

What's Up @ dti PHILIPPINES

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DTI SSF FabLabs make face masks, shields for health workers

Recipients of the Department of Trade and Industry's (DTI) Shared Service Facilities (SSF) program across the country continue to manufacture personal protective equipment (PPE) in response to the recent shortage brought about by the COVID-19 pandemic.

LARNS Hill Association



LARNS Hill Association Ampucao team members construct washable cloth face masks using foam and lining as a means to help their remote mining community in Ampucao, Itogon, and in response to the shortage of personal protective equipment (PPEs) brought about by the COVID-19 pandemic.

Members of the LARNS Hill Association of Ampucao, Itogon in Benguet are sewing affordable face masks to help their community amid the pandemic.

Currently, the eight tailors of the 32-member association can produce up to 200 washable face masks per day. Each garment is sewn with foam and lining, and retails for P50 for a little less than 10 pieces. Aside from their existing customers, LARNS Hill Association looks toward expanding their market to other Benguet municipalities and Baguio City.

The association is a recipient of the SSF program, through the DTI Cordillera Administrative Region. Among its major clients include the Municipal Government of Itogon, the Philippine National Police (PNP), and Itogon Suyoc Resources, Inc.

Do you have an inspiring story to share with the DTI family? Is there a DTI staff or experience you want to brag about? Please tell us by e-mail to KMIS@dti.gov.ph

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LIKHA FabLab

Labspace for Innovation Knowledge-Honing and Application (LIKHA), a school-based fabrication laboratory (FabLab) in Batangas City, is manufacturing 3D-printed face shields in response to the shortage of PPEs in the province.



Engineers and members of the university-based LIKHA FabLab in Batangas City use 3D printing machines to create protective face masks out of acetate, rubber bands, and filament, which the team distributes to key medical facilities across the city.

Launched with DTI 4-A last December 2018 at Batangas State University to accommodate students and micro, small, and medium enterprises (MSMEs), LIKHA uses 3D printing machines capable of printing one mask in nearly two hours, the facility produces almost 50 machines a day.

“We are strongly supporting the efforts and initiatives of LIKHA in developing innovative and effective solutions to help in combatting COVID-19. As we, in the DTI, work alongside with LIKHA, we are urging everyone, especially in the CALABARZON region, to support their very important work,” said DTI 4-A **Regional Director Marilou Q. Toledo**.

To date, LIKHA FabLab has donated 130 face shields to Batangas Medical Center. They also plan on producing 30-40 more face shields a day to assist more hospitals in Batangas and other health facilities in the CALABARZON region.

LIKHA FabLab Center Head Engr. Louie Villaverde said providing frontliners additional supply of protective face shields serves as their way of helping solve the shortage of PPEs.

“We are in the position to help others,” he said. *“Kahit maliit o malaki, ito ay tulong pa rin.”*

This issue marks one of the several stories featuring DTI-assisted Shared Service Facilities that continue to manufacture PPEs for frontliners. Watch out for more What's Up DTI issues on Fab Labs helping ease the fight against COVID-19.