



# TESDA Women's Center NEWSLETTER

First Quarter

A Publication of TESDA Women's Center

January to March 2025

## TWC Organizes Social Meeting with the TESDA Board

The TESDA Women's Center Advisory Council had the honor of hosting a social meeting with TESDA Board Member Ms. Ma. Flordeliza Cusi Leong from the TESDA Board, Private Sector-Employer Sector, and was graced by TESDA Secretary Francisco "Kiko" B. Benitez on March 31, 2025.

The meeting aimed to foster meaningful dialogue and strengthen collaboration with TESDA's leadership, specifically in promoting gender-responsive programs and policies. The session highlighted the strategic plans and projects for 2025, aligning these initiatives with TESDA's objectives and seeking support from key decision-makers through a gender-responsive lens.

The TWC Advisory Council Chair, Pacita "Chit" Juan; DDG Rosanna A. Urdaneta, representing the Government Sector; Carolyn I. Sobritchea, PhD, representing the Academe Sector; Gilda Patricia C. Maquilan, representing the Business Sector; and Xavier C. Alpasa, representing the Social Economy Sector, were also in attendance.



### In this Issue

TWC Hosts Social Meeting with the TESDA Board

TESDA Women's Center Strengthen Ties with PCW in a Courtesy Visit

TESDA Launches the TWC Business Start-up Hub



## TWC Hosts Indonesian Delegation



*Indonesian delegates led by Mayor Munafri Arifuddin of Makassar City, with TWC Administrator, Mylene H. Somera*

The TESDA Women's Center had the honor of hosting Indonesian delegates, led by Mayor Munafri Arifuddin of Makassar City, on January 9, 2025.

Ms. Mylene H. Somera presented the AVP of TWC, outlining the center's mission to empower women through technical education.

Following the presentation, the delegates were

given a guided tour of the training workshops and facilities, allowing them to observe the actual conduct of training at TWC.

This visit signifies a meaningful step towards fostering international collaboration and cooperation in supporting economic growth and development of an individual and a community through TVET.

## TWC Welcomes PCET - Mongolia Delegates



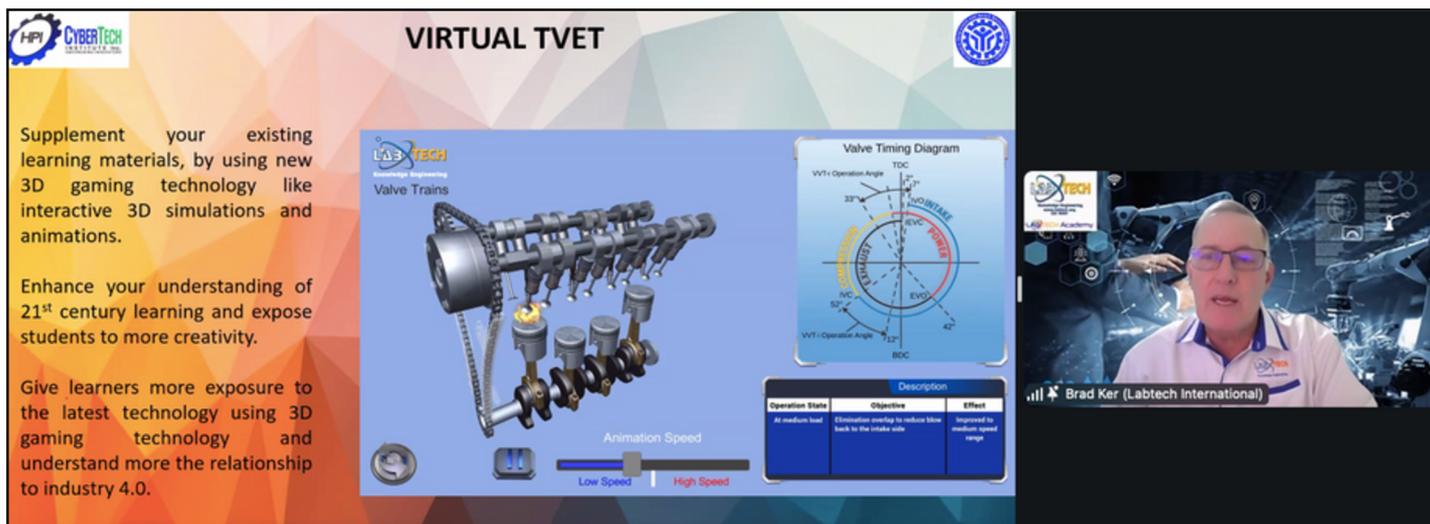
*Delegates from the Polytechnic College of Engineering and Technology (PCET) - Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia*

The TESDA Women's Center proudly welcomed delegates from the Polytechnic College of Engineering and Technology (PCET) - Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia. The delegation led by Prof. Naeem Yaqoob, PCD Chairperson and APACC Co-chairperson is participating in a Customized Program on English Training for Teaching Staff at the CPSC on March 7, 2025.

