CAPABILITY BUILDING ON POLICY TRANSLATION AND ADVOCACY: EMPOWERING R&D AND S&T DOST STAFF

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Background:
The project on policy translation was conceived on the recognition that one of the common obstacles in the attainment of an evidenced-based policymaking is the significant gap that exists between researchers and policymakers. This project is an effort to maximize the use of Department of Science and Technology's (DOST) generated research and development (R&D) and science and technology (S&T) outputs by translating them into policy recommendations in the pursuit of greater impact.

Objective:
The project aimed to contribute in strengthening the capability of DOST technical staff in formulating evidence-based policy recommendations using DOST’s R&D outputs and S&T innovations to best address pressing issues on food, nutrition and health, energy, industry, natural resources, and science and technology.

Materials and Methods:
The pre-workshop activities enabled the participants composed of DOST technical staff to identify projects of their agency which has potential for translation to policy recommendations by initial analysis of the problem and gathering of evidences through review of literatures. During the workshop, series of lecture-discussions on policy translation and advocacy concepts were conducted. The participants identified the policy issues in their selected topics and developed the policy statements and press releases. An open forum provided the participants the opportunity to discuss and improve the outputs of each group.

Results:
Nine (9) policy statements/recommendations together with the press releases were developed by the 40 participants from 22 DOST attached agencies. These were based from the identified policy issues in the areas of food and nutrition, health, energy, industry, natural resources, and science and technology. The outputs were envisioned to be disseminated by each of the participating agencies to the concerned sector to serve as basis for putting forward the policy issues identified. The DOST technical staff through the workshop learned the framework on policy development and the key concepts and strategies on policy translation and advocacy.

Conclusion and Recommendations:
The workshop provided a venue for participants to walk through the process of policy translation and advocacy. The outputs exhibited DOST’s rich sources of relevant data and innovative technologies that can be translated into policies. The developed policy statements/recommendations and press releases were packaged and forwarded to the Congress, the DOST and its attached agencies for wider use of research and project results. Similar endeavors to train and empower other DOST technical staff to actively partake in STI-related issues and policymaking process are recommended.