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AY 2019-2020 SEARCA SCHOLARS GRADUATE FROM UC MEMBER UNIVERSITIES



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The UC congratulates the 57 graduates for AY 2019-2020 coming from different UC member universities and under different SEARCA scholarship programs.

This year's celebration is different from the past with the pandemic halting most of the activities such as the physical graduation ceremonies. SEARCA's annual Testimonial Program held on 2 July 2020 for Myanmar and Thai graduates and 6 October 2020 for Timorese graduates were also slimmed down to accommodate social distancing measures.

Of the total number of graduates, 35 were under the SEARCA Full MS/PhD Program while 11 are from the Joint Scholarship programs, namely, DAAD-SEARCA, PCC-SEARCA, NU-SEARCA, UPM-SEARCA. Another 11 graduates came from the other scholarship grants such as the PhD Research, UC Thesis Grant, and the Double Degree Program.

Majority or 31 of the graduates studied at the University of the Philippines Los Baños (UPLB), seven (7) from Kasetsart University (KU), seven (7) from Institut Pertanian Bogor (IPB), four (4) from Universitas Gadjah Mada (UGM), and three (3) from Universiti Putra Malaysia (UPM). There were also three (3) SEARCAns who graduated from Nagoya University under the joint program, and one (1) each for Naresuan University and Chiang Mai University under the PhD Research Scholarship.

As with every ending there is a new beginning and besides welcoming the alumni, SEARCA also welcomes the new batch of SEARCAns for AY 2020-2021 with nine (9) Full MS/PhD scholars, four (4) DAAD-SEARCA scholars, two (2) NTU-SEARCA scholars, (1) Tokyo NODAI-SEARCA scholar, and (1) PCC-SEARCA scholar. This is also the first batch of scholars for SEARCA's new joint program with National Taiwan University (NTU).

Despite the challenging times and onset of the new normal, SEARCA continues to support the development of agents of change and thought leaders who will transform the landscape of agricultural and rural development in the region. The Full MS/PhD scholarship applications for AY 2021-2022 is currently being evaluated online. The 2nd call for the NTU-SEARCA Joint Scholarship for Global Agriculture and Genomic Science (ATGS) is ongoing while the calls for DAAD-SEARCA and Sejong University-SEARCA scholarship programs will be announced.

THE UC WELCOMES A NEW Chancellor for UPLB

The UC extends its congratulations to Dr. Jose V. Camacho, Jr. in his appointment as the 10th Chancellor of the University of the Philippines Los Baños (UPLB).

UPLB has been consistently active in spearheading UC activities and projects such as hosting the 1st Faculty Forum and two Summer Schools, as well as a Training of Trainers for the Master of Science in Food Security and Climate Change (MSFSCC) project.

Dr. Camacho previously served as the Dean of the Graduate School of UPLB and UC Coordinator for the institution since 2012. He is also a professor at the College of Economics and Management (CEM). He has served UPLB in various capacities through the years such as Associate Dean and Chair of Academic Programs and Curriculum of CEM from 2007 to 2012 and the Chair of the Department of Economics from 2001 to 2004. Dr. Camacho has shared his expertise towards the development of higher education in the country through his work as Chair of the Technical Working Group (TWG) on Graduate Education, and co-chair of the TWG for the Expanded Tertiary Education Equivalency and Accreditation Program both under the Commission on Higher Education (CHED).

Dr. Camacho studied BS Economics in UPLB and received his Master of Arts in Economics from Erasmus University International Institute of Social Studies in The Hague,



Dr. Jose V. Camacho, Jr., 10th Chancellor of UPLB, during the Turn Over Ceremony and Oathtaking.

Netherlands. He took his Doctor of Economics degree, specializing in Economics of Education, Labor, and Human Resource Economics at Kyoto University in Japan.

As Dr. Camacho takes the helm of leadership, he envisions the future-proofing of UPLB which is "sustaining UPLB's relevance by developing methods, approaches and framework to minimize the cost and impacts of shocks of future events."

Dr. Camacho will continue to be a part of the UC as Chief Executive Officer for UPLB. The UC also welcomes Dr. Jean O. Loyola, Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs to serve as Executive Officer and Dr. Jomar Rabajante, OIC - Graduate School Office of the Dean to take over Dr. Camacho's previous post as UC Coordinator.

