



Republic of the Philippines
Department of Education
Region VII – CENTRAL VISAYAS
SCHOOLS DIVISION OF BOHOL

**Office of the Schools Division
Superintendent**


January 19, 2026

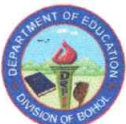
Division Memorandum
No 048 s. 2026

25TH PHILIPPINE NATIONAL CHEMISTRY OLYMPIAD 2026

To: Education Program Supervisors/ Division Coordinators
Public Schools District Supervisor/OIC PSDS
Public and Private Elementary/Secondary School Heads

1. Attached is Regional Memorandum No. 0032 series of 2026 dated January 12, 2026 reiterating the communication from the University of San Carlos Student's Association (USC ChemSA), dated January 6, 2026, the content of which is self-explanatory.
2. Secondary schools are encouraged to join in the regional elimination, especially those special science high schools.
3. For further information, interested participants may contact Jill Quitayen at jrquitayen@usc.edu.ph and fax the reply form to (032) 344-6715 or call (032) 2300100.
4. For the information and guidance of all concerned.


FAY C. LUAREZ, EdD PhD, TM CESO VI
Schools Division Superintendent



Lino Chatto Drive Barangay Cogon, Tagbilaran City, Bohol
412-4938; (038) 411-2544 (038) 501-7550
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Republic of the Philippines
Department of Education
REGION VII - CENTRAL VISAYAS



Office of the Regional Director

REGIONAL MEMORANDUM

No. 0032, s. 2026

12 JAN 2026

**REGIONAL ELIMINATIONS OF THE 25TH PHILIPPINE NATIONAL CHEMISTRY
OLYMPIAD (25PNCO2026)**

To: Schools Division Superintendents
Assistant Schools Division Superintendents
All Others Concerned

1. Attached is the communication from Meredith R. Sarino, President, USC Chemistry Students' Association, inviting learners and their coaches in the secondary schools to participate in the Regional Eliminations of the 25th Philippine National Chemistry Olympiad on February 14, 2026 in University of San Carlos, Department of Chemistry, Talamban Campus, Cebu City.

2. For further details about the event, please contact:

Jill R. Quitayen
Regional Coordinator
PNCO
Email Address: jrquitayen@usc.edu.ph
Telephone Number: (032) 230-0100

3. The participation of the learners and teachers from both public and private schools is subject to the discretion of the Schools Division Superintendent and is subject to compliance with the no-disruption-of-classes policy outlined in DepEd Order No. 9, s. 2005, titled "Instituting Measures to Increase Engaged Time-On-Task." Additionally, participation in the activity must adhere to the no-collection policy as articulated in Section 3 of RA No. 5546, "An Act Prohibiting the Sale of Tickets and/or the Collection of Contributions for Whatever Projects or Purpose from Students and Teachers of Public and Private Schools."

4. For information and dissemination.


SALUSTIANO T. JIMENEZ JD, EdD, CESO III
Director IV
Regional Director

STJ/PYA/CLMD/MPP/bca



Doña M. Gaisano St., Sudlon, Lahug, Cebu City
Telephone Number: 639773295904 local 700

 DepEd Tayo Region VII

 region7.deped.gov.ph





UNIVERSITY OF SAN CARLOS
CHEMISTRY STUDENTS' ASSOCIATION

Room EO340TC, Edgar Oehler Wing, Arnoldus Science Complex
USC Talamban Campus, Nasipit, Talamban, Cebu City, 6000 Philippines
chemsa.usc@gmail.com

Request for Endorsement – Region VII Eliminations of the 25th Philippine National Chemistry Olympiad

January 06, 2026

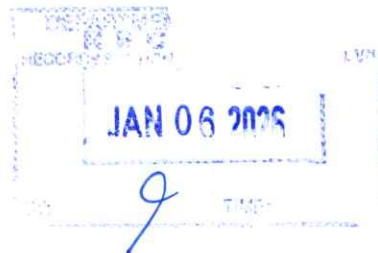
SALUSTIANO T. JIMENEZ, EdD, JD, CESO V

Director IV

Regional Director- Region VII

Dear Dr. Jimenez:

Greetings!



