



Memorandum Circular No. 2016-002
Series of 2016

SUBJECT: GUIDELINES ON THE CONDUCT OF THE REGIONAL INVENTION CONTEST AND EXHIBITS (RICE)

Section 1: Background

The Department of Science and Technology through the Technology Application and Promotion Institute (TAPI) which was tasked to implement Republic Act No. 7459 otherwise known as "Inventors and Invention Incentives Act of the Philippines" has been providing assistance to inventors since the promulgation of the Act in 1992. TAPI has various programs of assistance that provide encouragement and support both technical and financial to invention-related activities of the Filipino inventors.

Likewise, in support to Presidential Proclamation Nos. 355 dated January 6, 1989 and 285 dated October 22, 1993, the Department thru TAPI conducts the invention contest to give recognition of the indispensability of the Filipino inventors. The invention contest is meant to give recognition to the hard work and efforts of the inventors and researchers including the students. The contest gives encouragement to inventors to use their inventive capability by competing for cash rewards and recognition both locally and internationally.

Section 2: Program Description

As mandated by RA 7459, the invention contest is a competition open for both public and private inventors and researchers. There are six (6) categories where talented, inventive and creative Filipinos can compete: The Outstanding Invention or Tuklas Award, the Outstanding Utility Model, the Outstanding Industrial Design, the Outstanding Creative Research or Likha Award and the Outstanding Student Creative Research or Sibol Award for high school and college students. The regional winners will be competing in a higher level during the National Invention Contest and Exhibits (NICE).

Since the enactment of RA 7459 on April 28, 1992, the invention contest was held of which the pre-screening and selection of finalist is done on the national level at the pre-contest phase and the selection of winners is done during the contest proper. TAPI's experience showed that the active promotion of the contest nationwide was not enough to encourage more participants from the region. Due to proximity and cost of participation in the invention contest, some inventors and researchers in the region called for the holding of the qualifying round or screening phase at places near them. In response, TAPI in cooperation with the DOST Regional Offices conducted the Regional Cluster Invention Contest in 2009 and 2010. In those years, five (5) regional cluster invention contests were conducted of which positive results were noted. However, to further improve the selection process and increase regional participation of the inventors and researchers, the selection process was held at the regional level in 2011 and 2013. In view of this, TAPI request

assistance of the DOST Regional Offices for the conduct of the Regional Invention Contests and Exhibits on their respective regions. In this endeavor, Filipino inventors and researchers were recognized for their inventiveness. This biennial regional invention contest provides a venue to sustain the generation of economically viable technologies and inventions and hasten the commercialization of inventor-generated technologies. Also, RICE serves as venue to promote various opportunities offered by TAPI thru its programs of assistance to inventors such as IPR, Testing, pilot and prototype assistance programs.

Section 3: Program Objectives

The regional invention contest aims to:

- 3.1 Encourage more participation in the invention contests by bringing the venue for qualifying rounds, pre-screening phase nearer to the inventors' / researchers' place;
- 3.2 Provide an intense selection process to ensure worthy regional winners cum national qualifiers in the National Invention Contest;
- 3.3 Enhance creative and inventive efforts in the regions by providing a venue for showcasing products of creativity/ inventiveness/ ingenuity nearer to the inventors' / researchers' places; and
- 3.4 Build sound social atmosphere of advocating inventions and researches; and establishing harmonious society that support the mass activities of invention commercialization.

Section 4: Definition of Terms

- 4.1 **Tuklas Award** – *Tuklas* is a Filipino word for discovery and reflects the innovativeness and intrinsic capability of the awardee to develop something useful from otherwise commonplace knowledge/resources. The award is therefore, given to the most outstanding invention with demonstrable qualities and potential for widespread commercialization/ dissemination.
- 4.2 **Outstanding Utility Model** – award given to outstanding new model of implement or tools or of any industrial product which does not possess the quality of an invention, but which is of practical utility by reason of its form, configuration, construction or composition.
- 4.3 **Outstanding Industrial Design** – award given to outstanding new, original and ornamental design for an article of manufacture.
- 4.4 **Likha Award** – *Likha* signifies creativity, it reflects the potential of an R&D activity developed into a relevant, commercially viable technology which may generate impact and benefits to adoptors.

