



ITDI GAD CULMINATING ACTIVITY: A SYMPHONY OF ACHIEVEMENT, INSPIRATION, AND EQUALITY

Inspired by Technology, Driven by Innovation

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In a captivating display of gender and development (GAD), the ITDI GAD Culminating Activity set the stage at the Century Park Hotel Manila on November 29, 2023. Themed “Pagkakapantay-pantay sa Agham, Sining, at Komunidad,” this event was more than a culmination — it was a celebration of accomplishments, recognition, and commitment to GAD objectives.

The anticipated event kicked off with a ‘star-studded’ red-carpet entrance, as delegates from the ITDI community, guests from the Department of Budget and Management (DBM), and distinguished visitors graced the event. Dr. Zorayda V. Ang, the ITDI’s Deputy Director-ATS and overall chairperson of this year’s organizing committee, welcomed the attendees with warmth, setting the tone for an event with inspiration and celebration. As distinguished speakers, the messages of DOST Secretary Dr. Renato U. Solidum Jr. and Atty. Kristine E. Yuzon-Chaves, Executive Director of the Philippine Commission on Women (PCW), added their perspectives on the theme, emphasizing the importance of equality in the workplace, leaving the audience motivated and enlightened.

Dr. Annabelle V. Briones, ITDI Director, presented a comprehensive year-end report highlighting the Institute’s accomplishments. She also recognized Divisions that excelled in filing and gaining approval for intellectual properties, led the adoption and commercialization of developed technologies, were dedicated to publishing scientific papers in international Journals, and those that received the highest number of international awards. Indeed, ITDI plays a significant role in shaping the future of the Philippines' industry.

A pivotal moment unfolded with the recognition of outstanding individuals, with awards bestowed upon Divisional and Institutional model employees, both regular and COS positions. The spotlight also shone to the recipients of Director’s Award, those who successfully completed their MS and PhD degrees, and the most active Technical Review Committee (TRC) member, highlighting the ITDI’s commitment to excellence. The event continued to spotlight excellence, further acknowledging outstanding contributions through the presentation of GAD Awards by Dr. Ang. Notably, ITDI's achievements in GAD serve as proof that the Institute actively promotes, implements, and recognizes gender and development in the workplace. ITDI is the pioneering DOST-attached agency that has officially registered GAD logo to the Intellectual Property Office of the Philippines (IPOP HL), contributing to the Institute’s campaign to end Violence Against Women (VAW). Another significant milestone for ITDI in GAD was the recognition of GAD-responsive GAA Projects for the first time. The awarded projects that were implemented for the year 2022-2023 were "Development of Three New RTE Disaster Relief Foods for Vulnerable Groups (Elderly and Children)" of the PTD and "Development of New Shelf-Stable Food Products from Fruits, Grains, and Vegetables" of the Food Processing Division (FPD). These achievements emphasized ITDI's commitment to reinforcing gender-responsive activities and recognizing the profound importance of gender and development in project implementation.

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Keeping the atmosphere vibrant, the newly composed ITDI theme song titled 'ITDI Tayo,' played on air, adding rhythmic touch to the event. The music speaks about ITDI's relentless passion for being an industry partner throughout generations. The theme song also served as a musical testament to the Institute's spirit of gender and development.

Adding a creative ingredient to the event, applause filled the venue as the ITDI Musical Film Festival entries were unveiled, captivating the audience with narratives that champion the theme of technology and gender equality. As the event reached its crescendo, the limelight shifted to announcing of winners in various categories of the Musical Film Festival. "Polyeto" emerged as the standout, securing awards for Best Musical Film, Best Director, Best Performance by a Lead Actor, Best Performance by a Lead Actress, and six other awards. "Andap" garnered seven awards, including Best Song and Best Choreography. Meanwhile, "Tedhana" received three awards, and both "Halip" and "Snow White" earned two awards each. Undoubtedly, these films stood as powerful testimonies to the impact of storytelling in fostering awareness and understanding of equality in various facets of life.

The celebration continued with the announcement of raffle winners, and Best Dressed for Male and Female, adding an extra layer of joy into the event. As the event came to an end, Miss Ma. Rachel V. Parcon, Chief SRS of the Standards and Testing Division (STD), and Miss Floridel V. Loberiano, Officer-In-Charge of the Packaging Technology Division (PTD) formally concluded the event, leaving the attendees with a lingering sense of happiness and the imprints of the event's meaningful messages. STD, PTD, and PMISD were the main organizers of this year's ITDI GAD culminating activity.

The ITDI GAD Culminating Activity was more than a culmination of achievements — it was a symphony of excellence, inspiration, equality, and a shared commitment to creating an equal and inclusive working community. Congratulations to all winners, recipients of awards and recognitions, and organizers! Indeed, your dedication to your respective work is truly an inspiration to everyone!

By: Dr. Angel Jr. Basbasan

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