DOST-PSHS System scholars bag Major Awards in more than 30 International feats in 2014

The DOST-PSHS System scholars bagged Major Awards in more than 30 international competitions in 2014 including the THIRD CONSECUTIVE GRAND CHAMPION in the 3rd ASEAN Plus Three Junior Science Odyssey (APT JSO). These competitions involved PSHS scholars from the different campuses of the PSHS System. (The list of the International Awards won by the PSHS per campus is shown at the center page).

The DOST-PSHS System establishes its brand of excellence on par with the world’s best by participating and winning in international events. It ensures the uniformity of standards and harmony of operations in all its constituent campuses.

The winnings of PSHS scholars, particularly those coming from the regional campuses, indicate that uniform standards in education and training are provided by all PSHS campuses to its clients.

DOST-PSHS Central Luzon Campus Wins Best Overseas Research

The PSHS Central Luzon Campus (CLC) Team bagged the Best Overseas Project and Best in Oral Presentation awards in the Mahidol Wittayanusorn School (MWITS) Science Fair in Thailand last January 27-30, 2015.

Out of 127 research entries around the world, the entry of Joseph Adrian Dela Cruz, Marnoel Cruz, and Justine Ryan Silvestre topped the competition. The winning entry is entitled: Surface Modification of Polylactic Acid-Cellulose Acetate-Chitosan Nanocomposite Fiber: Its Effect on Hydrophilicity and Anti-Bacterial Property Against E. coli and S. Aureus.

CLC Director Lilia Habaco, together with teacher-adviser Mr. Rowit Tilwani, accompanied the scholars in this event.

"Of course, it’s awesome for the students that their project is selected. I think they are also thrilled," said Director Habaco.

(Continued on page 3)
PSHS-IRC Scholar Gets Over-all Champion Award in International Math Contest

In a brief interview, Liclican happily shared his love for mathematics since his elementary days. “My mathematical prowess was polished more when I studied in Philippine Science High School – Ilocos Region Campus (PSHS-IRC) with the various academic requirements, exposures to different competitions and other opportunities towards growth and development,” he said. He also thanked the financial assistance extended to him by the Municipality of Bauang, the PTCA of PSHS-IRC that made his trip to India possible; and of course the moral support from his parents, teachers, classmates and friends who gave him positive encouragements and motivations.

“Our experience in India is indeed a once-in-a-lifetime chance to stand before the international community to represent not only PSHS-IRC but also our country and with that, I will continue to strive harder for the glory of our nation and above all, for the glory of God,” Liclican said.
"This research taught me a lot of skills, time and management and helped me boost my self confidence," PSHS scholar Dela Cruz stated.

The MWITS was participated in by about 1000 young scientists from 20 schools coming from 12 countries.

In his welcome remarks, Principal Dr. Yuwadee Nakapadungrat, said, "I am delighted to welcome you all, and may this gathering ignite your search for knowledge through research."

PSHS-EVC Campus Director, Dr. Reynaldo Garnace related that the highlights of the fair included Science Project Presentation, Science Zone, and Collaborative Problem Solving."

The PSHS-EVC Team is composed of scholars Noreen Beth Alberto, Cidne Daniel Carles, and Anne Subingsubing, and Research Consultant Mrs. Nida Diodoco. Their entry is entitled: Evaluation of Anti-Angiogenic Effect of Eichhornia crassipes Using Chorioallantoic Membrane (CAM) Assay.

DOST-PSHS Eastern Visayas Campus (EVC) hosted the Japan-Philippine Student Exchange Program last January 5-8, 2015. The program’s theme is: A Perspective in the Philippine Culture, Resilience, and Environmental Awareness.

Twenty (20) Japanese students from Ritsumeikan Senior High School in Kyoto, Japan came to Leyte to participate in this program together with their school Vice-Principal Mr. Hirofumi Takenaka and teacher Ms. Misa Takanishi. Also among the participants were three American Field Service German delegates, 13 PSHS-EVC scholars, and the faculty and administrative staff of EVC.

