

# **4th Colleges and Universities Public Service Conference**



**Public Service in Time of COVID: The Role of  
Academic-Community Partnership  
in Addressing the Challenges of a Global Pandemic**

# 4th Colleges and Universities Public Service Conference

Public Service in Time of COVID: The Role of Academic-Community Partnership  
in Addressing the Challenges of a Global Pandemic



Organized by Padayon Public Service Office  
Office of the Vice President for Public Affairs  
University of the Philippines System

# ABOUT THE COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES PUBLIC SERVICE CONFERENCE

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Taking off from the University's mandate to lead as a public service university, the Colleges and Universities Public Service Conference (CUPSCon) was conceptualized and borne in 2015. CUPSCon created a platform for State Universities and Colleges (SUCs) and Higher Education Institutions (HEIs) to share best practices and challenges in the delivery of public service, and tackle future direction of delivering public service by the HEIs. It also enabled institutions to establish engagements and partnerships to work together towards addressing pressing needs of communities and for nation-building.

The first CUPSCon was held in two parts, in UP Cebu and UP Open University in Los Baños, Laguna. It featured a total of 111 paper presentations carrying the theme, ***"From the Ivory Tower to the Communities: Engaging Society with Commitment and Expertise."*** The keynote speeches during the inaugural CUPSCon focused on the theme, ***"Public Service in Higher Education: Why Does it Matter?"***

CUPSCon 2 was held in 2017 in UP Bonifacio Global City and again, in UP Cebu. With the theme, ***"Compassion and Social Responsibility: Cornerstones of Public Service and Extension in Higher Education,"*** the conference highlighted 130 public service initiatives and projects from across the different regions of the country.

The third CUPSCon in 2019, with the theme, ***"Public service through academe-community partnership: Addressing challenges on health, environment, gender, culture & education, and other key issues,"*** was held in UP Visayas, Iloilo Campus. More than a hundred paper submissions were received, and around 300 participants representing the academe, the government and the civil societies from the different regions of the country participated in the Conference. The innovation to the third installment of the Conference was the opportunity given to NGOs, NGAs/LGUs, and civic society organizations to participate in the public service conference that encouraged more collaboration to address public service needs and concerns. It was an opportunity for academics, practitioners, government institutions, non-government institutions/non-profit organizations and civil society organizations involved in the different study, management, development, and implementation of public service, to come together and exchange ideas and valuable experiences.

In its fourth installment, continuing its tradition of excellence, the Conference recognizes the public service initiatives of the pandemic. CUPSCon4 highlights the significant role that partnerships between the academe and other institutions have played in the fight against COVID-19 and in empowering and building resilience amidst the global pandemic. It aims to expand its purview by showcasing the diversity of engagements that the academe undertakes with various sectors such as the government, civil society, communities, and industries in its delivery of public service. The theme for this year's CUPSCon is, ***"Public Service in Time of COVID: The Role of Academic-Community Partnership in Addressing the Challenges of a Global Pandemic"***.

Padayon CUPSCon !

## MESSAGE FROM THE VICE PRESIDENT

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### **Elena E. Pernia, PhD**

**Vice President for Public Affairs**

In the past 18 months since the start of the pandemic and the consequent community quarantine levels, we - the Filipino public - have gone through various emotions of fear, anger, loss, compassion, and hope.

Our fear and anxieties have taught us to be vigilant about health protocols, so we wear a mask (or double up), wash our hands frequently, keep safe physical distancing, and even keep windows open in enclosed spaces. Our anger against the poor pandemic response has resulted in health care becoming a top agenda for the 2022 elections. The feelings of loss are many and range from the death of a loved one, the loss of a job, closures of businesses, schools, churches, playgrounds, and not being able to socialize, to attend gatherings, or even stepping out of the house.

# MESSAGE FROM THE VICE PRESIDENT

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Despite these negative feelings, our struggles with COVID-19 awakened our innate ability to empathize and to become compassionate. Bayanihan is a beautiful Filipino term and an even more meaningful response at this time of pandemic. Bayanihan, that Filipino spirit that encapsulates solidarity, cooperation, partnership and compassion, became manifest as various sectors came together in spontaneous magnanimity to volunteer their services and to provide funds, consumable goods, various health equipment and supplies, innovative solutions, and even quarantine facilities and testing centers. It is no wonder that hope and optimism for the pandemic's end are increasing.

This year's CUPSCON celebrates bayanihan by highlighting the experiences of COVID-19 public service projects that took a whole-of-society approach. We hope you find this book of abstracts informative about COVID-19 undertakings that successfully built the resilience and empowerment of individuals and communities. Importantly, may you find this book instructional about how to strengthen synergistic public-private partnerships.

Keep well. Stay safe. Padayon!

## MESSAGE FROM THE DIRECTOR

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### **Jeanette L. Yasol-Naval, PhD**

**Director, UP Padayon Public Service Office**

The inception of the first Colleges and Universities Public Service Conference (CUPSCon) in 2015 started a groundbreaking tradition of holding a public service conference that highlights the significance of doing public service. State Universities and Colleges, and other Higher Educational Institutions were convened so that best practices in the delivery of public service and opportunities for engagements may be shared. It also took off to tackle the challenges and the future direction of public service in higher education. What started as a humble undertaking which facilitated the coming together of public service practitioners and institutions working to address the society's changing needs, CUPSCon now prides itself in having been conferred the Silver Anvil Award in the 56th Anvil Awards of the Public Relations Society of the Philippines.



# MESSAGE FROM THE DIRECTOR

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Continuing its tradition of excellence on its fourth installment with the theme, Public Service in Time of COVID: The Role of Academic-Community Partnership in Addressing the Challenges of a Global Pandemic, CUPSCon 4 seeks to present excellent, invaluable, and magnanimous public service initiatives that were undertaken to deal with the impact of the pandemic. Public service has never been more necessary than in the last 20 months of this global health crisis, and our HEIs have proven their integral role in its delivery. This conference brings forth a total of 104 papers that present Direct Pandemic Response Initiatives, Mental Health, Disaster Risk Response Management and Other Technical Assistance, Education and Innovations that help capacitate special sectors, Alternative Approaches in Teaching and Learning, and public service projects that are oriented towards Adapting to the New Normal. These papers represent a diversity of projects and initiatives implemented across all the different regions of the country including those that were undertaken by a network of Alumni in Finland, Australia and the United States. They will all be featured in the 24 panel sessions of the conference.

This pandemic has affected everyone including public service practitioners. But those who are called to serve, big or small, through their expertise and research, provision of volunteer service, technical assistance, local government support or by institutionalizing community programs, have extended their hands and selfless compassion for others. CUPSCon 4 is privileged to have some of these pillars who have been instrumental in addressing the challenges of the pandemic. Dr. Gerardo Legaspi, who is the Director of UP PGH, the institution which is at the forefront of delivering the country's pandemic response, will give the Keynote Speech. Three Plenary speakers will also grace the conference. Dr. Raul Destura who developed the GenAmplify COVID-19 rRT-PCR Detection Kit during the early phase of the pandemic; Ms. Patricia Non who introduced and inspired the building of community pantries; and Mayor Marcelino Teodoro who was staunch in his covid management policies in his own Local Government Unit.

Once again, the UP Padayon Public Service Office of the Office of the Vice President for Public Affairs is pleased to convene the 4th Colleges and Universities Public Service Conference ( CUPSCon 4) as a vital part of UP's mandate to lead as a public service university while keeping its tradition of honor and excellence. It was very challenging for the team to work and stage the conference on a totally different platform, but we seized Zoom and the Open Broadcaster System (OBS)! May this two-day virtual conference serve to inspire the continuous conduct of relevant public service for our communities, people, and the nation as we continue to remain steadfast in our yearning to serve. Padayon!

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# 4TH COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES PUBLIC SERVICE CONFERENCE

## PROGRAM

**DAY ONE - OCTOBER 21, 2021**

### REGISTRATION

8:00 AM

### NATIONAL ANTHEM

9:00 AM

### WELCOME REMARKS

Elena E. Pernia, PhD  
Vice President for Public Affairs

9:05 AM

### INTRODUCTION OF THE KEYNOTE SPEAKER

Jeanette L. Yasol-Naval, PhD  
Director, Padayon Public Service

9:15 AM

### KEYNOTE SPEECH

Dr. Gerardo P. Legaspi, MD  
Director, UP Philippine General Hospital

9:20 AM

### CONFERENCE ORIENTATION

Jeanette L. Yasol-Naval, PhD  
Director, Padayon Public Service

9:50 AM

### BREAK

10:05 AM

### PARALLEL SESSION 1

10:20 AM

### LUNCH

12:00 PM

### PLENARY SPEECH

Ms. Ana Patricia Non  
Founder, Maginhawa Community Pantry

1:00 PM

### OPEN FORUM

1:30 PM

### BREAK

1:45 PM

### PARALLEL SESSION 2

2:00 PM

### BREAK

3:40 PM

### PARALLEL SESSION 3

3:50 PM

### END OF DAY ONE

5:30 PM



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# 4TH COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES PUBLIC SERVICE CONFERENCE



## PROGRAM

**DAY TWO - OCTOBER 22, 2021**

### PLENARY SPEECH

Dr. Raul V. Destura  
Deputy Executive Director, Philippine Genome Center (PGC)

**8:00 AM**

### OPEN FORUM

**8:30 AM**

### BREAK

**8:45 AM**

### PARALLEL SESSION 4

**9:00 AM**

### BREAK

**10:40 AM**

### PARALLEL SESSION 5

**10:50 AM**

### LUNCH

**12:30 PM**

### PARALLEL SESSION 6

**1:30 PM**

### BREAK

**3:10 PM**

### PLENARY SPEECH

Marcelino "Marcy" R. Teodoro  
Mayor, City of Marikina

**3:20 PM**

### OPEN FORUM

**3:50 PM**

### CLOSING

**4:05 PM**

### END OF CONFERENCE

**4:20 PM**

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## PARALLEL SESSION 1: EDUCATION AND INNOVATIONS FOR SPECIAL SECTORS

OCTOBER 21 (10:20 AM - 12:00 PM)

PANEL A

PANEL B

PANEL C

PANEL D



## PARALLEL SESSION 2:

INFORMATION AND LEARNING SYSTEMS DEVELOPMENT AND THE ROLE OF MEDIA

OCTOBER 21 (2:00 PM - 3:40 PM)

PANEL A

PANEL B

PANEL C

PANEL D



**PARALLEL SESSION 3:  
MENTAL HEALTH, DISASTER RISK RESPONSE MANAGEMENT,  
AND OTHER TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE**

**OCTOBER 21 (3:50 PM - 5:30 PM)**

**PANEL A**

**PANEL B**

**PANEL C**

**PANEL D**



## PARALLEL SESSION 4: DIRECT PANDEMIC RESPONSE INITIATIVES

OCTOBER 22 (9:00 AM - 10:40 AM)

PANEL A

PANEL B

PANEL C

PANEL D





## PARALLEL SESSION 5: ALTERNATIVE APPROACHES IN TEACHING AND LEARNING

OCTOBER 22 (10:50 AM - 12:30 PM)

PANEL A

PANEL B

PANEL C

PANEL D



## PARALLEL SESSION 6: ADAPTING TO THE NEW NORMAL

OCTOBER 22 (1:30 PM - 3:10 PM)

PANEL A

PANEL B

PANEL C

PANEL D



# **Keynote and Plenary Speakers**



## **Gerardo D. Legaspi, MD, FAFN**

**Executive Director**

**UP Philippine General Hospital**

Dr. Gerardo D. Legaspi is a neurosurgeon and is currently the Executive Director of the UP Philippine General Hospital and the Chief of the Division of Neurosurgery of the Department of Neurosciences.

Prior to becoming one of the lead neurosurgeons in the country, he earned his Bachelor of Science degree in Biology from the University of the Philippines and graduated cum laude. He then pursued his medical education in University of the Philippines College of Medicine and was recognized as an Outstanding Graduate in Clinical Clerkship. He earned his neurosurgery training from the same university. Wishing to further hone his expertise in the field of Neurovascular Diseases, he pursued an International Masters Degree from the Paris SUD – Mahidol University.

With 25 years of active practice and teaching in Neurosurgery, he has produced several research publications that have greatly contributed to the growing pool of medical research in the country. His most recent publication entitled, “Service and Training during the COVID-19 Pandemic: Perspectives from a Neurosurgical Center in the Philippines” was published in World Neurosurgery Journal in 2020. He is recognized for his expertise in Skull Base Surgery, Keyhole and Endoscopic Surgery, and in addressing cases of Aneurysm, Vestibular Schwannoma, Pituitary Adenoma. Dr. Legaspi was a Visiting Scholar and Grand Rounds Guest Lecturer at the Department of Neurological Surgery at Barrow Neurological Institute in Phoenix, Arizona; a Visiting Professor Lecturer at the, Department of Neurological Surgery, University of California and Buffalo General Hospital, New York; and the first Filipino surgeon to have been invited to lecture at Harvard Medical Systems/Brigham Women’s Hospital, Boston.

Under his leadership, UP-PGH was designated as the COVID-19 referral hospital for NCR. In collaboration with the different units of UP Manila and the UP System, the UP-PGH Bayanihan Na! Operations Center was launched. Innovations such as the Tele-Kumusta, Online Consultation Request and Appointment (OCRA) System, and Daily COVID-19 updates were introduced in UP-PGH. In 2020, he was awarded the UP Medical Alumni Outstanding Alumni for Public Service as well as the People of the Year Award by People Asia Magazine.



# **Ms. Ana Patricia Non**

**Founder**

**Maginhawa Community Pantry**

Ana Patricia Non, also known as "Patreng", was the first woman to lead the founding of Community Pantry in the Philippines. The first community pantry in the country was assembled in Maginhawa, Quezon City. It first distributed foods such as vegetables, noodles, sardines, and some essential foods on Wednesday, April 14, 2021. Ana Patricia Non attended the Paco Catholic School during her high school days. She is also a member of the UP Artists' Circle Sorority, UP Mountaineers and took a Visual Communications course at the University of the Philippines - College of Fine Arts. Even when she was still in college, conducting free art workshops in the villages became part of her projects. She also had programs for farmers, factory workers, political prisoners and indigenous Lumads.



## **Dr. Raul V. Destura**

**Deputy Executive Director**

**Philippine Genome Center (PGC)**

Dr. Raul V. Destura is a microbiologist and infectious disease specialist.

Dr. Destura took his bachelor's degree in Microbiology at the University of Sto. Tomas. He took his medical degree and specialty in internal medicine at the De la Salle University College of Medicine. After which, he went to the University of the Philippines-Philippine General Hospital for his subspecialty training in Infectious Diseases. Subsequently, he received a research scholarship grant to the International Training and Fellowship on Emerging Infectious Diseases at the Center for Global Health, University of Virginia School of Medicine where he work as research fellow and collaborator in the Mid-Atlantic Regional Center for Excellence in Biodefense Research primarily on low-dose enteric pathogens.

He has a diplomate certificate in both Internal Medicine and Infectious Diseases. He has written and presented several scientific papers and review articles both local and international in the field of immunonutrition, diarrhea and intestinal health as well as in the field of molecular infectious diseases. He was awarded several research travel grants for international presentations such as Bill and Melinda Gates Travel Scholarship for Molecular Helminthology and Infectious Disease Society of America Travel Grant for Excellence in Research. Locally, he was the special citation recipient in the field of Infectious Diseases for the NAST-DuPont Talent Search for Young Scientist of the Philippines for 2006.

