

# CHED GREEN-LIGHTS USEP SoM, UNIVERSITY TO DELIVER MEDICAL EDUCATION

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## USEP Newsletter

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WE BUILD DREAMS WITHOUT LIMITS

“

I owe today to each and every one of you. I am only a representative of all the University's organized groups and offices, reporting the reward for our work with immense pride.

”

**Dr. Lourdes C. Generalao**  
University President



### USEP@43: KINDLING THE FIRE OF ASEAN HEART

► FULL STORY ON PAGE 6



### USEP emerges Champion, bags Special Recognition at the 2021 Philippines FOI Awards

The University of Southeastern Philippines (USEP) received two (2) prestigious awards for its full implementation of the government's Freedom of Information (FOI) campaign during the 5th Edition of the FOI Awards spearheaded by the Presidential Communications Operations Office (PCOO) on 25 November 2021 at the Radisson Blu Hotel... **► MORE ON PAGE 3**



### CHED XI recognizes USEP, HEIs in 2021 Gawad Parangal

In line with the celebration of the 27th Founding Anniversary of the Commission of Higher Education (CHED) with the theme, "PADYAK! Moving Forward by Claiming Victory for Philippine Higher Education. Pamantasan: Pandayan Tungo sa Kaunlaran" and the anniversary of Unified Financial... **► MORE ON PAGE 4**



FROM PAGE 1

## CHED green-lights USEP SoM University to deliver medical education

To address the shortage of doctors in the underserved areas of the country as well as to fulfill the mandate of providing medical education, the University of Southeastern Philippines (USEP) conducted the Unveiling and Ribbon Cutting and virtually launched the School of Medicine (SoM) offering the Doctor of Medicine (MD) program on October 16, and 18, 2021, via Zoom. This was streamed live thru the SoM's official Facebook page (@USEPSchoolofMedicine), respectively.

The University has recently obtained the government permit to operate the Doctor of Medicine (M.D.) program under SoM after the Commission of Higher Education (CHED) Technical Committee's go signal last August 31, 2021.

### Unveiling of SoM

CHED Chair, Dr. J. Prospero E. De Vera III, together with Central Office Commissioner and Chair of the USEP Board of Regents, Dr. Aldrin A. Darilag, CHED XI Regional Director, Maricar R. Casquejo, and UNIFAST Officer-in-Charge (OIC) for the Officer of the Executive Director IV, Atty. Ryan L. Esteves, graced the School's opening with University President, Dr. Lourdes C. Generalao, leading the USEP key officials.

USEP is the third state university that has been authorized to offer a medical program after Western Mindanao State University (WMSU) and Cebu Normal University (CNU) in CHED's effort to support the 'Doktor Para sa Bayan' Act or R.A. 11509.

Chair De Vera, in his speech, challenged USEP regarding the University's future licensure examination results.

"Four years from now, I expect you to have the 100 percent passing rate in the licensure test," he remarked.

He also lauded the performance of State Universities and Colleges (SUCs) in the field of medicine.

"The track record of eight SUCs with the medical program is very good. In fact, the licensure results of public universities having medical programs is higher than licensure results of the private universities," he said. "I want to show that public investments in medicine is going to produce very good graduates," he added.

Dr. De Vera also announced that the Commission has already approved initial funding of 25 million pesos to USEP for the operational costs and upgrading of facilities of the SoM, and another 25 million coming from Institutional Grant (IG) of CHED.

### Virtual Launching

The launch was attended by the University officials led by Dr. Lourdes C. Generalao, University President; officials from Commission on Higher Education (CHED), several Tagum City officials, and invited medical practitioners from across the region.

In her welcome message, Dr. Melinda C. Tagle, MD, the inaugural SoM Dean, underscored that opening SoM is a response to the growing need of doctors and medical practitioners, especially at this time of the pandemic. She also promised that the University will serve the community by providing a quality and world-class health care education program.

"Providing genuine service and

benevolence is the main core of the School of Medicine," Dr. Tagle said. She also called for the sense of USEPian community, "The vision and goals of the School of Medicine would be achieved and realized when all of us in the community constantly work hand in hand. This requires our collective effort wrapped in love," she added.

Dr. Lourdes C. Generalao, University President, expressed her appreciation and gratitude to the people who showed their support to make the endeavor possible. She also emphasized the role USEP will play in the medical field and education in the region.

"As the only SUC in the Davao Region to operate Doctor of Medicine Program, the University is given the capacity to transform lives of individuals from impoverished backgrounds. With this influence, USEP has become a catalyst of significant change in different communities," Dr. Generalao said.

USEP had acquired the license to operate the MD program through SoM last August 31, 2021, joining the list of successful SUCs to support and avail the Republic Act (R.A.) 11509, also known as Doktor sa Bayan Act.

Last May 25, 2018, the University also signed a Memorandum of Agreement (MoA) with the Davao Regional Medical Center (DRMC) as the MD program's partner hospital.

Senators, led by the principal author of R.A. 11509, Senator Joel Villanueva, also gave their congratulatory remarks and challenge for USEP.

USEP, being the lone SUC approved by CHED to operate the MD program in the Davao Region, continues to live up to the University's mantra of building dreams without limits.



