



UP SYSTEM PUBLIC SERVICE REPORT



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CU initiatives in Disaster Risk Reduction Management

This month, various relief efforts and other disaster risk reduction management initiatives from the different Constituent Universities were delivered to several parts of the country that were hit by typhoons Rolly and Ulysses. The UP Resilience Institute, University of The Philippines Ugnayan ng Pahinungód, UP Diliman College of Human Kinetics, UP Fighting Maroons, and nowhere to go but UP launched the #SamaSamaTulongTulong Relief operations which aimed to help those affected in the Bicol and Cagayan Valley regions. UP System had also consolidated all of UP's relief efforts and pushed for support for the community to participate in the relief efforts.

On a similar note, the UP Institute of Civil Engineering launched a survey which aimed to assess the wind and flood damage and assist the DRRM initiatives of government agencies. The same institute also organized a public lecture that aimed to share assessment of the recent 2020 Marikina and Cagayan flooding incidents in an online lecture entitled, *ICExplains: The 2020 Marikina and Cagayan Flooding*. On the other hand, UP Manila issued a memorandum that captured the CU's action on typhoon-affected constituents and pushed for the creation of the UP Manila Typhoon Fund for the benefit of those affected by Typhoons Quinta, Rolly, and Ulysses. UP Visayas also met with the Office of the City Mayor to discuss a meta-analysis of extreme flooding studies in the Philippines that can help Iloilo City in its flood preparedness program.



UPV and Iloilo City Mayor's Office collaborate on preventive and preparedness measures against flooding.

Initiatives Addressing Pandemic and New Normal-related Issues and Concerns

In adapting to the new normal, several pandemic-related issues and concerns have remained. The CUs have continuously undertaken initiatives that address these concerns. One of the initiatives that aimed to raise concerns about inequalities in education was an online talk show-type forum entitled, *Education Inequalities and Challenges in Times of Pandemic: Voices from Practice*. UP Manila College of Public Health, through its webinar entitled, *Double Trouble: Fighting (Hyper) Endemic Tuberculosis Amid the COVID-19 Pandemic*, has continued to help address other public health-related concerns brought about by the pandemic. Through the *TeknoLusugan*, the UP Manila Technology Transfer and Business Development Office initiated an online technology pitching event in order to harness the expertise of its community. Various UPLB institutions also organized webinars that discussed a wide range of issues vis-à-vis the pandemic and the new normal such as livelihood (*Aggie Ps Talk Version 2.0: Pagkain at Pangkabuhayan sa Panahon ng Pandemya and BIZSICS as we Normalize Entrepreneurship*), food security (*What's SAP? [Security Amidst Pandemic]" The UPLB Graduate Students Food Security Situation During COVID-19 Pandemic and Farm to Fork: Safety, Security, and Technologies Along the Food Supply Chain*), biodiversity (*#connectedtothewild biodiversity series*), sustainability (*The future of sustainability amidst the global pandemic*), sustainable business practices during the pandemic (*Beyond the Crisis and Above and Beyond Seeking Agribusiness Opportunities Amidst the COVID-19 Pandemic*), and consumer rights (*ST E-Talks on Institutions and Organizations for Consumer Rights and Welfare Amid the Pandemic*).

With the impact of the pandemic to the economy, the UP Mindanao School of Management deemed it necessary to organize a webinar series on digital economy, agricultural development, and food security entitled, *Webinars on Digital Economy and the Implications to Agricultural Development*. The same unit also hosted an agribusiness economics and management forum entitled, *Webinar on Nature with Nurture: Plant Breeding for Food Security in the Midst of the Pandemic and Beyond*.

The effect of the pandemic on the performing arts and how the theater adjusted to the new normal was tackled in UP Baguio's webinar entitled, *Gawin Na 'Yan Performing in the Time of COVID-19: From Stage to Virtual Performance*. UP Cebu, on the other hand, held an online wellness

program which focused on physical wellness amidst the pandemic. Part of the program was an online initiative called, *ZOOM-ba para sa Maayong Panglawas*.

COVID-19 Related Initiatives

As the entire country made attempts to seamlessly adapt to the new normal, different CUs continued to organize various COVID-related projects and programs that aimed to curb the spread of the virus. The Philippine Genome Center continued to offer and undertake COVID-19 Swab Testing for the general public. During the special edition of the STOP COVID DEATHS webinar, the book entitled, *Pandemic Surgery: An Integrated Ethics and Technical Reference* was launched. The book could serve as a guide in the structural and procedural adjustments that may be necessary in the provision of surgical care during a pandemic.

