



STAR QUARTERLY

Science Teacher Academy for the Regions
Newsletter



2ND DOST-SEI PROJECT STAR INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE

November 16-18, 2021

*Innovations, Challenges and Transformations in STEM
Education: Moving Forward in a Post-Pandemic World*

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DOST-SEI'S SECOND INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE GOES ONLINE

"The new normal" is a popular refrain echoed by many, including students, teachers, and other educational stakeholders. As we maneuver through a transformed world brought by the pandemic, how does STEM education adapt? What are the changes and challenges in teaching STEM during these times? How are educational systems restructured and how do institutions respond to the needs of both learners and instructors? On November 16-18, 2021, DOST-SEI will host its second international conference entitled "**Innovations, Challenges and Transformations in STEM Education: Moving Forward in a Post-Pandemic World.**"

The conference aims to provide a platform for science and mathematics educators to present new research and developments in assessment, action research, instructional materials, and teaching and learning innovations. Plenary sessions, workshops, paper presentations, and stories of the 2020 Brightest STAR teachers will be shared in this three-day event. There will also be an exhibit of STEM learning resources.

Plenary speakers include Dr. Lung Hsiang Wong from Nanyang Technological University, Singapore, on techno-pedagogical innovations in the classroom; Dr. Caitlin Tucker from Pepperdine University, USA, on blended learning in action; Ms. Hanna Teras from Tampere University of Applied Sciences, Finland, on social media, authentic learning and communities of practice; and many more. Esteemed local resource persons will also be part of the conference. There will also be a session on the state of education in the post-pandemic world from UNESCO Jakarta. *(continued on page 2)*



From the Director

The busy summer months transitioned into an equally busy rainy season. DOST-SEI and Project STAR continued its Design Thinking online trainings and scheduled webinars on top of preparations for DOST-SEI's second international conference.

This quarter, the theme for our webinars focused on health and well-being. We had Dr. Samorin from West Visayas State University share with us her research on humanizing flexible learning instruction, while Dr. Vinluan from the University of the Philippines Diliman gave us an overview of how to foster mental health and well-being. Just as we uphold innovative and adaptive ways to teach science and mathematics, we also equally value the health of our educators and students.

And as we continue to teach through an ever-changing world alongside the coronavirus pandemic, the landscape of education also evolves. We are excited to organize and host the second international conference entitled **"Innovations, Challenges and Transformations in STEM Education: Moving Forward in a Post-Pandemic World"** to be held on November 16-18, 2021. There will be plenary sessions, workshops, paper presentations, and more.

We hope you can join us. It will surely be a fruitful three days.


Dr. Josette T. Biyo
DOST-SEI Director

(from page 1)

Ten workshops and more than fifty paper presentations await participants. The 2020 Brightest STAR Teachers, Mr. Don King Evangelista and Ms. Janice Baldelovar, as well as other 2020 Brightest STAR finalists, will share their best practices in teaching science and mathematics.

For more information about the conference, check out [DOST-SEI Project STAR Facebook page](#). Further announcements will be posted soon.

ONLINE TRAININGS



ONLINE TRAINING ON DESIGN THINKING in K-3 SCIENCE and MATHEMATICS TEACHING



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SCIENCE TEACHER ACADEMY FOR THE REGIONS
"A Teaching and Learning Community"

DOST-SEI continues its series of online training workshops entitled **"Design Thinking in K-3 Science and Mathematics Teachers"** for Region IV-B on July 14-16, Region XI on July 21-23, Region VII on August 3-5, and Region I on September 2-4, 2021.

From July to September, Project STAR has partnered with Palawan State University in Region IV-B, the University of Southeastern Philippines in Region XI, Cebu Normal University in Region VII, and Mariano Marcos State University in Region I to provide training for 315 kindergarten, Grade 1, Grade 2, and Grade 3 public school teachers. Each three-day activity was fully conducted online with other participants over Zoom and Facebook live.

There will also be an online Design Thinking workshop open to the public, to be held on October 25-27, 2021. Online registration opened in early September, but due to overwhelming responses, it was closed within a week. This online training is free of charge.

“ HUMANIZING FLEXIBLE LEARNING INSTRUCTION ”

WEDNESDAY, JULY 28, 2021 | 9:00 A.M.

