

PRESIDENTIAL FILIPINNOVATION AWARDS IMPLEMENTING GUIDELINES

I. GENERAL PROVISIONS

Section 1. Rationale. Pursuant to Executive Order (EO) No. 99, series of 2025, the Presidential Filipinno Innovation Awards is established as an annual competition designed to recognize Filipino innovators whose innovations are at early-stage commercialization. The competition seeks to foster a culture of innovation by providing a premier platform for stakeholder participation, recognition, and partnership. It aims to level the playing field for innovation, giving equal opportunity to all regions and sectors, while leveraging the Filipino affinity for competition to encourage widespread engagement.

As the country's most prestigious innovation recognition program, the Presidential Filipinno Innovation Awards culminates in the conferment of awards to national winners by the President of the Philippines, or the Executive Secretary, "By Authority of the President." This underscores the strategic importance accorded by the State to innovation as a fundamental driver of national development and global competitiveness.

The competition serves as a platform for social marketing and mobilization, connecting innovators with key stakeholders, including industry actors, potential partners, and investors. This strategic linkage is designed to accelerate commercialization, thereby fostering a more robust, dynamic, and inclusive innovation ecosystem in the country.

Section 2. Objectives. The Presidential Filipinno Innovation Awards aims to advance the country's innovation agenda by recognizing, connecting, and enabling Filipino innovators with high potential for commercialization. Specifically, the competition seeks to:

- a. Bring out the best in Filipino innovators by providing a level playing field that enables them to showcase their talents, capabilities, and solutions irrespective of geographic location or institutional affiliation;
- b. Serve as a national platform for recognizing local innovation and connecting innovators with industry stakeholders, partners, and investors;
- c. Facilitate the commercialization of innovation by easing the pathway for innovators to navigate barriers in scaling, financing, and market access;
- d. Promote a culture of innovation and inclusive participation across regions and sectors; and
- e. Strengthen the innovation ecosystem by enabling multi-stakeholder partnerships and contributing to the visibility, viability, and sustainability of early-stage innovations.

Section 3. Purpose and Legal Bases. This Implementing Guidelines ("Guidelines") is hereby adopted by the National Innovation Council (NIC) to provide the official and operational framework for the conduct of the Presidential Filipinno Innovation Awards, formerly the National and Regional Innovation Awards and Competitions (NRIAC). The provisions herein are promulgated to ensure effective, transparent, and sustainable implementation of the program.

This Guidelines are anchored on the following legal precepts, collectively providing the legal foundation and policy direction for the conduct of the Presidential Filipinno Innovation Awards:

Article XIV of the 1987 Constitution provides that Science and Technology are essential for national development and progress, thus, "*the State shall give priority to research and*

development, invention, innovation, and their utilization; and to science and technology education, training, and services,”¹ “encourage the widest participation of private groups, local governments, and community-based organizations in the generation and utilization of science and technology,”² and “protect and secure the exclusive rights of scientists, inventors, artists, and other gifted citizens to their intellectual property (IP) and creations.”³

Consistent with this constitutional provision, Republic Act (RA) No. 11293, or the Philippine Innovation Act, declares it the policy of the State to foster innovation as a vital component of national development and sustainable economic growth. The law emphasizes the strategic role of investments in education, science, technology, and innovation to strengthen the country’s knowledge-based economic development that benefits all.¹ It further affirms that while the country’s innovation goals are directed at the development of new technologies, they also involve harnessing global knowledge to create new processes and services that promote productivity and public welfare.² The NIC, established under this law, in coordination with the various agencies concerned, is mandated to undertake information and community education efforts to rally everyone around the country’s innovation agenda and priorities, and to generate public support for these initiatives.

Pursuant to the foregoing, the Office of the President issued EO No. 99, series of 2025, which formally establishes the “Presidential Filipinnovation Awards.” This EO institutionalizes the competition as a Presidential award to recognize outstanding Filipino-owned enterprises and individuals and explicitly mandates the NIC to formulate and issue the necessary guidelines for its effective implementation. The competition was initially approved by the Council through NIC Resolution No. 1, series of 2024, and its Guidelines was established under NIC Resolution No. 4, series of 2024.

To ensure whole-of-government support and broader stakeholder engagement, the Office of the President also issued Memorandum Circular No. 78, series of 2025, directing all government agencies and instrumentalities, including government-owned or -controlled corporations, to extend full support and cooperation in the conduct of the Filipinnovation Awards. The Circular likewise encouraged the participation of local government units and the private sector, and recognized the competition as aligned with the transformation agenda set forth in the Philippine Innovation Act, the Philippine Development Plan (PDP) 2023-2028, and the National Innovation Agenda and Strategy Document (NIASD) 2023-2032.

Section 4. Scope and Coverage. This Guidelines shall govern the implementation of the Presidential Filipinnovation Awards. The provisions herein shall apply to all aspects of the competition, including its institutional arrangements, processes, eligibility and evaluation criteria, selection mechanisms, and the administration of all post-competition activities.

