



PUP Earns Dual ISO 9001 and ISO 21001 Certifications

by Marynelle L. Rosales

The Polytechnic University of the Philippines has become the first state university in the National Capital Region to secure dual international certification under ISO 9001:2015 for Quality Management Systems and ISO 21001:2018 for Educational Organizations Management Systems. The certifications cover all PUP campuses and academic extension nationwide and mark a major institutional step to strengthen consistent, transparent and high-quality public higher education services.

TÜV SÜD PSB Philippines Inc. validated PUP's certifications following rigorous system audits that assessed compliance with international standards for management, governance and service delivery. Auditors examined documentation, processes and implementation across academic and administrative units.

Key operational areas reviewed and standardized include student admission and enrollment, records management, instruction, assessment and support services. The certification process also established mechanisms for continual monitoring and improvement to ensure processes remain efficient and responsive to stakeholder needs.

By aligning operations with international standards, PUP expects more efficient frontline services for students and stakeholders, greater transparency in administrative procedures and strengthened public trust in its role as the country's largest people's university committed to accessibility, excellence and integrity.

Congratulations!



POLYTECHNIC
UNIVERSITY
OF THE
PHILIPPINES

1ST NCR STATE UNIVERSITY TO SECURE
2 ISO CERTIFICATIONS ACROSS ITS CAMPUSES

ISO 21001:2018

EDUCATIONAL ORGANIZATION MANAGEMENT SYSTEM

ISO 9001:2015

QUALITY MANAGEMENT SYSTEM



"This dual certification reflects the collective effort of our faculty, staff and administrators," said PUP President Dr. Manuel M. Muhi. "It reaffirms our mandate to deliver quality education equitably and ensures that our processes meet global benchmarks so we can better serve our students and communities."

"We view ISO certification not as an endpoint but as a framework for continuous improvement," said Vice President and Quality Management Representative Dr. Anna Ruby Gapasin. "These standards give us the tools to institutionalize good practices, use data to guide decisions, and sustain service quality across all campuses as we translate policy into measurable outcomes."

PUP, through the Institutional Quality Management Office, will continue internal audits, staff training and system reviews to maintain certification and further embed quality management across the university. #

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December 2025 Issue



RPO, PIDS Join Forces; Indigenous Knowledge Forum Set

by Hazel DR. Samala and Rolando P. Quiņones

The Research Publications Office (RPO) met with representatives of the Socioeconomic Research Portal for the Philippines (SERP-P) of the Philippine Institute for Development Studies (PIDS) on January 29 to explore stronger institutional collaboration for wider research dissemination. The exploratory meeting focused on expanding the reach of Philippine research and promoting open access to policy-relevant knowledge nationwide.

As an immediate outcome, the partners announced their first joint initiative for the year: a Knowledge-Sharing Forum on “Indigenous Peoples and Nation-Building: Lessons in Leadership, Sustainability, and Peace,” scheduled for March 11, 2026, at Bukidnon State University. The forum will convene scholars, practitioners and stakeholders to discuss indigenous knowledge systems and their role in nation-building, reinforcing both organizations’ commitment to inclusive and impactful research outreach.

Representing RPO were Director Dr. Emejidio C. Gepila Jr.; Marynelle L. Rosales, chief for Popularization and Dissemination; Dr. Rolando P. Quiņones, editor; and Gerlie C. Ogatis, managing editor of the Mabini Review. From PIDS and SERP-P, attendees included PIDS President Dr. Philip Arnold P. Tũaño; SERP-P Project Director Melinda T. Quiņones; SERP-P Project Manager Ezekiel R. H. Nicomedes; and Maria Alyssa E. Casulla, officer-in-charge of the Public Affairs Division.

SERP-P, the country’s online repository of socioeconomic research, said it will continue strengthening open-access initiatives through partnerships with academic institutions such as PUP. Both organizations described the meeting as a promising start to a sustained collaboration that will amplify Filipino research, support evidence-based policymaking and broaden access for educators, researchers and decision-makers. #

RESEARCH NEWS BITS

RIHSD Joins Consortium to Finalize Child- Centered Research Agenda

by Stanley A. Gullab

Representatives from the Research Institute for Human and Social Development joined the Research Consortium on Children’s Rights convened by the Council for the Welfare of Children on Jan. 22 to help finalize a unified, child-centered research agenda.

The meeting aimed to deepen understanding of children’s issues, identify knowledge gaps and align research priorities to strengthen evidence-based policymaking and program design for children. Participants worked to ensure the agenda reflects interdisciplinary approaches and practical research questions that can inform national and local interventions.

Attending from RIHSD were Director Dr. Melcah P. Monsura, Center for Community Development Studies Chief Diosdado P. Franco, Center for Social Science and Development Studies Chief Werllie P. Bueno, and Center for Social Inclusivity Studies Chief Chloe Nicole D. Piamonte. RIHSD said it will support implementation of the agreed priorities through collaborative studies and policy engagement with consortium partners. #

Expand Global Readership

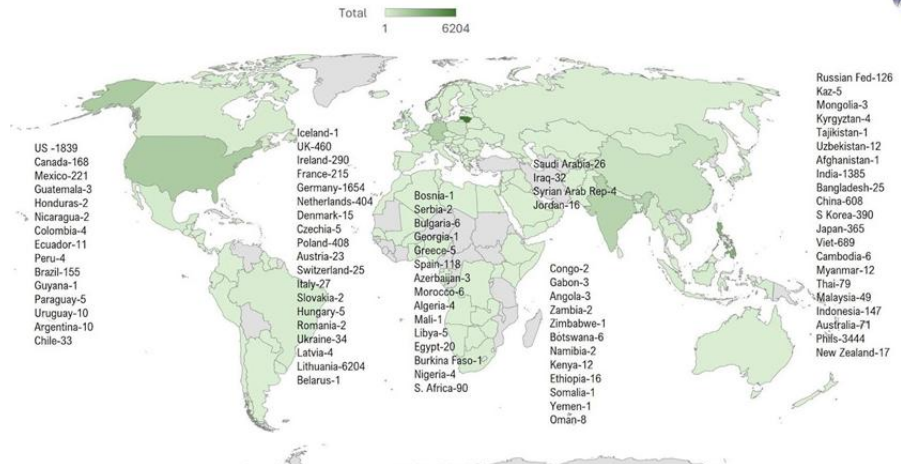
by Hazel DR.

