares, Pugo, La Union.

The activity was led by PSTO-LU Provincial Director Mr. Jonathan M. Viernes who encouraged the students to



utilize STARBOOKS for their academic pursuits, emphasizing its potential for research and investigatory projects. The MOU signing ceremony saw the presence of PD Viernes and Mr. Ross U. Rivera, the school principal.

Following this, Ms. Katrina F. Ronquillo, Senior Science Research Specialist of PSTO-La Union, conducted an

orientation on STARBOOKS, supported by Mr. Anthony Ian H. Reyes, Project Technical Aide V, and the STARBOOKS focal person from DOST-I, who demonstrated its functionalities.

Students across various grade levels were given the chance to explore STARBOOKS, and they were notably impressed by its educational and interactive

features. Mr. Rivera expressed sincere appreciation for this transformative initiative, thanking the DOST for their commitment to enhancing the educational experience. He encouraged students to share their knowledge of accessing STARBOOKS with their peers.

As DOST, through OneDOST4U, continues to champion innovation and inclusivity in

Sta. Rosa City Jail sign MOA with DOST for STARBOOKS

by BJMP Santa Rosa CJ-MD

► *Sta. Rosa City, Laguna, 23 April 2024* – Sta Rosa City Jail Male and Female Dorms, under the dynamic leadership of Jail Chief Inspector Jay Tee P. Tancangco and Jail Inspector Emma R. Ramo, have sealed a partnership with DOST through MOA signing held on 01 April 2024 at the Unit’s Tech4Ed Center.

STARBOOKS, short for Science

and Technology Academic and Research-Based Openly-Operated KioskS, is a digital library system that provides free access to science and technology resources installed on the computers of both units.

DOST STARBOOKS provides access to a wide array of science and technology resources, including academic journals,

research papers, textbooks, and multimedia materials.

This program aligns with the jail bureau’s broader efforts of providing developmental opportunities among the Persons Deprived of Liberty (PDL) as it helps bridge the digital divide and ensures equitable access to valuable educational resources.

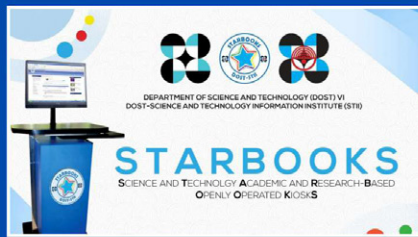


STARBOOKS Helps Empower Women Educators and Leaders in 7 Schools in Porac

by AR Silvestre, *DOST PSTO Aklan*

► *Kalibo, Aklan, 02 May 2024* – The Department of Science and Technology (DOST) Aklan Provincial Office engages with educators from various private schools in the province to promote STARBOOKS or the Science and Technology Academic and Research-Based Openly-Operated KioskS.

In attendance were representatives from Saint Gabriel College, Aklan Valley High School, STI College Kalibo, St. Dominic School of Kalibo, Infant Jesus School, and Wadeford School.



Promoting quality science education in Aklan through STARBOOKS

The Department of Science and Technology (DOST) Aklan Provincial Office engages with educators from various private schools in the province to promote STARBOOKS or the Science and Technology Academic and Research-Based Openly-Operated KioskS. In attendance were representatives from Saint Gabriel College, Aklan Valley High School, STI College Kalibo, St. Dominic School of Kalibo, Infant Jesus School, and Wadeford School.

DOST 11, Holy Child partner for STARBOOKS

by Vener Zygmund Rebuelta, *DOST XI*



▶ *Davao City, 06 May 2024* – The Department of Science and Technology XI (DOST 11) has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Holy Child College of Davao for the installation of Science and Technology Academic and Research-Based Openly-Operated Kiosk Stations (STARBOOKS) across the college's three campuses - Trinity, Kalayaan, and Green Meadows.

The STARBOOKS will serve as repositories of up-to-date scientific resources and create

a conducive environment for research and academic development within the institution.

During the signing ceremony, Regional Director Dr. Anthony Sales reiterated DOST 11's dedication to supporting educational institutions in their pursuit of scientific knowledge and innovation. Dr. Sales emphasized the significance of collaborative efforts such as the STARBOOKS installation, highlighting its role in equipping learners with valuable tools for inquiry and

discovery. "We are very happy with this partnership. We believe that the installation of STARBOOKS will nurture a vibrant academic community conducive to research and learning for the faculty members and students," Dr. Sales added.

STARBOOKS serves as a digital library system that contains a vast repository of educational materials, including textbooks, journals, and multimedia resources, covering various fields of science and technology.

Potrero National High School integrates STARBOOKS into its learning resources

by DOST-National Capital Region CAMANAVA Cluster

▶ *Potrero, Malabon City, 06 May 2024* – Learning science and technology has never been this easy with the Department of Science and Technology's STARBOOKS as Potrero National High School has now integrated this library-in-a-box into its learning resources.

With physical textbooks and research papers now transformed into digitized science and technology resources, students of the said school can now easily access different learning materials through one of DOST's developed technologies, the Science and Technology Academic Research-Based Openly Operated KioskS or STARBOOKS.

Seventeen (17) students, together with their science teachers, took part in the



STARBOOKS Orientation and User's Training that was held on 22 April 2024 at the Potrero National High School computer laboratory. Guided by the DOST-NCR CAMANAVA CASTO STARBOOKS Coordinator Mr. Daryl Drio, the faculty and students learned how to create a user profile, learn the Kiosk's different features, and access various learning references in

the digital library.

This activity is only one of DOST-NCR's initiatives towards empowering communities, including youth development through science, technology, and innovation-based interventions.

Collaboration Brings Digital Education to Lagayan, Abra

by DOST PSTO Abra

► *Lagayan, Abra, 08 May 2024* – Lagayan, Abra is taking a big step towards digital education, with the recent turnover of six STARBOOKS Digital Library Computer Desktops. This initiative is a collaborative effort between the Department of Science & Technology - Cordillera Administrative Region (DOST-CAR) through the Provincial Science & Technology Office - Abra (PSTO-Abra) and the Local Government Unit of Lagayan (LGU-Lagayan).



