

LHOK PINOY



VOLUME II | ISSUE 2 | DECEMBER 2023

ISSN : 1656-1406





Booth presentation: presented by Dr. Jayson T. Sasotil, faculty of College of Technology, followed by Dr. Maria Luisa B. Faunillan, Dr. Tamara Cher Mercado, Dr. Lourdes C. Generalao, Dr. Shirley S. Villanueva

Panaghiusa: Igniting Hope. Inspiring Change. Transforming Lives - Extension Summit 2023

Ms. Jessa Mae Baliling and Dr. Roby V. Pagong, Extension Division

With the theme, **"Panaghiusa: Igniting Hope. Inspiring Change. Transforming Lives,"** the Extension Division conducted the USEP Extension Summit 2023 last October 11-12, 2023 at the University Gymnasium and Cultural Center (UGCC), USEP Obrero Campus, Davao City. The Summit served as a platform for the University to showcase and recognize the remarkable achievements of the Extension Division and various colleges and schools within the University and the partnerships forged to transform lives. These accomplishments result from the extensionists' dedicated efforts in conducting extension programs, activities, and projects (PAPs). The Summit also highlighted the positive impact of the University's initiatives to transform lives in the communities it serves.

Dr. Shirley S. Villanueva, Vice President for Research, Development, and Extension (VPRDE) expressed gratitude to the Extension Division extensionists and USEP's partner agencies and stakeholders for their dedication and support in helping the University realize its vision of becoming an agent of transformation to the communities it touches.

Dr. Bonifacio G. Gabales, Jr., Vice President for Academic Affairs (VPAA), delivered the message of University President Dr. Lourdes C. Generalao for the Summit. Dr. Generalao emphasized the crucial role of extension activities in developing a community. *"They bridge the gap between knowledge and action, potential and progress. As we gather here today, let us remember that our commitment to extension work is an inspiration for those in need, a stimulus for positive change, and a guiding light for societal transformation,"* she said.

The various partner agencies and stakeholders of the university, university faculty, non-teaching staff, and

students in different colleges and schools participated in the events.

Former USEP VPRDE, Dr. Danilo B. Pacoy, the keynote speaker for the summit, talked about the elements of a successful extension program that has a transformative effect on a community, stating, *"We do not just produce new knowledge; we also help empower people, especially those in the poorest and the most marginalized sector of the society,"* Dr. Pacoy said.

The Summit encompassed various activities, including presentations of completed extension programs/projects. SciCAT AGRI-VIDA won the Best Paper Award for Completed Extension Program/Project, and **Operation TABANG** came in second.

The event also featured the sharing of experiences from partner agencies and communities. This highlighted the impact of the various extension programs, projects, and activities from the perspective of the partner agency, student extensionists, faculty extensionists, and most importantly, the partner community.



In Photo: Participants from Partner Agencies and the exhibit booth displays in the back

"... nagpasalamat gyud mi sa USeP sa pagtabang sa pagpakusog sa among katungod sa amoang ancestral domain ..." said by Mr. Damaso A. Bayawan, Chairman of MADADMA Ilomavis Council of Elders. Also, LTC Emmanuel R. Garcia, commander of the 56th Infantry Battalion said, "Malaki ang naitulong ni USeP dahil 'di lang sila involved sa computer literacy program and environmental protection and preservation pati sa pag-i-educate sa ating mga kapatid na IP and involved rin sila as an advisory board ng ating mga estudyante doon sa ating mga peace and development efforts ...".

The Summit also included booth exhibits and networking featuring the different programs, projects, and activities conducted by different schools and colleges and the products they developed and transferred to the community. The College of Arts and Sciences (CAS) was recognized as the Best Booth, followed by the College of Agriculture and Related Sciences (CARS) and the College of Teacher Education and Technology (CTET).



Empowering Minds and Innovations: USeP's Transformative Initiative on Intellectual Property and Innovation

Mr. Jayson T. Sasotil & Mr. Joseph G. Villarmino, College of Technology

Engr. Filmann Sempao takes the lead in guiding participants through a hands-on activity focused on the intricate process of prior art search.

In an era where knowledge is paramount and innovation drives the wheels of progress, universities play a pivotal role in shaping the future of their communities and regions. The University of Southeastern Philippines (USEP) has recognized this responsibility and, as part of its strategic plan objective, has set its sights on amplifying knowledge and technology transfer while enhancing productivity, efficiency, and quality of life for the community adopters. This mission underscores USEP's commitment to uplifting the socio-economic growth of Mindanao, and at its heart lies an initiative that holds immense promise - the "Training-Workshop on Prior Art Search, Analysis, and Invention Spotting," which was launched by the College of Technology (CT) Extension Unit for two Saturdays in collaboration with the Office of MTE/MIT Program Head and DigiHub FabLab Davao.

USEP's College of Technology has embarked on a transformative extension activity that not only benefits its college graduates but also extends its impact to professionals within the broader educational community in the region. The primary goal of this initiative is to equip participants with the essential skills necessary to seamlessly integrate International Patent Classification (IPC) into their research endeavors, with a specific focus on technology development.

At the heart of this endeavor is the aspiration to empower individuals with the skills and knowledge required for intellectual property categorization, thereby boosting their capacity for technology-driven research and innovation. Through this training workshop, participants gained the capability to conceptualize and

bring forth concrete product innovations to enrich their educational journey and practical experiences. It is not just about education; it is about fostering a culture of innovation.

This initiative aligns seamlessly with the core objectives of USEP's Extension Division. It opens up exciting prospects for fostering lasting collaborations and connections between the university and the professional communities that share a common interest in advancing education and technology in the region. By embracing initiatives like these, the College of Technology not only supports USEP's mission but also places itself at the forefront of empowering individuals, enhancing regional productivity, and fortifying the foundations of resilient and vibrant communities. The initiative also fosters a culture of innovation by enabling the 33 participants to translate IPC knowledge into tangible product innovations. This is where ideas take shape and become reality, contributing to the development of the region and beyond.

USEP's "Training Workshop on Prior Art Search, Analysis, and Invention Spotting" is also a beacon of hope for individuals seeking to make a difference through knowledge and innovation. As it empowers the community with valuable skills and knowledge, it paves the way for groundbreaking innovations and collaborations that can transform the region's socio-economic landscape. In embracing this initiative, USEP's College of Technology champions progress, demonstrating its commitment to fostering resilient and vibrant communities, and ultimately, uplifting Mindanao to new heights of prosperity.



During the signing of the Memorandum of Understanding for the implementation of AGiMAT, present were Dr. Genna J. Carmelo, Dean of CTET; Dr. Cesar A. Limbaga, USEP Tagum-Mabini Chancellor; Dr. Reynaldo B. Mellorida, Schools Division Superintendent; Dr. Eduardo C. Amoguis, Chief Education Supervisor Curriculum and Instruction Division.

