

USEP holds 46th Commencement Exercises across campuses, honors over 2,000 graduates

More than 2,000 graduates from undergraduate and graduate programs celebrated their academic achievements during the 46th Commencement Exercises of the University of Southeastern Philippines (USEP) held on June 25–27, 2025 carrying the theme “USEP@46: Fostering Excellence. Embracing Diversity. Transforming Communities”.

Continued on Page 08 ■



UNIVERSITY OF SOUTHEASTERN PHILIPPINES NEWSLETTER

WE BUILD DREAMS WITHOUT LIMITS • TRANSFORMING COMMUNITIES IN THE ASEAN AND BEYOND

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USEP shines bright with back-to-back Platinum Awards

Full Story on Page 04 ■

The University of Southeastern Philippines (USEP) has once again demonstrated its strong commitment to innovation and intellectual property excellence. On April 10, 2025, the University received a Platinum Award from the Intellectual Property Office of the Philippines (IPOPHL) during the Innovation and Technology Support Office (ITSO) President's Summit and General Assembly held at the Sequoia Hotel in Parañaque City.

COA gives Unqualified Audit Opinion on USEP's Financial Statements

Full Story on Page 04 ■

The University of Southeastern Philippines (USEP) has earned an unqualified audit opinion from the Commission on Audit (COA) for its 2024 financial statements. This signifies that USEP's financial statements are presented fairly, in all material respects, following applicable financial reporting frameworks.



USEP tops April 2025 Electronics Engineers Licensure Exam, secures no. 2 spot in Civil Engineering Exam

Full Story on Page 05 ■

BS Accountancy pioneering batch secures 100% Passing Rate in May 2025 CPALE; 2 grads in Top 6

Full Story on Page 08 ■

UNIVERSITY OF SOUTHEASTERN PHILIPPINES UPDATES

OBRERO | MINTAL | TAGUM-MABINI | MALABOG

VISION

PREMIER RESEARCH UNIVERSITY TRANSFORMING COMMUNITIES IN THE ASEAN AND BEYOND

MISSION

USEP shall contribute to inclusive growth and sustainable development through continual innovation in proactive academic programs, impactful research for utilization, economically empowering community services, and sustainable resource management.

GOALS

- Internationalized University programs and services
- Innovation and RDE-nurturing environment
- Proactive, globally competent, and service-oriented graduates
- Transformed vulnerable and disadvantaged groups and communities
- Mobilized and optimized resources for sustainable development

CORE VALUES

Collaboration Accountability Resilience Excellence Service oriented

CORE COMPETENCY

Inclusive and innovative quality education for community transformation

Building Dreams and Transforming Lives and Communities

Embarking on a journey of innovation and excellence, the University of Southeastern Philippines proudly presents a glimpse into its exciting efforts capturing the University's

commitment to building dreams and transforming lives and communities.

Scan the QR code to watch stories of transformed lives and communities.



UPDATES ON FREEDOM OF INFORMATION (FOI) PROGRAM

Covering the period from 01 July 2017 to 30 June 2025

Total number of FOI requests received: **741**

Total number of FOI requests successfully provided: **662**

FIFTY-NINE were denied since the requests were either under the FOI exceptions list or were considered invalid; **FOURTEEN** were referred to another government agency since the requested information was not being handled, maintained, or stored by the University; and **SIX** were closed since the requesting party failed to provide the information needed for clarification 60 calendar days after the "Awaiting Clarification" status.

FOI Appeals

If you are unhappy with the response to your FOI request, you may ask us to carry out an internal review by writing through email at records@usep.edu.ph. Your review request should explain why you are dissatisfied and should be made within 15 calendar days from the date when you received the response to your FOI request. We will complete the review and provide the result within 30 calendar days from the date your appeal was received.

SCAN THIS CODE TO REQUEST INFORMATION VIA USEP FOI PORTAL



Be informed. Be engaged. Know your government better.

Q2 FY 2025 PHYSICAL AND FINANCIAL ACCOMPLISHMENT

Covering the period from 01 April 2025 to 30 June 2025

A. PHYSICAL PERFORMANCE

PERFORMANCE INDICATOR	TARGET	ACTUAL	VARIANCE
Higher Education Program			
Outcome Indicator			
1. Percentage of first-time licensure exam takers that pass the licensure exams	80.04%	93.82% (334/356)	13.78%
Research Program			
Output Indicator			
1. Number of research outputs completed within the year	5	5	0

Technical Advisory Extension Program

Outcome Indicator

1. Number of active partnerships with LGUs, industries, NGOs, NGAs, SMEs, and other stakeholders as a result of extension activities

1 7 6

Output Indicator

1. Number of trainees weighted by the length of training
2. Number of extension programs organized and supported with the SUC's mandated and priority programs
3. Percentage of beneficiaries who rate the training course/s as satisfactory or higher in terms of quality and relevance

700 866.75 166.75
2 2 0
98% 99.85% (651/652) 1.85%

SUMMARY OF FY 2025 PHYSICAL ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Program	Accomplishment Rate
Higher Education Program	117%
Advanced Education Program	-
Research Program	100%
Extension Program	256%
AVERAGE	157.67%

B. FINANCIAL PERFORMANCE

INDICATOR	AMOUNT (P'000)	% OF ACCOMPLISHMENT
Obligation Rate		
Actual Obligation (FAR No. 1) Allotment Releases	426,026 1,189,726	35.81%
Actual Obligation (FAR No. 1) Financial Plan (BED No. 1)	426,026 1,333,699	31.94%
Disbursement Rate		
Actual Disbursement (FAR No. 1) Actual Obligation (FAR No. 1)	394,397 426,026	92.58%
Actual Disbursement (FAR No. 1) Monthly Disbursement Program	394,397 1,333,699	29.57%
Actual Disbursement (FAR No. 4) Total Disbursement Authorities Issued	456,706 456,714	100%

EQUATE AWARDS

ELEMENTARY LEVEL



CHED confers EQUATE Award for excellence in teacher education

The University of Southeastern Philippines (USEP) Obrero and Tagum-Mabini Campuses have been recognized by the Commission on Higher Education (CHED) for their exceptional commitment to teacher education through the Excellence in Quality Assurance in Teacher Education (EQUATE) Awards, presented during a formal ceremony on April 2, 2025, at the Manila Hotel.

This award recognizes USEP's consistent commitment to upholding the highest standards in ensuring the quality of pre-service teacher education programs, adhering to CHED minimum standards, achieving program accreditation, and demonstrating excellent performance in the Board of Licensure Examination for

Professional Teachers (BLEPT). By consistently meeting these standards, the University reaffirms its dedication to producing competent, highly skilled, and globally competitive educators.

USEP ranks among the Top 7.7% (120 out of 1,553) of Teacher Education Institutions nationwide recognized with EQUATE Awards. Additionally, it is part of 3.6% of institutions that have earned Dual Awards for excellence in both Elementary and Secondary Education—a manifestation of the University's commitment to academic quality and teacher education excellence.

