



University of the Philippines Los Baños

HORIZON



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Camacho to be invested as 10th UPLB chancellor

UPLB will hold the investiture ceremonies for Dr. Jose V. Camacho, Jr. as 10th chancellor of UPLB on Sept. 15, at 11 a.m. at the Edwin B. Copeland Gymnasium in UPLB.

Camacho was appointed chancellor by the UP Board of Regents at its 1354th meeting on Sept. 24, 2020.

Before he became chancellor, Camacho served as dean of the UPLB Graduate School since February 2012. From October 2007 to February 2012, he was associate dean and chair of academic programs and curriculum of the College of Economics and Management (CEM).

In his bid for the chancellorship, he presented a vision-mission of future-proofing UPLB, of sustaining UPLB's relevance by developing methods, approaches, and frameworks

to minimize the cost and impacts of shocks of future events.

Camacho holds a Professor 9 rank and teaches at CEM. He specializes in the fields of economics of education, labor and human resource, and development economics.

He finished Master of Arts in Economics of Development at Erasmus University International Institute of Social Studies in The Hague, Netherlands in 1995 and Doctor of Economics at the Graduate School of Economics in Kyoto University, Japan. (*Josephine M. Bo*)



Future-proofing UPLB: Toward Agile and Adaptive Processes, Programs, and People



Almost two years have passed since Dr. Jose V. Camacho, Jr. assumed office as the 10th chancellor of UPLB amid unfolding global disruptions that have upended the way things are being done everywhere including in academe.

Chancellor Camacho offered a vision-mission aimed at developing methods, approaches, and frameworks to minimize the cost and impacts of the shocks caused by these and future disruptions.

It is a vision-mission anchored on compassion and concern for others and highlighting the values of cooperation, collaboration, and consolidation. It is aimed at future-proofing the University, making its processes, programs, and people agile and adaptive to change.

What has UPLB accomplished thus far? What follows are the highlights of initiatives and achievements under five areas corresponding to the key goals that Chancellor Camacho's administration crafted to guide its steps and actions.

Make the University more agile and resilient in dealing with disruption

Protecting and helping constituents navigate the new normal

UPLB focused on protecting constituents from COVID-19 and on helping neighboring communities, especially with testing and mass vaccination. Under the Safety, Health, and Intra-Community Engagements for Lifesaving Defense or UPLB SHIELD, the University implemented a vaccination program for constituents and residents of nearby communities.

It also provided COVID-19-related services such as online consultations, and guidance and counseling.

UPLB continued to support the shift to the remote and flexible learning mode and helped students who grappled with issues regarding the availability of gadgets and internet connectivity. Adjustments were made in teaching-learning to ease the mental and financial toll on the students and faculty members.

The Interactive Learning Center was expanded into the Center for the Advancement of Teaching and Learning, mandated to facilitate adaptation to the new modes of teaching-learning and assigned the functions of various committees that were created to improve instruction.



The University sourced COVID-19 vaccines from the Department of Health Region IV-A COVAX facility and temporarily converted the EB Copeland Gymnasium into a vaccination hub, not only for UPLB, but also for Los Baños residents and other neighboring LGUs.

UPLB contributed to making Los Baños a top-performing municipality in Laguna with 100% of its target population given at least one dose of COVID-19 vaccine. The recognition was given by the DOH, DILG, and the National Task Force Against COVID-19. UPLB was also lauded as an Outstanding Higher Education Institution (HEI) for its COVID-19 Vaccination Program.

The new University Health Service-Emergency Room Extension Facility built through a successful collaboration of the UP Medical Association Society in America and the UPLB Class of 1971 Legacy Project with the help of the UPLB Alumni Association enabled UPLB to conduct safer swab testing. The facility is fitted with negative pressure air exchange.

The UHS was able to administer 47,945 COVID-19 doses from April 2021 to June 2022.