AGiMAT: Elevating Science and Mathematics Education in Davao del Norte

Mr. Rizalino O. Dela Torre, College of Teacher Education and Technology

The College of Teacher Education and Technology (CTET) successfully implemented the Extension Project, entitled "Agham at Matematika: Susi sa Tagumpay at Kaunlaran (AGiMAT)," in partnership with the Department of Science and Technology (DOST) XI- PSTC-Davao del Norte and in collaboration with the Department of Education (DepEd)-Davao del Norte Division, from September to November 2023.

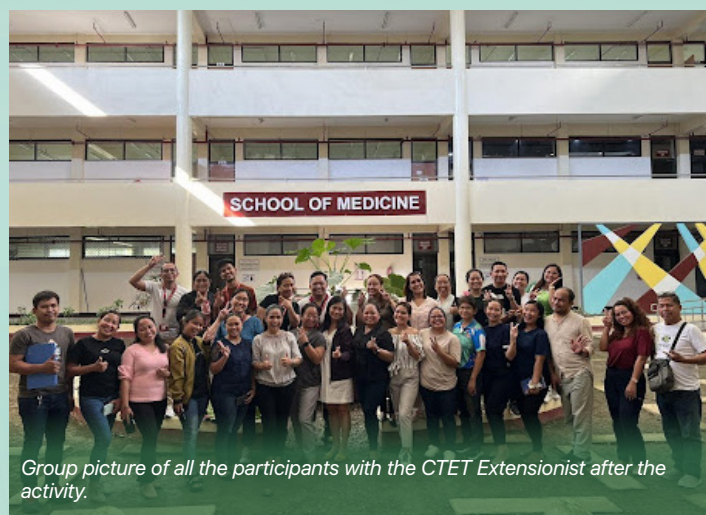
The AGiMAT extension project encompassed a series of activities aimed at enhancing teaching of Science and Mathematics in the region. Thirty science and math teachers from selected schools of Kapalong and Talaingod, Davao del Norte, participated in the series of capacity building training under the project. Project leader, Dr. Virnalisi C. Mindana together with activity leaders, Dr. Genna J. Carmelo, Mr. George B. Dela Cruz, Ms. Earma G. Padilla, Dr. Mildin J. Retutas, Mr. Benson E. Jomaya, Ms. Lyn G. Enriquesz, Mr. Jet T. Cariaga, and the project staff, Mr. Rizalino O. Dela Torre, Jr., and Mr. Rendel B. Bacan engaged participants throughout the project to equip them with further skills in instruction, curriculum and test design, learner assessment, and learning materials development among others .

These activities included:

1. "Orientation of Teachers on DOST Scholarship Content and Coverage";
2. Teachers Training on Teaching Strategies for Critical Thinking Skills;
3. Examining the G7 to G12 Science and Mathematics Curriculum of DepEd;
4. Training Teachers on Digi Tools and Test Banking;

5. Training on Assessment for Learning;
6. Training on DOST-Like Test Construction;
7. Crafting DOST Review Materials; and
8. Capability Training on Teaching Strategies for Review Sessions.

The AGiMAT Extension Project stands as a testament to the commitment of CTET, DOST, and DepEd-Davao del Norte Division to empower educators and enhance the quality of Science and Mathematics education. Through these comprehensive activities, the project has not only equipped teachers with innovative methodologies but has also contributed to the overall development of educational practices in the region. The impact of AGiMAT is poised to resonate positively in classrooms, paving the way for a generation of students well-versed in critical thinking and well-prepared for the challenges of the future.



Group picture of all the participants with the CTET Extensionist after the activity.

Hydroponics Training and Banana Disease Seminar hosted by the Bachelor of Science in Agricultural Economics Students at Sitio Polocon, Barangay Lamanan and Barangay Manambulan

Mr. Daniel R. Lee, Jr., College of Development Management

In a proactive training led by the Bachelor of Science in Agricultural Economics (BSAE) students, in collaboration with the Extension Office of the College of Development Management (CDM), immersed in the community of Sitio Polocon in a comprehensive hydroponics training last May 21, 2023 at Sitio Polocon, Barangay Lamanan and Barangay Manambulan, Davao City.

The training aimed to empower residents with knowledge that could potentially reshape their approach to farming. The session unfolded with an array of topics designed to familiarize attendees with growing lettuce using a hydroponic system.

CDM College Extension Head, Mr. Edsan Colin V. Santander, kicked off the training with a foundational overview; encompassing training objectives, lettuce information, and key hydroponic system types. Following this informative start, Dr. Alan B. Alejandrino delved into the pros and cons of hydroponic systems, offering insights grounded in his engineering expertise.

Transitioning to a hands-on session, Mr. Alexander Toledo, Supervisor of AMCG Farm, demonstrated the setup of a hydroponic system using conventional materials. From discussing essential tools and equipment to detailing effective management practices, he also shared valuable information on costs and potential income, providing comprehensive guidance to the participants.



BSAE Students and Farmers during the conduct of hydroponics training in Sitio Polocon, Barangay Lamanan.

Meanwhile, in another event, a banana disease knowledge transfer session was completed last May 23 at Barangay Manambulan. Prof. Karen B. Geneston delved into "bunchy top," creating a path for a cascade of knowledge transfer and sharing among the participants. Mr. Jaharry de los Reyes also shared valuable information on "bugtok," captivating the audience's interest, which extended into an interactive Q&A session.

In the unyielding quest to elevate the quality of life for the institution's stakeholders, especially the broader community, students have taken a stance by immersing themselves in extension works. Their dedication, marked by their invested time and effort, serves as a testament to their unwavering commitment to contribute meaningfully to the community. Their efforts disseminated profound knowledge and exemplified the transformative impact students can have on local communities through dynamic extension initiatives.

CED holds GAD Learning Session and Team Building Activity with COA Personnel RO XI

Ms. Ruchela P. Gamao, College of Education

The workplace is a dynamic environment and changes can have profound effects on employees' mental well-being. Workload, uncertainties about job security, changes in work dynamics, and the blurring of boundaries between professional and personal life have contributed to increased stress, anxiety, and other mental health challenges for many employees. Fortunately, organizations have started recognizing the importance of addressing mental health in the workplace and implemented measures to promote work-life balance. This includes promoting self-care, offering resources for mental health support, and creating an organizational culture that prioritizes well-being. It is in this light that the Commission on Audit (COA) Region XI office requested collaboration with the USEP College of Education

(CED) to capacitate COA employees in deepening their understanding of the relationship of work, gender, and mental health as well as learning self-care activities they can use to sustain efficiency, productivity, and happiness in the workplace. Further, team building activity was also requested to foster teamwork among COA personnel.

