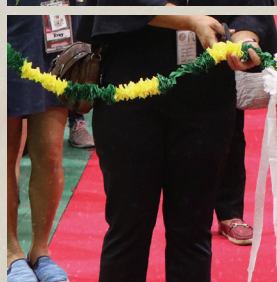


USEP: Extension Division Magazine

LIHOK PINOY

Volume II | Issue 1 | June 2023



Page 03

USEP Empowers Student to Take the Next Step Technology Development



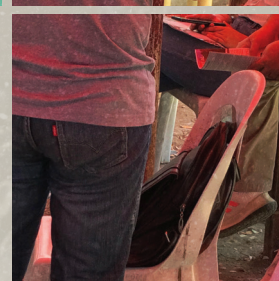
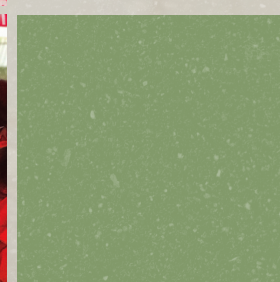
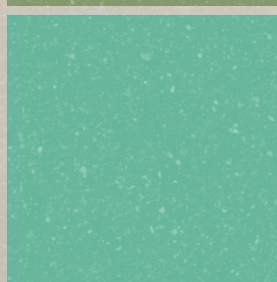
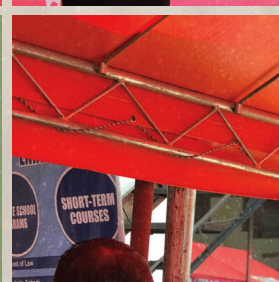
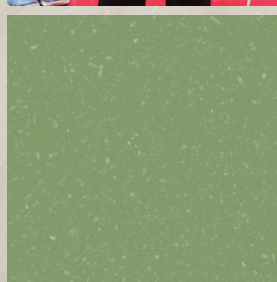
Page 06

USEP CBA Alalay sa Barangay Program (ABP) 2.0: Empowering Womenpreneurs



Page 15

CED Extension goes international with AFFLIP Flagship Programs



☎ 227-8192, Local 217

✉ extension@usep.edu.ph

📘 USEP Extension Division

🌐 www.usep.edu.ph/rde/extension-division/



IN PHOTO. College Extension Heads, Program and Project Leaders, Extension Director and Personnels, with Resource Speaker Ms. Vinafel Araneta Pilapil (in white dress holding a certificate) at Seda Hotel, Davao City

Extension: A Commitment to Transform Communities

Roby V. Pagong, Extension Division Director

Universities are commonly perceived as institutions where students attend classes, study for exams, and fulfill academic requirements in pursuit of high grades. They are also associated with professors who shuttle between classes, deliver lectures, and simultaneously engage in their research. Rarely are universities considered catalysts for community transformation. However, this is exactly what USEP aspires to achieve.

“The university’s vision is crystal clear: to be a Premier Research University, transforming communities in the ASEAN and beyond.”

The Extension Division of the University, in collaboration with various Colleges and Schools, is firmly committed to developing extension programs that address the unique needs of different communities. This additional function is included alongside the responsibilities of research and instruction, and it is no easy task. The beauty of extension work lies in its challenges, as it brings out the genuine desire of faculty, students, and non-teaching personnel to make a positive impact. The planning process for each activity is a demanding feat that involves early morning wakeups, effective team coordination, community partnerships, and meticulous attention to documentary

requirements. Despite the overwhelming nature of the work, the team perseveres to ensure that each program is successfully facilitated and implemented.

The Extension heads of various academic units, including the School of Law, School of Medicine, College of Teacher Education and Technology, and College of Technology, recently embarked on an exploratory trip to Golden Valley to uncover the potential contributions that their respective programs can offer.

Similar exploratory activities were also conducted by the College of Engineering, College of Applied Economics, College of Information and Computing, College of Business Administration, College of Arts and Sciences, College of Education, College of Development Management, and College of Agriculture and Related Sciences.

Furthermore, the Continuing Education Center, a unit under the Extension Division, continuously seeks partnerships with different agencies to assess how the University, through the expertise of its personnel, can best address their specific needs.

As part of an academic institution, the Extension Division and the Extension Heads understand the need to be continuously capacitated and improve in delivering their programs. This is evidenced by their active participation in various activities organized by the division. The extension heads, program, and project leaders attended the back-to-back capacitation on the Dissemination

of Knowledge Technology Transferred through Extension, and the Training on Quantifying Change Brought by Extension Program last February 24, 2023, even if it was declared a holiday the night before. They showed the same enthusiasm during the Training-Workshop on the Crafting of Extension Programs/Projects, which was also attended by faculty from different Schools and Colleges in the University.

As members of an esteemed academic institution, the Extension Division, together with the Extension Heads, recognize the importance of continuous capacity building and strive to enhance their programs’ delivery continually. The Division’s commitment to learning and growth is evident through its active participation in various training activities organized by the division. For instance, last February 24, 2023, despite it being a declared holiday, extension heads, program, and project leaders demonstrated their eagerness to learn by attending the back-to-back training sessions on the Dissemination of Knowledge and Technology Transferred through Extension and Training on Quantifying Change Brought by Extension Program. The same level of enthusiasm was observed during the Training-Workshop on Crafting Extension Program/Projects held last March 10 and 17, 2023, which welcomed faculty members from different Schools and Colleges. Promising proposals were presented during the activity, and it is exciting to see how these proposals will come to life.

With the continuous efforts of the different Colleges and Schools, the University will surely transform communities.

USEP Administers GPPB-TSO Public Procurement Specialist Certification Course-Level 1 for 2023

Mery Ann P. Labriga, CEC Technical Staff

In a collaborative effort between the University of Southeastern Philippines (USEP) and the Government Procurement Policy Board-Technical Support Office (GPPB-TSO) to upskill government workers, USEP began training for the Public Procurement Specialist Certification Course-Level 1 through the Continuing Education Center (CEC) of the Extension Division. The virtual training sessions were held via Zoom teleconference from March 29 to April 26, 2023.

The month-long training course was aimed at enhancing the procurement skills of 98 enrollees from various sectors nationwide, earning a total of PHP 526,500.00 in revenue. Out of these participants, 17 were from USEP, while 81 came from different regions across the country. The online classes, held twice a week, equipped the participants with technical skills in eight modules that comply with the Republic Act No. 9184,

or the Government Procurement Reform Act.