Adjustments made in teaching-learning amid COVID-19

- Adjusted curriculum design to reschedule skills-intensive topics
- Conducted synchronous and asynchronous classes
- Held webinars in and incentivized course pack preparation
- Scheduled mental health breaks
- Approved petition courses well before the registration period
- Tweaked industry-based internships to allow virtual set-up
- Held virtual tutorials for high-mortality subjects
- Conducted virtual bridge programs to help freshies transition to college
- Conducted virtual customized self-improvement training sessions
- Provided financial assistance and connectivity to students in need
- Intensified online library services

Overseeing the UPLB digital transformation

At the core of future-proofing is the digital transformation of UPLB (UPLB DX) that is being carried out using Enterprise Architecture Planning (EAP). A systematic digitalization of UPLB is now being undertaken that is focused on the UPLB DX-Academic Management Information System (UPLB DX-AMIS). It will take into account and potentially integrate existing management information systems.

UPLB DX-AMIS aims to design and co-create an open, dynamic, scalable, secure, and future-proof AMIS. Students, faculty, and administrators will be able to use and transact through the UPLB DX-AMIS in place of manual and inefficient processes. Currently limited to academic information, it should be ready to integrate with other systems as agile management demands.

Earlier efforts in digitalization in UPLB have been successful, namely, the OSA Management System (2012) and OVCRE Research and Extension Enterprise System (2016), among others.

Applications to be unified and harmonized under one UPLB DX Project where quality standards are maintained, and data integrity and resilience upheld:

- Faculty Merit Promotion Application
- University Knowledge Digital Repository
- DocTrax System
- Online University Clearance System
- Time Keeping System
- Online UPLB Vehicle Sticker Application System
- Online Health Monitoring System
- Dorm Reservation System
- OSA Management System
- OVCRE Research and Extension Enterprise System

Generating resources and helping communities through the conduct of sustainable projects

The University is implementing projects that aim to generate resources while keeping in mind that these reflect the values it espouses and supports the attainment of its mandates as a research and public service university.

UPLB Agro-Industrial Park-Information Technology Park (AIP-ITP)

UPLB has sought the endorsement of the Los Baños Municipal and Laguna Provincial LGUs, and the Laguna Lake Development Authority for the site development plan of the AIP-ITP paving the way for the approval of the Investment Coordination Committee of NEDA for the plan. The AIP-ITP will enhance academe-industry linkages and spur economic activities and employment opportunities in the area.



Laguna-Quezon Land Grant (LQLG)

LQLG is now being developed into a nature and ecotourism destination, a nursery and genebank, and an events venue. Its facilities have been renovated and rehabilitated.



Waste-to-Energy (WTE) facility

Through the WTE facility, UPLB will be able to implement responsible waste management and disposal, tap green energy sources, and contribute to knowledge on energy independence and environmental sustainability.

UPLB Technology and One-Stop Shop (THOSS)

UPLB THOSS showcases UPLB products and is also helping link supply and the market for food and other goods that CALABARZON is known for.

Sustained academic excellence and leadership through investment in human capital

Beefing up the teaching force

As the COVID-19 pandemic spread and threatened public health, UPLB followed strict quarantine guidelines and shifted to online classes that demanded adjustments to be made to ensure optimal teaching-learning. With the All-UP Academic Employees Union-Los Baños, the UPLB administration was able to negotiate for class size at the undergraduate level to be reduced to a maximum of 25 students. This necessitated the expansion of the teaching force, thus requiring more subject matter experts. Lecturers and teaching associates (TA) and fellows (TF) were hired to fill the gap. TAs and TFs are postgraduate scholars of the University who are selected based on their potential to teach and pursue graduate studies.



Additional Teaching Force

Lecturers	74 (Aug 2020-Sept 2021); 72 (Aug 2021-July 2022)
Teaching Assistants	55 (AY 2020-2021)
Teaching Fellows	7 (AY 2020-2021)

Implementing academic improvement

In 2021, UPLB secured Php 6.18M in Academic Program Improvement funds that were used to assess degree programs, prepare course manuals, improve study rooms, prepare promotion and development materials, and develop new courses and programs.

To encourage faculty members who had to prepare course materials for the abrupt shift to online teaching during the pandemic, UPLB facilitated the giving of course pack incentives by UP for AY 2020-2021. UPLB also supported the postgraduate studies of a number of faculty members through the approval of their reduced fee applications.



Course pack incentives:
PhP13,136,074.52 for 1,587 faculty members

Ensuring quality assurance

UPLB pushed toward the goal of quality assurance (QA) even amid the pandemic by training faculty members in QA, preparing self-assessment reports; and by seeing to it that the University is compliant with the International Academic Assessment Development System, a standard for evaluating academic units.

