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Very. Rev. Fr. Richard G. Ang, O.P., Ph.D., delivers the Rector's Report for the period of January 2020 to July 2021.

Steering UST through the pandemic: Very Rev. Fr. Ang delivers his first Rector's Report

On the Feast Day of the Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary, September 8, 2022, the University of Santo Tomas held a hybrid General Convocation for the Rector's Report at the Dr. Robert Sy Grand Ballroom of the Bl. Buenaventura Garcia Paredes O.P. Building. Very Rev. Fr. Richard G. Ang, O.P., Ph.D., delivered his report on the University's achievements from January 2020, when he began serving as Acting Rector, to July 2021, or the first five academic terms of his Rectorship.

The Master of the Order of Preachers and UST Chancellor Very Rev. Fr. Gerard Francisco P. Timoner, III, O.P., first confirmed Father Ang's appointment as UST's eighth Filipino Rector on May 7, 2020. However, since that was at the height of the pandemic, the traditional Installation Rites usually held at the start of the academic year had to be postponed to May 13, 2021, coinciding with the Feast of Our Lady of Fatima.

Upon his installation, Fr. Ang stated seven priorities for leadership, where he committed to harnessing technology in

preparation for Industry 4.0; advancing synergy among disciplines, units, and institutions; enriching the research ecosystems of the University; optimizing advances made in internationalization; fostering a stronger industry-academe-alumni partnership; advocating wellness of being; and managing resources for strategic expansion. Together, these points comprise "UST Vision 2024 and Beyond", agenda that are entrenched in the Key Result Areas and Key Performance Indicators of the directional areas.

"They will be carefully planned and regularly monitored to ensure that, as a University, we move together in one mind and one spirit," vowed the Father Rector.

"As a 411-year-old Catholic institution, we have adjusted, evolved, and transformed the way we do things at the University. The centerpiece of this presentation is the story of how UST went through a continuum of necessary, relevant, and multi-dimensional challenges, and how we managed to confront conditions of

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Fr. Ang (center) with (from left:) Secretary-General Rev. Fr. Louie R. Coronel, O.P., EHL, Vice Rector Academic Affairs Prof. Cheryl R. Peralta, DrPH, Vice Rector Rev. Fr. Isaias D. Tiongco, O.P., Vice Rector for Finance Rev. Fr. Roberto Luanzon, Jr., O.P., Vice Rector for Religious Affairs Rev. Fr. Pablo T. Tiong, O.P., and Vice Rector for Research and Innovation Rev. Fr. Jannel Abogado, O.P.

uncertainty and unpredictability from a position of faith, courage, and resiliency," said Fr. Ang.

The Father Rector gave highlights from each of the Nine Strategic Directional Areas (SDAs) and the UST Hospital:

Leadership and Governance

Remembering that his term as Acting Rector had barely started when the COVID-19 pandemic and the resulting community quarantines began in early 2020, Fr. Ang highlighted the creation of Task Force Veritas, whose goal was to ensure the continuous delivery of services during the transition of University operations to the virtual mode while complying with health restrictions amid the pandemic.

The University also implemented fully online enrollment processes; reviewed the table of fees; allowed staggered payments until December; refunded laboratory fees and other in-person related payments; did not increase tuition fees for incoming freshmen; extended scholarships; created a committee on negotiations with telecommunications companies to address internet connectivity concerns; initiated a corporate subscription of the University to Zoom; allowed work-from-home and skeleton workforce arrangements for employees, ensuring that no support staff was laid off due to the pandemic; secured vaccines for her stakeholders in coordination with the local

government of Manila; successfully signed the Collective Bargaining Agreement 2020 with the UST Faculty Union; among many other initiatives.

Amid the transition, the University continued to join and excel at national and international quality assurance (QA) undertakings, such as the Quacquarelli-Symonds Ratings, which gave UST the first five-star rating in the Philippines; and the ASEAN University Network Quality Assurance (AUN-QA), which granted UST institutional certification until 2025; the Times Higher Education Impact Rankings, which named UST 3rd among Philippine HEIs. It has also maintained and improved accreditation levels from Philippine Association of Colleges and Universities Commission on Accreditation (PACUCOA) and the Philippine Accrediting Association of Schools, Colleges and Universities (PAASCU).

UST also completed its remote ISO 9001:2015 Surveillance Audit on July 8, 2020, and its 3rd Re-certification Audit on July 3 and 4, 2021, as conducted by TÜV SÜD PSB Philippines, Inc.

"All these achievements are not the accomplishments of one person or one unit, but rather the product of our communal efforts. As Helen Keller wrote, alone we can do so little, but together we can do so much," said Fr. Ang.

Thomasian Identity

The pandemic occurred during the

500th year of the arrival of Christianity in the Philippines, the 800th death anniversary of St. Dominic, and the 50th founding anniversary of the Dominican Province of the Philippines. Despite this, "The University, through the Office of the Vice Rector for Religious Affairs, pursued a robust faith formation program and fostered community engagement in an organic and dynamic faith ecosystem through various spiritual, pastoral, and service programs."

Online Eucharistic Celebrations, commemorations, recollections, virtual Paskuhan festivities and Send-offs, as well as symposia and other gatherings on interreligious dialogue were also held.

Teaching and Learning

With more than 40,000 students and almost 3000 academic and support staff, the University-wide shift to the Enhanced Virtual Mode (EVM) of Instruction, led by the Office of the Vice Rector for Academic Affairs, included adjustments made in instruction, including reaching out to learners with limited connectivity through free pocket wi-fi units, subsidized PLDT SMART internet plans, and learning packets in electronic or optional printed or flash drive forms sent via courier service.

"UST also expanded its roster of e-learning specialists to render assistance in addressing the teaching and learning

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needs of academic units. The appointment of pedagogical leads was intended to provide further support to teachers," said Fr. Ang.

The Father Rector also commended that the University maintained 59 accredited academic programs by PACUCOA and PAASCU, that several licensure examinations were topped by Thomasians, and that there was an increase in the number of academic staff with awards and recognitions at the national and international levels.

Research and Innovation

The pandemic may have temporarily paused or limited in-person access to laboratories and field work, but productivity in terms of publications in both indexed and non-indexed journals increased, with a total of 323 publications for A.Y. 2020-2021. Furthermore, 62 researchers acquired external grants from national funding agencies, while 18 researchers obtained international funding from foreign agencies.

Fr. Ang also highlighted the TOMASInno Innovation Center's launch and blessing, as well as the groundbreaking of the Dr. Tony Tan Caktiong Innovation Center, which will include fabrication and prototyping centers, as well as innovation and product development hubs and



Fr. Ang (center) with (from left:) Assistant to the Rector for UST Santa Rosa Prof. Philipina Marcelo, Ph.D., Assistant to the Rector for UST General Santos Prof. Maribel G. Nonato, Ph.D., Acting Assistant to the Rector for ICT Rev. Fr. Weniñredo Padilla, III, O.P., and Assistant to the Rector for Planning and Quality Management Prof. Clarita D. Carillo, Ph.D.

laboratories at the rising UST Santa Rosa campus.

"In the very near future, UST Santa Rosa will be able to complement the research activities of the España campus by becoming a techno and innovative hub in Laguna, following the model of Pennsylvania State University and Cornell University in the USA," shared Fr. Ang, who added that the Assistant to the Rector for UST Santa Rosa, Prof. Philipina Marcelo, Ph.D., was coordinating with experts from the USA who will help with this forthcoming arrangement in Santa Rosa.

Resource Management

The University, through the Office of the Vice Rector for Finance and the Human Resource Department, utilized its financial and human resources with flexibility, allowing employees to have alternative work arrangements with their health monitored through the Thomasian Online Medical Services and Support (ThOMedSS) portal and work hours managed through the UST Support Staff Access Portal (USSAP)

Reviewing fees was also done to balance the students' welfare and the University's need to maintain sustainability.

Major construction projects under the Facilities Management Office were also completed (Bl. Pier Giorgio Frassati Building, UST Link Bridge) or neared completion by the end of A.Y. 2020-2021, such as the UST Manila Stormwater

Drainage Improvement, the UST General Santos Filial House of San Martin De Porres and the UST GenSan Main Building, the renovation of the San Martin de Porres Building, and the UST Sta. Rosa Campus.

"Resource Management, whether human, physical, or financial, will be a major challenge in the coming years because the University is going for expansion. The agendum on industry-academe-alumni partnership will be a partial response to this task," said Fr. Ang.

Public Presence

Through the Office of Public Affairs, the Communications Bureau, and the Office for Alumni Relations under the Office of the Secretary-General, dynamic communication and stakeholder engagement strategies were deployed to maximize opportunities during the pandemic.

Among the highlights were almost two billion pesos in free PR value and over 700 million pesos in free advertisement value accumulated through news segments and press releases published about UST's COVID-19 response, and other events, programs, and achievements regarding internationalization, teaching expertise, research expertise, advocacies, involvement in policy formulation, and alumni activities. Some of these events and programs were in partnership with the diplomatic corps, cultural agencies and religious organizations, and other national and international institutions.

Community Development and Advocacy

The Father Rector commended the active participation of the Thomasian community in the University's community development programs, citing 37,469 students, 171 student organizations, and 2,387 academic staff who have joined or contributed.

Community engagement activities, led by the SIMBAHAYAN Community Development Office, have moved online, including *Pistang Tomas*, which had various livestreams and capacity-building sessions on livelihood skill development; *Siglang Tomas*, a health advocacy project through health education; *AlerTomas*, which conducted research work and dialogues in support of the encyclical *Laudato Si'*; and the launch of the "Journeying with Communities: A Community Engagement and Organizing Handbook for University Extension Workers".

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Thomasian nurse who administered world's first COVID jab comes home to UST



May Parsons (center) with (from left:) Communications Bureau Director Mr. Philippe Hernandez, Nursing Alumni Association President Dr. Carl Balita, UST Secretary-General Rev. Fr. Louie R. Coronel, O.P., EHL, Office of Public Affairs Director Asst. Prof. Joreen T. Rocamora, Ph.D., Office of Alumni Relations Director Asst. Prof. Fredeswindo Medina, UST College of Nursing Regent Rev. Fr. Julius Paul Factora, O.P., College of Nursing Dean Prof. Rowena Escolar Chua, Ph.D.

May Cestina-Parsons, the nurse who made history by delivering the world's first COVID-19 vaccine and who recently received the George Cross Award at Windsor Castle, was welcomed home to UST on August 22, 2022.

UST Vice Rector Rev. Fr. Isaias D. Tiongco, O.P., JCD., presented Parsons with a Certificate of Commendation during the courtesy call. It would be remembered that in December 2020, Parsons was chosen to administer the first COVID-19 jab because she held a three-year consecutive record for having given the most flu vaccines, with a personal best of vaccinating 140 patients in a single day.