The PCET is an APACC-accredited institution preparing for re-accreditation and is taking this opportunity to learn from the best practices of TWC being an APACC Platinum Awardee.

Highlights of the visit include presentation of the TWC Briefer and tour of the training facilities showcasing industry standard training venues equipped with a strong commitment to educational excellence.

# TWC Attends Online Orientation for the Learning Management System of the Automotive Servicing



Brad Kerr, General Manager and Director of Digital Learning at Labtech Academy

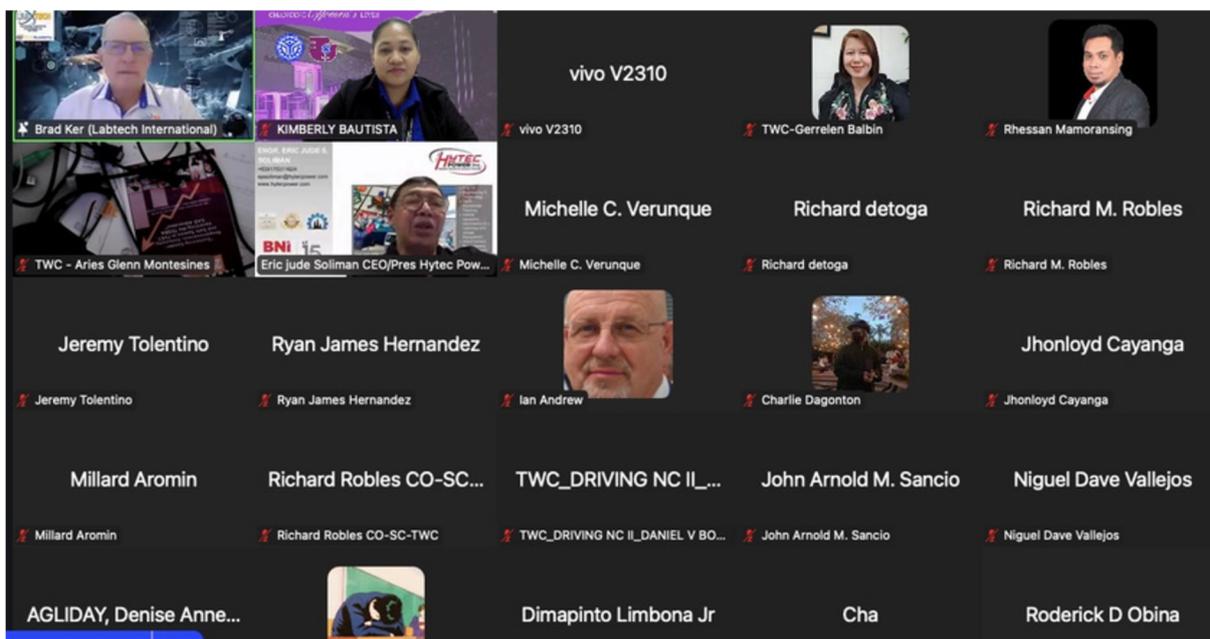
Labtech Academy conducted an online orientation for the Learning Management System of the Automotive Servicing NC I and II, partnering with Hytec Power Inc. to enhance the Automotive Servicing Training Program on January 14, 2025.

The session was led by Brad Kerr, General Manager and Director of Digital Learning at Labtech Academy, specifically for Automotive NC I and NC II trainees. Also in attendance

were Hytec Power Inc. President and CEO, Engr. Eric Jude S. Soliman, and Mr. Rhessan Mamoransing.

Labtech Academy is a valuable partner of TESDA Women's Center in its Automotive Servicing NC I and II Training Programs, actively supporting the integration of virtual and augmented reality into educational materials.

This initiative aims to encourage more women to enroll in non-traditional trades, such as the automotive sector.



## TESDA Women Center Holds General Assembly and Planning Workshop



*The TWC Family with the Deputy Director General for Special Concerns, Felizardo Colombo*

On February 5, 2025, the TESDA Women's Center successfully held its 2025 General Assembly and Planning Workshop at the Tandang Sora Hall. Deputy Director General for Special Concerns, Felizardo R. Colombo, attended the event.

