



ACUCA NEWS



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Ateneo de Manila University, Philippines

Ateneans Wear Green in Support of the Philippines' Coconut Farmers

Students of the Ateneo de Manila University are supporting the coconut farmers' struggle to receive the P71 billion coco levy fund promised to them by the Supreme Court in 2012. Seventy-one farmers of KILUS Magniniyog (KM71) are on their way to Malacatang from Davao to plead with the President. They will reach the palace on the 71st day of their march.

The KM71 will be in the Ateneo de Manila University on November 20 where they will stay overnight, participate in a solidarity program with the students and hear the mass presided by Ateneo de Manila University President Fr. Jett Villarin.



The Ateneans for Agrarian Reform Movement (AFARM), a social justice task force of rural development advocates in the Ateneo, and Buklod Atenista, the alliance of student governments of Jesuit tertiary schools in the Philippines, expressed solidarity in the Ateneans' Manifesto with the 3.5 million coconut farmers who have yet to receive the money granted to them in 2012.

Through various Presidential Decrees during the Marcos' regime, a total of Php 9.7 Billion was collected from the coconut farmers by the Philippine Coconut Authority. However, the farmers who paid the levy were not able to benefit from it as the programs were deemed insufficient and weak. Subsequent administrations were also unable to properly utilize coco levy funds for the direct benefit of the coconut farmers.

Today, a portion of the Php 9.7 Billion coco levy fund has grown to over Php 150 Billion in what is now known as the Coconut Industry Investment Fund.

In 2012, the Supreme Court declared that 24% of the Coconut Industry Investment Fund-San Miguel Corporation (CIIF-SMC) must be owned by the government to be used for benefit of coconut farmers and the development of the coconut industry. However, two years have passed and the money still remains unutilized.

In an effort to claim the money promised to them, 71 coconut farmers from KILUS Magniniyog, a movement comprised of several farmer federations, started marching from Davao City to Malacanang Palace last September 21, 2014. The event, which was dubbed "KM 71," hopes to ask President Aquino within 71 days and obtain the Php 71 Billion.

In the Ateneans' manifesto released on AFARM's Facebook page "Laban Lupa: Save Land Reform in the Philippines" (<https://www.facebook.com/LabanLupa>), AFARM and Buklod Atenista are calling on President Aquino and the 16th Congress make the Coconut Trust Fund Bill an urgent legislation. In order to ensure that the farmers will directly benefit from the recovered coconut levy fund, the proposed perpetual trust fund aims to back programs that will develop the coconut industry, increase the capacities of farmers in producing coconut products other than copra, and encourage farmer participation through village-level cooperatives.

"The establishment of the Perpetual Coconut Farmers' Trust Fund will be an act of historic justice—of returning what the rich have mercilessly stolen from the poor. With sufficient safeguards, the Coconut Farmers' Trust Fund will protect the recovered 71 billion pesos from dissipation," they asserted.

The youth of the Ateneo community believe that "The struggle against the coco levy scam is the fight not only of farmers, but also of every Filipino's hope for the future of our nation and our commitment to rural development and social justice."

Buklod Atenista, in a resolution that was crafted and duly approved last October 25 during their Leadership Summit, committed to conduct synchronized awareness campaigns in each university, donation drives, and signature campaigns to support the coconut farmers.

About AFARM

Ateneans for Agrarian Reform Movement (AFARM) is a student-led social justice task force present in five Ateneo campuses in the country that mainly advocates for the agrarian reform and rural development.

With the increasing cases of agrarian-related injustices including land-grabbing, illegal land conversions, killing of farmers, and indigenous people's, AFARM wants to bring these issues back to public consciousness of the Ateneo community.

About Buklod Atenista

Buklod Atenista is an alliance of the student governments of the Jesuit Tertiary Schools in the Philippines. The alliance is composed of the Ateneo de Manila University (ADMU), Ateneo de Naga University (ADNU), Ateneo de Davao University (ADDU), Xavier University – Ateneo de Cagayan (XU), and Ateneo de Zamboanga University (ADZU) with a prime purpose of uniting all Ateneans in order to effect active engagement in the economic, social, and political development of Filipino nation, guided by the principles of justice, freedom, and peace.



Ateneo Adopts Meralco's eJeeps



As part of the Ateneo de Manila University's mobility initiatives, the University and Meralco recently launched the eJeep service, which provides a more sustainable mode of transportation within the campus. Also launched was the accompanying eVehicle Power Station located near Gate 2 of the Loyola Heights campus.

Ateneo is the first private institution to partner with Meralco for their eVehicle and power station projects. Meralco subsidiary MServ is responsible for the operation and maintenance of the shuttles and power charging station.

