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Research, Extension and Development
NEWSLETTER

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VP RED Gapasin

Elected NCR VP in Passage to ASEAN

by Marynelle L. Rosales

Dr. Anna Ruby P. Gapasin, PUP Vice President for Research, Extension and Development, has been elected as Vice President for the National Capital Region (NCR) of the Passage to ASEAN (P2A) Philippines Chapter. The election took place during the Q1 Assembly 2026 held on February 12, at Rizal Technological University (RTU).

The assembly brought together academic leaders, researchers, and policymakers from across the country to discuss pressing issues related to regional educational mobility. It also aimed to strengthen international collaboration within ASEAN and beyond, fostering a more integrated academic community in the region.

Passage to ASEAN is a well-established network recognized by ASEAN, comprising 149 universities and colleges. The organization is dedicated to promoting student mobility and regional collaboration among member institutions. Its formal executive structure is headquartered

in Da Nang, Vietnam, coordinating efforts across Southeast Asia.

During the assembly, officers for the P2A Philippines Chapter for 2026-2027 were elected. Alongside Dr. Gapasin as Vice President for NCR, other key officers include Mr. Donato Estocada as President from RTU, Ms. Sally Jarin as Executive Vice President from the University Northern Philippines, and Dr. Julieta Borres as Vice President for Luzon from Bicol University. The Visayas and Mindanao regions are represented by Dr. Faustito Aure of Eastern Visayas State University and Dr. Ana Marie Matalines of Davao del Sur State College, respectively.

This leadership team is expected to drive initiatives that enhance academic exchange and cooperation among Philippine institutions and their ASEAN counterparts. Dr. Gapasin's election highlights PUP's active role in regional educational development and international collaboration within the ASEAN community.#

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RED NEWSLETTER

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January 2026 Issue



23 College and Campus Research Ethics Committees Now Operational

by AC Dimatatac

Faculty members across multiple colleges and campuses have stepped up to strengthen research integrity by establishing 23 operational Research Ethics Committees (RECs) as of February 2026. This accomplishment follows a series of training sessions held from October to December 2025, where 129 faculty members were equipped with the knowledge and skills to conduct ethical reviews in line with national standards.

The training sessions organized by RMIPO's Research Ethics Section, conducted in partnership with the Philippine Health Research Ethics Board and the Philippine Social Science Council, emphasized the critical role of ethical principles in safeguarding research quality and participant welfare. These efforts align with Executive Order No. 8, Series of 2025, which mandates the restructuring of RECs and sets guidelines for ethics review processes across state universities.

Several colleges, including Tourism, Hospitality and Transportation Management, Education, and Architecture, Design and Built Environment, have launched their RECs. Likewise, campuses in Alfonso, Calauan, Ragay, Sta. Maria, Sto. Tomas, Lopez, Sta. Rosa, Mulanay, and General Luna have begun operations, joining earlier adopters such as the Open University and the College of Science.

Additional units are preparing to activate their RECs, with orientations scheduled for March 2026. These sessions will provide essential tools and formalize procedures necessary for ethics review, ensuring that all committees maintain high standards in evaluating research protocols.

This expansion of operational RECs marks a significant step toward fostering a culture of ethical research across the university, empowering faculty to uphold integrity and protect the rights of research participants within their academic communities. #

List of the 23 College and Campus Research Ethics Committees Now Operational

COLLEGES

- College of Tourism, Hospitality and Transportation Management
- College of Education
- College of Architecture, Design and Built Environment
- Open University System
- College of Human Kinetics
- College of Science
- College of Arts and Letters
- College of Social Sciences and Development
- College of Computer and Information Sciences
- College of Engineering
- College of Accountancy and Finance

CAMPUSES

- Alfonso
- Calauan
- Ragay
- Sta. Maria
- Sto. Tomas
- Lopez
- Sta. Rosa
- Mulanay and General Luna
- Quezon City
- Bansud
- Paranaque
- Bataan



Online meeting with the RECs of CADBE held on February 13, 2026.

Research



CPJIGS Align Strategies for a Streamlined Institutional Policy Review in 2026

by John Amiel A. Rivera

RIHSD's Center for Peace, Justice, Institutions, and Governance Studies convened Research Coordinators from the College of Law, the College of Political Science and Public Administration, and the Open University System came together to coordinate efforts for the upcoming Institutional Policy Reviews. The meeting held on February 10 marked a crucial step in setting clear research directions and fostering collaboration to ensure a smooth and efficient review process.

The group established a unified timeline to synchronize deliverables such as research capsules and ethics forms, aiming to streamline workflows and guarantee timely submissions throughout the review cycle. This early coordination is designed to keep all units aligned and on track.

A key focus was the review of Executive Order No. 28, Series of 2025, which introduced important amendments to the University and Externally Funded Research Policy. Participants examined updated compliance requirements and procedural changes affecting proposal preparation, ethical clearances, and evaluation processes to ensure full understanding and readiness.

The meeting ended with a shared commitment to a coordinated and policy-aligned approach for the 2026 reviews. With clearer timelines and a common grasp of updated guidelines, the units are prepared to strengthen the university's research processes together. #

NEWS BITS



RIHSD and Mahidol University Explored Possible Research Collaboration

by John Amiel A. Rivera

The Research Institute for Human and Social Development is advancing its international reach by exploring a research collaboration with Mahidol University's Institute for Human Rights and Peace Studies. Key leaders from both institutions met via Zoom on February 9 to discuss joint efforts aimed at strengthening research and education in human rights and peacebuilding.

This promising partnership seeks to develop coordinated research programs and projects that address critical issues such as conflict resolution and human rights advocacy. Both universities envision organizing joint conferences to showcase innovative studies and elevate academic dialogue in the region. They also plan to publish significant research findings in respected journals to amplify their impact globally.

