

Republic of the Philippines  
**TECHNICAL EDUCATION AND SKILLS DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY**  
East Service Road, South Luzon Expressway, Taguig, Metro Manila

**126<sup>th</sup> TESDA BOARD MEETING**  
15 December 2020, Tuesday, 9:00 A.M.  
Through Online Teleconference Via Zoom Platform

**Resolution No. 2020-59**  
**(Page 1 of 5)**

**APPROVING AND PROMULGATING THE GRANTING OF NATIONAL  
CERTIFICATES TO GRADUATES OF THREE-STAR PROGRAMS AND CENTER OF  
TECHNICAL EXCELLENCE OF TVET INSTITUTIONS (TVIs) WITH GOLD APACC  
LEVEL OF ACCREDITATION**

**WHEREAS**, Section 14, Letter d, Item No. 2 of Republic Act 7796 (TESDA Law) empowers TESDA to establish and maintain a system for accrediting, coordinating, integrating, monitoring, and evaluating the different formal and non-formal Technical-Vocational Education and Training (TVET) programs;

**WHEREAS**, TESDA Board Resolution No. 98-01 dated 23 January 1998 installed the Quality Assured Technical Education and Skills Development System Framework, which includes accreditation as one of the components of the quality assurance mechanism in the delivery of TVET programs.

**WHEREAS**, TESDA currently has two types of accreditation, the System for TVET Accreditation and Recognition (STAR) Program and the Asia Pacific Accreditation and Certification Commission (APACC) accreditation.

**WHEREAS**, TESDA Circular No. 099 series of 2019 on Amended Implementing Guidelines on the System for TVET Accreditation and Recognition (STAR) Program was issued to establish a system of recognizing the accomplishments and improvements that TVIs have instituted beyond the minimum requirements set in Program Registration under the Unified TVET Program Registration and Accreditation System (UTPRAS);

**WHEREAS**, Letter B of TESDA Circular No. 090 series of 2018 on the Typology of Public and Private Technical Vocational Institutions (TVIs) under Vertical Typology, Center of Technical Excellence (CenTex) is a status conferred to the program offering of a TVI awarded with Three STAR Level under the STAR Program and has demonstrated superior results and high level of distinction in implementing its quality assurance system;

**WHEREAS**, the Asia Pacific and Accreditation Commission (APACC) is an international accreditation body that confers accreditation to TVET Institutions which meet the following criteria: Governance and Management, Teaching and Learning, Human Resources, Research and Development, Image and Sustainability, Other Resources and Support to Students;

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LEVEL OF ACCREDITATION**

**WHEREAS**, an institution to be awarded with Gold APACC Level of Accreditation should have obtained 451 to 490 points based on compliance to the APACC accreditation criteria and has manifested established quality management system, strong research and development program and operational industry-institution linkage;

**WHEREAS**, TVET Institutions that have programs that have garnered Three STAR Award and at least GOLD Accreditation from APACC have established quality-assured systems and processes to have attained such level of accreditation, thereby ensuring competent and proficient graduates;

**WHEREAS**, public consultation with the private and public Technical Vocational Institutions (TVIs) has been conducted last September 24, 2020 in which the proposed policy has been favorably endorsed;

**WHEREAS**, in the meetings of the Standards Setting and Systems Development Committee held last August 20, December 1, and December 11, 2020, the proposed policy was deliberated and approved by the Committee for endorsement to the TESDA Board;

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED AS IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED**, that the TESDA Board in its meeting today, 15 December 2020, approves the Granting of National Certificate (NC) to Graduates of Three-STAR Programs and Centers of Technical Excellence of TVET Institutions (TVIs) with Gold APACC Level of Accreditation, with the following provisions;

1. The graduates of Three-STAR programs and recognized Centers of Technical Excellence of TVIs with Gold APACC Level of Accreditation shall be automatically awarded with the corresponding National Certificates (NCs).
2. The Three-STAR Program Level Award with Center of Technical Excellence Recognition, and Gold APACC Accreditation must be valid from the date of

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- learners' enrollment/admission to the program up to the completion of the program, to make the graduates eligible to automatic NCs.
3. The institutional assessment tools and mechanism based on the Learning Outcomes of the program shall be evaluated as part of the compliance audit and the STAR Program external validation.
  4. The names of the graduates shall be indicated in the MIS-03-02 and the Registry of Certified Workers as "graduate" and "competent", respectively, in the T2MIS.
  5. TESDA Provincial Offices (POs) shall issue the National Certificates to the graduates referred to above for having demonstrated competence in all units of competency.
  6. Operating Procedures shall be developed to guide all TESDA Regional and Provincial Offices.

