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# CHED POST

2nd Quarter Newsletter  
Volume 1 Issue No. 2

## HOSTING OF THE CHED-WIDE VIRTUAL FLAG RAISING CEREMONY, HIGHLIGHTS GREEN MOVEMENT TOWARDS SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITY

The Commission on Higher Education - Caraga Regional Office (CHED Caraga) showcased its talents once again as hosts during the weekly CHED-wide Virtual Flag Raising Ceremony on June 20, 2022, an initiative spearheaded and scheduled by the CHED Central Office as a means for the Central and Regional Offices to convene and commune. The program for the ceremony revolved around the theme, "Green Movement: Independence Towards Sustainable Community."

Key officials and personnel of all CHED Central and Regional Offices attended the Flag Ceremony and key officials of the Caraga Higher Education Institutions (HEIs) via Zoom teleconferencing platform.

With the theme, "Green Movement: Independence Towards Sustainable Community," the office aimed to shift the spotlight on a special kind of independence that everyone is capable of: The liberty to contribute to the Green Movement and help create a sustainable community. The theme also highlighted June as Philippine Environment Month.

Participated by the CHED Caraga personnel in full force, the program involved performances by the CHED Caraga Chorale of the opening prayer, the Philippine National Anthem, ASEAN Hymn, and CHED Hymn, and the Panunumpa sa Watawat ng Pilipinas and Panunumpa ng Lingkod Bayan as is traditionally done during the CHED flag ceremony. It was also an opportunity to feature the talents of Caraga HEIs through performances by the Caraga State University Dulimbay Theater Arts Guild and the Father Saturnino Urios University Butwa'an Dance Ensemble.

The Flag Ceremony featured video presentations of the CHED Caraga's recent special projects headed by Regional Director Dr. George M. Colorado: the Provision of Assistance to the Victims of Super Typhoon Odette and the Growing One Million Trees Advocacy Project.

Forester Luis P. Gonzaga, a Regional Coordinator of the Expanded National Greening Program (ENGP) from the Department of Environment and Natural Resources - Caraga Region (DENR Caraga), gave a keynote speech on the Importance and Benefits of Tree-Planting Initiatives.

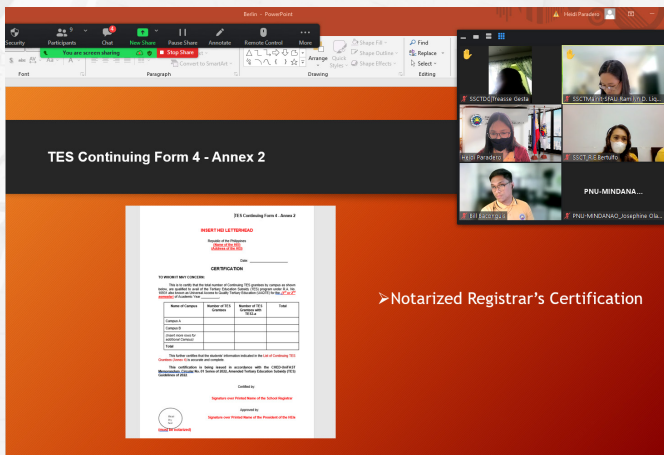
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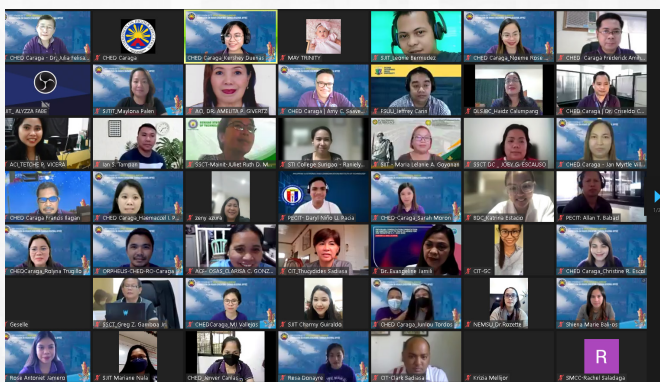
## COORDINATIVE MEETINGS WITH SUCs

The CHED Caraga UniFAST conducted coordinative meetings with seven (7) SUCs on April 5, 2022, in Agusan del Sur and Surigao del Norte and with six (6) SUCs on April 6, 2022, in Surigao del Sur and Surigao del Norte.

The said meetings' purpose is to assist TES focal persons of State Universities and Colleges in preparing new billing documents.



