



Republic of the Philippines
Department of Education
Region VII, Central Visayas
DIVISION OF CEBU PROVINCE
Sudlon, Lahug, Cebu City



September 16, 2013

Division Memorandum
No. 525, s.2013

**ONLINE REVIEWER FOR THE PHILIPPINE SCIENCE HIGH SCHOOL AND DOST
SCIENCE EDUCATION INSTITUTE SCHOLARSHIP EXAM**

To: OIC, Assistant Superintendents
Education Supervisors/ Coordinators
District Supervisors/OICs
Elementary School Heads
Secondary School Heads
Heads, Private Secondary Schools

1. Attached is Regional Memorandum No.570 ,s.2013 ,dated September 11 , 2013, entitled, “ Online Reviewer For The Philippine Science High School And DOST Science Education Institute Scholarship Exam “.
2. Immediate dissemination of this Memorandum is desired .


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Schools Division Superintendent

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REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
REGION VII, CENTRAL VISAYAS
Sudlon, Lahug, Cebu City



SEP 11 2013


REGIONAL MEMORANDUM

No. 570, s. 2013

**ONLINE REVIEWER FOR THE PHILIPPINE SCIENCE HIGH SCHOOL AND DOST
SCIENCE EDUCATION INSTITUTE SCHOLARSHIP EXAM**

To: Schools Division/City Superintendents
Officers-in-Charge of Regular and Interim Divisions
School Heads of Public and Private Elementary and Secondary Schools

1. Enclosed is a copy of the communication from the Department of Science and Technology- Philippine Council for Industry, Energy and Emerging Technology Research and Development (DOST-PCIEERD), inviting graduating students from public and private elementary and secondary schools to access its free online reviewer for the Philippine Science High School and DOST Science Education Institute (SEI) scholarship examination.
2. Wide dissemination of this Memorandum is desired.


CARMELITA T. DULANGON
Director III^{pl}
Officer-in-Charge

CTD/CCL/LCJ/mjed
CLMD

"Educating for a Strong Republic"

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4 September 2013

DR. CARMELITA T. DULANGON
Officer-In-Charge
DepEd Region VII
Sudlon, Lahug, Cebu City

Dear *Dr. Dulangon*:

We are pleased to inform you that the Philippine Council for Industry, Energy and Emerging Technology Research and Development of the Department of Science and Technology (DOST-PCIEERD) in cooperation with the Philippine Science High School (PSHS) has developed an **online reviewer for the scholarship exam** offered by the Philippine Science High School (PSHS), just in time for the nationwide examinations on October 12, 2013. This is our resolve to give wider access to a reviewer for the scholarship exam of the PSHS, and encourage more students to take courses in the Science and Technology track. The online reviewer was developed by the University of the Philippines Department of Computer Science and the Electrical & Electronics Engineering Institute.

The online reviewer is **FREE** of charge and may be accessed at these sites: pshsreviewer.org and pshsreviewer.dost.gov.ph

The DOST continuously encourages students to pursue science and technology (S&T) courses through several means, two of which are the (1) Philippine Science High School (PSHS) system for the high school level and (2) DOST Science Education Institute (SEI) scholarships for the undergraduate level. Both approaches provide scholarship benefits to successful examinees. The SEI online reviewer will be accessible next month.

We hope your students will benefit from this online reviewer which provides a uniform and accessible practice test environment that simulates the actual PSHS examination. Please refer to attached article on this for your further appreciation.

Good luck to your students who will take up the PSHS examination.

Very truly yours,


ROWENA CRISTINA L. GUEVARA, Ph.D.
Executive Director

Philippine Council for Industry, Energy and Emerging
Technology Research and Development



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PCIEERD PRESS RELEASE

DOST's Free Online Reviewer for PSHS Exam Up

Graduating elementary students wishing to get a scholarship and study at the Philippine Science High School (PSHS) may now access the PSHS Reviewer in preparation for the entrance examination that will be held on October 12, 2013 nationwide.

A free online reviewer was developed for this purpose. According to Dr. Rowena Cristina L. Guevara, Executive Director of the Philippine Council for Industry, Energy and Emerging Technology Research and Development of the Department of Science and Technology (DOST-PCIEERD), the online reviewer is ready and may be accessed via these sites: pshsreviewer.org and pshsreviewer.dost.gov.ph. Since this is Internet-based, it is accessible to any interested party, most especially to those who wish to simulate the examination, or those cannot afford to enroll in private review centers or have no access at all to such reviewers. This is also the official practice test provided by the PSHS.

The DOST continuously encourages students to pursue science and technology (S&T) courses through several means, two of which are the (1) Philippine Science High School (PSHS) system for the high school level and (2) DOST Science Education Institute (SEI) scholarships for the undergraduate level. Both approaches provide scholarship benefits to successful examinees, allowing them to pursue their studies, with strong encouragement to follow the S&T track.

There is high demand for these scholarships and this has even resulted in external parties offering review classes, particularly for the PSHS National Competitive Examination (NCE). Some schools also offer their students their own review classes to increase their passing rate in the examination. These review classes may provide advantages to the examinees in terms of familiarization with the examination itself (type of questions, format of examination, time restrictions, topics covered, etc.). Assuming all other things being equal, the examinee who has undergone practice tests, either via formal or informal review classes, stands a greater chance of doing better in the examinations versus the examinee who has not undergone any practice test.

Currently, the PSHS NCE examination is paper-based; that is administered throughout the country. Reviews for the examinations are often provided by private entities, either via dedicated review schools or special review classes in mostly private schools. There are also reviewers that could be purchased from local bookstores which candidates can use in anticipation of the real examination.

The chances of passing the PSHS NCE examination could be improved with better test-taking strategies and practice drills that familiarize examinees with what to expect in the given examination. The official DOST online reviewer provides a uniform and accessible practice test environment, from which examinees could simulate the actual PSHS examination. The questions were randomly drawn from a pool provided by PSHS and the question grouping, time constraints, and format follow the actual examination.

In developing the software, Dr. Susan P. Festin, the Project Leader, said that they benchmarked against current industry practice for online testing such as SHL (SHL, 2013) and ExamBuilder (ExamBuilder, 2013). Both are businesses that provide companies with assessment tools across various sectors. SHL provides a portfolio of more than 1000 off-the-shelf assessment tests, while ExamBuilder provides exam authoring, delivery, reporting, and analytics. Both charge fees for this service. ExamBuilder starts at USD 695 for 50 licenses (exam takers) or USD 13.90/examinee. SHL's pricing depends on the type of assessment that would be acquired.

Dr. Guevara said that the free online reviewer for the SEI examination is also expected to be up in the coming weeks. The DOST-PCIEERD is the monitoring agency for the development of the software programs under its S&T human resource program. (Ma. Elena A. Talingdan, DOST-PCIEERD)