



UP SYSTEM PUBLIC SERVICE REPORT



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UP Constituent Universities Continue Efforts in Addressing COVID-19 and related issues/concerns

Fighting the global pandemic has been a challenge for the Philippines, with more than one million COVID cases since the start of the pandemic in 2020. UP Constituent Universities (CUs) continuously fight COVID-19 by providing facilities (e.g., isolation facility, vaccination sites) that will help the country reach herd immunity in the shortest possible time. UP Diliman (UPD) converted the Kamia Residence Hall into an isolation facility, and the College of Human Kinetics Gym as a vaccination site. They called for volunteers who can assist in the vaccination and released guidelines for those who are scheduled to be vaccinated as part of their preparation for the vaccine roll out. Los Baños (UPLB) also converted its gym as a vaccination site in Los Baños, Laguna. The Philippine Genome Center (PGC) Visayas conducted a training with medical technologists and hospital chiefs on molecular techniques used for COVID-19 testing. This is the first hands-on training under the UP TRAINS 2 Program held at the newly inaugurated PGC Visayas Laboratories. UP Manila (UPM), on the other hand, called for volunteer doctors who could guide COVID-19 positive patients on what to do at home and when to go to the hospital.



*UPLB Copeland Gymnasium as a vaccination site in Los Baños, Laguna. Photo from the UPLB website
(<https://uplb.edu.ph/all-news/uplb-hosts-lb-covid-19-vaccination-venue/>)*

Aside from direct participation in testing, isolating patients, and vaccination, CUs continued their information campaigns about COVID-19. UP believes that keeping the public properly informed about the pandemic will keep them safe and healthy. UPM released daily reports on the number of COVID-19 cases in the Philippine General Hospital (PGH), while UPD provided updated reports on active cases on campus. Data maps that capture the COVID-19 situation in the country were likewise provided by the UP Resilience Institute. UPM published guidelines on home care for COVID-19 patients, and introduced telegabay – an online platform where the public can seek medical advice about COVID-19 from PGH doctors. UP Open University (UPOU) created informational videos about the health preparedness of nurses and the science behind COVID-19 variants, polymerase chain reaction, and pandemics.

UP System (UPS) conducted webinars about COVID-19 treatments, and emphasized the role of frontliners in addressing misinformation. The webinars also tackled how frontliners seek and continue to find meaning in serving patients despite adverse conditions and how to take care of family members with mild COVID-19. UPM held a webinar entitled “What to Do when COVID Hits Home: Solutions for the Current Surge”. UP Mindanao (UPMin), on the other hand, discussed COVID-19 sequencing, bioinformatics analysis, and testing, while UPLB examined SARS CoV-2 Anatomy, infection control and industry updates, in their respective webinars.

As COVID-19 vaccines become available in the Philippines, the need for the public to become informed about vaccine benefits increased. With this, UPS held a webinar about the implications and considerations of the vaccines for child care development. UP Cebu (UPC), as well as UP Visayas (UPV), provided support for vaccine literacy. UPV Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs Philip Ian Padilla, PhD served as speaker in the episode of Isyung Bakuna: Online Talakayan with DOH WV and PIA6 held last April 16, 2021 that talked about how vaccines are made. UP Baguio (UPB), on the other hand, released a video about the benefits of vaccines, and as part of the College of Science (CS) Week celebration, the unit organized a webinar entitled “Do benefits of vaccines really far outweigh the risks of COVID-19?”

The pandemic has affected the economy of different countries, including the Philippines. To address this, UP System held a webinar about the impact and challenges posed by the COVID-19 pandemic at different levels of governance and the prospects for policy and research on

governance in times of crisis, and its impact in the economy. UPLB for its part, organized a webinar on the sociological impacts of the pandemic on the Philippine Agricultural Sector, while UP Baguio held its own entitled “Science for Business Resilience in Time of Pandemic”. Other than webinars, UPMIn Associate Professor Karen Joyce G. Cayamanda and University Researcher Zython Paul T. Lachica conducted studies that are vital in addressing the challenges that the country is facing due to the pandemic. Their papers entitled “Transcending the Pandemic: Interoperability and Transactional Risk Communication for flood-vulnerable communities in Davao City, Southern Philippines” and “Projecting COVID-19 Dynamics in Northern Mindanao, Philippines During the Early Phase of the Outbreak: A Modeling Strategy Novel Pandemics Using Monitoring Data” won best paper presenter award in the 2nd International Conference for Governance and Development (ICGD2).

To address problems on food security as the pandemic continues, the different Constituent Universities developed and managed community pantries that were initiated by the members of the faculty, workers’ union, staff, and students. The beneficiaries of the community pantries were the staff of the CUs and the nearby communities.