Programs being prepared for ASEAN University Network-Quality Assurance (AUN-QA) Certification and Washington Accord (WA) Accreditation

- | | |
|---|--|
| For 2022 <ul style="list-style-type: none">• BS Food Science and Technology (new, AUN-QA)• BS Agricultural Biotechnology (new, AUN-QA)• BS Economics (new, AUN-QA) | For 2023 <ul style="list-style-type: none">• BS Nutrition (new, AUN-QA)• BS Biology (renewal, AUN-QA)• BS Forestry (renewal, AUN-QA)• BS Agricultural and Biosystems Engineering (WA)• BS Chemical Engineering (WA) |
|---|--|

Implementing new degree programs and leveling the playing field in the access to a UP education

While it is difficult to attain a level playing field in access to a UP education, UPLB is intent on offering undergraduate and postgraduate degree programs as well as platforms on which these are offered toward more inclusivity.

UPLB is now offering associate programs that would provide a UP education to non-UP qualifiers and possibly give them a ticket to finish an undergraduate degree program in the University. Meanwhile, the University continues to offer off-campus programs with partner UP constituent units, state colleges and universities, government agencies, and even with the private sector. UPLB also continues to offer selected programs through the UP Professional School for Agriculture and the Environment (UP PSAE) in Panabo City in Davao del Norte.



- Newly approved degree programs**
- PhD by Research in Data Analytics and Informatics (Aug 25, 2022)
 - Master in Animal Nutrition (June 02, 2021)
 - Master in Food Engineering (July 29, 2021)
 - Master in Clinical Nutrition (April 28, 2022)
 - BS Materials Engineering (April 28, 2022)
 - Associate in Arts in Entrepreneurship (April 28, 2022)
 - Associate of Science in Development Communication (Aug 25, 2022)
 - Associate of Science in Forestry (Aug 25, 2022)

Nurturing relationships with various university sectors

UPLB maintained open communication lines with constituents and nurtured a consultative approach with them on decisions that affected their sectors. The University also maintained the same openness with students through the University Student Council (USC). Healthy and peaceful dialogues between the UPLB officials and the USC have been a constant in the past years. In fact, the University created the University Council Committee on National Issues (UC-CNI) to advise it on national issues and propose policies.



Provide an enabling environment for creativity, critical thinking, and innovation

Revitalizing and rebranding the research and extension agenda

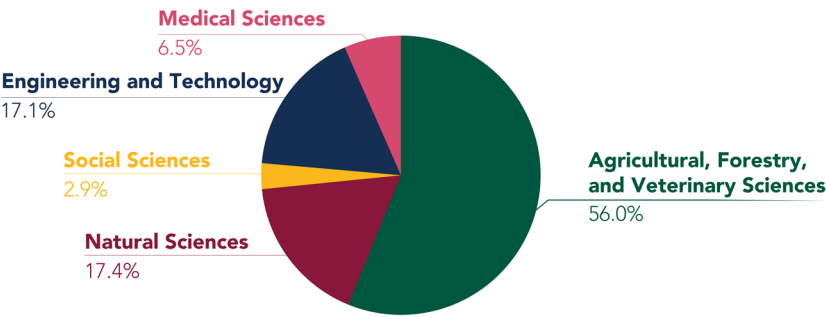
To enable UPLB personnel to optimally contribute to the attainment of goals and objectives, the University aimed to create an environment that inspires creativity, critical thinking, and innovation.

The UPLB research and extension agenda (R&E) was revitalized and rebranded to focus on four thematic areas: food security and sovereignty, resilience and sustainability, future cities, and One Health. This R&E agenda is called Accelerating Growth through One Research & Extension in Action, or AGORA, taking inspiration from ancient Greece, where an agora served as the people's meeting ground. UPLB aims to become a marketplace of future research and development, innovation systems through future-proof paradigms, systems thinking, and solutions-making.



Generating funds for RDE

Funds generated from research, development, and extension (RDE) activities of UPLB during the period was at PhP 786,852,630. Majority of the projects were funded through the UPLB Basic Research Program, UPLB Core Research Funds, and UPLB Research Trust Fund, which includes about 60.7% of the total research projects. The rest were funded by various government institutions (32.5%) and by the UP System through various research grants and programs (6.2%). Agriculture, forestry, and veterinary sciences (56.5%) and natural sciences (18.5%) were the most funded fields of research.



