



January 2025

newsletter

@iceboxtbi

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A Message from the **project leader**

I want to take a moment to express my sincere appreciation for the dedication and hard work that each one of you has poured into this project. Our focus on technology, innovation, technopreneurship, and breaking new ground led to the creation of something truly remarkable.

Through our partnership with DOST, we have been able to support and showcase some of the most exciting projects and initiatives in these fields. Your unwavering commitment to this endeavor has been the driving force behind our success.

As the project leader, I am inspired by your passion, creativity, and relentless pursuit of excellence. Your efforts have not only expanded the boundaries of what is possible but have also contributed to the growth and evolution of technology and entrepreneurship in our community.

Together, we have opened doors to new opportunities, fostered groundbreaking ideas, and forged lasting partnerships. Your dedication is a testament to the incredible impact that a group of motivated individuals can make when working towards a common goal.

As we move forward, let us continue to push the envelope, challenge the status quo, and inspire those around us. The path to innovation is never-ending, and I do not doubt that our future endeavors will be just as, if not more, successful.

Thank you for your hard work and dedication. I am excited about what lies ahead for us and our continued journey to advance technology, innovation, and entrepreneurship.



DR. NOEL S. GUNAY
Project Leader
ICEBOX TBI, MSU-GenSan



A Message from the **chancellor**

Fostering Innovation and Technopreneurship at
MSU-General Santos

At Mindanao State University - General Santos, we believe that innovation is the key to driving progress, economic growth, and sustainable development. As we embrace the digital age, we must empower our students, faculty, and the broader community to become technopreneurs—visionary problem-solvers who harness technology to create impactful solutions.

One of our strongest commitments to this vision is our unwavering support for the ICEBOX Technology Business Incubator (TBI). ICEBOX serves as a hub for nurturing startups, research commercialization, and transforming ideas into scalable enterprises. It provides mentorship, funding opportunities, and industry linkages that help bridge the gap between academic excellence and real-world innovation.

We invite all aspiring entrepreneurs, researchers, and industry partners to engage with us, whether through incubation programs, collaborative research, or startup ventures. This initiative is not just about business—it is about empowering communities, solving societal challenges, and driving economic transformation in Mindanao and beyond.

Join us in shaping the future—one innovation at a time.



A handwritten signature in white ink, likely of the Chancellor, Atty. Shidik T. Abantas.

ATTY. SHIDIK T. ABANTAS, MDM, LLM
Chancellor
Mindanao State University - General Santos

A Message from the regional director

Assalamu Alaikum Warahmatullahi Wahbarakatuh!

As we embrace the dawn of 2025, we not only welcome the promise of a new year but also take a moment to reflect on the milestones and victories that have shaped our journey. The year 2024 bore witness to a remarkable 5.6% year-on-year GDP growth—an inspiring testament to the unwavering collaboration between the government and its people in striving toward a "matatag, maginhawa, at panatag na buhay" for all Filipinos.

In this spirit of progress, we have seen firsthand how our steadfast commitment to nurturing the country's startup ecosystem has paved the way for a more sustainable and innovation-driven future. The Startup Innovation Consortium to Accelerate Development in SOCCSKSARGEN (SICAD-SOX), guided by Republic Act 11337, has continuously reinforced the region's entrepreneurial culture and strengthened the foundation of its startup ecosystem.

For SICAD-SOX, 2024 was a year of transformative growth, presenting countless opportunities not only for its members but for all local startups in the region. A key highlight of the year was the successful Joint Study Mission in partnership with the SOCCSKSARGEN Industry, Energy, and Emerging Technology Research and Development Consortium (SOXIEERDC), which deepened insights and fostered collaboration. Equally significant was the forging of strategic alliances with leading startup experts, including the Entrepinoy Volunteers Foundation Inc., whose invaluable contributions have played a crucial role in advancing our collective vision for innovation and development.

Among the key players in this vibrant ecosystem is the ICEBOX TBI, an active and instrumental member of SICAD-SOX. As one of the pioneering startup incubators in Region XII, ICEBOX TBI played a crucial role in crafting the SOCCSKSARGEN Startup Development Plan, which was formally launched during the Department of Science and Technology Region XII's 2024 Regional Science, Technology, and Innovation Week Celebration. This plan serves as a guiding framework for sustaining and accelerating the momentum of startup growth in the region.

The impact of ICEBOX TBI extends beyond incubation; it embodies a commitment to empowering startups, fostering technological advancements, and driving economic resilience. In recognition of its unwavering dedication and transformative contributions, DOST XII and the entire SICAD-SOX commend the men and women behind the ICEBOX TBI Project for their relentless efforts in shaping a dynamic and thriving startup ecosystem.

As we move forward, let us continue to harness the power of synergy, innovation, and dedication. Together, we reaffirm our commitment to shaping a future where SOCCSKSARGEN's startup landscape flourishes, catalyzing progress not only for our region but for the entire nation. With unity and a shared vision, we prove that innovation knows no bounds and that our aspirations for a resilient and prosperous Philippines are well within reach.


ENGR. SAMMY P. MALAWAN
Regional Director
Department of Science and Technology



BENCHMARKING ACTIVITIES



On January 5, 2024, ICEBOX TBI had the privilege of participating in a benchmarking activity with DOST-ADZU AZUL HUB of Ateneo de Zamboanga University. Led by Mario S. Rodriguez, Project Leader, and Engr. Ericson Kent D. Bonifacio, Project Development Officer, along with Lera Lorenne S. Damang, Project Assistant, the engagement marked a significant milestone in fostering collaboration and sharing best practices.

Dr. Noel S. Gunay, Project Leader, and esteemed members of the ICEBOX team including Dr. Ryan G. Banal, Dr. Marissa G. dela Cruz, Dr. Jypzie M. Catedrilla, Engr. Arrianne Dale Daligdig, Ms. Joecil S. Quibol, and Mr. Romeo Jr. E. Tejada extended a warm welcome to the delegates. Engaging in insightful discussions during the round table session, both parties exchanged valuable insights and experiences.

ICEBOX TBI presented its journey, from the initial proposal to DOST to its successful launch, highlighting key milestones and future initiatives including an upcoming learning mission in Malaysia and Singapore. In return, AZUL Hub showcased its state-of-the-art facility through a comprehensive presentation and shared invaluable insights into training practices and Intellectual Property Policy.



TECH TALK

Technology Transfer Seminar-Workshop

On February 8, 2024, ICEBOX TBI hosted a groundbreaking event, TECH TALK: Technology Transfer Seminar-Workshop, at the ICEBOX TBI Event Space, H-Building, Mindanao State University- General Santos (MSU-GenSan). The seminar-workshop aimed to bridge the gap between innovation and implementation by fostering discussions on technology transfer strategies and best practices.

The day commenced with a heartfelt gratitude message from Dr. Noel Gunay, ICEBOX TBI Project Leader, expressing appreciation to DOST-PCIEERD for their support and to DOST XII for their partnership. Ms. Russell M. Pili of RITTD provided insights into technology transfer, emphasizing its crucial role in driving innovation and societal progress. She also discussed measuring readiness levels and the essence of commercialization.



Following this, Ms. Val Anthony Cimafranca, UP-GRADE Operations Manager, shared their program's milestones and challenges encountered, particularly in the IDEAS DAVAO project, which aims to contribute innovative ideas to the SICAD Consortium.

The seminar concluded with an interactive Tech Transfer Workshop and open forum discussions facilitated by Dr. Melvin Pasaporte, Chief Researcher of the Technology Transfer and Business Development Office of UP-Mindanao, Ms. Dyle Legaspi, Technology and Research Officer of TTBD of UP-Mindanao, and Ms. Leizl D. Sueno, Senior Science Research Specialist of DOST-PCIEERD.

Reflecting on the success of the Technology Transfer Seminar-Workshop, we are inspired by the enthusiasm and passion demonstrated by all participants. The event served as a catalyst for fostering collaboration and driving innovation forward.





ICEBOX-TBI Showcases Innovation at KALILANGAN AND NATIONAL ARTS MONTH TRADE FAIR AND EXHIBIT

ICEBOX-TBI was honored to participate as an exhibitor at the Kalilangan and National Arts Month Trade Fair and Exhibit, hosted by Local Government Unit of General Santos City and Department of Trade and Industry (DTI) -General Santos City from February 27th to March 1st, 2024. This event provided a prime opportunity for our team to engage with attendees and demonstrate our unwavering commitment to creativity and technological excellence.

Being part of this celebration of culture and innovation was a significant opportunity for ICEBOX-TBI. As we continue to advance the frontiers of technology and creativity, we look forward to building more meaningful connections and making a lasting impact within the commu-



WRAPPING UP OUR MARCH 2024 TECH STARTUP INITIATIVES

We are thrilled to announce the successful conclusion of our webinar series on "Financial Feasibility and Market Potential," held on March 21 and 25, 2024, as well as the hands-on workshop on March 14, 2024, at the ICEBOX Conference Room. These events have significantly contributed to the growth and development of our startups, providing them with crucial insights and practical guidance.