Highlights of the event include gathering of feedback and suggestions from the members of the faculty and staff through an interactive Knowledge Cafe. Each Operating Unit presented

its 2025 Plan of Action. Additionally, OPCR accomplishments for July-December 2024 were also presented.

Discussions also covered important matters such as HR submissions, GAD compliance, and iSTAR program enrollment. The event concluded with the TWC Pledge of Commitment and a closing message from the Center Chief, Ms. Mylene H. Somera.

## ILO - Bangladesh Visits the TESDA Women's Center

The representatives from the ILO Country Office for Bangladesh visited the TESDA Women's Center as part of the ISEC Project: "Leaving No One Behind-Improving Skills and Economic Opportunities for the Bangladesh Community and Rohingya Women and Youth in Cox's Bazaar, Bangladesh" on February 4, 2025.

This important initiative aims to empower NEET youth, women, and vulnerable groups in Cox's Bazaar through essential skills and entrepreneurship development.



*Representatives from the ILO Country Office for Bangladesh posed for a picture with SMAW and GMAW Trainees*

The visitors were guided on a tour of the TESDA Women's Center training facilities, witnessing firsthand the impactful programs designed to enhance skills and create economic opportunities.

This institutional visit highlights the important role of partnerships and collaboration in achieving the center's commitment to fostering empowerment and support for all.

## TESDA Women's Center Strengthens Ties with PCW in a Courtesy Visit



*TWC Administrator accepts simple token from Philippine Commission on Women Chairperson Ermelita V. Valdeavilla*

The TWC team led by its Administrator Mylene H Somera, formally introduced the Center's mandate, vision, current and target program offerings and gender mainstreaming initiatives to the Philippine Commission on Women Chairperson Ermelita V. Valdeavilla in a courtesy visit on February 24, 2025 at PCW Building, Malacañan Palace Complex, Manila.

During the visit, Chair Valdeavilla expressed the Commission's interest to be part of the TWC Advisory Council and assist in ensuring gender equality and women's empowerment will be sustained and prioritized in TVET.

## CIAST Malaysia Visits TESDA Women's Center



*Delegation from the Centre for Instructor and Advanced Skills Training (CIAST), Malaysia with TWC Administrator Mylene H. Somera and TWC Unit Heads*

On February 24, 2025, the TESDA Women's Center welcomed the delegation from the Centre for Instructor and Advanced Skills Training (CIAST), Malaysia.

The delegation was led by the Deputy Director of Training Management Dr. Jamil Bin Yahya, joined by Esther Cheng of JICA-Malaysia.

The visit was focused on sharing of best practices and insights for improvement of both institutions as accredited by the APACC.



## Empowering Women Through Skills: Inside the TESDA Women's Center

The TESDA Women's Center (TWC), formerly the National Vocational Training and Development Center for Women, began in 1993 through the efforts of former Senator Leticia Ramos-Shahani and members of the Japanese Diet. With a grant of 2.62 billion yen (USD 23.82M) from the Japanese government through JICA, the Center was constructed and inaugurated in 1998.

Through the years, the TWC has stood as a beacon of hope and transformation for thousands of Filipino women. The TWC is more than just a training facility—it's a symbol of TESDA's commitment to gender equality and inclusive development. Its mission is to equip women with the skills, confidence, and opportunities they need to thrive in both traditionally female and male-dominated industries.

From courses in cookery and dressmaking to training in driving, welding, and plumbing the TWC breaks stereotypes, proving that women can excel in any field they choose.

Aside from empowering women, the TWC also paved the way for innovation. The TWC was conferred as the first institution in the country to achieve the prestigious Platinum Award from the Asia Pacific Accreditation and Certification Commission in 2023.



## Shining Bright for Women's Empowerment



The TESDA Women's Center proudly joins the **Purple Your Icon** initiative by illuminating the TWC Building in purple! This display is part of our month-long celebration of **National Women's Month** from March 1-31, 2025.

Let's stand together in support of women everywhere!

## TWC Hosts Meeting with HMR-Envirocycle



The TESDA Women's Center hosted a productive meeting with HMR-Envirocycle to discuss a potential partnership on March 5, 2025.

Led by President David Carman and Environmental Manager Shirly Bulac, the HMR-Envirocycle team presented their vision for collaboration on electronic recyclables management, solid waste management, and sustainable practices. The partnership aims to promote circular economy initiatives that will benefit both organizations and the community.

