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Research, Extension and Development
NEWSLETTER

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Gender Justice Toolkit Empowers Philosophy Faculty at PUP

By Chloe Nicole D. Piamonte

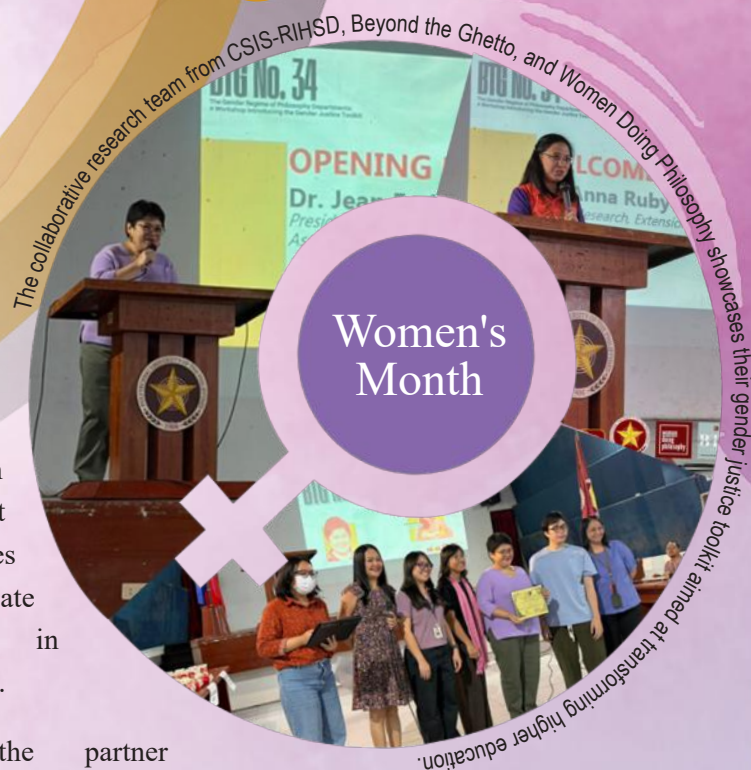
In celebration of Women's Month, the Center for Social Inclusivity Studies (CSIS) of the Research Institute for Human and Social Development (RIHSD) showcased a groundbreaking gender justice toolkit designed to transform academic philosophy departments. Developed through a collaborative university-funded research project with Beyond the Ghetto (BTG) and Women Doing Philosophy (WDP), the toolkit was introduced during a workshop held on March 18 at PUP Manila's Claro M. Recto Hall.

This innovative toolkit addresses the persistent challenges of gender mainstreaming in higher education by providing philosophy departments with a practical self-evaluation framework. The workshop engaged faculty, students, and professionals from various universities, promoting active participation in applying the toolkit to identify and overcome gender biases within academic

spaces. This hands-on approach ensures that the research moves beyond theory to create measurable change in institutional practices.

Leaders from the partner organizations emphasized the importance of research-driven initiatives that promote inclusivity and gender justice. Dr. Jean Emily Tan, WDP President, highlighted the value of addressing gender-related issues in academia through socially relevant research. Dr. Anna Ruby Gapasin, PUP Vice President for Research, Extension, and Development, underscored the critical role of such projects in advancing gender mainstreaming, especially during Women's Month.

The research team is comprised of Chloe Nicole Piamonte, Chief of CSIS-RIHSD, Jeniel Dasig and Ron Justin Mangondato, faculty members of the



PUP Department of Humanities and Philosophy, WDP President and Ateneo de Manila University faculty Dr. Jean Emily Tan, and WDP member and Ateneo de Naga University faculty Ms. Gladys Esteve.

The completion and utilization of this project reflect the active function of CSIS in fulfilling its mandate to produce timely and impactful research that translates into action, benefitting the underrepresented members of the community. Through this, CSIS expresses its strong commitment to engaging in meaningful partnerships that advance gender and social inclusion. #

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February 2026 Issue



PUP Earns 2025 Silver Cluster Award for Innovation Excellence

by Florence Joie F. Lacsa and Mark Anecito R. Perlas

PUP has been recognized as a Silver Awardee by the Intellectual Property Office of the Philippines (IPOPHL), receiving a Bronze Citation for delivering a high volume of intellectual property services. The award was presented during the Innovation and Technology Support Office (ITSO) Presidents' Summit and General Assembly held on March 25, at Diversion 21 Hotel in Iloilo City. This accolade highlights PUP's sustained commitment to innovation, research excellence, and the development of intellectual property.

University leaders and stakeholders expressed pride in this achievement, acknowledging the guidance of University President Manuel Muhi and Vice President for Research, Extension, and Development Dr. Anna Ruby Gapasin. The recognition also honors the contributions of the Research Management and Intellectual Property Office (RMIPO) team led by Director Jackie Urrutia, ITSO Chief Engr. Florence Joie Lacsa, CLS Chief Dr. Mark Anecito Perlas, and dedicated faculty and students who have been instrumental in advancing PUP's intellectual property initiatives.

The Silver Cluster Award reflects PUP's ongoing efforts to strengthen its research ecosystem, expand technology transfer programs, and promote the protection and commercialization of intellectual property. Through collaborative efforts among administrators, faculty, and students, the university continues to establish



itself as a leading hub for innovation and knowledge creation in higher education.

University officials emphasized that this recognition is both a celebration of past successes and a motivation to achieve greater milestones. With a shared vision for excellence, PUP is poised to further elevate its role in research and innovation, maximizing the impact of its ideas for national development. #



RISE Boosts Global Research Through International Engagements

by Christine Mona Liza Apatan

Strengthening its global presence, Research Institute for Sustainable Engineering (RISE) actively participated in key international events that highlight its commitment to sustainable engineering and renewable energy innovation. These engagements not only enhance institutional visibility but also open doors for collaborative research, faculty exchange, and capacity-building programs that contribute to national and global development.

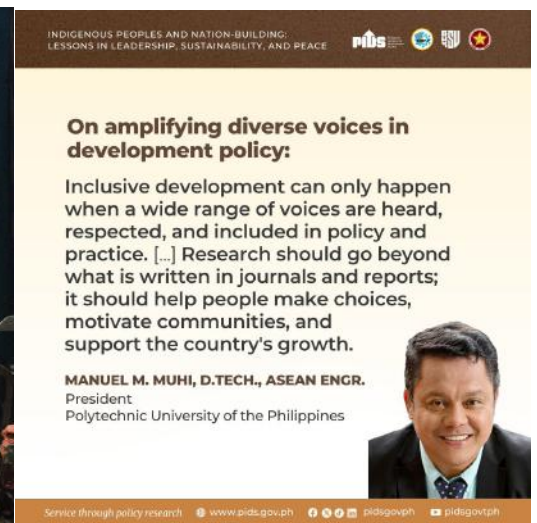
RISE Director Dr. Ginno L. Andres, along with Engr. Christine Mona Liza Apatan, Acting Chief of the Center for Materials and Environmental Engineering, and Dr. Abigail P. Cid-Andres, attended the 78th Anniversary Reception of the Philippine-American Educational Foundation (PAEF) at SPACE at One Ayala, Makati City on March 24. The event celebrated PAEF's milestone alongside the 80th year of the global Fulbright Program, reaffirming its dedication to developing globally competitive Filipino talent and fostering bilateral cooperation.

The reception gathered leaders from government, industry, and the diplomatic community to emphasize academic exchange as a strategic driver of innovation and national progress. PUP's participation in this event strengthens its connections within the international academic and policy network, creating opportunities for research collaboration, faculty mobility, and capacity-building initiatives under the Fulbright framework.

Further showcasing the institute's research excellence, Engr. Jhon Helarch V. Antoni, Chief of the Center for Fabrication, Innovation, and Technology Development, presented a research paper titled "Polymer-Carbon Based Cathode Electrode for Al-air as a Suitable Reactor for Electrical Charging" at the 12th International Conference on Renewable Energy Technologies (ICRET 2026) held from March 27 to 29 in Shanghai, China. This conference serves as a global platform for sharing innovative developments in renewable energy, bringing together leading experts to foster technical discussions and knowledge exchange.

The participation of Engr. Antoni and his co-authors, including Dr. Andres, Dr. Cid-Andres, and Engr. Apatan, highlights the university's growing contribution to advancements in sustainable energy systems. Their research on aluminum-air electrode materials supports the development of efficient and environmentally friendly energy storage technologies, aligning with global efforts to transition to renewable energy sources.

