

# NATIONAL LIBRARY OF THE PHILIPPINES NEWSLETTER



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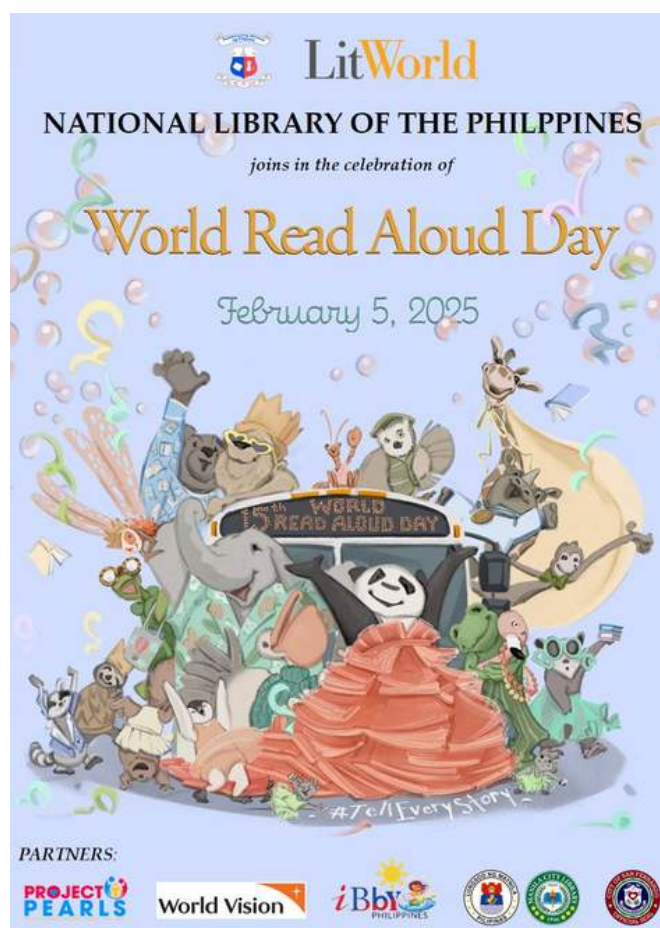
## A DAY TO REMEMBER: World Read Aloud Day (WRAD) 2025

by Gio Karlo J. Fuelles

*"To learn to read is to light a fire; every syllable that is spelled is a spark."*  
— Victor Hugo

Every February 5th, the National Library of the Philippines (NLP) hosts the annual World Read Aloud Day (WRAD) alongside its partners to promote and celebrate the power of storytelling. This event unites public libraries across the country, schools, and partner non-governmental organizations (NGOs) to emphasize the crucial role of literature and reading in shaping young minds.

WRAD, as it is commonly known, was started 15 years ago by LitWorld, a nonprofit organization dedicated to empowering children and communities through storytelling. Recognizing that reading is a fundamental human right, WRAD has sought since its inception in 2010 to engage young minds with the transformative power of stories. What began as a simple vision has now grown into a global movement, with hundreds of thousands, if not millions of readers and listeners worldwide coming together each year to celebrate and share the stories of their people.



### Event Highlights

The program commenced with a message from NLP Director Cesar Gilbert Q. Adriano, who emphasized the significance of WRAD and LitWorld's mission to harness the power of storytelling. He underscored how stories shape perspectives, ignite imaginations, and bridge communities.

A highlight of the event was the much-anticipated read-aloud session, a cherished tradition of WRAD. Haring Leon, this year's honorary NLP Kuwentistas, captivated the audience with his



This year's WRAD was streamed live on the NLP official Facebook page, reaching 7,777 views nationwide and 123 Zoom participants. It has shown a significant increase in online reach, surpassing 4,151 views and 105 Zoom participants in 2024. The event's growing digital presence underscores its expanding impact and sustained enthusiasm for literacy advocacy nationwide.

Before the virtual event ended, Ms. Melanie Ramirez, Assistant Chief of the Research and Publications Division (RPD), led a virtual tour of the NLP Permanent Gallery. This final segment seamlessly tied into WRAD's overarching theme, underscoring the enduring impact of storytelling. At the entrance of the NLP gallery, the words "At sa salita ay naging bansa" ("And with words, a nation was born") serve as a powerful reminder of the young Jose Rizal, whose early exposure to stories told by his mother helped shape his intellect and ideals. Through *Noli Me Tangere* and *El Filibusterismo*, Rizal's narratives ignited a vision of freedom and nationhood among Filipinos.

As political scientist and historian Benedict Anderson describes, nations are "imagined communities," and Rizal's writings became a cornerstone of this collective Filipino

reading of *Ang Leon na Nakita ang Sarili sa Tubig* (The Lion Who Saw Its Reflection in the Water), a story written by Idries Shah and illustrated by Ingrid Rodriguez from the Let's Read of The Asia Foundation.

Following the reading, an engaging interactive Q&A session was led by Daldalitang Kuwentista Ate Jeeffa. Children from across the country enthusiastically shared their thoughts and insights about the story, reinforcing the mission of LitWorld and WRAD to foster dialogue, understanding, and learning through storytelling. The program continued with a thought-provoking message from Kristine Mandigma, President of the International Board on Books for Young People (IBBY Philippines). Ms. Mandigma highlighted the persistent gaps in access to reading materials and how WRAD plays a crucial role in bridging these divides. By bringing stories to underprivileged communities, the initiative ensures that more children experience the transformative power of books and literacy.







imagination. Rizal, the storyteller, empowered the Indios, who later on became the first Filipinos, to envision freedom and a better future, proving that storytelling is more than mere entertainment. It can be a catalyst for change. To borrow the words of another great storyteller, Victor Hugo, in his most famous novel *Les Misérables*, "To learn to read is to light a fire; every syllable that is spelled is a spark.". Certainly, LitWorld lit a spark 15 years ago when they launched the very first WRAD.

This yearly participation of various stakeholders strengthens the importance of storytelling, which has the power to shape minds, inspire movements, and ultimately change the course of history. Likewise, the stories we share with children today have the potential to mold future generations, fostering greatness in ways we may not yet foresee.

## Moving Forward

Since WRAD's inception, the NLP has been at the forefront of the celebration, championing the cause of reading and literacy among Filipinos. In collaboration with public libraries, schools, and various partners, the NLP creates meaningful opportunities for children to experience the joy of storytelling. By leveraging technology, these efforts transcend physical boundaries, uniting both adults and young minds in a shared literary experience and reinforcing the vital role of literacy in shaping a brighter future.

LitWorld and NLP's collaboration to celebrate WRAD has grown into a global movement promoting literacy and a love for reading. LitWorld's website indicates that it has expanded its reach to over 50 partner organizations across 30 countries. In its 15 years of celebration, WRAD has engaged approximately 90 million participants annually, providing essential books and learning materials to children worldwide.