Initiatives Addressing Youth and Student-Related Issues and Concerns

As the semester came to a close, CUs began to organize various initiatives that aimed to discuss and address student-related issues and concerns. The UP Diliman Office of Student Projects and Activities organized the *BIGKISAN: UP Diliman Student Leadership Summit* which provided a space for students to voice out their concerns and struggles in the new learning mode. The said summit also discussed topics ranging from student ethics, gender sensitivity, and sexual harassment. Another summit was organized by the UP Diliman Office of the Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs entitled, *Virtual Student Leadership Summit* with the theme, "Pamumuno, Pagkakaisa, at Pagkilos sa Panahon ng Pandemya".

Online learning was also central in the various webinars organized by the UP Diliman College of Engineering, General Education Center, and College of Education. Discussions focused on how faculty, researchers, and students can maximize the use of e-resources and e-tools to improve efficiency in research writing (*Elsevier's Tools: Best Practices for Research Writing*) and how educators can further understand the learners (*The ABCs of GEN XYZ: Understanding Our Learners*). The College of Education had also organized a webinar series that shed light on various learning-related topics such as remote learning in Southeast Asian countries (*Trends, Challenges, and Issues in Remote Education during the Pandemic and Recovery Phase: Case of Southeast Asian Countries*), research amidst the pandemic (*Doing Basic and Action Research Amidst the Pandemic*:

Practical Techniques in Data Analysis Using Free Statistical Tools), education of the self (*Connecting the Disconnect: Philosophical Perspectives on the Education of the Self with Others During the Pandemic*), netizenship (*Teaching Responsible "Netizenship" Amid the COVID-19 Pandemic*), impacts of remote learning (*How Does Remote Learning Impact Students and Teachers Affectively and Cognitively?*), and coping during difficult situations (*Using Coping and Distress Tolerance Skills to Thrive in Difficult Situations*).

Aside from learning-related topics, fundamental skills and guidelines for job interviews, and possible career paths were also discussed in a webinar organized by the UPLB Department of Chemical Engineering entitled, *Flighting Future Unlocked*. UPLB College of Human Ecology likewise held a webinar entitled, *Isko-Lastik Writing 101 Ways Not to Copy Paste* to aid students in the area of academic writing. Meanwhile, the role of the youth was the focal point of the webinar entitled, *Creating Liveables Cities: Youth Beyond the Pandemic*, which aimed to emphasize the role of the youth in the midst of this pandemic, while the webinar entitled *Transcend Youth Rising Up to the Better Normal* emphasized on the crucial role of the youth in creating a caring and compassionate community in times of crisis. UPOU, on the other hand, launched a series of videos that aim to promote children's rights and welfare.

In celebration of the UP Manila College of Allied and Medical Professional's 58th Foundation Anniversary, the Department of Speech Pathology has organized a three-part webinar which discussed student empowerment in adjusting and facing difficult learning conditions (*Growth mindset in emergency remote education: Empowering students to face difficult learning conditions*), facilitating speech and language development at home (*Super Parents: Facilitating speech and language development at home*), and use of high-tech augmentative and alternative communication (*Research brown bag: Typical adults' semantic organization preferences in relation to their use of high-tech augmentative and alternative communication [AAC] systems*).

In order to streamline the delivery of remote learning, UP Visayas launched a remote learning platform called *Learning Management System (LMS)* in order to address the issues that were raised by the students and teachers.



The University of the Philippines Visayas (UPV) developed the Learning Management System (LMS) as its new platform for remote learning. A team of IT experts led by Prof. Nilo Araneta developed the LMS in two months.

Webinars and Other Initiatives Undertaken via Online Platforms

Webinars continued to be utilized by CUs in addressing various topics. Several units of UP Los Baños held webinars which covered topics such as gardening (*Plant wise: responsible gardening*), domestic concerns (*Mythbuster: A Webinar on Domestic Abuse and PINGGANG PINOY: Gapay para sa wasto at sapat na pagkain ng buong pamilya*), and climate change (*People, Mangroves and Climate Change: Collaborative Forest Governance Towards Resilient Coasts*). The CU has also organized various conferences like the *1st National Conference on Health, Environment and Economic Development: The Road to Recovery and Resiliency [HEED the 3Rs]*, *COVID-19 from a Philippine Micro and Sectoral Perspective* and *13th UPLB-CAS Student-Faculty Research Conference*. Conventions like the *Kapisanang Kimika ng Pilipinas Southern Tagalog, Inc. 49th Annual Convention: Chemistry in Agriculture Amidst the Pandemic*) and training of trainer programs

(*Training of Trainers for Accredited Training Providers of Cooperative Development Authority*) were conducted as well.

