

National and Regional Innovation Awards and Competitions (NRIAC) Implementing Guidelines

I. OVERVIEW

A. Rationale

On 8 February 2024 during the 6th National Innovation Council (NIC) Meeting, the Council approved the conduct of the **National and Regional Innovation Awards and Competitions (NRIAC)** through the issuance of NIC Resolution No. 1, series of 2024. The **NRIAC** is an annual competition that aims to showcase Filipino innovators who are prepared for early-stage commercialization. This competition seeks to encourage stakeholders to actively participate in innovation, demonstrating their capabilities and achievements while making significant contributions to the national agenda of fostering a culture of innovation. This competition is envisioned to be the most prestigious awards in the country where the national winner will be awarded by the President of the Philippines.

The NRIAC will bring out the best in innovators and level the playing field, which will allow them to demonstrate their talents on an equal footing. Moreover, Filipinos enjoy and have a natural affinity for competitions, which further motivates and engages participants from various sectors. More importantly, the NRIAC will serve as a platform to leverage social marketing and social mobilization by connecting innovators with industry stakeholders, potential partners, and distribution channels and attract the attention of local and foreign investors. This will ease the pathway for innovators to navigate the challenges of bringing their products to market, fostering a more robust innovation ecosystem in the Philippines.

The NIC hereby adopts these guidelines to provide the overall framework in the conduct of the annual NRIAC.

B. Legal Bases

These guidelines are anchored on the following legal precepts:

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 and creations.*”³

¹ Const. (1973), art. XIV, § 10 (Phil.).

² Const. (1973), art. XIV, § 12 (Phil.).

³ Const. (1973), art. XIV, § 13 (Phil.).

Consistent with the constitutional provision, Republic Act No. 11293, or the Philippine Innovation Act, states that “*investments in education, science, technology, and innovation shall be guided by a strategic direction towards strengthening the country’s knowledge-based economic development that benefits all*” (Section 2c).⁴ Section 5 of the same law likewise provides that “*while the country’s innovation goals shall be directed at developing new technologies, it shall likewise seek to harness global knowledge and technology that will aid in developing new processes or services for increasing productivity and for promoting overall public welfare.*”⁵ Section 20 thereof further provides that the NIC, in cooperation with the various agencies concerned, shall undertake an information and community education program to rally everyone around the country’s innovation agenda and priorities and to generate public support for these initiatives.

Further, NIC Resolution No. 1, series of 2024 created a technical working group (TWG), who will lead and direct the planning and implementation of the NRIAC.

C. Coverage

The NRIAC is open to all enterprises and individuals with innovative products or services, currently at early-stage commercialization, and are 100% Filipino-owned and registered. The NRIAC will cover all micro, small, and medium enterprises (MSMEs) and individuals from all the regions of the country as the NIC endeavors to celebrate local talent and amplify the impact of innovations in the country’s economic development.

II. DEFINITION OF TERMS

1. **Access to funding** pertains to the availability and ability of individuals, businesses, or organizations to secure financial resources necessary for various purposes, such as but not limited to starting a business, expanding operations, funding research, and development.
2. **Barriers to innovation** refer to the wide range of obstacles or challenges that hinder enterprises’ development, adoption, and diffusion of innovation.
3. **Beta testing** refers to the stage in this competition where the innovation entries or applications are released to a select group of people for testing and feedback before the final pitching and deliberation.
4. **Consumer adoption and awareness** refers to the decision towards continuous full-scale use of innovation⁶ the extent to which consumers recognize and understand a product or its attributes.

⁴ Republic Act 11293. (2019, April 17). National Economic and Development Authority. <https://neda.gov.ph/the-philippine-innovation-act/>

⁵ Ibid.

⁶ Pandey, P. & Rai, A. K. (2021, February) Consumer Adoption in Technological Context. Retrieved from <https://journals.smsvaranasi.com/index.php/purushartha/article/download/818/614>

5. **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.⁷
6. **Conflict of Interest** refers to a situation where individuals involved in organizing, judging, or administering the competition possess contradictory interests such as 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 NEDA officials and employees, NRIAC Secretariat members, Executive Steering Committee members (ESC), Board of Judges, NIC Executive Committee Members, and other members of the organizing committees and/or their relatives up to the fourth civil degree of consanguinity or affinity.
7. **Double funding** refers to the occurrence where the same activity for the same set of beneficiaries receives funding more than once using public funds.
8. **Early-stage commercialization** refers to the initial process of bringing an innovation from a prototype stage to its introduction into the market.
9. **Industrial design** is the visual appearance of a product, the ornamental or aesthetic aspect of an article of manufacture. Design, in this sense, maybe three-dimensional features (shape or surface of an article), or two-dimensional features (patterns or lines of color).⁸
10. **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.⁹
11. **Intellectual property** 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).¹⁰
12. **Market access** refers to the ability of a company to sell its products or services in a foreign or domestic market.

