



# TESDA Women's Center NEWSLETTER

Third Quarter

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July to September 2024



## TESDA Women's Center Conducts GAD International Webinar

On September 5 - 6, 2024, the TESDA Women's Center (TWC), in collaboration with GCash, spearheaded a two-day 2024 Gender and Development International Hybrid Webinar Program in Taguig City.

The event aimed to increase awareness of the importance of gender-responsive technical vocational education and training (TVET), and provided a flexible, innovative and informative platform where experts shared insights on collaboration and network building. Additionally, the program sought to enhance the participants' understanding of gender mainstreaming as a vital strategy to achieve gender equality and social inclusion.

On its first day, TWC Chief Mylene H. Somera welcomed all the participants both in the venue and all connected through Zoom and Facebook Live, while on the other hand, APACC Chairperson Dr. Kesavan Ulaganathen also delivered a Message to everyone sighting the importance of a gender responsive institution such as the TWC.

### In this Issue

TESDA Women's Center Conducts GAD International Webinar

TWC Strengthens Ties in TVET Through Benchmarking Activity in Malaysia

TESDA Women's Center Relaunches its Daycare Center



*Dr. Kesavan Ulaganathen*



TESDA Planning Office Assistant Executive Director Katherine Amor Zarsadias, Skills for Prosperity PH Senior Project Officer Katherine Brimon and GCash Chief Strategy Officer Rowena P. Zamora served as key resource persons during the webinar while Xavier C. Alpasa, Center Advisory Council Member on Social Economic Sector served as Moderator during the Question and Answer portion.

*(continued on Page 2)*



## TESDA Women's Center Conducts GAD International Webinar (from Page 1)



Department of Justice Undersecretary Atty. Margarita Gutierrez

On its second day, key resource persons including TESDA Deputy Director General Nelly Nita N. Dillera; TESDA Planning Office Assistant Executive Director Katherine Amor Zarsadias; Senior Director of Coca-Cola East Region Ivanna dela Torre; and WIFI Women in Infrastructure Director, Gla Veloso, gracefully shared their expertise in a Panel Discussion entitled "Collaboration and Network Building to Foster Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment: The Philippine TVET Experience", where TESDA Women Center's Advisory Council Chairperson Pacita U. Juan served as Moderator. Lastly, Department of Justice Undersecretary Atty. Margarita Gutierrez concluded the event with an Inspirational Message.

## TWC Strengthens Ties in TVET Through Benchmarking Activity in Malaysia



The TESDA Women's Center (TWC) recently conducted its first overseas benchmarking activity in Malaysia on September 17-20, 2024.

As a commitment, being the current Chair and Secretariat of the Association of APACC Accreditees (AAA), TWC is motivated to initiate impactful collaboration among accredited TVET institutions in the Philippines and across the Asia-Pacific Regions.

Highlights of the activity included a study visit to the prestigious Politeknik Port Dickson (PPD), a fellow APACC Platinum Awardee. The team was engaged in insightful discussions on PPD's best practices, gateway for possible faculty exchange, also a tour of facilities, meetings and endorsement with potential industry partners were carried out. Additionally, TWC attended the Malaysia Agriculture, Horticulture, and Agrotourism (MAHA) 2024 Exhibition and the Malaysia International Halal Showcase (MIHAS), where the team recognized the valuable partnership with Mayralab, one of TWC's valued industry partners.



The TWC Team was headed by Deputy Director General for Special Concerns, DDG Felizardo R. Colombo, TWC Center Administrator, Mylene H. Somera, and the APACC Criterion Leaders of TWC.

The successful benchmarking activity was organized in collaboration with the Projects and Consultancy Division of the Colombo Plan Staff College (CPSC) and PPD's Program Director of the study visit, Dr. Isdawati Binti Ismail.

Together, we are paving the way for innovative education and sustainable development!





## TESDA Women's Center Launches its own Intranet in support of National ICT Month

In line with the National ICT Month this June 2024, with the theme: "Bayang Digital ang Bagong Pilipinas", TWC launched its Intranet or a private internal network accessible to all employees of the Center on June 27, 2024.

The TWC Intranet integrated the following sub-systems of the Center: Human Resource Information System (HRiS) and Records Management Information System (RMiS).

The background and features of the Intranet were presented by Mr. Wesley Tattao, Developer and Technical Support Staff, who also guided all the personnel during the actual demonstration on the utilization of the system.

The TWC Intranet was developed through the integration of a basic PHP framework with Microsoft SQL Server as its back-end database. The system was originally designed to house and access the Center's Records Management and Information System (RMIS) but was then upgraded to a Human Resource Information System.