The meeting ended with a mutual commitment to formalize the collaboration through continued exchanges and detailed planning. PUP and Mahidol University are poised to build a lasting alliance that will enhance their contributions to social development and peace scholarship across borders. #



PUP Strengthens Community Research with Launch of PIDS Resource Hub

by Hazel DR. Samala

A new dedicated space at the PUP Library now offers free access to credible publications from the Philippine Institute for Development Studies. Located on the second floor of the Ninoy Aquino Library Learning and Resource Center, the PIDS Corner serves as a hub for students, faculty, researchers, and local decision-makers seeking reliable resources on development, policy, and socioeconomic research.

This initiative is part of a nationwide effort by PIDS to make research more accessible at the community level. It was made possible through a memorandum of agreement signed in July 2025, initiated by the Research Publications Office.

Visitors to the PIDS Corner can explore policy notes, discussion papers, and studies that support academic coursework, theses, and evidence-based projects. This resource aims to empower the university community with insights that contribute to better public policy and stronger communities. #

NEWS BITS



RICL Hosts Meeting for the International Visiting Researchers

by Jomar G. Adaya

The Research Institute for Culture and Language (RICL) held an online meeting on February 16 to coordinate and prepare for the arrival of the invited International Visiting Researchers from Mae Fah Luang University, Thailand.

The meeting was led by Dr. Joseph Reylan Viray, Director of RICL, and focused on outlining the roles, responsibilities, and expectations for the visiting scholars. Among those expected to participate in the program are Dr. Phoranee Kaewbovorn, former TV host and News Reporter for Thailand's The Nation News Agency and Assistant Professor of Communication Arts; Dr. Traithana Chaovanapricha, English Language Instructor at the School of Liberal Arts; and Dr. Wilawan Champakeaw, Assistant Director at the Center for Academic Services and Program Chair of the Master of Arts in English for Professional Development Program. All of them are affiliated with Mae Fah Luang University.

The initiative aims to strengthen PUP's research collaboration and internationalization. According to Dr. Viray, the visiting researchers will work closely with PUP faculty to produce high-impact studies for publication in peer-reviewed journals indexed in Web of Science and Scopus. They are also expected to engage the academic community through public lectures in the area of language, linguistics, and media studies. #



General Nakar and PUP Partner to Preserve Biodiversity and Ethnobiology Heritage

by Ryan V. Labana

The Local Government Unit of General Nakar and the Polytechnic University of the Philippines, through the Research Institute for Science and Technology, formalized a partnership on February 5, to advance research and conservation efforts through the project “Nakar Saribuhay: A Legacy of Biodiversity and Ethnobiology.” The agreement was signed at the Municipal Hall by Mayor Alfredo J. Pujeda and PUP-RIST officials, marking a significant step toward protecting the municipality’s natural and cultural heritage.

This collaboration is grounded in a local ordinance that supports joint research and extension activities aimed at documenting and preserving General Nakar’s rich biodiversity and ethnobiological knowledge. The partnership will also promote scientific progress and environmental stewardship within the community.

RIST Director Dr. Armin S. Coronado and key research chiefs, emphasized the importance of integrating academic expertise with local knowledge to foster sustainable livelihoods and conservation practices. The initiative reflects a shared commitment to safeguarding the environment while enhancing community well-being.

Through this agreement, both parties aim to create lasting impact by combining research, education, and community engagement to ensure the protection and enrichment of General Nakar’s unique ecological and cultural resources. #





RIST Leads Wetland Cleanup Drive at Las Piñas–Parañaque Wetland Park

by Ryan V. Labana

A guided walk and coastal clean-up titled “Kalingang Latian: Love for Wetlands” brought together faculty members and students at the Las Piñas–Parañaque Wetland Park to tackle pollution threatening this vital ecosystem. Participants worked along the mangrove-lined shores to remove accumulated waste, collecting a total of 174 kilograms of trash by the end of the activity.

The clean-up revealed a wide variety of debris including plastic bags and wrappers, PET bottles and caps, plastic cups, lids, straws, utensils, styrofoam containers, glass bottles and fragments, personal hygiene waste, tires, slippers, rubber materials, discarded cloth and fibers, fishing gear such as nets and nylon lines, as well as cigarette lighters and bulbs. This diverse collection highlights the extensive pollution challenges faced by coastal wetlands.

Volunteers demonstrated the power of organized community action in restoring the health and beauty of the wetland ecosystem. Their efforts not only removed harmful waste but also raised awareness about the importance of protecting these natural habitats that serve as crucial buffers against climate change and support rich biodiversity.

The activity led by the Research Institute for Science and Technology (RIST), in collaboration with the Department of Biology of the College of Science, concluded with heartfelt thanks to all who contributed their time and energy. Organizers emphasized that sustained collective action and environmental education are essential to preserving the Las Piñas–Parañaque Wetland Park for future generations to enjoy and benefit from. #





RISFI Celebrates Eight New IEEE Publications

by Erwin L. Descallar

Researchers from the Research Institute for Strategic Foresight and Innovation published eight new studies in internationally recognized databases like IEEE Xplore and Scopus. These publications highlight the university's growing role in important fields such as artificial intelligence, agriculture, assistive technology, and mental health.

The studies include a deep learning model to detect diseases in pomelo

leaves and a system to classify coconut maturity, both helping improve farming practices. Other research focused on assistive tools like a Filipino Sign Language recognition system and an AI device to help visually impaired people identify coins.

Mental health was also a key topic, with studies introducing AI-powered tools for psychological first aid. Additionally, one study developed a smart audio system to detect violence in real time, showing how technology

can improve public safety. Another research project used computer vision to sort cacao beans, helping farmers with quality control.

