

SDGs vis-à-vis the University's Community Development and Advocacy Efforts
By Froilan A. Alipao, MCD
Director, UST Simbahayan Community Development Office

The Simbahayan Community Development Office (SIMBAHAYAN) is the Community Development and Advocacy arm of the University. It is tasked to develop, facilitate, implement, and manage the University Community Development Program toward the fulfillment of the University's mission of the generation, advancement, and transmission of knowledge to form competent and compassionate professionals committed to the service of the Church, the Nation, and the global community.

Inspired by the University's mission, the UST SIMBAHAYAN envisions partner communities/institutions, local parishes, and at-risk sectors to be self-reliant, interdependent, and empowered, contributing to the building of the Church, the home, and the Nation. Also, being part of the Catholic and Dominican institutions, the office is mindful of maintaining its mission of sustaining the Christian formation of Thomasians and University partner communities and institutions in becoming agents of social transformation. Thus, the two key result areas (KRAs) of UST SIMBAHAYAN are: (1) the formation of self-reliant, interdependent, and empowered partner communities and institutions, and (2) the formation of Thomasians in becoming agents of social transformation. These two KRAs mirror the mission and vision of UST SIMBAHAYAN.

The office covers college/faculty-based student organizations' projects; University-wide student organizations' community development projects; the Civic Welfare Training Service and Literacy Training Service projects of the National Service Training Program; and Alumni-proposed projects.

Social Transformation Programs, Advocacies, and Projects

UST SIMBAHAYAN oversees eight major community development programs of the University with its corresponding advocacies and projects.

Health and Wellness Development. This program advocates health for all, especially for marginalized and vulnerable communities and sectors, to achieve the highest attainable standard of health. Common projects under this program are barangay health workers (BHW) training, community-based rehabilitation (CBR) workers training, feeding and nutrition projects, and various forms of basic medical and surgical interventions. Academic units that are program leads of health and wellness development are the Faculty of Medicine and Surgery, College of Nursing, Faculty of Pharmacy, and College of Rehabilitation Sciences. This program addresses SDGs 3 and 17.

Equitable and Inclusive Education. This program advocates education for all, especially marginalized and vulnerable communities and sectors, to access free, compulsory, and quality basic education. Common projects under this program are reading and academic tutorials, daycare and public school teachers' enhancement training, computer literacy, rehabilitation of

classrooms, and various forms of educational assistance such as scholarships in the form of monetary allowances, student formation, and giving of school supplies. Academic units that are program leads of equitable and inclusive education are the College of Education, College of Information and Computing Sciences, Senior High School, and Junior High School. This program addresses SDGs 4, 10, and 17.

Leadership, Organizational Development, and Good Governance. This program advocates good governance for all, especially marginalized and vulnerable communities and sectors, to actively participate in local governance and development work. Common projects under this program are training on community organizing, participatory evaluation and planning, social advocacy forum, and leadership formation. Academic and administrative units that are program leads of leadership, organizational development, and good governance are the Faculty of Arts and Letters, the Graduate School, and UST SIMBAHAYAN. This program addresses SDGs 5, 10, 16, and 17.

Employability and Social Enterprise Development. This program advocates for economic justice for all, especially marginalized and vulnerable communities and sectors, to gain the necessary skills for productive employment and engage in worthwhile, sustainable entrepreneurial activities. Common projects under this program are technical-vocational training on bookkeeping, food and beverage, electrical wiring, welding, etc.; entrepreneurial skills development training; financial development training; and facilitation of access to social protection. Academic units that are program leads of employability and social enterprise development are the College of Commerce and Business Administration, UST-Alfredo M. Velayo College of Accountancy, College of Tourism and Hospitality Management, and Faculty of Engineering. This addresses SDGs 1, 2, 4, 8, 10, 12, and 17.

Socio-Pastoral Ministry and Evangelization. This program advocates for Christ's love for all, especially for marginalized and vulnerable communities and sectors, to become active stakeholders in building basic ecclesial communities. It is based on the 2006 Compendium of the Social Doctrine of the Church, where the Pontifical Council for Justice and Peace proclaims that evangelization is the core of the Church's mission, that is, "helping man on the path of salvation". Common projects under this program are lay and youth ministry training, catechism, giving of sacraments, bible sharing, basic ecclesial communities' formation, and a certificate course on Religious Education for catechists. Academic and administrative units that are program leads of socio-pastoral ministry and evangelization are the Ecclesiastical Faculties (which comprise the Faculties of Philosophy, Sacred Theology, and Canon Law), Institute of Religion, and Center for Campus Ministry. This addresses SDGs 4, 5, 10, 16, and 17.

Culture, Heritage, Sports, and Development. This program advocates cultural life, expression, and rootedness for all, especially for marginalized and vulnerable communities and sectors, to artistically communicate their values, interests, aspirations, and meaning in life. Common projects under this program are the choir and musical theatre arts workshops, musical instruments workshops, mural painting and art workshops, dance training workshops, heritage conservation, holistic sports clinic activities, sports coaching training, and various recreation, leisure, and physical fitness activities. Academic units that are program leads of culture, heritage,

and sports and development are the Conservatory of Music, College of Fine Arts and Design, College of Tourism and Hospitality Management, College of Architecture, and the Institute of Physical Education and Athletics. This addresses SDGs 3, 4, 5, 10, 16, and 17.

Environmental Sustainability and Action. This program advocates environmental justice for all, especially for marginalized and vulnerable communities and sectors, to be able to sustainably manage community resources and take part in the active promotion of the integrity of creation. Common projects under this program are tree-growing activities, solid waste management, hydroponics garden training, coastal clean-up, and renewable energy sources. Academic units that are program leads of environmental sustainability and action are the College of Science, the Faculty of Engineering, and the College of Architecture. This addresses SDGs 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, and 17.

Disaster Risk Reduction and Management. This program advocates disaster resilience for all, especially for marginalized and vulnerable communities, to combat climate change and its impact and build inclusive disaster-resilient communities. Common projects under this program are climate change advocacy training, participatory capacity and vulnerability assessment (PCVA) workshops, disaster test drills, BLS/First Aid training, disaster response team organizing, and financial assistance in a disaster. Academic units that are program leads of DRRM are the same as that of the program on environmental sustainability and action with the addition of the Faculty of Arts and Letters. This addresses SDGs 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, and 17.

As mentioned above, each program area has a pool of assigned lead academic or administrative units that are expected to create projects aligned to the program area they are designated into. However, this does not restrict each academic or administrative unit to creating projects in other program areas. For example, the Faculty of Medicine and Surgery, the Faculty of Pharmacy, the College of Nursing, and the College of Rehabilitation Sciences are the identified lead academic units to contribute to creating projects aligned to the program area on Health and Wellness Development. But this does not restrict them from engaging in the creation of projects aligned to other program areas, such as Employability and Social Enterprise Development and/or DRMM, as long as: (1) they have the people and resources to implement and sustain the project, and (2) after careful review, it has been deemed feasible by UST SIMBAHAYAN.