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DOST-ITDI Salt Technologies win at the 2024 NICE Presidential Awards



The Department of Science and Technology's Industrial Technology Development Institute (DOST-ITDI) has been honored with the 2024 National Invention Contest and Exhibits (NICE) Presidential Awards for its two innovative salt technologies.

Themed "Providing NICE Solutions for a Sustainable Bagong Pilipinas," the awards ceremony was held on July 24, 2024, at the Sheraton Manila Hotel. It was graced by His Excellency Ferdinand "Bongbong" Marcos, Jr., President of the Republic of the Philippines.



The **continuous screw-type salt washer** won the First Prize in the Tuklas Award for Outstanding Invention Category. This technology is designed to increase salt purity to at least 97%, meeting the requirements of R.A. 8172, also known as the Act for Salt Iodization Nationwide (ASIN). Dr. Annabelle V. Briones led the project team with Carlos J. De Vera, Engr. Quintillano M. Montevirgen, Oliver C. Evangelista, Engr. Jayson B. Nuval, Melquiades B. Canceran, and Alexander G. Cruz.

Inspired by Technology, Driven by Innovation

Department of Science and Technology INDUSTRIAL TECHNOLOGY DEVELOPMENT INSTITUTE
DOST Compound, General Santos Avenue, Bicutan, Taguig City Tel.: (02) 8837-2071 local 2184 / 2268



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The salt harvesting equipment also received the First Prize in the Likha Award for Outstanding Creative Research, Government Funded Category. This machine mechanizes the labor-intensive processes of crushing, washing, and harvesting salt in deep salterns, making salt processing feasible during dry and wet seasons. It significantly shortens the harvesting time from months to weeks, reducing production costs. This innovation's project team comprises Dr. Annabelle V. Briones, Oliver C. Evangelista, Engr. Quintillano M. Montevirgen, Engr. Jayson B. Nuval, and Raeyjan V. Marfal.

Organized by the Technology Application and Promotion Institute (DOST-TAPI) in cooperation with five clustered regions, the Regional Invention Contest and Exhibits (RICE) recognizes the contributions of inventions and research studies to national development. It also provided an opportunity to represent the clustered regions at the national level or NICE last July 16-18, 2024, at the Marriott Manila Hotel.

Out of six hundred five (605) entries from all over the country – from Northern Luzon, Southern Luzon, Visayas, National Capital Region, and Mindanao of ClusteRICE – twenty-five (25) entries were selected to compete in this said competition. On July 18, 2024, at the closing ceremonies, six (6) entries were granted the best and brightest inventions under the categories of Tuklas Award for Outstanding Invention Category, Unlad Award for Outstanding Utility Model Category, Banghay Award for Outstanding Industrial Design Category, Likha Award for Outstanding Creative Research for Private and Government-Funded Categories, and Sibol Award of Outstanding Student Creative Research for High School and College Levels.

Congratulations to the DOST-ITDI Salt Team! Your hard work and dedication to public service are truly commendable! *(MVAtienza\ITSD)*

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