The modules included *Principles and Practices of Public Procurement*, *Legal and Administrative Environment of Philippine Public Procurement*, *Procurement Organization Framework*, *Philippine Government Electronic Procurement System (PhilGEPS)*, *Procurement Planning*, *Procurement of Goods and Services*, *Contract Management and Administration of Goods*, and *Ethics of Procurement*. Accredited trainers delivered these modules to ensure that participants received comprehensive training that meet industry standards.

Further, led by experts from various government agencies as resource speakers, Region II Senior Budget and Management Specialist Reynaldo Villon and Region XI Assistant Director Dr. Antonio M. Faunillan from the DBM Regional Offices shared their expertise on particular courses. PhilGEPS referred Ms.

Mary Jane Dacumos to engage in the same speakership. Meanwhile, Undersecretary Gerard L. Chan and Assistant Secretary Omar Alexander V. Romero of DepEd's procurement committee shared their knowledge on the subject in a similar approach that Dr. Cheryl G. Ramos and Mr. Ronnie L. Gutierrez of the Central Luzon State University (CLSU) delivered their lectures for the enrichment of skills.

The training is designed to capacitate participants, including government employees, procurement officers, bidders, and other stakeholders, with public or government procurement processes skills. USEP, being the leading training institution in Mindanao that offers such certification courses on procurement, is expected to set up more training courses later this year. As such, an upcoming new batch of trainees will follow, enabling more individuals to enhance their skills and contribute to the growth and development of the procurement industry in the Philippines.



Photo opportunity during Mr. Reynaldo R. Villon's principles and practices of public procurement training course.

USEP Empowers Students to Take the Next Step in Technology Development

Jayson T. Sasotil, CT Extension Head

The University of Southeastern Philippines (USEP) Extension Division recently conducted a series of workshop seminars on technology

development research for the Technical-Vocational (Tech-Voc) students and teachers of Lun Padidu National High School (LPNHS) in Sarangani Province.

College of Technology faculty members Asso.Prof Rushdee M. Cubian, Asso.Prof. Michael V. Machica, Engr. Francis Jay B.



IN PHOTO. From Left to Right : Rex Q. Lipang, T-1; Julieta S. Lomocso, MT1 SHS Coordinator; Susana S. Sumangka, Ed.D, Principal I of Lun Padidu NHS, together with Assoc. Prof Michael V. Machica, Mr. Wendell J. Del Campo, Mr. Edmon E. Dominguez and Engr. Francis Jay B. Jumawan from USEP

Jumawan, Mr. Edmon E. Dominguez, and Mr. Wendell J. Del Campo conducted workshop seminars to train students on designing their proposed technology development using CAD software. Students and teachers were also able to gain training on intellectual property rights, and on drafting a technology development research proposal.

In the workshop seminars, participants were equipped with knowledge and understanding of the different aspects of technology development, including research, design, and implementation to help them in developing their own technology projects in the future. Their training on intellectual property rights. Knowing how to protect their ideas is an important skill for anyone who wants to develop and market their own technology products. With the valuable experience they gained by working with faculty members from a university, the participants would also be better prepared for college and develop their own research skills. Ultimately, all of

these would contribute towards making participants more capable of taking the next step in technology development.

The workshop seminars had a positive impact on the learning of the students and teachers and served to further strengthen the partnership between USEP and LPNHS toward bringing quality education and training to the youth of Sarangani Province. First, it assisted students to develop their technology skills. This will help them to be more competitive in the job market and to contribute to the development of their community. For teachers, technology skills development would help them to teach their students about technology and to prepare them for the future.

The USEP Extension Division is proud to have been able to empower the Lun Padidu National High School students and teachers to develop their technology skills and become more productive members of society and active contributors to the development of their community. The USEP-LPNHS partnership is an example

of how universities can work with local schools to provide students with the skills they need to succeed in the 21st century. By working together, universities and schools can help to ensure that all students could reach their full potential.



IN PHOTO. Assoc. Prof. Rushdee M. Cubian
Pioneers the Path in Technology Development Research with Profound Insights on Reviewing Related Literature



IN PHOTO. Celebrating the Accomplishments of Outstanding Participants during the Culmination Program

Empowering Indigenous People (IP) Women through Livelihood Training in Barangay Malagos, Baguio District, Davao City

IN PHOTO. Barangay Malagos Indigenous People (IP) Women list down current situation as a team and a plan for future as an organization. This is during the conduct of activity entitled, Program Viability and Sustainability led by Assoc. Prof. Myrna S. Mateo.

Edsan Colin V. Santander, CDM Extension Head

Mercy C. Leaño, CDM Faculty

Micarey B. Tangge, CDM Staff

Sustainable Services for Social Transformation and Indigenous Peoples' Empowerment and Development (SUSSTAINED) is a program initiated by the University of Southeastern Philippines – College of Development Management. It is a flagship program of the College through the Extension Division, implemented by CDM faculty in collaboration with project

stakeholders that aims to give IP women a means by which they can significantly contribute to their household income through livelihood training.

After the pandemic, the SUSSTAINED Team turned over sewing machines to IP Women of Barangay Malagos, Baguio District, Davao City. This initiative was the result of a needs assessment conducted in 2019. In 2022, consecutive activities were



IN PHOTO. Group picture of the IP Women, SUSSTAINED beneficiaries after the activity.

conducted for women to further livelihood support under the program which would allow the grantees to produce up to 200 pieces of sewing products weekly. The women were able to produce rugs and pillowcases on campus last year, and also had the opportunity to display their handmade products to a wider public during the 2022 University Extension Summit.

With the belief that empowerment begins with skills and knowledge, the CDM Extensionists implemented a series of training that would fully equip the project participants with a range of skills they would need to sustain their livelihood efforts.

First in the series of training under the SUSSTAINED Program was Capacitation on Community Business Organization and Management: The Cooperative Perspective of Management, Policies, and Responsibilities which was conducted on May 5, 2022 headed by Activity Leader Dr. Analiza P. Aguilar. The aim of the activity was to increase participant knowledge and awareness on the significance of cooperatives and cooperative membership in generating personal and community wealth and income. The session was followed by training on Financial Literacy and Basic Bookkeeping

facilitated by Program Leader Dr. Mercy C. Leaño. Through the activity, the participants learned how to make wise decisions with money and simple record keeping that they could apply in their daily lives and in their economic activities.