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The turnover ceremony, held last May 8, 2024, marked a significant milestone in bringing the STARBOOKS program to Lagayan. The event included User and Administrator Training for fifteen participants, including School Principals, ICT representatives, and municipal staff.

Municipal Mayor Edmarc L. Crisologo warmly welcomed participants and emphasized the project's importance. He highlighted the need for participants to make the most of DOST's technologies to foster curiosity and innovation among students, expressing gratitude to DOST-CAR for making the project possible.

Engr. Ralf B. Sapi-il, PSTD of PSTO-Abra, provided

updates on the ongoing Smart & Sustainable Community Program with LGU-Lagayan, encouraging attendees to participate actively in DOST initiatives.

Following this, Engr. Rona Mae A. Bautista, the STARBOOKS Provincial Coordinator, led an informative session, guiding participants through the STARBOOKS interface, account creation, and resource navigation. The training also included a hands-on component, demonstrating how to operate STARBOOKS within the library's Local Area Network (LAN) environment.

This practical experience allows participants to share their knowledge with their communities effectively.

The introduction of STARBOOKS in Lagayan aligns with the DOST's Smart & Sustainable Community Program (DOST-SSCP). Lagayan serves as the pilot municipality for Abra, showcasing the program's potential to empower communities through science, technology, and innovation. This collaborative effort by PSTO-Abra and LGU-Lagayan sets the stage for a future where knowledge and innovation flourish with the aid of technology, embodying the spirit of "INTAWON LAGAYAN!"

STARBOOKS Now Accessible for De La Salle Lipa's Students, Teachers

by DOST PSTO Batangas



► *Lipa, Batangas, 13 May 2024* – De La Salle Lipa is the newest addition to the beneficiaries of the Department of Science and Technology's (DOST) STARBOOKS or the Science and Technology Academic and Research-Based Openly-Operated KioskS.

The STARBOOKS unit was deployed at De La Salle Lipa's library on 07 May 2024, and an orientation-training was conducted to capacitate the teachers on navigating and utilizing the resources available on STARBOOKS for academic and research purposes. It covered the features and contents of STARBOOKS, as well as how they can be used to supplement learning materials in STEM education.

A site admin training was also conducted to ensure efficient management and maintenance

of the STARBOOKS system in the schools. This training focused on tasks such as registering data, navigating numerous articles, and exploring interactive math and science games. Teachers and the Information and Communications Technology (ICT) coordinator were also briefed on the admin module, which includes user assistance, submission of transmittal files, reviewing user feedback and comments, updating STARBOOKS contents, and managing the kiosk.

Prior to the deployment, De La Salle Lipa provided the computer set, while DOST-Batangas undertook the installation of the STARBOOKS system. DOST-Batangas STARBOOKS coordinators, Ms. Renalee M. Leyesa and Mr. Cedric L. Rodriguez, facilitated the deployment and orientation-training.

The STARBOOKS, developed by the Science and Technology Information Institute (DOST-STII), contains thousands of digitized science and technology resources that can supplement classroom learning and enhance research capabilities. It allows access to information even in the absence of an internet connection.

Ms. Ma. Chona Chavez, De La Salle Lipa's Chief Librarian, thanked DOST for providing the STARBOOKS system and training, emphasizing the significant impact it will have on the students' education and research endeavors. She promised that the school would maximize the use of STARBOOKS to further enrich the learning experience of their students and promote a culture of research and innovation within the institution.

112th STARBOOKS in Batangas Province is in Nasugbu East SHS

by DOST PSTO Batangas



► *Nasugbu, Batangas, 15 May 2024* – The 112th digital library called STARBOOKS short for “Science and Technology Academic and Research-Based Openly-Operated Kiosks” in Batangas province was deployed to Nasugbu East Senior High School (SHS), on 10 May 2024.

The STARBOOKS, developed by the Science and Technology Information Institute (DOST-STII), contains thousands of digitized science and technology resources that can supplement classroom learning and enhance research capabilities. It allows access to information even in the absence of an internet connection.

Since 2015, the Department of Science and Technology (DOST)-Batangas has been actively promoting the use of STARBOOKS among educational institutions in the province to

provide students with access to a wide range of scientific and technological resources. The deployment of the 112th STARBOOKS in Nasugbu East SHS aims to further enhance the learning experience of students and support their academic pursuits, particularly in the fields of science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM).

According to Ms. Elsa M. Capacia, Science Group Coordinator of Nasugbu East SHS, the availability of STARBOOKS in their school will not only supplement the students’ classroom learning but will also encourage them to explore and discover more about various STEM topics to develop innovations. “Significantly, this STARBOOKS system will also benefit our teachers by providing them with additional resources and tools to create more engaging and interactive lessons for their

students,” Ms. Capacia added.

An orientation-training was held to train teachers and students on navigating and utilizing STARBOOKS for academic and research purposes. The training covered STARBOOKS’ features and content, demonstrating how it can supplement STEM education materials.

A site admin training was also conducted, covering data registration, article navigation, and interactive math and science games. Teachers were briefed on the admin module, including user assistance, file submission, feedback review, content updates, and kiosk management. Ms. Renalee M. Leyesa, DOST-Batangas STARBOOKS coordinator, facilitated the deployment and orientation-training.

Rajah Sumunsang HS Elevates S&T Information Resources with STARBOOKS

by DOST XII – Cotabato Provincial Office

► *Kabacan, Cotabato, 16 May 2024* – To empower students with science and technology knowledge and resources, the DOST XII - Department of Science and Technology - Region XII officially handed over the DOST-STARBOOKS to Rajah Sumunsang High School in Kabacan, Cotabato, on 16 May 2024.

Under the leadership of Regional Director Sammy P. Malawan, through Provincial Director PD Michael Ty Mayo, and in partnership with the RSHS Teacher-In-Charged, Rexon G. Piang, DOST-XII emphasized the significance of providing students with easy access to a wealth of information that can enhance their understanding of science and technology. This initiative will help foster the student’s academic growth and prepare them for future careers in science and technology.

Mr. Benjie Francisco, the STARBOOKS Regional Project Assistant, presented an overview of the features of STARBOOKS and provided a comprehensive guide on its proper usage.