A press conference with Parsons at the Rector's Hall was also held. Gracing the event were UST College of Nursing Regent Rev. Fr. Julius Paul Factora, O.P.; College of Nursing Dean Prof. Rowena Escolar Chua, Ph.D.; Office for Alumni Relations Director Asst. Prof. Fredeswindo Medina; UST Alumni Association President Dr. Evelyn Songco; Nursing Alumni Association President Dr. Carl Balita; and Office of Public Affairs Director Asst. Prof. Joreen

T. Rocamora, Ph.D., who all expressed their heartfelt support and admiration for Parsons.

"We thank you, Ms. Parsons, for this opportunity of a personal encounter. Through your sharing and engagement with our alumni, students, and officials, may we all be inspired in whatever means to continue contributing to the University's mission of spreading light to others through prayers, study, research, and service," said UST Secretary-General Rev. Fr. Louie R. Coronel, O.P., EHL.

Dean Escolar Chua commended Parsons and welcomed her back to UST, saying, "Ms. May is truly an inspiration to a lot of people, but most especially to Filipino nurses working around the world. Nursing requires a lot of hard work, sacrifices, dedication, and most importantly compassion, but it's something that is very rewarding because we are allowed the opportunity to take care of people and touch their lives. The recognition given to Ms. May is actually a testament to her living out the core values of UST – a competent, committed, and compassionate nurse."



Office of Public Affairs Director Asst. Prof. Joreen T. Rocamora, Ph.D. (left) and UST Secretary-General Rev. Fr. Louie R. Coronel, O.P., EHL (right) welcome Parsons at the Main Building.

Thanking UST for their warm homecoming celebration, Parsons shared that her Thomasian journey, which began in 1996, consisted of "utter excitement, countless sleepless nights of revision and

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Parsons during the press conference at the Rector's Hall.



Parsons receives the Certificate of Commendation and a University token from UST Vice Rector Rev. Fr. Isaias D. Tiongco, O.P.



UST Hospital Medical Director Dr. Charito Malong-Consolacion (left) pins a sunflower to Parsons' collar.

life-changing experiences that completely derailed my plans, but brought me to where I am meant to be."

"I cannot be more grateful for my time and experience being taught and molded by our professors and our peers in the College of Nursing, guided by the strong and indomitable Thomasian culture and values. UST has positively reaffirmed my own personal values and has always encouraged us to work with integrity in everything we do," Parsons said.

Sharing her experiences on the front lines of the pandemic, Parsons said, "I felt helpless and scared, a feeling echoed by many health workers around the globe. The cost of human lives was heart and soul shattering, to say the least, but my very strong Thomasian and Filipino values aided me in overcoming my challenges. Despite being a modern matron (akin to a divisional manager), this has never stopped me from being redeployed to ITU, where I spent six weeks looking after patients. I was the only matron there, but I thought about what I can give and do to help, and as a Filipino Thomasian nurse, there's no job that's beneath me. If I can help in any way, shape or form, I will do it."

This hard working mindset led her to the historic moment of being chosen to administer the world's first COVID-19 jab. She was initially unaware that the vaccine she would end up administering to 90-year-old Margaret Keenan was the first in the world, Parsons shared, saying that she thought the vaccine was already being deployed elsewhere and that it was just another day on the job.

History had its eyes on Parsons that

day, and on July 12, 2022, Queen Elizabeth II and Prince Charles presented the United Kingdom's National Health Service (NHS), with Parsons representing them, with the prestigious George Cross Award.

"I was honored to have been chosen to receive the George Cross Award from Her Majesty the Queen, representing nearly 1.5 million healthcare workers (of the NHS) in July. This is only the third time that the George Cross has been awarded for acts of great heroism in circumstances of extreme danger. The NHS has been awarded for its courage, compassion, dedication, and bravery despite personal dangers. It was a very unexpected and truly once in a lifetime experience to which I hope I can continue to raise the profile of Filipinos, Thomasians, and nurses. Thank you, UST, for helping me become the nurse I am today. I am truly one proud Thomasian!" said Parsons.

The historic jab in December 2020 marked the beginning of decline of the COVID-19 pandemic, and as of September 2022, the World Health Organization and Our World In Data's vaccine tracker notes that 12.75 billion doses, including boosters, have been administered.

Parsons obtained her Nursing degree from the University of Santo Tomas in 2000, and then worked at the UST Hospital until 2003. That same year, she joined the UK NHS, particularly the University Hospitals Coventry and Warwickshire, where she presently works as a Modern Matron for Respiratory Services. She recently earned a Master of Science degree in Global Healthcare Management at the Coventry University School of Nursing Midwifery and Health.

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Student Welfare and Support

Through dialogues with students at the level of the central and unit offices and the constant updating of the Frequently Asked Questions page, the University listened to and addressed student concerns stemming from the various consequences of lockdown. Policies and procedures for enrolment, shifting, or re-channeling, and interim provisions on scholarships and student welfare and discipline were also reconsidered.

The University, in A.Y. 2020-2021, also had over 3000 beneficiaries of various scholarship grants, which were not cancelled during the pandemic. Student Services offered by the Counseling and Career Center, Library, Registrar, Health Service and the Office for Student Affairs also transitioned to an online platform, including the UST Application Rating (USTAR) as a temporary replacement to the UST Entrance Test (USTET). For A.Y. 2023-2024, USTET has been reinstated.

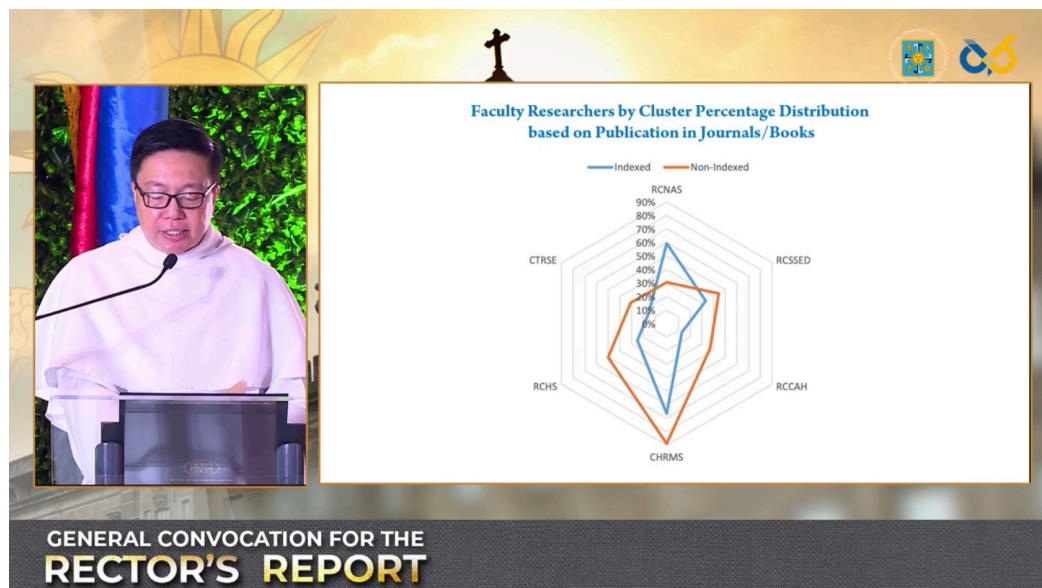
“In the coming days, we will give more attention to our safe learning spaces in the physical and virtual sense for the benefit of our students,” said Fr. Ang.

Internationalization

The Office of International Relations and Programs oversaw various forms of virtual student mobility (VSM), like virtual exchanges (VE) or collaborative online international learning (COIL), webinars, virtual conferences, symposia and e-fora. For A.Y. 2020-2021, 17,126 students participated in VSMs despite the pandemic. Six new transnational research collaborations (TNRs) were also established in health and social sciences in the same A.Y., which brings the total of ongoing TNRs to 16.

Nine inbound faculty from various foreign institutions were appointed as visiting professors in UST, while three outbound UST academic staff were appointed as international faculty members, including Asst. Prof. Gina Lontoc, Ph.D. (visiting lecturer at the University of East Anglia, UK), Asst. Prof. Donata Acula (journal reviewer at the Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers, USA), Asst. Prof. Lawrence Decamora (Course Lecture Developer of 17 Java Programming Modules at the Fitzwilliam Institute, UK; Consultant at GreyCampus, USA and India; and Course Lecture Developer at Eduonix Learning Solutions, India).

“The University’s performance amid the challenges brought about by the pandemic indicated that Internationalization remained robust.”



Fr. Ang discusses the University’s research center outputs.

The UST Hospital

The Father Rector thanked the UST Hospital administrators, led by its CEO Rev. Fr. Julius Paul Factora, O.P., Medical Director Dr. Charito Malong-Consolacion, Director for Finance Rev. Fr. Roman Santos, O.P., and Director for Administration Prof. Analin E. Porto, DrEM, for responding to the challenges of the pandemic. Included among the initiatives are the manpower audit, the gradual opening of offices and ancillary services, and the opening of the *Domus Mariae* to USTH employees.

Installation of exhaust fans and air purifiers to improve ventilation in the hospital facilities and public areas, addition of area zoning and acrylic barriers, conversion of COVID wards, provision of less expensive RT-PCR tests and drive-through swab testing, the signing of the USTH CBA, among others, are also part of the USTH’s response.

Another highlight was the partial opening of the St. John Paul II Building, a new structure for the UST Hospital Complex, which now houses the administrative offices and some ancillary services like the laboratory.

One Community

“We accompanied our students in their struggles, and as we brave each passing day, we learned the value of meaningful connections with fellow members of the

Thomsonian community. In the Holy Spirit’s indwelling, someone’s joy becomes ours, someone’s sorrow and pain become ours as well, and in the process, we experience what it means to be truly blessed with life, health, friends, and family. The pandemic taught us what it means to be a Thomsonian community – a community that looks out for the welfare of each other during a time of great uncertainty, guided by the virtues of the *Tria Haec*: Faith, Hope, and Love.” The Father Rector reflected.

Fr. Ang further emphasized the values of being grateful and being open to others, saying “Gratitude and empathy are the principles that allow us to redirect our focus on the things that we can change. Together, they inspire change from within ourselves, driving us to serve with humility and sincerity, and allowing us to touch the lives of those around us in ways we never thought possible.”

“More than a time of hopelessness, the pandemic is a defining moment that brought out the best in us. It is a time that brought Thomasians closer to one another and closer to God. To the Thomsonian community, thank you for your unceasing prayers and support for the University during these tough times,” said Fr. Ang.

