Advisory No. 079, s. 2026
October 29, 2026
In compliance with DepEd Order (DO) No. 8, s. 2013
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INVITATION TO PARTICIPATE TO THE NATIONAL ELIMINATION ROUND OF THE 4TH PHILIPPINE NUCLEAR SCIENCE OLYMPIAD (PNSO)

The Department of Science and Technology - Philippine Nuclear Research Institute (DOST - PNRI) will be hosting the National Elimination Round of the 4th Philippine Nuclear Science Olympiad (PNSO) on 10 December 2026.

The objective of the Olympiad is to find the best and brightest students who are gifted in the field of Nuclear Science and Technology. The winners of the PNSO will be trained by researchers and scientists in the radiation and nuclear field, in preparation for the 4th International Nuclear Science Olympiad.

Participation of schools shall be purely voluntary and must not hamper instructional time, in compliance with DepEd Order (DO) No. 009, s. 2026 (Guidelines on the Implementation of the Three-Term School Calendar in Basic Education), DO 9, s. 2005 (Instituting Measures to Increase Engaged Time-on-Task and Ensuring Compliance Therewith), and DO 66, s. 2017 (Implementing Guidelines on the Conduct of Off-Campus Activities). This is likewise subject to the no-collection policy under Republic Act No. 4206 (An Act Prohibiting the Collection Contributions from School Children of Public Primary and Intermediate Schools), as amended.

Attached herewith are the details of this advisory.

For more information, please contact **Ms. Abigail C. Dagasdas** at telephone numbers (632) 8929-6011 to 19 local 236, or email at **adclemente@pnri.dost.gov.ph.**

4th PHILIPPINE NUCLEAR SCIENCE OLYMPIAD
GUIDELINES AND MECHANICS

I. INTRODUCTION

The Philippine Nuclear Science Olympiad (PNSO), launched in December 2023, is a national academic competition that aims to select and train highly motivated, competitive, and talented students from around the country to represent the Philippines in the International Nuclear Science Olympiad (INSO). The current PNSO format consists of national elimination round and final round, which comprises the Nuclear Science Training Program and Qualifying Examination. It focuses on various nuclear science topics including, among others, radiation, fission and fusion, radioactivity in the environment, risk and safety, and applications (energy, health, industry/agriculture, environment).

II. OBEJCTIVES

The PNSO's overall objective is to develop and foster excellence in nuclear science and technology among secondary school students and prepare them to represent the Philippines in international competitions. Specifically, it aims to:

- Conduct a national Olympiad to identify and train talented secondary school students as members of the national team to represent the Philippines in the International Nuclear Science Olympiad;
- Promote nuclear science and technology education by fostering interest among secondary school students in nuclear science, emphasizing its peaceful applications in fields that utilize nuclear S&T such as medicine, agriculture, energy, and industry;
- Inspire students to pursue higher education and careers in nuclear science, technology, and related STEM fields to address the growing demand of nuclear science & technology applications in the Philippines;
- Encourage collaboration and innovation between secondary school students, educators, and nuclear S&T specialists to interact, build knowledge and explore advancements in nuclear S&T through intensive training, lecture seminars, exercises, and facility tours; and
- Help enhance the capacity of teachers for the teaching and learning of nuclear science concepts in secondary education.

III. APPLICATION GUIDELINES

(a) The competition is open for all secondary school students in the Philippines, aged 15 to 20, and who have not yet enrolled in a university program by 31 August 2027.

(b) Registration form must be completed and submitted online. The online registration form can be accessed through this link: https://forms.gle/RkqUFQw8mstCzTu18. The form will be available from 01 to 31 October 2026. If the link is inaccessible, please contact the organizers through email at 4thpnso@pnri.dost.gov.ph

(c) Each school may nominate one (1) team only, composed of the Official Coach and a maximum of three (3) students.

(d) Students must be strongly endorsed by the School Principal/Head/Administrator.

(e) Students will be registered as official participants for the Elimination Round at their preferred testing sites on a first-come, first-served basis. If their preferred testing site has exceeded the maximum capacity, students may be reassigned to a different testing site outside their region.
(f) Official participants will receive an acceptance notification, including their final testing site assignment, via email until 06 November 2026.
(g) Official participants who are selected for the Final Round are encouraged to obtain a valid passport on or before May 2027.

IV. TOPIC COVERAGE

The examinations will cover topics in the General Syllabus of the International Nuclear Science Olympiad, which can be found in this link: https://inso.science/general_syllabus

- Structure of an atom and nucleus
- Radiation
- Fission & Fusion
- Radioactivity in the Environment
- History of Nuclear Science
- Risk and Safety
- Applications (Energy, Health, Industry/Agriculture, Environment)

V. MECHANICS

The Olympiad format consists of the Elimination Round and Final Round.