His exemplary work in improving healthcare delivery by introducing innovative ideas on rapid infectious diseases detection systems resulting in speedy diagnosis of diseases and timely life-saving intervention for those seriously ill individuals seen at the Medical City gave him the recognition as TMC Model Physician-Innovator for 2007. In 2008, he was hailed as the Outstanding Young Scientist of the Philippines from the prestigious National Academy of Science and Technology.

As a clinician and a scientist he continuously tries to narrow down the gap between Basic Science, Medical Science, Biotechnology and community service by combining all disciplines to reach a focused goal. His "research bench" to "community" approach is manifested by building a small army against diarrhea and malnutrition (Study Group on Enteric Diseases), to creating and improving a home and research machinery (Enteric Diseases Research Core Facility), to discovering and creating armamentarium ( diagnostic tests development, discovering drug combinations [Arginine and zinc], chicken antibodies) and forging alliance with key stakeholders (multi-sectoral collaborative work: Physicians for Peace, University of Virginia, NIH-UPM and Bahay Bata 127 of Payatas) all geared towards finding sustainable solutions diseases of poverty: diarrhea and malnutrition.

Currently, he is the Executive Deputy Director of the Philippine Genome Center (PGC), the Deputy Director for Strategic Initiatives and Emerging Programs of the National Institutes of Health and the Director of the National Training Center for Biosafety and Biosecurity under the National Institutes of Health.



## **Marcelino "Marcy" R. Teodoro**

**Mayor**

**City of Marikina**

Marcelino “ Marcy” Teodoro is the incumbent Mayor of Marikina City. He previously served as a member of the House of Representatives, representing the 1st District of Marikina City from 2007 until 2016. In Congress,, he initiated and pushed for the passage of several education bills such as the Kindergarten Act (RA 10157), Ladderized Education Act (RA 10647), the Unified Student Financial Assistance System for Tertiary Education Act (RA 10687), the UP Charter Act (RA 9500), and the Philippine Normal University Modernization Act (RA 9647). During his stint as a legislator, he served as the Chairman for Legislative Franchises in the House of Representatives, as well as Vice-Chairman for both Government Enterprises, and Privatization and Higher and Technical Education.

As the incumbent local chief executive, he instituted programs and projects such as the Marikina Online Registration for COVID-19 vaccination, the Libreng Pag-aaral sa Pag Dodoktor para sa mga Marikeño program and the establishment of the Marikina Molecular Diagnostics Laboratory and hotel-class quarantine at treatment facilities.

Mayor Marcy hails from a long line of public schools teachers which instilled his love for education. He graduated cum laude with a degree of Bachelor of Arts in Philosophy at the University of the Philippines where he also taught logic and social philosophy in the 90's. He pursued further studies at the Ateneo de Manila University under the M.A. in Teaching Philosophy program.





# PARALLEL SESSION 1A

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## **The Spirit of Bayanihan in Public Service: Programs Supporting Healthcare Workers and Frontliners**

This panel highlights the different initiatives undertaken to provide technical and capacity-building support for healthcare workers and frontliners.

## **Rapid Prototyping Response of a Digital Fabrication Laboratory for Frontline and Essential Workers during the Onset of the COVID-19 Pandemic**

Dexter Ken Lopera\*, John Carl Marlo Andrade, Arvin John Lucas,

Kenno Michael Uy, and Lemuel Clark Velasco

FAB LAB Mindanao-Center of Innovation and Invention

Mindanao State University-Iligan Institute of Technology

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On March 2020, during the release of national policies and guidelines by the Inter-Agency Task Force for the Management of Emerging Infectious Diseases, the supply chain and manufacturing capability of the Philippines of personal protective equipment (PPE) as well as other medical instruments related to the health care management of patients with the novel coronavirus was affected. With this public health challenge, FAB LAB Mindanao of the Mindanao State University-Iligan Institute of Technology (MSU-IIT), like most digital fabrication laboratories in the Philippines, has leveraged available Industry 4.0 technologies in the rapid prototype development of PPEs and medical instruments. With the assistance of doctors and members from the Philippine Society of Otorhinolaryngology-Head and Neck Surgery, design thinking sessions were conducted to understand the pain points of the unprecedented situation along with an analysis of the capabilities and limitations of what a digital fabrication laboratory can accomplish. Out of these series of design thinking and digital modelling sessions attended by medical and fabrication personnel, priority projects were drawn out for immediate rapid prototyping, small production and distribution to target frontline and essential workers. From March to July 2020, during the time when face shield production was still scarce, FAB LAB Mindanao with its 3D printers and laser cutters was able to produce and distribute 3,867 face shields to medical front liners and essential workers for splash protection. Additionally, aerosol boxes along with 3D printed laryngoscope blades were also modified to fit the context of local intubation procedures and produced based on open-source designs to be easily integrated among USB on-the-go mobile cameras compatible for smartphones. With the institutionalized financial support from the MSU-IIT administration along with additional support in finances, materials and logistics from the private sector, this initiative of a multisector collaborative and agile response to a public health crisis presents an unwonted significant endeavor in public affairs.

## **WHO and UP-CPH Support to the Department of Health-Epidemiology Bureau for the Philippine COVID-19 Response**

**Angelica Anne Eligado Latorre, MPH, MSPH (Biostatistics, cand)**

**and Vicente Y. Belizario, Jr., MD, MTM&H**

College of Public Health, University of the Philippines-Manila

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The University of the Philippines-College of Public Health (UP-CPH), in partnership with the World Health Organization-Philippine Country Office, provided technical support to the Department of Health-Epidemiology Bureau (DOH-EB) in its COVID-19 response. The objectives of the project were the following: 1) Identify common exposure based on interviews or reports from cases; 2) Support the active identification and quick isolation of close contacts of COVID-19 cases; 3) Provide guidance on the follow up of PUMs and development of concrete mechanism of managing those who may develop symptoms; and 4) Support other activities such as data entry for PUM and PUIs and others.

The project team was organized into three streams namely Data Analytics Team (DAT), Hospital Coordination Team (HCT), and Regional/City Epidemiologic Surveillance Unit Support Team (R/CESUST). The DAT provided the DOH-EB, WHO Country Office, and local health offices with evidence for action planning through demographic profiling of cases, temporal and spatial data analysis, and identification of hotspots and epidemiological linkages. Meanwhile, the HCT and R/CESUST provided technical and logistical support in case profiling, contact tracing, and hospital and laboratory coordination activities of the bureau and local epidemiological and surveillance units by training volunteers on various skills such as communicating with cases and contacts, information system navigation, and engagement of hospitals and subnational laboratories.

In a span of three months, UP-CPH was able engage 177 hospitals nationwide and 19 sub-national laboratories in using the COVID-19 Information System, streamline the submission of specimen and encoding of Case Investigation Forms, train the City Health Office of Navotas on data analysis and interpretation, helped reorganize the process of tracking cases and contacts, and developed protocols and training materials in line with existing guidelines from the WHO, DOH, and professional societies. This brief but challenging endeavor highlighted the role of academic partners in strengthening the COVID-19 response through continuous capacity building of the local stakeholders based on both the observed best practices and the ever-evolving context of the pandemic.

## **SLSU Unified, Proactive and Progressive Response Extension Support Services (SUPPRESS) COVID-19 Initiatives**

**Juanita M. Costillas**

Southern Leyte State University

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SUPPRESS COVID-19 is a university-wide (six campuses) initiative in partnership with barangay/municipal/provincial local government units of Southern Leyte. This aims to address immediate and other needs of Southern Leyteños brought by the pandemic. It specifically intends to develop, produce and deploy SUPPRESS COVID-19 Systems/Innovations, provide and implement enhanced institutional and community preventive measures against COVID-19, produce and distribute SUPPRESS COVID-19 PPEs and IEC Materials and other Info Cast System, produce and distribute SUPPRESS COVID-19 Emergency Foods, establish Bayan-Anihan: Aksyon Kontra Gutom and provide assistance and psycho-social counselling to seriously affected students.

Community needs were identified in coordination with the provincial and municipal DRRMO and IATF. Needs that can be provided by SLSU experts and manpower were carried through its Research and Innovations, External Linkages and Extension and Community Services (ECS) and Finance offices across the six campuses. Production and distribution was challenging due to restrictions but were successfully done in close coordination with IATF. Ten product innovations were deployed namely (1) Automated Contact Tracing System (ACTS)—a product being used province-wide, (2) Touchless Mechanical Liquid Soap Dispenser, (3) Touchless Mechanical Faucet, (4) Automatic Touch-Free Hand Sanitizer Dispenser, (5) Pattern Analysis of PUM and PUI in Southern Leyte, (6) Ultrasonic Sensored Vehicle Disinfection Gate, Monitoring Systems, (7) Ready to Eat Food Packs, (8) Washable Facemasks and Faceshields and (10) Liquid Handsoap, Disinfectant, Footbath and others.

Foods and Food Sustainability Initiatives with the Aksyon Kontra Gutom has secured the families of farmers who attended training related to agriculture and aquaculture. Mental Health programs for students, government and non-government employees were provided by concerned offices. The establishment of 19 SLSU-LGU Links (tripartite partnership with PLGU-MLGU-SLSU) provides services to students with no gadgets/connectivity to address their academic needs and to farmers and fisherfolks who would like to avail ECS has created vital support to continue public service despite the disruptions. Indeed, partnerships for public service during disruptions is inevitable.

## Halika't Mag e-RAL Tayo: A Web Class for Nursing Personnel

Bajador Jerico H.; Cheong Julius G.

National Center for Mental Health

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The project e-RAL (pronounced as ee-ral) is an innovative platform of the National Center for Mental Health- Education Training and Research (NCMH-NETR) in educating its nursing personnel- a style of tele-education using video recording [(which are posted in social media (Youtube and Facebook)], and live webinar (via Zoom) to disseminate health-related topics during this pandemic. Several topics were discussed, such as psychiatric nursing, critical care nursing, infection prevention and control, transcultural nursing, epidemiology and research. The speakers were comprised of nurses, doctors (psychiatrists and medical specialists from other fields), a health education and promotion officer (HEPO), a public health officer, an epidemiologist, and an anthropologist – which are from NCMH, Philippine Heart Center, National Kidney and Transplant Institute, Lung Center of the Philippines, University of Sto. Tomas, and Karaganda Medical University- Republic of Kazakhstan. From June 1, 2020 to present, a total of 3 e-RAL Seasons, 17 Episodes, and 6 Special Sessions were given to our nursing personnel. Table 1 summarizes the details of all the e-RAL activities. Through this virtual platform, the nursing personnel were refreshed with subjects which are either new to them or they have encountered way back in their college days. The learning and development activities through e-RAL equipped our nursing personnel who were assigned in COVID-19 wards, the newly-hired, as well as those reporting in psychiatric wards (who encounter both medical and psychiatric cases from time to time). Furthermore, a group of nurses who were trained on epidemiology and research through e-RAL led to the creation of NCMH Nursing Research Team.



## **“Public Health in the Time of COVID-19 and the New Normal”: A Webinar Series for Public Health Workers**

**Jaifred Christian F. Lopez, Gabrielle Anne G. De Ocampo, Emerito Jose A. Faraon,**

**Javier Leon Fernando C. Alcantara, Vicente Y. Belizario, Jr.**

College of Public Health, University of the Philippines Manila

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The COVID-19 pandemic has brought innumerable challenges to public health service delivery in the country, thereby impeding the achievement of the UN Sustainable Development Goals. There is a need to ensure that policy makers, professionals, providers and the general public are informed on changes that COVID-19 has brought to various public health programs and are able to sustain implementation of public health programs. The 12-part webinar series, co-organized with the British Embassy Manila, aimed to provide updates on COVID-19 and their impact on public health program implementation, present challenges in service delivery, offer solutions and good practices, and discuss next steps on how major public health programs could adapt to the New Normal.

Twelve webinars were organized with the following topics: 1) COVID-19 in the Asia Pacific Region, 2) vaccine preventable diseases, 3) tuberculosis, 4) non-communicable diseases, 5) mental health, 6) HIV/AIDS and hepatitis, 7) parasitic neglected tropical diseases, 8) water, sanitation and hygiene, 9) occupational health, 10) maternal and reproductive health, 11) stunting prevention and 12) health communication. Each webinar had three speakers and two reactors representing the following sectors: national government, academe, civil society and international agencies. The webinar attracted a cumulative total of 9,910 attendees, mostly from the Philippines but also from other Southeast Asian countries, and also including overseas Filipino workers in the Middle East, Europe, and the United States. Generally, the webinar series underlined the multidisciplinary nature of public health and the importance of building credibility and trust using appropriate channels, while emphasizing solutions that require collaboration, consensus and capacity-building.



# **PARALLEL SESSION 1B**

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## **Understanding the Everyday Struggles of Vulnerable Sectors during the Pandemic**

This panel highlights the everyday and often unseen struggles that Filipinos have to face, and its potential for building emotional resilience during the pandemic.



## **OASH Narratives : A Sexual Harassment Prevention Campaign in the time of Covid – 19**

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The Office of Anti-Sexual Harassment (OASH) in the University of the Philippines Diliman is cognizant of its role in serving the Filipino community may it be inside or outside the campus. The role of making sure that the university is sexual harassment free and extending this message and advocacy to other publics has always been charged with a variety of challenges, the biggest one of which is the onslaught of the COVID – 19 Pandemic. The pandemic did not only create health and economic problems, it also hindered offices and organizations such ours to reach people in our campaign against sexual harassment (SH). The OASH recently (soft) launched its first book publication titled: OASH Narratives: Working Towards a Safer and Sexual Harassment Free UP Diliman Campus. This endeavor primarily seeks to make everyone including institutions and organizations outside UP Diliman aware of and knowledgeable on the complex and complicated nature of SH and the nuances in efforts to prevent, investigate and resolve it. In the time of Covid – 19 where and when restrictions make it difficult and almost impossible to reach large number of audiences for SH prevention orientations and seminars, this open-access manuscript made available to the public, which can be retrieved online hopefully aids in filling the gap. This book of narratives documents the experience of UP Diliman in handling SH cases. Specifically, it clarifies and elucidates the concept and experience of SH in educational (students) and workplace settings (other UP employees). It may also provide guidance in making sense of the multifaceted and multilayered SH accounts, appreciation of facts and contexts, and inspection of resolutions for this particular type of violation against a basic human right.

## **The Role of Stressful Life Events, Daily Hassles and Sense of Coherence in Understanding Depressive Symptoms**

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Depressive symptoms had been observed to be increasing during the COVID-19 pandemic. This alarming concern proved to be an opportunity for the investigation of the possible buffering effect of a sense of coherence between the relationship of stressful life events and daily hassles with depressive symptoms among college students.

The study examined the moderating effect of sense of coherence and its three dimensions on the relationship between stressful life events and daily hassles to depressive symptoms in a sample of three 363 Filipino college students. The participants were recruited online through the purposive sampling method. They completed the Negative Life Events Scale for Students (NLESS), Inventory of College Students' Recent Life Experiences (ICSRLE), Center for Epidemiologic Studies Depression Scale (CES-D), and Orientation to Life Questionnaire (SOC-29).