PUP's academic journals are expanding their global influence, drawing substantial readership across Asia, Europe, the Americas, Africa and Oceania, according to the latest geographical readership reports. Several titles registered thousands of international readers, signaling growing recognition of PUP scholarship worldwide.

The Social Sciences and Development Review (SSDR) posted strong international engagement, led by Lithuania (6,204), the Philippines (3,444), the United States (1,839), Germany (1,654) and India (1,385), with additional readership from Vietnam, China and the United Kingdom. BISIG Journal also recorded significant global reach, topping its list with Lithuania (6,037) and the Philippines (1,507), followed by the United States, China, Vietnam, South Korea, Poland, India, the United Kingdom and Indonesia.

The PUP Education Review expanded its international audience with top readers in Lithuania (5,703), the Philippines (1,092) and the United States (643), alongside readers in

SOCIAL SCIENCES AND DEVELOPMENT REVIEW



BISIG



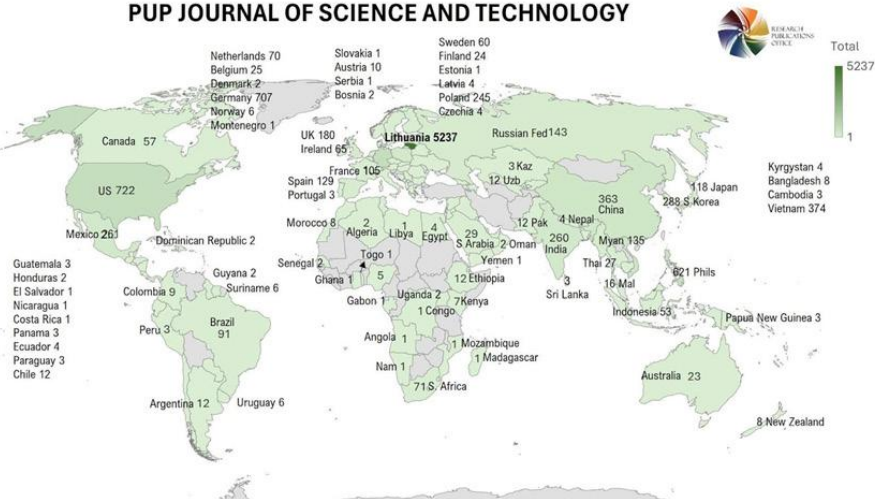
Journals Across Continents

Samala

MABINI REVIEW



PUP JOURNAL OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY



ENTRADA



India, Vietnam, China, Mexico, the United Kingdom, South Korea and Japan. The Mabini Review showed strong engagement in the Philippines (4,584), Lithuania (3,336), the United States (1,460) and India (1,269), with continued readership from Vietnam, China, the United Kingdom, the Netherlands, South Korea and Japan.

The PUP Journal of Science and Technology (PUPJST) attracted audiences from Lithuania (5,237), the United States (722) and the Philippines (621), as well as readers in Vietnam, China, South Korea, India, Poland, the United Kingdom and the Russian Federation. Entrada broadened its international footprint with top readership in Lithuania (3,929), the Philippines (1,803) and the United States (653), plus interest from China, India, the Netherlands, France, the United Kingdom, Japan and Indonesia.

All titles are indexed in Crossref, Google Scholar, Scilit, the Bielefeld Academic Search Engine, Philippine E-Journals and the Andrew Gonzales Philippine Citation Index, reinforcing their accessibility and scholarly visibility. #



RIHSD Director Monsura is the New Editor-in-Chief of SSDR Journal

by Chloe Nicole D. Piamonte

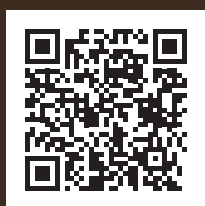
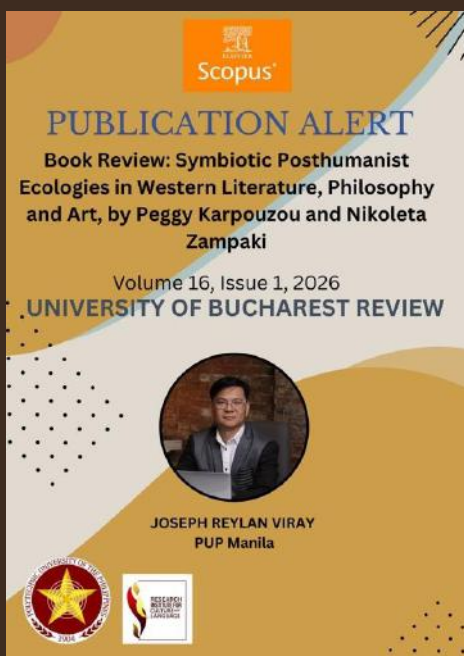
expected to strengthen the journal's scholarly rigour and raise the Research Institute for Human and Social Development's profile in national and international research circles.

The Research Institute for Human and Social Development (RIHSD) celebrates the appointment as recognition of Dr. Monsura's leadership and her dedication to advancing the research priorities of the Office of the

Vice President for Research, Extension and Development (OVPRED) and the university.

Working closely with the Research Publications Office (RPO), Dr. Monsura will lead efforts to enhance RIHSD's scholarly output, promote academic excellence and expand the journal's reach and impact across the social sciences and development research communities. #

Dr. Melcah P. Monsura has been named editor-in-chief of PUP's Social Sciences and Development Review (SSDR), a move



(scan to read Dr. Joseph Reylan Viray's full review)

RICL Director Publishes Book Review on Posthumanist Ecologies

by Alvin M. Ortiz

Dr. Joseph Reylan Viray, director of the Research Institute for Culture and Language (RICL), has published a book review in the University of Bucharest Review, Literary and Cultural Studies Series, from the University of Bucharest Press.

The review examines Symbiotic Posthumanist Ecologies in Western Literature, Philosophy and Art, edited by Peggy Karpouzou and Nikoleta Zampaki. Dr. Viray highlights key developments in contemporary posthumanist thought, especially the emerging "symbiotic turn" or "Symbiocene," which repositions humans within networks of ecological and multispecies interdependence. He notes the book's interdisciplinary reach across literature, philosophy and the arts and its call to rethink anthropocentrism,

citizenship, technology and ecological ethics.