These publications demonstrate RISFI's dedication to creating useful and innovative research that addresses real problems. The university continues to build its reputation as a center for meaningful scientific work that benefits communities in the Philippines and beyond.#



PUBLICATION ALERT



Computer Vision in Agriculture Cacao Bean Sorting Using Deep Learning

Marife A. Rosales; Angelita M. Pagcaliwagan
IEEE, DOI: 10.1109/RIVF68649.2025.11365143
Date Added to IEEE Xplore: 03 February 2026



Smart Audio Surveillance System for Real-Time Violence Detection and Alarm Response Using Long Short-Term Memory

Robert G. de Luna; Khristel B. Biscocho; Charles Adriel A. Del Rosario; Mary Mizzy Clare O. Elipse; Piolo O. Pecho; Sophia Noviel O. Silvestre
IEEE, DOI: 10.1109/TENCON66050.2025.11375132
Date Added to IEEE Xplore: 18 February 2026



Assessing AI-Driven Psychological First Aid: A Case Study of SymptoBot Using ISO/IEC 25010 and Technology Acceptance Model (TAM)

Melani L. Castillo; Robert G. de Luna; Orland D. Tubola; Armando A. Torres; Billy Ray M. Oldan; Julian Nicole A. Gorom; Nathalie T. Javier; Gilliane E. Arias; Christian Paul C. Villanueva
IEEE, DOI: 10.1109/WAIE67422.2025.11381219
Date Added to IEEE Xplore: 17 February 2026



Deep Learning-Based Recognition of Selected Filipino Sign Language Phrases

Robert G de Luna, Kriztel Anne R Girang, Jan Earl Laurenz D Lucido, Leigh Francis E Marasigan, Cindy Nicole D Santos, Marie Louise C Sebidos
IEEE, DOI: 10.1109/RIVF68649.2025.11365065
Date Added to IEEE Xplore: 03 February 2026



Disease Identification Model for Pomelo Leaves Using Deep Learning

Robert G de Luna, Rey Andrew C Argañosa, Renz F Famisan, Patricia Marie M Labampa, Shenielle Kaye T Mancenon, Heavenly C Villanueva
IEEE, DOI: 10.1109/RIVF68649.2025.11365164
Date Added to IEEE Xplore: 03 February 2026



Deep Learning-Based Detection and Auditory Summation of the Philippine New Generation Series Peso Coins for Visually Impaired Individuals

Robert G.de Luna; Jana Elyssa O. Bandong; Selwin Adam R. Garcia; Trishia L. Mirabel; Maria Carmela L. Panaligan; Jullianne Christille N. Sunga
IEEE, DOI: 10.1109/TENCON66050.2025.11375115
Date Added to IEEE Xplore: 18 February 2026



Symptobot: An AI Diagnostic Website Enhancing Psychological First Aid & Psychiatric Collection and Analysis of Symptoms

Melani L. Castillo; Robert G. de Luna; Orland D. Tubola; Armando A. Torres; Billy Ray M. Oldan; Julian Nicole A. Gorom; Nathalie T. Javier; Gilliane E. Arias; Christian Paul C. Villanueva
IEEE, DOI: 10.1109/WAIE67422.2025.11381172
Date Added to IEEE Xplore: 17 February 2026



Coconut Maturity Level Classification using Image Preprocessing and Deep Transfer Learning

Robert G de Luna, Jheca Camille M Alegre, Rhose Anne P Martinez, Monica Rose N Ramos, Hannah Micah A Sadian, Oswald Godwin G Villanueva
IEEE, DOI: 10.1109/RIVF68649.2025.11365215
Date Added to IEEE Xplore: 03 February 2026

JOURNAL CALL FOR PAPERS

SOCIAL SCIENCES AND DEVELOPMENT REVIEW
is accepting submissions for its December 2026 issue.

Should there be concerns, you may send your communication to:
Managing Editor, Social Sciences and Development Review Journal
Research Publications Office

Email: socialsciencesreview@pup.edu.ph
Subject: SDR Contribution / Surname, Given Name, Middle Initial
Contact Information: 5335-1787 or 5335-1777 local 232 and 224

- No Article Processing Charges (APC)
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SCOPE

- Poverty Reduction Studies
- Research on Economic, Social, Political and Cultural Dimensions
- Peace and Security Studies
- Social and cultural development
- Communication and society
- Filipino culture
- Heritage studies/ intangible cultural heritage/ heritage preservation
- Historiography
- Human growth and development studies
- Organizational behavior
- Popular culture
- Poverty reduction studies
- Other related topics

Please scan code for the Journal Policies and Guidelines.

POLYTECHNIC UNIVERSITY of the PHILIPPINES
Office of the Vice President for Research, Extension and Development

BISIG
PANAWAGAN NG PAGPAPASA NG PAPEL-PANANALIKSIK
Maaring magsumite para sa susunod na layu hanggang Agosto 31, 2026

- isang kaukulang bayad para sa proseso ng paglalathala (Article Processing Charges)
- dumaraan ang mga malikhaing akda at pananaliksik sa masinsin at mabubising proseso ng Double-Blind, Peer-Review katuwag ang mga batikan at respetadong manunulat at iskolar sa loob at labas ng bansa
- libre at bukas itong maa-access sa iba't ibang mga platforma (PUP OJS Website, Philippine E-Journals, Google Scholar, atbp.)

Ang BISIG ay tumatanggap ng mga artikulo o papel pananaliksik hanggi sa katatagan ng pagpapasa, awang, at katatagan ng mga pananaliksik at komunidad.