Receiving the awards were USEP President Dr. Bonifacio G. Gabales, Jr., College of Education Associate Dean Abigail

A. Navales, and Dr. Rosendo R. Meriwan, representing the College of Teacher Education and Technology.

With this recognition, USEP solidifies its position as a leading institution in teacher education, committed to shaping the next generation of educators who will uphold academic excellence and impactful learning that transforms lives and communities.

▲ **Recognized for Teacher Education Excellence.** USEP President Dr. Gabales (2nd from right) and Dr. Meriwan (rightmost) receive the CHED EQUATE Award, joining fellow honorees from other institutions.

USEP makes it to the 2025 Times Higher Education Impact Rankings

The University of Southeastern Philippines (USEP) proudly joins the 2025 Times Higher Education (THE) Impact Rankings, a prestigious global assessment of universities' contributions to the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). USEP is among the 2,526 universities from 130 countries recognized for their commitment to sustainability, social impact, and transformative education.

This recognition is a strong manifestation of the commitment of the

USEP administration, faculty, staff, students, alumni, partners, and stakeholders to sustainability and excellence through curriculum and instruction, research and development, extension, innovation, and governance – all in pursuit of the University's vision of transforming communities in the ASEAN and beyond.

Visit <https://www.usep.edu.ph/> and <https://sustainability.usep.edu.ph/> to learn more about the University's SDG initiatives.



Times Higher Education
Impact Rankings 2025

RANK
1501+ OVERALL RANK



USEP climbs to 17th in PH, 2nd in Davao Region in 2025 UniRank assessment

The University of Southeastern Philippines (USEP) has again achieved a significant milestone in the 2025 UniRank Top Philippine Universities, securing the 17th spot nationwide and advancing to 2nd place in the Davao Region. This marks a steady upward trajectory from its previous rankings—38th in 2023 and 22nd in 2024—further highlighting USEP's growing online presence and academic reputation.

Out of 246 higher education institutions evaluated nationwide, USEP's consistent rise affirms its strategic push toward visibility, innovation, and excellence in the digital and academic landscape. From holding the 3rd position in the region for two consecutive years, the University's climb to 2nd place in 2025 cements its role as a leading academic institution in the Davao Region.



FROM PAGE 1

COA gives Unqualified Audit Opinion on USeP's Financial Statements

The unqualified opinion reflects USeP's full compliance with government accounting and auditing rules and regulations. It affirms that the University's financial condition, position, and operations are accurately and transparently reported, demonstrating strong institutional accountability and sound fiscal management.

The annual audit conducted by COA serves as a critical mechanism to ensure that government institutions, including state universities and colleges (SUCs), maintain the highest standards of transparency, fiscal responsibility, and good governance. The audit was carried out per the International Standards of Supreme Audit Institutions (ISSAIs)—the globally recognized benchmark for public sector auditing.

This milestone is a testament to the University's continuing commitment to integrity, public trust, and efficient stewardship of public resources.

FROM PAGE 1

USeP shines bright with back-to-back Platinum Awards

This recognition marks a back-to-back Platinum Award for USeP, following the same distinction it earned last year. The consecutive wins affirm the University's sustained efforts in advancing research, innovation, and technology transfer, strengthening its role as a key contributor to the country's intellectual property landscape.

This remarkable milestone is a manifestation of USeP's diligent efforts in intellectual property protection. The University successfully fulfilled stringent requirements by filing at least ten (10) trademark applications, showcasing its dedication to innovation and the safeguarding of intellectual assets. This accomplishment not only highlights USeP's role as a leader in intellectual property management but also underscores its significant contributions to the innovation ecosystem.

The awards were received by Dr. Roger C. Montepio, Vice President for Research, Development and Extension (RDE), and Engr. Michael V. Machica, IISO Manager. Their leadership and dedication have been instrumental in fostering a culture of creativity and innovation within the University.



Scan here to view more photos



USeP maintains ISO 9001:2015 standard, says TÜV Rheinland

Success does not come from what you do occasionally; it comes from what you do consistently. Let us stay committed to giving our best every day so that USeP continues to deliver excellent, honest, responsive, and relevant services. "These words of commitment from University of Southeastern Philippines (USeP) President Dr. Bonifacio G. Gabales, Jr. marked the conclusion of the ISO 9001:2015 Surveillance Audit held on April 28-29, 2025.

The two-day audit opened on April 28, with members of the USeP Top Management and Administrative Council, Document Control Officers, Process Owners, and Custodians in attendance. In his opening remarks, Pres. Gabales emphasized the vital role of the surveillance audit in reinforcing USeP's dedication to quality public service and education.

Over the two days, the TÜV Rheinland audit team—led by Ms. Lynn Gerzon and Auditors Ms. Mary Grace Balobalo, Mr. Luisito Soriano, Mr. Rolando Remitar, Ms. Jogina Mendiola, and Ms. Eleonor Tan — visited multiple offices and academic units across the Obrero, Mintal, and Tagum-Mabini campuses to assess the implementation of the University's Quality Management System (QMS).

The final audit report highlighted positive findings, opportunities for improvement, and three minor and zero major non-conformities. Ms. Gerzon praised the University for its national recognitions, such as the Philippine Quality Award; the active engagement of students during classroom observations; and the strong institutional focus on safety, evidenced by the widespread use of safety visuals across campuses.

In his message of commitment, Pres. Gabales also expressed his gratitude to all members of the USeP community who

gave their time, energy, and effort throughout the audit process. "Through this audit, we have not only increased customer trust and satisfaction but also strengthened our quality control processes and nurtured a culture of continuous improvement. Having passed this audit, we now have tangible evidence that we truly provide quality services and follow international standards," he said.

Vice President for Planning and Quality Assurance Dr. Tamara Cher R. Mercado formally closed the audit, thanking the TÜV Rheinland team for their diligence in identifying areas for improvement and encouraging the USeP community to continue innovating in alignment with ISO 9001:2015 standards.

Strengthening Quality Assurance. TÜV Rheinland auditors visited the Obrero, Mintal, and Tagum-Mabini campuses to conduct interviews and data validation with process owners, custodians, and academic units as part of the ISO 9001:2015 Surveillance Audit.

Sustaining Quality and Excellence. USeP President Dr. Gabales delivered his message of commitment during the closing meeting, thanking the USeP community for their dedication and teamwork throughout the two-day evaluation.





USEP breaks ground for new dormitory at Mintal Campus, honors legacy of Pamulaan

The groundbreaking ceremony for a new dormitory at Mintal Campus was held on May 16, 2025, signaling the start of a new chapter in student development while honoring a legacy grounded in inclusive, culturally appropriate, and relevant education.