The whole day activity was attended by 275 COA Personnel of Region XI including COA National Commissioner Atty. Pondoc, COA Regional Director, Atty. Emilio A. Asi, Division directors, Supervising Officers, Supervising Auditors, Division Chiefs, Audit Team Leaders and members. The teambuilding activity was held at EDEN Nature Park and Resort, Toril Davao City on September 8, 2023. Thirteen (13) facilitators were invited from the College of Education who facilitated



The COA employees with the facilitators performing "Quigong", as one of the self-care strategies.

the activity and two (2) technical teams who assisted the documentation. The highlight of the session was a discussion from the resource speaker, Asst. Professor Ruchela P. Gamao, a registered Guidance Counselor. The discussion encompassed Gender, Work, and Mental Health, gender differences in responding to challenges, burn-out, and managing negative emotions. Self-care activities were also demonstrated like qigong, deep breathing exercises, self-soothe approach, laughter therapy, hug and chair exercise.

After this, the facilitators met with their assigned groups and worked on their cheers and yells. Participants actively presented their cheers and yells and performed as best they could. The twelve (12) teams were highly competitive and strategic in their efforts to surpass each other. The team-building activity proved to be fun, challenging and promoted teamwork. After the games,

the lead facilitator processed the group highlighting the strengths and limitations and how these reflect their experiences in the workplace. The activity was a success as reflected on the evaluation result and the personal feedback from the participants. The evaluation result shows how the activity allowed them to discover helpful self-care strategies and how team-building helped foster teamwork among participants. The COA activity in charge already expressed their desire to invite USEP again next year. With this, it is hoped that the College of Education will continue to strengthen this newfound collaboration with COA and provide mental health and wellness activities to the agency. CED also plans to continue enhancing the competence of its human resources so they can continue to provide extension activity and demonstrate skills required of this partner agency.

USEP Continuing Education Center: Empowering Communities and Enhancing Governance Through Tailored Training Programs

Dr. Velouna R. Perez & Ms. Mery Ann P. Labriga, Continuing Education Center

The Continuing Education Center (CEC) of the University of Southeastern Philippines has been actively engaged in providing non-credit, non-degree educational programs, and services to various stakeholders, including local government units (LGUs) and government agencies among others. The recent activities highlight the unit's commitment to empowering communities and promoting good governance.

To equip LGUs for project viability and institutional Development, a 3-day training on Feasibility Study (FS) and Institutional Development Plan (IDP) was conducted for personnel from LGU Panabo. This training aimed to equip the participants with the necessary skills and knowledge to assess the viability of projects or initiatives, particularly in the context of establishing Panabo City College.

USEP Resource Persons Dr. Velouna R. Perez, Dr. Roby V. Pagong, Dr. Rey A. Castillo, and Dr. Karl P. Campos guided participants through the initial drafting

of their feasibility studies, giving them valuable input and feedback throughout the three-day training. Participants were also trained in the creation of an Institutional Development Plan, encompassing the development of a Vision, Mission, and Goals, conducting a Needs Assessment, and formulating Yearly Activity Plans.

Addressing the Governance Commission on GOCC (GCG) guidelines and aiming to bridge competency gaps among employees, the National Irrigation Administration of Region XI (NIA ROXI) sought expertise from the USEP through the CEC. This collaboration resulted in training covering three areas: Leading and Managing Change, Monitoring and Evaluation, and Government Service Delivery.

To reinforce effective leadership in navigating organizational change, the training on Leading and Managing Change is specifically tailored for NIA managers and section heads. USEP Resource Speakers, Dr. Edeliza S. Gonzales and Dr. Aristeo C. Salapa facilitated the



NIA ROXI personnel during the Monitoring and Evaluation training

sessions on exploring Leadership Roles and Functions, Organizational Change, Strategic Communication, Effective Change Management Processes, Knowledge Management, and Risk Management.

Additionally, to enhance NIA's capacity to track progress and make informed decisions, the training on Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) was conducted for technical personnel and section heads. Dr. Silverio V. Magallon and Dr. Mervin G. Gascon, led the sessions, covering topics including building a Results-Based Monitoring and Evaluation (RBME) plan, M&E methodology, tools, and software, and integrating RBME into project management.

Recognizing the significance of citizen-centric service delivery, the training on Government Service Delivery

specifically for NIA ROXI personnel. Dr. Velouna R. Perez and Associate Professor Nash N. Reginio, experienced trainers in public service, delivered the training at the NIA Regional Office and Provincial Irrigation Management Offices of Davao de Oro, Davao Oriental, Davao del Norte, and Davao del Sur, emphasizing the importance of customer service across industries, fostering genuine customer focus, effective communication, and managing difficult customer interactions.

In compliance with Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR) of Republic Act No. 9184 (RA 9184), the CEC in partnership with the Government Procurement Policy Board - Technical Support Office (GPPB-TSO) conducted the 3rd and 4th batches of USEP Public Procurement Specialist Certification Course - Basic Level this year. There were 98 participants in the 3rd batch and 94 participants in the 4th batch from different NGAs, LGUs, and private agencies. With the steamed GPPB Recognized Trainers, participants were equipped with the knowledge and skills necessary to perform their duties effectively in the field of public procurement.

These recent activities demonstrate the USEP CEC's commitment to providing high-quality training and capacity-building programs that address the needs of various stakeholders through capacitation and empowerment. The CEC is contributing to the overall development and good governance in the Philippines specifically in Region XI.



Photo during the Initial Visit in Talaingod, Davao del Norte

LIFE COMING TO EXISTENCE: Inception of LIFE Project 3 in Talaingod, Davao del Norte

Ms. Jan Marie Khrysstine C. Esmalde, LIFE Project 3

Walking in muddy terrain under scorching heat and crossing several rivers may seem like hiking to some, but for the LIFE Project 3 Team, it is a mission. The Project, entitled "Reintegration of IP Youth Farmer Evacuees (BAKWITS): Contributing to Peacebuilding in Talaingod, Davao del Norte through the LIFE Model," is part of the Extension Program, "Extending the Reach and Impact of the Livelihood Improvement through Facilitated Extension (LIFE) Model in Improving Livelihoods and Building Peace in Conflict-Vulnerable Communities in Mindanao," of the University of the Philippines Mindanao, led by Dr. Emma Ruth V. Bayugan.

The LIFE Project 3 is led by its project leader, Dr. Roby V. Pagong, with the assistance of TATAG IP Students Foundation, Inc. (TIPSFI), and the 56th Infantry (TATAG) Battalion. LTC Emmanuel R. Garcia, GSC, PA, Commanding Officer 56th Infantry (TATAG) Battalion, welcomed the team for an initial visit last September 14, 2023, and expressed his gratefulness for the project. Ms. Yasmin Dalisay B. Fabricante, Vice President of TATAG IP Students Foundation, Inc. (TIPSFI) added a few important information about the project.

They are glad that the project aims to partner with the TATAG IP Program, established by the 56th Infantry

Battalion and 7th Airforce Reserve Center, and other partners, after the AFP defeated the Communist Terrorist Group (CTG). The beneficiaries are the children of farmers in Talaingod, Davao del Norte who were former students of the 21 Salugpungan Ta'tanu Igkanugon Community Learning Center (STTICLC) who were recruited by CTGs through manipulative schemes.