*Sugbo Community Pantry by UP Cebu students. Photo from Yahoo! News
(<https://ph.news.yahoo.com/80-families-benefit-community-pantry-082400834.html>)*

Keeping the country's economy alive also implies ensuring that the public are physically and mentally healthy, the reason why UP's Constituent Universities made sure that mental health projects are prioritized. UP System conducted an orientation for all UP Mental Health Focal Persons. UPD, UPM, UPMIn, and UPLB held mental health webinars and institutionalized support systems for the UP community and the general public that are geared towards assisting them in coping well with the challenges of the pandemic. UPLB Prof. Katherine E. del Rosario discussed Psychosocial Support for Students in the time of the Pandemic in a webinar organized by the Department of Education (DepEd). There were also webinars about the basics of yoga and meditation for all UPLB College of Agriculture and Food Science students, faculty, and staff; and on "Developing positive study habits and staying mentally fit during the COVID-19 pandemic". The UPLB Graduate School had its first episode of GSTALKS on April 26, 2021. It was an online discussion that discussed coping and self-compassion.

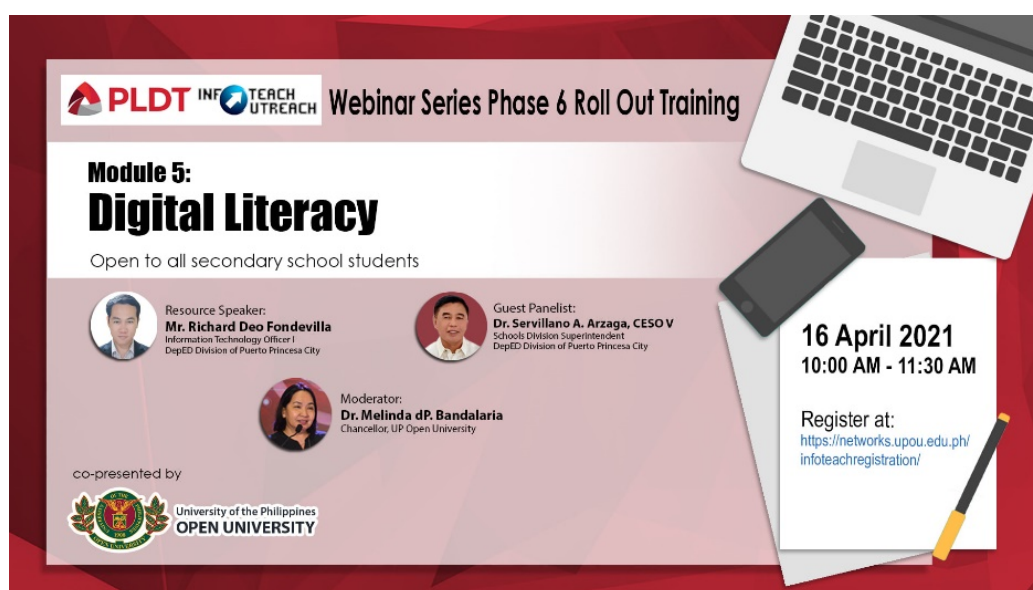
UP Diliman, on the other hand, conducted a webinar about coping with grief and loss during COVID-19 and held free online psychosocial peer support services. UPMIn has created a Mental Health Helpline open to all UPMIn students, and they also issued a call for Psychological First Aid Volunteers who will comprise the UP Mindanao Committee on Psychological Emergency Services (CoPES). Social relationships and mental health were also at the core of UP Manila, who organized webinars, through the OSA-Guidance and Counseling Program, entitled "Paano Ba Mag Mahal Ulit?" and "Rewriting the Rules: Project Happily Ever After".

Adapting to the new normal

More than a year into the pandemic, Filipinos are adopting to the new normal with necessary precautions. UP CUs are adapting a work-from-home (WFH) setup for their offices. In UP Diliman, the UP Health Service, Quezon Hall offices, and public spaces were temporarily closed. It also developed a system for tracking and reporting COVID exposure status of UP Diliman faculty, staff, and students. Similarly, UPLB developed a registry for students who tested positive for COVID-19. The CU also released guidelines for staff who tested positive for COVID-19.

Recognizing the challenges of online learning which has become vital in the new normal, CUs continued to provide consultations and information campaigns, and developed systems aimed to make online learning feasible for everyone. UPD and UPLB conducted webinars about

studying in the new normal and the best practices and strategies for remote learning for students. In addition, UPLB held a workshop about how parents can guide their children in online learning. UPOU organized a webinar on digital literacy targeted towards secondary school students. They also uploaded online resource materials and tips in their website and social media platforms on how students may cope with their studies and other common concerns, personal experience in transitioning from face-to-face to online learning, universal accessibility and quality on open and distance e-learning, best practices for video conferencing, and ways to structure an online discussion.



