

PRESS RELEASE

DepEd kicks off Science and Technology Fair 2010

The Department of Education (DepEd) launches this August the 2010 Science and Technology Fair where the most creative and best science researches will be chosen to represent the country at the Intel International Science and Engineering Fair (ISEF) and other various international/regional science fairs.

According to Education Secretary Br. Armin Luistro FSC the holding of the event is based on DepEd Memo 310, s.2010, which aims to promote science and technology consciousness among the youth.

“A strong orientation on science and technology among the citizenry is the foundation of highly-developed economies all over the world, this is why we open avenues such as this fair to encourage our youth to immerse themselves in scientific pursuit” said Luistro.

Science is one of the core learning programs in the basic education curriculum.

The fair has different levels namely: school, division, regional and national. The school level competition shall be conducted on August 28-29. For the division level, it will be on September 18-19. On the other hand, October 2-3 will be for the regional level and October 27-30 will be for the national level.

Participants to this activity are students from both public and private secondary schools. Students from all Special Science classes are expected to join the competition. Registration fees not exceeding P2,000 at the division level, and P4,500 at the regional level are required from all participants (including advisers and supervisors). These fees will cover the expenses for honoraria of the members of the Scientific Review Committee (SRC), Board of Judges, prizes, board and lodging of regional level student-participants and their advisers, Science and Mathematics supervisors, and the materials needed relative to the conduct of the Science Fair.

For student researchers, prizes will be P2,500, P1,500, and P1,000 for first, second, and third places, respectively, in each category. Likewise, teacher advisers/coaches will receive P1,500 for all winning categories.

There will be clustering of science research projects of the different fair divisions and fair categories. Cluster 1 is composed of students from regular high schools of both public and private and laboratory high schools of colleges and universities.

On the other hand, Cluster 2 is composed of students from science high schools of both public and private schools, and laboratory high schools of universities and colleges. Both clusters will have Biological Science and Physical Science divisions, with individual and team categories in each division.

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Luistro calls upon the students to continue developing their creative and inquisitive skills. “There is much to gain from this activity because whatever output we can draw from here can contribute to the advancement in science and technology which we sorely need,” said Luistro.

Event organizers, meanwhile, issued the following important reminders: science research projects should conform with international rules published by *the Intel International Rules for Pre College Science Research: Guidelines for Science and Engineering Fairs* and each project is expected to have a Research Adviser and an Institutional Review Board or a Scientific Review Committee.

Meanwhile, previous Philippine representatives to the Intel ISEF have garnered several awards. In fact, two grand winners of the May 2010 Intel ISEF competition were from the Philippines. Marc Arthur I. Limpiado with his Science Research Adviser, Janeth Morata Fuentes won for his “Microbial Inhibitory Activities of Extracts from Seven Philippine Seaweeds” in the individual category. For the team category, Maria Clara Isabel D. Sia, Jean Reni B. de Guzman, and Marc Mapalo with their adviser, Janeth Norata-Fuentes, won for their “Use of Natural Flocculants in Mitigating Harmful Algal Blooms (Red Tide). Both winners were from the Philippine Science HS, Eastern Visayas Campus (Region VII).

The Fair was held at San Jose, California, USA. ISEF is the world’s largest international pre-college science fair competition attended by 1,611 high school students from over 59 countries.

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