Dr. Pagong provided a brief background of the project which aims to help the TATAG IP Youth Farmers of TIPSFI, from the three (3) Barangays namely: Sto. Niño, Dagohoy, and Palma Gil.

Engr. Ruel F. Tuyogon, one of the component leaders, introduced the College of Agriculture and Related Sciences (CARS) faculty, who were designated as part of the team who will help conduct the assessment in the area. The team assessed the various agricultural areas that the IP Youth Farmers will cultivate. Specifically, they conducted the following: Market assessment, Soil assessment, Crop assessment, and pest and disease evaluation; Small Ruminants and poultry assessment; Solar-powered irrigation assessment; Forestry and environmental resource management assessment; and

People's organization needs assessment. They also had an initial discussion of the status of their people's organization.

After an initial assessment conducted in various agricultural areas, the team visited the Tribal Leader of the Ata-Manobo tribe for a courtesy call.

To better facilitate the implementation of the project, representatives of the Project LIFE Team, together with representatives from the National Commission on Indigenous Peoples (NCIP) Davao del Norte conducted a Field Based Validation Meeting at H56IB, Brgy. Sto. Niño, Talaingod, Davao del Norte on November 8, 2023. The IP leaders of every sitio welcomed the team and unanimously agreed to consent to any action that would affect their lands, territories, or rights.

They also highlighted during the meeting that they are grateful for the project's objectives and will support the team in implementing it. Seeing the happy and hopeful faces of the Talaingod people, the Datus's approval, and having the utmost support from all agencies, the team can clearly say that the BAKWITS will have a good LIFE.



The USEP Project team for the Out of School Youth Information System with Learning Management System (OSYIS-LMS) received the Certificate of Appreciation from USAID officials.

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

Ms. Cheryl R. Amante, College of Information and Computing

Education is a fundamental human right and has the power to transform lives. It 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 and 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 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 most 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 LMS is dynamically designed to accommodate more features for synchronous and asynchronous learning. Overall, the objective of the OSYIS is to increase the number of beneficiaries of the ALS services while the LMS intends to increase the efficiency of the delivery and storage of learning materials and activities.

The CIC team conducted a literacy training series from April to June 2022 for the professional development of stakeholders in using the OSYIS and LMS. On May 13, 2022, they presented the initial designs of the systems to partner agencies such as the Educational Development Center Inc. (EDC-USAID) and Alternative Learning System of the Davao City National High School (ALS-DCNHS) at the AVR of the new IT Building. Issues and



The USeP - CIC faculty, staff and students together with the USAID team, Dr. Roby V. Pagong - USeP Extension Division Director and CSWDO officials and personnel during the Ceremonial Turn-over and Training of the equipment and updated information system held at CIC-AVR last October 9, 2023

concerns were raised by both parties for the improvement of the systems and in customizing the design in providing lessons to the OSY learners. The Director of the Office of Legal Affairs (OLA) of the University was also invited for a short discussion on the drafted Memorandum of Agreement between USeP and EDC-USAID. The team continued the development of modules of the OSYIS and LMS from July to September 2022.

The vision at this point is to conduct the user acceptance testing of the modules 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 to finalize 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 for coming up with this initiative and tapping our division in the development of the computerized system", Ms. Salvaña said to the project team.



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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 "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 to transform lives through the use of technology.

Empowering Southern Mindanao's Researchers: Bridging Skills for Agricultural Advancements

Mr. Michael L. Ayala, College of Applied Economics Department



The participants of the Training Workshop from 16 partner-institutions.

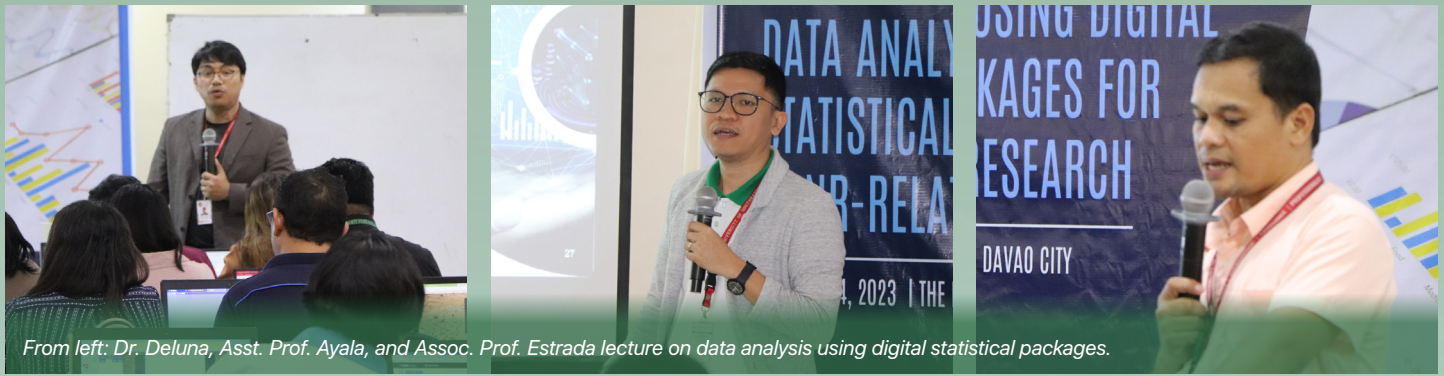
The pulse of innovation beats stronger in Southern Mindanao, where the recent convergence of eager minds and seasoned experts has propelled a significant leap in the region's agricultural research landscape. The Southern Mindanao Agriculture, Aquatic and Natural Resources Research, and Development Consortium (SMAARRDEC) organized a pivotal and specialized Training Workshop on Data Analysis for Agriculture, Aquatic, and Natural Resources Research, ushering in a new wave of empowered researchers at the Ritz Hotel Davao on August 2-4, 2023.

Amidst the verdant landscapes and thriving agricultural communities, thirty-one (31) budding researchers found themselves immersed in a three-day intensive program funded by the Department of Science and Technology – Philippine Council for Agriculture Aquatic, and Natural Resources Research and Development (DOST-PCAARRD). This initiative aimed to fortify the research capabilities of selected

individuals hailing from sixteen institutions affiliated with SMAARRDEC.

Led by luminaries in the field, including the esteemed experts from the Socio-Economic Research and Development Data Analytic Center (SERDAC) Mindanao and in collaboration with USeP-College of Applied Economics Extension arm, the training session featured Dr. Roberto S. Deluna, Asst. Prof. Michael L. Ayala, Assoc. Prof. Ronald D. Estrada, Asst. Prof. Karlo Martin C. Caramugan, and retired Professor and former Consortium Director Dr. Purisima G. Bayacag. Notably, SERDAC, a DOST-PCAARRD-funded project undergoing institutionalization within USeP and SMAARRDEC, provided a robust foundation for this educational endeavor.

