

SalaySci Film Competition

November 2026 | General Santos City

I. Concept

The **SalaySci Film Festival** is an animated short film competition that aims to highlight stories of **Filipino ingenuity** through science, technology, and innovation (STI)-driven narratives. It serves as a platform for participants to creatively communicate challenges, innovative solutions, and real-world applications of STI in addressing societal challenges.

Entries must focus on the following sub-themes:

- Smart City Challenges
- Disaster Risk Reduction and Management (DRRM)
- Circular Economy and Sustainability Practices
- Attainment of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)

Each Region shall endorse its selected entry, which will be showcased as its representative in the SalaySci Film Festival during the **2026 National Science, Technology, and Innovation Week (NSTW) in General Santos City**.

Beyond the competition, selected entries may be endorsed for further development and collaboration with game developers, creative studios, and publishers. This aims to support the transformation of animated content into interactive media, digital storytelling formats, or esports-related content, contributing to the growth of the Philippine creative industry.

The initiative also supports DOST's thrust in strengthening innovation ecosystems, promoting science communication, and advancing sustainable and technology-driven creative sectors. The competition also contributes to strengthening the science communication ecosystem and the creative economy in the Philippines.

II. Contest Structure

The competition has two (2) components:

Component 1: Science Communication and Story Development and Animation Capacity Enhancement

September-October 2026

This phase introduces participants to the fundamentals of science communication and storytelling. It will cover approaches to translating complex STI concepts into

engaging, relatable, and audience-friendly narratives suitable for animated short films. Participants will also receive mentoring sessions with technical experts to enhance their creative skills in animation and storytelling.

Component 2: Live Screening, Judging, and Awarding November 2026

Each Region shall endorse its selected entry, which will be showcased as its representative in the SalaySci Film Festival during the 2026 NSTW. The competition shall culminate in a live block screening, which will serve as the official platform for the public presentation of entries. Following the screening, the national winners shall be announced and awarded.

Summary of Phases:

Component	Mode of Delivery	Stakeholder Involved	*Timeline and Duration	Topics	Expected Outputs
Component 1: Science Communication and Story Development	Online Session	Participants, Mentors, Organizers	September-October 2026	• Introduction to Science Communication • Storyboarding and visual development	Refined concept for the animated short film
Component 2: Live Screening, Judging, and Awarding	On-site	Participants, Judges, Mentors, Organizers	November 2026		Live block screening, Q&A and awarding

***Note:** Dates are subject to change. The organizers shall inform shortlisted finalists of any updates to the schedule.

III. Contest Mechanics

A. ELIGIBILITY

The animated film competition has two (2) categories.

A.1. Student Category

- Open to **all Filipino Senior High School and College students residing in the Philippines** at the time of registration.
- Participants **may apply through their respective DOST Regional Offices, covering their place of residence.**

- Each participating school may send any number of teams. Each team shall be composed of a maximum of three (3) students and one (1) faculty coach/adviser.
- The coach shall provide guidance and mentorship but shall not directly participate in the production of the film.
- **Only one (1) entry per team** shall be allowed
- Teams must be officially endorsed by their respective school/university.

A.2. Professional Category

- Open to **all Filipino animators, filmmakers, animation and film enthusiasts, and professionals in related fields residing in the Philippines**, including early-career and experienced practitioners.
- Participants **may apply through their respective DOST Regional Offices, covering their place of residence.**
- Interested professionals may compete **individually or as a team** composed of a maximum of three (3) members.
- **Only one (1) entry** per team or individual shall be allowed.

