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# O36 - From Curiosity to the Cosmos: Creating Space for Women and Girls in Astronomy

*Wednesday, 25 November 2026 11:45 (15 minutes)*

The DOST-PAGASA Space Science and Astronomy Section has implemented a series of initiatives aimed at fostering the participation of women and girls in astronomy through inclusive education, outreach, and experiential learning. Since 2022, these efforts have evolved from awareness-building activities, beginning with the webinar Recognizing the Women and Girls in Philippine Astronomy, to more interactive and community-based programs.

Key initiatives include a hybrid seminar highlighting women in astronomy, the development and rollout of a gender-inclusive Basic Astronomy Flipchart to promote accessible learning, Cosmic Encounters with HOPE, where girls experienced astronomy outreach through hands-on roles in planetarium operations and solar observation, and the Cosmic Discovery Trail, an intergenerational program that engaged mothers and children in astronomy activities.

This presentation highlights how these initiatives have created meaningful opportunities for women and girls to explore astronomy, strengthen science engagement, and build confidence in STEM. By sharing DOST-PAGASA's experience, the presentation demonstrates how sustained, inclusive outreach can help inspire future generations and contribute to greater gender equity in astronomy and science education.

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