

## DOST-ITDI Halal R&D Facility awarded a Certificate of Accreditation



The Industrial Technology Development Institute's (DOST-ITDI) Halal R&D Facility was awarded a Certificate of Accreditation by the International Halal Integrity Alliance (IHIA) Ltd., Malaysia, on November 1, 2021. The official awarding of the certificate was conducted on March 23, 2022.

Prof. Dr. Abdul Rafek Saleh, Executive Director of IHIA, came to Manila to formally award the certificate. He is joined by Dr. Jane Tranquilan, MHCT Philippines Executive Director. The ceremony was followed by a talk about international Halal standards and guidelines in the afternoon.

The ceremony was headed by Dr. Annabelle V. Briones, DOST-ITDI Director, together with Dr. Christine Marie Montesa, DOST-ITDI Deputy Director for Research and Development, and Dr. Zorayda Ang, Deputy Director for Administrative and Technical Services. The halal team of the Food Processing Division (FPD) present are Ms. Ma. Dolor Villaseñor, Ms. Ma. Elsa Falco, Ms. Rosela Gomez, Ms. Annabelle Flores, Ms. Monica Manalo, Mr. Bienvenido Flores, and Mr. Niamey Cortado.

Halal involves the principles of the Shariah Law and food safety. Other than being a label, halal assures that food is of high quality, safe, clean, and has high nutritional value. According to Food Ingredients Global and the Department of Trade and Industry, Muslims will comprise 26.4 percent of the world's total projected population of 8.3 billion by 2030. In South Asia and the Asia Pacific region alone, Muslims are expected to reach 1.3 billion by 2030 and the demand for halal products has now reached about \$200 billion worldwide.

To meet this demand, DOST-ITDI is continuously boosting its human resource development coupled with implementation of high-impact projects that support the halal industry in the country. Inaugurated in 2019, the Halal Food R&D Facility handles the establishment of halal assurance system for processing banana, bakery, and meat products. (MVAAtienza\ITSD).