Our deep appreciation goes to Sir Kevin Philip Gayao, CPA, who shared his extensive experience in financial planning and market potential, offering our participants the tools they need to navigate the challenges of startup life.

Our deep appreciation goes to Sir Kevin Philip Gayao, CPA, who shared his extensive experience in financial planning and market potential, offering our participants the tools they need to navigate the challenges of startup life.

The workshop led by Ms. Peng Sumarago on March 14 was equally impactful, as she worked closely with our startups to help them finalize their prototypes. Her expertise and dedication were instrumental in driving our participants toward success.

As we conclude these events, we remain committed to fostering innovation and supporting our startups as they continue to make strides in the tech industry.





ICEBOX-TBI

Takes Part in the **GENSAN REGIONAL SUMMIT** on IT-BPM Empowerment

ICEBOX TBI proudly participated in the Gensan Regional Summit - Empowering the Philippine IT-BPM Industry 2028: Pioneering Progress in Rural Areas on March 11, 2024, which focused on advancing the IT-BPM sector in SOCCSKSARGEN. The event, organized alongside the I.T. & Business Process Association of the Philippines, LGU GenSan, DICT Sarangani-GenSan, and the IT-BPM industry, aimed to empower rural development and strengthen the local economy.

ICEBOX TBI's active participation underscored its commitment to innovation and economic progress, bringing valuable perspectives to discussions on talent development, entrepreneurship, and technological advancements. By contributing to these crucial conversations, ICEBOX TBI continues to champion inclusive economic growth and solidify General Santos City's position as a burgeoning hub for IT-BPM innovation.



MSU PHILIPPINES Strengthens Collaboration with BITCOM Universiti Teknologi Mara

On March 22, 2024, ICEBOX TBI Core Team from Mindanao State University- General Santos (MSU-GS), conducted a courtesy visit to the Business Innovation & Technology Commercialization Centre (BITCOM) at Universiti Teknologi Mara, Shah Alam. The visit aimed to benchmark BITCOM's expertise in managing technology transfer and consultancy, while also exploring avenues for strategic collaboration between the two institutions.

Led by Dr. Noel S. Gunay, the Core Team engaged in fruitful discussions focused on enhancing the marketing potential of university research outcomes. This initiative reflects MSU's commitment to fostering innovation and strengthening ties with global partners.

We are grateful for the insights shared and look forward to a productive partnership that will contribute to the development of competitive strategies in technology transfer and intellectual property commercialization on a global scale.



conclusion of UNBOXING SERIES 2 event

The UNBOXING Series 2 events, which included the "UNBOXING KICK-OFF: A Journey to Technopreneurship" on March 25, 2024, and "Startup Success Stories" on April 3, 2024, have successfully concluded, leaving a significant impact on participants.

During the kick-off event, Mr. Prim Paypon, the Filipino Dreamagineer, and Engr. Hannah Grace Parcon provided invaluable insights into transforming innovative ideas into reality and navigating the startup world. Their contributions empowered attendees to take bold steps toward their entrepreneurial goals.

In the second episode, the inspiring success story of Mr. John Vicente Fiel, CEO and Co-Founder of Wela School Systems, further fueled the entrepreneurial spirit of participants, offering a glimpse into the potential of Filipino innovation.

These events have played a crucial role in motivating and equipping aspiring technopreneurs to pursue their visions, fostering a future of innovation and growth in our country.



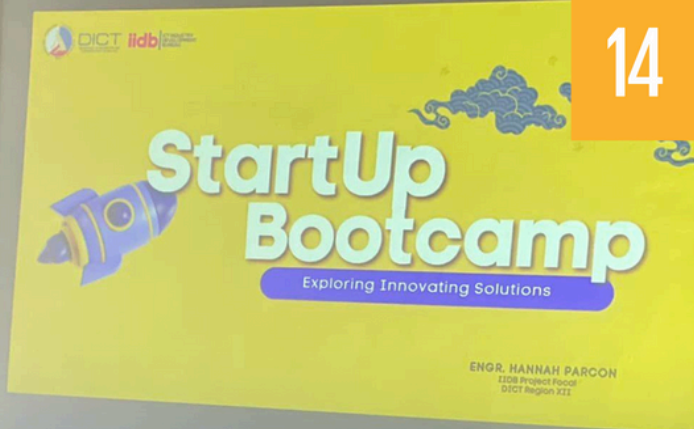
WEN Mentors and Educators Meetup:

Building Bridges for Innovation

On April 1, 2024, ICEBOX TBI, in partnership with the Wadhwani Foundation, led the WEN Mentors and Educators Meetup and Networking event at Caffe Firenze, Sun City Suites. This gathering aimed to strengthen connections between academic institutions and foster a culture of innovation within the community.

Through this collaboration, educators and mentors had the opportunity to exchange ideas, share best practices, and explore new avenues for driving innovation in their respective fields. The event underscored the importance of collaboration in nurturing the next generation of innovators and entrepreneurs.





startup BOOTCAMP:

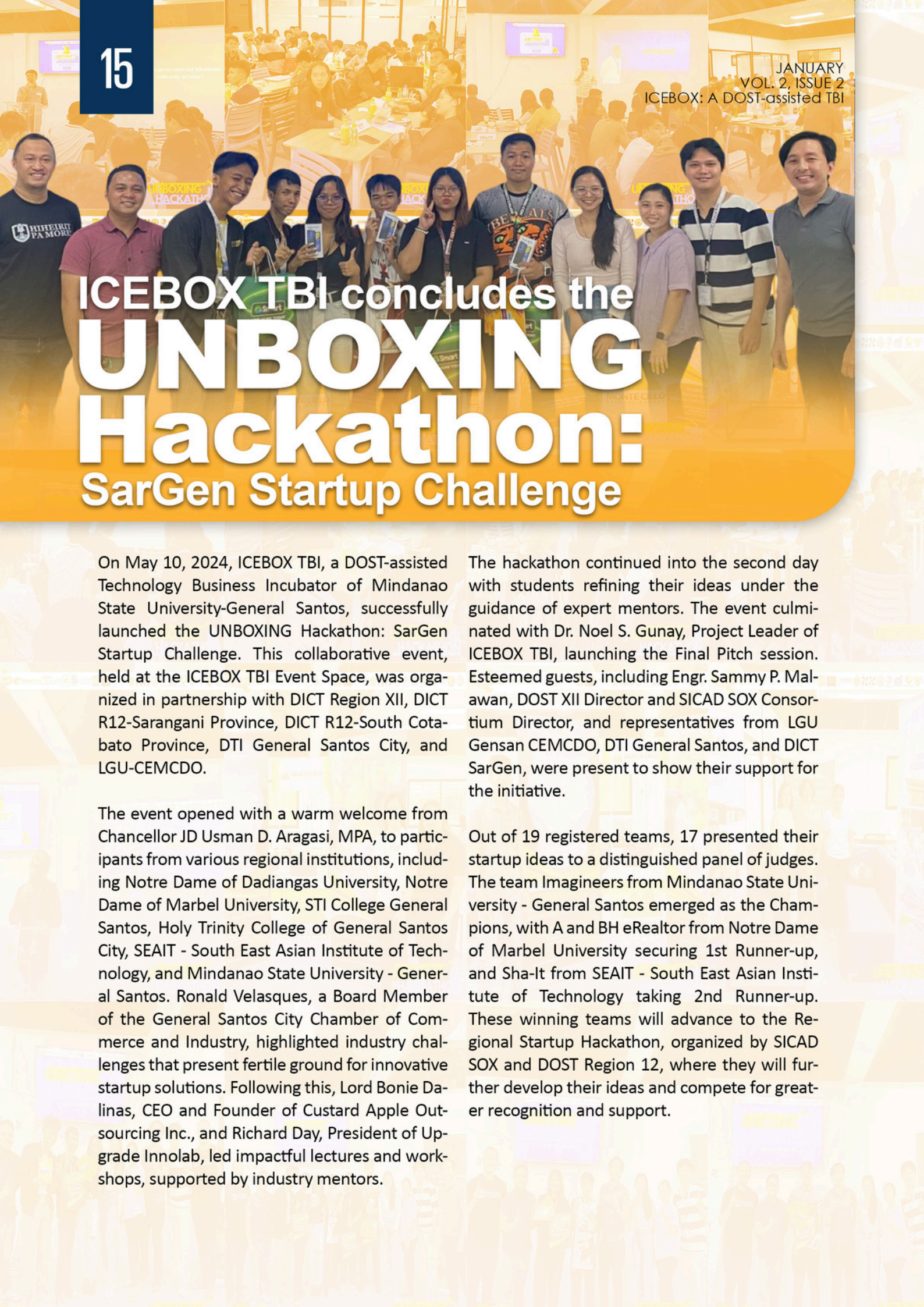
Igniting Innovation and Empowering the **NEXT GENERATION**

On May 4, 2024, students from various institutions gathered at the ICEBOX Event Space, MSU for a transformative event focused on ideation and value creation. The day kicked off with an inspiring welcome from Dr. Noel S. Gunay, Dean of the College of Engineering, who emphasized the importance of innovation in the startup ecosystem. The session was further elevated by Engr. Hannah Grace Parcon from the ICT Industry Development Bureau, who guided participants through the process of empathizing with users and discovering opportunities for impactful solutions.

