



DEPARTMENT OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

**Science and Technology
Information Institute**

2024 PERFORMANCE REPORT





Scan this QR code for the highlights of
2024 DOST-STII 37th Anniversary Celebration.



ABOUT THE COVER

In 2024, DOST-STII embraced urgency, passion, and bold risk-taking to elevate its services. For this year's cover design, the dominant red in this report symbolizes DOST-STII's commitment to Adapt, Rise, Strengthen, Ignite, and Endure—the five pillars that shaped the agency's journey toward success. These words form the arrow that represents the path forward, highlighting how the agency's resilience and innovation have driven their achievements. The 2024 Performance Report showcases how they navigated challenges, seized opportunities, and propelled science and technology information to greater heights.



The Department of Science and Technology - Science and Technology Information Institute (DOST-STII), established in 1987 through Executive Order No. 128, is the information and marketing arm of the DOST. The DOST-STII is primarily tasked with providing S&T information services and advocacy, offering S&T reference materials through its library, and undertaking training programs in science and technology.

DOST-STII implements its mandates through the two major programs:

A. Operation of Science and Technology Center for Information Services

- Library operations covering multimedia materials acquisitions, cataloging, and reader's services classification;
- Literature search, reference, and referral services;
 - Current awareness services
 - Document delivery services
- Documentation
- STARBOOKS
- Training

B. Science and Technology Promotion and Advocacy Services

- S&T information gathering and processing, packaging, and dissemination to multimedia channels;
- DOSTv
- Production and dissemination of in-house S&T publications;
- Drafting and editing of speeches, messages, and DOST documents;
- Production of media guides, posters, and customized promotional materials;
- Development of audio-visual production packages;
- Media relations and related networking activities.
- Training

Philosophy

DOST-STII's philosophy is rooted in its development mission to achieve and maintain S&T information excellence and deliver effective and efficient service in an environment where information at the moment of value is key to competitiveness.

In addition, DOST-STII promotes the widespread use and appreciation for S&T information. Through its continuing resource sharing activities, S&T mainstreaming services, and IT-based solutions, DOST-STII makes S&T information more accessible and valuable to all Filipinos.

Its people are the institute's most important resource. Librarians, writers, information analysts and communication specialists double up as information brokers, publicists, advertising executives, and image builders for DOST and DOST-STII. With the advances in ICT and the increasing demand for S&T information, DOST-STII must keep pace by employing and training communication and information professionals who can meet the standards of competent service.





Mission

We provide credible and inclusive Science, Technology, and Innovation information through resource sharing and efficiency delivery systems.

We promote public awareness, understanding, and appreciation of Science, Technology, and Innovation and its role in national development.

We capacitate our key stakeholders as partners and advocates in building a Science, Technology, and Innovation culture.

Vision

By 2040, we are the lead agency in Science, Technology, and Innovation information geared towards building a culture of STI to accelerate the nation's socio-economic development.



Mandate

The DOST-STII was created by virtue of Executive Order No. 128 issued on 30 January 1987, with the following mandates:

- Establish and develop a science and technology databank and library;
- Disseminate science and technology information;
- Undertake training on science and technology information.

Quality Policy

We, the management and employees of DOST-STII, are committed to establish a science and technology databank and library, disseminate, and undertake training on science and technology information, and other related services to the private and government sectors, according to the core values stated below that define what the agency believes in and how it relates with its stakeholders:

SCIENCE Adheres to the basic principle of public office in delivering relevant, inclusive, and sustainable STI-driven services

COMMITMENT Demonstrates dedication in providing the best STI-driven solutions to the country's current, emerging, and anticipated needs

INNOVATION Adds value by pursuing continuous improvement of products and services

ETHICS Upholds ethical standards and integrity in all stages of science practice

NURTURANCE Promotes a safe and healthy environment for developing and nurturing scientific talents

COLLABORATION Engages competent people to achieve common goals and advance S&T progress

EXCELLENCE Fosters a culture of achievement and improved performance to attain the highest level of client satisfaction

We are committed to continually improve the effectiveness of our Quality Management System at all times in order to meet customer satisfaction and all regulatory and statutory requirements; to address risks and opportunities; and to pursue the vision and strategic direction of the institute to be the lead agency in Science, Technology, and Innovation (STI) information geared towards building a culture of STI to accelerate the nation's socio-economic development.



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DOST-STII at a glance

Science and Technology Information Reference Services



1,129

Content Build-up

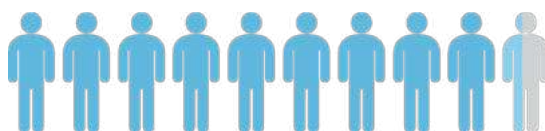
S&T information materials scanned
(titles/pages)
vs. 1,980 titles/pages from 2023



30,434

Quantity*

Number of clients served
vs. 21,113 clients from 2023,
excluding SciNet Clients due to
system migration in 2024

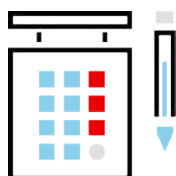


94%

Quality**

Percentage of clients who rated
the services satisfactory or better
vs. 96% rates from 2023

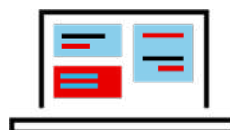
Science and Technology Promotion and Advocacy Services



6,963

Quantity*

Number of promotion services
and advocacy activities conducted
vs. 3,982 activities from 2023



71%

Awareness

Percentage of National Awareness
of S&T information
vs. 35% from 2023



DOST Net Satisfaction Rating

(every 4th Qtr of the year)

vs. +48 satisfaction rating from 2023

+47

*Quantity (New baseline, SciNet report generator
from Webalizer to Google Analytics)

**Quality (New baseline, including satisfaction
rating on OLLP and Library Webinars)

General Administration and Support Services



Budget Utilization

99%

Disbursements/Obligations incurred rate

Higher than 97% from 2023

NCA Utilization -

88%

Obligations incurred/Allotment received

Lower than 91% from 2023

93%

2024 Highlights

DOST-STII milestones, awards, and recognitions received

Awards

DOST-STII Awards and Recognitions CY 2024

The National Economic and Development Authority (NEDA) has certified three flagship programs of DOST-STII in the 2024 National Priority Plan (NPP), namely:

1. **Science and Technology Academic and Research Based Openly Operated KioskS (STARBOOKS)**
2. **DOSTv: Science for The People**
3. **Science Journo Ako**

Additionally, DOST-STII received numerous accolades in 2024, both nationally and internationally, including the following:

- **Anak TV Seal Awardee 2024: Child-sensitive and family-friendly television in the Philippines.** Two programs of DOSTv, namely DOST Report and ExperTalk were recognized as “Anak TV Seal Awardee 2024: Child-sensitive and family-friendly television in the Philippines” on 06 December 2024.
- **Best Children and Youth Program: 2024 Catholic Mass Media Awards.** DOSTv Program, ExperTalk, which features young Filipino scientists or #NextGenExperts in the country, was recognized as the “Best Children and Youth Program” in the 2024 Catholic Mass Media Awards.
- **GovMedia Award 2024: Philippines Campaign of the Year - Science and Technology.** The prestigious Singapore-based GovMedia Conference and Awards 2024 honored the DOST-S as the Philippines Campaign of the Year in the field of Science and Technology for being steadfast in its mission to bring science, technology and innovation closer to the people through its science broadcast program “DoSTv: Science for the people.”
- **Agrikultura: Mga Kuwento ng Hamon at Pag-asa: 18th UP ComBroadSoc Gandingan Awards.** DOSTv was honored as the “Most Development-Oriented Radio/TV Station/Online Platform” and “UPComBroadSoc’s choice for Gandingan ng Agrikultura. Additionally, ExperTalk host, AJ Castro, received the “Gandingan ng Kabataan Award.”
- **2024 Freedom of Information Award by PCO.** DOST-STII was honored among the Freedom of Information (FOI) Champions in the 2024 FOI Awards held 25 November 2024 at Hilton Manila in Pasay City.
-

The institute also maintained its **ISO Certification (Passed the External Surveillance Audit) for 2024** and received **COA’s Unqualified Opinion for CY 2023 Financial Reports.**

555,751 STARBOOKS active users from 8,561 sites installed as of December 2024

25 Partnerships sealed

147 DOSTv Episodes aired

30,434 Library clients

888 Aspiring science journalist trained through Science Journo Ako

Message from the Secretary

My heartfelt congratulations and appreciation to the Department of Science and Technology-Science and Technology Information Institute (DOST-STII) for another outstanding year. The institute has once again risen to the occasion, making science information an integral part of DOST's mission to increasing public awareness. Through various communication and information efforts, DOST-STII promotes the DOST's brand of public service by providing solutions, opening opportunities to Filipinos.

This year's theme, ARISE, acronym for Adapt, Rise, Ignite, Strengthen, Endure, perfectly encapsulates the performance of DOST-STII. In essence, the word "arise" represents agility, responsiveness, and innovation in a stringent environment. These qualities are essential as the institute contributes to DOST's four strategic pillars: promoting human well-being, fostering wealth creation, reinforcing wealth protection, and institutionalizing sustainability.

Despite numerous challenges, DOST-STII has remained steadfast in its mission, exceeding expectations with its proactive and strategic communication initiatives. Their agile efforts led to the development of a strategic communication initiative that called for immediate action to harmonize a diverse, multisectoral, and multidisciplinary communication approach, making the #OneDOST4U mantra a recognizable brand.

The institute has demonstrated responsiveness by breaking down communication barriers to make science more relatable to the public. This is evident in the various social media content and broadcast news features that have engaged audiences across social media and traditional media platforms, thereby bringing conversations about science to a wider spectrum of audiences.

Moreover, your innovative spirit in a dynamic environment

has sparked interest from various media outlets, particularly through the Bantog Awards for Science Communication. This award platform allows DOST to recognize exceptional science storytellers across radio, print, television, and emerging media platforms, resulting in broader reach among the Philippine populace.

Looking ahead, DOST counts on the expertise, passion, and vision of the DOST-STII community to sustain and elevate science communication and information dissemination for Filipinos. Notably, we have reached a historic 71 percent science and technology awareness level, as reported in the fourth quarter of the 2024 Social Weather Station Survey—an impressive leap from 34 percent the previous year. This milestone is a testament to DOST-STII's dedication and perseverance in shaping and reshaping public perceptions of science and technology through effective communication strategies.

As we usher in the third year of this administration, let us celebrate this achievement and remain committed to advancing science communication for the benefit of our nation.

Padayon, DOST-STII!

SEC. RENATO U. SOLIDUM, JR.
Department of Science and Technology



Message from the Undersecretary

The year 2024 has once again proven that the Department of Science and Technology-Science and Technology Information Institute (DOST-STII) is a driving force in bringing science closer to every Filipino. Through its innovative efforts, the Institute has effectively showcased the tangible benefits of the Department's scientific services as well as research and development (R&D) projects spearheaded by various DOST attached agencies and regional offices across the country.

I have personally witnessed the unwavering dedication, creativity, and efficiency of DOST-STII in leading the strategic communication efforts of the DOST system. This year, the Institute played a pivotal role in organizing and implementing the communications strategy for some of our most significant events: the National Science, Technology, and Innovation Week (NSTW) in Cagayan de Oro City; the National Youth Science, Technology, and Innovation Festival (NYSTIF) in Manila; and the multi-regional Handa Filipinas series held in Ilocos Norte, Cebu City, and General Santos City.

Beyond coordinating these events, DOST-STII maximized its existing platforms and resources to intensify its promotion, ensuring comprehensive photo and video coverage and disseminating engaging content through DOSTv, the S&T Post, and various social media channels. The resounding success of these events reflects the Institute's significant imprint on our collective accomplishments.

Notable among the year's achievements was the success of the Bantog Awards for Science Communicators, where outstanding science communicators were recognized as valuable partners in making science and technology more visible. Their compelling stories, striking visuals, and engaging narratives have inspired Filipinos to see how science can empower lives, guide decisions, and create opportunities for growth.

In 2024, there was significant increase in S&T awareness among Filipinos, which rose from 34% to 71%, as revealed by the year-end Social Weather Stations survey. While many factors contributed to this milestone, it is evident that DOST-STII played a key role in consistently delivering compelling science content through press releases, social media platforms, broadcast channels, publications, journals, library services, partnerships with media, and training activities.

The Institute has also excelled in amplifying stories from DOST attached agencies and regional offices, effectively repackaging and pitching them to media partners for nationwide visibility. Recognizing the power of social media, DOST-STII has creatively crafted its contents to suit different platforms; making them more accessible and relevant to Filipinos today.

Additionally, the Institute's strategic approach in promoting its S&T publications through email marketing, websites, and digital platforms—has expanded their reach. Our award-winning S&T broadcast channel, DOSTv, has continued to deliver informative and inspiring content, helping to illustrate how R&D and science-related services contribute to improving lives across the nation.

With these remarkable achievements, I extend my heartfelt congratulations to the men and women of DOST-STII for their steadfast commitment to making science, technology, and innovation (STI) more relatable and impactful to the public.

As we move forward, I challenge the Institute to soar to even greater heights, to raise the bar of excellence, and surpass expectations in building a vibrant STI environment and in nurturing a science culture in the country.

Mabuhay ang DOST-STII! Congratulations on a job well done!

MARIDON O. SAHAGUN

Undersecretary for Scientific and Technical Services, DOST



Message from the Assistant Secretary

As we close 2024, it is with great pride that I present the Annual Performance Report of the DOST-Science and Technology Information Institute. This year, under the theme “ARISE: Adapt, Rise, Ignite, Strengthen, Endure,” we celebrate a year of milestones achieved, challenges we overcame, and the renewed commitment to our mission of bridging science with our targeted stakeholders.

Taking on the responsibility of Officer-in-Charge has been an opportunity to guide DOST-STII in fulfilling its role as the Department’s information and communication arm. It allowed me to work closely with our dedicated team to ensure that our programs and initiatives remain impactful, timely, and aligned with the vision of the Department of Science and Technology by employing appropriate communication strategies.

Allow me to extend my deepest gratitude to the hardworking employees of DOST-STII, especially its divisions: the Communication Resources and Production Division (CRPD), the Information Resources and Analysis Division (IRAD), the Finance and Administrative Division (FAD), and the Office of the Director-Management Information System and Planning Section (OD-MISPS). Their dedication, creativity, and unwavering perseverance throughout the year have been the driving force behind our accomplishments in 2024, a testament to their commitment to excellence in science communication and public service.

In 2024, we adapted to new communication landscapes, risen to challenges with resilience, ignited a deeper appreciation for science, strengthened our partnerships, and endured as a trusted source of information and inspiration for the public. These accomplishments highlight the collective efforts of the DOST-STII team and our valued stakeholders.

Looking ahead to 2025, I envision DOST-STII as an even more dynamic and future-thinking institution. We will focus on leveraging emerging technologies, expanding our reach to underserved communities, and fostering collaborations that amplify the impact of science communication in addressing societal needs and harnessing emerging opportunities.

Together, the DOST-STII, working as one team, will strive to make science and technology an essential part of every Filipino's life by continuously weaving compelling narratives that create a lasting imprint in the minds and hearts of every Filipino.

As we carry the spirit of ARISE into the coming year, I invite everyone to join us in building a better future where science, technology, and innovation drive progress and empowerment for all.

