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SEC. KIKO BENITEZ TAKES CHARGE: A NEW CHAPTER FOR TESDA

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Sec. Kiko Benitez takes charge: A new chapter for TESDA

A few days after marking its 30th founding anniversary, TESDA welcomed its 15th Director General, Secretary Jose Francisco “Kiko” B. Benitez - a visionary leader dedicated to redefining technical vocational education in the Philippines. Sworn into office before President Ferdinand “Bongbong” Marcos, Jr. on August 30, 2025, Secretary Kiko brings with him a distinguished background in education and public service.

A staunch advocate of innovation, Secretary Kiko emphasizes the need to integrate digital competencies and advanced technologies into TESDA's training programs. He is determined to strengthen TESDA's partnerships with industries, enhancing job placement and career advancement opportunities for graduates.

Under his leadership, TESDA will not only train individuals but also build a workforce capable of thriving in the Fourth Industrial Revolution.

“TESDA's policies and plans, and our programming should be demand-driven. Our training programs, our scholarship programs, and our learning delivery should be adapted to the needs of our changing economy, of the Fourth Industrial Revolution,” the new TESDA chief stressed.

Further, Secretary Benitez is poised to make TESDA a leading force in shaping a competitive and highly skilled Filipino workforce. As TESDA embarks on this new chapter, the agency stands ready to embrace change, drive excellence, and unlock opportunities for Filipinos nationwide.



Prior to his appointment as TESDA head, Secretary Kiko served as the Representative of the Third District of Negros Occidental, during which he also chaired the Committee on Housing and Urban Development, and was Vice Chairperson of the Committee on Creative Industry and Performing Arts. His legislative work focused on promoting development paradigms that balance social equity, economic growth, and ecological sustainability, with an emphasis on harnessing technological innovations for sustainable development.

Further, Secretary Kiko also served as one of the commissioners of the Second Congressional Commission on Education, a national commission tasked to undertake a comprehensive national assessment and evaluation of the performance of the Philippine education sector.

TESDA's policies and plans, and our programming should be demand-driven. Our training programs, our scholarship programs, and our learning delivery should be adapted to the needs of our changing economy, of the Fourth Industrial Revolution.

- Secretary Kiko Benitez



TESDA amplifies Japanese language training

TESDA has partnered anew with the Japan Foundation, Manila to further strengthen language skills training for Filipino workers. On December 17, TESDA Director General, Secretary Kiko Benitez, and Japan Foundation Manila Director Tsutomu Suzuki formalized the collaboration through the signing of a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) at the TESDA Central Office in Taguig City.

This partnership seeks to enhance the Japanese language proficiency of skilled Filipino workers, and create broader employment opportunities for them in Japan and beyond. It also highlights TESDA's dedication to preparing Filipino workers with in-demand skills tailored to meet the increasing needs of Japan's industries.

TESDA together with Japan Foundation will deliver specialized training programs designed to equip trainees with essential language skills for employment and cultural adaptation.

As part of the agreement, TESDA will evaluate the competencies developed in the Japan Foundation Manila's Japanese Language Proficiency modules with TESDA's existing competency standards, ensuring a more effective training framework.

It will also facilitate the development of competency standards (CS) and competency-based curricula (CBC) for A1, A2, and B1 levels of the Japanese language aligned with the prevailing international standards for language learning, teaching, and assessment.

The Japan Foundation, Manila on the other hand, will lead in identifying training needs or skills requirements to improve the Japanese language proficiency of Filipinos, enhancing their employability. Additionally, it will recommend industry experts for the development and review of TESDA's CS and CBCs.

It is worth noting that TESDA and the Japan Foundation, Manila have been working together to strengthen Japanese language training in the Philippines.

Last September, the TESDA-National Language Skills Center and the Japan Foundation, Manila, hosted a five-day training workshop titled IRODORI: Japanese for Life in Japan. This workshop brought together several TVET trainers specializing in Japanese language to elevate their teaching pedagogy.



More training and livelihood opportunities for OFWs with new TESDA, DMW partnership

Reinforcing its programs and services for overseas Filipino workers (OFWs) and their families, TESDA and the Department of Migrant Workers (DMW) formalized a partnership to enhance OFWs' and their dependents' skills and employability.

Last October 15, TESDA Secretary Kiko Benitez, and DMW Secretary Hans Leo Cacdac signed a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) in a ceremony held at the TESDA Women's Center in Taguig City.

"This is the contribution of TESDA to equip Filipinos with the necessary skills and knowledge while they are still in the country, when already in their host country, and upon return to the Philippines," Secretary Benitez said in his speech.

Under the agreement, TESDA shall conduct orientations on TESDA programs and services available for OFWs and their families; and, provide skills training, assessment, and certification to OFWs and their families endorsed by DMW based on the skills priorities.

TESDA shall also conduct language and culture training for the outbound OFWs; implement the Overseas Scholarship Program for OFWs while in their host country; conduct competency assessment for OFWs in the host country; and, conduct capability-building interventions for trainers and assessors endorsed by DMW.

For its part, the DMW shall advocate for training programs focused on upskilling, re-skilling, and cross-skilling, including Competency Assessment and Certification; and, identify, pre-evaluate, and recommend to TESDA eligible OFWs and their family members.