Importantly, Dr. Viray situates these debates within the Philippine context, drawing attention to indigenous knowledge systems and relational concepts such as kapwa as resources for local engagements with posthumanist frameworks.

The University of Bucharest Review is indexed in major international databases, including EBSCO, ERIH Plus, DOAJ, MLA, Scopus, Sherpa Romeo, ROAD, the Internet Archive and the Romanian National Library, underscoring the global visibility of Dr. Viray's contribution. His publication reflects RICL's commitment to globally engaged scholarship that remains grounded in Philippine intellectual and cultural concerns. #



Dr. Peña Named Writer-in-Residence at Jan Michalski Foundation in Switzerland

by Mariel Jane B. Rellama

Dr. Romeo Peña, chief of the Center for Museology and Heritage Studies, has been selected as a Writer-in-Residence at the Jan Michalski Foundation Writing Residency 2026 in Montricher, Switzerland.

Dr. Peña is the first Filipino and only the third writer from Southeast Asia chosen for the prestigious international program. The residency is designed to give authors and translators

uninterrupted time and space to develop and complete literary projects.

The Jan Michalski Foundation hosts about 40 writers each year, accommodating residents in seven private cabins that support focused creative work. This year's residency places special emphasis on nature writing, including fiction and creative nonfiction that promote environmental awareness, sustainability and reflection on human–nature relationships.



The selection is a significant milestone for Dr. Peña's writing career and raises the international profile of Filipino authors. The residency offers a platform for his work to contribute to global conversations on culture, heritage and the environment. #



Institute-Funded Language Research Published in International Journal

by Jomar G. Adaya

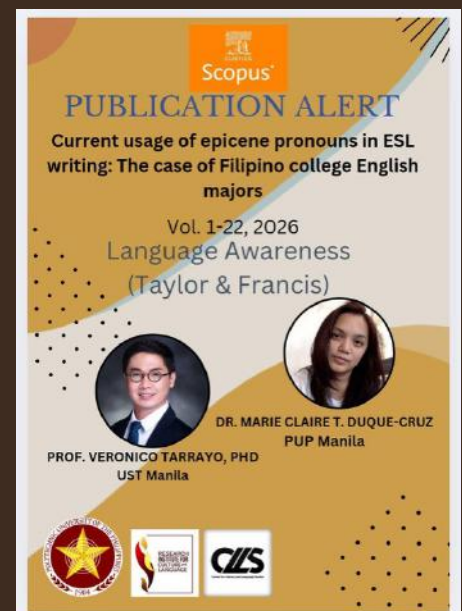
A research study funded by the Center for Language and Literary Studies (CLLS) under the Research Institute for Culture and Language has been published in *Language Awareness*, a peer-reviewed journal from Taylor & Francis.

Titled “Current Usage of Epicene Pronouns in ESL Writing: The Case of Filipino College English Majors,” the study was led by Dr. Marie Claire Duque-Cruz, associate professor at the Polytechnic University of the Philippines College of Arts and Letters, in collaboration with Dr. Veronico Tarrayo, professor at the University of Santo Tomas Manila and a PUP alumnus.

The research examines the use of epicene pronouns—gender-neutral pronouns used when a person's gender

is unspecified—in English as a Second Language writing. While gender-fair language has gained attention globally, choices about inclusive pronouns in ESL classrooms, especially in more conservative educational settings, remain underexplored. The findings indicate a linguistic shift toward inclusivity among young Filipino writers and underscore the role of education in shaping gender-fair language practices.

Funded by CLLS and facilitated by Chief Alvin Ortiz, the project was implemented from January to September 2025. The study fills a gap in scholarship on gender-fair language in ESL contexts and recommends pedagogical strategies to normalize inclusive pronoun use in academic and professional discourse. #



(scan to read full study)



Sikat Foundation and RIHSD Explore Solar Partnership

by Stanley A. Gullab

The Sikat Solar Challenge Foundation, Inc. and Research Institute for Human and Social Development and the held an exploratory meeting on Jan. 23 to discuss potential collaboration on shared research and extension goals. The session focused on identifying areas where university expertise and the foundation's initiatives could align to benefit local communities.

Attendees included RIHSD Director Dr. Melcah P. Monsura, Center for Community Development Studies Chief Diosdado P. Franco, Center for Labor and Industrial Relations Studies Chief Rimando E. Felicia, and representatives from the Sikat Foundation. Participants explored avenues for joint projects, capacity building, and community-centered interventions that leverage both institutions' strengths.

RIHSD said the proposed partnership would deepen the institute's commitment to community service and practical research, guided by the university principle *"tanglaw ng bayan, para sa bayan"*. Further discussions and follow-up activities were planned to develop concrete collaborative plans. #



The university representatives of the member institutions of PhilOHUN.

PUP Welcomed as a Member of the Philippine One Health University Network

by Ryan V. Labana

PUP has been officially welcomed as a new member of the Philippine One Health University Network (PhilOHUN), an academic consortium focused on research and initiatives that advance the One Health approach. Dr. Armin S. Coronado, Director of Research Institute for Science and Technology represented PUP as its designated focal person, with Assoc. Prof. Ryan V. Labana, Chief of the Center for Health Sciences, serving as alternate representative.

Held on January 29–30 at the National University–MOA, the 1st Philippine One Health Conference carried the theme *"Bayanihan para sa Isang Kalusugan: Advancing One Health in the Philippines."* The event underscored the importance of an integrated One Health framework, highlighting the interconnectedness of human, animal and environmental health in addressing emerging and reemerging threats.

"Joining PhilOHUN strengthens PUP's capacity to collaborate across disciplines and to translate research into practical solutions that protect communities," said Dr. Armin S. Coronado. *"We look forward to partnering with other institutions on joint research, training and policy initiatives that advance health resilience at the local and national levels."* He also added that membership is expected to foster multidisciplinary research, capacity building and coordinated responses to complex health challenges. #



The PUP delegates to the 1st Philippine One Health Conference.



Chief Descallar presents his coconut skim milk research to Dr. Ranil Coorey and Dr. Casiana Blanca J. Villarino at the Curtin University.

Turning Coconut Skim Milk Waste into Market-Ready Ingredients

by Marife A. Rosales

Research into coconut skim milk, a by-product of virgin coconut oil processing, is advancing toward standardized processing and commercialization protocols that could convert agro-industrial waste into high-value ingredients and strengthen sustainable food systems in the Philippines.