Mabuhay ang agham, teknolohiya at inobasyon para sa bayan!

NAPOLEON K. JUANILLO, JR., PhD

*Assistant Secretary for Technology Transfer,
Communications, and Commercialization
and Officer-in-charge, Office of Director, DOST-STII*



Message from the Director

As I prepare to bid farewell to this esteemed institution and conclude a fulfilling career in government, I feel immense pride and gratitude as I reflect on our collective journey over the past year. Although we faced both successes and setbacks, we navigated through the challenges and seized opportunities with faith and confidence in one another. Our resilient spirit allowed us to reach new heights and explore uncharted territories while keeping our creativity focused and purposeful.

But more than just the desire for accolades and recognition, our current successes are the fruits of our love for science and technology, innovation, and adherence to our core values. These achievements, a result of the concerted efforts of the men and women of DOST-STII, demonstrate that no matter what disruptions we encounter, we can swiftly pivot, adapt and remain responsive and innovative that enable us to thrive even in uncertain times.

I would say that the true strength of this institution in overcoming obstacles is rooted in the people behind the numbers—the individuals who refuse to give up and settle for mediocrity. They are the lifeblood that propels this institution forward with greater momentum and enabling strides.

It is my sincere hope that DOST-STII will continue to rise and adapt, leading with courage and vision, having ensured that the mechanisms and frameworks necessary for continued success remain in place. As you face the future, I am confident that you will continue to carry

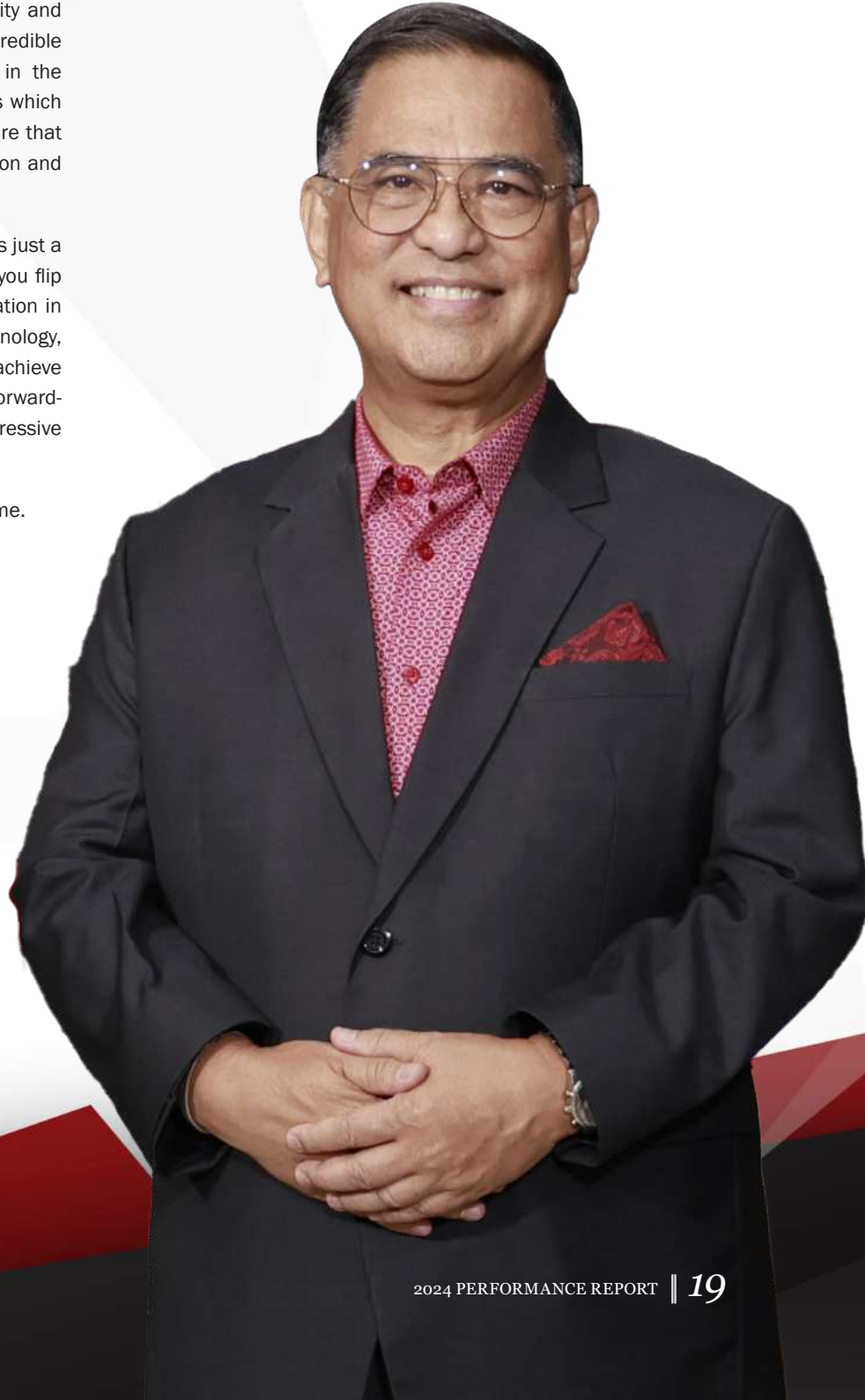
the flame of continuous innovation. Allow yourselves to be instruments of positive change by keeping the momentum strong and ensuring that our shared values endure.

I deeply thank you for giving me the opportunity and rare privilege of leading alongside such an incredible team. Looking back when I started working in the institute, I said, “I am just the driver of the bus which is DOST-STII and one of my roles is to make sure that everyone on board is going towards one direction and will reach their desired destinations.”

To our dear readers, what you are holding now is just a glimpse of our accomplishments for 2024. As you flip across its pages, we share with you our dedication in promoting and sharing the love for science, technology, and innovation to help our fellow kababayans achieve more in life towards fulfilling our aspiration of a forward-looking, knowledge-driven, smarter, and progressive Philippines.

Here's to the future, where the best is yet to come.

RICHARD P. BURGOS
Director (March 2016–June 2024)



Office of the Director - Management Information System and Planning Section

The Office of the Director - Management Information System and Planning Section serves as a vital entity of the Department of Science and Technology—Science and Technology Information Institute (DOST-STII), responsible for driving strategic ICT initiatives that support the institute's mission. As the backbone of DOST-STII's technological infrastructure, MISPS oversees system development, information systems management, cybersecurity, technical support, livestreaming services, and strategic planning.





In 2024, MISPS reinforced its commitment to modernize operations and foster innovation within DOST-STII and its partner agencies. The section played a key role in maintaining ICT infrastructure, enhancing cybersecurity, and overseeing information system accessibility to support seamless operations.

TECHNICAL SUPPORT SERVICES

The technical support team demonstrated outstanding performance by efficiently managing a total of 792 requests throughout the year. Their proactive approach for implementing effective solutions ensured the seamless resolution of technical challenges, contributing to the smooth operations of the organization.

Of the total requests received, 267 were hardware-related, 480 were software-related, and 70 required combined hardware and software assistance. These figures highlight the team’s versatility in addressing various technical issues and their capacity to provide comprehensive support across different activities and divisions.

The team’s accomplishments were distributed across two semesters. During the first semester, a total of 334 requests were addressed, representing their dedication and steady efforts to maintain operational continuity. In the second semester, the team handled 458 requests, reflecting their ability to adapt to increasing demand and intensified operations during the latter part of the year.



2024	Hardware	Software	Both	# of Technical Support forms	Average Rating	Equivalent
January	14	58	4	79	5.00	Excellent
February	12	42	3	59	4.98	Very Satisfactory
March	29	25	0	57	4.98	Very Satisfactory
April	18	30	5	55	5.00	Excellent
May	6	34	4	48	4.98	Very Satisfactory
June	11	17	7	36	5.00	Excellent
July	22	43	5	75	5.00	Excellent
August	27	22	3	53	5.00	Excellent
September	36	44	8	99	5.00	Excellent
October	24	51	14	94	5.00	Excellent
November	33	50	8	98	5.00	Excellent
December	13	21	4	39	5.00	Excellent
1st Sem	112	249	28	334	4.99	Very Satisfactory
2nd Sem	155	231	42	458	4.99	Very Satisfactory
CY 2024	267	480	70	792	4.99	Very Satisfactory

Table No. 1: Technical Support Monitoring Sheet

Client satisfaction remained a priority for the technical support team, as reflected in the annual average rating of 4.99.

This “Very Satisfactory” rating is a testament to the team’s unwavering commitment to excellence and their ability to exceed client expectations consistently.



The majority of the requests, totaling 624, came from internal clients, while 34 requests were received from external stakeholders. These numbers emphasize the team’s dual focus on supporting the organization’s internal operations and extending their expertise to external partners, fostering collaboration and trust.

Overall, these achievements emphasize the team’s steadfast commitment to delivering exceptional service. Their efficiency in resolving technical challenges has ensured operational continuity and strengthened client trust and satisfaction. Looking ahead, the team remains focused on further enhancing its capabilities to meet the evolving demands of 2025.

LIVESTREAM SERVICES

This year, the team demonstrated its commitment to excellence by facilitating 45 livestreaming events catering to DOST-STII internal clients and external stakeholders from various DOST agencies and partner organizations. These events exemplified the team’s expertise in bridging the gap between physical and virtual platforms, enabling seamless participation in hybrid and virtual setups, and ensuring that key activities reached their intended audiences effectively.

Among the highlights were the 46th Annual Scientific Meeting in July, the 2024 National Youth Science, Technology, and Innovation Festival (NYSTIF) in September, and the 2024 National Science, Technology, and Innovation Week (NSTW) celebration in November. These large-scale events required precise technical execution and real-time coordination, showcasing the team’s capability to manage high-stakes activities.



Table No. 2: Livestream Monitoring Sheet

2024	Total	5	4	3	2	1	Average
January	3	3					5.00
February	2	2					5.00
March	3	3					5.00
April	2	2					5.00
May	4	4					5.00
June	1	1					5.00
July	5	5					5.00
August	1	1					5.00
September	11	11					5.00
October	5	5					5.00
November	7	7					5.00
December	1	1					5.00
1st Sem	15	15					5.00
2nd Sem	30	30					5.00
CY 2024	45	45					5.00

The team reinforced DOST-STII’s positive reputation by delivering high-quality streaming services and supporting the organization’s outreach and collaboration efforts.



Despite a slight decline in livestreamed events due to the shift toward in-person engagements, the team upheld a 100% customer satisfaction rating, consistently praised for their professionalism and reliability. Whether delivering hybrid or virtual services, they remained focused on enhancing quality to ensure seamless and impactful event execution.

These accomplishments highlight unwavering dedication to innovation, efficiency, and customer satisfaction, positioning them as essential partners in the evolving landscape of modern communication strategies.





SYSTEM DEVELOPMENT

Recruitment, Selection and Placement System (RSPS)

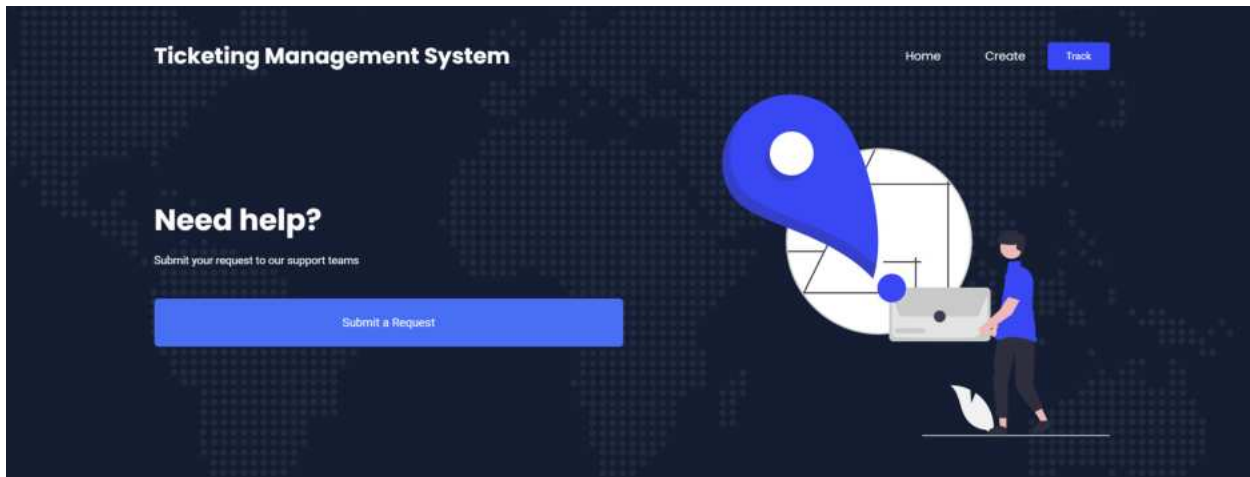
The Recruitment, Selection, and Placement System (RSPS) was successfully launched this year, marking a collaborative achievement between the Management Information System and Planning Section (MISPS) System Development Team and the Finance and Administrative Division—Human Resource (FAD-HR) Section. Designed to streamline and digitize the recruitment and selection process, the RSP system ensures a more efficient and transparent approach to managing job applications, candidate evaluations, and staff placement.

This launch underscores the DOST-STII's commitment to modernize its talent acquisition strategies. Automating manual workflows has significantly reduced administrative burdens, enhanced data accuracy, and enabled timely decision-making for HR teams. Moreover, its deployment reflects the organization's broader initiative to leverage technology in driving operational efficiency and elevating HR processes.

Rewards and Recognition System (RRS)

This year, the Rewards and Recognition System (RRS) was developed to enhance the organization's Program on Awards and Incentives for Service Excellence (PRAISE) Award nominations, serving as a dedicated platform to acknowledge employee contributions and achievements. This initiative fosters a culture of appreciation and motivation, reinforcing the value of excellence within the workforce.

In collaboration with the Finance and Administrative Division—Human Resource (FAD-HR) Section, the RRS streamlines the nomination process, ensuring a more structured and transparent selection of awardees. Its introduction has improved the efficiency of recognizing outstanding employee performance and strengthened overall employee engagement. The successful implementation of RRS highlights the organization's unwavering commitment to creating a positive work environment that celebrates and rewards excellence.

