

PRESS RELEASE

Pinoy Science Projects to be presented in Int'l Science Fair

Four science investigatory projects that have strong impact on the environment were selected from an original field of 59 studies to represent the Philippines to the prestigious Intel International Science and Engineering Fair (ISEF) 2010 in San Jose California, USA in May.

The science projects for the world's biggest pre-college science research competition are commonly focused on solution to environmental problems. The winning research from the Philippines was short listed from science studies by high school students nationwide.

More than 1,500 students from around the world will share ideas, showcase cutting-edge research and inventions, and compete for nearly \$4 million in scholarships and awards.

"I am proud of these brilliant students for their excellent science projects which will surely have positive impact on the environment especially in the light of global warming we are experiencing," said Education Secretary Mona D. Valisno.

This year, the top 4 projects were turned in by seven high school students from different schools outside Metro Manila.

Marc Mapalo, Maria Clara Sia and Jean De Guzman came up with the study that will lessen the occurrence of harmful Algal blooms or Red Tides. "Our study will help the fishing industry where many of our countrymen depend for livelihood," said Marc Mapalo, a fresh graduate from Philippine Science High School in Palo, Leyte.

Meanwhile, another research study is able to turn an otherwise pestering garbage into fertilizer. "My study is helpful in minimizing garbage and convert it into a cheaper alternative for fertilizers," said Jennifer Doromal, from La Filipina National High School in Tagum City. Her study aims to determine the capability of fungi *Trichoderma Harzianum* in the decomposition of used diapers to source fertilizer for Basella Alba or spinach.

Seaweeds as source of medicine were the focus of the study of an individual researcher Marc Arthur Limpiado who is also from the Philippine Science High School in Palo, Leyte. "My project will help popularize the country's seaweeds industry" said Limpiado. "If this happens, our country will have enough sources of raw materials for pharmaceutical products," he added.

A science project by students, Brayl G. Ymbol and Hanna Escobido of Caraga State University in Mindanao uses corn cob ash as temperature sensor. This project was chosen to represent the country in the ISEF Physical Sciences Competition. "Our project can help minimize pollution and the corn cob can also be used as a cheap source of semi-conductors since pure silicon is expensive."

To prepare for the Intel ISEF presentation, the group underwent training from research advisers Janeth M. Fuentes, Engineer Liberato Ramos, Dr. Claro Santiago and Dr.

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Maribel Nonato. Their training was also supported by DepEd which was a close partner of Intel in many of its education advocacies in the country.

The Intel Philippine Science Fair and Intel ISEF are part of Intel's work in advancing science education in the country and around the world. Education is a key component of the Intel's corporate social responsibility (CSR) effort.

"Intel believes that young people are the key to solving global challenges. A solid math and science foundation coupled with skills such as critical thinking, collaboration and problem solving are crucial for their success." said Cecilia Ubarra, Intel Philippines' Education Manager.

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