This initiative goes beyond teaching children to read. It fosters critical thinking, comprehension, and imagination, shaping lifelong habits of literacy. This collaborative effort highlights the power of global and local initiatives in making reading accessible and meaningful. By celebrating WRAD, we contribute to a movement that not only inspires young minds but also strengthens their ability to analyze and connect with the world through stories.

## NLP HOSTS LAUNCH OF EDUCATIONAL COMIC BOOK ON WEST PHILIPPINE SEA



On January 24, 2025, the National Library of the Philippines (NLP) became the venue for the launch of an important educational resource aimed at raising public awareness on the West Philippine Sea. Organized by the Philippine Coast Guard (PCG) and the West Philippine Sea Transparency Group, the book launch introduced "Mga Kuwento ni Teacher Jun: Ating Alamin ang Kasaysayan, Kaganapan, at Katotohanan Tungkol sa West Philippine Sea". This comic book, which delves into the historical, legal, and geopolitical significance of the West Philippine Sea, seeks to educate Filipinos about the nation's territorial rights and the importance of transparency in the face of misinformation.

The event featured several distinguished speakers who shared their insights on the

vital role of education in fostering national awareness. National Security Adviser Secretary Eduardo M. Año, who served as the keynote speaker, emphasized the critical need for transparency to counter misinformation, especially concerning issues surrounding the West Philippine Sea. Secretary Año commended the comic book for its ability to simplify complex issues in a way that is accessible and engaging to people of all ages. Through vibrant illustrations, the book seeks to make the intricate details of the West Philippine Sea more relatable to Filipinos from all walks of life.

Commodore Jay T. Tarriela of the Philippine Coast Guard and Commander of the West Philippine Sea Transparency Group also played a key role in the event. He shared the background and the creative process behind the comic book, highlighting chapters that cover essential topics such as Maritime Zones, the Arbitral Award, the fight



against fake news, and the ongoing efforts of the Philippine government to protect the country's territorial rights.

As a special guest, Hon. Juan Edgardo "Sonny" M. Angara, Secretary of the Department of Education (DepEd), underscored the significance of incorporating such resources into the educational system. Secretary Angara emphasized how the comic book could empower Filipino students with the knowledge they need to become informed and active participants in the nation's sovereignty discussions. He also stressed the importance of equipping the younger generation with the tools to understand their rights and history, contributing to the creation of responsible, advocacy-driven citizens.



To ensure that the comic book reaches a wide audience, fifty (50) copies were donated to selected public schools. Additionally, 1,500 copies were presented to the National Library of the Philippines, where they were received by NLP Director Cesar Gilbert Q. Adriano. These copies will be made available to library users and distributed to affiliated public libraries nationwide, ensuring the resource can benefit as many Filipinos as possible.

The NLP continues to be a key player in the promotion of educational materials that foster national awareness and critical thinking. By hosting the launch of Mga Kuwento ni Teacher Jun, NLP reinforces its commitment to making valuable resources accessible to the public. The comic book, now available at the NLP, serves as a valuable tool for educating Filipinos about the West Philippine Sea, offering a clear and engaging way to learn about the nation's sovereignty and territorial rights.

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## NLP ADVANCES PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT AND GENDER EQUALITY THROUGH SEMINAR AND WORKSHOP

The National Library of the Philippines (NLP) kicked off the year 2025 with a series of impactful seminars and workshops aimed at advancing both institutional performance and gender equality. These events, held in the first quarter of the year, reflect the NLP's commitment to continuous improvement, empowerment, and fostering a more inclusive environment within public libraries nationwide.

### Strategic Performance Management System (SPMS) Workshop

From January 15 to 17, 2025, the NLP's Performance Management Team (PMT) organized a workshop on the Strategic Performance Management System (SPMS), which plays a crucial role in aligning the library's goals with its performance targets. The event, facilitated by Civil Service Commission (CSC) Director II Mira Michelle A. Brazil, brought together key stakeholders from the NLP, including division chiefs, assistant chiefs, section heads, and the PMT team.

The workshop focused on revising and improving performance evaluation tools for

individual and organizational goals, ensuring alignment with both the NLP's mandate and the broader goals of the national government. Director Brazil emphasized the importance of SPMS in monitoring and measuring employee performance to enhance accountability and service quality. The event also saw NLP Director Cesar Gilbert Q. Adriano's participation, where he provided valuable insights into improving each division's performance strategies.

This three-day workshop marked a significant milestone in the NLP's ongoing efforts to foster a culture of performance excellence and accountability within the organization, further enhancing its public service delivery.





## National Women's Month Hybrid Seminar

Continuing the momentum into March, the NLP celebrated National Women's Month by hosting a hybrid seminar on March 11, 2025. This event, led by the Gender and Development Focal Point System Committee (GAD-FPSC), carried the theme, "Sa Pambansang Aklatan ng Pilipinas: Babae sa Lahat ng Sektor, Aangat ang Bukas sa Bagong Pilipinas." The seminar, conducted in collaboration with the Committee on Discipline and Investigation (CODI) and the Public Libraries Division, was designed to highlight the indispensable role of women in society and librarianship.



Esteemed speakers delivered a series of thought-provoking talks, starting with Atty. Mildred Martinez-Tria, who discussed Women Empowerment in Public Service, and Ms. Anna Lucia M. Lugay, who shared insights on women's health, specifically the impact of diabetes on women's well-being. Additionally, Ms. Melita N. Mallari, Librarian V of Samar Provincial Library, shared successful Gender and Development (GAD) initiatives and activities that led to her library being recognized for its efforts in promoting gender equality.

NLP Director Cesar Gilbert Q. Adriano also addressed the seminar participants, stressing the crucial role women play in libraries. He acknowledged their contributions as gatekeepers of knowledge, empowering communities by providing access to information that promotes inclusivity and awareness.

The seminar emphasized NLP's commitment to empowering women, not only in the library sector but also within the broader community. The event reinforced the notion that "Women's Rights are Human Rights" and underlined the library's role in advocating for gender equality and creating an inclusive society for all.

With these activities, the NLP continues to strengthen its role as a leader in public service, professional development, and advocacy for gender equality. By providing platforms for continuous learning and empowerment, the NLP is further solidifying its commitment to enhancing its services and creating a more inclusive, progressive society.