Through the TESDA Women's Center's Intranet, employees were able to access their personal profile, which consists of personal information, family background, educational background, civil service eligibility, work experience, voluntary work, and learning and development. The employees could also have access to their DTR logs from previous months. Aside from these features, the system also provides information on currently assigned ICT equipment.

The soft launch of the TWC Intranet is part of the long-term Digitalization Plan of the Center spearheaded by its ICT Team Ms. Kimberly Bautista, Acting Supervising TESD Specialist and Mr. Aries Glenn Montesines, IT Administrator.



## TESDA Women's Center Welcomes New Deputy Director General



*Deputy Director General for Special Concerns Felizardo R. Colambo shares a joke during the meeting*

The Specialized Training Centers under the Office of the Deputy Director General for Special Concerns (ODDGSC) organized an orientation for the newly appointed DDG Felizardo R. Colambo on July 2, 2024 at APACC Room, TESDA Women's Center.

The orientation was led by the Center Administrators under the ODDGSC - TESDA Women's Center, Ms. Mylene H. Somera and National Language Skills Center, Ms Mitzi Samson-Edriano. The orientation covers the overview of the Centers, accomplishments, advocacies, operations and some concerns for the improvement of its services.

The meeting concluded with a shared commitment from all attendees to support DDG Colambo's guidance and leadership as he takes on this new role. A collaborative start for driving progress at these important Specialized Training Centers



## TESDA Scholars Wins in the Dekkson Design Competition 2024!

TESDA scholar awarded 2nd Place in the Dekkson Design Competition 2024 on June 28, 2024 in Indonesia!

Mark Anthony Kyle Perez, a TWC graduate of Plumbing NC I joined the Dekkson Design Competition. Dekkson is a leading supplier of high-quality architectural accessories, mechanisms, and electronics for various infrastructure projects.

The winning entry, titled "VILLA SIMALEM", was created by a team of participants in the ASEAN TVET Mobility Programme - Drawing Architecture in Medan, North Sumatra, Indonesia. The team members are:

Mark Anthony Kyle Perez (Philippines)  
Kieu Tuyet Kim Dang (Vietnam)  
Reyvien Hillary (Brunei)  
Channel Thy (Cambodia)



*The winning team*



*Villa Salem - The winning design*

The design was judged based on the following criteria: (1) Interior layout with good circulation, lighting, air conditioning, and room dimensions, (2) Promoting local wisdom while maintaining a modern aesthetic, (3) Incorporating green building principles, and (4) Demonstrating uniqueness Incorporating Dekkson products.

Congratulations to Mark Anthony Kyle Perez and the entire team for this outstanding achievement!



# TWC Formalizes Partnerships through Memorandum of Understanding Signing Ceremonies



(L-R) Mylene H. Somera, Chief of TESDA Women's Center; DDG Rosanna A. Urdaneta, Deputy Director for Policies and Planning; Maguindanao del Sur Provincial Administrator, Atty. Cyrus Torreña; and Department of Justice Undersecretary Margarita Guttierrez

Back-to-back Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) Signing Ceremonies were held yesterday, 10 July 2024, which formalized the TESDA Women's Center's partnerships with the Provincial Government of Maguindanao Del Sur, BARMM, and the University of the Philippines Institute for Small-Scale Industries (UP-ISSI).

Represented by Provincial Administrator, Atty. Cyrus Torreña and witnessed by one of the TWC's Advisory Council member DDG Rosanna A. Urdaneta and the DOJ Undersecretary Margarita Guttierrez, an MOU with Maguindanao Del Sur was signed. The understanding aims to expand the reach of TWC services in empowering more women and girls in Mindanao regions.



Members of TWC's Research and Development Team with UP-ISSI partners headed by Prof. Melanie M. Moraga-Leaño

Meanwhile, Prof. Melanie M. Moraga-Leaño, Director, represented the UP ISSI together with Melanie Cabotaje and Danica Pacardo, University Extension Specialists. This partnership shall strengthen the Research & Development (R&D) culture and initiatives of TWC and enable an exchange of training and extension programs between the organizations.



