



# USEP E-Newsletter

Volume XIV | July - December Issue

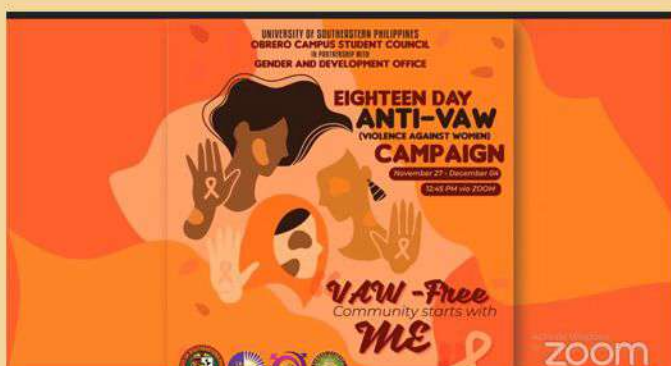
## USEP celebrates 42<sup>nd</sup> Founding Anniversary



As a customary practice in the institution, the University of Southeastern Philippines celebrated its 42nd and the first virtual University Founding Anniversary bearing the theme “One Resilient USEP: Sustaining Excellence in the New Normal” via the Zoom platform and Facebook Live last December 14-15, 2020.

(see page 09)

## GAD supports 18-day campaign to end VAW



The USEP Gender and Development Office (GAD), in partnership with the Obrero Campus Student Council supervised by the Office of Student Affairs and Services, held a forum on Hija Ako Campaign last November 27, 2020 via the Zoom platform and Facebook Live to commemorate the 18-Day Campaign to End Violence Against Women (VAW).

(see page 08)

## USEP passes 2<sup>nd</sup> ISO 9001:2015 surveillance audit



The University of Southeastern Philippines (USEP) successfully passed the second surveillance audit conducted by SOCOTEC Certification Philippines, Inc., (formerly AJA Registrars) on November 3-4, 2020. It can be recalled that USEP had the certification audit visit on September 5-7, 2018 and was recommended for the immediate certification of ISO 9001:2015.

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## Phil-Thai virtual tour strengthens learning continuity amidst the pandemic

### Education Must Continue

As COVID-19 continues to dramatically change the learning landscape, the University of Southeastern Philippines ensured that education must continue amidst the greatest threats to global education through the conduct of a virtual tour with Sakon Nakhon Rajabhat University (SNRU), Thailand on December 12, 2020.

“Education should not stop even at this time of pandemic. We have to utilize available resources to ensure that the objectives of the program are achieved and to guarantee that learning continuity takes place. This virtual tour is one best alternative to an educational tour in our partner universities which we usually do when there is no travel restriction,” stressed Dr. Edna H. Jalotjot, professor of EDD 319, Comparative Education, College of Education.

Meanwhile, the former president of Sakon Nakhon Rajabhat University and a faculty of the Graduate School, Asst. Prof. Dr. Watana Suwannatrai expressed her gratitude to the realization of the virtual tour. She said that they were delighted to share the educational system of Thailand and present the best practices of their university, thereby ensuring learning continuity amidst the pandemic. Likewise, she said that this activity is a practice to hone the leadership strategies of the students as they face unprecedented issues in educational management.

### Sharing of Educational System and School's Best Practices

One of the highlights of the virtual tour was the mutual video presentation of the two countries. The said video presentations contained facts about the country, history, government, culture, educational structure, educational organizational set-up managing its operations including their tourism, and more importantly educational performance in relation to international standards.

“I am happy to see the video presentations concerning the educational system. We learned something from the video presentation,” exclaimed Assistant Professor Dr. Sirilak Sriission phachan, Assistant to the President for International Relations, SNRU.

### Reactions on Issues and Challenges in Education

Dr. Cesar A. Adegue IV, Education Supervisor II of the Commission on

Higher Education-Region Office XI (CHED-RO XI) and Associate Professor Dr. Chaiya Pawabutra, Dean of Faculty of Education shared their expert views on issues and challenges in education both countries, Philippines and Thailand, respectively.

Dr. Adegue stressed that CHED took the challenge of responding to the call of quality education thereby implementing outcomes-based education and typology-based quality assurance to contribute to building a quality nation capable of transferring social, political, economic, cultural and ethical issues that concerned the country's human development, productivity, and global competitiveness.

### Discussion and Exchange of Ideas about Comparative Education

Of equal importance during the virtual tour was the discussion and exchange of ideas about Comparative Education. Both the PhD students of SNRU and the EDD students of USeP threw in relevant questions pertaining to the integration of English curriculum in the educational system, cases of violation of student rights and bullying, current issues in education, advantages of educational system, and school-community partnerships and the like.

### The Participants

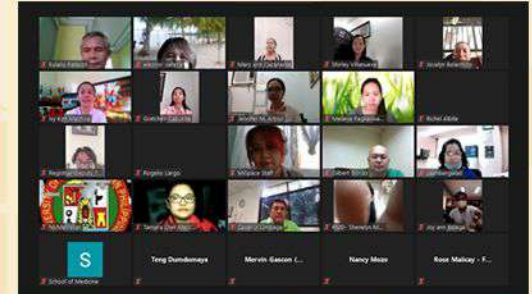
In attendance to the virtual tour were the following:

Dr. Bonifacio G. Gabales, Jr., Vice President for Academic Affairs, USeP; Dr. Gilbert M. Gordo, Dean, Advanced Studies, USeP; Dr. Cesar A. Adegue IV, Education Supervisor II, Commission of Higher Education, Region XI; Dr. Reynaldo M. Nogodula, Dean, College of Education, USeP; Dr. Genna J. Carmelo, Dean, College of Teacher Education and Technology, USeP; Dr. Edna H. Jalotjot; Dr. Jocelyn A. Matildo, EDD 319, Faculty In-charge, USeP, EDD Faculty; and EDD students of USeP.