Demonstrating accountability and transparency

A milestone UPLB has made is the liquidation of 97 projects funded by the DA-BAR amounting to PhP 310,998,176.41 and by PCAARRD amounting to PhP 98,592,310.18. This provided UPLB a clean slate for generating funding support from various agencies and in a way demonstrated its commitment to accountability.



Fortifying the University vs COVID-19

UPLB developed the Online Health Monitoring System (OHMS), an application used to monitor the health status of UPLB personnel and temporarily kept those with symptoms of COVID-19 from entering buildings on campus.



Various measures to fight COVID-19

- Regularly disseminated information on COVID-19 via UPLB info channels
- Provided free transportation to employees to and from the campus
- Required vaccination of personnel reporting on-site
- Unvaccinated personnel required to undergo regular RT-PCR tests
- Required units to make alternative work arrangements (AWA) to limit the number of personnel reporting in the workplace.
- Allowed selected personnel and faculty members to work from home/off-site

Implementing infrastructure development

UPLB's predecessor-leaders built a strong foundation for campus development through infrastructure projects that have helped provide an enabling environment for the constituents. UPLB is now overseeing 49 on-going and completed 32 infrastructure projects and will implement 60 new infrastructure projects. Groundbreaking ceremonies for four of these infrastructure projects were recently held on campus.

A fast and reliable internet connection is a backbone of UPLB's digitalization initiative. The University recently acquired the services of a new internet service provider that can upgrade internet speed on campus from 700 mbps to 1 Gbps. Meanwhile, improvements on the campus' fiber optic network (Phase 3 – CFNR area) are now also being implemented.



Groundbreaking ceremonies were held for the following infrastructure projects on August 11, 2022:

- Microbial Bank of the Phil. Natl. Collection of Microorganisms (PCM) – PhP50,277,212.93
- Food Processing Research and Development Center Building – PhP 307,275,110.88
- Agricultural and Economic Development Studies Building – PhP 90,613,371.86
- Rehabilitation of the UHS Operating Room – PhP 38,613,901.00

Ensuring safety and security

Approved by the BOR on October 29, 2020, the Safety and Security Office (SSO) is mandated to handle crisis and emergency response in the university. Thus, it spearheaded capacity building and learning activities such as psychological first aid, firefighting, and fire safety. It facilitated the signing of memoranda of agreement (MOA) with the Municipal Police Station and the Bureau of Fire Protection of Los Baños, and Brgy. Batong Malake and Brgy. Tuntungin-Putho on March 18, 2022 providing LGUs a monthly gasoline subsidy and enlisting their assistance in patrolling areas adjacent to UPLB and in responding to campus emergencies.

The UPLB Crisis Management Committee was also created to manage threats and hazards on campus, strengthen resilience, and reduce risk brought about by all sorts of events. The Quarterly Nationwide Simultaneous Earthquake Drill, fire safety inspection, seminars and drills with BFP-LB and UPF, and training course on crisis management, DRRM training plan, and building a future-proof disaster resilient UPLB campus were also held. The University also conducted drug testing among UPF personnel and UPLB drivers on December 10, 2021 and March 30, 2022, respectively, in the desire to keep the campus drug-free.



Helping ease the health concerns of the personnel

Through an improved implementation of the Enhanced Hospitalization Program (eHOPE), UPLB personnel will now be able to seek medical treatment in hospitals with the “no cash-out policy.” This means that if employees need to be hospitalized, they will no longer need to shell out money to pay their hospital bills. Their expenses during confinement are charged against eHOPE, which provides financial assistance of up to an accumulated maximum amount of PhP 80,000 per year. To date, UPLB has partnered with eight hospitals in Los Baños and in adjacent municipalities and cities to implement eHOPE.



UPLB partner-hospitals under eHOPE

- HealthServ Los Baños Medical Center
- Los Baños Doctors Hospital and Medical Center, Inc.
- Global Care Medical Center of Bay
- San Pablo Colleges Medical Center
- Calamba Medical Center
- St. Frances Cabrini Medical Center in Sto Tomas, Batangas
- Laguna Holy Family Hospital in Sta. Cruz, Laguna
- Daniel O. Mercado Medical Center in Tanauan, Batangas

Pursuing “helping” projects

UPLB implemented other compassion projects such as the Balik Libro Program from March 19, 2021 to May 31, 2022 to enable students with long-overdue books to return them without penalties. It implemented UP System’s Kaagapay Program to address the remote learning needs of students, especially in terms of gadgets and internet connectivity.