"Let us continue working together to strengthen the competence of our OFWs, build a robust, agile, globally competitive, and world-ready, workforce, and improve the quality of life of the OFWs and their families," the TESDA chief said. Meanwhile, Secretary Cacdac emphasized that the partnership will facilitate the delivery of skills and livelihood training to OFWs and their families as instructed by President Ferdinand "Bongbong" Marcos.

"Skills are the highest form of protection. The more skills equipped our workers are entering the host country, the better suited they are to integrate and protect themselves in the process," Secretary Cacdac said.

Also, in attendance during the signing ceremony were TESDA Deputy Directors General Rosanna Urdaneta, Vidal Villanueva III, Nelly Nita Dillera, and Felizardo Colambo, along with DMW Undersecretary Patricia Yvonne Caunan, and Assistant Secretaries Francis Ron De Guzman and Venecio Legaspi.

TESDA recognizes exceptional partners in the 2024 Kabalikat Awards

As part of its 30th Founding Anniversary celebrations, TESDA recognized its partners from the corporate sector, local government units, the legislative branch, national government agencies, and non-government organizations during the 2024 National Kabalikat Awarding Ceremony.

During the said ceremony held on August 22 at the World Trade Center in Pasay City, TESDA Deputy Director General for TESD Operations Vidal D. Villanueva III extended his gratitude to the partners for their efforts in strengthening the country's technical vocational education and training (TVET), and encouraged them to continue offering services and opportunities to the Filipino people.

In the Industry Category, the awardees include Center for Bamboo Development, Inc. from Region I; Hotel Sophia from Region II; ASKI Group from Region III; Panasonic Industrial Devices Philippines Corporation from Region V; Industrial Controls Corporation from NCR; and Hinatuan Mining Corporation from Caraga.

In the Local Government Unit Category, TESDA honored the City Government of Candon in Ilocos Sur, the City Government of Santiago in Cagayan Valley, the Municipality of Limay in Bataan, the Provincial Government of Marinduque, the Municipal Government of Irosin in Sorsogon, the Provincial Government of Cebu, the City Government of Tagum in Davao del Norte, the City Government of Baguio in Benguet, the City Government of Surigao in Surigao del Norte, and the Municipal Government of Languyan in Tawi-Tawi.

In the Legislative Branch Category, TESDA recognized the efforts of the Office of the Fifth District of Batangas, Office of the Second District of Aklan, Office of the Second District of Zamboanga Sibugay, Office of the Second District of Bukidnon, and the Office of the First District of Makati.

Additionally, in the Development Partner Category, the Consuelo Zobel Alger Foundation from Region VIII was recognized, while the Special Kabalikat Awardees included Senator Sherwin Gatchalian and the United Nations Industrial Development Organization.

Each Kabalikat awardee received a plaque of recognition from TESDA.





CALABARZON tech-voc professionals shine in 2024 TESDA Idols Awards

TESDA has named the 2024 Idols ng TESDA in an awarding ceremony held last August 22.

In his speech during the ceremony, Secretary Kiko Benitez congratulated all the nominees and winners of this year's search for outstanding tech-voc professionals.

"I [would like] to recognize this year's Idols ng TESDA, the graduates of our technical vocational education and training programs, for their outstanding achievements. You have excelled in your chosen fields and contributed significantly to the economic growth of your communities and country.

Your persistence and dedication serve as testaments to the unique skills and abilities of the Filipino people," said Secretary Benitez.

Janzell A. Palbacal, a Tourism and Hospitality Professor from the Lyceum of the Philippines – Batangas, was the National Winner under the Wage-Employed Category.

Palbacal is also a Food and Beverages NC II trainer and competency assessor at Batangas Eastern Colleges. He also served as a WorldSkills Competition Expert in the 2023 ASEAN Skills Competition held in Singapore.

On the other hand, industry service practitioner Aisa R. Seno from Lucena City, was the National Winner for the Self-Employed Category.

Seno is a trainer of Shielded Metal Arc Welding NC II & III and the proprietor of UniTech Educational Institute Inc. located in Lucena City, Quezon Province.

Completing the roster of winners for the Wage-Employed Category were Glenn Maenard A. Faustino from Region III, 1st runner up, and Rita Andrea R. Almonte from NCR 2nd runner up. Further, other winners from the Self-Employed Category were Larry O. Cerbo from Region XI, 1st runner up and Emerson S.J. Cruz from Region III, 2nd runner up.

The winners in both categories received a trophy, certificate of recognition, and cash prizes amounting to Php 30,000 for the national winners, and Php 25,000 and Php 20,000 respectively for the 1st and 2nd runners-up.

The Idols ng TESDA, held annually as part of the agency's founding anniversary celebration, aims to honor tech-voc graduates who have achieved exceptional success in their chosen fields or occupations and have aided in the growth of their local economies.

TESDA holds 2024 national skills competition

TESDA conducted the 2024 Philippine National Skills Competition as the main event of the agency's 30th-anniversary celebration at the World Trade Center in Pasay City from August 22-25.

