



THE CHRISTMAS TOWN AT UPLB. In what has become a tradition, UPLB spruced up its main entrance with an 80-foot glittering Christmas Tree, the nativity tableau, and Santa on a reindeer-drawn sleigh. (Photo by CV Labe/OPR)

UPLB welcomes Christmas with a 'Pasasalamat'

A festive evening of dance, music, and the ceremonial lighting of the Christmas lightscape ushered in the Christmas season in UPLB. The festivities began with the "Pasko sa Elbi: Isang Pasasalamat," a concert at the DL Umali Hall, which featured songs and dances from the UPLB Choral Ensemble, the UPLB Filipiniana Dance Troupe, and the UPLB Dancesport Society.

At the *Pasasalamat* concert, Dr. Fernando C. Sanchez, Jr. expressed his gratitude for the trust and confidence given him with his reappointment as UPLB Chancellor effective November 2017-October 2020. Through an audiovisual presentation, he outlined the broadstrokes of UPLB's priority initiatives in the next three years, which he said will still hew to the vision-mission of his first term to make UPLB a globally

competitive graduate and research university that contributes to national development.

Among these are the enhanced integration into the ASEAN, offering of niche degree programs, increase in the number of faculty members with PhD degree, enhanced research funds and support for public service programs, modern facilities, establishment of a program on mental health and the fast tracking of the UPLB Master Plan.



At the *Pasasalamat* Concert, Chancellor Sanchez enjoins constituents to work together for excellence. (Photo by VR Maningas/OPR)

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UPLB maps out plan to increase PhD holders in faculty



HARMONIZING FACULTY DEVELOPMENT. UPLB officials and unit personnel committee members took part in the planning seminar-workshop to increase the number of PhD faculty members of UPLB. (Photo by ME Gloria/OPR)

"The faculty is the heart of the University. If it is the heart, our recruitment of faculty is really important, because a university rises to excellence and honor, or slips to mediocrity with the quality of its faculty," said Dr. Maria Cynthia Rose B. Bautista, UP vice president for academic affairs, as she talked about the UP Faculty Development Program on the first day of HARPS.

HARPS, which stands for Harmonizing Academic Resources Planning Seminar-Workshop, focused on developing the faculty by increasing its Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) holders up to 50% by

2025. At present, 291 out of 1011 UPLB faculty members are PhD holders, while all of its 10 research faculty members have doctorate degrees.

HARPS gathered 131 officials and members of the academic personnel committees on Oct. 25-26 at the Lima Park Hotel in Malvar, Batangas to plan the faculty development and develop a core staffing pattern for their respective colleges.

"This faculty development program should make the most of the opportunities and resources available to UPLB," said Prof. Julieta A. Delos

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UPLB hosts first ever int'l SHECON in Asia



HUMAN ECOLOGY CHAMPIONS. Participants in the 22nd International Society for Human Ecology Conference and the first ever to be held in Asia take a pose for their "class" photo with UPLB Chancellor Sanchez and Dir. Rodora Babaran. (Photo by CV Labe/OPR)

The need to strengthen human ecology amid escalating social and environmental changes brought together practitioners and scholars of the discipline at the 22nd International Society for Human Ecology Conference (SHECON 2017) on Nov. 28 to Dec. 1.

For the first time since 1985, SHECON was held in Asia with the UPLB College of Human Ecology (CHE) as host.

With the theme "Envisioning pathways to just and sustainable futures: celebrating diversity, pursuing integration, and developing livable communities,"

SHECON 2017 consisted of plenary talks, paper presentations, workshops, breakout sessions, and exhibits.

During the opening program on Nov. 28, the speakers sounded a call for solidarity in the fight against global issues and challenges. According to them solutions proffered should transcend borders and disciplines, and consider above all their sustainability.

Dr. Jose Wendell Capili, UP assistant vice president for public affairs, who delivered the message of UP President Danilo L. Concepcion, noted that the international

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On Tech Transfer Day CTTE trains, recognizes UPLB inventors

The Center for Technology Transfer and Entrepreneurship (CTTE) celebrated its first decade by opening opportunities for and recognizing outstanding UPLB inventors during the Technology Transfer Day on Oct. 17-18 at SEARCA, UPLB campus.

The intellectual property and technology commercialization training on the first day gathered 30 faculty members and researchers. They learned the importance and process of conducting prior art search and patent drafting from Cedrik Ben Gayares of the UP System Technology Transfer and Business Development Office and Atty. Bayani Loste of the Intellectual Property Association of the Philippines.

On the second day, CTTE organized a Fairness Opinion Board (FOB) in collaboration with the DOST Technology Application and Promotion Institute. The FOB linked UPLB inventors to prospective licensees from the industry to help them arrive at a mutually beneficial and satisfactory contract. Eleven transactions passed the process and are to be forwarded to proper authorities for licensing and commercial production.

A recognition program, also on the second day, honored 19 UPLB inventions that qualified for UP's Invention Disclosure Incentive. Nine UPLB inventions that had been granted patents were also recognized.

The program's keynote speaker was Dr. Gonzalo Serafica, a Balik-Scientist awardee, consultant and holder of multiple international patents, who shared his success story in establishing Xylos, a company that manufactures his patented microbial cellulose technology.



RECOGNITION OF INVENTORS IN UPLB. UPLB scientists and researchers receive their awards during the Technology Transfer Day for their inventions and patents. Joining them are CTTE Director Glenn Baticados, Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs Portia Lapitan, UP TTBD Consultant Gonzalo Serafica, and Vice Chancellor for Research and Extension Rex Demafelis (2nd row, 2nd, 4th, 5th, and 6th from L). (Photo by CV Labe/OPR)

He advised UPLB to put together teams composed of one researcher or principal investigator, one entrepreneurial lead, and one industry mentor. These teams, Dr. Serafica said, would help develop UPLB's inventions and make them ready for commercialization.

