REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES

REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL
Region VI - Western Visayas

GUIDELINES AND CRITERIA FOR EVALUATION
APPLIED RESEARCH CATEGORY

I. Background:

The Regional Research, Development, and Innovation Committee (RRDIC) of the Regional Development Council (RDC) Western Visayas established the Regional Research and Development Awards through RDC Resolution No. 80, s. 2020 to recognize and promote excellence in science, technology, and innovation (STI) in the region. The first cycle of the awards was conducted in 2022, marking a significant step in acknowledging individuals and institutions whose research and technological initiatives contribute to regional development. In 2024, the awards were expanded into the Regional Research, Development, and Innovation Awards to better reflect its broader scope. This transition reinforced the awards commitment to highlighting not only research and development but also innovation as a key driver of regional competitiveness and inclusive growth.

The RDI Awards carry the name "***Idlab***," a Hiligaynon word meaning spark or scintilla, symbolizing how local researchers, scientists, and innovators serve as catalysts for knowledge creation, technological advancement, and societal progress.

In 2026, the committee will implement the third iteration of the Idlab Awards, continuing its effort to recognize outstanding researchers, scientists, innovators, and institutions whose contributions advance scientific knowledge, technological development, and socio-economic progress across various sectors in Western Visayas. This initiative is in line with the strategies outlined in Chapter 10 - Advance Research and Development, Technology, and Innovation of the Regional Development Plan for 2023-2028 in Western Visayas, which aims to cultivate an STI culture in the region.

II. Award Categories and Sectoral Coverage

The sectoral coverage of the 2026 Idlab Awards is based on the Harmonized National R&D Agenda (HNRDA) of the Department of Science and Technology (DOST) in consonance with the AmBisyon Natin 2040. A total of six (6) Research, Development, and Innovation (RDI) awards will be given under the different sectors:

1. Agriculture, Aquatic, and Natural Resources
   a. Agriculture Category
   b. Aquatic Category
2. Industry, Energy, and Emerging Technologies
   a. Industry and Energy Category
   b. Emerging Technology Category
3. Health Research
   a. Clinical Category
   b. Non-Clinical Category

III. Qualifications

The nominee for any of the **Applied Research Categories**:

1. must be a Filipino citizen;
2. must be a researcher, scientist, engineer, or innovator who is either:
   a. Residing in Western Visayas in the last three (3) years, reckoned from January 1, 2023; or
   b. Born in Western Visayas but currently residing outside the region, provided that they have ongoing or completed research and development work conducted in or benefiting Western Visayas from January 1, 2023, to December 31, 2025;
3. either a permanent or non-permanent employee of any private or public institution in the region;
4. have not been found guilty of any offense involving moral turpitude;
5. have completed or ongoing research projects in Western Visayas from January 1, 2023 to December 31, 2025;
6. have any of the following accomplishments:
   a. published papers in reputable scientific journals;
   b. research outputs commercialized or adopted, and;
   c. received research or innovation-related awards from his/her institution or other reputable award-giving bodies;
7. have research or public service outputs with significant contributions to the socio-economic development of the region from January 1, 2023 to December 31, 2025;
8. have notable community or extension works related to the undertaken research; and,
9. have membership or leadership roles in S&T, civic, and/or professional organizations.

IV. Guidelines for Nominations

1. The nomination should be made by the highest-ranking officials of any of the following reputable institutions:
   a. Local Government Units (including barangay level)
   b. Academic institutions
   c. National Government Agencies
   d. Government-Owned and Controlled Corporations (GOCCs)
   e. SEC-registered private organizations
   f. Cooperative Development Authority (CDA)-accredited cooperatives

2. The nominee can only be nominated in one category. In case of nomination from various nominators in different categories, the Secretariat will confirm with the nominee which category they prefer to be nominated.

3. Each institution or organization is allowed to nominate a maximum of two (2) individuals per award category.

V. Requirements for Nomination and Evaluation

A fully accomplished nomination form, together with the complete requirements, must be submitted through the Awards Portal on or before **August 14, 2026**.

1. Fully Accomplished Nomination Form (Annex A)
2. Comprehensive Biodata (Annex B)
3. Affidavit of Undertaking (Annex C)

4. Barangay Certificate of Residency (include length of residency in the barangay) for nominees residing in Western Visayas in the last three (3) years, or Authenticated Certificate of Live Birth in Security Paper for those born in Western Visayas but currently residing outside the region
5. Valid NBI or Police Clearance
6. List of Scientific and Technological Publications relevant to the category (Annex D)
7. List of Intellectual Property and Technology Transfer activities from January 1, 2023 to December 31, 2025 (Annex E)
8. List of research papers presented from January 1, 2023 to December 31, 2025 (Annex F)
9. List of other services rendered from January 1, 2023 to December 31, 2025 (Annex G)
10. List of Certificates of Awards and Recognitions Received (Annex H)
11. List of Membership in S&T, Civic, and Professional Organizations (Annex K)

VI. Evaluation Process

The evaluation process will be conducted by the members of the Technical Working Group (TWG) for the Regional RDI Awards and the Board of Judges. The TWG is responsible for evaluating and calculating the scores of the submitted documents. Applicants who achieve a score of 75% or higher from the TWG evaluation, which is equivalent to 52.5% of the total final score, will proceed to the interview stage conducted by the Board of Judges. The final score will be composed of 70% from the TWG's ratings and 30% from the Board of Judges. Only the Top 3 finalists with the highest scores per sub-category will be awarded.