## UNIFAST CARAGA CONDUCTS VIRTUAL ORIENTATION ON TULONG DUNONG PROGRAM WITH NEW GRANTEEES



The Unified Student Financial Assistance System for Tertiary Education (UniFAST) Caraga team of Regional Coordinators organized a virtual orientation on the Memorandum Circular (MC) No. 02 series of 2022, or the "Guidelines on the Implementation of the Tulong Dunong Program (TDP) for Academic Year 2020-2021 and onwards" on April 29, 2022, via Zoom teleconferencing platform.

Over 200 new TDP student grantees and TDP focal persons from various Higher Education Institutions (HEIs) attended the orientation via Zoom. It served as an opportunity to inform the new grantees of the key changes stipulated in the MC, the documents to be submitted following the guidelines, and the roles and responsibilities of the grantees.

CHED Caraga Regional Director Dr. George M. Colorado greeted the participants at the activity's opening with a warm welcome and congratulations for qualifying for the program. In his message, he emphasized the value of prioritizing finishing one's studies to access opportunities for a better future.

"We have high hopes that you someday will become successful and help other people within your influence, that even in your communities, you will become a pillar of strength."

The presentation and orientation proper for the MC No. 02 s. 2022 was facilitated by UniFAST Caraga Lead Regional Coordinator (RC) Ms. Heidi M. Paradero. She carefully and clearly articulated each relevant provision of the MC to the TDP grantees.

An open forum followed the orientation, where TDP grantees and focal persons had the chance to ask for clarifications and questions regarding the previous discussion on the MC.

Present to respond to the questions were RCs Ms. Paradero, Ms. Daisy Grana, and Accountant Mr. Neil Mart Von Ronquillo. The activity for the afternoon ended with a message from Chief Education Program Specialist Dr. Julia Felisa Martinez.

## TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE ON TES LIQUIDATION REPORTS WITH HEIS IN HINATUAN, BISLIG CITY, AND SURIGAO CITY

The Commission on Higher Education - Caraga Regional Office (CHED Caraga) provided Technical Assistance on the Preparation of Tertiary Education Subsidy (TES) Liquidation Reports with various Higher Education Institutions (HEIs) in Hinatuan and Bislig City on May 2, 2022, and Surigao City on May 4, 2022.

The Commission on Higher Education - Caraga Regional Office (CHED Caraga) provided Technical Assistance on the Preparation of Tertiary Education Subsidy (TES) Liquidation Reports with various Higher Education Institutions (HEIs) in Hinatuan and Bislig City on May 2, 2022, and Surigao City on May 4, 2022.

The following HEIs were visited: Saint Vincent de Paul Diocesan College (SVPDC), Southern Technological Institute of the Philippines (STIP), De la Salle John Bosco College (DLSJBC), Hinatuan Southern College (HSC), Northeastern Mindanao Colleges (NEMCO), Saint Paul University Surigao (SPUS), Surigao State College of Technology (SSCT) Main, Surigao Doctors' College (SDC), Surigao Education College (SEC), and Saint Jude Thaddeus Institute of Technology (SJTIT).

The series of visits ensured the compliance of HEIs in the utilization and proper liquidation of the TES funds. Facilitating the conduct of technical assistance were Project Technical Staff (PTS) III - Accountant Mr. Neil Von Ronquillo, PTS I - Accounting Staff Ms. Sarah Moron, and PTS I - Budget Assistant Ms. Kathleen Castañares, who worked with the TES Focal Persons and Accounting Staff of the HEIs visited. Regional Director George Colorado and Education Supervisor II, Mr. Amy Saavedra, were present to oversee the Hinatuan and Bislig City visits.

## | Technical Division

### **ORIENTATION ON THE TRACKING OF THE HEIs TREE PLANTING ACTIVITY THROUGH THE CHED PORTAL AS A SUPPORT TO THE ADVOCACY PROGRAM**

On April 13, 2022, orientation was successfully conducted on the tracking of the HEIs tree planting activities using the CHED Portal in support of the to the "Growing One Million Trees Advocacy Program."

Mr. Amy C. Saavedra, MSCA, Education Supervisor II - MIS Head, facilitated the said orientation, which was attended by fifty-six (56) HEIs with sixty-eight (68) participants, with Ms. Kershey Reign Dueñas as the host. Mr. Ronan Otaza conducted the orientation proper, where he presented the step-by-step procedures for accessing the portal and how to input data to track the said activities and the number of trees planted.