The next activity was the Capacity Building on Viability and Sustainability of Sewing Project held on May 26, 2022 headed by Assoc. Prof. Myrna S. Mateo. The training was designed to equip the women with the knowledge and skills necessary for the long-term success and effectiveness of a sewing project. By the end of the workshop, participants were able to craft their sustainability plan that they could use moving forward. The IP women were also participated in Training on Market Linkages and Distribution for Sewing headed by Ms. Hazel Queen B. Palero. This activity helped them understand market linkages and distribution, gain a positive attitude towards pursuing the sewing business as a source of income, and deepen their willingness to develop market linkage strategies and personal relations among customers.

Determined to equip participants with advanced knowledge, skills, and training abilities further expand their individual capacities within their community, the SUSSTAINED Team also conducted the

Training on the Production Design and Methods – Skills Training Enhancement and Development - a TOT (Training of Trainers) Approach on June 30, 2022 headed by Ms. Minette M. Cifra. The significant accomplishment of the activity was emphasizing the styles, and strategies, to produce good-looking IP sewing products and improvement of the designs and methods in order to understand and motivate the creativity of the participants. By adopting a TOT approach, this activity creates a multiplier effect by empowering participants to share their expertise and contribute to the skills development of others in their respective domains. CDM Extension Head Mr. Edsan Colin V. Santander also conducted a training session on Market Feasibility and Planning for the women to further motivate the participants to optimize production of their sewing products and market their products in their community.

Empowering indigenous women through livelihood training is crucial for their economic, social, and cultural well-being. Through the SUSSTAINED Program, IP women are given the power to not only improve their economic status but also contribute significantly to the development of their community.

Developing Unique Literacy Activities (D.U.L.A): Where Fun Meets Learning

Rizalino O. Dela Torre, Jr., CTET Extension Head

Playing and learning made for a memorable day for students and teachers at Magugpo Pilot Imelda Elementary School last May 14, 2023 during the Developing Unique Literacy Activities (D.U.L.A) Activity conducted by the College of Teacher Education and Technology (CTET), proving how joyful engagement of learners breathes new life to education and makes it a truly transformative experience.

The Faculty Extensionists and Pre-service Teachers (PST) from the three programs, namely, Bachelor of Elementary Education (BEEd), Bachelor of Early Childhood Education (BECEd), and Bachelor of Special Needs Education

(BSNEd), spearheaded the said event in collaboration with the teachers from the partner school. The activity aimed to improve the capabilities of learners struggling with reading through the use of play and games by tapping into the inherent joy and curiosity of children to create a dynamic and engaging educational experience.

The word “DULA” literally translates to game or play. During the activity, CTET Pre-service Teachers managed to incorporate the many mechanics of various “larong lahi” into their novel and creative games which they facilitated with their learners as participants. The developed activities provided an interactive environment



IN PHOTO. Roberto Gorbeña, an intern from Spain, straps a bracelet to a student as reward for completing one of the literacy games prepared by the Pre-Service Teachers from the Bachelor of Elementary Education (BEEd).



IN PHOTO. Pre-service teachers from the Bachelor of Special Needs Education (BSNEd) explain the mechanics of their game to Marta Gonzalez, who is also an intern from Spain.

“It was heartwarming to witness learners who were struggling with literacy skills fully immerse themselves in the games designed for them, eagerly participating with their facilitators and seeing learning as a fun experience rather than a struggle.”



IN PHOTO. A Pre-Service Teacher from BEEd enthusiastically gives instruction for a literacy game that requires team cooperation.

where learners could enjoy themselves, far from the conventional practice of stern classrooms, textbooks, and lectures. It was heartwarming to witness learners who were struggling with literacy skills fully immerse themselves in the games designed for them, eagerly participating with their facilitators and seeing learning as a fun experience rather than a struggle. USEP Interns from Spain were also present to observe and take part in the activity. The exchange of cultures added a new dimension to the event, and everyone

was thrilled to have them participate in the activities.

The activity was able to highlight the importance of games in teaching reading and how they can help readers who are struggling improve their literacy skills. The students had a great time while learning, and the pre-service teachers gained valuable experience in facilitating and managing the games. This extension activity was a great success, and everyone involved left feeling fulfilled and energized by the experience.



IN PHOTO. CBA Young Innovators transferring knowledge to ABP 2.0 Womenpreneurs

USEP CBA Alalay sa Barangay Program (ABP) 2.0: Empowering Womenpreneurs

Suzette C. Quico, CBA Extension Head

Leadership skills, financial literacy, and entrepreneurial skills training with an emphasis on food businesses opened bright, new possibilities for the women of Barangay Centro (San Juan), Agdao District, Davao City as the Alalay sa Barangay Program (ABP) 2.0 kicked off with a series of capacity building activities designed for women looking to start their respective home-based businesses.

The aspiring women entrepreneurs from Barangay Centro (San Juan), Agdao,

Davao City, actively took part in seven (7) Fridays filled with informative and interactive activities at the Mechatronics Building of the USEP Obrero Campus, which featured not only full lectures but hands on activities as well. The first session was held on January 20 and progressed weekly until March 21 where they were trained in planning their respective businesses, properly allocating finances, developing their products and other practical tips through mentorship on winning and established ideas.

ABP 2.0, the extension program of the College of Business Administration (CBA), was initiated with the intent of promoting inclusive entrepreneurship as a means for its participants to balance their roles as wives and mothers in their own families vis-à-vis the need to secure their revenue streams with home-based businesses in mind. The second phase of this Program builds on the previously realized gains by upscaling the leadership capability, financial literacy, entrepreneurial skills, and business planning skills of the women



IN PHOTO. ABP 2.0 MOA Signing between USeP and partner barangay (Baranggay Centro)

partner-participants (WPP) that will lead to the establishment of a home-based business.

The USeP College of Business Administration (CBA) also integrated a Gender and Development (GAD) Session and Entrepreneurial Skills Training for the womenpreneur-participants as part of the **Alalay sa Barangay Program 2.0 (ABP 2.0)** at the CBA Learning Resource Center, Obrero Campus last April 28, 2023.

CBA Gender and Development (GAD) Coordinator Dr. Sharon L. Binoya, shared input on women empowerment with

the aim of providing insight on how womenpreneurs can best capacitate themselves in the face of the ever-changing times, given their other roles in their respective households as wives, mothers, and grandmothers, as well as roles as professionals/ entrepreneurs. Dr. Binoya stressed the value of self-empowerment as a means of furthering their goals in achieving inclusive entrepreneurship.