Mylene H. Somera, TWC Center Chief with APACC Research and Development Team Head Joanna Tabu-Tattao with Prof. Melanie M. Moraga-Leaño and other visitors from UP-ISSI



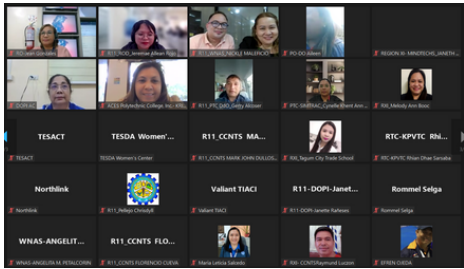
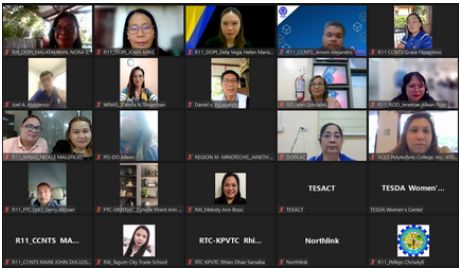
## TWC Organizes Online Orientation on APACC Processes to Region XI



The activity was organized thru the initiative of Regional Director Ashary A. Banto, aimed at encouraging these institutions to pursue APACC accreditation. As the appointed Chairperson and Secretariat for the Association of APACC Accreditees (AAA), TWC led the orientation, providing participants with an overview of APACC, the accreditation steps, and the benefits of earning APACC accreditation.

This activity is part of the ongoing efforts to increase the number of TESDA-Administered institutions to attain prestigious APACC accreditation in Region XI and other TVET institutions in the country.

The TESDA Women's Center (TWC) conducted an online orientation on the APACC (Asia Pacific Accreditation and Certification Commission) application process for TESDA institutions in Region XI on July 5, 2024.



## TWC Welcomes New Batch of Trainees

The TESDA Women's Center welcomed its newest batch of trainees with a comprehensive orientation program conducted on July 22 and 29, 2024.

The trainees had the opportunity to learn about the center's training programs, facilities, and support services available to help them succeed in their vocational training.





# TESDA Women's Center Seals New Collaboration with Taguig Libraries Consortium



The TESDA Women's Center has successfully sealed a new collaboration through the Ceremonial Signing of the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) of Taguig Libraries Consortium last July 17, 2024 at the DOST-STII.



Mylene H. Somera, TWC Center Chief

The partnership seeks to enhance library resources through resource sharing, foster academic research, and promote excellence through partnership and collaboration aiming to strengthen their commitment to excellence in vocational, technical, industrial, technological, scientific, and professional education and training and contribute meaningfully to the advancement of knowledge in these crucial fields within and beyond Taguig community.

The members of the consortium comprise of DOST-Science and Technology Information Institute (DOST-STII) Library, Technological University of the Philippines - Taguig (TUP-Taguig) learning Resource Center, Polytechnic University of the Philippines – Taguig (PUP-Taguig) Library, Taguig City University (TCU) Library, and the TESDA Women's Center (TWC) Learning Resource Center.





## TWC Facilitates Gender Sensitivity Training to Trainees

On July 19, 2024, TESDA Women's Center (TWC) facilitated an interactive Gender Sensitivity Training (GST) for the Barista NC II and Bookkeeping NC III trainees.

The GST is a regular part of TWC's empowerment-focused training curriculum.

Through the GST, trainees are enabled to:

- *Understand gender concepts and stereotypes*
- *Recognize and address gender-based discrimination*
- *Develop effective communication and collaboration across genders*
- *Foster inclusive and respectful work environments*

The GAD module: Working in a Gender Diverse Environment is also accessible through the TESDA Online Program (TOP).



Joenna T. Tattao discussed the importance of GST to all including the trainees

On August 2 and 7, 2024, TWC also conducted same GST Training for its new batch of trainees. This training reinforces the center's commitment to fostering inclusive, supportive learning environments where all students can thrive, regardless of gender.

By promoting gender equality, TWC is equipping the next generation of skilled workers with the values and mindset needed to build a more just society.





# TESDA Women's Center Relaunches its Daycare Center



(L-R) Author of “When the World Sneezes”, Ms. Ivanna Dela Torre; Training Management Unit Head, Ms. Gerrelen Balbin; TESDA Deputy Director General for CBTVET and TVET Partnership, DDG Nelly Nita N. Dillera; FASSU Head, Ms. Ritchie Briagas, and TESDA Women's Center Administrator Mylene H. Somera

The TESDA Women's Center proudly relaunched its Daycare Center today, August 15, 2024. The event was attended by TESDA Deputy Director General for CBTVET and TVET Partnership, DDG Nelly Nita N. Dillera, and special guest Ms. Ivanna Dela Torre, author of the children's book "When the World Sneezed".

The relaunching showcases TWC's commitment to supporting mothers who want to pursue training and career development, without being held back by family responsibilities.