This collaboration marks a significant step toward a greener TVET and sustainable future!



## TESDA Launches the TWC Business Start-up Hub



TESDA Secretary/ Director General Jose Francisco "Kiko" B. Benitez leads the cutting of ribbon during the launch of TWC Business Hub at the TESDA Office Basement.

On March 6, 2025, TESDA proudly launched the TWC Business Start-up Hub at the TESDA Central Office Basement. This initiative is designed to empower aspiring Juana entrepreneurs, along with TWC trainees and graduates, by providing them a platform to incubate their businesses.

Participants included certified graduates and skilled trainees from various programs such as Barista NC II, Bartending NC II, Bread and Pastry Production NC II, Cookery NC II, Dressmaking NC II and Creating Garment Designs.



TWC's long time partners were also present during the event such as the TWC Alumni Association, Coke iSTAR Program, Samsung Philippines, and PASCO (Philippine Association of Carindera Owners).

The event was also supported by Ginebra San Miguel, Inc. and Catcher Gourmet.

The highlight of the event was the Ribbon Cutting Ceremony led by TESDA Secretary Francisco "Kiko" B. Benitez, alongside TESDA Deputy Directors General Nelly Nita Dillera, Vidal D. Villanueva III, and Felizardo R. Colambo.



## TWC Empowers Lives Through Skills Training

On March 27, 2025, a Community-Based Training on Plumbing Repair and Maintenance Work was held at the Bureau of Jail Management and Penology in Taguig City. Facilitated by Engr. Ryan M. Llanto, the training engaged 21 Persons Deprived of Liberty (PDLs), 9 Jail Officers, and 7 Interns.

This initiative reflects the BJMP's commitment to providing livelihood programs that empower PDLs by equipping them with essential skills for successful reintegration in the society. Through these programs, participants can earn for their personal upkeep and support their families during their confinement, fostering hope for a brighter future.



Engr. Ryan Llanto



(Top)  
A PDL engaging in the training through the guidance of Engr. Ryan Llanto

## TWC Conducts Career Talk

On March 13, 2025, the TESDA Women's Center conducted a Career Talk at Signal Village National HS and Western Bicutan National HS led by Ms. Aura Kriz Abella, Guidance Counselor. The team was joined by trainers and trainees from TWC, reaching more than 500 senior high school students.

Included in the activities are the presentation of TWC's mission highlighting the **FREE competency-based training programs** available and showcasing the inspiring stories of successful women TVET graduates motivating SHS students to explore their career possibilities.



## TWC Partners with HMR-Envirocycle

The TESDA Women's Center signed a Memorandum of Understanding with HMR Envirocycle Phils., Inc. The partnership aims to give due action on the pressing issue of electronic waste while promoting sustainable practices. This initiative is part of TWC's Green TVET Action Plan aligned with the TESDA's Green TVET Framework on March 18, 2025.



*Mr. Paolo Obles, HMR Envirocycle Phils. Inc Sustainability Director, and General Manager Ziegmond Serrano with TWC Administrator Mylene H. Somera and Kimberly G. Bautista, Acting Supervising TESD Specialist*

HMR Envirocycle is dedicated to preventing electronic equipment waste products from ending up in landfills and shall focus on reusing, recycling and repurposing through accredited channels. Together, TWC and HMR Envirocycle will enhance ecological solid waste management by providing industry immersion for trainers, on-the-job training (OJT) for trainees, and learning sessions on sustainable practices and the circular economy.

The event was represented by Mr. Paolo Obles, Sustainability Director, and Ziegmond Serrano, General Manager, along with other key officials.

This collaboration marks a significant step toward a greener future!



# Launching Soon!

**TESDA WOMEN'S CENTER  
DORMITORY ONLINE  
RESERVATION AND MANAGEMENT  
SYSTEM (D.O.R.M.S.)**

**NATIONAL ICT MONTH**  
JUNE 2025




## TWC Hosts CineJuana Film Showing on Significant Role of Women



On March 21, 2025, the TESDA Women's Center hosted a CineJuana Film Showing attended by 150 participants, including TVET trainees, graduates, and TESDA employees, as part of the 2025 Women's Month Celebration.

The featured film, *Six Triple Eight*, tells the real stories and significant role of women of the 6888th Central Directory Postal Battalion during World War II. This film is a powerful tool of recognizing the social issues and promote gender equality which inspired participants to engage and support women empowerment initiatives.