**LONE SUC TO OFFER MD IN THE REGION.** From left to right: The arrival of CHED chair Dr. J. Prospero E. De Vera III to USEP Tagum Unit escorted by University President Dr. Lourdes C. Generalao and USEP Tagum-Mabini Chancellor Dr. Cesar A. Limbaga, Jr.; Chair De Vera inspecting the facilities of SoM; and Dr. Generalao receiving the establishment plaque from Chair De Vera and CHED Commissioner Dr. Aldrin A. Darilag.



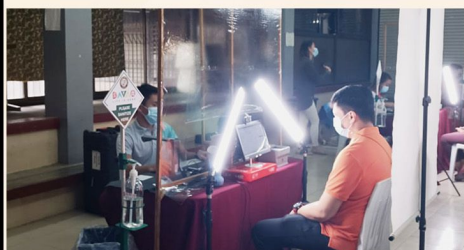
## UNIVERSITY NEWSBITS



### USeP supports National Vax Drive

Supporting the initiative of the government to vaccinate at least 15 million Filipinos during the three (3) days national Covid-19 vaccination program dubbed “Bayanihan, Bakunahan” from November 29 to December 1, 2021, the University of Southeastern Philippines (USeP) opened its University Gymnasium and Cultural Center as one of the vaccination centers in Davao region.

According to Secretary Carlito Galvez, Jr., the Chief Implementer of the National Task Force (NTF) against Covid-19 and Vaccine Czar, this vaccination initiative involved a “whole-of-society” and “whole-of-government” approach.



### PSA, USeP hold PhilSys Institutional Registration

The University, in partnership with the Philippine Statistics Authority (PSA) Region XI Office, conducted a PhilSys Institutional Registration on December 9-11, 2021 at the University Social Hall.

The University's support to this initiative clearly expressed its commitment to pursuing the provisions of Republic Act No. 11055, also known as the Philippine System Act, which promotes seamless delivery of service; improves efficiency and transparency; enhances administrative governance and reduces corruption; and curtails bureaucratic red tape to avert fraudulent transactions and misrepresentations to strengthen financial inclusion.

FROM PAGE 1

## USeP emerges Champion, bags Special Recognition at the 2021 Philippines FOI Awards

The University of Southeastern Philippines (USeP) received two (2) prestigious awards for its full implementation of the government's Freedom of Information (FOI) campaign at the 5th Edition of the FOI Awards spearheaded by the Presidential Communications Operations Office (PCOO) on 25 November 2021 at the Radisson Blu Hotel in Cebu City.

USeP won as the 2021 FOI Champion in the State Universities and Colleges (SUCs) Category for its exemplary performance in the implementation of the FOI program, which has made significant progress in providing Filipinos their right to access information on matters of public concern.

Likewise, the University Records Officer and FOI Decision Maker, Mr. Robert C. Satorre, was one of the eight awardees as Best FOI Officer from a pool of more than four thousand (4,000) FOI Officers across the country, for having driven the USeP's efficient and effective compliance with the FOI program and processes, including zero delays in handling requests.

Mr. Satorre, together with FOI Receiving Officers Ms. Jamaica R. Lapayag and Mr. Clent Ian A. Acojedo, received the FOI Champion Award on behalf of the University.

The University President Dr. Lourdes C. Generalao, on her virtual acceptance message, said, “I vowed that my leadership is aligned to good governance and shall implement reforms and initiatives that promotes greater accountability and transparency.” She added that the University will continue

to be consistent in pushing through efforts in championing freedom of information and look forward to having a well-informed and empowered citizenry as we strive to achieve a better future for every Filipino.

The FOI Awards is an annual event that aims to recognize the remarkable contributions to the FOI Program of government offices in the executive branch, including Government-Owned and Controlled Corporations (GOCCs), SUCs, and local water districts, in promoting open, transparent, and accountable governance.

With this year's theme “REVISITING THE MILESTONES, REINVENTING THE FUTURE: Celebrating Five (5) Years of FOI Implementation in the Philippines”, the FOI Awards Committee is composed of a representative from the Office of the Executive Secretary, who acted as the Chairperson, a representative from the Freedom of Information – Project Management Office (FOI-PMO), and one representative each from the academe, the business sector, and a Non-Government Organization/Civil Society Organization.

The FOI program in the University is spearheaded by the Office of the Secretary of the University and the University Records Office (OSU-URO) and is being implemented under the Executive Order (EO) No. 2 series of 2016, which operationalizes in the Executive branch the people's right to information and to do full public disclosure and transparency in the public service.



**USeP AS FOI CHAMPION.** Mr. Robert C. Satorre (third from the left) receives the award for being one of the best FOI officers in the country together with Ms. Jamaica R. Lapayag, and Mr. Clent Ian A. Acojedo. University President Lourdes delivers her words of thanks after the University is awarded as the champion in SUC Category.



## CHED XI recognizes USEP, HEIs in 2021 Gawad Parangal



**PADYAK PA, USEP!** CHED recognizes the efforts of the University in its endeavors in improving the quality of education and instruction.

In line with the celebration of the 27th Founding Anniversary of the Commission of Higher Education (CHED) with the theme, “PADYAK! Moving Forward by Claiming Victory for Philippine Higher Education. Pamantasan: Pandayan Tungo sa Kaunlaran” and the anniversary of Unified Financial Assistance System for Tertiary Education Act (UniFAST), the CHED Regional Office XI held the Gawad Parangal 2021 on October 15, 2021, at the Davao del Sur Coliseum.