Meralco Vice President and Head of Customer Solutions and Product Development Mr. Jose Antonio Valdez said that the eJeeps are efficient in terms of economics, elongation of the travel capability, and environmental impact. The eJeeps run at a cost of Php 4.70 per kilometer, almost 50% lower than a regular car would cost to run. They are also 100% carbon free. The Ateneo eJeep fleet consists of 4 vehicles.

"The Ateneo campus is a visible, wonderful opportunity to showcase an electric vehicle ecosystem, with electric shuttles and electric vehicle charging station maybe later on, we'll be showcasing electric bicycles and a charging station," Valdez said.

Ateneo de Manila University President Fr. Jett Villarin SJ said during the launch that the eJeeps signify that we are now ready for a more sustainable mode of transportation.

"Looking at the nitty-gritty, the realities of the power situation, I do believe that this is something that can address a very important issue which is climate change. And hopefully someday, we can actually also vary our power mix so that we will be less dependent on carbon at least for our growth," Villarin said.

He also expressed the hope that this kind of initiative would be implemented outside the Ateneo.

"I hope this is something we could replicate in other parts of the country and in the region," Villarin said.



Power station

Ateneo Environmental Science Meet Focuses on Sustainability in ASEAN

Various speakers from Southeast Asia graced the first international and third national conference and workshop on environmental science held November 24 and 25 at the Ateneo de Manila University.

Titled "Strengthening ASEAN Partnership through Environmental Education and Research for a Sustainable Future," the two-day conference and workshop featured keynote plenary sessions from distinguished international speakers, a poster session exhibit, and parallel break-out sessions on a wide array of topics.

The first keynote plenary session was given by Prof. Joenil Kahar, PhD, International Adviser on the Ministry of Education, Democratic Republic of Timor-Leste; Ms. Stella Tansengco-Schapero, Senior Bank Officer, Asian Development Bank (ADB); and Prof. Juan Robertino Macalae, Specialist, Southeast Asian Ministers of Education Organization (SEAMEO) Regional Center for Educational Innovation and Technology (INNOTECH).

Kahar discussed the three main pillars of sustainability, namely, environmental, economic, and social. "Sustainable development is our common future which requires the sustainability of the three pillars," he said. For him, human resource development through education is a crucial requirement for sustainability in the ASEAN region.

Asia's water and sanitation challenge caused by urbanization and economic growth was later discussed by Schapero during the session. She projected that in 2030, a 40% gap in water shall occur if wrong water sanitation practices today persist.

She said that wastewater management should be a priority because

of its promising benefits that include high socioeconomic and environmental cost, increasing water scarcity, and viable businesses.

In the second keynote plenary session, His Excellency Dr. Roberto Sarmiento de Oliveria Soares, Secretary of State for ASEAN Affairs of Timor-Leste, tackled the efforts of Timor-Leste to join the ASEAN. "Our accession into ASEAN is a national issue; therefore, engaging the public in this preparation process is essentially important," Soares said.

Soares also shared several measures Timor-Leste is observing to address the risk of climate change. In 2011, Timor-Leste formulated its National Adaptation Program of Actions (NAPA) which was supported by the Global Environmental Facilities. The NAPA has defined national adaptation priorities such as food security and agriculture, waste water management, human health, natural disasters, among others.

He also said that Timor-Leste is also adapting environmentally friendly renewable energy. Aside from promoting solar power, hydropower and biogas, they are also practicing the culture of "tara bandu," in which traditional laws regulate the use of natural resources to ensure sustainability.

Also featured during the conference was the unveiling of a poster session exhibit led by Dr. Evangeline Bautista, Dean of the School of Science and Engineering, Ateneo de Manila University.

A conference on the suggested curriculum for the Bachelor of Science in Environmental Science Program aligned to Outcomes-Based Education was another highlight of the event.



Ateneo Starts Them Young

The idea of turning a simple bead accessory into a stylish and functional watch proved out to be the decisive key to the success of the Ateneo de Manila High School in the Teenpreneur Challenge organized by the Entrepreneur School Asia (ESA).

This winning idea won third place for Best in Sales, second place for Best Product Innovation and first place for the Teenpreneur Quiz Bee. The Teenpreneur Challenge is a six-month long competition that helps partner communities raise the net income of their livelihood through the efforts of participating schools, whose students innovate and market the partners' products. The competition starts with fund raising, product innovation, and then selling. This winning idea won third place for Best in Sales, second place for Best Product Innovation and first place for the Teenpreneur Quiz Bee.

The Teenpreneur Challenge is a six-month long competition that helps partner communities raise the net income of their livelihood through the efforts of participating schools, whose students innovate and market the partners' products. The competition starts with fund raising, product innovation, and then selling.

The Ateneo High School Teenpreneur Team innovated on the existing business of their partner community, Barangay 117 Livelihood from Calocan, which specializes in making beaded accessories to support their families. From simple bead accessories which cost around P 30 to 50, the beads were made into hippie headbands, black and brown wristbands, and assorted watches (antique, wooden, flowery, crystal pink, and rainbow) that cost around P120 to 275. The profit which amounted to P 95,000 was given to the partner community.