Over 200 young professionals competed in 25 skill areas, including Cybersecurity, Information Network Cabling, IT Network Systems Administration, IT Software Solutions for Business, Web Technologies, CNC Maintenance, Electronics, Carpentry, Mechatronics, Welding, Cabinet Making, Cooking, Hotel Reception, Plumbing and Heating, Hairdressing, Wall and Floor Tiling, Mechanical Engineering CAD, Restaurant Service, Refrigeration and Air Conditioning, Beauty Therapy, Bakery, Electrical Installations, Fashion Technology, Graphic Design Technology, and Automobile Technology.

In his message, TESDA Secretary Kiko Benitez emphasized that the skills competition is not just about winning medals but a celebration of hard work, dedication, and excellence of Filipino skilled workers who contribute to the growth of the country's economy.

"More than anything else – international recognition, medals, and badges – our goal is to showcase our skills and learn from others," said the TESDA Director General.

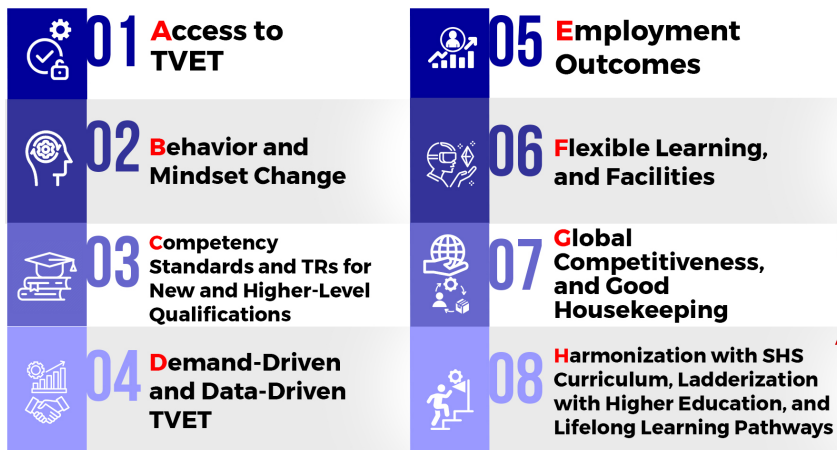
The event also highlighted the importance of public-private partnerships in advancing technical vocational education and training (TVET). Industry partners such as Goldtown, Hytec Power Inc. with Yalong, Dolang, Doosan, Schneider Electric, Hexatronics, FESTO, Middleby Philippines, KNX Training, Astoria Plaza, FELTA, and Equilibrium Intertrade provided invaluable support, underscoring the critical role of collaboration in nurturing the country's skilled workforce.

Region XI (Davao) emerged as the overall champion, securing five gold, three silver, and two bronze medals. The National Capital Region (NCR) followed as the first runner-up with five gold, three silver, and one bronze medal, while Region IV-A claimed the second runner-up position with four gold, three silver, and two bronze medals.

Beyond the accolades, gold medalists received ₱30,000, silver medalists ₱20,000, and bronze medalists ₱15,000. Notably, the gold medal winners earned the opportunity to represent the Philippines in the upcoming WorldSkills ASEAN Competition, which the country will host in 2025.







TESDABest 8-POINT AGENDA



‘TESDABest’ initiative aims to strengthen PH TVET – TESDA Chief

TESDA Director General, Secretary Kiko Benitez presented his “TESDABest” plan for the agency during a meeting presided over by President Ferdinand “Bongbong” Marcos, Jr at Malacañang on September 24, 2024.

The plan outlined the Secretary’s eight-point agenda for leading TESDA, including Access to Technical Vocational Education and Training (TVET); Behavior and Mindset Change; Competency Standards and TRs for New and Higher-Level Qualifications; Demand-Driven and Data-Driven TVET; Employment Outcomes; Flexible Learning, and Facilities; Global Competitiveness, and Good Housekeeping; and, Harmonization with SHS Curriculum, Ladderization with Higher Education, and Lifelong Learning Pathways.

“The Eight-Point Agenda that I presented to the President is about innovating and transforming our TVET system to become TSDABest. It is about rationalizing TVET programming, optimizing TVET delivery, and maximizing our impact. And ultimately, it is about unlocking the potential of the Filipino to perform the jobs required and demanded by the Fourth Industrial Revolution,” Secretary Kiko said during TESDA’s regular flag-raising ceremony on October 7, 2024.

Under his leadership, TESDA aims to execute this plan to reshape the public perception of Philippine TVET, presenting it not as a “second-rate” option but as a credible pathway to immediate livelihood and employment opportunities.

“TESDA’s policies and plans, and our programming should be demand-driven. Our training programs, our scholarship programs, and our learning delivery should be adapted to the needs of our changing economy, of the Fourth Industrial Revolution,” added the TESDA chief.

This effort highlights the importance of modernizing programs, integrating digital skills, and building partnerships with industries to ensure that graduates are prepared for the changing workforce thereby creating a flexible, future-ready TVET system that addresses the needs of both local and global economies.

“We need to catch up with the transformations happening around the world, particularly digital transformation. And we need to catch up quickly. Because our window of opportunity to ride the digital wave is narrow, our window of opportunity is closing,” Secretary Benitez emphasized.”



TESDA reaffirms commitment to quality and excellence

TESDA continues to demonstrate its dedication to quality management and has again earned the recertification of its key processes by the International Organization for Standardization (ISO).