Section 5. Definition of Terms. For the purposes of this Guidelines, the following terms shall be defined as follows:

- a. **Applicant** refers to a registrant who has completed and formally submitted the application form, along with all required supporting documents, through the official web portal within the prescribed application period.
- b. **Categories** refer to the specific sectors or fields under which eligible innovations are grouped and assessed. These are derived from the NIASD priority areas and serve as the technical classification for entries and judges.

¹ 1987 Philippine Constitution, Article XIV, Section 10

² 1987 Philippine Constitution, Article XIV, Section 12

³ 1987 Philippine Constitution, Article XIV, Section 13

- c. **Coaching** refers to a structured, goal-oriented engagement between a designated coach and a coachee (qualifier or finalist) conducted through focused sessions that support participants' pitch readiness, including the development, structure, and delivery of their pitch deck. It also provides hands-on feedback to strengthen technical articulation and business storytelling in preparation for the actual pitching and demo sessions.
- d. **Commercialization** refers to the process by which a new product or service is introduced into the general market. As a strategy, commercialization requires that a business develop a marketing plan, determine how the product will be supplied to the market, and anticipate barriers to success.⁴
- e. **Conflict of Interest** refers to a situation where individuals involved in organizing, judging, or administering the competition possess contradictory interests, such as, but not limited to, personal financial gain or personal relationships that could compromise or have the appearance of compromising professional judgements, decisions, or actions in the competition. For purposes of this Guidelines, these individuals include Department of Economy, Planning, and Development (DEPDev) officials and employees, National and Sub-National Secretariat members, ESC, Sub-National Committee (SNC), Board of Judges (BOJ), NIC Executive Members, mentors and coaches, and other members of the organizing committees and/or their relatives up to the fourth civil degree of consanguinity or affinity.
- f. **Cooperative** refers to a member-owned and member-controlled organization registered with the Cooperative Development Authority (CDA), established to meet the shared economic, social, or cultural needs of its members. Participation is allowed subject to compliance with eligibility criteria.
- g. **Corporation** refers to a business organization registered with the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) that exists as a separate legal entity from its owners. It may be organized for profit (stock corporation) or for non-profit purposes (non-stock corporation) and may participate in the competition subject to eligibility requirements.
- h. **Early-stage commercialization** refers to the initial process of bringing an innovation from a prototype stage to its introduction into the market.
- i. **Eligible Applicant** refers to an applicant whose submitted application has undergone initial screening and has been found compliant with the prescribed eligibility criteria and documentary requirements.
- j. **Filipino-owned enterprises** refer to business entities duly organized under Philippine laws that are owned, controlled, and operated by Filipino citizens. For purposes of these Guidelines, an enterprise shall be considered Filipino-owned if at least sixty percent (60%) of the capital stock outstanding and entitled to vote is owned and held by citizens of the Philippines, and, where applicable, at least sixty percent (60%) of its Board of Directors or governing body are also Filipino citizens,⁵ in accordance with the provisions of RA No. 8179, or the Foreign Investments Act of 1991, as amended.
- k. **Finalist** refers to a qualifier who has been judged as among the top entries during the Sub-National Competition and is officially advancing to compete in the National Competition.

⁴ University of Pittsburgh. *Why commercialize?* From: <https://www.innovation.pitt.edu/forinventors/why-commercialize/>

⁵ Republic Act No. 8179, Section 3

- l. **Industrial design** is the ornamental or aesthetic aspect of an article. Design, in this sense, may be three-dimensional features (shape or surface of an article), or the two-dimensional features (patterns or lines of color).⁶
- m. **Innovation** is the creation of new ideas that result in the development of new or improved policies, products, processes, or services which are then spread or transferred across the market.⁷
- n. **IP** is the creation of the mind, such as scientific and technological inventions (patent/utility model); literary and artistic works (copyright); designs (industrial design); and symbols, names, and images used in commerce (trademark).⁸
- o. **Market access** refers to the ability of a company to sell its products or services in a foreign or domestic market.
- p. **Mentorship or Mentoring** refers to the process wherein experienced individuals (mentors) provide guidance, advice, and support to innovators or participants by drawing from their own knowledge, networks, and expertise. Mentorship focuses on helping innovators better understand the purpose and value proposition of their innovation, refine their business models, identify market opportunities, and explore strategies for scaling and sustaining their enterprises, aiming to foster both personal and entrepreneurial development.
- q. **Micro, Small, and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs)** refer to any business activity or enterprise engaged in industry, agribusiness and/or services, whether single proprietorship, cooperative, partnership or corporation, whose total assets, inclusive of those arising from loans but exclusive of the land on which the business entity's office, plant, and equipment are situated, fall within the following categories: Micro: not more than PhP3 million in assets; Small: PhP3,000,001 to PhP15 million; Medium: PhP15,000,001 to PhP100 million.⁹ Furthermore, the corresponding employment size is as follows: Micro: 1 to 9 employees; Small: 10 to 99 employees; Medium: 100 to 199 employees.¹⁰
- r. **National Innovation Agenda and Strategy Document (NIASD)** is the country's vision and long-term goals for innovation. It also provides a roadmap and strategies for improving innovation governance; deepening and accelerating innovation efforts; and integrating and fostering public-private partnerships.¹¹
- s. **One Person Corporation (OPC)** refers to a corporation with only one stockholder, either a natural person, trust, or estate, and registered with the SEC.