However, their success did not come easy. Nanay Osang, the representative of the partner community, was quite hesitant at first to join the contest again because of their experience with another school two years ago. The team also started off poorly in the rankings during the fundraising day. This fundraising day was allotted to help all the teams earn their seed capital.

"When we first started working with Nanay Osang, she seemed unsure about some of the plans we made. However, things changed after having more sessions together. Nanay Osang and the rest of the partner community started to put their trust in us," says Renzo Gaviola, Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of the AHS Teenpreneur Committee.

With the team's hard work and regular visits to the community, Gaviola shares that Nanay Osang and the other community members were really happy with the results. "It was great to see that our hard work did pay off. It was also touching and heartwarming to see how thankful Nanay was. I guess the best part of the experience was seeing how happy our partner community was with everything we did for them."

A glimpse of the real world

The AHS has been joining the competition for five consecutive years now through the Teenpreneur Committee, a club in the High School dedicated for aspiring entrepreneurs. Composed of around 40 students

this year, the committee undergoes weekly trainings on marketing, innovation, and other aspects of entrepreneurship.

Students who apply in the team are then placed into the committee based on their skills. Different committees include advertising, product innovation, finance, among others.

"My Teenpreneur journey helped me cultivate my passion for business. This journey allowed me to have a sneak peek on how the business world runs," says Gaviola who is in the team for two years now.

The annual Teenpreneur Challenge is one of the highlight experiences of a Teenpreneur member. Teenpreneur Committee Moderator Marvin Coronel says he constantly reminded the students during the challenge that it was not about them but about the partner community which would benefit from the contest.

"We can't fail this thing because this is not about you. It's all about the partner community. The goal is to help the partner community and to maximize our help more than winning the contest," says Coronel.

Gaviola says that he gained a lot of learning from Teenpreneur which he will certainly use in the future. "I felt the pain of earning insufficient money and also the joys of earning enough to help the partner community. I was also able to work with all sorts of people and further appreciate the value of money. This experience made me feel excited to learn more about business in the future and hopefully help people along the way."

Although the contest has ended, the team is still accepting orders to help their partner community and people.

Visit their official website <http://www.baylonsbeads.com> and Facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/BaylonsBeads> for more details.



The Ateneo team during the Teenpreneur Challenge

Silliman University, Philippines

VPD Joins Leaders in Thailand Explore Transcultural Challenges

Vice President for Development Prof. Jane Annette L. Belarmino joined presidents and top officials of 66 universities from 17 countries during the 13th Asian University Presidents Forum (AUPF) held October 22 to 25 in Bangkok, Thailand. She represented Silliman President Dr. Ben S. Malayang III in the conference that tackled the theme "Transcultural Challenges for Innovation in Higher Education". The plenary and parallel sessions focused on transcultural challenges for innovation in sciences and technology, health sciences and nursing, humanity, social sciences and other academic fields. The forum also provided an opportunity for Professor Belarmino to meet with counterparts from other Asian universities and explore areas of collaboration. Her participation also paved the way for Silliman to be invited to the Global Access Asia project.

Global Access Asia is a project wherein one or two topnotch courses from the participating universities will be made available in an online format to students of AUPF member universities. These students may

take the courses for credit. Dongseo University of South Korea will host the project using the resources of its affiliate, Busan Digital University.

AUPF originated from a friendly collaboration beginning in December 1999 among institutions of higher learning in China and Thailand. It now enjoys a wider network, and has been instrumental in forging partnerships among universities in Asia.



Silliman Awards Distinguished Marine Biologist



Distinguished marine biologist Dr. Garry R. Russ of James Cook University in Townsville, Australia received an institutional award from Silliman University in recognition of over three decades of research work with scientists in the University.

Silliman President Dr. Ben S. Malayan III and Silliman Trustee and National Scientist Dr. Angel C. Alcala led in the presentation of an institutional Certificate of Recognition to Dr. Russ on December 3. The award honors him as a "Research Scientist, Friend of Philippine Coastal Communities and Filipino Scientists, and of Silliman University."

The recognition cited Dr. Russ for his pioneering, collaborative research work with the Institute of Environmental and Marine Sciences (IEMS) and the Silliman University Angelo King Center for Research and Environmental Management (SUAKCREM) in developing and sustaining the University's marine research program on marine reserves from 1983 up to the present.

Dr. Russ extended his research program on coral reefs, reef fishes and fisheries in the Great Barrier Reef in Australia to reef fishes and coral reefs in the Philippines. Among the islands in the Philippines that benefited from his works done with scientists in Silliman, foremost of them is Dr. Alcala, were Sumilon, Apo, Camiguin, Bohol and Selinog. The researches that he co-authored with scientists from the IEMS and SUAKCREM from 1980 to 2010, which saw print in ISI- and Scopus-indexed journals, have been cited 161 to 543 time, based on the recent report in Google Scholar.