B. RULES AND GUIDELINES

B.1. Themes

Entries must align with at least one (1) on the following sub-themes:

- Smart City Themes
- Disaster Risk Reduction and Management (DRRM)
- 10R Principles of Circular Economy and Sustainability Practices
- Attainment of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)

B.2. Qualification Requirements

Interested participants must submit the following:

a) Concept Proposal, which includes:

- Title of the film
- Logline (maximum of 100 words)
- Synopsis (maximum of 500 words)
- Identified sub-theme
- Core message or takeaway (maximum of 300 words)
- Target audience

b) Teaser/Trailer (30 seconds to 1 minute)

- File Format: mp4, avi
- Size: 1080 x 1920

- Orientation: Landscape
 - May be in animatic, rough animation, or teaser format
- c) **Official Film Poster**
- File Format: png, jpg, jpeg
 - Size: 24.0 inches (L) x 60.0 inches (H)
 - Orientation: Portrait
 - Resolution: 150 dpi/ppi
 - For identification only; not scored during shortlisting

AI-assisted tools may be used for support (e.g., ideation, reference generation, or minor production assistance), provided that outputs remain substantially original and all use is fully disclosed. Any use of AI must be fully disclosed through Form 02: AI and Assets Usage Disclosure.

B.3. Registration and Submission of Requirements

Participants must register through the official Registration Link and submit the following:

- Form 01: Waiver and Declaration of Originality
- Form 02: AI and Assets Usage Disclosure
- Form 03: Parent Consent (*For students only*)
- Form 04: Waiver of Release

Failure to submit complete requirements within the prescribed period shall render the entry ineligible.

B.4. Shortlisting

All submitted sample works shall be **pre-screened** by the Regional Organizing Committee to ensure compliance. The **list of shortlisted teams** shall be announced through the official DOST communication channels.

B.5. Finalists

Shortlisted teams shall qualify as **Finalists** and shall proceed to a series of learning and mentoring sessions designed to further develop and enhance their animated short film entries.

Each Region shall endorse **one (1) finalist entry** to represent the Region in the SalaySci Film Festival during the 2026 NSTW. The endorsed entries shall be showcased during the event as part of the official competition.

Finalists shall be given a production period to complete and refine their animated short films prior to NSTW 2026. The final animated short film must be submitted to the organizers on or before the prescribed submission deadline to qualify for the live block screening and national judging.

For the participation in the 2026 NSTW in General Santos City, DOST shall provide round-trip airfare, and accommodation for the official finalist representatives, as follows:

- **Student Category:** One (1) student finalist and one (1) coach/adviser; and
- **Professional Category:** One (1) official team member/representative.

The provision of travel and related expenses shall be subject to **applicable government accounting and auditing rules and regulations**. Specific travel arrangements, flight schedules, and other logistical details shall be coordinated and communicated separately by the organizers.

B.6. Animated Film Requirements

- Duration: 3 to 5 minutes
- Format: MP4 (H.264), Full HD (1080p)
- Language: Filipino, English, or any local language (with subtitles, if necessary)
- Must be original and unpublished
- Must not infringe on any intellectual property rights
- Use of licensed or original music and assets only

B.7. Allowed Tools and Production Approach

Participants may use any animation software. AI tools are allowed only as support tools and must be disclosed. Any use of AI must be fully disclosed through Form 02: AI and Assets Usage Disclosure.

B.8. Prohibited Acts

- Plagiarism or previously published work
- Excessive reliance on AI-generated content
- Unauthorized use of copyrighted materials
- Misrepresentation of authorship

B.9. Block Screening and Awarding

Final entries shall be showcased during the 2026 NSTW. This includes:

- Public exhibition and Q&A

- Final judging
- Awarding

B.10. Judging Process

Judging shall be conducted by experts in animation, film, and science communication. Evaluation will be based on the final submitted film.

B.13. Winners

Winning teams shall receive cash prizes and may be given opportunities to further refine and develop their entries, with the support of DOST and partner institutions, for potential adaptation, exhibition, and collaboration within the creative and digital media sectors, subject to applicable program guidelines.