⁶ Intellectual Property Office of the Philippines (IPOPHL). *Industrial Design*. Retrieved from <https://www.ipophl.gov.ph/services/industrial-design/>

⁷ Republic Act No. 11293, Section 3(g)

⁸ IPOPHL. *What is intellectual property?* Retrieved from <https://www.ipophil.gov.ph/what-is-intellectual-property/>

⁹ Republic Act No. 9501, Section 3

¹⁰ Department of Trade and Industry (2024). *MSME Development Plan 2023-2028*: https://dtiwebfiles.s3.ap-southeast-1.amazonaws.com/BSMED/MSMED+Plan+2023-2028/MSMED+Plan+2023-2028_approved+07Nov2024.v2.pdf

¹¹ Republic Act No. 11293, Section 9

- t. **Patent** is a government-issued grant, bestowing an exclusive right to an inventor over a product or process that provides any technical solution to a problem in any field of human activity which is new, inventive, and industrially applicable.¹²
- u. **Pre-Qualified Entry (Pre-Selected Entry)** refers to an eligible entry that has passed the hurdle rate or the required minimum rating or threshold during the pre-selection process conducted by the designated evaluators of the Sub-National Secretariat.
- v. **Qualifier** refers to a technically pre-qualified applicant that has been endorsed and officially selected by the SNC to participate in the Sub-National Competition and present their innovation through pitching and demonstration sessions.
- w. **Sole Proprietorship** refers to a business owned and operated by one individual who is personally liable for all its obligations, and registered with the Department of Trade and Industry (DTI).
- x. **Startup** refers to any person or registered entity in the Philippines that aims to develop an innovative product, process, or business model.¹³
- y. **Utility model** is any technical solution to a problem in any field of human activity that is new and industrially applicable. It may or may not have an inventive step.¹⁴

II. COMPETITION MECHANICS

Section 6. Eligibility Criteria.

- a. To be eligible, applicants must meet the following criteria:
 1. **Filipino individual or Filipino-owned Enterprise:** The competition is open to Filipino individuals or Filipino-owned enterprises, as defined in these Guidelines, who are duly registered with the DTI, SEC, or CDA. Regardless of whether the applicant is an individual or an enterprise, the team officially representing the applicant during competition activities must be composed of a maximum of three (3) Filipino members.
 2. **Innovative Product or Service:** Eligible entries must feature an innovative product or service that is at least ready for commercialization, evidenced by a functional and working prototype, and has a registered or ongoing application for IP rights.
- b. All recipients of the grant award (both Finalists and recipients of the Presidential Filipino Innovation Award) from the immediately preceding competition cycle shall be ineligible to participate in the succeeding cycle. This includes the registered enterprise and its team leader. Re-application may be permitted only after one full competition cycle has concluded, provided all outstanding obligations from their previous grant have been fully liquidated and settled.

Section 7. Competition Stages. The competition shall be conducted at two (2) distinct levels:

- a. **Sub-National Level** which aims to encourage broad and inclusive participation across local innovation ecosystems, and to surface innovative solutions that address regional needs and development priorities. Sub-National Competitions shall be organized within

¹² IPOPHL. *Patent*. Retrieved from <https://www.ipophil.gov.ph/patent/>

¹³ Republic Act No. 11337, Section 3(g)

¹⁴ IPOPHL. *Utility Model*. Retrieved from <https://ipophil.gov.ph/services/utility-model/>

four (4) geographic clusters (National Capital Region [NCR], Luzon, Visayas, Mindanao). A maximum of 16 Finalists shall be selected, comprising of up to four (4) qualifiers per cluster.

- b. **National Level** serves as the culmination of the competition, where the selected Finalists compete for national recognition. Five (5) Finalists who achieve the highest final ranking in the national competition shall be formally conferred with the Presidential Filippinovation Award.

Section 8. Competition Process. The implementation of the Presidential Filippinovation Awards shall proceed in three distinct phases covering all major steps from preparatory activities to post-competition support:

- a. **Pre-Competition** shall encompass all preparatory activities required to ensure the orderly and effective launch of a competition cycle. These activities include, but are not limited to: the formal confirmation of host DEPDev Regional Offices (DROs) as Sub-National Secretariats; the organization of the SNCs; the official engagement of all mentors, coaches, and members of the BOJ; the finalization and approval of the competition format and official schedules; and the conduct of a nationwide promotional campaign.
- b. **Competition Proper** shall cover the formal execution of the competition, from the initial call for applicants to the conferment of the Award. The major activities in this phase are the: call for applications; eligibility screening; pre-selection; selection of qualifiers by the SNC; mentoring and coaching sessions; conduct of the sub-national and national competitions; and the official conferment ceremony.
- c. **Post-Competition** shall commence after the conclusion of the National Competition and shall focus on the continued development of the awardees. It covers the formal administration and monitoring of grants and the implementation of the continuing support programs as detailed in Sections 19 and 20 of this Guidelines.

The description of each activity under every phase is provided for reference in Annex A of this Guidelines.

Section 9. Competition Categories. The Presidential Filippinovation Awards shall be conducted as an **open-category competition**. To ensure alignment with national development priorities and for the purposes of organizational classification and reporting, applicants will be required to select a category that best corresponds to their innovation. These categories are based on the priority areas outlined in the NIASD 2023-2032, attached hereto as Annex B.