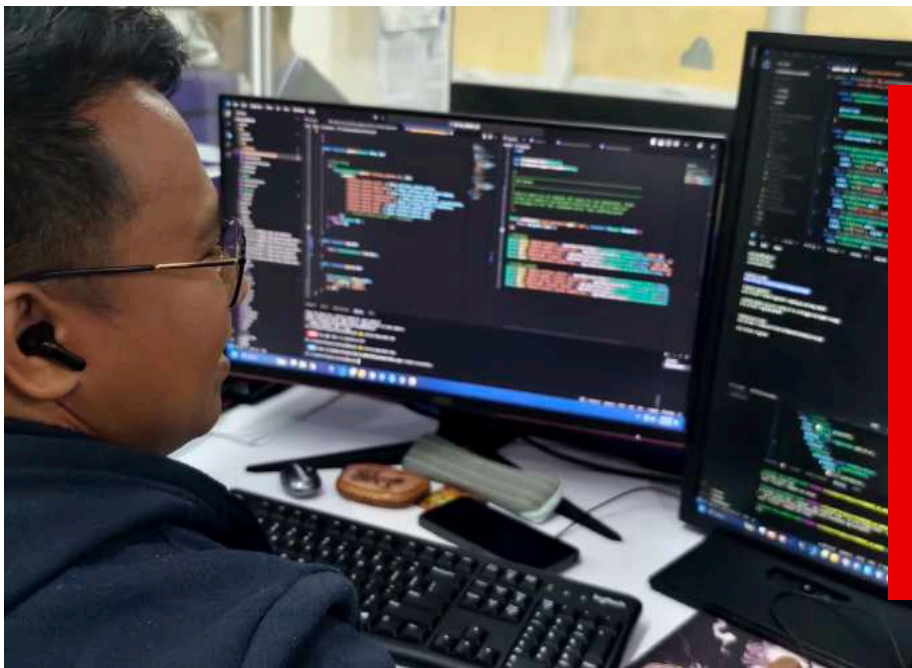


 **Announcements/Events**
No Announcements and/or Upcoming events

Technical Support Ticketing System

The Technical Support Ticketing System was launched in the second semester of 2024 as part of the Management Information System and Planning Section (MISPS) efforts to transition from traditional paper-based service forms to a streamlined, digital solution. Designed to efficiently manage and track technical support requests, the system ensures the timely and organized delivery of IT services to internal DOST-STII clients and external stakeholders from various DOST agencies.

Adopting this ticketing system has significantly enhanced the organization's ability to monitor, prioritize, and resolve IT issues effectively. The shift has reduced response times, improved service delivery, and provided valuable insights through system-generated reports.



This initiative reflects the organization's commitment to modernizing its operations and embracing digital transformation, fostering a seamless and efficient experience for internal stakeholders.



Knowledge Management

In 2024, the Department of Science and Technology-Science and Technology Information Institute (DOST-STII) continued its efforts to be the lead in the implementation of the Knowledge Management (KM) strategy for the entire DOST system. This initiative aligns with the DOST Information Systems Harmonization Plan, in coordination with Director Cezar P. Pedraza, Director IV of the Planning and Evaluation Service, DOST Central Office (DOST-CO).

The KM initiative focuses on integrating key data domains, including research and development efforts and other S&T-related data, to support open science and data-driven decision-making. To achieve this, DOST-STII worked on strengthening existing platforms like science.ph, which was identified as a core tool for integration and public-facing science inquiries.

These efforts reinforce our commitment to advancing KM strategies that foster innovation, improve decision-making, and ensure the seamless sharing of knowledge across the DOST network. This initiative is a significant step toward realizing a unified, knowledge-driven system that supports the agency's mission to promote science and technology in the country.

Discussions with DOST-CO emphasized the need for a unified portal and the development of a robust KM system. DOST-STII was tasked with consolidating data fields, data types, and analytics requirements to guide the design and integration of the system.

The system will be housed under the DOST website.



ICT TRAINING

Cybersecurity

The Management Information System and Planning Section (MISPS)-IT Unit of the Department of Science and Technology-Science and Technology Information Institute (DOST-STII), in collaboration with DOST Region VIII, conducted the Training on ICT Trends and Technologies on 26-27 February 2024, at the DOST VIII Conference Room in Palo, Leyte. This initiative demonstrates MISPS's commitment to strengthening ICT capabilities across regional offices and ensuring alignment with global standards for digital transformation.

DOST-STII served as the primary resource for the training, with Mr. Alfon Narquita, Senior Science Research Specialist, and Mr. Mark Jayson Sison, Information Analyst, leading a session on Securing Networks with pfSense and OpenVPN. This session provided participants with hands-on guidance in configuring pfSense, an open-source firewall and router platform, and OpenVPN to establish secure and robust networks. Topics included firewall setup, network traffic management, secure VPN configuration, and best practices for data security.

The training also emphasized operational efficiency through a session on Preventive Maintenance of ICT Equipment, facilitated by Mr. Gary Lawrence S. Arica from DOST Region VIII. This session offered practical tools and methods to improve the performance and longevity of ICT assets, aligning with the focus on ensuring reliable ICT operations.

By addressing critical ICT trends and cybersecurity challenges, this training highlights MISPS's role in empowering regional offices and fostering technological innovation. The initiative strengthens DOST-STII's ongoing efforts to bridge ICT proficiency gaps, ensuring the delivery of efficient, secure, and innovative ICT services across the DOST network.

PLANNING UNIT

In 2024, the Planning Unit developed and enrolled a procedures manual on Monitoring and Evaluation. M&E is a crucial element in ensuring compliance with the institute's mandates and the achievement of its targets. Furthermore, this feat also makes way for evidence-based decision-making concerning institutional plans and programs.

In relation to this, the unit created and launched its monitoring tool that tracks institutional targets, including the Quarterly Physical Reports of Operations (BAR1), Corporate and Functional Objectives, and Client Satisfaction Measurement (CSM) Ratings. This tool facilitates efficient M&E by enabling real-time monitoring of delivery units' submissions and performance. It also visualizes data through graphical presentations and automates the generation of CSM reports for both internal and external services of the institute.

Proudly, the institute was able to surpass its BAR1 target for the year. Its primary target outcome, which is to increase the level of public S&T awareness, showed a remarkable rise from 25% in the second quarter of 2024 to 71% in the fourth quarter.

This also marks a significant progress compared to the 35% awareness level during the fourth quarter of 2023.

Moreover, as part of its commitment to continuous improvement, the DOST-STII submitted its first approved Public Service Continuity Plan (PSCP) to the Office of Civil Defense (OCD) in August 2024. This plan outlines the strategies, resource requirements, and communication procedures in implementing programs, activities, and projects (PAPs) during times of disruptive circumstances and emergencies. Effective service continuity planning is key to minimizing the impact of potential threats and ensuring the timely recovery of essential functions and operations.

The PSCP was officially implemented in the third quarter of 2024. As part of this execution, all delivery units conducted activities such as tabletop exercises and orientations, focusing on their respective Mission Essential Functions (MEFs) and Non-Mission Essential Functions (NMEFs). The plan was also formally presented to employees during the DOST-STII Year-End Program on 13 December 2024.



The Planning Unit has also successfully completed the following activities for 2024:

- Organized and facilitated the conduct of the Operational Planning Workshop for CY2025
- Facilitated the target setting and accomplishment of the Office Performance Commitment and Review of the institute
- Automated the computation and generation of CSM reports for internal and external processes
- Monitored and submitted the ISO corporate and functional objectives of the institute
- Organized the Social Weather Station Survey for the 2nd and 4th Quarter of 2024
- Facilitated the monthly updating of the Filipinnovation initiatives per SONA Directive No. PBBM-2023-028
- Facilitated the review and submission of the DOST-STII reports and Management Action Plan in relation to the Internal Audit Findings/Observations
- Facilitated the submission of the proposal for reinclusion of STARBOOKS and DOSTv, and inclusion of Science Journo Ako in the 2025 National Priority Plan of the National Economic and Development Authority
- Presented the institution's mandates and accomplishments during the External Audit and prepared the presentation of accomplishments for the Year-End Program
- Organized the workshop to recalibrate the OneDOST Strategic Communication Plan 2024-2028 with DOST-STII Chiefs and Supervisors
- Organized the conduct of the Workshop on Finalizing the Recalibrated OneDOST Strategic Communication Plan (2024-2028) with the DOST Media Core
- Consolidated the PAPs of DOST Offices, Attached Agencies, and Regional Offices in relation to the OneDOST Strategic Communication Plan (2024-2028)
- Packaged the initial draft of the OneDOST Strategic Communication Plan (2024-2028)

For 2025, the Planning Unit seeks to finalize the OneDOST Strategic Communication Plan (2024-2028) for implementation across all DOST offices, attached agencies, and regional offices.



OD-MISPS

Office of the Director - Management Information System and Planning Section



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Information Resources and Analysis Division (IRAD)





ARISE is a team sport that the Information Resources and Analysis Division or IRAD feats against the tides of evolution. From a new collection of physical and digital references and publications, arrays of learning and development activities, sealed new partnerships, skyrocketing presence in social media, and reform in the internal operation and organization, IRAD remained steadfast in its mission to disseminate science, technology, and innovation (STI) information.



ADOPT A READER, RISE THE LIBRARY EXPERIENCE

As the DOST-STII has finally adjusted to the new and alternative platforms of the library, so as to the demand of its clients when it comes to S&T reference materials, learning and development intervention, and online library access. In 2024, DOST-STII Library accommodated a total of 30,434 library clients despite the ongoing update of the library's SciNet Integrated Library Management System - Online Public Access Catalog (SILMS-OPAC).

It was, indeed, a productive year for IRAD as it reached an overall rating of 96.07% Very Satisfactory or higher from 15,559 library clients who availed of Online Library Literacy Program (378 clients), onsite services (5,889 clients), online services (7,476 clients), library tours (1,128 clients), and webinar sessions (15,563 clients).

Date Conducted	Topic
27 February 2024	Taking the Path of Innovation towards Future-proof learning
17-19 April 2024	12th STARBOOKS Deployment Officers' Assembly
20 June 24	Libraries in the Cloud: Exploring Cloud-based Services and Technologies
20 August 24	The Art and Science of Collection Development: Strategies for Building Relevant Collection
12 September 24	Sustainability in Libraries: Green Practices for Information Institutions
22 October 24	Reimagining Library Spaces: Designing for Collaboration and Innovation
11 November 24	Evaluation of Environments for Long-term Storage of Collections
11-12 November 2024	2024 STARBOOKS Regional Convention in CALABARZON
13 November 24	Designing Gender Sensitivity Workshops
15 November 24	AV Archiving
9-10-Dec-2024	13th STARBOOKS Deployment Officers Assembly

Table No. 3: IRAD Learning Interventions for 2024

IRAD continued to campaign its flagship service–S&T library–by increasing its vast collection of STI reference materials.

In 2024, a total of 465 titles of newly-acquired books (201 titles), theses/dissertations (146 titles) and serials (118 titles) were technically processed, while 1,570 digitally processed full-text articles were uploaded on SILMS database.

Last year, IRAD fulfilled a total of 2,875 Filipiniana and foreign titles to the SILMS database and 1,486 new records in STARBOOKS content and four semi-annual publications, namely: the Philippine Science and Technology Abstracts (PSTA), Specialized Philippine Enterprise Reference of Experts and Scientists (SPHERES), ATIN: Filipino Innovators in the Spotlight, and STARBOOKS Insider.

The PSTA is a collection of classified abstracts of S&T information from journals and periodicals; SPHERES is a compilation of bibliographical information on the experts and scientists specializing in science and technology; ATIN is a special coffee table book that features Filipino innovators in their personal and professional life; while STARBOOKS Insider is a special newsletter featuring STARBOOKS-related activities.

IGNITE SOCIAL MEDIA PRESENCE WITH ST&I KNOWLEDGE

IRAD kept up the momentum going on social media through DOST-STII Library and STARBOOKS. In 2024, DOST-STII Library Facebook page achieved 318,826 total engagement with 942 contents exhibiting monthly features of newly-processed reference materials, PSTA abstracts, Filipina scientists in SPHERES, and announcements; DOST InfoSerbilis Facebook Page attained 8,951 total engagement with 35 contents featuring DOST agencies, products, and services; and STARBOOKS Facebook page had 2,051,219 total engagement with 380 contents featuring STARBOOKS activities, online quizzes, and announcements to name a few.

Likewise, STARBOOKS (93,291 users), Science.ph (17,942 users), DOST-SciNet (7,476 users) and SPHERES (102,814 users) showed impressive website users for 2024.

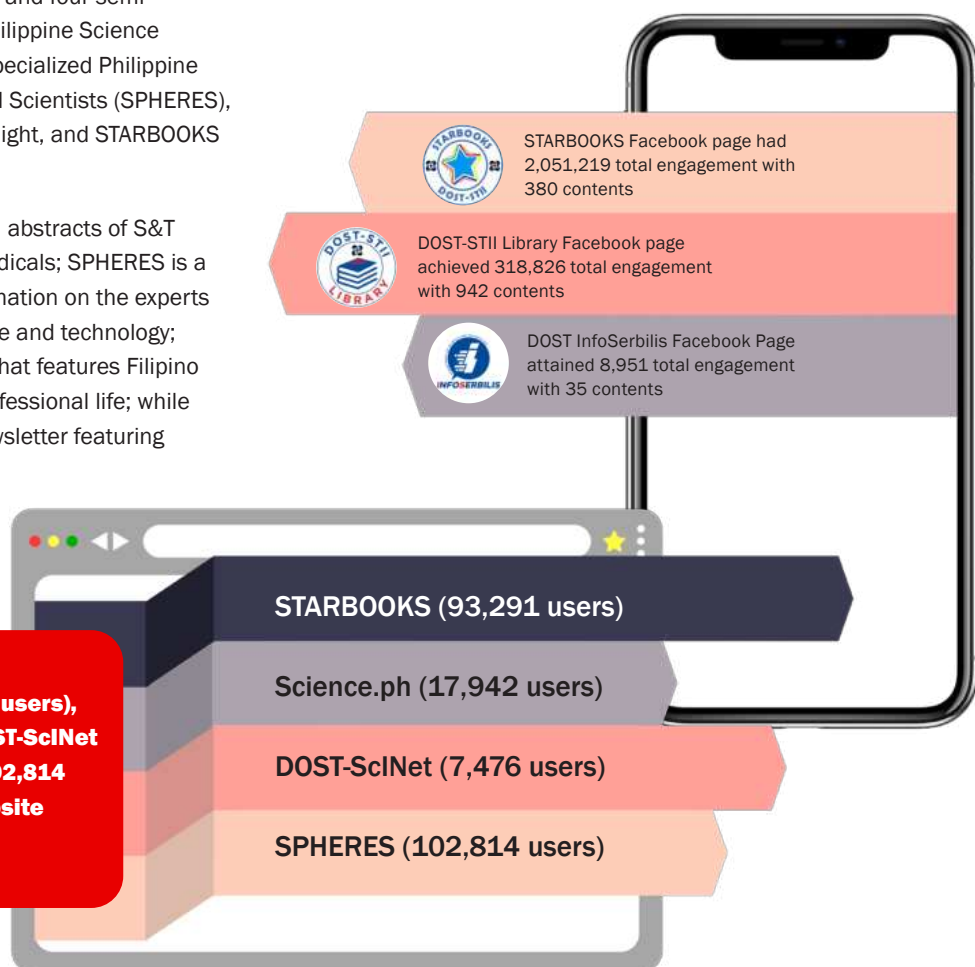
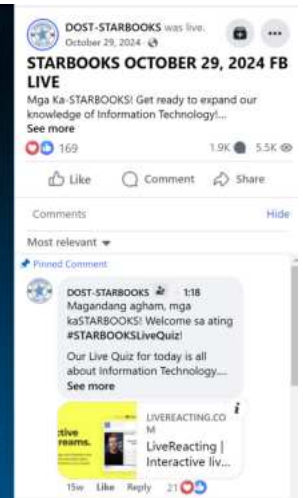
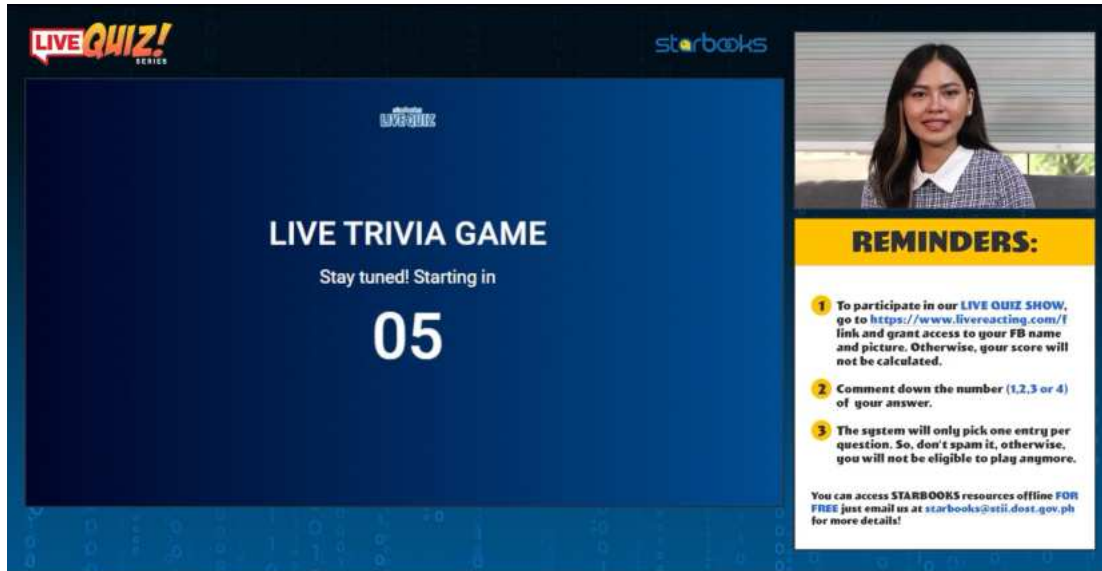


Figure No. 1: IRAD websites users and engagements



Further, STARBOOKS strengthened its virtual presence through Live Quizzes and Virtual Walkthroughs.