The Rector’s Report remains [available for public viewing](#) through the official UST Facebook page and the full narrative will be submitted to Rome.

UST, St. Paul Institute in Cambodia lead Asian Catholic universities meeting



Most Reverend Olivier Schmitthaeusler, Apostolic Vicar of Phnom Penh and Bishop of Catabum Castra (eighth from left), UST Rector Very Rev. Fr. Richard G. Ang, O.P., Ph.D., and leaders of ASEACCU member institutions.

A promising group of Catholic educational institutions in Asia resumed its international cooperation after a three-year hiatus due to the pandemic.

Led by the University of Santo Tomas in the Executive Board, the Association of Southeast and East Asian Catholic Colleges and Universities (ASEACCU) held the 28th ASEACCU Conference with the theme “Memory and Identity.” The event was from August 23 to 27 in Phnom Penh, Cambodia.

“I have always believed that we have to work as one team in different specialties collaborating together, exchanging knowledge and experiences, ASEACCU members working together as a Catholic Identity in higher education,” said Bishop Olivier Schmitthaeusler of Phnom Penh.

“We can move forward more quickly and effectively in solidarity if we are able to promote higher education both in the Catholic Church and in society where we work,” he added.

Bishop Schmitthaeusler is the founder and chancellor of the St. Paul Institute, Cambodia, which is hosting the international conference.

Meanwhile, UST Rector Very Rev. Fr. Richard Ang, O.P., Ph.D., in his welcome remarks, highlighted that the event theme is inspired by the last book of St. John Paul II, a Pope who was well-loved in Asia, especially the Philippines.

“The Pontiff’s reflections on the most challenging issues and events of his period revealed his intellectual and spiritual journey and pastoral experience,” Fr. Ang, who is also ASEACCU’s executive secretary, said.

Father Ang continued: “Right now, our nations face a common enemy—the pandemic. We are weighed down by its protracted effects but buoyed up by the firm belief that God will never abandon us in the difficult moments of our lives.”

The conference featured executive meetings, historical and philosophical lectures, intercultural dialogues, interfaith prayers, and field exposure to important sites in Cambodia. Its keynote speaker was Isabel Capeloa Gil, president of the International Federation of Catholic Universities (IFCU) and rector of the Catholic University of Portugal.

IFCU, which has since been supporting ASEACCU, is a federation recognized by the Holy See via a decree in 1948, and personally by Pope Pius XII in 1949. It closely collaborates with the Congregation for Catholic Education and various dicasteries of the Church, including the Dicastery for Integral Human Development.

Present at the 28th ASEACCU Conference were representatives from Catholic universities and colleges from Australia, Cambodia, Indonesia, Japan, South Korea, China, Philippines, and Thailand.



The UST Main Building, the Tiger, and UST block letters, are illuminated in the colors of Ukraine's flag.

UST campus shines with colors of Ukraine's flag for Ukrainian Independence Day

In honor of Ukraine's Independence Day on August 24, 2022, the University of Santo Tomas lit its historic structures on campus with the colors of Ukraine's flag, blue and yellow, at 6:00 p.m.

Included in the lighting are National Cultural Treasures, the historic Arch of the Centuries and the Main Building. The UST Chapel (Santísimo Rosario Parish Church) was also lit blue and yellow.

Flaglets of Ukraine were also displayed near the structures, and the Ukrainian word for peace (мир, pronounced *myr*) stood in front of the Arch, symbolizing the prayers of the Thomasian community.



Ukraine flaglets hang from lamp posts in front of the UST Main Building.



The Arch of the Centuries glows blue and yellow. (Photo courtesy of UST Facilities Management Office Director Rev. Fr. Dexter A. Austria, O.P.)

UST receives '2022 ASEAN ICONS' award from CHED for global reputation as HEI

The University of Santo Tomas was awarded by the Commission on Higher Education (CHED) for its two consecutive years of exemplary and commendable performance in 2021 and 2022, in the recognized international rankings and ratings such as: QS World University Rankings, QS Asia University Rankings, QS Stars Rating (2021), and Times Higher Education Impact Rankings.

The awarding ceremony took place during the 2022 ASEAN ICONS (ASEAN Philippine Higher Education Internationalization Champions of Nation-building and Sustainability) Awards Night held on August 26, 2022 at the Hilton Manila, Newport Blvd., Pasay City. The award was received by UST Deputy Director of the Office of QS/THE Rankings, Engr. Nestor R. Ong, MSIE, PIE, ASEAN Eng, on behalf of the University.

As a highlight of CHED's ASEAN celebration, ASEAN ICONS recognized commendable Higher Education Institutions (HEIs) that have championed the global reputation of Philippine higher education through their praiseworthy performance in internationally recognized rankings and ratings, striving to promote the internationalization of Philippine HEIs, and innovative initiatives to contribute to the country's economic and social goals. CHED awarded 46 HEIs, composed of 23 state universities and colleges and 23 private HEIs.

As the Philippines' first QS Four Stars University in 2015 and 2017 and Five Stars University in 2021, UST set a benchmark in international rating among Philippine HEIs, several of which have benchmarked with UST to know its best practices in rankings and ratings.

CHED Chair Dr. J. Prospero E. De Vera III, emphasized in his Welcome Address the importance of cooperation, not competition, among Philippine HEIs in promoting internationalization by sharing their best practices in achieving their milestones and trailblazing initiatives, efforts to advance internationalization and innovative initiatives to contribute to the country's economic and societal goals.

After the awarding ceremonies, a networking function and gala dinner ensued to allow HEIs to foster strategic partnerships and collaborations. It was at this juncture that CHED Deputy Executive Director and Director of International Affairs



(From left:) Macabangun-Milla, Ong, CHED Chair De Vera, and Flores



Service Atty. Lily Freida C. Macabangun-Milla, invited Engr. Nestor Ong as speaker in the upcoming CHED Strategic Planning to be held in Tagaytay to present his framework for the Educational Quality Management System (EQMS). The said framework was also presented by Ong during the AIM- CHED-Global Academic Leadership Program to be used for the

development of the future educational policies of the Philippines.

The event was attended by representatives from Philippine HEIs, ambassadors and education attaches from ASEAN, among others. Also present was Office of QS/THE Rankings Office Assistant Mr. Vien Vic G. Flores, MS, AFP.

UST Fil Dept, *Sentro sa Salin*, tie up with PH Consulate in Jeddah for *Banyuhay 2022*

The UST *Departamento ng Filipino* and its resident institution *Sentro sa Salin at Araling Salin* have tied up with the Philippine Consulate General in Jeddah, Saudi Arabia, in organizing *Banyuhay 2022* on August 31, 2022.

With the theme “*Ang Tahanan at Pamayanan bilang mga Tagapagtuero ng Wika, Kultura at Salin*,” the webinar was held in observance of this year’s *Buwan ng Wika*.

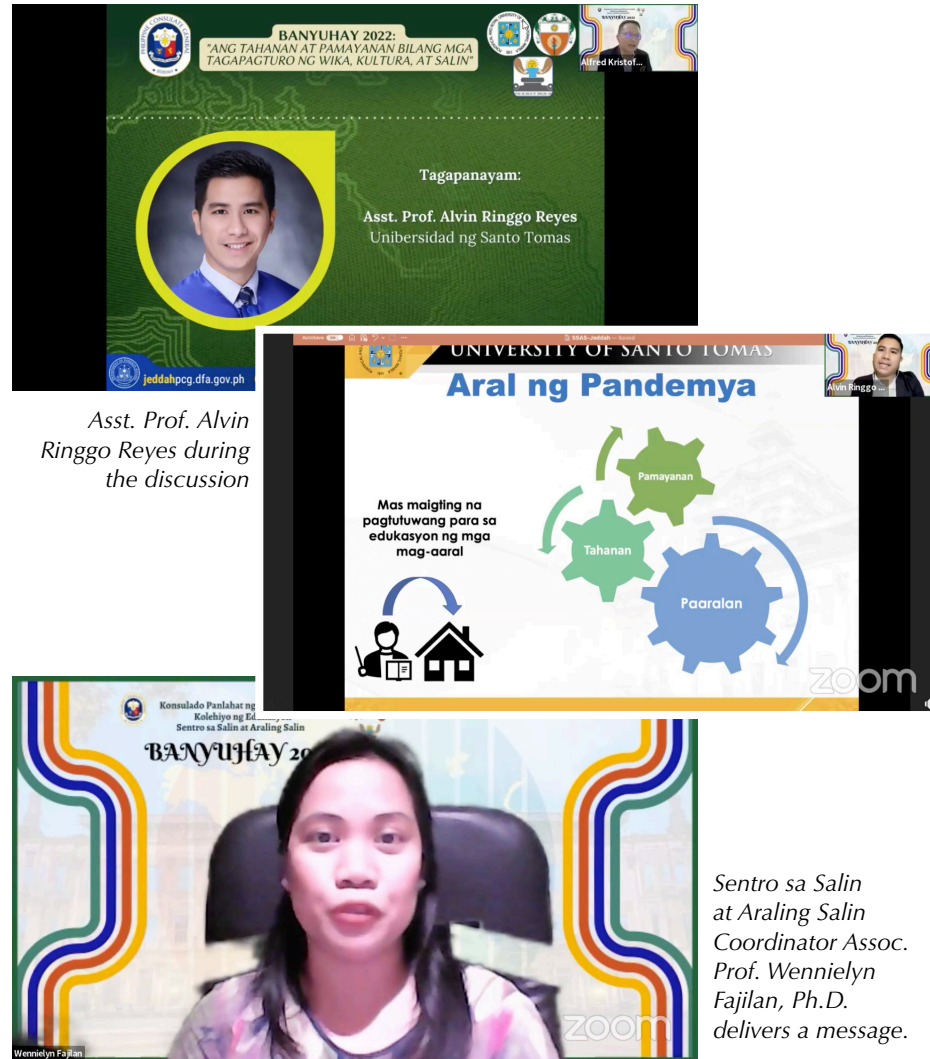
Asst. Prof. Alvin Ringgo Reyes, Chair of the Secondary Education Department of the College of Education, underscored the role of family and the community in teaching Filipino and native languages, culture, and identity to students in the diaspora.

An authentic home-school partnership, which involves collaboration and triangulation of home-school-community, will make the school experience more meaningful, he explained.

Reactors include Assoc. Prof. Rosalyn G. Mirasol, Ph.D., from the UST Department of English, and Loreta Laririt, who teaches at the International Philippine School Jeddah (IPSJ).