According to Mr. Takenaka, "this project is part of our Super Global Forum Philippine Study Tour. We have chosen PSHS-EVC as partner in this exchange program because we have already established long relationship with them."

The participants toured PSHS-EVC, listened to a talk about the Philippines- its culture and language, and watched cultural presentations.

They also visited Yolanda survivors and listened to their stories of struggle and survival. Dr. Garnace gave a talk on caring for our environment where he emphasized, "the earth is our home, we should take care of it." Ms. Takanishi expressed her gratefulness for this rare opportunity to exchange culture and forge friendship."

Yuto Miwa, a student of Ritsumeikan Senior High School, shared: "this is the most enjoyable exchange program I have attended."

Meanwhile, when asked of his learning from this program, Sean Ballais-a scholar of PSHS-EVC answered, "we pledge to be the vanguards of our creation."

Last November 2014, Dr. Reynaldo B. Garnace and three scholars went to Japan to present their research studies during the Japan Super Science Fair 2014.

Later this month, 14 faculty and administrative staff of PSHS-EVC are going to Japan for the Global Summit and Forum.

All these International Student Exchange Programs are part of the PSHS System’s goal to strengthen linkages here and abroad and promote a culture of science by exchanging expertise and learning from the best in other lands.
International Awards Won by the Philippine Science High School in 2014 (By Regional Campus)

Main Campus

Most Promising Young Scientist (Science Category) / Most Outstanding Exhibit Presentation (Mathematics Category)
9th Regional Congress Search for SEAMEO Young Scientists (SSYS 2014) March 3-7, 2014 in Penang, Malaysia

Silver and Special Jury Award –Gold
Malaysian International Young Investors Olympiad 2014 April 17-20, 2014 in Penang, Malaysia

Commendation/Bronze Award

Best Research Presenter
STEP NUS SUNBURST BRAIN CAMP (SBC) 2014 June 1-7, 2014 in Singapore

Bronze
55th International Mathematical Olympiad (IMO) July 3-13, 2014 in Cape Town, South Africa

Most Outstanding Paper Presentation
8th Hwa Chong Asia Pacific Young Leaders Summit (HC/APLS) July 14-22, 2014

Silver
World Taekwondo Hanmadang Championship 2014 August 24-30, 2014 in Pohang City, South Korea

Most Creative & Innovative Project
10th International Students Science Fair (ISSF) 2014 August 8-12, 2014 in Moscow, Russia

Excellence Award
Rotary Social Innovation Award of Interact Club of Modern School Barakhamba Road August 2014
Awarding Ceremony in New Delhi, India

Best Poster in Physics Category (Team)
8th Asian Science Camp August 25-29, 2014 in Singapore

Silver & 3 Bronze
Pan Asia Pacific Mathematics Competition June 28-July 2, 2014 in Hongkong

Certificate of Honor
8th Brand’s Sudoku Thailand International Open 2014 July 11-14, 2014 in Bangkok, Thailand

2 Bronze, Gold & 1st Runner-up, Silver, Merit (Team)
17th Po Leung Kuk Primary Mathematics World Contest July 14-18, 2014 in Hongkong

Gold & Silver, Outstanding & Gold
Search for Star Math Olympic and “CHONG HUA CUP” Creative Mathematics Competition July 19-22, 2014 in Hongkong

1st runner-up, Bronze (overall); Merit/Champion & 2nd runner-up (Group Team)
2014 Korea International Mathematics Competition (KIMC) July 21-26, 2014 in South Korea

2 Gold -Individual
2014 China I Love Math Summer Camp for Primary School Student July 25-29, 2014 in Shanghai, China

1 Gold, 7 Silver, 11 Bronze, 2 Merit
International Mathematics Competition (IMC) August 1-4, 2014 in Singapore

Excellence Award
2014 World Mathematics Invitational (WMI) August 9-13, 2014 in Taiwan

Bronze
2014 China West Mathematics Olympiad (CWMO) August 14-19, 2014 in China

Merit Award
STEP-ITE Sunburst Innovation Programme September 30-October 3, 2014 in Singapore