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## PUBLIC LIBRARIES IN ACTION: The 66th Public Library Day Celebrates Community Empowerment

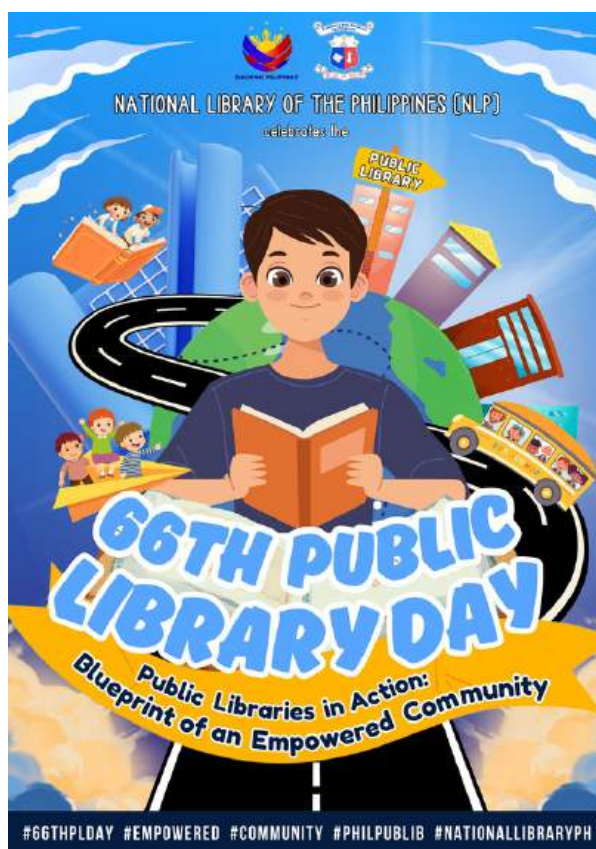
Public Library Day 2025 marks the 66th year of honoring the vital role of public libraries in community development, inclusion, and empowerment. In line with Proclamation No. 563, s. 1959, which designates March 9 of every year as Public Library Day, the National Library of the Philippines (NLP), in collaboration with all affiliated public libraries, spearheaded this nationwide celebration with renewed enthusiasm and purpose.

With the theme "Public Libraries in Action: A Blueprint for an Empowered Community," the 2025 celebration emphasizes the transformational role of libraries as strategic partners in national development. This will also serve as the official theme from 2025 to 2027, anchoring a multi-year campaign that aligns with public library development plans and the ideals of the Seal of Good Local Governance.

A visually engaging poster—symbolizing a roadmap with key milestones or "pitstops"—has been released to represent this long-term vision. Public libraries are encouraged to display the poster in their respective branches and to track their progress year by year.

Although March 9, 2025 falls on a weekend, NLP has encouraged libraries to commemorate the event either before or after the date, ensuring that celebrations are accessible to the communities they serve.

As part of this year's activities, a commemorative video was also shared featuring highlights from Public Library Day 2024. The video showcased impactful programs and community-driven initiatives from several local libraries. These libraries



exemplified the power of local action in fostering learning, civic engagement, and social inclusion through innovative programs and partnerships.

As of February 2025, NLP has affiliated a total of 1,714 public libraries nationwide, each committed to strengthening their role as accessible, inclusive, and responsive hubs for lifelong learning.

As the nation moves forward, Public Library Day 2025 serves as a reminder that when libraries act with purpose, they become blueprints of empowered, informed, and resilient communities.



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## STAFF CORNER: NLP Welcomes New Appointments, Promotes Preparedness Through Earthquake Drill

The National Library of the Philippines (NLP) began 2025 with a renewed commitment to both organizational development and disaster preparedness. Demonstrating progress on two essential fronts—staff advancement and safety—the institution recently celebrated the appointment and promotion of several employees and participated in the First Quarter Nationwide Simultaneous Earthquake Drill.

### New Appointments and Promotions at NLP

In a ceremony held on 8 January 2025 at the Director's Office, NLP Director Cesar Gilbert Q. Adriano administered the oath of office to eight newly appointed and promoted employees. This latest wave of appointments reflects the NLP's ongoing efforts to strengthen its workforce and provide high-quality public service.

The newly appointed and promoted staff include:

- Ira B. Albalos, Librarian IV, Catalog Division
- James Rommel A. Maborrang, Librarian I, Filipiniana Division
- Marcopolo J. Casarigo, Administrative Aide III, Finance and Administrative Division
- Necita S. Avorque, Librarian I, Filipiniana Division
- Alexia T. Del Mundo, Librarian I, Filipiniana Division
- Joyce D. Mata, Administrative Officer V (Cashier III), Finance and Administrative Division

- Sherlyn Amber V. Dela Cruz, Librarian I, Public Libraries Division
- Elaine M. Cristobal, Librarian I, Collection Development Division

Their appointments mark another step toward NLP's mission of empowering library services across the country through a dedicated and capable team.



### NLP Joins Nationwide Earthquake Drill

On 13 March 2025 at exactly 3:00 PM, the NLP demonstrated its unwavering commitment to disaster readiness by actively participating in the First Quarter Nationwide Simultaneous Earthquake Drill, led by the

Office of Civil Defense (OCD).

With coordination from the Continuity Coordinating Team (CCT) and the Incident/Emergency Response Team (IERT), NLP employees took part in the drill, reinforcing the importance of preparedness and rapid response in the face of natural disasters. The drill served as a vital reminder of the need for vigilance, awareness, and coordinated action during emergency situations.

The NLP continues to foster a culture of excellence and preparedness within its institution. By investing in human resources and embracing proactive safety measures, it upholds its commitment to serving the public and preserving the nation's knowledge heritage.





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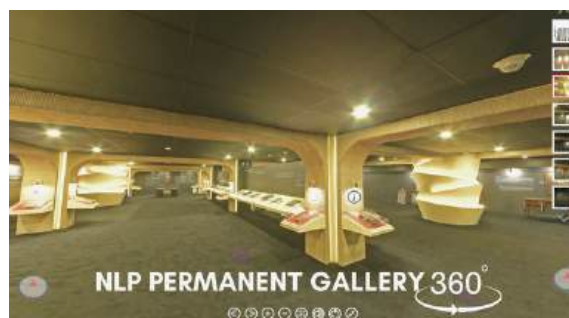
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## NLP ENHANCES ACCESS TO CULTURAL AND LITERARY TREASURES WITH NEW RESOURCES

In its continuous efforts to broaden public access to knowledge and cultural heritage, the National Library of the Philippines (NLP) has launched two major initiatives that empower both remote and on-site users: the NLP Permanent Gallery 360 Virtual Tour and the inclusion of award-winning books donated by the National Book Development Board (NBDB).

The NLP Permanent Gallery 360, now accessible through the NLP website, offers an immersive virtual tour of the National Library's Permanent Gallery. This online platform allows students, researchers, and enthusiasts from all over the country—and the world—to explore high-resolution images of historical documents, artworks, and archival materials that are physically displayed in the gallery. Each item is accompanied by detailed descriptions, enabling users to gain insights into the nation's cultural heritage. With the ability to navigate the gallery at their own pace, the tour serves as an ideal educational tool that breaks geographical barriers and brings Philippine history and heritage directly to their screens.



