



Thirty-four SEARCA Scholars complete graduate studies in Fiscal Year 2021-2022

SEARCA commended the 24 Full MS and PhD SEARCA scholars and 10 PhD Research scholars, who completed their graduate studies in Fiscal Year 2021-2022 through a Testimonial Ceremony held last 4 August 2022 on blended mode. Twelve scholars together with their families attended the event at the SEARCA Headquarters and the rest of the graduates joined via Zoom platform. Out of the 24 full scholars, 8 were supported by SEARCA's collaboration with the German Academic Exchange Service or DAAD; Nagoya University, Japan; and the Philippine Carabao Center.

In her welcome message, Dr. Maria Cristeta N. Cuaresma, Senior Program Head for Education and Collective Learning Department, noted the determination of the scholars to complete their studies despite the ongoing pandemic and expressed that their SEARCA family is proud of their accomplishments and academic achievements. She admonished the new graduates "to use the knowledge and skills gained while you were SEARCA scholars to change the world, do it in your own little ways, one day at a time.... and to keep in mind and in your heart, that once a SEARCA, always a SEARCA." Similarly, Dr. Cuaresma acknowledged SEARCA's institutional partners such as the universities which served as study posts of scholars, university coordinators, and the funding partners/donors of SEARCA.

Prof. Joselito G. Florendo, Deputy Director for Administration, gave an inspirational message and recognized the efforts of scholars in completing their graduate studies. Mr. Florendo also emphasized that we are a family here in SEARCA, who are happy to have supported the scholars. He mentioned that SEARCA is still willing to support and work with them in the next chapter of their professional careers.

For the first time, SEARCA awarded a Special Citation to a scholar for her significant academic achievements. The awardee is a DAAD-SEARCA scholar who obtained a general point average of a perfect 4.0; published 7 papers as lead author in refereed journals; and presented 4 others in scientific forums during her incumbency as a SEARCA scholar. She also presented at the ATMI-ASEAN High Level Policy Forum and was chosen as a Chrysalis Award finalist, meant to contribute to Malaysia's Science, Technology, Innovation, and Economic ecosystem. The award was given to Ms. Shahidah MD Nor who pursued PhD in Horticulture at Universiti Putra Malaysia.

Based on academic grade point average, duration of studies in the degree program, papers presented in international conferences, publications in scientific journals, academic awards or recognitions received, and other curricular activities and engagements, SEARCA awarded the Outstanding Masters and Doctoral scholars for the SEARCA scholarship graduates of FY 2021-2022 to:

- *Ma. Genesis T. Catindig-Reyes, MS in Rural Sociology, University of the Philippines Los Baños, and*
- *Tuan Syaripah Najihah Tuan Mohd Razali, PhD in Agricultural Technology, Universiti Putra Malaysia.*

Special Awards were also given to five scholars who completed their degrees on time.

- *Ma. Genesis T. Catindig-Reyes, Philippines, MS in Rural Sociology*
- *Thant Mon Paing, Myanmar, MS in Animal Science*
- *Issaree Supnui, Thailand, PhD Extension Education*
- *Nguyen Thi Quynh, Vietnam, PhD in Agronomy*
- *Tuan Syaripah Najihah Tuan Mohd Razali, Malaysia, PhD in Agricultural Technology*

The Director of SEARCA, Dr. Glenn B. Gregorio, who joined via Zoom, congratulated the graduates and awardees. He told the new graduates to enjoy the moment, but when they go back to their respective countries or institutions, they must level up and make a difference in their country, serving as frontliners in education and in agriculture.

On behalf of the graduates, Ms. Ma. Genesis T. Catindig-Reyes and Ms. Tuan Syaripah Najihah, expressed their sincerest gratitude to SEARCA for being their second family, for its unwavering guidance, assistance, and patience. With the knowledge they gained, Ms. Reyes summoned her fellow scholars to help educate and train the next generation, especially those not on the same playing field. She ended her message with a challenging question to all, "How can we be of better service to the 'last, the least, and the lost' of our nations, especially in the new normal era?" Likewise, Ms. Najihah pointed out that together with the other SEARCA alumni, she promised to give back to the community through their research in agriculture.

Dr. Asdi Agustar, the newly appointed President of the Regional SEARCA Alumni Association (RSAA), administered the RSAA Oath of Membership and delivered the closing message. Dr. Agustar said that with the new SEARCA graduates, SEARCA has succeeded in adding several scientists and researchers in the ASEAN countries to use their field of specializations in contributing to the development of agriculture in the region.

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Camacho formally invested as 10th UPLB chancellor

Retrieved from <https://uplb.edu.ph/all-news/camacho-formally-invested-as-10th-uplb-chancellor/>



After two years at the helm, Chancellor Jose V. Camacho, Jr., was finally invested as UPLB's 10th chancellor in a ceremony that was held on Sept. 15 at the Edwin Bingham Copeland Gymnasium.