Southern Mindanao Campus

Bronze
Malaysian International Young Inventors Olympiad (MIYIO) 2014 April 17-19, 2014 in Penang, Malaysia
1st Place and 3rd Place
ASEAN PLUS THREE JUNIOR SCIENCE ODYSSEY
June-July 2014 in Thailand

Western Visayas Campus

Outstanding Award for Presentation of Exhibit
and Consolation Prize
9th Congress: Search for SEAMEO Young Scientist
March 3-7, 2014 in Penang, Malaysia

1st Place, 3rd Place, 5th Place
Sri Aman Environmental Youth Leadership Summit
(SAETYLS 2014) April 6-12, 2014 in Selangor, Malaysia

2nd Place
Enjoy Mathematics Summer Camp
July 2014 in China

3 Bronze, 1 Gold
International Mathematics Competition
August 1-6, 2014 in Singapore

Silver and Gold
International Olympics Mathematics
August 2014 in Singapore

Participant
Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) 1st Essay
Writing Contest
October 2014 - Correspondence (online)

Eastern Visayas Campus

Finalist
World Robotics Olympiad
November 19-25, 2014 in Sochi, Russia

Oral and Poster Presentation of Research Studies
Japan Super Science Fair 2014 November 7 to 14, 2014
in Kyoto, Japan

Bicol Region Campus

Overall Champion
3rd ASEAN Plus Three (APT) Junior Science Odyssey
June-July 2014 in Thailand

1st Place, 3rd Place and 6th Place
Sri Aman Environmental Youth Leadership Summit 2014
April 6-12, 2014 in Malaysia

Participant
World Robot Olympiad
November 2014 in Penang, Malaysia

Central Mindanao Campus

Silver Medalist
16th Malaysian International Young Inventors’ Olympiad
(MIYIO) April 17-20, 2014 in Penang, Malaysia

Central Luzon Campus

1 Gold, 2 Silver, 1 Bronze
Malaysian International Young Inventors’ Olympiad
(MIYIO) 2014 April 17-20, 2014 in Malaysia

Finalists and Honorable Mention
International Schools Essay Competition 2014 April 2014
in Berkshire, United Kingdom

Gold Medal
2014 International Youth Invention Contest August 6-10,
2014 in Seoul, South Korea
ILOCOS’ GENDER AND DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM: WORTH EMULATING

They were all wearing smiles on their faces, mostly timid yet one can see a difference in their aura as we met them for the first time.

I was referring to the beneficiaries of the Gender and Development Program of the Ilocos Region Campus.

Ms. Indah Luz Abayan, GAD Focal Person and Planning Officer of the DOST-PSHSS - Office of the Executive Director (OED) and I were tasked to conduct an interview with them to document their success story. We just came from Pagudpud, Ilocos Norte for the GAD Mainstreaming Workshop together with our teammates from OED. PSHSS- Ilocos Region Campus is located at San Ildefonso, Ilocos Sur.

The beneficiaries were quite nervous when we started our interview. However, when we informed them about our purpose, they started to loosen up a bit and became more relaxed. Engr. Allan Refuerzo, the campus resident engineer and Engr. Ronald Rapada, the construction & maintenance supervisor gave us a brief background of the program.

“They were once NPAs but now they are PAs,” Engr Refuerzo smilingly said. What he meant by NPA is non-performing assets and PA as performing assets.

They are residents in the locality, mostly farmers and fishermen, who used to be un-skilled. Mostly doing nothing while waiting for the harvest time or for the night time to go out fishing, they spend their idle time gambling and drinking liquor.

The program, which started October of 2013, had greatly impacted their lives, Rene Clarence Pita, one of the beneficiaries, related. “I am very thankful because through this program I gained some skills that even though time comes that I am no longer connected with IRC, I will be easily employed,” he said. Not only were they equipped with the necessary skills, some of their vices were also removed, “as we are not allowed to smoke inside the campus, and eventually as days go by, I find myself no longer smoking,” Froilan Pita shared. “Smoking makes me feel tired easily,” he observed. They were likewise prohibited to gamble which they later on realized did them more good in the long run as they were able to save some money for their much needed capital in farming and goat raising. The salaries that they received served to augment their meager income from fishing and farming thus improving their economic status in life compared before.