In addition, a research paper authored by Dr. Andres and his team has been accepted for presentation at the 11th International Conference on Sustainable and Renewable Energy Engineering (ICSREE 2026), scheduled for May 20 to 23 in San Sebastian, Spain. The paper, titled "Optimizing Oxyhydrogen Electrolyzer for Efficient Gas Production," reflects PUP's ongoing innovation in energy engineering. ICSREE provides a prestigious platform for researchers worldwide to share breakthroughs in sustainable energy, further positioning PUP as a key player in the global research community. #



RPO Co-Organizes 12th PIDS Forum, Showcases University-Funded Indigenous Research

by Marynelle L. Rosales and Chloe Nicole D. Piamonte

PUP through its Research Publications Office served as co-organizer of the 12th Socioeconomic Research Portal for the Philippines (SERP-P) Knowledge-Sharing Forum of the Philippine Institute for Development Studies (PIDS), held on March 11 at Bukidnon State University in Malaybalay City, Bukidnon and via Zoom. Alongside the Philippine's think-tank PIDS and Bukidnon State University, PUP helped convene researchers, policymakers, and community leaders to address critical issues facing Indigenous communities nationwide.

The Research Institute for Human and Social Development (RIHSD) actively contributed to the forum through university-funded research (UFR) presented by its center chiefs. Chief Werllie P. Bueno shared findings from her study, "Lost: The Iraya Mangyan Culture and Identities Then," underscoring the importance of Indigenous-led cultural preservation. She stated, "Centering the voices of elders is not only a methodological choice but an ethical imperative, ensuring that cultural continuity is not scripted from the outside, but nurtured from the community itself." This

research highlights how living heritage offers meaning, dignity, and direction amid contemporary challenges.

Chief Diosdado P. Franco presented his UFR titled "Sustainability Practices and Community Resilience: Mapping Indigenous Wisdom for Urban Development through Lived Experiences of Iraya Mangyans." He emphasized that Indigenous knowledge is a dynamic resource that can enrich urban sustainability efforts while respecting cultural integrity. "Indigenous knowledge is not merely to be observed; it serves as a living resource that can enrich and transform urban sustainability while respecting the community's cultural integrity," he explained.

PUP President Dr. Manuel Muhi delivered a compelling message during the forum, stressing the importance of inclusive development. "Inclusive development can only happen when a wide range of voices are heard, respected, and included in policy and practice. Research should go beyond what is written in journals and reports; it should help people make choices, motivate communities, and support the country's growth," he said, reinforcing

PUP's commitment to research that uplifts Indigenous communities.

The forum also called on government agencies to expedite the legislation of proclaimed protected areas to ensure full legal protection and avoid institutional disadvantages. It urged cultural institutions and local government units to support documentation of Indigenous rituals and to develop programs encouraging youth engagement with their heritage. Policymakers were reminded to enact and enforce policies that protect Indigenous cultural heritage and formally recognize Indigenous governance systems. Researchers were encouraged to work ethically with Indigenous communities, respecting Free, Prior, and Informed Consent (FPIC) and cultural protocols.

With PUP as a key co-organizer and contributor, the Knowledge-Sharing Forum underscored that inclusive development begins with listening to Indigenous voices and learning from their knowledge. Protecting Indigenous heritage is crucial not only for cultural preservation but also for fostering sustainable and equitable development across the Philippines. #



Scan the QR to watch and replay the forum.



'Nature Needs Her' Forum Highlights Female Champions of Biodiversity Conservation

By Ryan V. Labana and Jerome Makabenta

Women are at the forefront of biodiversity conservation, shaping the future of environmental protection through their leadership, resilience, and unwavering dedication. This powerful truth was celebrated during the Nature Needs Her: Women Rising for Biodiversity Conservation forum held on March 31, at PUP Bulwagang Bonifacio. The event was organized by the Research Institute for Science and Technology in partnership with the Gender Equity, Diversity, and Social Inclusion (GEDSI) Office.

More than a scientific conference, the forum honored women who have transformed conservation into a lifelong mission. Over several weeks, RIST's campaign shared inspiring stories of female scientists and advocates, emphasizing that protecting nature is deeply connected to the people who champion it. The initiative aimed to raise awareness that conservation is not only about ecosystems but also about empowering the women who defend them.

Renowned experts such as mangrove scientist Dr. Jurgenne H. Primavera, microbiologist Dr. Marian P. De Leon, and botanist Prof. Analee Hadsall shared their journeys in biodiversity research and community engagement. Their testimonies revealed the challenges women face in science and the critical role they play in advancing conservation efforts amid growing environmental threats.

The campaign also paid homage to the late Gina Lopez, a celebrated environmental advocate whose pioneering work in sustainability and community-based programs continues to inspire a new generation of conservationists. Her legacy underscored the forum's message that women are vital drivers of environmental change.

Nature Needs Her encouraged students and participants to view conservation as a collective responsibility led by women who rise to protect the planet. Through this initiative, RIST and GEDSIO reinforced the vital role of women in safeguarding biodiversity, reminding everyone that nature thrives because women choose to protect it. #





CNSC and PUP Partner to Boost Sustainable Pineapple Production

by Ryan V. Labana

A new collaborative research initiative between Camarines Norte State College (CNSC) and PUP aims to transform pineapple farming by integrating advanced data analytics and intelligent systems. This partnership seeks to enhance sustainable agricultural practices and improve decision-making processes for pineapple producers in the region.

The project, which began with a proposal meeting in 2025 at the Queen Pineapple Research and Development Institute (QPRDI) in Daet, Camarines Norte, brings together experts from both institutions. Key figures include Dr. Aleta C. Fabregas, Chief of RIST's Center for Data Analytics and Intelligence Systems, along with CNSC's Dr. Arlene C. Alegre, Director of the Queen Pineapple Research Development Institute, and Dean Daniel E. Maligat Jr. of the College of Computing and Multimedia Studies as research collaborators. The collaboration was formalized with the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) in March 2026.

By applying data-driven technologies, the research aims to optimize pineapple cultivation methods, increase productivity, and promote environmental sustainability. During the visit, the PUP team toured CNSC's pineapple plantations and harvest sites, gaining valuable insights into local farming practices and identifying opportunities for technological integration.

The partnership highlights the commitment of both institutions to innovation, sustainability, and agricultural development through interdisciplinary research and collaboration. #



RESEARCH NEWS BITS

RIHSD Chiefs Join Children's Rights Research Consortium

by Chloe Nicole D. Piamonte

Three center chiefs from the Research Institute of Human and Social Development actively participated in the recent Research Consortium on Children's Rights meeting led by the Council for the Welfare of Children (CWC) in Quezon City. As a key member of the consortium, RIHSD continues to champion research-based policies that protect and promote children's rights nationwide.

The meeting focused on finalizing a unified, child-centered research agenda designed to deepen understanding of children's issues, fill critical knowledge gaps, and strengthen evidence-based policymaking. RIHSD's representatives—Chief Diosdado Franco (Center for Community Development Studies), Chief Werllie P. Bueno (Center for Social Sciences and Education Studies), and Chief Chloe Nicole Piamonte (Center for Social Inclusivity Studies), played vital roles in shaping this collaborative framework.

This gathering also advanced the formalization of a partnership between CWC and PUP, set to be solidified through a Memorandum of Understanding next month. This collaboration underscores a shared commitment to advancing the rights and welfare of children through coordinated research and policy efforts. #

RIST Teams Up with National Biosafety Committee for Education

By Ryan V. Labana

The Research Institute for Science and Technology actively contributed to the recently held Focus Group Discussion on strengthening biosafety integration in the country's secondary science curriculum, demonstrating its commitment to advancing science education and public health initiatives nationwide.

Dr. Armin S. Coronado, Director of RIST, presented the project team's nationwide survey results, providing key evidence to inform policy and curriculum development. Meanwhile, Ryan V. Labana, Chief of the Center for Health Sciences under RIST, co-led the Focus Group Discussion among Higher Education Institution (HEI) representatives, fostering meaningful exchange and collaboration. The session was facilitated by Chief Jacqueline S. Tychuaco, the chief of the Journal Management Section, ensuring a productive and engaging dialogue among stakeholders.

The discussion brought together representatives from education, government, industry, and civil society under the DOST-PCAARRD-funded project, "Mainstreaming Biotechnology and Biosafety in the Philippine Education Sector," led by the National Committee on Biosafety of the Philippines (NCBP).

Key insights from the dialogue emphasized the need for clearer biosafety competencies, strengthened teacher capacity, and more interactive, real-world learning approaches, toward developing a scientifically literate and future-ready generation equipped to navigate the evolving field of biotechnology. #



RMIPPO, National Library Hold Talks to Streamline Copyright Submissions

by Mark Anecito R. Perlas

In response to the growing volume of student research outputs across its expanding academic network, the Polytechnic University of the Philippines through Research Management and Intellectual Property Office (RMIPPO), met with officials from the National Library of the Philippines (NLP) to discuss improvements in the bulk copyright registration process for academic works. The meeting, held at the National Library on March 18, aimed to address operational challenges arising from the anticipated surge in copyright submissions.

RMIPPO representatives expressed their appreciation for the continued support of the National Library, particularly in facilitating copyright registration initiatives that protect and promote student research. Discussions centered on streamlining procedures for bulk submissions, reducing processing time, and ensuring that the University is compliant to the copyright process set by NLP.