This classification is solely for administrative purposes and shall have no bearing on an entry's eligibility or final score. All eligible entries shall be evaluated against a single, uniform set of judging criteria, irrespective of their designated industry, sector, or technical focus.

Section 10. Documentary Requirements. Applicants must submit all valid and complete documents through the official platform. All submissions must be clear, legible, and valid. The Secretariat reserves the right to request additional documents for validation purposes.

a. **Accomplished Application Form**

b. **Business Eligibility Documents**

All applicants, whether individuals or enterprise, must apply through a registered business entity and must submit the following business registration requirements:

1. DTI, SEC, or CDA Registration, as the case may be;
2. BIR Certificate of Registration; and
3. Articles of Incorporation and By-Laws and the Latest General Information Sheet (for corporations).

c. Team Eligibility Documents

All team members must be official employees holding regular or tenured positions, or co-founders of the enterprise, at the time of application, and must submit the following documents:

1. Valid Government-Issued IDs of the Team Leader and members;
2. Curriculum Vitae (CV) of the Team Leader;
3. Declaration, Undertaking, and Waiver Form notarized and duly signed by the Team Leader and members, agreeing to the competition terms; and
4. Authority to Represent issued by the company owner(s), CEO, President, or the Board of Trustees (as applicable; if the Team Leader is not the owner, CEO, or President of the company he/she represents).

d. Proposal Eligibility Documents

1. Proof of Working Prototype (photo and video); and
2. Proof of IP Rights Registration or Ongoing Application (for a patent, utility model, or industrial design).

Section 11. Grounds for Disqualification. To preserve the integrity and fairness of the competition, an applicant may be disqualified at any stage of the process for the following grounds:

- a. Any application found to contain **material misrepresentations** and/or **defective submissions**. This includes, but is not limited to the submission of incomplete, inaccurate, falsified, fraudulent, or expired documents pertaining to identity, business registration, ownership, or intellectual property rights; and the inclusion of false claims related to eligibility, team composition, legal authority, or IP ownership;
- b. **Conflict of Interest**, as defined in this Guidelines; or
- c. Outstanding physical and financial accountability from previous projects funded under the Presidential Filippinovation Awards at the time of application.

III. ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

Section 12. Executive Selection Committee (ESC). The NIC shall officially designate and confirm the composition of the ESC prior to the commencement of each competition cycle. The ESC shall administer the search and selection of the BOJ and provide high-level guidance and oversight in the implementation of the Presidential Filippinovation Awards. Its composition and core functions shall be as follows:

- a. **Composition:** The ESC is chaired by a designated NIC Executive Member representing the Business sector, co-chaired by the NIC-Executive Technical Board Chairperson, with members from the NIC Executive Members representing the MSME sector and academe, and representatives from the Department of Science and Technology (DOST), DTI, and the IPOPHL.

b. Responsibilities:

1. Set the overall policy direction and provide strategic oversight on the competition's operations, including its financial and organizational frameworks, and alignment with national innovation and development priorities;
2. Confirm the overall implementation format for each competition cycle, including the eligibility criteria, timeline, and operational mechanics;
3. Organize the National BOJ and confirm the composition of the Sub-National BOJ, Sub-National Secretariats, and any supporting technical panels to uphold transparency and fairness in the selection process;
4. Designate the Standing Sub-National Judges who shall serve across all sub-national competitions to ensure consistency in evaluation standards;
5. Provide strategic guidance to the National and Sub-National Secretariats to ensure the successful implementation of the competition;
6. Resolve competition-related issues, including the interpretation of this guidelines, appeals on eligibility or disqualification, and the approval of special provisions or procedural exceptions;
7. Spearhead public awareness and promotion efforts to generate broad interest and participation in the competition;
8. Foster strategic collaboration with the private sector to strengthen the competition's impact and sustainability, including securing partnerships and sponsorships;
9. Release official procedures governing grant disbursement, utilization and liquidation;
10. Provide oversight on the monitoring of grant utilization by awardees and finalists to ensure alignment with the intended development and/or commercialization of their innovations; and
11. Perform other functions as may be assigned by the NIC to fulfill the objectives of the Presidential Filipinno Awards.

- c. **Term of the ESC:** The term of the ESC shall commence upon their confirmation by the NIC and shall conclude at the end of the competition cycle. The current members of the ESC shall continue to discharge their duties in a holdover capacity until such time that the new ESC is formally constituted and the members designated, such capacity extending for a period of time that shall not exceed at least one month before the formal commencement of the competition cycle.

Section 13. Secretariat. The Secretariat shall be responsible for the day-to-day administration, coordination, and operational implementation of the Presidential Filipinno Awards at both the national and sub-national levels.

- a. **Composition:** The DEPDev Innovation Staff shall serve as the National Secretariat. DEPDev Central and Regional Offices shall serve as the Sub-National Secretariats for their respective clusters.