Chancellor Camacho was elected by the UP Board of Regents at its 1354th meeting on September 24, 2020.

In his investiture address, Chancellor Camacho recalled how he was thrust into his work, coordinating with officials of the Los Baños local government on preparations for Typhoon Rolly that was expected to hit Laguna on Nov. 1, his first day of office as chancellor.

"It dawned upon me early on that I do not only have a university to lead but also a community to look after, a community that must survive global and local disruption while realizing its various mandates to serve the country," he told the audience.

Chancellor Camacho came into office proffering a vision-mission of future-proofing UPLB amid multiple disruptions. His chancellorship was marked by the year the COVID-19 pandemic struck the country.

According to him, since then, the UPLB administration has accomplished so much and will approach the third year with the same commitment and hard work to bring the best to the University.

He acknowledged the constituents, primarily the UPLB officials, for their perseverance, brilliance, persistence, and grit in working on the accomplishments that he enumerated in his address.

The investiture ceremony was led by UP President Danilo L. Concepcion and witnessed by the family of Chancellor Camacho: his wife, Roderica, and two children, Angelica Joy and Jose Teoderico.

Also in attendance were members of the diplomatic corps, the chairperson of the UP Board of Regents and of the Commission on Higher Education J. Prospero de Vera III, members of the UP Board of Regents, UP System officials led by President Concepcion, chancellors, vice chancellors, and other officials of the UP constituent universities, representatives of national government agencies and international non-government organizations, UPLB professors emeritus and UPLB personnel, officials of the Laguna and Los Baños local government units led by Vice Governor Katherine C. Agapay and Mayor Anthony Genuino, respectively, and representatives of the UPLB Alumni Association and the private sector.

Prof. Ova Emilia Named New Rector of Universitas Gadjah Mada

<https://ugm.ac.id/en/news/22549-prof-ova-emilia-named-new-rector-of-universitas-gadjah-mada>



Professor Ova Emilia took her oath of office as Rector of Universitas Gadjah Mada (UGM) for 2022–2027 on Friday (27/5). She succeeded Prof. Panut Mulyono, whose term of office expired in May.

Chair of the Board of Trustees, Prof. Pratikno, also serving as the current Minister of State Secretariat, led the ceremony at the UGM Senate Hall. Pratikno hopes that the elected rector can unite 50 thousand students to help improve humanity, society, nation, and state in accordance with the UGM motto—Locally Rooted, Globally Respected.

"Congratulations. We hope the new rector can integrate the strength of UGM into Indonesia's," said Pratikno.

Ova Emilia expressed her gratitude for the trust given to guide UGM for the next five years. She is committed to strengthening UGM's identity as the Pancasila University, the National University, the University of Struggle, the People's University, and the University of the Cultural Center.

According to her, UGM is now entering an era of massive change. The COVID-19 pandemic, digital transformation, and climate change have disrupted all aspects of human life, including the governance of higher education institutions. UGM seeks to instill and maintain the unity, diversity, and identity of the Indonesian nation as well as to lead the transformation of the country.

"UGM plays a significant role in maintaining Indonesia's strategic leadership on the global stage by providing critical and constructive studies and recommendations that adhere to scientific principles to the government," said Emilia in her inaugural address.

Several figures were also present at the event, such as Budi Karya Sumadi (Minister of Transportation), Edward O.S. Hiariej (Deputy Minister of Law and Human Rights), Ganjar Pranowo (Governor of Central Java), Muh Aris Marfai (Head of the Geospatial Information Agency), Hasto Wardoyo (Head of the National Population and Family Planning Board), and Ali Ghufroon Mukti (President Director of BPJS Kesehatan).

Born in Yogyakarta, the new rector completed her undergraduate medical education at UGM and later gained her M.Med., Ed. from the University of Dundee, Scotland. Prof. Ova Emilia is an obstetrician-gynecologist, completing her specialty and subspecialty training at UGM. She also holds a Ph.D. in Clinical Teaching from the University of New South Wales, Australia.

She was elected after receiving 21 votes from 25 votes in the Plenary Meeting on Friday (20/5). Previously, she served as Dean of the UGM Faculty of Medicine, Public Health, and Nursing. Prof. Emilia has authored dozens of books and international journals and has been involved in creating many innovations, advocacy, and policies.

Author: Ika | Translator: Salma | Photo: Firsto

Profesor Widodo is Officially Inaugurated as UB Rector for the 2022-2027 Period

<https://prasetya.ub.ac.id/en/profesor-widodo-resmi-menjadi-rektor-ub-periode-2022-2027/>

The Board of Trustees of Universitas Brawijaya inaugurated Prof. Widodo, S.Si., M.Sc., PhD as the Rector of Universitas Brawijaya for the 2022-2027 period. The inauguration procession was carried out by the Chairperson of the Board of Trustees, Prof. Dr. Muhadjir Effendy, M.A.P. offline at the Samantha Krida Building.