(continuation on page 09)

## UseP conducts webinar on Digital Certificates with DICT



The University of Southeastern Philippines conducted a webinar on Digital Certificates with the Department of Information and Communications Technology (DICT) Mindanao Cluster 3 via Zoom.

Pursuant to Republic Act No. 8792 or the Electronic Commerce Act of 2020, the University is one with the DICT in its mandate of developing trust in the government by ensuring secure and reliable online transactions. The Anti-Red Tape Authority (ARTA) also directed all government agencies to avail of and recognize the use of the DICT's Philippine National Public Key Infrastructure (PNPKI) service to secure online transactions and communications.

Dr. Lourdes C. Generalao, the University President, expressed her gratitude to the DICT personnel and to the organizers. She said that as the University Administration vows to uphold high standards in its external and internal transactions, a webinar on Digital Certificates is very important in securing confidentiality, authenticity and integrity of the University's records and documents.

Engr. Benjamin Valencia, Public Key Infrastructure (PKI) Registration Authority Officer of DICT Mindanao Cluster 3, served as the resource speaker of the event.



## USEP holds first Kandasig

The University of Southeastern Philippines hosted “Kandasig: Songs filled with enthusiasm fueled with inspiration”, a year-end delight of performances last December 30, 2020 via Facebook Live.

The purpose of the activity was to celebrate hope and victory as well as to share the spirit of oneness amidst the current pandemic. Performances from the USEP community in the Philippines and abroad were witnessed during the said activity.

Dr. Lourdes C. Generalao, University President, opened the event expressing her gratitude to the whole USEP community for the continued support and unwavering commitment shown despite the current health crisis. Dr. Generalao also reminded everyone to always be grateful for all the blessings from the Almighty during these trying times.



The program was divided into four (4) sets of performances. The first set was a series of instrumental performances by the USEP community from all over the world including faculty and alumni. This was followed by the second set with performances by various students and student advisers of different organizations of the University. The third set were performances by faculty, staff, and students from the different campuses of the University.

Performance from the Top Management proceeded during the final set. Dr. Lourdes C. Generalao, University President; Dr. Shirley S. Villanueva, Vice President for Research Development and Extension; and Dr. Tamara Cher R. Marcado, Vice President for Planning and Quality Assurance were some of the notable performances during the activity.

The year-end activity ended with the presentation by the USEP officials of the University's Official ID “USEPiano Tayo”, prepared by the Office of Student Affairs and Services-Cultural Affairs Unit led by Asst. Prof Alshamir Bryan B. Aripuddin, in coordination with Events Management Committee (EvMC) and LIKHA Production.



## USEP bags 3 regional awards in Regional Symposium on Research Development and Extension Highlights (RSRDEH)

Obrero, Davao City. - The University of Southeastern Philippines (USEP) bagged three (3) major awards during the Regional Symposium on Research Development and Extension Highlights (RSRDEH) of the Southern Mindanao of Agriculture Aquatic and Natural Resources Research and Development Consortium (SMAARR-DEC) held on September 29, 2020 via Zoom platform. These are Best Paper for Research Category, 2nd Best Paper for Development Category, and Best Student Thesis.

Dr. Val A. Quimno's paper on “Development of Rosanna Banana Disease Surveillance System”, a DOST-funded project, coveted the Best Paper Research Category. This

project was a collaboration between the academe and the Hijo Resources Corporation (HRC), a Cavendish banana producer and an exporter. The team composed of Dr. Quimno, Dr. Gilbert A. Importante and Dr. Cecily G. Puig who developed a program in determining banana diseases in the plantation; the program was developed to provide data as bases for input application. Project results showed that the technology can save up to 60% cost of inputs in one cropping. The study bested 15 other papers of the different implementing member institutions of SMAARRDEC.

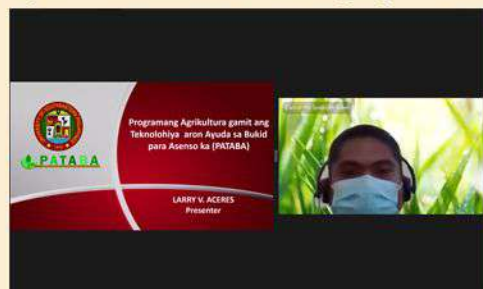
The paper entitled “Programang Agrikultura Gamit ang Teknolohiya Aron Ayuda sa Bukid para Asenso ka (PATABA)” by Dr. Larry V. Aceres won 2nd place in the Best Paper Development Category. The PATABA project was an off-shoot of the DOST-funded project for Typhoon Pablo rehabilitation in Davao de Oro in 2014. Funded by USEP at P5,378,825.43, it was able to gather critical information on the status of the beneficiaries who adopted

technologies for the cacao commodity - the development intervention meant to improve livelihood of the typhoon victims.

The paper in “Vitro and In Vivo Evaluation of Three Weed Leachates for the Postharvest Control of Colletotrichum musae Penz. Causing Banana Anthracnose” of Charlestone Von B. Mainit from the College of Agriculture and Related Sciences won as Best Undergraduate Thesis. The study evaluated the efficacy of three weed leachates - solanum torvum, Amaranthus viridis and Ageratum conyzoides - in the control of anthracnose in ‘Lakan-tan’ banana caused by Colletotrichum musae.