The new dormitory will rise on a site that holds deep significance for the University and for the many lives it has touched—the former location of the Pamulaan Center for Indigenous Peoples Education (PCIPE).

Since welcoming its first batch of Indigenous Peoples (IP) students in 2006, PCIPE served as a sanctuary for learning, cultural identity, and empowerment. It nurtured indigenous youth from across Mindanao, shaping them into empowered leaders and development workers committed to building sustainable communities and advancing the rights of IPs—to life, land, self-governance, and cultural integrity.

Choosing to build the dormitory on this hallowed ground stands as a tribute to the contributions of PCIPE—its people, its purpose, and its enduring impact. It exemplifies what meaningful collaboration between government and non-government agencies can achieve. Made possible through a partnership among USEP, National Commission on Indigenous Peoples Region XI, Assisi Development Foundation, Inc., ILAWAN, Inc., and Cartwheel Foundation, the initiative goes beyond infrastructure; it ensures that PCIPE's legacy lives on, not only in the memories of those who once walked its paths but also in the generations of students who will soon call this new dormitory their home.

USEP President Dr. Bonifacio G. Gabales, Jr., speaking before University officials, faculty, staff, students, partners, and Indigenous and religious leaders, underscored the significance of the day. "This event marks not only the start of a new construction project reviving the life of this community, but more importantly a solemn moment of remembrance, respect, and renewal," he said.

"Though the fire that struck last year has scarred this place, it did not diminish its meaning." Pres. Gabales emphasized, "This ground remains hallowed by the footsteps, the dreams and the stories of the over 400 graduates who called this place as their home. Within these grounds, their identities were affirmed, their talents nurtured, and their academic journeys were enriched."

The new structure, according to Pres. Gabales, will rise as more than just a dormitory. It will serve as a shared space and a sanctuary for both students and University personnel. "The University envisions that this structure is more than just a building—it will be a bridge linking our past with our future; anchoring our aspirations to be a more inclusive student- and personnel-centered University—a University that honors the roots while embracing the growth of all who are part of this journey."

He also expressed optimism for continuing USEP's commitment to IP education and inclusion with the PCIPE. "Even without the former structure of Pamulaan, we will continue to serve as an inclusive University for members of the IP communities," Pres. Gabales affirmed.

Moreover, Physical Development Division Director Ar. Ericson P. Europa presented the project background. He shared that the two-storey building is designed to accommodate 82 persons and is targeted for completion on December 5, 2025.

The event is more than a significant achievement in infrastructure. It is a celebration of legacy, a renewal of purpose, and a reaffirmation of USEP's dedication to providing not only shelter but a sense of belonging as the University continues to build dreams without limits.

USEP tops April 2025 Electronics Engineers Licensure Exam, secures no. 2 spot in Civil Engineering Exam

The University of Southeastern Philippines (USEP), through its College of Engineering, has emerged as the top performing school in the April 2025 Electronics Engineers Licensure Examination. With an overall passing rate of 92 percent, USEP secured the No. 1 spot among institutions with 10 to 29 examinees and at least an 80 percent passing percentage.

The University also secured the second spot among the top performing schools in the April 2025 Civil Engineers Licensure Examination. Posting an overall passing rate of 83.87 percent, USEP ranked in the category of institutions with at least 50 examinees and a minimum 80 percent passing rate.

This achievement underscores the perseverance and commitment of USEP's new engineers, whose success has brought pride and distinction to the University community. It likewise reflects the steadfast support of the administration and the dedication of faculty and personnel who continuously guide, mentor, and empower students in their academic journey.

COLLEGE OF ENGINEERING



USEP pushes for future-driven disaster preparedness in meeting with MinDA

With the Philippines' growing vulnerability to natural calamities and climate change, particularly in the Davao Region, the University of Southeastern Philippines (USEP) is pushing forward efforts to strengthen disaster resilience by connecting policies with on-the-ground action.

On June 10, 2025, USEP President Dr. Bonifacio G. Gabales, Jr. led a courtesy visit to Mindanao Development Authority (MinDA) Chairperson Secretary Leo Tereso A. Magno at the MinDA Office in Davao City. Discussions focused on the proposed establishment of the Mindanao Resilience and Foresight Center at USEP, a strategic initiative designed to help stakeholders anticipate, plan for, and respond to disasters through futures thinking, capacity building, and science-based policymaking.

The Center also aims to support the localization of the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and align with national priorities set by the

Senate Committee on SDGs, Innovation, and Futures Thinking. It complements MinDA's Resources Center (MinDA OpCen), a flagship facility under the Mindanao Agenda 2023–2028 that seeks to enhance regional coordination and ensure faster, more effective responses to emergencies.

"Our commitment is anchored on the idea that resilience must be proactive, not reactive," said Dr. Gabales. "USEP stands ready to contribute knowledge, research, and leadership toward enabling communities and institutions to prepare for what lies ahead. This center will serve as a platform for collaboration, insight, and concrete action."

During the visit, Pres. Gabales also presented USEP's strategic direction, highlighting its thrust toward sustainability, inclusive growth, and human capital development through quality education, research, and extension. He expressed gratitude to MinDA for its commitment to support scholarships

under the Doctor ng Bayan, Abogado ng Bayan, and Agriculturist ng Bayan programs, which aim to uplift local communities by producing professionals who can drive inclusive progress.

He added, "USEP is ready to work with MinDA within its capacity, because at the end of the day, it is the community that matters. That is at the heart of our mission—to transform communities through responsive, relevant, and impactful service."

Also present were USEP vice presidents Dr. Jeneifer C. Nueva, Dr. Maria Luisa B. Faunillan, Dr. Tamara Cher R. Mercado, and Dr. Roger C. Montepio, alongside MinDA officials Asec. Romeo M. Montenegro and Dr. Adrian M. Tamayo. Both institutions reaffirmed their commitment to closer collaboration through joint programs, knowledge sharing, and aligned strategies to strengthen disaster resilience in Mindanao.

USEP hosts PASUC XI, PNVSCA MOA signing

The University of Southeastern Philippines (USEP) hosted the signing of a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) between the Philippine Association of State Universities and Colleges–Region XI (PASUC XI) and the Philippine National Volunteer Service Coordinating Agency (PNVSCA) on May 29, 2025, at the Accreditation Center, USEP Obrero Campus, Davao City.

The agreement formalizes a shared commitment to foster volunteerism, service, and civic engagement within higher education institutions. Under the partnership, PASUC XI and PNVSCA will work together to integrate volunteerism into academic and non-academic programs, mobilizing faculty, staff, students, and alumni toward community development.

PASUC XI Chair and Davao del Norte State College President Dr. Joy M. Sorrosa

led the signatories, joined by USEP President Dr. Bonifacio G. Gabales, Jr. and presidents of other member institutions in the region. Representing PNVSCA was Executive Director Donald James D. Gawe, who emphasized the long-term value of the collaboration in advancing societal development and national progress.