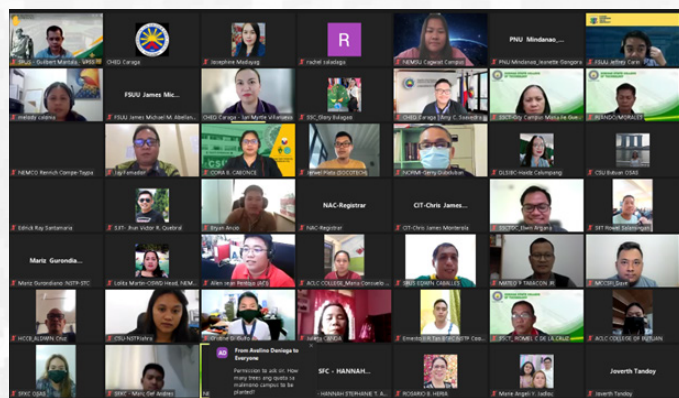
During the open forum, the attending NSTP Coordinators and OSAS Directors from HEIs raised issues and concerns such as the tree planting strategies, seedlings and locations to conduct the said activity, submission of tree planting report and the tree planting portal credentials. All HEIs reached an agreement to address all concerns.

### **VIRTUAL MEETING WITH HIGHER EDUCATION INSTITUTIONS (HEIs) ON ISSUES AND CONCERNS ABOUT THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE TREE PLANTING PORTAL**

The Management Information System (MIS) Unit of CHEDRO Caraga conducted a virtual meeting with the Higher Education Institutions (HEIs) on May 27, 2022. Mr. Amy C. Saavedra, MSCA - Education Supervisor II, MIS Unit Head, facilitated the meeting, and forty-eight (48) HEIs participated.

The purpose of the said meeting was to provide updates on the Tree Planting Advocacy activities of HEIs and discuss issues and concerns on the said advocacy. The HEIs were able to share their best practices, initiatives and limitations in conducting the said activity during the open forum.

One initiative was allowing individual students to plant in their own spaces at home together with family members. Students must submit a photo of their activities to account the number of trees planted.



HEIs were also encouraged to participate in the advocacy program soonest face-to-face classes resume. Besides posting their activities in the portal, Mr. Saavedra reiterated submitting the prescribed tree planting activity report.

## **TWG CONSULTATION/FOCUS GROUP DISCUSSION FOR THE 2022-2025 PROJECT JOBSFIT OF DOLE CARAGA**

Ms. Jan Myrtle J. Villanueva - Project Technical Staff II, Regional Statistical Focal Officer, attended the TWG Consultation/Focus Group Discussion for the 2022-2025 Project Jobsfit of the Department of Labor and Employment (DOLE) Caraga, in place of Mr. Amy C. Saavedra, MSCA - Education Supervisor II, MIS Unit Head on June 28, 2022, at Almont Inland Resort.

DOLE Caraga organized the said TWG consultation and representatives from different line agencies like Philippine Statistics Authority - RSSO XIII, Technical Education and Skills Development Authority (TESDA) Caraga, Public Employment Service Office (PESO) of Agusan del Sur, Overseas Workers Welfare Administration (OWWA) Caraga, and Department of Trade and Industries (DTI) Caraga attended.



During the focus group discussion, DOLE Caraga presented the previous output of Project Jobsfit 2017-2022. They explained that the data of the last project is already outdated; hence, data from different line agencies is necessary. They distributed questionnaires for data collection indicating essential information from each public and private stakeholder. The technical working group agreed to present the data assigned to each agency during the Project Jobsfit Pre-Regional Consultation Workshop scheduled on July 4, 2022, in the same venue where private industries will attend as participants.

## **CONDUCT OF SERIES OF INSTITUTIONAL VISITS FOR MONITORING AND EVALUATION AT VARIOUS HEIS FOR 2ND QUARTER 2022**

The Commission on Higher Education - Caraga Regional Office (CHED Caraga) conducted in-person institutional visits to various Higher Education Institutions (HEIs) for the second quarter of Calendar Year 2022.

Institutional visits and subsequent monitoring and evaluation of the HEIs were done as part of the mandate of CHED to ensure the HEIs' delivery of quality education and compliance to the Policies, Standards, and Guidelines (PSGs) of the offered programs.

For this quarter, the following ten (10) HEIs were visited for monitoring and evaluation: Holy Child Colleges Butuan (HCCB), Northwestern Agusan Colleges (NAC), Saint Michael College of Caraga (SMCC), Elisa R. Ochoa Memorial Northern Mindanao School Of Midwifery (EROMNMSM), Balite Institute of Technology (BIT), Philippine Electronics and Communication Institute of Technology (PECIT), Agusan Colleges Incorporated (ACI), Agusan del Sur State College of Agriculture and Technology (ASSCAT), Saint Joseph Institute of Technology (SJIT), and Candelaria Institute of Technology of Cabadbaran, Inc. (CICI).