The present study showed that daily hassles significantly predict depressive symptoms ( $p < .01$ ) and not stressful life events ( $p > .05$ ) in all models. Additionally, no moderation effects were observed between the relationship of two forms of stressors and depressive symptoms. The research findings indicated the importance of understanding depressive symptoms in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic by considering the types of stressors and protective factors. Moreover, the study provided strong implications for improving the mental health of college students in adapting to various environmental changes and challenges of the current situation.

## **Introducing Innovative Technologies as a COVID-19 Community Intervention for Senior Citizens**

**Mae-Lanie Poblete\*, Melyn Pines, Hanifa Abdulrasid, Rafael Luke Leyco, and Lemuel Clark Velasco**

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Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, senior citizens being categorized as one of the most vulnerable groups were restricted by local government units in the Philippines to be outside their homes even for purposes of essential travel. This situation was seen by the Mindanao State University-Iligan Institute of Technology as an opportunity to introduce innovative technologies that will address the needs of senior citizens. By focusing on retirees as well as employees scheduled for retirement as target participants, gerontology experts along with information systems specialists developed a training program that focused on introducing innovative technologies for senior citizens. Implemented in an online modality with plenary and breakout sessions distributed from March and April 2021, the FABulous Retirees: Innovative Technologies for Senior Citizens Training Program conducted interactive talks on both geriatric care and innovative technologies. The geriatric care sessions focusing on medication administration along with topics on the rights and privileges of senior citizens were facilitated by the faculty members of the MSU-IIT College of Nursing while the technology introduction sessions focusing on mobile applications for exercise monitoring, mental alertness games, automated medication reminders, online payment solutions and online delivery services were facilitated by a faculty member and researchers from the MSU-IIT Information Systems program. Attended by more than forty (40) senior citizens, the training program was able to achieve its purpose of addressing the needs of senior citizens through an innovative approach to geriatric care through introducing innovative technologies.

## **Building Resilience During COVID-19: A Case Study of the Mothers of Scholars Living during the Pandemic**

**Janet Q. Entese and Luni N. Villacastin**

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A group of mothers who are the beneficiaries of a school's educational program before the pandemic has encountered for the first time the experience of living in and facing the sudden local, national, and global impact of COVID-19. The purpose of this qualitative research was to explore the parents' perceptions of themselves, their strengths, and capabilities in dealing with the challenges of the pandemic. The research aimed to explore the impact of the pandemic on the personal lives of mothers in their homes in terms of the changes to their parenting roles and the effects on the emotional and mental health of their school-aged children. A purposeful sample of 20 parents who belong in the mother's group of elementary pupils participated in open-ended interviews and focus group discussions. Data were transcribed and coded for emergent themes. The findings revealed the deteriorating capacity of children to internalize and externalize problems, a decline in co-parenting quality, and the emergence of anxiety and depression among parents. These themes were used to strengthen the educational program of the school in improving the awareness of the mothers of their strengths and capabilities and the appreciation of the value of gratefulness amidst the pandemic. This study may help both parents and children in identifying better ways of strengthening their family bond and involvement in facing challenges.



# PARALLEL SESSION 1C

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## **Innovations and Challenges in Nursing Education During COVID-19**

This panel features presentations on the experiences and challenges in nursing education, as well as the innovations educational institutions have adopted in order to ensure the effective delivery of nursing education.

## **Blended Learning Lived Experiences of Nursing Students During Covid-19 Pandemic: Challenges and Coping Mechanisms**

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COVID-19 has brought tremendous predicament to the educational system globally. As educational institutions adjust to the new normal, Andres Bonifacio College adapted the Blended Learning Approach which is a combination of an online, modular and a limited face-to-face learning style.

This study explored the lived experiences of nursing students' challenges encountered and coping mechanisms in Andres Bonifacio College who were immersed in blended learning. A qualitative approach using Moustaka's transcendental phenomenology and the six steps to analyzing the transcribed data was used. The one on one interview was done through Google Meet and ZOOM with 10 informants: five Level I and five Level II nursing students. There were six themes that emerged from the interviews as follows: (1) "blended learning is an advantage" with subthemes of "the effectivity of self-paced learning" and "digital is economical"; (2) "blended learning is a problem" with subthemes of "cheating tendencies" and "social media distractions"; (3) "slow to no connection is equivalent to being ineffective"; (4) "the consequence of overloaded requirements is less retention"; (5) "the importance of proper communication and support system; and (6) "the value of intrinsic motivation".

Given the findings from this study, it is hereby recommended that knowing every student's personality seemed necessary in these times of remote learning. An inventory of students' motivations to complete tasks and work on school requirements, student weaknesses, hourly routine in a day, relied family member if there is any, are a must have for every class adviser.



## **The Nursing Virtual Platform (NVP): Leading Innovation in Nursing Education and Practice during COVID-19 Pandemic**

Nicolo Andrei A. Añonuevo, PhDN, MAN, MBA, RN;

John Joseph Rieta, MSN, RN and Adrian Lawsin, DNM, RN

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This paper aims to identify the effectiveness of NVP as an alternative related learning experience modality during the COVID-19 pandemic through participant evaluation thereby leading schools of nursing and hospitals in new teaching methodology. A first in the landscape of nursing education in the Philippines during COVID-19 health crisis, the NVP offers an alternative learning modality that aims to bridge the gap between books and classroom discussions and how these are translated to actual and ideal nursing practice in a hospital accredited by the Joint Commission International (JCI), the global leader in quality and patient safety in healthcare. The platform utilizes recorded videos, live demonstrations, and highly interactive discussions facilitated by Asian Hospital's nurse educators. NVP systematically focuses on selected courses of the nursing curriculum, in close coordination with the academic leaders that feature Asian Hospital's best practices. Since October 2020, NVP has hosted over 600 students from 10 universities across Metro Manila, South Luzon, and Naga. With basic and highly specialized topics such as foley catheterization, suctioning, intravenous therapy, COVID-19 PPE, and ICU nursing set-ups, the NVP had been highly successful in virtually immersing nursing students and their professors.

Using a standardized 4-point scale evaluation tool accessible online, student participants provided both qualitative and quantitative assessment of the NVP in terms of its program content, program management tools, speakers, and overall learning experience. NVP received an "Excellent" average overall rating of 3.92 across all evaluative domains from all NVP sessions. In addition, content and narrative analyses of the qualitative data showed that the program had been profoundly helpful.

In conclusion, NVP is an effective alternative learning method for students as evidenced by an overwhelmingly positive feedback highlighted by the strength of the program's learning contents, virtual tools, and speakers in delivering a highly effective learning experience. Recommendations include leading others in the implementation of new online teaching and learning experience—NVP can be implemented to the nursing schools and may serve as a benchmark for other programs; extending NVP from an undergraduate to a graduate student framework (Master's in Nursing and PhD Nursing); and continuous curricular and framework improvement through research and evaluation.



## **Fostering Partnerships for the COVID-19 Pandemic Response in the Philippines: Experiences and Lessons from a Nursing School**

Kristine Joy L. Tomanan, RN, MCD<sup>1</sup>; Maria Angela A. Mabale, RN, MA<sup>1</sup>;

Peter James B. Abad, RN, MSc<sup>1</sup>; Sheila R. Bonito, RN, DrPH<sup>1</sup>

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In 2020, the surge of COVID-19 cases in the Philippines highlighted the need for concerted efforts and collaboration from all levels of government and the society. Existing relationships among academic institutions, government, disciplines, and communities can be leveraged to heighten response to the evolving pandemic situation. This project aims to describe the experience and lessons learned by a nursing school in the Philippines in responding to the COVID-19 pandemic by leveraging its partnership with the government, civil society, and communities. Review of reports, relevant documents, and correspondences were conducted in September 2020 to analyze and reflect on the process of partnership and collaboration during the initial period of the pandemic.

The roles of the nursing academe utilized in partnerships for COVID-19 pandemic response were teaching, continuing education, and community extension service. Leveraging of existing academe-government-community partnerships and mobilization of personal networks were done to provide support on risk communication, community engagement, and capacity building. Initiatives were focused on augmenting existing government interventions through service learning, faculty initiatives, and community extension programs. Challenges and limitations encountered include finding new ways to engage partners, flexibility in meeting the goals of the partnership, and sustaining COVID-19 response efforts. Lessons learned from this experience emphasize the need to strengthen service learning, ensure activities are anchored on mutual trust and goals of partnerships, and guarantee institutional commitment and support to sustain community recovery. Partnerships and networks built before the pandemic are instrumental in providing the space and opportunities for faculty and student nurses to help strengthen the local COVID-19 pandemic response. The lessons highlight the critical role of nursing schools as relevant resources in the ongoing pandemic. Given increasing incidence and severity of disasters in the country, the current roles, strategies, and activities of Philippine nursing schools can also become more responsive and participatory.

## **Stress Among Nursing Students in the Conduct of Flexible Learning Scheme: A Literature Review**

**Dr. Maria Christina Bernadette C. Aguba, Pink Mica G.Mesa, Alyssa Mae L. Morales,  
Aime Fidele Ndayiragije Mvuyekure, and Jane Lendsay A. Teñoso**

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The study determines how the flexible learning scheme affects the occurrence of stress among nursing students. This study utilizes a qualitative-integrative review of a total of fifty-three (53) published articles which were gathered and reviewed. Following a more thorough analysis, seventeen (17) out of fifty-three (53) research studies qualified for further examination. After another meticulous analysis, only nine (9) of them met the inclusion criteria. The researchers made use of the PICOS format in analyzing the gathered data.

After in-depth analysis and interpretation of the gathered data, the researchers found out that out of those nine articles that met the inclusion criteria, four of these showed that students are experiencing a moderate level of stress while three out of those nine articles revealed that students are experiencing moderate to high levels of stress. Fear about their health, difficulty in concentrating, disruptions of sleeping patterns, decreased social interactions due to physical distancing, academic workloads, and increased concerns on academic performance were reported to be the factors that affected and increased the level of stress among them. Negative impacts on their academic performances were seen to be experienced by the majority of students brought by the COVID-19 pandemic.

The researchers recommended offering students an orientation program before the start of their nursing course. Instructors were required to be creative in lecture delivery to lessen stress effects, parents should also encourage their child to have good eating habits while the university staff may conduct frequent virtual interaction with students on how to best schedule intensive courses during the course of the semester. The nursing department may frequently coordinate with the guidance and counseling office to address students' concerns and the department may include stress management schemes that are integrated into the course syllabus.



# PARALLEL SESSION 1D

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## **Continuity of Service Learning during the Pandemic**

At the core of service-learning is the immersion of students in various communities, but with the implementation of remote learning, HEIs have been pushed to look for various ways to undertake service learning. This panel features the experiences and challenges in service learning amidst the pandemic.

## **Interdisciplinary Approach to Community Service in Remote Architecture Education: Adaptive Design for an Estuarine Community in Hagonoy, Bulacan**

Olivia Alma G. Sicam, Nappy L. Navarra, Doc.Eng., Pamela Cajilig, Monica Santos, Simon Cervantes

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The robust body of work on service learning assumes in-person engagement between students and partner communities. However, the global spread of COVID-19 has given rise to several limitations to face to face interaction. Given the recency of the pandemic, the literature on how to navigate service learning amidst limited possibilities for in-person engagement remains scant. Moreover, the continued encroachment of human activity on wildlife and the proliferation of extractive notions of progress indicate that there may be crises in the future that pose similar service-learning challenges.

This paper contributes to the understanding of remote service learning by analyzing community service projects implemented during COVID-19 for fisherfolk who are vulnerable to climate change. These projects are implemented by undergraduate and graduate architecture programs at the University of the Philippines and through interdisciplinary engagement between architecture and anthropology. These projects compare two modes of service learning: a design studio class for undergraduate students of Architecture and a research class for postgraduate students in Landscape Architecture. Consequently, the contribution of this paper is two-fold: Firstly, it examines the limits and possibilities of remote service learning in the context of overlapping ecological crises. Secondly, it analyses the potential and challenges of interdisciplinary engagement between architects and anthropologists for service learning.

## Sustaining Community Extension during COVID-19 Global Pandemic

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During the lockdowns and quarantine procedures instituted by the national government to control the spread of the COVID-19 virus, the academic institutions had to use online or remote teaching and learning strategies. While Instruction and Research seemed to be more adaptable to online teaching and home study learning approaches, Extension, which is more about active partnership or working with communities, required more creative and innovative ways to achieve its many goals.

This paper presents how Silliman University, through its Office of Community Engagement and Service-Learning (formerly Silliman University Extension Program) OCESL has maintained during the pandemic its commitment to respond to community needs and describe how the students were able to experience and learn with OCECL how they can help the community the during the pandemic. The OCESL maintains outreach programs that give students a platform to conceptualize, organize and implement community outreach with strict compliance to security and health measures.

During the lockdowns, the students initiated creative activities online to raise funds for outreach projects while OCESL led the mobilization of procurement, packing, and logistics of goods. Partnerships with specific appropriate government offices such as the City Social Welfare and Development Office (CSWDO), Sectoral Desk, and City Environment & Natural Resources Office (CENRO) in facilitating the identification of and distribution to target sectors and communities. The project was able to work with over 300 beneficiaries from the formal, informal, women, children, medical frontline, and elderly sectors of Dumaguete City. P123,119.07 worth of face masks, health kits, packed goods, food supplies, and home learning packs were received by the different beneficiaries.

## **EAC Manila School of Physical, Occupational and Respiratory Therapy Internship Program 2020-2021: Bridging Academic Gap and Online Community Service**

Cecilia J. Delos Santos, PTRP, Emil Gabriel E. Guevara, OTRP, Vilma Y. Hossain, OTRP,

Fides Nadine Raya B. Toribio, OTRP, Cyrille Stephanie J. Torremaña, OTRP,

Carl Jason C. Villagrancia, OTRP

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The emergence of the COVID-19 pandemic brought about unprecedented disruptions to all higher education institutions in the Philippines. The internship of allied health professional undergraduates and the communities in which they provide service to are among those who have been largely affected.

To continue delivery of services to clients and to provide a training program for the interns through an alternative learning set-up, the Emilio Aguinaldo College-Manila School of Physical, Occupational, and Respiratory Therapy launched its online internship program with online clinics/centers for OT, PT, RT and an online Community-Based Rehabilitation Program.

Grounded on the core values of EAC (Virtue, Excellence and Service), the programs aimed to facilitate the shift from traditional face-to-face training to online training, uphold excellence in training interns through providing various opportunities and activities that will equip them for patient care, and provide an avenue to sustain service provision for the community through telehealth services and webinars. The telehealth programs catered to pediatric and adult clients from NCR and Laguna who have physical, psychosocial and pulmonary conditions, while the webinars endeavored to spread awareness of various relevant and timely rehabilitation topics. From March 2020 to July 2021, the EAC School of PTOTRT has given teletherapy to a significant number of patients, virtually trained OT, PT, and RT interns, and held public webinars.