The activity was funded by the DOST-Philippine Council for Agriculture, Aquatic and Natural Resources Research and Development. (Albert Geoffred B. Peralta)



**BAUTISTA TOPS CHEMIST
BOARD EXAM**

UPLB is top performing school in four board exams

UPLB is a top performing school in the recent Secondary Level Teacher, Chemist, and Civil and Chemical Engineering Licensure Examinations given by the Professional Regulation Commission (PRC).

Fifty nine out of 60 examinees passed the Licensure Examination for Teachers - Secondary Level; while 52 out of 60 takers passed the chemist board exam. On the other hand, 56 out of 58 passed the civil engineering board exam, and 53

out of 61 takers passed the chemical engineering board exam. The University obtained 98.33%, 86.67%, 96.55%, and 86.89% passing rates in these respective exams.

To become a top performing school, one has to have 50 or more examinees and gain at least 80% passing percentage.

Leading UPLB's new teachers is Princes D. Bulaclac, BS Mathematics graduate, who came in at sixth place with a rating of 91.80%.

top performing school ... page 7

UPLB helps in Marawi rehab

A UPLB team set out to war-stricken Marawi City on Nov. 8-10 to assist in the national rehabilitation efforts in the City.

The UPLB team, headed by Glenn S. Lubuguin, director of the Ugnayan ng Pahinungod, conducted talks with representatives of Task Force Bangon Marawi, the Local Government Unit (LGU) of Marawi City, and Mindanao State University (MSU) on undertaking collaborative rehabilitation efforts.

The team met with Asec. Felix J. Castro of TF Bangon Marawi at the Iligan Field Office and with Johara G. Tanggote, city information officer of LGU-Marawi to discuss the objectives of the visit, the current situation in Marawi, and future programs of action.

The team held discussions with officials of Mindanao State University

led by Rasid M. Paca, vice president for planning and development, on its role in Marawi's restructuring, rehabilitation, and recovery.

It also visited relocation sites, with Dr. Jose Nestor M. Garcia and Dr. Hospicio G. Natural conducting rapid community appraisal, and Maria Alma B. Sanchez and Romnick Talde, head of the Cereals Breeding Section of the Institute of Plant Breeding and research associate, respectively, looking at the possible introduction of corn grits in the City. The four team members are all from the College of Agriculture and Food Science.

According to Lubuguin, UPLB, through the Office of the Chancellor and the team, will continue to mobilize resources towards effective and efficient implementation of activities. (Maria Rowena Beatriz Q. Inzon)

CHE's Elderly Dev't Program gets award



ONE OF THE BEST ELDERLY PROGRAMS. Dr. Renato V. Torres (middle) receives the plaque for the EDP as one of the Business Mirror Dangal awardees. (Photo courtesy of Business Mirror Dangal Awards)

A "young" community service program in the University has been recognized for uplifting the welfare of elderlies for the past six years.

The Elderly Development Program (EDP), an extension program of the College

of Human Ecology (CHE), received the Business Mirror Dakilang Adhikain ng Atang Lahi (Dangal) Award, joining four other organizations in the group category.

The award, given by the national daily Business Mirror and United Laboratories'

United Bayanihan Foundation, recognizes "exemplary senior citizens and senior citizen organizations that have the best programs for the elderly." The awarding ceremony took place on Oct. 13 at the Unilab Bayanihan Center, Mandaluyong City.

According to Dr. Renato V. Torres, head of EDP and assistant professor at the Department of Human and Family Development Studies of CHE, the recognition means a lot to him because it is the Program's first national award. "It recognizes UPLB's contribution to the social development of our senior citizens, especially the marginalized sector," he said. He personally received the award on behalf of the program.

Dr. Torres, a medical doctor by profession, is instrumental in creating the EDP. His research in 2011, which revealed that majority of the Filipino elderlies are still functional, but with unmet bio-psycho-social needs, led to the Program's launch that same year. Since then, EDP has implemented regular activities for the bio-psycho-social welfare of the elderlies of UPLB, Los Baños, Bay, and Calamba City.

Dr. Torres expressed his hopes that the EDP's senior day care will be duplicated nationwide through the passage of a mandatory Barangay Senior Day Care Center Act. (Mark Jayson E. Gloria, with reports from Daisy V. Pelegrina)

UPLB's 2nd GAME Conference seeks for inclusive agribusiness



INCLUSIVE AGRIBUSINESS IN FOCUS. (From L-R) Dr. Dinah Pura Depositario of DAME-CEM reads the questions that an audience raised to GAME Conference plenary speakers namely: Dr. Cielito Habito, Dr. William Dar, Roberto Amores, and Dr. Richard Abendan. (Photo by VR Maningas/OPR)

To help strengthen the 'triple helix' of agribusiness, composed of government, academe, and industry sectors, the Department of Agribusiness Management and Entrepreneurship of the College of Economics and Management (DAME-CEM) held the 2nd Global Agribusiness Management and Entrepreneurship (GAME) 2017 Conference on Oct. 26-27 at the Acacia Hotel in Alabang, Muntinlupa City.

With the theme "Traversing the sectoral divide for inclusive agribusiness," it

featured plenary presentations on inclusive agribusiness by Dr. Cielito Habito, Dr. William Dar, Dr. Richard Abendan, and Roberto Amores.

Dr. Habito, professor of economics at the Ateneo de Manila University and former NEDA director-general, discussed inclusive growth and explained how agriculture could contribute to it, particularly by tapping the potentials of the medium, small, and micro enterprises (MSMEs). He noted the importance of further developing MSMEs in the country and cited the factors

that need to be overcome to be at par with ASEAN countries.

Amores drew a picture of the current state of the Philippine agricultural food sector and discussed the opportunities and challenges that it faces. He explained how infrastructure could become a "game changer" in realizing inclusive and sustainable growth. Amores is the president of both the Philippine Food Processors and Exporters Organization Inc. and the HI-LAS Marketing Corporation.