UPLB also implemented a counterpart program called UPLB CARES or Connectivity Assistance for Remote Students, and the AKAY ISKOLAR program for those who could not qualify for Student Learning Assistance System. UPLB is also working to expand the Agricultural and Rural Development Scholarship (ARDS) with help from the Commission on Higher Education and the Department of Agriculture-Agricultural Training Institute.

Number of Students Supported by Financial Support Programs Handled by OVCSA

Scholarship/Program	Number of Students Supported	
	AY 2020-2021	AY 2021-2022
KAAGAPAY Assistance	154	442
Grants-in-Aid/Student Learning Assistance System	2574	3,485
UPLB CARES	14	12
TOTAL	9,994	3,939

Utilize knowledge and resources toward inclusive development

Implementing research toward developing new plant varieties, generating and commercializing technologies, and producing scholarly outputs

Research productivity is evident in the number of new crop varieties and hybrids that were developed by UPLB researchers, as well as, those that are now being commercialized including a rice variety, a medicinally important shrub, ornamentals, various root crops, vegetables, cereals, and fruit trees.

Another output of this is demonstrated by the publications produced by scientists and researchers. Many of the scholarly outputs were articles published in refereed journals. UPLB produced the highest number of publications in 2021. Moreover, figures as of July 2022 have already surpassed half of the total publications from 2020 and 2021.

UPLB responded well to the challenge to publish as evidenced by a total of 308 publications given the UP International Publication Award. A total of 433 faculty members, REPS, and students received the IPA from November 2020 to May 2022.

Under the UP Scientific Productivity System and UP Arts Productivity System Awards, UPLB had three UP Artist Awards recipients for 2020-2022. Forty-three were named UP Scientists for 2020-2022 and eight were given the same recognition for 2021-2023.



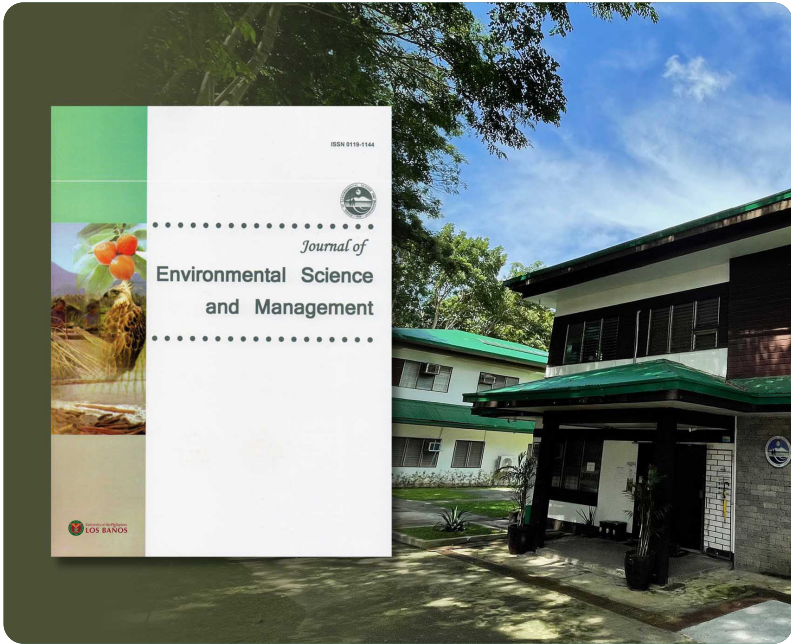
Developed 55 new crop varieties and hybrids including a rice variety, a medicinally important shrub, ornamentals, various root crops, vegetables, cereals, and fruit trees.



Produced 64 technologies/outputs for patent, trademark, and copyright.



Commercialized nine (9) technologies including biofertilizers (HormoGroe®, FertiGroe®, and BioGroe®), seaweed dryer, Cassava Starch Potassium-Sorbate Coating (CSPS) for Salted Egg, LAMP-Based Test Kit, Germplasm Abra glutinous, SPIDTECH, and BBTv-resistant banana.