Tatanggapin ito ang mga sumusunod:

- oryinal at unyonsino
- globalisasyon
- neoliberal na globalisasyon
- kaisang manggagana
- katatagan ng mga antakapi at iba't ibang aray na
- katatagan ng mga industriya

Tumatanggap din ito ng mga kaugnay sa hemang kontribusyon, tulad ng:

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- komentaryo
- tansing ng katatagan
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Tumatanggap ang BISIG ng mga kontribusyon sa buong taon. Kung may paglilingkod sa katatagan, magandang magbigay ugayon sa Managangal ng Rebue ng Bisig sa Awar. Prof. Prestidone S. Sagat mula sa tangpapang ng Research Publications Office, Rm. 425, South Wing, Main Academic Bldg., Polytechnic University of the Philippines - Alabang Campus, Sta. Mesa, Manila.

Please scan code for the Journal Policies and Guidelines.

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Mabini Review
is accepting submissions for its September 2026 issue.

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SCOPE:

- Philosophical studies (contemporary issues, classical traditions, and emerging philosophical trends)
- Filipino Philosophy

Interdisciplinary contributions rooted in rigorous philosophical inquiry, encompassing but not limited to the following areas:

- Historiography
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- Media laws and ethics
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- Peace and security studies
- Literature, performing and folk arts
- Popular culture
- Organizational behavior

Please scan code for the Journal Policies and Guidelines.

Should there be concerns, you may also send your communication to:
Managing Editor, Mabini Review Journal
Research Publications Office

Email: mabinireview@pup.edu.ph
Subject: Mabini Review Contribution / Surname, Given Name, Middle Initial
Contact Information: 5335-1787 or 5335-1777 local 232 and 224

POLYTECHNIC UNIVERSITY of the PHILIPPINES
Office of the Vice President for Research, Extension and Development

PUP EDUCATION REVIEW
(formerly Education Review)
IS ACCEPTING SUBMISSIONS ALL YEAR ROUND.

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- Rigorous Double-Blind, Peer-Review Process
- Open Access

FOCUS AND SCOPE

The contents of the PUP Education Review include analyses of theories, materials development, application of methods and theories, policy descriptions and implementations, research reports, qualitative and quantitative studies, and systematic reviews. Specifically, the following topics of interest are the focus of journal's publication:

- Organizational Development in Education
- Teacher Training and Development
- Innovative Teaching Strategies
- Philosophy in Education
- Global and Global Education
- Youth Development

The PUP Education Review accepts the following types of articles:

- Original articles
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- Systematic literature review articles
- Action research articles
- Theoretical papers

Should there be concerns, you may also send your communication to:

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Managing Editor, PUP Education Review Journal
Research Publications Office

Email: edrev@pup.edu.ph
Subject: PUP Education Review/Surname, First Name
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Please scan code for the Journal Policies and Guidelines.

POLYTECHNIC UNIVERSITY of the PHILIPPINES
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PUP Journal of Science and Technology
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SCOPE FOR THIS ISSUE:

- Life Sciences
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- Mathematics, Engineering, and Technology

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PUP J Office of the Vice President for Research, Extension and Development

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PUP TSEK S2 E1: Financial Literacy and Myths (aired January 10, 2026)

In the season opener, Dr. Ria S. Fajilago tackles widespread financial confusion and myths that often hinder smart money management. Highlighting a sobering “Reality Check” from the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas, she reveals that only one in four Filipino adults meets global financial literacy standards. This episode sets the foundation for the season by clarifying key financial principles and encouraging listeners to rethink their money habits.

PUP T.S.E.K. Season 2:

Empowering Filipinos with Financial Wisdom (1st of 3 parts)

As the new year begins, PUP T.S.E.K. (Tagumpay Sa Ekstensyong Komunidad), a university-led extension project, returns with its second season on Balitang Good Vibes, bringing vital financial literacy topics to Filipino audiences. Airing every Saturday, 7:30 AM on DZME 1530 kHz and streaming live on Facebook and YouTube, this season continues its mission to equip listeners with practical knowledge to navigate their personal finances confidently. Hosted by VP RED Dr. Anna Ruby P. Gapasin, and featuring expert insights from Dr. Ria S. Fajilago, each episode breaks down complex financial concepts into actionable advice.



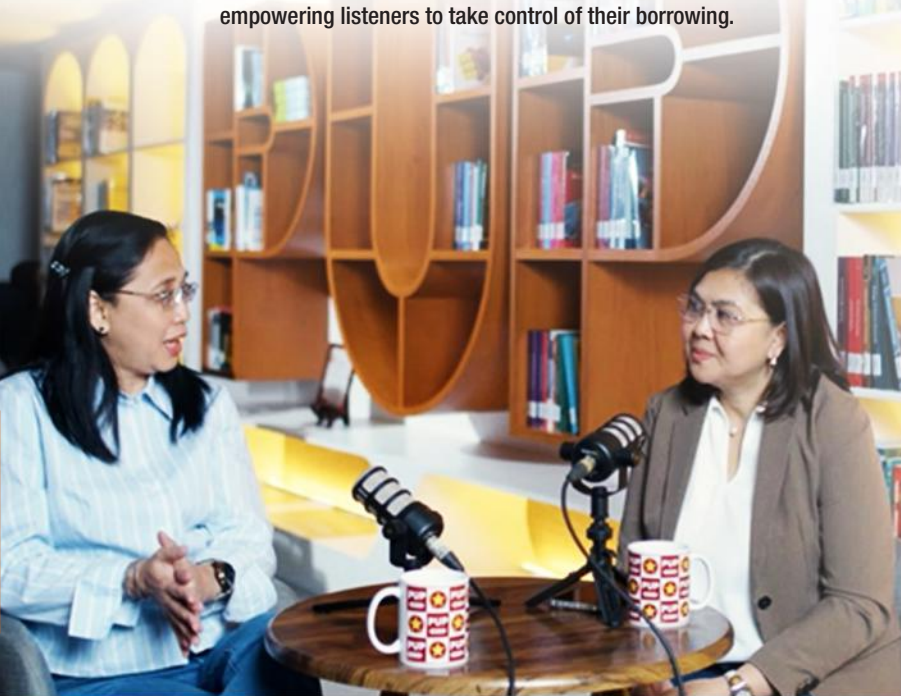
PUP TSEK S2 E2: Pag-iipon (Saving) (aired January 17, 2026)