NCR Cluster:	DEPDev Central Office
Luzon Cluster:	DROs CAR, DROs I, II, III, IV-A, MIMAROPA, and V
Visayas Cluster:	DROs VI, VII, VIII and NIR
Mindanao Cluster:	DROs IX, X, XI, XII, and Caraga

- b. **National Secretariat:** The National Secretariat shall lead the coordination and implementation of national-level activities, including providing guidance to the Sub-National Secretariats, ensuring consistency in processes and adherence to this Guidelines. It shall have the following duties and responsibilities:

1. Provide complete administrative and technical support to the ESC, including the organization of meetings and preparation of all official documentation;
2. Act as the central coordinating body for communication among the ESC, NIC, all Sub-National Secretariats, National BOJ, and other stakeholders;
3. Facilitate and manage all national-level competition activities, from the official launch and pre-competition activities, to the conduct of National Competition and the final Conferment Ceremony;
4. Maintain official records and documentation of the competition, including consolidated results, participant databases, and meeting archives;
5. Coordinate with finalists, ensuring their compliance with documentary requirements and conducting necessary validation procedures;
6. Lead the overall monitoring of competition outcomes, including the progress of all finalists and awardees in the utilization of their grants;
7. Prepare a Manual of Operations,¹⁵ for the approval of the ESC Chairperson and Co-Chairperson, which provides the detailed procedural aspects of implementation, including specific operational workflows, timelines, and templates, to be approved by the ESC; and
8. Perform other functions as may be assigned by the ESC to ensure the successful implementation of the Presidential Filipinovation Awards.

c. **Sub-National Secretariat:** The Sub-National Secretariat, in coordination with and under the guidance of the National Secretariat, shall manage the implementation of the competition within its assigned cluster. It shall have the following duties and responsibilities:

1. Administer all sub-national level activities, including regional promotions, selection of qualifiers, mentoring sessions, and conduct of sub-national competitions;
2. Provide complete administrative and technical support to its respective SNC, including organizing meetings and documenting all discussions and decisions;
3. Act as the primary liaison for communication among the SNC, the Sub-National BOJ, the National Secretariat, and all cluster-level stakeholders.
4. Facilitate the organization of the SNC and assist in identifying potential members of the Sub-National BOJ within the cluster;
5. Manage all coordination with sub-national participants (applicants and qualifiers), ensuring their compliance with documentary requirements and conducting necessary validation procedures;
6. Maintain all cluster-level records and documentation relevant to the competition;
7. Assist the National Secretariat in monitoring the implementation of awarded grants; and
8. Perform such other functions as may be assigned by the ESC, the SNC, or as requested by the National Secretariat.

Section 14. Sub-National Committee (SNC). The SNC shall oversee the conduct of the Presidential Filipinovation Awards at the cluster level, ensuring alignment with the approved guidelines and facilitating the effective coordination of regional activities within their assigned geographic area.

a. **Composition:** The SNC shall be composed of representatives from DEPDev Central Office (for NCR) and the Regional Development Councils (RDCs) within the Luzon,

¹⁵ This Manual of Operations shall also serve as guiding basis for the issuance of any binding documents to be issued to set the covenants of the parties, both internally and externally. Any amendment to the Manual of Operations shall be endorsed to the ESC Chairperson for approval before any change may take effect.

Visayas, and Mindanao clusters. Each SNC must have at least one representative from each region within its cluster.

NCR Cluster:	All Undersecretaries and/or their alternate representatives (at least Director III level) designated through a Special Order
	<u>RDC representatives of each region designated through an RDC Resolution¹⁶</u>
Luzon Cluster:	CAR, I, II, III, IV-A, MIMAROPA, and V
Visayas Cluster:	VI, VII, VIII and NIR
Mindanao Cluster:	IX, X, XI, XII, Caraga and representative from the BARMM - Bangsamoro Planning and Development Authority (BPDA)

Each SNC shall nominate from among its members a Chairperson and Co-Chairperson, to serve for the duration of the competition cycle. DEPDev Regional Directors shall serve as alternate member in the absence of the region's designated RDC representative.

b. Responsibilities:

1. Oversee and provide guidance on the implementation of the sub-national competition within their respective clusters, ensuring all activities are conducted in accordance with this Guidelines;
2. Lead the promotion of the competition within the cluster to encourage diverse and inclusive participation from innovators, institutions, and key stakeholders;
3. Organize the Sub-National BOJ, in coordination with the Sub-National Secretariat, for confirmation of the ESC;
4. Deliberate on all eligible applicants and, based on the merits and results of the eligibility screening and pre-selection, formally select the official qualifiers who will compete in the sub-national competition;
5. Coordinate with the Sub-National and National Secretariat in resolving clarificatory matters and to ensure the smooth implementation of all regional-level activities;
6. Maintain strict confidentiality regarding all application materials, deliberation proceedings, and judging results; and
7. Perform other functions as may be assigned by the ESC in support of the successful conduct of the competition.

Section 15. Board of Judges (BOJ). The BOJ shall be composed of independent experts responsible for the formal evaluation of entries at both the sub-national and national levels. The ESC shall officially designate and confirm the composition of the BOJ prior to the commencement of each sub-national and national competition.

a. **Composition:** The BOJ shall be composed of five (5) highly regarded individuals with expertise in areas such as innovation, entrepreneurship, industry, business and science and technology. All judges must have demonstrable experience evaluating innovation projects or managing startups and must be free from any conflict of interest with the participants.

b. Responsibilities:

¹⁶ For BARMM, the official representative designated by the BPDA.