Published 1,110 articles in Scopus-indexed publications from 2020-2022 of which 1,029 are scientific journal articles, 58 are conference papers, and 23 are book chapters.

Engage actively with alumni, industry, and the international community

Maintaining a collaborative relationship with the alumni

The UPLB alumni have actively involved themselves in university concerns. UPLB has maintained strong connections with them by sending email newsletters as well as milestone messages to them. Selected alumni have also been involved and featured in broadcast and print information materials produced by the University. To facilitate networking, the University has built a database of the UPLB alumni.



Partnership with the UPLB Alumni Association provided UPLB with resources that are useful to the community and students. Through the efforts of UPCA Class 1971 and UP Medical Alumni Society in America, UPLB now has the UHS-Emergency Room Extension Facility which has been very useful in meeting the medical needs of UPLB and its neighboring communities. Donations have also been provided to students in the form of laptops, internet subsidy, and support for attendance in review courses.



"Tatak UPLB," a weekly segment in the program, "Galing UPLB" is aired on the Facebook Page of Radyo DZLB and the Office of Alumni Relations YouTube Channel. Alumni who are experts in their field or those who were given recognitions for exemplary performance are featured in Tatak UPLB.

In 2021, UPLB launched Padayon, a bi-annual online magazine featuring stories about the alumni and the ORCHARD project or "Organizing Chapters of Alumni Associations from Regions of Domestic and International Scenes" to connect UPLB to its alumni all over the world, help raise funds for students, and provide collaboration opportunities between the two offices.

Maintaining partnerships with UPLB-based NGAs and INGOs

UPLB has maintained joint management committees with various national government agencies and international non-government organizations. UPLB has revitalized its MOUs, MOAs and lease agreements with these partner agencies. The first success story is the one with the Philippine Rice Research Institute (PhilRice) Los Baños branch through a MOA between UP and DA. The MOA does not only stipulate the lease of UPLB land by PhilRice, but also R&D collaboration and resources allotted for the University for rice research.



Marketing the UPLB brand abroad

UPLB sought opportunities to market the UPLB brand abroad and participated in the Sustainable Foods London Conference on March 30-31, 2022 in the United Kingdom where Chancellor Jose V. Camacho, Jr. gave a talk entitled "Sustaining food innovations under a strong university research and extension agenda." Alongside the conference was an exhibit in which UPLB participated and showcased food products. UPLB also promoted AGORA during the event. The visit gave the officials a chance to visit four universities, and in one, signed an agreement in joint instruction and research. The UPLB contingent explored collaborative partnerships in instruction, research, and extension in the other universities. These universities are the University of Liverpool, University of Reading, Cambridge University, and Oxford University.



The event was an opportunity for UPLB to showcase what it had been doing toward food security, resiliency, and future-proofing the country to promote sustainability and achieve the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) of the United Nations.