The highlight of the event was the dynamic 2-hour workshop led by Engr. Parcon with the support of DICT Region 12 and ICEBOX TBI. Participants engaged in hands-on activities, sharpening their skills in creating value propositions and developing lean canvases. The workshop provided invaluable insights for students aspiring to make their mark in the startup world.

Culminating the event, a total of eleven (11) teams took the stage to pitch their innovative ideas. The ICEBOX Event Space was ablaze with creativity as teams presented their game-changing concepts. Congratulations to Team Lokalities from NDMU, Team Nexusphere, and Team Variance from MSU Gensan for their outstanding pitches, earning them top honors. The event was a testament to the limitless potential of young innovators, setting the stage for future breakthroughs in the startup ecosystem.



A group of approximately 12 people, including men and women of various ages, are posing for a group photo. They are standing in front of a backdrop that features the event's branding. Some individuals are holding small blue and white cards or certificates. The background is a collage of images related to the hackathon, including people working at computers and a large audience seated at tables.

ICEBOX TBI concludes the UNBOXING Hackathon: SarGen Startup Challenge

On May 10, 2024, ICEBOX TBI, a DOST-assisted Technology Business Incubator of Mindanao State University-General Santos, successfully launched the UNBOXING Hackathon: SarGen Startup Challenge. This collaborative event, held at the ICEBOX TBI Event Space, was organized in partnership with DICT Region XII, DICT R12-Sarangani Province, DICT R12-South Cotabato Province, DTI General Santos City, and LGU-CEMCDO.

The event opened with a warm welcome from Chancellor JD Usman D. Aragasi, MPA, to participants from various regional institutions, including Notre Dame of Dadiangas University, Notre Dame of Marbel University, STI College General Santos, Holy Trinity College of General Santos City, SEAIT - South East Asian Institute of Technology, and Mindanao State University - General Santos. Ronald Velasques, a Board Member of the General Santos City Chamber of Commerce and Industry, highlighted industry challenges that present fertile ground for innovative startup solutions. Following this, Lord Bonie Dalinas, CEO and Founder of Custard Apple Outsourcing Inc., and Richard Day, President of Upgrade Innolab, led impactful lectures and workshops, supported by industry mentors.

The hackathon continued into the second day with students refining their ideas under the guidance of expert mentors. The event culminated with Dr. Noel S. Gunay, Project Leader of ICEBOX TBI, launching the Final Pitch session. Esteemed guests, including Engr. Sammy P. Malawan, DOST XII Director and SICAD SOX Consortium Director, and representatives from LGU Gensan CEMCDO, DTI General Santos, and DICT SarGen, were present to show their support for the initiative.

Out of 19 registered teams, 17 presented their startup ideas to a distinguished panel of judges. The team Imagineers from Mindanao State University - General Santos emerged as the Champions, with A and BH eRealtor from Notre Dame of Marbel University securing 1st Runner-up, and Sha-It from SEAIT - South East Asian Institute of Technology taking 2nd Runner-up. These winning teams will advance to the Regional Startup Hackathon, organized by SICAD SOX and DOST Region 12, where they will further develop their ideas and compete for greater recognition and support.

Innovative Minds Shine MSU-GSC's demo day

Innovative Minds Shine at MSU-General Santos City's Demo Day

On May 20 and 21, 2024, the ICEBOX TBI Event Space at Mindanao State University-General Santos City buzzed with energy and innovation as the Mechanical and Civil Engineering students showcased their projects during an exhilarating Demo Day. This event, held in collaboration with the Wadhvani Foundation, marked a significant milestone for the students as they demonstrated their creativity and technical prowess.

The Demo Day provided a platform for the students to present their innovative solutions, receiving invaluable feedback and guidance from a distinguished panel of experts. We extend our deepest gratitude to Sir Lord Bonie Dalinas, CEO of Custard Apple Outsourcing Inc.; Sir Bretch Garcinez, MSc, CEO of Nutnull IT Solution; Dr. Jypzie Catedrilla, ICEBOX project staff; Ma'am Mary Rose Ofianga, Program Manager of Wadhvani Foundation - Philippines; Engr. Irene Lara Abad, MS ME; and Engr. Cristina Lalisan, MS CE, for their unwavering commitment to mentoring and inspiring the next generation of engineers.

Their insights and encouragement have not only guided our students but also motivated them to continue pushing the boundaries of innovation. This Demo Day is a testament to the collaborative spirit and dedication to excellence that defines the engineering community at MSU-General Santos City.



NDDU Ignites Innovation with WEN Ignite Demo Day

The spirit of innovation and entrepreneurship was alive at Notre Dame of Dadiangas University, Inc. (NDDU), as Wadhvani Foundation - Philippines, in collaboration with NDDU and ICEBOX TBI, successfully concluded the Demo Day of WEN Ignite. Held at the NDDU Glamang Campus, this event showcased the innovative minds of Technopreneurship students under the guidance of their faculty member, Engr. Harold Carrel S. Caagabay.

Twenty-one dynamic teams presented their startup ventures to an esteemed panel of judges, including Ma'am Mary Rose Ofianga, Program Manager of Wadhvani Foundation - Philippines; Sir Lord Dalinas, CEO of Custard Apple Outsourcing Inc.; Engr. Malou Jusa, MEP-IE, IE Coordinator of NDDU; Wilmark Econar, CEO and Founder of Wil Value Digital Marketing Services; and Romeo Jr. E. Tejada, TBI Manager of ICEBOX TBI.

This Demo Day not only highlighted the students' innovative ideas but also marked a significant step forward in promoting Technopreneurship, Innovation, and Collaboration. The event is a key part of ICEBOX TBI's Campus Roadshow, aimed at connecting with various institutions to foster a culture of innovation and entrepreneurship.

The enthusiasm and creativity displayed by the students promise a bright future for Technopreneurship at NDDU and beyond.

The spirit of innovation and entrepreneurship was alive at Notre Dame of Dadiangas University,



ICEBOX TBI Sparks Innovation at STI SHS Research Conference

The atmosphere was charged with creativity and innovation at the Senior High School Research Conference held on May 8, 2024, at Skygym, STI College General Santos. ICEBOX TBI made a significant impact with its booth, igniting the imaginations of aspiring student innovators.

Aligned with the theme, "The Spark of Innovation: Igniting Research-Driven Solutions," ICEBOX TBI showcased the innovative work of Pixellebit Games, one of its startup teams. The exhibit drew attention and inspired students to explore the possibilities of turning their research ideas into real-world solutions.



ICEBOX and LGU General Santos City Forge Strategic Partnership

On June 3, 2024, a significant milestone was reached as the Local Government Unit of General Santos City, represented by Honorable City Mayor Lorelie G. Pacquiao, and Mindanao State University - General Santos City, represented by Chancellor JD Usman D. Aragasi, MPA, officially signed a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA). This agreement, facilitated by the City Economic Management and Cooperative Development Office, solidifies a collaborative partnership focused on fostering innovation and technological advancement through "ICEBOX: A DOST-Assisted Technology Business Incubator for Smart Systems Innovations."

This strategic partnership underscores the shared commitment of both institutions to drive economic growth and support the development of smart system innovations in the region. With the combined efforts of the LGU and MSU, this initiative aims to empower local startups and entrepreneurs, providing them with the necessary resources and support to thrive in the competitive landscape of technological innovation.



ICEBOX TBI Participates in **HEIRIT Conference** **2024**



From June 4 to 8, 2024, ICEBOX TBI proudly joined the Higher Education Institutions Readiness for Innovation and Technopreneurship (HEIRIT) Conference hosted by the Department of Science and Technology - Philippine Council for Industry, Energy, and Emerging Technology Research and Development (DOST PCIEERD RITTD). Held at the Co Po Ty Audio Visual Hall, Adamson University, Manila, this event brought together technology business incubators from across the country.

The conference featured a Stakeholder's Forum on June 4-5, 2024, followed by an intensive TBI Workshop from June 6-8, 2024. The event provided a valuable platform for sharing insights, strategies, and best practices in fostering innovation and technopreneurship within higher education institutions. ICEBOX TBI's participation underscored its commitment to advancing the startup ecosystem and contributing to the nation's technological growth.



PLGU

Nueva Vizcaya PROCEDE

Visits ICEBOX TBI of MSU-GenSan for Benchmarking

On June 21, 2024, the Provincial Government Unit of Nueva Vizcaya, through its Provincial Cooperative and Enterprise Development (PROCEDE) Office, visited ICEBOX TBI at Mindanao State University-General Santos for a benchmarking activity. The event began with a warm welcome from Dr. Noel S. Gunay, the Project Leader, who highlighted the vision and goals of ICEBOX TBI. An AVP presentation followed, showcasing the key accomplishments of the incubator, with Romeo Jr. E. Tejada, Project Development Officer, providing detailed insights into these initiatives.