⁷ University of Pittsburgh. (n.d.) Why commercialize? Retrieved from <https://www.innovation.pitt.edu/for-inventors/why-commercialize/>

⁸ Intellectual Property Office of the Philippines (IPOP HL). (n.d.) Industrial Design. Retrieved from <https://www.ipophil.gov.ph/services/industrial-design/>

⁹ Republic Act 11293. (2019, April 17). National Economic and Development Authority. <https://neda.gov.ph/the-philippine-innovation-act/>

¹⁰ IPOP HL (n.d.) What is Intellectual property? Retrieved from [https://www.ipophil.gov.ph/what-is-intellectual-property/#:~:text=Intellectual%20property%20refers%20to%20creations,and%20artistic%20work%20\(copyright\).](https://www.ipophil.gov.ph/what-is-intellectual-property/#:~:text=Intellectual%20property%20refers%20to%20creations,and%20artistic%20work%20(copyright).)

13. **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
14. **Patent** is an exclusive right that allows the inventor to exclude others from making, using, or selling the product of his invention during the life of the patent.¹²
15. **Scaling-up** refers to the ability of an organization to perform well under an increased or expanding workload and market demand.¹³
16. **Startup** refers to any person or registered entity in the Philippines that aims to develop an innovative product, process, or business model.¹⁴
17. **Technology Readiness Level (TRL)** is a type of measurement system used to assess the maturity level of a particular technology. Each technology project is evaluated against the parameters for each technology level and assigned a TRL rating based on the project's progress. There are nine technology readiness levels. TRL 1 is the lowest and TRL 9 is the highest.¹⁵
18. **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.¹⁶

III. MECHANICS

A. Eligibility

1. Filipino citizens or Filipino-owned enterprises duly registered and recognized by Philippine laws are eligible to apply in the competition;
2. Proposals to be submitted must need support for early-stage commercialization [at least Technology Readiness Level (TRL) 7], by which the innovative product or service has already been demonstrated, completed, or proven in an operational environment / ready for full-scale production and deployment); and

¹¹ Republic Act 11293. (2019, April 17). Section 9. National Economic and Development Authority. <https://neda.gov.ph/the-philippine-innovation-act/>

¹² IPOPHL (n.d.) Patent. Retrieved from <https://www.ipophil.gov.ph/patent/>

¹³ Hayes, A. (2023). Scalability: What a Scalable Company is, and Examples. Retrieved from <https://www.investopedia.com/terms/s/scalability.asp>

¹⁴ Republic Act 11337. (2019, April 26). The LawPhil Project. Retrieved from https://lawphil.net/statutes/repacts/ra2019/ra_11337_2019.html

¹⁵ National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA). (2023). Technology Readiness Levels. Retrieved from [https://www.nasa.gov/directorates/somd/space-communications-navigation-program/technology-readiness-levels/#:~:text=Technology%20Readiness%20Levels%20\(TRL\)%20are,based%20on%20the%20projects%20progress.](https://www.nasa.gov/directorates/somd/space-communications-navigation-program/technology-readiness-levels/#:~:text=Technology%20Readiness%20Levels%20(TRL)%20are,based%20on%20the%20projects%20progress.)

¹⁶ IPOPHL (n.d.) Utility Model. Retrieved from <https://ipophil.gov.ph/services/utility-model/>

3. Enterprises or individuals should be legally recognized and registered with either the Department of Trade and Industry (DTI) or Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC), if applicable.

B. Stages

The NRIAC will be conducted into two levels:

1. The **Sub-National Level** competitions aim to encourage local participation in their respective innovation ecosystems and highlight innovations that address local needs and priorities. Sub-national competitions shall be organized within the four geographic divisions of the Philippines: National Capital Region (NCR), Luzon, Visayas, and Mindanao. Fifteen (15) finalists shall be selected from the four sub-national competitions; and
2. The **National Level** shall serve as the culmination of the competition, where the 15 finalists will be recognized and rewarded for their excellence and potential impact on a national scale. These 15 finalists shall compete at this level, and five winners will be selected by the National Board of Judges.