The **University of San Carlos Chemistry Students' Association (USC ChemSA)**, in partnership with the **Philippine Federation of Chemistry Societies (PFCS)**, respectfully invites all private and public secondary schools in **Region VII - Central Visayas** to participate in the **Regional Eliminations of the 25th Philippine National Chemistry Olympiad (25PNCO2026)**. This national competition aims to promote excellence in chemistry at the secondary level and to identify the country's representatives to the **58th International Chemistry Olympiad (IChO)**, scheduled on **10–19 July 2026 in Tashkent, Uzbekistan**.

For Region VII, the Regional Eliminations is set as follows:

- **Date:** February 14, 2026 (Saturday)
- **Time:** 7:00 A.M - 12:00 P.M
- **Venue:** Department of Chemistry, University of San Carlos – Talamban Campus, Cebu City
- **Participants:** Maximum of three (3) students and three (3) coaches per school

The official **Regional Coordinator for Region VII** is **Ms. Jill R. Quitayen** of the USC Department of Chemistry. The event will be conducted and facilitated by USC ChemSA in coordination with the PFCS and the PNCO National Committee.

The **pre-registration is on or before January 31, 2026** by submission of reply slip directly to Ms. Quitayen through jrquitayen@usc.edu.ph. Further details are found in the guidelines attached in this letter.

We humbly request the assistance of your office in disseminating this invitation to all secondary schools under your jurisdiction to encourage broad regional participation. Attached to this email are the following documents for your reference and circulation:

- Official PNCO 2026 Guidelines and Mechanics
- Invitation Letter for Schools in Region VII

Should you require further information, clarification, or confirmation, kindly feel free to reach us through the contact details below:

Number: (032) 230-0100 local 157 — look for **Ms. Jill Quitayen**

Email: jrquitayen@usc.edu.ph



UNIVERSITY OF SAN CARLOS
CHEMISTRY STUDENTS' ASSOCIATION

Room EO340TC, Edgar Oehler Wing, Arnoldus Science Complex
USC Talamban Campus, Nasipit, Talamban, Cebu City, 6000 Philippines
chemsa.usc@gmail.com

USC ChemSA deeply appreciates your support for initiatives that advocate scientific learning and academic advancement. We look forward to your favorable consideration and continued collaboration in bringing opportunities like this to our students.

Thank you very much, and we look forward to collaborating with the Department of Education – Region VII in promoting academic excellence in Chemistry.

Respectfully,



MEREDITH R. SARINO
President
USC Chemistry Students' Association

Noted By;



JILL R. QUITAYEN
Regional Coordinator
PNCO

Endorsed By:



EUGENE T. BACOLOD, Ph.D.
Department Chair
USC Department of Chemistry



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Room EO340TC, Edgar Oehler Wing, Arnoldus Science Complex
USC Talamban Campus, Nasipit, Talamban, Cebu City, 6000 Philippines
chemsa.usc@gmail.com

25th PNCO 2026 – Regional Chemistry Olympiad

REPLY FORM

Kindly fax the reply form to (032) 344-6715 or call (032) 2300100 loc 157 or email Jill Quitayen at jrquitayen@usc.edu.ph.

Please tick the appropriate circle:

- We appreciate your invitation, but we have decided not to participate.
- Yes, we will participate. (Please fill in the table below.)

Name of School	
Name of Participants	
Name of Coaches	



PHILIPPINE FEDERATION OF CHEMISTRY SOCIETIES, INC.

Unit 233 Citiland Pioneer, 128 Pioneer St., Highway Hills, Mandaluyong City 1552 Philippines

PHILIPPINE NATIONAL CHEMISTRY OLYMPIAD



25th Philippine National Chemistry Olympiad 2026 (25PNCO2026) GUIDELINES and MECHANICS

A. IMPORTANT DATES:

- A.1. 25th PNCO 2026 – Regional Chemistry Olympiad (25PNCO2026 – RCO): **14 February 2026 (Saturday)** for Region VII
- A.2. Endorsement of Winners of the 25PNCO2026 – RCO: **07 March 2026 (Saturday)**
- A.3. 25th PNCO 2026 NATIONAL FINALS: **21 March 2026 (Saturday)** – 07:00 AM -06:00 PM, College of Arts and Sciences, University of the Philippines Manila
- A.4. Preparations for the 58th International Chemistry Olympiad (IChO) 2026: **May – June 2026**
- A.5. Training Sessions of Philippine Delegates: **June 2026, TBA**
- A.6. 58th International Chemistry Olympiad (IChO) 2026: **10 - 19 July 2026**, Tashkent, Uzbekistan

B. QUALIFICATIONS

Participants must be Filipino citizens enrolled as high school students (regular or home-schooled) at the time of the 25th PNCO 2026 Regional and National competitions. (Note: To qualify for IChO – International Chemistry Olympiad, students must not be enrolled/registered as college students during the duration of IChO). Therefore, for R7, we are restricting contestants up to Grade 11 only.