This time, the procession for the Rector's inauguration was different from the previous one, since the Chair of the MWA inaugurated it. Prof. Widodo is the Rector who was first inaugurated after UB changed its status to PTNBH. According to the Head of MWA, UB has implemented the transition phase very quickly. "Universitas Brawijaya under the leadership of Prof. Nuhfil has carried out the transition phase to become PTNBH very well and at a very fast tempo," he said.

The inauguration of the Rector today is a consequence of the change in UB's status. Muhadjir added that the Rector who was inaugurated this morning was a transitional Rector, towards UB as a State University with a Legal Entity. "Currently, UB is transformed to be a future university that is excellent, whose identity as pioneer and reformer, internationally reputable in knowledge and technology, especially science and technology that supports industry and is based on culture," added the man who served as Coordinating Minister for Human Development and Culture of Indonesia.

To the new Rector, Muhadjir advised continuing the various achievements and significant contributions of the previous UB leaders. "We entrust our hopes and aspirations so that we can continue our achievements in order to build civilization and become a PTNBH that can carry out the functions of the Tri Dharma of Higher Education with innovative, creative, meaningful breakthroughs for the realization of a quality university with an international reputation," he concluded.



The Rector for the 2018-2022 period, Prof. Dr. Ir. Nuhfil Hanani AR., MS, in front of the invitee of the inauguration, expressed his appreciation for the hard work of the entire civitas. "One month ago, UB was ranked 801 in the world, this is joint hard work so that UB is not only a university belonging to Malang and Indonesia but also a university belonging to the world. I hope that in the future, let's support Prof. Widodo, which Alhamdulillah the first rector election done by way of deliberation", he explained.

Starting his first speech as Rector, Prof. Widodo, S.Si., M.Si., Ph.D.Med.Sc sure, with the provision of extraordinary quality human resources, UB will continue to fly to pursue world-famous universities.

Regarding the program, Widodo said there are 3 points that will be emphasized. "The first is the relevance of higher education to the needs of the community, the second is internationalization. UB must improve its international ranking, we hope that it will not only increase the ranking but UB's contribution to international problems. Third, is sustainability, with PTNBH, the sustainability of higher education is also important, sustaining education, following technological developments, world changes, and global changes," he explained.

Prof. Widodo, S.Si., M.Sc., Ph.D. MedSc was born in Bojonegoro, East Java in 1972. This bespectacled man has served as Dean of the Faculty of Mathematics and Natural Sciences for the 2020-2022 period. The inauguration was attended by the Chair and members of the Board of Trustees, the Board of Professors, the University Academic Senate, representatives of students, and partners of Universitas Brawijaya.

VQ/ Humas UB/ Trans. Iir



https://www.ntu.edu.tw/english/spotlight/2022/2096_2021007.html

Prof. Wen-Chang Chen Elected NTU's 13th President

On October 7, 2022, Prof. Wen-Chang Chen, Dean of NTU's College of Engineering, was elected the next President of National Taiwan University. The Presidential Search Committee (the Committee) will prepare all the relevant documents of the new President and submit them to the Ministry of Education for official appointment. The Committee thanked all the faculty, staff, and students for their support and assistance in making this selection process a success.

The Committee began a public search for the next President of NTU on April 25. On July 8, nine candidates were approved after qualification review and officially recommended through voting by the Committee members. On September 6, six out of the nine candidates were officially recommended through a vote by the representatives of the University Council.

In late August, all six presidential candidates were invited to convey their visions for NTU's future development in public. In September and October, the Committee members conducted one-on-one in-depth interviews with all six presidential candidates. Finally, on October 7, Prof. Wen-Chang Chen was elected the 13th President of National Taiwan University.

- The website of the Presidential Search: <https://event.ntu.edu.tw/president/>
- The Convenor of the Presidential Search Committee: President Kung-Yee Liang of the National Health Research Institutes
- The spokesperson of the Presidential Search Committee: Dean Chun-Chieh Wu of NTU's College of Science

Philippine HEIs participate in CHED-Funded Mobility Programs to the UC



Faculty members from Marinduque State College (MSC), University of the Philippines Los Baños (UPLB), Romblon State University (RSU), and Western Philippines University (WPU) visited universities in Southeast Asia to conduct research, benchmarking, and capacity-building activities, as well as explore collaborations between their home institutions and the members of the Southeast Asian University Consortium for Graduate Education in Agriculture and Natural Resources (UC). The delegates' specific activities are also part of their institutions' growing effort to expand partnerships and strengthen their internationalization, which is supported by SEARCA through its project on Leveling Up Philippine Higher Education Institutions in Agriculture, Fisheries, and Natural Resources (LevelUPHEI AFAR).