The ABP 2.0 Womenpreneurs' also had the opportunity to showcase their products during the University's first-ever Income Generating Project (IGP) Summit and launching of the research centers held on May 15, 2023, at the University Gymnasium and Cultural Center (UGCC), USeP-Obrero Campus. The IGP Summit, a collaboration of the Resource Management Division (RMD) with the Research and Development, and Extension (RDE) Divisions and the Advancing Great Ideas Laboratory (AGILab), exposed the ABP 2.0 Womenpreneurs to personally witness other initiatives of the USeP in terms of the development of innovative and creative business models and strategies to

increase revenue and resource generation. Through their participation in the IGP Summit, the ABP 2.0 Womenpreneurs were also able to meet future investors who would be willing to be their future business partners. The summit changed their perspective that product innovation is the key to success and that they must embrace technology to be at par with other aspiring entrepreneurs to meet the demands of the new generation of consumers and inspire them to continuously reach for their full potential by applying the skills and knowledge they learned from the program.



IN PHOTO. ABP 2.0 and USeP AGILab TBI partnership -Technology Shopping



IN PHOTO. Dr. Victoria Guillano, Extension Head of the School of Medicine (SoM), is in the middle. Joining her are Mr. Mark B. Miscala, a licensed psychometrician and resource speaker, and Dr. Andrea Eugenio, a dermatologist from the Department of Dermatology. On the right corner is Dr. Arielle Castaneda, a senior resident of the Psoriasis Core Group in the same department at SPMC, along with participants.

Mental health challenges affect millions of people worldwide, irrespective of age, gender, or cultural background. As mental health awareness continues to gain momentum, it is crucial to sustain the progress made and continue driving change. Being a recently established program in the University of Southeastern Philippines, the School of Medicine (SoM) successfully spearheaded a Mental Health Awareness Symposium at Capernaum, SPMC, Davao City on February 27, 2023. The symposium was a collaborative effort between the USeP-SoM, the Dermatology Department of Southern Philippines Medical Center

(SPMC), and the Psoriasis Foundation of the Philippines, Inc. to bring to the fore Mental health awareness as a crucial global issue that individuals from all walks of life grapple with.

The event was attended by 27 members of the Psoriasis Club, along with their family and friends. The program began with a prayer led by Dr. Andrea Eugenio from the Department of Dermatology, followed by opening remarks from SoM Extension Head Dr. Victoria Guillano. Dr. Guillano

also discussed the rationale behind the activity and set expectations for the participants.

Resource speaker and licensed Psychometrician Mr. Mark B. Miscala gave vital input towards understanding Mental Health emphasizing how it encompasses the broad state of well-being where an individual realizes their potential, handles normal stresses, performs productive work, contributes to society, and is an essential part of overall health, just like

From Awareness to Action: A Symposium on Promoting Beautiful Minds and Mental Health

Anthony E. Estigoy, SoM Staff

Victoria P. Guillano, SoM Extension Head

“The discussion highlighted that adversity does not discriminate, regardless of a person’s background.”

physical health. Mr. Miscala Additionally, emphasized the importance of resiliency, which refers to an individual’s capacity to adapt well in the face of stressors such as trauma, tragedy, or threats.

The participants shared their experiences of facing difficulties due to the chronic and relapsing nature of their disease, caused by various factors such as social inadequacies and financial considerations that affect their mental health. The discussion highlighted that adversity does not discriminate, regardless of a person’s background. The participants emphasized that clinicians and researchers are now placing greater importance on evaluating

and teaching methods to improve resilience, rather than solely focusing on the negative consequences resulting from trauma or stress.

The resource speaker presented three principles for promoting resilience during the symposium. First, is the recognition that suffering is a universal part of human existence. The second principle highlighted the importance of being mindful in choosing where to direct one’s focus. Lastly, the speaker discussed the importance of regularly assessing oneself by asking, ‘Is what I am doing helping or harming me?’ Additionally, the topic of self-compassion was explored in relation to promoting positive mental health and the benefits it offers.

Senior resident of the Psoriasis Core Group in the Department of Dermatology at SPMC Dr. Arielle Castaneda, delivered the closing remarks. She expressed her gratitude to the organizers, participants, and resource speakers for their active participation and valuable contributions to the event. Dr. Castaneda also emphasized the importance of continuing the conversation on mental health and promoting resilience in the face of adversity.

The extension initiative unequivocally demonstrates the capability and potential of the recently established School of Medicine, which is focused on providing education in human health. This successful endeavor serves as a testament to the School of Medicine’s ability, as a part of the University of Southeastern Philippines, to undertake further activities aimed at improving human health in the future.



IN PHOTO. Licensed Psychometrician, Mr. Mark B. Miscala, highlights the holistic nature of well-being, underscoring its correlation to physical health.



IN PHOTO. SoM Extension Head, Dr. Victoria Guillano, delivers opening remarks, outlining the activity’s purpose and participant expectations.

USEP-CAS and OWWA Region XI holds Literary Workshop for OFW Children’s Circle (OCC)

Rhonna Mae Lizette B. Babatoan, CAS Student
Francis N. Reginio, CAS Extension Head (Ed.)

Poetry writing and reading were featured as an outlet for artistic expression and emotional catharsis to the OFW Children Circle (OCC) during the conduct of a three-day literary workshop through the collaborative efforts of the College of Arts and Sciences Extension Unit intertwined hands with Overseas Workers Welfare Administration (OWWA) Regional Welfare Office XI held at the College of Information and Computing’s Audio-Visual Room (CIC-AVR) USEP-Obrero Campus last May 5-7, 2023. The activity aimed to share with the participating children of Overseas Filipino Workers a safe space where they could freely express their thoughts, explore their creativity, and purge their emotional baggage.

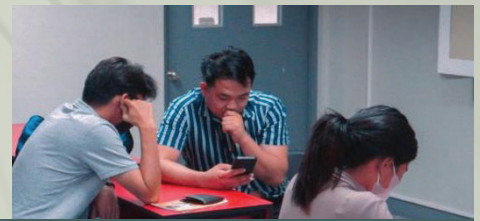
78 participants enthusiastically took part in the workshop, each with distinct creativity and style in weaving poetry as a form of self-expression. Their initial knowledge of poetry gave them a head start in understanding the series of lectures conducted by the faculty members from the Literature and Language Department, who extended their expertise for the benefit of the participants. The lectures broadened their understanding of poetry, and they also engaged in various activities leading to a deeper appreciation of the written word.