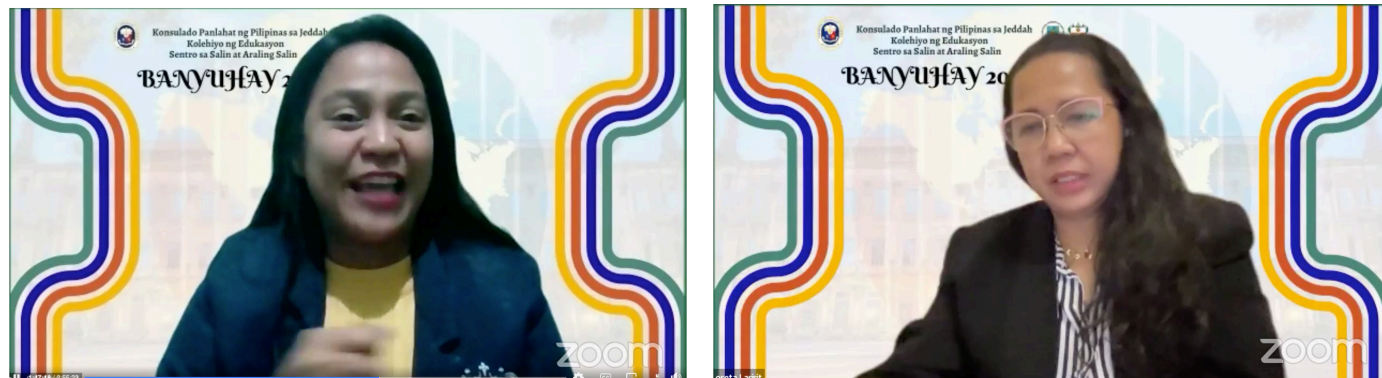
Participants of the webinar are teachers of Philippine schools in Jeddah, including Durat Al Sharq International School (DASIS) and IPSJ, members of the Philippine International Schools Teachers’ Association (PISTA), a professional organization for teachers in Jeddah, and the Western Region of Saudi Arabia, and educators from the Philippines.

The webinar was streamed on the [Philippine Consulate General in Jeddah’s Facebook page](#).



Asst. Prof. Alvin Ringgo Reyes during the discussion

Sentro sa Salin at *Araling Salin* Coordinator Assoc. Prof. Wennielyn Fajilan, Ph.D. delivers a message.



Reactors Assoc Prof. Mirasol and Ms. Laririt

Ong joins QS Global Advisory Committee for 2022-2023

University of Santo Tomas Deputy Director of the Office of QS/THE Rankings Engr. Nestor R. Ong, MSIE, PIE, ASEAN Eng was invited to join QS Quacquarelli Symonds as a member of QS Global Advisory Committee for 2022-2023.

Ong is the country’s sole member to the QS-APPLE International Academic Advisory Conference Committee (IAAC) which has been renamed as the QS Global Advisory Committee (GAC) in 2015. This is Ong’s eighth year of serving in the advisory committee together with other members from the Asia-Pacific.

The 13 committee members are: University of Limerick VP Global & Community Engagement Prof Nigel Healey (Ireland), Universitas Airlangga Planning and Development Board Head Dian Ekowati (Indonesia), Binus University Global Director Dr. Diah Wihardini (Indonesia), Taipei Medical University Office of Global Engagement Dean Prof. Pei-Shan Tsai (Taiwan), University of Santo Tomas Office of the QS/THE Ranking Deputy Director Engr. Nestor R. Ong (Philippines), Universitas Indonesia Vice Rector of Academic and Student Affairs Prof. Dr. rer. nat. Abdul Haris (Indonesia), Prince of Songkla University Assistant President for International Affairs Prof. Dr. Wongkot Phuphumirat (Thailand), International University of Malaya-Wales Vice-Chancellor/CEO Prof. Dr. Kamila Ghazali (Malaysia) Chung-Ang University Prof. Jun Hyun Hong (Korea), University of East London Prof. Dr. Terri Kim (England), Singapore Management University Provost Prof. Tim Clark (Singapore), Lingnan University Vice President Prof. Joshua Mok (Hong Kong), University of Limerick Global & Community Engagement Vice President Prof. Nigel Healey (Ireland), and Universitas Airlangga Planning and Development Board Head Dian Ekowati (Indonesia).

The committee members attended the QS Higher Ed Summit: Asia Pacific 2022 (formerly known as QS APPLE Conference and Exhibition) GAC Kick Off Meeting held on August 19, 2021. They finalized the theme “The Next Big Thing: Addressing new opportunities and existing challenges

in APAC (Asia Pacific) higher education,” for the 2022 QS Higher Ed Summit. The said summit explores the next big thing for higher education in the region, the lessons learned from the pandemic, strategies for dealing with and pre-empting unknowns, addressing new and pre-existing challenges and shifting perceptions away from oversimplified generalizations, and the tracks for the QS Higher Ed Summit.

The six tracks will be on strategic planning, innovations to produce well-rounded student leaders, research, sustainable partnerships and their benefit to students, lifelong skills and employability of students, and equal opportunities for all and accessibility to education.

They met in September 2022 to work on some follow up and action pointers such as speaker suggestions and proposal submission approval.

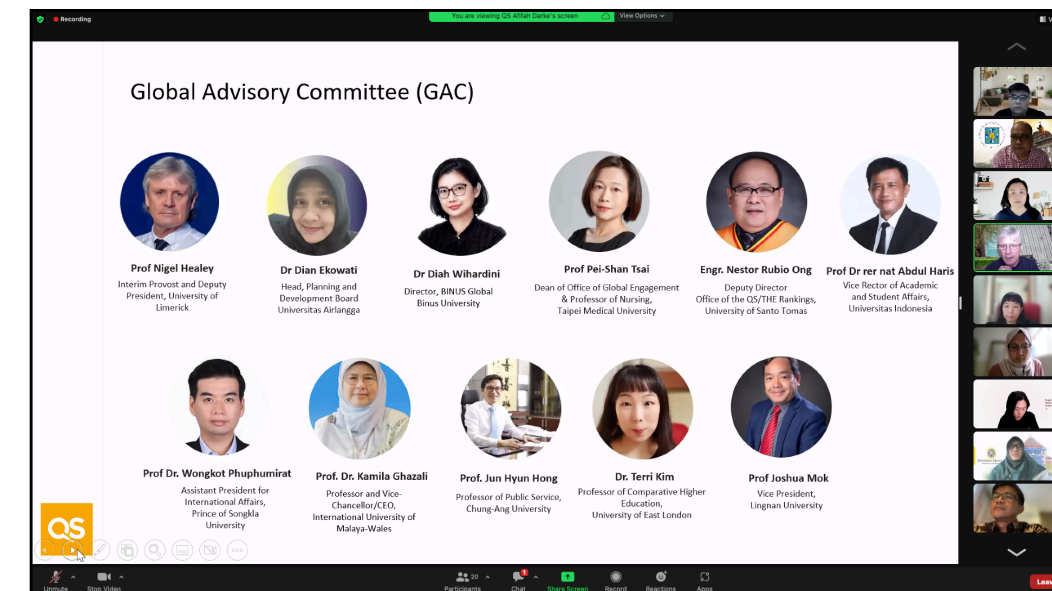
QS is the world’s leading provider of services, analytics and insights to the global higher education sector, whose mission is to enable motivated people anywhere in the world to fulfill their potential through educational achievement, international

mobility, and career development.

The main purpose of the Global Advisory Committee is to act as the advisory body of QS Quacquarelli Symonds to support the international QS conferences and summits held each year. The responsibilities of the Committee include providing guidance on the overarching vision and strategy for QS Conferences, identifying conference themes and speakers, and supporting the development of content driven and engaging programs. The committee will meet not more than three times a year.

Being a member of QS Global Advisory Committee, according to Engr. Nestor Ong, provides one with the unique opportunity to: help foster academic excellence and innovation, promote inclusion, discussion, and drive for academic excellence, and expand one’s network and meet people with similar interests.

The QS Higher Ed Summit: Asia Pacific 2022 will be held from November 8 to 10, 2022 in Jakarta, Indonesia for the in-person summit and it will also have its Hybrid Component



Ong (top row, fifth from left) with his fellow committee members

AB explores partnerships, mobility with education officials from US, Indonesia, Argentina



(From left:) Dr. Rachelle B. Lintao, Chair of the Department of English; Dr. Carleen Curley Velez, the Regional English Language Officer (RELO) of the US Embassy; Mr. Joseph Andrew Bookbinder, Director of the Office of English Language Programs, US Department of State; Dr. Marilu R. Madrunio, Dean of the Faculty of Arts and Letters; Ms. Connie Chico, the Cultural Affairs Specialist of the US Embassy; and Asst. Prof. Michelle Desierto, Coordinator for International Relations and Programs of the Faculty of Arts and Letters.



(From left:) Mr. Roy Randall Lim and Mr. Jeffrey Roxas from the Department of Modern Languages; Dean Marilu R. Madrunio; Ms. Frances Garganera of the Embassy of Argentina; Mr. Mauricio German Munoz, Chief of the Consular Section of the Embassy of the Republic of Argentina; Rev. Fr. George Phe Mang, O.P., Regent of the Faculty of Arts and Letters; Dr. Arlen Ancheta, then Coordinator for International Relations and Programs of the Faculty of Arts and Letters; and Asst. Prof. Abigail Pagalilauan, Chair of the Department of Modern Languages.

Officials from the Faculty of Arts and Letters met with Mr. Joseph Andrew Bookbinder, Director of the Office of English Language Programs at the US Department of State on September 22, 2022.

Mr. Bookbinder was appointed Director of the Office of English Language Programs in August 2017. He is a Senior Foreign Service officer who has served in New Delhi, Chengdu, Beijing, Hong Kong, and Taipei.

In his visit to the University, he was accompanied by Ms. Connie Chico, Cultural Affairs Specialist of the English Language Programs of the US Embassy, and Dr. Carleen Curley Velez, the Regional English Language Officer (RELO) assigned by the US State Department to the Asia-Pacific region.

The meeting was attended by the Dean of the Faculty of Arts and Letters, Dr. Marilu Rañosa-Madrunio; Dr. Rachelle Lintao, Chair of the Department of English, and Asst. Prof. Michelle Desierto, Coordinator for International Relations and Programs of the Faculty of Arts and Letters.

The visit aimed to share with Bookbinder the collaborations between UST and RELO Manila, US Embassy, as well as key takeaways from the various UST-RELO Manila, US Embassy programs. Updates on the state of Forensic Linguistics

in the Philippines were also tackled. More importantly, Bookbinder opened the possibility for a language specialist to assist the Department of English with its educational initiatives.

Meanwhile, Mr. Bambang Nugroho, Chair of the Curriculum Development Board of the Universitas Muhammadiyah Yogyakarta (UMY), Indonesia visited the University on September 5, 2022.