IV. Criteria for Judging

Entries will be evaluated based on the following criteria:

Criterion	Description	Percentage
Story and Narrative Quality	Strength of storytelling, structure, emotional impact, and clarity	25%
STI Integration and Relevance	Effectiveness in communicating science, technology, and innovation concepts	25%
Animation and Technical Execution	Quality of animation, visuals, sound design, and editing	20%
Creativity and Originality	Innovation in concept, style, and presentation	15%
Audience Impact and Communication	Clarity, engagement, and ability to convey message to general audience	10%
Artificial Intelligence Integration	Evaluates the responsible, effective, and transparent integration of AI technologies to enhance development, functionality, user experience, or decision support.	5%
Total		100%

V. Prizes

The following prizes will be awarded to the top-performing entries. In addition to the corresponding cash prizes, winners shall receive certificates and medals.

For the **Student Category**:

Award	Description
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First Place	• PHP 15,000.00 <i>cash prize</i>
Second Place	• PHP 10,000.00 <i>cash prize</i>
Third Place	• PHP 7,000.00 <i>cash prize</i>
People's Choice Award	• PHP 5,000.00 <i>cash prize</i>

For the **Professional Category**:

Award	Description
First Place	• PHP 25,000.00 cash prize
Second Place	• PHP 20,000.00 cash prize
Third Place	• PHP 15,000.00 cash prize
People's Choice Award	• PHP 5,000.00 <i>cash prize</i>

Note: Prizes are exclusive to applicable government taxes.

The People's Choice Award shall be based on verified onsite public voting during the official screening period.

VI. **Intellectual Property and Adoption**

By participating in the hackathon, participants agree that:

- **Ownership of Entries:** Participants shall retain full ownership of their submitted animated short films and all original intellectual property rights therein, in accordance with **Republic Act No. 8293 (Intellectual Property Code of the Philippines)** and other applicable laws. Participation in the competition shall not constitute an assignment or transfer of ownership of any intellectual property rights to DOST-NCR.
- **License Granted to DOST-NCR:** By submitting an entry, participants grant **DOST-NCR a non-exclusive, royalty-free, worldwide license** to use, reproduce, exhibit, publicly screen, display, publish, and distribute the submitted animated short film and related materials **solely for non-commercial government, educational, and promotional purposes**. Such use may include, but is not limited to, official screenings, exhibits, festivals, training activities, educational programs, social media, websites, publications, reports, and other information and science communication initiatives of DOST-NCR.
- **Promotion and Documentation:** DOST-NCR may use excerpts, still images, trailers, behind-the-scenes materials, and other portions of the submitted entries for the promotion, documentation, and communication of the competition and DOST-NCR programs and activities, provided that such use remains non-commercial.
- **Further Use and Distribution:** DOST-NCR may reproduce and share the submitted entries, in whole or in part, through its official communication

channels and with other government agencies, local government units, schools, research institutions, and other public-sector or educational partners for **non-commercial educational, science communication, and government purposes**.

- **No Transfer of Ownership:** The license granted to DOST-NCR shall not transfer ownership of the animated film or its underlying intellectual property rights. Participants shall retain the right to further develop, reproduce, publish, distribute, license, exhibit, commercialize, or otherwise use their works, subject to applicable laws and any third-party rights or agreements.
- **Moral Rights and Attribution:** DOST-NCR shall respect the moral rights of the creators in accordance with Republic Act No. 8293. Where reasonably practicable, **DOST-NCR shall acknowledge the participating team, filmmakers, and/or creators** in official publications, screenings, exhibits, social media posts, and other promotional or educational materials featuring their work.
- **Third-Party Materials:** Participants shall ensure that their **entries do not infringe upon the intellectual property, privacy, publicity, or other rights of any third party**. Participants shall be responsible for securing the necessary permissions, licenses, or clearances for any music, footage, images, characters, fonts, or other third-party materials incorporated into their entries.
- **No Obligation to Use.** Nothing in these Mechanics shall be construed as obligating DOST-NCR to screen, publish, promote, distribute, or otherwise use any submitted entry beyond the activities specified in the competition.

VII. General Provisions

- All final competition entries must be original and developed entirely within the competition period.
- DOST-NCR reserves the right to disqualify entries that violate contest rules.
- The organizers reserve the right to amend or modify the mechanics, with official announcements made prior to implementation.

Approved by:



ROMELEN T. TRESVALLES
Regional Director, DOST-NCR