The winners were given certificates of recognition and cash awards.

The regional symposium was conducted in commemoration of SMAARR-DEC's 33rd founding anniversary. It is a way of recognizing the efforts of the regional researchers and extensionists in quest of science and technology solutions.





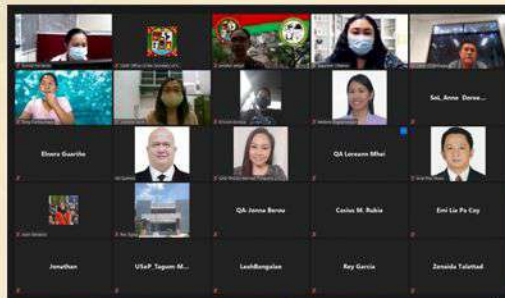
(continuation of USeP passes second ISO...)

SOCOTEC Certification Philippines, Inc conducted simultaneous remote audit sessions to check the continued compliance of the University quality management system (QMS) with the ISO standard.

According to Dr. Lourdes C. Generalao, USeP President, the University is committed to promote quality programs and curriculum with highly satisfied clients and stakeholders. Speaking before the administrative officials, faculty and staff of the University during the closing program of the remote audit, the President underscored: "Together, we cannot just maintain but sustain quality education even amidst the current global pandemic. And it is because of our commitment to organize our processes, to improve the efficiency of our processes, and to continually improve."

The positive result of the surveillance audit demonstrates USeP's consistent adherence to the requirements of the standard. As stressed in its Quality Policy, the University is dedicated to a process of continual improvement, satisfying applicable requirements of the standard, addressing risks, and maximizing opportunities.

The University owes this achievement to the collective efforts of the top management, faculty members, staff, and students.



## USeP commemorates 31<sup>st</sup> National Statistics Month Celebration

USeP commemorated the 31st National Statistics Month Celebration bearing the theme "Bridging Digital Gaps, Making Information Available To All" through an opening program last October 1, 2020 via Zoom and Facebook Live.

The activity, which was organized in collaboration with the College of Arts and Sciences (CAS), College of Applied Economics (CAEC), and Socio Economic Research and Data Analytics Center (SERDAC), aimed to promote, enhance and instill nationwide awareness and appreciation of the importance and value of statistics in the different sectors of society. It also aimed to elicit the cooperation and support of the general public in upgrading the quality and standard of statistics in the country.

During his opening remarks, Prof. Allan H. Navales, Associate Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences (CAS), reminded the participants the importance of statistics in providing accurate information leading to useful public policy especially during the current health crisis. He shared his hopes that the celebration will have its ripples up to the farthest end of the country and inmost thoughts of all filipinos.

Mr. Rosendo M. Aya-ay, Chief Statistical Specialist of the Statistical Operation and Coordination Division of the Philippine Statistical Authority (PSA), graced the opening program as the guest speaker. Mr. Aya-ay stressed that because of the current pandemic,

many aspects of information dissemination, especially information on the number of cases in the entire country, is greatly needed. This year's celebration of the National Statistics Month, bears the goal of avoiding digital gaps. Despite the challenges brought by the pandemic, he assured that the government will continue to be responsive in terms of giving information to the stakeholders.

Dr. Bonifacio G. Gabales, Jr., Vice President for Academic Affairs, reminded all participants the importance of strengthening the essence of statistics in national and economic development during his inspirational message. He shared his hopes that through the celebration, the USeP community will be reminded of the interconnectivity of things that a single number can change lives.

Right after the audio visual presentation of last year's celebration of the National Statistics Month, Dr. Ricky F. Rulete, Chair for the Mathematics and Statistics Department, closed the program showing his appreciation for the useful and relevant information shared by the guest speaker. He also expressed his gratitude to all organizers for the successful culmination of the 31st National Statistics Month.

The month-long celebration of the 31st National Statistics Month included a series of webinars and forums which was open for all statisticians and practitioners.

(see photos on page 09)

## GAD celebrates International Men's Day 2020

In celebration of the 2020 International Men's Day with the theme "Better Health for Men and Boys", the USeP Gender and Development (GAD) Office in collaboration with the University Sports Office conducted a webinar entitled "Engendering Well-being: Appreciating Gender-Responsive Mental Health" last November 24, 2020 through the Zoom platform and Facebook Live.

Attended by teaching and non-teaching male personnel in USeP, the activity aims to focus on men's and boy's health, improve gender relations, promote gender equality, and highlight male role models.

Associate Professor Nephthaly Joel B. Botor from UP Los Baños served as the resource speaker of the activity where he discussed some variables influencing mental health. Professor Botor also discussed gender-responsiveness of mental health including the differences of gender related mental health. He ended his discussion saying acceptance of the negative feeling is one effective mechanism in coping with mental health. "Opportunities to find deeper powers within ourselves comes when life seems most challenging," he said.

During his closing remarks, Dr. Jose Alther M. Rivera, Director of the Office of Students Affairs and Services, expressed his gratitude to the organizers and the resource speaker for a very relevant activity. He reminded all the participants to mind each and everyone's mental health saying "Healthy individuals can be a source of strength for others to make this society more progressive."

An online chess tournament followed after the webinar as part of the celebration of the 2020 International Men's Day celebration.





## HRMD, UAGC conduct webinar on “Self Care: Minding Your Mental Health”

The USeP Human Resources Development Management in coordination with the University Assessment and Guidance Center conducted a webinar entitled “Self-Care: Minding Your Mental Health” last September 30, 2020 via Zoom and FB Live.