Meanwhile, onsite visitors to the NLP can now enjoy newly available literary resources at the 2nd Floor Reading Area. This includes a significant collection of award-winning titles from the 41st National Book Awards and the 7th National Children's Book Awards, donated by the NBDB in partnership with the Manila Critics Circle (MCC) and the Philippine Board on Books for Young People (PBBY). These books represent some of the finest locally published works in the country, and their inclusion in NLP's collections supports a mutual commitment between NLP and NBDB to foster a strong reading culture and improve public access to high-quality Philippine literature.

These new resources exemplify the NLP's dedication to innovation, inclusivity, and cultural preservation. By offering both digital and physical access to treasured collections and critically acclaimed literature, the NLP reaffirms its role as a vital institution for learning, research, and cultural appreciation in the Philippines.

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## NLP ADVANCES LIBRARY DEVELOPMENT THROUGH REGIONAL VISITS AND BATANES PROVINCIAL LIBRARY TURNOVER



In a continued effort to support and enhance public library services across the country, the National Library of the Philippines (NLP) recently carried out a series of key engagements and initiatives with its affiliated public libraries. Through provincial visits, capacity-building programs, and ceremonial events, the NLP reaffirmed its commitment to improving access to information and promoting lifelong learning in various communities.

### Empowering Communities in Misamis Oriental and Cagayan de Oro City

From February 17 to 21, 2025, representatives from the NLP Public Libraries Division—Mr. Chad Aren E. Diaz and Ms. Vida Dorea P. Mendoza—visited affiliated public libraries in

Misamis Oriental and Cagayan de Oro City. These visits aimed to support local government units (LGUs) in enhancing public library services for their constituents.

During the site visits, the NLP engaged local officials in discussions surrounding the reopening of closed public libraries and the





establishment of barangay reading centers. These conversations emphasized the importance of providing equal access to knowledge and fostering a culture of lifelong learning within communities.

## Reconnecting with Libraries in the Province of Isabela

Simultaneously, another NLP team led by Mr. Michael James R. Reyno and Ms. Amy Felice Bucago conducted public library visits in the Province of Isabela. This parallel initiative echoed the same mission: to empower LGUs in revitalizing and strengthening their local public libraries.



The team met with several local leaders to advocate for the reopening of inactive libraries and promote the value of accessible information services. The NLP underscored that well-equipped public libraries play a crucial role in community development and educational growth.

## Orientation and Resource Allocation for New Public Libraries

To further support library development, the NLP hosted an Orientation and Initial Library Allocation program from February 26 to 28, 2025, at the NLP Building in Ermita, Manila. Attended both onsite and online by newly affiliated public libraries, the training aimed to onboard new officers-in-charge and library staff by equipping them with the necessary tools, knowledge, and resources.



The program featured expert NLP librarians as resource speakers and offered participants hands-on workshops on library management, resource allocation, and service delivery. This initiative is part of NLP's strategic approach to ensuring the readiness and sustainability of library operations across the country.

## Batanes Provincial Library Officially Turned Over to Local Government

In a significant milestone for library development in Northern Luzon, the Batanes Provincial Library was officially turned over to the Provincial Government of Batanes during a ceremonial event marking its 7th founding anniversary.



Since its establishment in 2018, the Batanes Provincial Library has served over 45,000 patrons and has become a vital hub for education and learning in the region. Present during the turnover were NLP Director Cesar Gilbert Q. Adriano, Public Libraries Division Chief Ms. Blesila P. Velasco, and key officials from both the provincial and national government, including Ms. Cecilia Paz Abad,

daughter of Former Budget Secretary Florencio “Butch” Abad, whose vision helped bring the library into fruition.



The ceremony was attended by Atty. Lee P. Viceral, Assistant Postmaster General for Management Support Services; Mr. Justinne Jerico H. Socito, Provincial Administrator representing Hon. Governor Marilou H. Cayco; Congressman Ciriaco Gato; Basco Mayor German Caccam; and Vice Mayor Arlyne Velayo. Also present were representatives from various national government agencies and local officials in Batanes. The event underscored the power of collaboration between national and local stakeholders in expanding access to knowledge and strengthening public library services in the region.

Through these collective efforts—regional outreach, training, and ceremonial partnerships—the National Library of the Philippines continues to champion public libraries as gateways to information, education, and community empowerment.



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## ENHANCING LIBRARY SERVICES THROUGH ERESOURCES USER TRAINING

by Melody M. Madrid and Neriza D. Oraba



The National Library of the Philippines is committed to ensuring that our staff is equipped with the skills and knowledge necessary to effectively manage and support the various Electronic Resources (eResources) available to our users. These eResources, which include eBooks, databases, e-journals, digital newspapers and magazines, online government and legal resources, multimedia and streaming services, play an integral role in supporting research, learning, and information access across the country.

The Collection Development Division (CDD) organizes eResources User Training for selected NLP personnel. This training ensures that staff involved in selecting, processing, and assisting users with these digital resources are fully prepared to maximize their use and guide library users effectively.

### Why is eResources User Training Essential?

The eResources training sessions are an opportunity to enhance the NLP personnel's understanding of emerging technologies, new features, and updated databases that can significantly impact how we support our patrons. By participating in this training, staff will be able to :

- Assist researchers and learners: By understanding the latest features and functionalities, we can better support academic and research needs.
- Streamline operations: Familiarity with new tools allows us to enhance internal workflows and ensure efficient resource management.
- Maximize the use of NLP's electronic resources: The better our staff understands how to use and promote these resources, the more accessible and useful they become for our patrons.

## Insights from the March 4, 2025 eResources User Training

On March 4, 2025, the eResources User Training was conducted, providing a valuable opportunity for staff across various divisions to gain firsthand knowledge of newly acquired e-resources. The event featured representatives from Megatexts Phil, Inc. (Taylor & Francis, De Gruyter, CambridgeCore, Gale Ebooks, Wiley Online Library, Bloomsbury Collections, WorldSciNet), CE-LOGIC (PressReader, Gale Public Library Bundle, JSTOR eBooks, and Gale eBooks), Libtech Source Phils Inc., (ProQuest Research Library, ProQuest Dissertations & Theses (PQDT), ProQuest Ebook Central, IGI Publishing, Oxford, IGI Global), AIRBOOKS Corporation (Britannica Library), and THINC Office Corp. (MyLegalwhiz), who showcased their platforms and shared updates on the newly available materials purchased by the NLP.



These presentations helped the staff to familiarize themselves with the functionalities, tools, and content available through each platform. Not only did this session introduce new eResources to the library, but it also provided the team with the information they needed to assist users in navigating and accessing these resources more effectively.

By bringing in industry experts and platform representatives, NLP ensures that its staff is well-prepared to support a diverse range of



users, from students and researchers to lifelong learners, in utilizing the best digital tools available.

The eResources User Training is part of the National Library of the Philippines' ongoing commitment to improving its services and supporting the educational and research needs of the nation. As we continue to expand our digital offerings, this training plays an essential role in ensuring that our team is capable of fully utilizing the potential of these resources.





