


RAMIR B. UYTICO EdD, CESO III

Regional Director



Republic of the Philippines
Department of Education
NEGROS ISLAND REGION

Regional Advisory No. 069, s. 2025
November 5, 2025

In compliance with DepEd Order (DO) No. 8, s. 2013
this advisory is issued not for endorsement per DO 28, s. 2001,
but only for the information of DepEd NIR officials and personnel/staff.

26th BIOTA-WV Annual Regional Convention and Scientific Sessions

Attached is an invitation letter from the Biology Teachers Association of the Philippines, Inc. (BIOTA-Phil) Western Visayas Chapter President, La Vera U. Sombito, on the conduct of the Annual Regional Convention and Scientific Sessions on December 5-6, 2025 at University of St. La Salle, Bacolod City.

Participation of both public and private schools shall be subject to the *no-disruption-of-classes policy stiputed in DepEd Order No. 9, s. 2005 entitled Instituting Measures to Increase Engaged time-on-Task and Ensuring Compliance Therewith.*

The Schools Division Superintendents are given the discretion to act on this matter.

For questions and clarifications, contact:

LA VERA U. SOMBITO
Chapter President and Convention Chair
l.sombito@usls.edu.ph
0991-7580700

MMPR/CLMD-RA- 26th Biota-WV Annual Regional Convention and Scientific Sessions
000/November 5, 2025



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Biology Teachers Association of the Philippines, Inc. (BIOTA-Phil) Western Visayas Chapter

Mobile Nos. 09917580700/ 09608198410/ 09209559124

21 October 2025

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Tario-Lim Memorial
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(ISAT U – La Paz, Iloilo)
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Resurreccion B. Sadaba
(UPV – Miag-ao)
Consultant / Adviser

Ma. Melanie P. Romero
EPS-Designate in Science
Negros Island Region

Dear Ma'am Romero,

Warm greetings!

The Biology Teachers' Association (BIOTA) is a non-stock, non-profit professional organization for Biology teachers and researchers in the Philippines. The regional chapter was organized in 1999 as BIOTA-WV. To date, it still includes Negros Occidental as the NIR Chapter is yet to be established.

The organization aims to promote the science of biology in all its branches, support the development of curriculum and instructional materials, and provide opportunities for continuing education and research in the field of biology. It serves as a forum for educators to share ideas and stay updated on current trends in biology and biology education through annual conventions. For years, it has been engaging interested students in scientific competitions and relevant lectures and trainings in the conduct of scientific research.

We are pleased to announce that this year on **December 5–6**, the **26th BIOTA-WV Annual Regional Convention and Scientific Sessions** will be held at the **University of St. La Salle, Bacolod City**.

This year's theme, "**Empowering Biology Educators in the Age of AI and Emerging Technologies**," seeks to spark critical conversations and forward-thinking strategies among biology teachers as they respond to the rapid developments in artificial intelligence, data science, and emerging technologies in the life sciences and education. The activities include plenary lectures, hands-on workshops, students' scientific poster competition and biology short film competition (SineBIOTA).

The registration fees are as follows:

Students	P 2,000 (pre-registered)	P 2,200 (walk-in)
Members	P 2,500	P 2,700
Non-members	P 2,800	P 3,000

We hope to obtain your approval and endorsement for this event as we continue to promote the passion and interest in biology and enhance biology education and research.

Yours truly,

La Vera U. Sombito
Chapter President and Convention Chair
0991-7580700 | l.sombito@usls.edu.ph