It was also in partnership with Dr. Russ that the University successfully positioned internationally the importance of establishing not just marine reserves but a network of marine reserves. The concept of no-take marine reserves generating higher fish catch for fisher folks was best showcased in Apo Island, located off the municipality of Davao in Negros Oriental. Apo Island lands on the list of world's best diving spots.

The institutional award was intended as a surprise for Dr. Russ who came to know about Silliman University in the early 1980s through a research publication by Dr. Alcala. His first trip to the Philippines over three decades ago in 1983 would facilitate a lasting partnership that

contributed in achieving more international prestige for the University's programs in marine biology and marine research and conservation.

Before the awarding, Dr. Russ delivered a lecture on "Marine reserve networks, fisheries management, and environmental disturbances on coral reefs". The lecture tackled findings of a paper that he co-authored as a product of many years of research in both Australia and the Philippines.

Australian Embassy Counsellor for Political and Public Affairs Mr. Richard Rodgers affirmed the value of the works of Dr. Russ. He said they are particularly important in "strengthening the ties between these two countries, the Philippines and Australia, through the common pursuit of protecting the marine environment."

The Counsellor attended the event on behalf of Australian Ambassador Bill Tweddell, who, like Dr. Russ, graduated from James Cook University.

During his lecture, Dr. Russ emphasized that all coral reefs around the world are facing the same threats. These are threats that are caused either by human activities or natural disasters, such as typhoons. The former, he said, could be prevented, while the latter, simply endured.

He provided Apo Island as an example. It was hailed as one of the world's best diving spots. But two typhoons, Sendong and Pablo, which hit the Visayas in 2011 and 2012, respectively, caused significant damage to the coral reefs.

Dr. Russ provided two main reasons for implementing no-take marine reserves in the country. First, for conservation purposes, as in the case of the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park, which now generates over AUD6 billion from tourism. And, second, for fisheries management.

Although the Australian coastal area is about the same size of the whole Philippines, he said the most striking difference is in the population. The Philippines has significantly more people along the coastline who rely mainly on fishing for livelihood. This, Dr. Russ pointed out, underscores the value of setting up more no-take marine reserves or areas where all forms of fishing are prohibited.

He also emphasized the importance of establishing a clear link between marine conservation efforts and the immediate benefits that they bring to local residents. This generates the necessary public support needed to sustain conservation efforts.

"More and bigger fish where I'm not allowed to fish... What good is that to me?" This, Dr. Russ said, is a fair and honest question from an average person who perceives the initiatives from the outside looking in. It is exactly questions of this nature that he emphasized need to be answered to gain the needed cooperation.

In his researches with his team, Dr. Russ shared that they were able to track the movement of spawns to prove how no-take marine reserves are effective conservation and reef fisheries management tools. Whenever the unit reserves were greater than the fished areas, fisher folks benefited more in terms of increase in fish population in the areas where fishing was permitted.

This proves, Dr. Russ said, that the "old, well-enforced no-take marine reserves may act as critical sources for sustaining reef fisheries and driving recovery after environmental disturbances." On the other hand, the downside is that they remain to be vulnerable. When the next big cyclone or typhoon hits, they may stand to lose more.

The lecture was attended by local government executives, representatives from government agencies, heads of universities and graduate research students in biology and related fields.

Tanzanian Professors Explore Partnership Possibilities with Silliman



Two professors from Tumaini University Makumira in Arusha, Tanzania were welcomed on campus on October 7 to explore opportunities for possible partnership with Silliman University.

They are Tumaini University Vice Chancellor Rev. Prof. Joseph Parsalaw and Senior Lecturer Dr. Faustine Leonard Mahali. With them during this visit is Dr. Andar Parlungdungan Pasarihu, who is Head of the United Evangelical Mission's (UEM) Department of Training and Empowerment.

All three were received by members of the Silliman Administration, headed by University President Dr. Ben S. Malayan III, for a meeting at the Board Room of the Leopoldo T. Ruiz Administration Hall.

On the other hand, Dr. Pasarihu's visit focused on the assessment of the programs and facilities developed with the assistance of UEM, including areas of collaboration with the Divinity School. He also met with UEM scholars and was toured around the campus, highlighted by a visit to the UEM community located at the Silliman Mission Village, east of the Filomeno Cimafranca Ballfield.

Instruction Director Joins Asian Leaders Program in HK



Office of Instruction Director Prof. Juliet Padernal attended the 2014 Asian University Leaders Program (AULP) held October 16 to 19 at the Hong Kong Institute of Education in New Territories, Hong Kong.