Priority areas for monitoring and evaluation were the efforts of HEIs regarding COVID-19 related activities, namely vaccination of students and faculty, implementation of flexible learning modalities, and compliance with the CHED-Department of Health (DOH) Joint Memorandum Circular (JMC) No. 2021-004 "Guidelines on the Implementation of Limited Face-to-Face Classes for All Programs of Higher Education Institutions (HEIs) in Areas Under Alert Levels System for COVID-19 Response."

Additionally, the HEIs were assessed on the following areas:

- All programs offered
- Student Affairs and Services (SAS); Scholarships; Tuition and Other School Fees (TOSF)
- Research and Extension;
- National Service Training Program (NSTP)
- Governance and Management
- Library
- Laboratory and Support Facilities

All visits were conducted by the full-force team of the Technical Division, namely Chief Education Program Specialist Dr. Julia Felisa Martinez, Supervising Education Program Specialist Ms. Noeme Rose Mani, and Education Supervisors II Dr. Frederick Amihan, Dr. Criseldo Calinawan, Mr. Amy Saavedra, and Dr. Rolyna Trugillo, led by Regional Director Dr. George Colorado.

## **TRAINING-WORKSHOP WITH CARAGA HEIS ON CHED-PHILIPPINE ANTI-ILLEGAL DRUGS STRATEGY IMPLEMENTATION**

The Commission on Higher Education - Caraga Regional Office (CHED Caraga) held an onsite Training and Workshop in the Implementation of CHED-Philippine Anti Illegal Drugs Strategy (PADS) of HEIs in Caraga Region from June 23 to 24, 2022

at the Grand Palace Hotel, Butuan City. The activity was participated by the PADS focal persons and Guidance Counselors of HEIs and featured resource speaker Ms. Grace Monocillo, the Director of the Center Against Illegal Drugs at Ateneo de Davao University.

To begin the program, Education Supervisor II, Mr. Amy Saavedra, acknowledged the attending participants representing each HEI. Chief Education Program Specialist Dr. Julia Felisa Martinez gave a welcome speech for and on behalf of Director IV, Dr. George Colorado, who was attending an equally important engagement at the time of the activity.

Ms. Monocillo gave a whole-day discussion on the 23rd, discussing the need and relevance of formulating and implementing PADS in Caraga HEIs. During the morning session, she gave an orientation on Executive Order (EO) No. 66, series of 2018, otherwise known as the "Institutionalizing of the Philippine Anti-Illegal Drugs Strategy (PADS) and related laws, CHED policies and guidelines). An open forum followed this to attend to the questions and concerns of participants.

In the afternoon, Ms. Monocillo gave a discussion on the best practices for the implementation of PADS in higher education, also followed by an open forum.

The next day, Ms. Monocillo and CHED Caraga personnel oversaw the workshop wherein HEI PADS Focal Persons formulated their strategies for implementing PADS in their respective HEIs, following the information and insights provided by Ms. Monocillo during her orientation. Chosen Focal Persons representing each province in the region presented their proposed strategies to the audience for feedback and knowledge sharing.

The following were the HEI PADS focal persons who presented their draft proposals for the implementation of PADS in their HEIs:

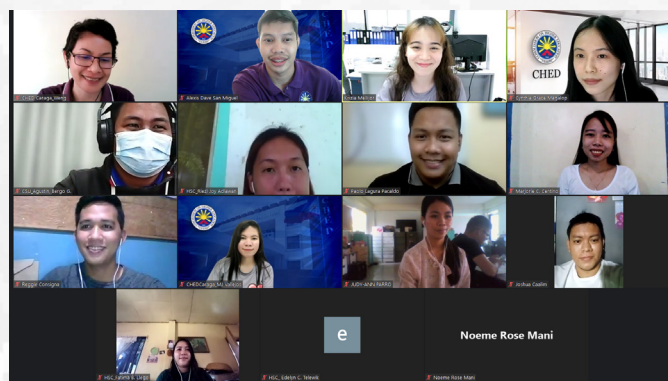
Agusan del Sur State College of Agriculture and Technology (ASSCAT), Agusan del Sur College (ADSCO), Butuan Doctors' College (BDC), Father Saturnino Urios University (FSUU), North Eastern Mindanao State University-Main Campus (NEMSU Main), Northern Mindanao Colleges (NORMI), Saint Michael College of Caraga (SMCC), Siargao Island Institute of Technology (SIIT), STI College Surigao (STI Surigao).