STARBOOKS, developed by DOST-Science and Technology



Information Institute, offers a rich collection of learning resources, including K-12 educational materials, educational videos, interactive science and math courseware, and many other learning tools designed to support and enhance students’ educational experiences.

Moreover, during the program, Aida Delon, PSDS, shared a warm and inspiring message, while Ronie K. Talusan, SGC-CO Chairperson, provided insightful closing remarks, wrapping up the event.

The initiative is part of DOST’s continuous efforts to bring science and technology knowledge within easy reach. With STARBOOKS, students and educators can access a wide range of educational content with just one click, significantly broadening their learning opportunities and fostering a deeper interest in science and technology. This project exemplifies DOST’s commitment to advancing education and promoting scientific literacy across the region.

DOST Enhances Educational Access with Digital Library in Island Schools in Davao Occidental

by Vener Zygmund Rebuella, DOST XI

► *Sarangani Island, Davao Occidental 17 May 2024* – The Department of Science and Technology XI (DOST XI) through the Provincial S&T Office in Davao Occidental distributed Science and Technology Academic and Research-Based Openly-Operated Kiosk Stations (STARBOOKS) to four schools located in Sarangani Island, Davao Occidental to enhance students' access to educational resources and support the advancement of science and technology education in the community.

STARBOOKS is a pioneering initiative of the DOST Science and Technology Information Institute (DOST-STII) that serves as a digital library system containing a vast repository of educational materials, including textbooks, journals, and multimedia resources, covering various fields of science and technology.

The recipient schools of the STARBOOKS units are Pulabato Elementary School, Angel Olarte Sr. Elementary School, Patuco Integrated School, and Alberto Olarte Sr. National High School.



During the deployment ceremony, DOST XI Regional Director Dr. Anthony Sales said that the tools provided through STARBOOKS will be a vital help in improving the quality of education on the island.

“With STARBOOKS, we’re not just bringing information but we’re opening doors to dreams and possibilities, igniting a passion for learning that will shape futures and inspire generations,” Dr. Sales said.

The deployment ceremony, held at Alberto Olarte Sr. National

High School, was attended by esteemed guests including Hon. Mayor Adelan B. De Arce, DOST-STII Director Richard P. Burgos, and DOST XI Regional Director Dr. Anthony Sales, PFT, CESO III, alongside PSTO Davao Occidental Provincial Director Maria Victoria Dado.

The introduction of STARBOOKS to these schools reflects a broader strategy by DOST to bridge educational gaps and promote Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics learning opportunities across the

DepEd SDO Kidapawan Inks MOA with DOST-XII to bring STARBOOKS across Public Schools

by DOST XII – Cotabato Provincial Office



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► **Kidapawan City, North Cotabato, 17 May 2024** – To boost science literacy and provide students with access to a wealth of knowledge in science and technology, the DepEd Tayo Kidapawan City joined hands with the DOST XII - Department of Science and Technology - Region XII in a momentous Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) Signing Program on 16 May 2024.

This agreement seeks to capacitate the Department of Education (DepEd) teachers and students to use DOST-STARBOOKS, the first digital library in a box developed by DOST-Science and Technology Information Institute.

Led by Regional Director Engr. Sammy Malawan, through Provincial Director PD Michael Ty Mayo, the DOST XII envisions that every DepEd school in Kidapawan City will have access to STARBOOKS to advance the learning experience for students within the city.

STARBOOKS, recognized as the national winner of the 2022 CSC Presidential Lingkod Bayan Award, is also part of the National Priority Plan (NPP) of the National Economic and Development Authority (NEDA), underlining its significance in advancing education and research nationwide.

Furthermore, the event also drew the participation of key figures, including Schools Division Superintendent Miguel Fillalan, Jr., CESO V, Assistant Schools Division Superintendent Jasmin P. Isla, and Curriculum and Implementation Division Chief Ronela Molina.

This MOA signing program is a testament to the collective commitment of educators, policymakers, and stakeholders to prioritize science literacy and education. As STARBOOKS takes root in Kidapawan City schools, it promises to inspire curiosity and unlock the boundless potential of young minds.

Municipality of Lavezares Receives STARBOOKS and Other STI Assistance from DOST-VIII

by DOST VII

► *Lavezares, Northern Samar, 19 May 2024* – In a significant development for the community of San Roque, Lavezares, and Lope de Vega in Northern Samar, several projects have been officially turned over to the local government units as part of the Community Empowerment through Science and Technology (CEST) program. This initiative aims to empower communities through technological advancements and innovative solutions.

One of the highlights of these turnovers took place in the municipality of Lavezares, where a total of nine (9) units of PortaSol and one (1) STARBOOKS were handed over to the local government. The turnover ceremony was led by the Provincial Science and Technology Office (PSTO)-Northern Samar Provincial Director, Engr. Veronica A. Laguitan and was graced by Dr. Ramil T. Uy, the CEST Regional Coordinator of the DOST-VIII, along with other dedicated staff members of PSTO- Northern Samar.

The PortaSol and STARBOOKS units are valuable additions to the community as they are designed to provide access to clean and sustainable solar energy solutions and digital libraries, respectively.



These projects highlight the commitment of the CEST program to enhance the quality of life and promote development in these areas.

The turnover ceremony symbolizes a promising step towards progress and empowerment for the residents of these municipalities, as they now have access to essential resources that can improve their daily lives and educational opportunities.

The collaborative effort between the local government units and the CEST program sets a positive example for future initiatives aimed at uplifting communities through science and technology.

Present during the said turnover were the Municipal Mayor, Hon. Edito B. Saludaga, Municipal Agriculture Officer, Ms. Estrella Ofiana, other officers of the municipality, the beneficiaries of portasol, and the school recipient of the STARBOOKS unit. Training on DRRM is one of the assistance that will be provided under the said project.

Simple technologies with big impacts. Just as DOST Secretary, Dr. Renato U. Solidum, Jr., said, “DOST Providing Solutions, Opening Opportunities.”

DOST XI Deploys STARBOOKS to Various Locations in Davao City

by DOST XI



► *Davao City, 21 May 2024* – The Department of Science and Technology (DOST)-Davao, through its Science and Technology Academic and Research-Based Openly Operated KioskS (STARBOOKS) program, has recently deployed All-in-One computer units equipped with STARBOOKS digital libraries to various locations in Davao City. This initiative is part of DOST XI's Community Empowerment through Science and Technology (CEST) program.