"The future of agricultural innovation lies in the hands of our researchers," affirmed Dr. Lourdes C. Generalao, Chair of the Regional Research, Development, and



From left: Dr. Deluna, Asst. Prof. Ayala, and Assoc. Prof. Estrada lecture on data analysis using digital statistical packages.

Coordination Committee (RRDCC), whose message was delivered by USEP Vice President Shirley S. Villanueva. Dr. Generalao's words emphasized the imperative role these freshly equipped researchers play in advancing agricultural, aquatic, and natural resources-related studies. Her call to embrace challenges as opportunities for growth resonated deeply, fostering a spirit of resilience and determination among the participants.

Dr. Gilbert A. Importante, the driving force behind SMAARRDEC, echoed this call, extending gratitude to the newly-trained junior researchers for their enthusiastic engagement during the workshop. His words served as a rallying cry for everyone, reminding them of their crucial role in the regional pool of experts.

The training program was not merely about data analysis; it was a catalyst for instilling a robust research

culture in the emerging generation. It honed their RDE (Research, Development, and Extension) capabilities, unveiling the intricate nuances of the research process, data collection techniques, and statistical tools essential for groundbreaking studies.

Armed with newfound knowledge and guided by the wisdom of seasoned mentors, these researchers stand poised to revolutionize the agricultural landscape of their respective institutions and the region in general. Their journey as researchers, laden with challenges and triumphs, begins here, fueled by a collective passion to innovate, discover, and transform. As they step into this realm of endless possibilities, their commitment to advancing the region's agriculture becomes a beacon of hope and progress.

Transforming Communities: the Obu Monuvu ICC's of Kidapawan City Experience

Ms. Leah Jacobe & Mr. Jesus Villardo III, School of Law

The Obu Monuvu Indigenous Cultural Community (ICC) in Barangay Ilomavis, Kidapawan City in North Cotabato, has been waiting for a ray of hope amidst the persistent challenges they face concerning their Ancestral Domain (AD). Of the 3,177.199 hectares of land under the AD of the Manobo Apao Descendants Ancestral Domain of Mt. Apo (MADADMA), 701 hectares are being occupied by the Energy Development Corporation (formerly the PNOC). In this context, challenges abound for any ICC.

The operationalization of the USEP – Clinical Legal Education Program (USEP-CLEP), saw the Law Student Practitioners (LSPs) becoming apt Extensionists of the USEP – School of Law (SoL). With support from the United Nations Office for Project Services (UNOPS) through the GoJUST Project, the USEP-SoL is implementing the Conflict Sensitive and Peace Promoting Knowledge, Skills & Attitude for Environmental Conflict Resolution (CSPP-KSA-ECR) Program. Through the Program, the LSPs were able to reach out to far-flung communities and provide the much-needed legal and paralegal services where they are needed.

Supervised by the SoL Faculty-Lawyers, LSPs were deployed to Kidapawan on July 27th, 2023. They began their Lecture Series on Human Rights Law and the Indigenous Peoples' Rights Act (IPRA). They also had

Basic and Advance Paralegal Training. These sessions were aimed at capacitating the community on the mainstream legal system, relevant substantive laws, and the art of drafting a simple affidavit while empowering MADADMA members to use their Customary Laws to transform conflicts.

As community paralegals, participants were equipped to handle community issues independently using dispute resolution mechanisms nearest to the point of conflict, including the Katarungang Pambarangay and their Customary Laws. Eventually, there will be an established Environment Paralegal Aid Desk (EPLAD) for community members to access.

Datu Damaso Bayawan, Tribal Chieftain and Head of the MADADMA Council of Elders held several gatherings applying conflict-sensitive, peace-promoting strategies they acquired through the training, to address conflicts among their members and interested third parties. One significant example is the negotiation that happened in the USEP Social Hall when they were emboldened to negotiate with the Energy Development Corporation (EDC) – a global diversified renewable power company – as regards royalty payments.

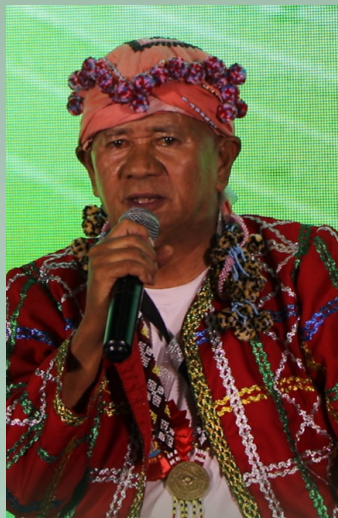
The USEP-SoL provided the neutral ground for the EDC & the Council of Elders to meet.

During the negotiation, Datu Damaso and the Council of Elders emphasized the concept of “uson” (literally means ‘to carry the heavens upon one’s shoulders’) which is the correlative penalty if their Customary Laws were transgressed.

The USeP-Sol’s facilitation provided the space for discussions with the company (EDC) and a neutral venue at an academic institution. Moreover, the MADADMA leaders have attended several hearings before the National Commission on the Indigenous Peoples (NCIP), Region XII, North Cotabato, for the protection of their Ancestral Domain.

According to Jesus Agora Villardo III, Supervising Attorney & current Project Manager of the CSPP-KSA-ECR, “for several occasions, the MADADMA of Ilomavis, Kidapawan City has ably negotiated with the other party equitably. As an ICC, that means a lot... MADADMA is one of the 5 partner communities under the USeP - UNOPS GoJUST Project, which will run until January 2025.”

Indeed, the USeP-Sol’s CLEP Extension activities, through the CSPP-KSA-ECR Program, affords momentous breakthroughs in the quest for justice and empowerment of the Obu Monuvus of Kidapawan City, North Cotabato.



Datu Damaso Bayawan speaking during the USeP's Extension Summit held last 11-12 October 2023 at the USeP Gymnasium.

“Tungod sa USeP-School of Law legal ug paralegal nga suporta, kami nahatagag-kusog aron makig-atubang ug makigsabot-sabot sa EDC nga pinasubay sa mga baload kabahin sa hisgutanan sa royalty payments”

(“Because of USeP-Sol’s legal and paralegal support, through the UNOPS-GoJUST Project, we are empowered to bilaterally negotiate with the EDC using the laws regarding royalty payments”),

said Datu Damaso Bayawan during the USeP’s Extension Summit last 11 October 2023.



Engr. Simpao and Dr. Despares during their installation of the Solar Household Systems in Sitio Igang

DAMGO SA MAHAYAG NA KAUGMAON: The Ilayag ug Iwahig Story in Talaingod, Davao Del Norte

Ms. Elma Jane D. Rapal, College of Engineering

A dream came true. This is what household electrification means to tribal communities living in a remote area of Talaingod, Davao Del Norte. This dream became reality when they received and adopted the Solar House Systems (SHS), a technology that harnesses the solar energy to generate electricity which is part of the College of Engineering extension program entitled: “ILAYAG UG IWAHIG: A Household Electrification Sustainability and Water System Installation in Sitio Igang, Talaingod, Davao Del Norte”. The program generally aims to address the pressing concern of electrification and provision of water supply in Geographically Isolated and Disadvantaged Areas (GIDAs) in Talaingod.

