



INTERNATIONAL DAY OF WOMEN AND GIRLS IN SCIENCE

RD Joycelyn Andaya met with fellow education leaders, stakeholders, and partners in the education sector in a remarkable event on environmental sustainability spearheaded by SM in celebration of International Day of Women and Girls in Science. The activity highlighted the exposure of 35 young girls and women of YES-O (Youth for Environment in Schools Organizations) officers to SM various initiatives on conserving natural resources. The program intended to inspire young people to become catalyst of care for the environment.

In the said gathering, RD Andaya expressed optimism that the activity instills among the young girls and women their lasting commitment to environmental conservation. She articulated the empowerment of young girls and women to become effective advocates for a sustainable future through putting into action environmental sustainability when they go back to their schools and communities. In the midst of pressing challenges on climate change, the young girls and women can work towards a greener, cleaner, and more sustainable world for generations to come.

RD Andaya emphasized that the International Day of Women and Girls in Science is a celebration of gender equality and empowerment for women and girls, particularly within the realm of education. In the past, STEM fields in Science, Technology,



Engineering, and Mathematics have often been perceived as male-dominated. Surprisingly, a recent data from the DepEd NCR indicates a shift - from 3% to 1% difference in SY 2020-2021 and 2021-2022, the data trend now is that 51% of the STEM enrollees are girls. This statistic signifies progress as it narrowed the gender gap. It is a validation that women and girls are achieving full and equal access to science, technology, and innovation. It is a vital step towards gender equality and empowerment.

As an exercise of fundamental right to education, young girls and women are pursuing their interests and excelling in the field of science with great potentials in reshaping the future of science. As advocates for environmental sustainability, their pivotal role is recognized not only in economic development but also in advancing the objectives outlined in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, and to the vision of DepEd in making every girl and young woman as "MaTaTag na kabataan".