



UP SYSTEM PUBLIC SERVICE REPORT



MARCH 2021



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UP Padayon Public Service Office

Addressing the Impact of the COVID-19 Pandemic

As part of its initiative to curb the effects of the pandemic, the UP Diliman Health Service, in partnership with UP Philippine General Hospital (UP PGH) conducted an RT-PCR Swab Test at Silungang Molave from March 30 to April 2, 2021. Limited slots were allotted for UP Diliman clients with COVID-19 symptoms who had been assessed by the physician-on-duty at the UP Health Service and were referred for COVID-19 Testing. Aside from testing, there was also a call for donations for convalescent plasma from COVID-19 survivors, supplemented by infographics explaining how convalescent plasma could be of help to COVID-19 patients.



Photo 1: The first dose of Sinovac given to UP PGH Director Gerardo Legaspi

This initiative was headed by the Blood Donor Center of the UP PGH. Various psychosocial support programs were also undertaken by the different UP Constituent Universities. One of which was the Sandigan, Sandalan: Training and Advocacy Programs for Mental Health—a joint initiative by UP System and UP Manila which aimed to create a network of mental health advocates who are being trained to be mental health focal persons. UP Diliman also offered a free online psychosocial peer support service through Ugnayan ng Pahinungod. On a similar note, UP Los Baños, through

its Ugnayan ng Pahinungod also provided a short course on basic mental health and psychosocial support for its volunteers. UP Manila and Visayas, through webinars, highlighted the importance of coping with the pandemic and how people may ensure their wellbeing in the midst of a pandemic. Lastly, an art installation entitled, *Whispering Flowerbeds* was created by renowned sculptor and painter Toym Imao aimed to set as a reminder of the sacrifices of health workers and the many lives lost because of the government's poor handling of the pandemic.



Photo 2: Whispering Flowerbeds installed at PGH to honor fallen frontliners

Along with combatting the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic, the CUs also deemed it necessary to combat the different myths and misinformation that continued to surround the virus, the pandemic and recently, the COVID-19 vaccines. UP System, in one of the episodes of Stop COVID Deaths webinars, discussed how the local government units were taking steps to ensure the deployment of their respective vaccination programs. Still on vaccines, UP Manila held a seminar that tackled the different frequently asked questions about the vaccines, while UP Mindanao translated all the questions that were raised during the webinar entitled *To V or not to V*, into an infographic. UP experts have also been tapped to explain further the different sources of trepidation the general public may have regarding the vaccination process. These were done through initiatives such as Addressing the COVID-19 Infodemic: Straight from the Experts, and through media interviews that featured UP experts. UP Visayas Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs, Dr. Philip Ian Padilla talked about how vaccines go through stringent process before

approval; Dr. Shelley Ann dela Vega, Director, Institute of Aging of the National Institutes of Health, UP Manila on the senior citizens being the best candidates for COVID-19 vaccination; and Molecular epidemiologist Dr. Edsel Maurice Salvana on the vaccine effect for the Philippines.

Delivering Service to the Public through Engagement with Various Sectors of the Society



Photo 3: Senior citizens best candidates for COVID-19 Vaccination: expert

Following the University's attempt at adjusting to the new normal and its continuous endeavor of addressing the needs of both faculty and students, CUs have undertaken various public service initiatives that aimed to guide this sector. With a focus on the mental health and well-being of faculty in the middle of the pandemic, UP Manila held a webinar that gave an opportunity for the UPCM Faculty Association to present the pressing issues faced by faculty members. UP Diliman's Office of Field Activities, on the other hand, released a video series called OFA and AFAs: What You Need to Know, which aimed to guide the faculty, staff, and students in preparing documents that would ensure the safe and relevant implementation of academic field activities (AFAs) throughout the academic year. On a similar note, the University Library Diliman held a webinar series that presented the different resources accessible to the entire UP System. In an attempt to address student concerns and raise awareness regarding the different available support services for students, the UP Diliman Office of the Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs (OVCSA) organized a series of student dialogues while UP Los Baños Learning Resource Center conducted a webinar series on how to take online learning to the next level. A webinar series on research methods was also undertaken by the said CU which focused on conducting social

research during the pandemic and on grounded theory. Zeroing on the topic of inclusivity, the UP Diliman Office of Student Projects and Activities held a webinar which hoped to emphasize the primary mandate of the office as the central planning and coordinating body for activities that promote the students' academic and leadership development, as well as their social well-being in the University. Experts in teaching biochemistry and molecular biology in the age of remote learning and virtual classroom were featured in UP Los Baños' webinar entitled TEACH BMB: Teaching E-Learning Activities for Class at Home for Biochemistry and Molecular Biology.

Beyond its own communities, UP's Constituent Universities have also conducted other public service initiatives that addressed the needs of those in the sector of the arts, culture and heritage. The UP Diliman Archeology Studies Program undertook a series of brown bag discussions, entitled "Binalot Talks" which included topics like motifs in Philippine burial sites, stories of domestic violence and the Homonhon Island experience. The UP College of Arts and Letters, on the other hand, conducted an online research forum entitled, Crisis and the Arts in the Philippines and Thailand which centered on how the humanities and the arts, fight, respond and adapt to social anxieties at the height of a global health crisis. UP Visayas Tacloban College also held the Kaagi, Kabilin, Kultura (History, Heritage, Culture) Conversation Series which explored an array of themes in various academic disciplines.