C. Process

The conduct of the NRIAC will cover the following major steps:

1. Call for Application

A call for applications will be posted through the competition's official website, social media platforms, and partner networks. The announcement will provide details on eligibility criteria, competition guidelines, and the deadline for submissions.

2. Eligibility Screening and Pre-Selection

Initial screening will occur at the Sub-National level (NCR, Luzon, Visayas, and Mindanao). The Sub-National Secretariat will verify the eligibility of the application entries.

The Sub-National Committee will then select the most promising entries for the pitching and demo day.

3. Pitching and Demo Day

The selected contestants will present and defend their innovations before the Sub-National Board of Judges on the designated pitching and demo day.

4. Judging and Selection of Top Finalists

The Sub-National Board of Judges will select 15 top finalists from the Sub-National Level, who will then progress to the national level. Prior to the final

pitching and deliberation, the 15 finalists will participate in mentoring, capacity-building, and *beta* testing sessions.

5. Final Pitching and Deliberation

The 15 finalists will present and defend their innovation entries before the National Board of Judges. The National Board of Judges will then conduct the final deliberation to select the 5 Filipinnovator Awardees.

6. Awarding Ceremony

The awarding ceremony will be held on National Innovation Day, or another date designated by the ESC or the NIC. The President, as the Chair of the NIC, shall give the award to the 5 Filipinnovator Awardees.

D. Documentary Requirements

The following documents are needed to be submitted by any contestant to the NRIAC Secretariat through the dedicated online platform:

1. Accomplished Application Form;
2. Pitch deck;
3. DTI or SEC Registration, whichever is applicable. For students, they can participate by registering their product through their respective universities or as independent entities with DTI or SEC, if applicable. Universities may assist students in meeting these registration requirements;
4. Undertaking, which contains the terms and conditions that the applicant must certify and agree with;
5. Waiver (other documents that may be required); and
6. Registration number for ongoing applications or a complete IP certificate for a patent, utility model, or industrial design, as applicable. For students, proof of IP application or registration must be submitted either independently or through their university if the project is supported or funded by the institution, as applicable.

E. Grounds for Disqualification

The grounds for disqualification for applicants to join the NRIAC include the following:

1. Entries that do not have a prototype or demonstrate pre-commercialization output for consideration in the competition. A pre-commercialization output may include advancements made in preparing the innovation for market entry, such as pilot testing, market research, and initial production runs. This ensures innovations are beyond conceptual stages, with tangible evidence of feasibility or market potential; and
2. Individuals with a conflict of interest, pertaining to those who are involved in organizing, judging, or administering the competition that possess contradictory interests which may compromise or have the appearance of compromising professional judgements, decisions, or actions in the competition. These

individuals include NEDA officials and employees, NRIAC Secretariat members, ESC members, Board of Judges, NIC Executive Committee Members, and other members of the organizing committees and/or their relatives up to the 4th civil degree of consanguinity or affinity.

IV. ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

A. Executive Steering Committee (ESC)

1. The ESC shall be constituted and will be composed of the following:
 - a. Chairperson: NIC Executive Member representing the Business Sector;
 - b. Co-Chair: NIC Executive Technical Board Chairperson;
 - c. NIC Executive Member representing the MSMEs Sector;
 - d. NIC Executive Member representing the Academe;
 - e. Representative from the DTI;
 - f. Representative from the Department of Science and Technology (DOST);
 - g. Representative from the Intellectual Property of the Philippines (IPOPHL);
and
 - h. Representatives from sectoral agencies (depending on the annual theme/s).

2. Members of the ESC shall have the following functions:
 - a. Oversee the implementation of the NRIAC and assure adherence to the established guidelines;
 - b. Provide recommendations for the competition's financial and organizational setup, including finding potential funding sources, creating budget plans for its operations, and advising on its structure;
 - c. Provide guidance to the NEDA Regional Offices (NROs) to ensure the successful sub-national level implementation of the competition. This includes facilitating the execution of the sub-national level competition procedures and guidelines and reorganizing the geographic divisions of the sub-national competitions to ensure equitable representation across all regions of the country;
 - d. Spearhead public engagement in promotions to generate public interest and encourage broad participation in the competition;
 - e. Foster collaboration with the private sector to enhance the competition's impact and sustainability, including exploring partnership opportunities and sponsorships;
 - f. Lead on the selection of the board of judges and sub-national committee members and ensure transparency and fairness in the selection process;
 - g. Select representatives from sectoral agencies as additional members of the ESC (depending on the annual theme/s of the competition);
 - h. Lead the implementation of a structured monitoring and evaluation framework to track the progress of award winners in utilizing their grants for the intended development and/or commercialization of their innovations;
and
 - i. Perform all other duties as assigned by the NIC to ensure the objectives of the NRIAC are fully achieved.