Dr. Abendan, on the other hand, talked about building a culture of innovation. He noted that an enabling environment would be created by the convergence and collaboration between the public and private sectors. Dr. Abendan is the research and industry partnerships manager of the USAID-STRIDE Research Triangle Institute (RTI) International.

On the other hand, Dr. Dar, president of the InangLupa Movement Inc., illustrated a market-oriented development (IMOD)

2nd GAME Conf ... page 7

CJ Sereno highlights importance of rule of law for the economy



THE CHIEF JUSTICE MEETS PH ECONOMISTS. Chief Justice Maria Lourdes Sereno emphasizes the importance of a stable and independent rule of law in achieving economic prosperity during her closing keynote address at the 55th Philippine Economic Society Annual Meeting and Conference. (Photo by CV Labe/OPR)

"The rule of law is not only essential for defending basic human rights, but also in achieving economic prosperity." This is what Chief Justice Ma. Lourdes Sereno said as she called for a strong and independent judiciary in the

country in her keynote speech at the 55th Philippine Economic Society (PES) Annual Meeting and Conference on Nov. 8 at the Novotel Manila in Quezon City.

According to CJ Sereno, long-term investors look for stable and independent rule of law institutions in making investment decisions. "To support the judiciary's call for the rule of law is to support not only our democracy, but also to engender an environment conducive to economic growth," she further said.

CJ Sereno also presented the judiciary's programs aimed at improving judicial services such as "Hustisyeah" that aims to reduce the number of pending cases and speed up the dispensation of justice. She also enjoined the audience to help monitor and evaluate the Supreme Court's judicial programs saying that "it is only through collective input and interaction that we can make Filipino lives better."

The conference had three plenary sessions on the following themes: economic and financial literacy; growing amidst risk and uncertainty; and competition, growth, and uncertainty.

Officials from the Department of Labor and Employment, Philippine Statistics Authority, Department of Finance, National Economic and Development Authority, Department of Budget and Management, Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas, and Philippine Competition Commission led the plenary discussions.

The first plenary discussion emphasized the importance of investing in financial

and economic education and providing assistance to the informal sector in the form of training. Assoc. Prof. Amelia L. Bello of the College of Economics and Management, the lone speaker from UPLB, said that financial and economic literacy training should begin at a young age.

The second plenary discussion emphasized the importance of investing in infrastructure and an efficient financial system to achieve economic growth on both micro and macro scales. The last plenary session enlightened the basic principles, implementation, and benefits of the competition policy. Representatives from private and national institutions presented their studies in 16 parallel sessions.

Earlier Dr. Jose V. Camacho, dean of the Graduate School and president of PES, said in his opening message that the conference sought to examine how the Philippine economy should respond to the risks and uncertainties brought about by global and local issues and challenges. "We hope that this knowledge-sharing will be able to assist us in securing our people's welfare and nation's future," he added. (Jessa Jael S. Arana)

Research forum pushes for use of advanced analytics in agribusiness

The 5th College of Economics and Management (CEM) Research Forum pushed for better public service through the use of business analytics.

The forum had the theme "Advanced analytics in economics and agribusiness management towards a more responsive public service," and was held on Nov. 13 at the REDREC Auditorium, UPLB.

According to Dr. Eugene Rex L. Jalao, associate professor at the College of Engineering in UP Diliman and the keynote speaker, business analytics entails using data within an organization to make better decisions, whether it involves making sense of current events, predicting future outcomes, or identifying the best solution in a situation.

The forum featured eight papers on quantitative research and the

application of data analytics to business management and financial markets presented by CEM researchers and faculty members. Dr. Klarizze Anne Martin Puzon, a research fellow from the Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences and a visiting professor at the UP School of Economics, was also a presenter.

Dr. Isabelita M. Pabuayon, dean of CEM, said in her welcome remarks that the forum is in line with the University's pursuit towards becoming a globally competitive graduate and research university and the College's goal to increase scientific productivity. The event, she added, is a good opportunity not

only for presenting information, but also for discussion and cultivating goodwill among CEM faculty members and researchers.

Meanwhile, Chancellor Fernando C. Sanchez, Jr., in his inspirational message, commented on the public service value of research. "Apart from the joy of discovering new things and developing new ways, our work, our research, must also help improve the quality of living of our fellow Filipinos," he said. (Jessa Jael S. Arana)

Photo News



A NURSERY FOR SUPERIOR PLANTING MATERIALS. Ecosystems Research and Development Bureau (ERDB) Director Henry Adornado turns over to Chancellor Fernando C. Sanchez, Jr. (3rd and 6th from L) the clonal nursery facility on Nov. 23. The facility will enable UPLB to propagate superior planting materials that can be used for the National Greening Program. Witnessing the event were (from L-R) Ma. Kristina Orpia of ERDB, CHE Dean Raden Piadozo, CFNR Dean Willie Abasolo, CFNR-DFBS Chair Pastor Malabrigo, Jr., CAS Dean Felino Lansigan, and CFNR Associate Dean Ronniel Manalo. (Photo by CV Labe/OPR)



SPREADING MATH & SCIENCE APPRECIATION. UP Rural High School Principal Liza Carascal welcomes the participants of the Science-Math Fair and Exhibits on Nov. 14. This annual event of the UPRHS aims to unleash and recognize high school students' potentials and special gifts in math and science. (Photo by CV Labe/OPR)



GOLDEN JUBILIARIANS. Members of the UP College of Agriculture Class 1967, or the 2017 Golden Jubilarians, together with some of their family members, were among those who spearheaded and participated in the 99th Loyalty Day activities, including the parade at the DL Umali Freedom Park. On Oct. 9, UPLB and the UPLBAA honored 52 outstanding alumni during the annual awarding rites as part of the Loyalty Day festivities. (Photo by CV Labe/OPR)



