

JAPAN'S DR. KIM AND IRAN'S PROF. SARKAR VISIT DOST-ITDI



It was an international day for the Industrial Technology Development Institute (ITDI) last March 11 as its Advanced Device and Materials Testing Laboratory (ADMATEL) had almost simultaneous visits from Japan's Dr. Tony Kim and Prof. Saeed Sarkar, Director General of the Iran Nanotechnology Innovation Council (INIC) and his party.

Dr. Kim, whose visit was coordinated by the Advanced Science and Technology Institute (ASTI), is currently the International Program Officer of Japan's Air Force Office of Scientific Research (AFOSR), which manages Japan's air force basic research and awards grants and contracts with AFOSR-related academic and research institutions. His visit aimed to strengthen the partnership between DOST and AFOSR, talk about the Philippines' space-related projects and potential grants and research collaborations, and for the Philippines to potentially host the next ASEAN meeting.

Dr. Kim was accompanied by ASTI Acting Director Dr. Joel Joseph S. Marciano, Jr. and Ms. Daneza Balagbagan, Administrative Officer of STAMINA4SPACE (formerly PHL-Microsat Program) of the University of the Philippines Diliman. Dr. Kim toured ITDI's ADMATEL and Nano Lab. He likewise visited the Metals Industry Research and Development Center (MIRDC) and the Electronics Product Development Center (EPDC), and paid a courtesy call to Asec. Leah J. Buendia, DOST Assistant Secretary for International Cooperation.

Prof. Sarkar, on the other hand, was invited to DOST by Asec. Buendia to interface with the Philippines' scientific and academic community and discuss Iran's impressively advanced portfolio of innovations in the field of nanotechnology, particularly on polymers, automotive, health, construction, water and environment, and textiles. The invitation also aimed to explore how technical collaboration with Iran can help improve Philippine nanotechnology.

Attending the presentation for ITDI were ITDI Director Dr. Annabelle V. Briones, Technological Services Division (TSD) Chief Ms. Nelia C. Florendo, and Materials Science Division (MSD) Chief Dr. Blessie A. Basilia, who presented to the body ITDI Nano Lab's R&D efforts.

Our Business is Industry

Also at the presentation were Asec. Buendia, Iran Ambassador Mohammad Tanhaei and attaches from the Iran Embassy, INIC Executive Director Ali Najimi, Iran High Tech Laboratory Network Director Dr. Reza Asadifard; DOST's Philippine Council for Agriculture, Aquatic and Natural Resources Research and Development (PCAARRD); Philippine Council for Industry, Energy, and Emerging Technology Research and Development (PCIEERD); and the Philippine Textile Research Institute (PTRI); and from the academe, University of the Philippines Los Baños, Mapua University, and Ateneo de Manila University. The group then toured the ITDI facilities namely, ADMATEL, MSD, and Food Innovation Center (FIC); as well as those of MIRDC and PTRI after the meeting.

(RRUdelaCruz/TSD)