The University of Southeastern Philippines (USEP), among other local colleges and higher education institutions (HEIs) in the region, received several awards and plaques of recognition after meeting the standards set by the Commission and for the University’s achievement in the field of instruction.

The Gawad Parangal 2021 awards were personally handed over by the event’s guest of honor, Dr. J. Prospero “Popoy” De Vera III, Chair of the Commission on Higher Education (CHED); Dr. Aldrin A. Darilag, CHED Commissioner and Chair of the USEP Board of Regents; Atty. Ryan L. Estevez, UniFAST Officer in Charge (OIC) for the Officer of the Executive Director IV; and Dr. Maricar R. Casquejo, Regional Director of CHED RO XI.

USEP Tagum Unit was recognized for the Excellence in Instruction for producing first placers in Licensure Examination for Professional Teachers (LPT) Elementary Level, and twice of the Agricultural Biosystems Engineering (ABE) conducted by the Professional Regulation Commission (PRC) in September 2018, October 2019, and September 2021.

The same recognition is also given to USEP Obrero Campus for producing first placers in Licensure Examinations for Professional Teachers (LPT) Elementary and Secondary Levels, and Mechanical Engineering in September 2019 and February 2020.

Moreover, the University received a Certificate of Program Compliance (COPC), a recognition for the full compliance with the policies, standards, and guidelines of CHED, for Bachelor of Elementary Education (BEEd), Bachelor of Early Childhood Education (BECed), Bachelor of Physical Education (BPED), Bachelor of Technology and Livelihood Education major in Home Economics (BTLED-HE), and Bachelor of Science in Economics with majors in Development Economics, Monetary and Financial Economics, and Resource Environmental Economics.

## PNVSCA, RDC XI name USEP as outstanding COVID-19 Volunteer Organization

The University of Southeastern Philippines (USEP) is recognized as one of the Outstanding COVID-19 Volunteers under the Organization Category during the 2021 Davao Region’s Outstanding COVID-19 Volunteer Awarding Ceremony of Regional Development Council (RDC) XI held via Zoom and livestreamed via the official Facebook page of the RDC XI on December 7, 2021.

Other awarded organizations were the Filipino-Chinese Firefighters of Davao, Inc., Food Processing Innovation Center- Davao, Philippine Red Cross-Digos City, and Rural Improvement Club

Improvement Club Federation- Panabo City.

The said award was given to recognize the exemplary performance and dedication of Filipino volunteers and their contribution to development and nation-building despite the challenge of the pandemic.

The Philippine National Volunteer Service Coordinating Agency (PNVSCA) conducts the annual Search among individuals and organizations providing volunteer assistance in the Philippines, assisted by the Regional Development Council XI and the NEDA Regional Office XI.



**USEP IS AN ACTIVE VOLUNTEER ORGANIZATION.** The PNVSCA and RDC XI award certificate of recognition to the University.



## AACCUP conducts Accreditation Survey Visit at USEP

The University of Southeastern Philippines (USEP) welcomed the Accrediting Agency of Chartered Colleges and Universities in the Philippines (AACCUP) for the Online Accreditation Survey Visit on November 23-26, 2021.

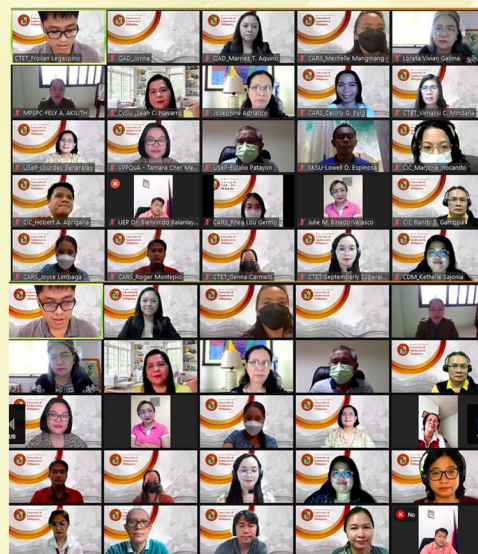
AACCUP conducted survey visits on the different programs and different levels: one (1) from College of Agriculture and Related Sciences (CARS), one from (1) from College of Engineering (CoE), one from (1) College of Information and Computing (CIC), three from (3) College of Teacher Education and Technology (CTET), and two from (2) from College of Development Management (CDM).

The online accreditation survey is in line with the University's goals of increasing public trust and confidence in the quality of academic undergraduate

and graduate programs offered by USEP.

Among the programs accredited is the Bachelor of Science in Industrial Technology (BS IndTech) which is now certified level 4, among others. Also, the Commission on Higher Education (CHED) certified that the University complied with the minimum requirements of the Commission to offer BS IndTech major in Electrical, Electronics, Automotive, and Mechanical Technology for the School Year (S.Y.) 2021-2022.

It can be recalled that the University's annual accreditation target for undergraduate programs is 88 percent of which the University achieved 97 percent, which means that 30 out of 31 programs were accredited. As for graduate programs, the target is 60 percent and USEP achieved 78 percent as of the third quarter of 2021.