IFST @ 45. Dr. Virgilio Garcia, former professor, talked about the history of the Institute of Food Science and Technology (IFST) during the Institute's 45th anniversary celebration on Oct. 17 at the IFST Lobby. The week-long celebration featured trade fairs, symposia, training sessions, stakeholder's meeting, alumni homecoming, food and film festival, poster making contest, and a product development contest. (Photo by JGS Sarol/OPR)



EDIBLE LANDSCAPING COLLABORATION. Dr. Nicomedes P. Eleazar, DA-BAR director and members of the Edible Landscaping (EL) Team discuss with Hon. Evelina G. Escudero, representative of the First District of Sorsogon and Dolores E. Ricafrance, Chief of the RDPTC - ROS5 plans on a future collaborative project. The EL Team established six edible landscape gardens in Sorsogon and inaugurated them on Dec. 1. (Photo by CV Labe/OPR)



GROUNDBREAKING FOR AN ALUMNI PROJECT. UPCA Class of 1967 launched the Green Latrine project, on Oct. 9 at the Alumni Plaza. With Class 1967 members (2nd, 5th, and 6th from L) Dr. Ponciano Halos, Francisco Moog, and Dr. Mimosa Ocampo were For. Leo Ballesfin, president of the UPLB Alumni Association; Romeo Obedoza, Jr., representing project sponsor Sen. Juan Miguel Zubiri; Chancellor Fernando C. Sanchez, Jr.; and Dr. Marish Madlangbayan, vice chancellor for planning and development. (Photo by VR Maningas/OPR)



LOYALTY DAY PARADE. Joining the UPLB Loyalty Day parade were UPLB alumni and members of the UPLB and Los Baños communities. The festivities included dance numbers from the winners of the Bayle sa Kalye competition of the Baños Festival, the UPLB Cheerdance Team, and participants of the College Float competition. Dr. Enrico P. Supangco and Dr. Ma. Cynthia Oliveros, dean and college secretary, respectively, of the College of Agriculture and Food Science, wave to the crowd from aboard their float that won in the best float category.

Leading the parade was Chancellor Fernando C. Sanchez, Jr. (3rd fr R). With him are the offices under the OC with their respective officials (L-R): Jr. Dr. Sue Liza C. Saguiguit, director of the Office of Alumni Relations; Dr. Jezie A. Acorda, then assistant to the chancellor; and Dr. Simplicio M. Medina, director of the Office of International Linkages. (Photos by CV Labe/OPR)

IGEARD conference tackles enrichment of grad education and student experience



PARTNERS IN GRADUATE EDUCATION. (From L-R) Carmen Nhyria Rogel, Program Specialist at SEARCA, talks about prospectus and research agenda during the 2nd IGEARD International Conference. Listening to her are UPLB faculty members Dr. Maria Genaleen Diaz, Dr. Tonette Laude, Dr. Manolito Bambase, Jr., and Vice Chancellor for Research and Extension Rex Demafelis. (Photo by CV Labe/OPR)

Representatives from higher education institutions (HEI) met once again to discuss graduate student instruction, research, and student support during the 2nd Internationalization of Graduate Education for Agricultural

and Rural Development (IGEARD) International Conference.

Held on Oct. 19-20 at the Acacia Hotel, Muntinlupa City, the Conference had the theme “Enriching graduate

education delivery and student experience.”

In his opening address, Dr. Jose V. Camacho, Jr., dean of the Graduate School (GS), said that the IGEARD

International Conference aims to gather scholars and practitioners to examine the underlying incentives, institutions, and innovations that promote or impede the internationalization of graduate education as it harnesses agriculture and rural development.

In her keynote speech, Dr. Maria Cynthia Rose B. Bautista, UP vice president for academic affairs, talked about strengthening and enhancing the substance and efficiency of UPLB graduate programs. She also emphasized the importance of partnerships in graduate education.

The second day highlighted plenary sessions by local and international experts in graduate education, including professionals from UP, University of Liverpool in the United Kingdom, Nagoya University in Japan, and Montpellier University in France.

The roster of speakers included Teodoro J. Herbosa, UP executive vice president; Frederick Mikhail I. Farolan, UP Regent; Dr. Steven W. Edwards, principal fellow of the Higher Education Academy, ULIV; Mala Sivapragasam, country manager of SEA Global Recruitment; and Lotus G. Postrado, head of education, British Council Philippines.

The first IGEARD was held in November 2016. Both IGEARD editions were organized by the GS. (John Glen S. Sarol)



SALUDES

FIRMALINO

Nagoya U at UPLB welcomes two new PhD students

Two Filipino students were officially welcomed to Nagoya University (NU) through its Asian Satellite Campus Institute (ASCI) in UPLB during the Entrance Ceremony on Oct. 24 at SEARCA, UPLB campus.

They are Anna Floresca F. Firmalino, assistant professor at the College of Economics and Management and director of the UP Professional School for Agriculture and the Environment

and Office of Off-Campus Programs of the Graduate School and Thelma A. Saludes, officer-in-charge and senior science research specialist at the Philippine Carabao Center in UPLB.

Both will pursue the Transnational Doctoral Program for Leading Professionals in Asian Countries, Firmalino towards the PhD International Development, and Saludes, the PhD Bioagricultural Sciences.

Nagoya U ... page 7

Speakers underscore postharvest extension, linkages at PHTRC anniv symposium



CALL FOR STRONGER EXTENSION. Sen. Villar (center), chair of the Senate Committee on Agriculture and Food, calls for a stronger agricultural extension and linkages during the anniversary symposium of PHTRC. She is flanked by Vice Chancellor for Administration Crisanto Dorado (left) and College of Agriculture and Food Science Dean Enrico Supangco (right). (Photo by CV Labe/OPR)

The Postharvest Horticulture Training and Research Center (PHTRC) conducted a symposium on the current issues and challenges facing the postharvest horticulture industry, including research and development, during the Center’s 40th anniversary celebration on Oct. 27 at the PHTRC building, UPLB.