Source:

https://uplb.edu.ph/all-news/three-vie-for-uplb-chancellorship/ https://uplb.edu.ph/all-news/dr-jose-camacho-jr-is-the-10thuplb-chancellor/

UC MEMBERS RECOGNIZED AS BEST PUBLIC UNIVERSITIES In Indonesia

The Indonesian Ministry of Education and Culture conducted the Higher Education Clustering for 2020 and based on the evaluation, Institut Pertanian Bogor (IPB) was ranked 1st place and Universitas Gadjah Mada (UGM) 3rd place out of a total of 2,136 higher education institutions in the country.

The Higher Education Clustering is conducted to characterize institutions in the Higher Education Database. Results of the clustering will help build the foundation and develop the performance and organization of the Ministry and the higher education institutions.

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(Top) IPB ranked 1st Place and (Bottom) UGM ranked 3rd place in the Higher Education Clustering 2020 in Indonesia

THE UC WELCOMES A NEW VICE CHANCELLOR FOR UPM



Professor Dr. Mohd Roslan bin Sulaiman, Vice-Chancellor of Universiti Putra Malaysia (UPM)

The UC congratulates Professor Dr. Mohd Roslan bin Sulaiman on his appointment as the new Vice-Chancellor of Universiti Putra Malaysia (UPM). Prof. Dr. Mohd Roslan takes over from Prof. Datin Paduka Dr. Aini Ideris. Prof. Dr. Mohd Roslan graduated with a Doctor of Veterinary Medicine degree from Universiti Pertanian Malaysia in 1994 and obtained further studies at the University of Edinburgh, Scotland, the United Kingdom in 1999 in the field of Nervous System Physiology.

Prior to his appointment as Vice Chancellor, he served UPM as Deputy Vice-Chancellor for Student Affairs and Alumni for three years. Similarly, Prof. Dr. Mohd Roslan served in several administrative and academic posts such as Chairman of the Board of Principals of UPM Student Residential Colleges and Deputy Dean (Student Affairs and Alumni) of the Faculty of Medicine and Health Sciences.

Prof. Dr. Mohd Roslan's appointment will continue the excellent track record of UPM's academic programmes, international linkages, and student affairs. UPM is one of the founding members of the UC and has been instrumental in the institution and implementation of various programs. The number of collaborative activities and projects of the UC have greatly increased from 2015 and the consortium recognizes UPM's active contribution in many of these.

Notably, it was UPM that proposed the conduct of a UC Graduate Forum (UCGF) as a venue for students from the UC to present their research results and develop a network for collaboration. Since its initial hosting by UPM in 2015, it has become an annual event that UC students look forward to. The success of the UCGF also led to the institution of the UC Faculty Forum which was first conducted in 2019. UPM also greatly contributed to the development of a joint curriculum for the MS Food Security and Climate Change program under a UC project funded by ERASMUS+ from 2016 to 2019. UPM has also been the most active member in endorsing applications to the various student and faculty grants of the UC.

UPM ASCENDS IN WORLD RANKINGS For 2020-2021

In a recently released report for 2020, UPM informed its academic and industry partners of its latest achievements in terms of world rankings.

The QS World University Rankings recognized UPM in various fields. The institution ranked 10th in the world and 1st in Malaysia for the QS 2021 Top 50 Under 50; 33rd as Best Asian University in QS Asia University Ranking; 132nd in QS World University 2021 and top 200 for 12 subjects ranked universities in the world.

In terms of field specific ranking, UPM was recognized by the Shanghai Ranking in the 31st place for the Food Science and Technology Subject. UPM was also placed 42nd and 48th respectively by the US News and World Report: Best Global Universities and NTU World Rankings in the field of Agricultural Sciences.

UPM likewise placed high in the UI Greenmetric World University Ranking as it was recognized as 1st in Malaysia, 2nd in Southeast Asia, and 3rd in Asia. Lastly, the Times Higher Education ranked UPM in 106th place for the Emerging Economies Ranking and 101st – 200th place for the Impact Ranking.

These latest achievements of UPM strengthen UC's continuous pursuit of programs relevant in addressing the complex challenges in agriculture for the region.