Present during the meeting were Dr. Jackie Urrutia, RMIPPO Director, Dr. Mark Anecito Perlas, Chief, Copyright and Licensing Section, Engr. Florence Joie Lacs, Chief, Innovations and Technology Support Office, and Ms. Romina Consul, staff. Representing the National Library were Ms. Flordeliza T. Quiñones, Chief, Copyright Division; Charles Pasicolan Librarian IV; and Loradel Y. Martinez, Librarian III.

Both institutions expressed optimism that the strengthened coordination will lead to a more responsive system that supports the protection of intellectual property while fostering academic innovation. The initiative underscores PUP's continued commitment to safeguarding scholarly work and enhancing institutional partnerships that benefit its growing academic community. #



PUP and NSSU delegations, led respectively by VP for RED Dr. Anna Ruby P. Gapasin and VP for RIE Dr. Riz Rupert L. Ortiz, gathered for a benchmarking activity and signing of MOU to strengthen collaboration in research, extension, innovation, and strategic development.

NSSU and PUP Unite to Advance Research and Innovation

By Erwin L. Descallar

Northwest Samar State University (NSSU) and PUP signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) on March 2 to establish a formal partnership aimed at enhancing research, innovation, and extension services. This collaboration is designed to create joint programs and initiatives that address community needs and contribute to sustainable development.

The agreement commits both universities to work together on research development, innovation ecosystems, intellectual property management, and capacity-building activities. By pooling resources and expertise, PUP and NSSU aim to generate knowledge that leads to practical solutions for societal challenges.

During a benchmarking activity, representatives from both institutions exchanged best practices on research governance, extension delivery, and strategic foresight. These discussions emphasized the growing role of universities in preparing for future challenges and aligning academic programs with emerging social needs.

This partnership reflects PUP's ongoing dedication to advancing research and innovation that support national development. For NSSU, the collaboration offers opportunities to strengthen its institutional systems and adopt forward-looking strategies. Together, the universities are positioned to expand their impact through joint research projects, community engagement, and innovation programs. #

PUP and National Museum Collaborate on Science and Conservation

A new collaboration between the Research Institute for Science and Technology and the National Museum of the Philippines has been formalized through a Memorandum of Agreement for the Mobile Museum Boxes Sierra Madre Project. This initiative aims to bring biodiversity, conservation, and science education directly to local communities, enhancing capacity and fostering stronger university-museum partnerships.

Key leaders from both institutions, including Arvin Manuel R. Villalon, Deputy Director-General for Museums at the National Museum, and Dr. Armin S. Coronado, Director of the Research Institute for Science and Technology, signed the agreement. The project will utilize the expertise of scientists and researchers to promote hands-on research and conservation planning, making science more accessible and relevant to everyday life.

This partnership embodies a shared vision to advance research, protect biodiversity, and build healthier ecosystems for all Filipinos. By bringing science closer to the people, the initiative empowers communities to actively engage in preserving the country's rich natural heritage. #

Filipino Women's Role in History and Nationhood

by Eliza Ruth Ruiz



Highlighting the vital contributions of Filipino women throughout history, culture, and society, the Research Institute for Culture and Language and Center for Philippine Studies successfully hosted the online forum “Palihan sa Kasaysayan, Kababaihan at Kapilipinuhan: Sulong Babae! Ang

Kababaihan sa Agos ng Kasaysayang Pilipino” on March 30. This event, held in partnership with Las Damas de Rizal Philippines, was part of the nationwide observance of National Women’s Month.

The forum brought together historians and scholars from various academic institutions to shed light on the multifaceted roles of women in shaping Philippine history. Morning sessions explored topics such as women’s bodies and sexuality in Philippine history, the spiritual and social influence of the babaylan in early communities, and women’s active participation in movements for Filipinization and empowerment. The afternoon sessions focused on women and the law in the 19th century, the story of deportada Juana Loreto, and the significant contributions of women’s organizations to social work and nation-building in the early 20th century.

Esteemed speakers included Prof. Gloria E. Melencio from the University of the Philippines Los Baños, Prof. Ma. Rita Lourdes A. Alfaro of Ateneo de Manila University, Dr. April Hope T. Castro from UP Los Baños, Dr. Janet S. Reguindin-Estrella of UP Diliman, Axle Christien J. Tugano of Baliwag Polytechnic College, and Mark Joseph P. Santos from De La Salle University Manila. Their lectures provided rich historical insights and fostered a deeper appreciation of women’s enduring impact on Philippine society.

Through this initiative, RICL and CPS reaffirmed their commitment to promoting historical awareness and advancing gender discourse. The forum emphasized the importance of recognizing women’s contributions to nationhood and cultural identity, inspiring continued scholarship and advocacy in these areas. #

New Members Inducted at **NRCP 2026 Annual Scientific Conference** and General Membership Assembly

by Hazel DR. Samala and Mariel Jane B. Rellama

The National Research Council of the Philippines (NRCP) held its 2026 Annual Scientific Conference and 93rd General Membership Assembly on March 13, at the Philippine International Convention Center (PICC) in Pasay City. Organized by the Department of Science and Technology (DOST) through the NRCP, the event gathered scientists, researchers, educators, and professionals nationwide to discuss emerging research trends and foster collaboration aligned with the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). This year's theme, "Transdisciplinary Capacity Building and Ethical Research towards a Progressive, Unified, and SDG-Driven Nation," underscored the importance of interdisciplinary and ethical research in addressing both national and global challenges.

A key highlight of the assembly was the Oath-taking Ceremony for newly inducted Regular and Associate Members of the NRCP, recognizing their significant contributions to research, innovation, and nation-building. Among those sworn in as Regular Members were Mark Joseph N. Rafal, Managing Editor of ENTRADA; Dr. Romeo Peña, Chief of the Center for Heritage Conservation and Museology Studies and the Center for Creative

Writing; and Engr. Marife A. Rosales, Chief of Futures Training and Advocacy. Their induction marks a milestone in their academic and professional careers, reflecting their dedication to advancing Filipino research and scholarship.

Guest Speaker DOST Secretary Dr. Renato U. Solidum Jr. emphasized the need for research to transcend traditional disciplinary boundaries to create practical, impactful solutions for society. NRCP President Dr. Ma. Louise Antonette De las Peñas echoed this sentiment, highlighting the critical role of cross-sector collaboration, capacity building, and ethical accountability in ensuring that scientific outputs remain socially beneficial, inclusive, and trustworthy.

The event featured plenary discussions, scientific

sessions, and networking activities that provided participants with valuable insights into evidence-based policymaking and collaborative research approaches. The active participation of the country's scientific community in this annual gathering demonstrates their ongoing commitment to research excellence, professional growth, and contributing to the nation's development through science and innovation.

The induction of these new members not only honors their past achievements but also positions them to play vital roles in shaping the future of Filipino research across diverse disciplines, reinforcing the NRCP's mission to promote interdisciplinary and ethical research for national progress. #



Regular and Associate Members of the NRCP (from the OVPRED only)

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Ryan V. Labana

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Dr. Philip P. Ermita
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Gerlie S. Ogatis
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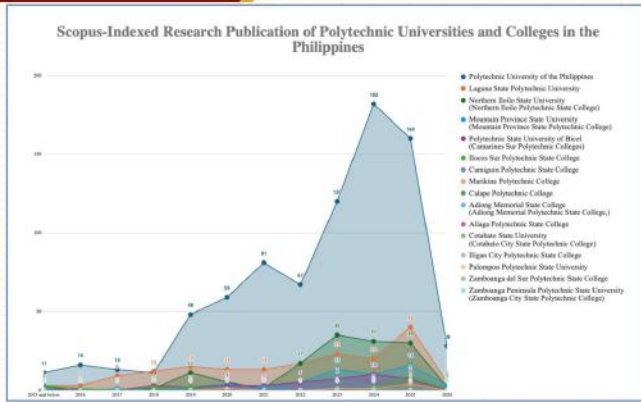
Division XI: Humanities

Dr. Joseph Reylan B. Viray
Dr. Romeo P. Peña
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Mark Joseph N. Rafal
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RESEARCH PUBLICATION REPORT:

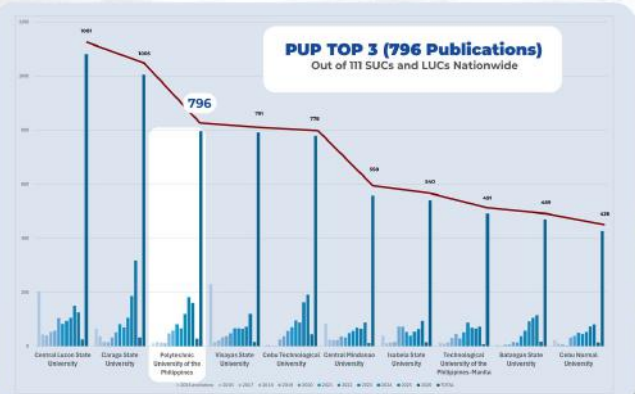
PUP Leads in Scopus-Indexed Research Publications among Polytechnic Universities and Colleges

RESEARCH PUBLICATION REPORT



Source: SCOPUS

Scopus-Indexed Research Publications



Source: SCOPUS

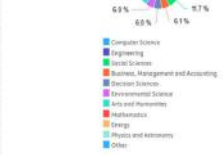
RESEARCH PUBLICATION REPORT

Polytechnic University of the Philippines

796 Publications

1,265 Authors

20.2% 16.8% 13.7% 6.8% 6.1%



Source: SCOPUS

PUP has emerged as the top producer of Scopus-indexed research publications among polytechnic universities and colleges in the Philippines, demonstrating its growing influence in academic research and regional development. As of March 16, 2026, PUP ranks number one among State Universities and Colleges (SUCs) in the National Capital Region and holds the third position nationwide among all SUCs and Local Universities and Colleges (LUCs). This achievement reflects the university's expanding research impact and commitment to cross-disciplinary collaboration.