The program was organized by the United Board of Christian Higher Education in Asia

(UBCHEA) and the Asia Pacific Higher Education Research Partnership (APHERP) for senior officers of higher education institutions in the ASEAN region.

AULP is an annual program designed to cultivate leadership and management skills for current and future administrators in HEIs.

Professor Padernal was one of only three delegates from the Philippines. There was a total of 30 participants from ten countries.

The seminar, themed "Massification of Higher Education in Asia and the Challenges for Whole Person Education," was divided into two parts. The first, which was handled by UBCHEA provided a venue where participants shared their thoughts on converging education reforms in Asia. It also engaged them in a series of discussions on strategic planning and leadership, building capacity for institutional research, and common concerns on admissions, financial planning and fundraising, quality assurance and faculty development.

APHERP administered the second part. It brought in scholars from around Asia and the Pacific who presented their respective papers which revolved around a concept paper developed by John Hawkins and Deane Neubauer, entitled "The many faces of Asia Pacific Higher Education in the Era of Massification."

Soegijapranata Catholic University, Indonesia

Semarang Diocese Archbishop's Christmas Message

All Soegijapranata Catholic University's staff celebrated a joyous Christmas gathering on January 9, 2015. The Christmas celebration was started by a Christmas mass. Semarang Diocese Archbishop, Mgr. Johannes Pujasumarta, led this year's Christmas Mass.

In the mass, Mgr. John Pujasumarta delivered his Christmas message. He appealed all people attended the Christmas gathering to develop understanding and tolerance as well as respect differences given the diverse nature of the university community. Understanding, tolerance, and respect should begin with oneself and his family.

Later on, these spirits have to be nurtured in the campus and the community. The university community should be able to set examples for others in maintaining peace in society.



Soegijapranata Catholic University Participated in Anti-corruption National Festival

Every year, on December 9, the people in Indonesia and over the world celebrate Anti-corruption Day. As one of the educational institutions that pioneered Anti-corruption Movement in Indonesia, Soegijapranata Catholic University (SCU) participated in Anti-corruption Festival which is initiated by Corruption Eradication Commission (KPK).

In this occasion, SCU showed exhibits of lecturers and students' artwork related to anti-corruption such as caricatures, posters, banners containing messages to reject corruption. In this event, SCU also participated in the film competition.

SCU students produced a film with the theme Anti-plagiarism. The easy access to internet and the advancement of technology have given a way to plagiarism and universities have to establish anti plagiarism measures to counter this issue. SCU also exhibited teaching modules on anti-corruption and integrity for elementary, secondary, and tertiary schools.

Since 2005, the university has established collaborations with Corruption Eradication Commission, anti-corruption NGOs, and many educational institutions to write anti-corruption modules for elementary to tertiary schools.

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Soegijapranata Catholic University Student Presented A Paper in Asian EFL Conference in Philippines



Yonetha Putri Tantowijaya, a student in the Faculty of Language and Arts, co-presented a paper on Grammar Teaching and Learning in ASIAN EFL Conference in Clark, Philippines on November 28 – 30, 2014 with Cecilia Titiek Murniati PhD and Angelika Riyandari PhD.

This paper was a report of a collaborative study on pre-service teachers' beliefs about grammar teaching and learning led by Cecilia Titiek Murniati, PhD. Ms. Tantowijaya participated in the study as a co-investigator.

Currently Ms. Tantowijaya is in the 3rd year of her study and she is

planning to conduct a study on the implementation of conscious-raising tasks in grammar classes for her thesis.

When asked about her experience, Ms. Tantowijaya said that her first experience presenting in an international conference was unforgettable. She was the only undergraduate student who was a co-presenter. She further reported that the other presentations were useful for her thesis research topic. She hoped that other students had similar opportunities to present a paper in international conference.

The keynote speaker in this conference was Rod Ellis, a linguistic professor whose books a Study of Second Language Acquisition is used all over the world by students interested in English teaching and learning. Scholars and experts in English Language Teaching and Learning attended this three day conference. The purpose of this conference is to identify trends and salient issues in the teaching of English in Asia.

Soegijapranata Catholic University Students Won the Best Apps ID Game Competition



On 29-30 November 2014, Irse Bagaskara, Gilang Pratama, and Wahyu Febriyanto, the Game Technology students of SCU won Platinum Award and achieved top 10 best performances on BestAppsID game competition organized by Indigo Telkomsel in Bandung. Beside receiving 10 million IDR prize money, they have the right to join the IT Start-up and Young IT Entrepreneur Program.

Beside receiving 10 million IDR prize money, they have the right to join the IT Start-up and Young IT Entrepreneur Program.

There were more than 1,000 participants coming from all over Indonesia joining the competition. Supported by API Google, these participants should create a new game programming only within 24 hours. On this IT prestigious annual event, SCU student's game entitled 'Jiwan' had attracted the Jury. The theme developed by these students was about education and culture in Indonesia.

