



Republic of the Philippines
Department of Education
REGION VIII - EASTERN VISAYAS

March 25, 2024

REGIONAL MEMORANDUM

No. **345** s. 2024

**INVITATION TO THE JOINT IAFSW-MiSAC COMPETITION 2024 ON
NEGLECTED TROPICAL DISEASES AND CLIMATE CHANGE**

To: Schools Division Superintendents
Public Elementary and Secondary School Personnel
All Others Concerned

1. Attached is Memorandum OM-OUOPS-2024-03-02235 inviting all learners from Grades 7-9 to participate in the Joint International Association for the Future STEM Workforce (IAFSW)- Microbiology in Schools Advisory Committee, UK (MiSAC) Competition 2024 on Neglected Tropical Diseases and Climate Change.
2. The competition aims to raise awareness among teenagers about neglected tropical diseases (NTDs), their impact on global health, and how climate change affects efforts to control, prevent, or eliminate NTDs.
3. The deadline for the submission of entries is on **May 1, 2024**.
4. For more information, interested participants may reach out to the organizers directly through e-mail at info@iafsw.org or omjai@iafsw.org or they may visit the official website at <https://ntds.iafsw.org/>. The competition flyer is attached for reference.
5. Immediate dissemination of and compliance with this Memorandum are desired.

EVELYN R. FETALVERO CESO IV
Regional Director

Enclosures: As stated
References: As stated
To be indicated in the Perpetual Index under the following

COMPETITION

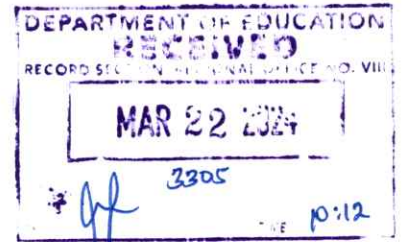
ESSD-SPPS-EAD





Republika ng Pilipinas
Department of Education

OFFICE OF THE UNDERSECRETARY FOR OPERATIONS



MEMORANDUM
OM-OUOPS-2024-03. 02235



TO : REGIONAL DIRECTORS
SCHOOLS DIVISION SUPERINTENDENTS
ALL OTHERS CONCERNED

FROM : *Revsee A. Escobedo*
ATTY. REVSEE A. ESCOBEDO
Undersecretary for Operations

Dexter A. Galban
DR. DEXTER A. GALBAN *ms*
Assistant Secretary for Operations

SUBJECT : INVITATION TO THE JOINT IAFSW-MiSAC COMPETITION 2024
ON NEGLECTED TROPICAL DISEASES AND CLIMATE CHANGE

DATE : March 20, 2024

This is in reference to the attached official letter dated March 5, 2024 from the SEAMEO (Southeast Asian Ministers of Education Organization) Regional Centre for Sufficiency Economy Philosophy for Sustainability (SEPS) inviting schools to participate in the Joint International Association for the Future STEM Workforce (IAFSW) – Microbiology in Schools Advisory Committee, UK (MiSAC) Competition 2024 on Neglected Tropical Diseases and Climate Change.

The competition aims to raise awareness among teenagers about neglected tropical diseases (NTDs), their impact on global health, and how climate change affects efforts to control, prevent, or eliminate NTDs.

In this light, we would like to respectfully request that you extend this invitation to all learners from Grades 7-9 within your respective jurisdictions. **The deadline for submission of entries is on May 1, 2024.**

Kindly note that participation to the competition is **voluntary** and **non-mandatory**. For more information, you may reach out to the organizers directly through e-mail at info@iafsw.org and omjai@iafsw.org or you may visit the official website at <https://ntds.iafsw.org/>. Attached herewith is the competition flyer for your reference.

Copy Furnished:
Francis Cesar B. Bringas, Assistant Secretary for Operations

OASOPS/CEA

*one email
3/21/24*



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SEAMEO Regional Centre for Sufficiency Economy Philosophy for Sustainability
11th fl Natural History and Environment Bldg., 928 Sukhumvit Road, Phra Khanong, Khlong Toei, Bangkok 10110, Thailand

SEPS 02/C076-086/24

5 March 2024

Subject: Invitation to Participate in the MiSAC-IAFSW Competition 2024 on Neglected Tropical Diseases and Climate Change

Dear Dr Margarita Consolacion C Ballesteros,

We would like to extend a warm invitation to the schools within your network to take part in the Joint IAFSW-MiSAC Competition 2024 on Neglected Tropical Diseases and Climate Change.

Organized by the International Association for the Future STEM Workforce (IAFSW), the Microbiology in Schools Advisory Committee, UK (MiSAC), and the SEAMEO Regional Centre for Sufficiency Economy Philosophy for Sustainability (SEAMEO SEPS), this esteemed event aims to heighten awareness among teenagers about the significant impact of NTDs on global health and their correlation with climate change. The submission deadline for entries is May 1st, 2024.

It would be appreciated if you could share this invitation to the secondary/high schools and colleges under your network. For detailed information, please refer to the attached competition flyer or visit an official website at

We are confident that this competition will immerse your students in scientific exploration and contribute to raising awareness of global health challenges. Your school's active participation is crucial in making this event a success. If you have any inquiries or require further assistance, please do not hesitate to reach out to the competition contact at and

We sincerely appreciate your support and look forward to the enthusiastic involvement of your students in this intellectually stimulating competition.