Exploratory talks on matters pertaining to faculty and student mobility were tackled. The growth of the partnership between UMY and UST shall be reported to the Education and Culture Attaché of the Indonesian Embassy in Manila so that the Indonesian government can participate in its oversight.

The meeting was attended by Dr. Marilu Rañosa-Madrunio, Dean of the Faculty of Arts and Letters; Dr. Dennis Coronacion, Chair of the Department of Political Science; Dr. Lino Baron of the Department of Asian Studies; and Asst. Prof. Michelle Desierto, Coordinator for International Relations and Programs of the Faculty of Arts and Letters.

Last June, the Faculty of Arts and Letters was also visited by Dr. Carleen Curley Velez, the Regional English Language Officer (RELO) assigned by the US State Department to the Asia-Pacific region and Mr. Mauricio German

Munoz, the Chief of the Consular Section, and Ms. Frances Garganera, Secretary at the Embassy, both from Embassy of the Republic of Argentina in the Philippines. Partnerships and research grants were explored during these meetings.



(From left:) Dr. Dennis Coronacion, Chair of the Department of Political Science; Dean Marilu R. Madrunio giving the souvenir to Mr. Bambang Nugroho, Chair of the Curriculum Development Board of the Universitas Muhammadiyah Yogyakarta, Indonesia; Asst. Prof. Michelle Desierto, Coordinator for International Relations and Programs of the Faculty of Arts and Letters; and Dr. Lino Baron of the Department of Asian Studies.

UST researchers participate in food science, nutrition int'l conference hosted by Universiti Malaysia Sabah

Three faculty members from the University of Santo Tomas, namely, Assoc. Prof. Elizabeth H. Arenas, Ph.D., from the College of Education; Prof. Ross Vasquez, Ph.D. and Assoc. Prof. Franelyne P. Casuga, Ph.D., from the UST Faculty of Pharmacy, presented their respective studies during an international conference sponsored by the Universiti Malaysia Sabah (UMS).

The conference which was spearheaded by the Faculty of Food Science and Nutrition of UMS took place from August 24 to 25, 2022. With the theme "Future Food: Emerging Trends, Health and Diversity", the conference gathered hundreds of food scientists, technologists, and health specialists served as an avenue for experts worldwide to disseminate knowledge, share experiences and novel ideas, and discuss the latest research within the Food Science and Technology, Food Service, and Nutrition. The conference focused on the following areas of food science: innovative food products and processing, food safety, security and sustainability, nutrition, food anthropology, and gastronomy.

Dr. Arenas presented a scientific poster on "Quality Assessment of Vegan Okara Sausage During Storage." Results revealed that okara is a promising ingredient for plant-based sausage meat analogues and okara sausages can be kept satisfactorily at chilling temperature up to eight weeks. This study was funded by the DOST - Philippine Council for Industry, Energy and Emerging Technology Research and Development under the Collaborative Research and Development to Leverage Philippine Economy (CRADLE) program.

Dr. Vasquez's scientific poster on "Safety Assessment of *Canarium ovatum* (Pili) Pomace as a Functional Food Ingredient for Metabolic Disorder" highlighted that the estimated median lethal dose (LD₅₀) of pili pomace was more than 5000 mg/kg BW. Pili pomace is safe for repeated doses in short- and long-term exposure in rats as the serum triglyceride, total cholesterol, serum bilirubin, and liver enzyme levels were within normal values up to 90 days of treatment.

Meanwhile, Dr. Casuga delivered an oral presentation on "In Vivo Toxicity Studies and In Vitro Assays of Pili (*Canarium ovatum* Engl.) Oils Directed to Metabolic Syndrome." The study confirmed that *Canarium ovatum* oils are safe for use in repeated doses either short term or long-term use and the oils have potential in lowering blood glucose level and blood cholesterol level and have potential in

Casuga presenting the paper on Pili

Parameter	Control	Pomace (mg/kg BW)		
		1000	500	250
WBC (10 ⁹ /L)	10.21 ± 1.06	12.47 ± 3.00	14.10 ± 3.01	15.12 ± 3.05
HCT (%)	37.50 ± 2.08	38.01 ± 0.97	39.24 ± 0.71	40.78 ± 0.85
HGB (g/L)	116.51 ± 5.91	117.15 ± 1.05	119.50 ± 0.85	121.76 ± 0.78
MCV (fL)	103.07 ± 0.51	103.22 ± 0.29	103.49 ± 0.19	103.21 ± 0.18
MCHC (g/dL)	34.91 ± 0.10	34.97 ± 0.03	35.02 ± 0.04	35.17 ± 0.05
PLT (10 ⁹ /L)	66.87	435.29	350.89	265.89 ± 85.17
Glucose (mg/dL)	1.07 ± 0.24	1.17 ± 0.18	1.21 ± 0.14	1.21 ± 0.14
Cholesterol (mg/dL)	110.81 ± 1.24	110.81 ± 1.24	110.81 ± 1.24	110.81 ± 1.24
Bilirubin (mg/dL)	0.18 ± 0.03	0.18 ± 0.03	0.18 ± 0.03	0.18 ± 0.03
ALT (U/L)	1.00 ± 0.13	1.00 ± 0.13	1.00 ± 0.13	1.00 ± 0.13
AST (U/L)	1.00 ± 0.13	1.00 ± 0.13	1.00 ± 0.13	1.00 ± 0.13

Parameter	Value
Moisture (%)	31.61 ± 0.07
Protein (%)	13.84 ± 0.05
Crude Fat (%)	10.88 ± 0.03
Crude Fiber (%)	1.88 ± 0.03
Crude Ash (%)	1.88 ± 0.03
Caloric Value (kJ/g)	15.88 ± 0.03

preventing neurodegeneration. These pili studies were funded by the DOST - Philippine Council for Health Research and Development. The two-day conference featured eight keynote speakers, 114 oral presenters, and

43 poster presentations from participants worldwide. Arenas, Vasquez, and Casuga are affiliated with the UST Graduate School and Research Center for the Natural and Applied Sciences.

Fil Dept gathers language, literature experts for *Wikaakuhan 2022*

UST *Departamento ng Filipino* under the College of Education brought together language and literature experts from different universities in its two-day webinar *Wikaakuhan 2022: Tomasinong Pagdiriwang ng Buwan ng Wika*.

In her opening remarks, Education Dean Assoc. Prof. Pilar I. Romero, Ph.D., centered on this year's *Buwan ng Wika* theme "Filipino at mga Katutubong Wika: Kasangkapan sa Pagtuklas at Paglikhâ."

She encouraged the participants to interrogate the extent of the use of Filipino and our native languages in the Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math (STEM) fields, which get a large funding and support from the government.

Dr. John Iremil Teodoro, Professor at De La Salle University (DLSU), and Asst. Prof. Joselito Delos Reyes, who teaches at the UST Department of Literature, gave talks during the first session on August 27.

In his lecture "*Isla-Islang Literatura, Iisang Arkipelago: Ang Halaga ng Pagtuturo ng mga Rehiyonal na Panitikan*," Dr. Teodoro emphasized on having an archipelagic consciousness to teach regional literatures effectively.

Meanwhile, in his lecture "*Ang Dapat Mabasa at Iba Pang Pagninilay sa Gahum ng Panitikan Uwu*," Dr. delos Reyes said that we should recognize a big shortcoming of the teaching sector during the pandemic.

He pointed out that teachers will not be able to explain deep and sublime concepts with gusto if they only face a cold monitor or with a rushed module.

Dr. Teodoro was recently appointed as the Director of the DLSU Bienvenido N. Santos Creative Writing Center, while Dr. delos Reyes is a Resident Fellow of the UST Center for Creative Writing and Literary Studies.

During the second day of the webinar, held on September 3, Dr. Romeo Peña, Dean of the College of Arts and Letters of Polytechnic University of Philippines, lectured on "*Pagtuklas at Paglikha: Ang Naging Gampanin ng Pananaliksik at Malikhaing Akda sa Filipino sa Panahon ng Pandemya*."

Dr. Peña explained that we often find in creative works the possibilities of how we will respond to social problems.

He also recognized research articles, published in DLSU *Malay* and UST *Hasaan* journals, which focused on the Filipino experience during the pandemic.

In her closing remarks, Assoc. Prof. Zendel Taruc, Ph.D., Chairperson of the UST *Departamento ng Filipino*, said that television programs have long been using Filipino in Math, Science, and Technology, as STEM professionals do in social media today.

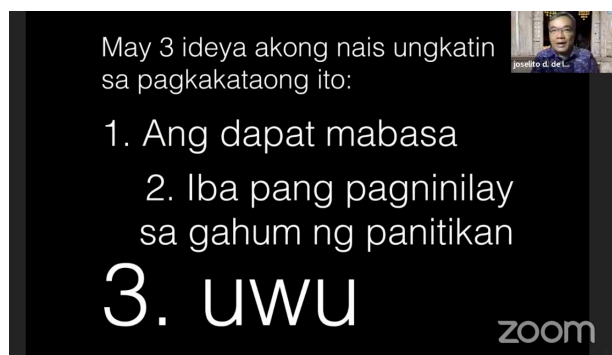
The lectures were live streamed at the UST *Departamento ng Filipino*'s Facebook page.



Dean Romero delivers the opening remarks.



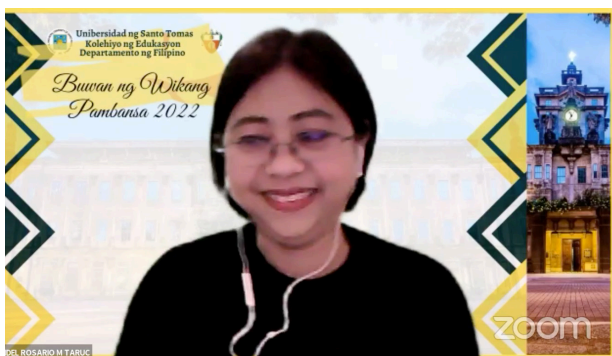
Teodoro's lecture



Delos Reyes presents his topic.



Peña during the discussion



Taruc delivers the closing remarks.

Chilean Embassy, UST mount exhibition, hybrid webinar on first global circumnavigation



(From left:) Consul Marco Antonio Navarro Ahumada, Assoc. Prof. Eloisa P. De Castro, Ph.D., National Library of Chile historian Prof. Jaime Rosenblitt, UST Secretary-General Rev. Fr. Louie R. Coronel, O.P., EHL, H.E. Claudio Rojas Rachel, and History Department Chair Assoc. Prof. Archie Resos, Ph.D.



Ambassador Rojas (left) presents an exhibition piece to the Apostolic Nuncio to the Philippines and Dean of the Diplomatic Corps His Excellency Most Rev. Charles John Brown, D.D.