To encourage knowledge exchange, an interactive open forum was held where participants shared their insights and experiences. Roel P. Dalupang Jr., PROCEDE Project Development Officer IV, discussed their best practices and successful strategies. The session also explored potential collaborations between the two parties in their respective focus industries. The day concluded with a closing message from Kristian Cesar C. Ollier, LPT, MBA, OIC Dean of Aldersgate College, Inc., College of Business Management and Accountancy, followed by a tour of the ICEBOX TBI fa-



ICEBOX Showcases at TECH EXPO and IT-BPM Forum

On June 29, 2024, ICEBOX proudly participated as an exhibitor at the TECH EXPO and IT-BPM Forum, held at the KCC Convention Center in General Santos City. The event, a highlight of the National ICT Month celebrations, drew nearly 400 delegates, including representatives from the academe, IT companies, freelancers, telecommunications and infrastructure firms, virtual assistants, government officials, and students.

The forum provided a dynamic platform for ICEBOX to showcase its innovative projects and connect with key players in the IT and BPM sectors. Attendees engaged in insightful discussions and explored opportunities for collaboration and growth within the tech ecosystem. Distinguished guests and speakers included DICT Region XII Regional Director Engr. Ibrahim B. Guiapar, Jr., Kag. Elizabeth Bagonoc from the Sangguniang Panglungsod, and Dr. Noel Gunay from ICEBOX Gensan, among others.

ICEBOX's participation underscored its commitment to driving innovation and fostering partnerships in the rapidly evolving ICT landscape.



ICEBOX Incubatees Excel at **SOX-ITECH:** Regional Startup Pitching Competition

ICEBOX is proud to celebrate the remarkable success of our incubatees at the SOX-ITECH: Regional Startup Pitching Competition held on July 2, 2024.

In the student category, OMMU achieved an impressive 1st place and swept all special awards, including Best Presenter, Best Video Pitch, and Best Logo. Their exceptional performance has earned them the honor of representing Region XII at the upcoming Philippine Startup Challenge 2024.

We also commend Klinikart and RealEase for their outstanding contributions and representation. Their dedication and hard work have significantly elevated the visibility and impact of our incubator community.

In the registered startup category, Upsell secured a commendable 2nd place, demonstrating their creativity and determination. This achievement has led to their endorsement for the Startup Grant Fund Program and the opportunity to represent Region XII in the National Pitching Competition.

ICEBOX extends its heartfelt congratulations to all our incubatees for their extraordinary achievements. Your commitment to innovation and excellence continues to inspire us all, and we look forward to witnessing your continued success in the startup ecosystem.





ICEBOX Hosts **DR. DONALD AMOROSO** for Research on Incubator Success Factors

On July 5, 2024- ICEBOX had the distinct pleasure of welcoming Dr. Donald Amoroso, a Distinguished Professor from Auburn University at Montgomery (AUM), for an in-depth interview session. Dr. Amoroso's visit was part of his ongoing research project focused on identifying the success factors of incubators and accelerators in the Philippines.

During the session, Dr. Noel S. Gunay, Project Leader of ICEBOX, and Romeo Jr. Tejada, TBI Manager, provided detailed insights into the significant milestones ICEBOX has achieved, as well as the challenges it has faced. This collaborative effort not only highlights the accomplishments of ICEBOX but also contributes to a deeper understanding of how incubators and accelerators can drive innovation and economic growth in the Philippines.

We are honored to contribute to Dr. Amoroso's research and look forward to the valuable insights that will emerge from this study, ultimately enhancing the effectiveness and impact of incubation programs across the country.

ICEBOX TBI Onboards **Cohort 2** Incubatees & Mentors

ICEBOX TBI proudly hosted the Founders' Assembly on July 12, 2024, at the ICEBOX TBI Office, marking the official onboarding of Cohort 2 incubatees and mentors. This event brought together a vibrant community of innovators, mentors, and industry leaders to foster collaboration and drive the mission of supporting emerging startups.

The day commenced with an inspiring address from Dr. Noel S. Gunay, Project Leader of ICEBOX TBI, who set the tone for the event. Operations Manager Romeo Jr. Tejada followed with an orientation session, during which he facilitated the signing of the Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) with the new cohort of incubatees. This formalized the engagement of seven promising startups: Artiverse, Bakunawa, FindMe, LarvaEye, OMMU, Smartponics, and Upsell.

A key highlight of the event was the onboarding session for the Ignite Platform, led by esteemed resource speaker Marya Rose Ofianga. She also delivered an insightful lecture on team building and assessment, underscoring the critical importance of collaboration and evaluation within startup teams. Engr. Arianne Dale Daligdig, Startup Manager, presented the calendar of activities, outlining the key events and milestones that will guide the cohort's journey.

The assembly also featured the formal signing of the MOA with a distinguished group of mentors, including:

Caryl Pizon, Co-founder of Avodah Philippines

Lord Dalinas, CEO of Custard Apple Outsourcing Inc.

Champ Afable, CEO of Virtual Champs Global

Mark Manansala, CEO of Kave Guild

Denis Chaves, CEO of Fresco-Greenovations

Bretch Garcinez, CEO of NutNull Holdings

Engr. Ephrem Dela Cerna, Jr., President of STI Training Academy

Clint Junsay, VP for Marketing & Communications of Eulap

Fryon Amboy, CEO of Pixellebit Games

Christian Valeen Chiu, President of Speed-IT, Inc.

Lemuel Javellana, CEO of Eulap

Marya Ofianga, Program Manager of Wadhwani Foundation - Philippines

In the afternoon, the assembly was energized by a motivational message from Dr. Ryan G. Banal, Director of Innovation, who encouraged ongoing engagement and relentless innovation. The Founders' Assembly proved to be a day of meaningful insights, firm commitments, and the forging of new collaborations, laying a robust foundation for the success of these promising startups.



ICEBOX-TBI COHORT 2 incubatees



Advanced image processing solutions for counting prawn larvae



Sustainable tower farm with wireless real-time data collection, and automated cultivation system



Web-based multifaceted platform dedicated to revitalizing the Filipino Creative industry



Drog-and-drop e-commerce store builder that's designed to help online stores drive sales.



An application designed for emergency and notify nearby contacts



A gamified community engagement platform with rewards system for every quest completed



Designed to assist patients in choosing the appropriate physician for their illness. [Pre-self diagnosis, Local Doctor Data-



Gamified learning app enabling users to learn and manage finances effectively



AgriCycle is a centralized marketplace that connects agri-businesses who produce agricultural wastes with industries that need it as raw materials.



Serve as a centralized realtor, catering to residential and commercial rental properties, revolutionizing the house-searching experience into hassle-free and convenient for all parties involved



Defense Technologies Startup focusing on providing smart systems designed to optimize training methods and applications for the human resource development in the law enforcement and national defense sector.

ICEBOX Hosts Successful TP-Link Network Associate (TPNA) & Omada Certified Network Administrator Trainings & Certification Event

ICEBOX TBI, in collaboration with TP-Link, proudly hosted the TP-Link Network Associate (TPNA) and Omada Certified Network Administrator Trainings & Certification from July 16-19, 2024, as part of the Yaman GenSan initiative. This highly anticipated event took place at the ICEBOX TBI Office, H-Building, Mindanao State University - General Santos, and brought together eager participants aiming to advance their skills in network administration.

The event culminated in a certificate awarding ceremony on the final day, where Ms. Divine A. Ortega, Business Development Manager for Mindanao at TP-Link Philippines Ltd. Corporation, personally handed out the globally recognized TPNA certifications, valid for three years. This certification is a significant credential for professionals in the field, opening doors to new opportunities in network management.

The event was a remarkable success, highlighted by an unprecedented achievement: every participant passed the wireless certification exam, with not a single failing remark—a first in the history of this certification program.

We extend our heartfelt congratulations to all the participants for their dedication, hard work, and commitment to excellence. Your success in this training is a testament to your passion for continuous learning and professional growth. We look forward to seeing the impact you will make in the field of network administration.

Over the course of the four-day training, participants engaged in rigorous hands-on sessions and gained in-depth knowledge of TP-Link's cutting-edge technologies and Omada solutions. Guided by expert trainers, attendees were equipped with the essential skills needed to excel in network administration, particularly in the rapidly evolving digital landscape.

Here's to your bright and promising future!



A and OCNA Training and Certification



A and OCNA Training and Certification





ICEBOX TBI Conducts Campus Roadshow & Mentoring Program at SEAIT

Tupi, South Cotabato, August 9, 2024—ICEBOX Technology Business Incubator (TBI) made a significant impact today with a focused Mentoring Session at the South East Asian Institute of Technology (SEAIT) Innovation Hub. This event marks a key milestone in ICEBOX TBI's ongoing Campus Roadshow and Cohort 2 Incubation Program.