The LevelUPHEI AFAR project, funded by the Commission on Higher Education (CHED), focuses on the capacity development of faculty/staff members of Philippine higher education institutions, specifically those from the State Universities and Colleges - Association of Colleges of Agriculture in the Philippines (SUC-ACAP) in the areas of agriculture, forestry, fisheries, and agricultural engineering. The project involves linking Philippine HEIs with international university networks through participation in training programs, summer schools, forums, cross-visits, and faculty and student mobilities. Foremost of these international networks is the UC.

Dr. Doreen R. Mascarenas, Director for Extension at MSC, recently concluded her one-month mobility at Kasetsart University (KU) in Thailand from August – September 2022. Dr. Mascareñas' activities were geared toward benchmarking best practices at KU which will help her home institution's ongoing project on the hatchery development of four (4) culture-potential indigenous freshwater prawns in Marinduque which started on August 2021. The project hopes that Macrobrachium species of interest will provide a new commodity for the production of the local fishermen. The initiative also aims to conserve and protect the remaining indigenous freshwater prawns in the wild and prevent the entry of exotic freshwater prawn species from other areas in the Philippines. Furthermore, MSC also offers an undergraduate Fisheries Program which would benefit greatly from the mobility activities of Dr. Mascareñas.



Dr. Mascareñas participated in the Faculty of Fisheries' research activities such as hatchery and culture techniques of aquatic organisms, pond and hatchery designs, water quality management for aquatic animals, feed technology, and observation of field and laboratory activities designed for the Department of Aquaculture undergraduate students. In addition, Dr. Mascareñas met with KU experts to explore collaborative research and possible faculty exchanges in the field of fisheries/aquaculture between MSC and KU.

Another delegate from MSC, Mr. Harvey A. Dulay, Director for Research, attended a three-week Training Program on Applications of Plant Biotechnology for Crop Improvement at KU's Kamphaeng Saen Campus in Thailand in August 2022. He participated in lectures about Ornamental Plant Production by Tissue Culture and Molecular Plant Breeding Techniques. The training was a combination of lectures and hands-on demonstration/practice. KU provided Mr. Dulay access to their Tissue Culture Laboratory, Central Laboratory and Greenhouse Complex, and Applied Microbiology Laboratory for the duration of the training. Mr. Dulay was also able to visit the Tropical Vegetable Research Center (TVRC) and the KU-Israel Agricultural Technologies Center, and some fields and farms in the Kanchanaburi and Nakhonpathom area.



Mr. Dulay continued his mobility activities with the International Summer Course Program on Agriculture and Ecosystem Resilience to Environmental Disaster toward Regional Sustainability at IPB University, Bogor, Indonesia in September 2022. He joined seven (7) more grantees from Central Luzon State University (CLSU) and UPLB.





Dr. Yusof A. Sucol, University Researcher II at the School of Environmental Science and Management, UPLB, attended the Regional Training-Workshop on Halal Slaughtering and Certification in Malaysia in August 2022. The training-workshop aims to enhance the capacities of Halal professionals, practitioners, policymakers, and other key players and stakeholders on Halal slaughtering and certification as well as to increase the exchange of knowledge and information and explore potential collaborations for further development of the Halal industry in the ASEAN region. An output of the said activity is coming up with strategies and actions on how to address the current gaps and challenges in the Halal industry. Besides attending the training-workshop, Dr. Sucol continued with his mobility activities at the Halal Products Research Institute (HPRI), Universiti Putra Malaysia (UPM) in Serdang, Selangor, Malaysia until early September 2022 by representing UPLB in the Halal project proposal development in partnership with UPM. During his mobility, Dr. Sucol also participated in field experiments on electroencephalogram studies in goats (small ruminants).



Dr. Juniel T. Lucidos, Director of the Planning and Development Office of RSU, recently concluded his one-month faculty mobility in September 2022 at Universitas Gadjah Mada (UGM) in Yogyakarta, Indonesia. His activities include knowledge-sharing about the BS Agriculture Program and other agriculture-related academic program offerings of UGM, presenting the BS Agriculture Program of RSU in the context of island-based agriculture education, observing the best practices of UGM and visiting facilities related to agriculture, and exploring possible partnerships in instruction, research, and extension between RSU and UGM.

Mr. Anastacio T. Cagabhion III, Instructor at WPU – Main Campus, San Juan, Aborlan, Palawan started his seven-month mobility at IPB University in Bogor, Indonesia in September 2022 to conduct his research on "Isolation and Characterization of Bioactive Peptides from Fermented Goat's (*Capra aegagrus hircus*) Milk using *Lactobacillus acidophilus*, *Lactobacillus plantarum* and *Lactobacillus fermentum* Strains." Mr. Cagabhion will be guided by Prof. Dr. Irma Isnafia Arief, SPT, MSi from the Faculty of Animal Science, IPB University for his research. Mr. Cagabhion hopes to improve his home university's Food Processing Center and maximize Palawan's rich natural resources and indigenous commodities through the research attachment.