## TESDA Women's Center Holds First GAD Webinar via Zoom

"GESI: TVET Sektor ng Kababaihan, laangat!" was the theme of the TESDA Women's Center's Part 1 of the 2025 GAD Webinar held on 6 March 2025 via Zoom.

More than 400 virtual participants nationwide joined the webinar which was facilitated by Atty. Judie Rose Dimayuga, subject matter expert from the Philippine Commission on Women's National GAD Resource Pool.



Atty. Judie Rose Dimayuga



Mayla June Hulipas with Janette Banlasan, Regional Winner of TESDA IV-A's Most Outstanding Woman in Non-Traditional Trades

An interview with Janette Banlasan, Regional Winner of TESDA IV-A's Most Outstanding Woman in Non-Traditional Trades, has inspired the participants to contribute to the twin goals of gender equality and women's empowerment by supporting social inclusion in TVET.

## TWC Welcomes MNCEA for an Institutional Visit



*Prof. Naeem Yaqoob, PCD Chairperson and APACC Co-Chairperson (third from the left) along with Mrs. Otgonbuzmaa Bandi (second from the left) from MNCEA*

The TESDA Women's Center had the privilege of welcoming visitors from the **Mongolian National Council for Education Accreditation (MNCEA)** for an insightful institutional visit on March 27, 2025.

The delegation consisted of 23 leaders from various TVET institutions in Mongolia, who are on a Customized Program on Quality Assurance of TVET Institutions through Accreditation, organized by the Colombo Plan Staff College. The team was led by Prof. Naeem Yaqoob, PCD Chairperson and APACC Co-Chairperson, along with Mrs. Otgonbuzmaa Bandi from MNCEA.

As the first and only APACC Platinum Awardee in the Philippines, the TWC shared its best practices and significant achievements. The day included an orientation of the TWC's programs, a comprehensive presentation of accomplishments based on the 7 APACC criteria, and a tour of the facilities.

Together, we are paving the way in globalizing the Philippine TVET!



*Visitors from the Mongolian National Council for Education Accreditation (MNCEA) with the TWC Family*

## TWC Shares Insights on GAD to other Government Agencies in Celebration of National Women's Month

As part of its initiative to observe the 2025 National Women's Month Celebration, the Department of Science and Technology Regional (DOST) Office 8 – GAD Unit conducted a forum on March 25, 2025.

The session was led by Ms. Joanna Tabu-Tattao, Senior TESD Specialist and Gender and Development Specialist at the TESDA Women's Center. As the resource speaker, she emphasized the crucial link between sexual and reproductive health and gender equality. She encouraged participants to uphold and protect sexual and reproductive health rights by providing relevant examples.



*TWC GAD Specialist and participants from the Department of Science and Technology Regional (DOST) Office 8 – GAD Unit*



*TWC Administrator, Mylene H. Somera*

On the other hand, the TESDA Women's Center Administrator, Mylene H. Somera, shared her insights as one of the speakers in the Department of Social Welfare and Development - led hybrid seminar for the 2025 National Women's Month Celebration on March 28, 2025.

With the theme "Juana in Action: Breaking Barriers, Building Futures," she presented the TESDA GAD Mainstreaming activities and vital TVET programs for women in non-traditional occupations.

The hybrid session was attended by DSWD officials and employees organized by DSWD through the KALAHI-CIDSS.

Together, we are paving the way for a brighter future!





# SUCCESS STORIES

## *Jobelle A. Carpio*

**Barista NC II Graduate  
TESDA Women's Center**

Realizing her passion for coffee could be a career, Jobelle decided to explore the coffee industry. In December 2022, she graduated from the Barista NC II program at the TESDA Women's Center, acquiring essential skills like grinding beans, tamping, and pulling shots.

**“Stepping out of my comfort zone and joining that training was one of the best decisions I’ve made. It reminded me that growth and learning occur when we challenge ourselves, regardless of age or circumstances.**

Before becoming a barista, Jobelle A. Carpio's life was diverse. She had a keen interest in arts and creativity, which led her to pursue training in TESDA NCR- RTC, Visual Graphic Design NC III.

*In March 2023, Jobelle was hired as a Store Supervisor at Coffee Life Inc. Her hard work and dedication allowed her to progress from a barista to a supervisor, a rewarding yet challenging transition.*

Jobelle's employment provides stability and opportunities for advancement. One valuable lesson she learned is that age should never hinder learning. Despite being the oldest in her class, Jobelle embraced the experience, contributing unique perspectives from her life experience.