Literature and Cultural Studies faculty, Ms. Reah Izza T. Paglinawan began the first day of the workshop with her lecture entitled “Linger: Getting in Touch with Your Metaphors,” discussing how

metaphorical thought comes naturally to human beings and how metaphors are alive within us. Ms. Paglinawan also facilitated a metaphor-centered writing exercise during the course of her lecture.

The second workshop session, The Imaginary Transaction in Poetry, was led by Literature and Cultural Studies Program Head Dr. Angelo Yu. The session delved into how poetry is an imaginary transaction that carries a vision of human life, is perpetuated by a persona, and is perceived by an addressee. Dr. Yu also led the participants in an engaging discussion into a deeper appreciation of the concept and meaning of poetry by introducing notable poets and their work.

Another session of the workshop entitled “Addressing Gender and Development



IN PHOTOS. The OFW Children's Circle (OCC) provided participants during the three-day training with a safe space to express their thoughts, explore creativity, and purge emotional baggage.

The activity aimed to provide participating children of Overseas Filipino Workers with a safe space where they could freely express their thoughts, explore their creativity, and release their emotional baggage.

through literature, people transmit their views, desires, and identities to a wider audience, which may have a big impact on both an individual and society. She also emphasized how literary expression can be an effective tool by which these problems can be made known to a wider audience and be used as an instrument for social change.

Literature and Cultural Studies faculty Ms. Jennifer R. Tuban handled the next session in the workshop entitled "Symbolism: Epitomizing Life Experiences," where participants were able to focus on the significant role of symbols in the beauty of writing poetry. Participants actively participated in a game of symbols as they analyzed various poems that Ms. Tuban provided as examples.

Mr. Virgel S. Torremocha, another faculty member from the Literature Department, led the last of the lectures for the workshop entitled, "Neither Out Far nor In Deep: Identifying Themes in the Poetry We Read." Mr. Torremocha imparted to the participants the concept of poetic themes and how to identify them in poetry. The participants spent an hour with Mr. Torremocha as they allowed themselves to lose themselves in analyzing the central themes of different poems.

After the series of lectures, the participants had the opportunity to express themselves freely through the creation of their own literary pieces. The five-hour activity was guided by Ms. Paglinawan, Ms. Tuban, Mr. Torremocha, and Dr. Yu, who were each assigned participants for mentoring.

On the last day of the event, everyone shared in witnessing different performances from selected BALCS students. The participants became active contributors to the performances by showcasing their own original pieces. The day was full of creative performances like spoken poetry, radio drama, a play, and the most anticipated poetry reading by the participants. The three-day workshop concluded by giving awards to the most deserving young poets.

Undeniably, the three-day workshop benefited both the participants and the people behind the event, as it not only gave them the opportunity to express their own experiences by weaving them into their creative ideas, but most importantly, it allowed them to unravel each other's stories and find new friends through the process. The activity is only the start of more that the College of Arts and Sciences will conduct in partnership with OWWA XI.

SEEDS for the Out-of-School Youth: The Creation of an OSY Information System and Learning Management System

Cheryl R. Amante, CIC Extension Head

Education is a fundamental human right that must not be denied to anyone. Education has the power to transform lives and is a gateway to boundless opportunities. As members of the academe, our role is to cultivate an environment where students are rooted in a path that allows them to thrive and

become successful individuals. This responsibility does not end when we step out of our academic grounds. We must extend our efforts to reach out to those who do not have access to quality education, better yet, access to a better life.

When USAID opened its grant for Strengthening Education, Employment, and Development Support (SEEDS) for Out-of-School Youth, it paved the way for the University to help build reinforcements for the Out of School Youth (OSY) Support Systems for Development through the use of Technology, Innovation, and Research.

The 2019 Annual Poverty Indicators Survey (APIS), shows that more than 10 million people from ages 6 to 24 do not attend school. In the Davao region, the top reason for the male population not attending school is due to employment and lack of personal interest, while marriage or family matters and also employment are the common reasons for the females.

The Alternative Learning System (ALS) is one of the interventions of the government operated by the Department of Education (DepEd) for out-of-school youth, children, and adults. However, according to a report from the World Bank (2016), only a small proportion of the target population is enrolled in the ALS program. This is due to the evident challenge in identifying the OSY once they leave the formal education system and the limitations of the ALS program in monitoring its activities.

These challenges are being addressed by the College of Information and Computing (CIC) through the development of an Out-of-School Youth Information System (OSYIS) and Learning Management System (LMS) since November 2021 to present, spearhead by the program leader, the CIC Dean, Dr. Ivy Kim D. Machica, and the project leaders, Engr. Jamal Kay B. Rogers, and CIC Extension Head Cheryl R. Amante. The target participants for this extension project are all OSY, Alternative Learning Systems (ALS) teachers, including other stakeholders from government and private agencies in the locale.

The OSYIS is a web-based information system intended for out-of-school youth. They can access all the programs of the DepEd-Alternative Learning System (DepEd-ALS) and the programs of the private sector, including registration or enrolment to the programs offered. The reports produced by the OSYIS will be used by the service providers to generate insights for decision-making, such as budget allocation and early intervention programs. Meanwhile, LMS can be used to conduct intervention and remediation activities based on the unique needs of the learners as determined through the results of the different forms of assessment. The LMS will also serve as a repository of learning materials that allow service providers to logically organize, use, and re-purpose various resources, including book collections.

The vision at this point is to conduct the user acceptance testing of the modules



IN PHOTOS. Top: First EDC-USAID project monitoring visit to USeP CIC. Bottom: Meet and Greet to CSWDO officer and personnel by Dr. Ivy Kim Machica

developed by the team to get remarks and comments on the design and interface, as well as the functionality of the front and back end environment of the systems. Meetings were conducted with EDC-USAID Higher Education Coordinator Mr. Jan Cutin to satisfy the deliverables of the project.

Aside from partnering with academic institutions, the College of Information and Computing (CIC) is partnering with the City Social Welfare Development Office (CSWDO) of the City Government of Davao, to reach out not only to existing learners under the ALS program but to the out of school youth, children, and adults in the three legislative districts of Davao City. CIC Team Members have CSWDO profiler counterparts who are in charge of the registration and verification of individuals in their respective areas who are out of school. Although the three legislative districts are divided into 15 administrative districts, the central repository of all the records will be at the CSWDO Main Office located in the city proper.