Aside from being at the forefront of initiating COVID-19 related initiatives, UP Manila had not ceased organizing various webinars that aimed to discuss a variety of public health-related concerns. These webinars include the following: *HPV-Associated Sexually Transmitted Infections and Diseases*, *Beta Blockers in Hypertension and CAD*, *Current Gaps in Telehealth and How to Address Them*, *Pharmacology of New Generation Insulins*, *Lymphoma for the Non-Oncologist*, *METFORMIN: The Evolution of Evidence from Diabetes Mellitus to Pre-Diabetes*, *Fixed-Ratio Combination in Insulin Intensification*, *Diabetes in the Young: T1 or T2*, *Updates in the Management of COPD*, *COVID-19: Diagnostic Testing Now and in the Future* and *Environmental and Occupational Health Initiatives during the Pandemic: Consensus, Collaboration, and Capacity Building*.

As the leading distance learning institution, UPOU continued to spearhead various online webinars, congresses, and roundtable discussions that discuss a variety of topics including digital trust and intuition (*International Service Management Congress on Digital Trust and Intuition*), psychological issues that nurses faced during the pandemic (*Kumusta Ka? Psychosocial Issues and Support of Nurses During the Pandemic*), futures research (*Futures Research Series: Post-planetary Designs: Reimagining Paradigms of the Future*), and flexible teaching and learning (*Strategies in Planning Assessment for Online/Flexible Teaching and Learning*).

UP Mindanao also utilized the online platform in organizing webinars, conferences, and online symposium on different topics like the rabies landscape in Davao City (*Zero Rabies in Davao City: Dream or Reality?*), action research in an online setting (*Webinar on Assessment with Action Research in Remote/Online Learning Context*), health, environment and economic development (*Conference: HEED the 3Rs*), and media ethics (*Online Symposium on Libel, Obscenity, Fake News, and Cyberbullying with Atty. Navales*).

Higher educational institutions (HEIs) were the primary audience of UP Baguio Museo Kordilyera's *Online Museum Management Training series*. This training series aimed to transform university museums as sites of cultural education and creativity tourism, through webinars that cover a range of topics such as conceptualizing and curating exhibitions and using technology in museums and museum programing. UP Baguio had also organized other webinars such as *Pagdalong: Achieving Optimal Experience* and *Project Wasdin Sumya: Pagsasabuhay: Sharpening Grit*, online research colloquiums (*Graduate Research Colloquim*), an online workshop with award-winning playwright Eljay Castro Deldoc (*Sulatin na 'Yan: Writing Monologues Workshop - Dulaang*



Online book launch of five storybooks on weaving and the AGABEL TAYO! A Learning Toolkit on Cordillera Weaving.

UPB), an online discussion on the importance of free education (*37B Dagdag sa SUCs: A Discussion on the Need for Greater State Subsidy in Education*), an online book launch of five storybooks on weaving (*Children's Storybooks on Weaving*), a podcast that aims to discuss a range of topics (*Native Plants and Botanical Research in the Cordillera and Topological Data Analysis*), and a video series featuring pieces read by several members of the faculty entitled *Ayamuom* which is an Ilokano word for fragrance.

UP Cebu Ugnayan ng Pahinungod, in partnership with Sta. Rosa National High School, held an online presentation entitled, *Celebration of Online Service Learning: Mentoring Sta. Rosa Teachers as Action Researchers* as well as a webinar about press freedom entitled, *FROM REPRESSION TO RESISTANCE: A Webinar on Combatting the Lawfare Against Press Freedom*.