Sitio Igang is the home of many Ata-Manobo communities in Talaingod, Davao Del Norte. Even though, the community is blessed with its agricultural yields, the concern in access to basic services, such as electricity and water remains an unfortunate reality for its residents. To address this need, the College of Engineering and College of Technology of the University of Southeastern Philippines (USeP), headed by Engr. Filmann T. Simpao initiated a program, the ILAYAG UG IWAHIG with two (2) projects, Enggkindle and WaterEngg which will help the community gain access to electricity and water, respectively.

Project Enggkindle aims to design and install solar home systems where residents can utilize the electricity



Photo captured during the technical training of solar household systems with the residents of Sitio Igang

generated from solar power with a pay-as-you-go mechanism to sustain the operations and maintenance of the systems. Project WaterEngg, on the other hand, focuses on addressing the problem of water supply in the target Sitio. The project involves the design and installation of a water system, still with a pay-as-you-go mechanism that will provide safe water for domestic use to the residents of Sitio Igang.

In November 2021, Engr. Filmann, together with his team made its first visit to Talaingod to install the Solar Home System (SHS) and provide social and technical training about the technology. The activity included orientation on how solar PV panels operate and provide illumination. Apart from this, residents were also trained with basic skills in operations and maintenance of the technology.

Ipon at Kalusugan (IponKa)

Dr. Suzette C. Quico, College of Business Administration

In a world driven by economic complexities and evolving health challenges, the need for equipping the next generation with essential life skills has never been more crucial. Enter "Ipon at Kalusugan" (IponKa), a groundbreaking initiative that goes beyond traditional education boundaries, aiming to instill financial literacy and health awareness in the hearts and minds of the youth spearheaded by the USEP College of Business Administration (CBA), in collaboration with the CBA Alumni Association, is conducting a Community Training for elementary school children at Barangay Centro (San Juan) Agdao, Davao City, the adopted community of the College.

This community training is helping the children of the abovementioned community to be financially literate and oriented on the importance of good health as they listen to the topics specific to the basic concept of savings and proper hygiene. As society grapples with the dual importance of managing finances and maintaining well-being, IponKa emerges as a beacon of empowerment, bridging the gap between financial understanding and health consciousness to pave the way for a healthier and economically resilient future. The significance of Ipon at Kalusugan (IponKa) lies in its deliberate focus on the younger generation. Recognizing that habits formed

In November 2023, under the leadership of Engr. Jef V. De Leon, the Project WaterEngg finally took off starting with the field reconnaissance to search for a potential water source in Sitio Igang. The 1-day activity includes field mapping and sampling of water samples for laboratory analysis to check if they meet the standard quality for domestic water.

The activity ended with a consultation meeting and a simple gathering with the Ata-Manobo Tribe who expressed their excitement and hope to finally be able to access sufficient and safe water for their families. "Mahitabo na gyud among damgo nga patubig", were simple but powerful words that marked hope of a leader for his tribes.



IponKa Program with partner participants and CBA Faculty (Barangay Centro)

early in life tend to shape future behaviors, IponKa takes a proactive stance in nurturing financial literacy and health awareness from a tender age. By targeting the youth, this initiative lays the foundation for a generation that not only comprehends the intricacies of fiscal responsibility but also values and prioritizes their overall well-being.

CBA alumna, Ms. Alona Banzali, served as resource person for Savings, and our University Nurse, Ms. Marianne Ortiz, talked about health and hygiene. CBA faculty and staff, led by Dean Gilbert M. Gordo, together with some alumni, participated in the extension activity. Punong Barangay Rene Estorpe and School Principal Dr. Alejandro Sa-ang, also joined the activity.



Conversation with Dr. and Psoriasis club member with skin condition

Access For All, Empowering Communities on World Psoriasis Day 2023: Advancing Psoriasis Awareness and Access: A Two-Day Collaborative Initiative by the Psoriasis Foundation of the Philippines, Inc., and USeP -School of Medicine.

Mr. Anthony E. Banawan, Ms. Victoria P. Guillano, and Ms. Amelia Anastacia D. Ang, School of Medicine

In its commitment to raising awareness and fostering community support for psoriasis, the Psoriasis Foundation of the Philippines, Incorporated (PFPI) celebrated its annual World Psoriasis Day event under the theme "Access for All." The event was held in collaboration with the Southern Philippines Medical Center (SPMC)-Department of Dermatology, Davao Regional Medical Center (DRMC)-Department of Internal Medicine, and the University of Southeastern Philippines (USEP)-School of Medicine, Extension Division.

Psoriasis, a chronic autoimmune skin condition marked by excessive skin cell growth resulting in thick, red, and scaly patches, poses a significant health concern in the Philippines, particularly exacerbated by the humid climate. Beyond physical discomfort, the condition profoundly affects emotional well-being. The 'Access for All' event is evidence of the relentless pursuit of advancing psoriasis awareness and support made possible by the Psoriasis Foundation of the Philippines, in collaboration with the University of Southeastern Philippines-School of Medicine. The gathering transcended boundaries by uniting not only medical experts, practitioners, and students but pharmaceutical entities, and dedicated advocates as well to open new vistas of connection and partnership.

The event featured a diverse group of professionals and experts representing various organizations

and institutions and spanned two separate days. Day 1, October 25, 2023, unfolded at the University Gymnasium and Cultural Center (UGCC), USEP Obrero Campus, Davao City. Notable attendees included Dr. Bonifacio G. Gabales, University President (USEP); Dr. Gerna M. Manatad, Assistant Regional Director (DOH - Davao Center for Health Development); Dr. Lalaine R. Visitacion, Vice President (PFPI); Dr. Eleonor T. Guden, Director (Research Division); Mrs. Helen Lacida; Mrs. Fatima Miranda, RSW (Malasakit Centers); Mr. Edison Domactol, President of Psoriasis Club; and Dr. Liza Mae Lagare, Secretary (PFPI). The second leg of the event, on October 27, 2023, took place at the Physical Education and Cultural Center (PECC), USEP Tagum-Mabini Campus, Tagum City, with distinguished attendees such as Dr. John Elmer C. Quilisadio, a Rheumatologist from DRMC; Dr. Marites L. Domingo, the Campus Physician at USEP Tagum-Mabini Campus; Mr. Raul B. Hermosisima,



USEP School of medicine student with Medical Doctors from SPMC and DRMS

Head of SWS; and Dr. Niña Gabaton.

A total of 141 individuals participated in the two-day event, with 59 coming from partner medical hospitals, pharmaceutical companies, and USEP, and 82 members and beneficiaries of the psoriasis club who had skin conditions. Dr. Victoria P. Guillano, President of PFPI and Dean of USEP School of Medicine, a dedicated advocate for psoriasis and other skin conditions, led the event, expressing gratitude for the active participants.