1. Participate in all official briefings and orientation sessions organized by the Secretariat to ensure a consistent and thorough understanding of evaluation standards and procedures;
 2. Evaluate and score qualified entries based on the prescribed judging criteria, and provide constructive feedback to support refinement of the innovations;
 3. Uphold the principles of impartiality, transparency, and fairness throughout the entire evaluation and deliberation process;
 4. Participate in all deliberations for the purpose of identifying the winners of the competition; and
 5. Perform such other functions and duties as may be assigned by the ESC to support the successful conduct of the national-level competition.
- c. **Standing Sub-National Judge:** A maximum of two (2) individuals shall be designated by the ESC to serve as Standing Sub-National Judges. These judges shall serve across all sub-national competitions to support calibration, reinforce judging standards, and provide comparative feedback across clusters. To ensure continuity of insight and to inform the final deliberations, at least one (1) of the designated Standing Sub-National Judge(s) shall concurrently serve as official members of the National Board of Judges.
- d. **Term of Service:** The term of each Judge shall commence upon their confirmation and shall conclude upon the completion of their evaluation and deliberation, including participation in post-competition feedback sessions. The Standing Sub-National Judge shall serve for the full duration of all sub-national and national competitions within the same cycle.

Section 16. Mentors and Coaches. The Mentors and Coaches shall provide vital capacity-building support to the qualifiers and finalists, preparing them for effective pitching, business planning, and strategic innovation development. The Secretariat shall identify the composition of the mentors and coaches, and endorse for confirmation of the ESC.

- a. **Composition:** The Mentors and Coaches shall be composed of experienced professionals from diverse fields relevant to innovation and business development, such as entrepreneurship, investment, and industry. They may also include subject-matter experts with proven experience in areas like startup growth and incubation, commercialization, business development, policy, and pitch training.
- b. **Responsibilities of Mentors:**
1. Deliver lectures and provide expert guidance on key business topics, such as business modeling, scaling strategies, and investment readiness;
 2. Participate in scheduled mentoring sessions and coordinate with the Secretariat to ensure their topics are tailored to the participants' needs;
 3. Share insights and real-world experience from their respective industries to help participants contextualize their learning; and
 4. Perform other related functions as may be assigned by the ESC or Secretariat.
- c. **Responsibilities of Coaches:**
1. Provide one-on-one coaching to participants, focusing on refining their pitch deck, developing their business narrative, and improving their presentation delivery;
 2. Participate in official activities such as mock pitches and review sessions to prepare participants for the competition;
 3. Coordinate with the Secretariat to ensure all coaching activities are aligned with the competition's official timeline and objectives; and

4. Perform other functions as may be assigned by the Sub-National or National Secretariat.

Mentors may be designated as coaches, provided they have the capacity and availability to perform individualized coaching sessions, and subject to the concurrence of the respective Secretariat.

IV. JUDGING AND AWARDS

Section 17. Judging Criteria. The following criteria, with their corresponding weights, shall be applied at both the Sub-National and National Levels:

Criteria	Weight (%)
Innovativeness	45
Sustainability, Scalability, and Marketability	30
Potential Impact and Relevance	25
Total	100

- a. **Innovativeness (45%).** This criterion evaluates the degree of originality, distinctiveness, and technical superiority demonstrated by the innovation. It shall determine the extent to which the product, process, or service introduces a fundamentally new concept or represents a significant advancement, particularly its novelty in comparison to existing market alternatives. Assessment shall focus on the competitive advantages and barriers to entry established by the innovation, including the demonstration of its unique design, mechanism, and overall technical breakthrough.
- b. **Sustainability, Scalability, and Marketability (30%).** This combined criterion assesses the comprehensive readiness of the innovation for commercial deployment and long-term viability. It is broken down into three equally weighted sub-components (10% each):
 1. **Sustainability (10%):** Assesses the clarity and credibility of the financial model, the efficiency of resource allocation, and the robustness of the enterprise structure to ensure self-sufficiency and operational continuity beyond initial support.
 2. **Scalability (10%):** Assesses the innovation’s potential for rapid and exponential replication across broader markets, sectors, or geographic areas while maintaining effectiveness, quality, and efficiency.
 3. **Marketability (10%):** Assesses the strength of the value proposition, the clarity of the target market, the demonstrated demand for the product or service, and the viability of the proposed go-to-market strategy.
- c. **Potential Impact and Relevance (25%).** This criterion assesses the strategic alignment and transformative potential of the innovation. It shall determine the capacity of the innovation to generate positive, measurable, and enduring change in priority sectors, industries, or communities, with explicit focus on contributions to the objectives of the Philippine Development Plan (PDP) 2023-2028 and the National Innovation Agenda and Strategy Document (NIASD) 2023-2032. Furthermore, it considers the depth of the problem addressed and the strategic significance of the solution in fostering national growth and inclusive development.

Section 18. Awards and Incentives. The Presidential Filipinovation Awards shall recognize the most promising innovations in the country through a two-tiered system, culminating in the conferment of the Presidential Filipinovation Award.

