

UP SYSTEM PUBLIC SERVICE REPORT

ADDRESSING THE IMPACT OF THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC





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Six months after the community quarantine was first implemented, the University's unceasing efforts in helping the public cope with the negative effects of the pandemic are still evident. As the semester progressed, the different Constituent Universities explored different modalities in order to reduce the immense impact of the pandemic to the academic life of the students, and to mitigate other negative effects of this learning crisis.

Training of trainers for remote learning mode of instruction

University of the Philippines Baguio set up a volunteer program calling for online story tellers for their Tutorial Services Program. The program called for volunteers who were not only fluent in speaking the English and Filipino languages, but also those who could speak in Ilocano.

UP Cebu's Teacher Professional Development Virtual Action Research Mentoring Program was introduced to teachers of two distinct national high schools in Cebu.

The Commission on Higher Education's (CHED) training program entitled, "Training of Teacher Trainers on Flexible Teaching and Learning in the New Normal", ended last October 16. This training was organized in partnership with UP Open University.



Aside from the training program in partnership with CHED, experts from UPOU continuously serve as resource persons in various teacher training programs to capacitate teachers in the conduct of distance education.

CU Information Dissemination and Knowledge Building

University of the Philippines Open University conducted its regular webinar series entitled, Let's Talk It Over (LTIO). In the latest installment, the webinar focused on the topics on "Public Health Preparedness amidst Pandemic: Nursing Experience," and "Plastics and COVID-19: A Double Whammy of a Pandemic."

In their study, researchers of UP Mindanao's Interdisciplinary Applied Modeling Laboratory (IAM Lab) presented how risk factors affect the individual's hazard rate to COVID-19 death from a derived empirical model.

The Stop COVID Deaths Webinar of UP Manila featured the "Merging Fear with Difficulty: Taking Charge of the Airway" and "Hindi ko na Kayang Magka-COVID Ulit!" COVID-19 and Suicide. The National Academy of Science and Technology in partnership with UP Manila organized a Science Policy Forum featuring Philippine PPE Pandemic Preparedness.

In UP Diliman, webinars on COVID-19 featuring resource speakers from Japan and Taiwan entitled, "Border Crossing Dilemmas Under the COVID-19 Pandemic: A Focus on Filipino and Other Southeast Asian Workers Residing in and Heading for Japan" and "Taiwan vs. COVID-19: Standing up to the Challenge," were presented.



In observance of the International Day of Awareness of Food Loss and Waste, UP Los Baños conducted a webinar entitled, "Food Loss and Waste Reduction Amidst COVID-19 Pandemic." It also organized a webinar that discussed COVID-19 implications in managing water, sanitation, and waste.

Direct involvement in laboratory testing and vaccine trials

The Philippine General Hospital, together with Manila Doctors Hospital, San Lazaro Hospital, Lung Center of the Philippines, St. Luke's Medical Center- Quezon City and Bonifacio Global City in Taguig, Research Institute for Tropical Medicine, Makati Medical Center, The Medical City, Vicente Sotto Memorial Medical Center, Chong Hua Hospital in Cebu City, De La Salle Health Sciences Institute in Cavite, and Southern Philippines Medical Center in Davao City are the hospitals that will be involved in the solidarity trials for a potential COVID-19 vaccine in the country, which will be conducted this year.

The Department of Science and Technology (DOST) Region XI, the PNP Police Regional Office (PRO) Region XI, and UP Mindanao entered into a Memorandum of Agreement for the establishment of a COVID-19 Testing Facility in the PRO-XI hospital in Davao City.



Representatives from DOST, PNP and UP Mindanao signs MoA for the establishment of the COVID-19

Testing Facility in the Police Regional Office Region XI (Source: UP Mindanao FB Page)

Meanwhile, the COVID-19 testing facility, which is a joint project of UP Mindanao, Maer Summit Konstrukt, and the Provincial Government of Davao del Norte, has been established.

University of the Philippines Visayas (UP Visayas), University of San Agustin (USA), West Visayas State University (WVSU), and Philippine Science High School (PSHS-Western Visayas Campus), in partnership with the Philippine Genome Center-Visayas (PGC-Visayas), worked together to establish the COVID-19 Testing Laboratory of the Metro Iloilo Hospital and Medical Center (MIHMC), which was formally opened last September 18.



Ongoing calls for donations

In observance of the Global Day of Service, UP Cebu participated in the Couples for Christ Outreach Program. The University was able to gather in-kind donations such as face masks and alcohol, which were then distributed to churches in Cebu.

As part of the Kaabag sa Pagtungha program, UP Cebu reached out to alumni who donated laptops and printers for the undergraduate students' remote learning needs.

Provision for IEC

The UP Open University showcased the following new featured book chapters: Intelligent Tutoring Systems as an Approach to e-Learning Assessment; Towards an Assessment System for Open and Distance e-Learning: The Case of the ASEAN Studies Graduate Program; and ePortfolio-based Assessment. They also released "The Human Side of Cyber Security," a video material produced by the UPOU Multimedia Center. New resource materials from UPOU Networks entitled, "Realities, Reflections, and Reimaging of Public Governance in the Philippines" and "Open and Distance e-Learning in Philippine Public Administration/Governance Education: Practices and Lessons" were also launched.

In UP Los Baños, a video entitled, "Si Krono, ang Natutulog na Dragon: Kwentong Pambata ukol sa COVID-19" was released featuring a children's story geared towards helping children understand the concept of new normal.

Provision for Psychosocial Support

A Psychosocial First Aid training for the second batch of Pahinungod volunteers was conducted in order to further the implementation of the eBiyag: Psychosocial First Aid Service, which is UP Baguio's core Psychosocial Response Program. As explained by UP Baguio, "Ebiyag" is an Ibaloi term that means "to live or be alive," and that the service that Pahinungód volunteers provide is grounded on a simple premise that mental wellness begins in having a safe space to speak and to be heard.

In UP Cebu, ongoing telecounseling sessions for academic and psycho-emotional wellness are being administered to students by two female and two male Guidance Services Specialists.

In UP Manila, the Mental Wellness and Suicide Prevention Series is also ongoing; the recent episode entitled, "Kumusta ka na? Mental Health Care & Traditional Chinese Medicine," was livestreamed.

In UP Diliman, PsycServ released the 23rd episode of its podcast entitled, It's an Adult Thing, which discussed mental well-being during the pandemic.

A webinar entitled, "Taking Care of Our Mental Health in Times of Covid-19 and Remote Learning", was conducted by UP Los Baños via Zoom and Facebook Live.

Provision for Student and Academic Affairs



A program initiated by the Diliman Learning Resource Center called Learning Resource Center x Coursera Covid Initiative Program was adapted by UP Manila. The said program, as stated by the Learning Resource Center, aims to address the impact of COVID-19 in the education system.