CU Participation in the 18-Day Campaign to End Violence Against Women and Children

In line with the 18-day Campaign to End Violence Against women and children, several CUs had participated through various online avenues by disseminating information, education, and communication (IEC) materials as well as by organizing various webinars. UP Visayas spearheaded the *Paano ba manatiling ligtas sa karahasan online?: A Zoom-versation with Shebana Alqaseer and Dawn Marie Castro of the Young Feminists Collective*; while UP Manila organized the webinar entitled, *Nurturing the Seed of Peace: A VAWC-free Community begins with ME*. Aside from launching various infographics, UPOU also conducted a Gender Sensitivity Training that aimed to discuss the basic concepts and issues of gender, gender mainstreaming, and how one can apply and continue to advocate for these inside and outside the university. UP Cebu's initiative centered on information dissemination about the status of cases of gender-based violence during the COVID-19 pandemic based on PCW/PNP reports and emphasized the importance of the referral system to concerned agencies, and list of hotlines in the provision of psychosocial support for the emotional needs of women and children.

Staff capacity-building

Aside from providing the general public with the necessary tools and information through webinars and other online initiatives, CUs also organized various online trainings and webinars that aimed to capacitate their staff. The UP Procurement Office had undertaken various online trainings on procurement-related processes and transactions through their initiative entitled, *Friday Open Forum and Online Dashboard Training*. UPLB Institute of Computer Science, on the other hand, organized an online training for UPLB staff which focused on cybersecurity awareness, how to use Google Classroom, and practical uses of Google Forms.

Policy, Data, Research and Projections

The University continues to produce timely and relevant information through policy briefs, relevant research, and data and projections that prove to be helpful to various institutions such as local government units (LGUs) and other HEIs. The UP Center for Integrative and Development Studies continues to publish relevant policy briefs and monographs which covered strategic studies, business and income, and social and political change.

UP Manila, on the other hand, continues to post daily updates on the number of confirmed, probable, suspect, and recovered COVID-19 cases in the Philippine General Hospital. It also regularly produces the UP Manila Healthscape that highlights the different COVID-19 related initiatives of the CU. UPOU continuously releases new learning resources in their website like the recent material entitled, *Towards an Assessment Framework for ODeL: Surfacing Quality Dimensions and Featured Learning Resources - Research and Statistics*.

Calls for Donation and Volunteers

The CUs had initiated their very own donation drives, both monetary and in-kind, for Iskolar ng Bayan and fellow Filipinos in areas devastated by Typhoon Rolly and Ulysses. There were also several calls for volunteers spearheaded by the different CU Ugnayan ng Pahinungod which were tasked to pack the collected relief goods. Aside from donation drives for Typhoon survivors, CUs also continued to organize donation campaigns to aid in the transition into new teaching and learning methods such as UP System's *Ugop PH Partnership* which aimed to raise funds to acquire the technology and equipment needed for the transition of primary schools in Eastern Samar to new teaching and learning methods, and UP Diliman's Technology Management Center Library's *Bond Paper Mo, Modyul Ko* which aimed to collect bond paper for the printing of student modules in public schools affected by the recent typhoons.



UP Baguio community-organized donation drive. The donation drive is an initiative by the Ugnayan ng Pahinungod Baguio, in coordination with All UP Academic Employees' Union, Alumni Relations Desk, UPCB Educational Foundation, and UP Baguio University Student Council.

Provision for IEC Materials

The UP Vargas museum launched the *Art Photography Module* which aimed to promote photography with supplemental information and activities that will help people understand the various contemporary and historical aspects of photography as a medium of art and visual culture. In order to educate the public on sexual orientation, gender identity and expression, and sex characteristics (SOGIESC), the Diliman Gender Office released an infographic which aimed to provide a context on the topic of SOGIESC in campus, as well as relevant data albeit limited only to the experience of the said office. UP Manila, on the other hand, had utilized infographics to inform the public on the PGH Hospital and Infection Control Unit (HICU)'s Universal Pandemic Precautions, the PGH SARS-CoV2 PCR testing rates, as well as to debunk myths about COVID-19. UP Open University also released several infographics that contained useful information on various topics and celebrations such as World Children's Day, International Men's Day, as well as their participation to the 18-Day Campaign for Eradicating VAWC. The CU also utilized videoclips in promoting and protecting children's rights. Lastly, UP Baguio uploaded a video tutorial on the use of PAC for students as well as a quick guide in availing library services.