With the theme “Advancing the horticulture industry through postharvest research and extension,” the program aimed to identify opportunities for further collaboration and co-innovation for the advancement of the horticultural industry in the country.

“Since its establishment in 1977 through the ASEAN-Australian Economic Cooperation

Program, PHTRC has grown extensively, complete with new facilities, as well as current and responsive R&D programs that continue to address postharvest food losses,” said Dr. Crisanto A. Dorado, vice chancellor for administration, during the opening remarks that he delivered on behalf of Chancellor Fernando C. Sanchez, Jr.

Nardia Simpson, economic counsellor at the Philippine Australian Embassy, encouraged the participants to work together in solving postharvest problems. “Like any development challenge, it takes collective effort and commitment. It cannot be solved alone,” Simpson said.

Senator Cynthia A. Villar, in her keynote speech, emphasized the need for more extension work in research institutions. “What will research do if we cannot show it to the people?” she asked.

“Strengthen your linkages with other industry and never stop discovering ways on how to improve our agricultural sector,” urged Sen. Villar, who chairs the Senate Committee on Agriculture and Food.

The discussion on industry partner’s perspective was led by Dr. Ji Gang Kim, director of Asia Postharvest Research Center in Korea; Dr. Rosa S. Rolle, senior enterprise development officer from the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations in Italy; and Dr. Reynaldo V. Ebor, acting executive director of the Department of Science and Technology-Philippine Council for Agriculture, Aquatic and Natural Resources Research and Development. (John Glen S. Sarol)

Climate change resilience project kicks off in Mindoro

The Interdisciplinary Studies Center for Integrated Natural Resources and Environment Management (IDSC-INREM) formally launched the study entitled “Action Ready Climate Knowledge to Improve Disaster Risk Management for Smallholder Farmers in the Philippines” during the Project Kickoff Ceremony and Provincial Climate Outlook Forum held on Oct. 17 at the Mindoro State College of Agriculture and Technology (MinSCAT) – Calapan City Campus, Oriental Mindoro.

The event was participated in by the project’s partner institutions, including the South Australian Research and Development Institute (SARDI), Charles Sturt

University, Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration (PAGASA), UPLB, Philippine Institute for Development Studies, Agricultural Training Institute, Philippine Council for Agriculture, Aquatic, and Natural Resources Research and Development, and MinSCAT. Local government units (LGUs) of Calapan City and Municipality of Gloria, and 20 rice and 10 corn farmers were also present during the event.

Dr. Peter Hayman, principal scientist of SARDI and Maria Russel Faylon, assistant country manager of the Australian Center for International Agricultural Research (ACIAR), which funds the project, introduced

it to the audience. Dr. Asa Jose Sajise, a faculty member of UPLB, provided an overview of the project.

The City Agricultural Services Department and Municipal Agriculture Office of Gloria, headed by Lorelein Sevilla and August Mantaring, respectively, expressed their support to the project. Moreover, the City Mayor of Calapan, Hon. Arnan C. Panaligan, affirmed the support of the LGU of Calapan City and stressed the importance of climate resiliency, especially among farmers.

The event partners also held a ceremonial signing of the Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) between SARDI and MinSCAT. The MOA signing sealed the collaboration among institutions in delivering research outputs and knowledge products that are

intended to guide LGUs and farmers in decision making in relation to weather and seasonal forecasts provided by different weather agencies.

During the second part of the program, participants were oriented on the climatic conditions of Calapan and its vulnerability to El Niño-Southern Oscillation, climate change trends and projections, and weather and climate outlook.

The project also partners with Benguet State University and Visayas State University for its sites in Benguet and Leyte, respectively. The UPLB component is led by Dr. Juan M. Pulhin and Dr. Canesio D. Predo. *(Dan Leo Diona II)*

MODECERA holds ecosystem and watershed monitoring forum

“One change in one ecosystem can actually change the whole link, the interconnected ecosystems, within a particular landscape,” said Dr. Rex Victor O. Cruz, UPLB professor and former chancellor, during the 1st National Ecosystem and Watershed Monitoring Forum on Nov. 24 at Acacia Hotel in Alabang, Muntinlupa City.

The forum is part of the “Monitoring and detection of ecosystems changes for enhancing resilience and adaptation in the Philippines (MODECERA),” a four-project research program that Dr. Cruz leads.

“The changes in the ecosystems and watershed, in relation to one another, and their interaction with the direct and indirect drivers of change are what the MODECERA Program is trying to understand,” Dr. Cruz said.

The wide scope of the Program was reflected in the eight presentations given by program leaders and experts, namely: Dr. Nelson Pampolina, on forest biodiversity; Dr. Leonardo Florece, on grasslands; Dr. Roselyn Paelmo, on agroforestry; Dr. Edna Aguilar, on crop growth; Prof. Moises Dorado, on agrometeorology; Dr. Annalisa Aquino, on

rice yield; Dr. Decibel Estava, on soil and water conservation; and Dr. Sheryl Yap, on insect biodiversity.

Dr. Celia Medina, project 4 leader of MODECERA, also presented a key policy issue on pest and disease outbreaks, highlighting the need for a government agency on pest monitoring and an emergency fund that would be used in the event of pest problems.

Chancellor Fernando C. Sanchez, Jr., who delivered the welcome remarks, referred to MODECERA as one of UPLB’s landmark research programs. “MODECERA was able to gather a voluminous amount of data that will help guide our policymakers with clear scientific basis for addressing key issues in our country,” he said.