The STARBOOKS Live Quiz is a monthly livestream quiz event on Facebook, while STARBOOKS Virtual Walkthrough is an on-demand service that briefs institutions everything about STARBOOKS.

In 2024, STARBOOKS conducted 12 sessions from 56 institutions with 522 participants such as school administrators, teachers, librarians, and students (see Table No.4).

The **DOST InfoSerbills** continuously improved the DOST Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) like scholarship, laboratory services, DOST products, and contact details of different DOST agencies. In 2024, **DOST InfoSerbills received 1,601 queries**. With the enhanced social media presence and integrated chatbot, **100% of the clients rated their online experience as Very Satisfactory or higher**.

Session date	Institution participated	No. of Participants
January 30, 2024 at 10:00 AM	Our Lady of Carmel School- A.R. of Calatagan, Inc. Caanawan National High School - Schools Division of San Jose City Saint Francis National High School Homeschool	200
February 13, 2024 at 10:00 AM	BBA Bright Beginnings Academy Tawi-Tawi Regional Agricultural College Saint Anthony Elementary School Infant Jesus School	20
February 27, 2024 at 10:00 AM	Luis Aguado National High School Maranatha Christian Academy of Bago City Lord's Hand Academy Inc.	40
March 21, 2024 at 10:00 AM	Sto. Domingo National Trade School St Jerome Emiliani institute Inc. Governor Ferrer Memorial Integrated National High School Union Christian College Caruhatan West Elementary School Concepcion Integrated School Secondary Level Apayao State College	30
April 25, 2024 at 10:00 AM	Magna - Anima Teachers College Young Shepherd's School Tabaco City Library SDO Bacoor City	50
May 9, 2024 at 10:00 AM	Catholic Filipino Academy Homeschool Alegria NHS Holy Rosary College Foundation Inc. Aquinas School NU East Ortigas	25
June 20, 2024 at 10:00 AM	Catholic Filipino Academy Homeschool Holy Rosary College Foundation Inc. Alegria National High School	15
July 16, 2024, at 10:00 AM	Son Shine Learning Center Benguet, Inc. Mallig Plains Colleges, Inc. Department of Education – MIMAROPA Sudlon Integrated School	10
August 15 2024, at 10:00 AM	Batag Elementary School Mendez Christian Academy Inc. Gen. Vito Belarmino Integrated National High School Nagatutuan Elemntary School Kapatagan national High School	50
September 26, 2024, at 10:00 AM	Sta. Lucia National High School Baao National High School-Annex Pateros National High School Crossing Bayabas National High School Sulop National High School St. Scholastica's Academy-CSFP Iriga City Science High School Polytechnic University of the Philippines Sto. Tomas Campus Las Pinas City Technical Vocational High School	50
October 15, 2024 at 10:00 AM	Pag asa Elementary School Mountain Heights High School Narra Integrated School Southern Tagalog Rural High School Inc. Saint Louis of Pacdal, Inc. Boton elementary School Candjay Municipal High School	20
November 27, 2024 at 2:00 PM	Oblates of St. Joseph Schools	12

Table No. 4: STARBOOKS visual sessions

STRENGTHEN DIGITAL LIBRARY EXPERIENCE WITH STARBOOKS

Flagged as the country's first S&T digital library in a box, Science and Technology Academic and Research-Based Openly Operated KioskS (STARBOOKS) is a stand-alone, on-site research and information kiosk that provides free access to S&T information for academic, livelihood, and disaster prevention; and bridges the digital divide for many of our far-flung communities without or limited access to the internet.

Aside from the offline kiosk of STARBOOKS, its resources can also be accessed online through its website and mobile applications:

- 1) STARBOOKS Online Portal which can be accessed via www.starbooks.ph; 2)



STARBOOKS App which is designed to make STARBOOKS online content more accessible to mobile users; 3) STARBOOKS Whiz app, a gamified way of learning science and mathematics through solo or battle modes, where players can earn stars, tokens, badges, and power-ups to go up in the rankings and gain experiences; and 4) STARBOOKS Finder, a mobile app that plots the actual location of STARBOOKS sites around the Philippines. All STARBOOKS applications are available for download on the Google Play Store.

STARBOOKS is continuously bridging the digital divide for many of our far-flung communities without or limited access to the internet.



A total of 8,561 STARBOOKS were installed nationwide with 555,751 active users on the offline and online platforms as of 31 December 2024. STARBOOKS attained 26,517 active users in its mobile applications



STARBOOKS App
(21,442 users)

STARBOOKS Whiz
(2,839 users)

STARBOOKS Finder
(2,236 users)

Figure No. 2: STARBOOKS engagements

Dubbed STARBOOKS@13: Stronger Together, the 13th-anniversary celebration of STARBOOKS held at The Heritage Hotel in Pasay City on 11 June 2024, highlighted the staunch support of STARBOOKS partners and the passion of the deployment officers who commit themselves to disseminating STI information up to the last-mile communities. As part of the celebration, STARBOOKS also awarded the deployment officers, DOST regional and provincial offices, and its partners through the following categories and contests: Strongest STARBOOKS Deployment Officers, Strongest STARBOOKS Deployment Video Contest, Strongest STARBOOKS Partners, STARBOOKS Online Contests (Fan Art and Spoken Poetry in TikTok) and Strongest STARBOOKS Ambassadors.

Further, to harness the connection among the deployment partners, STARBOOKS conducted a semi-annual Deployment Officers' Assembly that discussed important updates and activities for the year and bridged the connection between STARBOOKS partners and DOST regional and provincial offices. STARBOOKS discussed the accomplishments, system updates, STARBOOKS Whiz Bee, STARBOOKS Installation in Virtual Machine, STARBOOKS AI, Knowledge Management (KM) Project, and partners' presentation for possible collaboration in the regions.

In 2024, the team conducted the 2024 STARBOOKS Regional Stakeholders Convention in CALABARZON in Calamba, Laguna on 12 November 2024. The convention provided fresh insights into the technological trends that would help educators and librarians in sourcing useful S&T learning materials.





Another highlight of the year is launching the STARBOOKS for Governance (STARBOOKS 4G), a one-stop source of local governance information and learning materials from DILG – Bohol. STARBOOKS 4G is a joint project among 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 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.





STARBOOKS also supported the celebration of the 2024 National Science and Technology Week (NSTW) and 2024 National Youth Science, Technology, and Innovation Festival (NYSTIF) where visitors experienced navigating the STARBOOKS Whiz App, STARBOOKS Nature, and STARBOOKS App.

Further, STARBOOKS held its STARBOOKS Whiz Bee during the 2024 NYSTIF which was participated in by junior high school students within Mega Manila. Among the 50 contestants who brain-battled during the semi-final round, only the top five contestants advanced to the final round.



ENDURE SHARED ADVOCACIES THROUGH SEALED PARTNERSHIPS

The consistent dialogue and exchange of ideas to advocate science, technology, and innovation to the public came to fruition as DOST-STII inked 21 partnerships through DOST-STII Library and STARBOOKS.

DOST-STII LIBRARY

- Association of Special Libraries of the Philippines - to conduct free hybrid sessions with CPD for librarians
- Philippine Librarians Association, Inc. - National Capital Region Librarians Council - to conduct free hybrid sessions with CPD for librarians
- Taguig Libraries Consortium - to establish collaborative partnership among DOST-STII Library, TUP-Taguig Learning Resource Center, TCU Library, PUP-Taguig Library and TWC Learning Resource Center, through resource sharing and capacity building

STARBOOKS

- Office of Civil Defense - to provide DRRM-related materials for STARBOOKS contents
- LIKAS Morong and SDO Rizal, Morong Sub-Office - to organize the installation of STARBOOKS to 14 identified beneficiary schools in the Municipality of Morong, Rizal
- Schools Division Office of Valenzuela - to organize the installation of STARBOOKS for 16 school beneficiaries in Valenzuela City
- Mountain Support PH, Inc. - to donate solar-powered ICT equipment worth Php 293,000.00 to two IP schools in Oriental Mindoro
- Schools Division Office of San Carlos City - to organize the installation of STARBOOKS for 24 school beneficiaries in SDO San Carlos City
- Colegio de Sto. Tomas - Recoletos - to organize the installation of STARBOOKS for 14 affiliated schools of CST-R
- Schools Division Office of Bacoor - to organize the installation of STARBOOKS for 27 school beneficiaries in SDO Bacoor
- G-XChange Inc. - to provide financial literacy materials for the content of STARBOOKS
- Schools Division Office of Caloocan - to organize the installation of STARBOOKS for 89 school beneficiaries in SDO Caloocan
- Revlv Solutions Inc. - to donate 10 STARLink Units with a one-year subscription and one Travel case for the operation of STARBOOKS in the regions and provinces
- Cerebro Solutions Inc. - to provide CPD points during the 2024 STARBOOKS Convention
- Siquijor State College (SSC) - to provide digital copy of the DOST-PCHRD funded research led by Dr. Josel B. Mansueto on the Documentation of Traditional Health Knowledge and Practices of Siquijor Island collection without any fee to be included in the STARBOOKS offline and online database
- DOST-Philippine Council for Health Research and Development (DOST-PCHRD) - in coordination with DOST-STII and SSC regarding the collection and processing of Traditional Knowledge and Practices on the health of Siquijor Island before uploading to the STARBOOKS database
- DOST-National Capital Region - to fund STARBOOKS package for 15 selected public schools in Taguig City
- Schools Division Office of Makati - to organize the installation of STARBOOKS for 20 school beneficiaries in SDO Makati
- Department of Agriculture - National Fisheries Research and Development Institute (DA-NFRDI) - to provide digital copy of DA-NFRDI collection without any fee to be featured in the STARBOOKS offline and online database
- Department of Agriculture - Agricultural Credit Policy Council (DA-ACPC) - to provide digital copy of the ACPC IEC (Information, Education, and Communication) materials collection without any fee to be included in the STARBOOKS offline and online database
- Philippine Business for Education (PBE) - to provide digital copy of the Sibika.ph modules and videos without any fee to be included in the STARBOOKS offline and online database



The consistent dialogue and exchange of ideas to advocate science, technology, and innovation to the public came to fruition as DOST-STII inked 21 partnerships through DOST-STII Library and STARBOOKS.





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Communication Resources and Production Division (CRPD)





The Communication Resources and Production Division (CRPD) is a comprehensive communication production service that offers a wide range of multiplatform communication products, from news to new media information resources, all designed to meet the needs of various audiences. The CRPD acts as a bridge between experts and the public, providing an array of communication and information products suitable for individuals of all ages and backgrounds.

ST&I PROMOTION SERVICES

The CRPD, through the Content Development and Editorial Section, manages several social media pages on Facebook, X, and Instagram. These include the DOST-Science and Technology Information Institute, DOST Philippines, Science Journo Ako, the National Science and Technology Week (NSTW), and the Philippine Journal of Science (PJS), among others.

In contrast to its performance in 2023, social media metrics saw significant increases this year: posts surged by 111%, from 2,798 to 5,912; reach increased by 32%, from 20,141,443 to 26,608,793; and engagements rose by 15%, from 23,049,279 to 26,608,133.

Additionally, mobile applications experienced remarkable growth, with active users of the DOST app increasing by 213%, from 3,858 to 12,085, and DOSTv users rising by 75%, from 4,769 to 8,328.

On the publicity end, the CRPD developed communication plans for both the National Science and Technology Week (NSTW) and the National Youth Science, Technology, and Innovation Festival (NYSTIF). The Division also published 10 articles to promote the HANDA Pilipinas campaign, a significant DOST initiative, and created 16 social media posts for the 2025 Oras Pinas campaign, which began in December 2024 and concluded in the first week of the following year.

Another initiative involved the crafting of the DOST-wide communication plan, which was submitted to the Office of the Assistant Secretary for Technology Transfer, Communications, and Commercialization in November 2024 for further review by the DOST Management.

Stories on science, technology, and innovation were published in the form of press and photo releases, as well as articles in four quarterly issues of the S&T Post magazine, and in 12 issues of both the DOST Digest and Balitang RapiDOST e-newsletters.

Under the Science Journo Ako advocacy, 18 training workshop sessions were conducted to equip 888 aspiring science journalists across various regions of the country:

- ✓ ScicommUstahan sa Ismael Mathay Sr. HS
- ✓ Science Journo Ako Goes to CEU!
- ✓ Science Journo Ako Goes to Bohol,
- ✓ Science Journo Ako Goes to Koronadal
- ✓ Science Journo Ako Goes to Lucena
- ✓ Science Journo Ako Goes to Catanduanes
- ✓ Science Journo Ako Goes to Davao Region
- ✓ Science Journo Ako Goes to Aklan
- ✓ Science Journo Ako Goes to Kolehiyo ng Dasma!
- ✓ Kwentuhan with SciComm Idols
- ✓ Introduction to Science Communication: a Webinar Series
- ✓ Science Journo Ako Goes to Albay Province
- ✓ Science Journo Ako Goes to Cebu Province
- ✓ Science Journo Ako Goes to USC Cebu
- ✓ Science Journo Ako Goes to Guimaras Province
- ✓ Science Journo Ako Goes to Lipa
- ✓ SciCommUstahan with School Paper Advisers sa Quezon!
- ✓ Science Journo Ako Goes to Nueva Ecija

Table No. 5: Science Journo Ako workshops





In promoting the NYSTIF, the number of press releases written about events doubled, increasing from 8 in 2023 to 16 this year. Social media once again played a pivotal role, showing impressive growth in various metrics:



-  Post count rose by 71%, from 62 to 106
-  Facebook page followers increased by 79%, from 2,629 to 4,698.
-  Facebook page visits surged by 101%, from 43,359 to 87,102
-  Facebook page reach grew by 98%, from 142,741 to 283,068
-  Daily total impressions rose by 12%, from 254,044 to 283,945
-  Daily total reach increased by 25%, from 227,317 to 283,068
-  The highest post reach skyrocketed by 276%, going from 28,702 to 107,942
-  Highest post reactions rose by 76%, from 302 to 532
-  Highest post comments increased by 24%, from 46 to 57.

