



The agreement between TESDA-CAR and ISRI was commemorated through a virtual signing ceremony. TESDA Regional Director Dante Navarro and ISRI president and chief executive officer Luis Sarmiento are the signatories to the MOA, while Dr. Eric S. Andal, OIC-resident manager of ISRI and TESDA Baguio-Benguet Provincial Director Elizabeth Manio signed as witnesses.

ISRI PARTNERS WITH TESDA-CAR ON ENTERPRISE-BASED TRAININGS *Better industry, stronger manpower base*

The Cordillera office of the Technical Education and Skills Development Authority (TESDA-CAR) and the Itogon-Suyoc Resources, Inc. (ISRI) forged a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) for the sustained implementation and cascading of the agency's Enterprise-based Trainings (EBT) among the company's mine workers and residents of ISRI's host and neighboring communities. TESDA Regional Director Dante J. Navarro visited ISRI, together with TESDA Provincial Director Elizabeth D. Manio, for the signing.

ISRI President Luis R. Sarmiento, who joined the ceremony via Zoom, commended the ISRI team for not letting the pandemic get in the way of charting milestones for the company. In his brief message, he said, "But with humble hearts, we give this initiative back to our stakeholders – our co-workers, the residents of our host communities and the nearby areas – as our way of forging ISRI's legacy of sustainability."

Navarro also expressed happiness over the TESDA-ISRI partnership and shared that TESDA is now gearing towards area-based, demand-driven training courses. He emphasized that the current thrust of their agency is to design training courses that address the needs of various industries.



Under the agreement, ISRI and TESDA CAR will collaborate on the conduct of training courses that are aligned with the needs of ISRI. With TESDA as the company's partner, Sarmiento said that ISRI will be able to expand the reach of its skills training and complement the said courses with institutional certification or a seal of approval that the trainees can use to enhance their employability.

"ISRI is proud of our tradition of *malasakit*. And *malasakit* is not just giving material things like medicines, food and the like, especially during times of calamities and disasters. *Malasakit* is also helping improve one's quality of life by helping provide a steady means of livelihood," Sarmiento stressed.

He expressed high hopes that the said partnership with TESDA will pave the way for many citizens of the Cordillera to be gainfully employed, thus, bringing the talent and skills of the local citizens to all corners of the region, and possibly beyond.

Sarmiento also thanked the TESDA-CAR and TESDA Baguio-Benguet Provincial Office for partnering with ISRI in the implementation of the EBT and apprenticeship program as the agency's trust and confidence in the company inspires them to do more so that they can change lives for the better.

Dr. Eric S. Andal, OIC-resident manager of ISRI, sums up the ISRI-TESDA CAR partnership as one that will lead to a "better industry and a stronger manpower base."

###