Maejo University trained farmers to grow hemp and cannabis to revive the economy after COVID-19.

<https://erp.mju.ac.th/informationDetail.aspx?newsId=4661&lang=en>

Assistant Professor Dr. Nednapa Insalud, a project leader in the research and development of hemp strains with high content, Faculty of Agricultural Production, Maejo University, gave a lecture on "Cultivation and Utilization of Cannabis and Hemp". The lecture was held according to the economic and social rehabilitation plan from the impact of the Coronavirus (Covid 19), at Lampang Rajabhat University under the project to drive economic and social foundations after COVID with BCG economy for farmers at the Folk Herb Learning Center, Na Sak Sub-District, Mae Mo District, Lampang Province. The lecture aimed to develop, promote and drive products and BCG services of the agricultural community by focusing on the market in a systematic and sustainable way.

Communication Center Maejo University



Philippine HEI delegates bag multiple awards during the International Summer Course Program in Bogor, Indonesia



Eight delegates from Philippine HEIs participated in the International Summer Course Program for Agriculture and Ecosystem Resilience to Environmental Disaster toward Regional Sustainability, jointly organized by IPB University and Ibaraki University from 11-20 September 2022 in Bogor, Indonesia. The International Continuing Professional Education (ICPE) Grants of the Commission on Higher Education (CHED) through the Leveling-Up Philippine Higher Education Institutions in Agriculture, Fisheries, and Natural Resources (LevelUPHEI AFAR) Project of SEARCA supported the faculty members as they presented their research studies to the international participants. The grant enables members of the State Universities and Colleges - Association of Colleges of Agriculture in the Philippines (SUC-ACAP) to participate in activities organized by members of the Southeast Asian University Consortium for Graduate Education in Agriculture and Natural Resources (UC), where IPB University is a founding member.

The International Summer Course Program aimed to provide an understanding of regional sustainability through multifaced research on disaster prevention and agricultural and ecosystem resilience from disaster and social-technology disruption. The program was also designed to promote talents that could identify problems and develop solutions independently. It combined lectures and discussions on environmental conservation and management, GIS and remote sensing, and biophysical and socio-cultural dimensions of climate change adaptation. As part of the active learning component of the summer program, the participants also conducted on-site observation and evaluation of different types of agroecosystems. They visited Seribu Island, Desa Wisata Malasari/Gunung Halimun Salak National Park, Pulo Geulis, and Bogor Botanical Garden.

Representing Central Luzon State University (CLSU), Mr. Jairus Jesse M. Tubal from the College of Agriculture shared his study on "Impacts of Climate Change on the Tilapia Value Chain from Cage Culture in Luzon, Philippines." Engr. Eliza E. Camaso from the College of Engineering presented her work on "Vulnerability Assessment of Agricultural Resources in Santa Rosa, Nueva Ecija, Philippines." Mr. Daryl A. Juganas and Engr. Lea S. Caguat, both from the Institute for Climate Change and Environmental Management, presented "Adaptation Strategies for Resiliency and Disaster Risk Management in Selected Coastal Municipalities of Zambales, Philippines" and "Spatial and temporal trend analysis of reference evapotranspiration in Central Luzon, Philippines," respectively. Engr. Caguat was recognized with the Best Poster Award, and Mr. Tubal won second place for the Best Oral Presentations.

The University of the Philippines Los Baños' (UPLB) delegates include Ms. Liezl B. Grefalda who presented "Building Institutional Resilience in the context of Climate Change in Aurora, Philippines," and Ms. Rhiz C. Manarpaac who presented the "International Risk Governance Council Framework: Climate Risk Governance in the Municipality of Baler, Aurora, Philippines." Ms. Grefalda, who won third place for Best Presenter, and Ms. Manarpaac, who won third place for the Best Student Poster, are both from the Department of Social Forestry and Forest Governance, College of Forestry and Natural Resources. Ms. Clarissa G. Lontoc, from the School of Environmental Science and Management, likewise shared her study on "Estimation of The Recreational Value of Rehabilitated Coral Reef Sites in Boracay, Philippines Using Travel Cost Method."

Mr. Harvey A. Dulay, Director for Research, represented Marinduque State College (MSC) and shared about the "Production of tomato, eggplant, and long pepper using coco fiber-based planter box (CPB) under deficit irrigation." Before this summer program, Mr. Dulay attended a three-week Training Program on Applications of Plant Biotechnology for Crop Improvement at Kasetart University's

SEARCA continues to facilitate funding support for faculty and staff members from SUC-ACAP universities for various activities by the UC such as one-month to one semester mobilities, attendance at conferences, and training programs.