For the full report of UPM's Facts and Figures, visit:

https://coscomm.upm.edu.my/upload/ dokumen/20200817092833UPM-Facts-Figures-2020.pdf This is the official newsletter of the Southeast Asian University Consortium for Graduate Education in Agriculture and Natural Resources (UC). For article contributions, send these to:

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UC ACTIVITIES 2020

9-10 November 2020 UC Faculty Forum: Agriculture and Beyond (via WebEx) National Taiwan University, Taiwan

24-25 November 2020 UC Executive Board Meeting (via WebEx) Kasetsart University, Thailand

10-11 December 2020 UC Graduate Forum on Resilient Food and Agricultural System for Accelerating Economic Recovery: Strategy and Implementation (online) Universitas Gadjah Mada, Indonesia

UC EXPRESSES GRATITUDE TO OUTGOING UC OFFICIALS



(L-R) Dr. Nahrowi Ramli (IPB), Dr. Robiah Yunus and Mr. Saiful Maskan (UPM), Dr. Fernando C. Sanchez, Jr. and Dr. Portia G. Lapitan (UPLB), and Dr. Shu-Jen Wang (NTU)

The UC extends its gratitude to former UC Officials, Dr. Nahrowi Ramli from Institut Pertanian Bogor (IPB) in Indonesia, Dr. Robiah Yunus and Mr. Saiful Maskan from Universiti Putra Malaysia (UPM), Dr. Fernando C. Sanchez, Jr. and Dr. Portia G. Lapitan from University of the Philippines Los Baños (UPLB), and Dr. Shu-Jen Wang from National Taiwan University (NTU) for their contributions to the consortium activities. IPB, UPM, and UPLB are all founding members of the UC while NTU is an associate member who joined in 2018.

Under Dr. Nahrowi's guidance as IPB's UC Coordinator, the university hosted the 5th UC Graduate Forum (UCGF) on Sustainable and Smart Agriculture in the Tropical Region: Concept and Implementation. This was conducted back to back with the Integrative Forum on Food and Nutrition Security for Southeast Asia. During the 5th UCGF, IPB initiated the establishment of the Asian Graduate Student Forum (AGSF), which aims to be a community of graduate students in Asia with the objective of addressing the sustainable development goals (SDGs). IPB also proposed a joint master's degree on Tropical Biodiversity and Conservation Science with fellow UC members, UPM and UPLB. Dr. Nahrowi will continue to serve IPB as a Professor in Feed Science at the Faculty of Animal Science.

Under Dr. Robiah's leadership as UPM's UC Executive Officer and with Mr. Saiful's assistance as UC Coordinator, UPM hosted the 2017 Summer School on Oil Palm-Cattle Integration: A Transition towards Sustainability in Food Security and Climate Change. UPM also continously collaborated with the UC members through the existing joint scholarships and dual degree programs such as the UPM-SEARCA Scholarship, UPM-Agropolis Fondation-SEARCA Scholarship, and UPM-KU Dual Degree program. Dr. Robiah will continue to serve UPM as Director of Institute of Plantation Studies while Mr. Saiful will be at the UPM Teaching Hospital.

Through Dr. Sanchez' direction as UPLB's UC Chief Executive Officer and Dr. Lapitan's guidance as UC Executive Officer, UPLB hosted the 1st Summer School on Food and Nutrition Security and Sustainable Agriculture in Southeast Asia in 2015 and 2nd UCGF on The Quest for Environmental and Food Security, Inclusive and Sustainable Agricultural Development in 2016. UPLB proposed the conduct of the UC Faculty Forum which it hosted during the pilot offering in 2019. In the same year, UPLB hosted the 5th Summer School on Sustainable and Resilient Food Systems in Vulnerable Areas. Dr. Sanchez will continue his service to the university as a Professor under the Institute of Crop Science while Dr. Lapitan will be retiring.

NTU, despite joining the UC just recently, has hosted and participated in a number of activities. They hosted the 32nd UC Executive Board Meeting in 2019 and the 2nd UC Faculty Forum in 2020. NTU partnered with SEARCA to offer the NTU-SEARCA Joint Scholarship Program for Global Agriculture Technology and Genomic Science (Global ATGS). Dr. Shu-Jen Wang, who was UC Coordinator of NTU, will continue to serve her university as Deputy Vice President for Academic Affairs and Director of Master Program in Global ATGS.