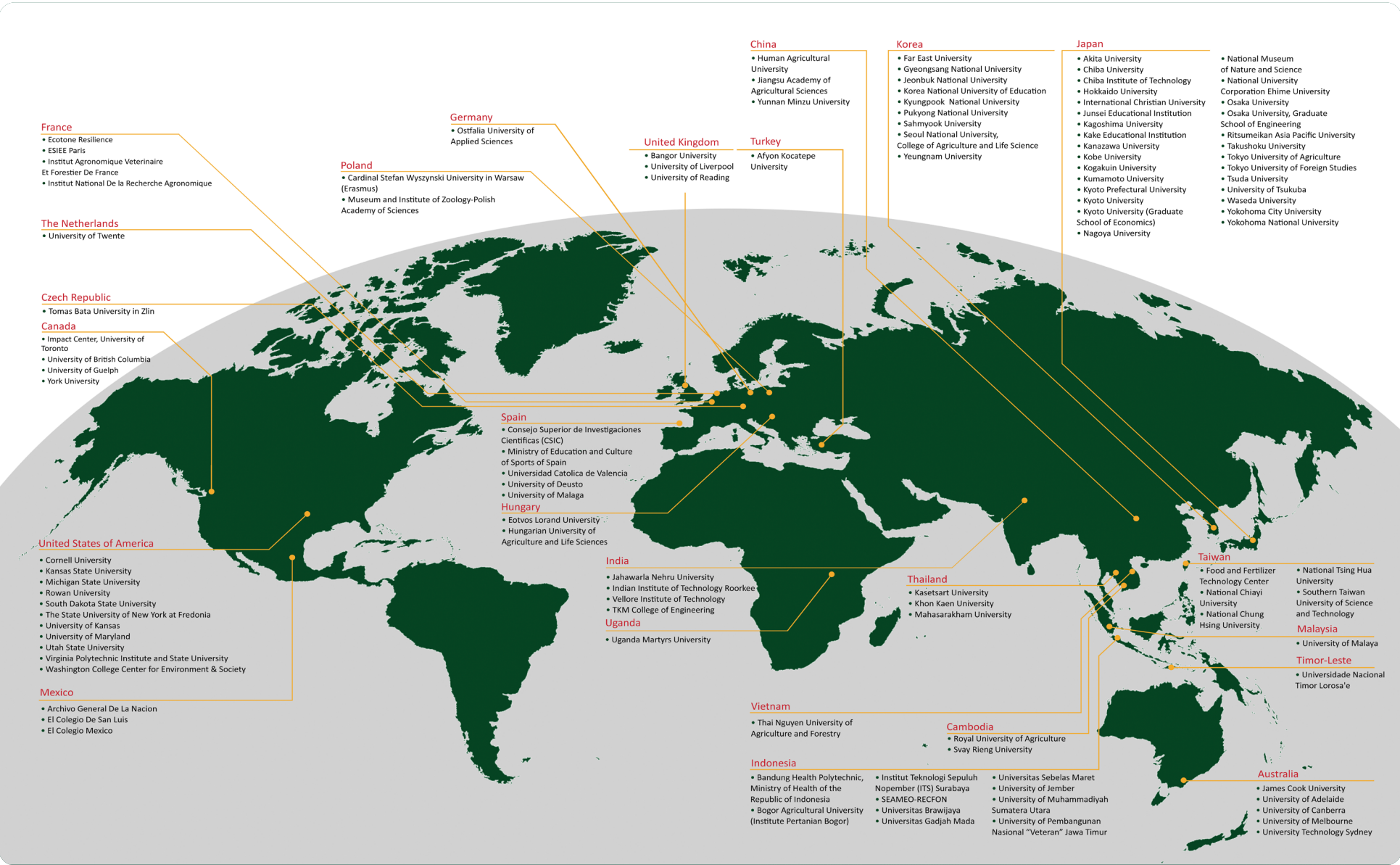
Nurturing a growing partnership with the international and local academic community

Even amid the pandemic, UPLB continued to establish partnerships and linkages with local and international higher education institutions and research institutions.

Local partnerships are the purview of the Office for Institutional Development in Higher Education (OIDHE) through which UPLB helped build the capacity of state, local, and private universities and colleges through technical assistance in curriculum development, collaborative research, faculty development, and leadership development.

OIDHE conducted various webinars for these universities and colleges in various topics and provided technical assistance in research and degree program development.

UPLB nurtured linkages with international HEIs through the Office for International Linkages (OIL).



OIDHE built partnerships with 31 state, local, and private universities and colleges and a number of webinars in various topics.

OIDHE webinars and workshops on the following topics for state, local, and private universities and colleges:

- Faculty development program
- Research collaboration
- Biology instruction
- Publishing papers in academic journals
- Internationalizing the curriculum
- Early childhood care and development
- Social research and curriculum development
- Development of an undergraduate degree in environmental studies
- Flexible learning
- Designing undergraduate degree program for microbiology track
- Designing micro-credentials
- Future collaborations in teaching, research, and extension in a core tertiary program
- Instructional materials development

UPLB has active partnerships with 128 foreign academic and research institutions. Of this number, 61 agreements are up for renewal, not including other partnership opportunities entered into by the UP System. These partnerships cover engagements in 31 countries in five continents.

The first half of the administration under Chancellor Camacho was a challenging period because of the uncertainties caused by the COVID-19 pandemic. However, it created an opportunity for the University to pursue with determination the initiatives that will future-proof processes, programs, and people. It will aspire to face the future with the same, if not more intense and relentless pursuit for a future-proof university.



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