**USEP TO INCREASE PUBLIC CONFIDENCE ON ITS PROGRAMS.** Participants of AACCUP Accreditation Survey Visit pose in a photo opportunity during the closing meeting of AACCUP Survey Visit.



**USEP IS HOME TO INNOVATIONS FOR THE PEOPLE.** Some of the projects undertaken by the University in partnership with DOST Councils and regional offices.

## Innovations, technologies front and center on USEP fete for NSTW 2021

Despite the stringent restrictions on conducting events involving mass gatherings and face-to-face engagements, the University celebration of the National Science and Technology Week (NSTW) 2021 on November 22 to 28, 2021 remained a resounding success despite being done virtually.

Dubbed with the theme, "Agham at Teknolohiya: Tugon sa Hamon ng Panahon", the NSTW 2021 highlighted all the research and development (R & D) outputs as well as the innovation, technologies, and services developed, offered, and partnered with the Department of Science and Technology (DOST) councils and regional offices that helped address the challenges brought by pandemic and climate change.

Several projects and technologies featured in the virtual exhibit included the Science for the Convergence of Agriculture and Tourism (SciCAT), Pre- and postharvest tools and facilities for Mango Production in Region XI, Mechanical Cacao Pod Bagger, Solar-powered Irrigation with Aquaculture System in Rain-fed Rice Field, Coconut tree climbing-harvesting Device and Mobile Dehusker, Payment Innovation for SHS Ownership by Lay Away Routine (PISOLAR), and Banana Diseases Surveillance System.

A virtual tour of the DigiHub-FabLab Davao, a collaborative project between the University, Department of Trade and Industry (DTI XI), and DOST, also promoted facilities such as the 3D Printer Machine and

scanner, CNC Milling Machine, Heatpress, Large format printer, embroidery machine, and more.

NSTW is a yearly national event celebrated every fourth week of November by the Proclamation 780 signed by President Rodrigo Duterte.







## USeP@43: Kindling ASEAN

The eagle, with its heart afire with the ASEAN heat, will soar and reach heights.

Celebrating its 43rd year since its founding in 1978 through the Batas Pambansa Bilang 12, the University of Southeastern Philippines (USeP) ended the year 2021 with the virtual commemoration of its Founding Anniversary via Zoom, and streamed live via the University's official Facebook page on December 13-15, 2021.

Centered on the theme: "USeP: Igniting the ASEAN H.E.a.R.T (Heal, Empower and Rise Together), the event convened students, faculty members, non-teaching staff, alumni, and retirees for various events and competitions hosted by the College of Education (CED).

A Healing Mass preceded the conduct of the series of activities presided by Rev. Fr. Emmanuel Gonzaga, DCD and followed by the opening program and the presentation of the 43rd Founding Anniversary theme song entitled, "Lipad", a song that speaks of USeP as an eagle that took flight in the horizon witnessing many stories from various walks of life. This song encourages the USeP community to learn more about ASEAN and get more involved in society as the University strives to become an ASEAN research university.

The University through the Human Resource Management Division (HRMD),

as the committee in-charge, proffered tribute to the outstanding performance of the University stakeholders and recognition to students, faculty, non-teaching personnel, and alumni during the Adlaw sa mga Bahandi.

The creativity and innovations of USeP were also celebrated through the Innofiesta 2021, spearheaded by the Knowledge and Technology Transfer Division (KTTD) and AgiLab with the theme, "Celebrating the Fruits of University's Creativity and Innovation amidst challenges", with the event covering a tech2Go Demonstration Day and Digital Scientific Poster Making Contest. John Maynard V. Gan, a Development Management Officer of Mindanao Development Authority (MnDA) was invited to speak about the entrepreneurship and innovation Ecosystem in Mindanao.

The International Affairs Division (IAD) hosted a webinar themed, "A Celebration of International Partnerships: Rising Together in the New Normal" on December 14, 2021 which highlighted a glimpse of international students' experiences in the University, a talk about the future of international collaboration and its challenges and opportunities, a contest on digital poster making, and celebration of awards for international partners and most active college/s in internationalization.







## Rekindling the fire of the UN heart

Revisiting the USEP's commitment to promote inclusive and transformative education in reducing recidivism, the University commemorated its journey and partnership with the Bureau of Jail Management and Penology (BJMP) and the Social Entrepreneurship Technology and Business Institute (SETBI), Inc., in establishing the College Education Behind Bars (CEBB). The virtual commemoration included testimonies of successful former inmates turned students and inspiring messages of delegates from BJMP, SETBI Inc., and CHED ROXI.

Lined up events also included the Retirees Activity dubbed as, "USEPRA: Pagkumustahay and Webinar on Mental Health Issues Among Retirees", and the Alumni Connect: Grand Alumni Homecoming.

One of the highlights of the three-day Founding Anniversary included the State of the University Address of Dr. Lourdes C. Generalao on December 15, 2021 at the University Gymnasium and Cultural Center. Dr. Generalao, as the University President, presented the USEP's significant accomplishments, including the infrastructure and program developments for 2022.

The Anniversary concluded with the faculty and Staff virtual presentation and competition on ASEAN costume parade and dance competition, as well as awarding of winners.

The College of Teaching Education and Technology (CTET) and School of Medicine (SoM) bagged the first place in the University ID video making contest; followed by the College of Development Management (CDM) and the College of Technology (CT) for the second and third place, respectively.