This recognition, which was formally conferred during TESDA's flag-raising ceremony on July 15 reaffirms TESDA's commitment to quality and excellence.

Former TESDA Director General, Secretary Suharto T. Mangudadatu, expressed pride in this achievement, calling it a testament to the agency's steadfast commitment to quality, efficiency, and ongoing improvement.

The recertification was awarded by TUV SUD PSB Philippines, Inc. headed by General Manager Gabor Bohner. The TUV SUD PSB is the country's leading multinational certification and inspection body, which provides inspection, certification, evaluation, validation, training, and testing services.

Deputy Director General Rosanna A. Urdaneta, TESDA's National Quality Manager, shared plans to further expand the agency's certification efforts by pursuing ISO 21001:2018 certification for the Educational Organization Management System.

This would cover processes in TESDA Technology Institutions, including enrollment, admission, trainings, institutional assessment, and issuance of National Certificates.

"We will ensure that TESDA remains a leader in education and training, setting the standard for quality and excellence," DDG Urdaneta committed.

TESDA's journey toward ISO certification began in 2009, and in 2012, it made history as the first government education agency in the Philippines to achieve ISO certification for its key processes. In 2015, It received its nationwide ISO 9001:2008 certification during a ceremony at Malacañang Palace, witnessed by then-President Benigno S. Aquino III. By 2018, the agency had successfully transitioned to the updated ISO 9001:2015 standard. That same year, in October, TESDA received the prestigious Philippine Quality Award Level 1 for "Recognition for Commitment to Quality Management," bestowed by then-President Rodrigo R. Duterte.

Since 1947, the ISO has been certifying public and private organizations globally to ensure their products and services meet strict international standards of safety, reliability, and quality.

PBBM signs law strengthening enterprise-based training

President Ferdinand “Bongbong” Marcos, Jr. has signed the Republic Act No. 12063, or the “Enterprise-Based Education and Training (EBET) Framework Act” which will help align the current workforce with today’s rapidly evolving, technology-driven job market.

In his speech during the signing of the EBET Law at the Malacañan Palace last November 7, President Marcos said that while many local livelihood programs provide training, trainees often struggle to find jobs that match their skills.

To address this, he highlighted that the EBET Framework Act will bridge this gap by aligning training programs with industry and labor market demands through collaboration between the public and private sectors.

Meanwhile, TESDA Secretary Kiko Benitez thanked the President for his support of this game-changer measure, which rationalizes different EBET delivery modalities and increases the tax incentive for participating enterprises to encourage more businesses to offer general EBET (on-the-job training to acquire NC II certification), apprenticeships (for NC III certifications and above), and upskilling for workers.

“The EBET Law opens up opportunities for experiential and immersive learning to acquire skills needed by industry, addressing job-skills mismatch in the labor market,” Secretary Benitez stressed.

The law also emphasizes collaboration among TESDA and industry, recognizing the indispensable role of enterprises in designing training programs according to the workforce needs of priority industries, such as information technology and business process management, construction, manufacturing, transportation and logistics, creative industries, healthcare, energy and tourism.

“Ultimately, the EBET Act will contribute to the development of an agile, competitive, highly-skilled Filipino workforce prepared to meet both domestic and global labor demands,” Secretary Benitez said in closing.



“That is why it is very important to synchronize our training and our skills training with the actual requirements of industry and the labor market. And that’s why the partnership between private and public is critical.”

- President Ferdinand “Bongbong” Marcos, Jr.



PH, China strengthen partnership on tech-voc implementation

TESDA has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the China-Philippines Silk Road Institute Foundation and various Chinese technical vocational institutions to help ensure that the Philippines' tech-voc sector remains at par with international standards.

The agreement was formalized last October 29 in Zhejiang during TESDA's weeklong benchmarking activity in China and centers around elevating skills development, promoting competency standardization, and facilitating international educational exchange programs.

This partnership also aims to establish robust mutual cooperation in developing and updating competency standards, expanding international internships, and conducting targeted skills training across various high-demand sectors. These sectors include construction, information and communication technology, agriculture, healthcare, hospitality, renewable energy, and electric vehicles.

Head of the Philippine delegation, TESDA Deputy Director General for TESD Operations Vidal D. Villanueva III, highlighted the importance of partnering with other countries and tech-voc institutions in elevating the country's tech-voc sector.

"This partnership reinforces TESDA's dedication to fostering global partnerships that bring new learning opportunities and updated competency standards to Filipinos," DDG Villanueva said.

"This collaboration is expected to yield significant advancements in skills training and facilitate meaningful exchange programs for trainers and students alike," the TESDA official added.

The two-year partnership underscores TESDA's commitment to repositioning Philippine TVET for global competitiveness while enhancing the employability and skills of Filipino workers to meet the demands of the modern workplace.

The TESDA delegation also visited various Chinese institutions to learn their best practices in various sectors as well as to discuss standards development. These included: Quanzhou Vocational and Technical University; Zhejiang Agricultural Business College; Zhejiang Economic & Trade Polytechnic; the Zhejiang College of Construction; and, Tourism College of Zhejiang.

The benchmarking activity in China was held from October 22 to 30, in collaboration with the China-Philippines Silk Road Institute Foundation.