Aside from scientists and experts, key government officials were also present, namely: Dr. Rowena Cristina Guevara, undersecretary of the Department of Science and Technology (DOST); Dr. Reynaldo Eborra, PCAARRD executive director; Dr. Henry Adornado, ERDB director; Hon. Lerey Panes, assistant secretary of the Department of



WORDS OF WISDOM FROM THE WATERSHED EXPERT. Dr. Rex Victor Cruz answers questions from the participants of the 1st National Ecosystem and Watershed Monitoring Forum. The forum is part of the DOST-funded MODECERA Program, which Dr. Cruz leads. (Photo by VR Maningas/OPR)

Agriculture; and Hon. Estrellita Suansing, chair of the House Committee on Ecology. Also present were other UPLB officials and representatives of MODECERA’s seven partner state universities and colleges.

DOST and DOST-PCAARRD funded the 200 million-peso program, which includes the soon-to-rise Controlled Environment Research Facility. *(Mark Jayson E. Gloria)*

Geologist, sociologist headline UPLB’s arts and sciences conference

One is a geologist, the other is a sociologist – but their research proves that the natural, physical, and social sciences impinge on climate change adaptation and disaster resilience.

Dr. Alfredo Mahar Francisco Lagmay, executive director of the UP Resilience Institute and a professor at the UP Diliman National Institute of Geological Sciences, and Dr. Gloria Luz Nelson, professorial lecturer from the UPLB Department of Social Sciences, shared their knowledge to participants of the 10th UPLB College of Arts and Sciences (CAS) Student-Faculty Research Conference on Nov. 20 at the CAS Auditorium.

Dr. Lagmay, in his keynote speech, said that bridging climate change adaptation (CCA) and disaster risk reduction (DRR) incorporates future projections and impacts of climate change to present

problems. He emphasized the need to use probabilistic maps, or maps that show several scenarios of events such as floods, landslides, and storm surges, from their smallest to biggest scopes through time, to save lives.

“You need to capture bigger events of the future,” Dr. Lagmay said. “This is the way forward and the scientific way. We need to reflect on all of these hazards of the future into maps so that we can plan in a resilient way,” Dr. Lagmay said.

On the other hand, Dr. Nelson, in her plenary speech, shared the results of her studies in resettlement communities that were displaced by major disasters from 1991 to 2013: the eruption of Mount Pinatubo in Central Luzon and the typhoons Winnie, Reming, and Yolanda in Quezon, Albay, and Leyte, respectively.



ONE FOR CLIMATE CHANGE AND DISASTER RESILIENCE. (L-R) Geologist Alfredo Mahar Francisco Lagmay and Sociologist Gloria Luz Nelson share their knowledge on climate change and disaster resilience during the CAS Student-Faculty Research Conference. (Photo by VR Maningas/OPR)

“Disaster is a community issue, and rehabilitation should therefore involve the community,” Dr. Nelson said. She cited bayanihan as a Filipino tradition that emerges during community resettlement.

She underscored the roles of family, support structure, and livelihood programs, among others, in overcoming the psycho-social effects of disasters. She also noted the aspiration of some of the

displaced households to eventually go back to their communities of origin for some reasons.

The conference, with the theme “Harnessing arts and sciences for resilience and sustainability,” featured almost 100 papers and posters on five themes. It marked the 45th anniversary of CAS. *(Mark Jayson E. Gloria)*

Int'l students showcase cultural diversity and unity at annual event



ONE FOR THE UNIVERSITY. UPLB's international graduate students display unity amid cultural diversity during the annual ISA Cultural Night. (Photo by CV Labe/OPR)

"We are one!" chanted the UPLB International students as they gathered for the International Students' Association (ISA) Cultural Night on Nov. 10 at the D.L. Umali Hall.

The event showcased cultural performances of students from 17 countries. Phouthasone Khouangvichit, ISA president, said that the activity aims to foster friendship and cultural awareness among the international students at UPLB.

In his inspirational message, Chancellor Fernando C. Sanchez, Jr. related the event to the essence of working together. "This wonderful display and gathering of various cultures around the world should remind us of the importance of cooperation, camaraderie, and unity. I am a firm believer that we can all achieve many great things when we work together conscientiously towards a common goal," he said. (*John Glen S. Sarol*)

Christmas *pasalamat* fr p.1 SHECON 2017 fr p.1

The concert audience was then regaled with sweet and cheerful renditions of classic English and Filipino Christmas carols, and Filipino and ballroom dances. After the concert, they proceeded to the UPLB Christmas village where they joined a crowd that had been waiting for it to be lighted as has become a tradition in the community for many years now.

At the lighting ceremony, Chancellor Sanchez expressed his wish for "the lights of the season to inspire us to achieve our goals for the University," after which the community joined in the countdown for the Christmas village to be lighted.

The *Pasalamat* concert and lighting ceremony were spearheaded by the Office for Initiatives in Culture and the Arts. (*Jessa Jael S. Arana*)

increase PhD fr p.1

Reyes, assistant to the vice chancellor for academic affairs. AVC Delos Reyes delivered the program's welcome remarks on behalf of Dr. Portia G. Lapitan, vice chancellor for academic affairs.

Chancellor Fernando C. Sanchez, Jr., in his inspirational message, assured the participants that such goal is attainable. "I remain optimistic that this goal can be achieved provided that we implement a realistic and comprehensive faculty development program," he said. "We really need to step up our game and look for ways to achieve the increase of PhD holders."

Dr. Rita P. Laude, professor emeritus and former vice chancellor for instruction, presented the Comprehensive Faculty Development Program for UPLB (2015-2025) that she crafted together with National Scientist Dolores Ramirez and AVC Delos Reyes in 2010.

The faculty development proposal articulates the emergence of new fields of specialization under 12 major disciplines. These new disciplines, Dr. Laude said, should have PhD faculty members. Among the proposal's ideals is that at least one senior staff with a PhD should man all important disciplines in the University. The proposal projects 761 PhD scholarship slots needed for the program.

Dr. Laude also emphasized the need to address the low intake of two national scholarships in UPLB. "Try to see why faculty members seem not to be interested in these scholarships," Dr. Laude said.