The conducted activity in pursuance of EO No. 66 s. 2018 stipulating that "all government offices, departments, bureaus, agencies, and offices, including government-owned or controlled corporations (GOCCs) and State Universities and Colleges (SUCs) are directed to implement the said anti-illegal drugs strategy through its projects and programs in accordance with their respective mandates and encourages private and civil society organizations to actively support the same."

### **| Technical Division**

## **AWARDING OF SIKAP GRANT TO 11 NEW FULL-TIME STUDY SCHOLARS OPENS NEW BATCH OF APPLICATIONS**

The Commission on Higher Education - Caraga Regional Office (CHED Caraga) conducted an on-boarding and awarding of Notice of Award (NOA) to eleven (11) new awardees of the Scholarships for Instructors' Knowledge Advancement Program (SIKAP) full-time study grant on April 22, 2022, via Zoom Teleconferencing platform.



SIKAP is a scholarship program open to all current or former teaching and non-teaching Higher Education Institution (HEI) personnel seeking advanced studies in identified universities and colleges in the Philippines for either part-time or full-time study.

SIKAP Focal Dr. Wenna Damulo, with the assistance of the K-12 Unit staff, conducted an orientation to the scholars on the details of their scholarship contracts and the duration of their study during the onboarding.

## **Reorientation and Reconciliation with CHEDROs StuFAPs Coordinators/Alternates to be held on June 15-17, 2022 at Diversion 21 Hotel, Iloilo City**

The Commission on Higher Education - Caraga Regional Office (CHED Caraga) Student Financial Assistance Programs (StuFAPs) Coordinator and staff attended the Reorientation and Reconciliation with CHED Regional Offices StuFAPs Coordinators/Alternates, held from June 15 to 17, 2022 at the Diversion 21 Hotel, Iloilo City.

Supervising Education Program Specialist (SEPS) and StuFAPs Coordinator Ms. Noeme Rose Mani attended the activity with Project Technical Staff I and StuFAPs Database Administrator Mr. Alexis Dave San Miguel. Together they participated in the accomplishment of the following objectives of the activity:

Re-orient the designated StuFAPS Coordinators and Alternates on the various OSDS programs; Closely monitor the physical utilization as to the status of award i.e. active, inactive-terminated, waived, deferred, graduated, etc. and the actual financial utilization; Validate the projected number of graduating beneficiaries against the regional data; and Determine as well the projected continuing beneficiaries for the succeeding semester- academic year.

The activity was organized by the CHED Office of Student Development and Services (OSDS) in line with the monitoring of the implementation of the various student financial assistance programs of CHED.

### **| Administrative Division**

## **KICKSTARTING OF 3-DAY FESTIVITIES FOR THE 2ND NATIONAL HIGHER EDUCATION DAY AND CHED 28TH FOUNDING ANNIVERSARY.**

The Commission on Higher Education - Caraga Regional Office (CHED Caraga) officially opened the three-day celebration of the 2nd National Higher Education Day (NHED) and CHED's 28th Founding Anniversary, from May 16 to 18, 2022. Centered around the theme "Claiming Victory for Quality Higher Education: Dekalidad na Edukasyon,

The Commission on Higher Education - Caraga Regional Office (CHED Caraga) officially opened the three-day celebration of the 2nd National Higher Education Day (NHED) and CHED's 28th Founding Anniversary, from May 16 to 18, 2022. Centered around the theme "Claiming Victory for Quality Higher Education: Dekalidad na Edukasyon, Karapatan ng Mamamayan."

For May 16th, the first three-day set of activities, the office personnel donned their sports attires for an early-morning warm-up led by CHED Caraga Sports Coordinator Mr. Orpheus Cubillas immediately after the conduct of the weekly Flag Ceremony at the CHED Caraga grounds.

For May 16th, the first three-day set of activities, the office personnel donned their sports attires for an early-morning warm-up led by CHED Caraga Sports Coordinator Mr. Orpheus Cubillas immediately after the conduct of the weekly Flag Ceremony at the CHED Caraga grounds.

During the afternoon, personnel proceeded to the third floor of the office to participate in a brief opening ceremony of the three-day Health and Wellness activities, which entailed a short program facilitated by the Human Resources (HR) Unit and a health and wellness-related team activity.