Public Service also reached neighboring local communities and other government institutions. UPLB College of Development Communication released new segment episodes of Dito sa Laguna DZLB which featured the resilience, creativity, resourcefulness, and passion of local communities amidst the pandemic. In these new episodes, several collaborations were highlighted, such as the establishment of a community garden in Cabuyao, Laguna; and the online training course called Communicating Research Results that aimed to introduce principles and practical techniques on how the Department of Agriculture could better communicate agriculture research results. The indigenous people and communities were likewise promoted in UP Visayas' WebTalk: "Celebrating Indigenous People and Communities. The CU also highlighted the LGBT community in the webinar entitled, Walang Ganon, Mars! Myths and Misconceptions about LGBT People, that examined the misconceptions about the nature of sexual orientation, gender identity, and gender expression (SOGIE); the least represented members of the LGBT community; LGBT identities, relationships, and families; and the LGBT advocacy for equal rights and well-being. The

business sector became the primary audience of UP Visayas' research forum (CM RESEARCH FORUM: Leading the way in managing community resilience and business development). While UPOU undertook a pilot testing of a new massive open online course for people who would like to enter the (BPO) industry and wish to top it. This initiative recognized the strong presence of business process outsourcing (BPO) in the country, and the need to develop an online introductory course on contact-center services. The online training program was pilot tested among rural women groups to help them develop digital literacy skills as well as improve their communication skills.

Women's Month Related Initiatives

In celebration of the National Women's Month, CUs have participated in Philippine Commission on Women's (PCW) campaign with the theme "Juana Laban sa Pandemya: Kaya!". Various information dissemination campaigns on women and gender issues were likewise launched. Kasarian UP Baguio released a Gender Sensitivity infographic and organized a Gender Sensitivity and Anti-Sexual Harassment orientation for its employees and students. UP Tacloban also held a similar orientation with the goal to curb sexism and misogyny in the campus. UP Diliman's webinar entitled, Tinapay at Rosas, touched on the issue of women burdened by contractualization of work during the pandemic.



TINAPAY AT ROSAS
Sitwasyon ng kababaihang kontraktwal sa panahon ng pandemya

*"What the woman who labors wants is the right to live, not simply exist — the right to life as the rich woman has the right to life, and the sun and music and art. You have nothing that the humblest worker has not a right to have also. The worker must have bread, but she must have roses, too."
 -Rose Schneiderman (woman, labor union leader)*

Resource Speakers:




Nita "Ka Nitz" Gonzaga
 Kilusang Mayo Uno



Cham Perez
 Center for Women's Resources

MARCH 26, 2021 | FRIDAY 2-5P via ZOOM




CSPPS-CPAf Policy Webinar Series

"Lilipas din 'to..."
PANDEMIC NARRATIVES OF WOMEN
Salaysay ng mga Kababaihan sa Panahon ng Pandemya

18 MARCH 2021 | 2:00 PM - 3:30 PM

Resource Person:



FORESTER MARLEA P. MUÑOZ
 Independent Consultant; Founding President of Women's Initiatives for Society, Culture, and Environment (WISE)

Registration:
 For Zoom Users: <https://tinyurl.com/CSPPSWebinar3>
 For participants who would watch via Facebook Live: <https://tinyurl.com/CSPPSWebinar3Women>

Registration is free. Certificates will be given to participants after answering the evaluation form, the link to which will be sent via email towards the end of the program.

For queries or clarifications, please email us at cpaf@cpps.uplb.edu.ph



UPLB GENDER CENTER
 in celebration of the International Women's Day presents

Women in Leadership:
Achieving An Equal Future in A COVID-19 World
Joining Live!

08 March 10am-12pm

@UPLBGenderCenter

WE MAKE CHANGE WORK FOR WOMEN

On another note, the economy of survival was the main topic of UP Manila's webinar entitled, Women and the Economy of Survival. In its webinar called Lilipas din 'to... Pandemic Narratives of Women (Salaysay ng mga Kababaihan sa Panahon ng Pandemya), UP Los Baños took a closer look on the pandemic narratives of women. Engaging men in the fight towards women empowerment and men as allies, in the achievement of gender equality, was discussed in UP Visayas' webinar entitled Kwentuhan Ng Makabagong Lalaki. The CU also dealt with women's reproductive health in two of their online initiatives—WebTalk on Responsible Parenthood and Family Planning and Zoomversation on Women's Reproductive Health.

Other than webinars, a research forum on Gender and Development by UPOU also proved to be a viable avenue for giving women and gender rights advocates a platform to discuss and learn from like-minded individuals. The participants of the forum presented various research ranging from pre-natal self-care, understanding maternal-fetal attachment, promoting breastfeeding, lesbian resiliency against discrimination, to intersecting injustices of violence against women and girls. A forum (UP Mindanao Women/Gender Studies: Perspectives, Policies, Provisions) was also organized with the aim of highlighting the diverse research undertakings of UP Mindanao from three of its degree-granting units. The Constituent Universities also recognized the exemplary contribution of women during the time of COVID-19 pandemic. UP Manila organized the Gawad Dakilang Babae 2021 while UP Diliman organized the Gawad Kasarian 2021. Focusing on women startup founders, UP Mindanao featured the exceptional stories of women entrepreneurs in the Davao Region in the webinar called, Webinar: #GirlBoss Breaking Barriers: A Storytelling of Women Startup Founders. Looking back at women's most distinguished contributions in the history of human thought, UP Baguio held a webinar entitled, Dialogues: Women in Philosophy, Philosophy by Women.

Other Initiatives

UP Diliman Office of the Vice Chancellor for Community Affairs released the Paralegal Quick Reaction Tips which aimed to inform the general public of the different rights and what one ought to do in the event of unlawful arrest.

