

Final M&E Training-Workshop readies team for nationwide rollout

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The iSchools Project's monitoring and evaluation (M&E) team completed their final Training-Workshop last July 9-10, 2009 at Fernandez Beach Resort in the Island Garden City of Samal (IgaCos), Davao del Norte.

The team, composed of 10 partner State Universities and Colleges (SUC) and CICT-iSchools Project Management Office (PMO) representatives, underwent a series of workshops to develop the framework and implementing guidelines for the monitoring and evaluation of 360 previous recipients of the iSchools Project.

The team is a collection of SUC partners who were not involved in previous project funding cycles. They were drafted to act as impartial coordinators in the planning and execution of this activity.

Moreover, tapping these partners for the M&E team is based on their strength as field mediators between the CICT and the recipient schools. They can best provide basic technical assistance to recipients. At the same time, they can provide the PMO with policy/ operational recommendations to improve project delivery.

Aside from monitoring the work of previous implementers, the team's tasks involve evaluating the benefits of the project and ensuring that expectations of each stakeholder sector have been met.

Through these activities, the M&E team will determine whether the iSchools strategy of providing a combination of ICT laboratories and capability-building trainings has helped empower public high schools and improve secondary education in the Philippines.

Four training-workshops were conducted to prepare for this task: Basic M&E, Standardization, Online Forms Development, and the final M&E framework and implementing guidelines to adopt.

An M&E Manual is currently being finalized to contain the project framework, implementation and reporting guidelines to be observed by the team in the conduct of their activities. Rollout of M&E activities is targeted from September 2009 to May 2010.