For the ASEAN costume parade, the College of Engineering (CoE) placed first followed by the College of Business Administration (CBA), and College of Agriculture and Related Sciences (CARS) for the second and third place, respectively.

For the ASEAN dance competition, the College of Business Administration (CBA) ranked first followed by the College of Technology (CT), and College of Information and Computing (CIC) for the second and third place, respectively.

The College of Development Management (CDM) was awarded with the People's Choice Award and Composer's Choice Award for their entry on University ID Video Making Competition.





# Mango takes the spotlight in the first-ever virtual science 'FIESTA'

Mango is the front and center in the first-ever virtual Farms and Industry Encounters through Science and Technology Agenda (FIESTA) with the theme, “Sustainable, Well-Enhanced, and Efficient Technologies (SWEET) on Mangoes”, from December 3, 9-10 & 16-17, 2021.

Spearheaded by Southern Mindanao Agriculture Aquatic and Natural Resources Research and Development Consortium (SMAARRDEC), in collaboration with the Visayas Consortium for Agriculture Aquatic and Natural Resources Program (ViCARP) and the SOCCSKSARGEN Agriculture, Aquatic and Natural Resources Research and Development Consortium (SOXAARRDEC), the FIESTA gathered virtually about 100 mango farmers across regions particularly those from regions 8, 11, and 12.

Dr. Reynaldo V. Ebor, Executive Director of the Department of Science and Technology-Philippine Council for Agriculture Aquatic and Natural Resources Research and Development (DOST-PCAARRD), said that FIESTA is a platform for sharing science and technology research breakthroughs to stakeholders, linking farmers to the market. The conduct of science FIESTA started in 2014 which is DOST-PCAARRD's initiative in disseminating and commercializing



**FIESTA CELEBRATING MANGOES.** University officials together with delegates from SMAARRDEC and partnered agencies pose for a photo opportunity during the opening ceremonies of Mango FIESTA.

matured technologies generated by regional/local experts.

As mango is considered a high-value commercial crop that provides livelihood to about 2.5M farmers nationwide, the DOST-PCAARRD invested about 15M for the development of ready-for-commercialization technologies implemented in the three (3) regions. Implemented and ready-for-commercialization technologies included the Molecular Markers for Mango Cultivar Identification and Genetic Characterization of University of Southern Philippines (USM), the Dipstick Kit to Detect True-To-Type Philippines Carabao Mango of Visayas State College (VSU), and the Pre-and Postharvest Technologies of the University of Southeastern Philippines (USEP).

The development of these projects gave hope for better and enhanced productivity for the mango industry. Furthermore, these projects were funded with the ultimate desire to elevate the livelihood of the small-scale mango farmers using the low-cost technologies generated.

With the conduct of this virtual cluster Mango FIESTA, the adoption and commercialization of these technologies will propel the increase of mango production in the country.

## PAD, Extension Division conduct CapDev 2021

To produce Information, Education, and Communication (IEC) materials that are at par with the present trend on information dissemination, the University of Southeastern Philippines, through the initiative of the Public Affairs Division (PAD) and in partnership with the Extension Division, held a two-day capacity development activity dubbed as “Capacity Development on the Basics of Graphic Designing and Video Editing, and Social Media Handling and Content Management”, at the University Social Hall on December 1-2, 2021. The said event was participated in by the PAD coordinators and Extension Heads, as well as staff from all colleges from all campuses.

Ms. Rioliza B. Molina, PAD Director, in her opening remarks expressed her hopes that the capacity development activity will be productive

in helping coordinators and extension heads to improve their visual and graphic outputs, as well as develop better management of their respective college social media pages.

On her closing message during the awarding of certificates, Dr. Roby V. Pagong, Extension Division Director, expressed her thanks to all attendees and participants of the event for their zeal to learn more and their commitment to bettering the image and performance of the University to its stakeholders and partners.

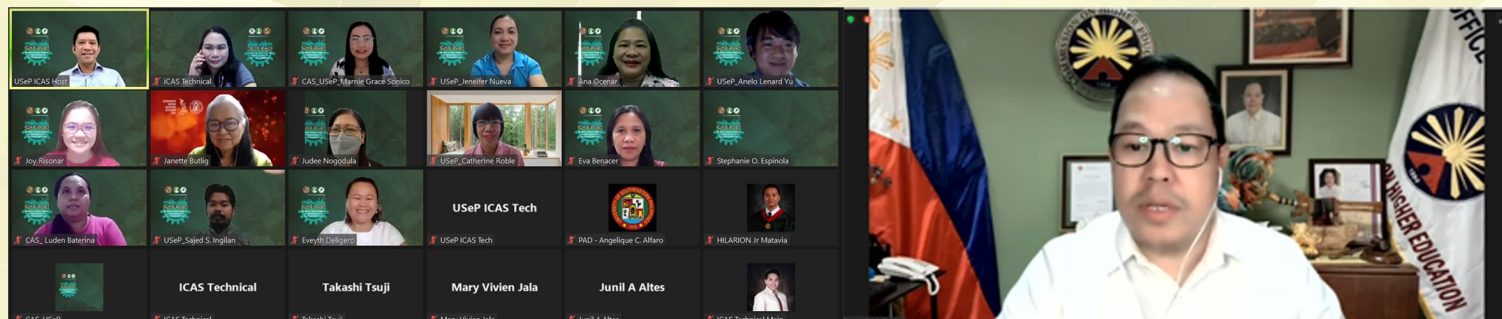
Participants of the event produced IEC materials such as raw templates for virtual meeting background pictures, announcement posters, and event teaser videos.