## **Exploring Strategies as a Response of Service and Development in the Midst of Pandemic: The Case of University of Santo Tomas and its partners**

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The University of Santo Tomas (UST) as a Higher Education Institution (HEI) is dynamic in developing strategies for its mission (teaching, research, and community development) in the midst of the pandemic. Particularly with community development, it has undergone several processes to explore and develop engagement strategies to sustain its mission and programs despite challenging times that prohibit face-to-face encounters. On the other side, partner communities developed their own strategies in their respective communities and engagement domain. It shows the reality that partner communities are dynamic in responding to the challenges of the pandemic.

This paper's main objective is to trace the exploration and enhancement of different strategies for service and development in the midst of a pandemic. This paper's method was conducted through a qualitative case study, purposive sampling of the study participants who were from UST and partner communities, mind mapping as a research tool, and thematic analysis as analytical treatment. This paper was able to mind map the development of strategies of service and development during this pandemic from the different ideas, reflections, conceptualization, plans, initiatives, projects, and other details of how it really evolved the concrete expressions of love and compassion of the university's stakeholders with the partner communities and among the partner communities through creative and innovative community development and service-learning engagements. The service-learning engagements were clearly defined and level-up in this pandemic from the previous (pre-pandemic) and sustain community development.

Service-learning can be strengthened by the university along with a clear and strong community development program and vice-versa in the university. The tasks and responses set by UST and partner communities, given that there are protocols and a larger context of the pandemic, serve as tuning the sustainable mechanisms of service and development enlightened by love and compassion to peoples, communities, environment, and Church.





# PARALLEL SESSION 2A

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## **Academe-LGU Engagement in COVID-19 Data Analysis and Assessment**

This panel highlights how expertise of higher education institutions were tapped in order to produce and disseminate up-to-date and crucial data on COVID-19.

## Exploratory Data Analysis (EDA) of Baguio City COVID-19 Cases Daily Updates

Dr. Rizavel C. Addawe, Mr. Jhunas Paul T. Viernes, Ms. Criselda P. Libatique,

Ms. Shilden Grail S. Domilies, Mr. Joseph Ludwin D. Marigmen

Ms. Raya Elaine N. Gueco and Ms. Aprimelle Kris J. Pajimola

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Initiated by Professor Rizavel C. Addawe of the UP Baguio Department of Mathematics and Computer Science (DMCS), College of Science, the research titled “Exploratory Data Analysis (EDA) of Baguio City COVID-19 Cases Daily Updates” is an ongoing study, statistical data analysis, and monitoring of the COVID-19 cases and situation in Baguio City. The study is in partnership with Baguio City’s Health Services Office (HSO) which started on March 2, 2020. It is being updated daily by Prof. Addawe and her team of volunteers: Mr. Jhunas Paul Viernes, Ms. Criselda Libatique, Ms. Shilden Grail Domilies, Mr. Joseph Ludwin Marigmen, Ms. Raya Elaine Gueco, and Ms. Aprimelle Kris Pajimola, and submitted daily to Dr. Donnabel Tubera-Panes of the Baguio City Epidemiology Surveillance Unit.

The ongoing research aims to contribute to the city’s active monitoring of COVID-19 cases by providing relevant data analysis; graphs, tables, GIS Maps, and insights for the city’s health office aiding the decision and policy-making of the LGU with regard to the pandemic. The data used in the study are provided by the HSO.

The outcomes of the research include daily updated information and statistics which have been used and continuously utilized as a reference for various business meetings in Baguio and CAR, such as the Management Committee of Dr. Rowena P. Galpo (City Health Officer) of the HSO, UGNAYAN Baguio City Live Interviews, Baguio City Inter-Agency Task Force (IATF) for the Management of COVID-19, Regional IATF, and Health Professional Organizations. Two research papers on COVID-19 in Baguio written by the team also emerged from the study, both of which were submitted to the International Conference on Mathematical Sciences and Technology 2020 and have been accepted for international presentations and possible publications. Results from the study have also been presented in some local meetings and events by Prof. Addawe and Mr. Viernes. Another initiative was also launched in October 2020 in cooperation with the University’s Office of Public Affairs. Dubbed as COVID UPdate, it aims to keep the public safe and informed about the status of COVID-19 in Baguio by publishing timely information taken from the study to the official Facebook page of UP Baguio.

## **Compliance of Eastern Barangays of Tuguegarao City to the Implementation of COVID-19 Mitigation Measures**

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The study determined the compliance of eastern barangays of Tuguegarao City to the Implementation of COVID-19 mitigation measures. A descriptive-correlational research design was used in the study. Eleven barangay officials and four hundred thirty-one household heads were considered as respondents. Responses were collected using survey questionnaires adapted from the Guidelines and Protocols provided by the Inter-Agency Task Force for the Management of Emerging Infectious Diseases, Department of Health and the study of Prasetyo, Yogi Tri and colleagues.

The results of the study revealed that the barangays are “fully compliant” on the implementation of IATF Guidelines on COVID-19 mitigation measures. Though most of the barangays were fully compliant, they considered knowledge, perceived behavior control, intention to follow, actual behavior, adaptive behavior, and perceived effectiveness as factors that influenced the extent of compliance on COVID-19 mitigation measures. The extent of compliance on physical and mental resilience is highly associated with the total population, barangay IRA, and healthcare facility while the compliance on reduction of transmission and contact are highly associated with barangay classification, total land area, total population, number of purok and healthcare facilities. Moreover, the compliance on the reduction in terms of the duration of infection is highly associated with all the socio-demographic variables. In terms of challenges encountered by the barangays, risk communication, community engagement and transition of status are highly associated with healthcare facilities and the number of confirmed COVID-19 cases with the addition of barangay IRA for community engagement and transition of status. The logistic supports, resources, and funds are highly associated with the socio-demographic profile variables of the barangays. Lastly, results revealed that there is a strong association between all socio-demographic profiles and the perceived vulnerability, perceived behavioral control, and intention to follow.

## **Community Profile and Needs Assessment of Selected Municipalities in Laguna and Rizal Provinces, Philippines**

Dhino B. Geges, Ph.D, Emilia S. Visco, Ph.D, Jennifer Marie S. Amparo, Ph.D,  
Gillian D. Consignado, Ron P. Dangcalan, Marife B. Dapito, Maria Emilinda T. Mendoza,  
Rocky T. Marcelino, Diana A. Torio, Daniel Joy C. Cabauatan, Maria Shiela M. Muros,  
Carl L. Reyes, Angelika M. Sarmiento, and Miciah P. Bernardez

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The community profile and needs assessment of the six municipalities in Rizal and Laguna provinces were conducted by the Department of Social Development Services, College of Human Ecology, UPLB in partnership with the Department of Science and Technology, Regional Office IVA (DOST-IVA). DOST-IVA's Community Empowerment Thru Science and Technology (CEST) is a package of interventions that aim to build empowered, progressive, and resilient communities. To realize this goal, however, it is necessary to conduct CPNA to municipalities DOST-IVA intends to ensure that the development process is participatory, thereby hoping that the communities will "own" the programs that will be implemented.

This paper discusses the current situation of the communities, focusing on needs, problems, and issues in the areas of 1. health and nutrition (HR) ; 2. water sanitation, environmental protection and conservation (WSEPC); 3. human resources, basic education and literacy (HRBEL); 4. economic development/livelihood opportunities (ED/LO); and 5. disaster risk reduction and climate change adaptation (DRR and CCA) and provide recommendations and possible S&T interventions appropriate to the assessed needs or problems.

The identified problems/needs for HR include malnutrition and lack of access to health care services, while non-compliance to environmental laws and lack of access to water was the pressing concern under WSEPC. For HRBEL on the other hand, the concern challenges were due to online and modular learning and lack of education-related facilities. Similarly, lack of livelihood opportunities/loss of jobs due to the pandemic and decreasing agricultural lands were the identified need for ED/LO. Finally, flooding, lack of evacuation centers and materials equipment were identified needs in DRR/CCA.

Results were reported to DOST-IVA and recommendations were formulated based on the existing technologies of DOST. Possible collaborations with other government and non-government agencies to ensure relevant and appropriate projects for the municipalities covered in this study were also recommended.

## **Analysis of Spread of Covid Cases in the Philippines using Network Science**

**Donnabelle E. Carpentero, Prince Clint Rene T. De Mesa,**

**Eljay A. Dequeros, and Shehab Doro Ibrahim**

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The Philippines' pandemic response has been termed as one of the world's longest and most stringent lockdowns. Several provinces and cities were placed under lockdown, transportation was restricted, and wearing of masks and social isolation were rigidly enforced. With the ongoing coronavirus outbreak, the entire medical community is seeking to control the spread of the disease. The disease has been affecting Filipino citizens, and there is a lack of knowledge and understanding of its origins and how it is transmitted in this country. To address this matter, the researchers aim to design and develop a Web Application using Django Web Framework embedded with Network Science using Gephi Software to visualize and analyze the spread and transmission patterns to determine the source of coronavirus within the Philippines' municipalities and how the virus is transmitted. The researchers will collect and perform exploratory data analysis on the data of Covid cases from the DOH open dataset. This study will help people in learning more about the spread as well as those seeking for ways to enhance the efficiency and efficacy of current policies directed on curbing the COVID-19 outbreak.



# PARALLEL SESSION 2B

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## **Development of Information Systems in the Delivery of Public Service**

This panel features the different information systems that institutions have produced for an efficient and effective handling of COVID-19 and other data deemed essential for the effective delivery of COVID-19 programs and policies.



## **Engaging State Universities and Colleges in the Provision of Technical Assistance to Local Government Units' in the Formulation of Multi-Sectoral Development Plan**

Her She V. Pausa, EnP, Christian M. Nagaynay, and Prof. Rhodella Ibabao, PhD

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The Local Government Units (LGUs), in promoting the general welfare of their constituents, are mandated by Republic Act No. 7160 to have a comprehensive multi-sectoral development plan (CDP) initiated by the Local Development Council (LDC) and approved by the local Sanggunian. In Western Visayas, twenty-five percent (25%) of the total no. of LGUs have no approved CDPs. This program of the Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG) VI aims to: 1) expand the CDP Pool of Trainers to include SUCs, 2) Capacitate SUCs in providing Technical Assistance to LGUs in their CDP Formulation, 3) Document LGU performance and assess for means of improvement, and 4) Provide recommendations to improve and provide ease to LGUs' in their CDP Formulation.

Among the activities conducted were; a) CDP Training of Trainers to SUC-expanded CDP Pool of Experts, b) CDP Formulation Training to LGUs delivered by the SUCs, c) CDP Outputs review and feedbacking by the CDP Pool of Experts, and d) Submission of Terminal Reports to include recommendations for similar conduct of activities. Three (3) SUCs: University of the Philippines Visayas (UPV), Aklan State University (ASU), Central Philippine State University (CPSU), have successfully delivered the SUC-Assisted Approach in the CDP Formulation Training to twenty-eight (28) LGUs. Twenty (20) LGUs were assisted by UPV, three (3) by ASU and five (5) by CPSU. Those trained by CPSU were provided with in-depth training on Climate and Disaster Risk Assessment (CDRA) for the formulation of DRR-CCA Mainstreamed CDP.

LGUs with up-to-date National Government Agency mandated plans fare better than LGUs with outdated plans. Consistent follow-ups have to be performed for non-performing LGUs to produce their outputs. Online Sessions were provided given the restrictions from COVID-19 pandemic. It is recommended that LGUs should be equipped on utilizing electronic systems in the formulation of the CDP.



## **A Timeless Public Service in Ensuring Data Quality during COVID-19: The BIDANI Barangay Management Information System (BMIS) Experience**

Ma. Charina P. Maneja, Arnold T. Abuyog, Ana B. Castañeda,

Pamela A. Gonzales, Belinda A. Lalap, and Marites G. Yee

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The COVID-19 pandemic brought disruptions in the economic, health, nutrition, and social activities, and data was of utmost concern in providing social services. The BMIS and the electronic Operation Timbang (eOPT) Tool are some of the data sources in the Barangay Integrated Development Approach for Nutrition Improvement (BIDANI) partner communities. The data are essential for nutrition and development planning and the submission of administrative reports. This action research study aimed to describe the contribution of BMIS during the pandemic, determine the quality of BMIS and eOPT Tool data, identify challenges in data management during the pandemic, and recommend ways to improve the management of both data sources. The BIDANI conducted BIDANI Virtual Conversations (VirCons) and invited local government units (LGUs) to discuss BMIS usefulness during the pandemic. Moreover, BIDANI organized the BMIS virtual training and technical assistance to its partner LGUs to generate information needed during this pandemic and update the BMIS. The merged 2019 BMIS and eOPT determined the completeness and overall quality of both databases. The BMIS was the immediate source of information of the partner communities during the pandemic, which enabled LGUs to provide economic support and contact tracing. Information such as names, sex, and birthdays in the BMIS and eOPT were compared and validated by the barangay secretaries and BNS to ensure data quality. Inaccessibility to the Internet was addressed by the designation of the focal person for the municipal LGU who helped deliver the extension work of the academe.

## **Spatial Mapping of Healthcare Facilities Using Geographical Information System in the Philippines**

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The COVID-19 is a strain in the coronavirus family that causes severe respiratory syndrome and was found and has emerged last December, 2019 in the province of Hubei, China causing serious threat to the whole global population. After infecting over 170 countries, the virus has reached all the 81 provinces of the Philippines forcing it to be on lockdown for several months. With this virus threatening the lives of many, the researchers aimed to create a spatial mapping of the COVID-19 facilities in the whole Philippine archipelago and present it through a web-based application with the help of a geographical information system model. The study's main objective is to visualize and map each COVID-19 facility in the country and its occurrence data to easily track hospitals and its availability and capability of accepting patients for the public. The spatial mapping using Geographic Information System (GIS) will also present other occurrence data of the facility such as the name of the hospital, its specific address and route, the number of cases catered, recoveries, deaths, number of beds, residential doctors, nurses, and other healthcare personnels. The gathering for this data was done through an open data set provided by the Department of Health (DOH). This study aims to offer help to the general public as well as to the health authorities, where through this project, they can evaluate and acknowledge inefficiency and lack of response of healthcare facilities so they can easily address and improve their methods in offering services and healthcare.

## **Barangay Management Information System in COVID-19 Response: The VSU-BIDANI-Baybay City Experience**

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The response to the COVID-19 pandemic has been fuelled by information and by information systems that affect a wide range of stakeholders. Few empirical studies, however, looked at the role of local management information systems in crisis response. This research work contributes to this knowledge gap by examining the role of the Barangay Management Information System (BMIS), one of the academe's longest continuing contributions to local development, in dynamic crisis response against the COVID-19 pandemic. In this contribution, a review of existing literature from both academic and non-academic sources, supplemented by a qualitative survey, was conducted to examine the role of local information systems in particular, the Barangay Management Information System, in COVID-19 response.

The findings highlight the role of BMIS in evidence-based planning and budgeting. As bases for local policy interventions implementation such as project activities prioritization, identification of vulnerable groups, procurement of logistics and management of locally stranded individuals, BMIS contributed to dynamic governance and crisis response against the COVID-19 pandemic.



# PARALLEL SESSION 2C

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## **Improving Access to Accurate COVID-related Information through Various Media**

This panel shows how various forms of media have been utilized in order to disseminate accurate, timely and relevant information about COVID-19, especially with the rise of fake news.