The first deployment was to Bantol National High School

in Barangay Bantol, Marilog District, Davao City. Following this, on 20 May 2024, STARBOOKS units were deployed to the Office of Barangay Salaysay, also located in the Marilog District of Davao City. This installation is intended to serve the local community, offering valuable digital resources that can aid in education and various community development initiatives.

The most recent deployment took place today at the Office of Barangay Sirib in the Calinan District, Davao City. Similar to

the previous deployments, this initiative is aimed at enhancing the local community's access to scientific knowledge and educational materials through the STARBOOKS digital library.

By equipping schools and community offices with digital libraries, DOST aims to bridge the digital divide and foster a more knowledgeable and empowered citizenry in Davao City.

G.U.G.M.A-adopted Schools Receive STARBOOKS

by Georgene Quilaton-Tambiga, *Colegio Santo Tomas - Recoletos*

▶ *San Carlos, Negros Occidental, 21 May 2024* – The three adopted schools of Colegio de Sto. Tomas-Recoletos, Inc. under its G.U.G.M.A. Program received complete STARBOOKS Kiosks from the BPI Foundation, Inc. last May 14, 2024 during the Turnover Ceremony at the SDS Hall, Department of Education Division of San Carlos.

Ansulag, Katiclan and Nabataan Elementary Schools became beneficiaries of the grant from BPI Foundation, Inc. through the Department of Science and Technology Information Institute (DOST-STII). The three schools are among the 30 school-beneficiaries who are included in the STARBOOKS Deployment Program funded by BPI Foundation, Inc.'s Php 2.1 M cash grant.

Dr. Dennis Develos, Asst.



Schools Division Superintendent – OIC of the Division of San Carlos, personally welcomed the guests during the ceremony showing his gratitude for how BPI Foundation, Inc., CST-R and DOST-STII adhered to the “mandate of sharing resources in

helping our learners in moving forward...to become responsible citizens.”

Mr. Noel Tiu, BPI Foundation, Inc. Program Manager, gave the audience a brief overview of what the foundation is doing to advance its Three Pillars: Financial Education, Enterprise Development and Financial Inclusion. BPI Foundation is in support of education, especially the promotion of science and technology.

DOST-STII Director Richard Burgos narrated the story of how CST-R became instrumental in bringing STARBOOKS for a Mass Installation and Deployment to beneficiaries in San Carlos City. Director Burgos encouraged the teachers to maximize the use of DOST's e-Library as it even contains reviewers for the famed



Programme for International Student Assessment (PISA) and Trends in International Mathematics and Science Study (TIMSS).

Responding to the inspiring words of his fellow stakeholders, Rev. Fr. Cristopher Maspara, OAR, CST-R President, expressed both the joy and humility of being instrumental in uplifting marginalized school-communities such as the three G.U.G.M.A. adopted schools.

“Today I am humbled to witness government and private sectors converge together in assisting

Ansulag, Nabataan, and Katiclan Elementary Schools,” Fr. Maspara said.

Ms. Rose Almaras, principal of Katiclan ES, Mr. Hernan Balansag, head teacher of Ansulag ES, and Mr. Jovito Limot, head teacher of Nabataan ES, accepted the STARBOOKS Kiosks in behalf of their respective schools.

“I, as principal, accept the responsibility that comes with this generous donation,” Ms. Almaras said thanking the sponsors and stakeholders as well.

Also in attendance during the turnover were DOST Negros Occidental Provincial Director Engr. Allan Francis Daraug, Heidelyn P. Geromiano (OIC, Asst. Schools Division Superintendent), Hon. Victoriana Cabili (San Carlos City Councilor), and Mr. Herlanie Hisman of Barangay Rizal, where the three beneficiary-schools are located.

CST-R led by Fr. Maspara delivered the kiosks to Katiclan ES with DOST-STII and BPI Foundation and to Nabataan ES. The kiosk will be delivered to Ansulag ES next week.

PSTO-Pampanga Leads STARBOOKS Orientation to Boost STEM Learning in San Luis

by DOST PSTC Pampanga

San Luis, Pampanga, 22 May 2024 – Provincial Science and Technology Office (PSTO)-Pampanga spearheaded a STARBOOKS Orientation for elementary school teachers in San Luis, Pampanga. The training session, hosted by Sto. Niño Elementary School (ES), brought together teacher representatives from San Roque, Don Emigdio A. Bondoc, San Jose, San Jose Proper, Bebe, and San Isidro ES.

During the training, Sto. Niño ES Principal Rosalina Cao thanked PSTO-Pampanga for providing access to science and technology learning materials that can be used without an internet connection.

Provincial S&T Director-Pampanga Mary Michelle Quiambao was present in the



activity, delivering an inspiring opening remark that set the stage for a productive session. STARBOOKS Technical Staff Jose Nulud and Roxanne Tan facilitated the software installation and training orientation.

This initiative aims to provide digitized learning materials

that can be accessed offline, significantly enhancing educational opportunities in remote areas. Looking ahead, the team plans to implement STARBOOKS across all schools in the 4th district, including secondary and tertiary institutions.

DOST's STARBOOKS Joins the Launching of AFP's Mobile E-learning Hub

by AR Silvestre, DOST PSTO Aklan

► *Mandaue City, Cebu, 22 May 2024* – Exciting collaborations ahead with AFP, DICT, TESDA, DepEd, and other stakeholders as the AFP launches the mobile e-learning hub in Brgy. Cabancalan, Mandaue City! DOST's STARBOOKS is here to bring scientific knowledge and livelihood information to our communities in the Philippines.



Romblon Last Mile Schools Gifted with STARBOOKS

by DOST PSTO Romblon

► *Romblon, 23 May 2024* – In partnership with BPI Foundation which donated computer hardware systems for DOST's STARBOOKS, four last-mile schools in Romblon received one unit each of a digital library - a proudly Filipino-developed knowledge resource technology!

These lucky schools were Agripino Armedilla National High School, Pascual Catajay Linao National High School, San Jose Agricultural High School, and San Agustin National Trade School.