The webinar was attended by employees and students of the University. It was primarily conducted to provide participants with life-coping skills in handling mental health issues and gain insights about mental health, especially in this time of the pandemic. With the shift of the learning delivery to blended learning, preparation of course packs and functioning of skeletal force in rendering services, additional stress could arise.

According to University President Dr. Lourdes C. Generalao who gave the opening remarks, mental health is often overlooked. She also mentioned that a large number of Filipinos are currently suffering from mental health problems stressing that in the event of a sudden negative environmental stimulus, like the pandemic, it is unimaginable what it would cause if people continue to be resilient without paying close attention to their state of well-being.

The *Art of Breathing* which is the first topic in the webinar was delivered by Ms. Sheryl Jo Urdaneta, yoga instructor at Breadworks Davao. Ms. Urdaneta introduced “Pranayama”, a breathing technique and a process of mastery over breathing. She discussed how control of breath, through proper breathing techniques, can influence the good and the bad, the body, mind and emotions. Deep control breathing invokes the body's relaxation response.

Ms. Precious S. Manliguez, Director of the Philippine Mental Health Association (PMHA) Davao Chapter, talked about Promoting Resilience in Education. Ms. Manliguez discussed various skills that can be used to maintain mental health as well as tips on how to overcome daily challenges and struggles in life. She also introduced the four criteria to being mentally healthy adding that mental health is considered the foundation for the well being and effective functioning of an individual or a community.

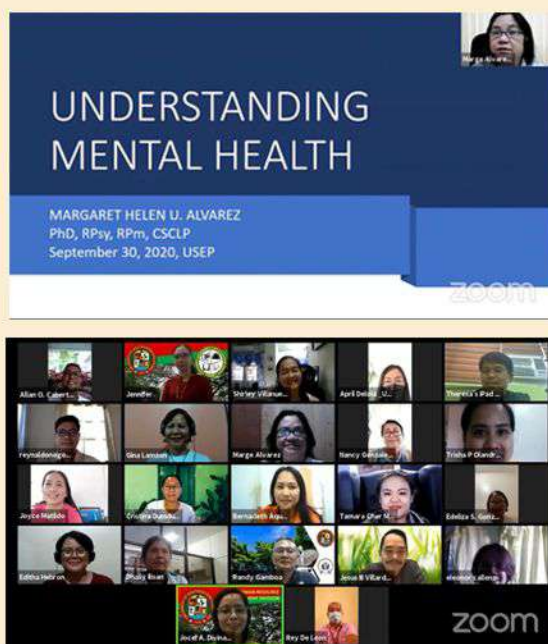
The third topic was *Cultivation Awareness and Emotional Resilience in Education* discussed by Dr. Orencita V. Lozada, RGC Board Director of the Philippine Mental Health Association.

Dr. Lozada discussed the ten different mental health tips for educators originally outlined by Dr. Richard Shaddock. She ended her talk by encouraging everyone to ask for help and reach out. “Do not bottle up negative emotions,” she added.

The afternoon session started with the talk of Dr. Margaret Helen U. Alvarez, ex-officio of the Psychological Association of the Philippines and the Dean of the Graduate Studies in Silliman University. Dr. Alvarez discussed the different dimensions of wellness and understanding optimum wellness which refers to purposeful and enjoyable living. She also talked about the different management skills in cultivating interpersonal and social wellness.

The final speaker was Dr. Gina R. Lamazon, faculty of the Psychology Department of Ateneo de Davao University discussed the *Foundations of Emotional Freedom Techniques (EFT)* as well as the procedures of EFT. She also shared and demonstrated the tapping of the EFT points in order to relieve excess energies and to allow emotions and feelings to loosen up.

Before the program ended, Dr. Edeliza S. Gonzalez, Director of the HRMD, expressed her gratitude to the speakers and organizers of the event. She reminded everyone the importance of acknowledging every feeling in order to heal oneself. “We need to bounce back in order to heal ourselves,” she added.



## USeP conducts virtual Family Day

In celebration of the Philippine Civil Service Commission's 120th year anniversary, the University of Southeastern Philippines conducted its first virtual university-wide Family Day last September 29, 2020 carrying the theme “Philippine Civil Service @120: Public Sector in the Age of Digital Transformation” via Facebook Live through the University's official Facebook page.



The program started with a welcome message by Dr. Edeliza S. Gonzales, HRMD Director, where she emphasized the importance of celebrating Family Day for the well-being of employees as civil servants, saying it creates a venue for all the employees to build camaraderie and teamwork among their colleagues.

University President Dr. Lourdes C. Generalao's inspirational message included her gratitude to the USeP community for participating in the virtual event and for willingly undergoing the process of adjustment amidst the pandemic. Dr. Generalao reminded everyone of her hopes that all employees will not be mandated but driven to serve with professionalism and excellence and use these learnings to become one USeP Family.

The College Teaser Showdown followed where each college showcased and introduced their different colleges through a creative teaser. The following teasers were presented per entry: Entry 1 College of Education; Entry 2 Non-Teaching Staff Association; Entry 3 College of Engineering; Entry 4 College of Teacher Education and Technology; Entry 5 College of Agriculture and Related Sciences; Entry 6 College of Technology; Entry 7 College of Development Management; Entry 8 College of Information and Communication, College of Applied Economics, School of Law, and School of Medicine; Entry 9 College of Business Administration; and Entry 10 College of Arts and Sciences.