The idea of tapping the local residents to work on the infrastructure projects of the campus came from Dr. Larry Cabatic, who was then the campus director of IRC at that time. Instead of getting a contractor to work on the projects, he hired a resident civil engineer and resident construction and maintenance supervisor to oversee the construction work of their infra-projects and hired the local residents under J.O. contract.

In collaboration with the local government unit led by Mayor Atty. Mark Anthony Purisima, the local residents were identified and underwent skills training under the TESDA program to equip them for the construction work such as welding, masonry and related skills training. A total of 26 residents were trained for the work. At present, there were only 20 left while the others have gone abroad and were employed in other construction works outside the campus.

“The workers were also trained to make hollow-
Professional Development Program for Global Excellence in Education

Professional Development Program is comprised of activities that will allow academic personnel to update their knowledge and skills, and enhance their job performance to attain institutional goals.

According to Dr. Annie I. Rodriguez, Chief of Instruction and Curriculum Services Division in PSHS Southern Mindanao, "with the institutionalization of high quality Professional Development Program, we can be in step with the international standards in education."

Dr. Rodriguez visited Bangkok, Thailand last Dec. 2-4, 2014 together with five (5) faculty and staff to attend a benchmarking activity at Mahidol University and Ruamrudee International School.

In her travel report, she shared her learnings and included her recommendations for DOST-PSHS System.

Mahidol University and Ruamrudee International School (RIS) are among the top-performing schools in the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN). RIS was the first in Thailand to be accredited in the Western Association of Schools. Their IB diploma and Advanced Placement (AP) students consistently score above world averages and regularly get admitted in prestigious universities worldwide, Dr. Rodriguez said.

Dr. Rodriguez included in her travel report the importance of a Professional Development Program and a recommendation to institutionalize a Professional Learning Community.

An academic conference can convene PSHS teachers and staff to share their learning from international benchmarking activities, she stated in her report.

Likewise, learning points can be cascaded to teachers/educators from other schools who will visit any PSHS campuses.

Networking and linkages with other top performing schools in the country and abroad can be strengthened thus increasing the possibility of internship/exchange program of PSHS students and personnel in these institutions.

Other learning points from this benchmarking activity as mentioned in the report include Repackage Research to encourage students to engage in studies that are tailored after the needs of a particular community, and Borderless Learning Community to promote collaboration among students and personnel.

According to Dr. Rodriguez, “small but continuous improvements really work; we can start in the improvement of signages, which must be attractive enough for the students to remember.”

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Ilocos’ Gender . . .

(continuation from page 6)

blocks by the campus in addition to the TESDA training that they underwent, Engr. Rapada informed. “We make our own hollow-blocks now for our infra-needs,” he added.

Dr. Cabatic now the Executive Director of the PSHS System started replicating the program at the OED which is located inside the PSHS Main Campus in Agham Road, Diliman, Quezon City. He already started hiring six (6) local residents under J.O. contract from among the informal settlers in the area beside the Main Campus, in collaboration with the barangay captain, Rudy Palma. The J.O. contracts are hired to clean and landscape the premises of the new OED building and were paid on a daily basis. This is in preparation for the transfer of the OED personnel in the new building early next year. Dr. Cabatic is very optimistic on the positive impact of the GAD Main Streaming project to the said community as it did in Ilocos.