## **Amplifying the Youth's Voice through Community Media: The Leader Ka K! Experience**

**Mark Lester M. Chico, Justine Ann C. Alcantara, John Mark D. Ayap,**

**Rosemarie A. De Castro, Neisel Lyca R. Petiza, and Rizza B. Ramoran**

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Leader Ka K! (LKK) is a youth-oriented educational magazine program being aired over Facebook and a community cable TV channel. It first aired on May 2, 2009 via Radyo DZLB 1116 kHz and continues to thrive and evolve over the changing media landscape, keeping true to its mission of providing a venue to amplify the voice of the youth. Through its various segments, the program discusses concepts and actual experiences on active leadership, tackles pressing community/local and national issues, entertains, and inspires individuals to bring out the best in them as leaders that would initiate change in their respective communities.

Today, as the world confronts the COVID-19 pandemic, LKK finds itself an important avenue to address some of the unprecedented challenges that the youth sector faces. Through the partnership of a university-based media platform, student organization, and government institution, LKK puts the spotlight on various issues that are not often discussed in the mainstream media and takes on its part in combating mis-, dis-, and lack of information. LKK serves as a connecting agent among the youth, not only in Laguna but also all over the Philippines, and enables them to represent themselves and share their voices and public service undertakings. It does so by providing a platform for the youth to produce a program that would cater to their own identities and aspirations. Guided by a senior faculty member, a research associate, and head of a provincial youth development office, the members of the UP Community Broadcasters' Society, together with their youth partners, are able to reach out to their fellow youth and give them the opportunity to write their own stories, practice their skills in reporting and video production, interview different personalities, and co-host their own program.

LKK has formed and continues to form a community of youth who continuously strive to use their voices, advocacies, and the power they hold to help and serve their fellow youth and communities.

## **Bilang Nilalang: The 4th Quisumbing-Escandor Film Festival for Health**

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The Quisumbing-Escandor Film Festival for Health (QEFF) is a nationwide filmmaking competition that aims to promote awareness about the most pressing health issues in the Philippines. In its 4th and current iteration entitled Bilang Nilalang, QEFF4 aims to shed light on the struggles and successes of Filipinos, especially those who are marginalized and unheard during this COVID-19 pandemic. With the help of our partners, including the UP Manila, the Department of Health (DOH), the Cultural Center of the Philippines (CCP), and the Film Development Council of the Philippines (FDCP), we were able to reach out to filmmakers across the country to invite them to submit their films and film proposals. Through these films, we hope to advocate for a better prepared and more inclusive pandemic response for future generations. The films of QEFF4 will become part of the film library that we and our partners will use for health education and advocacy programs.

From October 2020 to January 2021, QEFF4 received over 50 films and film proposals. Twenty-nine films were chosen for the film festival screening which will be held on October 15, 2021. The 29 finalist teams were invited to a filmmaking and scriptwriting workshop organized by the QEFF4 team. Over 50 participants attended and received guidance in scriptwriting, filmography, and safety filming from esteemed screenwriter and novelist Ricky Lee, award-winning director Raymond Red, and Chair of the FDCP Liza Diño. Also part of QEFF4's campaign to share the narratives of Filipinos in this time of crisis, we launched a social media campaign entitled, #KwentongCovid. Features and publication materials highlighted the personal experiences and sacrifices of our people in this pandemic. Engagements for these posts resulted in 61.9k post clicks and 5044 reactions, comments, and shares.



## **Nutrition Communication during a Pandemic: Experiences from BIDANI VirCons: Virtual Conversations on Nutrition and BIDANI Nutrilive**

Guien Eidrefson P. Garma, Arnold T. Abuyog Angelina dR. Felix, Ma. Charina P. Maneja,  
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With the COVID-19 pandemic disrupting the delivery of extension services, state universities and colleges (SUCs) must find new ways of reaching out to stakeholders while following orders to stay at home and not conduct mass gatherings. The Barangay Integrated Development Approach for Nutrition Improvement (BIDANI) Network Program, a nutrition-in-development action research and extension program at the University of the Philippines Los Baños, has recently delved into nutrition communication and education endeavors through its Development Communication Operations component.

To continuously provide relevant and correct nutrition information and education to its stakeholders at the various BIDANI catchment barangays, partner local government units, and member SUCs of the BIDANI Network, it launched two nutrition communication projects at the height of the COVID-19 pandemic. BIDANI VirCons: Virtual Conversations on Nutrition was a streamcast launched via Facebook which aimed to educate BIDANI stakeholders about nutrition in the context of the pandemic and disseminate news and information from BIDANI partners. In addition, BIDANI also launched BIDANI NutriLive, a school-on-the-air program focused on family, child, and maternal nutrition. It aired on Radyo DZLB, UPLB's developmental radio station.

BIDANI's engagements with its stakeholders through its social media channels grew exponentially during the implementation of these programs. BIDANI VirCons reached an average of 3,934.5 reach, 830.5 engagements, and 1,282.75 views. Meanwhile, BIDANI NutriLive was able to produce 22 graduates from various parts of the country, with five of them being recognized as top graduates. The programs also served as a platform for engagement among BIDANI's stakeholders. However, several challenges noted in the implementation of these projects include manpower, attraction and retention of participants, and concerns regarding telecommunications access and quality.

Future plans for these endeavors include continuing these programs and evaluating knowledge gain among the participants of these projects after implementation.



## **Edible Landscaping Technology Promotion and Information Dissemination Campaign Amidst the COVID-19 Pandemic**

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Edible Landscaping (EL) is an innovative and creative food production technology that merges the science of crop production and the art of landscape designing and planning. Since 2010, the EL Team of the University of the Philippines Los Baños (UPLB) has been at the forefront of revolutionizing crop production and promoting urban agriculture around the Philippines through seminars, workshops, and trainings, and establishing exhibits and technology demonstration gardens showcasing EL. The EL Technology Promotion and Information Dissemination Campaign is one of the projects funded by the Department of Agriculture Bureau of Agricultural Research since 2019. This aims to promote EL in the country and assist individuals, private organizations, and government offices and units in starting and developing their own EL garden and was continued and strengthened even during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Since the start of the community quarantine last March 2020, promotional and learning activities, such as training and seminars were migrated online through video conferencing platforms (i.e. Zoom). The EL Team conducted 18 trainings and seminars with several private organizations and government agencies. Two local government units — Muntinlupa City and Parañaque City — in the National Capital Region were provided technical assistance by the team to strengthen their promotion of urban agriculture through their respective demonstration gardens showcasing EL. Now that the country is still facing the threats of the COVID-19 pandemic, the EL Team of UPLB is committed to continue its activities, especially with vulnerable communities situated in urban and peri-urban communities, towards food and nutrition security.



# PARALLEL SESSION 2D

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## **Generation of Online Learning Materials**

This panel tackles the experiences, challenges in the generation of online learning and information, education and communication (IEC) materials not only for students, but also for the general public.

## Development of Mathematical Resources for Grades 1 to 11 in the time of COVID-19

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This project aims to create a framework for a digital mathematics learning environment for implementation in schools in the Philippines. It includes the development of freely available mathematical applications (apps) that can respond to the urgent educational adaptations driven by the Covid-19 pandemic.

The apps are aligned to the Most Essential Learning Competencies (MELCs) of the official Grade 1-11 Mathematics Curriculum issued by the Department of Education (DepEd) and focus on the strands number, measurement, geometry, probability and statistics. These are research-based and are not mere electronic versions of textbooks or worksheets whose primary function is to provide drill and practice. Rather, the apps are designed to promote mathematical reasoning and visual thinking so that Filipino children can learn to think by and for themselves. The apps promote the visualization of abstract concepts, structural thinking, development of number sense, estimation skills and computational capabilities, exploration and mathematical modeling.

The apps can be played with limited supervision, which makes it apt for a learning environment when the teachers are not always with their students. To address challenges to Internet accessibility, the apps can be downloaded over the Internet once and used offline. Furthermore, each app or applet is accompanied by a teaching guide or an instructional video that identifies the learning competency and informs the teachers how the apps can be integrated within a blended learning environment. Several performance tasks have also been created with the apps that will be useful for the teachers. The project team, with the Ateneo de Manila University as the implementing agency, has forged partnerships with several Department of Education School District Offices for the use of the apps and the training of teachers in the previous school year 2020-2021. The team has organized several successful webinars that have been streamed through Youtube and Facebook. The apps can be downloaded from here <http://mathplusresources.wordpress.com> and the statistical database can be accessed here <https://www.mathplusresources.com>.

At the moment, the project team is also engaged in making the mathematical resources available through community LTE networks in order to reach isolated areas in the Philippines that have limited or no Internet access.

## **Learning Modules Delivery Service as a COVID-19 Community Intervention**

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Educational institutions in the Philippines are forced to adapt radically in the midst of the COVID-19 pandemic with educators facilitating distance learning by utilizing learning modules as one of the teaching approaches. Due to unreliable internet connectivity, the majority of the Filipino families with basic education learners studying in public schools undergo a time-consuming routine of acquiring, complying and delivering learning modules from house to school and vice versa involving numerous process actors. This gave the opportunity for the founders to conduct a market validation of MOBO (MOdules on BOard), a student-founded Social Enterprise(SE) that solves the difficulty of parents and guardians in retrieving the learning modules from the schools and submitting them to the same educational institution right after student's compliance to the activities. In partnership with The Bridge Student Center, an Iligan-based NGO with Out-of-School Youth (OSY) beneficiaries, the SE founders were able to conduct formal partnership coordination, customer discovery, service blueprinting and launching of the social enterprise last January 4, 2021. Feedback gathered from customers have served as valuable information in human resource interventions for the OSY partners, process decision-making and enhancement of the SE's business model. It was found out that despite the affordability of the service, various challenges were faced by the SE to perform optimal service including the remote locations of households and logistical challenges of school coordination. Findings during the two-weeks of operations became the basis for the SE to understand the customers as well as improve the business and partnership models and analyze whether the venture will be continued or discontinued.

## **We Learn As One: Experiences and Lessons Learned in Producing Broadcast Media-based Instruction Materials for K-3 Learners**

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With the disruption of face-to-face classes brought about by the COVID-19 pandemic, various modes of teaching and learning were explored in the Philippines and around the world. One of these modes is through the broadcast media, which is still considered as an effective tool in formal and non-formal education. As a leading institution in educational and community broadcasting, the University of the Philippines Los Baños College of Development of Communication (UPLB Devcom) has been at the forefront of equipping and empowering educators by providing training and workshops on radio, television, and multimedia production for education. Through its partnership with the Department of Education (DepEd) and ABC+: Advancing Basic Education in the Philippines, UPLB Devcom spearheaded a project that transformed self-learning modules and printed materials into radio-based instruction (RBI) and television-based instruction (TVBI) materials for K-3 learners. Dubbed as We Learn as One: Ang Radyo Kong Paaralan (for RBI) and My TV School (for TVBI), UPLB Devcom has produced 16 RBIs and 16 TVBIs that are now being aired in selected local radio stations and cable televisions in Regions 5, 6, and Mindanao. Episodes are also available via video-on-the-demand through the social media accounts of ABC+ project and can be downloaded for free via shared drive. Through this project, UPLB Devcom was also able to procure new broadcast equipment that are now being used for instruction, research, extension, and public service activities of the college, contributing to a “future-proof UPLB.”

## #FilipinoDapat: Ang Wika sa Pagtugon sa Krisis (Terminolohiyang COVID-19 sa Filipino)

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Nang magsimula ang pandemya, naging personal na proyekto ang paglikha ng terminolohiya ng mga salita kaugnay ng pandemyang novel coronavirus na kalaunan ay tinawag na COVID-19. Dahil Ingles ang default ng wika ang agham at medisina, nagsimula ang pandemya na puro Ingles ang ginagamit ng mga awtoridad gaya ng DOH sa mga presscon. Kaya Marso 15, inilabas sa social media ang listahan ng mga salitang kaugnay ng COVID-19 gaya ng PUI, PUM, isolation, quarantine, social distancing na nadagdagan nang nadagdagan hanggang makabuo ng mahabang listahan ng mga salita na sinikap ipaliwanag sa Filipino.

Naging pangunahing layunin ng proyekto ang maipaliwanag at maipaunawa sa mga mamamayan lalo na sa publiko ang nagaganap na krisis pangkalusugan nang sa gayon ay makapagligtas ng mas maraming buhay. Sa panahon ng pandemya at anumang iba pang sakuna at krisis, mahalaga ang mahusay at epektibong komunikasyon at mangyayari lamang iyon sa pamamagitan ng paggamit ng wikang pinakamalapit sa mamamayan.

Ang unang inilabas na listahan ng Terminolohiyang COVID-19 ay lumaganap at ginamit ng iba-ibang ahensiya, LGUs, organisasyon, at iba pang institusyon. Halimbawa, naging sanggunian ito ng COVID-19 Dictionary na Pambata ng UP College of Education, ginamit ng Philippine Genome Center bilang sanggunian sa kanilang COVID-19 infomaterials na inilathala sa kanilang FB Page at website, naglabas din ng sariling bersiyon ang PCEP ng National Commission for Culture and the Arts, at marami pang iba. Naging inspirasyon din ito ng Google Philippines sa paglalabas ng COVID-19 Dictionary at ginamit nila ang ginawang listahan at inilabas sa microsite na: <https://diksyonaryongcovid19.com>. Mababasa ang writeup sa: <https://up.edu.ph/up-prof-works-with-google-on-covid-19-online-dictionary>.

Patuloy na dinedevelop ang listahan na ngayon ay kasalukuyang nasa 200 mahigit nang salita. At patuloy na naa-update kasabay ng mga pagbabago sa mga terminong ginagamit ng awtoridad. Ang proyektong ito ay sisikaping maisaaklat at mailabas ngayong taon na tinitingnang lalagom sa kabuoang karanasan ng bansa sa pandemya, at nagpapatunay na mahalaga ang wika lalo na ang wikang pambansa sa ating pagtugon sa krisis. Naniniwala na maliligtas tayo kung tayo ay mulát at mangyayari lamang ito kung gamit natin ang wikang nauunawaan ng lahat. Patuloy na isinusulong ang personal na advocacy na #FilipinoDapat: ang Wika sa Pagtugon sa Krisis, na hindi lamang sa krisis sa kalusugan kundi sa lahat ng iba pang kaalamang dapat matamo ng mamamayan.

Bukod dito, naging boluntaryo sa maraming iba-ibang pagsasalin ng mga infomaterials kaugnay ng COVID-19, isang halimbawa ang pagsasa-Filipino ng mga policy notes ng UP Resilience Institute at hanggang sa ngayon ay nagsisilbing tagasalin para sa kanilang mga inilalabas na paliwanag kaugnay ng krisis sa kalusugan.





# PARALLEL SESSION 3A

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## **Integrating DRRM in COVID-19 Response**

This panel features how institutions were able to expand the scope of their COVID-19 response by integrating DRRM-related concepts and strategies.