The study, conducted at Curtin University in Western Australia under the UP Office of International Linkages COOPERATE (Continuous Operational and Outcomes-based Partnership for Excellence in Research and Academic Training Enhancement) program, is led by Erwin L. Descallar of the Research Institute for Strategic Foresight and Innovation's Center for Futures Policy Research. Descallar, a master's candidate in food science at the University of the Philippines Diliman, is supervised by Dr. Casiana Blanca J. Villarino and co-supervised by Dr. Ranil Coorey of Curtin's School of Molecular and Life Sciences. Their collaboration supports research exchange and laboratory capacity building between UP Diliman and Curtin.

The research examines the physicochemical properties, microbiological safety and storage stability of coconut skim milk to develop evidence-based recommendations for processing and shelf-life extension. Results are expected to inform quality-assurance measures, waste-valorization strategies and policy guidance that align with circular-economy principles and national priorities for food safety and innovation.

Beyond the laboratory, Descallar is helping to advance a proposed memorandum of understanding between Curtin University and the Polytechnic University of the Philippines. The draft MOU, under review by Curtin administration, would formalize joint research, faculty and student mobility, laboratory training and co-supervision of graduate theses, further institutionalizing international cooperation that links scientific research to policy-relevant outcomes. #

Hands-On Electrolysis Workshop Draws 113 Students

by Christine Apatan

The Research Institute for Sustainable Engineering (RISE) conducted a training session on the basics of electrolysis and fuel cells on January 20, to support hands-on learning and advance cleaner energy technologies.

Project staff Engr. Mark Gerald Abilay led the session, explaining fundamental principles, system components and operational parameters, and clarifying the difference between electrolysis, which uses electricity to split water into hydrogen and oxygen, and fuel cells, which generate electricity from electrochemical reactions. Alongside Daphne Dianne Danque, the team demonstrated an operational setup and guided a live laboratory experiment so students could observe real-time electrolysis and system behavior.

A total of 113 students from the BS Industrial Engineering and BS Railway Engineering Management programs participated in the hands-on activity, strengthening their technical skills and analytical understanding of renewable energy systems. The training underscores the institute's commitment to research-driven, skills-oriented education that bridges theory and application and builds student capacity in emerging energy technologies relevant to national sustainability goals.#



Student-Built Flood- Warning Tools Demo in Tumana, Marikina City

by Ryan V. Labana

The Center for Data Analytics and Intelligence Systems (CDAIS) of the Research Institute of Science and Technology conducted a site visit to Barangay Tumana in Marikina City on January 16, to advance two technology-driven disaster risk mitigation tools: the Hydrocast mobile app and the RESBAC system.

The CDAIS team, led by Chief Aleta C. Fabregas, worked with fourth-year students from the College of Computer and Information Science who are developing the tools as part of their BS Computer Science and BS Information Technology programs. Barangay Tumana is the primary community partner for both projects.

During the visit, the RIST-CDAIS team and student developers demonstrated Hydrocast and RESBAC to barangay officials, highlighting the systems' potential to improve real-time flood monitoring, decision-making, preparedness and rapid response during disasters. Hydrocast is designed to support real-time flood monitoring and early warning, while the RESBAC System aims to enhance community-based disaster response and risk assessment. #



CLIRS and 350 Pilipinas Share Findings with Pedicab Community

by Stanley A. Gullab

The Center for Labor and Industrial Relations Studies (CLIRS) of the Research Institute for Human and Social Development, together with 350 Pilipinas, presented research findings to the pedicab operators and drivers community at PUP Manila on Jan. 15. The community launch at the Institute of Technology ACR shared evidence gathered by the study and framed practical recommendations intended to inform local programs and policy responses.

The event provided a two-way platform for researchers and pedicab drivers to discuss the study's methods, key findings and proposed actions. Participants reviewed challenges identified by the research and considered recommendations aimed at strengthening livelihoods, improving safety and clarifying regulatory support for operators and drivers working around the university.

RIHSD said the community launch underscores the institute's commitment to translating research into service and extension activities that directly benefit local stakeholders. Organizers said follow-up consultations, targeted capacity-building sessions and collaborative initiatives with partners such as 350 Pilipinas and local authorities are planned to advance the study's recommendations into concrete interventions. #



Reuse and Repair: RISE's Campus E-Trike Initiative

by Christine Apatan

The Research Institute for Sustainable Engineering (RISE) has rehabilitated and redeployed two electric tricycles for university use, advancing low-emission mobility and demonstrating practical circular-economy practices on campus. Coordinated with the university's General Administrative Support Services (GASS), the initiative restores idle equipment for service use rather than replacement, conserving resources while promoting sustainable engineering solutions.

The first repaired unit was handed over to the University Canteen Services Section and received by UCSS Chief Alwyn Montaña to support canteen operations. On January 8, the second trike was formally turned over to the College of Engineering and received by Dean Remedios Ado. The handovers were witnessed by RISE team members Engr. Jhon Helarch V. Antoni, Engr. Christine Mona Liza Apatan and Christian Villar, alongside Engr. Pedrito M. Tenerife, Jr. and Martin Tugade from the College of Engineering.

The project symbolizes productive collaboration between administrative offices and academic units to promote sustainable engineering practices and responsible asset management. By investing in repair and reuse, the institute aims to reduce emissions, extend equipment life, and model environmentally responsible approaches that can be scaled across the university. #





OVPRED Sets Roadmap to Translate R&E into Impact for 2026

by Marynelle L. Rosales

"This review is a call to align our systems so research and extension lead to measurable impact," Dr. Gapasin said. "I also want to express my deep gratitude to the 11 units under OVPRED for their hard work and the accomplishments they delivered last year. Their commitment laid the foundation for the actions we are now prioritizing for 2026."

--VPRED Gapasin

The Office of the Vice President for Research, Extension and Development held the 2025 Sector Management Review and 2026 Action Planning session on January 14, at Bulwagang Balagtas to assess last year's performance and set institutional priorities. The meeting was led by Vice President Dr. Anna Ruby P. Gapasin with assistance from Dr. Angelina E. Borican, assistant to the VPRED, and drew unit and institute directors, center and section chiefs, and program leads.