HARPS was organized by the Office of the Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs. (*Mark Jayson E. Gloria*)

nature of the conference shows that global solidarity is required to face and resolve global challenges.

Chancellor Fernando C. Sanchez Jr., on the other hand, underscored the relevance of the conference in developing transdisciplinary and sustainable solutions to challenges such as the world's rapidly diminishing resources.

Rodora Babaran, director of Human Development Directorate, ASEAN Socio-Cultural Community, delivered the keynote speech on behalf of His Excellency Vongthep Arthakaivalvakatee, deputy secretary general. It centered on the ASEAN Vision 2025, the Region's roadmap for development that to some extent complements the sustainable development goals stated in the United Nations 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

Babaran also discussed various issues that plague the ASEAN, including several global megatrends that greatly impact its member states, such as increasing anti-globalization, megacities, and transboundary environmental issues.

Also present during the opening program were Dr. Gil Saguiguit Jr. director of SEARCA; Dr. Robert Dyball, SHE president and professor at the Australian National University; and Dr. Raden Piadozo, SHECON2017 convenor and dean of CHE, who all delivered their respective messages.

The plenary speakers were Dr. Anthony Capon, inaugural professor of Planetary Initiative at the University of Sydney, on health, aging and demographic change; Ranell Dedicatoria, regional program manager of ICLEI-Local Governments for Sustainability (Southeast Asia), on sustainable cities and landscapes; Stacy Jupiter, director of the Wildlife Conservation Society, on sustainable food and water systems; and Gina Lopez, chairperson of the Pasig River Rehabilitation Commission, on communities in transition. Dr. Robert Kurkjian, principal scientist and program manager at Tetra Tech, delivered a special feature report on the global alliance on health and pollution.

Partnering with UPLB-CHE in organizing SHECON 2017 were the Society for Human Ecology, UPLB-CHE Alumni Association, the Human Ecology Institute of the Philippines, Inc., and SEARCA. (*Albert Geoffrey B. Peralta, with reports from Jessa Jael S. Arana*)

top performing school fr p.2

Meanwhile, topping the chemist exam are UPLB's Gio Ferson M. Bautista (93.00%), John Noel R. Maape (91.25%), King Bryan C. Gabog (88.00%), Anabel B. Abulencia (87.75%), and Peter James Q. Dequiña (86.75%) at first, second, fifth, sixth, and ninth places, respectively.

Bautista, *magna cum laude*, and Maape, *cum laude*, are the number one graduates of BS Agricultural Chemistry and BS Chemistry of Class 2017, respectively.

The PRC also administered the Chemical Technician Licensure Examination alongside the chemist exam, in which all of UPLB's 20 takers passed, led by second placer Caryl Joy B. Esmeris.

The examinations were given from September to November. (*Mark Jayson E. Gloria and Jessa Jael S. Arana, with reports from www.prc.gov.ph*)

2nd GAME Conf fr p.3

framework for inclusive agribusiness. The IMOD has nine components, namely: government policy, regulatory framework and infrastructure, funding and finance, culture, mentors-advisers support systems, universities, education training, human capital workforce, and local and global markets that all contribute to an entrepreneurial ecosystem in agriculture.

The conference's keynote speaker was Roel Castro, president and chief executive officer of Palm Concepcion Power Corporation, A Brown Group of Companies, who talked about his company's coal power plant project in Iloilo. He related the challenges of creating a "win-win-win" situation among agricultural, environment, and power and energy for a clean coal power plant. He discussed how, through collaboration, technology, and community building, they were able to develop a mini-ecosystem where industry development, environment, people, and community co-exist.

During the conference, Castro and Chancellor Fernando C. Sanchez, Jr., on behalf of their respective organizations, signed a Memorandum of Understanding to collaborate towards helping attain inclusive agribusiness. (*Albert Geoffrey B. Peralta*)

Nagoya U fr p.5

The program allows students to obtain doctorate degrees without taking a leave from work in their home country. The program was made possible through an agreement signed between the UP System and NU in 2015 establishing the NU-ASCI in UPLB.

In his welcome remarks, Prof. Fumio Isoda, vice trustee and director of NU-ASCI in Japan and campuses in Laos and the Philippines, introduced the program. He also recognized the roles that the students' assigned professors will play in obtaining their degrees.

Chancellor Fernando C. Sanchez, Jr., in his message, emphasized the contribution of the two institution's partnership in the development of the country and of Southeast Asia.

In attendance during the program were Dr. Gil C. Saguiguit, Jr., director of SEARCA; Dr. Kazuhito Kawakita, dean of Graduate School of Bioagricultural Sciences, NU; Dr. Pag-asa Gaspilo, president of NU Alumni-Philippine Branch; Toshiyuki Taguchi, a researcher/adviser for scholarship and youth program from the Japan Embassy in Manila; and some UPLB officials. (*Kristine E. Araguas*)

WESM fr p.8

the market when prices are lower than PhP 4/kWh, or from the GenCo when prices in the market are higher than PhP 4/kWh," he said.

As a WESM member, UPLB pays its electricity at an effective rate of as low as PhP 3.72 per kWh at certain months, unless inevitable situations occur, like network congestion and low reserves in the grid.

Such risks, Engr. Mangubat said, could be mitigated through a deeper understanding of the electricity market. According to him, the UPLB Department of Electrical Engineering and the UP Diliman Electrical and Electronics Engineering Institute plan to collaborate and establish an electricity market research laboratory.

"It will enable us to study the market better and assist the OVCPD in BCQ nomination, which could allow us to continuously generate savings for the University," Engr. Mangubat said.

"As the first and only university in the Philippines to become a direct member of WESM, UPLB has actual market experience and access to market data, which can be used for future studies that could help advance electricity market research in the country," he added. (*Mark Jayson E. Gloria*)

UPLB executives learn more about the procurement process

Eighty one UPLB officials gathered on Nov. 3 at TREES-CFNR to learn more about a very important operational matter – the procurement process.