After an opening prayer and singing of the national anthem, Mr. Cubillas led the reading of the Pledge of Sportsmanship, wherein personnel remained standing with their right arms raised to pledge camaraderie, sportsmanship, and respect for the results of the activities to be conducted in the following days.

A competitive Trivia Contest succeeded after the short ceremony. Knowledge of the history of CHED tested CHED Caraga personnel in four (4) co-ed teams with chosen representatives from each team.

The winners of this competition and all scheduled competitions from May 16 to 18 were announced during the culmination program on May 18, 2022.

The conducted activities aimed to achieve the following objectives with the CHED Caraga Health and Wellness activities and celebration of the 2nd NHED and CHED 28th Founding Anniversary: to improve the overall health of the personnel; develop sportsmanship, talent and camaraderie among CHED Personnel; and to enhance effective coordination between the employees.

## **CONDUCT OF SERIES OF HEALTH AND WELLNESS ACTIVITIES FOR THE 2ND NATIONAL HIGHER EDUCATION DAY AND CHED 28TH ANNIVERSARY.**

The Commission on Higher Education - Caraga Regional Office (CHED Caraga) celebrated the 2nd National Higher Education Day (NHED) and CHED 28th Founding Anniversary with a three-day set of health and wellness-related activities held from May 16-18, 2022, which centered around the theme “Claiming Victory for Quality Higher Education: Dekalidad na Edukasyon, Karapatan ng Mamamayan.”

The second of the three-day set of activities on May 17th, 2022, was held on the third floor of the office. Office personnel enjoyed an afternoon of friendly competition and camaraderie with sports competitions that challenged their physical and mental capabilities. Four (4) co-ed teams were organized among the personnel and competed in five (5) sports activities: chess, dama, darts, scrabble, and table tennis. On May 18, 2022, during the culmination program, winners of these competitions and all scheduled competitions were announced.

The goal of the sports activities was to achieve the following objectives on the CHED Caraga Health and Wellness activities in celebration of the 2nd NHED and CHED 28th Founding Anniversary: to improve the overall health of the personnel; develop sportsmanship, talent and camaraderie among CHED Personnel; and to enhance effective coordination between the employees.

## **PARTICIPATION IN NATIONWIDE SIMULTANEOUS TREE PLANTING ACTIVITY ORGANIZED BY DENR**

On June 8, 2022, CHED Caraga participated in the Nationwide Simultaneous Tree Planting organized by the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) Caraga Region - Community Environment and Natural Resources Office (CENRO) Nasipit in partnership with Saint Michael College of Caraga (SMCC), in celebration of the Philippine Environment Month 2022, with the theme “Aksyon Para Sa Natatanging Mundo.”

The tree-planting activity the Office participated in was held at Mount Kasunogan, Brgy. Amontay, Nasipit, Agusan del Norte.

Volunteers from multiple Regional Line Agencies (RLAs), Higher Education Institutions (HEIs), and private organizations converged at around 5 o'clock in the morning for a brief orientation before the tree-planting proper.

CHED Caraga also witnessed the signing of a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) between DENR, SMCC, the Barangay Local Government Unit, and the People's Organization Agong Watershed Multipurpose Cooperative (AWAMCO).

CHED Caraga's participation in the activity was also in line with achieving the objectives of its ongoing special project, the Growing One Million Trees Advocacy Project, spearheaded by CHED Caraga Regional Director George M. Colorado.

## **SERIES OF ORIENTATIONS FOR OFFICE PERSONNEL DURING GENERAL ASSEMBLY**

The Commission on Higher Education - Caraga Regional Office (CHED Caraga) held a general assembly involving all office personnel on June 15, 2022. The whole-day assembly proper involved a series of orientations for all Office Personnel on the Freedom of Information Act (FOI), 5S Practices, Office Policies, and the International Organization for Standardization (ISO) Accreditation.

The program began with a welcome message by Chief Education Program Specialist Dr. Julia Felisa C. Martinez. Education Supervisor II and FOI Focal Person Dr. Criseldo Calinawan gave an orientation on the Freedom of Information, followed by the 5S method for Good Housekeeping in the Workplace.

After a brief lunch break, Human Resources Officer Designate Ms. Angel A. Asis gave a short refresher on the Office Policies. Lastly, Education Supervisor II and ISO Focal Person Mr. Amy Saavedra oriented personnel on the rationale and process behind the ISO Accreditation.

Employees shared their learnings from the series of orientations held, and Ms. Asis gave a closing remark to end the program.