In April 2023, after several meetings of finalizing the system requirement specifications, the CIC team finally conducted training on the information system for the end users from the City Social Welfare Development Office. Division Chief Ms. Gilda Salvaña together with her subordinates and staff were gathered to witness and be oriented on the system flow. She briefly introduced her team to the USeP-CIC project team and the roles of her staff in using the system. “We are always grateful to SUCs like USeP

“We are always grateful to SUCs like USeP for coming up with this initiative and tapping our division in the development of the computerized system

-Ms. Gilda Salvaña,
Division Chief

for coming up with this initiative and tapping our division in the development of the computerized system”, Ms. Salvaña said to the project team.

Dr. Ivy Kim D. Machica, the program leader of this extension project also briefly discussed the partnership between USeP and CSWDO with the opportunity granted by EDC-USAID in the development of the information system. She also expressed her gratitude for the warm responses that the CSWDO team provided especially during the data-gathering and needs-assessment phases. Moreover, Mr. Warren Rezane, the programmer of the team

prepared the tablets where the systems are installed for demonstration and testing by the CSWDO staff. The training highlights the needs of the users that must be included in the system such as the labels, data fields, access controls, and security measures. According to Technical Staff Mr. Mark Timbang, "We are very happy with the partnership with USEP-CIC because this will help us deliver our services more

efficiently to the general public through the automation of our profiling system". Before the training ended, the division chief Ms. Gilda Salvaña also added that "The use of tablets is such a big help to our field personnel once the systems are implemented to ease the process of conducting interviews in the community". The partnership of USEP-CIC with EDC-USAID, CSWDO, and other stakeholders

is just the beginning of planting seeds of hope and opportunities in the lives of individuals who are out of school. Indeed, education is a fundamental human right that everyone must have access to. And as part of the academe, specifically in the field of information and computing, we must stretch out our capacity in transforming lives through the use of technology.

Cooling the **MAGMA**: An Information, Education, Communication Drive to address **Misconceptions About Geohazards and Mining Activities**

Elma Jane D. Rapal, COE Extension Head

In today's hyper-connected world, where citizens with phones, video cameras, and social media channels can easily distribute information, wide and rapid dissemination of misinformation which could ultimately lead to misconceptions on certain issues is highly common. These misconceptions not only give challenges to the operations of natural resource industries like mining but also cause ungrounded alarm and panic to the public which results in opportunity loss.

The College of Engineering - Mining and Geology programs continues its thrust to address such challenges by initiating a series of Information, Education, and Communication (IEC) campaigns to different audiences it can reach. As part of the academe, both programs continue to strive to change society's perceptions of geohazards and the mining industry and educate the public on Geohazard

Assessment and Sustainable Mineral Development.

First in the series is the 1-day IEC activity entitled "Cooling the MAGMA: Misconceptions About Geohazards and Mining Activities" which was held on February 21, 2023, at Daniel R. Aguinaldo National High School (DRANHS) in Matina, Davao City. The event aimed to correct misinformation related to geohazards and mining circulating around different social media platforms. Under the leadership of Geol. Christian Paul F. Escarian together with the USEP BS in Geology students, the program successfully trained 233 students and teachers from DRANHS on Geohazards and how to assess them in an area through maps. Deeper discussions were spurred during the open forum with faculty members from the Mining Engineering programs who talked about the mining industry and how they are being regulated by the stringent environmental laws and

policies of the state.

Apart from the discussions, students from DRANHS were engaged in a live exhibit prepared by the Association of Geology Students (AGeoS). During the exposition, students were able to see and experience some of the field mapping tools and laboratory equipment used in Mining and Geology programs.

The team's efforts have finally paid off after hearing the positive feedbacks from the participants. Some have even expressed their interest to enroll in the Geology and Mining Engineering programs of USEP because according to them, they love Science, and the activity inspired them to learn more about these two fields.

These outcomes prove that William Arthur Ward was right when he said: "Teaching is more than imparting knowledge, it is inspiring change."



IN PHOTOS. Photo of Geol. Escarian (left) and his student (right) while discussing Geohazard maps to senior highschool students of DRANHS)



IN PHOTO. Students from DRANHS using a hand lens to examine rock samples displayed



IN PHOTO. An energetic IP farmer under the AGAK Project

From Stability to Sustainability: Furthering Ata Tribe Potential for Economic Opportunities and Growth

Michael L. Ayala, CAEc Extension Head

Indigenous People (IP) groups are considered as one of the most vulnerable communities in our country. This group has a greater risk to crisis situations due to their cultural practices and the inequalities they experience in the community. In addition, there are societal issues which the IP groups continue to face nowadays such as insufficient health care, shortage of basic needs, malnutrition, unemployment, among others.

With the aim of addressing some of these difficulties, the project *AMOMA UG GIYA ALANG SA KAHAMUGAWAY* (AGAK: Caring and Guiding for Stability) led by USEP in 2021 was able to successfully provide relevant community intervention such as the provision of new farming technologies, tools, and materials, to the IP communities in selected areas of Davao Region. All in all, the AGAK project was seen to have brought a glimpse of what stable IP farmers could look like if given the right opportunities, mentoring and guidance.

One of these IP group partners is the Ata tribe in Sitio Kiblatong, Paquibato District, Davao City. These vibrant people who are also called “dwellers of the highlands” strongly believe that they still have a lot to offer not only in terms of cultural prowess, skills, and competencies but also through their farm products which if properly cultivated can be an avenue towards prosperity. “Way back, it

was our grandfathers and grandmothers who planted these trees. But did not know they can make money out of it”, said Datu Boyson Anib, the tribal leader of Ata community in Kiblatong. These words point to one realization that inspiring a generation could make a difference towards household economic stability and then sustainability.

While we can identify common and general predicaments in the community, it is also true that secluded localities tend to have their unique situation or context in which they live with. Having this milieu in mind, the College of Applied Economics (CAEc) of USEP conducted a needs assessment activity last April 14, 2023 in Sitio Kiblatong in order to carefully identify, understand, and prioritize the needs of their partner group to offer means that could help alleviate vulnerability and poverty. The team headed by Dr. Roperto S. Deluna, Jr. thought of having data gathering actions right in the midst of the tribal community and see in actuality not only their societal needs but also the promising potentials that this community possesses.

