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P25 - Beyond the Dome: The Planetarium as a Gateway to Astronomy and Science Education in the Visayas

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The Visayas Planetarium, operated by the Visayas PAGASA Regional Services Division (VPRSD) in Cebu, Philippines, is emerging as a regional platform for astronomy education, public engagement, and informal STEM learning. While the planetarium primarily introduces visitors to astronomy and space science through immersive digital experiences, its potential extends beyond the dome by connecting astronomy with Earth science, atmospheric science, weather, and climate.

Since opening to the public in 2025, the Visayas Planetarium has attracted an increasing number of visitors, with students and educational institutions comprising the majority of its audience. The growing interest demonstrates the potential of the planetarium to serve not only as a venue for astronomy education but also as a gateway to broader scientific learning.

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