26th BIOTA-WV Annual Regional Convention and Scientific Sessions

Theme: Empowering Biology Educators in the Age of AI and Emerging Technologies

Dates: Dec. 5-6, 2025

Venue: University of St. La Salle, Bacolod City

PROPOSED PROGRAM

DAY 1

8:00-9:00	Registration	
9:00-10:00	Opening Ceremony	
	Invocation	
	National Anthem	
	BIOTA Hymn	
	Entrance of Officers	
	Opening Remarks	La Vera Sombito, WV Chapter President
(10 min)	Welcome Remarks	From Host Institution
(10 min)		From Host Province, SDO - Negros Occ.
	Recognition of Schools	Michelle Ballesteros, WV Chapter Secretary
10:00-11:00	Keynote Lecture	Dr. Aimee Lynn Dupo, BIOTA-PH President
11:00-1:00	Photo ops, announcements	
	Opening of poster exhibits/Start of judging	
	Lunch	
1:00-1:45	Plenary Lecture 1	Dr. Pablo S. Crespo, Jr., UA
1:45-2:30	Plenary Lecture 2	Dr. Stephen Sabinay, WVSU
2:30-3:15	Plenary Lecture 3	Mr. Phillip Raymund De Oca, BCNHS
3:15-4:00	Break / Evaluation of Day 1 / Viewing and Judging of SineBIOTA	
4:00-5:30	Business meeting / Election of Officers for 2025-2027	

DAY 2

7:45-8:00	Registration for Day 2	
8:00-10:00	Parallel Workshops	
	A – Ms. Michelle Ballesteros	
	B – Dr. Resurreccion Sadaba	
	C – Dr. Bob Damasco	
	D – Mr. John Dale Mateo	
	E – Mr. Jan Raymund Tirado	
	F – Dr. Jim Decripito	
10:00-10:30	Break / Wrap-up / Evaluation of Day 2	
10:30-12:00	Closing Ceremony	
	Lunch Fellowship	



SineBIOTA Contest Guidelines and Mechanics

26th BIOTA-WV Annual Regional Convention and Scientific Sessions

Theme: "Empowering Biology Educators in the Age of AI and Emerging Technologies"

December 5-6, 2025 University of St. La Salle, Bacolod City, Negros Occidental



Categories:

- Secondary (Grades 10-12)

General Guidelines

Content Alignment

- The content must be aligned with the convention theme or at least with either utilizing AI tools or emerging technologies in biological research or biology education.

Abstract Submission

1. Format of Abstract

- **Title:** Bold, concise, and reflective of the study.
- **Authors:** Full names, with the presenting author underlined.
- **Affiliation:** School/Institution name and location.
- **Body of Abstract** (maximum 300 words, single-spaced, Times New Roman, 12 pt):
 - **Introduction/Background:** Rationale and objectives of the study.
 - **Methodology:** Brief description of methods used.
 - **Results:** Key findings.
 - **Conclusion:** Summary and relevance of the study.
- **Keywords:** Maximum of five.

2. File Format & Submission

- Submit in **MS Word (.doc/.docx)** format.
- File name format: *Category_LastName_FirstWordOfTitle.docx* (e.g., *Tertiary_DelaCruz_Effects.docx*).
- Email submissions to: biotawv.posters@gmail.com with the subject line: *Poster Abstract Submission – [Category]*.

3. Deadline for Submission

- All abstracts must be submitted on or before **November 8, 2025** for screening.

4. Screening & Notification

- Abstracts will be reviewed by the Scientific Screening Committee based on **clarity, scientific merit, and relevance to biology/biological sciences**.
- Notification of acceptance will be sent via email by **November 15, 2025**.

Requirements Upon Acceptance

1. Entry Fee

- The entry fee for accepted abstracts is P 500, which must be paid through GCash.

GCash Number	09064367599
Account Name	Reah Ann A. Torres

- Proof of payment must be emailed along with the poster file.

2. Poster File Submission

- Accepted participants must submit a digital copy of their poster (PDF format) for initial review by **November 22, 2025**.
- Poster size: **3 ft (width) × 4 ft (height), portrait orientation**.
- Font must be clear and readable from a distance of 1 meter.

3. Poster Content

- Must include: Title, Authors and Affiliations, Introduction, Objectives, Methodology, Results (with figures/tables), Conclusion, and References (if applicable).
- Acknowledgments and funding sources may also be included.