The turnover ceremony facilitated by DOST STII in collaboration with DOST MIMAROPA Romblon Provincial Office was held at San Agustin National Trade School.

It was attended by the school heads, ICT focal persons, and selected students who were elated to receive the STARBOOKS. Part of the ceremony was a User Training and Orientation session on STARBOOKS conducted by DOST-STII.

STARBOOKS is DOST's offline/online digital library composed of various learning materials, journals, and publications related to Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM) which could be used by students, faculty, and interested individuals.



PSTO-ZDN turns over 2 STARBOOKS units to Dinasan Nat'l HS and Lipay ES

by DOST IX

▶ *Zamboanga del Norte, 23 May 2024* – The DOST-IX through the Provincial Science and Technology Office (PSTO)-Zamboanga del Norte has successfully turned over two (2) units of STARBOOKS system to Dinasan National High School and Lipay Elementary School. This intervention was made possible through the project entitled “Community Empowerment of Jose Dalman through Science and Technology (CEST-Jose Dalman)” which received a total funding assistance amounting to Php 542,015.00.

The turnover activity was attended by Mrs. Emily T. Oga, Head of Lipay Elementary School, and Mrs. Charito Catipay, Officer-in-charge of Dinasan National High School along with their respective ICT focals, some officers of Lipay Indigenous Farmers Association and the Barangay Official of Dinasan, Jose Dalman.

Both schools have signed



into a Memorandum of Agreement for the acquisition of STARBOOKS and have also undergone training on the use and operation of the said technology which was provided by Ms. Jelyn O. Bayonas, Senior Science Research Specialist of PSTO-ZDN.

STARBOOKS is a library-in-a-box for students in elementary, high school, and college levels, as well as researchers. It is a unique educational software containing thousands of science and technology information

installed on desktop computers and housed in an attractively designed pod or kiosk.

Meanwhile, CEST is one of the banner programs of DOST which aims to deliver sustainable development to various communities nationwide through the provision of S&T interventions along the five CEST entry points, namely Livelihood, Health and Nutrition, Environmental Protection and Conservation, Education, and Disaster Risk Reduction Management.

DOST-CAR awards STARBOOKS to Suyang Elementary School

by Tabuk City Public Information Office

► *Tabuk City, Kalinga, 23 May 2024* – The Department of Science and Technology – Cordillera Administrative Region (DOST-CAR) awarded STARBOOKS (Science and Technology Academic and Research-Based Openly Operated KioskS), the first Philippine Science Digital Library, to Suyang Elementary School during their community science visit at Suyang, Tabuk City on 23 May 2024.



This was part of Project STAR: Smiles and Treats for All beyond Reach, DOST-CAR's Corporate Social Responsibility Project, in collaboration with the Apostolic Vicariate of Tabuk, Inc. – Social Action Center led by Father George Manisem.

Also highlighted during the visit was a forum on DOST – Advanced Science and Technology Institute programs and projects which include Climate and Disaster Resilience, Transportation Systems, and Environmental Protection.

A demo and introduction to Robotics and turnover of medical supplies to the community were also conducted.

STARBOOKS Lands in Laurel, Batangas

by DOST PSTO Batangas

► *Laurel, Batangas, 27 May 2024* – Students of Placido T. Amo Senior High School (SHS) now have access to thousands of science and technology resources even without an internet connection through the Department of Science and Technology's (DOST) STARBOOKS short for the Science and Technology Academic and Research-Based Openly Operated KioskS.

DOST-Batangas deployed the

STARBOOKS unit to Placido T. Amo SHS on 21 May 2024. An orientation and training session was held to equip teachers with the skills needed to navigate and utilize STARBOOKS resources for academic and research purposes. This session included an overview of STARBOOKS' features and content, demonstrating how these resources can enhance STEM education by supplementing learning materials.

A site admin training session was also conducted to ensure efficient management and maintenance of the STARBOOKS system in the schools. The training covered tasks such as data registration, navigating various articles, and exploring interactive math and science games. Teachers and the Information and Communications Technology (ICT) coordinator were also oriented on the admin module, which involves user

assistance, submission of transmittal files, reviewing user feedback and comments, updating STARBOOKS content, and managing the kiosk.

The deployment and orientation training was facilitated by Mr. Cedric L. Rodriguez, the DOST-Batangas STARBOOKS coordinator.

Developed by the Science and Technology Information Institute (DOST-STII), STARBOOKS offers thousands of digitized science and technology resources



to supplement classroom learning and boost research capabilities. It provides access to information even without an internet connection.

STARBOOKS Holds Information Drive at 4th District – Masantol, Pampanga

by DOST PSTO Pampanga



STARBOOKS technology. The teachers expressed interest in integrating this valuable resource into their teaching methods.

Atty. Conrado Gandez Jr., Municipal Administrator of Masantol, shared the LGU's commitment to providing the necessary hardware to support the software, ensuring that no school is left behind.

▶ *Masantol, Pampanga, 27 May 2024* – The Provincial Science and Technology Office (PSTO) - Pampanga conducted an orientation on the utilization of STARBOOKS for elementary and high school teachers at the Masantol Municipal Hall,

aiming to introduce advanced educational technology to the 4th district.

Representatives from 23 schools participated, with four schools bringing their own devices to acquire the

This initiative aims to enhance the educational resources available to teachers and students in Masantol, paving the way for a tech-enabled future in education.

STARBOOKS Holds Information Drive at 4th District – Masantol, Pampanga

by DOST-PSTC Pampanga



► *Polillo, Quezon, 28 May 2024* – To enhance the science learning experience, Polillo Central Elementary School (PCES) officially received the Department of Science and Technology (DOST) Science and Technology Academic and Research-Based Openly Operated KioskS (STARBOOKS), and Team Energy Corporation's donated educational materials last 22 May 2024.

STARBOOKS is a digital library in a box, which contains thousands of digitized science and technology resources including books, journals, theses, dissertations, and

technical reports, as well as interactive materials like videos and learning modules. Through the said partnership, two STARBOOKS kiosks, two desktop computers, two computer chairs and tables, one printer, one 75" television, a Wi-Fi router, and computer accessories, have been granted to the school for its learners.