**BE IT RESOLVED, FINALLY,** that copies of this Resolution and the aforementioned TESDA Circular be published in the Official Gazette or in a newspaper of general circulation and dissemination to all concerned and the same be effective fifteen (15) days upon publication.

Adopted this 15<sup>th</sup> day of December 2020.

  
**Atty. MARICHELE D. DE GUZMAN**  
Board Secretary VI

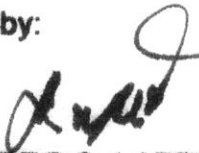
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TECHNICAL EXCELLENCE OF TVET INSTITUTIONS (TVIs) WITH GOLD APACC  
LEVEL OF ACCREDITATION**

Attested by:

  
**SEC. ISIDRO S. LAPEÑA, PhD., CSEE**  
Designated Chairperson, TESDA Board  
Director General, TESDA

*(Original Signed)*  
**USEC. RENATO L. EBARLE**  
Department of Labor and Employment

*(Original Signed)*  
**USEC. DIOSDADO M. SAN ANTONIO**  
Department of Education

*(Original Signed)*  
**USEC. RAFAELITA M. ALDABA**  
Department of Trade and Industry

*(Original Signed)*  
**USEC. BRENDA L. NAZARETH-MANZANO**  
Department of Science and Technology

*(Original Signed)*  
**MR. ISIDRO ANTONIO C. ASPER**  
Board Member, Labor Sector

*(Original Signed)*  
**MR. RENE LUIS M. TADLE**  
Board Member, Labor Sector

*(Original Signed)*  
**MR. RAMON R. DE LEON**  
Board Member, Labor Sector

*(Original Signed)*  
**MR. ROGELIO J. CHAVEZ, JR.**  
Board Member, Labor Sector

*(Original Signed)*  
**DR. LEONIDA BAYANI-ORTIZ**  
Board Member, Employer Sector

*(Original Signed)*  
**PROF. RANDOLPH I. NONATO**  
Board Member, Employer Sector

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*(Original Signed)*

**MS. MARY G. NG**

Board Member, Business & Investment  
Sector

*(Original Signed)*

**MR. ARTURO M. MILAN**

Board Member, Business & Investment  
Sector

*(Original Signed)*

**FR. ONOFRE G. INOCENCIO JR., SDB**

Board Member, Education and Training  
Sector

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# TESDA CIRCULAR

<b>Subject:</b> Granting of National Certificates (NCs) to Graduates of Three-STAR Programs and Centers of Technical Excellence of TVET Institutions (TVIs) with Gold APACC Level of Accreditation		Page 1 of 6 page/s Number <u>146</u> , series of 2020
<b>Date Issued:</b> December 17, 2020	<b>Effectivity:</b> December 17, 2020	<b>Supersedes:</b>

In the interest of the service and to encourage Technical Vocational Institutions (TVIs) to continuously produce competent workers through quality assurance in the development and delivery of its program offerings, the following guidelines are hereby issued.

## I. BACKGROUND

The Quality Assured TESD Framework includes accreditation as one of the components of the quality assurance mechanism in the delivery of TVET programs. Currently, TESDA has two types of accreditation, the System for TVET Accreditation and Recognition (STAR) Program and the Asia Pacific Accreditation and Certification Commission (APACC) accreditation.

The STAR Program is a system of recognizing TVET programs that have exceeded the minimum requirements of program registration. TVET programs applied for STAR are evaluated based on Governance and Management, Curriculum and Program Delivery, Support Services and Program Performance Measures. Based on the evaluation results, TVET programs can obtain One-STAR, Two-STAR and Three-STAR level of award based on their compliance to the requirements and criteria of the STAR Program.

With the issuance of TESDA Circular No. 090 series of 2018 on the Typology of Public and Private TVIs, institutions which have programs with STAR Level of Award were classified into Center of Technical Development (with One-STAR programs), Center of Technical Proficiency (with Two-STAR programs) and Center of Technical Excellence (with Three-STAR program) under the Vertical Typology.