- 4.5 **Sibol Award** – *Sibol* means a young shoot, a growth reflecting youthfulness and hope for something fruitful and useful. This award is given to the most outstanding invention/creative research for both high school and college student. This is in recognition of the need and potential to tap the young minds to contribute significantly to S&T development and inventiveness in the country.

Section 5: Strategies of Implementation

The regional invention contest will be implemented thru the support of the DOST Regional Office as the lead implementing agency. The RICE may be conducted in conjunction with the Regional Science and Technology Fair or any significant Science and Technology-related activity in the region. The inventors' organizations and/ or industry associations in each region may be tapped to assist in the implementation of the activity.

The DOST Regional Office shall organize the Board of Judges (BOJ). The judges may either be from the academe, government and private business organizations in the region.

Criteria:

- 5.1. Distinguished experts in their fields;
- 5.2. Able to deal with confidential information;
- 5.3. Must be available to attend Judges meeting and conduct interview of contestants;
- 5.4. At least one member has knowledge on Intellectual Property; and
- 5.5. If from academe, the school must have no entry in the contest.

The BOJ shall conduct evaluation and assessment of the participating entries following the RICE rules and criteria. They will select three (3) regional winners for the six categories of the Invention Contest. In case of tie, the Board of Judges is required to break the tie through voting or toss coin and declare only 3 winners in each category.

The first prize regional winner on each category shall be automatically the national qualifier cum Finalists for the National Invention Contest to be held on July 2018 as a component of the Annual Science and Technology Fair during the National Science and Technology Week.

Section 6: Terms of Reference

TAPI's Responsibilities

- 6.1 Provides informational materials including background information, contest rules and criteria (as approved by Screening Committee of RA 7459), entry forms and technical and funding support;
- 6.2 Provides funds for honoraria of boards of judges, food, venue/exhibit booth rental, local transportation, supplies and materials and communication expenses for the activity;

- 6.3 Receives, reviews/evaluates and approves the proposal with line-item budget and upon completion of administrative/legal requirements releases the funds in full to the DOST Regional Office;
- 6.4 Assists in the promotion of the event;
- 6.5 Provides resource persons as needed concerning the implementation of regional invention contest;
- 6.6 Provides cash awards to the regional winners during the Awarding Ceremony of the invention contest; and
- 6.7 Monitors the implementation/conduct of the contest.

DOST Regional Office's Responsibilities:

- 6.8 Prepares and submits proposal with budgetary requirements;
- 6.9 Provides funds for RICE implementation to cover expenses for food, venue/exhibit booth rental, supplies and materials, communication promotion, transportation and other related expenses of the activity;
- 6.10 Spearhead the conduct of the invention contest;
- 6.11 Create working committee and focal person who will directly coordinate with TAPI before, during and after the RICE
- 6.12 Promotes the regional invention contest in their area;
- 6.13 Organizes the Board of Judges (BOJ) for the regional invention contest which shall be composed of 3-5 members depending on the number of entries received.;
- 6.14 Invites schools, government agencies, industry associations, inventor's organizations and individual inventors/researchers in their area to participate in regional invention contest;
- 6.15 Check compliance to preliminary requirements such as patent documents for invention, registration for Utility Model and Industrial Design and disqualify those with incomplete/invalid submission;
- 6.16 Submit list of their invention, utility model and industrial design entries for patent documents validation;
- 6.17 Informs/ submits the results of the contest including the impact assessment;
- 6.18 Submits accomplishment and financial reports;
- 6.19 Encourage the participants and regional winners to avail TAPI's assistance to inventions i.e., IPR, prototype, testing and pilot assistance; and
- 6.20 Assists TAPI in communicating with regional winners in connection with the National Invention Contest.

Section 7: Timetable of Activities

The activity shall be conducted for the period starting March to November of every other year. The first two days of the 3-day activity will be allotted for the opening ceremony and judging of entries and the last day will be for the announcement and awarding of the regional winners.

Section 8: Expected Output

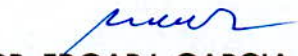
- 8.1 Regional Winners who will vie for the National Invention Contest;
- 8.2 Researches that will qualify for IPR Assistance Program of TAPI; and
- 8.3 Inventors with invention products for promotion and commercialization.

Section 9: Applicability

Other provision stated in the DOST-GIA Guidelines that was not included in these guidelines but applicable as the case may be.

Section 10: Effectivity

This Order shall take effect immediately.


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