B. Secretariat

1. The National Secretariat for the NRIAC shall be the NEDA Innovation Staff.
2. The National Secretariat is tasked with the following responsibilities:
 - a. Provide administrative and technical support to the ESC;
 - b. Organize and make all necessary arrangements for the ESC meetings and other activities;
 - c. Prepare the minutes of meetings and deliberations of the ESC;
 - d. Act as a channel for communication and coordination among the ESC, the NIC, Sub-National Committee and other relevant stakeholders;
 - e. Facilitate the conduct of launching and awarding events of the NRIAC;
 - f. Coordinate with participants to ensure necessary documentation is submitted and conduct background checks as needed to support the innovation submissions;
 - g. Maintain records and documentation related to the competition;
 - h. Track the progress of winners in utilizing their grants for the intended development and/or commercialization of their innovations;
 - i. Collaborate with the ESC, Sub-National Committees, and Sub-National Secretariat to ensure proper monitoring and evaluation of the competition's implementation and outcomes; and
 - j. Perform other functions as assigned by the ESC to support the successful implementation of the NRIAC.
3. To support the conduct of the sub-national levels of the competition, the following shall serve as the Sub-National Secretariats to the NRIAC:
 - a. NCR - NEDA Central Office;
 - b. Luzon - NRO CAR, I, II, III, IV-A, MIMAROPA, and V;
 - c. Visayas - NRO VI, VII, and VIII; and
 - d. Mindanao - NRO IX, X, XI, XII, and Caraga.

The Sub-National Secretariats for each sub-national cluster shall be assigned to the NROs on a rotational basis every annual competition cycle. The ESC may re-organize the geographic scope or jurisdiction of respective Sub-National Secretariats, as necessary.

4. The Sub-National Secretariats shall have the following functions:
 - a. Provide administrative and technical support to their respective Sub-National Committee;
 - b. Organize and make all necessary arrangements for the Sub-National Committee meetings and other activities;
 - c. Prepare the minutes of the meetings and deliberations of the Sub-National Committee;
 - d. Act as a channel for communication and coordination among the Sub-National Committee, National Secretariat, and other relevant stakeholders;

- e. Organize the conduct of the sub-national level competition including the screening of applicants and facilitation of pitching and demo day, capacity building, mentoring, and *beta* testing;
- f. Coordinate with participants to ensure necessary documentation is submitted and conduct background checks as needed to support the innovation submissions;
- g. Maintain records and documentation related to the competition;
- h. Assist the National Secretariat in tracking the progress of winners in utilizing their grants for the intended development and/or commercialization of their innovations;
- i. Collaborate with their respective Sub-National Committee, the ESC, and the National Secretariat to ensure proper monitoring and evaluation of the competition's implementation and outcomes; and
- j. Perform other functions as assigned by the Sub-National Committee and the ESC to support the successful sub-national implementation of the NRIAC.

C. Board of Judges

1. The Board of Judges shall be composed of five highly esteemed experts from various fields such as innovation, business, industry, entrepreneurship, science and technology, and academe, with experience in managing innovative projects and startups. Additionally, the Board of Judges should possess expertise relevant to the competition categories for the given year (see attached Annex A for selection criteria for judges).
2. The Board of Judges shall have the following functions:
 - a. Review and assess entries, provide feedback, and score each proposal based on the judging criteria;
 - b. Ensure impartiality, transparency, and fairness throughout the judging process; and
 - c. Perform other functions as assigned by the ESC.
3. The term of the National Board of Judges will commence upon their selection by the ESC and will conclude at the end of the annual competition cycle.
4. The ESC shall prescribe the qualifications and select the National Board of Judges.
5. Sub-national Board of Judges shall be organized, selected, and confirmed by the ESC. They shall perform the following functions:
 - a. Review and assess entries, provide feedback, and score each proposal;
 - b. Ensure impartiality, transparency, and fairness throughout the judging process; and
 - c. Perform other functions as assigned by the Sub-National Committee or the ESC.