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## NLP CHAMPIONS FILIPINO HERITAGE AND LITERACY AT PBF 2025

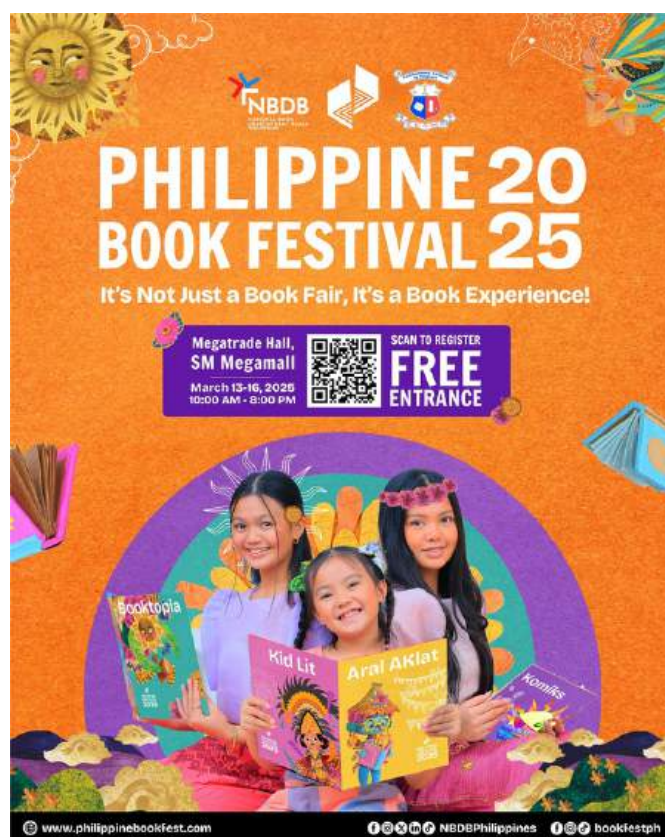
The National Library of the Philippines (NLP) made a strong and vibrant showing at the Philippine Book Festival (PBF) 2025, held from March 13 to 16 at the Megatrade Hall, SM Megamall. As an institutional partner of the National Book Development Board (NBDB), NLP engaged readers of all ages through exhibits, storytelling, library service demonstrations, and interactive learning activities—highlighting the library's continued commitment to promoting Filipino literature, culture, and intellectual growth.

During the opening ceremony on March 13, NLP Director Cesar Gilbert Q. Adriano, together with Division Chiefs, joined the launch of the much-anticipated festival, which brought together publishers, authors, educators, artists, and book lovers from across the country. Their presence underscored the NLP's institutional dedication to cultivating a nation of readers and preserving the country's literary and historical treasures.



### Showcasing Literary Treasures

Throughout the four-day festival, NLP's Booth



#P04 drew a steady stream of curious and enthusiastic visitors. One of the key highlights of the booth was a curated exhibit of the library's rare and special collections. These included vintage Philippine comics that showcased local artistry, souvenir programs from national and cultural events, and photographic collections that documented important milestones in Philippine history.





Visitors also viewed facsimiles of historically significant texts, including the *Doctrina Christiana* (the first book printed in the Philippines in 1593), and José Rizal's influential novels *Noli Me Tangere* and *El Filibusterismo*. These works remain pivotal in shaping Filipino national identity and continue to be central to historical and literary education in the country.



In line with the year's PBF theme, the NLP also spotlighted Philippine festivals through its exhibit, bridging literature with cultural celebration.

### **"Kuwentuhan Tayo": Fostering Imagination Through Stories**

A standout feature of NLP's participation was the storytelling and arts event "Kuwentuhan Tayo," held on March 14 at Pakyawon Plaza. Hosted by NLP Kuwentistas Kuya Tom, Ate Jeeffa, and Kuya James, the activity featured animated readings of Filipino stories such as *Ang Magkaibigan* and *The Monkey and the Turtle*. The session delighted both children and adults with its energetic storytelling, important moral lessons, and cultural relevance.



The event also featured a puppet show and art activities that encouraged children to draw, color, and express their creativity. These interactive elements provided not only entertainment but also meaningful engagement with reading and the arts, contributing to NLP's advocacy for early literacy and imagination.



Before the storytelling session, Melanie Ramirez from the Research and Publications Division gave a virtual tour of the NLP, introducing attendees to the library's history, core collections, and services. This immersive experience included a walkthrough of NLP's reading rooms, the Presidential Papers Collection, and the library's digitization efforts—all designed to make national heritage more accessible to Filipinos everywhere.

### **Promoting Library Services and Outreach**

NLP's presence at the PBF extended beyond literature and storytelling. The booth also served as an information hub for various NLP services, including copyright registration, ISSN and ISBN application, Cataloging in Publication (CIP), reading room access, and educational tour bookings. NLP staff assisted students, teachers, writers, and publishers, many of whom expressed interest in future library visits and partnerships.





To complement these efforts, NLP featured tarpaulin displays outlining its vision, mission, and full range of services. Brochures equipped with QR codes enabled visitors to access NLP's online platforms and digital resources with ease. Meanwhile, giveaways like magnetic bookmarks, keychains, and ballpens helped strengthen the library's visibility and outreach, especially on social media.

### Digital Engagement Through the NLP Gallery 360 Virtual Tour

Another innovative feature of NLP's exhibit was the 360 Virtual Tour of its Permanent Gallery. This digital tool allowed visitors to virtually navigate the NLP's various sections—from its rare books collection to its special archives—bridging the physical and virtual library experience for those who have yet to visit the NLP in person.

This virtual component proved especially useful for students, educators, and remote users, expanding access to the institution's resources and reinforcing NLP's role in digital transformation and inclusive learning.



### A Resounding Success

Through its dynamic and educational participation in the Philippine Book Festival 2025, the National Library of the Philippines once again affirmed its position as a pillar of knowledge, culture, and heritage. By presenting valuable literary treasures, hosting engaging public programs, and promoting essential library services, NLP contributed significantly to the festival's mission of empowering readers and celebrating the richness of Philippine literature.

The NLP's presence at the event was not just a celebration of books, but a powerful reminder of the role that libraries play in shaping an informed, imaginative, and culturally rooted Filipino society.





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## NCPL 2025 GATHERS LIBRARIANS TO FORGE A BLUEPRINT FOR EMPOWERED COMMUNITIES

Over 350 librarians and information professionals from across the Philippines gathered at the Chali Resort and Conference Center for the 2025 National Conference of Public Libraries (NCPL), held from March 17 to 21, 2025. Organized by the National Library of the Philippines (NLP) in partnership with the Provincial Government of Misamis Oriental, the Misamis Oriental Provincial Library (MOPL), the Philippine Librarians Association, Inc. – Northern Mindanao Region Librarians Council (PLAI-NMRLC), and the Association of Librarians in Public Sector (ALPS), the four-day event centered on the theme: “Public Libraries in Action: A Blueprint for an Empowered Community.”