(continuation on page 07)



## SMAARRDEC conducts Regional Symposium

The Southern Mindanao Agriculture Aquatic and Natural Resources Research and Development Consortium (SMAARRDEC) conducted its virtual Regional Symposium on Research Development and Extension Highlights (RSRDEH) bearing the theme "Sustaining Resilience in AANR R&D for Economic Development amidst National Health Crisis" last September 29, 2020.

For years, SMAARRDEC has been conducting the RSRDEH back-to-back with the Farmers and Fisherfolk Forum along with the Farms and Industry Encounters through Science and Technology Agenda (FIESTA) to celebrate the Consortium's founding anniversary. These activities intend to disseminate newly generated R&D information and technology to stakeholders.

"Despite the challenges, the event exhibits the act of solidarity, kindness and bayanihan among Filipino people," an optimistic note mentioned by Dr. Anthony C. Sales, RRDCC Chairperson and DOST 11 Regional Director, during his opening message. Dr. Sales stressed that this pandemic demonstrated the importance of research, development and innovation (RDI) efforts among key players such as the academe, national, and local governments, private and industry sectors, civil society, and media. He called them the pentahelix sectors of society.

DOST-PCAARRD Executive Director Dr. Reynaldo V. Ebor, on the other hand, shared, "I know that we will be able to overcome all the challenges brought about by the pandemic because basically we are working as one and that's the strength of the Consortium. I think the challenge is quite big but we are much bigger than the challenge and we will be able to overcome all the difficulties."

SMAARRDEC's Consortium Director Dr. Gilbert A. Importante conveyed that the pandemic can be seen as an opportunity to open new doors for research. Dr. Importante added that it has allowed people to see the critical role technology plays in human lives; to him, there are numerous possibilities for researchers in agriculture as they continue to perform crucial tasks in saving lives. He stressed that the pandemic provided a better understanding of how important the studies of natural resources are – reminding us to take care of and respect the environment and wildlife and give importance to farmers and fishers who



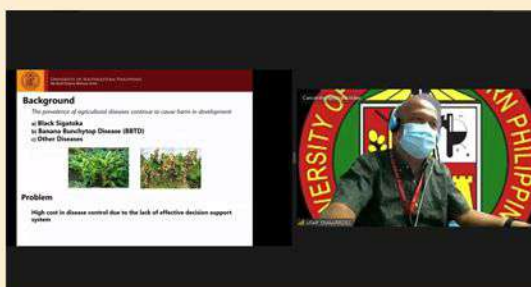
help put food on the table during difficult times. He acknowledged the researchers and development workers for sharing the results of their studies in the AANR sector hoping that these S&T contributions lead to easing the lives of stakeholders. To end, he challenged everyone to operate as a system in combating the pandemic.

Dr. Lourdes C. Generalao, USEP President and RRDCC Vice Chairperson, likewise expressed her gratitude to all researchers, development workers, consortium partners and consortium secretariat who remain active despite the many limitations confronting them.

### Symposium winners

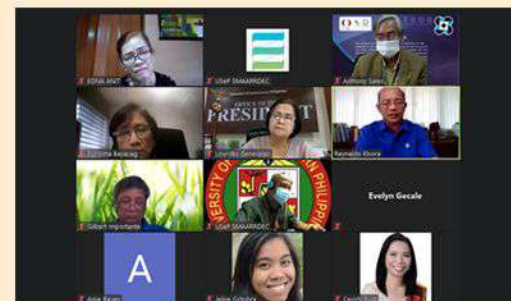
A week before the symposium proper, the paper entries under Research Category, Development Category, Policy Brief Competition and Undergraduate Students Thesis Competition went through a preliminary screening which was conducted by a panel of evaluators. The panelist included Dr. Purisima G. Bayacag, Professorial Lecturer and former Consortium Director, Dr. Edna A. Anit, Director of Crops Research Division of DOST-PCAARRD, and Dr. Kenneth D. Barroga, Assistant Regional Director for R&D of DOST XI. Three (3) papers per category were chosen as qualified for virtual presentation proper.

There were 16 research papers which vied for Best Paper in the Research Category and five competing papers for the Development Category. The University of Southeastern Philippines (USEP) won the Best Paper in the Research Category for "Development of Rosanna Banana Disease Surveillance System", presented by



Dr. Val A. Quimno. The University of the Philippines Mindanao (UP-Min) bagged the Best Paper for Development Category for "Giving Farmers Uwen Fananafedew: Enhancing Livelihood Opportunities in Conflict Vulnerable Areas in Mindanao through the Livelihood Improvement through Facilitated Extension (LIFE) Model", presented by Prof. Anne Shangrila Y. Fuentes.

As practiced, the winning papers in the R&D categories shall be the official entries to the National Symposium on Agriculture, Aquatic and Natural Resources Research and Development (NSAARRD) competition. In 2020, six entries competed for the Policy Brief Competition. The entry entitled "Healthy Nature for Healthy People" pitched by Mr. Michael G. Bacus of UP-Mindanao ranked first place in the competition. The policy brief entries shall be presented to the Regional Research, Development and Innovation Committee (RRDIC) and are expected to be endorsed to the Regional Development Council (RDC) for adoption in the region.



In its second year, the conduct of the Undergraduate Student Thesis Competition was participated by five SUCs. The winning entry was "In Vitro and In Vivo Evaluation of Three Weed Leachates for the Postharvest Control of Colletotrichum musae Penz. Causing Banana Anthracnose" of USEP, presented by Mr. Charlestone Von B. Mainit. The participation of the students from SUCs prove that the consortium could assert its purpose of encouraging and honing young minds to engage in R&D activities. This initiative is also the consortium's means to transfer the vibrant R&D culture and practices to the next generation. SMAARRDEC indeed through this symposium has provided the venue for both young and seasoned regional researchers to highlight high-caliber R&D findings and outputs.