Saving is the first step toward financial freedom, and this episode dives into why it matters. Dr. Fajilago explains how saving provides a safety net for emergencies, peace of mind, and a pathway to future goals. She introduces the practical 50/30/20 budgeting rule—allocating 50% of income to needs, 30% to wants, and 20% to savings or debt payments. The “Reality Check” notes a post-pandemic surge in digital account ownership, yet over half of Filipino adults still save money at home, highlighting opportunities for growth in formal savings habits.



PUP TSEK S2 E3: Pangungutang (Debt) (aired January 24, 2026)

Debt can be a double-edged sword, and this episode guides listeners on managing it wisely. Dr. Fajilago distinguishes between Good Debt—such as investments in education or business—and Bad Debt, including high-interest loans and luxury spending. She shares the Debt Snowball Method, a strategy to pay off debts by focusing on the smallest balances first to build momentum. The episode also warns against the “minimum payment trap” common with credit cards, empowering listeners to take control of their borrowing.



PUP TSEK S2 E4: Growing Money Through Investing (aired January 31, 2026)

Closing the month, this episode explores how investing differs from saving by focusing on growth over the medium to long term. Dr. Fajilago explains essential concepts like inflation, compounding interest, and the risk-return trade-off. She introduces accessible investment options for Filipinos, including Retail Treasury Bonds, Pag-IBIG MP2, Mutual Funds, and Direct Stock Investing. Despite a 50% increase in stock market accounts in 2024, many remain cautious due to limited funds or knowledge, underscoring the need for continued education.



PUP T.S.E.K. Season 2 continues to be a vital resource for Filipinos seeking to improve their financial well-being. This informative segment is proudly produced by the Office of the Vice President for Research, Extension and Development, Extension Management Office, and Communication Management Office.

Stay tuned every Saturday for more empowering episodes that help you take charge of your financial future.

The dedicated production team includes:

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Communication and Management Office



DMW and RIHSD Explore Research Partnership

by John Amiel A. Rivera

Key leaders from the Department of Migrant Workers' Institute for Advanced and Strategic Studies on Migration and Development met with the Research Institute for Human and Social Development on February 12, to explore a research partnership focused on migrant worker issues. The meeting set the stage for collaborative efforts aimed at deepening understanding and supporting evidence-based migration policies.

The discussion highlighted RIHSD's expertise in social development research and its capacity to lead joint conferences, publish impactful studies, and build research capabilities. The Department of Migrant Workers shared its 2026–2028 research agenda, emphasizing priorities such as seafarer protection, mental health, reintegration, labor migration governance, and digitalization of migration processes.

Both institutions identified strong alignment in their goals and agreed that combining academic research with policy-driven mandates could generate valuable insights to improve migration systems and protect overseas Filipino workers. They recognized the potential for joint studies and shared activities to influence national migration policies directly.

The meeting ended with a shared commitment to formalize the partnership, aiming to develop innovative, data-driven programs that address the complex challenges faced by migrant workers today. #



RPO Boosts Scholarly Engagement at 16th Annual Social Ethics Conference

by Hazel DR. Samala

The Research Publications Office played a key role in the 16th Annual Conference, held on February 18-20 at the Holy Cross College of Davao and North Valley College, through the participation of Mabini Review Managing Editor Assoc. Prof. Gerlie C. Ogatis.

Assoc. Prof. Ogatis actively disseminated calls for papers for PUP's academic journals, including Mabini Review, Social Science and Development Review, PUP Education Review, Entrada, Bisig, and the PUP Journal of Science and Technology. This effort highlights the office's commitment to increasing the visibility and reach of PUP's scholarly publications.

Other PUP faculty members also contributed as presenters and participants, reinforcing the university's dedication to expanding its research presence in Mindanao. The engagement with institutions in the southern Philippines opens important avenues for collaboration, knowledge exchange, and inclusive growth among Filipino academicians and researchers.

The conference served as a strategic platform for broadening research networks and is expected to foster future partnerships that will enrich the country's research ecosystem, with the Research Publications Office playing a vital role in amplifying PUP's academic contributions. #



PUP PYLON Cohort 2

Strengthens Startup Mindset and Problem Validation Skills

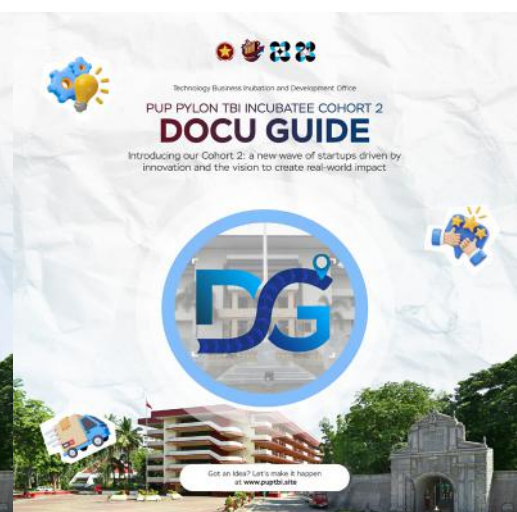
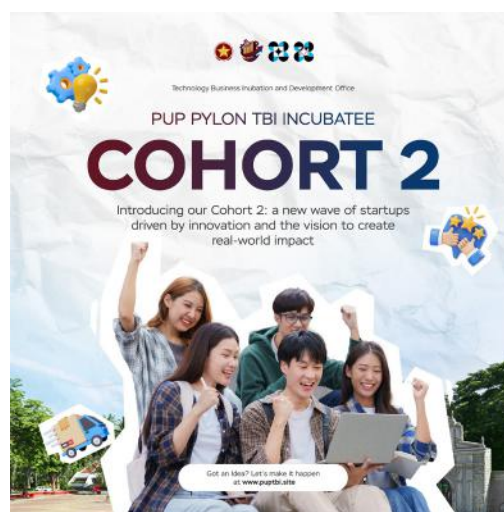
by Kurt Leinard D. Balbuena