IPB, UPM, and UPLB greatly contributed to the development of the joint curriculum for the MS Food Security and Climate Change program funded by ERASMUS+ from 2016 to 2019. IPB was able to develop and pilot test in team teaching mode the modules for two core courses of MSFSCC during the 2nd semester of AY 2018-2019. IPB's student Mr. Ariyanto Kurnia Bagus, earned three degrees in MSFSCC, from IPB, Kasetsart University, and Montpellier SupAgro. NTU, as an associate member, may also serve as host for MSFSCC related activities in the future.

As the consortium says its farewell to the outgoing officials, the UC also welcomes Dr. Agus Buono, Academic Vice Dean of IPB Graduate School; Dr. Zalilah Mohd Sharif, Dean, UPM; Dr. Firdaus Mukhtar, Deputy Dean (Admission and International), School of Graduate Studies, UPM; Dr. Jean O. Loyola, Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs, UPLB; Dr. Jomar Rabajante, OIC - Office of the Dean, Graduate School, UPLB ; and Dr. Je-Ruei Liu, Director, Center for International Agricultural Education and Academic Exchanges, College of Bioresources and Agriculture, NTU who will continue the institutions' excellent participation to the consortium.

UC MEMBERS RECOGNIZED AS BEST PUBLIC UNIVERSITIES IN INDONESIA

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The clustering is divided according to four indicators: input, process, output, and outcome. Input includes the number of lecturers with doctoral degrees, number of lecturers holding a Principal Lecturer and Professor post, ratio of student to lecturer, number of international students, and lecturers who also work in the industry. Process refers to the institution and study program accreditations, online learning, higher education institution partnerships, completion of PD Dikti report, number of study programs with partnerships to business and industry, NGOs or institutions named among QS Top 100 World Class University, independent learning study programs, and number of students participating in these learning programs. Output examines the number of indexed scientific articles, research performance, student performance, and number of internationally accredited study programs. Outcome includes indicators such as innovation performance, percentage of graduates who were employed within six months of graduation, number of citations per lecturer, number of patents per lecturer, and community service performance.

Source: https://ipb.ac.id/news/index/2020/08/ipb-universityraih-peringkat-pertama-perguruan-tinggi-terbaik-versikemendikbud-2020/d4555de69a741b00e9cba432f10eba2d

NTU-SEARCA JOINT MS SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM ON GLOBAL AGRICULTURE AND GENOMIC SCIENCE (GLOBAL - ATGS) ANNOUNCES 2ND CALL



First batch of NTU-SEARCA scholars Felix Subakti (2nd from left) and Aisyah Fitri Rohani (3rd from right) together with officials of NTU (center), Dr. Shu Jen Wang, Deputy Vice President for Academic Affairs and Director of Master Program in Global ATGS and Dr. Yu-Jen I. Chiu, Chief Executive Officer, International College Office, NTU

The NTU-SEARCA Joint Scholarship Program for Global Agriculture Technology and Genomic Science (Global ATGS) opened its applications for the 2nd call until 20 November 2020 for AY 2021-2022.

The joint scholarship between National Taiwan University (NTU) and SEARCA provides support for graduate studies under the Master Program in Global ATGS offered by the International College of NTU. The program aims to provide deeper understanding on smart farming technology, genome science research, and breeding science and technology. It combines an interdisciplinary curriculum with opportunities for internship and field visits to develop global bio-agricultural talents who are responsive to the needs of the agriculture sector and possess advance knowledge and practical skills on contemporary agriculture.

Keystone courses of the academic program include global agriculture technology foresight, mathematical method for life science, and scientific writing. Under Digital Agriculture Technology, students will explore the application of blockchain technology in agriculture, process control for smart farming, plant factory, smart technology applied to livestock production, and agriculture waste treatment engineering. In Genome Science, discussions will be on genetics and genomics, crop genomic breeding, advanced plant molecular biology, core biotechnology: DNA, RNA, and protein, special topics in poultry production, and medicine and products processing. For Breeding Science and Technology, studies will be on the agriculture of Taiwan, introduction to bioinformatics, crop modeling, and plant phenotyping.

The program, offered in English, requires students to finish their thesis and at least 24 credits of coursework which includes 12 credits each of compulsory and elective courses.