Figure No. 3: Social media matrix for NYSTIF 2024

Promoting this year's National Science and Technology Week (NSTW) yielded remarkable results in the social media space compared to 2023.

There was a 48% increase in post count, rising from 181 to 267. The post reach grew by 17%, from 925,037 to 1,084,032. Engagements on Facebook increased by 16%, from 938,881 to 1,087,931, while webinar engagements saw a significant rise of 41%, from 278,671 to 392,871.

Additionally, there was a substantial 170% increase in press releases prepared as articles uploaded to both the NSTW website and the DOST app, with the number rising from 10 in 2023 to 27 this year. One thematic audio-visual production was also created for the campaign. However, it is important to note that views on the NSTW website decreased by 42%, dropping from 15,809 to 9,105. This may have been due to the preferential shift to social media on its target audience.

Although the number of videos posted on social media declined by 35%, from 20 to 13, the video views on Facebook compensated for this decline with an impressive increase of 221%, rising from 9,378 to 30,091.





The PJS Editorial Office published 214 peer-reviewed articles this year, which is comparable to the 215 published in 2023. Despite a 13% increase in the number of manuscripts received, from 510 in 2023 to 575 this year, the average duration of peer review remained consistent at 73 days. To manage the increased workload, the number of issues published was maintained at seven this year:

Vol. 153 No. 1 (February 2024 Issue)

Vol. 153 No. 2 (April 2024 Issue)

Vol. 153 No. 3 (June 2024 Issue)

Vol. 153 No. 4 (August 2024 Issue)

Vol. 153 No. 5 (October 2024 Issue)

Vol. 153 No. S1 (Special Issue 2024 on Philippine Nuclear Science and Technology Research)

Vol. 153 Nos. 6A and B (December 2024 Issue Parts A and B)

Proving its elite reputation among Philippine-based journals indexed by the Scopus database of Elsevier, the PJS Editorial Office raised its CiteScore from 1.2 in 2023 to 1.3 this year.

This improvement is attributed to an increase in its cumulative citation count, rising from 897 in 2023 to 1,064 as of December 2024, and an increase in cumulative document count, which grew from 761 in 2023 to 800 as of December 2024.

MEDIA ENGAGEMENTS

The Public Affairs Section (PAS) reported a significant rise year-on-year on news dissemination. Particularly for print media has increased by 61%, rising from 3,502 articles to 5,647; online sources saw a 44% rise, from 14,352 to 20,647; television coverage grew by 14%, from 795 to 904; and radio broadcasts jumped by 20%, from 381 to 457. As a result of these improvements, overall media value soared by 37%, rising from PHP 1.70 billion to nearly PHP 2.34 billion to compensate for the 18% decrease in media engagements for the year, including press conferences, radio, and television interviews, dropping from 524 in 2023 to 429 this year

Additionally, the PAS staff successfully coordinated a total of 63 media events and learning sessions for various DOST attached agencies and offices. Among the most notable events were the celebration of the Handa Pilipinas, NSTW, NYSTIF, and the launch of the Program PROPEL. They also hosted five media rounds aimed at strengthening partnerships with media organizations, as well as one annual gathering to review the DOST achievements and express gratitude to the media.

However, promoting the NYSTIF this year faced challenges, as several key indicators declined compared to 2023. Conducting press conferences was limited to one, down from two the previous year; there was a slight 14% drop in published news stories, from 50 to 43; and a 24% decrease in media value generated, which fell from nearly PHP 3.43 million to approximately PHP 2.60 million. On the other hand, there were significant increases in other areas, with a 500% rise in organized radio and TV interviews, increasing from 2 to 12, and a 120% increase in press releases disseminated to the media, from 5 to 11.

In contrast, promoting the NSTW this year generated approximately PHP 4.22 million in media value. This was achieved through 73 published news stories, 27 press releases disseminated, 32 radio and television interviews conducted, and 2 press conferences held.



The section was also successful in reviving the 2024 Bantog Awards for Science Communication. The awarding ceremonies garnered attention and contributed Php1,564,179 in media value with 25 news write ups published by 20 news organizations and online blog sites. It also had 37 posts, 4,451,138 in reach, and 449,854 in engagements.



DOSTv: SCIENCE FOR THE PEOPLE

The DOSTv channel serves as the primary source of broadcast information related to the Department of Science and Technology (DOST) and Science, Technology, and Innovation (ST&I). From 2023 to this year, it experienced a remarkable increase in audience engagement, which rose by 428%, from 1.78 million to 9.38 million viewers. Audience reach also grew significantly by 61%, increasing from 17.5 million to 28.07 million. Additionally, total views increased by 43%, rising from 2.10 million to 2.99 million. These impressive results were achieved despite a 6% decrease in the number of aired episodes, which fell from 157 to 147.

However, the segment “ExperTalk” faced a significant decline, with total views dropping by 68%, from 1.67 million to 541,457. This decline was primarily due to a 37% reduction in aired episodes, which decreased from 41 to 26. Despite this, “ExperTalk” saw its audience reach increase by 45%, rising from 1.29 million to 1.87 million, and audience engagement improved by 10%, going from 15,940 to 17,500 during online broadcasts.

In contrast, the segment “Siyensikat” aired a total of 26 episodes, generating an audience reach of 2.61 million, with total views of 510,681, and audience engagement of 12,885. Meanwhile, the “Bantay Bulkan” segment had 22 aired episodes, achieving an audience reach of 1.05 million, 373,841 total views, and audience engagement of 9,094.

Beyond its studio productions, DOSTv formed partnerships through memoranda of understanding with three organizations this year: Enchanted Kingdom, Revlv Solutions Incorporated, and the Film Development Council of the Philippines (FDCP). Additionally, DOSTv received multiple accolades, including seven awards: the Gandingan ng Kaunlaran, Kabataan, and Agrikultura Awards from the University of the Philippines Los Baños Community Broadcasters’ Society; the AnakTV Seal Awards for “DOST Report” and “ExperTalk”; the Best Children and Youth Program Award from the Catholic Mass Media Awards for “ExperTalk”; and the Philippines Campaign of the Year Award for Science and Technology from GovMedia.

AV SERVICES

The Audio-Visual Services Section reported a 10% decrease in requested audio-visual (AV) services, falling from 410 requests in 2023 to 369 this year. During the same period, the number of services delivered decreased by 19%, from 449 to 362.

Among the requested services, there were notable declines: photo coverage requests dropped by 9%, from 156 to 142; video coverage requests decreased by 6%, from 142 to 133; and AV technical setups, which include CCTV and audio-video services, saw a slight 5% decline, falling from 56 to 53. Other requested services included 15 video productions, 13 photo shoot productions, 6 video shoots, 5 photo shoots, and 2 clean-cut video reproductions.

Regarding services delivered, similar trends were observed: photo coverage deliveries fell by 12%, from 156 to 138; video coverage deliveries declined by 8%, from 141 to 130; and AV technical setups decreased by 5%, at 53. The services delivered also included 15 video productions, 13 photo shoot productions, 6 video shoots, 5 photo shoots, and 2 clean-cut video reproductions.



PUBLIC AWARENESS IN SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY INNOVATION (ST&I)

A year-end survey conducted by the Social Weather Station, which involved a sample of 2,160 Filipino adults from Metro Manila, Luzon, Visayas, and Mindanao, revealed that public awareness of science, technology, and innovation (ST&I) rose to 71%. This marks an increase of 36 percentage points from 35% in 2023. Moreover, this level of awareness shows a positive trend based on data reported between the third quarter of 2017 and the fourth quarter of 2024.



The public approval rating for the Department of Science and Technology (DOST) remained stable at +47 this year. The DOST's ten leading programs by level of public awareness for the current year are as follows:

1. Science and Technology Scholarship Program - 29%

2. DOSTv: Science for the People - 15%

3. Health Research and Development Information Network (HERDIN) - 14%

4. Community Empowerment through Science and Technology (CEST) - 13%

5. HANDA Pilipinas - 12%

6. Balik Scientist Program (BSP) - 10%

7. Enhanced Nutribun - 9% 8. Advanced Manufacturing (3D Printing) Center (AMCen) - 8%

9. Science for Change Program (S4CP) - 7%

10. One-stop Laboratory Services (One Lab) - 6%



CRPD

Communication Resources and Production Division

OFFICE OF THE CHIEF

RODOLFO P. DE GUZMAN

Chief Science Research Specialist

BRYAN RAY I. TORRES

Printing Machine Operator II

MARY CRYSTALLINE T. ARARACAP

Science Research Analyst

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Senior Science Research Specialist

JASMIN JOYCE S. CLARIN

Information Officer III

ALLAN MAURO V. MARFAL

Information Officer III

ALLYSTER A. ENDOZO

Information Officer III



ROSEMARIE C. SEÑORA
Science Research Specialist I

CARL MIGUEL A. LUSUEGRO
Science Research Specialist I

ANGELINE G. MIRA
Information Officer II (COS)

CARYL MARIA MINETTE I. ULAY
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RACHEL M. RIEZA
Information Officer I (COS)

CLAIRE BERNADETTE A. MONDARES
Information Officer II (COS)

KESHA SHUA V. LEOSALA
Information Officer I (COS)

VINCENT D. MORO
Science Research Specialist I (COS)

RUDY P. PAREL JR.
Information Officer II (COS)

PUBLIC AFFAIRS SECTION

KARENE E. RAMIREZ
Printing Machine Operator II

ABIGAIL S. OMAÑA
Science Research Analyst (COS)

KIM JANZEL D. OBDIN
Science Research Specialist I (COS)



CREATIVE SERVICES AND DESIGN SECTION

BENEDICT P. CAGAANAN
Supervising Science Research Specialist

MARIO B. BUARAO JR.
Science Research Specialist II

ANDREA MEI B. RESANE
Science Research Specialist II

FERDINAND D. CARTAS
Printing Machine Operator II

AUDIO-VISUAL SERVICES SECTION

GERARDO C. DE JESUS¹

Science Research Specialist II

HENRY A. DE LEON

Audio Visual Aids Technician IV

TEDDY R. AMANTE²

Audio Visual Aids Technician III

REINER M ZAGADA³

Audio Visual Aids Technician III

GERARDO G. PALAD⁴

Photographer II

LEVIE ROSE ANN S. MIRANDA

Information Officer II (COS)

ROBERTO B. MANUEL JR.

Science Research Specialist I (COS)



DOSTv

MA. LOTUSLEI P. DIMAGIBA

Supervising Science Research Specialist

RESTY R. BALILA

Information Officer III

CARMELA P. AGUISANDA

Information Officer II

DESSA D. MADERAL

Information Officer II

XYRUS IVAN B. DE GRACIA

Information Officer I

GELMI LIBERTY M. MIRANDA

Science Research Specialist II

JAPHET C. PAYPA

Information Officer I (COS)

INGRID JHAINE T. RABE

Science Research Specialist II (COS)

ESTHER KEZIAH M. RAPAS

Science Research Specialist I

SHARIZ MAE F. GRANDE

Science Research Specialist I

ZHAIRYN A. BENGWAYAN

Science Research Analyst (COS)

RALPH ERNEST R. SAMSON

Science Research Analyst

JOHN LOUVER P. PATRIARCA

Science Research Analyst (COS)

MARX LENNIN HALILI

Project Technical Assistant II (COS)

ARIES C. SORIANO JR.

Project Technical Assistant II (COS)

MICHAEL C. SERRANO

Project Technical Assistant VI (COS)

¹Gerardo De Jesus – retired effective 08 November 2024

²Teddy R. Amante – retired effective 01 August 2024

³Reiner M. Zagada – appointed effective 05 November 2024

⁴Gerardo G. Palad – retired effective 01 September 2024



The CRPD acts as a bridge between experts and the public, providing an array of communication and information products suitable for individuals of all ages and backgrounds.



Finance and Administrative Division (FAD)





OUTSTANDING FINANCIAL PERFORMANCE THROUGH THE YEARS

DOST-STII maintained an exceptional financial performance in 2024. As of December 2024, the Obligation Budget Utilization Rate (OBUR), which is the percentage of obligations over the total allotment, is 99% percent (PHP 144.157M/PHP 145.785M), while the Disbursement Budget Utilization Rate (DBUR), which is the percentage of disbursement over obligations (for the current year and continuing appropriations), is 88% percent (P126,608M/P144.157M). The Notice of Cash Allocation (NCA) Utilization Rate is 93% (P130,741M/P140.892M), which is the total disbursements, inclusive of disbursements related to Prior Year Unpaid Obligations, over DBM NCA release.

In 2024, Congress-introduced Changes/ Adjustments (CICA) were incorporated into the agency budget, totaling P20M. This allocation covers funding for three projects, specifically:

- 1) A Baseline Study on STARBOOKS Relevance and Effectiveness to the Stakeholders;
- 2) Competency-based Performance Management System; and
- 3) Sustaining an Intensified Strategic Science Communications in the now normal.

The overall Obligated Budget Utilization Rate (OBUR) for these projects stands at 99%, amounting to P19.863M out of the total budget of P20M.