**SMILES BEHIND THE MASK.** Participants of the CapDev activity strike a pose on the culmination of the two-day activity.



## Stronger research culture: CAS highlights studies in ICAS 2021



**RESEARCH CULTURE IN A RESEARCH UNIVERSITY.** Dr. Aldrin A. Darilag, CHED Commissioner (right) delivers his words of congratulations to the University for initiating events like research fora focus on disseminating the importance and relevance of research.

In line with the vision of the University to become a premier research university in the ASEAN, the College of Arts and Sciences (CAS) spearheaded a virtual international research forum dubbed as “International Conference on Arts and Sciences (ICAS) 2021” on November 26 and 27, 2021 via Zoom.

With the theme: “Research to Inspire, Empower and Revolutionize in the 5.0 Industrial Revolution”, the forum invited faculty members, staff, students, and participants from other institutions in Mindanao and across the country.

Dr. Shirley S. Villanueva, University Vice President for Research and Development, and Extension (RDE), welcomed the participants by emphasizing the significance of a strong RDE culture with competent human resources and relevant researches for the development of the region not only economically, but also socially.

Dr. Aldrin A. Darilag, Commission on Higher Education (CHED) Commissioner, delivered a speech of gratitude to USEP for hosting a very important event – highlighting that USEP, as a Philippine University, can lead in setting academic standards, especially in research and development. He also challenged the audiences to be active in participating by asking the necessary queries, and by making or completing researches that are relevant to the period of time the country is in.

The event spanned for two (2) days, inviting five (5) resource speakers from different fields of research and disciplines such as social and natural sciences, mathematics, and literature.

## Three USEP studes receive scholarship, sign MOA with PPS-SMD-BCS

The Philippine Phytopathological Society-Southern Mindanao Division (PPS-SMD), in collaboration with the Bayer Crop Science (BCS), has granted a two-year scholarship program to three (3) 3rd year BS Agriculture students specializing in Plant Pathology from the University of Southeastern Philippines, namely: Harold Casinto, Jhanno Dapitanon, and Japhet Paypa.

The Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) signing between PPS-SMD-BCS and the aforementioned students, and turn-over of the scholarship package was conducted at the ARTIC Conference Hall of USEP-Mabini Unit, Davao de Oro, on November 11, 2021. Present during the signing were University officials, Department of Agricultural Sciences (DAS) faculty, selected University students, and officers and Board of Directors (BOD) of PPS-SMD.

Ms. Marilou N. Infante, PPS-SMD BOD and Scholarship Committee Head, presented the overview of the said scholarship and emphasized that the heart of the BOD desires to help students who are financially challenged but academically deserving.

The scholarship provided financial assistance and thesis support to the scholar-students in the form of a stipend for the current semester and a laptop to aid them in the new learning modality.

PPS-SMD President, Dr. Denice G. Catambacan, encouraged the scholars to do their best to finish their degree and consider the scholarship as a reminder to always choose to help others, especially those in need.

Despite her hectic schedule, University President and former PPS-SMD President, Dr. Lourdes C. Generalao, chose to attend the event. “One of the organizations I owe a lot is PPS-SMD, which enriched my curriculum vitae given the training and partnership that we have been through”, she said.

PPS-SMD-BCS scholarship aims to heighten the public awareness on the importance of studying plant pathology in managing plant disease and increasing crop productivity in the country.



**FOR THE AWARENESS ON THE IMPORTANCE OF THE STUDY PLANT PATHOLOGY.** Dr. Lourdes C. Generalao together with Dr. Montepio witness the signing of MOA between USEP scholars and PPS-SMD-BCS delegates.





## USeP campaigns R.A. 11313, promotes 'safe spaces' for women

In observance of the annual 18-day campaign to end violence against women (VAW) from November 25 to December 12, 2021, the University, through the Gender and Development (GAD) Office, spearheaded a virtual forum on Republic Act 11313, otherwise known as 'Safe Spaces Act' on November 25, 2021, via Zoom and streamed live through the University official Facebook page.

Ms. Ma. Luisa B. Faunillan, University Vice President for Administration, in her opening remarks said that the 18-day campaign is in support of the national government's goal of protecting the human rights of women and girls by upholding the commitment to address all forms of gender-based violence.

Atty. Jesus Agora Villardo III, Director of the Office of Legal Affairs (OLA), was invited as the resource speaker to tackle the importance and responsibility of every Filipino in upholding the R.A. 11313 as an important step in curbing violence against women physically and even on the digital platforms.

Atty. Villardo also discussed the scenarios of which gender-based sexual harassment may start as verbal abuse which will most likely progress to physical/sexual violence.

Statistics also shows that 68 percent of women and young girls in the Philippines have experienced online harassment through social media.

Other forms of sexual abuse include unwelcome, uninvited, and intrusive gazing, cat-calling, insulting, offensive, rude and derogatory remarks and comments, he added.