JOIN US VIA:  



DR. MARIA CORAZON M. SAMORIN
West Visayas State University

SIGN UP HERE:

<https://bit.ly/3x4DQ3n>



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In a country where face-to-face classes are yet to be re-implemented, Filipino educators and students both face the challenge of connecting with each other. For teachers, how can they show that they care for their students amidst continued distance learning? Dr. Maria Corazon M. Samorin from West Visayas State University shared her research on humanizing flexible learning courses through a

webinar last July 28.

To humanize means to be human, and to be human means to build connections. Humanizing ourselves is to recognize that we are a part of a community of learners. To be able to connect to students, educators must first humanize themselves through an introduction, so students can get to know them not just as teachers, but rather as persons.

WEBINAR RECAP

In building an educational community, there is a community of practice, a group of people sharing a common interest or passion who come together to learn and improve through interacting and collaborating with each other. There is also a community of inquiry, in which people create meaningful learning experiences through the development of three core elements — social, cognitive, and teaching presence. Teachers and students can perceive others as real persons despite the distance and can engage in learning.

Lastly, one of the keys to achieve this is to humanize assessment. Educators must give clear instructions and different forms of assessment. Giving students a choice of assessment may also be beneficial.

“ MENTAL HEALTH AND WELLNESS ”

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 25, 2021 | 9:00 A.M.

JOIN US VIA:  



DR. LORELEI R. VINLUAN
University of the Philippines - Diliman

SIGN UP HERE:

<https://bit.ly/3k274v8>



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Now more than ever, psychological well-being must be given importance, especially in the academe. Last August 25, licensed guidance counselor and University of the Philippines Diliman professor Dr. Lorelei R. Vinluan shared her expertise in fostering mental health and wellness.

It must be emphasized that every-

one needs mental health. Not just students and teachers, but all persons involved in the school — administrators, officers, security guards, and janitors — are also included. There are laws in place, such as RA 11036 or Mental Health Act, RA 11313 or Safe Spaces Act, and RA 10627 or Anti Bullying Act of 2013, that support this.

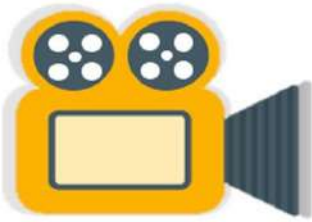
At this time, how can we focus on learning? We need to satisfy everyone’s basic needs first before we can help them learn. These basic needs also include having a healthy mind and body.

Good mental health is not just the absence of mental health problems such as depression or anxiety. Rather, it’s the presence of positive characteristics, including being able to cope with life’s challenges, handle stress, build strong relationships, and recover from setbacks. As teachers, how is our mental health? It is crucial to be self-aware first before we help others.

For schools, several intervention programs can be initiated, including conducting a needs assessment of stakeholders of education, strengthening homeroom, topics, and programs; and strengthening guidance services for students, parents, and teachers.



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STEM

VIDEO CHALLENGE

1ST PRIZE: PHP50,000.00

2ND PRIZE: PHP30,000.00

3RD PRIZE: PHP20,000.00

7 CONSOLATION PRIZES: PHP5,000.00 each

In August, DOST-SEI invited everyone to showcase their digital skills and creative thinking by submitting a video explaining a particular STEM competency indicated in the MELC that is hard to teach or learn. The video can come in the form of a short tutorial or the use of a do-it-yourself instructional materials.

Several entries have already been submitted. The winner of the STEM Video Challenge will receive a prize of Php 50,000, while the first and second runners-up will receive Php 30,000 and Php 20,000 respectively. There will also be seven consolation prizes.

Watch out for the announcement of winners in Facebook.

Last September 14-16, DOST-SEI, in partnership with the Department of Science and Technology Regional Office I, conducted an online training on language strategies for teaching science and mathematics. This three-day event was held as a pre-activity for the National Science and Technology Week. Teachers from various schools and universities in the Ilocos region attended the training. There were 94 participants in total over Zoom.

OTHER ONLINE TRAINING

Department of Science and Technology - Regional Office I
NATIONAL SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY WEEK

Language Strategies in Teaching Science and Mathematics

September 14-16, 2021
 via Zoom

In partnership with:
 DepED, NSTW, and various partner institutions.

DOST-SEI STAR Team

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 Department of Science and Technology

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