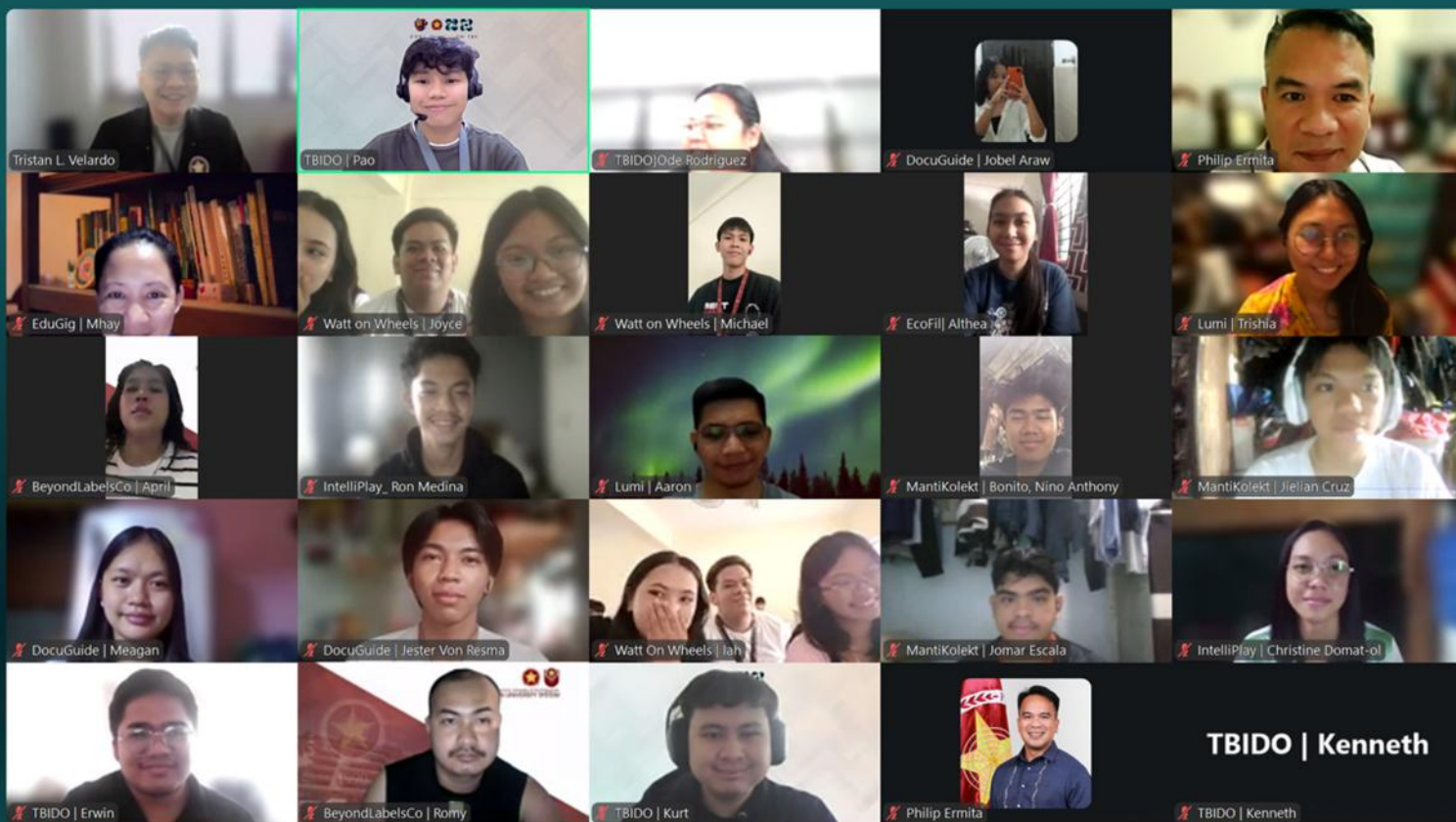
PUP PYLON Cohort 2 reached a significant step on February 18, with a focused learning session that shifted participants from idea generation to entrepreneurial thinking. Led by Engr. Tristan L. Velardo, the session emphasized the importance of developing a resilient startup mindset and mastering problem validation to create ventures that truly address market needs.

Engr. Velardo encouraged participants to embrace adaptability and view challenges as opportunities for growth. He stressed that successful entrepreneurs thrive by iterating through trial and error, building resilience to navigate uncertainty in technology and business.

The session's core message urged innovators to fall in love with the problem, not the solution. By focusing on evidence-based validation, participants learned to identify real-world challenges clearly, ensuring their products are both relevant and impactful.