The APACC accreditation is an institutional accreditation. The core principle of the APACC Accreditation and Certification is to harmonize the quality of TVET, standardize skills taught in TVET institutions in the region and facilitate greater mobility of workforce in Asia and the Pacific region. Institutions subject to APACC accreditation are evaluated on the following criteria: Governance and Management, Teaching and Learnings, Human Resources, Research and Development, Image and Sustainability, Other Resources and Support to Students. The institutional levels of accreditation under APACC are Bronze, Bronze+, Silver, Gold and Platinum.

# TESDA CIRCULAR

<b>Subject:</b> Granting of National Certificates (NCs) to Graduates of Three-STAR Programs and Centers of Technical Excellence of TVET Institutions (TVIs) with Gold APACC Level of Accreditation		Page 2 of 6 page/s Number <u>146</u> , series of 2020
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Graduates of programs with Training Regulations with Competency Assessment Tools (CATs) are expected to take the assessment after completing the program. Given the criteria of the STAR program, such as curriculum and program delivery, which measures extent of adoption of competency-based TVET principles and alignment with industry standards; and program performance measures in terms of employment rate, the program is assumed to produce graduates who would have achieved the competencies of the program qualification National Certificate level. Likewise, an institution that has at least Gold APACC Award has established quality management system, strong research and development program and operational industry-institution linkage, among its criteria.

Hence, the grant of the National Certificate (NC) to graduates of Three-STAR Programs and Center of Technical Excellence of institutions with at least Gold APACC awardee shall be implemented under the implementing guidelines of this TESDA Circular.

Item No. 6 of Section 8 of RA 7796 or the TESDA Law – Powers and Functions of the Board empowers the Board to establish and administer a system of accreditation of both public and private institutions. Inasmuch as the criteria applied in the proposed policy are adopted from the STAR and APACC guidelines, it is hereby recommended that the implementing guidelines on the aforementioned proposed policy shall be endorsed to the TESDA Board for approval.

## II. OBJECTIVE

Generally, the policy aims to increase industry acceptability of the TESDA certification.

Specifically, this shall:

1. Provide incentive to all TTIs and TVIs that continuously implement quality assurance in the delivery of TVET programs that is aligned with industry standards;
2. Encourage TTIs and TVIs to apply for the highest level of accreditation; and
3. Provide learners with quality-assured and effective TVET programs.

# TESDA CIRCULAR

<b>Subject:</b> Granting of National Certificates (NCs) to Graduates of Three-STAR Programs and Centers of Technical Excellence of TVET Institutions (TVIs) with Gold APACC Level of Accreditation		Page 3 of 6 page/s Number <u>446</u> , series of 2020
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### III. SCOPE AND COVERAGE

This Circular shall cover all graduates of 3-STAR program/s and recognized as Center of Technical Excellence of TVI/s with Gold APACC Level of Accreditation.

### IV. DEFINITION OF TERMS

**Asia Pacific Accreditation and Certification Commission (APACC)** - refers to a regional accreditation and certification body established by Colombo Plan member governments which conducts accreditation and certifies the accreditation status earned by TVET institutions, among others, in Asia and the Pacific Region. (2018 — 7 APACC Web Brochure)

**Center of Technical Excellence (CentEx) (Level III)** — is a status conferred to the program offering of a TVI which was awarded Three (3) STAR Level under the STAR Program of TESDA and has demonstrated superior results and high level of distinction in implementing its quality assurance system

**National Certificate** – refers to a document issued by TESDA to individuals who have achieved all the required units of competency of a national qualification defined under the promulgated Training Regulations.

**Provincial Office (PO)** – for the purpose of this document, Provincial Office refers to the TESDA Provincial Offices including the District Offices of NCR.

**Quality Assurance** – refers to the planned and systematic pattern of all actions necessary to provide adequate confidence that the product, its components, packaging and labeling are acceptable for their intended use. (ISO and TESDA Glossary of Terms 4<sup>th</sup> Edition)

**System of TVET Accreditation and Recognition (STAR) Program** – refers to a system recognizing TVET programs beyond the program registration minimum requirements. The system shall be evidence-based criteria, which are translated into numerical points that will correspond to the STAR Level Award of the program. (TESDA Circular No. 18 s. 2016)

# TESDA CIRCULAR

<b>Subject:</b> Granting of National Certificates (NCs) to Graduates of Three-STAR Programs and Centers of Technical Excellence of TVET Institutions (TVIs) with Gold APACC Level of Accreditation		Page 4 of 6 page/s Number <u>146</u> , series of 2020
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**Three-STAR Program** – refers to a program that meets standard substantially way above the threshold of CBT program delivery and program performance measures.