(continuation of UseP conducts virtual family...)

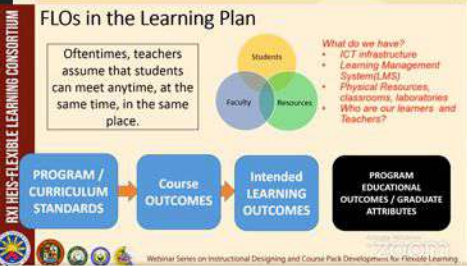
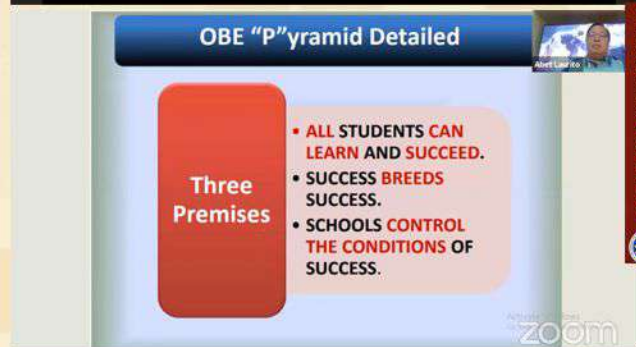
The presentation of the college teasers was followed by the virtual competition, namely: Vocal Solo with a twist (Bisaya Version); the Guess Who game; Spoken Poetry Original Bisaya Version; and the UseP Trivia.

The College of Business Administration was 1st placer for the College Teaser showdown and UseP Trivia. The College of Education and the College of Teacher Education and Technology were announced as 1st placer for the Vocal Solo and Spoken Poetry, respectively. Lastly, the College of Business Administration was announced as overall champion.

Ms. Maria Luisa B. Faunillan, Vice President for Administration, expressed her gratitude to all the organizers who made sure the event was a success. Ms. Faunillan also stressed that UseP has undergone a healthy negotiation with its relationship to digital technology. "Indeed, we are distant but not disconnected," she added.



## UseP conducts webinar series on Instructional Design and Course Pack Development for Flexible Learning with Davao Region SUCs, LUCs, PHEIs



The University of Southeastern Philippines, in collaboration with and participation of State Universities and Colleges (SUCs), Local Universities and Colleges (LUCs) and Private Higher Education Institutions (PHEIs) in Davao Region, conducted a webinar series on Instructional Design and Course Pack Development for Flexible Learning last July 7, 2020 via Zoom and Facebook Live.

The webinar series was part of the initiatives of Region XI higher education institutions' flexible learning consortium to address delivery of instruction amid covid-19 pandemic. The purpose of the activity was to develop resilience among state universities, local universities and private Higher Education Institutions in Region XI.

During her opening remarks, University President Dr. Lourdes C. Generalao highlighted the importance of being equipped with knowledge and skills in order to operate efficiently amidst the covid-19 crisis. The President also stressed that despite the challenges such as internet connectivity, the university's goal is to strive to give its best shot in terms of quality assurance in higher education.

The first session of the activity was on flexible learning in the context of outcomes-based education, delivered by Engr. Alberto A. Laurito, Chairperson of the CHED Technical Committee

for Chemical Engineering and the Director for Academic and E-Learning Services of e2 Consulting Inc. Dr. Laurito explained *Outcomes Based Education (OBE) in terms of its Paradigm, Purposes, Premises, Principles, and Practices (Five "Ps")*. He added that OBE means clearly focusing and organizing everything in an educational system around what is essential for all students to be able to perform successfully at the end of their learning experience.

Dr. Bonifacio G. Gabales, Jr., Vice President for Academic Affairs of the University, discussed the topic on situating flexible learning in the OBE learning plan as well as the preparation of the learning plan and course pack writing. Dr. Gabales stressed that because of the Covid-19 pandemic, there is a shift from traditional to self-paced learning, cancellation of face-to-face or residential learning, and implementation of remote or distance learning. "The challenge for us is to assess what happened in the past, we need to learn from our mistakes. Time to plan and re-design," he said.

This activity is part of the six-part webinar series on instructional design and course pack development for flexible learning conducted by the Region XI Higher Education Institutions Flexible Learning Consortium (RXI-HEIs-FLC).





## USEP conducts virtual government service awarding ceremony

In celebration of the Philippine Civil Service Commission's 120th year anniversary and its theme "Public Sector in the Age of Digital Transformation", the University of Southeastern Philippines conducted a virtual government service awarding ceremony through Zoom and Facebook live last October 5, 2020.

The purpose of the event was to give recognition to all employees of the university who have been rendering at least ten years of quality service to the institution.

During her welcome message, Dr. Lourdes C. Generalao, the University President, herself an awardee, reminded everyone that time and effort that have been devoted in the service of making impact in the lives of the University's stakeholders deserve recognition. Dr. Generalao stressed that because of the support that the employees have given to current and past leaderships of the university, USEP has been known to be one of the best academic institutions in the country. "I encourage everyone to exercise the value of excellence and prudence in whatever we do even in the simplest of things," she added.

Director Adams D. Torres, Regional Director of the Civil Service Commission Region XI, delivered his message as guest speaker. Director Torres looked back on the history on how the Civil Service Commission started to envision an honest and efficient civil service in the Philippine Islands. He reminded everyone of the true meaning of government service saying, "We should stand firm as one in delivering the best services that we are mandated to do." In the end, he congratulated all the recipients for the quality service that they have rendered to the public.