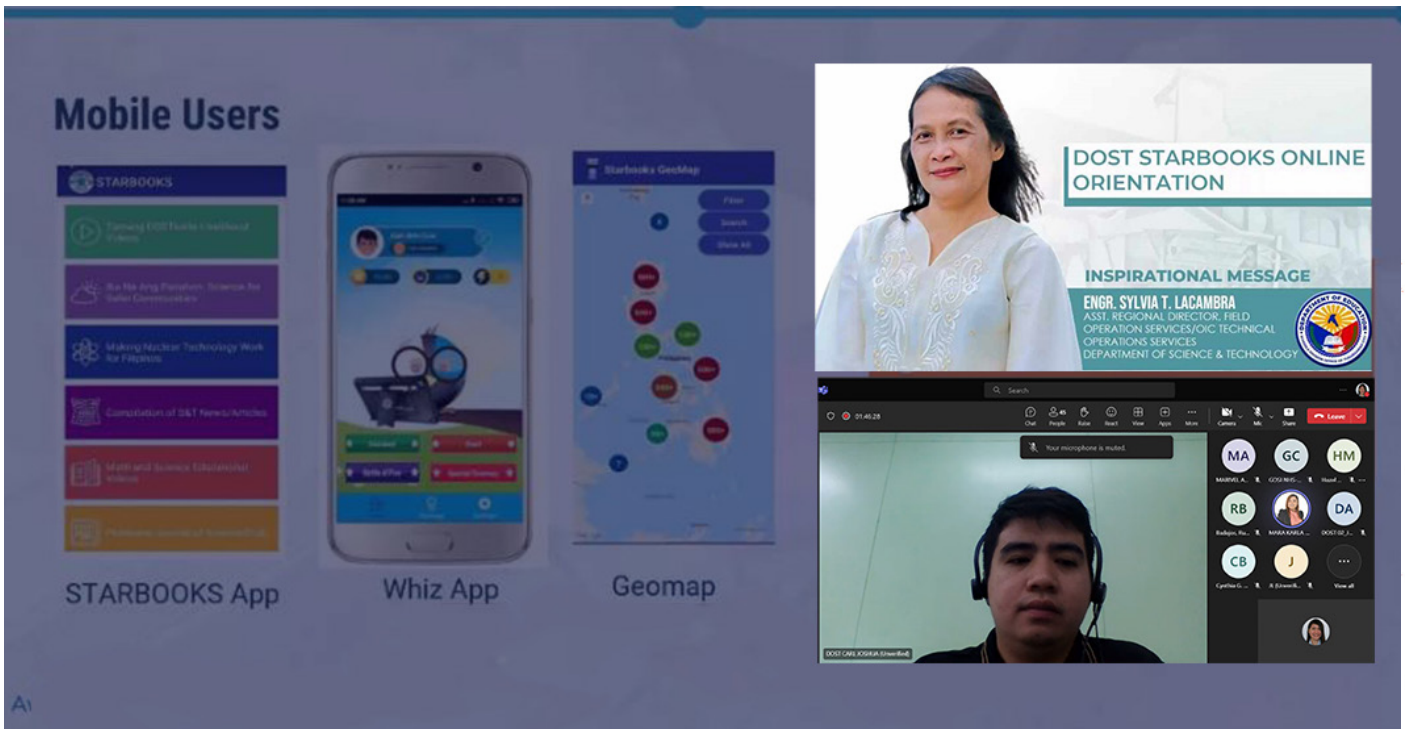
Ms. Emelita P. Bagsit, DOST CALABARZON Regional Director, and Ms. Maria Esperanza E. Jawili, DOST Quezon Provincial Director, welcomed the participants. Team Energy was represented by Mr. Froilan Gregory H.

Romualdez III, Head of Corporate Affairs. Together, Hon. Angelique Bosque, Municipal Mayor, and Gilbert J. Rogado, PCES Principal, graced the activity.

Furthermore, Jayson E. Villariño, PTA I and the Project Focal, facilitates the students' and teachers' training on how to navigate and use the STARBOOKS.

DOST-II Rolls Out 'Library-in-a-Box' in Tuguegarao City Schools

by DOST Region II



▶ *Tuguegarao City, 30 May 2024* – The Department of Science and Technology (DOST) Region-II, in partnership with the Department of Education (DepEd) Schools Division of Tuguegarao City, conducted a virtual STARBOOKS (Science & Technology Academic and Research-Based Openly Operated KioskS) orientation last 28 May 2024.

STARBOOKS, an initiative of DOST, offers free digital science and technology resources to students in geographically isolated areas. These standalone kiosks, known as STARBOOKS pods, contain a vast library of information designed to spark curiosity and foster a love for science and innovation.

Mr. Carl Joshua Reyes, the regional focal person for STARBOOKS, led the session, orienting the 43 participants from different public schools in the Division of Tuguegarao City on the basics of STARBOOKS, such as updates on the platform, admin and user manuals, connecting to Local Area Networks (LANs), and generating reports and transmittal files.

This online orientation by DOST-II underscores its commitment to fostering scientific literacy and innovation in education. By providing science and technology resources to students, DOST achieves its objective of developing a highly

skilled and competent Science, Technology, and Innovation (STI) human resource for the future.

The orientation was graced by Engr. Sylvia T. Lacambra, DOST R02 Assistant Regional Director for Field Operations Services, Dr. Gilbert N. Tong, Schools Division Superintendent of SDO Tuguegarao City, Dr. Jonathan A. Fronda, Assistant Schools Division Superintendent of SDO Tuguegarao City, among others.

In addition, 79%, or 27 out of 34 units of the project, have been installed, while the remaining 21 percent are still in progress.

Selected HS in Romblon Receive DOST-developed Digital Library Kiosks

by DOST MIMAROPA



“Di ko akalain na kami ay maisama sa benepisyaryo na mabiyayaan nitong STARBOOKS, malaking tulong ito sa mga estudyante namin at higit din sa mga guro. Kaya lubos kaming nagpapasalamat sa BPI Foundation, DOST-STII at DOST-MIMAROPA kasama ang Provincial S&T Office ng Romblon” said Mr. Edgar Lazarte, a head teacher.

