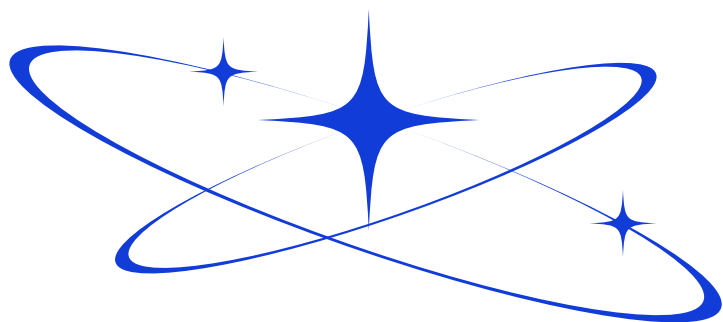
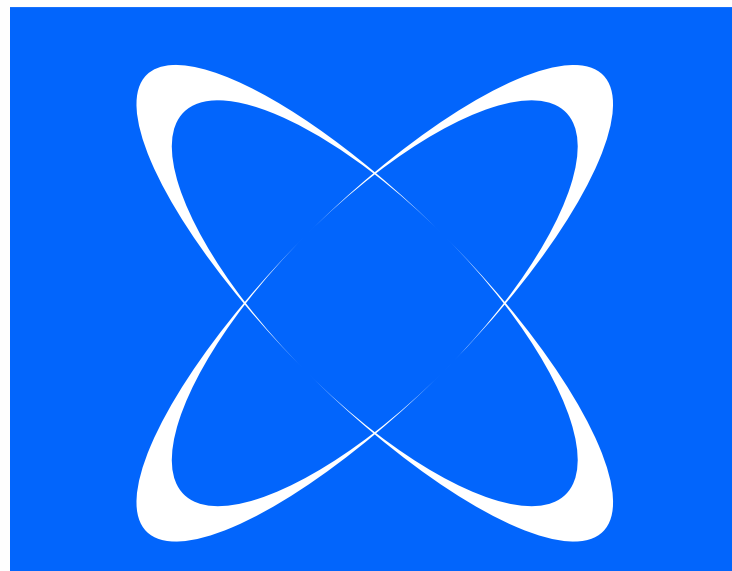


# KickSTART

## 2026



### Event Primer



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 [STARTDOST](#) [start\\_dost](#) 

# KickSTART

## WHAT IS START

START is a national organization of scholars of the Department of Science and Technology - Science Education Institute (DOST- SEI) committed to bridging the technological gap across the Philippines. Representing all 17 regions, the organization unites scholars with diverse expertise in various tech fields, aiming to foster collaboration, innovation, and regional development. By connecting technology-driven scholars, START creates a dynamic network where members can share knowledge, mentor one another, and drive impactful technological solutions that benefit both local communities and the nation.

### Mission

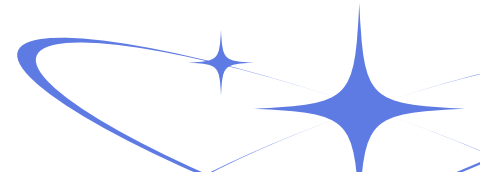
START is dedicated to fostering technological development and innovation through collaboration among scholars. By promoting leadership, mentorship, and regional representation, the organization aims to empower members to drive positive change across all regions of the Philippines.

### Vision

We aim to build a future where DOST scholars across the Philippines are united in a thriving community that fosters collaboration and drives technological innovation. Through collective efforts, we envision our scholars becoming key contributors to the country's progress, shaping a technologically advanced and sustainable nation.

# GOALS

START aims to achieve the following goals:



- **Unify Tech Scholars:** Build a strong, interconnected community of DOST scholars across all 17 regions, promoting collaboration and shared knowledge in various tech fields.
- **Empower Innovation:** Create a platform where scholars can engage in innovative projects and contribute to the technological development of the Philippines.
- **Support National and Regional Development:** Ensure that technology-driven opportunities and solutions are equitably distributed across all regions of the country.
- **Foster Industry Connections:** Connect scholars with key industries, government sectors, and academia to bridge the gap between technology and practical applications in the Philippines.
- **Develop Leadership and Mentorship:** Cultivate future tech leaders by providing opportunities for mentorship, leadership training, and hands-on experience through projects and events.