The first batch of NTU-SEARCA scholars awarded in the pilot call are both from Indonesia. Aisyah Fitri Rohani is a graduate of Universitas Gadjah Mada (UGM) while Felix Subakti is a fresh graduate of University of Indonesia. Because of the pandemic, both scholars had to undergo quarantine before they could participate in the physical classes.

According to Aisyah, going to NTU is a very rewarding experience and a wonderful opportunity. NTU has a lot of cutting-edge and in-depth research in different fields especially agriculture. Arriving during the pandemic is not easy because they had to follow a lot of protocols such as the 14-day quarantine in the designated hotel followed by the 7-day self-health management and then adjust to their new academic environment. With the support of various parties, everything is currently running smoothly for her. Even though she missed several face-to-face classes because of the quarantine, technological advances and qualified teaching staff from NTU were very helpful in letting her catch up with her courses.

Besides this collaboration on a joint scholarship, SEARCA and NTU have worked together in different activities as both institutions are also members of the UC. NTU hosted the previous 32nd UC Executive Board Meeting in November 2019 and will be hosting the 2nd Faculty Forum on 9-10 November 2020.

Program Information: https://i.ntu.edu.tw

Program Requirements: http://oiasystem.ntu.edu.tw/ admission/foreign/requirement/dept.detail/id/37/degree/M/sn/1162?lang=en

Scholarship Information: https://www.searca.org/ ntu-ms-scholarship

MSFSCC PROJECT OF THE UC CELEBRATES #ERASMUSDAYS2020 WITH THE ALUMNI



The ERASMUS+ Capacity Building for Higher Education funded project on Master of Science in Food Security and Climate Change (MSFSCC) joined the #ErasmusDays2020 celebration on 15-17 October 2020 through an online showcase of alumni experiences. The MS FSCC alumni shared their photo essays and video testimonials at the UC and MSFSCC social media pages and website.

The #ErasmusDays2020 is an annual celebration to communicate about European values, the benefits of mobility, Erasmus+ project results, and visibility of projects to citizens, professionals, media and policy makers.

The MS FSCC project aims to develop professionals who will address the challenges of food security in the context of the ASEAN integrated market. The joint curriculum has been completed and is currently undergoing approval in partner universities. Participating institutions planning to offer the degree include Universiti Putra Malaysia (UPM) in Selangor, Malaysia, Universitas Gadjah Mada (UGM) and Institut Pertanian Bogor (IPB) in Indonesia, Kasetsart University (KU) in Bangkok, Thailand, and the University of the Philippines Los Baños (UPLB) in Los Baños, Laguna, Philippines.

The experiences shared by the alumni during the #ErasmusDays2020 celebration include activities that were conducted simultaneous with the development of the joint curriculum since 2017 such as the double/dual degree in MS FSCC with three batches of students successfully participating until 2019.

These students participated in exchanges in Southeast Asia and in Europe, summer schools, and joint research. The Summer School is an intensive course on Sustainability Assessment in Agricultural Production and Food Processing and is a required course in MS FSCC which combines theory, case studies, group discussions, and fieldwork. It was first conducted in 2017 at UGM in Yogyakarta, Indonesia with the theme: Integrated Forestry Farming System: A Transition to Food Security in a Changing Climate. This was followed in 2018 with Oil Palm-Cattle Integration: A Transition Towards Sustainability in Food Security and Climate Change hosted by UPM in Malaysia and in 2019, organized by UPLB in the Philippines with the theme Sustainable and Resilient Food Systems in Vulnerable Areas.

Other Southeast Asian partners of the project who have also participated in the activities but are non-UC members include Chiang Mai University and Prince of Songkla University both in Thailand, Central Luzon State University in the Philippines, Nilai University in Malaysia, and University of Battambang and Royal University of Agriculture both in Cambodia.

With plans for the program and its activities to continue under the UC starting 2021, Universitas Brawijaya who just became a regular member of the UC in 2019, expressed interest in offering the joint MS FSCC in their university. The institution is also set to host the 2021 Summer School together with Montpellier Supagro in France. Tokyo University of Agriculture (Tokyo-NODAI) and National Taiwan University (NTU), UC associate members, also committed to accept MS FSCC students for the non-degree mobility.

The network of institutions offering the activities enables students to get the best offerings and perspectives from different universities by taking courses and conducting research.

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