In their messages, Dr. Sorrosa and Dr. Gabales highlighted the importance of synergy among state universities and colleges, while Dr. Gawe expressed optimism that the initiative will create lasting impact. Also present were CHED Region XI Director Dr. Maricar R. Casquejo and other officials from government agencies and PASUC XI member universities, who affirmed their support for the program.

The MOA signing underscored the collective efforts of academic institutions in

Region XI to expand opportunities for volunteerism and strengthen the role of higher education in nation-building.



▲ **Forging Partnerships for Nation-Building.** USEP President Dr. Gabales joins PASUC XI Chair Dr. Sorrosa, PNVSCA Executive Director Gawe, and fellow SUC leaders during the MoA signing that aims to advance volunteerism, civic engagement, and community development across higher education institutions in Region XI.



UseP hosts region-wide pre-employment orientation seminar

The University of Southeastern Philippines (UseP) hosted the Region-Wide Pre-Employment Orientation Seminar, which gathered students and alumni from different higher education institutions to learn about safe and legal overseas employment. Held on May 14, 2025 at the University Gymnasium and Cultural Center, Obrero Campus, the activity created a space for dialogue and awareness on the realities of working abroad.

Organized by the Department of Migrant Workers Regional Office (DMW RO) XI in partnership with the Commission on Higher Education Regional Office (CHED RO) XI, the City Government of Davao through the Public Employment Service Office (PESO), and UseP, the seminar carried the theme "Navigating International Opportunities: Guide for Successful, Safe, and Legal Overseas Employment."

Discussions centered on practical guidance for aspiring overseas workers, highlighting safeguards against illegal recruitment and human trafficking while also presenting opportunities for meaningful and secure employment overseas.

UseP President Dr. Bonifacio G. Gabales, Jr. expressed strong support for the initiative, noting its alignment with the University's mission to equip graduates for global engagement and professional readiness. Messages of support were also delivered by CHED RO XI Regional Director Dr. Maricar R. Casquejo and Dr. Marie Rose C. Escalada, Labor Attaché II and OIC-Assistant Regional Director of DMW RO XI, both underscoring the importance of preparing students for safe and successful careers beyond national borders.



▲ **Guiding Pathways, Ensuring Readiness.** UseP President Gabales emphasizes the University's commitment to global engagement and preparing graduates for safe and meaningful opportunities abroad.



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MoU for Davao AFRREDN inked

The University of Southeastern Philippines (UseP) has formalized a partnership with the Department of Agriculture (DA) – Regional Field Office XI through a Memorandum of Understanding, establishing the Davao Agriculture and Fisheries Resources Research and Extension for Development Network (Davao AFRREDN).

The official signing ceremony took place on April 8, 2025, at the World Palace Business Center in Matina, Davao City. UseP was represented by Dr. Roger C. Montepio, Vice President for Research, Development and Extension (RDE), and Dr. Merlina H. Juruena, Director of Research and Development Division (R&DD).

This collaborative agreement is designed to strengthen partnerships and enhance cooperation among involved entities. It aims to harmonize Research for

Development and Extension programs and services while ensuring efficient management and coordination of project activities to achieve the anticipated outcomes.

The ceremony was attended by representatives from various State Universities and Colleges (SUCs) in the Davao Region, including Davao de Oro State College, Davao del Sur State College, Southern Philippines Agri-Business and Marine and Aquatic School of Technology, Davao del Norte State College, and Davao Oriental State University. These institutions expressed their sincere appreciation for the collaborative efforts underway.

UseP, through the College of Agriculture and Related Sciences, College of Engineering, College of Development and Management, along with the Research and Development and Extension cluster, is

enthusiastic about contributing to this unified initiative and is committed to being an active and reliable partner within this network.



▲ **Strengthening Agriculture and Fisheries Development.** UseP, represented by Vice President for RDE Dr. Montepio (seated, leftmost) and R&DD Director Dr. Juruena (standing, fourth from left), joins the DA RFO XI and partner SUCs in the official signing of the Memorandum establishing the Davao AFRREDN.



USEP holds 46th Commencement Exercises

FROM PAGE 1

In his address delivered across all campuses, USEP President Dr. Bonifacio G. Gabales, Jr. commended the perseverance of the Class of 2025 and emphasized that success must be measured by one's impact on others. He pointed to USEP's recent institutional milestones, including licensure examination topnotchers and improved global rankings, as a backdrop for the graduates' own accomplishments.

"You graduate today not just to make a living, but to make a life that gives, contributes, and endures," he said. "Build

not only a career, but a life of meaning. Serve not only for achievement, but for impact. Rise not just for yourself, but for others. Mindanao, the Philippines, and beyond need your voice, your vision, and your values," Pres. Gabales said.

Distinguished guests imparted words of inspiration during the commencement rites. At the Obrero Campus, Dr. Anthony M. Penaso, President of Bohol Island State University, urged graduates of the Advanced Studies to reject mediocrity and make USEP "impossible to ignore," while

Commission on Higher Education Chairperson and USEP Board of Regents Chair Hon. Dr. Shirley C. Agrupis, represented by CHED-XI Director Dr. Maricar R. Casquejo, reminded undergraduate class to regard their diploma as a public trust and to live with humility, purpose, and service.

Similar messages of wisdom resonated in the other campuses: in Mintal, Engr. Arman A. Capin, DBA, President of Caressystem Technology Solution Co., Inc., emphasized lifelong learning and nation-

BS Accountancy pioneering batch secures 100% Passing Rate in May 2025 CPALE; 2 grads in Top 6

The University of Southeastern Philippines (USEP) College of Business Administration proudly shared a historic achievement as its pioneering batch of BS Accountancy graduates attained a 100% passing rate in the May 2025 Certified Public Accountant Licensure Examination (CPALE).

Two of the graduates, Axelvhox D. Ompod and Lyle Joyce M. Saturninas, both placed at Top 6 with a rating of 90.17%. Completing the 100% passing rate for all first timers is Jyreen Fabiah O. Santillan. They paid a courtesy visit to University President Dr. Bonifacio G. Gabales, Jr. on June 13, 2025, to share their milestone.

The achievement was warmly celebrated by the University's administration, led by Dr. Gabales, together with Dr. Jeneifer C. Nueva (Vice



▲ **Celebrating Accountancy Excellence.** Pioneering BS Accountancy graduates (from left) Mr. Ompod, Ms. Saturninas, and Ms. Santillan pay a courtesy visit to USEP President Dr. Gabales.

President for Academic Affairs), Dr. Maria Luisa B. Faunillan (Vice President for Administration), Dr. Edeliza S. Gonzales

(Dean, College of Business Administration), Dr. Enrico C. Yee, Jr. (Program Head, BS Accountancy), and Dr. Rosfe Corlae D. Badoy (Public Affairs Division Director and BS Accountancy faculty member).