The management review showed strong progress in many areas while flagging gaps that need prompt attention, including the need for monitoring schemes in IQMO, unreconciled external funding activities for TBIDO, transition issues for RMIPO, and three unmet RIHSD indicators for presentation, publication and citation. *"This review is a call to align our systems so research and extension lead to measurable impact," Dr. Gapasin said. "I also want to express*





my deep gratitude to the 11 units under OVPRED for their hard work and the accomplishments they delivered last year. Their commitment laid the foundation for the actions we are now prioritizing for 2026.”

The Research Publications Office outlined a comprehensive plan to raise the reach and quality of PUP scholarship in 2026. Key actions include rolling publication schedules, use of a digital commons, production of five interdisciplinary research articles, improved article layout and interactive design to boost engagement by 15 percent, multimedia open content, and editorial measures to mainstream diversity, ethics and AI considerations. RPO will also hold trainings and

master classes and invite copy editors to improve editorial capacity and pursue additional indexing.

Research institutes and centers committed to programmatic targets tied to SDG research, external funding and capacitybuilding. RISFI will implement institute-funded SDG projects, RCBA activities and hackathons while pursuing international linkages. RISE and RIST prioritized externally and internally funded SDG projects and industry partnerships. RIHSD and RICL outlined university-funded studies, dissemination activities, books and visiting scholar engagements. RMIPO will focus on manuals and policy templates, research ethics and integrity manuals, intellectual property

commercialization and the planned transfer of the licensing office to TBIDO in the first quarter.

Support units set operational priorities to enable delivery. EMO will implement 60 approved outreach projects, scale SDG-aligned extension works and monitor client satisfaction. IQMO will prepare for ISO recertification, launch a knowledge management portal in the first quarter and strengthen monitoring mechanisms. Across units, agreed actions emphasize data harmonization, capacity building and deliverable monitoring, with first-quarter presentations and EXECOM coordination scheduled to ensure timely implementation and greater research impact for PUP in 2026. #

VPRED Gapasin and AVPRED Borican with unit directors and chiefs pose for a photo documentation after the presentation of 2025 accomplishments and 2026 action plans.





Project GROWTH Year 2 Empowers Ragay Organic Farmers

by Dorren D. Arenque

PUP Ragay Campus held Project GROWTH (Gender-Responsive Organic Workforce for Transformative Harvests) Year 2 from January 28–30 at Arnzy Integrated Farm and Vista Colina in Ragay, Camarines Sur. The three-day institutional extension brought together faculty, extension coordinators, student assistants and beneficiaries, particularly members of the Ragay Organic Farmers Cooperative (ROFAC), for hands-on training in integrated and sustainable agriculture, inclusive enterprise development and gender-responsive business practices.

Project GROWTH aims to strengthen beneficiaries' capacities in gender-sensitive organic farming, inclusive marketing strategies and environmental stewardship across the agricultural value chain. The training team was led by Dr. Dorren D. Arenque, Dr. Mercy O. Manalo and Dr. Veronica S. Almase, with support from Rita C. Limjoco, Dr. Edna T. Bernabe, John Amiel A. Rivera, Rose Ann C. Bañas, Maria Gisela H. Calambas and student facilitators.

On the first day, Rita Limjoco led a lecture-workshop on packaging and labeling to improve product marketability. Participants created sample labels, selected appropriate packaging materials and presented outputs for peer and trainer feedback to deepen practical understanding of branding and product presentation.

Day two emphasized gender-responsive marketing and integrated pest management. Dr. Arenque guided a brainstorming session on inclusive marketing and value-chain gaps, while Dr. Manalo led lectures and field exercises on IPM, including pest and disease identification and environmentally friendly control measures that minimize chemical inputs.

The final day focused on Integrated Marketing Communications (IMC). Dr. Bernabe and John Rivera covered promotion tools linking advertising, public relations and digital marketing; participants produced banners and inclusive marketing messages for cooperative products. Post-training evaluations showed high participant satisfaction, citing the sessions' practical relevance and hands-on approach. Project GROWTH will continue to support gender equality, sustainable agriculture and cooperative empowerment as part of PUP-Ragay's community resilience efforts. #



TSEK!

Stories of Community Transformation Through Radio

by Edna T. Bernabe

When PUP Tagumpay sa Ekstensyong Komunidad (TSEK) radio program segment first aired on DZME 1530 kHz in Pasig City, it became a vital platform for sharing the university's extension initiatives with the wider public. For the production team, the launch was both an exciting opportunity and a responsibility to translate institutional efforts into compelling stories that resonate with everyday listeners.

The program was born from a partnership between the university's Extension Management Office and Ms. Aida Prieto Gonzales, a former ABS-CBN correspondent and CEO of Tagumpay Media. Together, they envisioned a radio show that would spotlight community extension work in an accessible and inspiring way. A dedicated team, including faculty and Communication Research students, was formed to bring this vision to life. The pilot episode aired on October 11, 2025, featuring PUP Vice President Dr. Anna Ruby P. Gapasin, who outlined the vision and scope of the

Research, Extension, and Development sector. This set the tone for the series, emphasizing the importance of making university programs relatable and understandable to the public.

Following episodes highlighted impactful projects such as the Alternative Learning System (ALS) by the College of Education. Professors Amiel Rivera and Michelle Sotto shared stories of teacher volunteers and out-of-school youth in Tondo, illustrating how education opens doors to new opportunities and second chances for marginalized learners.

Sustainability was a key theme in the November 22 episode, where Dr. Junithesmer Rosales discussed the future phases of the ALS project. The conversation reinforced that meaningful community development requires ongoing engagement, strategic planning, and strong partnerships beyond one-off interventions.

The November 29 live broadcast featured the College of

Communication's collaboration with the Handicapped Center Lourdes of Caritas Manila. Listeners heard moving stories of children with special needs discovering their talents in visual arts, gaining confidence, and experiencing empowerment that touches on dignity and self-worth.

In January 2026, the program highlighted the "*Salin Kaalaman sa Simbahan*" project, focusing on capability building for lay workers of the Diocese of Cubao. Father Edward Anthony Cometa shared how knowledge transfer strengthens faith-based communities and helps church workers better serve their congregations.