Entitled “Role of executives in the procurement process,” the seminar sought to explain Republic Act (RA) 9184, or the Government Procurement Act, to the participants.

In his welcome remarks, Dr. Crisanto Dorado, vice chancellor for administration, emphasized the importance of the procurement process and the need to be aware of rules and procedures.

Dr. Portia Lapitan, vice chancellor for academic affairs, who delivered the inspirational message on behalf of Chancellor Fernando C. Sanchez, Jr., recognized the challenges in the procurement process and reminded the roles that each participants could play to improve it.

Atty. Paul Kenneth Davis, legal consultant of the Bids and Awards Committee (BAC), gave an overview of RA 9184. He also explained the functions and roles of BAC, the BAC Secretariat, the Technical Working Group, and the end-user or the respective offices, in the procurement process.



KNOWING MORE ABOUT THE PROCUREMENT PROCESS. UPLB officials and staff attend the seminar on procurement process that was organized by the Bids and Awards Committee Secretariat. (Photo by CV Labe/OPR)

He also reminded the executives that they are the potential pool of BAC chairpersons. “At this early stage, it is important that you understand what the role entails before you are asked to assume one of the vital positions in BAC,” he said. The current BAC chairpersons – For. Roberto Cereno of BAC Regular, Dr. Elpidio Agbisit, Jr. of

BAC Research, and Dr. Rosanna Marie Amongo of BAC Infrastructure – are all directors of academic units. They were present in the seminar to discuss the processes of their respective BACs.

Officers of five administrative units also graced the seminar to explain their units’ role in the procurement process. They were Liza Custodio, chair of the BAC Secretariat; Maria Cielo Lampa, chief of the Supply and Property

Management Office; Elizabeth Eala, chief of the Cashier’s Office; Marie Claire Raymundo, officer-in-charge of the EDP and Bookkeeping Section of the Accounting Office; and Janina Yuson, administrative officer at the Budget Management Office.

The seminar was organized by the BAC Secretariat. (Mark Jayson E. Gloria)

WESM membership generates more savings for UPLB



MILLIONS OF SAVINGS FOR UPLB. Engr. John Davis Mangubat of OVCPD (standing) says that UPLB has saved PhP 3-4 million in electricity cost for the past five months of being a WESM member. (Photo by VR Maningas/OPR)

UPLB has saved PhP 3-4 million pesos in electricity cost five months after becoming a direct member of the Wholesale Electricity Spot Market (WESM).

This is based on the estimates made by Engr. John Davis Mangubat of the Office of the Vice Chancellor for Planning and Development (OVCPD).

Engr. Mangubat came up with the estimates by comparing the generation costs and generation rates for June–October 2017 with the generation costs and generation rates from the same months in 2014–2016.

Generation cost is the total amount of electric bill, while generation rate is the price of electricity per kWh consumed. Comparing the generation costs paid for 2017 with the average generation cost for 2014–2016, Engr. Mangubat came up with an estimated PhP 2.7 million in savings for UPLB.

The reduced generation rate, multiplied by UPLB’s total electricity consumption, reflected savings of PhP 4.4 million for the past five months of direct WESM membership.

“UPLB was able to secure an effective generation rate lower than PhP 4/kWh from its WESM membership and from applying the bilateral contract quantity (BCQ) nomination with a generation company (GenCo),” Engr. Mangubat said.

BCQ nomination, Engr. Mangubat explained, is the amount or quantity of electricity that UPLB buys or expects from its supplier. “Before we became a direct member of the WESM, our supplier used to decide and submit the BCQ nomination for us,” he said.

“Now that UPLB is a WESM member, the University has gained a certain level of control on its power supply by directly telling the GenCo, which would then inform the Philippine Electricity Market Corporation, the market operator of the WESM, the level of demand and the associated electricity needed from them and when it is needed,” Engr. Mangubat explained further.

“UPLB is now able to decide whether the electricity should be bought from

UPLB power lines upgrade to continue in January

Phase II work to upgrade the University’s overhead distribution lines is now 100% complete. The Agronomy area to the UPCO Housing site now has more durable power lines with the replacement of the old ones that were easily susceptible to damage and were the frequent cause of power outage in the campus.

Engr. Elmer L. Centeno, chief of the Electrical Section at the University Planning and Maintenance Office, said that the project will now proceed to its third phase in January 2018. Phase III will aim to replace the lines from the Animal Science Complex to the National Grid Corporation of the Philippines Sub-Station located near IRRRI and the UP Open University.

This will be followed by the project’s Phase IV, which will upgrade the lines at the Institute of Plant Breeding, BIOTECH, and the IAS Farm.

Meanwhile, two other projects concerning UPLB’s power capacity are also being planned for implementation next year. The first is the replacement of load-break switch in the campus. A load break switch is used to switch and disconnect the power supply when necessary, such as during maintenance.

The other project is the upgrading of indoor transformers that help stabilize the electrical supply in the campus buildings. The first batch of new transformers has already been deployed at the Biological Sciences, Physical Sciences, Agronomy buildings, Nemesio B. Mendiola Hall (Agronomy-Soil Science-Horticulture Building), College of Engineering and Agro-Industrial Technology near the CEAT Lecture Hall and the College of Arts and Sciences (Old Humanities).

Engr. Centeno said that the next areas to be equipped with new transformers are Men’s Dorm, Women’s Dorm, ACCI Dorm, Obdulia Sison Hall (Continuing Education Center), the School of Environmental Science and Management, and the University Health Service.

These upgrades are vital to support UPLB’s infrastructure modernization and to ensure that the campus’s electrical capacity remains sufficient for the increasing power requirements of new equipment and buildings.

Engr. Centeno added that more infrastructure projects, such as those that will improve campus lighting conditions, are being planned for the next few years. (Jessa Jael S. Arana)



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