UPOU publicity material on Module 5: Digital Literacy held on April 16, 2021.

Photo from UPOU Facebook Page (<https://www.facebook.com/upoufics/photos/a.296693457023674/5947331428626487/>)

The UPM College of Public Health held a town hall meeting with their faculty, staff, REPS, students, and parents to discuss their way forward amid the ongoing pandemic situation. The UPM University Student Council (USC) offered a Get Load, Share Load project for students who need load to stay connected in their online classes. UPMin USC, on the other hand, created a survey to collate grievances, concerns, complaints, and suggestions regarding the previous and ongoing semester of A.Y. 2020-2021.

As research is an important component in learning, the University ensured that despite the challenges brought by the pandemic, support for student research continues. UPMin held a three-part workshop intended for students to fully engage and learn the art of making academic papers. UPOU initiated a webinar discussion of thesis proposals, dissertation writing and project outputs

with an emphasis on the importance of building research relationships with research advisers/mentors, co-investigators and peers. UPB held an online meeting, entitled *Shut Up and Write*, for faculty and students to accomplish the writing goal they set for themselves. The CU also organized an online dialogue about researching in the social sciences, in particular, one that highlights philosophical research and a research group discussion in Applied Dynamical Systems. There was also a webinar that featured UPB faculty and researchers who shared their experiences and best practices on teaching, research, and doing extension services. UP Manila ran a webinar about research integrity and plagiarism.

Online library and databases have become essential for e-learning that is being adopted by the faculty and students. With this, UPMIn held an orientation on the functions of OpenAthens and introduction of resources that are available in this database. In UPV, Chat Bisay was developed and launched. It is a library virtual chat service, that aims to assist all UPV constituents in navigating the UPV library during the pandemic. UPB provided access to the database of curated materials in Philosophy for interested UPB students.

Some public service projects related to online learning were also made available to the public. They include webinars on research writing in time of pandemic, strategies for remote learning, technological tools that can aid in online classes, reading while on remote learning, and other subject-specific topics. UPOU started its free online class for English and Math for Grade 10, 11, and 12 students. UPB held a webinar about Breakthroughs in Mathematics while UPLB provided support for teaching e-learning activities in Biochemistry and Molecular Biology classes at home. Lastly, UPV held an outreach that promoted reading among schoolchildren, in Sitio Baliguian, Brgy, Malangabang, Concepcion, Iloilo.



*Students from Baliguian Elementary School with a volunteer teacher. Photo from UPV website
(<https://www.upv.edu.ph/index.php/news/language-program-advocates-reading-amidst-pandemic?fbclid=IwAR1DQPQmxGTiQtVHVSGhdYvByVZBQjWjX8cPo5UbshSr09oXJQw-YdCtmA>)*

UPV has equipped its staff with the technical know-how on the use of the Learning Management System (LMS). The LMS will enable the staff to assist students and faculty in using the program. Like UPV, UPLB held an online training for their faculty, staff, and REPS about *Turnitin* as a platform for originality checking and plagiarism prevention. UPOU, in its third episode of OPEN Talk, talked about gamification as an innovative teaching tool.

Continuity of Public Service Beyond COVID-19

Despite the pandemic, UP remains true to its mandate of delivering various public service projects that fit the needs of the public. Projects related to gender, health, culture and environment, were conducted by the CUs for the month of April.

On gender, UPS held a webinar about Aeta women healers in the Philippines. Gender Sensitivity Training for UP Officials and a GenderGeoPindot Sensitivity Orientation for DLSU Administrators and Invited Participants, were held on April 7 and April 15 & 22, respectively. UPOU released infographics about important concepts in gender, protection from online sexual harassment, and a video that explains the concept of intersectionality. The UPOU #BeAware podcast series episode on April 6, tackled knowing sexual harassment in the cyberspace.



Publicity material of the webinar entitled Healing Power of Postcolonial Indigenous Women:

Lessons from Aeta Women Healers in the Philippines and Implications.

Photo from UP CWGS Facebook Page (<https://www.facebook.com/upcwgs/photos/a.259904820758501/3918946868187593/>)

On health, UPMIn will soon run a hospital inside its campus. The soon-to-rise hospital will be a tertiary or level 3 hospital, that will offer subspecialty surgery services, with OB-GYN, and internal medicine departments among others. UP Manila and UP Visayas continue to produce research as public service. Nurse Denver Chicano, a UPM alumnus, has developed a diabetic patient wound patch made from coconut; while Dr. Augusto E. Serrano, Jr. from UPV discovered that a common and affordable anti-diabetic drug may be useful in tilapia culture.