Indonesian Researchers Among Top 2% Scientists by Stanford

<https://en.tempo.co/read/1650344/indonesian-researchers-among-top-2-scientists-by-stanford>

Anuraga Jayanegara, a professor at the Bogor University of Agricultural (IPB), is listed in the 'World's Top 2% Scientist 2022' as one of the world's most influential scientists, which was issued by Stanford University and Elsevier Foundation.

The ranking is calculated based on more than 100,000 researchers around the world. Elsevier provides standardized information on citations, h-indexes, citations to papers in different authorship positions, co-authored adjusted h-indexes, and composite indicators. It is also based on the c-score or the number of publication citations that do not include self-citations. The researcher, who is also the Head of the Department of Nutrition Science and Feed Technology (INTP) at the Faculty of Animal Husbandry, expressed his gratitude for the acknowledgment in the top 2 percent of scientists according to Stanford University's citation.

"Alhamdulillah, I am very grateful. This result and quality work is not an individual effort but the result of collaboration with students, lecturers, and researchers as well as the AFENUE (Animal Feed and Nutrition Modeling) research group and IPB University," the professor wrote, citing the IPB official website on Friday, October 28.

Besides Anuraga, there are also other Indonesian researchers who made it to the list such as I Gede Wenten from the Faculty of Industrial Technology (FTI) Bandung Institute of Technology (ITB) and Riyanarto Sarno from the Sepuluh Nopember Institute of Technology (ITS).

VSU now listed in 2023 World University Rankings

<https://www.vsu.edu.ph/articles/news/2261-vs-u-now-listed-in-the-2023-global-rankings-of-times-higher-education>



This is the biggest number of Philippine universities included in the World University Rankings since it started publishing its global analysis in 2004.

In an official statement issued by the Commission on Higher Education (CHED), Chairperson Dr. J. Prospero E. De Vera III lauded the dramatic increase and the inclusion of five state universities in the prestigious list of the World University Rankings.

"The dramatic increase in the number of internationalized Philippines HEIs shows that our universities continuously benchmark themselves with the best universities in the world and are improving their programs, faculty, and facilities to produce graduates that are globally competitive and industry-matched," CHED Chairperson De Vera said.

De Vera further explained that these results can be considered a milestone for the country's higher education that will encourage universities and colleges to pursue a programmatic and holistic approach in their internationalization strategy.

In response, VSU President Edgardo E. Tulin congratulates the VSU community for another breakthrough in the university's internationalization efforts.

"This is such a welcome development for us in VSU because this is clear proof that reputable university ranking systems are now starting to notice us globally. We will continue to improve our efforts towards the internationalization of our curricular programs so that we can further improve our global status as one of the best universities in science, technology and environmental conservation in this part of the world," President Tulin shared.

Considered as one of the world's most definitive lists of best research-led institutions, the 2023 edition of the World University Rankings is the most diverse and largest ranking published by the Times Higher Education with 1,799 universities participating from across 104 countries and regions around the world.

This evaluation covers 13 carefully calibrated performance indicators that measure an institution's performance across four areas of teaching, research, knowledge transfer, and international outlook.

University of Oxford based in the United Kingdom tops in the overall global rankings followed by Harvard University, University of Cambridge, Stanford University and Massachusetts Institute of Technology.

This year's ranking analyzed a whopping 121 million citations across more than 15.5 million research publications and included survey responses from 40,000 scholars globally, collecting over 680,000 data points from more than 2,500 institutions that submitted data to the THE.

Ulderico B. Alviola

The Visayas State University makes a debut at the prestigious World University Rankings 2023 joining 9 other Philippine universities that were rated and analyzed by the Times Higher Education (THE).

This is the second inclusion of VSU in a global ranking system administered by THE after placing 8th in the Philippines and ranking 801-1000th place in the world for the 2022 Impact Rankings, where universities were assessed against their overall performance in the fulfillment of the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals.

VSU was given a "Reporter" status along with five other Philippine universities that were included in the list. This means that the university provided data but did not meet the eligibility criteria of the THE to receive a global rank. This special status further indicates that they are active participants in the rankings process, even though they have not been ranked this year.

According to a special explainer of THE, the inclusion of institutions with "Reporter" status was an attempt to be inclusive by including 450 universities that submitted data but didn't meet the criteria.

Many of these institutions are still growing their capabilities while others are newly founded, or are changing their missions. With this, universities categorized under the "Reporter" status are arranged alphabetically and are presented at the end of the ranking tables.

Ateneo de Manila University (ADMU) overtakes the University of the Philippines (UP) for the first time after ranking 301-400 globally with UP sliding down to 801-1000 followed by De La Salle University (DLSU) at 1201-1500 and Mapua University at 1501+ spot.