Atty. Villardo also said that these harassments could take place anywhere such as in parks, restaurants, terminals, schools and workplace. He also invited the participants to be more pro-active in dealing with these abuses- in the effort to raise public awareness on these types of violence.

The 2021 observance of the 18-day campaign to end violence against women is anchored in the slogan, "Filipino Marespeto: Safe Spaces, Kasali tayo".

## World AIDS Day: USeP GAD, Research Div hold forum to raise awareness

The University of Southeastern Philippines, through the initiative of the Gender and Development (GAD) and in partnership with the Research Division, held a research forum via Zoom on Human Immunodeficiency Virus-Acquired Immunodeficiency Syndrome (HIV-AIDS) on December 7, 2021, as part of the observance of the World AIDS Day 2021.

Dr. Bernadeth L. Gerodias, Training Specialist of the Southern Philippines Medical Center (SPMC), shared the findings of her research on HIV and Mental Health amidst the COVID-19 pandemic. She also shared the actual statistics on the prevalence of HIV in the country and the contributory factors that cause the HIV incidence number to rise.

According to Dr. Gerodias, the number of cases of HIV per day has increased since 1984. It is estimated that

an average of 29 cases per day is recorded in 2021. She also emphasized that the government is doubling its effort in reducing this number through information and health drives, training, and health and wellness programs-reminding the public that HIV-AIDS has no available cure.

Dr. Gerodias added that the COVID-19 pandemic is a contributory factor in increasing the figures of individuals diagnosed with mental health issues due to bereavement, isolation, loss of income, and fear of contracting the virus. The correlation of health status of immuno-compromised individuals with HIV showed a 78 to 95 percent chance of dying due to the COVID-19.

In the later part of her discussion, she stressed the importance of sufficient and timely funding in combating the

negative effect of the pandemic in mental health programs.

This activity is part of the University's Gender and Development Office's advocacy efforts in heightening public awareness on the topic of HIV-AIDS in relation to mental health during times of great stress such as the pandemic.



**MORE THAN DISCUSSION, ACTION.** Dr. Bernadeth L. Gerodias, in her talk, emphasizes the importance of addressing HIV-AIDS head on and as a responsibility of everybody.



## MODIFIED OXFORD-OREGON CLASSROOM DEBATE

# The Philippines, China share lenses on inclusive education for learners in conflict with the law

*Should learners in conflict with the law have education in an inclusive setting as part of their rehabilitation?*

This was the proposition of the classroom debate between two (2) Doctor of Education (EDD) classes of the University of Southeastern Philippines (USEP) handled by Professional Lecturer Dr. Edna H. Jalotjot under the EDD 302 – Moral Philosophy Applied in Education on December 11, 2021.

The debate was part of Dr. Jalotjot's methodology in facilitating the discussion of one of the special topics in the course syllabus, which is the right to education. The debate encouraged the two classes, which were categorized as two (2) teams – Team Philippines and Team China, to exchange thoughts, concepts, theories, legal bases, and the likes from the perspective of their respective countries.

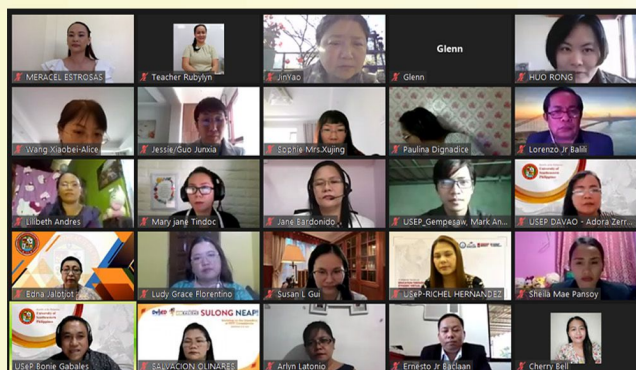
Team Philippines debated as affirmative, which argues for the preposition, was composed of Ernesto Bacalan, Jr. as the team captain with his members, namely: Jane Bardonido, Sheila Mae Pansoy, and Jane Tindoc. While Team China debated as negative, which argues against the preposition led by Guo Junxia as the team captain, with Huo Rong, Wang Xiaobel, and Gui Yuelan, as members.

The said Chinese students are enrolled in the University's EDD program through the engagement of the Chinese Academic Institutions through the Philippine China Jiangsu Center (CJC) Association for Friendship and Education Promotion (AFEP) with USEP.

The Board of Adjudicators was composed of Dr. Salvacion C. Olinas as the Chairperson, the Bureau of Learning Delivery – Department of Education Supervising Education Program Specialist, Inclusive Education Division, Pasig City; Dr. Leonardo B. Pongos, USEP Deputy Director for Mindanao eLearning Space; and, Dr. Adora P. Zerrudo, USEP Deputy Director for Teacher Training and Research Center.

After deliberation, Team Philippines was declared the winner with Sheila Mae Pansoy of Team Philippines as the Best Speaker and Gui Yuelan of Team China as the Best Debater.

Earlier in the program, USEP Vice President for Academic Affairs, Dr. Bonifacio G. Gabales, Jr. commended the EDD 302 – Moral Philosophy Applied in Education classes for supporting the University's efforts in promoting internationalization programs by coming up with a joint class activity.