Signing ceremony of the Philippines National Vocational
Skills Standards Development Cooperation Project

可再生能源和电动汽车





TESDA, BSP, and BDO Foundation launch free financial literacy modules

Through the collaborative efforts of TESDA, Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas (BSP), and BDO Foundation, Filipinos can now access free financial literacy modules.

The launching of the new modules was held last October 7 at the TESDA Auditorium in Taguig City. This was led by TESDA Director General, Secretary Kiko Benitez, together with BSP Managing Director Atty. Charina De Vera-Yap, and BDO Foundation President Mario Deriquito.

Last March 2023, a Memorandum of Agreement on the development of a free online Financial Literacy Course was signed among TESDA, BSP, and BDO Foundation.

These online courses focus on essential topics on financial planning, saving, budgeting, debt management investments, financial scam prevention, and consumer protection.

Financial Planning, Budgeting and Saving, and Debt Management are the three modules available in the TESDA Online Platform (TOP).

The TOP is a web-based platform that provides an effective and efficient way to deliver tech-voc training at the learner's place and time. For those who want to enroll, they can visit www.e-tesda.gov.ph/. Currently, there are 176 online courses available across different sectors.

EIM trainer honored with top Tagsanay Award

An Electrical Installation and Maintenance (EIM) trainer of the Provincial Training Center – Calumpit in Bulacan emerged as the Overall Winner of the 2024 National Tagsanay Award, the highest honor for technical vocational trainers given by TESDA.

Lawrence M. Ramos bested 16 other regional candidates and received the award during a ceremony at the Ylagan Hall of the National TVET Trainers Academy in Marikina City last October 8. Ramos also bagged the Best Trainer in Enhancing Training Package special award.

Analie M. Monserrat from the Quezon National Agricultural School took the first runner-up spot, while Violijim R. Arangote from the Surigao Del Norte College of Agriculture and Technology secured the second runner-up position and was also one of the recipients of the Most Innovative and Creative special award.

Winners of the special awards included Mercy A. Sacriz (of Datu Ibrahim Paglas Memorial College) who bagged the Viewer's Choice Award; while Leona S. Cayapan (Isabela School of Arts and Trades), Armel M. Duran (Leon Ganson Polytechnic College), Analyn J. Ellorin (Zamboanga Sibugay Polytechnic Institute), and Ronelyn A. Macalam (Kinoguitan National Agricultural School) were recognized as Best in Data Gathering, Analysis and Synthesis.

Further, Artemio T. Abalos (Marcos-Industrial School), Analie M. Monserrat, Armel M. Duran, Analyn J. Ellorin, and Ronilo D. Juevesa Jr. (TESDA Training Center - General Santos City) also garnered the Most Innovative and Creative special award.

In its 10th year, the 2024 Tagsanay Award was held with the theme "Pagpupugay sa Isang Dekadang Selebrasyon para sa mga Tagapagsanay na may Lingap at Maaasahang Tagumpay", and was part of TESDA's celebration of National Teachers' Month.



PH bags three Medallions for Excellence in WorldSkills Lyon 2024

The Philippine delegation brought home three Medallions for Excellence in the 2024 WorldSkills International Competition held in Lyon, France from September 10-15.

Competitors Allen S. Gacweng of Cooking, Gwyneth Nicole I. Abarquez of Restaurant Service, and Kylle Brigette C. Dingding of Graphic Design Technology were each awarded the Medallion for Excellence for obtaining a score of at least 700 points during the competition in their respective skill areas.

Dingding, who is from Region VII, also received the Best of Nation Award for getting the highest score among the country's competitors.

Likewise, Gacweng, who is from the Cordillera Administrative Region was among the 18 out of 41 participants in the Cooking skill area who received the Medallion for Excellence.

Further, Abarquez, from Region IV-A, was among the 14 out of 33 competitors in the Restaurant Service skill area who brought home the Medallion for Excellence.

The Medallion for Excellence is granted to competitors whose performance meets the international standards based on the criteria set by WorldSkills International.

Meanwhile, the Philippines also ranked 23rd out of the 60 countries that competed in terms of the total average points score based on the report of WorldSkills International.



**ALLEN
S. GACWENG**

MEDALLION FOR EXCELLENCE

COOKING



**KYLLE BRIGETTE
C. DINGDING**

**MEDALLION FOR EXCELLENCE
BEST OF NATION**

GRAPHIC DESIGN TECHNOLOGY



**GWYNETH NICOLE
I. ABARQUEZ**

MEDALLION FOR EXCELLENCE

RESTAURANT SERVICE



TESDA forum highlights vital role of data, research in TVET

Emphasizing the importance of data and research in strengthening the country's technical vocational education and training (TVET) sector, TESDA hosted the 2024 TVET Research Conference on November 11 with the theme "Data Driven and Dynamic TVET System: Producing Work-Ready and Future-Ready TVET Graduates."

The event, held at the TESDA Women's Center, gathered participants included from government agencies, industry leaders, academic institutions, the private sector, and development stakeholders. Discussions focused on how research can enhance high-quality TVET and align the Filipino workforce with the labor market's evolving demands in the context of the Fourth Industrial Revolution.