Joining VSU under the "Reporter" status are Cebu Technological University (CTU), Mindanao State University - Iligan Institute of Technology (MSU-IIT), University of Sto. Tomas (UST), University of Science and Technology of Southern Philippines (USTP), and Tarlac Agricultural University (TAU).

CLSU affirms commitment with partner Indonesian universities to boost internationalization, promote efarm academy program

<https://clsu.edu.ph/news-updates/post.php?post-id=399>

Some faculty members from the Central Luzon State University (CLSU) paid a courtesy visit to the Institut Pertanian Bogor (IPB) University and the Pakuan University (UNPAK) in Bogor, Indonesia from August 17-18, 2022 to affirm its commitment to strengthening international relationships and promoting the engaging Food and Agriculture Resources Management (eFARM) Academy Program of the University.

The delegation was composed of the eFARM Academy Program team led by Dr. Gella Patria L. Abella, program leader, Dr. Celyrah B. Castillo and Asst. Prof. Maria Adrielle S. Estigoy, project leaders, and Dr. Mercedita M. Reyes, project staff. In addition, Dr. Emil F. Ubaldo of the International Affairs Office-International Mobility Unit joined the visit.

The highlights of the visit include the introduction of the eFARM Academy Program, discussions on possible areas of collaboration with researchers from IPB University and UnPak and opportunities for student exchanges, and benchmarking of the agroedutourism sites on IPB campuses.

Prof. Dodik Ridho Nurrochmat, Vice Rector for International Affairs, Collaboration and Alumni Relation, Dr. Sintho Wahyuning Ardie, Deputy Director for International Program Services, and Dr. -Ing. Dase Hunaefi, Deputy Director for Collaboration and International Relations welcomed the team to IPB University.

Vice Rector Prof. Dr. Nurrochmat also shared their game-changing community-based innovations at IPB University wherein one of which is the One village, One CEO program.

"The [One village, One CEO] program aims to improve the sociopreneurship skills of students and to provide value and impact for village development which is significant in contributing to the economic growth of Indonesia," Vice Rector Prof. Dr. Nurrochmat said.

Meanwhile, in UNPAK, the team was met by Dr. Asep Denih, Dean of Faculty of Mathematics and Natural Sciences, Dr. Herfina, S. Kom, Deputy Dean for Education and Student Affairs, Dr. Bina Lohita Sari, Assistant Dean for Research, Mr. Usep Suhendar, Assistant Dean for Student Affairs, Ms. Sara Nurmalia, Head of Cooperation Unit Faculty, and Dr. Didit Ardianto, Head of University Innovation.

"The best part of this activity is that we are able to meet halfway and identify possible resource and knowledge sharing in the future," said Dr. Denih.

On the other hand, Dr. Abella expressed her gratitude to both universities for accommodating the team. She also highlighted that the eFARM Academy is open to students abroad who are interested to learn the technologies generated by CLSU.

"We would like to invite your students to be part and enroll in our eFARM Academy. This is in support of the Philippine Commission on Higher Education's (CHED) goal of educating the world through tourism or the StudyPh Program," she added.

To show appreciation for both universities, the team presented a token with the hope to continue the established relationships and open more opportunities for collaboration in academics and research.

Since 2017, CLSU has existing Memorandum of Understanding on Academic Exchange and Memorandum of Agreement on Student Exchange with IPB University and a Memorandum of Understanding with UNPAK.

MARIA ADRIELLE ESTIGOY AND EMIL UBALDO / SCO

SEARCA, UPM to enhance capacities of ASEAN Halal professionals and key stakeholders on Halal slaughtering and certification

<https://www.searca.org/news/searca-upm-enhance-capacities-asean-halal-professionals-stakeholders-slaughtering-certification>

SEARCA in partnership with the Universiti Putra Malaysia – Halal Products Research Institute (UPM-HPRI), conducted the Regional Training Workshop on Halal Slaughtering and Certification on 23-25 August 2022 at The Everly Hotel, Putrajaya, Malaysia. The training-workshop aimed to enhance the capacities of Halal professionals, practitioners, policymakers, and other key players and stakeholders on Halal slaughtering and certification as well as to increase the exchange of knowledge and information and to explore potential collaborations for further development of the Halal industry in the ASEAN region.

This collaborative capacity-building initiative of SEARCA and UPM was designed to support the ongoing initiatives of the ASEAN Working Group on Halal Food (AWGHF). Specifically, this learning event addressed Strategic Thrust 2 of the AWGHF Plan of Action 2021-2025 which targets to boost regional and international collaboration through capacity building and information exchange to improve the adoption of Halal best practices in the region. Moreover, this regional training-workshop related to the AWGHF's recommended thematic areas which include Halal good management practices, slaughtering practices, production, and standard awareness. With this, the event was recognized as an official ASEAN event.