D. Sub-National Committees

1. The Sub-National Committees shall be composed of representatives from the Regional Development Councils (RDCs) and will be organized into four geographic clusters: NCR, Luzon, Visayas, and Mindanao. The specific composition is as follows:
 - a. **NCR** - NEDA Central Office;
 - b. **Luzon** - Representatives from the RDCs of regions CAR, I, II, III, IV-A, MIMAROPA, and V;
 - c. **Visayas** - Representatives from the RDCs of regions VI, VII, and VIII; and
 - d. **Mindanao** - Representatives from the RDCs of regions IX, X, XI, XII, and Caraga. The representative from the Ministry of Science and Technology, Bangsamoro Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (BARMM).
2. Each Sub-National Committee shall nominate among its members a chairperson and co-chairperson, annually.
3. The Sub-National Committees shall have the following functions:
 - a. Oversee and coordinate the competition within their respective regional island groups, ensuring representation and that all local activities are aligned with the guidelines and objectives of the NRIAC;
 - b. Promote the competition locally to encourage participation from a diverse range of innovators and stakeholders;
 - c. Organize sub-national board of judges who are experts from various fields such as innovation, entrepreneurship, science and technology, business, academe, and industry;
 - d. Attend meetings and discussions and coordinate with the Secretariat for the conduct of the sub-national competition;
 - e. Maintain confidentiality regarding submissions and deliberations; and
 - f. Perform other functions as assigned by the ESC.

V. THEME AND CATEGORIES

- A. The competition's theme may focus on emerging trends and areas fostering innovations in the Philippines, to be identified by the ESC.
- B. Three categories for each year may be derived from the priorities outlined in the NIASD 2023-2032 and the Philippine Development Plan (PDP) 2023-2028.

NIASD Priority Areas¹⁷

1. *Learning and Education* - Innovations that enable the effective delivery of inclusive and quality lifelong learning, allowing learners to acquire functional

¹⁷ National Economic and Development Authority (NEDA). (2023). National Innovation Agenda and Strategy Document (NIASD) 2023-2032. Retrieved from <https://neda.gov.ph/wp-content/uploads/2023/11/NIASD-PUBLICATION-V24.4.pdf>

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.

VI. AWARDS AND INCENTIVES

The competition will have 15 Sub-National Finalists who will receive grant awards for qualifying for the national level. They will also be provided with coaching and mentoring before the final pitching at the national level.

Of the 15 finalists, five (5) winners shall be selected by the National Board of Judges. One winner will be chosen from each of the four subnational clusters: Luzon, Visayas, Mindanao, and the National Capital Region (NCR). The fifth awardee may come from

any of these clusters. These five winners shall be declared as the Filipinno-ator Awardees of the Year.

The 5 Filipinno-ator Awardees will receive a grant award. Aside from grant awards, they will also be provided with support such as, but not limited to, coaching and mentoring, participation in international events (i.e. trade fairs, business-to-business matching events) to showcase their innovation, and connect to possible investor.

VII. JUDGING CRITERIA

The judging criteria for both sub-national and national levels are as follows:

CRITERIA	MAX SCORE	DESCRIPTION
Sustainability and Scalability	30	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The enterprise has a working business model and generates revenues. 2. The enterprise has a considerable amount of traction (users and clients). 3. The current state of the product/service has the potential to compete and expand solutions and/or operations in the global arena.
Marketability	30	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> a) The enterprise has a unique selling proposition and/or product-market fit. b) The enterprise has clearly identified a market niche or market segment. c) The enterprise presents a comprehensive strategy for its target market/s, i.e. brand development, market expansion, addressing market barriers, and/or new market entry.
Potential Impact and Relevance	30	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> a) The solution exhibited or has a strong track record of already making a significant impact on the local community or industry and addresses the developmental goals identified in the PDP/NIASD. b) The solution has the potential to disrupt or revolutionize an industry/community. c) The enterprise exhibits the potential to compete and expand business solutions in the global arena. d) The enterprise/individual exhibits strong subject matter expertise on the technology/ies used for the proposed solution.

CRITERIA	MAX SCORE	DESCRIPTION
Innovativeness	10	a) The overall concept/solution is innovative and unique. b) The overall concept/solution has a clear competitive advantage over currently available solutions and has clear market differentiation. c) The startup or enterprise has an IP/IP application in process.
Total	100	

VIII. POST-COMPETITION

A. Memorandum of Agreement (MOA)

1. Grant awards shall be exclusively utilized for activities of the awarded innovation programs.
2. The Grant shall be transferred based on the submitted financial documents from the awardee.
3. Grant awards shall be transferred to the winner through a MOA and shall be subject to government accounting and auditing rules and regulations. Failure to sign the MOA shall mean its forfeiture to receive the grant award.
4. The MOA shall reflect the grantee's deliverables, timelines, required documents to be submitted, consequences of failure to deliver, and other relevant terms and conditions.