VA. Elimination Round

(a) Simultaneous examinations for the Elimination Round will be held on 10 December 2026, as part of the celebration of the 54th Atomic Energy Week, in selected testing areas:

Luzon		Philippine Nuclear Research Institute, Diliman, Quezon City
Visayas		University of San Carlos, Talamban Campus, Cebu City
Mindanao		Mindanao State University – Iligan Institute of Technology, Hinaplanon Campus, Iligan City

(b) The elimination round will be conducted as a written examination, with all students competing individually. The examination will comprise 10 conceptual questions, 5 short problems, 1 theoretical long problem, and 1 experimental long problem. Students will have a total of 2.5 hours to complete the examination. Failure to follow instructions will result in the invalidation of responses in the affected sections
(c) Students must bring their own scientific calculators for the examination. Only prescribed non-programmable calculators will be allowed for the examination as listed in this link: [insert link to updated list of non-programmable calculators here]. The organizers will be inspecting the calculators prior to the examination.
(d) All electronic devices and other items (i.e., school bags, notes, etc.), not part of the examinations must be surrendered to the coaches or proctors prior to the examination.
(e) Only one (1) non-programmable calculator per participant shall be allowed inside the examination room.

(f) Borrowing, lending, and substitution/replacement of calculators while the examination is in progress shall not be allowed.
(g) Use of smartphones, smart watches, smart glasses, and/or other electronic devices of the like shall not be allowed during the examination. The only exception to this is the scientific calculator to be used during the examination and medical devices necessary for the health of the student, if any.
(h) The duration of the examination is fixed at 2.5 hours. Students are discouraged from leaving the testing room during the examination. Should students need to use the toilet, a proctor will accompany the student to the toilet and back to the testing area. If a student is unable to complete the examination due to health reasons and must leave the testing area, their scores will be based on the answers provided prior to leaving the testing area.
(i) Students are allowed to ask questions pertaining to the general instructions of the examination only and prior to the start of the examination. However, any questions/clarifications regarding specific questions/items of the exam will not be entertained during the examination proper. Students must write down on their answer sheet any questions they have pertaining to a specific test item. Questions related to test items will be addressed during the evaluation of answers.
(j) The PNSO Scientific Committee will evaluate the students' answer sheets. The results of the Elimination Round will be announced on or before 24 December 2026 through the PNRI website and its social media platforms. The examination results are final and not subject to appeal. Test questionnaires, answer keys, and related materials will not be released.
(k) The top 25% students from the Elimination Round will be declared as national finalists and will proceed to the Final Round.

VB. Final Round

(a) The Final Round comprises the Nuclear Science Training Program (NSTP) and Qualifying Examination (QE). The final scores of the national finalists will be based on their performances in these areas.
(b) The NSTP serves as the training component of the Olympiad and is facilitated online with both synchronous and asynchronous sessions. Each main topic in the syllabus has an allotment of about one (1) week to complete. At the start of the week, reading materials / assignment and problem sets for the topic are provided. Students have an entire week to accomplish the problem set (asynchronous session). Their outputs are submitted one (1) day before the weekly synchronous session, with each session lasting for a half-day or longer. During the weekly synchronous sessions, answers to the problem sets are discussed. Attendance quizzes based on the reading materials / assignment are also administered through online forms at the start of each synchronous session.
(c) The QE is administered after the NSTP in written format and onsite at PNRI. The examination consists of five (5) Long Problems (three (3) theoretical and two (2) experimental) and has a duration of 5.0 hours.
(d) The PNSO Scientific Committee computes for the final grades of the national finalists, incorporating their performances in the NSTP and QE, based on the following criteria:

Table 1. Final Round Criteria

Criterion	Weight
Attendance Quiz (serves as basis of attendance)	5%
Problem Set	10%
Qualifying Examination	85%

Total	100%

(e) The top 6 national finalists will be declared as the winners of the 4th Philippine Nuclear Science Olympiad and will undergo rigorous training onsite at PNRI in preparation for their participation in the International Nuclear Science Olympiad (INSO).
(f) The Philippine official delegates for INSO will be selected from the 4th PNSO winners based on their performances in the onsite training camp.
(g) The Final Round will be held next year in the following months:

Table 2. Final Round Implementation

Component	Implementation period
Nuclear Science Training Program	Within January to March 2027
Qualifying Examination	March 2027

(h) Final dates and other details about the Final Round will be provided soon.

VI. REMINDERS

(a) Like and follow the official PNRI Facebook page (https://www.facebook.com/PNRIDOST) and/or check the PNRI official website for important announcements and updates about the 4th PNSO.
(b) Participants are responsible for their travel arrangement and expenses to the testing sites for the PNSO Elimination Round and Qualifying Examination.
(c) Participants should arrive at the testing site at least one (1) hour before the start of the examination. This time will be allotted for onsite registration prior to the examination. Participants should present their school IDs and acceptance letter during the onsite verification.
(d) Drinks and light snacks will be provided to the students during the onsite examination.
(e) Writing materials and scratch papers will be provided to the students during the written examination.
(f) Taking photos or videos during the examination is strictly prohibited. PNSO documentation staff will be present during the event to document the event.
(g) The PNSO organizers shall have the right to disqualify any student who violates any item in this Guidelines and Mechanics.
(h) The results of the Elimination Round and Qualifying Examination will be final and not appealable.
(i) For inquiries, send an e-mail to 4thpnso@pnri.dost.gov.ph