The mentoring session featured ICEBOX TBI's startups, Presscue and OMMU, who received specialized guidance to elevate their business strategies. Clint Junsay, a branding and marketing expert from Speed-IT, Inc., provided targeted mentorship on effective brand positioning and marketing planning. Concurrently, Lord Dalinas of Custard Apple Outsourcing Inc. shared valuable insights into refining product development processes, helping the startups to streamline their operations and enhance product offerings.

The event was well-attended by key figures, including Romeo Jr. E. Tejada, Operations Manager of ICEBOX TBI; Engr. Arianne Dale O. Daligdig, Startup Development Manager of ICEBOX TBI; Dr. Mario M. Madrero, Vice President for Academics at SEAIT; Reginald S. Prudente, College Dean of BSIT at SEAIT; Michael Paul O. Sebando, ICT Cluster Coordinator at SEAIT; and Genory Vanz Alfasain, Co-founder and Editor-in-Chief of 12 Beat.

The session not only provided critical mentorship to the startups but also opened avenues for deeper collaboration between SEAIT and ICEBOX TBI. Discussions centered on enhancing support for startups and exploring potential joint initiatives that could further drive innovation and entrepreneurship within the region.



ICEBOXING MILESTONE 1:

Pitch Presentation Success

On August 15, 2024, ICEBOX TBI proudly celebrated a major achievement in the entrepreneurial journeys of our incubatees—Presscue, Artiverse, Bakunawa Technologies, LarvaEye, OMMU, Smartponics, and Upsell. These dynamic startups reached a significant milestone as they successfully completed their Pitch Presentation for Milestone 1. Their creativity, innovation, and dedication are paving the way for a brighter future, and this event marks just the beginning of their remarkable journey.

A heartfelt thank you goes out to our esteemed panel of in-house mentors, whose invaluable guidance and feedback were instrumental in shaping the growth of these startups. Their expertise has been key to the continued development of our incubatees:

- **Rose Ofianga**, Program Manager, Wadhwani Foundation - Philippines
- **Lemuel Javellana**, CEO, Eulap Software Solution & member of Speed-IT, Inc.
- **Dr. Franch Maverick Lorilla**, TBI Manager, CDObites
- **Bretch Garcinez**, Entrepreneur-in-Residence, ICEBOX TBI & CEO, NutNull Holdings
- **Lord Bonie Dalinas**, CEO, Custard Apple Outsourcing Inc.
- **Engr. Hannah Parcon**, Project Focal - ICT Industry Development Bureau, DICT Region XII
- **Angelito Villar**, Senior Trade Industry Development Specialist, DTI Region 12
- **Giselle Siladan**, Director, SICAD SOX

Their unwavering support has been crucial in empowering our startups to reach their full potential.

At ICEBOX TBI, we remain committed to nurturing a community of innovators and entrepreneurs poised to make a lasting impact. With this milestone accomplished, we are excited to see what lies ahead. This is just the start, and the possibilities are endless. We encourage our incubatees to continue dreaming big and pushing the boundaries of innovation on their journey to success.



CEMCDO Meeting on Digital Initiatives and Upcoming CREACON 2025

General Santos City, August 15, 2024 — The City Economic Management and Cooperative Development Office (CEMCDO) convened a crucial meeting to discuss various digital initiatives aimed at enhancing the city's technological landscape. Key agenda items included the updating of digital programs and projects, the establishment of General Santos City's first-ever Digital Cooperative, and the amendment of the ordinance creating the ICT Council. Additionally, preparations for the highly anticipated CreaCon 2025 were discussed.

The meeting was attended by City Councilor Hon. Elizabeth Bagonoc, Chair of the ICT Committee, Dr. Leonard Flores, Department Head of CEMCDO, and Ma'am Ellorencé Datoon Cruz, Chief of the Gensan Investment Division. ICEBOX TBI was represented by Romeo Jr. E. Tejada, Operations Manager, alongside industry leaders including LGIS - Leadership and Governance International Standards, Kave Guild - Your Web3 Ally, Crackerjacks Virtual Assistants, NutNull IT Solutions, and Upsell.

This gathering highlighted the collaborative efforts between the city government, business incubators, and industry players to strengthen General Santos City's digital infrastructure and entrepreneurial ecosystem, setting the stage for future innovation and growth.



Camarines Sur Polytechnic Colleges BENCHMARKS at ICEBOX TBI

On August 30, 2024, Camarines Sur Polytechnic Colleges (CSPC) visited the ICEBOX Technology Business Incubator (TBI) at Mindanao State University - General Santos (MSU-GenSan) for a benchmarking session aimed at enhancing their research office, research centers, and TBI. This visit is part of CSPC's capacity-building efforts to improve operations and integrate best practices from successful incubators.

The session involved a comprehensive discussion on ICEBOX TBI's best practices, challenges, and lessons learned from implementing incubation programs. Insights gained from other TBIs across the country were also shared. The dialogue explored potential collaboration and partnership opportunities between CSPC and ICEBOX TBI, focusing on fostering innovation and supporting startups.

The CSPC delegation, led by Dr. Challiz D. Omorog, Vice President for Research, Extension, Production, and Entrepreneurial Development (VPREPED), engaged with the ICEBOX TBI team, including Dr. Noel S. Gunay, ICEBOX Project Leader, and other key MSU-GenSan officials, such as Dr. Jaime Namocatcat, Vice Chancellor for Research, Extension, and Innovation, and Dr. Ryan Banal, Director of the Department of Innovation. The ICEBOX core team members, including Dr. Marissa Dela Cruz, Dr. Jypzie Catedrilla, and the operations and startup management team, shared their experiences and strategies for driving technopreneurial growth.

The event concluded with fruitful discussions on the future of TBI operations and the potential for joint initiatives that would capitalize on the strengths of both institutions. The visit highlighted the shared commitment of CSPC and ICEBOX TBI to foster innovation, support startups, and contribute to regional economic development through technology and research.

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COLLEGE OF ENGINEERING





CPUGAD TBI Conducts **BENCHMARKING VISIT** at **ICEBOX TBI**

On September 2, 2024, the CPUGAD Technology Business Incubator (TBI) from Central Philippine University (CPU) visited ICEBOX TBI for a benchmarking activity aimed at enhancing their TBI operations, incubation programs, and exploring opportunities for collaboration within the startup ecosystem.

The CPUGAD delegation, led by Engr. Gelvie C. Lagos, CPUGAD TBI Project Leader, included key team members such as Mark Gil D. Peraman, TBI Manager, and project staff, resident mentors, and technical assistants. The visit provided an opportunity for an in-depth exchange of insights between the two TBIs, focusing on best practices in incubation management, fostering innovation, and supporting technopreneurs.

The ICEBOX TBI team, led by Dr. Noel S. Gunay, Project Leader, along with Dr. Ryan Banal, Director of the Department of Innovation, and core members Dr. Marissa Dela Cruz, Dr. Jypzie Cate-drilla, Romeo Jr. E. Tejada, Engr. Arianne Dale Daligdig, Joecil S. Quibol, and Louise Ann Duot, shared their extensive experiences in driving startup growth and managing incubation operations.

The visit served as a platform for meaningful discussions on potential collaborations and strengthening the network of TBIs. Both ICEBOX and CPUGAD TBI are committed to pursuing joint efforts in innovation and technopreneurship, further contributing to the growth of the regional startup ecosystem.



ICEBOX TBI Participates in the 24th National Tuna Congress

From September 3-5, 2024, ICEBOX TBI proudly participated as an exhibitor at the 24th National Tuna Congress, held at Robinsons Mall General Santos, as part of the Tuna Festival celebration. This year's congress, themed "Securing the Future of the Philippine Tuna Industry: A Competitiveness Agenda", brought together key stakeholders from the tuna industry to discuss future strategies and innovations to ensure its continued growth.

As an exhibitor under the LGU Booth, ICEBOX TBI showcased its role in driving technological advancements and supporting startups within the industry. The booth attracted attendees interested in learning how ICEBOX TBI is contributing to the sector's growth through innovation and entrepreneurship.

This successful participation reaffirmed ICEBOX's commitment to fostering innovation in traditional industries like tuna and creating opportunities for startups to thrive within the region. We thank all those who visited our booth and engaged with us during the event!



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ICEBOX TBI at the Mindanao Business Conference 2024!

ICEBOX TBI proudly participated in the Mindanao Business Conference (MinBizCon) 2024, held on September 12, 2024, at the KCC Convention Center, General Santos City, under the theme "Unlocking the Potentials and Opportunities in Mindanao."

Represented by Dr. Jypzie Catedrilla and Louise Ann Duot, ICEBOX TBI actively engaged in insightful discussions on innovation, digitalization, and investment opportunities, contributing to the ongoing growth and development of the Mindanao region. The event was a convergence of industry leaders, businesses, and stakeholders, setting the stage for future collaboration and advancement.