C. CONTEST COVERAGE

Matter and its properties	Electronic Structure and Periodicity	Thermochemistry
Measurements	Chemical Bonding - Ionic Bonds	Chemical Kinetics
Atoms, Molecules, and Ions	Covalent Bonds	Chemical Thermodynamics
Stoichiometry	Organic compounds	Chemical Equilibrium
Gases	Intermolecular Forces and Liquids and Solids	Acid-Base Equilibria and Salt Equilibria
Electronic Structure of Atoms	Physical Properties of Solutions	Electrochemistry

Questions involving more advanced topics may also be included. These advanced topics may cover:

1. Solid state and coordination chemistry (e.g., crystal structures, crystal field theory, and isomerism of inorganic complexes)
2. Thermodynamics (e.g., gases, liquids, solids, temperature dependence of equilibrium constants, electromotive force, and Gibbs free energy)
3. Electrochemistry and electrochemical analysis (amperometry, voltammetry, conductometry, and potentiometry)
4. Kinetics (catalysis, the Arrhenius equation, and integrated rate laws)
5. Organic chemistry (stereoisomerism, simple stereocontrolled organic transformations, [4+2]-cycloaddition, and [3,3]-sigmatropic rearrangement)





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6. Spectroscopy (correlation of simple organic structures with their $^1\text{H-NMR}$, $^{13}\text{C-NMR}$, or IR data.)
7. Analytical Chemistry (acid-base titrations, complexometric titrations, redox titrations, spectrophotometry, and Beer-Lambert's Law)

D. REGIONAL CHEMISTRY OLYMPIAD (RCO)

- D.1. The 25th PNCO 2026 Regional Olympiad (25PNCO2026 – RCO) will be held across the country on a **Saturday from February 2026 to 07 March 2026 (depends on the Region's preferred schedule)** to be hosted by their respective Regional Organizer/s. The Region may hold the Eliminations on a later date as long as they meet the deadline to endorse the winners of the RCO on or before **07 March 2026 (Saturday)**.
- D.2. Regional organizers have the authority to set their own modality on how to conduct the Regional Eliminations as long as the guidelines are provided and communicated clearly to the participants.
- D.3. The regional organizers are expected to send out an invitation. Interested parties must feel free to inform the organizers of their intent to participate.
- D.4. A maximum of three (3) participants per school may register.
- D.5. A school may have a maximum of three (3) coaches (one coach per student).
- D.6. Regional organizers should endorse the winners (Champion, 1st Runner-up, 2nd Runner-up, 3rd Runner-up and 4th Runner-up) of the Regional Olympiad to the National Committee on or before **07 March 2026 (Saturday)** with the following details:
 - Date and Venue of Regional Eliminations, Modality
 - Number of student participants and number of participating schools
 - Name of Winners, School, Rank, email, contact number
 - Name of Coach, email, contact number

E. NATIONAL FINALS

E.1. Participation and Registration

- 1E.1.1. The top **FIVE (5)** winners (Champion, 1st Runner-up, 2nd Runner-up, 3rd Runner-up and 4th Runner-up) in the Regional Olympiad qualify to compete in the 24th PNCO 2025 National Finals on **21 March 2026 (Saturday)**.
- 1E.1.2. Those who have participated in a previous IChO and who remain eligible for the same are automatically qualified to join the National Finals without having to compete in the regionals. This means that the schools whose student/s represented the Philippines in the previous year's IChO can still send a maximum of three other candidates to the regionals on top of the IChO participant.
- 1E.1.3. Competitors are expected to be at the venue on **21 March 2026 (Saturday)** by **7:00 AM** in their **school uniform** with **proper identification** (ID and Certification/Endorsement as regional winners from their PNCO Regional Coordinator).
- 1E.1.4. Registration will be done **online**. The link to the online registration will be sent to the Regional Coordinator via email. *Note that no walk-in registrations will be allowed.*