From 2019 to 2026, PUP produced a total of 796 Scopus-indexed papers, showcasing a consistent upward trajectory in research output. The data highlights PUP's leadership in various subject areas, including computer science, engineering, social sciences, business, and environmental science. This diverse research portfolio underscores the university's role in addressing complex societal challenges through innovative and interdisciplinary approaches.

Comparative data from other institutions in the National Capital Region further emphasize PUP's research prominence. The university's publication output significantly surpasses that of other polytechnic and technological universities, reinforcing its position as a key contributor to the country's academic and scientific advancement. This leadership in research publication also strengthens PUP's capacity to influence policy, industry, and education sectors both locally and internationally.

PUP's continued growth in research productivity aligns with its mission to foster knowledge generation that supports sustainable development and regional progress. By maintaining its focus on quality research and collaboration, PUP is poised to sustain its role as a leading institution in the Philippine higher education landscape, contributing to innovation and national development goals. #

PUP Strengthens Southeast Asian Footprint with Dr. Gapasin's Appointment to ARN Leadership

by Marynelle L. Rosales



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Members of the ARN Management Board, including President Prof. Trung Q. Duong and newly appointed Vice President for Communication and Education, Dr. Anna Ruby P. Gapasin. Photo source: ASEAN Research Network Official Website

PUP has strengthened its regional footprint with the appointment of its Vice President for Research, Extension, and Development, Dr. Anna Ruby P. Gapasin, as the new Vice President for Communication and Education of the ASEAN Research Network (ARN).

This appointment elevates a Filipino academic leader to a key governance role within a network dedicated to fostering regional research collaboration and academic partnerships. As PUP is already a recognized member institution of the network, this leadership role underscores the university's growing influence in the Southeast Asian research landscape.

The ASEAN Research Network (ARN) is a dynamic platform established under the Passage to ASEAN (P2A) initiative and is officially recognized by the ASEAN Secretariat. Founded on the vision of promoting cultural appreciation and research-driven innovation, the network connects over 150 member institutions across all ten ASEAN nations. Its primary mission is to provide mobility and professional growth opportunities that empower students, faculty, and early-career researchers to pursue impactful and

sustainable research that serves the broader ASEAN community.

As an ARN Vice President, Dr. Gapasin will serve as a program leader and regional connector, responsible for driving the implementation of the network's various initiatives. According to the ARN Terms of Reference, her key responsibilities include hosting or co-hosting major academic events annually, leading thematic working groups, and recruiting new members to expand the network's reach. This leadership position, which carries a standard two-year term, is essential for securing partnerships, sponsorships, and funding opportunities that strengthen regional engagement.

This appointment is central to ARN's strategic shift from mere networking to active research execution and impact. The network's vision, "Bridging ASEAN and Global Excellence," focuses on addressing fragmented

regional collaboration by providing structured mentorship and capacity acceleration for emerging researchers. Through these efforts, the ARN facilitates joint grant development and creates publication pathways in high-impact journals, such as the Social Enterprise Journal and EAI Endorsed Transactions on Tourism, Technology and Intelligence.

The roadmap for the coming years is ambitious, with the ARN aiming to achieve over 10 joint grant submissions and multiple co-authored publications by 2027. Dr. Gapasin's leadership will be instrumental as the network prepares for major upcoming events, including the 2026 ASEAN Research Network Conferences in Da Nang, Vietnam. By integrating Filipino expertise into the network's highest levels of governance, the appointment ensures that the Philippines remains a vital contributor to the goal of strengthening ASEAN's collective research voice. #

Women in Research: Leaders Driving Change **BEYOND** the Academe

by Jaycel Dela Cruz

Research is often associated with classrooms, libraries, journals, and thesis papers. For many students, it is merely an academic requirement for graduation. However, for many women leaders in our *Sintang Paaralan*, research has evolved into something far more vital. It has become a powerful tool for leadership, innovation, policy reform, and social transformation.

Across diverse disciplines and institutions within the university, women researchers continue to shape communities through knowledge, service, and advocacy. Their work extends beyond fulfilling institutional responsibilities. They use research to address real societal concerns, empower marginalized sectors, and create opportunities for future generations. Among these women are Dr. Angelina E. Borican, Dr. Melcah Monsura, and Dr. Marife Rosales, leaders whose contributions demonstrate how research can move beyond the academe and become a catalyst for positive change.

Bridging the gap

For Dr. Angelina E. Borican, research is deeply connected to communication and community engagement. As Assistant to the Vice President for Research, Extension, and Development, Borican has dedicated years to making research more understandable and accessible to ordinary people. She believes that research only becomes truly meaningful when people can understand and apply it in their everyday lives.

Through initiatives like Community Education Through Science Communication (CESC), she leads efforts to translate complex scientific information into simpler, relatable, and practical knowledge for the public. *“You have to understand the science first and shift it to more basic and digestible information for ordinary people,”* Borican explained.

Her works redefine the gap between academic institutions and communities. Instead of treating research as an exclusive activity confined within campus walls, she advocates for inclusive knowledge-sharing that empowers people to make informed decisions and improve their quality of life.

Beyond her work in communication, Borican also recognizes the challenges women encounter in leadership and research. *“The mindset needed to embrace these 2 roles is flexibility to accepting and playing these 2 roles maybe at the same time or alternately.”*

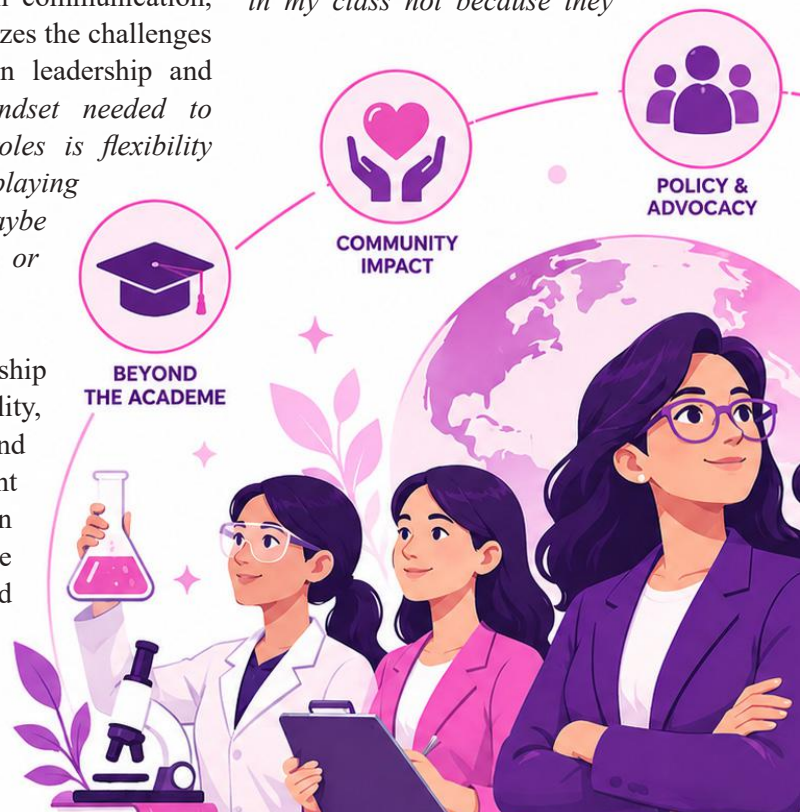
For her, leadership requires flexibility, accountability and deep commitment especially in environments where women often need to work harder to prove their capabilities. Undeterred, she continues to lead

with empathy and a service-first mindset, setting an example for others to follow.

Equity and Empowerment

Dr. Melcah P. Monsura uses research in economics to better understand the realities faced by Filipino families and communities. Her work focuses on critical issues such as poverty reduction, financial literacy, household income mobility, and socioeconomic inequality. Monsura’s passion for research was shaped by her own experiences as an educator. She saw firsthand how financial hardship forced students to miss classes or drop out entirely.