Yours sincerely,

Duriya Amataviviat
Centre Director

Dr Margarita Consolacion C Ballesteros
Director, International Cooperation Office
Department of Education
Philippines

Attachment: Competition flyer

Joint IAFSW-MISAC Competition 2024

Neglected Tropical Diseases and Climate Change

Not later than:
May 1, 2024

Aim of the Joint IAFSW-MISAC Competition

To develop an understanding among teenagers of the impact of neglected tropical diseases (NTDs) on global health, and how climate change may impact their distribution around the world.

Background

NTDs have not been widely studied, though they affect over 1.7 billion people on our planet. They are usually found in tropical areas, particularly in the southern hemisphere. They largely affect impoverished communities, often in remote areas. Poor water quality, sanitation, hygiene and healthcare in these areas heighten their impact. Twenty conditions have been designated NTDs, and most are caused by a parasitic, bacterial, viral or fungal pathogen. Many are spread by various animals, that act as vectors, while others pass directly between infected people.

NTDs cause serious illnesses, damaging patients' attendance at school or work, and may be fatal. Some also cause disfigurement, often resulting in social stigma and isolation. In addition, some NTDs also affect animals, which can harm farming practices. Both wild and domestic animals can act as reservoirs of infection (eg, game animals for sleeping sickness) or directly transmit the infection to humans (eg, dogs spread rabies). The economic impact of NTDs is huge; in affected areas, they trap vulnerable populations in cycles of poverty, costing developing countries billions of pounds each year.

NTDs are preventable and treatable but affected communities often lack the resources to tackle them well. In general, effective vaccines against NTDs are not yet available. Treatment options are limited, may have significant side effects, or are met with pathogen resistance. In 2020, the World Health Organisation published a roadmap to control, prevent or eliminate the NTDs by 2030 and progress is being made.

However, climate change may make this more difficult. Rising temperatures and changes in rainfall patterns may alter vector habitats, allowing them to expand into new areas. Warmer winters may allow arthropod vectors to survive longer. Extreme weather events also displace people, resulting in overcrowding within temporary shelters. These can increase the spread of NTDs and may bring people and vectors closer together, helping the transmission of NTDs. Extreme weather can also disrupt healthcare, housing, sanitation and food security, and the changing climate increases poverty, malnutrition and poor health, worsening the effects of NTDs.

Object of the competition

You are required to design an illustrated, web-page report for teenagers to raise their awareness of NTDs.

- Select one neglected tropical disease.
- Describe the disease in English, including its symptoms, where it is found in the world, preventative measures and treatments, and the impact it has on affected people and communities.
- Describe the pathogen that causes the disease and what is known about how it is transmitted.
- Discuss how climate change may alter the spread, global distribution and impact of the disease.

Format of entries

- Students may produce your entry either by hand or computer.
- Students use a single A3 sheet of paper or two A4 sheets taped together (a combination of diagrams/photographs/graphs), scan the paper and save it in PDF format.
- Teachers are required to register and then submit the students' PDF files at <https://ntds.iafsw.org> no later than May 1, 2024.
- Teachers must provide hard copies of the entries and deliver them to the following address: Wisdom Park Bldg, 3 Soi 23 Chaloen Phrakiat Ratchakan Thi 9 Road, Nongbon, Prawet, Bangkok 10250 Thailand, ensuring it reaches us no later than May 15, 2024.
- The entry may be submitted by an individual or a group of not more than four students.

Prizes

Students: 1st: \$120 2nd: \$60 3rd: \$30

A certificate will be awarded to each student submitting an entry of scientific merit. The results, winning entries and a report of the competition will be published on the IAFSW website competition pages at

Five top tips

1. Use the scientific name of any pathogens you mention.
2. Don't forget that the first name (genus) begins with an upper-case letter and the second name (species) has a lower-case initial letter (eg *Trypanosoma brucei*). This can be abbreviated, for example, to *T. brucei* after its first use.
3. Use italics for the scientific name - or underline it if your entry is hand-written.
4. Use your own words because plagiarism (which is cheating) will be penalised.
5. For data and other material used to illustrate your entry, provide information of their sources.

What makes a good web page?

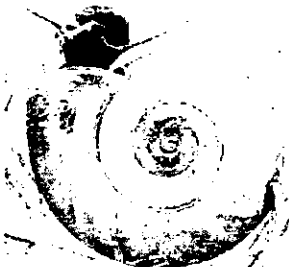
Effective web pages rely on being not only informative but attractive, lively, well-designed and often amusing. In order to make an immediate visual impact. This can be achieved by using photographs, diagrams, drawings, plus data and sources of further information. Make the presentation of your entry entertaining for its intended audience - teenagers.

Website articles

Sand fly: vector that transmits the parasite *Leishmania*, which causes Leishmaniasis
Image by Elizabeth Galt, Hector Dar Abbar



Trypanosoma brucei: parasite (yellow) that causes Human African Trypanosomiasis
Image: S. Grimes Oxf. Lab. Australia © International CC BY 4.0



Freshwater snail: vector that transmits the schistosoma parasitic worm.
Image: World Health Organisation



Mycobacterium leprae: bacteria (red) that cause leprosy.
Public Health Image Library © CC BY US Government and Public Health



Vampire bat: a vector that transmits rabies virus in Peru
Image: David Stockdale/Berkeley, University of Glasgow



Triatoma pedipennis ('kissing bug'): vector of the parasite *Trypanosoma cruzi*.
Image: CDC/Dr. Eric L. Snider, CDC/Dr. Thomas Clayton