Looking back on the series of broadcasts and field recordings, the TSEK team sees the program as more than a radio segment show. It has become a bridge connecting the university's expertise with the communities it serves, demonstrating how storytelling can inspire action, foster partnerships, and celebrate the true spirit of community extension. #

CROSS, Community Partners Coordinate Traffic and Safety for PUPCET

by Edna T. Bernabe

The Community Relations and Outreach Services Section (CROSS) coordinated with local stakeholders to manage traffic and ensure public safety during the Polytechnic University of the Philippines College Entrance Test (PUPCET) on January 18. The initiative prepared the campus and surrounding streets for the large number of examinees, parents and guardians expected on exam days.

CROSS worked with barangay officials, community leaders and local traffic enforcers to implement traffic management measures, including designated drop-off and pick-up zones, clear signage and staged vehicle routing to prevent bottlenecks. Traffic marshals and community volunteers were deployed at key access points to direct vehicles and pedestrians and to assist examinees unfamiliar with the area.

University officials thanked the local community for its active cooperation, noting that the partnership helped maintain order and safety and contributed to the smooth conduct of the PUPCET. The coordinated effort underscored PUP's commitment to community engagement and public service during large-scale academic events. #



EMO-CROSS, PNP Strengthen Ties for Campus Events

By Edna T. Bernabe

The Extension Management Office, through the Community Relations and Outreach Services Section, paid a courtesy call to the newly appointed station commander of PNP Manila Police District Station 8, PLTCOL Jowlouie B. Bilaro, on January 6, to strengthen institutional coordination for upcoming university and community activities. The visit formally introduced university leadership and opened discussions on collaborative arrangements for key programs like the Polytechnic University of the Philippines College Entrance Test (PUPCET).

EMO representatives outlined logistical and security needs for large-scale events, emphasizing crowd management, traffic control and overall public safety during examination days. PLTCOL Bilaro expressed full support for the university's initiatives and committed the station's assistance to ensure orderly and secure conduct of PUPCET and other campus events.

The meeting also explored broader partnership opportunities, including joint community extension activities, public-safety awareness campaigns and information drives. Both parties affirmed the importance of sustained collaboration between the university and law enforcement to promote a safe learning environment and advance community development. #



EXTENSION NEWS BITS



BEST Program Strengthens Health Workers' Digital Capacity

by Huryettha D. Marasigan

PUP Mulanay, in partnership with the Mulanay Rural Health Unit and the Department of Social Welfare and Development–Mulanay, boosted the digital skills of 27 barangay health workers during the 3rd session of the Barangay Empowerment Seminars and Training (BEST) on January 8. Held at the Rural Health Unit function hall in Poblacion Uno, the session, titled “Digital Empowerment for Efficient Barangay Health Service Delivery”, aimed to improve frontline capacity for timely and accurate health reporting.

Training modules covered Microsoft Excel for health data reporting, proper document formatting and printing, professional email communication, and uploading and organizing files using Google Drive. The session was led by BEST team leader Assistant Professor Huryettha D. Marasigan and Assistant Professor Luisito I. Asia, head of academic programs, with support from Associate Professor Mercy O. Manalo and facilitation by Associate Professor Abel L. Pelandiana. A total of 52 participants attended, including six PUP faculty, two staff, 10 student co-facilitators from BSOA, BPA and DIT programs, five RHU personnel, two DSWD representatives and 27 barangay health workers.

Since 2021, the BEST program has worked to strengthen community partnerships and promote digital literacy among frontline health workers in Mulanay, helping ensure more efficient, responsive public health service delivery across the municipality. #





SCALE NCR President Maria Cristina Ibañez speaks on regional collaboration at the 5-Year Startup Plan workshop.

Five-Year Plan to Scale University Startups

by John Dee Gonos

Stakeholders from government, higher education, startup enablers and industry met on January 29 at Zero-Ten Park in Makati City for a workshop that moved the plan from concept toward implementation. Participants emphasized that lasting impact will require institutional changes rather than one-off programs, including clearer roles for universities, standardized mentorship systems and sustained funding pipelines.

essential in building ecosystems,” she said.

Dr. Anna Ruby P. Gapasin, Vice President for Research, Extension and Development, called the plan timely and strategic for PUP’s ambitions. She said embedding incubation and commercialization into core academic functions will help innovators translate research into market-ready solutions that benefit communities and contribute to nation-building.

Engr. Ma. Lourdes Girado, Project Development Officer of PUP’s Technology Business Incubation and Development Office, said the plan clarifies how university-based incubators fit into national development goals. *“This plan gives clearer direction for universities like PUP to institutionalize incubation, strengthen mentorship systems, and ensure that our startups are supported beyond funding cycles. Collaboration is no longer optional as it is now very*

Workshop discussions centered on three priorities: reinforcing institutional support within universities and government agencies, expanding access to both public and private funding, and activating regional innovation hubs that can nurture local talent and retain graduates. Participants also identified the need for metrics to track incubator performance and incentives to attract corporate and investor participation. #

The five-year Philippine Startup Ecosystem Development Plan charts a shift from ad hoc support to a coordinated, nationwide strategy to turn university research and early-stage ventures into sustainable, high-growth companies, strengthening incubators, widening access to funding, and activating regional innovation hubs under the framework of Republic Act No. 11337 and Republic Act No. 11293.

Engr. Ma. Lourdes Girado and Engr. Rodelaine Rodriguez of PUP TBIDO at the 5-Year Startup Ecosystem Plan workshop.



CHED Taps TBIDO Director Ermita for Industrial Engineering Panel

by John Dee Gonos

The Commission on Higher Education (CHED) has appointed Dr. Philip P. Ermita as a member of the Technical Panel for Industrial Engineering (TPIE) for the term Sept. 2025–Sept. 2028, pursuant to Commission en banc (CEB) Resolution No. 770-2025. The appointment was formally communicated on Jan. 7, 2026, and is guided by CHED Administrative Order No. 3, series of 2019.

Dr. Ermita is a professor and director of the Technology Business Incubation and Development Office (TBIDO) at the Polytechnic University of the Philippines. His inclusion on the panel brings a commercialization-oriented perspective to engineering education,

integrating systems thinking with innovation, startup development and technology transfer.

As a TPIE member, Dr. Ermita will help review and strengthen national policies, standards and curricular guidelines for industrial engineering programs. He will advocate for embedding commercialization pathways in the curriculum, so graduates gain not only technical and analytical skills but also the ability to translate research, process improvements and system designs into market-ready solutions.