“In 2016, I had students who failed in my class not because they



This illustration was created using AI-generated tools and is intended solely for visual support of the article's content.

have low IQ but because they were not able to attend my class due to poverty. I witnessed how they struggle just to finish studying,” she shared.

These experiences motivated her to pursue studies, particularly in economics, to contribute to policies and programs addressing related challenges. Rather than viewing economics solely through statistics, Monsura sees research as a means of understanding human experiences and systemic inequalities.

One of her studies examines the relationship between women’s economic empowerment and child health outcomes. The research demonstrated how empowering women economically contributes not only to family welfare but also to broader national development goals. *“Promoting women’s empowerment is not only a gender equality issue but also a critical strategy for improving national child health outcomes and achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)”* she stated.

fearing research. According to her, it should not intimidate students but instead inspire curiosity and critical thinking. *“Understanding data and social realities gives you the power to create solutions,”* she tells them adding that these solutions build a stronger, fairer nation.

Changing the world

While Borican and Monsura focus on accessibility and equity, Dr. Marife Rosales highlights strategic foresight and innovation, which is an important dimension of research. Rosales’ work focuses on helping institutions prepare for future challenges in education, research, and society. In a rapidly changing world shaped by technological advancement, globalization, and shifting social realities, she believes research must not only solve present-day issues but also anticipate future developments.

For her, strategic foresight allows institutions to become more adaptive, innovative, and resilient. Through future-oriented thinking, research becomes a guide for organizations and communities in navigating uncertainty and preparing for long-term transformation. *“Research forces a kind of structured foresight that ordinary planning cannot, you have to articulate a problem that doesn’t fully exist yet,”* she argued.

Beyond her work in strategic foresight, Rosales also recognizes how women’s experiences in male-dominated fields, such as Electronics Engineering, can shape a deeper sensitivity to gaps, exclusions, and unintended consequences. *“Women bring to leadership a quality that is often underestimated: a meticulous, nurturing care for the work itself, the same thoroughness*

and attention that a mother brings to raising a child, leaving nothing to chance, tending to every detail because she understands that the small things are never truly small.” For her, this awareness is valuable in foresight and innovation because it allows leaders to see what others may overlook.

According to her, research develops critical thinking skills that help individuals respond to complex societal issues and contribute to nation-building. She also challenges the common view of research as a rigid, rule-bound academic exercise. Instead, she encourages students to see it as a creative, dynamic process that draws on imagination, critical thinking, and problem-solving.

Shared vision

Despite coming from different fields of expertise, they share a common vision of using research to serve people beyond the university. Their stories reflect on the growing role of women in research and leadership. Through their work, they continue to challenge stereotypes that limit women’s roles in leadership, policymaking, and innovation. More importantly, they inspire students and aspiring researchers to see research differently.

At a time when women continue breaking barriers in leadership and research, they demonstrate how women researchers are helping transform institutions, communities, and future generations through knowledge and service. Through their dedication and leadership, these women continue to show that research, when guided by purpose and compassion, can become a powerful force for national development and social transformation. #

**Jaycel is a 4th year Journalism student currently doing her internship at the Research Publications office.*



Project GROWTH Empowers Ragay Farmers with Sustainable Agriculture and Digital Skills

by Dorren D. Arenque

Empowering rural communities through sustainable agriculture and inclusive development, Project GROWTH: Gender-Responsive Organic Workforce for Transformative Harvests, recently concluded its second year with a dynamic three-day event in Ragay, Camarines Sur. The program brought together PUP faculty, extensionists, and members of the Ragay Organic Farmers Cooperative (ROFAC) to enhance skills in organic farming, digital innovation, and gender-responsive practices.

The event began with a focus on conflict management led by Dr. Angelita S. Villaruel. Participants engaged in interactive workshops designed to improve communication, teamwork, and collaborative problem-solving. Exercises such as the “Broken Squares” highlighted the importance of non-verbal coordination and shared accountability, equipping farmers and cooperative members with practical strategies to navigate conflicts within their organizations and communities.

Digital empowerment took center stage on the second day, with Rose Ann C. Bañas guiding farmers through social media marketing techniques to expand their reach beyond local markets. This session was complemented by a Values Reorientation and Gender and Development workshop led by Dr. Aimee Rose A. Manda, which fostered inclusivity and strengthened shared values within the cooperative. PUP Ragay Campus Director Dr. Veronica S. Almase emphasized the importance of continuous learning, while Dr. Rolan J. Malvar, Director of the Extension Management Office, highlighted the project’s role in promoting sustainable and inclusive community growth.

The final day featured farm visits where beneficiaries demonstrated their organic farming practices and resource management. These visits allowed extensionists to provide technical support aimed at improving production methods and ensuring the long-term success of the farms. Evaluations conducted by Dr. Malvar and Dr. Edcon B. Baccay showed overwhelmingly positive feedback, with most participants rating the program as excellent in quality, methodology, and venue.

Project GROWTH’s second year successfully advanced organic agriculture knowledge, gender-responsive practices, and cooperative enterprise development. As the project moves forward, PUP remains dedicated to uplifting rural communities by fostering sustainable livelihoods and inclusive growth. #



Collaborative Thesis Clinic

Enhances Research Skills for Graduate Theology Students

By Marissa L. Mayrena

Graduate students in theology are gaining stronger research and academic writing skills through a collaborative Thesis Clinic between PUP's Master of Arts in English Language Studies (MAELS) program and St. Vincent School of Theology (SVST). The second leg of Phase 1 was successfully held on March 19, at SVST, continuing the partnership's goal to build competencies in research proposal and abstract writing.

The session focused on coaching students from the MA in Theology program on structuring their research using the IMRAD format, which helps organize studies systematically. Participants were divided into four groups based on their areas of interest—Moral Theology, Systemics, Biblical Studies, and Pastoral Theology—each guided by expert coaches from both institutions. This small-group mentoring provided personalized feedback to improve clarity, coherence, and scholarly rigor in their work.

This initiative is part of a reciprocal academic support program where PUP MAELS offers language and style editing and technical writing masterclasses to theology students. In return, SVST faculty provide language instruction in Greek and Italian to PUP students and faculty, fostering mutual academic enrichment. The next Thesis Clinic session is scheduled for late April 2026, where students will present their revised research proposals.

Designed as a year-long program, the Thesis Clinic strengthens sustainable collaboration between PUP and SVST through continuous evaluation and long-term development planning. This partnership exemplifies how academic institutions can work together to enhance graduate education and research capabilities. #



PUP Maragondon Trains Senior High Students in Arduino and App Development

by Minerva C. Piedad

Senior high school students from King's Way Christian Academe, Inc. gained valuable digital skills through a hands-on training on Arduino programming and web mobile app development. Conducted by PUP Maragondon Campus's BS Electronics and Communications Engineering Program and Research and Extension Office, in partnership with the Institute of Electronics and Communications Engineers of the Philippines (IECEP) National, the three-day workshop aimed to boost technical competence and innovation among young learners.

The training provided practical exposure to electronics, programming, and application development, bridging the gap between theory and real-world application. Participants learned to program Arduino microcontrollers, work with analog and digital inputs and outputs, and develop simple web and mobile applications. The sessions included interactive projects such as LED blinking, traffic light simulation, sensor-controlled devices, and basic robotics, culminating in student presentations of their mini-projects.

PUP Maragondon Campus continues to demonstrate its commitment to advancing technical education and community development through programs that equip students with essential digital skills for academic and career success. #

PUP T.S.E.K.

Season 2: Empowering Filipinos with Financial Wisdom (Part 2 of 3)



PUP TSEK Season 2 Episode 5: Common Financial Challenges (Aired February 7, 2026)

In this episode, Dr. Ria S. Fajilago shines a light on four major financial hurdles many Filipinos face: lack of income, sudden expenses, financial mistakes such as scams, and peer pressure or FOMO (fear of missing out). She shares practical strategies to overcome these challenges, including upskilling to increase earning potential, conducting “expense audits” to identify unnecessary spending, and building an emergency fund covering 3 to 6 months of expenses. A standout feature is the “Anti-Scam Checklist,” empowering listeners to spot and avoid “too good to be true” schemes that prey on financial vulnerability.



Watch Episode 5.
Scan the QR code
to rewatch this episode.



PUP TSEK Season 2 Episode 6: Rewards and Opportunities of Financial Freedom (Aired February 14, 2026)

Financial freedom is more than just having money, it's about the power to choose. This episode explores the profound non-monetary rewards of sound financial management. Dr. Fajilago highlights six key benefits: peace of mind, time freedom (the freedom to be present for family milestones), autonomy, improved relationships, better health and joy, and a sense of purpose and generosity. The episode also encourages listeners to seize opportunities like skill stacking and creating accountability systems with “money buddies” to stay on track toward their goals.



Watch Episode 6.
Scan the QR code
to rewatch this episode.