## **Community DREAMs (Dialogue on Risks Ecosystem Adaptation Measures)**

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Sharing this study in times of the pandemic incidentally will help coastal communities and Local Government Units (LGUs) adapt simple preparation in building resiliency, and activate consciousness to take care of the environment with proper sanitation. Recognizing these two variables will help build a strong immune system with minimal pollution in the area. The study supports emerging issues in 2018-2019 in an attempt by the national government led by the National Economic Development Authority (NEDA) to rehabilitate Manila Bay. The support focused on this study is on the northeast side of Manila Bay having the coastal stretch of Bulakan, Hagonoy, Obando, Malolos and Paombong, due to pollution load from liquid to solid wastes believed to have contributed to the adverse impact of climate change. The extreme impacts posed serious concerns prompting various sectors to collect acts and build the capacity of people to be resilient. The herein study utilized an integrated resiliency framework to help understand how community resilience is practiced within multiple settings piloted in three (3) towns (HMP: Hagonoy, Malolos and Paombong). Of this, nine barangays were selected in assessing severity and likelihood of hazards following the landscape lens (urban, peri-center and high coastal). The study employed Focus-Group-Discussion (FGD), about 159 residents and officials participated in the web of life exercise establishing interconnectedness in the different parts of the ecosystem. While hazards through a thematic overlay generated data on low risks to high risks points in areas under review. Results of the exercise produced five (5) dominant themes: preparedness, leadership, self-reliance, social cooperation, and togetherness. It was further revealed that HMP is highly vulnerable to risks, if unabated, people continued similar scenario of losing property and even lives.

## **Children and Youth Actions for Pandemic Preparedness through Academe-Community Partnership**

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The COVID-19 pandemic makes it imperative for the TEACH DRR Project of UP Visayas Foundation, Inc. to empower young people in small island communities to protect themselves, their families and their communities. This goal has been carried out through capacity-building activities, managed remotely, in collaboration with various partners in Carles.

Child and youth participation in the virtual project activities led to the development of 10 localized brochures on COVID-19, three (3) disaster risk reduction (DRR) advocacy videos based on local experiences, and resilience-building advocacies as speakers and facilitators in webinars and peer-to-peer mentoring activities. Children and youth also contributed to the development of a COVID-19 storybook for children and worked for their inclusion in the local DRR Management Council as a way to help sustain their initiatives. To promote their participation, TEACH DRR Project, with support from UNICEF, facilitated the installation of Point-to-Point Wireless Bridge connection, an internet portal, to six (6) schools in small islands to allow access to factual information which is a critical resource given the uncertainty created by COVID-19. Indeed, building resilience amidst the global pandemic is a complex effort that requires intersectoral collaboration.

## **XU GRiD Project: The Role of Academe in Building Resilience**

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The Web-based Geospatial Risk Database (Web-GRiD) is a decision support tool originally developed by Xavier University—Ateneo de Cagayan (XU). It was designed as a decision support tool for COVID-19 pandemic response plans and operations of the Department of Health – Northern Mindanao Office, in March 2020.

Web-GRiD uses geographic-based analysis to capture the unique characteristics of a particular location at a particular time, to help local government units (LGUs) ensure more suitable and workable plans of action. Together with the National Resilience Council (NRC), XU trained seven LGUs in establishing their own COVID-19 dashboards that are problem-focused, solutions-driven, customized, accessible, and timely. These dashboards also include other hazards imminent and unique to each locality such as floods, landslides, and earthquakes – capturing a multi-hazard approach and integrated risk perspective. A risk lens is essential in understanding the underlying causes of disasters and pandemics, so that programs, projects, and activities of LGUs and other interested groups contribute to sustainable and resilient development.

XU and NRC also partnered for a similar Web-GRiD training with special features on supply chain management for private business cooperatives to establish their own dashboards. Web-GRiD was awarded by the Philippine Council for Health Research and Development as the National Champion in the 2021 Pitch to Policymakers Competition.

## **The Role of Mobile App in School Disaster Risk Reduction Management (SDRRM)**

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In recent years, we have seen numerous headlines about children afflicted by natural disasters such as earthquakes in the Philippines. Numerous school facilities in the Philippines have been damaged by natural disasters, severely hampering school operations and interrupting children's education temporarily. Additionally, due to their frequent use as temporary evacuation shelters, school buildings are classified as vital facilities in the Philippines. Numerous schools were built prior to the adoption of building and structural codes, resulting in structural deficiencies. To address these concerns, the Philippines Resilience of Schools to Multi-Hazard (PRISMH) launched a joint project called S.O.S. or Strengthening Organizational Resilience in Disasters and Emergency Response in Schools.

Usually, PRISMH toolkits have been conducted using Pen-and-Paper Personal Interviews (PAPI); however, with the current condition of coronavirus disease (COVID-19), the pandemic has brought flexible work arrangements to the forefront, effectively halting on-site operations. The purpose of this paper is to highlight the use of the PRISMH S.O.S. Mobile App in School Disaster Risk Reduction Management (SDRRM), particularly in terms of remote data collection. The PRISMH S.O.S. Mobile App provides assessments that are based on DRR manuals, websites, articles, current data, standard operating procedures (SOP), general knowledge, and other information resources. Each dimension of the CSS Framework is covered by the assessments. The PRISMH S.O.S. Mobile App generates a web graph highlighting an organization's strengths and weaknesses in terms of disaster awareness and preparedness.



# PARALLEL SESSION 3B

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## **Technical Assistance by HEIs**

This panel highlights the significant role of higher education institutions (HEIs) in pandemic response by providing technical assistance to various sectors.



## Higher Education Institutions' roles in pandemic response: the College of Human Ecology, UP Los Baños initiatives

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Higher Education Institutions have been a critical sector in addressing social-environmental issues. Recently, the COVID-19 pandemic challenged the 'traditional' services and approaches of different institutions and organizations like HEIs to address the pandemic.

This paper aims to present the different themes and approaches of the College of Human Ecology, UPLB to respond to the COVID-19 pandemic. Aside from contributing to the burgeoning discussion on HEIs responses to the pandemic, this paper adds value by documenting the non-teaching responses of HEIs to impacts of the pandemic to its internal stakeholders as well as communities. The paper is based on the data from the COVID-19 response weekly reports submitted by the college to the UPLB administration from May to August 2020.

Findings reveal that (1) earlier interventions were more individual and uncoordinated and transitioned to more unit-led initiatives; (2) the knowledge brokering role of HEIs were evident in knowledge sharing initiatives organized by the college together with other partners; (3) the pandemic forced HEIs to re-assess its capabilities and capacity to offer flexible teaching-learning modalities and be creative and innovative in sustaining research and public service functions remotely; (4) the direct target beneficiaries of the pandemic responses were both internal stakeholders (students, staff) and nearby communities of the university but were focused on the former at the onset of the pandemic; (5) the presence of university-led COVID-19 response initiatives and policies are also contributory factors on the type of responses and initiatives that academic personnel have employed at the latter part of 2020.

There are four key takeaways from this study—the need for institutional capacity, institutional leadership, an integrated approach and conduct of impact evaluation of the longer-term impact of the COVID-19 pandemic to HEIs. These recommendations are critical on how HEIs like UP need to evolve to thrive and engage better with its communities in a post-COVID-19 era.

## **Production and Marketing Strategies to Sustain KALINGA Mix as Nutrition-cum Livelihood Intervention: The Case of RIC Los Baños**

Belinda A. Lalap, Angelina dR. Felix, Ma. Cristina L. Lanorio, Arnold

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In the Philippines, the Rural Improvement Clubs (RIC) that have been established harness the potential of women in community projects and activities. In the municipality of Los Baños, Laguna, one of the RIC's income generating projects for mothers is the production of KALINGA Mix, an inexpensive and highly nutritious food supplement adopted by the Barangay Integrated Development Approach for Nutrition Improvement (BIDANI) from the Food and Nutrition Research Institute (FNRI-DOST). RIC's KALINGA production started in 1995 to help eliminate or reduce malnutrition.

Currently, the production of KALINGA Mix is limited and available only at RIC Learning Centers in nine barangays in Los Baños. Understanding the current production and marketing situation will give a better overview on how they can improve in the future. Generally, the study aimed to identify factors that would help sustain the production and marketing of KALINGA Mix in RIC Los Baños.

Online questionnaires were distributed to RIC personnel and officers. Descriptive analysis was done using frequency counts and percentages, and the experiences and suggestions that the respondents shared were also considered. Overall, the personnel and officers were motivated to continue the production of KALINGA. However, they face challenges in terms of time, resources/materials, and finances. Most of the beneficiaries were students, mothers, senior citizens, pregnant women, underprivileged and undernourished children, and sick persons. To further promote KALINGA, they participated in seminars, trainings, and cooking contests. For monitoring, they conducted school and home visitations.

Suggested approaches to sustain the production were the continuous participation in feeding programs, promotions through cooking contests and product development, proper auditing and effective marketing, and sufficient financial support and materials. Overall, the RIC management should act upon and focus on problems and suggestions of the personnel, including adjustments that should be made during this pandemic.

## **Addressing the Needs of the Education Stakeholders during the Pandemic: The Story Behind the UPOU-PLDT Infoteach Special Webinar Series**

Melinda dP. Bandalaria and Emely M. Amoloza

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For almost ten years, the University of the Philippines Open University (UPOU), in partnership with the PLDT, Inc. has been conducting training on digital literacy among secondary school teachers and students all over the Philippines. However, due to the disruption in the regular school activities due to the threat of the COVID-19 pandemic, the project management team of the UPOU-PLDT Infoteach Outreach Program decided to host a special series of webinars that address the needs of the teachers and students. With the theme “Gearing Up for the New Normal,” the webinar series was conceptualized as a result of an assessment of what assistance is required by the various education stakeholders to prepare for the school year 2020-2021. This was done in partnership with the DepEd Division level and some local government units (LGUs).

The webinar series included sessions intended for teachers (Preparing your Courses for Online Delivery, Engaging your Learners Online, Assessment in Online Learning, and Supporting Online Learners); students (Preparing to be an Online Learner); for parents (Supporting the Online Learners); and for the general public (Cyber Security and Special Session with the Local Chief Executives: LGU supporting the Schools).

Following Yin’s case research design, this study aimed to share the experiences focused on the lessons learned and best practices in conducting online training in the time of the pandemic. The documentation (webinar recordings), participant observation (journal/observed human interaction), and archival records (activity evaluation) were used as evidence in this study.

Results showed that the webinar series positively affected its participants, helped them to prepare, and capacitated them for the online classes. This webinar series has gathered a total of 61,419 registered participants coming from all over the world.

## **Creating A Stronger State Universities and Colleges Partnerships Towards Participatory and Responsive Public Service**

Emilia S. Visco, PhD, Maria Emilinda T. Mendoza,  
Diana A. Torio, April Charmaine D. Camacho, Regina Karla J. Gache,  
Lorie M. Alborida, and King Niño B. Manzano

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The Science and Technology Community-based for Inclusive Development (STC4iD) Program is a PCAARRD-DOST funded program implemented by six state universities and colleges in the country. Serving as Program Lead under the Capacity Development and Program Monitoring and Evaluation for STC4iD State Universities and Colleges, University of the Philippines Los Baños created stronger partnerships with Central Mindanao State University, Sultan Kudarat State University, Mindanao State University-Sulu, Siquijor State College and Sorsogon State University to implement a more participatory and responsive public service. STC4iD Program aims to establish sustainable and resilient AANR-based communities through S&T and promote inclusive development for men and women in the five Geographically, Economically and Socially Disadvantaged (GESD) communities identified by SUC partners.

To realize the goal of the program, six capacity development trainings were conducted. The SUC partners then capacitated their respective community based organization (CBO) partners. The CBOs are Kiharing Women's Association (KWA), Salangsang Vegetable Farmers' Association (SaVeFa), Sulu Farmers for Internally Displaced Persons Organization (SFIDPO), Bitaug Small Coconut Farmers Association (BISMACOFA), and Biga Innovative Group for Advancement and Inclusiveness Association (BIGANI). Aside from capacity building activities, communal demo farms/gardens were also established.

Empowerment of the CBO members was translated into improved gardening/farming practices and improved social competencies by building relations within their organizations and community. They believed that this was due to the knowledge and skills gained from the capacity building activities of the STC4iD program. The evident outcome of the program was food security and improvement of nutrition among the CBO members. They grew their own food from their backyards and farms for their consumption especially during the COVID-19 pandemic. They also had access to safe and nutritious food since they were able to apply the farming techniques learned from the program. The program has provided an additional source of income for the families of the CBO members.



# PARALLEL SESSION 3C

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## **Mental Health Promotion during the Pandemic**

This panel features how institutions have sought to build emotional resilience amidst the pandemic. It features the experiences and challenges faced in the delivery of psychosocial support initiatives.

## **Remote Psychosocial Support and Volunteer Management during a Pandemic: Lessons and Opportunities from a Social Worker and Faculty Lens**

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The COVID-19 pandemic has affected not only the physiological health but also the psychosocial and safety aspect of people. As a professional social worker and UP faculty, the author has helped organize a volunteer group of social workers.

The initiative aims to give free remote or distance psychosocial support and counseling to any person who might need it, as a direct effect of the pandemic or its other consequences like economic struggles, isolation, uncertainty or gender based violence. As one of the founders, the author helped set up structures and strategies to effectively respond and manage psychosocial support. She was also tapped by two organizations to provide remote/distance psychosocial support and counseling to the public.

Moreover, the author was able to assist some returning Filipino migrant workers who needed to come back due to the pandemic for their smoother arrival in the Philippines. Such activities were able to help people manage their stresses, anxieties, and short-term concerns related to the psychosocial effects of the pandemic. With the rise of incidence of abuses during the lockdown, the author also reported to authorities cases of gender-based violence and child abuses. These cases were managed by the assigned authorities in their areas, which hopefully resolved their concerns.

Webinars on psychosocial support were also organized to help capacitate volunteers and other interested parties. Integration of gender perspective and integrative wellbeing in providing psychosocial support was highlighted by the author. As direct outcomes of the initiative, the author has provided remote psychosocial support to around 25 individuals and spoke in at least 5 webinars on integrating gender and integrative wellbeing in providing psychosocial support. Lessons in doing remote psychosocial support, integrating gender perspective, and organizing volunteer groups have been gathered that should help in developing a framework and system for psychosocial support and volunteer management.



## **Fostering Mental Health Wellness amidst the COVID-19 Pandemic**

**Benny S. Soliman, PhD**

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The World Health Organization (2020) reported that COVID-19 has been generating a great amount of stress throughout the global population. Likewise, the Center for Disease Control and Prevention (2020) reiterated that fear and anxiety about the disease can lead to more serious mental health concerns. Recognizing the said impact of the pandemic, the Tarlac Agricultural University (TAU)—Office of Student Services and Development (OSSD) launched the program entitled “Fostering Mental Health Wellness amidst the COVID-19 Pandemic.”

The program aims to provide services geared toward a mentally flourishing TAU and nearby community. To attain the objectives of the program, several activities were undertaken such as mental health assessment, telecounseling, psychosocial support and critical incident stress debriefing. The program also included several webinars that touched on mental health-related topics such as fostering mental health awareness, coping with stress and anxiety amidst the COVID-19 pandemic, ending the stigma on mental health, green therapy and mental health awareness. The primary beneficiaries of the aforementioned activities were TAU students, alumni, teaching, and non-teaching staff and nearby community. Activities of a wider scope were also undertaken such as volunteer work in the Central Luzon Volunteer Mental health professionals where the volunteers provided free online counseling to residents of Central Luzon. Another engagement included a participation in CHED Region III Bayanihan program where a talk about “Mental Health Support for Teachers” was facilitated by the group.

At present, the TAU—Office of Student Services and Development is gathering data to evaluate the outcome of the program.