This accomplishment not only highlights the graduates' dedication but also affirms USEP CBA's commitment to producing highly competent professionals in the field of accountancy. It sets a strong foundation for the program, establishing a legacy of excellence for future cohorts of aspiring CPAs.



Scan here to view more photos



across campuses, honors over 2,000 graduates

building; in Mabini, Hon. Aldwin M. Jumaoas, City Councillor of the Island Garden City of Samal, underscored discipline and values as the foundation of leadership; and in Tagum, Engr. Luis A. Santillan Jr., Senior Executive Vice President of the BioPower Group, highlighted excellence not as a talent but as a discipline, urging graduates to lead with integrity and compassion.

Valedictorians Clark Kent A. Angeles (Obrero), Jay Lawrence C. Tongco (Mintal), John Nicholas B. Bete (Mabini), and Reymark A. Namangcayao (Tagum) echoed

messages of resilience, gratitude, and responsibility in representing the Class of 2025. The ceremonies also featured traditions that affirmed the graduates' lifelong connection to the University. Immediate Past Student Regent Ms. Giana Alliona A. Caminade led the Pledge of Loyalty to the Alma Mater, while Alumni Regent Hon. Julius P. Borbon inducted the graduates into the Federation of USEP Alumni Associations.

The programs concluded with special performance of the graduates and

singing of the University Hymn, symbolizing pride and unity across campuses. The 46th Commencement Exercises demonstrated the University's mission of producing graduates who are not only academically equipped but also socially engaged and community-oriented. As Pres. Gabales affirmed, the Class of 2025 now carries the responsibility of transforming their achievements into meaningful contributions for Mindanao, the Philippines, and the international community.

School of Law among national top performer in 2023 and 2024 Bar Exam subject rankings

The University of Southeastern Philippines (USEP) School of Law (SoL) has been recognized as one of the top-performing law schools in the country, according to the Bar Examination Performance of Law Schools released by the Legal Education Board (LEB).

The first two batches of USEP Bar takers secured national rankings in several Bar subjects. In the 2023 Bar Examination, the SoL ranked 4th in Political and International Laws, 7th in Commercial and Taxation Laws, and 8th in Labor Law and Social Legislation. In the 2024 Bar Examination, it placed 7th in Civil Law and 10th in Criminal Law.

Graduating students join PESLA, Resume Cafe

On April 8, 2025, the University of Southeastern Philippines (USEP) hosted a Pre-Employment Seminar for Local Applicants (PESLA) and a Resume Café for graduating students, designed to prepare them for the transition from academic life to the workplace.

The seminar provided participants with essential knowledge on employment processes, workers' rights, government benefits, and practical job application skills. Representatives from key government agencies discussed topics relevant to young professionals, including PhilHealth membership and benefits, PAG-IBIG Fund savings and investment options, Social Security System coverage, overseas employment through the Department of Migrant Workers, and labor standards under the Department of Labor and Employment. The Public Employment Service Office also presented its programs and services for job seekers.

Complementing the sessions, Ms. Sheryl Bayang conducted the Resume Café, where she offered practical guidance on resume writing and job interview preparation.

The Career and Alumni Center acknowledged the support of partner agencies for their role in equipping USEP graduates with the tools to enter the professional world with confidence.



Scan here to view photos



PSO Mindanao, USeP forge partnership to empower Mindanao’s farmers, fisherfolks

The Project Support Office (PSO) Mindanao and the University of Southeastern Philippines (USeP) formalized a partnership on April 21, 2025, to advance rural development initiatives across Mindanao through academic expertise and collaboration.

Two Memoranda of Understanding (MOUs) were signed: one between the College of Applied Economics (CAEc), through the Socioeconomics Research and Data Analytics Center Mindanao (SERDAC-Mindanao), and PSO Mindanao’s Monitoring, Evaluation, and Learning (MEL) Unit; and another between USeP’s College of Development Management (CDM) and PSO’s Investments in Rural Enterprises and

Agriculture and Fisheries Productivity (I-REAP) Component.

PSO Mindanao Project Director Macario D. Gonzaga expressed appreciation to the University for its commitment to the initiative, emphasizing the need for academic-government synergy in promoting rural development. “Rural development is not the work of one agency alone. It is a collective endeavor,” he said. “Through this collaboration, we aim to strengthen the technical capabilities of our valued Farmer and Fisherfolk Cooperatives and Associations (FCAs), who are at the very heart of the Philippine Rural Development Project.”

USeP President Dr. Bonifacio G. Gabales, Jr. affirmed the alignment of the agreement with the University’s research and extension mandate. “This is the perfect program for partnership for our research and extension centers here, where we can join hands and pool our resources to implement programs and projects aligned with our common goals—especially with our vision now of transforming communities,” he noted.

The partnership will cover joint trainings, module development, mentoring, and knowledge exchange to strengthen the support system for FCAs in Mindanao.

SPJRD clinches Q2 ranking for 2024 — SJR

In the latest Scimago Journal and Country Rank (SJR) data, the Southeastern Philippines Journal of Research and Development (SPJRD) has secured a Q2 (second quartile) ranking in the multidisciplinary category for the year 2024. Within the same subject category, SPJRD claims the top spot in the Philippines while ranking third across all subject areas.

SPJRD, the research journal of the University of Southeastern Philippines, has achieved a notable rise in journal rankings, climbing into the second top 25% of the most influential multidisciplinary journals worldwide, according to the latest Scopus data used for the 2024 SJR rankings as of March 2025.

The quartile ranking system of SJR, a widely recognized metric in academia, categorizes journals based on their impact and influence within their respective fields. Journals are ranked and then divided into four equal groups: Q1 representing the top 25%, Q2 the next 25%, Q3 the third 25%, and Q4 the bottom 25%. SPJRD’s placement in Q2 signifies that it now ranks within the top 50% of journals in its multidisciplinary subject area, performing above average compared to other journals in its field.

“This achievement acknowledges the

journal’s increasing influence... impacting not only the region of Mindanao but also the world. It [Q2 ranking] further attests to the scientific rigor of publishing articles that we have been doing since 2021 up to the present,” expresses Editor-in-Chief Assoc. Prof. Sajed S. Ingilan on this significant feat in publication.

With an SJR value of 0.235 and an H-index of 3, the State Universities and Colleges (SUC)-based journal has become the leading multidisciplinary journal in the Philippines. Meanwhile, across all subject areas or disciplines, SPJRD earns third rank behind the Journal of the ASEAN Federation of Endocrine Societies (Q3-ranked) with 0.329 SJR value and the Asian and Pacific Migration Journal (Q2-ranked) with 0.406 SJR value.

The SJR indicator, upon which this ranking is based, considers not only the number of citations a journal receives but also the prestige of the citing journals. This provides a more nuanced assessment of a journal’s impact within the scholarly landscape. The current rank of SPJRD indicates that the journal is attracting an international audience and is publishing research recognized and cited by the broader academic community.