As February unfolds, PUP T.S.E.K. Season 2 continues its journey of financial empowerment, weaving together practical lessons with inspiring stories that resonate deeply with Filipino listeners. This month's episodes not only tackle common financial hurdles but also celebrate real-life successes born from education and community support. Through these narratives, the program reminds us that financial wisdom about transforming lives and creating opportunities.

**PUP TSEK Season 2 Episode 7:
Success Stories of Project FAME
and AFNA (Part 1)
(Aired February 21, 2026)**

This episode marks a powerful shift from theory to practice by showcasing the impact of PUP College of Accountancy and Finance (CAF) extension programs. Beneficiaries Dr. Mark Joseph V. Sangil and Ms. Ruth Kathryn Malanao share heartfelt stories of how the Finance and Accounting Mentorship Extension (FAME) and Accounting for Non-Accountants (AFNA) programs have transformed their personal and professional lives. Their testimonials highlight the ripple effect of financial education, inspiring listeners to believe in the power of learning and community support.



Watch Episode 7.
Scan the QR codes to
rewatch this episode.



PUP T.S.E.K. Season 2 team striking a pose after successfully filming episodes 5 and 7.

**PUP TSEK Season 2 Episode 8:
Success Stories of Project FAME
and AFNA (Part 2) (Aired February
28, 2026)**

Continuing the celebration of success, this episode focuses on the FAME Program's origins and achievements. Dr. Ryan C. Roque, Project Leader and Chairperson of the PUP Department of Accountancy, and College of Accountancy and Finance (CAF) Dean Dr. Noel A. Bergonia both share the inspiring story behind the program's creation, the dedication of CAF extensionists, and the tangible benefits experienced by its beneficiaries. Dr. Roque also discusses future plans to expand and deepen the program's reach, reinforcing PUP T.S.E.K.'s commitment to sustainable financial empowerment.

PUP T.S.E.K. Season 2 reminds us that financial literacy is a journey filled with challenges, rewards, and real stories of transformation. From overcoming obstacles to celebrating success, these episodes inspire Filipinos to take control of their financial futures with confidence and hope. #



Watch Episode 8. Scan
the QR code to rewatch
this episode.

Youth Leaders Strengthen Community Skills in PSA Workshop

by Raquel C. Arevalo



Youth leaders and Sangguniang Kabataan (SK) officers gathered on March 14, for a Participatory Situation Analysis (PSA) workshop aimed at strengthening their ability to identify and address community issues using evidence-based methods. Organized by PUP's Extension Management Office in partnership with the Manila Youth Development and Welfare Bureau, the workshop introduced participants to the Core Local Poverty Indicators (CLPI) framework and engaged them in hands-on activities such as Problem Tree Analysis and Solutions Mapping.

Through these interactive sessions, participants explored the root causes of

local challenges and prioritized interventions based on community needs. The assessment revealed pressing concerns in health and nutrition, employment and income, and peace and order. It also highlighted the need for capacity-building in leadership, project management, and digital literacy among youth leaders.

The workshop concluded with a strong commitment from attendees to transform their insights into actionable programs, including skills training centers, mental health initiatives, and environmental sanitation projects. This event underscores PUP's dedication to empowering communities through research-driven extension services and youth engagement. #



Community Needs Assessed in Naic by PUP and Joy Nostalg

By Argie B. Hifarva and John Paul V. Bravo

A Participatory Situation Analysis (PSA) was recently conducted in Pasinaya Northeast, Naic, Cavite, through a partnership between PUP's Extension Management Office and the Joy Nostalg Foundation. The activity aimed to identify the community's most pressing concerns and provide a foundation for future extension and development programs tailored to local needs.

Residents actively engaged in workshops and discussions, highlighting livelihood and employment as their primary challenges. Other issues raised included limited access to health services, inadequate community facilities, waste management problems, and poor technology and internet connectivity. The PSA process allowed community members to voice their concerns directly and suggest potential solutions.



Joynostalg Foundation partnered with the Extension and Management Office to conduct community analyses, ensuring program implementations are data-driven and responsive to priority needs. Photo source: <https://joynostalgfoundation.org/milestones>

Organizers emphasized the importance of community participation and collaboration in driving local development. Based on the findings, PUP plans to design targeted extension programs focused on livelihood and skills development

while seeking partnerships with other agencies to address broader community issues. The initiative aims to foster sustainable improvements and address key challenges in the years ahead. #

PYLON TBI Receives NCR's Rising Startup Incubator Award

by Erwin Jay O. Esparto



PUP PYLON Technology Business Incubator (TBI) has earned the prestigious NCR's Rising Startup Incubator Award at the ReSEED Honors 2026 NCR TBI Awards, recognizing its rapid growth and significant contributions to innovation and entrepreneurship in the National Capital Region. This accolade highlights the incubator's success in fostering a vibrant startup ecosystem and supporting emerging technology ventures.

The award is part of the Department of Science and Technology - National Capital Region (DOST-NCR) and Strategic and Collaborative Alliance for Leveraging Ecosystems

of Startups (SCALE) NCR's initiative to support technology startups established within the last three years that have demonstrated operational excellence, built effective systems, and forged strategic partnerships. PUP PYLON TBI's recognition reflects its strong potential to become a future leader in the Philippine startup landscape by creating meaningful opportunities for innovators and startup founders.

Through its comprehensive programs, mentorship initiatives, and innovation spaces, PUP PYLON TBI

continues to empower researchers and entrepreneurs to transform ideas into sustainable businesses with real-world impact. The incubator's inclusive approach strengthens the innovation ecosystem both within the university and the broader community.

This achievement is a testament to the collaborative efforts of students, faculty, researchers, industry partners, and startup founders who contribute to the incubator's success. With the support of university leadership, PUP PYLON TBI is inspired to further expand its programs and opportunities, driving sustainable growth and shaping the future of Filipino entrepreneurship. #

DEVELOPMENT NEWS BITS

San Juan LGU invites PUP for Potential Collaborative Programs

by Ma. Lourdes R. Girado

San Juan City is advancing its Innovation Development Plan by fostering stronger partnerships with academic institutions and innovation stakeholders. The City Investment Promotion Center (CIPC) invited PUP to collaborate on initiatives aimed at supporting startup development, technology commercialization, and entrepreneurship programs. This engagement reflects the city's commitment to building a sustainable and inclusive innovation ecosystem.

Representatives from San Juan City's CIPC, the Department of Science and Technology – National Capital Region (DOST NCR), and PUP's Technology Business Incubation and Development Office (TBIDO) convened on February 10 to discuss potential collaborative programs. Focus areas included startup enablement, community-driven innovation projects, research utilization, and capacity-building activities for local entrepreneurs and innovators. The discussions emphasized the importance of coordinated efforts among government, academe, and industry to drive economic growth and technological progress.

This partnership positions San Juan City as a proactive hub for innovation and sustainable development within the National Capital Region. By leveraging PUP's expertise in research and incubation, the collaboration is expected to create new opportunities for students, researchers, startups, and communities through innovation-focused programs and joint initiatives. #



TBIDO Benchmarks at Taipei Medical University Biomed Accelerator

by Tristan L. Velardo



In a strategic move to elevate its startup support and innovation capabilities, the Technology Business Incubation and Development Office (TBIDO) conducted a benchmarking visit to the Biomed Accelerator of Taipei Medical University. Sponsored by the China Productivity Center, this international engagement offered TBIDO firsthand exposure to cutting-edge incubation practices and sustainable models that can accelerate the growth of high-impact startups within PUP's entrepreneurial ecosystem.

Hosted through collaborative international engagements, the visit held on March 17 exposed the TBIDO delegation to advanced incubation strategies, research commercialization models, and sustainable operational practices that support the growth of high-impact startups. Representatives from the Biomedical Accelerator shared valuable insights on how startups are guided from concept validation to market readiness through mentorship, laboratory access, industry partnerships, and investor linkages.

The delegation also toured the accelerator's modern facilities, where innovation, discipline, and collaboration were evident in every workspace. From state-of-the-art laboratories to startup co-working spaces, the environment reflected a culture that nurtures creativity and scientific advancement.

Through this benchmarking activity, TBIDO gained practical insights and global perspectives that can help strengthen PUP's entrepreneurial ecosystem and further enhance its commitment to fostering innovation-driven and globally competitive startups. #



Bansud and Sablayan Campuses Conduct Quality Audits

by Jackson Jake U. Llames



internal quality audits. These audits focused on key operational areas critical to delivering a quality educational experience aligned with ISO 9001:2015 and ISO 21001:2018 standards. Conducted in late March 2026, the reviews reflect the University's proactive approach to validating processes and enhancing service delivery across its campuses.