The needs assessment activity was successfully done with lots of realizations and future plans. The key informant interview with Datu Anib and the house-to-house survey offered a heap of information towards building productive partnership in the areas of education, health, trade and economics, cultural

preservation, eco-tourism, and many more. Stories of resilience and success among residents were also noted such as the Ata residents who are now professionals and ready to return the favor to their tribe. Indeed, the needs assessment also proved to be a key step of digging the gold that was hidden within, in order to get it out. The information gotten from this event are inputs in CAEc’s quest to provide mitigation action and adaptation strategies to propel the Ata tribe to more social and economic opportunities and growth. While AGAK projects aimed for stability, future extension endeavors of the college are targeted towards imparting sustainability with their partner IP community.



IN PHOTO. Ms. Riza Mae Palen interviews a mother in the Ata Community



IN PHOTO. A group of Ata students during their gardening activity.



IN PHOTO. Sir Pat Maloney expressed his gratitude to CEd faculty for joining in the OLEP Coordinators' Meeting.

CED Extension goes international with AFFLIP Flagship Programs

Wendelyn C. Bajador, CEd Extension Head

The College of Education Extension took hold the opportunity to establish partnership with an international foundation known as Australian Foundation for Fostering Learning in the Philippines (AFFLIP), a voluntary, non-government, not for profit Foundation based in South Australia. It has six (6) flagship programs: Scholarship, Health and Nutrition, Outdoor Learning Environment Project (OLEP), Professional Development and Literacy, Schools Network, and Research. It has been ten (10) years AFFLIP continues supporting DepEd specifically Talomo District, Davao City as its beneficiary.

Way back 2017, USEP-CED forged a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with AFFLIP and Bonifacio Elementary School, Talomo District as co-proponent to take charge of the technical assistance need for phase 3 on the implementation of OLEP, one of its flagship programs. Expert faculties in the area of Early Childhood and Special Needs including the specialists in English, Math, Science, and TLE happened to observe the learners as they enjoy the fun-learning activities utilizing OLEP facilities with the lead of their respective teachers. At the end of the observation, CEd faculty shared inputs on how to maximize the learning opportunities of OLEP towards holistic development of learners across grade levels.

After five years, such partnership was being recalled last May 4, 2023, when CEd program heads and faculty representatives were invited to attend OLEP Coordinators'

Meeting at Talomo Central Elementary School, Talomo, Davao City. The meeting which highlighted fruitful discussions not only about OLEP but also the other flagship programs of AFFLIP which could possibly paved the way for future long-term tripartite collaborations between and among USEP, DepEd and AFFLIP. Sir Pat Maloney, chair of the OLEP TWG in Australia, was present and expressed his delight for the presence of CEd faculty. As he said "I am very much happy seeing you in this conference. I was informed when I was in Australia to tap University of Southeastern Philippines for an assistance in our programs. We don't only need help for OLEP rather in all our programs especially in the conduct of action research".

Initial commitment from the program heads and faculty representatives were initially sought as it is hoped that future programs, projects and activities will be implemented. This engagement provides cue for the faculty to enter a bigger and wider role in supporting and sustaining the six flagship programs of AFFLIP. Dr. Emmie M. Cabanlit, the program head of Bachelor of Elementary Education, gave her affirmative response and commit to be at service for the above-mentioned programs.



IN PHOTO. Dr. Emmie M. Cabanlit, Program Head of the Bachelor of Elementary Education gave her affirmative response to support all the programs of AFFLIP.

I am very much happy seeing you in this conference. I was informed when I was in Australia to tap University of Southeastern Philippines for an assistance in our programs. We don't only need help for OLEP rather in all our programs especially in the conduct of action research

-Sir Pat Maloney,
Chair of the OLEP TWG
in Australia

United Nations Office for Project Development Grants Support to USeP School of Law to Develop Conflict Sensitive and Peace Promoting Community Leaders

Leah Judith R. Jacobe, SoL Project Staff
Jesus Agora Villardo III, SoL Extension Head

The University of Southeastern Philippines (USEP) upholds its commitment as “a premier research university transforming communities in the ASEAN and beyond” through the “Developing Conflict Sensitive and Peace Promoting Knowledge Skills and Attitude for Environmental Conflict Resolution.” Project. This activity is a two-year academic and community extension program, in partnership with the United Nations Office for Project Services (UNOPS). Through this project, USEP envisions capable communities meaningfully participating in the peaceful resolution of land and development conflicts. It also aims to strengthen the implementation of the Clinical Legal Education Program (CLEP) of the USEP-School of Law (SoL). To operationalize these goals, the project intends to establish an Environmental Paralegal Aid Desk (EPLAD) in the partner communities, managed by certified Environmental Paralegal graduates of the same communities. The USEP SoL, through its CLEP Practitioners, will assist from the capacity building of the community members to the establishment and operation of the desk.

40 CLEP Student-Practitioners underwent trainings on peace-promoting leadership sessions, a review on Rule 138-A of the Rules of Court (Student Practice Rule), and conflict-sensitive skills training.

Thru the facilitation of Atty. Joseph Brian Atensor, the Davao City IBP Chapter, Legal Aid Focal Person, and Atty. Jesus Agora Villardo III, CLEP Supervisor and Project manager of UNOPS/CSPP-ECR, the first few steps of the project were a success.

Several community capacity building sessions have already been undertaken. A 3-day Advanced Paralegal Training was conducted from May 3 to 5, 2023 in partnership with the Kapwa Upliftment Foundation, Inc. Student-Practitioners who earlier underwent capacity building session facilitated this APLT. As part of the APLT, IP Community Leaders, youth and women representatives went to the Regional Trial Court in Davao City to observe the wheels of justice working. The goal was to expose the participants to how the wheels of justice work and how they can access such justice.

Through the UNOPS/CSPP-ECR project, USEP endeavors the development of conflict-sensitive and peace-promoting approaches within and across communities. With the project culminating in 2025, USEP hopes to see empowered communities capable of resolving conflicts besetting them using conflict resolution mechanisms nearest to the point of conflict.



IN PHOTO. Project Manager Atty. Villardo establishing the SoL students' engagement through a role playing



IN PHOTO. USEP SoL Dean Arlene Cosape delivering her lecture to the participants.



IN PHOTO. Brgy. PDAT Members actively participating in the games during one of the PLTs.



