

DOST welcomes VIP Balik Scientists

Yesterday, August 13, 2021, Science Secretary Fortunato T. De La Peña welcomed aboard the Virology Institute of the Philippines (VIP) Program seven Filipino Balik Scientists during a virtual courtesy call aired via ITDI's Facebook Page and YouTube Channel.

Philippine Council for Health Research and Development Director, Dr. Jaime C. Montoya, started the call with his message relating the medical concerns and importance of establishment of the VIP in the country.

This was followed by the Opening Message of Dr. Rowena Cristina L. Guevarra, Undersecretary for Research and Development.

In his keynote, Secretary De La Peña cited the significance of having a team of experts in the field of virology and related expertise and creating the VIP in the Philippines.

Finally, ITDI Director Dr. Annabelle V. Briones formally closed the activity while expressing her appreciation to the Balik Scientists.

The seven Balik Scientists who paid their call include:

1. Dr. Teodoro M. Fajardo Jr. of the United Kingdom National External Quality Assessment Service (UK NEQAS) in London City, United Kingdom;
2. Dr. Myra T. Hosmillo of the Department of Pathology, University of Cambridge in Cambridge City, United Kingdom;
3. Dr. Leodevico L. Ilag of Molawin Creek Ventures Pty. Ltd. in Victoria, Australia;
4. Dr. Christina Lora M. Leyson of the Southeast Poultry Research Laboratory in Athens City, Georgia, USA;
5. Dr. Elpidio Cesar B. Nadala, Jr. of the Diagnostics for the Real World, Ltd. (DRW) in San Jose City, California, USA;
6. Dr. Lourdes M. Nadala of the Diagnostics for the Real World, Ltd (DRW) in San Jose City, California, USA; and
7. Dr. Homer D. Pantua of the Infectious Diseases Department of Genentech , Inc. in South San Francisco City, California, USA.





They expressed their excitement, appreciation, gratefulness, and willingness to share their knowledge and expertise to the Philippines and promised to work hard to develop vaccines and diagnostics to fight viral and other dreadful diseases. (DDGotis\ ITDI S&T Media Service)