## **Coping Mechanism of Tenured Teachers in the Implementation of Online Class**

**Rollan Ray A. Roxas, Christine Joy Diaz, Jeremy Roxas, and Joy Maricar Habagat**

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Due to the drastic change brought by the COVID-19 Pandemic, the country's economy, people's social life, and even education at all levels have been impacted in various ways. As a result, the Department of Education and the Commission on Higher Education deemed it necessary to transition from face-to-face classroom setup to a more flexible learning modality, including online classes. Thus, this study analyses the coping mechanism of the tenured teachers in the implementation of online class here in the Philippines. Moreover, the researchers used the phenomenological research method and chose four informants from both public and private elementary schools to gather data.

The informants experienced challenges in workloads, new teaching environment, internet connectivity and use of technology that caused discomfort to them. The findings highlighted the need for a support system of tenured teachers that enables them to cope with the challenges brought by the said implementation. Recommendations for further research are also examined.

## **SMART Project: Strengthening Mental Health Awareness and Resiliency during the Time of Pandemic**

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The Philippines was not spared of the COVID-19 pandemic. Researches showed that the spread of the COVID-19 was associated with psychological distress and mental illnesses. Given this, it is vital for Southern Luzon State University (SLSU) as the largest chartered university in the province of Quezon, to extend its services to vulnerable communities to address their mental health concerns. With its Psychology program under the College of Arts and Sciences and the faculty members who are also mental health professionals, SLSU is at its best position to help various sectors of the Filipino society to curb the mental health implications of COVID-19 pandemic. Hence, this project was conceptualized. This project aims to raise mental health awareness, cultivate coping strategies, and provide psychosocial support through individual, group, and community intervention. From June 2020 to July 2021, there have been 39 online activities or webinars, 15 face-to-face seminar-workshops, and four (4) radio show sessions. The 54 online and face-to-face activities were directed to social services providers (3); health care services providers (1); teachers (6); college students (6); high school students (4); parent-teachers' associations (2); government employees (7); private sector employees (2); cooperative employees (1); OFWs (6); jail personnel (2); librarians (2); air force personnel (1); persons deprived of liberty [PDLs] (4); religious organization (1); athlete and coaches (1); and the vulnerable sectors like 4Ps members (2); LGBTQ+ community (2); and women (1). Referrals for psychological assessment, counseling and other types of interventions were also given. In order to gauge the effectiveness of the programs given, pre- and post-tests and evaluation questionnaires were given. Data implied that participants' knowledge about mental health improved after the program ( $p < 0.05$ ) and their reaction level shows high satisfaction about the activity (95.2%-98.06%).

## **Gitara at Awit: Isang Gawaing Pang-ekstensyon para sa mga Manggagawa ng UP Diliman**

**Nathan Neil V. Manimtim and Solaiman Jamisolamin**

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Ayon sa mga pag-aaral, ang pakikinig at paglikha ng musika, gayundin ang pagtugtog at pagkanta nang sabay-sabay, ay maraming mabubuting naidudulot sa kalusugang pisikal at mental ng mga tao. Ito ang nagbigay inspirasyon sa UP Kolehiyo ng Musika upang magpanukala ng isang gawaing pang-ekstensiyon na tutugon sa pangangailangan ng Unibersidad sa pagkakaroon ng karagdagang programa na nakatuon sa health and wellness ng mga kawani. Ang programa ay pinamagatang Gitara at Awit: Panimulang Klase sa Paggigitara para sa mga Manggagawa ng UP Diliman.

Naisagawa ang unang Gitara at Awit (GA) noong 2019 sa pamumuno nina Prop. Nathan Neil Manimtim at Prop. Solaiman Jamisolamin, kasama ang mga student volunteers mula sa UP Guitar Society, at katuwang ang All U.P. Workers' Union Diliman Chapter. Nang matapos ang programa, ibinahagi ng mga kalahok ang kanilang karanasan sa pagsali sa GA. Ayon sa kanila, nakatulong ito hindi lamang sa pagkakatatuto sa pagtugtog ng gitara, kundi pati na rin sa kanilang kalusugan at well-being sapagkat nagsilbi itong stress reliever nila pagkatapos ng nakakapagod at mahabang oras ng trabaho sa opisina.

Noong nakaraang taon, dahil sa pagtutulungan at pagkakaisa ng mga faculty, admin staff, REPS, estudyante at alumni volunteers, muling naipatupad at naisagawa ang ikalawang GA. Sa kabila ng matinding pagsubok dulot ng pandemya at limitasyon ng online/remote learning, sama-sama pa rin silang naggitara, nag-awitan, gayundin ay nagtawanan, nagkwentuhan at nagkumustahan. Patuloy pa rin nilang ipinamalas ang paglilingkod at pagtutulungan upang mapagtagumpayan ang mga naiatas sa kanila. Disyembre 2020 noong naipalabas sa YouTube channel ng Kolehiyo ng Musika ang pagtatanghal ng mga kalahok ng GA2.

Dahil naging positibo ang resulta ng GA2 sa kabila ng hamon ng pandemya, napagpasyahan muli ng mga bumubuo ng GA noong Marso 2021 na ipagpatuloy ito sa ikatlong pagkakataon. Sa 10 Agosto 2021 ipalalabas ang pagtatanghal ng mga kalahok sa GA3.



# PARALLEL SESSION 3D

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## Technical Assistance and Policy Development

This panel features how academe-government engagements in the form of technical assistance have paved the way for better crafting of policy and its implementation.

## **Provision of Interactive Food Safety Technical Consultancy Services to 11 MSMEs in Region 3**

**Aljon N. Lusong**

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Many venture into businesses armed with passion but without sufficient technical knowledge and skills to help them go about their chosen lines successfully. For instance, many food processors either lack knowledge on food safety hazards, or have knowledge but lack the necessary skills to minimize risks associated with such hazards, resulting in unsafe production activities and products and putting consumers in danger. To help address this challenge, the Department of Science and Technology Region 3 and Tarlac State University organized the Interactive Food Safety Technical Consultancy Services Project (iFS Project) for 11 MSMEs of Region 3 during the pandemic to help contribute to the national goals of ensuring safe food processing and foster the development of MSMEs. This project is the pandemic edition of the previous Food Safety Project which was conducted face-to-face from 2017-2019. Implementation was conducted purely online from September 2020 to April 2021 and was divided into three phases. The initial assessment phase involved identification of needs, risk factors, and hazards related to production activities, with an intervention plan as the output. The second phase involved the implementation of the intervention plan, which included the conduct of online coaching sessions, technology training, and webinars. During the final phase, the MSMEs presented the status of implementation of the recommendations, which were then assessed and evaluated to determine significant immediate effects in reducing or eliminating identified hazards and risks, the effectiveness of preventive controls, and readiness for FDA product registration. Since the project has just concluded, outcomes shall be measured at a later time. However, immediate effects in terms of risk minimization and compliance to accreditation and certification requirements were already assessed and it was revealed that the MSMEs were able to minimize all identified risk factors down to acceptable levels. Furthermore, the MSMEs were found to have complied with various accreditation and certification requirements.



## **Ensuring Safe Reopening of Higher Education Institutions during the COVID-19 Pandemic through Partnership between the Commission on Higher Education and Public Health Experts in UP Manila**

John Robert C. Medina, Paul Michael R. Hernandez, Maria Rosana E. De Guzman,

Emerito A. Faraon, Marian Fe Theresa C. Lomboy, Ernesto R. Gregorio, Jr.,

Evalyn A. Roxas, Carmelita C. Canila, Carlos Primero D. Gundran, and Vicente Y. Belizario Jr.

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During the early stage of the COVID-19 pandemic, a Public Health Experts Group (PHEG) was created by the Commission on Higher Education (CHED) through CHED Special Order (CSO) No. 24A series of 2020 to provide technical expertise in setting up guidelines for using campuses of higher education institutions (HEIs) as quarantine facilities or community isolation units. With the realization that some degree programs, e.g., those in the field of health sciences, may not be able to do away with face-to-face delivery for the attainment of program outcomes, the role and function of CHED-PHEG was expanded to cover this concern by virtue of CSO No. 35 series of 2021.

CHED-PHEG was tasked to (1) develop guidelines and evaluation instruments for the gradual reopening of HEIs for limited face-to-face (limited F2F) classes and internship programs, (2) provide training to personnel of CHED Regional Offices in conducting assessment of HEIs on their readiness, (3) draft monitoring tool for HEIs that re-opened, (4) join the inspection of HEIs that are applying for limited F2F classes and internship programs, and (5) (3) draft monitoring tool for HEIs that re-opened,.

On February 10, 2021, the Joint Memorandum Circular No. 2021 – 001 was signed by the Chair of CHED and the Secretary of the Department of Health. This provides guidelines on gradual reopening for limited F2F classes and the evaluation instrument for HEIs that are applying for authority to reopen. On February 19, training for evaluators from regional offices was provided. Many HEIs in Metro Manila had already been inspected by the CHED Inspection Team, which include members of the CHED-PHEG. Currently, the monitoring tool for schools that reopened is being drafted.

## **Building Local Capacities towards Pandemic Preparedness: The Municipal Health System Strengthening Program (MHSSP)**

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The Municipal Health System Strengthening Program (MHSSP) is a two-day training program for the Expanded Local Health Board (ELHB). It primarily aims to strengthen the capacities of local health leaders to be able to build a resilient health system that is responsive and relevant to the needs of their communities especially in these trying times. In Western Visayas, the program implementation is led by the Department of Health Western Visayas Center for Health Development done in partnership with University of the Philippines Visayas that provided the technical assistance as resource persons and facilitators, the Local Government Units (LGUs) provided the logistic support.

Since January 2020, 18 ELHBs have been trained using both online and face-to-face modes of delivery that led to the development of health action plans. The high training evaluation scores and the improvement in the training post-test scores from pretest scores are manifestations of the partners' determination to pursue health resilience despite challenges brought about by physical distancing requirements, power disruptions, and connectivity.

## **Strengthening Local Capacities in Bridging the Gap in National Government Response During a State of National Public Health Emergency**

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COVID-19 pandemic posed unprecedented governance challenges. Overstrained local government unit (LGU) capacities affected the quality of responses while still ensuring compliance to national government directives, and upholding domestic, civil, political, & economic welfare. Partnership between LGUs in the pandemic epicenter, the Institute of Politics and Governance (IPG), different professionals, and academics maximized new capacity-building methods vital in enabling LGUs to respond to unfolding local situations.

The project aims to strengthen the current capacities of LGUs, health volunteers, and partner communities as health service providers; enhance local communication structure and connectivity; and promote well-being of community-based frontliners and essential service workers. In order to attain project goals, structured technical assistance was done through various online platforms, and COVID-19 health & legal hotlines were established. Local communications infrastructure was also developed, installed, and activated. Public health emergency materials were developed, produced, and distributed. Mental health services for frontliners and essential service workers were also offered. Online courses on community-based mental health programs and community-based management of COVID-19 were done with LGUs, community health volunteers, and other key stakeholders.

The project was implemented in eight (8) selected barangays in Antipolo and Marikina and was enjoined by community health volunteers who assisted in designing and disseminating information on addressing issues on discrimination, stigmatization, false information, minimum health standards, and other COVID-19 related topics. Communication infrastructure was established in all sites. At least 40 participants attended the Community-based Management of COVID-19 course, while 44 participants attended the Community-based Mental Health (MH) Program course. The project was able to provide online mental health consultations by MH professionals to 13 barangay officials and staff needing support. Despite limitations in resources, partnership from different sectors in the community, LGUs, NGO, the academe, and across professions were able to amplify and maximize capacities to reimagine appropriate methodologies and innovate adaptive responses to the current situation and beyond.



# PARALLEL SESSION 4A

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## **Rehabilitation Efforts during the Pandemic**

This panel features different facets of rehabilitation efforts during the pandemic which includes emotional healing, physical rehabilitation and conservation of heritage sites.

## **(Pag)LINGAP (sa) KAPP(wa) sa panahon ng pandemya: Ang Karanasan ng OSLO-Pahinungod sa UP Diliman**

**Reginaldo D. Cruz at Deciniv Dela Cruz**

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Tulad ng ibang mga organisasyon at opisina naglalayong magbigay serbisyo, ang OSLO-Pahinungod ng Kolehiyo ng Agham Panlipunan at Pilosopiya (KAPP) sa UP Diliman ay naapektuhan sa pagpasok ng pandemyang hanggang sa kasalukuyan ay patuloy na nagpapahirap sa karamihan ng ating mga kababayan. Mula halimbawa sa mas nabibigyang-tuon na service learning, na naging malaking hamon ang pagpapatupad ng orihinal na disenyo kung saan kinakailangan ang harapan o face-to-face na interaksyon, ay nakita naman ang pangangailangan at pagkakataon para mas bigyang-pansin ang paglingap at pag-agapay (outreach) sa kapwa, lalo't higit sa mga kasamahan sa kolehiyo. Makikita ito sa pamumuno ng opisina sa proyektong nagbigay ng tulong sa mga sa mga umalalay na custodial at guwardiya noong nakaraang noong nakaraang taon sa “Kanlungang Palma sa Panahon ng Pandemya” (KaPPP) or “Kanlungang Palma”, isang community isolation unit para sa komunidad ng UP Diliman. Samantala, sa kasalukuyan ay tumatakbo naman ang proyektong “Mula sa Ani Para sa Ani”, kung saan binabahaginan ng bigas ang mga nagsisilbi sa kolehiyong walang natatanggap na rice allowance na sila ring walang seguridad sa trabaho’t kadalasang mas mababa ang natatanggap na sweldo. Pangunahing katuwang ng opisina ang mga guro at kawani ng kolehiyo sa paglikom ng kinakailangan sa mga nabanggit na masasabing matagumpay na proyektong naging tugon sa hamon ng pandemya.

Sa madaling sabi, ilalahad sa presentasyon ang naging hamon, tugon, pagkilala, at panukalang pangunahing masasalamain sa proyektong nasa ilalim ng “Lingap (sa) KAPP(wa)” ng opisina ng OSLO-Pahinungod. Ang ating mga kwento sa patuloy na paghahanap ng paraan at oportunidad sa pandemyang tila patuloy pang susubok sa ating mga kakayanan, at pangangailangan ng pagmamalasakit sa ating kapwa.

## **Collaboration for the Continuance of Community-Based Rehabilitation Binangonan during Pandemic**

Sheen Ymel P. Cenidoza, Catherine Joy Escuadra, and Donald G. Manlapaz

Community Based Rehabilitation Binangonan

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The recent pandemic has taken a toll on the world's health, social, economic, and political aspects affecting the people at the fringes of society. The paralysis of health care system delivery has transcended not just beyond the walls of hospitals and clinics but also the marginalized individuals in the community, particularly persons with disability (PWD). The University of Santo Tomas, in pursuit of nation building and community development, collaborated with the Community-Based Rehabilitation (CBR) Binangonan, Rizal to assist in the continuance of delivery of services during the pandemic. CBR focuses on rehabilitation, equalization of opportunities and social inclusion of all PWD through collaboration of PWDs, their families, and relevant organizations.