Beyond these established metrics, SJR also considers broader impacts and



characteristics of journals, such as the alignment of their published research with the United Nations’ Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and the extent of international collaboration reflected in their authorship. These factors contribute to a more holistic evaluation of a journal’s relevance and global engagement, further highlighting the merit of this accomplishment.



USeP OVRDE conducts info caravan

The Office of the Vice President for Research, Development, and Extension (OVRDE) successfully concluded the RDE Information Caravan, which reached ten academic units of the University of Southeastern Philippines (USeP), namely: the College of Arts and Sciences (CAS); School of Law (SoL); School of Medicine (SoM); College of Teacher Education and Technology (CTET); College of Agriculture and Related Sciences (CARS); College of Education (CEd); College of Information and Computing (CIC); College of Technology (CT); College of Applied Economics (CAEc); and College of Business Administration (CBA). The College of Engineering (CoE) and the College of Development Management (CDM) were already covered in the previous year's caravan. The activity was conducted to reinforce awareness of the University's RDE processes and services, orient stakeholders on updated policies and processes, and gather insights from academic unit-based implementers to strengthen the institutional RDE ecosystem.

Guided by the vision to be a premier research University transforming communities in the ASEAN and beyond, the caravan was designed as a direct engagement initiative with academic unit stakeholders, particularly faculty members, program chairpersons, research center managers, research and development head, and extension heads/coordinators. It is designed as a strategic platform for

sharing information and facilitating knowledge exchange, providing clarity on the existing policies, and effectively bridging the gap between academic units and RDE initiatives. Each session featured presentations on the management of research and extension programs, projects and activities, knowledge and technology transfer management, publication incentives, fabrication services, Metals and Engineering Innovation Center (MEIC) services, process for reviewing agreements and guidelines for unit credit allocation. The open forums provided a valuable space for each academic unit to raise concerns, share best practices, and propose actionable recommendations for improved implementation and coordination.

The RDE Team expresses its gratitude to the deans, faculty members, and RDE implementers from each academic unit for the warm welcome, active participation, and meaningful contributions during the caravan. The RDE Team values the trust, support, and commitment shown throughout the series of engagements.

In return, the RDE Team affirms its dedication to addressing the concerns raised by each academic unit and ensuring continuous communication, guidance, and collaboration. With the completion of this initiative, the office strengthens its resolve to champion research excellence, innovation, and community engagement that are relevant,

inclusive, and transformative, not only within the University but across the ASEAN region and beyond.



▲ **Bridging Research and Practice.** USeP Vice President for Research, Development and Extension Dr. Roger C. Montepio leads the RDE Information Caravan, which engaged ten academic units of the University to strengthen awareness, collaboration, and implementation of research and extension initiatives.



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Extensionists trained in case study writing of success stories

The Extension Division conducted a Capacity Development Training on Case Study Writing for Success Stories on May 30, 2025, at the University Hostel Dining Hall, Obrero Campus.

In her opening message, Extension Division Director Dr. Roby V. Pagong underscored the importance of effective case study writing in documenting the outcomes of extension programs and in showcasing their impact on communities.

Serving as the resource speaker, Dr. Mervin G. Gascon discussed key topics

including the project logic model, the fundamentals of case study and success story writing, data requirements, analysis and writing process, as well as the structure and positioning of case studies within extension reports. He also presented sample outputs to guide participants in developing their own narratives.

The training gathered extension program and project leaders, extension heads, program and project support personnel, and extension staff. It aimed to strengthen their capacity to produce well-structured and compelling

success stories that reflect the contributions of extension initiatives in driving community development.



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CARS promotes chemical safety through seminar for a safer academic community

The College of Agriculture and Related Sciences (CARS), through its Agricultural Laboratory – Department of Agricultural Sciences, conducted a seminar on “Chemical Handling, Safety Precautions, and First Aid Procedures” on April 10, 2025, at the Audio-Visual Room of the Agriculture Building, USeP Tagum-Mabini Campus, Mabini Unit. The activity gathered faculty members, non-teaching staff, and students to strengthen awareness and practices on chemical safety.

The seminar highlighted the importance of consistently improving laboratory services while upholding quality, excellence, and compliance with national and international standards. In his welcome remarks, Dr. Larry V. Aceres, Associate Dean of the Graduate School of Agriculture and Related Sciences (GSARS) and concurrent OIC-Dean of CARS, underscored the risks of mishandling chemicals and pesticides, which may lead to serious health hazards, environmental damage, or even life-

threatening situations. He reminded participants, especially students, of the crucial role safety training plays in preventing accidents, injuries, and long-term health effects.

CARS collaborated with public and private partners to provide expert resource speakers. Mr. John Lloyd Canturna, Product Stewardship Associate at Mindanao Bayer Crop Science, discussed the safe and responsible use of crop protection products (CPP), including their purchase, transport, storage, risks, and the proper use of personal protective equipment (PPE). Provincial Officers of the Fertilizer and Pesticide Authority (FPA) – Region XI, Mr. Louie Palarao of Davao City and Mr. Evan Bojos of Davao Oriental, tackled FPA regulations and demonstrated basic first aid procedures for pesticide poisoning.

The seminar drew the participation of 10 faculty members, 10 non-teaching staff, 120 first-year students, 29 third-year

Bachelor of Science in Agriculture (BSA) students, and 20 Bachelor of Science in Forestry (BSF) students. Participants actively engaged in the open forum, post-test, and interactive segments, making the program both informative and participatory.

By equipping the academic community with practical knowledge on chemical handling, safety precautions, and first aid, the seminar empowered participants to minimize health risks and foster a safer working environment. The initiative reflects USeP’s commitment to promoting safety, sustainability, and quality management—ensuring that laboratory and field practices uphold both human well-being and environmental protection.

Key personnel undergoes training on events protocol

Faculty and staff across USeP campuses participated in a Training on Events Protocol organized by the Public Affairs Division (PAD) on May 28, 2025, at the TLE Building Conference Room, USeP Obrero Campus.

In her welcome message, Dr. Rosfe Corlae D. Badoy, PAD Director, highlighted the important roles of faculty members designated as PAD coordinators and of key personnel from academic and other delivery units regularly involved in official University functions. As a University with numerous academic units and external linkages, collaboration between PAD and the concerned offices is very essential to maintain professionalism and the USeP brand in all University engagements.

Prof. Karen Joyce G. Cayamanda, University Registrar and Protocol Officer of



the University of the Philippines Mindanao, facilitated the training. Drawing from the UP Handbook on Protocols, the session focused on protocols specifically relevant to the university setting and applicable to various events and ceremonies towards branding and professionalism. A key takeaway from the training was the fundamental principle that “A basic postulate of protocol—whether as etiquette or as precedence—is that all of us, of whatever social class or however top brass wherever, have from birth someone higher than us who deserves our respect and courtesy.”

