



REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES

REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL

Region VI - Western Visayas

**GUIDELINES AND CRITERIA FOR EVALUATION
INDEPENDENT INNOVATOR 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 Category

The Independent Innovator Award recognizes an individual who has shown initiative and creativity in developing a technology, process, or product. This award gives particular consideration to the socioeconomic impact and novelty of the innovation, as well as its potential for commercialization.

For the purposes of this award, innovation is defined as the creation of new ideas that lead to the development of new or improved policies, products, processes, or services, which are then introduced and transferred across the market, as provided under Republic Act No. 11293, or the Philippine Innovation Act.

An Independent Innovator is an individual within the region who has developed an innovation that has made a significant impact on a local community or the Western Visayas. This individual is not required to have a formal affiliation with any private or public institution. This category includes, but is not limited to, inventors, grassroots innovators, and youth innovators.

III. Qualification

The nominee for the **Independent Innovator Award** must:

1. be a Filipino citizen;
2. be an independent 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. not have been found guilty of any offense involving moral turpitude;
4. have created and completed an innovation in Region VI from January 1, 2023 to December 31, 2025;
5. have any of the following accomplishments:
 - a. a novel innovation with potential for replication/commercialization as evidenced by signed agreements and licenses/business established/revenue generated;
 - b. an innovation that has a socio-economic impact aligned with the priority areas of the country and the region;
 - c. an innovation that has received award/s from reputable award-giving bodies;
 - d. a sustainable innovation as evidenced by business plan/ sustainability plan/ manual of operations/ business continuity plan/ risk management plan.

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.1)
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 Certificates of Awards and Recognitions Received (Annex H)
7. List of Innovations (Annex I)
8. Profile of Innovation and Accomplishments (Annex J)
9. 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 Independent Innovator Awardee will be chosen by the TWG and the Board of Judges based on the following general criteria:

1. Innovativeness
2. Socio-Economic and Environmental Impact
3. Potential Impact and Relevance

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 winner of the Independent Innovator Award is no longer eligible for nomination for the next seven (7) years. However, they will still be eligible in the other categories of the succeeding Idlab Awards.

IX. Confirmation of Finalist

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	1st Place Winner	2nd Place Winner	3rd Place Winner
Independent Innovator Award	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

XII. Criteria for Evaluation

Criteria	Description	Rating
Innovativeness	Evaluates the degree to which the innovation presents a new or significantly improved idea, method, product, or process. It considers the originality and inventiveness of the innovation, as well as the number of innovations developed by the individual. A. Number of Innovations B. Inventiveness: <i>With evidence of scientific testing and validation and process, protocols or techniques established</i>	40%
Socio-Economic and Environmental Impact	Assesses the measurable contributions of the innovation to the social, economic, and environmental well-being of a local community or the region. A. Sustainability B. Commercialization C. Community adoption/public service D. Environmental Impact	40%
Potential Impact and Relevance	Examines the capacity of the innovation to create meaningful and lasting change beyond its current scope. A. Projected Impact B. Scalability or Replicability	20%
TOTAL		100%