

## **DOST-ITDI Inks GRCP MOU with 17 Universities**



DOST Secretary Fortunato T. Dela Peña and ITDI OIC Director Dr. Annabelle V. Briones pose with the MOU signatories and witnesses. *(Photo by: RRUdelaCruz)*

The DOST's Industrial Technology Development Institute (ITDI) celebrated its 117<sup>th</sup> anniversary as a government institute last July 3, 2018 at the Philippine International Convention Center (PICC), Pasay City. The occasion underscored the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with seventeen universities from various regions of the Philippines, which is in line with ITDI's Graduate Research Collaboration Program (GRCP).

The ITDI GRCP aims to strengthen the Institute's R&D collaborations with the academe by providing graduate students from selected colleges and universities in the regions the opportunity to work alongside ITDI experts especially in the conduct of their theses or dissertations. Their respective research topics have to align however with ITDI's ongoing R&D initiatives, in accordance with the Harmonized National Research and Development Agenda (HNRDA). The institute also aims to bring up the Philippines' rank in the innovation index with more scientific and technical papers published, of which the GRCP hopes to achieve alongside the students and the ITDI experts.

Through this event the institute cordially welcomed its new partner universities in higher education namely: Caraga State University, Central Luzon State University, Bulacan State University, Cagayan State University, Batangas State University, St. Louis University, Catanduanes State University,

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Xavier University, Mindanao State University's Iligan Institute of Technology, Philippine Women's University, FEATI University, Mapua Institute of Technology, Adamson University, University of Santo Tomas, UP Diliman, De La Salle University, and Ateneo de Manila University. The MOU signing was spearheaded by DOST Secretary Fortunato de la Peña and ITDI Deputy Director for R&D and OIC Director Dr. Annabelle V. Briones with the presidents and chancellors of the aforementioned universities. DOST Undersecretary for R&D Dr. Rowena Cristina L. Guevara and ITDI's former Director and former DOST Undersecretary Dr. Rogelio A. Panlasigui were among the witnesses.

Among the DOST's R&D agencies, ITDI is the sole agency that is multi-disciplinary, undertaking R&D efforts in the fields of chemicals, energy, environment, biotechnology, food processing, materials science, food processing, and packaging technology.

*(RRUdelaCruz/ITDI S&T Media Service)*



DOST Secretary Fortunato T. Dela Peña and ITDI OIC Director Dr. Annabelle V. Briones sign the MOU with the heads of 17 universities as leaders from DOST, ITDI, and the said universities look on.

*(Photos by: RRUdelaCruz)*

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