USeP President Dr. Bonifacio G. Gabales, Jr. also attended the training and noted that, while events of varying scales have been successfully conducted over the years, there is a vital need to document best practices. He emphasized the importance of refining and standardizing these practices to establish a clear set of protocols, ensuring consistency, professionalism, and a strong institutional identity across all campuses and official functions.



CEd strengthens global ties through educational, cultural exchange in Vietnam

In pursuit of its mission to nurture globally competent and culturally responsive educators, the College of Education (CEd) of the University of Southeastern Philippines (USEP) completed an international academic and cultural exchange program hosted by Tan Trao University (TTrU) in Hanoi, Vietnam, from April 11 to 21, 2025. The initiative provided a platform for professional development, intercultural understanding, and academic collaboration.

The USEP delegation was warmly welcomed upon arrival and immediately immersed in Vietnamese culture through an orientation and city tour. The official program opened on April 13 with a campus tour and an International Cultural Exchange Program at TTrU, where delegates joined artistic performances, traditional games, and a culinary showcase that highlighted both Vietnamese and Filipino dishes.

Academic exchanges followed, beginning with collaborative workshops and research presentations on April 14. Classroom observations on April 16 gave participants insights into Vietnamese pedagogy, which informed the teaching demonstrations by USEP students on April 17 and 18. These activities allowed the student educators to share strategies, receive feedback, and strengthen their professional growth.

Cultural activities complemented the academic engagements, including visits to Na Hang Lake on April 15, Son Duong in Tuyen Quang Province on April 19, and historical and cultural landmarks in Hanoi on April 20, before the delegation's return to Davao on April 21.

Representing the College of Education, Ralph M. Lanaban, Jerushia F. Emelia, Herlyn Grace B. Rivero, Shemaiah P. Canullas, Sweet D. Andoyo, Eiseley Jena P. Eres, Cielo Beth S. Magan, Cleofe Jan L.

Modo, Kize A. Calanao, Ann Vincent R. Ramos, Cheerish Honey M. Lavega, Charity B. Cando embodied the University's core values through their active participation and intercultural sensitivity. Accompanying the student delegates was Dr. Ruby A. Serrano, Program Head of the Bachelor of Secondary Education (BSEd), who served as faculty mentor throughout the exchange. Their experiences underscored not only academic enrichment but also the forging of international friendships and collaborative ties.

The partnership with TTrU stands as a milestone in USEP's internationalization efforts, reinforcing its commitment to preparing future educators with the global perspectives and cross-cultural competencies needed to thrive in today's interconnected educational landscape.

USEP strengthens internationalization through student participation in global sustainability forum

The University of Southeastern Philippines (USEP) reinforced its internationalization agenda with the participation of Mr. Jeck Louh O. Isidor, President of the USEP-Mintal Student Council, in the 3rd International Student Leaders Meeting on Sustainability (ISLMS) 2025, held on April 10 in Szeged, Hungary.

Organized by the University of Szeged in partnership with the Global Youth and Sustainability Networks, the forum gathered student leaders from over 30 countries under the theme "Youth-Led Solutions for a Sustainable Future." The two-day event featured lectures from international experts, leadership workshops, cultural exchanges, and site visits to sustainability initiatives. A major outcome was the drafting of the International Youth Declaration on Sustainability, which will be submitted to

partner institutions and global bodies such as the United Nations Sustainable Development Solutions Network.

By taking part in ISLMS 2025, USEP underscored its commitment to cultivating globally competent leaders and building strong international linkages. The University affirmed that such engagements not only elevate its presence on the global stage but also contribute meaningfully to advancing the Sustainable Development Goals.



Scan here to view more photos



▲ **Elevating Global Student Leadership.** USEP Mintal Student Council President Isidor represents the University at the 3rd ISLMS 2025.



USEP hosts 2nd TVET Research Conference

The University of Southeastern Philippines (USEP) welcomed the organizers, partners, and delegates of the 2nd Technical-Vocational Education and Training (TVET) Research Biennial Conference held on May 19–20, 2025, at the USEP Obrero Campus in Davao City.

In his message delivered by USEP Vice President for Academic Affairs Dr. Jeneifer C. Nueva, USEP President Dr. Bonifacio G. Gabales, Jr. expressed his gratitude for the opportunity to serve as a partner in this important event and to contribute to the shared commitment of advancing research in technical and vocational education. USEP affirmed its commitment to strengthening the role of TVET as a bridge to meaningful employment and inclusive development, noting that the College of Technology at the Obrero Campus is a pioneer in training middle-level manpower since 1983 and continues to play a central role in this mission.

Organized by the Mindanao Technical-Vocational Education and Training (MinTVET) Association, in collaboration with the Unified TVET of the Philippines, Inc. (UniTVET) and the Private Education Assistance Committee (PEAC), the conference brought together TVET stakeholders—including policymakers, industry leaders, researchers, faculty, and practitioners—to exchange insights, experiences, and research findings.

Also present were Ms. Lourdes M. Mission, Past President of MinTVET and Trustee of UniTVET, who warmly acknowledged the guests and participants; Dr. John Thomas C. Franco, President of Mindanao TVET and Trustee of UniTVET, who delivered an inspiring message to the attendees; and Dr. Marte M. Emperio, Conference Chair and Vice President for Internal Affairs of MinTVET, who presented the conference overview.

The two-day event featured keynote presentations, panel discussions, and research paper presentations centered on the theme, "Data to Decisions: Building Future-Ready TVET through Research (Evidence. Excellence. Engagement)."



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GAD office wraps up 2025 National Women's Month Celebration

With the vibrant Purple Walkathon and a closing program at the Obrero Campus field, the Gender and Development (GAD) Office of the University of Southeastern Philippines (USEP) brought the 2025 National Women's Month Celebration (NWMC) to a meaningful close on April 4, 2025.

Earlier in the afternoon, students and personnel gathered at the College of Education (CEd) Quadrangle for a free massage service facilitated by GAD Director Assoc. Prof. Genesely R. Tahoy, the GADvocates, and TESDA Representative Ms. Marcela A. Rondina with her team of certified therapists. The activity emphasized the importance of self-care in promoting both physical well-being and mental resilience.

The closing ceremonies began with a dance number by student performers, followed by the reading of the One Billion Rising backgrounder by Assoc. Prof. Tahoy, underscoring the global call to end violence

against women. A mass dance then energized the crowd, symbolizing unity and empowerment.

The highlight of the event was the Purple Walkathon led by CEd faculty member and GADvocate Ms. Catherine P. Ison. Clad in purple, participants marched around the campus in solidarity for women's rights and gender equality.

