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## Budding scientists go to S & T camp

As part of its thrust to increase the pool of young Filipino scientists by giving them full exposure to science and technology pursuits, the Department of Education and the Department of Science and Technology welcome some 256 science high school students from across the country to a nine-day Science, Mathematics and Engineering (SME) camp.

Education Secretary Jesli Lapus said the camp is expected to further spark the students' interest in the sciences. "The academic camp which features highly interactive, laboratory-based activities was designed to suit the individual student's area of interest in science, mathematics and engineering," Lapus added.

The camp slated on May 3-12, 2009 is organized by the Science Education Institute of the DOST (DOST-SEI), together with the DepEd's Bureau of Secondary Education, in collaboration with the Philippine Science High School and selected research and development institutes and professional organizations.

Lapus stressed, "This collaboration will have far-reaching effects on Philippine basic education as this will lead to the convergence of resources and expertise that will accelerate our march towards progress," he said.

A strong science and technology are the building blocks of a progressive economy.

The academic camp is expected to nurture the talents of gifted students on such interests as Chemistry, Biology, Physics, Mathematics, Energy and Materials Engineering, Information and Communication Technology (ICT), Embedded Instrumentation Systems and Mobile Robotics.

"Explore the many opportunities provided in this camp," Lapus enthused. "Be willing to learn, relearn and unlearn...for growth and improvement. Ask questions. Seek answers. And be willing to share your wisdom."

The selected participants come from 23 science high schools in Metro Manila and from the nine Philippine Science High School Campuses nationwide who have demonstrated exceptional academic achievement and genuine interest in science, mathematics and engineering. Each school sent eight students and one adviser.

The camp is being conducted at the different R & D Institutes such as the UP National Science Complex in UP Diliman, Ateneo De Manila, University of Sto. Tomas, De La Salle University and UP Los Baños from May 3 to 9, 2009.

On May 10-12, 2009, participants will head out to Metro Subic Highlands in Morong, Bataan for field camps. **END**