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PQA honors 14 top PHL organizations for quality distinction



President Rodrigo R. Duterte (center) congratulated the recipient organizations during the 24th Conferment Ceremony of the Philippine Quality Awards (PQA) Program on 23 March 2022 via a Facebook broadcast. On the same note, DTI Secretary Ramon M. Lopez (top-left) delivered his keynote speech to recognize and inspire all the winners. Others in photo include Regional Operations Group (ROG) Undersecretary Blesila A. Lantayona (top-right); Competitiveness and Innovations Group (CIG) Undersecretary Rafaelita M. Aldaba (bottom-left); and the masters of ceremonies (bottom-right, standing left-right) CIG Assistant Secretary Napoleon K. Juanillo, Jr. and Competitiveness Bureau Director Lilian G. Salonga.

The Department of Trade and Industry (DTI) recognized 14 awardees during the 24th Philippine Quality Award (PQA) Conferment Ceremony – the highest number of recipients in PQA’s history – that was even made possible despite the backdrop of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Notable recipients of this year’s awards are 13 government institutions; six are learning institutions, one of which is a science high school while the rest are universities and colleges in the regions. Taking center stage are government offices including the Department of Labor and Employment (DOLE, 2 offices), Department of Science and Technology (DOST, 2 offices), Department of Education (DepEd) and the National Kidney and Transplant Institute (NKTi). Mariwasa Siam Ceramics was the lone private organization recognized this year.

President Rodrigo R. Duterte himself conferred the recognitions to the recipient organizations and commended them for their dedication to quality in providing service to the public and their respective industries.

“It is my hope that you will continue to uphold excellence, integrity, and dedication in the work that you do as we move forward together towards building a brighter and better future for our nation,” the President said.

On the same note, **DTI Secretary Ramon M. Lopez** lauded the awardees for serving as inspirations towards an innovative Philippines that stands on par with international standards.

“Basta marinig ang Pilipinas, ang maaalala nila dapat ay quality and excellence. Gawang Pilipinas, gawang kalidad,” said Sec. Lopez.

Level of Award	Recipient Organizations
Mastery in Quality Management (Level 3)	Department of Labor and Employment Region IX
	Mariwasa Siam Ceramics, Inc.
	National Kidney and Transplant Institute
Proficiency in Quality Management (Level 2)	Department of Labor and Employment XI
	Department of Science and Technology-CALABARZON
	Isabela State University – Echague Campus
	Philippine Science High School – Ilocos Region Campus
	Sultan Kudarat State University
Commitment to Quality Management (Level 1)	Tarlac State University
	Camarines Sur Polytechnic College
	Department of Education Schools Division Office of Balanga City
	Industrial Technology Development Institute - Department of Science and Technology
	Department of Science and Technology – Cordillera Administration Region
Marinduque State College	

Furthermore, **DTI Regional Operations Group (ROG) Undersecretary Blesila A. Lantayona** also led the conferment of the PQA Regionalization Program Pilot run which included Rainiers Research and Development Institute (NCR); Cebu Institute of Technology-University (Region 7); Cebu Technological University (Region 7) for Level 1; and Construction Manpower Development Foundation (NCR) for Level 2.

The PQA Regionalization Program aims to decentralize the PQA program by creating a regional recognition for Levels 1 and 2 as a qualifying mechanism for the national recognition and eventual PQA.

“We believe that there are gems in every region, and they are only waiting to be polished. Thus, we are bringing excellence closer to you with the PQA Regionalization Program. The PQA Framework and Criteria shall serve as tools that will create friction to help in refining organizations to become their best,” said Usec. Lantayona.

On her part, **Competitiveness and Innovations Group (CIG) Undersecretary Rafaelita M. Aldaba** narrated the PQA accomplishments for 2021, together with **CIG Assistant Secretary Napoleon K. Juanillo, Jr.** and **Competitiveness Bureau (CB) Director Lilian G. Salonga** who both hosted the ceremony.

“Ang PQA ay ‘di lamang tatak ng kalidad, Tatak din ito ng kahusayan. All these efforts for innovation and entrepreneurship of the Department of Trade and Industry were driven by PQA’s ceaseless commitment to quality. Let us all come together promoting competitiveness and quality throughout the country. I am confident that through the PQA program, a world-class Philippines will no longer be a mere wishful thinking but a reality waiting to happen,” Usec. Aldaba said.

Institutionalized in 2001 through Republic Act 9013, also known as the Philippine Quality Award Act, the PQA Program is a global competitiveness model that strives to encourage public and private organizations and other stakeholders to seek and attain performance excellence. It is a national award program that recognizes achievements of organizations in their quest towards excellence.

The awarding was streamed on 23 March 2022 via the Philippine Quality Award Facebook Page and the DTI Philippines Facebook Page.