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EBD Researchers Receive the First Filemon D. Tanchoco Scientific Discoverer Award



Researchers from the Environment and Biotechnology Division (EBD) of the Department of Science and Technology-Industrial Technology Development Institute (DOST-ITDI) were honored with the first-ever Filemon D. Tanchoco Scientific Discoverer Award. The recognition was presented on December 4, 2024, at the Manila Central University (MCU) for their work on the SAFEWATRS Mobile Water Disinfection System.

Originally developed for disaster response, the SAFEWATRS Mobile Water Disinfection System has become a transformative solution for communities lacking access to potable water. The innovative, mobile, and energy-independent technology has been deployed in 18 remote and underserved areas across the Philippines, ensuring access to clean drinking water in even the most challenging circumstances.

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DOST Compound, General Santos Avenue, Bicutan, Taguig City Tel.: (02) 8837-2071 local 2184 / 2268



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Led by Engr. Reynaldo L. Esguerra, the project team includes Engr. Rochelle Retamar, Engr. Dante Vergara, Engr. Prima Joy Margarito, Engr. Rodelma Perez, Engr. Engel Ryan Ibarra, and Mr. Reymundo Adan. Their dedication and ingenuity have not only addressed urgent public health needs but also empowered marginalized communities through sustainable, science-based solutions.

According to MCU, the award celebrates the legacy of Atty. Filemon D. Tanchoco, Sr., a staunch advocate of scientific innovation that uplifts humanity and delivers practical benefits to society. The SAFEWATRS team's achievement exemplifies this vision, embodying the power of science to drive meaningful change.

Earlier this year, SAFEWATRS also received a Silver Medal in the 49th International Exhibition of Inventions Geneva (IEIG).

The milestone marks a proud moment for DOST-ITDI and underscores the critical role of Filipino scientists in addressing pressing societal challenges. *(MVAtienza\TSD)*

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