Provision for Psychosocial Support

CUs also undertook various psychosocial support initiatives such as UP Diliman Office of Counseling and Guidance's *SELF Webinar series* which aimed to help the students focus on "S.E.L.F." first, as well as Department of Philosophy and the Apeiron Core Group's *ISIP the real life? ISIP just fantasy? Raising Philosophical Awareness on Mental Health*, which was a short clip that serves as a reminder to take a short pause and breathe. In an e-Kapihan entitled, *Detoxifying Our Lives: Mental Health, Wellness, and Stress Management for Ourselves*, mental health, wellness and stress management were the primary topics discussed by the speaker, Sir Rolando C. Delos Reyes of the UP Diliman Office of Counseling and Guidance. UP Manila had also spearheaded various psychosocial support initiatives through infographics (*Eight Tips for Talking about Mental Health, How to Cope with Natural Disasters and Psychosocial Care Hotline for PGH Frontliners*) and an online series (*Usapang Buhay, Buhay na Usapan 2020*). UPOU, on the other hand, launched Psychological Support Services for its faculty and staff and organized an online kamustahan called, *Okay ka pa Juan at Juana?* Webinars were utilized by UP Visayas and UP Mindanao in their provision of psychosocial support through webinars entitled, *Online Risk-taking Behaviors and Self-*

protection Strategies and *Webinar on Managing Anxiety*, respectively. Lastly, UP Cebu had undertaken various online kumustahan, several group guidance sessions, counseling, and debriefing.

Student Learning Assistance

In spirit of solidarity to UP students, faculty, and staff who were affected by the recent typhoons that hit the Philippines, the UP administration declared the week of November 16-21 as a period of recovery for the entire UP community. The said break was meant to aid in the efforts of the University to assist in the overall rehabilitation process. Following the launch of the Kaagapay project, the Student Learning Assistance System had opened its fourth round of applications for students who were in need of financial and gadget assistance for the upcoming school year. Aside from UP System's Kaagapay sa Pag-aaral, various student assistance initiatives had also sprung such as *UP Manila's Project PHASA Load*, *UPCNext: Free Mobile Loading Service* and *Tulong Kabataan: Get Load, Share Load* which were all load-sharing initiatives to aid students who were having trouble connecting to the internet. UP Visayas, on the other hand, shared good news as the UPV College of Arts and Sciences (CAS) was able to distribute three additional laptops with WiFi connectivity to three College of Arts and Science students through the *CAS#Kaagapay* local campaign, while the iAmUPHi Alumni Association donated its first 150 laptops to deserving UP High School Grade 8 and 9 students in order to address the need for a device as the students participate in the UPHSI remote learning program.

Other Initiatives

Following the aftermath of the recent typhoons that hit the country, UP Diliman Office of the Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs provided temporary shelter for UP Diliman students, faculty, and staff in affected areas who are in need of shelter. UPLB had prepared and distributed relief packs to stranded dormers inside the campus, as well as other affected communities in the area. Its Agapay Team also managed to go to Bicol to hand over donations to 1,350 households. UP Manila Pahinungod also went to Amulung, Cagayan to turn over the donations collected from various partners and donors. Staff of UPV College of Fisheries and Ocean Sciences, on the other hand, turned over their cash donation to the Office of the Chancellor for the typhoon survivors in Cagayan Valley and Catanduanes. The iAmUPHi also donated cash to the UPV Disaster Response Operation and was received by UPV Chancellor Camposano.

In support of the fight against COVID-19, the UP Alumni Association and the iAmUPHi donated 8.5-gallon alcohol, 60 pieces of 3M N95 mask, 80 pieces of KN95, 12 boxes disposable mask, gloves, and goggles to be used by the COVID-19 molecular laboratory at the Iloilo Provincial Hospital. Lastly, iAmUPHi's and UP Alumni Association – Iloilo Chapter's UP Fight Team turned over three desktops and a computer printer to West Visayas State University Medical Center.

Seeing the need to document UPOU students' volunteer work and activities during the pandemic, UPOU Ugnayan ng Pahinungod developed a survey form in order to track student volunteerism.

An Art Donation Project was promoted by the UP Mindanao Technology Transfer and Business Development Office. In this project, Assoc. Prof. Teody Boyle "Bong" Perez of Department of Humanities shared a report that twenty-five (25) pieces of prints of his original paintings and drawings amounting to seventy-five thousand pesos (Php 75,000.00) were donated to Malayan Colleges Mindanao (MCM). The said Art Donation Project was under the 2020 Competitive Grants Program of the National Commission for Culture and the Arts (NCCA).