The audit covered both academic and administrative functions essential to student success and institutional efficiency. Two academic programs at each campus were thoroughly examined, with attention given to curriculum implementation, faculty qualifications, and learning outcomes. In addition to academics, the audit assessed vital support services such as the Guidance Office, Admission

Ensuring continuous improvement and adherence to high institutional standards, PUP campuses in Bansud and Sablayan recently completed comprehensive

(cont. on page 23)



PUP and UP Diliman Collaborate on ISO Quality Assurance

by Jackson Jake U. Llamas

The University of the Philippines Diliman Quality Assurance Office (UPD-QAO) visited the PUP's Institutional Quality Management Office (IQMO) and Quality Assurance Center (QAC) and held a joint benchmarking session on March 10, focused on implementing and certifying the ISO 21001:2018 Educational Organizations Management System (EOMS). This collaboration aims to enhance quality management practices and promote continuous improvement in higher education institutions.

The session, led by IQMO Director Ireneo C. Delas Armas, Jr., QAC Director Dr. Sanjay P. Claudio and Prof. Evangeline Amor of UPD-QAO, featured institutional presentations that highlighted ongoing quality assurance projects and the organizational structure of PUP's Internal Quality Management Office. A key focus was PUP's journey toward ISO 21001:2018 certification, including aligning documentation, engaging third-party

certifiers, and lessons learned from certification audits. Discussions also covered strategies for sustaining quality improvements post-certification.

A significant portion of the meeting was dedicated to a technical exchange where participants addressed challenges related to risk management, internal quality audits, and management review requirements as outlined in the ISO standard. This interactive dialogue allowed both institutions to share best practices and troubleshoot implementation issues, fostering a deeper understanding of quality assurance frameworks in educational settings.

The benchmarking session concluded with an informal networking opportunity to strengthen future partnerships. The collaborative effort between PUP and UP Diliman underscores their shared commitment to upholding high standards in education and institutional governance, contributing to the broader goal of academic excellence and accountability. #

Bansud... from page 22

and Registration Office, Library, and Clinic. Student-centered services, including general support and on-campus food concessionaires, were also evaluated to ensure compliance with health, safety, and operational standards.

PUP Bansud Campus Director Ricardo F. Ramiscal emphasized the importance of the audit in maintaining quality education, saying, *"This internal audit is a valuable opportunity for us to identify strengths and areas for improvement. It ensures that our programs and services meet the highest standards and that we continue to provide our students with the best possible learning environment."* Similarly, Asst. Prof. Leine S. Alcaraz, Campus Director of PUP Sablayan, noted, *"The audit process helps us uphold transparency and accountability. It motivates our team to continuously enhance our operations and better serve our students and community."*

Findings from the audit will serve as a strategic guide for both campuses to address any gaps and improve resource management. The objective data and recommendations provided enable campus leaders to implement timely enhancements, reinforcing accountability and operational excellence. This process strengthens the campuses' capacity to deliver quality, accessible education to their communities in Mindoro. Completing these internal audits marks a significant step in the campuses' ongoing efforts toward institutional accreditation and quality assurance, demonstrating their commitment to academic excellence and student welfare. #

Celebrating Women's Month 2026:

PUP's GEDSI Office Leads Empowerment and Advocacy Initiatives



March 2026 marked a vibrant celebration of National Women’s Month at PUP, with the Gender Equity, Diversity, and Social Inclusion (GEDSI) Office spearheading a series of impactful activities that highlighted women’s empowerment, rights, and achievements. The month kicked off on March 2 with the PUP community joining the global movement One Billion Rising during the Flag Raising Ceremony at University Avenue. Led by the College of Human Kinetics, the collective dance was a powerful expression of solidarity with women and gender-diverse communities worldwide, amplifying calls to end violence and promote empowerment. This was accompanied by free bone scanning, medical consultations, and diet counseling at the Medical Services Department.



On March 4, the PUP FilmBayan and Film Aficionados Circle hosted a special screening titled “A Special Memory,” while the PASUC Regional Culture and Arts Festival officially opened at the University Center for Culture and the Arts and Rizal Park Open-Air Auditorium.

On March 5, the forum “Mga Batas para sa Kababaihan: Tagumpay, Hamon, at mga Susunod na Laban!” brought together students, faculty, employees, and local women leaders for a meaningful dialogue on the progress and challenges of women’s rights legislation in the Philippines. With Senator Risa Hontiveros as the keynote speaker, the event underscored landmark laws protecting women from violence and discrimination, while emphasizing the ongoing struggle for gender equality and inclusive policies. Panelists shared grassroots experiences, highlighting the importance of gender-responsive governance at the community level.



The Department of Financial Management, in partnership with GEDSI, launched a two-day training-workshop titled “GAD WILLING” on March 18–19, aimed at deepening faculty members’ understanding of Gender and Development principles. Facilitated by Prof. Cindy Cruz-Cabrera of UP Diliman, the workshop focused on fostering inclusive, gender-fair language and practices within

2	Flag Raising Ceremony and One Billion Rising University Avenue Free Bone Scanning, Medical Consultation, and Diet Counseling Medical Services Department South Wing, Ground Floor
4	"A Special Memory" Special Screening PUP FilmBayan and Film Afficionados Circle PUP Hasmin Bldg. PASUC Regional Culture and Arts Festival Opening University Center for Culture and the Arts Rizal Park Open-Air Auditorium
5	"Mga Batas Para sa Kababaihan: Tagumpay, Hamon, at mga Susunod na Laban" Women's Forum Ina ng Bayan sa Sais Manila, District 6 Manila Lady Kagawads, Office of the President, PUP GEDSIO, and PUP College of Law PUP Gymnasium PASUC Regional Culture and Arts Festival Opening University Center for Culture and the Arts, MPC (Visual Arts), TUP (Literary Arts), and EARIST (Literary Arts) PUP Hasmin Bldg.
6	PASUC Regional Culture and Arts Festival Opening University Center for Culture and the Arts, NAAP (Literary Arts), PNU (Dance) and PUP (Dramatic Arts) PUP Hasmin Bldg.
11	AchievHER: Honor, Empowerment, Radiance! College of Education Student Council 3 rd Floor South Wing Bridge
14	ECONRES PCOS Awareness Campaign Podcast PUP Economics Research Society (PUP ECONRES) Online (Facebook, IG, & TikTok)
18	Inclusive and Gender Fair Language Capacity Building for Financial Management Faculty Members (Day 1) Department of Financial Management PUP ITech AVR
19	Inclusive and Gender Fair Language Capacity Building for Financial Management Faculty Members (Day 2) Department of Financial Management PUP ITech AVR
24	Advocacy Color Fun Run PUP Parañaque Parqal ASEANA Macapagal
25	3rd Women's Month Forum PUP GEDSIO and College of Science Student Council PUP Bulwagang Balagtas RA 9710: Championing Equity in the Modern Workplace PUP Sto. Tomas Campus PUP Sto. Tomas Gymnasium
26	"HERizon: Empowering Voices and Breaking Barriers" Consortium Of Office Management and Information Technologists MS Teams "UNBOUND: Breaking Stereotypes, Building Possibilities" Consortium Of Office Management and Information Technologists MS Teams "LAKAMBINI NG LABAN: Tinig, Tinding, at Tapang!" PUP Sentral na Konseho ng Mag-aaral PUP Bulwagang Bonifacio Serbisyo Para kay Juana and Gender-Sensitive Media Seminar with NCCT PUP GEDSIO and National Council for Children's Television PUP Gymnasium
27	"RISE: Rights, Inclusion, Strength, and Equality" Consortium Of Office Management and Information Technologists PUP ITech Balik Sinta Alumni Webinar cum Women's Month Celebration Alumni Relations and Career Devt Office PUP Alumni FB Page
28	PUP's Next Top Model PUP ICONS PUP Bulwagang Balagtas



financial management education. This initiative reflects PUP's commitment to creating equitable academic spaces through capacity building and reflective engagement.

The month's activities culminated with the Advocacy Color Fun Run on March 24 at PUP Parañaque, followed by the 3rd Women's Month Forum organized by GEDSI and the College of Science Student Council on March 25 at Bulwagang Balagtas. Also on March 25, the Sto. Tomas Campus hosted the RA 9710: Championing Equity in the Modern Workplace forum. On March 26, the Consortium of Office Management and Information Technologists held two online forums, "HERizon: Empowering Voices and Breaking Barriers" and "UNBOUND: Breaking Stereotypes, Building Possibilities," alongside the "Lakambini ng Laban: Tinig, Tinding, at Tapang!" event at PUP Bulwagang Bonifacio.

Looking ahead to April, the National Council for Children's Television, in partnership with the GEDSI Office, will hold the Brigada Makabata 2026 forum on April 8 at the PUP Gymnasium. Simultaneously, Serbisyo para kay Juana Year 4 event will take place at the PUP Gymnasium as well, featuring interactive booths, free legal consultations, medical services, and wellness programs designed to empower women across the university community. #



are often the ones who absorb the impact when systems fail,” she said, highlighting the undervaluation of women’s labor, especially unpaid work that sustains families and communities.