Assoc. Prof. De Castro (left) and Prof. Rosenblitt during the hybrid discussion

The Embassy of Chile in the Philippines, in partnership with the University of Santo Tomas, inaugurated a two-week cultural exhibition titled "Encounter Between Three Worlds: 500 Years After the First Circumnavigation of the Earth" on August 23, 2022, at the lobby of the UST Bl. Buenaventura García Paredes, O.P. Building.

The Ambassador of Chile, His Excellency Claudio Rojas Rachel, graced the event and delivered the welcome remarks, alongside UST Vice Rector Rev. Fr. Isaias D. Tiongco, O.P., JCD.

The exhibition details the long sea voyage of Portuguese noble Ferdinand Magellan, who, for the first time, placed in the maps the Pacific Ocean and the Strait that connects the Atlantic Ocean and the Pacific Ocean, which was later named after Magellan himself. This global route was used for four centuries to connect the East and the West through the sea, since it was the only possible route for galleons/ships until the construction of the Panama Canal in the 20th century.

The contribution of this universal route to human history can be seen not only in the completed voyage itself, but also in the consequences it had in the colonization and development of many nations, including the Philippines and Chile.

Mr. Marco Antonio Navarro Ahumada, the Deputy Head of Mission and Consul of the Embassy of Chile, served as the Master of Ceremonies.

While the exhibition ran until September 1, 2022, a hybrid seminar on First Circumnavigation of the Earth was held on August 30, 2022, at the Dr. George SK Ty Hall of the Paredes Building.

Celebrating 76 years of Philippine-Chile Diplomatic Relations, the seminar highlighted the historical experience of the Philippines and Chile under the Spanish, Latin American and Asian influences and emphasized the rich historical and cultural similarities between the Philippines and Chile.

Prof. Jaime Rosenblitt, Ph.D., a historian from the National Cultural Heritage Service Research Council and the National Library of Chile, delivered a lecture via Zoom titled "The First Expedition to the Strait of Magallanes". His research, which was one of the primary

CIRCUMNAVIGATION TO PAGE 16

UST *Sentro sa Salin*, KWF lead webinar on legal and medical translation, creates *Kasalin* core group



Bernales discusses translation as a profession in the field of law.

The UST *Sentro sa Salin* at *Araling Salin* (UST SSAS) and the *Komisyon sa Wikang Filipino* (KWF) organized *Kasalin 2022*, a two-part event on the professionalization of translation in the country.

KWF Chair Arthur P. Casanova, Ph.D., and Prof. Cheryl R. Peralta, DrPH, UST Vice Rector for Academic Affairs, imparted their messages on the importance of language and translation in nation building.

Featured in the first part of the event was a webinar by Atty. Rolando A. Bernales, Ed.D., and Prof. Minerva P. Calimag, M.D., Ph.D.

In his lecture "*Mula sa Praktikal at Legal na Perspektiba: Ang Pagsasalit bilang Propesyon*" (From a Practical and Legal Perspective: Translation as a Profession), Bernales explained that translation is a legitimate profession in any country with cultural, social, political, and economic interactions with countries of other languages.

According to Bernales, who is a practicing lawyer and educator, professional translators should also learn how to translate and interpret legal and moral obligations and rights under the law.

Meanwhile, in her lecture "*Mga Karanasan sa Pagsusulong ng Batas at Adhikain: Halaga at Proseso ng Lobbying sa Larangan ng Medisina*" (Experiences in Advocacy: Value and Process of Lobbying in the Medical Field), UST Faculty of Medicine and Surgery Prof. Minerva P. Calimag, M.D., Ph.D., pointed out that lobbying gives voice to the voiceless.

There are two categories of lobbying, according to Calimag, which include direct and grassroots communication. She also shared her personal encounters in lobbying as an active member of medical organizations and as an advocate of principal issues on health.

Calimag, a two-time president of the Philippine Medical Association, received the Metrobank Outstanding Teacher Award last year.

Zarina Joy T. Santos of UP Diliman and Mubarak M. Tahir of Mindanao State University served as reactors.

During the second part of the session, participants engaged in 45-minute focus group discussions by entering one of the five breakout rooms. Aside from examining the salient points in the webinar, they also deliberated on the top priorities for the practice and training in translation for the next 2-3 years.

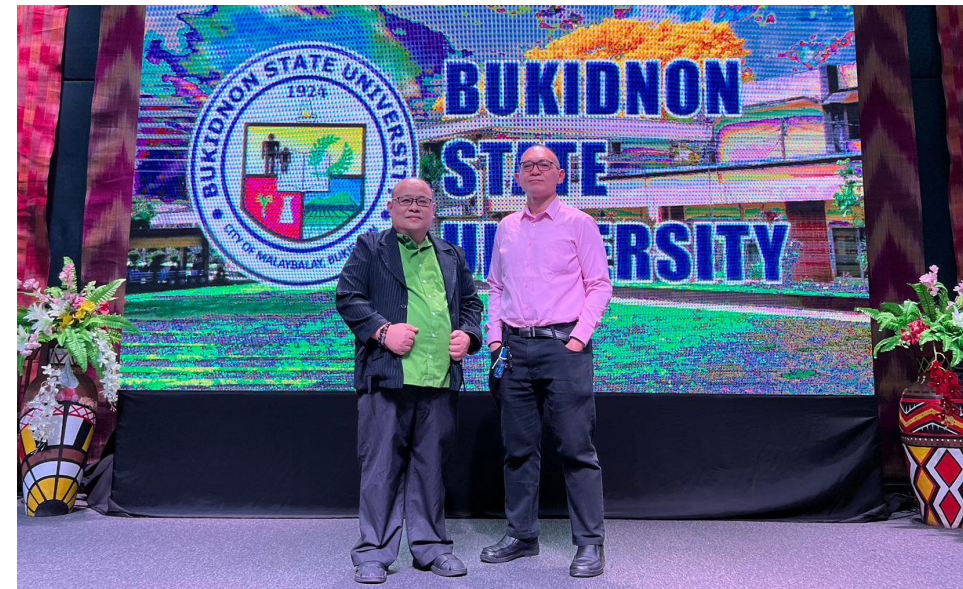
A *Kasalin* core group was created, with members Dr. Teresita F. Fortunato, Maria Christina A. Pangan, Dr. Lita A. Bacalla, Dr. Radji A. Macatabon, Victor Dennis T. Nierva, and Jenalyn Lai.

KWF *Sangay ng Salin* head John Enrico C. Torralba gave the closing remarks.



Calimag shares insights on lobbying in the medical field.

Ong, Flores of QS/THE Rankings conduct in-person lecture-workshop at Bukidnon State University



Ong and Flores at Bukidnon State University

University of Santo Tomas Office of QS/THE Rankings Deputy Director Engr. Nestor R. Ong, MSIE, PIE, ASEAN Eng, and Office Assistant Mr. Vien Vic G. Flores, MS, AFP, conducted a two-day QS Star Rating Onsite Lecture-Workshop at the Bukidnon State University (BukSU) upon the invitation of the institution. Held from July 21 to July 22, 2022, Bukidnon State University, a prominent university located in Northern Mindanao, organized the lecture-workshop to assess its readiness for its QS Stars Rating application.

The invitation was extended by BukSU President Oscar B. Cabanelez, Ph.D., through the UST Rector Very Rev. Fr. Richard G. Ang, O.P., Ph.D. who immediately approved the request. It is a way by which UST is able to share its best practices with other universities in their journey of seeking assistance in being updated on emerging trends, challenges and opportunities in education.

On the first day, the participants, composed of academic officials, administrators and process owners, listened to Ong's lecture on introduction to and high-level overview on QS Stars Rating. This followed by Flores's discussion of the detailed QS Stars Criteria. BukSU QS Stars Coordinator Dr. Elle Christine Melendez, together with the BukSU participants, successfully completed a self-assessment of the university's strengths and weaknesses as part of the initial workshop activity.

Ong set the lecture-workshop in high spirits, especially when he discussed the success story of UST taking on the QS Stars Rating challenge for three cycles in 2014, 2017 and 2021. He also shared the University's best practices even during the pandemic. Ong discussed the five case scenarios for the participants to fully understand how the QS Stars Rating works especially from the perspective of the process owners for them to meet the various criteria and its thresholds, as well as its justification in the validation stages.

On the second day of the lecture-workshop, Ong focused his lecture on the Simplified Map Day Process and its deliverables. Related to it is WalkDay 1 Rev 0. He defined Map Day as a term used to describe a process for planning new projects that requires the integration of plans from multiple players or groups. It allows project team members to test assumptions, clarify expectations, and build commitment. Ong emphasized that Map Day helps clarify who needs to deliver what to whom and when, what to agree and disagree on, and decisions and/or issues that need early resolution. This will cover the risk assessment as well as the institution's decision for Go or no Go decision.

Ong and Flores were awarded by Bukidnon State University through Dr.

Melendez with a Certificate of Recognition.

The University of Santo Tomas (UST) was awarded the overall rating of Four Stars by the Quacquarelli Symonds (QS) Stars team from London in two cycles, 2015 and 2017. With this feat, UST has been known as "the Philippines to be star-rated, at Four Stars." Consequently, UST has become a trend-setter in international ratings where other universities in the Philippines have considered UST as a benchmarking house of best practices in rankings and ratings.

Moreover, another milestone sets its history among Philippine universities to become the first in the Philippines to obtain the coveted Five Stars Rating for UST, the penultimate rank in the six-tier system adopted by QS in its third review cycle of QS Stars Rating application. Thus, UST has established itself as an authority on international rankings and ratings and has been known for helping Philippine universities uplift their educational standards to be at par with international standards and be recognized on the global scene as also mandated by CHED.

The lecture-workshop is not the first engagement between UST and BukSU. The UST Center for Conservation of Cultural Property and Environment in the Tropics has partnered with BukSU in its cultural heritage mapping activity. Likewise, the UST Faculty of Arts and Letters Dean Prof. Marilu R. Madrunio, Ph.D., served as the external adviser for BukSU's doctorate program for English Language Studies.

BukSU traces its beginnings to Bukidnon Provincial High School established in 1924, which became Bukidnon State College in 1976, and eventually, a university in 2007. It has several Extension and External Studies Center in the different parts of Mindanao.



(From left:) Ong, BukSU President Dr. Oscar B. Cabanelez, and Flores

CIRCUMNAVIGATION FROM PAGE 15

bases of the exhibition, centered on Magellan and Elcano's circumnavigation attempt.