The annual conference serves as a platform for library stakeholders to collaborate, share innovations, and align efforts to make libraries more responsive to the needs of Filipino communities. This year’s edition was the first national public library gathering in Mindanao since 2016.

### Vibrant Start: Exhibit and Cultural Showcase

The event opened with a colorful cultural performance by the Mais Performing Arts of Claveria, setting the tone for a festive and meaningful week. Delegates then toured the NCPL 2025 Exhibit, which featured sponsors’ booths and a special display of facsimile copies of Jose Rizal’s *Noli Me Tangere* and *El Filibusterismo* – a nod to the historical roots

of Filipino knowledge and identity.

Leading the ribbon-cutting were Ms. Richel I. Pajara, Head of the MOPL and Chief of Staff of the Provincial Government of Misamis Oriental; Dr. Melody R. Agcito, President of PLAI-NMRLC; Ms. Warlinda Caguimbaga, Vice Chairperson of the Exhibition and Ways and Means Committee; NLP Assistant Director Edgardo B. Quiros; and Dr. Blesila P. Velasco, NLP’s Chief of the Public Libraries Division and Overall Chairperson of NCPL 2025.





## Building a Blueprint: Plenary Highlights on Day 1

In his keynote address, NLP Director Cesar Gilbert Q. Adriano urged librarians to envision a future where “every Filipino, regardless of background or circumstance, has access to the wealth of knowledge that libraries provide.” He framed the conference as a vital venue for sharing best practices and confronting the evolving challenges of librarianship.

A message from Misamis Oriental 2nd District Representative Yevgeny Vincente B. Emano, delivered by Assistant Division Head Michael Van Domingo, emphasized the role of public libraries in inclusive governance and education.



The first plenary panel featured a powerhouse trio of library leaders:

- Ms. Richel I. Pajara shared MOPL’s effective LGU engagement and funding strategies.
- Dr. Melody R. Agcito highlighted the value of professional development and community networking.
- Ms. Easter Wahayna-Pablo, Head of the Baguio City Library, offered practical insights on budget use and collection development.

Rounding out the day was Ms. Vida Dorea P. Mendoza of NLP’s Public Libraries Division, who encouraged unaffiliated libraries to formalize their ties with NLP to access more support and services.

## Ideas into Action: Parallel and Thematic Sessions

Day 2 featured two dynamic parallel sessions. In one, Dr. Emmanuel F. Calañero, former National Historical Commission of the Philippines (NHCP) Chair, spoke on “Recognizing Our Local Identity through a Public Library’s Local Collection.” He underscored the importance of preserving local heritage materials such as photographs, family records, oral histories, and newspapers. A hands-on activity allowed participants to brainstorm primary sources from their own localities.



Simultaneously, Ms. Remedios B. Janier, RL, Vice President of PLAI-NMRLC, delivered an engaging session titled “Enhancing the Role of Philippine Public Libraries in Empowering Communities.” She emphasized that libraries must be guided by both evidence and empathy, quoting R. David Lankes: “Bad libraries only build collections. Good libraries build services. Great libraries build communities.”



The afternoon plenaries continued the theme of action and advocacy.

Mr. Charles Anthony Vega, DILG Local Government Operations Officer VI, updated participants on the 2025 Seal of Good Local Governance (SGLG), highlighting the inclusion of public libraries in the SGLG's Sustainable Education Governance component. He announced NLP's involvement in the SGLG Technical Working Group.



Mr. Darrel Winthrop G. Torres, Chief of the Program Management Division at the Philippine Information Agency (PIA), described librarians as “keystone species” in the knowledge ecosystem. He encouraged library-PIA partnerships to expand community reach.



Dr. Anita C. Sornito, Executive Council Member of the National Commission for Culture and the Arts - National Committee on Libraries and Information Services (NCCA-NCLIS), concluded the day with a practical session on crafting winning proposals for NCCA grants. Participants were able to present draft concepts and receive real-time feedback.



## Fellowship Night: A Tropical Celebration

On the evening of March 19, librarians were treated to a lively Tropical Luau-themed Fellowship Night, hosted by the Provincial Government of Misamis Oriental. Held under the stars at the Chali Resort, the night was filled with food, music, dancing, and laughter — a well-deserved celebration of camaraderie and collaboration.

The program was gracefully hosted by Ms. Cindy Obeñita, Miss Intercontinental 2021 and Head of the Provincial Tourism Office, whose charisma and poise added sparkle to the evening. Her presence and warm hosting created a welcoming and festive atmosphere for all attendees.

The organizing team extended heartfelt thanks to Governor Peter M. Unabia, Provincial Administrator Hon. John Venice L. Ladaga, Ms. Richel Pajara, and Ms. Cindy Obeñita for their vital support in making the event a resounding success.

## Looking Ahead: Turnover and Closing Ceremony

In the closing program, the torch was passed to the City of Manila, which will host the next National Conference of Public Libraries in 2028. Ms. Priscila P. Robles, OIC of the Manila City Library, accepted the responsibility on behalf of the city, affirming Manila's commitment to literacy, access, and innovation.



Assistant Director Edgardo B. Quiros closed the conference with a message of gratitude and optimism. He acknowledged the collective contributions of all participants and partners, expressing hope that librarians





would return home “energized to build empowered communities through libraries.”

All registered participants earned 11.25 CPD points, advancing their professional credentials and learning outcomes.

### **The Journey Continues**

As NCPL 2025 comes to a close, the work

continues. Librarians across the country are now challenged to transform the ideas and strategies discussed into concrete actions that uplift their communities. With Manila hosting the next NCPL in 2028, the momentum carries forward — fueled by connection, compassion, and commitment to public service.



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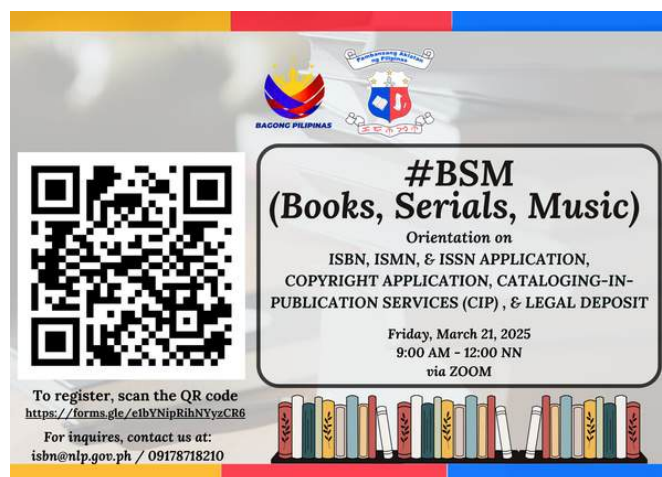
Volume 17, Issue I, Jan-Mar 2025

## NLP HOSTS INSIGHTFUL #BSM ORIENTATION ON PUBLISHING ESSENTIALS

by the NLP Bibliographic Services Division

In an era where content creation and publishing stand at the forefront of cultural expression and economic growth, the National Library of the Philippines (NLP) has taken a significant step to empower authors, publishers, and content creators. On March 21, 2025, the NLP's Bibliographic Services Division, in collaboration with its Catalog, Copyright, and Collection Development Divisions, hosted the impactful #BSM Orientation focused on essential processes such as ISBN, ISMN, and ISSN applications, copyright registration, Catalog-in-Publication services, and legal deposit obligations. The virtual event, held via Zoom, drew 169 enthusiastic participants eager to enhance their understanding of the publishing landscape.