With these insights, the cohort is better equipped to transform ideas into meaningful ventures that contribute to the local startup ecosystem. The program continues to support these young entrepreneurs as they build innovative solutions grounded in genuine needs. #





Student Startups Sharpen Customer Insights in PUP PYLON Cohort 2 Learning Session

by Rodelaine L. Rodriguez

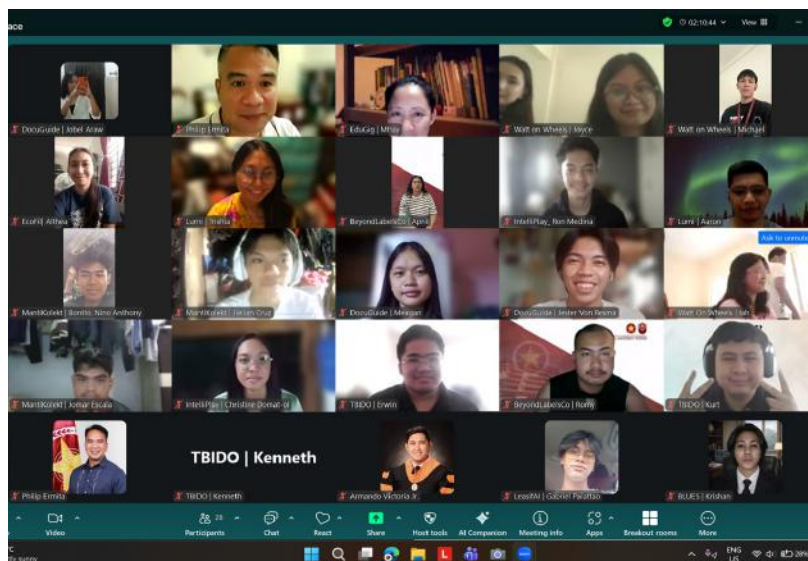
Student startups in PUP's PYLON Cohort 2 took a major step forward in understanding their customers during a recent learning session focused on Customer Discovery and Persona Building. The session helped participants move beyond assumptions by engaging directly with potential users to uncover real needs and challenges.

Through practical exercises, the startups learned how to conduct effective customer interviews, develop interview guides, and identify target segments. They then translated these insights into detailed customer personas, allowing them to refine their value propositions based on actual user behavior rather than guesswork.

The session also emphasized the importance of validation, encouraging teams to continuously test and improve their ideas using real feedback. This approach equips startups to create solutions that are both innovative and truly relevant to the communities they serve.

By adopting a user-centered mindset, the cohort is better prepared to develop impactful and sustainable ventures.

This initiative reflects ongoing efforts to empower student entrepreneurs with the skills and tools needed to succeed in today's dynamic market. #





A student from PUP Quezon City actively engages in the Startup QC Caravan, confidently participating in the discussion and demonstrating enthusiasm for innovation and entrepreneurship.

Startup QC Caravan

Ignites Entrepreneurial Spirit at PUP Campuses

by Engr. Ma. Lourdes R. Girado

Students at PUP Sta. Mesa and PUP Quezon City were energized by the Startup QC Caravan in February 18 and 24, an event designed to inspire entrepreneurial thinking and promote the Business Plan Competition – Student Edition. The caravan introduced students to the competition’s mechanics and opportunities, encouraging them to transform their ideas into viable startups.

Led by Ms. Maye Galupo and supported by Launchgarage, the sessions attracted participants from diverse fields such as engineering, marketing, and information technology. Students learned about the competition’s prizes and support systems, motivating them to take part with the simple

eligibility requirement of having at least one Quezon City resident on their team.

A standout feature of the event was the strong mentorship offered by PUP PYLON TBI, which committed to guiding students in refining their business plans and pitching skills. This support is inclusive of both tech and non-tech students, ensuring all aspiring entrepreneurs have access to valuable resources.

Through initiatives like the Startup QC Caravan, PUP continues to foster a vibrant culture of innovation and entrepreneurship, empowering students to develop impactful ventures that can make a difference.#



PUP Sta. Mesa students show strong interest in the Startup QC Competition, actively engaging and raising questions on the criteria as they prepare to join.



Official photo-op of Bootcamp participants from various LGUs, Startup enablers, and partners from the event.

TBIDO Strengthens Startup Support Through National LGU Training and Immersion

by Hanah Pauline “Pao” Delos Santos

The Technology Business Incubation and Development Office, represented by John Dee Gonos, joined the Startup BoostCamp held in Iloilo City from February 2 to 5, to deepen their expertise in building and sustaining vibrant startup ecosystems. The program brought together delegates from all 17 National Capital Region local government units to engage in capacity-building sessions focused on innovation-driven growth.

The three-day event featured discussions with startup founders and ecosystem leaders, workshops on design thinking and policy development, and immersion visits to innovation hubs and government offices. These activities showcased how coordinated efforts between public and private sectors can create scalable and supportive environments for startups.

Participation in the BoostCamp aligns with PUP TBIDO’s mission to enhance its incubation programs by learning from successful ecosystem models and addressing localized challenges. The insights gained will help refine support frameworks and strengthen collaboration with ecosystem partners.

As PUP TBIDO continues to nurture startup cohorts, the knowledge acquired from this training will improve guidance for early-stage ventures, ensuring they receive structured and responsive support. This engagement reinforces the office’s role as a key player in fostering a connected and resilient innovation ecosystem.

Through initiatives like the BoostCamp, PUP TBIDO advances its commitment to bridging innovation, policy, and enterprise development, contributing to a stronger and more dynamic startup community.#



John Dee Gonos discusses startup ecosystem development and innovation-driven initiatives.



Engr. Velardo with colleagues from different agencies during the WIPO Intellectual Property Management Clinic.