Assoc. Prof. Maria Eloisa G. Parco de Castro, Ph.D., meanwhile discussed her paper "Restoring Memory, Reliving History: Cavite Puerto's Role in the Survival of Spanish Power in the Philippines from 1570-1720". A native of Cavite herself, the National Book Awardee focused on the significant events surrounding what served as the chief port of the Philippines in the Spanish era.



UST Office of Public Affairs Director Asst. Prof. Joreen T. Rocamora, Ph.D. (rightmost) welcomes the Ambassador of Chile and delegates from the Chilean Embassy.

UST Library launches bilingual edition of historic book on Spanish religious corporations

First published in 1901, the book “*Ensayo de una síntesis de los trabajos realizados por las Corporaciones Religiosas Españolas*” (Essay of a synthesis of the works accomplished by the Spanish religious corporations in the Philippines) by Spanish priest Fr. Valentin Morales Marin, O.P., was launched in a Spanish-English bilingual edition on September 7, 2022, at the UST Bl. Pier Giorgio Frassati Building Senior High School Library.

The two-volume book, edited by the UST Prefect of Libraries, Rev. Fr. Angel A. Aparicio, O.P., describes the contributions of the Spanish religious corporations in the country and what transpired during the Spanish period of 1521 to 1898.

Volume I of *Ensayo* discusses the pre-Spanish Civilization and the Spanish colonization and evangelization of the archipelago, while Volume II details the works of four religious missionary congregations in the Philippines – Augustinians, Franciscans, Recollects, and Dominicans.

The new edition is a joint endeavor among the University of Santo Tomas Miguel de Benavides Library, the *Archivo de la Universidad de Santo Tomás*, and the Union Bank of the Philippines. The University offers it as a contribution to the 500 years of Christianity in the Philippines.

Fr. Aparicio, in his message, said “[*Ensayo*] has helped me not only to appreciate our heritage, but to better understand this country and its people, because the past is intelligible to us only in the light of the present, and we can fully understand the present only in the light of the past.”

The editor intends not just to contextualize what was written then, but to expose the understandable truth and history from the writings of its original author, Fr. Valentin Morales Marin, O.P.

He further quoted the original author, Fr. Marin, saying “The Dominican Fathers reached this country in the year 1587 and very soon commenced their labors of evangelizing through preaching and teaching, which they did with so much zeal and such happy results that one might feel honored to belong to one of the religious corporations which has contributed most to – and has, with great glory, taken part in – the material and moral progress of the archipelago. I feel proud to belong to the Dominicans.”

UST Rector Very Rev. Fr. Richard G. Ang, O.P., Ph.D., congratulated the launch of *Ensayo*, saying that “It is noteworthy to mention that this book launch is the culminating activity of the second Lumina



UST Rector Very Rev. Fr. Richard G. Ang, O.P., Ph.D., (in grey coat) converses with Consul General of the Embassy of Spain in the Philippines Mr. Javier Martín García (foreground, fourth from left), Instituto Cervantes Director Mr. Javier Galvan (rightmost), *Ensayo* editor and Prefect of Libraries Rev. Fr. Angel A. Aparicio, O.P. (leftmost), and UST Secretary-General Rev. Fr. Louie R. Coronel, O.P. (center).

Pandit Project with the Union Bank of the Philippines, and we are all happy to celebrate this event.”

Fr. Ang further mentioned that the UST Library is blessed to have such an impressive collection, possessing priceless materials. He added that this two-volume set will be added to the Library’s treasure trove of scholarly works, which will be accessible to scholars and non-Spanish speaking audiences, and that students and academic staff are privileged to take advantage of this rare opportunity to gain insights and to establish a personal connection with the legacy of the author.

UST’s former Archivist, Prof. Regalado Trota Jose, delivered the book review. He stated that the *Ensayo* was written to counteract the negative propaganda about the friars during the transition of Spanish and American rule.

The event was graced by the presence of Consul General of the Embassy of Spain in the Philippines Mr. Javier Martín García, Instituto Cervantes Director Mr. Javier Galvan, former Union Bank Executive Director for Corporate Philanthropy and Social Responsibility Maria Gonzalez Goolsby, Union Bank Talent Acquisition Head Ms. Abeegail Caberte, National Library of the Philippines Chief Librarian

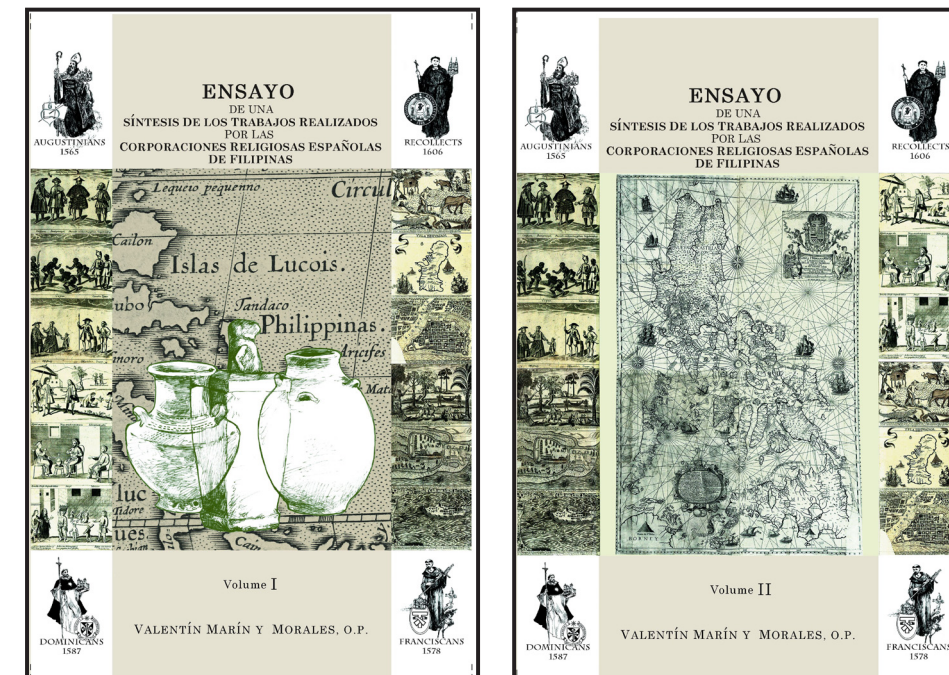


Prof. Regalado Trota Jose delivers his book review.

ENSAYO BOOK LAUNCH FROM PAGE 18



Rev. Fr. Angel A. Aparicio, O.P., signs a copy of *Ensayo* [Photo courtesy of Rio Leonelle I. Deluvio]



Volumes 1 and 2 of Fr. Valentin Morales Marin, O.P.’s *Ensayo de una síntesis de los trabajos realizados por las Corporaciones Religiosas Españolas* (1901), now edited by the UST Prefect of Libraries Rev. Fr. Angel A. Aparicio, O.P.

of the Collection Development Division Ms. Melody Madrid, National Museum Archivist Ms. Angeline Lasalita, National Historical Commission of the Philippines representative Ms. Diana Galang, National Commission for Culture and the Arts Section Head for Cultural Heritage Mr. Lawrence Salazar, Fr. Emilio Edgardo Quilatan, OAR, UST Rector Very Rev. Fr. Richard G. Ang, O.P., Ph.D., UST Secretary-General Rev. Fr. Louie R. Coronel, O.P., EHL, Rev. Fr. Wenifredo Padilla III, O.P., UST History Society Adviser Assoc. Prof. Melanie D. Turingan, Ph.D., who all received boxed copies from Acting Archivist Rev. Fr. Gaspar Sigaya, O.P., and UST Miguel de Benavides Library Chief Librarian Ms. Ma. Cecilia Lobo.

Copies of *Ensayo* remain available for purchase at the Miguel de Benavides Library.

Former Union Bank Executive Director for Corporate Philanthropy and Social Responsibility Maria Gonzalez Goolsby (center) receives one of the first copies from Chief Librarian Ms. Ma. Cecilia Lobo (left) and Acting Archivist and Assistant to the Prefect of Libraries Rev. Fr. Gaspar Sigaya, O.P.



ENSAYO BOOK LAUNCH TO PAGE 19

Thomasians bag top award at International Architecture Competition on rebuilding Siargao



The UST Team's winning entry "Tabo at Timba"

UST College of Architecture students Zion Enrico Licup, Janna Muriel Balasbas, Van Hexel Macalawa, and their mentor Ar. Juan Carlos Eugene Soler won the Urban Intervention category for the international architectural design competition "Rebuilding Siargao", an international design competition aimed to rehabilitate the island. The winners were announced online last August 17, 2022.

The island of Siargao was devastated by Typhoon Odette, with international name Super Typhoon Rai, on December 16, 2021. With the intention to rehabilitate the island, the non-governmental organization (NGO) Lokal Lab, in partnership with Archstorming, conducts projects to build back the community, which includes the design competition. The said competition called for two separate proposals: the reconstruction of a local community center and an urban intervention that would regenerate the island's rural towns. The winning competition entries will be constructed by the Lokal Lab.

The group of Licup proposed their winning entry "Timba at Tabo", a communal laundry space, for the urban intervention project. It is a series of rainwater collection tanks that would address the sanitation needs of the community, particularly on laundry. It would address water problem supply due to groundwater saline intrusion and water contamination. Furthermore, the project would help provide clean water for proper hygiene and sanitation that are identified to help combat the spread of COVID-19.



ZION ENRICO LICUP

JANNA MURIEL BALASBAS



VAN HEXEL MACALAWA

AR. JUAN CARLOS EUGENE SOLER

CTHM academic staff, students share insights for the Nayong Pilipino Foundation (NPF) Podcast 2022

As an output of the virtual practicum program of the College of Tourism and Hospitality Management with the Nayong Pilipino Foundation, Inc. (NPF), the Office of Alumni Relations Director Asst. Prof. Fredeswindo Medina and academic staff Mr. Mark Andrew Estrella were invited to share their expertise and insights on cultural appreciation and appropriation and Korean culture, respectively. Under the NPF Dunong Project, an academic conversation through podcasts from leaders, NPF partners, and discipline specialists, natural and cultural heritage as well as cultural and sustainable tourism are promoted.

Ms. Allyza Palma and Ms. Daremie Bandoquillo, CTHM Alumni Batch 2022, served as moderators for the said podcast.

The podcast episodes can be streamed through Spotify: [Cultural Appreciation vs. Cultural Appropriation – Safeguarding Traditions](#) and [Hallyu Wave in the Philippines](#).



UST GS CCCPET launches heritage curriculum project in Samar

The Provincial Government of Samar launched the *Kurikulum Para sa Edukasyong Kultural para sa Lalawigan ng Samar* during the opening ceremony of *Panurundun: Samar Day 2022* on August 11, 2022. The event was attended by the different Provincial and Local Government Officials, representatives from the Armed Forces of the Philippines and Police Force, and teachers under the Department of Education Samar, Catbalogan City, and Calbayog City Division.