► *Romblon, 04 June 2024* – Four last-mile schools in Romblon are the latest recipients of STARBOOKS (Science and Technology Academic and Research-Based Openly Operated KioskS), the first digital science library in the Philippines developed through the Department of Science and Technology (DOST).

The STARBOOKS kiosks were officially handed over on May 23, 2024, to selected schools in island municipalities in the province including Agripino Armedilla National High School in Santa Fe, Pascual Catajay Linao National High School in Calatrava, San Jose Agricultural High School in San Jose, and San Agustin National Trade School in San Agustin. These schools are in areas supported

by DOST-MIMAROPA through its Community Empowerment through Science and Technology (CEST) Program.

The turnover ceremony, held in San Agustin, was a collaboration between DOST-MIMAROPA Provincial S&T Office in Romblon and the DOST-Science and Technology Information Institute (DOST-STII). The event was attended by school heads, ICT focal persons, and selected students. A key part of the ceremony was a User Training and Orientation Session on STARBOOKS, led by DOST-STII.

STARBOOKS will provide easy access to learning materials, journals, and publications related to Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM) for island municipalities. This digital library will complement the learning of students, faculty, and any interested individuals, and is accessible even without an internet connection.

The BPI Foundation also served as a key partner in this endeavor, supplying computer hardware systems for the STARBOOKS kiosks.



DOST XI Deploys STARBOOKS for Elementary Learners in Quezon

by DOST PSTO Quezon

► *Padre Burgos & Pagbilao, Quezon, 19 June 2024* – Yawe Elementary School (YES) of Brgy. San Isidro Padre Burgos, Quezon, and Malicboy East Elementary School (MEES) of Brgy. Malicboy Pagbilao, Quezon, received the Department of Science and Technology (DOST) Science and Technology Academic and Research-Based Openly Operated KioskS (STARBOOKS), June 19, 2024.

STARBOOKS is a digital library in a box, which contains thousands of digitized science and technology resources including books, journals, theses, dissertations, and technical reports, as well as interactive materials like videos and learning modules. It aims to create interest in the field of Science and Technology which may increase the number of Filipinos enrolling in S&T courses.

YES and MEES were deployed with one desktop installed with STARBOOKS, one system unit, one uninterruptible power supply, and other computer accessories.



“Napakalaking tulong po nito para maiangat namin ang estado ng kaalaman ng mga bata sa agham at teknolohiya lalo pa’t ang mga mag-aaral ngayon ay at risk po, marami pong mga bata ang mababa ang kasanayan sa agham at teknolohiya, kaya maraming maraming salamat po,” said Mrs. Flora Mayol, Principal II of YES.

Mr. Aldwin T. Royena, SRS II, facilitated the orientation and training on the use and navigation of the digital library. Furthermore, a Memorandum

of Agreement (MOA) was signed between DOST represented by Ms. Maria Esperanza E. Jawili, Provincial Director of DOST Quezon; Ms. Mayol, Principal of YES; and Mrs. Ma. Venia Grimaldo, Principal I of MEES.



DOST XI Installs First Solar-Powered Digital Library in Davao del Sur

by Vener Zygmund Rebuella, DOST XI

► *Matanao, Davao del Sur, 19 June 2024* – The Department of Science and Technology XI (DOST XI) has successfully installed a solar-powered Science and Technology Academic and Research-Based Openly Operated KioskS (STARBOOKS) in Sitio Sultana, Barangay Dongan Pekong, Matanao, Davao del Sur.

This innovative initiative marks the first installation of its kind in the province, addressing the community's lack of access to electricity and bridging the educational gap in remote communities by providing accessible science and technology information.

In a collaborative effort, the 39th Infantry Battalion of the 10th Infantry Division of the Philippine Army, the Department of Education - Division of Davao del Sur, and the Local Government Unit of Matanao (LGU Matanao) partnered with DOST XI to bring this innovative digital library to life. The ceremonial turnover was followed by a training and orientation session, where 36 enthusiastic participants, including learners from Sitio Sultana and representatives from the partner agencies, gathered to learn how to use STARBOOKS effectively.

DOST XI Regional Director, Dr. Anthony Sales, expressed his optimism about the project's impact.



“The installation of STARBOOKS in Sitio Sultana is a testament to our commitment to making science and technology education accessible to every Filipino, regardless of their location. We believe this initiative will inspire and empower the youth to pursue their education and dreams,” Dr. Sales said.

Ms. Brittany Blanco, one of the volunteer teachers in Sitio Sultana, echoed this sentiment and believed that the initiative would greatly benefit the students.

“Dili lang taman ang among pag-tutor diri sa Sitio para sa mga bata, kay kaning STARBOOKS magapadayon og hatag sa ilaha

og oportunidad nga mas molambo ang ilang kaalam ug kinaadman sa mga subject nga gihatag sa Department of Education (Our tutoring here in Sitio Sultana for the children doesn't end with just teaching; this STARBOOKS will continue to provide them with opportunities to further enhance their knowledge and understanding of the subjects provided by the Department of Education),” she added.

The event underscored the shared goal of fostering enthusiasm for learning and encouraging students to complete their education. Practical demonstrations and informative presentations during the orientation equipped the attendees with the knowledge

to navigate STARBOOKS and maximize its benefits.

Looking forward, the DepEd plans to collaborate further with DOST to bring STARBOOKS to every school in the Matanao District. This expansion aims to ensure that all students in the municipality have access to these valuable educational resources,

fostering a more informed and educated community.

Moreover, the integration of Solar-Powered STARBOOKS in Sitio Sultana moves LGU Matanao closer to establishing a community learning center in the area, eliminating the need for students to travel long distances for education.

STARBOOKS is a stand-alone, onsite research kiosk that offers free access to a wealth of science and technology information. It's designed to empower students and educators, providing valuable resources for academic and livelihood purposes.

Ako ang Saklay, Inc. Receives STARBOOKS from PSTO Nueva Ecija

by DOST PSTO Nueva Ecija



II (SRS2) Mr. Ralph Louie C. Binene facilitated the training on the overall operation of the STARBOOKS unit to the volunteer-teachers of the center.

The deployment activity is funded under the DOST Community Empowerment through Science and Technology program that is supported by Senator Joel "Tesdaan" Villanueva.