Wenzao Ursuline University of Language, Taiwan

Congratulations on President Lin' s Appointment as the Deputy Minister of the Ministry of Education

Si-Ling Lin, the president of Wenzao Ursuline University of Languages, is going to take over the position of Deputy Minister in the Ministry of Education on August 22nd. Prior to her departure, the school held the "Blessing and Gratitude Tea Party" for her.



The atmosphere of her farewell was one of gratitude as all faculty members and students appreciated her efforts dedicated to the school.

In her speech, she described her complicated mood transition when offered the new assignment. She stated that she had received an international call from the Minister of the MOE while participating in the opening ceremony of Taiwan Education Center in Vietnam. However, she did not accept the appointment right away; Wenzao had just been elevated to a university, and many school matters and policies needed adjusting. She therefore sought advice from Sr. Fidelis Wang and Sr. Ellen Mary Mylod, and prayed for God' s guidance. Finally, she was inspired by the words in the Bible: "When you help others, you help yourself" and "You find your responsibility when noticing someone' s needs"; she then decided to become Deputy Minister.

She also said that it is very rare to have a temporary transfer for someone from a private university to the Ministry of Education; it was brave of the new Minister of MOE, Se-Hwa Wu, to make this decision. She emphasized that one of the reasons that she had accepted the position is because Minister Wu once mentioned that he is going to carry out the program of "Global Mobility of Youth in Taiwan", which is linked to Wenzao' s perspective. She stressed that "Wenzao is like her home." Leaving for the MOE with the spirit of Wenzao, she will never be alone.

At the end of her speech, she encouraged all faculty members and students that as the only university of languages in Taiwan, Wenzaoians need to reach the peak by relying on academization and internationalization. It is hoped that all Wenzaoians can achieve this goal one day.

Sr. Teresa Ku, the representative of the board of trustees and president of the Ursulines of the Roman Union, the Province of China, gave a speech and expressed that this appointment of President Lin is a "miracle of God." She said that everyone should harbor faith and belief in God. God will make Wenzao His school, and lead Wenzaoians to be His people. She said she hopes that President Lin can leave with the spirit of communion and Wenzao, and spread blessings to society.

Following her speech, Sr. Fidelis Wang, the emeritus professor, and Sr. Ellen Mary Mylod presented the spiritual gifts of the Ursuline: the SERVIAN potted plant and the quotation of St. Angela, in the hope that President Lin can be the educational gardener. In addition, Dr. Ching-Hwa Tsai, the executive Vice President, handed over the inscribed board, "Si Zhen Duo Ling (司振鐸鈴)" i.e. the educational mission and vision to President Lin. Faculty members from each department also prepared souvenirs for the President.

Wenzao Students Union (WSU) also posted the blessings on Facebook. The President of WSU, Yu-Lun Zeng, and the related personnel collected all the blessings and made them into a card for President Lin. Student Zeng said when she and the Vice President of WSU first took over their positions, they were encouraged by President Lin in person. President Lin always shows her concerns to student clubs and Wenzao students who are helping students in rural areas. Members of WSU wish that President Lin can take all the blessings from Wenzao with her and strive for achieving the educational goals in Taiwan.

Satya Wacana Christian University, Indonesia

A Valuable Experience Living among the Indonesian Students A Student Volunteer Program between KGU and SWCU

Starting in April 2013, Satya Wacana Christian University (SWCU), Indonesia collaborated with Kwansei Gakuin University (KGU), Japan commenced new program named Student Volunteer Program. Twice a year, KGU students were sent to Salatiga, Central Java, Indonesia, where SWCU is located, to do a volunteer work by teaching at schools. A cultural exchange is also expected to be gained during this program for both KGU and Indonesian students.

The Student Volunteer program is a 5-month-program which is offered every April (April-August) and September (September-February). Before the commencement of the program students will have a 2 week orientation by having campus and city tour, school visit, class observation, and also a 20-hour beginning Indonesian class. This is to prepare the students to be able to adjust themselves to the working places and their new environment well.

The student volunteer scheme in SWCU is primarily conducted on teaching at Satya Wacana Christian Elementary and Senior High Schools. In the elementary school, student volunteers teach Japanese traditional games in sport class, origami in art class, Japanese songs in music class, and Japanese traditional dances in dancing class. By the end of the program the volunteer student should prepare a mini stage for the students to perform songs, dances or other cultural things they have learnt in class.

Students and parents are invited to watch the performance and usually they enjoy the show very much.

In the senior high school, volunteer students should teach in a Japanese Language Class and assist teacher in manga club. By having a Japanese student-teacher in their class, students will have an experience to talk to a Japanese native speaker.

Hopefully, this 5-month experience of teaching and living in Salatiga can meet the KGU expectation to prepare their students as a global leader. For SWCU, this program serves as service to the community particularly the students of the school who directly benefit from the program.