- a. **Finalists:** A maximum of 16 Finalists shall advance to the national level, comprising of up to four (4) qualifiers from each of the four (4) geographic clusters based on merit and overall ranking in the sub-national competitions. Each Finalist shall receive pre-national competition support, including coaching and mentoring to help refine their innovations and strengthen their readiness for the national pitching; and a grant, awarded after the conclusion of the national competition, to support the continued development or commercialization of their innovation.
- b. **Presidential Filipinovation Award:** Five (5) Finalists who garner the highest final ranking in the national competition shall be formally conferred with the Presidential Filipinovation Award by the President of the Philippines, or the Executive Secretary, "By Authority of the President."

The Presidential Filipinovation Award shall be in the form of a medallion and plaque containing the President's seal, citation, and signature. In addition to the recognition, each recipient shall receive a grant and access to the post-competition support as outlined in Section 20 of this Guidelines.

V. POST-COMPETITION PROVISIONS

Section 19. Grants Administration and Utilization. The administration and utilization of all post-competition grants shall be governed by the principles of transparency, accountability, and compliance with applicable laws and regulations.

- a. **Memorandum of Agreement (MOA).** A MOA shall be executed between the DEPDev and each finalist and recipient of the Award (Grantee) to formalize the grant and stipulate the duties and responsibilities of both parties.
- b. **Utilization of Grant Funds.** All grant funds must be utilized strictly and exclusively for the implementation and development of the awarded innovation, in accordance with the approved Work and Financial Plan (WFP) and the terms of the executed MOA.
- c. **Monitoring, Reporting, and Liquidation.** Grantees shall submit, periodically or as requested by the National Secretariat, progress and other relevant reports, along with all necessary supporting documents, including but not limited to official receipts, to the National Secretariat, who, under the oversight of the ESC, shall lead the monitoring process. The National Secretariat may conduct desk reviews, validations, and other verification activities as necessary to ensure the proper utilization of the grant.

Section 20. Engagement and Support. Recipients of the Presidential Filipinovation Award shall participate in a dedicated support program designed to accelerate their growth, which includes:

- a. promotional and knowledge-sharing activities;
- b. continuing mentorship; and
- c. future ambassadorship with opportunities to participate in future cycles as resource persons, mentors, or judges.

They shall also receive access to a comprehensive and targeted support program which include but not limited to:

- a. access to specialized sessions with industry experts to enhance product development, business modeling, and investor readiness;
- b. facilitated participation in local and international trade fairs and business-matching events to connect with partners;
- c. curated opportunities to build strategic partnerships with potential investors, clients, and collaborators; and
- d. additional forms of assistance as identified by the Secretariat and approved by the ESC. The provision of which shall be subject to the availability of resources and applicable government accounting rules and regulations.

To enhance program visibility and highlight government support, grantees must formally acknowledge the support of the Presidential Filipinnovation Awards in all related communications, publications, and promotional materials, consistent with guidelines to be issued by the National Secretariat.

VI. MISCELLANEOUS PROVISIONS

Section 21. Fund Source. The funding requirements for the implementation of the Presidential Filipinnovation Awards, including expenses for preparatory, actual conduct of competitions, and post-competition activities, promotions, grant for Grantees, professional fees for the mentors, coaches and members of the BOJ, and other necessary expenditures, shall be charged against the Filipinnovation Awards Fund under the General Appropriations Act (GAA). Thereafter, the funding requirements necessary for the competition's continued implementation shall be included in the budget proposals of NIC member agencies, subject to prior notification of the NIC Secretariat and compliance with the usual budget preparation, government accounting, and auditing rules and regulations.

Section 22. Separability Clause. If any provision of this Guidelines, or the application thereof to any person or circumstance shall be declared invalid, unenforceable, or unconstitutional, other provisions not affected thereby shall remain valid.

Section 23. Review and Amendment. This Guidelines shall be subject to periodic review by the NIC and may be amended as necessary to ensure their continued relevance, effectiveness, and alignment with national innovation and development priorities.

Section 24. Effectivity. This Guidelines shall take effect immediately upon approval by the NIC and shall remain in force unless otherwise repealed, amended, or superseded by a subsequent issuance. For purposes of publication and due process, it shall be sufficient that the Guidelines is published at the DEPDev website, for the same to be valid, and made available for viewing, at the request of any interested individual/s.

APPROVED AND PROMULGATED by the NIC for guidance and compliance.