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## USEP's Effigies enters 2020 MMFF official short film category

The USEP's Effigies recently made an official entry to the 2020 Metro Manila Film Festival (MMFF) Short Film Category which was exhibited and streamed last December 25, 2020 via Upstream.

The short film entry was entitled "Garbo" written by Mr. Salvar Jezz. The film revolves around a young man who has desires in becoming a significant personality in the society, a

person valued by the people. It tells about a person's will and drive in achieving a dream and realizing that not every direction taken leads to the actual setting that a person desires, rather the small things are the ones that lead to ultimate and unexpected satisfaction.

Effigies is a recognized multimedia club in the University that was founded back in September of 2019.

(continuation of USEP supports 18-Day...)

### VAW-Free Campaign

The 18-Day Campaign to End Violence Against Women (VAW) with the theme "VAW-free community starts with Me", supports the Philippine government's goal of protecting the human rights of women and girls by upholding its commitment to address all forms of gender-based violence as enshrined in the 1987 Constitution.

The forum, which was participated in by students, faculty members, and staff of the University, aimed to promote awareness on the forms of violence women and girls experience and to capacitate the members of the university on achieving a VAW-free community. This is by virtue of Republic Act 10398 or the Act declaring November 25 of every year as the National Consciousness Day for the Elimination of VAWC where government agencies are mandated to raise awareness on the problem of violence and the elimination of all forms of violence against women and girls.

### Hija Ako Campaign

The forum started with a welcoming message delivered by Ms. Rioliza B. Molina, Director of the Gender and Development Office. During her message, Ms. Molina highlighted that the activity is the institution's way of supporting the Philippine government's goal of protecting the human rights of women and girls.

During her message, Dr. Lourdes C. Generalao, University President, stressed that the conduct of the activity displays the strong will and determination to uphold advocacy on the promotion and protection of human rights of women and girls. She reminded everyone that the campaign is a call to action to everyone who holds in their heart a strong sense of duty to fight against violence. "We must stand for those unable to stand for themselves," she added.

The first topic of the forum was delivered by Ms. Lorna B. Mandin, Head of the Integrated GAD Division of Davao City, who spoke about women's voices in the midst of the pandemic. Ms. Mandin discussed institutions that perpetuate gender power relations as well as the different gender-biased violations wherein victims are, predominantly, women. She also presented data on the increasing violent cases performed mostly against women and girls and various successful programming strategies to end VAW.

For the second topic, Atty. Jesus Agora Villardo III, Director of Office of Legal Affairs, introduced the "Anti-VAWC Law and Anti-Sexual Harassment Law in consolidation with Safe Spaces Act and Anti-Human Trafficking Law". Atty. Villardo elaborated the different consequences when violating these following laws and provided actions that could help when being faced with such.

The third talk of the forum, Ms. Lucille Dagpin-Galicha, SBCG Officer for Mindanao ReachHealth Projects, spoke on "Maria Clara and the Short Shorts: The Concept of Consent and their Safe Spaces". Ms. Lucille discussed the safe spaces for negotiating differences in challenging oppression stressing that ending violence is everyone's business.

Lastly, Mr. Dun Oliver B. Abiera, incumbent UNESCO Youth Coordinator, talked about "Cancel Culture: Social Media Etiquette". Mr. Abiera focused on violence in the digital space including vulnerability that is caused by the wide access and use of social media to its users. He also presented different ways on how to make social media a safe space for everyone.

The webinar ended with the question and answer and the giving of certificates to the resource speakers.

(see photos on page 09)





(continuation of USEP conducts virtual government...)

The highlight of the event was the recognition of Loyalty Awards. Recognized were employees with over 40 years of service rendered to the university. Also recognized were those who rendered 35 years, 30 years, 25 years, 20 years and 10 years of service. All awardees were given a loyalty award certificate.

The oath-taking ceremony was led by Dr. Edeliza S. Gonzales, Director of the Human Resource Management Division while the singing of the Civil Service Hymn was led by Ms. Elena B. Gementiza, Faculty of the College of Education.

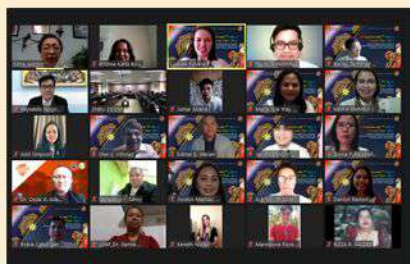


During her closing remarks, Dr. Maria Luisa Faunillan, Vice President for Administration who was also an awardee, expressed her gratitude to the organizers who made sure the event was a success. Dr. Faunillan expressed her gratitude to the University President for the inspiring leadership that has led the institution to achieve great things. "This has given us the opportunity to pay tribute to the invaluable contributions of our government servants who extended relentless effort to the University."

(continuation of USEP conducts Phil-Thai...)

From SNRU, in attendance were the following: Assistant Professor Dr. Watana Suwannatrat, Associate Professor Dr. Chaiya Pawabutra, and Associate Professor Dr. Sirilak Sripachan and PhD students of SNRU.

The success of the virtual tour was attributed to the rigorous and comprehensive team planning led by Mr. Felix D. Ramirez Jr., USEP EdD class president and Mr. Teerapong Weerachanon, SNRU PhD class president in coordination with the International Offices of both universities.



(continuation of USEP celebrates 42nd...)

Series of events, which were participated in by faculty members, staff, and students across campuses, were lined-up for the two-day celebration of the activity.