ICEBOX TBI Benchmarks at WVSU - BINHI

On September 18, 2024, the ICEBOX Technology Business Incubator (TBI) team conducted a benchmarking visit to West Visayas State University - BINHI Technology Business Incubator as part of their local study mission to document best practices, sustainability plans, and post-funding structures from various TBIs.

The ICEBOX TBI team received a warm welcome from Dr. Arnel Secondes, Head of the WVSU Knowledge Technology Transfer and Business Development Center, along with Dr. Joel De Castro, BINHI Project Leader, and Alexa Mae Borda, BINHI staff member.

The benchmarking session also featured interactions with BINHI incubatees, including Paul Kaldi's Locally Sourced Coffee Beans, DigiHwy, and Zenlabs, alongside support from student organizations such as the WVSU - SPARK Hub and Cyb Robotics Organization.

ICEBOX TBI expressed deep gratitude for BINHI's warm hospitality and the invaluable insights shared about overcoming challenges during their TBI implementation, further strengthening the connection between the two institutions.



ICEBOX's Learning Mission at **ISAT U-Kwadra TBI**



On September 18, 2024, the ICEBOX university-based research to support startup growth. The ICEBOX team was also given a comprehensive tour of ISATU KWADRA's facilities, showcasing their innovative projects and initiatives aimed at promoting sustainable technology development in the region.

During the visit, both TBIs engaged in meaningful discussions focused on optimizing incubation programs, integrating intellectual property management into the entrepreneurial process, and leveraging

ICEBOX extends its heartfelt gratitude to the ISATU KWADRA TBI team for their generous hospitality and willingness to share their best practices. The knowledge and insights gained from this visit will be instrumental in enhancing the support ICEBOX provides to technology-driven startups in Mindanao.



ICEBOX TBI Benchmarks at **CPU's CPUGAD TBI!**

On September 19, 2024, the ICEBOX TBI team proudly visited Central Philippine University (CPU) for a productive benchmarking activity at CPUGAD TBI. We were warmly welcomed by University President Dr. Ernest Howard B. Dagohoy, CPUGAD TBI Project Leader Engr. Gelvie C. Lagos, TBI Manager Mark Gil Peraman, and their dedicated team. We also had the pleasure of meeting Engr. Mary Earl Daryl A. Grio, Dean of the College of Engineering.

Our team toured CPU's R&D Facilities, including the Wind Energy Research & Development Facility, the Packaging Technology Resource Center, and the CPU Technology Business Center. Engaging discussions on enhancing incubation programs and exploring collaborative opportunities in technology, R&D, innovation, and entrepreneurship were held, paving the way for exciting future partnerships between ICEBOX TBI and CPUGAD TBI.

Together, we're building a stronger startup ecosystem through innovation, technology, and entrepreneurship!



ICEBOX TBI's Insightful Learning Mission at **BISU BALIK sa Bohol TBI**

On September 20, 2024, the ICEBOX TBI team embarked on a productive learning and benchmarking mission to Bohol Island State University (BISU) to further enrich our knowledge of cultivating a robust startup ecosystem. Our visit commenced with a warm welcome from University President Dr. Anthony M. Penaso, followed by a fruitful meeting with Dr. Maria Donna F. Buates, Project Leader of BALIK sa Bohol TBI, and their Project Development Officer, Engr. Judy Ann L. Cimafranca.

During our visit, the ICEBOX team was given an exclusive tour of FabLab Bohol—the first

FabLab in the Philippines—serving as an inspiring hub for innovation and creativity. We also explored the temporary TBI office, gaining firsthand experience of their vibrant operations.

The highlight of our mission was learning about BALIK TBI's comprehensive approach to nurturing startups, including their rigorous panel-based pre-incubation selection process and their strong partnerships with government agencies. These strategies have created a supportive environment for IT and tech ventures. However, it was insightful to note the challenges they face due to the geographic dispersion of their startups, which will

inform our strategies moving forward.

Overall, this mission provided invaluable lessons that will undoubtedly enhance ICEBOX TBI's operations and support for startups in General Santos City, as we continue to build a thriving and innovative ecosystem.



ICEBOX TBI Joins **3rd Mindanao TBI Summit** in Davao City

On September 27, 2024, the ICEBOX Technology Business Incubator actively participated in the 3rd Mindanao TBI Summit held in Davao City. Represented by Dr. Noel S. Gunay, Project Leader, and Romeo Jr. E. Tejada, Operations Manager, ICEBOX TBI showcased its commitment to fostering innovation and supporting startups throughout Mindanao.

The summit highlighted various startups from across the region, underscoring the immense potential for innovation and technopreneurship. It served as a valuable platform for incubators to collaborate, share insights, and expand their networks. Representatives from various TBIs and DOST XII also attended, further enriching the discussions on advancing the tech startup ecosystem in Mindanao.



ICEBOX TBI remains dedicated to being at the forefront of fostering startup growth and promoting technopreneurial initiatives in General Santos City and Region XII, as we continue to build a vibrant community of innovators.

ICEBOXING Cohort 2 Mentoring Session MVP Milestone Presentation

Empowering Startups Through Mentorship and Innovation

ICEBOX Technology Business Incubator proudly hosted the ICEBOXING Cohort 2 Mentoring Session and MVP Milestone Presentation this September, marking another milestone in our journey to support emerging startups. The session brought together our Cohort 2 incubatees and a roster of esteemed mentors to nurture entrepreneurial growth and refine groundbreaking ideas.

This hybrid event—conducted both face-to-face and via Zoom—ensured every startup received tailored guidance to sharpen their business models, address challenges, and chart a path toward sustainable growth. Our mentors and panelists, including Champ Afable, Mark Manansala, Lord Bonie Dalinas, Peng Sumarago, Dr. Pamela Go, Jover Nuevaespaña, Caryl Pizon, and Eddie de Asis and Mae El Obuyes from DTI General Santos City, shared their expertise and industry insights, providing a wealth of knowledge for our incubatees.

Startups Taking Center Stage

This month's MVP Milestone Presentation featured our promising startups:

- Upsell
- Presscue
- OMMU
- Artiverse
- LarvaEye
- Custard Apple Outsourcing Inc.
- Kave Guild - Your Web3 Ally
- Avodah Philippines
- Virtual Champs Global
- Mugna Tech

Each team showcased their progress, demonstrating their innovative solutions and passion for creating impactful businesses.

Building a Thriving Ecosystem

Special thanks to our mentors and partners for their invaluable support and for connecting our startups with the right people in the industry. Your collaboration fuels innovation and strengthens the startup ecosystem in General Santos City and beyond.

Stay tuned as our ICEBOXING program continues to transform ideas into impactful ventures, paving the way for a brighter entrepreneurial future!



ICEBOX TBI Joins FGD and Industry Profiling for SARANGANI'S Creative Industries

ICEBOX Technology Business Incubator participated in the Focus Group Discussion (FGD) and Industry Profiling for Sarangani's creative industries, hosted by the Department of Trade and Industry (DTI) Sarangani Province on September 30, 2024, at Anchor Hotel, General Santos City.

Strengthening Sarangani's Creative Sector

The session aimed to identify key players within Sarangani's creative industries and outline strategies for sectoral growth. This effort is part of the implementation of Republic Act No. 11904, the Philippine Creative Industries Development Act, which emphasizes the role of creative industries—including technology-based startups within the Digital Interactive Media domain—as vital drivers of cultural and economic development in the Philippines.

Forging Collaborative Opportunities

During the event, ICEBOX TBI Operations Manager, Romeo Jr. Tejada, held a productive discussion with Ms. Roxie Facurib, DTI Sarangani's Focal Person for the Creative Industry. The dialogue explored potential collaborations to support startups and foster innovation in Sarangani's creative ecosystem.

ICEBOX TBI remains committed to empowering startups, particularly in the creative and technology sectors, to contribute to sustainable regional development and national progress.

Photo Credits: Genory Vanz Alfasain





Upsell Collaborates with DTI GenSan to Propel MSME Digital Revolution

On October 2, 2024, Upsell, in partnership with ICEBOX TBI and the Department of Trade and Industry (DTI) General Santos City, took a significant step toward revolutionizing the digital landscape for local businesses. During a strategic meeting, Alex Sacramento, Founder of Upsell, presented his innovative startup to Eddie de Asis, DTI General Santos City Caretaker, and the DTI team, setting the stage for a promising collaboration.

Empowering MSMEs Through Technology
Upsell, a rising startup from General Santos City, focuses on empowering micro, small, and medium enterprises (MSMEs) by enabling them to build and manage their own online stores. This partnership with DTI aims to accelerate digital transformation for local businesses, aligning with government initiatives to empower small enterprises through technology-driven solutions.

A Track Record of Excellence

Recognized for their exceptional performance at the 2024 Regional Startup Hackathon, Upsell was recently awarded the TATAK Heneral by LGU GenSan, further cementing their status as a key player in the local startup ecosystem.