PUP Strengthens Startup Success with Strategic Intellectual Property Training

by Hanah Pauline “Pao” Delos Santos

A four-day workshop in Manila empowered PUP’s startup support team with advanced skills in intellectual property management. Organized by the World Intellectual Property Organization held on February 2-5, the training focused on using IP strategically to drive business growth and global expansion, helping participants integrate patents, trademarks, and copyrights into their long-term plans.

Engr. Tristan Velardo represented the Technology Business Incubation and Development Office alongside innovators from MSMEs and support institutions nationwide. The program included interactive sessions on developing IP roadmaps and case studies demonstrating how startups can embed IP strategies to scale, mitigate risks, and expand internationally.

Insights from the workshop will directly inform TBIDO’s incubation programs, including the current PUP PYLON Cohort 2. By guiding startups to identify and protect their intellectual assets, the office strengthens their ability to compete and grow sustainably in global markets.

This training reinforces TBIDO’s commitment to advancing technology commercialization and startup competitiveness. It positions the office as a key player in building a robust, innovation-driven ecosystem that bridges the gap between invention and market success. #





MSU-TCTO and PUP

Strengthen Gender Equity Through Collaborative Benchmarking

by Elgie Jonathan R. Greganda



The PUP Gender Equity, Diversity, and Social Inclusion (GEDSI) Office welcomed the delegation from Mindanao State University-Tawi-Tawi College of Technology and Oceanography (MSU-TCTO) for a benchmarking activity held last February 16. The visit served as an avenue for knowledge-sharing and institutional learning on best practices in advancing Gender and Development (GAD) initiatives and strengthening mechanisms that promote safe, inclusive, and respectful learning environments.

Representing MSU-TCTO were Assoc. Prof. Almira A. Hadji, GAD Director of the MSU-TCTO, alongside with GAD Staff of MSU-TCTO, Ms. Radzma J. Julhiji, who engaged in productive discussions with the Director of PUP GEDSIO, Asst. Prof. Jerome Permejo and Chief of Gender Equity Programs, Projects, and Advocacy Section, Assoc. Prof. Jose Clutario. The benchmarking activity provided an opportunity to exchange insights on policies, programs, and strategies related to gender mainstreaming and the prevention of gender-based violence within academic institutions.

This collaboration reinforces the commitment of both universities to create inclusive spaces and strengthen their Gender and Development systems. The partnership paves the way for ongoing joint efforts to promote gender equity and diversity in their academic communities.#





GEDSIO Leads U-Wide Pass-a-Pad Campaign for Menstrual Health Awareness

by Jose V. Clutario

In a powerful show of solidarity and care, the Gender Equity, Diversity, and Social Inclusion (GEDSI) Office, rallied the University community to take action on menstrual health through the launch of the Pass-a-Pad Campaign ahead of National Women's Month Celebration.

Anchored on the University's commitment to gender equality and inclusive well-being, the campaign calls on sector heads and offices to donate menstrual products such as sanitary napkins, tampons, and menstrual cups for distribution to women and girls in need within the PUP community.

The initiative responds to a growing concern about period poverty, a condition where limited access to affordable menstrual products affects women's health, comfort, and participation in school and work. The official memorandum highlights that menstrual products are recurring necessities often excluded from basic assistance programs, forcing many to compromise their well-being.

Through the Pass-a-Pad Campaign, GEDSIO transforms awareness into collective action. Donations gathered from across the University are set to be distributed during Women's Month activities and through the GEDSI Office, ensuring that support reaches those who need it most.

Beyond material assistance, the campaign fosters a culture of empathy and shared responsibility. By encouraging participation from all sectors, it reinforces the idea that menstrual health is not a private concern, but a community and institutional responsibility closely tied to dignity, gender equity, and equal access to opportunities.

Participating units will also receive recognition for their contributions, highlighting the campaign as both an advocacy effort and a meaningful avenue for Gender and Development (GAD) engagement.

As GEDSIO continues to lead initiatives that address everyday gender-based challenges, the Pass-a-Pad Campaign stands as a powerful reminder that building inclusive spaces begins with ensuring that no student is left behind, even in the most basic and essential needs. #

PUP Gender Equity, Diversity, and Social Inclusion Office

CALL FOR DONATION

/gadpup gadoepup.edu.ph

PASS-A-PAD CAMPAIGN

You can contribute the following:

- ✓ **SANITARY NAPKINS**
- ✓ **TAMPONS**
- ✓ **MENSTRUAL CUPS**

We are accepting donations:

Until Feb. 27, 2026 Time 08:00AM - 05:00PM

GEDSI OFFICE - 4TH FLOOR SOUTH WING, ROOM 409



FEBRUARY IS NATIONAL DOWN SYNDROME CONSCIOUSNESS MONTH

Ang National Down Syndrome Consciousness Month na ginugunita tuwing Pebrero ay naglalayong magpalaganap ng kamalayan, tamang kaalaman, at pag-unawa tungkol sa Down syndrome, habang nilalaban ang stigma at diskriminasyon sa mga taong may ganitong kondisyon. Binibigyang-diin nito na ang pagkakaiba-iba ay isang lakas na dapat iginalang at pahalagahan, at na sa pamamagitan ng inklusibong edukasyon, suporta ng pamilya at komunidad, at pantay na oportunidad, ang mga taong may Down syndrome ay maaaring mamuhay nang makabuluhan, produktibo, at may dignidad. Kaisa rin ang Polytechnic University of the Philippines (PUP) sa pagsusulong ng isang inklusibo, makatao, at makatarungang pamantasan na kumikilala sa karapatan, respeto, empatiya, at pagkakapantay-pantay para sa lahat anuman ang kanilang kakayahan at kalagayan.



PUP Gender Equity, Diversity, and Social Inclusion Office



FEBRUARY IS NATIONAL DOWN SYNDROME CONSCIOUSNESS MONTH