Deputy Director General for Policies and Planning Rosanna A. Urdaneta, CESO II, delivered the message of Secretary Jose Francisco "Kiko" B. Benitez, highlighting the importance of data driven decision-making in ensuring TVET graduates acquire quality and in-demand skills needed for tomorrow's workforce.

The conference also tied into the "TESDABest 8-Point Agenda," emphasizing enhanced labor market intelligence and evidence-based programming for a competitive, agile TVET system capable of driving full employment and economic transformation.

This event served as a rallying point for policymakers, researchers, and educators to champion data-driven innovation and build a resilient, dynamic TVET system. It also aimed to inspire stakeholders to pursue further research to advance TVET in the Philippines.



SEA educ forum encourages youth to explore TVET opportunities

The Southeast Asian Ministers of Education Organization (SEAMEO) Council is intensifying its campaign to promote technical and vocational education and training (TVET) across the ASEAN region, aiming to empower the youth with essential skills for future job markets.

In collaboration with TESDA and the Department of Education (DepEd), the SEAMEO Council (SEAMEC) conducted a high-level forum in Pasay City, Philippines on November 21-22, with the theme “Shifting Mindset: Reshaping Youth Perception of TVET in Southeast Asia.”

The forum aims to address the stigma surrounding TVET, advocate for its potential as a first-choice educational path, and empower youth to contribute to economic and social development in the region.

The two-day forum engaged regional leaders, educators, industry representatives, parents, and students in discussions that tackle the stigma often associated with TVET.

Among the topics discussed in the forum were TVET from the Perspective of Parents and Students; The Future-Ready Workforce: The Value of Hiring TVET Graduates; Continued Education and Career Progression for TVET Learners through Robust Lifelong Learning Frameworks; Next-Gen TVET: and Integrating Advanced Technologies and Innovation in Vocational Education.

Meanwhile, the forum's outcomes, including best practices and strategic recommendations, will be shared across SEAMEO networks to encourage regional collaboration and sustained advocacy for TVET.

The SEAMEC is the governing council of SEAMEO and is made up of education ministers who set policies and oversee the organization's initiatives. The council ensures that SEAMEO's programs align with the educational priorities of member nations.



TrabahaDoor app to link skilled workers to employment

TESDA Regional Office VIII has partnered with Advanced Thinkers, Co. to launch the innovative TrabahaDoor app, a platform that connects TESDA-certified TVET graduates with employment opportunities while also catering to customers in need of skilled workers.

The partnership was officially established during a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) signing ceremony led by TESDA Regional Director Dan M. Navarro and Advanced Thinkers Co. CEO Mr. Delfin S. Magote III, on November 20 at the TESDA Regional Office VIII Multi-Purpose Covered Court, Brgy. Abucay, Tacloban City, marking a significant milestone and innovation in employment facilitation.

In his remarks, RD Navarro expressed his optimism about the partnership, emphasizing how the app aligns with Secretary Kiko Benitez's TESDABest 8-point agenda to facilitate employment of TVET graduates.

"This is a proud moment for TESDA and our graduates. The TrabahaDoor app is a significant step forward in helping our graduates secure meaningful employment while ensuring customers receive reliable, high-quality services. It's a win-win for both job seekers and the community," he stated.

Trabahadoor is a mobile app and digital platform that connects users with verified and TESDA-certified skilled workers for various home and technical services, such as electrical, plumbing, carpentry, beauty & wellness, electronics, and automotive repair.

For his part, Mr. Magote showcased the app's key features during the event, highlighting its user-friendly interface and dual functionalities for job seekers and customers. He emphasized how the app simplifies job matching and addresses the increasing demand for skilled workers in the localities.



TESDA Region III, HD Hyundai strengthen partnership to boost shipbuilding industry

TESDA Region III and HD Hyundai Heavy Industries Philippines, Inc. (HD Hyundai) have solidified their partnership through a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) signed on November 28, 2024, at the Seorabeol Grand Leisure Hotel in Olongapo City.

The partnership is focused on bridging the skills gap in the shipbuilding sector while providing trainees with enhanced employment opportunities.

The agreement highlights the skills training program designed to equip participants with expertise in shielded metal arc and flux-cored arc welding, which are vital competencies in the shipbuilding industry.

As part of the partnership, an FCAW training program began on November 29 and concluded on December 27 with 24 trainees participating. This initiative is an early testament to the collaboration's goal of developing a workforce capable of meeting the increasing demands of the shipbuilding industry.

On December 12, TESDA Region III Regional Director Baron Jose L. Lagran, held a follow-up meeting with HD Hyundai to strengthen the partnership further and ensure the sustainability of the training program. The meeting focused on identifying additional technical requirements of HD Hyundai and ensuring the alignment of training initiatives with the industry's needs.

Following the meeting, the TESDA team conducted an on-site visit to HD Hyundai's facilities to assess the training environment. The visit provided an opportunity to review the resources and infrastructure available for the program and ensure their suitability for hands-on learning.

This partnership is a vital step toward empowering the Filipino workforce while supporting economic growth and industrial development.

TVET innovation center to rise in Clark

Reinforcing the government's efforts to produce Filipino workers with industry-relevant skills, TESDA is partnering with the Clark Development Corporation (CDC) to establish a TVET innovation center in Pampanga.