In his opening message, Mr. Danilo B. Fernandez, Librarian IV, Bibliographic Services Division (BSD), welcomed participants and emphasized the significance of the orientation. He states that the event would offer invaluable insights and practical knowledge, empowering attendees to enhance their professional journey. The orientation served as a comprehensive guide, providing essential information that is vital for both emerging and established figures in the industry. Participants engaged in discussions that clarified the myriad complexities surrounding publishing, enabling them to navigate these challenges effectively.



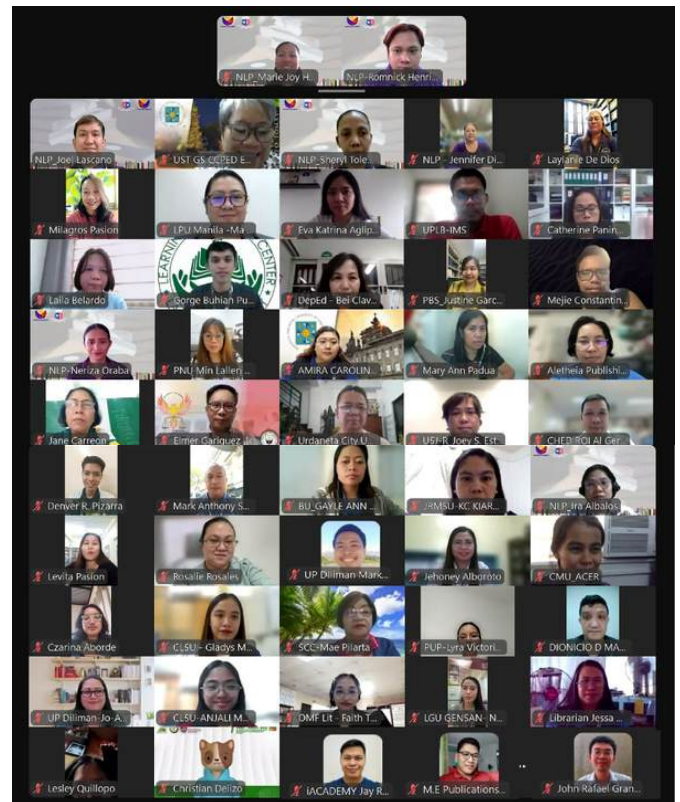
At the heart of the session was a detailed exploration of the International Standard Book Number (ISBN), International Standard Serial Number (ISSN), and International Standard Music Number (ISMN) which is a unique number for books, serials and continuing resources, and music publications respectively. Mr. Romnick Henric Henry M. Gayanilo, Librarian II, BSD elaborated the integral role of these numbering systems ensuring accessibility to retailers and consumers alike as well as efficient cataloging and distribution and provided clarity on the application process.

A significant focus of the event was the copyright application process. Ms. Sheryl A. Tolentino, Copyright Examiner, Copyright Division, guided participants through the basic precept of copyright registration in the National Library of the Philippines, simplifying the procedure and shedding light on the essential requirements. Copyright registration is a powerful tool for creators. It not only provides legal protection but also facilitates the exercise of their rights.



In addition to copyright, the orientation covered the Catalog-in-Publication (CIP) services, which facilitate the efficient cataloging of new publications by libraries. Ms. Ira B. Albalos, Librarian IV, Catalog Division states that obtaining CIP data is not just beneficial but essential for increasing the accessibility of new works. It is a proactive step that enhances the visibility of authors and their publications, making it easier for libraries to include them in their collections.

Lastly, participants were informed about the legal deposit requirements. Ms. Neriza D. Oraba, Librarian II, Collection Development Division emphasized the importance of depositing copies of published works with the NLP and designated institutions, reinforcing the role of these deposits in safeguarding national heritage. This legal obligation is vital in preserving our literary and artistic history, urging attendees to recognize the importance of their contributions to national culture.



This event was not just about imparting knowledge; it was about fostering a sense of community among creators. The #BSM Orientation proved to be an invaluable resource for those involved in publishing and the creative arts. By equipping attendees with actionable knowledge and strategies, the NLP has reinforced its role as a pillar of support for the nation's creative community, empowering individuals to navigate the publishing landscape with confidence and purpose.

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## NLP OPERATIONAL PLANNING FOR MIDDLE MANAGERS: Aligning Goals for Fiscal Years 2026-2027



The National Library of the Philippines (NLP), through its Planning, Monitoring, and Evaluation Committee (PMEC), successfully conducted the Operational Planning for Fiscal Years 2026-2027. The event took place from March 26 -28, 2025, at Bataan White Corals Beach Resort in Morong, Bataan.

The activity was spearheaded by the PMEC, under the leadership of its Chairperson, Ms. Jennifer B. Dimasaca. The primary objective of the session was to consolidate the proposed plans of middle managers, which will later serve as the foundation for the second phase of the planning, scheduled for June 4-6, 2025, for the Management Committee composed of Division Chiefs and the Directors.

This initial phase of the operational planning was specifically designed for middle managers/immediate supervisors, including Librarians III and IV. The session was

observed by NLP Assistant Director Edgardo B. Quiros, who provided insightful recommendations and guidance to enhance the planning process. A key highlight of the planning session was the discussion of the revised vision of NLP, which now states: "Premier national repository and gateway of knowledge, culture, and innovation empowering Philippine society." This vision underscores NLP's commitment to fostering knowledge dissemination, cultural preservation, and technological advancement.





The group also delved into the newly established NLP goals, encapsulated in the acronym "SPACE":

- Services – Enhancing the quality and reach of NLP's services.
- Processes – Streamlining and improving internal and external workflows.
- Access – Expanding accessibility to NLP resources for all Filipinos.
- Collections – Strengthening and enriching NLP's archival and reference materials.
- Employees – Fostering professional development and a supportive work environment.

Additionally, the participants explored NLP's new core values, represented by the acronym AKLATAN, which stand for:

- Accessibility – Ensuring open and inclusive library services.
- Kindness – Promoting a culture of respect and compassion.
- Love for Learning – Encouraging continuous education and intellectual growth.
- Adaptability and Innovation – Embracing change and new technologies.
- Teamwork – Strengthening collaboration among library professionals.
- Accountability – Upholding integrity and responsibility in service.
- Nationalism and Patriotism – Supporting national development and cultural heritage.