The senator also spotlighted landmark legislation supporting women’s welfare, such as the Expanded Maternity Leave Law, Safe Spaces Act, and laws combating online sexual abuse and exploitation. She reaffirmed her commitment to enhancing public health services and social protection for vulnerable groups, including senior citizens. Her call to action urged the public to continue advocating for dignity, security, and improved quality of life for all, reminding everyone that the fight for equality is far from over.

Complementing the keynote, a panel of local women leaders shared their grassroots experiences in community organizing and advocacy. They discussed the tangible impacts of women-centered legislation in their communities and stressed the importance of gender-responsive governance in addressing women’s needs at the local level. Their stories highlighted how policy reforms translate into real-world benefits and empowered women’s participation in social transformation.

The forum also served as a platform to deepen understanding of gender and development principles among faculty, students, and community members. Through open dialogue and shared experiences, participants explored how inclusive policies and equitable practices can dismantle barriers and create safer spaces for women in education, work, and public life. #

“Kababaihan ng Maynila” Forum Sparks Vital Dialogue on Women’s Empowerment and Rights

by Elgie Jonathan R. Greganda

In celebration of Women’s Month 2026, the “Mga Batas para sa Kababaihan: Tagumpay, Hamon, at Susunod na Laban!” forum brought together diverse sectors of the PUP community, local officials, and senior citizens to engage in meaningful discussions on women’s empowerment and legislative progress. Held on March 5, at the University Gymnasium, the event highlighted the achievements and ongoing challenges faced by Filipino women, emphasizing the need for continued advocacy and inclusive governance.

Organized by the Gender Equity, Diversity, and Social Inclusion (GEDSI) Office in partnership with the Ina ng Bayan Brotherhood Foundation and the College of Law, the forum featured prominent speakers including Senator Risa Hontiveros, PUP President Manuel M. Muhi, Vice President for Research, Extension and Development Dr. Anna Ruby P. Gapasin, and former Manila Representative Sandy Ocampo. The gathering underscored the university’s commitment to fostering community engagement and advancing gender equity through collaborative efforts with local barangays and senior citizen groups.

Senator Hontiveros delivered a keynote address that resonated deeply with attendees, acknowledging the significant milestones achieved by women while drawing attention to the harsh realities many still face. She emphasized that while celebrating success is important, many Filipinos struggle daily with basic survival, and women disproportionately bear the burden of systemic inequalities. “*Women*



Financial Management Faculty Enhance Gender-Responsive Teaching Through Capacity Building Workshop

by Maria Andrea B. Manzon

Faculty members from the Department of Financial Management participated in a two-day training-workshop titled “GAD WILLING,” focused on inclusive and gender-fair language, held on March 18 and 19. Organized in collaboration with the Gender Equity, Diversity, and Social Inclusion (GEDSI) Office, the workshop aimed to deepen educators’ understanding of Gender and Development (GAD) principles and strengthen their role in fostering equitable and inclusive academic environments.

Senior GAD Officer Cindy Cruz-Cabrera from the UP Diliman Gender Office facilitated the sessions, guiding participants through discussions on gender sensitivity, inclusive communication, and the critical role of gender-fair language in education and professional practice. The workshop emphasized how language influences perceptions and opportunities within academic settings, encouraging faculty to reflect on their teaching approaches.

The initiative aimed to deepen faculty members’ understanding of Gender and Development (GAD) principles and strengthen their role as educators in fostering inclusive, gender-responsive, and equitable academic spaces within the field of financial management.

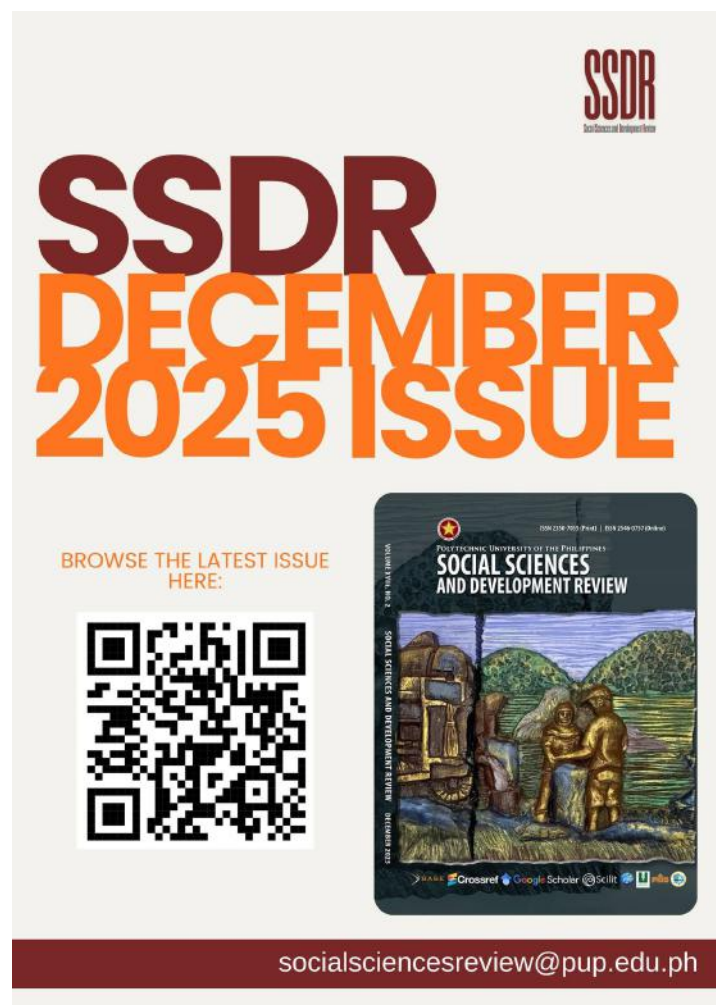
On the first day, participants explored foundational GAD concepts and examined how educators can actively promote gender equity both inside and outside the classroom. The discussions highlighted the power of language in shaping experiences and the importance of creating supportive learning spaces that respect diversity.

The second day focused on challenging entrenched gender norms and addressing stereotypes and biases that affect academic environments. Through collaborative workshops and reflective exercises, faculty members developed strategies to incorporate more inclusive practices in their teaching, research, and community engagement activities.

This training underscores the Department of Financial Management’s and PUP GEDSI Office’s ongoing commitment to advancing gender mainstreaming within the university. By equipping faculty with gender-responsive knowledge and skills, the initiative aims to cultivate safer, more inclusive, and empowering educational spaces for the entire PUP community. #



We're excited to announce the release of Social Sciences and Development Review December 2025 and Mabini Review Journal, Volume 16, Number 1 (2026) issues.



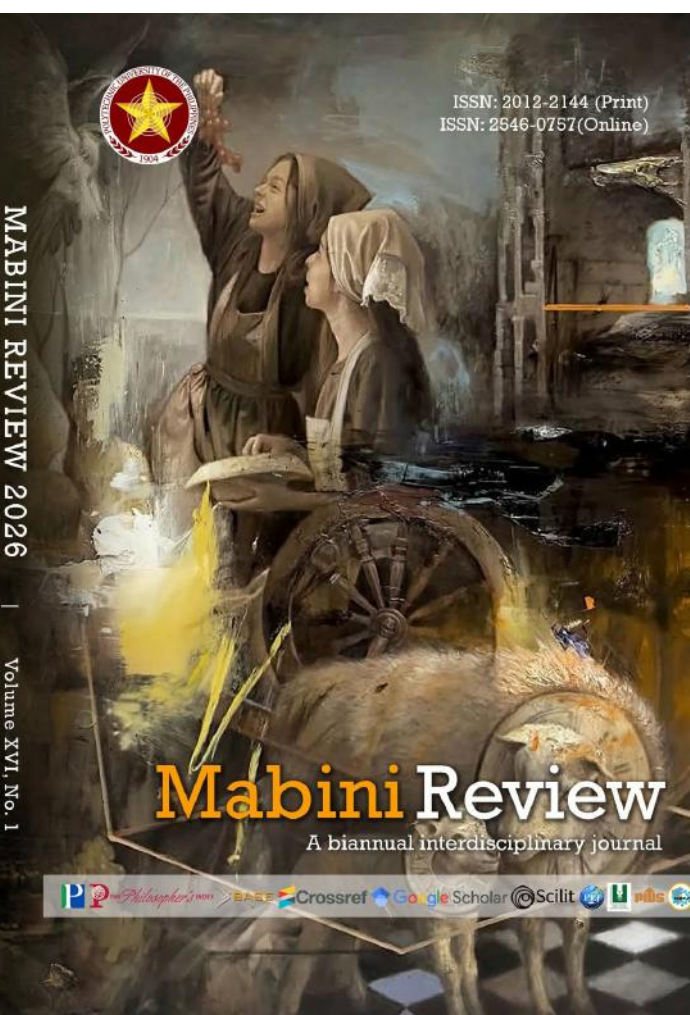
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