Provincial Director Sicut and Ako ang Saklay Inc. Head Fr. Arnold Abelardo signed the memorandum of agreement to signify both parties' commitment to the project implementation.

DOST-Nueva Ecija SRS2 Engr. Jaymar Y. Sorza was also present during the event.

► *San Antonio, Nueva Ecija, 18 June 2024* – DOST-Nueva Ecija, headed by their Provincial Director Ms. Leidi Mel Sicut, awarded one set of Science and Technology Academic and Research-Based Openly Operated KioskS (STARBOOKS) unit to Ako ang Saklay Inc. in Brgy. Luyos, San Antonio, Nueva Ecija last June 14, 2024.

STARBOOKS is a stand-alone information source designed to reach those with limited or no access to S&T information

resources. This project aims to provide STI-based (Science, Technology, and Innovation) content in various formats to students and other constituents of Ako ang Saklay Inc., which constantly provides free summer classes to students in their community.

Along with STARBOOKS deployment, the blessing of the previously provided vertical hydroponics system was also conducted. In addition, DOST-NE Science Research Specialist

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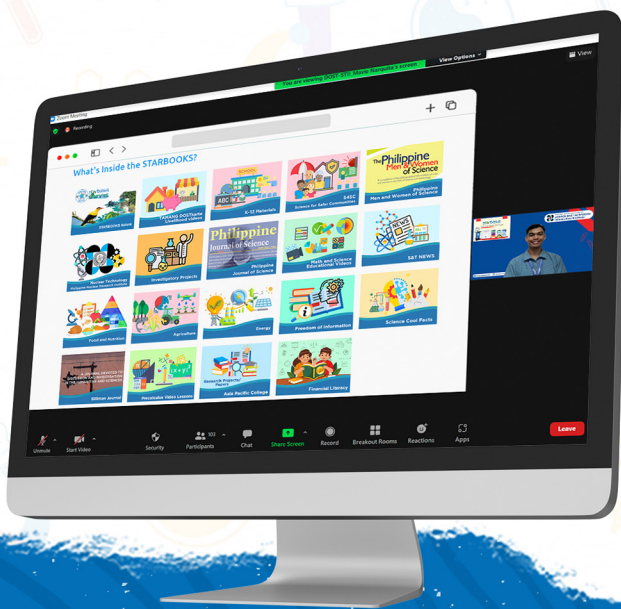
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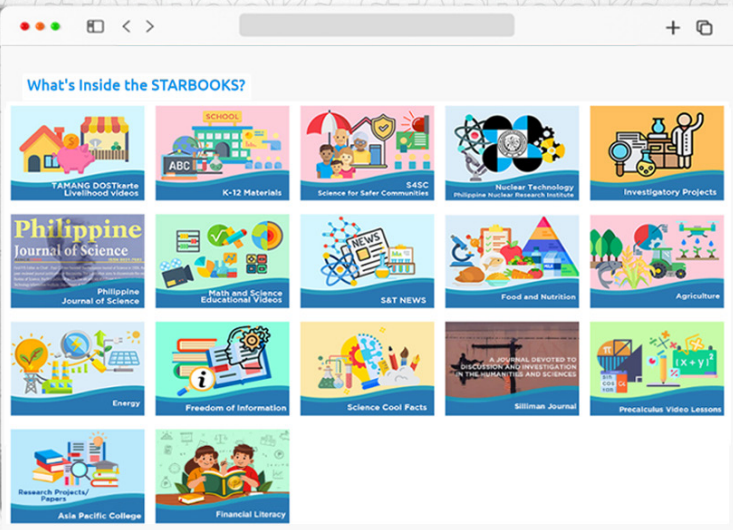
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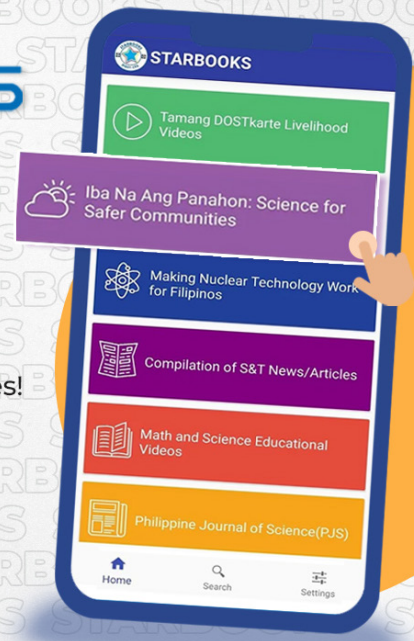
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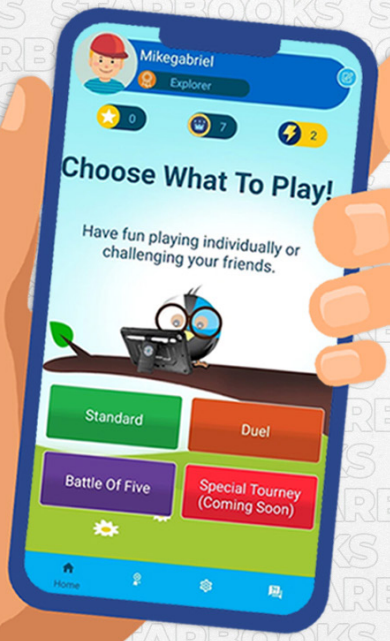


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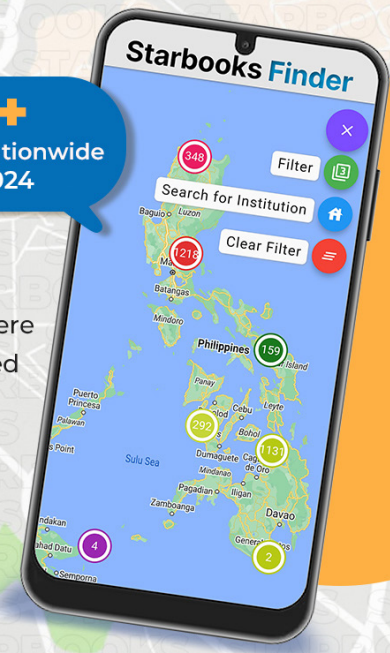
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