IN PHOTO. Farmer participants listening to the field lecture of the trainer.

Revolutionizing Agriculture: SciCAT AGRI-VIDA Paves the Way for Sustainable Farm Tourism

Ervin Roy V. Matucading, SciCAT Project - Research Assistant

Fernando V. Magdato, Jr., Extension Head, CARS (Ed.)

A beacon of hope is emerging in the midst of the formidable challenges faced by the agricultural sector in recent years. The SciCAT AGRI-VIDA project, which is equipping farmers with the essential knowledge and tools for sustainable farm tourism, is changing the narrative of countless farmers who have been grappling with the absence of technological advancements, erratic weather conditions, limited access to financing and struggling to make ends meet.

The SciCAT AGRI-VIDA project is an umbrella of the Science for the Convergence of Agriculture and Tourism (SciCAT) Project. SciCAT represents a groundbreaking collaboration between the Department of Science and Technology-Philippine Council for Agriculture, Aquatic and Natural Resources Research and Development (DOST-PCAARRD) and esteemed partner institutions, including the University of the Philippines-Institute for Small-Scale Industries (UP ISSI), Department of Agriculture (DA), Department of Tourism (DoT), and selected State Universities and Colleges (SUCs). This collective effort brings together organizations with the expertise and capacity to support farms

in integrating tourism elements and embracing new agricultural technologies, which will be showcased to visitors.

The University of Southeastern Philippines (USEP) Tagum-Mabini Campus, operating under the able management of the College of Agriculture and Related Sciences (CARS) has been tasked with the project's implementation for this groundbreaking initiative in the Mindanao Region, side by side with farmer cooperator, Dimpas Greentegrated Agri-Tourism Farm, owned by multi-awarded "Magsasaka Siyentista", Ms. Naomi D. Dimpas.

Phase 2 of the SciCAT project, affectionately referred to as SciCAT AGRI-VIDA, extends its reach beyond the Dimpas Farm, providing capability enhancement training and agricultural technologies to all farming enthusiasts. Primarily focused on value-added innovations, the project aims to disseminate packages of technologies (POTs) on value-addition through the Dimpas Farm, to food processors, farmers, entrepreneurs, women's organizations, students, and even professionals engaged in agriculture, and other interested individuals.

SciCAT AGRI-VIDA stands as a visionary project, emphasizing the advancement and cultivation of a dependable income

“

This collective effort brings together organizations with the expertise and capacity to support farms in integrating tourism elements and embracing new agricultural technologies.

”

stream through value-added innovations and the continuous dissemination of agricultural technologies, all centered around the concept of sustainable farm tourism. Building upon the accomplishments of Phase 1, which targeted the development of the Dimpas Greentegrated Agri-tourism Farm, as a sustainable tourism site, this endeavor thrives on collaboration and synergy. It endeavors to foster partnerships and agreements between other farm tourism sites, food processors, entrepreneurs, and both public and private entities, working towards inclusive and comprehensive growth.

Driven by its objectives, the project team has implemented an array of activities and strategies to form the backbone of a dynamic project poised to achieve its vision for the future. These encompass digital marketing strategies, the creation of modules and information, education, and communication (IEC) materials, comprehensive training, product development initiatives, and collaboration efforts.

Recognizing the value and importance of the development of human potential, the project team spearheaded a series of face to face training sessions for farmers and agricultural technicians from

January to March 2023. Participants were given significant input from experts on diverse topics ranging from organic feed production, raising organic chickens, organic fertilizer production, pickled vegetable making, pastil making, and tilapia processing.

Starter packs consisting of tools and materials were also provided to participants, allowing for seamless adoption of the introduced technology/system. Participants from various cities and municipalities of Davao Oriental flocked to these sessions, eager to gain knowledge and practices of organic agriculture while simultaneously enhancing the value of their fresh produce.

The SciCAT AGRI-VIDA project emerges as a momentous stride towards empowering farmers and propelling sustainable farm tourism in the Philippines. Through this endeavor, farmers and other stakeholders within the agricultural sector are gaining access to indispensable skills and knowledge required to generate a reliable income stream, all while championing sustainable practices. By fostering collaboration and partnerships, the project aims to ensure holistic growth within the agricultural sector, benefiting

not only the farmers themselves but the entire community at large.

With SciCAT AGRI-VIDA being a part of the forefront of agricultural innovation, a brighter and more prosperous future awaits the Filipino farming community. The project serves as a powerful catalyst for change, enabling farmers to thrive, and facilitating the harmonious integration of sustainable practices in farm tourism. As the project progresses, the agricultural landscape in the Philippines stands strategically positioned for remarkable transformation, driven by the unwavering commitment to progress and the boundless potential of collaboration.



IN PHOTO. Women organization participants for the training on pastil making



IN PHOTOS. Participants, Magsasaka Siyentista, and Resource Speakers of the said trainings.

Extension Division Staff

Teresita V. Modesto
Ervin Roy V. Matucading
Jessa Mae Baliling
Cfe C. Gongob

Extension Team

Roby V. Pagong, Extension Director
Velouna R. Perez, CEC Deputy Director
Fe Monique Musni-Tagaytay, Technical Editor
Brylle James Sanoy, Lay-out Artist

CEC Staff

Mery Ann P. Labriga

Contributors

Roby V. Pagong, Extension Division Director
Mery Ann P. Labriga, CEC Technical Staff
Jayson T. Sasotil, CT Extension Head
Edsan Colin V. Santander, CDM Extension Head
Mercy C. Leaño, CDM Faculty
Micarey B. Tangge, CDM Staff
Rizalino O. Dela Torre, Jr., CTET Extension Head
Suzette C. Quico, CBA Extension Head
Anthony E. Estigoy, SoM Staff
Victoria P. Guillano, SoM Extension Head

Elma Jane D. Rapal, COE Extension Head
Ervin Roy V. Matucading, SciCAT Project-Research Assistant
Fernando V. Magdato, Jr., CARS Extension Head (Ed.)
Rhonna Mae Lizette B. Babatoan, CAS Student
Francis N. Reginio, CAS Extension Head (Ed.)
Cheryl R. Amante, CIC Extension Head
Michael L. Ayala, CAEc Extension Head
Wendelyn C. Bajador, CEd Extension Head
Leah Judith R. Jacobe, SoL Project Staff
Jesus Agora Villardo III, SoL Extension Head