

## AWARDS

## PDIC recognized for certified QMS

The Philippine Deposit Insurance Corporation (PDIC) was one of 11 government-owned or -controlled corporations (GOC-Cs) and 41 other public service institutions recognized by the Government Quality Management Committee (GQMC) during the 5th Recognition Ceremony for Government Organizations with ISO-certified Quality Management Systems (QMS).

The PDIC was recognized for its successful attainment of ISO 9001:2008 certification for its QMS on assessment of member-banks. Senior Vice President Sandra A. Diaz (management services sector) and Assistant Vice President Elaine B. Deticio (insurance support department) received the recognition on behalf of PDIC.

The assessment of member-banks was certified to ISO 9001:2008 standards in 2016. It covers assessment collection from banks with the corresponding issuance of official receipts, and the conduct of assessment audit on the banks' declaration in their respective certified statements.

Assessments paid by member-banks at an annual flat rate of 1/5 of one percent of their total deposit liabilities are added to PDIC's Deposit Insurance Fund (DIF) to continuously build up its adequacy level to respond to potential insurance calls. The DIF is the corporation's main fund

source for payout of valid deposit insurance claims.

In addition to the assessment of member-banks, PDIC has another frontline service that is also certified under ISO 9001:2008 standards: the QMS for claims settlement operations, which recently passed recertification audit and has been ISO-certified since 2010.

It involves various functions from pre-settlement examination, claims processing and settlement, information dissemination, and other support services in the payment of deposit insurance. As deposit insurer, PDIC is mandated to settle valid deposit insurance claims up to the maximum deposit insurance coverage of P500,000 per depositor, in case of bank closure.

Chaired by Budget Secretary Benjamin E. Diokno, the GQMC is mandated to encourage and promote improved public sector performance through the adoption of ISO 9001 QMS in all government agencies, and to recognize citizen-driven government organizations that have attained ISO 9001 certification.

The GQMC is co-chaired by the Department of Trade and Industry and its other members include the Department of the Interior and Local Government, the Office of the President-Internal Audit Office, and the Development Academy of the Philippines. / PR S

**As its budget has quadrupled in recent years, the Department of Science and Technology has more funds to support technology startups and R&D businesses**

## DOST: MORE SUPPORT FOR STARTUPS

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With more funds, the Department of Science and Technology (DOST) promised to enhance its support for technology-based startups and projects, and businesses centered on research and development (R&D).

In a press conference for the 1st Philippine Technology Business Incubator Summit yesterday, DOST Undersecretary Rowena Cristina Guevara said the department has been appropriated with increasing budget in recent years, which means science and tech-related developments in the country will receive more support.

"The budget for DOST has quadrupled," the official said. In the last seven years, DOST's budget has grown four times from P5 billion in 2010 to P20.8 billion in 2017.

On one hand, the R&D budget expanded by nearly six times, from P1 billion in 2009 to P5.8 billion in 2017.

"Allocation of a bigger budget

for R&D indicates that any sector/industry in the country could set a direction and impetus towards addressing global demands and challenges," DOST said in its website.

One of the newest programs of the DOST is the Startup Research Grant, where it has allocated P20 million to select startups this year.

Russel M. Pili, DOST chief science research specialist, said startups may get funding through the i2tech (Idea to Tech) and iScale (innovate and scale) programs.

i2tech is a pre-incubation grant for startups with early stage prototypes or those that require assistance in product improvement, market testing, data gathering, and business modelling.

Meanwhile, iScale is for "more mature" startups in need of matching funds and requires assistance in scaling up operations, testing of products for certifications and rolling out of services.

To date, Pili said 10 startups have been identified as ready

for funding, while the agency is screening 40 more startups.

In addition, the two DOST officials announced the expansion of the Technology Business Incubator (TBI) program of DOST, which was first launched in 2009 and created 14 TBIs all over the country stationed inside universities.

Today, on the second day of the Incubator Summit at the Cebu Parklane Hotel, DOST is set to announce 20 more universities that will host a TBI. Pili said DOST will build more TBIs inside Cebu universities over the next two years.

In Cebu, the CebuInIT, now referred as "in IT UP Cebu" is the only DOST-funded TBI that has housed and graduated over 46 tech startups in the last seven years.

DOST will be spending roughly P10 million to form one TBI, said Pili. A TBI houses startup companies for at up to three years, where they receive mentorship and trainings during the given period.

Guevara said DOST wants to see more innovation in the country, one of the thrusts of the department. "Innovation needs entrepreneurship to benefit society," the undersecretary added.

University of the Philippines Cebu dean Liza Corro said some of the startups produced by CebuInIT that have gained traction are taxi-hailing app MiCab, digital media firm Innopub Media, IT learning platform CodeToki, and medical information system Nimbal.

DOST is also pushing to secure 1,000 intellectual property rights (IPR) for Philippine products and inventions over the next two years. Currently, Guevara said the department has issued roughly 200 of them. S

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## I.PROTECT

## Bruno Mars photo suit

The copyright to a photograph belongs to the photographer who pressed the button on the camera and took the picture.

Our Intellectual Property Code protects "photographic works including works produced by a process analogous to photography."

It is reported that on Nov. 20, a photographer who took a photograph of Bruno Mars in 1989 when he was impersonating Elvis Presley is suing Mars for copyright infringement before the New York Southern District Court.

The basis for the photographer's suit is that Mars posted the 1989 photograph on his Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter accounts without the photographer's permission. The suit is asking for damages and profits that were earned from the use of the photograph.



**HELP IS ON THE WAY.** DOST Undersecretary for R&D Rowena Cristina Guevara (center) says the department's i2Tech and iScale programs are meant to help technology startups. SUNSTAR FOTO / ARNI ACLAD