Representatives from the AWGHF, the Southeast Asian University Consortium for Graduate Education in Agriculture and Natural Resources (UC), as well as the private sector served as participants in this event.

The participants were expected to prepare a Re-entry Action Plan (REAP) that will outline suggested strategies and actions on how to address the current gaps and challenges in the Halal industry in their respective countries and in the ASEAN region.

RBLapitan and BCDDeTorres



Photo: Azreen Awang

https://upm.edu.my/news/searca_upm_halal_products_research_institute_conduct_halal_industry_development_workshop_in_asean_region-68541

Huawei Partners with Kasetsart University on Smart University Development to Facilitate Innovations Driving Thailand's Digital Economy

<https://www.ku.ac.th/en/news1/view/Huawei-Partners-with-Kasetsart-University-on-Smart-University>



Huawei Technologies (Thailand) Co., Ltd. signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Kasetsart University to undertake cooperative activities for smart-university development and joint innovation projects in industries such as agriculture, manufacturing, logistics, and healthcare. The partnership will utilize digital technologies, such as 5G and Cloud, and enable ICT talent and skill development in order to facilitate digital innovations driving Thailand's Digital Economy.

The Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) signing ceremony to collaborate on "Smart University Development" between Kasetsart University and Huawei Technologies (Thailand) Co., Ltd. was signed by Dr. Chongrak Wachrinrat, Kasetsart University President, and Mr. Alan Liao, Deputy Chief Executive Officer at Huawei Thailand. The event was honorably witnessed by Assoc. Prof. Pradondet Nilagupta, Vice President for Digital Technology, and Mr. Kevin Cheng, President of Enterprise Business Group, Huawei Thailand.

The MoU, Huawei will co-operate with Kasetsart University on a number of key areas through the provision of digital technologies and knowledge sharing. Areas of focus include the application of new smart education solutions like 5G and Cloud in classrooms as part of Smart University and Smart Campus initiatives, leveraging ICT and engineering expertise from both parties to set up more innovation projects in industries such as agriculture and healthcare, providing learning and internship opportunities to students, and collaborating on testing new 5G technologies.

Dr. Chongrak Wachrinrat, Kasetsart University President, said of the partnership: "Huawei and Kasetsart University have long collaborated on several ICT-related projects and have maintained a positive relationship for quite some time now. The signing of the MOU will provide several educational opportunities for the growth of our Kasetsart University students, and Thailand's digital future. In the first phase we have already initiated five collaboration projects, which included Wifi-6 infrastructure for Smart Campus, Auto Part factory 5G smart Manufacturing & Logistic Solution, 5G Self Driving Commercial Truck (Unmanned Vehicle Operation), 5G hyper-reality for Civil Aviation Training Center, and 5G AR/VR Smart Classroom. This is an encouraging sign for how successful this partnership will be."

Mr. Alan Liao, Deputy Chief Executive Officer at Huawei Thailand, spoke more on the collaboration: "Kasetsart University has always impressed us with their wealth of knowledge and professionalism. We previously collaborated together on a Smart Manufacturing initiative as well as on Virtual and Augmented Reality for Smart Education. We firmly believe these technologies and methods of learning are not only representative of the changes taking place in our industry but are fundamentally essential for helping young people prepare for a digital future. This agreement will present even greater opportunities to enhance smart education solutions thanks to Huawei's state-of-the-art 5G and Cloud technologies, further improving both the operational efficiency and security of Kasetsart's smart education solutions and applications."

The key outcome of the partnership is the development and facilitation of digital innovations driving the Thailand Digital Economy. By signing the official collaboration agreement into effect, Huawei and Kasetsart University will be able to accelerate cooperation progress and expand their scopes of work throughout multiple vertical industries. Huawei will also be able to help develop the digital manpower of the next generation, which is crucial for the constantly evolving digital landscape.

Huawei has long been committed to driving education that focuses on upskilling the Thai ICT workforce to support the needs of the growing digital sector, as well as driving Thailand to become a major hub for digital technologies and personnel development. Both Thai industries and the economy can benefit greatly from this collaborative effort and Huawei is proud to be a part of driving that change forward.

In addition, Huawei will soon host their annual flagship event 'HUAWEI CONNECT 2022' in Bangkok on September 19-21, 2022, at the newly renovated Queen Sirikit National Convention Center. Traditionally held in China, the event will debut in Thailand for the first time and provide opportunities for tech-savvy individuals to discuss challenges and opportunities in digital industries, as well as explore how Cloud and 5G can help businesses and individuals achieve success. The event will showcase the latest ICT products, solutions, and groundbreaking innovations that will help elevate the industry.

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*University Consortium is the official newsletter of the
Southeast Asian University Consortium for Graduate
Education in Agriculture and Natural Resources (UC).*

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