The celebration kicked-off with a virtual mass followed by an opening program where Dr. Lourdes C. Generalao, University President, reminded everyone that the commitment of the USEP family is what cushions every fall and the pursuit of excellence makes the community stand resilient. The final entries for the University ID making contest were also presented during the opening program.

A tribute to the exemplary performance of the University's stakeholders and the continued support of its partners in the attainment of the vision and mission of the University, Adlaw sa mga Bahandi Awarding and Recognition Ceremony, was conducted succeeding to the opening program.

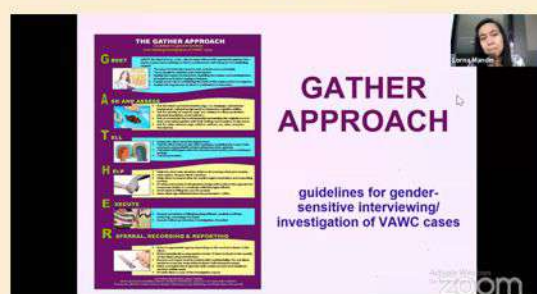
Through the USEP's AgiLab, a workshop for faculty researchers and pitching competition for students entitled "InnoFiesta: Igniting the Entrepreneurial Spirit in the Midst of the Global Pandemic" followed. Simultaneously, the



(photos from USEP commemorates 31st National...)



(photos from USEP supports 18-Day...)



Alumni Connect 2020: A Benefit Concert for Reception and Study Center for Children and Care Channels International hosted by the College of Technology (CT), College of Information and Computing (CIC) and the College of Applied Economics (CAEc) was conducted.

The second day of the celebration started off with the State of the University Address (SOUA) by the University President, Dr. Lourdes C. Generalao. Dr. Generalao addressed and presented the laudable achievements of USEP in the areas of governance, instruction, research, development, and extension, and production for the year 2020.

The University Faculty and Staff Variety Show followed where performances from the University's Faculty and Staff were showcased. The activity exhibited a variety of presentations with elemental concepts reflecting the University's culture.

The celebration of the founding anniversary concluded with the premiere of the University ID or the official theme song of the University, prepared by the Office of Student Affairs and Services-Cultural Affairs Unit headed by Asst. Prof. Alshamir Bryan B. Aripuddin, "USEPiano Tayo", through the University's official Facebook page.





## USEP kicks off 1st Virtual AACUP Accreditation

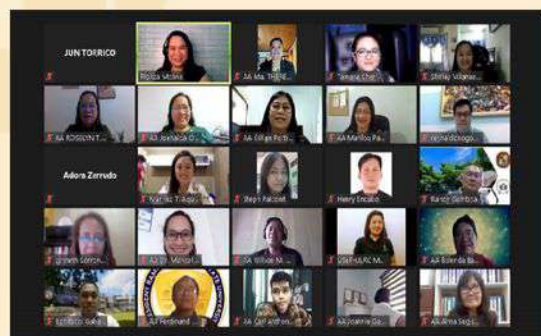
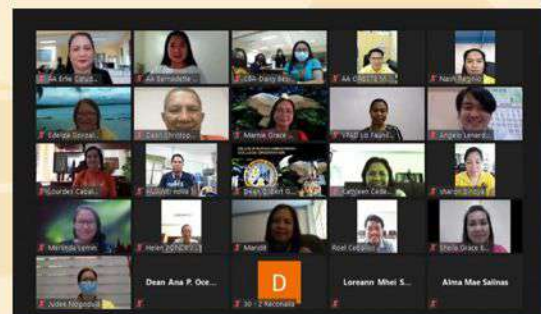
The University of Southeastern Philippines (USEP) kicked off its first virtual AACUP (Accrediting Agency of Chartered Colleges and Universities in the Philippines) Accreditation opening meeting via Zoom last October 12, 2020, 9:00 AM. The week-long activity ended October 16, 2020.

Dr. Tamara Cher R. Mercado, Vice President for Quality Assurance and Planning (PQuA), in her welcome address, emphasized that USEP has exerted efforts to ensure quality service. She highlighted the importance of seeking help from the University's external partners, such as the AACUP, to confirm that the University is directed toward the right track. She stressed USEP's preparation for its first remote accreditation of academic programs through an online system developed by the Systems and Data Management Division (SDMD) called the University Document Archiving Systems (UDAS) which serves as host to the different digitized documents that are used for online accreditation.

Dr. Lourdes C. Generalao, the University President, expressed her gratitude to USEP officials and accreditors who supported the first virtual accreditation despite the challenges brought by

the current health emergency. Dr. Generalao shared that despite the challenges, she believes that the remote accreditation would be a learning experience to both the accreditors and the University. The President also highlighted that the University always aims to provide its students with an opportunity to earn a degree through quality education adding that it has been a part of the University's Catch-up Plan to have 90% of its academic programs accredited by the end of 2021. "We have been familiar with the processes and requirements needed but we do not settle with complacency as we find ourselves having more reasons to be better in many ways," she added.

Seven academic programs were evaluated, five programs under the College of Arts and Sciences (CAS), one under the College of Business Administration (CBA), and one under the College of Engineering (CoE). The following are the academic programs included for this year's accreditation: the MA in Literature; Master of English in Applied Linguistics; MS in Mathematics; MS in Biology; BS in Biology; BS in Business Administration; and BS in Civil Engineering.



### Public Affairs Division

USEP Obrero Campus, Davao City, 8000 Philippines

### General Note:

*The USEP Newsletter Volume XIV is a special release as the institution transitions into the new normal, digital transformation.*

*With a number of virtual activities from July to December 2020, this newsletter documents the University's dedication in providing quality education to its stakeholders amidst the current health crisis.*

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