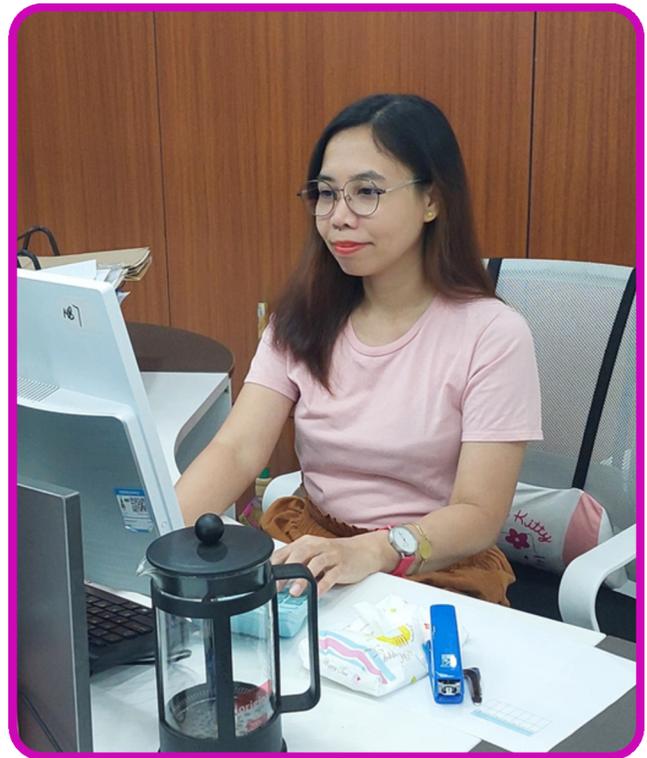
*Jobelle's success story demonstrates the power of determination, lifelong learning, and overcoming age-related challenges. Her journey has inspired her to continue exploring, learning, and evolving, proving that growth can occur at any stage.*

# SUCCESS STORIES

## *Angelica Dedase*

**Bookkeeping NC III Graduate  
TESDA Women's Center**

Before enrolling in TWC, Angelica faced significant challenges as she was unemployed. This period was marked by uncertainty and a struggle to find direction in her career. She knew she needed to take action to change her situation.



Angelica chose to pursue a Bookkeeping NC III program at TWC to open doors to accounting opportunities. She recognized the importance of having a solid foundation in bookkeeping to secure a stable job in the finance sector. The training provided her with the skills and knowledge necessary to thrive in this field.

Having a job has positively transformed Angelica's life and her family's situation. She is gradually able to pay off her debts, alleviating some of the financial burdens they faced. She is immensely grateful for the opportunities TWC has provided, allowing her to contribute more significantly to her family's well-being.

Angelica has come to accept that challenges and failures are essential components of success. They have pushed her to grow and strive to become the best version of herself.

***After completing her training, Angelica was fortunate to secure employment as a tax accountant immediately after her on-the-job training (OJT). This achievement not only boosted her confidence but also made her resilient in the face of challenges. She now approaches obstacles with a mindset that embraces growth and learning.***

**“Let go and let God.” As the Stoics say, “What stands in the way becomes the way.”**

***Angelica is thankful for the chance to help others through the training programs at TWC. She hopes to inspire those in similar situations, demonstrating that with determination and the right support, success is attainable.***



## Happy International Women's Day!

This year's theme, "**Accelerate Action**," reminds us that together, we can drive change and create a more equitable future for women everywhere. At TESDA Women's Center, we are committed to empowering women through quality technical-vocational education and life long learning skills.

Let's continue to accelerate our efforts and support each other in making a lasting impact

**ICT**  
update

**WE'RE WORKING ON OUR WEBSITE'S NEW LOOK!  
WATCH OUT VERY SOON!**



### CONTACT US

**Facebook Page**  
facebook.com/TWCOfficialPage

**Website**  
http://twc.tesda.gov.ph

**Email Address**  
twc@tesda.gov.ph

**Address**  
Building 2, TESDA Complex, East  
Service Road, South Luzon  
Expressway, Fort Bonifacio, Taguig,  
Philippines, 1630



**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."*

### TWC NEWSLETTER EDITORIAL BOARD

#### Editor In-Chief

**MYLENE H. SOMERA**  
Chief TESD Specialist

#### Asst. Editor-In-Chief

**KIMBERLY G. BAUTISTA**  
Acting Supervising TESD Specialist

#### Writer

**JOENNA T. TATTAO**  
Senior TESD Specialist

#### Writer/Layout Artist

**WESLEY E. TATTAO**  
Technical Support Staff