Evaluation Stages	Person Responsible	Input	Output
1. Receiving of nominations and requirements	RRDIC Secretariat	Duly accomplished Nomination Forms and requirements	Official List of Nominees per category with complete requirements
2. Evaluation of the submitted documents	Technical Working Group	List of Nominees per category with complete requirements	List of Qualifiers for each category
3. Validation through Interview of Qualifiers and Site Visits	Board of Judges and TWG	List of Qualifiers for each category	List of Finalists with validated documents
4. Final Deliberation	Board of Judges and TWG in- charge	List of Finalists with validated documents	List of ranked winners per category/sector

VII. General Criteria for Evaluation

The Idlab awardees will be chosen by the TWG and the Board of Judges based on the following general criteria:

1. Originality and quality of published scientific works
2. Significant contributions to the socio-economic development of the region
3. Notable community or extension works and other services rendered
4. Recognition and membership in S&T, civic, and/or professional organizations

VIII. Prohibition and Exclusionary Provisions

1. Falsification of Information and Documents

Nominees who were proven to submit falsified information or documents will be disqualified.

2. Non-eligibility

The first-place winners of the Idlab Awards are no longer eligible for nomination in the category in which they were awarded for the next seven (7) years. However, they will still be eligible in the other categories of the succeeding Idlab Awards.

IX. Confirmation of the Finalists

A formal letter will be sent to the finalists one (1) week after the final deliberation. They will be informed and invited to attend the awarding ceremony.

X. Awarding

The awardees of the Idlab Awards will be recognized during the awarding ceremony.

XI. Incentives

Category	Sub-Category	1st Place Winner	2nd Place Winner	3rd Place Winner
Agriculture, Aquatic, and Natural Resources Research	Agriculture	Php 30,000.00 cash prize with Plaque and Certificate of Recognition	Php 20,000.00 cash prize with Plaque and Certificate of Recognition	Php 10,000.00 cash prize with Plaque and Certificate of Recognition
	Aquatic	Php 30,000.00 cash prize with Plaque and Certificate of Recognition	Php 20,000.00 cash prize with Plaque and Certificate of Recognition	Php 10,000.00 cash prize with Plaque and Certificate of Recognition
Industry, Energy, and Emerging Technologies Research	Industry and Energy	Php 30,000.00 cash prize with Plaque and Certificate of Recognition	Php 20,000.00 cash prize with Plaque and Certificate of Recognition	Php 10,000.00 cash prize with Plaque and Certificate of Recognition
	Emerging Technology	Php 30,000.00 cash prize with Plaque and Certificate of Recognition	Php 20,000.00 cash prize with Plaque and Certificate of Recognition	Php 10,000.00 cash prize with Plaque and Certificate of Recognition
Health Research	Clinical	Php 30,000.00 cash prize with Plaque and Certificate of Recognition	Php 20,000.00 cash prize with Plaque and Certificate of Recognition	Php 10,000.00 cash prize with Plaque and Certificate of Recognition
	Non-Clinical	Php 30,000.00 cash prize with Plaque and Certificate of Recognition	Php 20,000.00 cash prize with Plaque and Certificate of Recognition	Php 10,000.00 cash prize with Plaque and Certificate of Recognition

XIII. Criteria for Evaluation

Criteria	Description	Rating
Originality and quality of published scientific works/ outputs	Contribution to the body of knowledge through published works and research-related activities: A. Published paper in WOS (TR)/ SCOPUS/ ASEAN Citation Index (ACI) listed journals and proceedings (prorated based on the number of authors): a.1. lead author: *can either be the first or corresponding author* a.2. co-author B. Published paper in any peer-reviewed publication/journal (prorated based on the number of authors): a.1. lead author: *can either be the first or corresponding author* a.2. co-author C. Books and Book Chapter *Publications under this category must be externally reviewed and published by reputable publishing houses or publishers. Self-published books and published books by NGAs and NGOs will not be considered under this category.* 1. Per book: International and national peer-reviewed (prorated based on the number of authors) 2. Per book chapter In international books, and in national peer-reviewed books (prorated based on the number of authors) D. Patents, Utility Model, Industrial Design, Copyright (tangible measure of innovation) has been granted (Prorated based on level of Intellectual Property registration)	40%
Significant contributions to the socio-economic development of the region	A. Research presentation a.1. International: *must be organized by a legitimate institution or not-for-profit organization* a.2. Local (National/Regional) B. Citations: *Refers to citations gathered for the years 2023-2025 by all of the applicant's publications relevant to the category* C. Technology transfer *With proof of engagement such as but not limited to certification, Memorandum of Agreement, Memorandum of Understanding, Financial documents.*	40%

Notable community or extension works and other services rendered	A. Number of trainings/ workshops/programs/projects conducted as trainer/resource person aligned to their field of expertise B. Number of technical consultancies conducted: *engagement as consultant must be at least one month* C. Number of activities serving as research/panel evaluator in professional conferences, symposiums, colloquium, in-house reviewers, journals: *Engagement as student thesis evaluators will not be considered under this category.* D. Number of mentored research: Only *early-career researchers are referred under this category.* E. Beneficiaries of technology adoption or extension works, if any	15%
Recognition and membership in S&T, civic, or professional organizations	Covers active involvement and leadership roles in science and technology, civic, or professional organizations, and formal recognition received for achievements, contributions, or excellence in science and technology, professional practice, or civic engagement. A. As members or officials of S&T, civic, or professional organizations B. Editorship b.1. Main editor/editor-in-chief b.2. Member of the editorial board C. Awards**:** *Award/s must be granted by a legitimate award-giving body.*	5%