The Daycare Center facilities will provide safe spaces for children, allowing mothers who want to access TVET programs and get empowered while pursuing their professional goals.

The event included a special story time session led by Ms. Dela Torre for the children in attendance.



TESDA Deputy Director General for CBTVET and TVET Partnership, DDG Nelly Nita N. Dillera



Together with the DDG Nelly and Chief Mylene Somera, children listens to Ms Ivanna during her Book Reading activity as part of the relaunch of the Day Care Center.



Ms Ivanna dela Torre shares her book entitled “When the World Sneezes” through Book Reading with children and their parents



## TESDA Women's Center Pens new MOU with Two Industry Partners



On August 13, 2024, the TESDA Women's Center forged new Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with two industry partners - MEDIKONSTRUK, INC. and MARY GRACE FOOD, INC.

Representing MEDIKONSTRUK, INC., a company engaged in medical construction and aspiring to be one of the fastest-growing healthcare construction firms, was Mr. Ronaldo J. San Juan, the President and CEO. Meanwhile, MARY GRACE FOOD, INC., a homegrown company operating the Mary Grace Cafe and producing bakery products, was represented by Ms. Chereline B. Enriquez, the Head of Human Resources.

These partnerships aim to provide valuable industry exposure and work opportunities for TWC trainees and graduates in the Construction, Electrical and Electronics, and Tourism sectors.

## Plumbing Trainees Visits UPMC Production Facility in Marilao



The Plumbing NC I trainer and trainees of TESDA Women's Center visited the production facility of Unitec Pipe Manufacturing Corporation (UPMC) in Marilao, Bulacan on August 16, 2024.

The industry visit allows the trainees to observe the actual manufacturing processes of PPR and PE pipes and fittings, quality testing procedures and demonstration of the safety and health practices in the plant.

The tour was organized and hosted by Ms. Norbie R. Mesiderio, the Sales and Marketing Coordinator of UPMC.





## TESDA Women's Center Visits ECHO Farms



Twenty-five TESDA Women's Center Barista NC II Trainees, led by the Deputy Director for Special Concerns Felizardo R. Colambo, Center Chief Mylene H. Somera, and their day class trainer, Maribel Dumalagan, visited a coffee farm to conduct a study tour on August 16, 2024 at ECHO Farms, Banaybanay, Amadeo Cavite.

The TESDA Women's Center (TWC), is one of the TESDA Technical Institutions, a government entity mandated to elevate the socio-economic status of men and specially women through technology-based education and training, research and development.



DDG Zards and Ms. Mylene H. Somera with the Barista NC II Trainees during the ECHO Farm visit

The visit helped the trainees to acquire additional knowledge in terms of coffee information from seed to cup. With their advocacy - to provide a quality coffee locally, ECHO Farms promote local coffee not only for the Filipino people but also extending to international market. All products they are selling in the market are 100% local, partnering with coffee farmers from Luzon, Visayas and Mindanao, training them to create a good quality harvest.

## TESDA Women's Center Named Finalists during the Prestigious Stitch-Off Urban Vibe Competition



We're thrilled to announce that on September 21, 2024, three talented graduates from our Dressmaking NC II and Creating Garment Designs program—Zarah Anika Rebutar, Erika France Mirabueno, and Sugar Danes Agawin—made it to the finals in the prestigious Stitch-Off Urban Vibe Competition! They were expertly guided by their coach and trainer, Ms. Irene Mortel.

Organized by DOST-PTRI, this vibrant event celebrates creativity through stunning runway-ready outfits and urban wear crafted from innovative textiles. The competition not only showcases our youth's incredible talent but also fosters a deeper appreciation for Philippine textiles while highlighting the vital role of science and technology in shaping the industry's future.





## TESDA Women's Center supports Brigada Eskwela 2024



On July 23, 2024, the TWC team of GMAW NC II and Plumbing trainers and trainees joined the annual Brigada Eskwela initiative to help prepare Tenement Elementary School for the upcoming school year.



**ICT**  
update

**WE'RE WORKING ON OUR WEBSITE'S NEW LOOK!  
WATCH OUT IN 2025!**

<http://twc.tesda.gov.ph>



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**TESDA Women's Center**  
*Changing Women's Lives*

### VISION

*"To be the leading TESDA  
Polytechnic Institute for Women in  
2028."*

### MISSION

*"As the lead Polytechnic Institute for  
Women Empowerment, we  
advocate and provide programs and  
services geared towards quality  
Assured, Inclusive and Gender-Fair  
TVET."*

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