4. On-site Presentation

- Participants must bring and set up a **printed copy of the poster** at the designated venue on **December 5, 2025**.
- Presenters must be available during the **poster viewing and judging session** for evaluation and possible Q&A.

5. Ownership and Originality

- Posters must present **original work** and must not have been previously published or presented in another competition.
- Plagiarism will lead to automatic disqualification.

Criteria for Judging

1. Scientific Content (40%)

- Clarity of research objectives, methods, and conclusions.
- Relevance to the convention theme.
- Contribution to the field of biology and/or education.

2. Visual Presentation (30%)

- Layout and organization (clear, easy to follow, logical flow).
- Use of graphics, images, and figures to enhance understanding.
- Aesthetic appeal and creativity.

3. Engagement and Impact (20%)

- Ability to engage viewers and communicate ideas effectively.
- Connection to citizen science and community involvement.

4. Oral Presentation (10%)

- Clarity and conciseness in answering the questions.
- Confidence and ability to answer questions during the session.

Prizes and Recognition

- Winners in each category (Secondary, Tertiary, Professionals) will receive **certificates and cash prizes**.

SineBIOTA (A Biology Short Film Contest)

Guidelines and Mechanics



26th BIOTA-WV Annual Regional Convention and Scientific Sessions

Theme: *"Empowering Biology Educators in the Age of AI and Emerging Technologies"*

December 5-6, 2025 University of St. La Salle, Bacolod City, Negros Occidental

Categories:

- Secondary (Grades 10-12)

General Guidelines

Eligibility

- Open to all high school students (Grades 10–12) from public and private schools across Western Visayas and Negros Occidental.
- Each school may submit **only one entry**.
- Entries must be endorsed by a faculty coach.
- The coach must be an active member of BIOTA-WV and must have registered for the 26th BIOTA-WV Convention. If the coach is not a member, membership may be filed online.

Content Requirements

- The content must be aligned with the theme *"Life in Action: Bringing Biology to the Big Screen"*
- The short film must depict a **biological or biochemical process** (e.g., photosynthesis, mitosis, protein synthesis, enzyme action, immune response, DNA replication, ecological interactions, etc).
- **Role-playing** is required — biological structures, cells, organelles, or molecules must be portrayed by human actors or puppetry/costumed figures.
- Creative storytelling, humor, and dramatization are encouraged as long as the science is accurate.

Technical Specifications

- Length: **Maximum of 5 minutes** (including credits).
- Format: **MP4, 1080p resolution**.
- Language: **English or Filipino** (with English subtitles if needed).

- **Original content only** — no copyrighted music, videos, or images unless with proper permission.

Entry Fee

- An entry fee of P 500 is required to make the entry official for screening, which must be paid through GCash.
 GCash Number 09064367599
 Account Name Reah Ann A. Torres
- Proof of payment must be emailed along with the video file.

Submission Procedure

- Submit your video via Google Drive link to biotawv.shortfilms@gmail.com with subject: **[School Name] – SineBIOTA Entry**.
- Include in the email: School name, film title, list of participants, coach's name & contact details, coach's proof of Convention registration and BIOTA membership, and the proof of payment for the entry fee.
- Deadline for submission: **November 15, 2025 (11:59 PM)** for preliminary selection.

Screening & Awarding

- The entries will be screened by a committee and will receive a notification by November 24.
- 5 finalists will be selected for judging during the BIOTA-WV Regional Convention.
- Top 3 winners will receive **certificates and cash prizes**.

Judging Criteria (Total: 100 points)

- **Scientific Accuracy** – 30 pts
(Correct and clear explanation/representation of the chosen process)
- **Creativity & Originality** – 25 pts
(Inventiveness in concept, storytelling, and portrayal of structures/molecules)
- **Entertainment Value & Engagement** – 20 pts
(Ability to captivate and sustain audience interest)
- **Technical Quality** – 15 pts
(Audio-visual clarity, editing, and pacing)
- **Teamwork & Execution** – 10 pts
(Coordination of cast, smooth flow of scenes, resourcefulness in props/costumes)