ANNEX A: COMPETITION PROCESS AND ACTIVITIES

The implementation of the Presidential Filipinno Awards shall proceed in three (3) distinct and sequential phases. Each activity is hereby elaborated as follows:

A. Pre-Competition Phase

This phase shall encompass all preparatory activities required to ensure the orderly and effective launch of a competition cycle. These activities shall include, but are not limited to, the following:

- a. **Designation of the ESC** The NIC shall officially designate and confirm the composition of the ESC, through an NIC Resolution, prior to the commencement of each annual competition cycle.
- b. **Confirmation of Sub-National Secretariats** The host DEPDev Regional Offices that will serve as the Sub-National Secretariat for each geographic cluster shall be formally confirmed by the ESC.
- c. **Organization of SNCs** The SNC for each cluster shall then be organized by the Sub-National Secretariats, with representatives designated through a Special Order (NCR) and RDC Resolutions (Luzon, Visayas, and Mindanao), for confirmation by the ESC.
- d. **Organization and Engagement of BOJs** The ESC shall organize and confirm the members of the BOJs through an ESC Resolution. The Secretariats shall then engage the confirmed members of their respective BOJs.
- e. **Engagement of Mentors and Coaches** Prior to the Mentoring and Coaching sessions at Sub-National and National Competitions, the Secretariats shall organize and formally engage all mentors and coaches for the cycle, to be confirmed by the ESC.
- f. **Finalization of Competition Format** The competition mechanics shall be finalized, which includes the approval of the operational setup, evaluation rubrics, and official schedules for each stage.
- g. **Nationwide Promotions** A nationwide promotional and information campaign shall be conducted to ensure broad public awareness and encourage widespread participation.

B. Competition Proper Phase

This phase shall cover the formal execution of the competition, from the initial call for applicants to the conferment of the Award. The activities in this phase are as follows:

- a. **Call for Applications** A public Call for Applications shall be issued through the competition's official web portal and other official channels, outlining all criteria, guidelines, and procedures.
- b. **Eligibility Screening** The National Secretariat shall conduct a thorough Eligibility Screening of all submitted applications to

determine compliance with the prescribed documentary and eligibility requirements.

- c. **Pre-Selection** A Technical Evaluation of all eligible entries shall then be conducted by the National Secretariat to assess and score each entry based on the approved criteria, thereby generating a shortlist of high-potential innovations.
- d. **Selection of Qualifiers** The SNC shall formally deliberate on the shortlist and select the official Qualifiers who will advance to the Sub-National Competition.
- e. **Mentoring and Coaching (Sub-National Level)** Selected Qualifiers shall undergo structured Mentoring and Coaching sessions at the sub-national level, organized by the Sub-National Secretariat, to strengthen their readiness for the competition.
- f. **Sub-National Competition** The Sub-National Competition shall be held, wherein each Qualifier will present and defend their innovation before the Sub-National BOJ during a scheduled pitching and demonstration day.
- g. **Selection of Finalists** Following the competition, the Sub-National BOJ shall deliberate and select a maximum of four (4) Finalists per cluster who will officially advance to the National Competition.
- h. **Mentoring and Coaching (National Level)** All selected Finalists shall then participate in a second, more intensive round of Mentoring and Coaching at the national level to further refine their innovations for the final stage.
- i. **National Competition** The National Competition shall be conducted, where each Finalist presents their refined innovation to the National BOJ for final evaluation, deliberation, and the selection of the five (5) recipients of the Presidential Filipinnovation Award.
- j. **Conferment Ceremony** The process culminates in the official Conferment Ceremony, where the Award is formally conferred upon by the President of the Philippines, or the Executive Secretary, "By Authority of the President."

C. Post-Competition Phase

This phase shall commence after the conclusion of the National Competition and shall focus on the continued development of the awardees. It shall cover all activities related to the utilization and administration of grants, as well as the implementation of continuing engagement and support programs, as provided under Part V of this Guidelines.

ANNEX B: NIASD PRIORITY AREAS

Pursuant to Section 9 of this Guidelines, the following priority areas from the NIASD 2023-2032 shall be used for the classification of entries for organizational and reporting purposes:

1. *Learning and Education* - Innovations that enable the effective delivery of inclusive and quality lifelong learning, allowing learners to acquire functional literacy, knowledge, skills, values, beliefs, and habits toward more proactive, productive, smart, and innovative people.
2. *Health and Well-being* - Innovations that ensure affordable, smart, equitable, quality, responsive, accessible, and comprehensive healthcare, and total well-being services, products, and solutions.
3. *Food and Agribusiness* - Innovations on interconnected value chains, including agricultural extension and support services, in food, agriculture, forestry, fisheries, and other related industries.
4. *Finance* - Innovations that facilitate smart, inclusive, interoperable, efficient, and secure financial services.
5. *Manufacturing and Trade* - Innovations that enable more efficient, demand-driven, smart, sustainable, fully integrated, and agile processes in manufacturing, buying, and selling of goods and services.
6. *Transportation and Logistics* - Innovations that ensure efficient, seamless, inclusive, safe, and secure physical movement or mobility of the flow of goods and people while ensuring equitable mobility opportunities through better urban-rural linkages and reducing carbon footprints from the sector.
7. *Public Administration* - Innovations that empower participatory governance to ensure collaborative, people-centered, reliable, accountable, and efficient government institutions.
8. *Security and Defense* - Innovations that protect and secure national territory and sovereignty, support peace and development efforts, maintain public order and safety, and build the capacities of people and institutions to respond to natural and human-induced hazards.
9. *Energy* - Innovations towards achieving energy security in the country while ensuring efficient, clean, and sustainable extraction, production, refinery, processing, distribution, sale, and consumption of energy resources.
10. *Blue Economy and Water* - Innovations that sustainably harness coastal, marine, and inland water resources to support economic growth, and generate sustainable livelihoods and jobs while preserving aquatic ecosystems.