

DOST-ITDI KICK-STARTS THE 2026 NATIONAL WOMEN'S MONTH



Holding the 2026 National Women's Month Banner are DOST-ITDI Director Annabelle V. Briones (Center), Dr. Janet F. Quizon, Deputy Director for Administrative and Technical Services (3rd from left), together with ITDI EXECOM members kick-started the Women's Month celebration.

The Department of Science and Technology–Industrial Technology Development Institute (DOST-ITDI) joins the celebration of 2026 National Women's Month with the theme "WE for Gender Equality and Inclusive Society," with a sub-theme of "Lead like the Babaylans, Filipinas!" This theme highlights women's leadership and empowerment, emphasizing the unique leadership qualities of Babaylan—women leaders in pre-colonial Philippines known for their wisdom, empathy, mediation, and moral guidance.

Guided by the spirit of the Babaylans, ITDI reaffirms its commitment to gender equality through inclusive research, gender-responsive technologies, and empowered technical services.

Kick-starting the celebration, the DOST-ITDI held an energizing Zumba session earlier today in front of the National Metrology Building. The "morning sweat"

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session was not just for the staff. It was joined by the institute's top management led by ITDI Director Annabelle V. Briones, with ITDI Deputy Director for Administrative and Technical Services, Janet F. Quizon, and GAD Chair and Chief of the Standard



ITDI Employees sweating it out during the fun and energizing Zumba Session held at the grounds of ITDI Metrology Building.

and Testing Division, Ma. Rachel V. Parcon. Their presence demonstrated that leadership and wellness go hand in hand.

Employees had fun, dancing, sweating, and burning calories alongside the dance instructors invited by the ITDI-Gender and Development team.

The celebration aims to showcase the science Sector's women leadership and contributions, promote gender-responsive programs and policies, and strengthen multi-sectoral collaboration and accountability.



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This year's celebration aligns with the Philippine Development Plan 2023-2028 and ASEAN priorities, emphasizing the importance of women's participation in driving societal growth and achieving sustainable progress. **(DDGotis, ITDI-TSD; Photo Credits: IEVillamar, ITDI-TSD)**

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