**Typology** – refer to the systematic classification of things according to general types. It is a means of classifying people or things by certain commonalities or differences. It assists researchers and other to better understand certain conditions or factors. Moreover, it helps to understand how things relate to each other.

## **V. GUIDELINES ON THE GRANTING OF NATIONAL CERTIFICATES (NCs) TO GRADUATES OF THREE-STAR PROGRAMS AND CENTERS OF TECHNICAL EXCELLENCE OF TVIs WITH AT LEAST GOLD APACC AWARD**

1. The graduates of Three-STAR programs and recognized Centers of Technical Excellence of TVIs with Gold APACC Level of Accreditation shall be automatically awarded with the corresponding National Certificates (NCs).
2. The Three-STAR Program Level Award with Center of Technical Excellence Recognition, and Gold APACC Accreditation must be valid from the date of learners' enrollment/admission to the program up to the completion of the program, to make the graduates eligible to automatic NCs. The TVI can no longer grant automatic NCs to its graduates once the validity of accreditation of the three-STAR program, Center of Technical Excellence Recognition and Gold APACC accreditation had lapsed, or withdrawn for any due cause.
3. The institutional assessment tools and mechanism based on the Learning Outcomes of the program shall be evaluated as part of the compliance audit and the STAR Program external validation.
4. The names of the graduates shall be indicated in the MIS-03-02 and the Registry of Certified Workers as "graduate" and "competent", respectively, in the T2MIS.
5. TESDA Provincial Offices (POs) shall issue the National Certificates to the graduates referred to above for having demonstrated competence in all units of competency.

# TESDA CIRCULAR

<b>Subject:</b> Granting of National Certificates (NCs) to Graduates of Three-STAR Programs and Centers of Technical Excellence of TVET Institutions (TVIs) with Gold APACC Level of Accreditation		Page 5 of 6 page/s Number <u>146</u> , series of 2020
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6. Operating Procedures shall be developed to guide all TESDA Regional and Provincial Offices.

## VI. PROMOTION AND ADVOCACY

1. Promotion and advocacy of the STAR Program, Centers of Technical Excellence and APACC Accreditation shall be intensified to create awareness of the quality-assured programs, particularly among the industry employers.
2. All TTIs and TVIs shall be oriented on the automatic granting of NCs to programs with Three-STAR and Centers of Technical Excellence and recognition in APACC GOLD Awardee Institutions.

## VII. MONITORING AND EVALUATION

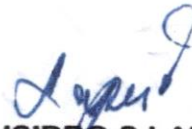
1. An annual report of graduates of three-STAR programs and Centers of Technical Excellence of TVET Institutions (TVIs) with Gold APACC Level of Accreditation, granted with automatic National Certificates (NCs) shall be published in various media.
2. The TESDA STAR Program Office shall establish a system to monitor the employment status of graduates of TVIs with 3-STAR Awards and at least Gold APACC Accreditation;
3. An independent comparative study on graduates of Three-STAR program/s and recognized as Centers of Technical Excellence of TVIs with Gold APACC accreditation vis-à-vis graduates of regular programs shall be conducted after a year of implementation and will serve as basis in the evaluation of this policy.
4. The results of the implementation of this policy and STAR Program shall be provided to the TESDA Board as bases for policy review and enhancement.

# TESDA CIRCULAR

<b>Subject:</b> Granting of National Certificates (NCs) to Graduates of Three-STAR Programs and Centers of Technical Excellence of TVET Institutions (TVIs) with Gold APACC Level of Accreditation		Page 6 of 6 page/s Number <u>146</u> , series of 2020
<b>Date Issued:</b> December 17, 2020	<b>Effectivity:</b> December 17, 2020	<b>Supersedes:</b>

## VIII. EFFECTIVITY

This Circular shall take effect as indicated.



**SEC. ISIDRO S LAPEÑA, PhD, CSEE**  
Director General