Raising awareness on non-covid health-related matters remains to be the focus of the April public service initiatives of UPS, UPM, UPLB, and UPB. UPS held a webinar about bioinformatics and genome sequence data. UPM also organized various webinars on this topic which includes, optimizing management of postpartum hemorrhage, measles and varicella; inflammatory back pain; pain and bleeding in endometriosis; managing residual risk from dyslipidemia; single pill combination in the management of hypertension in the elderly; management of head and neck cancers; single cell transcriptome profiling of acquired resistance in EGFR-mutant non-small cell lung cancer; understanding inflammation in recurrent pregnancy loss; impact of young onset diabetes on acute and chronic complications; awareness of hearing disability; and safe and long term management of constipation. As part of the UPM College of Nursing 73rd Foundation Anniversary, a forum on nursing scholars and a webinar on Re-envisioning Philippine Nursing

towards Responsive Health Systems were held. UPLB, on the other hand, held a webinar about administering basic first aid using household materials. Part of the 60th Foundation Anniversary Celebration of UPB, was a lecture on the effects of a physical education course on the health and wellness of female students. UPB students also created an audio-visual presentation guide to health and wellness.

UP Mindanao for its part, provided training on food safety for the personnel of Micro, Small, and Medium Enterprises. They also conducted a free online seminar that discussed the FDA business licensing requirements and relevant laws and standards for food. A UPV alumna developed calamansi-cacao rinds as materials for food packaging. While UPLB organized webinars about urban gardening pinakbet ingredients, nanofertilizers, and opportunities and issues in harnessing forest foods.

There were also webinars and information campaigns about the environment. UPOU's Climate Solutions in the Philippine Context, discussed how artists can help the climate crisis, how indigenous peoples adapt to climate change, and other information about forests and climate. UPV explored the role of non-government organization in ecosystem approach to fisheries management and the challenges confronting wildlife conservation and management in Eastern Visayas. UPLB, on the other hand, held webinars about Philippine roaches, worms, carnivorans, and tawilis. UPLB also held a webinar about Floristic diversity of Adams, Ilocos Norte ecotourist site, and webinars that tackle sustainable environment topics (e.g., opportunities in organic agriculture, Manila Bay rehabilitation plans, energy efficiency and conservation in the Philippines, applying GIS in environmental projects, and commercialization and soil amendments). UPLB also contributed to technology development with the use of artificial intelligence (AI) and machine learning, to help identify materials that can be used in food safety protocols and water quality monitoring. UPLB and UPB both held lecture series to celebrate the Global Astronomy Month.

UP Constituent Universities' continue to provide public service engagements with government agencies. UPV's Institute of Fish Processing Technology of the College of Fisheries and Ocean Sciences initiated a livelihood training for the Department of Public Works and Highways personnel. UPMin partnered with the Department of Trade and Industry of Region 11 and the Department of Information and Communications Technology in offering services and

assistance to local startups in the Davao Region. The DOST-University of the Philippines (UP) Mindanao-supported startup also developed a mobile phone application called GeoPindot, that allows people to seek emergency help or report a situation to a local government's emergency response unit.



*GeoPindot pilot testing and simulation exercise held in Municipality of Cantilan, Surigao del Sur.
Photo from UPMIn Facebook page (<https://www.facebook.com/UPMindanao/posts/5394417420630815>)*

Lastly, public service that is geared towards the promotion of national history and culture highlights this month's programs and initiatives. UPV Tacloban College celebrated the Literature Month with online episodes about history and culture. UPD Department of History launched a lecture series in commemoration of the 500th Anniversary of the Cebu Part in the First Circumnavigation of the World. There was also a virtual tour entitled "Kwentong Mulat: The Diliman Commune Virtual Pasyal" that showcased the UPD campus and a narrative of people's experiences during the 1971 nine-day protest in the campus. Students from the College of Fine Arts (CFA) "re-drew" history by recreating illustrations of pre-Hispanic Filipinos from The Boxer Codex. UPB, in partnership with York University, held the International Indigenous Student Knowledge Fair. This provided opportunities for dialogue and collaboration between indigenous students at York and their peers in the Philippines and other countries on several topics like history, language and culture, current issues that beset indigenous students and communities in Canada and around the world, among other things. UP Baguio also organized an interesting lecture about Establishing the Leisure Meaning of an Ibaloi Group from the Northern Philippines and a webinar on the

ethnographic mapping of the creative assets of Baguio City. Its current exhibition entitled: "Handwoven Tales: The Warp and Weft of Cordillera Textiles," and a Reading Series of Carlos P. Romulo stories were both launched this month. For UPLB, lectures about the Administration of Carlos P. Garcia and Rizal's praxis of decolonization were held. While UPOU Networks featured video learning resources on ASEAN Food Culture.