On November 8, TESDA Director General, Secretary Kiko Benitez, and CDC President and CEO Agnes Devanadera signed a Deed of Usufruct during the 2024 TVET Stakeholders Forum held at the Royce Hotel in Clark Freeport Zone.

Aligning the agency's strategic goals to equip Filipinos with industry-relevant skills, this partnership shall establish the Regional TVET Innovation Center in Pampanga funded by the

Asian Development Bank under the Supporting Innovation in the Philippine Technical Vocational Education and Training program. This RTIC aims to modernize training programs in warehouse and logistics management and big data analytics, offering advanced facilities such as intelligent warehousing areas, electronics and robotics laboratories, fabrication workshops, and incubation spaces for startups.

It will also prioritize research, enterprise education, and workforce upskilling, collaborating with the Gonzalo Puyat School of Arts and Trades to deliver industry-aligned training.





Malaysian delegates visit TESDA to bolster TVET cooperation

In a significant effort to enhance technical vocational education and training (TVET) within the Brunei Darussalam Indonesia Malaysia Philippines East ASEAN Growth Area (BIMP-EAGA), delegates from Sarawak, Malaysia visited the TESDA Regional Office - IX in Zamboanga City last October 10.

TESDA Regional Director Tarhata Mapandi, CESO III, together with Zamboanga City-Isabela City District Director Omarkhayyam Dalagan, welcomed the delegation led by Hon. Adana Bin Jed, Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Education, Innovation, and Talent Development Sarawak (MEITD). The foreign delegates also paid a courtesy call to Zamboanga City Mayor John Dalipe during their visit.

Prior to this, the Malaysian officials also visited the Regional Training Center - Korea Philippines Vocational Training Center (RTC-KPVT) in Davao City and the Institute of International Culinary and Hospitality Entrepreneurship (ICHEF).

This visit focused on Halal TVET education practices and marked a significant step in advancing technical education collaboration between the Philippines and Malaysia.

The activity is part of the ongoing BIMP-EAGA TVET Human Resource Development Mobility Program, aimed at fostering collaboration in education and skills development across the sub-region. By facilitating exchange initiatives, the program strengthens the capacity of TVET institutions and practitioners in the region.

The Malaysian delegation also included key officials from the Ministry of International Trade, Industry, and Investment Sarawak (MINTRED) and the Sarawak Skills Development Center (Sarawak Skills), underscoring the broad scope of cooperation between the Philippines and Malaysia under the BIMP-EAGA framework.

The visit highlights the growing commitment of both countries to promote regional cooperation in education and training, ensuring that the TVET sector remains competitive and responsive to the evolving needs of the global market.

TESDA launches construction of Bicol TVET innovation center

Another TESDA Regional TVET Innovation Center (RTIC) is set to rise, this time in the Bicol Region.

This TESDA Director General, Secretary Kiko Benitez led the groundbreaking ceremony for the center at the San Francisco Institute of Science and Technology in the municipality of Malilipot, Albay last September 30.

Also present during the groundbreaking ceremony were TESDA Deputy Directors General Vidal Villanueva III and Felizardo Colambo, as well as other TESDA and local government officials.

It can be recalled that TESDA recently broke ground for the new RTICs in Batangas City, Agusan del Sur, and Sarangani that will house state-of-the-art training facilities for different qualifications such as agriculture, electrical, and mechatronics among others.

Meanwhile, aside from the groundbreaking ceremony, Secretary Benitez also visited Albay province, inspected the ongoing construction of the TESDA Provincial Training Center - Albay, and held a dialogue with TESDA officials and staff in the region to discuss various programs, projects, accomplishments, and other concerns.



TESDA unveils first Internet of Things lab

Showing its commitment to innovation, TESDA opened its first Internet of Things (IoT) Laboratory at the Jacobo Z. Gonzales Memorial School of Arts and Trades (JZGMSAT) in Biñan City, Laguna last July 2.

The new laboratory highlights how IoT has the potential to transform interactions and drive innovations that will improve connectivity and automation, ultimately boosting productivity, efficiency, and quality of life.

During the opening, various innovative prototypes developed by JZGMSAT trainers and students from the institution's Diploma in

Mechatronics Engineering Technology program were showcased and demonstrated. These presented how the IoT connected various devices to the internet and used in “smart” cities, factories, and homes.

The prototypes also revealed the practical applications of the IoT in various domains such as in “smart home” and “smart green home” systems, and offered insights into the future of residential automation and sustainable living. Additionally, the event featured cutting-edge technologies such as augmented reality, 3D printing and modeling, and industry IoT.



From Traditional Farming to Thriving Coconut Enterprise: The Journey of Susan Delposo


At 50 years old, Susan Delposo, the coconut farmer from Montevista, Davao de Oro, has transitioned from following traditional farming methods to becoming a successful agricultural entrepreneur. Her story highlights not only her perseverance but also the life-changing opportunities provided by the government's Coconut Farmers Scholarship Program (CFSP).

In 2022, Susan graduated from the Davao National Agricultural School as one of the beneficiaries of the CFSP which empowers farmers by providing them with the skills and knowledge to improve productivity, increase income, and elevate the coconut industry.