With this collaboration, Upsell and DTI GenSan are set to create meaningful change, fostering innovation and driving the digital revolution for MSMEs in General Santos City and beyond. Stay tuned for updates on this groundbreaking partnership!

ICEBOX TBI Joins SOCCSKSARGEN Regional Science, Technology, and Innovation Week 2024

General Santos City, October 2024 — ICEBOX Technology Business Incubator proudly participated in the opening day of the 2024 SOCCSKSARGEN Regional Science, Technology, and Innovation Week held at KCC Mall of General Santos City. The event, themed "Providing Solutions and Opening Opportunities in the Green Economy," highlighted the vital role of science and technology in fostering sustainable development across the region.

Key sessions featured impactful discussions from experts at the Department of Science and Technology (DOST), visionary local government leaders, and forward-thinking innovators. These talks explored groundbreaking initiatives aimed at building a resilient green economy. ICEBOX TBI engaged with participants and explored ways to align its incubation programs with sustainability-focused solutions.

This participation underscores ICEBOX TBI's commitment to driving innovation, supporting sustainable startups, and contributing to the advancement of green technologies in SOCCSKSARGEN and beyond. Stay connected with ICEBOX as we continue to champion solutions for a sustainable future!



TURNOVER OF THE REGION XII STARTUP ECOSYSTEM DEVELOPMENT PLAN

AVIOR HOTEL, GENERAL SANTOS CITY

ICEBOX TBI Joins Turnover of Region 12 Startup Ecosystem Development Plan

General Santos City, October 1, 2024 — ICEBOX Technology Business Incubator proudly participated in the official turnover of the Region 12 Startup Ecosystem Development Plan at Avior Hotel, General Santos City. This milestone event marks a significant step forward in fostering a thriving startup ecosystem in SOCCSKSARGEN.

The development plan, presented by Prof. Fortunato T. Dela Peña, Chairperson of the Entrepinoy Volunteers Foundation, Inc., and former Secretary of the Department of Science and Technology (DOST), was formally handed over to the Startup Innovation Consortium to Accelerate Development in SOCCSKSARGEN (SICAD SOX).

Receiving the document were Engr. Sammy P. Malawan, Regional Director of DOST XII and Consortium Chairperson, alongside Ms. Giselle Eve O. Siladan, Consortium Director, and other key ecosystem stakeholders.

This strategic roadmap outlines collaborative efforts among startups, government agencies, academic institutions, and private sector partners to strengthen innovation and entrepreneurship in Region 12. ICEBOX TBI remains committed to advancing these initiatives and driving impactful



Leveling Up Technovation

with ICEBOX TBI at the 14th JIECEP-SOCCSKSARGEN Student Summit

Koronadal City, October 4, 2024 — ICEBOX Technology Business Incubator proudly participated in the 14th JIECEP-SOCCSKSARGEN Student Summit, held at The Peak-Hall of Love, Mall of Ace Centerpoint. With the theme “Inspiring Excellence: Pioneering Innovations for a Sustainable Future,” the event brought together electronics engineering students from leading universities and colleges across the region, including Mindanao State University-General Santos, University of Southern Mindanao, and Notre Dame of Marbel University, among others.

Engr. Arianne Dale Daligdig, ICEBOX Startup Manager, captivated the audience as a technical resource speaker, presenting “Leveling Up Your Technovations with ICEBOX TBI.” Engr. Daligdig highlighted ICEBOX TBI’s comprehensive programs and services aimed at empowering tech startups, showcasing the incubator’s pivotal role in fostering innovation and entrepreneurship.

To inspire and engage the participants, ICEBOX TBI featured an audio-visual presentation spotlighting the success stories of its incubatees from Cohorts 1 and 2, celebrating their triumphs in hackathons and pitching competitions. Adding to the excitement, students participated in a fun trivia quiz and listened to testimonies from well-known startup founders, offering a glimpse into the incredible opportunities available within the startup ecosystem.

We extend our heartfelt thanks to JIECEP-SOCCSKSARGEN Chapter and IECEP SOCCSKSARGEN Chapter for organizing such an impactful event. Together, we are shaping the future of innovation and inspiring the next generation of technopreneurs.



Advanced AI Bootcamp



Concludes with Success

General Santos City, October 2, 2024 — The Advanced AI Bootcamp: Mastering Object Detection and Tracking Algorithms successfully concluded, marking another milestone in advancing technology and innovation. The final session delved into Track and Count Models, License Plate Detection, and Recognition Models, equipping participants with cutting-edge knowledge and practical skills in AI.

The bootcamp featured expert guidance from Mill Christian Gunay and Engr. Chain Roida Amor Diomahali, who shared their insights and expertise, ensuring a hands-on and engaging learning experience for all participants. Over the course of three comprehensive sessions, attendees explored key AI concepts, from annotation and training models to advanced tracking systems.

Congratulations to all participants for completing the 3-day bootcamp! Your dedication and enthusiasm drive the future of AI innovation. We also extend our heartfelt gratitude to our resource speakers for their invaluable contributions. Together, we are shaping the next wave of technological advancements.

Let's continue pushing the boundaries of innovation and excellence!



Successful Conduct of Pitch I.T.

General Santos City — The Pitch I.T. Milestone 1 Presentation for MSU-General Santos' 4th-year BSIT students was a resounding success! Twelve innovative teams—T2GO, InterAR, SEAgent, Big-BlockChain, PetlifeTech, DietDeli, Bluefeather, Tala-Speak, Cobi, Tailorent, and Nexusphere—showcased their startup ideas, demonstrating creativity and entrepreneurial spirit.

Guided by the Wadhwani Foundation - Philippines framework, the students presented compelling pitches that highlighted their solutions to real-world problems. The session featured a distinguished panel of experts: Romeo Jr. Tejada and Engr. Arianne Dale Daligdig of ICEBOX TBI, who collaborated with Technopreneurship faculty Dr. Jypzie Catedrilla to evaluate the pitches and select the teams that will represent MSU in the prestigious Philippine Startup Challenge 9 organized by DICT.



Congratulations to all teams for their outstanding efforts and innovative ideas! ICEBOX TBI continues to support and inspire the next generation of technopreneurs, fostering growth in the startup ecosystem. Together, we are building a future of innovation and opportunity.

Successful Benchmarking Visit of JRMSU at ICEBOX TBI

General Santos City — On October 11, 2024, ICEBOX TBI warmly welcomed the team from Jose Rizal Memorial State University (JRMSU), led by Yehbron J. Lagud, Project Manager of Sidlak TBI—a DOST-supported Technology Business Incubator. The benchmarking activity was a platform for knowledge sharing, collaboration, and exploration of best practices in the dynamic field of technology business incubation.

The visit centered on meaningful exchanges, with both teams discussing strategies, operational insights, and opportunities to enhance support for startups and technopreneurs. It was a significant step toward strengthening regional partnerships and nurturing a culture of innovation and entrepreneurship.

ICEBOX TBI extends its gratitude to the JRMSU team for their active engagement and thoughtful discussions. This event underscores the shared commitment of both institutions to driving innovation, fostering growth, and empowering the next generation of Filipino entrepreneurs. Together, we aim to build a thriving startup ecosystem across the country.





ICEBOX TBI Joins RISE 2024

On October 15, 2024, ICEBOX Technology Business Incubator proudly participated in the Regional ICT Summit and Exhibitions (RISE) Region 12 held at The Farm, Carpenter Hill, Koronadal City. The event brought together ICT stakeholders from SOCCSKSARGEN and the LaMa Provinces of BARMM, fostering a spirit of collaboration and a shared vision to "RISE up and RISE together."

RISE 2024 served as a vital platform for connecting innovators, technopreneurs, and community leaders, paving the way for initiatives aimed at strengthening the ICT ecosystem in the region.

With a focus on promoting innovation and supporting startups, the event underscored the growing potential of digital solutions to transform local economies.

ICEBOX TBI extends its gratitude to DICT Region XII, DICT R12-Sarangani Province, and LGU-GenSan's City Economic Management and Cooperative Development Office (CEMC-DO) for spearheading this impactful gathering. Together, we are shaping a future driven by innovation, collaboration, and growth in the ICT and technopreneurship landscape.



ICEBOX TBI and STEP APP TBI Join Forces at AAVC Lab's Stakeholder Forum on Agriculture 4.0 Development

On October 17, 2024, ICEBOX TBI, alongside STEP APP TBI, participated in the Stakeholder Forum and Workshop on Value Chain Analysis of Agriculture 4.0 Development and Policy Program, hosted by the Agri-Aqua Value Chain Laboratory (AAVC Lab) of UP Mindanao. The event, held at The Pinnacle Hotel and Suites, Davao City, focused on the critical development of Agriculture 4.0 with support from DOST-PCAARRD.

The forum centered on agricultural innovations in key sectors such as coffee, cacao, and Cavendish banana. Discussions revolved around enhancing value addition, promoting clustering, and integrating ICT innovations to drive agricultural profitability. A major highlight was the development of mobile applications designed to optimize production costs for farmers, demonstrating the growing impact of agri-tech in the Philippines.