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BOT approves Increase in Stipend and Living Allowances of DOST-PSHS System scholars

Effective FY 2015, the DOST-PSHS System Board of Trustees approved the following rates per scholarship category:

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<th>(in Philippine peso)</th>
<th>Full</th>
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<th>(in Philippine peso)</th>
<th>Partial 2</th>
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<td>Living Allowance</td>
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<td>- -</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total Grant per month</td>
<td>2,500.00</td>
<td>500.00</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
**DOST-PSHS CALABARZON CAMPUS OPENS THIS SCHOOL YEAR 2015-2016**

Department of Science and Technology (DOST) Secretary Mario Montejo is glad to announce the opening of the DOST-Philippine Science High School (PSHS) Calabarzon Region Campus this coming school year 2015-2016. The new campus will be temporarily housed at the Batangas City National High School Compound since the infrastructure facilities of the new campus which shall be located at Barangay Sampaga, Batangas City, is not yet ready. Construction of the school facilities will hopefully start within the year.

Meanwhile, DOST-PSHSS Executive Director Larry L. Cabatic informed that there will be three (3) sections for the incoming freshmen with 30 students each class. There is a proposal to increase the number of students per class to 35 to accommodate more scholars who have likewise passed the National Competitive Examination (NCE) which was administered last October 2014, Dr. Cabatic said. If the proposal shall be approved, the campus will start with 105 students.

The chosen site for the new campus was donated by the City government of Batangas with a total land area of 5 hectares, more or less. The site is situated around 5 kilometers from Batangas City Hall.

The PSHS or known as Pisay, operating under one System of governance and management, provides scholarships to students with high aptitude in science and mathematics. It is based on a curriculum that emphasizes science and mathematics and the development of well-rounded individuals and prepares its students for careers in Science & Technology (S&T).

To date, Pisay has 13 campuses in operations nationwide and with the addition of the PSHS-CALABARZON Campus as its 14th. Two more campuses are being eyed to be established before the end of 2016.

For more information or inquiries, you may contact the PSHSS Office of the Executive Director – Admissions Unit at tel. no. (02) 926-5701 or you may send an email to oed@pshs.edu.ph or visit our website at www.pshs.edu.ph

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**Strengthening the Values of Good Governance among DOST-PSHS System personnel**

Members of the DOST-PSHS System Executive Committee and personnel from the Office of the Executive Director (OED) attended an 8-hour seminar in Public Accountability and Values Enhancement last January 14, 2015 at Atrium Hotel, Pasay City.

“It’s timely to conduct this seminar at the beginning of the year to strengthen the values of good governance among PSHS System personnel. Upholding the values of good governance is inclusive to the excellent performance of the duties of a PSHS System employee, being part of this country’s premiere science high school,” PSHS System Executive Director Dr. Larry L. Cabatic said.

PSHS System conducted this seminar in collaboration with the Council for the Restoration of Filipino Values (CRFV) led by Dr. Voltaire Acosta.

The CRFV Team is comprised of Mr. Jesus V. Sison who discussed the Love of God and E.O. No. 292, Dr. Voltaire Acosta on Power of Influence, and Mr. Reuben Aslor on Taming the Tongue and Selfless Love. Mr. Antonio “Tony Boy” Aquino, cousin of Pres. Noynoy Aquino also attended, as an observer.

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**Forum on Public Resource Utilization Conducted**

Sixty-eight (68) personnel of the PSHS System convened on January 13, 2015 at Atrium Hotel in Manila for an open forum on Public Resource Utilization. Invited speaker from the Government Procurement Policy Board (GPPB), Atty. Tareeq Yahya Timhar A. Radjaie, led the discussion together with PSHS System Executive Director Dr. Larry L. Cabatic and Deputy Executive Director Dr. Rod Allan A. De Lara.

Atty. Radjaie is currently Procurement Management Officer V of the Secretariat Division of the GPPB.

“Optimized utilization of public resources is part of delivering excellent public service.” Dr. Cabatic said.

With 14 operating campuses nationwide and currently expanding, the PSHS System aims for harmony and uniformity of its service delivery.

“Bringing together key personnel in procurement, such as the Bids and Awards Committee (BAC), Technical Working Group, and the BAC Secretariat to an open forum with a representative from GPPB is an important action at the start of the new year,” Dr. Cabatic stated. “This can enhance their knowledge on responsible procurement that will guide their decisions through the year,” he added.