# Champions' Nest

## USEP grads lead new Electronics Engineers, Technicians

David XYZ Temple Callena and Alyssa Mayette Cobol Caraang, both graduates of the College of Engineering (CoE) of the University of Southeastern Philippines (USEP)- Obrero Campus, bagged the coveted first and tenth spot among the 710 out of 1,484 successful takers in the October 2021 Electronics Engineering Licensure Examinations (ECELE), respectively.

Callena also ranked second among the 738 out of 974 passers of the October 2021 Electronics Technician Licensure Examination (ECTLE).



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## USEP ranks 5th in GELE Best Performing School, grad places 9th

The University of Southeastern Philippines placed 5th in the top-performing schools during the December 2021 Geodetic Engineer Licensure Examination (GELE) with the passing rate of 85.19% from 46 out of 54 successful examinees against the national passing rate of 54.03% from 375 out of 694 takers.

John Lloyd Lleyo Abergas, a graduate from the College of Engineering- Obrero campus, placed 9th with a rating of 88.80%.



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## USEP yano places 6th in November 2021 Civil Engineer Licensure Exam

Art Gil Lumapas Granada, a graduate from the College of Engineering- Obrero campus, placed 6th with a rating of 91.50% out of 2,374 successful takers in the November 2021 Civil Engineer Licensure Exam.





## USeP welcomes benchmarking activities

Several institutions and universities in Region XI had conducted virtual and limited face-to-face benchmarking activities on the University of Southeastern Philippines (USeP) for the year 2021.

These activities put front and center the best and exemplary practices and strategies implemented by the University in the areas of concern of benchmarking.

The North Eastern Mindanao State University (NEMSU), formerly known as the Surigao del Sur State University (SDSSU) virtually benchmarked on the information and the centralized closed circuit television (CCTV) installation and monitoring system of the University's System and Data Management Division (SDMD) on September 6, 2021.

On November 29, 2021, the Davao de Oro State College (DDOSC) also virtually benchmarked on the Science Laboratory Operations Manual of the University of the College of Arts and Sciences (CAS).

Caraga State University (CSU) also visited the University's newly established School of Medicine (SoM) on December 6, 2021 and the main campus on December 7, 2021 to seek technical inputs and inspiration as CSU

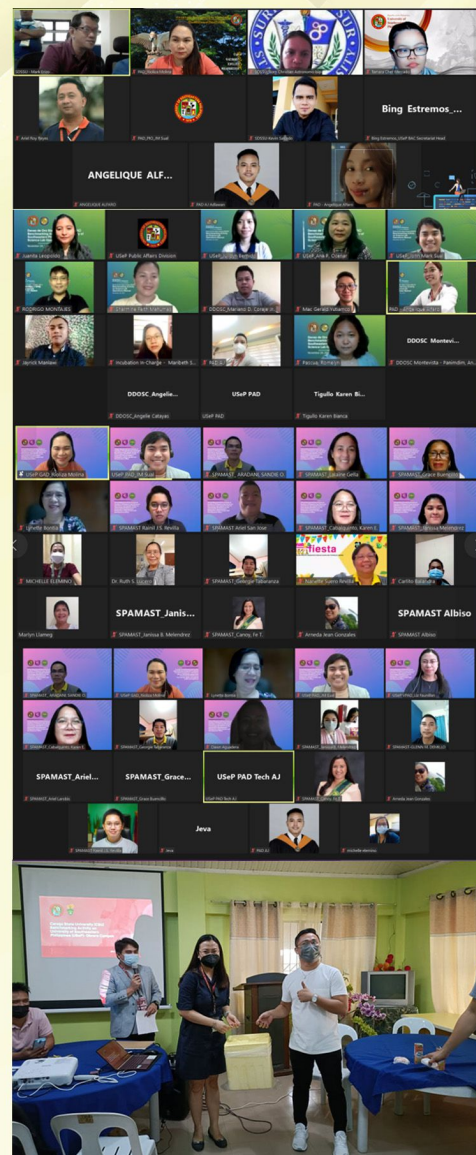
gears to establish their own College of Medicine, and to collect best practices, initiatives, and strategies for planning and design and analysis in preparation for the implementation of limited face-to-face classes, respectively.

Furthermore, on December 10, 2021, the Southern Philippines Agri-Business and Marine and Aquatic School of Technology (SPAMAST) virtually benchmarked on the Gender and Development (GAD) office to discuss best strategies in planning and implementing GAD-related activities which are relevant in the attainment of the goals of Gender and Development and setup and general operation of USeP GAD Office.

The University Public Affairs Division (PAD) had facilitated the above-mentioned benchmarking Activity.

**USeP BEST PRACTICES.** (From top) Delegates and participants on virtual benchmarking from USeP and NEMSU, formerly known as SDSSU, DDOSC; and SPAMAST.

(Bottom picture) VPAd Faunillan receives a token from CSU delegates after a limited face-to-face benchmarking activity at USeP Obrero Campus.



**Public Affairs Division**  
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### GENERAL NOTE:

The USeP Newsletter Volume XVIII documents significant virtual activities of the University for the fourth quarter of 2021.

With a number of virtual activities from October to December 2021, this newsletter exhibits the University's continued efforts in providing quality education to its stakeholders under the new normal.



Check our E-newsletters  
on USeP website or by  
scanning the QR code.  
www.usep.edu.ph

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