For years prior to her training, Susan and her husband, Danilo, had relied on farming techniques passed down through generations. Their approach, while time-tested, offered limited growth opportunities. With no formal education beyond grade school and faced with the daily struggles of providing for her family, Susan sought a way to break the cycle of subsistence farming. Completing the TESDA-sponsored training, Susan realized there was so much more to farming than the methods they had relied on for generations.


Determined to apply her newfound knowledge, Susan began strategically improving their coconut farm. Over the next several years, she and her husband worked relentlessly, implementing modern farming techniques that significantly increased their farm's productivity.

Today, their farm spans 10 hectares, considerably expanding from the original plots they started with. Their success is a direct result of the technical expertise Susan gained from her training, enabling them to grow their business, improve their financial stability, and send their only child to attend and finish college.



“If only I had known these modern techniques sooner, we could have reaped the rewards of our hard work much earlier,” she reflected.”

-Susan Delposo
TESDA Graduate
Coconut Farmer Scholarship Program



*“Be a TESDA
scholar like me –
I am proud to be one.”*

-Elvie Vestal
COBSAT Alumna

From Facebook Scrolling to Overseas Employment: Elvie Vestal’s Success Story

One ordinary day in 2022, Elvie L. Vestal was casually scrolling through Facebook when she came across a post about TESDA scholarships at the Cagayan de Oro (Bugo) School of Arts and Trades (COBSAT). Little did she know, that simple moment would change her life forever.

With no hesitation, she grabbed the opportunity and enrolled in Food and Beverage Services NC II. Inspired by her initial experience, she pursued more courses — Housekeeping NC II and Driving NC II — all through TESDA’s free scholarship programs.

“My days at COBSAT were filled with wonderful memories. I didn’t just gain skills, knowledge, and the right attitude – I also made new friends and even met my [future partner],” Elvie said.

After completing her training, she landed her first local job. But she didn’t stop there—she dreamed bigger. On May 1, 2024, at a Labor Day jobs fair, she applied to an overseas recruitment agency, hoping for better opportunities abroad.

She was hired on the spot!

Today, Elvie works as an office and facilities cleaner in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia. Thanks to the skills and confidence she gained from TESDA, she was well-prepared for the challenges of working abroad.

Elvie’s story proves that TESDA’s “Training to Trabaho” is real.

“For those aspiring to work locally or abroad, I encourage you to equip yourselves with skills by enrolling in TESDA programs. [Malaking tulong ang] NC II certificates in securing employment opportunities.

Certified for Success: Jomar Lipaopao's TESDA Journey

Jomar C. Lipaopao's career needed a boost, and this came when he stumbled upon TESDA's free training programs on social media. As a graduate of BS Electronics Engineering, he was immediately drawn to the Mechatronics Servicing NC II and NC III courses offered at TESDA's Regional Training Center in the National Capital Region in 2023.

The hands-on training at TESDA proved to be a game-changer for Jomar. With expert instruction and real-world applications, he gained a solid grasp of automation concepts, allowing him to implement complex systems with confidence. The practical knowledge he acquired not only enhanced his technical skills but also gave him the edge needed to excel in his profession. Jomar soon realized the impact of being TESDA-certified.

With his National Certification, he gained industry recognition, increasing his value in the job market and opening doors for career advancement.

Jomar is currently an electrician foreman with the Metro Manila Development Authority, a position he got in February 2024, after being promoted from being an electronics communication and equipment technician. Certainly quite different from the security guard job that he used to have.

What makes Jomar's success even more inspiring is that he achieved it despite being a person with a disability. Instead of viewing his condition as a limitation, he used education and skills training as stepping stones to greater opportunities.

"Dahil sa mga training ko sa TESDA, lalong nadagdagan ang kumpiyansa ko sa sarili. Talagang magagamit mo sa actual work ang mga natutunan mo sa loob ng training center—nahuhubog lalo ang iyong kaalaman. Sa mga gustong mag-training sa TESDA, grab the opportunity at sikaping matapos ang sinimulan ninyo. Sayang ang pagkakataon na ibigay sa atin, kaya gawin natin ito para sa ating kinabukasan," said Jomar.

"Kapag NC Holder ka, malaki ang chance ng promotion mo, sapagkat ito ang isa sa mga tinitingnan ng mga employer sa panahon ngayon."

—Jomar C. Lipaopao
TESDA Graduate
Electronic Communications and Equipment Technician II, MMDA



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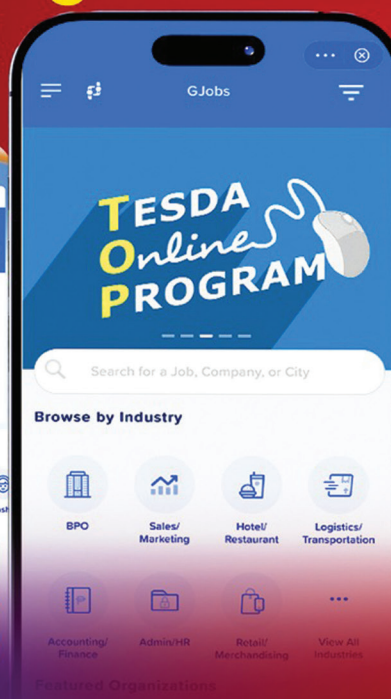


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