The planning session proved to be highly productive, fostering meaningful discussions and strategic insights among middle managers. Their contributions will be instrumental in shaping the comprehensive operational plan for the upcoming fiscal years. As NLP continues to evolve and expand its impact, the collaborative efforts from this planning activity will play a crucial role in driving its mission forward.

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## NLP RELEASES STRATEGIC UPDATE AND PUBLISHING TRENDS REPORT FOR Q1 2025

The National Library of the Philippines (NLP) has released two major publications for the first quarter of 2025: the Strategic Plan 2022–2027: Midcourse Correction 2024 and the International Standard Book Number (ISBN), International Standard Serial Number (ISSN), and International Standard Music Number (ISMN) 2023–2024 Report. These publications reflect NLP's continuing commitment to responsive library services and dynamic knowledge stewardship amidst an ever-evolving social and technological landscape.

The Strategic Plan 2022–2027: Midcourse Correction 2024 provides key updates to NLP's direction and priorities. As libraries transition into inclusive and tech-enabled community spaces, this updated plan underscores NLP's dedication to equitable access to information, literacy advocacy, digital innovation, and strengthened partnerships. Stakeholders—including government institutions, educators, and the general public—are encouraged to take part in this shared vision of a knowledge-driven, inclusive, and culturally empowered society.



Meanwhile, the ISBN, ISSN, and ISMN 2023–2024 Report offers valuable insights into the Philippine publishing sector. Among the findings, ISBN applications rose by 26.5%, with children's books, textbooks, and trade books leading the demand—especially in the National Capital Region. Notably, there is a growing trend in publications written in Filipino and regional languages such as Cebuano and Hiligaynon.

In contrast, ISSN applications saw a 21.2% decline in approvals despite stable application numbers. Bilingual and online formats, however, are gaining momentum. ISMN applications, while declining by 18% overall, reported growth within NCR.



These publications not only illustrate the NLP's proactive approach to planning and reporting but also reinforce its role as a catalyst for literacy, innovation, and cultural development in the country.

To explore the full PDF versions of the publications, visit the NLP website at <https://web.nlp.gov.ph> and be part of shaping the future of Philippine libraries and publishing.



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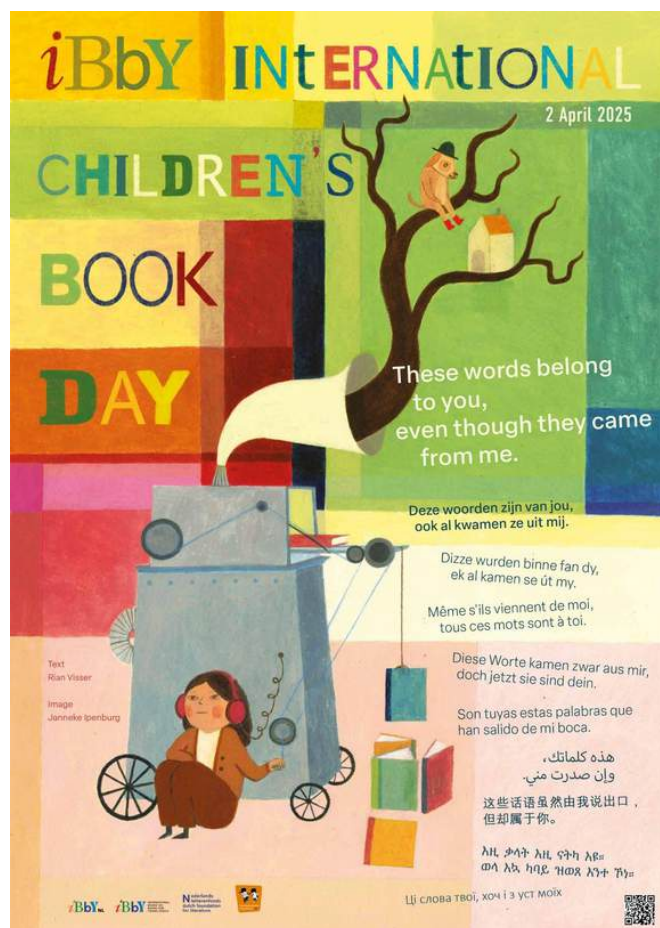
## STORIES COME ALIVE: NLP and IBBY-PH Bring ICBD 2025 to Luneta Park

by Gio Karlo J. Fuelles

*"Imagination is the fire that sparks the light of progress."*  
— Dr. Seuss

"Sumikat na naman ang araw, bagong kaalaman, nais na matutunan..." Despite the heat of the tropical sun, the familiar hymn of the National Library of the Philippines (NLP) echoed through the Mabini Hall of the National Parks and Development Committee (NPDC), nestled within the hallowed grounds of Luneta Park. With vibrant energy, the NLP Kuwentistas Kuya Tom, Ate Jeeffa, and Kuya James opened the program "Read With Us at the Park!", drawing both children and parents into a joyful celebration of International Children's Book Day (ICBD).

The annual event was established on April 2, 1967, by the International Board on Books for Young People (IBBY). ICBD aims to celebrate the joy of reading and inspire a love for literature among young people. The date also commemorates the birthday of Hans Christian Andersen (1805), the renowned Danish author behind timeless tales like *The Little Mermaid* and *The Ugly Duckling*.



Celebrated annually around the world, ICBD was once again commemorated in the Philippines. This year's celebration was made possible through a continued partnership of NLP and IBBY-PH and was further strengthened by the support of the NPDC and the Manila Department of Social Welfare (MDSW).

For many of the young participants, it was their first time attending a storytelling session, an experience that surely made the day not only memorable but truly meaningful. Reading alongside their parents not only strengthens family bonds but also plays a vital role in children's literacy development and overall well-being.



## Celebrating the Freedom of Imagination

This year's theme, "The Freedom of Imagination," set the tone for a creative and inspiring event. The program opened with a message from Ms. Rio Brigino Lim, IBBY-PH Secretariat and Vibal Group Programs Director, followed by a warm welcome from Dr. Dolores D. Carungui, Chief of the Reference Division, NLP.

With boundless energy, Kuya Tom brought "Kiko Kitikiti" to life, captivating young minds through animated storytelling and delighting the audience, while a lively puppet show and the warm presence of Ate Jeeffa, who engaged directly with the children, added to the excitement. Together, these simple yet powerful activities beautifully showcased how imagination can spark creativity and foster a lasting love for reading.

## Community Impact and Global Reach

IBBY remains a leading force in championing children's literature across the globe, fostering international understanding through books and storytelling. Its global initiatives promote access to quality literature for young readers, especially in areas affected by conflict, disaster, or poverty. In the Philippines, IBBYPh continues to amplify local voices by participating in international programs and actively engaging local stakeholders in promoting literacy as a vital component of child development and nation-building.