- ▲ Celebrating Women's Month with Purpose. Student performers open USEP's 2025 NWMC program.
- ▼ USEP President Dr. Bonifacio G. Gabales, Jr. avails of the free massage service during the 2025 NWMC culmination.



GADvocates sharpen USEP procedures manual for gender equality

To strengthen gender-responsive governance and inclusive development, the Gender and Development (GAD) Office of the University of Southeastern Philippines (USEP) spearheaded a writeshop on the enhancement of the GAD Procedures Manual on April 1, 2025, at the School of Medicine, Tagum-Mabini Campus.

The one-day activity gathered faculty and staff GADvocates from different campuses for a collaborative review and refinement of the manual. The initiative also laid the groundwork for the University's GAD Strategic Agenda 2025–2030.

Anchored on the FY 2025 GAD Action Plan under Cross-Cutting Strategic Area of Concern (CCSAC) 1: Leadership, Governance, and Partnership, the writeshop aligns with Sustainable Development Goal 5 (Gender Equality) and supports USEP's 12-point priority agenda on inclusive leadership,

institutional development, and people-centered programs.

Through focused discussions, presentations, and consultations with GAD experts, participants examined current practices, identified gaps, and proposed revisions to make policies more responsive to the needs of the academic community. A particular emphasis was placed on ensuring that projects and programs requiring Board approval reflect gender sensitivity and inclusivity at every stage.

The writeshop forms part of a continuing initiative to develop the GAD Strategic Plan 2025–2030, envisioned as a blueprint for advancing gender and development across the University. More than a policy exercise, the activity reaffirmed USEP's commitment to cultivating a gender-fair, inclusive, and empowered academic environment.

USEP holds orientation on trademark licensing; signs licensing agreements

The University of Southeastern Philippines (USEP) held an orientation on Trademark Licensing of USEP brands and logo on May 5, 2025, at the USEP Obrero Campus. The activity marked an important milestone in the University's brand management initiatives, following the filing of applications for the registration of its official seal and logo.

Organized by the Knowledge and Technology Transfer Division (KTTD) in partnership with the Public Affairs Division (PAD), Research Management Division (RMD), and the Office of Legal Affairs (OLA), the event introduced the University's licensing program to potential partners, particularly printing and merchandising firms interested in producing USEP-branded items.

In her opening remarks, USEP Vice President for Administration Dr. Maria Luisa B. Faunillan expressed appreciation to the participants for their interest in forging partnerships with the University and commended the lead divisions for advancing USEP's efforts toward responsible and collaborative brand expansion.

Presentations on legal considerations, branding guidelines, and opportunities for merchandise and collaboration were delivered by directors, Engr. Francis Louise C. Yap of KTTD, Dr. Rosfe Corlae D. Badoy of PAD, and Dr. John Mark S. Francisco of RMD. An open forum followed, with Vice President for Research, Development and Extension (VPRDE) Dr. Roger C. Montepio and OLA Director Atty. Edward Caesar J. Bedro addressing compliance concerns and clarifying key provisions of the licensing program. VPRDE Dr. Montepio, who also delivered the closing message, underscored the essential considerations in entering into licensing agreements.

The orientation concluded with the signing of agreements accrediting four official suppliers as licensed producers of USEP-branded merchandise. Hana Grafix Printing Services, GMP Conglomerate Corporate Office Services, Kingtian Pros Advertising, and EJ Kenny-Bunny Computer Services were formally welcomed into the University's non-exclusive licensing framework. University President Dr. Bonifacio G. Gabales, Jr. signed on behalf of USEP, affirming the institution's commitment to building responsible partnerships that uphold and promote the University's identity.



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EXCHANGE OF WHAT IS BEST AND REPLICABLE

USEP welcomes benchmarking visits

Taking inspiration and input from the best and exemplary practices and strategies implemented by the University in various areas of academic program implementation; administration; research, development, and extension, several higher education institutions (HEIs) in Region XI and beyond had conducted benchmarking visits to the University of Southeastern Philippines (USEP) for the second quarter of 2025.

Visiting Institution	Visited University Office	Day of visit
Davao del Sur State College	Office of the Vice President for Academic Affairs, Curriculum and Instruction Office, Office of the Advanced Studies, Quality Assurance Division, Office of Legal Affairs	April 2
Occidental Mindoro State College	Obrero Campus: Curriculum and Instruction Office, International Affairs Division, Administrative Services Division, Human Resource Management Division, University Learning Resource Center, College of Education, College of Engineering, College of Information and Computing, College of Business Administration, Research Development and Extension, Data Privacy Office, University Assessment and Guidance Center, Office of Student Affairs and Services TMC: College of Teacher Education and Technology, College of Agricultural and Related Sciences	April 8 and 10
Carlos Hilado Memorial State University	International Affairs Division, Research and Development Division, KTTD - Intellectual Property Management Unit, Extension Division	April 30
Ministry of Trade, Investments, and Tourism-Bangsamoro Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao	KTTD - DigiHub Fabrication Laboratory	April 30
San Pedro College	School of Medicine	May 6
Romblon State University	International Affairs Division Finance Division	May 20
Zamboanga Peninsula Polytechnic State University (ZPPSU)	Expanded Tertiary Education, Equivalency, and Accreditation Program (ETEEAP)	May 21
Notre Dame of Midsayap College	University Learning Resource Center	May 22
Caraga State University	School of Medicine	June 5
Davao Oriental State University Davao del Norte State College Davao de Oro State College Southern Philippines Agri-business and Marine and Aquatic School of Technology	Office of Legal Affairs Office of the Secretary of the University-University Records Office	June 30



Market Day at USeP features local harvest

USeP agri-entrepreneurs showcased fresh produce and local goods during the USeP Market Day held on May 21, 2025, at the Food Hub of the Technology and Livelihood Education (TLE) Building, Obrero Campus. The activity drew in members of the University community eager to shop for farm-fresh items.

Organized by the Resource Management Division (RMD) in partnership with the Corporate Enterprise Development Unit (CEDU) of Tagum-Mabini Campus, the event featured a variety of agricultural products including saging (saba, lakatan, cardava), sweet corn, bayabas, okra, and lemonsito.

Market Day served not only as a venue for purchasing goods but also as an

avenue to promote sustainable practices, support local farmers, and strengthen community engagement within the University. Shoppers were encouraged to bring reusable bags as part of efforts to reduce single-use plastics.

The initiative forms part of USeP's continuing drive to support livelihood opportunities and to highlight the importance of sustainability in everyday consumption.

▲ **Supporting Local Harvests.** Shoppers browse fresh, sustainable produce during the USeP Market Day, highlighting the University's commitment to promoting local agriculture and responsible consumption.



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We welcome contributions! Please send articles written in clear, correct English, along with photos that include captions, to pad@usep.edu.ph.

Photos and captions must be separated from the text. The Public Affairs Division reserves the right to choose articles and photos that appear in the University of Southeastern Philippines Newsletter.

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