Allotment, Obligations, and Disbursement CY 2020-2024 (In Thousands)

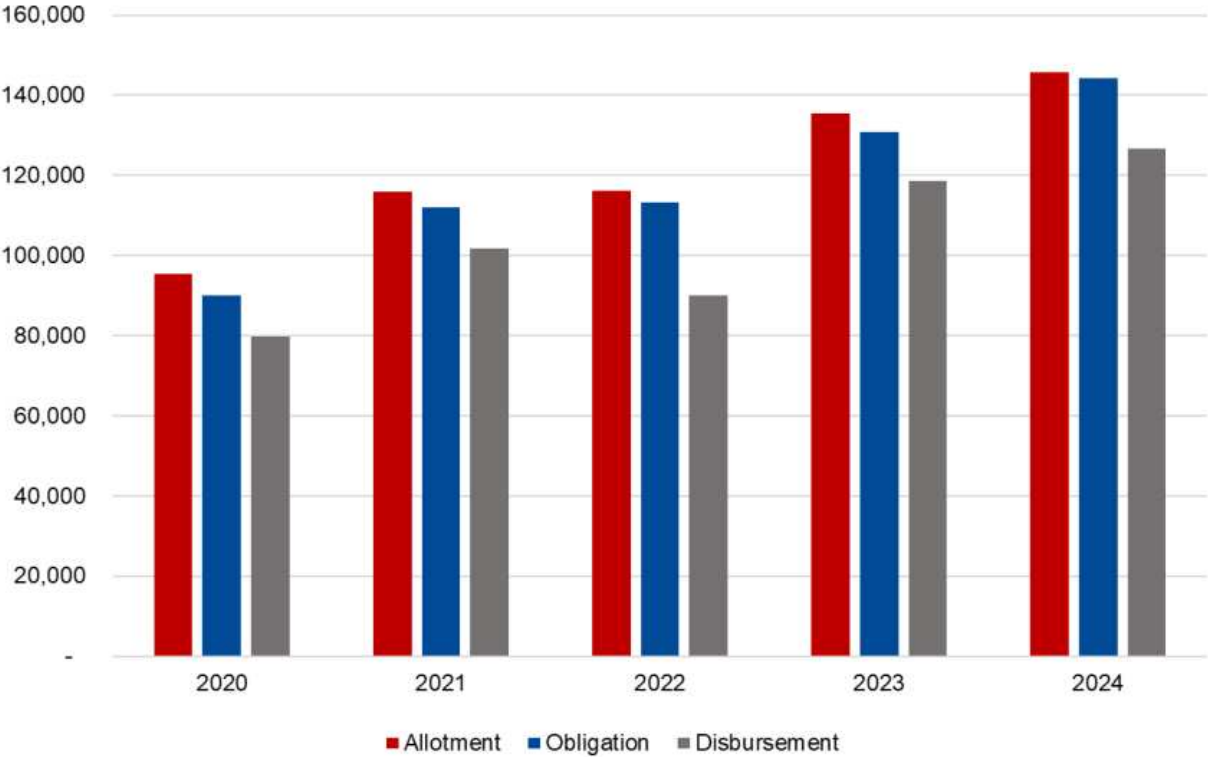


Figure No. 4: Allotment, Obligations, and Disbursement for 2024

ENDURING EXCELLENCE: COMMISSION ON AUDIT (COA) – FINANCIAL AUDIT RESULTS

For the third consecutive year, DOST-STII has once again received an UNQUALIFIED/UNMODIFIED audit opinion from the Commission on Audit (COA) for its financial reporting for the year 2023. Every midyear of the following year, the Commission releases the Annual Audit Report (AAR) containing the Independent Auditor's Report. This year, the AAR was released on 30 May 2024.

The coveted COA Unqualified/Unmodified Opinion has been given to DOST-STII for its financial reporting covering the calendar years 2019, 2021, 2022, and 2023. An Unqualified or Unmodified audit opinion is granted when an organization's financial statements are found to be presented fairly and accurately in all material respects, per applicable financial reporting frameworks, such as the Philippine Financial Reporting Standards (PFRS) and the International Public Sector Accounting Standards (IPSAS).

Achieving this reflects the institute's strong compliance with financial and accounting rules and regulations and effective internal controls. Further, it is another testament to the agency's pursuit of excellence and integrity, coupled with its commitment to upholding the highest standards of financial reporting and good governance.



STRENGTHENING TRANSPARENCY AND ACCOUNTABILITY: COMPLIANCE TO COA'S AUDIT RECOMMENDATION

Shortly after the release of the COA Annual Audit Report on 30 May 2024, DOST-STII was able to fully implement 10 out of 17 or 59% of the COA's Audit Recommendations not related to Property, Plant, and Equipment (PPE). This immediate compliance signifies the institute's continued dedication to promoting transparency and accountability in its financial, operational, and procedural aspects.

ISO RECERTIFICATION AUDIT

Another gain of the institute, under the Quality Management System (QMS) of DOST-STII, is the maintenance of its existing certification under ISO 9001:2015.

The agency has successfully passed the rigid external recertification audit conducted by the DQS Certification Philippines, Inc. on 15 November 2024 with zero non-compliance and nine (9) strengths recognized, to wit:

1. Management Review, KPM Monitoring, Performance Evaluation, Objectives, Improvement - There are commendable improvements implemented;

- a. DOST -STII Mobile Application (Implemented)
- b. Infographic of Citizens Charter on all frontline receiving areas
- c. PSCP-Public Service Continuity Plan Manual
- d. Digital Customer Survey – Customer Satisfaction Measurement Apps
- e. QMS Day- interactive employee educational program

2. Management Review, KPM Monitoring, Performance Evaluation, Objectives, Improvement - Commendable various excellent performance and achievement of awards recognized by the stakeholders;

3. Internal and External Issues, Risk and Opportunity Register, Interested parties their needs and expectations - Commendation for the various initiatives on the impact of climate change on the organization and its stakeholders



4. Competency and Awareness (HR) - Recognizing the shorthandedness of performance-based and thereby incorporating into individual's performance contribution to the whole organization through DOST-STII Competency Assessment Results for Supervisors and Staff of FAD

5. FAD-Purchasing, Property Management, Maintenance - Demonstrated improvement and action plan that reflects the result in Agency Rating 2.37 (2022) to Agency Rating 2.48 (2023) improvement in APCPI.

6. FAD-Purchasing, Property Management, Maintenance - Observance of gender sensitivity and Climate Change in the Other Requirements from Technical Specifications

7. Documentation and Publication of PSTA - Organization effectively analyses and evaluates data and information to continuously gauge performance and relevance of process/es

8. Provision of service in Publication of Philippine Journal of Science - Dedication to maintain quality and

efficiency of work is evident with the satisfactory results achieved – Consistent increase on the number of journal submissions through the years, as well as number of citations

9. Digitization and Library Circulation - The Library and Digitization process area housekeeping was found to be satisfactorily appropriate and sufficient for the activities. Also noted a good practice of posting visual exhibits of process steps of activities and tasks in the process area

DOST-STII received its first certification in 2018 and has undergone the required annual surveillance audit for seven consecutive years. Previous surveillance audits were passed with flying colors.



FROM ADAPTING TO ENDURING EXCELLENCE: UPHOLDING QUALITY MANAGEMENT STANDARDS

Aside from the hard work of the DOST-STII QMS Team, the continuous capacity-building of internal auditors, sub-committees, process owners, and employees also supported the maintenance of the existing certification.

QMS Day

On 26 September 2024, DOST-STII successfully conducted its first-ever Quality Management System (QMS) Day, an activity that combined learning, collaboration, and innovation. Designed to refresh and deepen employees' understanding of QMS principles, the activity highlighted practical applications and the importance of compliance in everyday tasks. During the recertification audit last November 2024, external auditors commended QMS Day as a best practice, recognizing it as a creative and impactful approach for promoting and sustaining organizational excellence.

Awareness Seminar on ISO 9001:2015

As the institute welcomed new employees who will help bring science closer to the people, the need to introduce them to a citizen-focused and high-quality service through the standards of Quality Management System also arose. With this, an Awareness Seminar on ISO 9001:2015 was conducted on 17 October 2024 for the new employees to have a better understanding of ISO 9001:2015.

Training on ISO 19011:2018 Guidelines for Auditing Management Systems

The training on ISO 19011:2018 Guidelines for Auditing Management Systems is essential for the employees involved in the auditing processes of the institute. This was highlighted during a surveillance audit conducted by external auditors, citing the necessity of aligning auditing practices with ISO 19011:2018.

The training, conducted on 24-27 June 2024, provided guidance to internal auditors and process owners alike on auditing management systems, including the principles of auditing, managing audit programs, conducting audits, and evaluating the competence of individuals involved in the audit process.



STRENGTHENING TRANSPARENCY AND ACCOUNTABILITY: COMPLIANCE WITH THE FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT

DOST-STII continues to fully adhere to the Freedom of Information (FOI) Act as the FOI Program compliance of DOST-STII remains at 100%. Reports related to FOI, including the Agency Information Inventory, 2024 FOI Registry, and 2024 FOI Summary Report for Quarters 1 to 4 of CY 2024, were submitted on time to the PCOO-Project Management Office.

As part of the ongoing efforts to enhance accessibility, DOST-STII also launched its very own FOI Corner on 11 December 2024. The initiative aims to provide the public with easier access to government documents.

IGNITING PROGRESS: SUCCESSFUL EARLY PROCUREMENT ACTIVITIES FOR A STRONGER CY 2025

DOST-STII has successfully undertaken Early Procurement Activities (EPA) for a substantial 94.20% of the overall value of eligible Procurement Projects (EPP) per the agency’s Indicative Annual Procurement Plan, consistent with the National Expenditure Program for Fiscal Year 2025. The details are outlined below:



ARISE IN ACTION: DOST-STII’S VEHICLE DONATION EMPOWERS DOST REGION VI

DOST-STII donated one (1) unit of Toyota Hi-Ace Commuter to the Department of Science and Technology (DOST) Region VI. This generous gesture was made in recognition of the challenges faced by DOST Region VI in ensuring effective transportation for the implementation of various science and technology programs across the region. The turnover ceremony for the donated vehicle took place on April 4, 2024.

PROJECT TITLE	VALUE OF EPPs	REMARKS
Security Services for CY 2025	2,032,560.24	Awarded
Janitorial Services for CY 2025	1,534,584.60	Awarded
One (1) Lot Printing of DOST-STII Publications for CY 2025	1,725,400.00	Awarded
Commissioning of Conduct of DOST S&T Awareness Survey for CY 2025	1,200,000.00	Awarded
Procurement of DOST-STII ICT Equipment for CY 2025	2,506,000.00	Awarded
Production and Promotion of STARBOOKS Campaign in Social Media Platforms for CY 2025	1,100,000.00	Awarded
Social Media Advertising and Online Marketing for DOSTv Online Platforms for CY 2025	2,000,000.00	Awarded
Media Monitoring Services for CY 2025	1,500,000.00	Awarded
Supply and Installation of Conventional Fire Detection and Alarm System (FDAS) For CY 2025	1,210,000.00	Awarded
Supply, Delivery, and Installation of Mobile Compactor System for CY 2025	2,856,000.00	Awarded
Procurement of Various Software Subscriptions for CY 2025	1,087,000.00	Not Undertaken
Total Value of EPA:	18,751,544.84	
Total Value of Successful EPA:	17,664,544.84	
EPA Rating:	94.20%	

Table No. 6: 2024 Procurement Activities

SCIENCE COMMUNICATION ADVOCACY AND LIBRARY EDUCATION UPSKILLING PROGRAM (SCALEUP)

Over the years, the institute has conducted numerous training sessions, workshops, and webinars for its stakeholders, including librarians, teachers, students, and internal staff. These initiatives were effectively delivered by employees from both the technical and administrative divisions of DOST-STII. Despite consistently receiving highly satisfactory feedback and evaluation from participants, a training-workshop on Full Cycle Learning and Development was conducted to prevent and/or address potential challenges in experience or formal training of the Training Managers, Training Specialists, and Subject Matter Experts.

As a result, DOST-STII has grown to become a strong advocate in the field of science communication and library information, fulfilling its first and second mandates. However, with the aim of further institutionalizing its third mandate and after years of a cycle of planning,

execution, and setbacks, DOST-STII formally launched the Science Communication Advocacy and Library Education Upskilling Program or SCALEUP during its 38th Anniversary celebration last 11 June 2024. The program is established to offer training in the fields of information and communication, aligning with the institute's core competencies. Along with SCALEUP's launch are the many firsts of DOST-STII (see tables below).

The SCALEUP Manual of Operations is also in the works, which will further strengthen DOST-STII's realization of its third mandate towards "Empowering Minds, Bridging Science and Society".

Table No. 7: Pilot Test of SCALEUP Training Courses

DIVISION/SECTION	TITLE OF THE TRAINING	DATE CONDUCTED
IRAD - STARBOOKS	Navigating STARBOOKS Through User-Centric Learning	15 February 2024
CRPD - CDES	Science Journo Ako: Creating Engaging Science Stories through Multimedia Platform	27 February 2024
IRAD - Library	Make you Library Alive (MYLA): Basic Training for Library-in-Charge	20 March 2024
CRPD - DOSTv	Lights, Camera, Rolling! A Creative Workshop of Video Production for Beginners	11-12 April 2024
IRAD - Library	Preservation Resources for Integrated Sharing and Maintenance (PRISM): A Foundation Course on Digitization and Digital Preservation	13, 16, & 17 December 2024

Table No. 8: Training Courses for Public Offering

TITLE OF THE TRAINING	DATE CONDUCTED	VENUE/PARTICIPANTS
Lights, Camera, Rolling! A Creative Workshop of Video Production for Beginners	11-12 September 2024	- Dr. Arcadio Santos National High School, Parañaque City - Senior High School Students from Dr. Arcadio Santos National High School
Science Journo Ako: Creating Engaging Science Stories through Multimedia Platform	01-02 October 2024	- STII Training Room - Senior High School Students from Dr. Arcadio Santos National High School and Governor Ferrer Memorial Integrated National High School
Make you Library Alive (MYLA): Basic Training for Library-in-Charge	05-06 November 2024	- STII Training Room - Non-Librarians from Our Lady of Fatima University

ADAPT, RISE, EXCEL: DOST-STII'S COMMITMENT TO CONTINUOUS LEARNING

DOST-STII is committed to providing its employees an avenue for their ongoing journey of growth and development, thereby continuously enhancing their ability to deliver top-notch service to stakeholders through the following learning and development interventions:

These training programs were aimed at addressing the identified competency gaps of DOST-STII employees, ensuring that they are well-equipped to meet the evolving demands of their roles. By addressing these gaps, the institute not only empowers its workforce to achieve personal and professional growth but also enhances the overall productivity and efficiency of the organization.

TITLE	Date
Training-Workshop on Change Agility and Innovation	29 February 2024
Strategic Project Management	02-03 May 2024
2024 DOST-STII Team Development Activity	13-14 June 2024
Strategic Thinking for Leaders	01-02 August 2024
Capability-building Sessions on Competency-Based Performance Management System (CBPMS)	14-16 October 2024
Popularized Science Writing	29-30 October 2024

Table No. 9: Learning and Development Interventions



MAINTAINING A HEALTHY AND SAFE WORKPLACE

The Department of Science and Technology – Science and Technology Information Institute (DOST-STII) recognizes the critical importance of ensuring a safe and healthy workplace for its employees. By fostering a secure and supportive environment, DOST-STII aims to enhance employee well-being, productivity, and overall organizational effectiveness. To uphold this commitment, a series of comprehensive programs and initiatives were implemented throughout 2024.

Occupational Health Monitoring

In 2024, DOST-STII successfully maintained a workplace free from occupational accidents. However, three cases of chickenpox were reported in March. The institute promptly addressed these cases by providing assistance and necessary leave to the affected employees. Additionally, staff were informed about preventive measures to minimize further spread, and workplace sanitation practices were enhanced during the outbreak. These

efforts helped prevent additional cases and ensured the safety and health of all employees.

Mental Health Assistance and Advocacy

The DOST-STII continued to support employees' mental health by referring one individual to the Taguig Mental Health Program for specialized medical care. Additionally, the institute organized a Mental Health Awareness Seminar on 10 October 2024, which covered topics such as recognizing the signs of mental health issues, stress management techniques, and available resources for seeking help. This seminar emphasized the importance of mental well-being and fostered an open and supportive workplace culture, encouraging employees to seek assistance when needed.

Orientation on the OSH Manual

On 24 April 2024, an orientation on the Occupational Safety and Health (OSH) Manual was held to familiarize employees with the key principles and practices of workplace safety and health. The session aimed to educate participants on the importance of following OSH guidelines, understanding potential hazards, and implementing preventive measures.

