

Exhibition on women in science, technology, and innovation for sustainable and inclusive development

7 – 9 April 2025

Gallery space, 3rd Floor of the E-Building, Palais des Nations

Name of Exhibitor: Department of Science and Technology – Advanced Science and Technology Institute (DOST–ASTI), represented by Ms. Riza Carmela M. Pineda

Country: Philippines

Introduction of the Exhibitor

The DOST – Advanced Science and Technology Institute plays a leading role in advancing research and development in the Philippines, particularly in Information and Communication Technology (ICT) and Microelectronics. As part of its mission to build resilient education infrastructure through Project REIINN, DOST–ASTI leads initiatives such as LokalFi and RuralCasting, supported by a team of technical leads including Ms. Pineda—an Electronics Engineer with strong expertise in wireless communications and a background in research, academia, and industry. She currently contributes as a Technical Lead Engineer for the LokalFi/LokaLTE components. In line with its mandate, DOST–ASTI continues to strengthen the country's science and technology capabilities through advanced R&D, with team members like Ms. Pineda also pursuing further studies—she is currently taking her MS in Electrical Engineering at the University of the Philippines-Diliman.

Description of the Initiative/Proposal

The Resilient Education Information Infrastructure for the New Normal (REIINN) is a Philippine initiative by DOST-ASTI that bridges the digital divide through innovative technologies like LokalFi and RuralCasting. These systems provide accessible, sustainable digital education in underserved areas, particularly benefiting educators and learners. REIINN empowers women in STEM by engaging them in network development, digital literacy training, and technology deployment. The project supports inclusive, equitable education (SDG 4), resilient infrastructure (SDG 9), and sustainable communities (SDG 11). Above all, REIINN empowers communities by enhancing connectivity, education, and digital participation for long-term development.

Potential Collaboration:

1. Academic Institutions and Researchers who champion for community networks and ICT solutions for remote areas
2. Organizations that advocate for digital inclusion, education, and ICT development
3. Technology industries and private sector entities interested in adopting the developed innovations (i.e., LokalFi and RuralCasting)
4. Women Empowerment Groups

Website:

REIINN Facebook Page: <https://www.facebook.com/ProjectREIINN/>

DOST-ASTI Website: <https://asti.dost.gov.ph/projects/reiinn/>

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Project REIINN has significantly contributed to bridging the digital divide, enabling access to education and fostering inclusivity. Among its key initiatives are the following:

1. Training and empowering women educators and students with digital tools, ensuring their active participation in the digital economy. Fig. 1 shows REIINN personnel training the teaching staff of Naguey Elementary School on how to navigate the LokalFi portal, while Fig. 2 shows students navigating the on-premises app of the LokalFi in their ICT room.



Fig 1. Training of Teaching Personnel



Fig 2. Students using LokalFi under REIINN staff supervision

2. Conducting digital literacy training to the members of the community to equip them with essential skills to navigate and utilize digital technologies effectively.



Fig 3. Information Dissemination in Barangay San Andres, Tanay, Rizal