The 2nd International Day of Charity Charity Contribution for Vulnerable Groups

International Student Association of CYCU was held an International Day of Charity on 8th - 9th December, there are international cuisine, cultural relics exhibition, exotic singing and dancing performances and so on. The income of the charity event will be donated to the baby children's potential development center of Taoyuan to help the vulnerable groups.

"The 2nd International Day of Charity" was held in front of student center, the international students performed their country's exotic dance. For example, traditional Vietnamese bamboo bat dance, Indonesian song and dance performances to show us their country cultures. The principle, Dr. Samuel K. C. Chang and the faculties were also enjoyed the performances together with them. The local Indigenous Youth Association was also performed their tribal dances. The children from the potential development center played the drums with great posture to set off another climax of the opening ceremony.

In addition to enthusiastic dance, the international students also brought their country's traditional cuisine. For examples: Indian curry, Malaysian fried wantan, Indonesian satay, Korean topokki were high popularity queue cuisine. Vietnamese spring rolls was also the same high popularity. Nguyen, the third year of Business Administration said the fish sauce are loved by the local people in Vietnam. Through this event, she hopes she can share her hometown flavor with the teachers and students. Park, from Korea, currently study the third year of Department of Applied Linguistics and Language studies was prepared topokki and fried chicken to let Taiwanese students try the local Korean snacks. First rice are the Korean version of rice balls, the rice wrapped in aluminum foil, mixed with onion, corn sauce with pickles and brisk taste, is the preferred picnic or afternoon tea snack. Besides, Korean students wore the elk hair bands, allowing the campus to feel the Christmas spirit early, but also the venue of the suction eye focus.

The former president of International Student Association, Marvin Ong was the founder of "International Day of Charity". He said, when he was alone came to Taiwan, to thank the school friendly learning

environment, as well as teachers, care and concern for the students, specially combined the culture relics exhibition the charity event and the event revenue will be donated to the baby children potential development center, with the love and help the children with disabilities.

The instructor, Ms. Sally said the international student made the holistic education spirits spread to this beautiful land. They will regularly go to baby children potential development center to accompany the children, use action to pay out, spread love everywhere you go.

Chung Yuan Christian University currently has International students from 20 countries, 231 degree students, 26 exchange students. Throughout "The International Day of Charity", students and teachers are able to experience other country's culture as well as contribute to the community to help the children in need.



Providence University, Taiwan

Student Exchange Program of Providence University

Providence University (PU) offers different courses and activities for International exchange students every semester. Courses instructed in English, Japanese and Chinese are all available here at PU. In addition, PU also has the best Chinese language center where exchange students can take 10 hours of Chinese Mandarin per week from level 0 to 8 during the semester. In 2014, students from all over the world enjoyed studying at PU as exchange students.

Here are some of the feedbacks from the exchange students:

"My semester abroad in Taichung at Providence University was an amazing time. At the beginning it was not easy for me because I wanted to go with my friends from my home university to China and then I had to go on my own to Taiwan, a country which is not so often in the German press or in the head of the people. Normally, we associate Taiwan with the location for production of big companies. But at the end of my semester abroad I can say, that I am so happy and glad that I got a place at this university in this amazing and wonderful country. This country has not only an amazing countryside in my opinion but the country is so amazing because of all the friendly people here. For me Taiwan is the heart of Asia." (Julia Leicht, Germany).

"When I was studying in Evansville, Indiana, a number of people asked me why I was choosing to spend my last semester abroad in Taiwan of all places. This seemed like an unbelievable choice being from the conservative Midwest. The answer was always the same, "I want to see how a culture completely opposite of mine lives." With my sister living in Taiwan for a year now, I thought I had pretty realistic expectations for what I was in for. Now, I struggle to think how I will fully explain my time here in Taiwan to my friends and family back home because it is truly an experience that words fall short of explaining." (Alaina Gonzalez, USA)

"I think Providence University provides many courses that my home institution doesn't. For example, courses about gender issue, Taiwanese

history and culture, democracy, etc." (Leung Wing Chong, Hong Kong)

"I had an excellent experience at Providence University as an exchange student. I felt like I had an exceptional amount of support and encouragement to grow academically, socially and culturally throughout the semester." (Emily Wright, USA)

"When I first came to Providence University, I noticed that the school surrounding was much more peaceful than my school in Singapore. This school is filled with so many activities such as the trip to the Aboriginal Cultural Village which I participated in my first week as an exchange student and the one day trip with the IFB family assigned to us. I learned a lot from my IFB family members about their countries and cultures." (Benedict Chua, Singapore)

We, at Providence University are excited to receive more exchange students from around the world. Therefore, it is also our pleasure to welcome students from ACUCA member institutions. Students can apply through ACUCA student mobility scheme. Students who are not recipients of a grant from ACUCA are also welcome.