This manual serves as a guide for all personnel in the development, implementation, monitoring, and evaluation of occupational safety and health policies, procedures, and programs within the agency.

Health and Wellness Activities

In 2024, the Department of Science and Technology - Science and Technology Information Institute (DOST-STII) showcased its commitment to health and wellness through activities that promoted employee well-being, community engagement, and teamwork.

Recognizing public health efforts while also aiming to foster employee altruism and camaraderie, two mobile blood donation drives were successfully conducted last year. The first drive took place on 13 February and successfully collected 50 blood units. The second drive, held on 11 September, yielded 28 blood units.





To promote relaxation and alleviate stress among employees, free therapeutic massage and haircut services were offered on 19 March and 25 September 2024.

On 21 March, a seminar on urban gardening was conducted, introducing employees to sustainable gardening practices and empowering them to grow their own vegetables and herbs for a healthier lifestyle.

Additionally, on 15 May 2024, a breast cancer awareness seminar emphasized the importance of early detection, self-examination techniques, and available medical resources for the prevention and treatment of breast cancer. Health workers from Taguig City also conducted the first level of breast cancer screening.

In September 2024, as part of Civil Service Month, DOST-STII organized an indoor sports fest featuring various games that promoted physical fitness, teamwork, and employee engagement.

Immunization Programs

From the first to the second quarter of 2024, influenza and HPV vaccines were administered to employees. This initiative aimed to reduce the risk of flu outbreaks within the workplace and provide long-term protection against HPV-related illnesses, ensuring a healthier workforce.

Dengue Prevention and Control

On 31 May 2024, misting and fogging operations were conducted in partnership with the Taguig City Health and Sanitation Office. These efforts aimed to reduce the risk of dengue transmission by eliminating mosquito breeding grounds. This proactive approach contributed to a safer and more hygienic workplace.

Mandatory Random Drug Testing

A random drug testing activity was conducted on 08 August 2024, involving 26 employees. This effort ensured compliance with workplace safety standards and promoted a drug-free environment, reinforcing DOST-STII's commitment to maintaining a safe and productive workplace.





Disaster and Emergency Preparedness

To improve disaster preparedness, hard hats and emergency go-bags were distributed to all employees. The go-bags contained essential first-aid supplies, emergency food and water rations, flashlights, and whistles for signaling during emergencies. These supplies ensured that employees were ready to respond effectively in unforeseen situations.

Employees actively participated in the Nationwide Simultaneous Earthquake Drill, demonstrating their preparedness and response capabilities during simulated emergency scenarios. Regular drills helped enhance their ability to act swiftly and efficiently in real emergencies.

Additionally, on 08 August 2024, a seminar on hydrometeorological and geological hazards was held. This seminar educated employees about the potential risks associated with natural disasters and provided practical advice on mitigation strategies.

DOST-STII's comprehensive initiatives in 2024 reflect its unwavering commitment to maintaining a healthy and safe workplace. Through proactive health monitoring, employee wellness programs, and emergency preparedness activities, the institute has successfully fostered a secure and supportive work environment.

Moving forward, DOST-STII will continue to prioritize the health and safety of its workforce, ensuring resilience and well-being in the years to come.

CELEBRATING EXCELLENCE AND STRENGTHENING A CULTURE OF RECOGNITION

Rewards and recognition programs play a key role in creating a culture of excellence within an organization.

Acknowledging and appreciating employees' efforts and achievements encourages employees to strive for top performance.

These not only boost productivity but also foster innovation and promote positive behaviors, contributing to a more motivated and engaged workforce.

On 14 March 2024, the enhanced DOST-STII Program on Awards and Incentives for Service Excellence was approved by the Civil Service Commission – National Capital Region. Among the changes in the Program are the inclusion of new awards—Rookie Rockstar of the Year and Top Performing Delivery Unit of the Year—and the revision of the categories for the Directors Award for Excellence.

As such, for the seventh year of implementation of the DOST-STII Program on Awards and Incentives for Service Excellence (PRAISE), six (6) employees of the agency were conferred with Director's Award for Excellence for their notable performance and behavior for CY 2023, sixteen (16) were recognized as Director's Award for Excellence nominees, five (5) were presented with the Loyalty Award, and one (1) was given the Retirement Award. Additionally, one (1) team and one (1) individual were conferred with Achievement Awards, six (6) teams and eleven (11) individuals were presented with the "U" Make a Difference Award, one (1) newly hired employee was given the Rookie

Rockstar of the Year, and one (1) Division was awarded the Top Performing Delivery Unit of the Year.

The "Strongest Link Award" was given to one (1) DOST-STII exemplar to recognize their outstanding and significant contributions to the institute even if they miss the cut for the PRAISE Director's Award for Excellence. The Award consists of a gold chain procured by the Director himself and conferred as a highlight of the PRAISE Awards Ceremony.

Last 11 June 2024, the exemplars and loyalty awardees were recognized with a Plaque of Recognition/Certificate and/or modest cash/token award during the 37th DOST-STII Anniversary held at the Heritage Hotel Manila. The ceremony was graced by various partners and stakeholders.

The DOST-STII PRAISE was adopted in adherence to the Civil Service Commission's Resolution No. 010112, CSC Memorandum Circular No. 01 s. 2001, and DOST Administrative Order No. 021 s. 2016. It aims to recognize and reward personnel—individually and/or in groups—for their creativity, suggestions, innovative ideas, inventions, discoveries, superior accomplishments, heroic deeds, exemplary behavior, extraordinary acts or services to the public interest and other personal efforts which contribute to the efficiency, economy, and improvement in government operations, which in turn leads to organizational productivity.



2023 DOST-STII PRAISE AWARDEES

(Awarded on CY 2024)

Director's Award



Manager of the Year

Rodolfo P. de Guzman
Chief Science Research Specialist

Supervisor of the Year

Lynderlitte M. Maglaque
Supervising Science Research Specialist





Technical Staff Level 2 of the Year

Marievic V. Narquita
Science Research Specialist II

Technical Staff Level 1 of the Year

Elmer B. Generalao
Science Research Assistant



Support Staff Level 2 of the Year

Jean B. Arabes
Administrative Officer IV

Support Staff Level 1 of the Year

Maria L. Ardieta
Administrative Aide I



Director's Award Nominees

Manager of the Year

Arlene E. Centeno, Chief Administrative Officer

Alan C. Taule, Chief Science Research Specialist

Supervisor of the Year

Resty R. Balila, Information Officer III

Alfon B. Narquita, Senior Science Research Specialist

Allyster A. Endozo, Information Officer III

Ma. Lotuslei P. Dimagiba, Supervising Science Research Specialist

Marites B. Pablo, Administrative Officer V

Ma. Aurora Fe L. Dayangco, Accountant III

Technical Staff Level 2 of the Year

Xyrus Ivan B. De Gracia, Information Officer I

Carmela P. Aguisanda, Information Officer II

Louella L. Pestaño, Science Research Specialist I

Arjay C. Escondo, Information Systems Researcher III

Nelly A. Ngangay, Science Research Specialist II

Support Staff Level 1 of the Year

Avegail T. Canonce, Administrative Aide IV

Lloyd Frederick R. Mandapat, Science Research Specialist II

Riza C. Francia, Administrative Officer II

Loyalty Award

20 years in service

Ferdinand D. Cartas, Printing Machine Operator II

20 years in service

Marievic V. Narquita, Supervising Science Research Specialist

20 years in service

Geraldine B. Ducusin, Supervising Science Research Specialist

25 years in service

Ma. Teresa M. Rosqueta, Administrative Officer V

30 years in service

Arlene E. Centeno, Chief Administrative Officer

Retirement Award

Hannah T. Barrientos, Administrative Aide I

“U” Make A Difference Award

Energy Conservation Committee

Lloyd Frederick Mandapat, Reiner Zagada, Michael Binondo

Audio-Visual Team

STARBOOKS Deployment Team for the BPI Foundation, Inc.

Accounting Section

4PM Band

Marites B. Pablo

Riza C. Francia

Jean Marie C. Errasquin

Lady Shayne Y. Morales

Ralph Ernest Samson

Resty R. Balila

Ronna Mae T. Pamilacan

Xyrus Ivan De Gracia

Humprey C. Lebrilla

Carmela P. Aguisanda

Michael Binondo



Achievement Award

DOSTv: Science for the People

Richard P. Burgos

Rookie Rockstar of the Year

Chester G. Francisco

Top Performing Delivery Unit of the Year

Finance and Administrative Division

Strongest Link Award

Marites B. Pablo



PROFILE of DOST-STII Employees

as of 31 December 2024



54% Female

36 Permanent
24 COS
0 Contractual



25 Permanent
18 COS
1 Contractual

EDUCATIONAL ATTAINMENT



Figure No. 5: DOST-STII employees profile

NEW AND PROMOTED DOST-STII EMPLOYEES



Kinessa Denise T. Chispa
Planning Officer III, OD-MISPS
Original



Louella L. Pestaño
Science Research Specialist II, IRAD-ISS
Promotion



Chester G. Francisco
Information Technology Officer I, OD-MISPS
Promotion



Reiner M. Zagada
Audio-Visual Aids Technician II, CRPD-AVS
Original



Mark Jayson U. Sison
Information Systems Analyst II, OD-MISPS
Promotion



Andrea Mei B. Resane
Science Research Specialist II, CRPD-CSDS
Original



Resty R. Balila
Information Officer III, CRPD-DOSTv
Reappointment



Trisha Mae C. Astrologo
Administrative Assistant I, FAD-Cashier
Original



Carmela P. Aguisanda
Information Officer II, CRPD-DOSTv
Reappointment



Joy M. Lazcano
Senior Science Research Specialist, CRPD-CDES
Promotion



Dessa D. Maderal
Information Officer II, CRPD-DOSTv
Reappointment



Ann Kristine A. Lagman
Administrative Officer V, FAD-HR
Transfer-Promotion



Karene E. Ramirez
Printing Machine Operator II, CRPD-PAS
Reappointment



Etienne Wayne N. Amparado
Science Research Specialist I, OD-MISPS
Original



Carl Miguel A. Lusuegro
Science Research Specialist I, CRPD-CDES
Original



Marx Lennin G. Halili
Science Research Specialist II, CRPD-AVS
Original



Rommel M. Azucena Jr.
Science Research Specialist I, IRAD-ISS
Original



Ma. Giselle M. Geraldino
Science Research Specialist I, IRAD-ISS
Original



Kyla Maria O. Faller
Administrative Officer II, FAD-HR
Original



Grace Ann M. Valondo
Science Research Specialist II, IRAD-Library
Promotion



FAD

Finance and Administration Division

OFFICE OF THE CHIEF

ARLENE E. CENTENO
Chief Administrative Officer

ACCOUNTING SECTION

MA. AURORA FE L. DAYANGCO
Accountant III

JEAN B. ARABES
Administrative Officer IV

JELMA P. MADERA
Administrative Aide I

GERRYVI MAE V. CRISOLOGO
Administrative Officer III

WENIE P. MONTES
Administrative Officer III

HAINA I. MAÑAGO
Project Administrative Aide III

MARITES F. BON
Administrative Officer II

SARAH JANE F. RUGA
Administrative Assistant II



BUDGET SECTION

BENILA B. BUEMIA
Administrative Officer V

JOZAH L. AVANZADO
Administrative Officer IV

MARIA L. ARDIETA
Administrative Aide I

CASHIER SECTION

MARITES B. PABLO
Administrative Officer V

TRISHA MAE C. ASTROLOGO
Administrative Assistant I

ABIA P. DYCAUSING
Administrative Assistant I

DAISY G. SUMILHIG
Administrative Assistant II



GENERAL SERVICES AND PROPERTY SECTION

JONA M. BERNAL
Administrative Officer V

PHILIP S. TUMBALI
Administrative Officer IV

RIZA C. FRANCIA
Administrative Officer I

AVEGAIL T. CANONCE
Administrative Aide IV

RACHEL DIANA S. MESIAS
Administrative Aide IV

ROSEFIL J. MALINAO
Administrative Officer II

AERONE DOMINHICK F. SEBASTIAN
Administrative Assistant I

HUMPREY C. LEBRILLA
Administrative Assistant I

ESMERALDO S. ESTORNINOS
Driver Courier II

SIMPLETON S. IGUIZ
Administrative Aide IV

Wenie P. Montes – resigned effective 06 April 2024
Abia P. Dycausing – resigned effective 25 October 2024
Humphrey C. Lebrilla – resigned effective 02 September 2024
Ma. Kristine B. Reyes – transferred effective 04 November 2024

HUMAN RESOURCES SECTION

ANN KRISTINE A. LAGMAN

Administrative Officer V

MA. KRISTINE B. REYES

Administrative Officer V

PRECIOUS GAYLE ARIELLE C. BALGUA

Administrative Officer IV

KYLA MARIA O. FALLER

Administrative Officer II

RUTH L. DONDOYANO

Administrative Officer II

LADY SHAYNE Y. MORALES

Nurse I

JULIE ANN R. SALILLAS

Administrative Officer II

NEVEN EARL E. ALIGAN

Administrative Assistant II



RECORDS SECTION

MA. TERESA M. ROSQUETA

Administrative Officer V

JEAN MARIE C. ERRASQUIN

Administrative Officer I

LADISLA D. QUINDOYOS

Reproduction Machine Operator III-A



COMMITTEE REPORT

DOST STILL



KEEPING A SAFE SPACE ENVIRONMENT FOR EVERYONE

DOST-STII is committed to providing a safe environment, where sexual harassment in any form is unequivocally unacceptable. In line with Republic Act No. 11313, also known as the Safe Spaces Act or the “Bawal Bastos” Law, enacted in April 2019, the agency has intensified its efforts against gender-based sexual harassment. This is guided by the Committee on Decorum and Investigation (CODI) and its Manual, which was developed in 2023.



The Safe Spaces Act protects individuals from gender-based sexual harassment occurring in public spaces, educational or training institutions, workplaces, and online environments.

The law establishes protective measures and prescribes penalties for offenders. To promote awareness of these laws, DOST-STII held a reorientation event titled “Promoting Awareness and Fostering a Safe Workplace—Reorientation on RA 11313 and Other Related Laws” on 12 November 2024. All DOST-STII employees attended, along with representatives from the security and janitorial service providers, as well as the DOST-STII building contractors.

Additionally, the CODI Manual was presented during a “Lakbay-Aral” session to the Committee on Persons with Disability and the YAKAP Center in Taguig.

MAINSTREAMING GENDER AND DEVELOPMENT IN THE WORKPLACE

The year 2024 marked significant progress for Gender and Development (GAD) initiatives at DOST-STII, underscoring its commitment to promoting an inclusive and equitable workplace for all.

In celebration of National Women's Month, the agency organized a series of activities that highlighted the important contributions of women to the advancement of science and technology in the country.

To further its efforts in combating gender-based violence, DOST-STII conducted an 18-Day Campaign to End Violence Against Women (VAW). This initiative culminated in the 2024 Gender Sensitivity Training for newly hired employees, equipping them with the knowledge necessary to foster a gender-sensitive work environment.