ICEBOX TBI and STEP APP TBI are proud to have contributed to this event, reinforcing their commitment to supporting technological solutions that foster sustainable growth in agriculture and agribusiness sectors. We look forward to future collaborations that will continue to transform the agricultural landscape with innovative, technology-driven solutions.



Successful Completion of 3D Printing Bootcamp:

Mastering 3D Design, Modeling, and Printing

On October 30, 2024, ICEBOX Technology Business Incubator (TBI) successfully hosted the 3D Printing Bootcamp: Mastering 3D Design, Modeling, and Printing at the ICEBOX Event Space. This hands-on, one-day training event provided participants with the essential skills to create, design, and print 3D models using industry-standard tools.

Throughout the day, attendees delved into the fundamentals of 3D design and modeling techniques, learning how to bring their creative concepts to life through the power of 3D printing technology.

The bootcamp also included practical exercises, allowing participants to apply what they learned in real-time, enhancing their understanding of the process from concept to final product.

We would like to extend our heartfelt thanks to all the participants for their engagement, as well as our expert resource speakers who guided attendees with their knowledge and expertise. This successful event exemplifies ICEBOX TBI's continued commitment to empowering innovators and technopreneurs in the 3D printing and tech space.





ICEBOX Open House *A Successful Gathering for innovation and entrepreneurship*

On November 11, 2024, ICEBOX Technology Business Incubator (TBI) hosted a successful Open House at the ICEBOX Event Space. The event, which ran from 8:00 AM to 5:00 PM, welcomed students, professionals, and aspiring entrepreneurs to discover the various services, programs, and opportunities ICEBOX TBI offers to foster startup development and technopreneurship in the region.

The Open House featured insightful talks from experienced entrepreneurs and mentors, like Sir Bretch Guire Garcinez, CEO of Nutnull IT Solutions, shedding light on the journey of startup growth, innovation, and business development. Attendees also had the chance to network with industry experts, partners, and fellow aspiring technopreneurs, strengthening the startup ecosystem in the community.

We would like to extend our sincere gratitude to all the participants for their active engagement and to our mentor, Sir Bretch Garcinez, for gracing us with his presence and valuable insights. The event was a huge success, sparking meaningful conversations and collaborations that will drive future innovation and entrepreneurial growth.

We look forward to more events like this, where we can continue to build connections, inspire new ventures, and support the growth of the startup community!

Innovator's Lab **faculty startup bootcamp**

On November 15, 2024, ICEBOX Technology Business Incubator (TBI) hosted the highly anticipated Innovator's Lab: Faculty Startup Bootcamp at the ICEBOX Event Space. This special event was designed to inspire and empower faculty members interested in pursuing entrepreneurship and innovative ventures.

We were honored to have Dr. Franch Maverick Lorilla, Director for Innovation Centers and TBI Manager of CDO bites, as our featured expert for the session. Dr. Lorilla, formerly a startup founder and COO of CloudFarm Innovations (2016-2018), shared valuable insights on the world of startup development, innovation, and the evolving role of technopreneurship in today's landscape. His extensive experience in both academia and the startup industry provided the perfect motivation and guidance to spark the entrepreneurial spirit among our faculty attendees.

The event was an incredible success, with attendees gaining new perspectives and strategies to help foster innovation within their academic and professional pursuits. We are grateful for Dr. Lorilla's inspiring talk and for the active participation of all those who joined us for this exciting journey into the world of startups.



ICEBOX TBI at Innovation Summit 2024

From November 7-9, 2024, the ICEBOX Technology Business Incubator (TBI) proudly participated in the Innovation Summit 2024 held at the SMX Convention Center, SM Lanang Premier, Davao City. Represented by Dr. Noel S. Gunay (Project Leader), Dr. Jypzie Catedrilla, and Romeo Jr. E. Tejada, ICEBOX TBI joined this significant gathering of innovators, leaders, and key stakeholders in the ICT sector.

The summit served as a platform to strengthen the collaboration among the academe, government, and industry, all united by a shared vision of fostering innovation across Mindanao. With insightful discussions, networking opportunities, and presentations on emerging trends, the event highlighted the importance of bridging gaps and driving technological advancements to address regional challenges.

ICEBOX TBI's participation underscores its commitment to supporting the startup ecosystem and advancing innovation in the region. Together with other stakeholders, ICEBOX TBI continues to pave the way for a thriving entrepreneurial and technological future in Mindanao.



Philippine Startup Week 2024 | Mou Signing with Wadhvani Foundation

ICEBOX Technology Business Incubator (TBI) is proud to announce a groundbreaking milestone as Dr. Noel Gunay, representing ICEBOX TBI, and Acting Chancellor JD Usman D. Aragasi of Mindanao State University - General Santos officially signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the Wadhvani Foundation - Philippines during the Partner's Summit of Philippine Startup Week 2024.

The summit, themed "EmpowerEd 3.0: Educate, Engage, Elevate the Next Gen of Entrepreneurs", gathered representatives from the Wadhvani Foundation, partner institutions, and key stakeholders to champion the shared vision of cultivating a thriving technopreneurship ecosystem across the Philippines.

This partnership signals an exciting chapter for ICEBOX TBI and the startup community. By combining Wadhvani Foundation's expertise in mentorship with ICEBOX TBI's commitment to empowering startups, this collaboration is poised to strengthen the support network for tech entrepreneurs, foster innovation, and drive transformative change.



ICEBOX TBI's learning mission

at QBO Innovation Hub

On December 1-2, 2024, ICEBOX Technology Business Incubator, represented by Startup Manager Engr. Arianne Dale Daligdig, embarked on a benchmarking mission at QBO Innovation Hub in Makati, Metro Manila. QBO is renowned for its pivotal role in developing the Philippine startup ecosystem through ecosystem-building programs, startup acceleration, and capacity-building initiatives.

Engr. Daligdig was graciously welcomed by Mr. David Del Rosario, Head of Operations, HR & Admin at QBO. The visit offered valuable insights into QBO's incubation and accelerator programs, including their rigorous startup selection process and the extensive support system designed to foster growth and scalability. The discussion also underscored QBO's tailored strategies, such as intensive mentorship and customized capacity-building sessions, which have been instrumental in the success of their startups.

This enriching experience provided ICEBOX TBI with actionable knowledge and best practices to further enhance its incubation programs in General Santos City. With these insights, ICEBOX TBI aims to strengthen its support for local startups, foster innovation, and contribute to the region's growing entrepreneurial ecosystem. Together, we are building a brighter future for technopreneurs!

ICEBOX TBI Concludes 2024 with mentors meetup

On December 16, 2024, the ICEBOX Technology Business Incubator (TBI) hosted a special Mentors Meetup at the ICEBOX TBI Event Space, bringing together mentors and incubatees to celebrate a remarkable year of innovation, collaboration, and growth.

The event not only marked a festive gathering but also served as a platform for the year-end assessment of the incubation program. Mentors shared valuable insights and feedback on the incubatees' progress, while startups reflected on their journey, highlighting milestones and lessons learned throughout the year.

This meetup emphasized the importance of collaboration between mentors and startups in fostering a thriving innovation ecosystem. As we look forward to 2025, ICEBOX TBI remains committed to empowering startups, driving innovation, and strengthening partnerships to achieve even greater success in the years to come.



Celebrating **TECHNOPRENEURSHIP** Faculty Training Culmination for Region XII

On December 19, 2024, the Technopreneurship Faculty Training Culmination Program for Region XII took place at the ICEBOX Event Space in MSU-General Santos. This milestone event, organized by the Wadhwani Foundation in collaboration with the Council of Deans of Engineering and CHED Region XII, marked the successful completion of a faculty training initiative designed to integrate technopreneurship into the education system.

The program began with a comprehensive recap of the training objectives, highlighting the importance of fostering entrepreneurial thinking among students, particularly in the field of technology. A significant highlight of the event was the pitching session, where faculty members had the opportunity to present their innovative ideas and demonstrate how they plan to apply the technopreneurship principles within their classrooms.

The event was graced by Ms. Mary Rose Ofiangga, Program Manager of Wadhwani Foundation – Philippines, who led discussions on the next steps for further embedding technopreneurship into the curriculum. Her leadership and insights


inspired attendees to think about the future of education in an entrepreneurial context, urging them to continue nurturing a culture of innovation.


In his closing remarks, Engr. Jhan Jkem Fontanilla, CHED Region XII Education Supervisor II, underscored the importance of cultivating future technopreneurs and emphasized that these teachings should be reflected in classroom interactions. He urged faculty to integrate the learnings from the training into their teaching methodologies, ensuring that students are well-equipped to thrive in the rapidly evolving world of technology and entrepreneurship.

The event marked not only the successful conclusion of a highly impactful training program but also the beginning of a movement that will shape the future of technopreneurship education in the region. The Wadhwani Foundation and CHED Region XII are committed to continuing this journey, empowering educators and students to drive innovation and create a dynamic ecosystem of technopreneurs.





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