# OBJECTIVES

To accomplish these goals, START will pursue the following objectives:

- **Regional Representation:** Ensure that each of the 17 regions has active participation in national events, projects, and programs, fostering a sense of ownership and inclusion.
- **Knowledge Sharing:** Organize annual summits, workshops, and hackathons to exchange expertise and promote cross-regional collaboration on tech projects.
- **National and Regional Tech Initiatives:** Identify and implement tech-driven initiatives that address national concerns through tech innovations, as well as specific needs of each region, promoting solutions tailored to local challenges.
- **Industry Partnerships:** Establish partnerships with key tech companies, startups, and government agencies to provide internships, career opportunities, and collaborative projects for members.
- **Collaboration Hub:** Establish an online platform where members can collaborate on tech projects, share resources, and stay updated on trends and advancements in the tech industry.



# RATIONALE

In a time of rapid technological transformation, meaningful progress is driven not only by technical skills but by collaboration, leadership, and a shared commitment to nation-building. KICKSTART: START General Assembly 2026 serves as a national platform that brings together DOST-SEI scholars and START officers to align innovation with purpose. Anchored in the theme “Empowering Scholars, Building Innovation, and Leading Change,” the assembly aims to reorient scholars to leverage technology to solve real-world challenges faced by communities and institutions across the country.

Through its hybrid structure—an Online National Launch followed by regional face-to-face assemblies in Luzon, Visayas, and Mindanao—KickSTART ensures inclusive participation while strengthening inter-regional collaboration. The program creates opportunities for knowledge-sharing, leadership development, and the exchange of best practices among scholars, officers, and partner institutions. This approach reinforces START’s role as a youth-led organization that cultivates innovation, fosters collaboration, and promotes technology-driven solutions aligned with national development priorities.

Ultimately, KickSTART functions as both a convergence and a catalyst: uniting scholars under a shared vision, strengthening START’s national presence, and empowering participants to transform ideas into impactful initiatives. By nurturing a culture of innovation, service, and leadership, the General Assembly contributes to the long-term goal of developing socially responsive, technologically capable scholars who are prepared to lead change in their respective regions and for the nation as a whole.



# OBJECTIVES

This event aims to equip and empower DOST scholars to advance technological innovation and leadership for community development and nation-building by participating in START initiatives. Specifically, it seeks to address the following objectives:

- To enhance scholars' knowledge on emerging technologies, trends, and innovations through expert-led talks and workshops,
- To strengthen collaboration and network-building by providing a local innovation and tech community with a platform to connect with local techno-scholars,
- To promote START's advocacy of nurturing patriot scholars who embody professional excellence, social responsibility, and servant leadership as future tech professionals.
- To generate innovation pitches that address local scholar concerns and support the Regional Office or Regional Council in improving programs and services.

## EXPECTED OUTCOME

To accomplish these goals, START will pursue the following objectives:



- At least 300 scholars, with at least 100 from each island group, will demonstrate increased learning in at least two (2) technologies relevant to local and national development.
- A minimum of fifteen (15) scholar-led innovation ideas addressing local scholar needs will be generated across all KickSTART legs, with at least three (3) projects being endorsed for inclusion in START's development pipeline for future development and potential launch.
- Engagement and collaboration with at least six (6) institutional or industry partners across all KickSTART legs will be established to strengthen the local innovation ecosystem and support program sustainability.
- The program is expected to achieve an average participant satisfaction rating of at least eighty-five percent (85%), resulting in a documented and replicable event implementation framework that may serve as a reference for future START initiatives nationwide.

# DESCRIPTION OF THE EVENT

KickSTART is the official General Assembly of START-DOST, uniting scholars and officers from across the Philippines in a nationwide convergence of innovation, collaboration, and leadership. Serving as the organization’s flagship annual gathering, KICKSTART aims to reignite the spirit of technological advancement and service among scholars while strengthening partnerships across regions.

The program will begin with an Online National Launch, followed by three (3) regional face-to-face assemblies across key locations — Batangas (Luzon), Cebu (Visayas), and Davao (Mindanao) — to ensure inclusivity and accessibility for scholars from all islands. Each face-to-face event will run for half a day, featuring sessions designed to connect, inspire, and empower participants to lead meaningful innovation initiatives within their respective communities.