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PHILIPPINE NATIONAL CHEMISTRY OLYMPIAD

1E.1.5. The PNCO National Finals Registration fee is 600 PhP per student and per coach. Registration fees should be made thru bank payment. Bank details are as follows:

Account Name:	PHILIPPINE FEDERATION OF CHEMISTRY SOCIETIES, INC.
Savings Account No.:	3083-7211-88
Bank Branch:	Bank of the Philippine Islands (BPI) Loyola, Katipunan Branch

- Payment should be made
- Please send a clear scanned copy/ photo of the bank transaction slip to Ms. Grace Insik, PFCS Secretary, at secretariat@pfcs.org.ph, cc pnco2021team@gmail.com on or before **18 March 2026 (Wednesday)**.
- Please write the following details on the bank transaction slip. These details will appear on your official receipt.

Region: Name of Regional Coordinator/ Payor – School or Office

E.2. Contest Proper

The 25th PNCO 2026 National Finals will consist of three (3) stages/ categories.

- **Stage 1: Written Theoretical Examination**
- **Stage 2: Laboratory Practical Examination**
- **Stage 3: Chemistry Quiz Bee**

1E.2.1. Stage 1: Written Theoretical Examination

- This a two – hour written examination with 80–100 multiple choice items.
- The TOP TWENTY scorers will proceed to the 2nd stage of the competition (Laboratory Practical Examination).

1E.2.2. Stage 2: Laboratory Practical Examination

- The 2nd stage of the competition is a laboratory practical examination. Participants will be asked to perform chemistry experiments and will be graded based on the results of such experiments. Experimental instructions will be posted at designated spots on their assigned benches. Demerit points will be given to each competitor for every laboratory technique performed wrongly.
- At the end of the practical exam, participants will leave the lab room and will be guided to the student lounge outside the lab area.

1E.2.3. Stage 3: Chemistry Quiz Bee

1E.2.3.1. After the laboratory practical exam, the overall scores of the twenty qualifiers will be computed as follows:

- **Score in the Written Theoretical Exam + Score in the Laboratory + Practical Exam**

The TOP TEN scorers will proceed to the final stage of the competition (Chemistry Quiz Bee).





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PHILIPPINE NATIONAL CHEMISTRY OLYMPIAD

1E.2.3.2. The Quiz Bee will consist of three (3) rounds, with ten (10) questions per round.

- Easy Round 3 points
- Average Round 5 points
- Difficult Round 7 points

1E.2.3.3. Each round will consist of ten questions.

1E.2.3.4. Scores in the Quiz Bee Round will be added to their scores in the Written Theoretical Exam and the Laboratory Practical Exam.

**Overall Score = Written Theoretical Exam Score + Laboratory
Practical Exam Score + Quiz Bee Score**

1E.2.4. Participants are allowed to use scientific calculators except those which are programmable, with equation feature, and with built in constants, during the three stages/categories of the competition. All calculators shall be submitted to the PNCO Secretariat before the contest proper for inspection.

1E.2.5. Periodic table will be provided by the committee.

1E.2.6. Correct spelling and proper use of significant figures must be observed.

F. AWARDS

F.1. Each participant and coach will be given certificate of participation.

F.2. The following are the awards to be given:

F.2.1. **Gold Award** – will be awarded to the top 4 scorers, based on their overall scores.

F.2.2. **Silver Award** - will be given to the 5th up to the 10th rank, based on their overall scores.

F.2.3. **Bronze Award** – will be received by the **10 student participants** who qualify up to the Laboratory Practical Examination.

F.2.4. **Alex A. Tardaguila Award** - The Alex Tardaguila Award was established to honor the memory of Mr. Alex Tardaguila. Alex was a faculty member of the Pamantasan ng Lungsod ng Maynila and was a long-time member of the PNCO committee. Alex diligently served as head of the PNCO test bank committee for many years. This award is given to the top four (4) winners.

F.3. The **Gold Awardees (Top 4)** will be the **Philippine delegation to the 58th International Chemistry Olympiad (IChO) 2026**. IChO 2026 will be held on **10 - 19 July 2026** to be hosted by Uzbekistan.

For inquiries, you may contact: PNCO Secretariat (Jennifer Sy, PNCO Secretariat Head)
pnco2021team@gmail.com.

Jennifer C. Sy
PNCO Secretariat

cc: PNCO COMMITTEE

