





4 June 2026

**DR. RONELO AL K. FIRMO, CESO IV**  
 OIC Regional Director  
 DepEd Regional Office VIII  
 Tacloban City, Leyte

Dear Dr. Firmo:

Warm greetings from the DOST–Science Education Institute!

Following the successful completion of the pilot testing and refinement of the research instruments for the project **Inclusive Science and Technology Education Program for Uplifting the Performance of Filipino Learners (iSTEP UP)**, the project is now entering its official data-gathering phase for the Baseline Study.

The Baseline Study aims to identify priority areas in STEM teaching and learning and determine which DOST-SEI–developed interventions are most responsive to the needs of teachers and learners. The results of this study will serve as critical inputs in the design of targeted capacity-building programs and instructional support for the region.

As part of this phase, DOST-SEI will administer finalized survey instruments to selected respondents. Data will be collected through structured survey questionnaires, with particular focus on junior high school and senior high school Science and Mathematics teachers, as well as laboratory custodians.

In this regard, we would like to invite **all Grade 7–12 Science and Mathematics teachers and laboratory custodians** from the schools listed below to participate in an online orientation and data gathering session on **July 4, 2026, from 8:00 AM to 12:00 NN:**

- Sta. Fe National High School
- Taft National High School
- Sulat National High School
- Dolores National High School

**Participants may join the activity using this Zoom Link:**

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/89015294883?pwd=LKkSDcaXbGic7oGqE0UF2Pdb7Tf1v1.1>

Meeting ID: 890 1529 4883

Passcode: 789456

The participation of these respondents will greatly contribute to the successful implementation of the Baseline Study and will provide valuable insights for the development of responsive STEM education interventions in the region.

In view of the foregoing, we respectfully request that participating teachers and laboratory custodians be granted the appropriate service credits in recognition of the time rendered and their participation in this official activity conducted outside regular working hours.

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 4/27/26 4:10 PM  
 OFFICE OF THE ASST. REGIONAL DIRECTOR

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 RECORDS SECTION REGIONAL OFFICE NO. VIII

DATE: 06-23-26

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For more efficient coordination, we would also like to respectfully propose the designation of **Dr. Emmanuel P. Firmo Jr.** as the focal person and coordinator between DOST-SEI and the DepEd Regional Office VIII for this activity.

Should your Regional Office be amenable to this request, we likewise seek your assistance in the issuance of the appropriate DepEd Order or Memorandum to formally endorse the participation of the identified respondents.

Rest assured that all information gathered will be kept strictly confidential and will be used only to support the development of appropriate STEM education interventions, in full compliance with data privacy and ethical research guidelines.

Our SEI staff, Ms. France Chesca Turda, will closely coordinate with your office regarding this activity. She may be reached at 0945-327-6770 or through email address at [stemteach@sei.dost.gov.ph](mailto:stemteach@sei.dost.gov.ph), should you have any questions or require further clarification.

Thank you very much, and we look forward to working closely with DepEd Region XIII in sustaining quality and impactful STEM education.

Very truly yours,



**JAYEEL S. GORNELIO, PhD**  
Director IV, DOST-SEI