B. Monitoring and Evaluation

1. The winners shall submit quarterly reports to the NRIAC Secretariat for monitoring.
2. The ESC and Secretariat may conduct field visits to the project sites of the National Champion and four Sub-National Champions to ensure proper implementation and disbursement of grant awards.
3. The project shall be completed within one year after the award of the grant.

IX. FUND SOURCE

All expenditures, including but not limited to prizes/grants to winners, honorarium to the board of judges, and other relevant expenses, shall be charged against the Innovation Fund under the General Appropriations Act subject to government accounting and auditing rules and regulations.

X. SEPARABILITY CLAUSE

If any of these Guidelines or the application of such provision to any person or circumstance is declared invalid, the remainder of these Guidelines or the application

of such provision to other persons or circumstances shall not be affected by such declaration.

XI. REVIEW CLAUSE

This Guidelines shall be reviewed and updated periodically as may be necessary.

XII. EFFECTIVITY

The guidelines shall take effect immediately upon approval of the NIC unless revoked or revised.

XIII. APPROVAL

These guidelines on the NRIAC are hereby approved and hereby promulgated. For guidance and compliance.

ANNEX A

Selection Criteria for Judges

1. Minimum of 10 years of work experience in fields directly related to innovation, entrepreneurship, science and technology, business, academe, or industry;
2. Expertise relevant to the competition categories for the given year;
3. Recognized authority in their respective fields, evidenced by a track record of publications, patents, awards, or invited talks/speaking engagements;
4. Demonstrated alignment with the objectives and values of the innovation awards and competition, as evidenced by past involvement in similar initiatives or evaluating projects, products, and startups;
5. Demonstrated commitment to impartiality, fairness, and ethical conduct in previous judging or evaluative roles (if any);
6. Disclosure and avoidance of conflicts of interest, including financial interests, professional affiliations, or personal relationships with participants;
7. Availability to dedicate significant time and effort to fulfill judging responsibilities, including attending meetings, reviewing submissions, and participating in deliberations; and
8. Commitment to meeting deadlines and adhering to the schedule set forth by the Secretariat.

ANNEX B

Competition Mechanics

Level	Step	Particulars	In-charge
National	1. Call for applications	A call for submission of applications shall be launched through the competition website, social media channels, and partner networks. The call shall include information on eligibility, mechanics, and submission deadline.	National Secretariat
Sub-National	2. Submission of application and documentary requirements through an online platform	A platform shall be created for the submission of all documents related to the application for the NRIAC. Instructions on how to access the platform and upload the files will be included in the call for application.	Sub-National Secretariat
	3. Eligibility Screening and Pre-Selection Process	<p>The screening will be conducted at each respective Sub-National Level (NCR, Luzon, Visayas, and Mindanao). The Sub-National Secretariat shall review the eligibility and completion of application entries.</p> <p>The Sub-National Committee will identify eligible entries with high potential for the pitching and demo day.</p>	Sub-National Secretariat/ Sub-National Committee
	4. Pitching and Demo Day	Contestants selected by the Sub-National Committee will present and defend their innovation entries before the Sub-National Board of Judges.	Sub-National Board of Judges
	5. Selection of Top Finalists	The Sub-National Board of Judges will select the top three (3) finalists from each sub-national level to advance to the national level. Additionally, the remaining entries from each cluster will be ranked, and the ESC shall select three (3) additional entries to complete the 15 finalists for the national level.	Sub-National Board of Judges

Level	Step	Particulars	In-charge
		Before the final pitching and deliberation, the finalists will undergo mentoring, capacity building, and <i>beta</i> testing.	
	6. Mentoring, Capacity Building, and Beta Testing	The 15 finalists from the sub-national levels will undertake their mentoring and capacity-building sessions on effective presentation skills, and gather relevant feedback from a select group of people to improve their innovations.	Sub-National Secretariat/ Sub-National Committee
National	7. Final Pitching and Deliberation	The 15 finalists will present and defend their innovation entries before the National Board of Judges. The National Board of Judges conducts the final deliberation to select the 5 Filipinno Awardees.	National Board of Judges
	8. Awarding Ceremony	The awarding ceremony will take place on National Innovation Day or on any other date as identified by ESC or the NIC.	National Secretariat
	9. Monitoring and Evaluation	There will be a monitoring and evaluation of the projects' implementation of the innovations to track the impact and progress.	National and Sub-National Secretariats