Contact us at pu11600@pu.edu.tw
Application deadline for the exchange program:
Spring Semester: December 1
Fall Semester: June 1

For more information, please visit our website:
<http://www.oia.pu.edu.tw/tehtml/index.php>



Miriam College, The Philippines

Miriam College expands horizons in two growth areas in the Philippines

The year 2014 marked two new milestones for Miriam College. Within the same year that the 88-year old institution has started operations for its second branch in Laguna Province south of Manila, it is also in the thick of closing a deal for a third campus, this time in Porac, Pampanga located north of Manila.

"With our expansion in Laguna and Pampanga provinces, we will be able to offer a genuine choice for students in these two growth areas, giving them access to our excellent, innovative and value-laden programs," says Miriam College President Rosario O. Lapus, Ph.D.

Partners for the second time

For both campuses, Miriam College has partnered with Ayala Land Inc. (ALI), the biggest land developer in the Philippines. The relationship started as early as 2009 when the school was offered a 15-hectare lot within NUVALI, a land development in the fast-growing area of Sta. Rosa, Laguna. What sealed the deal for both parties are their shared philosophies and values.

"NUVALI and Miriam College partners in imparting the philosophy of balance and the importance of nurturing young minds to the importance of the community and environment through its excellent academic programs infused with Christian values. Each complements the other by believing that the 'integrity of creation', which is one of Miriam College's core values, is the key to this partnership," says Aniceto V. Bisnar, Jr. General Manager of Vesta Property Holdings, Inc., a subsidiary of Ayala Land, Inc.

The establishment of its second campus, MC NUVALI, is a result of a rigorous process of research, consultation and careful deliberation, involving the whole Miriam College community. Comprehensive studies, focus group discussions and consultations with various sectors and the potential market helped determine demand for a Miriam College education as well as the feasibility and sustainability of putting up a second campus in Laguna.

MC Nuvalli is covered by a 10-year development plan with a co-educational program beginning with Basic Education units—pre-school to Grade 6. Within less than a year into its operation, MC NUVALI is opening Grade 7 due to an increase in enrollment as well as securing a continuing Basic Education for students who are already enrolled. A high school building is next in the pipeline to be followed by a college building. A 50-50 percentage is devoted to structures and open spaces; building designs adapt to the existing terrain, climate, and environment; and sustainable energy sources will be utilized.

For its second campus, Miriam College brings the same academic standards enjoyed at its base in Quezon City. It has introduced new and innovative programs using real and virtual learning tools. "We intend to look into a new pedagogy, to develop exciting programs that will prepare young girls and boys for the 21st century world we live in—global, digital, fast-paced, complex and change-oriented," says Dr. Lapus.

Looking north

With MC NUVALI up and running, ALI has once again offered Miriam College a 10-hectare lot to set up a third campus that will respond to the needs of students in the north. The offer includes a start-up amount to help the school with construction costs. When the land is fully developed, Miriam College will be one of the premiere schools within the 1,125-hectare development that is envisioned to be the growth center of Central Luzon. It will feature a commercial district, business and industrial park, retail centers, recreational and residential areas.

Miriam College will initially offer Senior High School, 2- and 3-year associate and baccalaureate degrees, and diploma and certificate programs with a special focus on arts, design, technology and management fields. Industry-based programs were carefully studied to respond to the thriving industries Pampanga is known for such as culinary, furniture making and design, among others.

"We will offer contemporary, market, and industry driven courses to prepare the students for local career opportunities," adds Dr. Lapus.

This new school will be student-centered, supported by an administration and faculty pool that are experts in the fields offered. It will bring the same advocacies within the new community as well, tapping the school's extensive experience in the areas of gender, peace, environment and social action.

As construction of the new campus begins in 2016, Miriam College will continue to explore offerings that are viable, sustainable and contributory to the development of the local economy.

"These major steps are in full accordance with our goal of exploring opportunities for institutional advancement and for Miriam College to continue to be strong and healthy, prepared for the challenges that will come in the future," concludes Dr. Lapus.



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Fr. Dr. Hadrianus Tedjoworo, OSC
General Secretary, ACUCA
Parahyangan Catholic University
Jl. Ciembuleuit No.94
Bandung 40141
West Java, Indonesia
Tel +62 22 2032655
Fax +62 22 2031110
E-mail: acuca@unpar.ac.id

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Editor's Notes

- Parahyangan Catholic University serves as the ACUCA Secretariat for 2015 to 2016. For contacts, you can address your e-mails to acuca@unpar.ac.id
- Four issues of the newsletter "ACUCA News" are published each year. For the next issue, please send articles together with print quality photos by e-mail to the ACUCA Secretariat (acuca@unpar.ac.id) no later than **May 25, 2015**.