## Island Group

## Event Location and Date

Luzon

Batangas State University The National Engineering University - Alangilan Campus  
(February 28, 2026)

Visayas

University of Southern Philippines Foundation  
(February 28, 2026)

Mindanao

University of Mindanao - Main Campus  
(March 14, 2026)



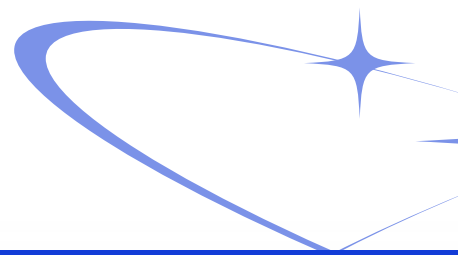
# KickSTART Pre-Event

Setting: February 7, 2026 (9:00 AM - 12:00 PM), via virtual platform.

**Description:** A pre-event of KickSTART 2026, START General Assembly, and this year's virtual edition introduces the new faces of START and reiterates our missions.

## Objectives:

- Introduce the new term (officers and plans) to the techno-scholars.
- Invite a patriot resource speaker from the DOST unit.
- Engage the members with fun-filled segments.
- Launch the KickSTART Hack guidelines and application.
- Launch the regional onsite legs.



## Program Flow

Time	Activity
8:50AM - 9:00AM	Ingress and Admission
9:00AM - 9:10AM	Invocation
9:10AM - 9:15AM	Opening Address
9:15AM - 9:30AM	The START
9:30AM - 9:45AM	Ice Breaker
9:45AM - 10:00 AM	START Future Plans Presentation
10:00AM - 10:30AM	Patriotech Talk
10:30 AM - 10:40AM	Ice breaker
10:40AM - 11:20AM	START Departmental Representations
11:20AM - 11:45AM	Networking   Fundraising
11:45AM - 11:50AM	Closing Address
11:50AM - 11:55AM	Announcements
11:55AM - 12:00PM	Photo Opportunity



# KickSTART 2026

## TechTalk & KickSTART Workshop

**Description:** The TechTalk & KickSTART Workshop segment serves as the educational cornerstone of the General Assembly, designed to equip scholars with both the visionary mindset and practical skills needed for nation-building. This learning experience combines three (3) inspirational TechTalks—short, high-impact sessions featuring industry experts and thought leaders—with a hands-on kickSTART Workshop where participants apply their learning in real-time. The curriculum is curated to cover a spectrum of critical competencies, ranging from **Artificial Intelligence and Blockchain Governance to Patriot Innovation, Cybersecurity, Cloud Deployment, and others.**

### Objectives:

- Empower Innovation through Skills Training: To provide scholars with tangible, industry-relevant skills.
- Align Technology with National Service: To ground technical discussions in the context of "Patriot Innovation," encouraging scholars to develop solutions for civic tech, disaster resilience, and regional development.
- Foster Future-Ready Leadership: To expose members to emerging global trends while instilling the soft skills and ethical frameworks necessary for responsible tech leadership.
- Standardize Technical Competency: To ensure a baseline of technical proficiency across all regions, enabling effective cross-regional collaboration and knowledge sharing among the scholar network.

# KickSTART 2026

## Program Flow

Time	Activity
8:00 AM – 12:00 PM	Ingress & Technical Setup
12:00 – 1:00 PM	Registration
1:00 – 1:10 PM	Invocation
1:10 - 1:25 PM	Welcoming Remarks & Keynote Speech
1:25 – 1:30 PM	Ice Breaker
1:30 – 1:45 PM	TechTalk 1
1:45 – 2:00 PM	TechTalk 2
2:00 - 2:20 PM	Networking
2:20 – 2:25 PM	Break   Ice Breaker
2:20 – 2:55 PM	Fireside Chat
2:55 – 3:25 PM	KickSTART Ideathon
3:25 – 4:10 PM	KickSTART Workshop
4:10 - 4:40 PM	Transformative Pitching and Mentoring Session
4:40 – 4:45 PM	Ice Breaker
4:45 - 4:50 PM	Closing Remarks
4:50 – 5:00 PM	Photo Opportunity
5:00 - 6:00 PM	Egress