The event provided a diverse array of activities, including informative lectures on the "Access to Malasakit Services" program tailored to individuals coping with psoriasis and various skin conditions. Attendees engaged in discussions on the latest advancements in psoriasis treatment and management through lay fora. The program incorporated interactive

games and free clinics designed to address the specific needs of patients with skin diseases, with a particular focus on those affected by psoriasis. Furthermore, participants had the opportunity to avail themselves of complimentary products and medical services aimed at supporting individuals in managing psoriasis and other dermatological concerns.

The University of Southeastern Philippines-School of Medicine, a beacon of inspiration, played a pivotal role in fostering alliances with medical hospitals and professionals, setting the stage for transformative extension services. Together, they stand at the forefront, unwaveringly committed to shaping a compassionate future for those affected by psoriasis and other health-related challenges.

CARS Faculty and Students in Action Through Community Services

Extending knowledge, lending expertise, collaboration, community enrichment- these are the dominant themes of impactful extension services of which the College of Agriculture and Related Sciences (CARS) takes center stage; where collective efforts of faculty, staff, and students meet commitment to extending knowledge and expertise beyond the academic realm. From sustainable agricultural practices to community-focused initiatives, the CARS has dedicated itself to create and drive positive change.

Skills Training on Mushroom Production (October 2023)

Mr. Edwin L. Solilap, Ms. Sheryl S. Bayang, Ms. Bridgette Lucille Aline S. Catalan and Mr. Roel Z. Rementizo

The Davao de Oro Irrigation Management Office (IMO) partnered with the College of Agriculture and Related Sciences (CARS) Extension office for the conduct of the Skills Training Program on Mushroom Production for Selected Irrigators Associations in the region. Associations including CURLAFIA, GANAFIA, RIMAFIA, and SJLALAFIA in Compostela and New Bataan. The training was led by Associate Prof. Edwin L. Solilap, Ms. Sheryl S. Bayang, Ms. Bridgette Lucille Aline D. Catalan and Mr. Roel Z. Rementizo.

Cage-free chicken training (November 22, 2023)

Dr. Angie R. Poliquit

The Panabo City Agriculture Office (CAGRO), requested CARS faculty, Dr. Angie R. Poliquit as the Resource Person for the conduct of "Training on Cage-free Poultry Farming" last November 22, 2023 at the CAGRO Demo Center Gazebo Area, ATI Compound, Brgy. Datu Abdul Dadia, Panabo City, Davao del Norte. Participants trained in principles of animal welfare and effective management practices—feeding, watering, and disease prevention for cage-free poultry farming toward promoting sustainable and ethical practices in the industry.



Bridging DOLE Biotech: Unveiling "Mutations" in Bananas through Expert Insights.

Identification on the Types and Causes of Banana TC Mutations (November 24, 2023)

Ms. Teresita P. Canaya

The "Identification on the Types and Causes of Banana TC Mutations" training, held at BIOTECH Plant Facility in Alejal, Carmen, Davao del Norte on November 24, 2023, proved to be an enlightening and impactful session. Organized to enhance the knowledge base of BIOTECH employees regarding mutation identification, this training featured Ms. Teresita Pujas-Canaya as the resource person, aiming to equip participants with vital insights and skills.

Environmental Youth Empowerment (November 25, 2023)

Mr. Edgar B. Solis and Engr. Ruel F. Tuyogon

The Environmental Youth Empowerment Day held at the Gymnasium of ACN on November 25, 2023 highlighted collaborative efforts of the new generation of environmental champions between Assumption College of Nabunturan (ACN), University of Southeastern Philippines (UseP), the Society of Filipino Forester Davao del Norte Chapter (SFFI-DN), the Philippine Eagle Foundation (PEF), the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) and the Local Government of Davao de Oro. Spearheaded by Forester Edgar B. Solis and Engr. Ruel F. Tuyogon, this activity stands as a resounding success in bringing together multiple institutions in taking unified action for the environment, heightening awareness of the participants on pressing issues and instilling a profound sense of responsibility for environmental consciousness and advocacy.



Photo opportunity with the resource speaker and farmer participants after the training

Soil Fertility Management in Relation to Corn & Soybean Production (April 15, 2023)

Dr. Fernando V. Magdato Jr. and Mr. Nelvin A. Villason

Graduate Students from the College of Agriculture and Related Sciences MSA Agronomy and MSA Soil Science led farmer participants in a Soil Management Training focusing on increasing yields in corn and soybean production through optimizing farm performance. Emphasizing the significance of soil testing, participants learned to collect samples, interpret results, and make informed decisions on fertilizer application for optimal crop growth. The training also covered diverse fertilizers, their application methods, and the importance of timely and precise application. Another key aspect was the discussion on crop rotation, enlightening farmers on improving soil health, reducing pests, and boosting yields through strategic rotation systems. The comprehensive training further touched on topics such as nutrient management, harvesting techniques, and Good Agricultural Practices. CARS faculty, Dr. Fernando V. Magdato Jr. and Mr. Nelvin A. Villason also facilitated during the training.

DUMA Festival of Peoples Organization in Davao Oriental (December 2, 2023)

Mr. Edgar B. Solis and Mr. Rosalino P. Recto

College of Agriculture and Related Sciences experts in the field of Climate Change Adaptation and Mitigation and Important Role of Root Crops in Agriculture Industry, Forester Edgar B. Solis and Mr. Rosalino P. Recto were requested by the SUBANG Foundation to lend their expertise during the 2023 DUMA Festival of Peoples Organizations in Davao Oriental. The Duma Festival, a collaborative effort involving 12 Peoples Organizations from different barangays in Municipalities of San Isidro, Lupon, and Mati City representing marginal Farmers and Fisherfolk in the 2nd District of Davao Oriental, was orchestrated by SUBANG in partnership with the Davao Oriental Organic Farmer and Fisherfolk Association - DOFFA. This annual tradition aims to cultivate root crops, nurture talents in sustainable agriculture, and promote awareness of sustainable practices for regional food security.



Faculty, MSA Students, and BACASIFIA Members unite after completing the training together

A Graduate Seminar on the available crops (Bell Pepper, Tomato, Egg Plant, and Ampalaya) and Backyard Animals for Batinao Cabacungan Sto. Niño Farmers Irrigators Association (BACASIFIA) (July 29, 2023)

**Engr. Ruel F. Tuyogon, Ms. Mayren D. Cruis, Dr. Angie R. Poliquit,
Mr. Ritsmond Zemry P. Ubod and Mr. Roel Z. Rementizo**

Master's students from the Graduate School for Agriculture and Related Sciences (GSARS) along with CARS Faculty, Engr. Ruel F. Tuyogon, Ms. Mayren D. Cruis, Dr. Angie R. Poliquit, Mr. Ritsmond Zemry P. Ubod and Mr. Roel Z. Rementizo collaborated with the Batinao Cabacungan Sto. Niño Farmers Irrigators Association (BACASIFIA) in a Graduate Seminar on the Available Crops (Bell Pepper, Tomato, Egg Plant, and Ampalaya) and Backyard Animals in Barangay Batinao, New Bataan, Davao de Oro on July 29, 2023. The seminar, featured teaching and sharing of new techniques among participants while also providing them with the information, tactics, and mindset required to broaden their perspectives. The teaching material promoted an interactive and immersive learning environment by combining academic concepts with practical experiences and case studies from real-world situations.