Drawing on his leadership in PUP's innovation and incubation ecosystem, he will promote industry-academe



collaboration, intellectual property awareness, entrepreneurship and startup incubation as core components of engineering education. His appointment underscores PUP's commitment to advancing industrial competitiveness, productivity and innovation-led national development. #



TBIDO NEWS BITS

TBIDO Mentors Propel YBLL Student Startups

by Rodelaine L. Rodriguez

The Young Banatao Learning Lab (YBLL) Mentorship welcomed Dr. Philip Ermita and John Dee Gonos from the Technology Business Incubation and Development Office as official mentors, with support from the PhilDev Foundation, to strengthen startup competencies and nurture the next generation of tech entrepreneurs.

YBLL is an innovation program that equips aspiring founders with knowledge, networks and practical skills through workshops, one-on-

one coaching and peer collaboration to help early-stage ventures grow and scale.

As TBIDO mentors, Dr. Ermita and Gonos guided student startups on refining value propositions, sharpening pitch strategies and validating market fit, drawing on hands-on incubation experience to help teams turn ideas into structured plans.

Dr. Ermita emphasized aligning concepts with real-world challenges and evidence-based insights,

while Gonos focused on business model refinement and investor communication to ready teams for growth opportunities.

The mentorship gave student innovators industry-tested frameworks and personalized feedback that strengthened both technical and business capabilities, marking a practical step in TBIDO's effort to bridge academic research and entrepreneurship and to cultivate impact-driven startups within the national innovation landscape. #



PUP Approves ₱1.53M to Sustain PYLON Incubator

by Ma. Lourdes R. Girado

PUP, through TBIDO, presented Year 2 Quarter 2 deliverables for the DOST HEIRIT (Higher Education Institution Readiness for Innovation and Technopreneurship) Project, underscoring its commitment to advancing innovation, entrepreneurship and institutional sustainability. Key accomplishments highlighted included a proposal to establish a pool of advisors to strengthen mentorship for startups under the PUP PYLON Technology Business Incubator and PUP's approval of a ₱1,525,367.00 sustainability budget to ensure the incubator's operation beyond the project period.

TBIDO also moved to institutionalize project gains by absorbing selected team members into its core structure to ensure continuity and stronger leadership. Engr. Tristan L. Velardo was designated Chief of the Technology Development Section and John Dee Gonos will serve as Chief of the Incubation Management Section, steps intended to maintain expertise and support effective program implementation.

During the quarter TBIDO served as mentors in the Lakbayin para sa PUP Clustered Startup Muntinlupa Challenge 2025 and the Pampanga Startup Workshop and is preparing for the Quezon Innovation Challenge 2025. The office co-organized and co-sponsored Philippine Startup Week 2025 and has begun planning the PUP PYLON Awards – Gawad ng Tagumpay. As the project enters its final two quarters, DOST-PCIEERD noted 69.25% overall project accomplishment and 66.97% utilization of combined Year 1 and Year 2 funds. TBIDO said it remains focused on meeting remaining deliverables and sustaining innovation initiatives that benefit the university and broader community. #



16 Startups Join PUP PYLON's Hybrid DAGITAB Incubation

by Hanah Pauline “Pao” Delos Santos



DAGITAB Cohort 2 expands PUP PYLON TBI's national pipeline by selecting 16 startups from more than 100 applicants for a six-month hybrid incubation that fast-tracks technology-driven ventures into market-ready businesses.

Launched in January 2026 by Dr. Philip P. Ermita, Director of the Technology Business Incubation and Development Office, the cohort enters a more advanced and structured phase. Unlike the first cohort, Cohort 2 is tailored to support both professional founders and early-stage entrepreneurs, offering deeper mentorship, stronger validation mechanisms and expanded ecosystem linkages.

Selection was highly competitive. After rigorous interviews and pitching sessions, 16 startups were chosen for their innovative technologies and market potential. The cohort includes student-led and professional ventures such as G Delivers, Mantikolekt, Leasifai, DocuGuide, EduGig and the PUP student-led startup WATT-A-RIDE (Watt on Wheels). To improve access for teams outside Metro Manila, the program will run in a hybrid format that combines remote and in-person engagement.

The expansion to 16 incubatees reflects TBIDO's growing capacity to manage a larger, more diverse pipeline and strengthen its role as a national incubation hub. The redesigned program structure is focused on moving startups beyond ideation into structured validation, readiness assessment and scalable business development.

DAGITAB Cohort 2 underscores PUP PYLON TBI's commitment to nurturing market-ready, ecosystem-connected startups. As the six-month incubation begins, these teams represent a new wave of founders equipped with institutional support to turn bold ideas into measurable impact. #



RISE Optimizes Oxyhydrogen Fuel Cell for Portable Hydrogen Generation

by Christine Apatan

The Research Institute for Sustainable Engineering (RISE) has launched a DOST-PCIEERD-funded project to improve hydrogen production from water electrolysis, aiming to develop a portable, cost-effective oxyhydrogen generation system that could support future commercialization and renewable-energy applications. The ₱6.7-million project, titled “Optimizing Oxyhydrogen Fuel Cell for Efficient Gas Production,” began in May 2025 and remains actively underway.

Spearheaded by RISE Director Dr. Ginno Andres, the multidisciplinary team includes co-leaders Dr. Abigail Cid-Andres and Engr. Jhon Helarch Antoni; Project Technical Assistant III Daphne Dianne Danque; Project Staff II Engr. Mark Gerald Abilay; and RISE personnel Christian Villar, Engr. Christine Mona Liza Apatan and Maria Ruth Mungcal. The group is collaborating on design, testing and fabrication tasks to translate laboratory results into a workable prototype.

“This project is a critical step toward strengthening our local capability in hydrogen technologies,” Dr. Andres said. “Our long-term vision is to translate this research into viable applications through technology transfer and industry collaboration, contributing to sustainable and renewable energy solutions for the country.”

The research focuses on optimizing oxyhydrogen (HHO) output by testing generator configurations and key technical parameters that affect performance. Investigations include electrode plate materials and resistance, plate surface area and spacing, electrical configuration (including parallel connections), cell count, electrolyte concentration (KOH molarity) and applied voltage. Safety and affordability are central criteria in assessing each design iteration.