DOST-STII also achieved third place in the DOST Attached Agency category during the Gender Mainstreaming Awards, which took place at the GAD Focal Point Assembly during the 2024 National Science and Technology Week at the Limketkai Center in Cagayan de Oro City, Misamis Occidental.

Looking ahead, the Gender and Development Year-end Planning Workshop for CY 2025 has been established to lay the groundwork for future initiatives, ensuring continuity and innovation in the agency's programs.



**These efforts
reflect
DOST-STII's
commitment
to creating a
gender-sensitive
community.**



EMPOWERING PERSONS WITH SPECIAL NEEDS

The Persons With Disability Committee made significant progress by benchmarking and conducting inclusive activities aimed at empowering individuals with physical challenges.

On 01 August 2024, the committee visited the Valenzuela City Public Library to examine its collections, services, and facilities for persons with disabilities (PWD), exploring options for potential adoption at DOST-STII.

To further engage PWD individuals and promote DOST-STII's services, the committee organized a "Lakbay Aral" (Educational Trip) on 26 November 2024 for the 119 PWD learners and their parents or guardians from the YAKAP Center in Taguig City. During this event, the Science Communication Advocacy and Library Education Upskilling Program (SCALEUP) was introduced to encourage participation. Additionally, the DOST-STII Manual on the Committee on Decorum and Investigation for Sexual Harassment Cases (CODI) was presented to inform participants about the mechanisms in place to ensure compliance with the Republic Act 11313, also known as the Safe Spaces Act of 2019.

Through these initiatives, many individuals shared their personal experiences, inspiring fellow PWDs to participate in programs that empower them through continuous learning, resource development, knowledge sharing, and community engagement.



STII-EA 2024 ACCOMPLISHMENTS

The Science and Technology Information Institute Employees Association (STII-EA) achieved several milestones in 2024, showcasing its commitment to advancing organizational goals and improving services for its members. Below is a detailed summary of the accomplishments of the association for the year.

Creation of the New STII-EA Board of Directors (FY 2024-2027)

In 2024, a successful election was conducted that led to the establishment of the new STII-EA Board of Directors for the fiscal years 2024-2027. The elected officers are as follows:

President: Ms. Louella L. Pestaño

Executive Vice President: Ms. Irene A. Brillo

Vice President for External Affairs: Mr. Arjay C. Escondo

Vice President for Internal Affairs: Ms. Lynderlitte C. Maglaque

Treasurer: Mr. Jonathan Abalon

Credit Committee Chair: Ms. Benila B. Buemia

Secretary: Ms. Jasmin Joyce S. Clarin



The STII-EA FY 2024-2027. (From L-R): Benila B. Buemia, Jonathan Abalon (top, L), Arjay C. Escondo (top, R) Louella L. Pestaño, Jasmin Joyce S. Clarin, and Irene A. Brillo. Photo from Henry A. de Leon, DOST-STII

Development of employee platforms and policy are aligned with the institute's aim to modernize services.

Completion of Phase 1 of the STII-EA Web Portal

Another pivotal achievement in 2024 was the completion of Phase 1 of the STII-EA Web Portal. This digital platform introduces a streamlined, secure, and user-friendly system for financial transactions, revolutionizing how members interact with the association's services. During their term, the STII-EA aims to continue the rest of the development of the Web Portal.

Introduction of e-Signature Policy

In a bid to modernize operations and improve efficiency, the STII-EA approved a resolution on the use of electronic signatures for official documents, which is a first for the association.

Inclusion of the STII-EA During Onboarding of New Employees

To strengthen the relationship between the STII-EA and its members, the association, together with the DOST Human Resources (HR) initiated the inclusion of STII-EA orientation as a standard part of the onboarding process for new employees.

This ensures that new hires are introduced to the association's mission, vision, and the benefits of membership from the start of their tenure.

General Assemblies

The STII-EA successfully conducted two key assemblies in 2024, demonstrating its commitment to transparent communication and active member engagement:

- **Special General Assembly (23 July 2024)**

Held virtually via Zoom, this assembly focused on the critical task of ratifying the updated STII-

EA Constitution and By-Laws.

- **General Assembly (06 August 2024)**

Conducted at the DOST-STII Training Room, this assembly provided a platform for invited HMOs to present their proposals and for the members raise their relevant concerns and queries.

Certificate of Registration for the Collective Negotiation Agreement (CNA)

In 2024, the STII-EA successfully secured the Certificate of Registration for its Collective Negotiation Agreement (CNA). This formal acknowledgment signifies the association's commitment to effective labor relations and mutual cooperation.

STII-EA, represented by President Louella L. Pestaño (third from left) and Treasurer Jonathan C. Abalon (fourth from right), receives the Certificate of the Collective Negotiation Agreement (CNA) during the Awarding Ceremony at the DOST Flag Raising on 16 December 2024 at the DOST Compound. Also present in the ceremony are the following DOST key officials (from L-R): Assistant Secretary Diane L. Ignacio, Secretary Renato U. Solidum, Jr., DOST-STII Chief SRS Rodolfo P. De Guzman, and CSC-NCR Director Margarita G. Reyes.

STII-EA, represented by President Louella L. Pestaño (third from left) and Treasurer Jonathan C. Abalon (fourth from right), receives the Certificate of the Collective Negotiation Agreement (CNA) during the Awarding Ceremony at the DOST Flag Raising on 16 December 2024 at the DOST Compound. Also present in the ceremony are the following DOST key officials (from L-R): Assistant Secretary Diane L. Ignacio, Secretary Renato U. Solidum, Jr., DOST-STII Chief SRS Rodolfo P. De Guzman, and CSC-NCR Director Margarita G. Reyes.





Call for Donations for Typhoon-struck victims

Demonstrating its dedication to social responsibility, the STII-EA organized a donation drive from 25 November to 10 December 2024 to aid individuals affected by severe flooding caused by consecutive typhoons during this period. This initiative garnered significant support from members, showcasing the association's collective spirit of compassion and solidarity.

Redesigning and Branding of STII-EA Assets

The association updated the design and branding of its materials, giving a more professional and cohesive look to STII-EA's assets.

Creation of Official Contact Details

Official contact details for STII-EA were established, providing a direct and reliable line of communication for members.

Partnership with Options Philippines and AMAPHIL

STII-EA partnered with Options Philippines and AMAPHIL to offer improved and customized health maintenance organization (HMO) coverage for

members, ensuring better healthcare services for the next two years.

Annual Physical Exam Requirement for Medical Assistance

An annual physical exam was collectively organized by the STII-EA, together with DOST-STII, from 15 July to 19 July 2024 at the Hi-Precision Diagnostics Plus, Fort Bonifacio, Taguig City. This serves as one of the requirements for members to qualify for the medical assistance grant while also encouraging the practice of regular health check-ups for better overall well-being of the employees.

Cash Gift for Members

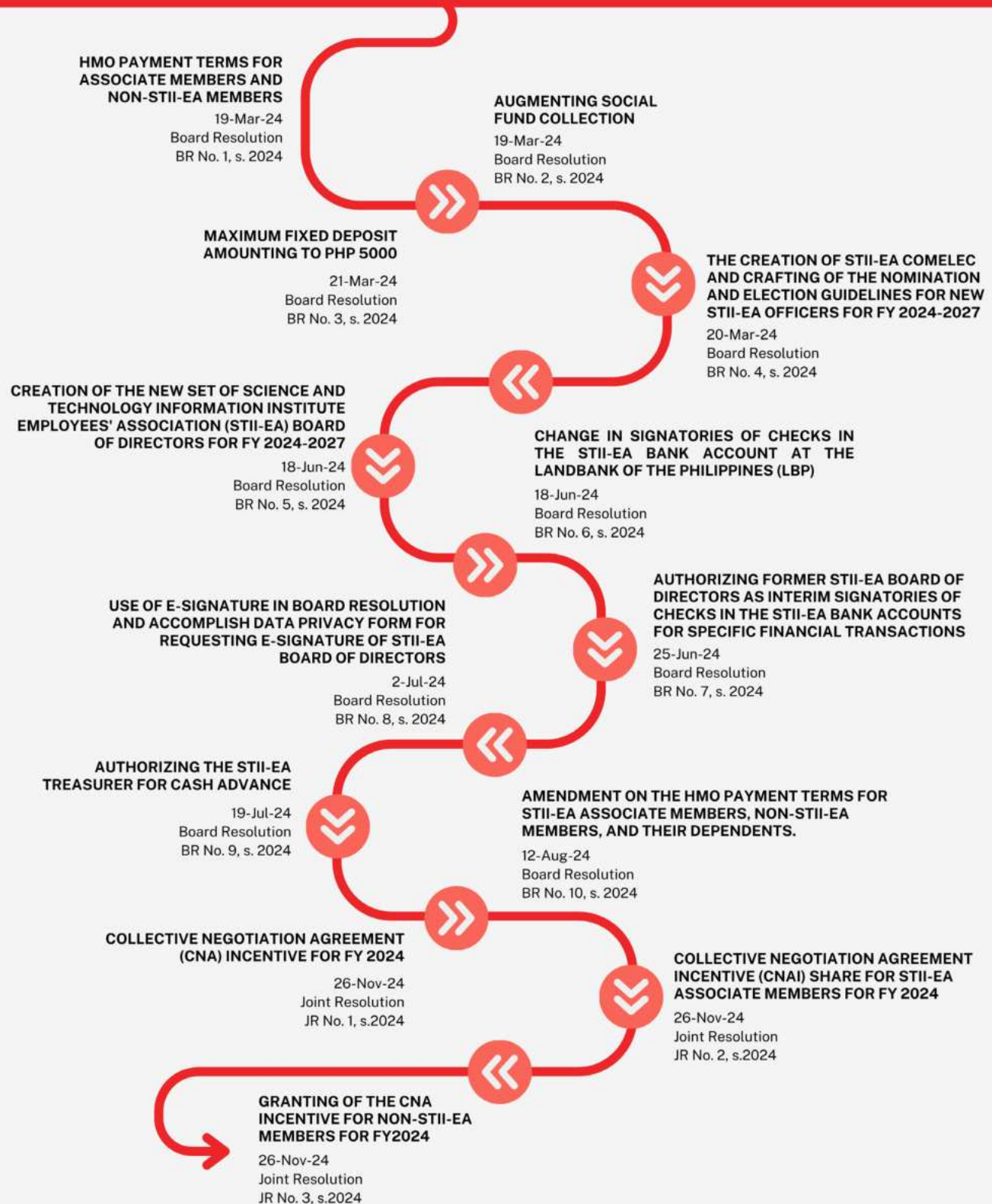
Each STII-EA member received a cash gift of Php 500, providing an additional benefit and showing appreciation for their continued active membership.

Canteen Contract Renewal

The contract for the existing DOST-STII canteen was renewed, ensuring the continued availability of accessible, affordable, and quality food services for employees.

Board and Joint Resolutions for FY 2024

For 2024, the STII-EA was able to craft and approve seven (7) Board Resolutions and three (3) Joint Resolutions, signifying its continued commitment to improve its services and address the needs of its members effectively. The list of the resolutions are as follows



37^{Years} One TEAM

Together Everyone Achieves More

11 JUNE 2024

#STII37 #DOSTPH #Science ForThePeople #OneDOST4U





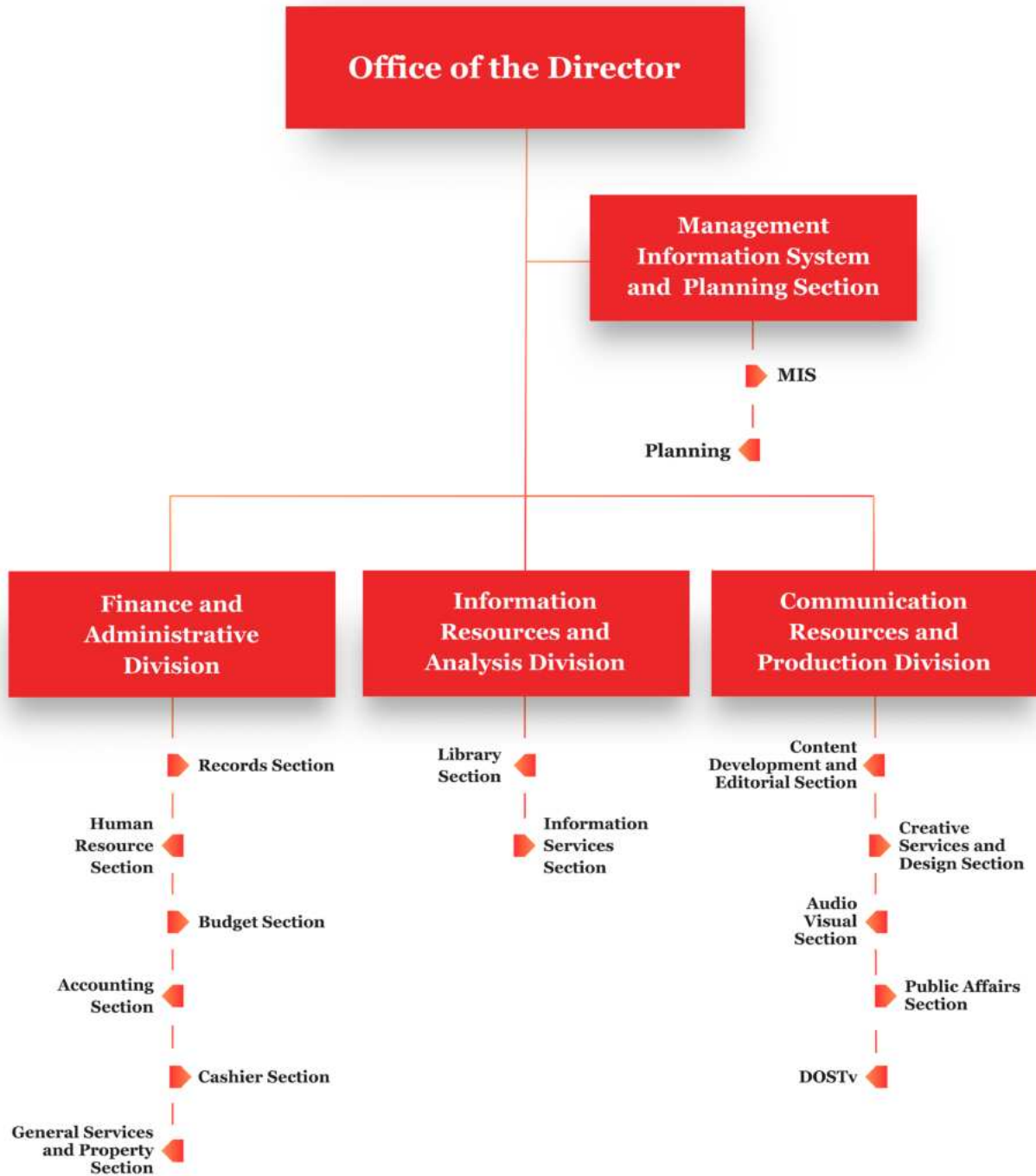
ONE TEAM ONE GOAL

#ONEDOST4U





ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE



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Richard P. Burgos
Arlene E. Centeno
Alan C. Taule
Rodolfo P. de Guzman

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Arjay C. Escondo

Writers

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Louella L. Pestaño

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Resty R. Balila

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Benedict P. Cagaanan

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Printing Coordinator

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