Dr. Catherine M. Roble (first person from right), one of the speakers of the event, was all smiles as she stood with the Bagobo-Tagabawa participants who learned from her the importance of making the lessons easy to understand for young IP learners.

Pangandoy's Journey Towards Preserving Indigenous Knowledge and Practices

Mr. Francis N. Reginio, College of Arts and Sciences

With high hopes and dreams, the Pangandoy Extension Program of the College of Arts and Sciences (CAS) concluded its 3-day Project 1 activity titled 'Development of Culture-Sensitive Instructional Materials for Bagobo-Tagabawa.' The project involved faculty members from the Tagabawa Christian School, Immanuel School of Davao, and University of Southeastern Philippines (USEP) College of Arts and Sciences (CAS), specifically from the Language and Literature, Mathematics and Statistics, and General Education Departments. Given their dedication, they succeeded in developing culture-sensitive instructional materials for the indigenous learners in Sta. Cruz, Davao del Sur.

In a groundbreaking development, the University, through the CAS, is positioned to establish a new era of a global extension program with Universiti Teknologi MARA (UiTM), Malaysia. This transformative collaboration is set to unfold with the support of Dr. Nasirin Abdilllah, promising a new chapter of international partnership in extension and/or community engagements. As Dr. Abdilllah assured the team by delivering an insightful discourse on 'Culture-Sensitive Instructional Materials' during the day-1 training workshop, he added a valuable dimension to the collective effort to enhance educational practices for indigenous cultural communities/indigenous peoples (ICCs/IPs).

On the culminating day of the event, they commenced with an astonishing performance by the English group, singing a beautiful Bagobo-Tagabawa song. Following this, Bae Maricel Awyan Talabon, Ms. Kristell Faye M. Laidan, Mr. Kier Bryan P. Cobera, Dr. Mary Jane A. Cooke, Dr. Geoffrey Marfa, and the pencil-drawing artist Ma. Gina Bella Bondoc-Eli elucidated the lesson plan they created based on the folk story 'Pararaki,' which revolves around the values of humility and friendship. They shed light on important Bagobo-Tagabawa vocabulary to help learners recognize its equivalents in English. Phonetically inclined concerns were also addressed to assist teachers

in implementing the lesson. Assoc. Prof. Sajed S. Ingilan provided positive feedback on the group's output, emphasizing the well-roundedness of the lesson and its organized flow of discussion.

The Mathematics group, led by Ms. Eljien Atong Lumbayo, Mr. Rhejie T. Torres, Mr. Justine Seprado, Mr. Jhun Khari Pilapil, Assoc. Prof. Fe Largo, Assoc. Prof. Remegia Ganot and Assoc. Prof. Percival B. Cabang expounded on the significance of Math in the daily lives of every human being. They emphasized the role of teachers in contextualizing it for students to develop a love for the subject. In teaching math to young IP learners, they developed lesson episodes focusing on shapes, using illustrations based on Bagobo-Tagabawa IP.

The Filipino group, led by Mr. Aljon Atong Lumbayo, Mr. Roy L. Dinolan, Asst. Prof. Junil Altes, and Assoc. Prof. Luden L. Bateria focused on comprehending the folk story 'Pararaki.' They developed exciting activities that would inspire the indigeneity of young Bagobo-Tagabawa learners, emphasizing the importance of the history of ICCs/IPs in teaching to preserve their culture and arts.

Dr. Catherine M. Roble, one of the speakers at the event, shared her overall impression of all the lesson plans presented, highlighting the importance of making the lessons easy to understand for young IP learners.

Bagobo Tagabawa ICC/IP Leader of Brgy Astorga, Sta. Cruz, Davao del Sur, Matanem Renante D. Talabon expressed gratitude in his message; 'dakal dayo ko na agbayan ka madigar dalan to USEP na makadunggo kandan to kanak panamdang na makatabang kato kanak mga sumoddo' (We are thankful for the significant contributions of USEP and the speakers who encourage us to do our best to help the younger generation.).

Mr. Francis N. Reginio, CAS Extension Head, emphasized the importance of indigenous ways of knowing and learning. Indigenous education often

centers around nurturing relationships with learners, the community, and the environment. The idea is that all educators, regardless of their cultural background, can benefit from incorporating these principles into their teaching practices. This approach encourages connection and learning in community and place-based contexts. The event stoked within each participant a burning desire to help the Bagobo-Tagabawa IP remains in their hearts and minds.

Amidst these endeavors, funding support from the Futures Thinking and Strategic Foresight Program, supported by the USEP Transformative Foresight Group, with Dr. Daisy T. Besing guiding as the FT Program Manager, emerges as a crucial tool for better understanding and navigating an uncertain future in various indigenous communities.

Cultural mapping is pivotal in connecting the past, present, and future. Building on the prior mapping, communities engaged in a walking workshop, deliberating on what they wished to preserve (re-rooting). They also identified areas for change and explored innovative pathways for realizing meaningful transformations (re-building).

The Project 1 team comprises extensionists representing diverse subject areas who serve as resource persons along with the contribution of Ms. Jessa Joy Odog, a dedicated member of the Institute of Languages and Creative Arts (ILCA), and students from the Master of Arts in Applied Linguistics Program, Mr. Antonino S. Oblianda and Ms. Cindy V. Quezon.

USEP sincerely appreciates the Immanuel School of Davao's invaluable participation in the recent extension undertaking. Finally, special recognition is accorded to the Tagabawa Christian School. In this regard, profound thanks are expressed to those who demonstrated commendable dedication and meaningful engagement throughout this endeavor.



The faculty members from the Tagabawa Christian School, Immanuel School of Davao, and University of Southeastern Philippines (USEP) College of Arts and Sciences (CAS), specifically from the Language and Literature, Mathematics and Statistics, and General Education Departments pose for a photo opportunity after the successful 3-day Project 1 activity titled 'Development of Culture-Sensitive Instructional Materials for Bagobo-Tagabawa'



With the English group busy in the background, this photo shows the Mathematics group composed of Ms. Eljien Atong Lumbayo, Mr. Rhejie T. Torres, Mr. Justine Seprado, Mr. Jhun Khari Pilapil, Assoc. Prof. Fe Largo, Assoc. Prof. Remegia Ganot and Assoc. Prof. Percival B. Cabang

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