The *Kurikulum para sa Edukasyong Kultural ng Lalawigan ng Samar* is part of a bigger project titled, **Cultural Heritage Values Interpretation Towards Education and Utilization for Community Development: A Cultural Mapping Continuing Project** which is spearheaded by the University of Santo Tomas Graduate School – Center for Conservation of Cultural Property and Environment in the



DepED Officials with UST Team and Samar Province team copy



Hon. Sara Duterte with Province of Samar Officials and Dr. Eric Zerrudo during the SPEEC Launching copy



IR Team holding the SPEEC copy

Tropics (GS-CCPET) headed by Assoc. Prof. Eric B. Zerrudo, Ph.D.. The Curriculum Development Team is composed of four academic staff from the UST Institute of Religion namely, Prof. Joan Christi Trocio-Bagaipo, Ph.D., Assoc. Prof. Ma. Sanita A. Quilatan, Ph.D., Asst. Prof. Marites Rano-Redoña, Ph.D., and Assoc. Prof. Chito M. Sawit, Ph.D. Joining the UST team for this project are Ms. Ricamela Saturay Palis, an academic staff of the National Commission for Culture and the Arts - Philippine Cultural Education Program, Ms. Ma. Cynthia Tajanlangit-Matas, an Alternative Learning System (ALS) expert from Negros Oriental State University, and a Samaranon Cultural Educator, Roland Peter J. Nicart, from the Eastern Samar State University.

The project, which is the conversion of cultural heritage resources into a curriculum, is sourced from the data gathered from cultural mapping throughout the province of Samar. The narratives gathered were classified into themes and were matched based on the hierarchy of cultural competencies for K-12 and Adult Learning Students. This pioneering project addressed the need for Philippines cultural education.

This project is supported by the provincial Government of Samar headed by Gov. Sharee Ann Tan together with Congressman Michael Tan, the Department of Education Region VIII, and the Department of Tourism region VIII.

GS-CCCPET, CTHM presents the Samar Island Natural Park (SINP) Sustainable Tourism and Strategic Development Plan (STSDP) 2022-2031

The University of Santo Tomas Graduate School – Center for Conservation of Cultural Property and Environment in the Tropics (GS-CCCPET) and the College of Tourism and Hospitality Management (CTHM) presented a 10-year Samar Island Natural Park (SINP) Sustainable Tourism and Strategic Development Plan (STSDP) at Balay Samarnon, Catbalogan City, Province of Samar on August 12, 2022. The project is part of the SINP World Heritage Nomination Bid under the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO).

The presentation and turnover ceremony was attended by different institutions and stakeholders of the project, specifically Hon. Sharee Ann T. Tan, Governor of the Province of Samar, Dir. Karina Rosa Santiago-Tiopes, CESO III of the Department of Tourism Region VIII, Mr. Marvin R. Piczon, Provincial Tourism Officer and the Provincial Tourism Office Team, and different municipal tourism officers of the province. Rev. Fr. Roland D. Mactal, O.P., SThD, the CTHM Regent, headed the UST delegation during the presentation and turnover event.

The project is spearheaded by the House of Representatives, the Provincial Governments of Samar, Northern Samar, and Eastern Samar, the Department of Tourism Region VIII, and the Department of Environment and Natural Resources – Protected Areas Management Bureau Region VIII. The cooperating agencies partnered with the University of Santo Tomas Graduate School – Center for Conservation of Cultural Property and Environment in the Tropics and the College of Tourism and Hospitality Management.

The study's main objective is to conceptualize sustainable tourism and a strategic development plan for SINP using the stakeholders' participation and perspective and statement of natural heritage significance approaches. It is associated with the preliminary requirements for applications to the UNESCO World Natural Heritage Site. In line with the primary objective, the following are the specific objectives: (1) To determine the current situation of SINP in terms of its environmental, social, economic and infrastructure; and tourism industry settings; (2) To evaluate the context of SINP conservation and tourism development and its associated strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, and threats; (3) To analyze the views and perspectives of the stakeholders on different issues, constraints, and opportunities on the conservation and tourism development



Official Turnover of the 3-volume SINP STSDP 2022-2031 to Hon. Sharee Ann T. Tan, Governor of the Province of Samar (third from left)

UST CTHM Dean Atty. Gezzez Giezi G. Granado, DCL (rightmost), UST GS-CCCPET Director Assoc. Prof. Eric B. Zerrudo, Ph.D. (sixth from left), and the CTHM Regent Rev. Fr. Roland D. Mactal, O.P., SThD (fifth from left), present certificates and tokens to the Eastern Visayas Team and Dir. Karina Rosa Santiago-Tiopes, CESO III of the Department of Tourism Region VIII (center).



of SINP; and (4) To examine the current impacts of tourism development in SINP, specifically on its economic, socio-cultural, and environmental aspects.

As part of the nomination dossier for UNESCO World Natural Heritage, this study provides an in-depth understanding and appreciation of the significance of SINP and contribution to Philippine natural biodiversity and conservation using sustainable tourism. From this study, a long-term SINP sustainable tourism and strategic development plan, specifically for the years 2022 to 2031, is conceptualized, which will serve as a primary guideline on sustainable tourism and conservation policy, program, and project formulation. The plan is also helpful in determining

how primary and secondary stakeholders could sustainably contribute to the conceptualization and implementation of policies, programs, and projects.

The project team is headed by the Director of the Graduate School – CCCPET, Assoc. Prof. Dr. Eric B. Zerrudo. The other team members were Ms. Beverly M. Bautista, MA (Cand.) (Project Coordinator, GS-CCCPET), Assoc. Prof. Atty. Dr. Gezzez Giezi G. Granado (Dean, CTHM and Writer/Researcher), Mr. Jame Monren T. Mercado, MACHS (Project Leader and Academic Staff, CTHM), Dr. Avi Ben P. Andalecio (Academic Staff, CTHM and Writer/Researcher), and Ms. Andrea Nicole D. Hernandez and Mr. Al Reile S. dela Torre (CTHM Alumni).

UST SIMBAHAYAN distributes gadgets for partner communities and institutions



Distribution of gadgets in Kasiglahan Village, Rizal



Distribution of gadgets in Kasiglahan Senior High School



Distribution of gadgets in Brgy. Bucal, Calatagan, Batangas

The UST SIMBAHAYAN, together with the College of Science and the College of Commerce and Business Administration, was able to distribute gadgets to several partner communities. These gadgets will be used to further enhance the presentation and interaction for future onsite community development, advocacy, and Service-Learning activities of the academic units.

The first batch of gadgets for this academic year were delivered on August 6 and was facilitated by the College of Science Community Development team. Led by Asst. Prof. Ezra Aguilar, the outgoing Science CD Coordinator, accompanied by the incoming Science CD Coordinator, Asst. Prof. Juliano Parena Jr., the turnover ceremony was also an opportunity to introduce the community leaders. Partners from Brgy. Bucal in Calatagan, Batangas, and Kasiglahan Senior High School and Kasiglahan Village in Montalban, Rizal received TV sets, speakers, laptops, and other accessories. These were received by Ms. Ana Reyes-Jonson and Mr. Alfredo Pastores, who represented the BUTIL scholars and school principal, Dr. Greg Velarde respectively.

The second batch of gadgets were delivered by the College of Commerce and Business Administration Coordinator Asst. Prof. Franklin Prieto last August 19 in Sitio Bamban, Hermosa, Bataan. The partner community was represented by Ms. Lolita Valdez and Ms. Lyn-Lyn Valdez, they accepted a TV set and a laptop.

The remaining gadgets procured by the University are scheduled to be released before the first semester ends.



MOU signing for the turn-over of gadgets



Distribution of gadgets in the Aeta community of Sitio Bamban, Hermosa, Bataan

Visit of Prof. Dr. Helmut Zander to UST



Prof. Dr. Helmut Zander (center) from the Université de Fribourg, Switzerland visits the University of Santo Tomas on August 16, 2022, met by Office of Public Affairs Director Asst. Prof. Joreen T. Rocamora, Ph.D. (second from left), CTRSE Director Prof. Joel C. Sagut, Ph.D. (rightmost), and Assistant to the Director for Public Affairs Ms. Michaella Lagniton (leftmost).



UST Museum Assistant Director Ar. Carlo Sayco (rightmost) takes charge of the Museum Tour.



Prof. Dr. Zander (second from left) during the campus tour

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Medical Technologist Licensure Examination

August 2022

UST Passing Rate: 78.23%
National Passing Rate: 50.14%



1st - 91.90%
Kahram Baricaua Molbog



2nd - 91.30%
Karen Dale Lao Tan



4th - 90.80%
Patrick Daniel Ocampo Luzung



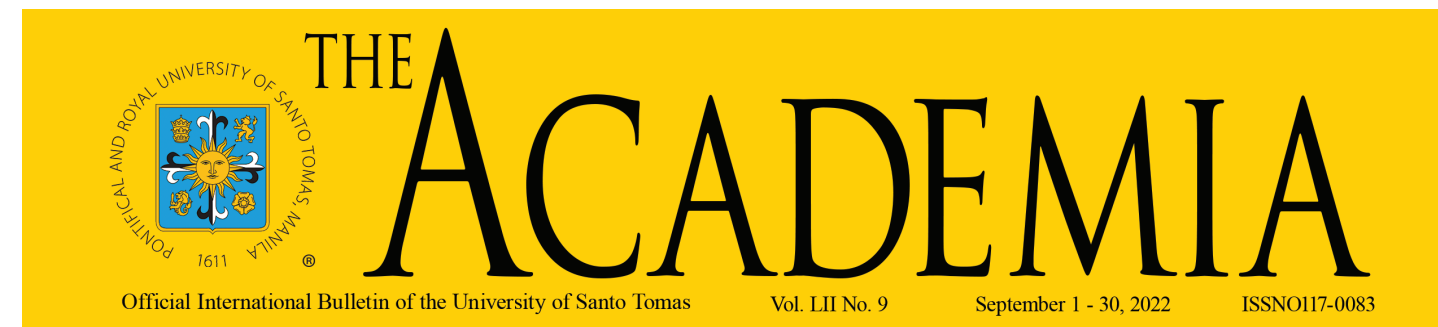
5th - 90.60%
Isabella Balaaldia Pabustan



7th - 90%
Kyle Paolo Matnog Ortañez



9th - 89.80%
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Address all communications to the Office of Public Affairs, University of Santo Tomas, España Boulevard, Manila, 1015 Philippines

For comments and suggestions, email us at opa.infomgmt@ust.edu.ph

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