Beyond optimization, the team is developing a compact HHO unit with an improved cooling system and is exploring catalysts to enhance gas production efficiency. The objective is to produce a safe, efficient, and storable oxyhydrogen system suitable for deployment in pilot applications and eventual technology transfer to industry partners. #

Alignment Meeting with DOST-NCR in Regional Startup and Innovation Activation

by Kurt Leinard D. Balbuena

The Department of Science and Technology–National Capital Region (DOST-NCR) and TBIDO held an alignment meeting on January 27 to harmonize regional startup and innovation activation initiatives. Led by Engr. Reynaldo Badua Jr. of DOST-NCR and John Dee Gonos, Chief of TBIDO’s Incubation Management Section, the session focused on strengthening institutional collaboration and coordinating programs to energize the National Capital Region’s startup ecosystem.

Participants identified shared priorities and practical steps for synchronization, including joint capacity-building programs, standardized incubation strategies, and reinforced mentorship and support mechanisms for technology-based startups. The meeting also mapped clearer pathways for collaboration between the two agencies, from ideation and validation to market readiness and scaling, to reduce duplication and maximize resources.

By aligning expertise and resources, TBIDO and DOST-NCR aim to create a more integrated, responsive incubation environment that empowers student innovators, researchers and aspiring technopreneurs. With coordinated initiatives underway, the partnership expects to improve startup readiness, expand access to networks and accelerate the growth of impactful, scalable ventures that strengthen the region’s role as a hub for technology and entrepreneurship. #



PYLON Awards 2026: Nominations Open for Alumni Innovators

by Hanah Pauline “Pao” Delos Santos

The Polytechnic University of the Philippines has opened nominations for the 2026 PYLON Awards, inviting the community to honor alumni whose achievements have advanced industries and strengthened the foundations of innovation and enterprise.

Organized by the Technology Business Incubation and Development Office (TBIDO) with support from the Alumni Relations and Career Development Office (ARCO) and the Federation of Alumni Associations in PUP Inc. (FEDAAPI), the awards recognize excellence in entrepreneurship, emerging technologies, social enterprise, industry leadership and inclusive innovation. The Awards Night is scheduled for April 2026 and will convene alumni, partners and members of the academic community.

Eligible nominees are PUP alumni who demonstrate measurable impact, ethical leadership and sustained commitment within their fields. Nominations may be submitted by colleges, alumni associations, faculty, industry partners or fellow alumni; the 2026 cycle prioritizes nominees positioned to provide mentorship, industry linkages and long-term support to PUP-led ventures.

Scan the QR code to access the nomination form. The call for nominations is now open as PUP seeks alumni leaders to help accelerate the next generation of innovators. #



TBIDO Partners with Provincial Government of Quezon for Innovation Challenge

by Tristan L. Velardo

The Province of Quezon is mobilizing its startup ecosystem through a new collaboration led by TBIDO under its LakbayIN initiative. Partnering with provincial and national agencies, TBIDO aims to create pathways for technological and economic advancement that support local innovators and grassroots solutions across the province.

The push began when TBIDO mentor Marie Grace C. Del Mundo

connected the office with the Provincial Government of Quezon, prompting the development of the “Quezon Innovation Challenge 2026.” The proposed event is designed as a launchpad for students and professionals to develop, showcase and refine community-rooted innovations with an eye toward commercialization and local impact.

A virtual alignment meeting convened core stakeholders to define roles, set

up counterpart support mechanisms and map tentative dates. Participants included Lawrence Joseph Velasco of Quezon’s Provincial Government Office-Livelihood, Syd Tadosa of DOST, Fidel Kyle Subeldia of DICT-Quezon and the TBIDO team. Organizers said the collaboration unites academia, provincial governance and national agencies to strengthen support for founders and accelerate the region’s innovation-driven growth. #



PUP and NCCT Partner on Child-Friendly, Gender-Responsive Media

by Ma. Andrea B. Manzon

PUP, through the Gender Equity, Diversity and Social Inclusion (GEDSI) Office signed a memorandum of understanding with the National Council for Children's Television (NCCT) on January 23, to advance gender-responsive and child-friendly media initiatives.

NCCT was represented at the signing by Officer-in-Charge and GFPS Chair Maria Jowelyne A. Abendan, Legal Officer Atty. Venice Balicoco, and GFPS Executive Committee Chair Flor Capadusa. Representing PUP were AVPRED Angelina E. Borican, GEDSI Director Jerome P. Permejo, and GEPPAS Chief Jose V. Clutario.

According to an NCCT bulletin, the partnership "strengthens our shared commitment to gender-responsive and child-friendly media initiatives." Both institutions will develop programs in Gender and Development (GAD), Media and Information Literacy (MIL), and inclusive media production to promote respect, critical thinking and empathy in media and education.

For the PUP community, the agreement creates immediate opportunities for students to engage in critical media analysis and production through gender-sensitive and child-centered approaches. Faculty will gain new avenues to integrate GAD and media-literacy frameworks into teaching, research and extension work,

while campus media organizations and student groups can produce content that reflects diversity and social awareness.

Beyond campus, the collaboration supports broader efforts to protect and empower children and young people through responsible media. NCCT and PUP said they look forward to creating programs and activities that uplift the next generation and strengthen inclusive media practices across public media and education.

The PUP-NCCT partnership underscores PUP's role as a catalyst for cultural and social transformation where education, media and advocacy intersect to build safer, more inclusive spaces for all. #

GEDSIO Forms Student GEDSI Champions Network

by Jose V. Clutario

The Gender Equity, Diversity and Social Inclusion Office convened student leaders for the Student GEDSI Champions Coordination Meeting on January 28 via Zoom, bringing together officers from accredited student organizations across the university to align efforts for the office's 2026 programs, activities and projects.

GEDSIO Director Jerome P. Permejo urged collaboration as a key strategy for mainstreaming gender equity, diversity and social inclusion across campus and asked each organization to send at least three representatives to ensure diverse perspectives in planning and implementation.

Participants discussed concrete collaboration areas, including advocacy campaigns, capacity-building activities and student-driven programs designed to promote respect, inclusion and empowerment. The meeting also provided space for student leaders to share community insights and propose program ideas.

The session strengthened a growing network of Student GEDSI Champions who will help embed GEDSI principles in campus life. GEDSIO said the partnership with student organizations advances a participatory approach to inclusion that supports PUP's 2026 institutional priorities. #