This study aims to showcase the CBR strategies implemented in the community during pandemic based on the collaboration with University of Santo Tomas. Political, Economic, Social, and Technological analyses were conducted through the review of records, observation and interviews. A series of meetings with representatives of the university were conducted to discuss projects for the community. Activities undertaken have resulted in identification of collaborative projects for the PWDs in Binangonan following the CBR matrix. To date, the ongoing collaboration includes the provision of rehabilitation services through telehealth and teleconsult in collaboration with doctors, physical therapy, occupational therapy, speech language pathology professionals and students (100 PWDs). It also includes the development of health education and promotion materials for the public.

Initial evaluation of the programs have also resulted to identification of other future programs for collaboration such as a possible collaboration with other academic units of the university for the creation and sustainability of livelihood programs for PWDs as well as of the development of more training for the CBR workers, and family members of PWDs and the creation of an efficient and sustainable evaluation based on CBR Cycle through research.



## **OASH in the Time of Covid-19: Delivering Justice and Healing in the “New Normal”**

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On the onset of the pandemic along with lockdown measures imposed by both the University of the Philippines Diliman (UPD) and the Philippine administration, it became a challenge for the Office of Anti-Sexual Harassment (OASH) to deliver our services for the prevention, investigation, and resolution of cases in the UP community. It was also difficult for us to provide support to individuals and groups outside the university who and that seek the office's assistance or advice. To respond to the looming problems, OASH put in place an online system to carry out its tasks, duties, and responsibilities with emphasis on healing and justice. Anti-sexual harassment (SH) orientation and relevant trainings inside and outside UPD are redesigned for an online platform and audience. Filing of reports and cases and preliminary and formal proceedings are held with the help of internet mediated technologies. It is imperative that safety, security, and confidentiality for all concerned parties are guaranteed. Adherence to the principle of “do no harm” is followed as much as possible hence, provisions for psycho-social and legal assistance are made certain. While we conduct our daily tasks in this set-up, we continue to accommodate consultation requests from partner entities and non-up organizations/institutions. Indeed, setbacks are present and emerge thus, we constantly learn and consult with stakeholders how to improve our services and efforts in creating and maintaining a culture that respects human rights underscoring that all forms of SH are unacceptable.

## **Kapit Bisig Laban sa Pandemya – A Project Against COVID-19 for the Protection and Conservation of the Mount Makiling Forest Reserve ASEAN Heritage Park and Mount Bulalo**

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Mae Belen L. Putian, Myranel S. Canceran, Angela A. Limpiada,

Gardie N. Canilan, Leonardo D. Barua, Aldin C. Alegre, and Roberto G. Visco

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The Kapit Bisig Laban sa Pandemya (KBLP) is a project launched by the Makiling Center for Mountain Ecosystems of the UPLB College of Forestry and Natural Resources, in partnership with the Philippine Geothermal Production Company, Inc. and in line with their ongoing project entitled “Participatory Development through Community Based Natural Resources Management in Mount Makiling Forest Reserve ASEAN Heritage Park (MMFR AHP) and Mount Bulalo” that was started last October 2020. The KBLP project was designed for the four partner communities namely Barangay Bitin, Bay and Barangay Limao, Calauan in Laguna province and Barangays San Vicente and Sta. Elena in Sto. Tomas, Batangas. The project is also aligned with the conservation and management initiatives of the Center for the MMFR AHP and Mount Bulalo, with the goal of understanding the protocols on COVID-19 and the coping mechanisms during the pandemic. Activities included the conduct of seminars on health protocols during COVID-19 and stress and anxiety management, the distribution of face mask, face shield, and vitamins C, and distribution of super paso and seedlings. The protective gears were distributed to the barangays. Meanwhile, the distribution of super paso and seedlings was envisioned to promote sustainable food production. The activities were conducted face-to-face following health protocols. The project members observed that the communities were receptive and participative, and exhibited appreciation of the beauty and usefulness of backyard farming. Through this initiative, there is less pressure on MMFR AHP and Mount Bulalo.



# PARALLEL SESSION 4B

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## **Multisectoral and Collaborative Pandemic Response Initiatives**

Recognizing the importance of utilizing a comprehensive strategy in curbing the effects of the pandemic, this panel showcases the importance of having a multisectoral and interconnected pandemic response.

## University of the Philippines Diliman COVID-19 Response

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The term of Prof. Dr. Fidel R. Nemenzo, PhD as University of the Philippines Diliman (UPD) Chancellor started in March 2020, a few days before the Luzon-wide Enhanced Community Quarantine (ECQ) was imposed. Consequently, he created UPD COVID-19 Task Force (TF) to plan out and implement the University's response to the pandemic. As the national university, UPD had to continue performing its threefold mandate of teaching, research and public service. Because of this, UPD started to play a critical role during the period of crisis.

UPD mobilized its faculty, researchers, and students across disciplines to produce evidence based policies, recommendations, and solutions to the crisis. At the same time, the University has to protect its diverse community of students, staff, faculty and residents from the impact of the global health crisis. Its pandemic response initiative was widespread and diverse, covering health care (physical and mental wellness), food security, education, and community service.

The UPD COVID-19 Response Framework was developed to put together the initiatives its community members undertook to address the various aspects of the aforementioned mandate and to ensure continuity and sustainability. The general objective of the proposed Response Framework is to minimize the negative socio-economic impact of the pandemic to the UPD community while the University is performing its mandate. The framework is designed for the short-term to mid-term period to address the challenges of the pandemic but may be updated to provide long-term response as UPD's moves towards a "better normal."

It consists of four major strategies to minimize the socio-economic impact of COVID-19 to the community: ensure good health and safety; support academic and research functions; ensure adequate and continuous flow of UPD services; and promote effective communication.

The impact of these strategies and how these helped manage the effects of the pandemic since March until the present will be discussed.

## Challenges and Opportunities during the Early Stages of COVID-19 Pandemic: The UPLB OVCSA Experience

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The year 2020 was equally exciting and challenging for the newly elevated UPLB Office of the Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs (OVCSA). It was in the middle of a transition when the enhanced community quarantine was suddenly implemented in Luzon. OVCSA immediately responded to the needs of approximately 2500 students who were stranded in both campus dormitories and off-campus residences as a result of the imposition of rigid travel restrictions.

The Centralized Help Desk was utilized to gather students' concerns through text messaging, Facebook, and email, serving as the information database of all affected students. Oplan Kumustahan was launched to check on students' health and wellbeing. Lingap: Adopt-a-Dormer Donation Program was organized to collect in-kind and cash donations which were used to support travel and food assistance programs. Oplan Hatid, a repatriation initiative in partnership with several institutions ensured the safe travel of stranded students, faculty, and staff back to their hometowns. Oplan Kawingan, a volunteer-packed initiative, prepared and delivered cooked meals and nutritionist-recommended food packs (NFP) from March to May 2020.

A total online cash donation of about ₱3.6M and on-hand cash donation of about ₱1M were received. Other in-kind donations (rice, meat products, eggs, vegetables, fruits) were dropped off at the UPLB Gate and Student Union Building. These were used as supplies for Oplan Kawingan. With a total of 128 trips for Oplan Hatid, 1,267 individuals and their 127 chaperones were reunited with their families. Oplan Kumustahan focused on the student's psychosocial needs and served an average of 400 students per month through tele-counseling, information, and referral.

The support system provided to administrators, personnel, and limited staff reporting to the office, along with the volunteers, created a more enabling environment despite the risks. The use of digital technologies that can share data and information in real time and in collaborative fashion proved essential in rendering urgent and remote programs and services.

This pandemic strengthened the spirit of volunteerism and raised the level of generosity among individuals, private agencies, and other sectors. The committed OVCSA leadership, in strong linkages with other UPLB institutions, permitted an empowered response to address students' needs, and in effect catapulted a niche as a public service institution of the university.

## **Connecting Despite Distancing: Innovating Collaborations for an Effective COVID-19 Response in Partido, Camarines Sur**

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Amid the COVID-19 pandemic, the different sectors of the Partido community have found new ways of working with one another to stem the transmission of the disease and improve the quality of life of the locals. The Partido State University served as a hub in organizing the efforts of various groups in the area including local government units, student organizations, non-profit organizations, private businesses, and individuals. Because of its established linkages communities in far-flung areas in the uplands and coastal parts of the Partido district, PSU was able to identify and implement effective strategies for pooling resources and distributing them through donation drives. Enlisting the participation of radio broadcasting stations, field experts, and concerned individuals has also been successful as seen in regularly held radio shows and webinars. Since the pandemic started, PSU and the members of the Partido community have provided food, tools for protection, and accurate information to at least 12,669 individuals.



## **Relevant Approach to Predominate Outreach Activities Intended for Delimited Engagements (Relevant APO AIDE)**

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This paper showcases a strategy and well-suited pandemic response in the conduct of outreach activities like education-oriented donation drives, environmental conservation activities and cleanup drives, bloodletting, consumer services for students, webinars and other information dissemination and awareness drives. The approach, which was put into action by a student-centered civic organization in the university, includes aspects that were significant in accomplishing tasks such as the general plan, the mode of communication, and the logistics. These aspects were linked from the organization's tiers to their external ties with proactive coordination using modern ways of logistics that also considers the restrictions in mobilizing during the pandemic. The involvement of the organization's alumni played an important role in performing legwork duties especially since resident members are limited by the new health guidelines. Using this approach, with the appropriate designation of tasks and with fastened coordination, the organization executed their outreach activities successfully. Furthermore, the organization will still cater to future calls for outreach activities for it is a major function in the organization's principles. This new approach is a contribution to the old ways of outreach programs therefore making it hybrid in terms of execution. It is expected to remain permanent but is subject to minor modifications in compliance with the policies to be implemented by the national government.

## **Remote Capacity Development Activity Amid the COVID-19 Pandemic: The Case of Barangay Integrated Development Approach (BIDA) Innovative Strategy**

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The Barangay Integrated Development Approach (BIDA) is one of the innovative strategies of the Barangay Integrated Development Approach for Nutrition (BIDANI). It aims to create awareness and empower actors to actively participate in development efforts in their communities and enhance the capacity of the local leaders in planning, implementation, monitoring, and evaluating development programs/projects/activities. Prior to the COVID-19 pandemic, physical field visits were done to provide technical assistance to the catchment barangay local government units (BLGUs) in the formulation, implementation, and monitoring of the local development plan. With the enforcement of community lockdowns, BIDANI shifted from physical face-to-face field visits to remote extension and public service activities. The BIDA strategy launched the Online Capacity Development Program for the Barangay Development Council/Program Planning and Implementing Committee (BDC/PPIC) in the preparation and re-formulation of the Barangay Integrated Development Plan (BIDP) that sought to capacitate LGUs in preparing their BIDP. Moreover, the Online Kapihan Sa Barangay was organized to provide an online platform that will allow communication with the BLGUs regarding updates on their BIDP preparation and implementation, and conduct a training needs analysis for future BIDANI webinars and online activities. Despite challenges in device usage and Internet connectivity, the BIDA strategy's remote extension and public service initiative showed the feasibility of remote capacity development activities. While some BLGUs completed their BIDP, some did not because of other challenges and constraints. The online platform also served as an avenue to gauge the BLGUs' knowledge on the Mandanas Ruling. The online meeting indicated that BLGUs had reservations on the implementation of the Mandanas Ruling in 2022 because of their minimal knowledge and understanding about the Ruling. The online platform served as a guide in tailor-fitting the BLGUs webinar and allowed them to address their questions and concerns about the Ruling.



# PARALLEL SESSION 4C

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## Reaching Out to the Underserved

This panel features different public service initiatives of the vulnerable, marginalized and underserved sectors of society during the pandemic.

## **Project Agapay 2020: Ahon Kaagapay**

Eunice Grace D. Angus, Matthew Nikolai S. Alajas, Divine Grace V. Cantoria,  
Mary Angelique C. De Mesa, Sirikit Q. De Vera, Lynette C. Manlapas,  
Carla Angeli C. Mendiola, Arlyn Joy D. Purugganan, and Bernard Paolo T. Yumul  
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Project Agapay 2020: Ahon Kaagapay was launched as an urgent response for helping the families residing in Rizal, Marikina, Isabela, Cagayan, and Bicol who are victims of typhoons Quinta, Rolly, and Ulysses last November 2020. The main objective was to raise funds to help the residents. Next, was to foster solidarity and social responsibility as advocates of community service, charity, change, and compassion. Lastly, to become an avenue in raising awareness about the current challenges faced by our society amidst the pandemic. The organization set up a two-week fundraising campaign composed of activities (i.e., infographic series, art auctions, and raffles) to reach out to more people for the said cause. These efforts were made possible through the help of a youth artist from UP-Diliman and a merchandise shop who have partnered with the team in support of Ahon Kaagapay. Aside from them, several ambassadors, nineteen organizations, eight SME sponsors, and Pinoy Virtual Bahay (PVB) Housemates, a group of Filipino Virtual Youtubers who conducted a charity livestream that collected Php 100,780.29, also successfully contributed to the promotion and funding of the donation drive. Through these collaborative efforts, the team garnered a total of Php 211, 367.91. The youth-led organization divided the funds among five organizations with their respective areas: Spark Hope PH received Php 46, 785.97 for Rizal; Block4D received Php 2,360.58 for Marikina; Integrated Bar of the Philippines-Isabela Chapter received Php 50, 481.31 for Isabela; Tulong Kabataan received Php 50,191.31 for Bicol; and Lambak Youth - Youth for Region II received Php 61,548.74 for Cagayan. Each location has a specific bank account to determine the allocated funds for relief packs that contain rice, canned goods, face shields, masks, alcohol, etc. for the affected families in the areas.

## **Binhi ng Pag-unlad: Empowering Communities Amid the Pandemic**

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With the COVID-19 pandemic causing a severe disruption to global food systems, it has highlighted inequalities within and across countries that must be addressed urgently to guarantee food security. This was the motivation behind the conception of an extension program by faculty and staff volunteers from the University of the Philippines Los Baños. The initiative started as a donation drive to address the request for vegetable seeds of a community of relocated families in Brgy. Banay-Banay, Cabuyao City, and progressed to an extended program called BINHI ng Pag-unlad or Seeds of Growth to help more families recover from the impact of the pandemic by addressing food insecurity, promoting good health through plant-based diet, and empowering women of underserved communities.

Through hands-on training and learning sessions administered remotely and on-site, the program was able to establish community organic gardens in Laguna and Batangas. Close coordination and collaboration with different stakeholders allowed the program to sustainably provide planting materials and technical assistance to the communities.

In less than a year, the Hardin ni Nanay in Cabuyao successfully produced organic vegetables and other crops. Extra produce was sold to augment the income of the women leaders who are also being trained to empower others to replicate the Hardin model in other urban poor communities. This has given them a sense of fulfillment and a strong support system that is very much needed during the pandemic.

With the success of the pilot project, development of community gardens in Los Baños and Tarlac are underway. A new collaborative effort called Angat Buhay will be integrated to raise environmental awareness and to provide additional income-generating opportunities for the communities through the collection of used PET bottles to produce recycled products that will further empower communities and strengthen resilience.

## **KSK 9: A Social Distance Engagement for PWD**

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With COVID 19 pandemic halting the face-to-face interaction, intervention and support mechanism for persons with disabilities (PWD) have been suspended to prevent the spread of the virus that hampers health and safety of the populace. The PWD and their families have greatly suffered, and coping with the pandemic is a continuous struggle for them. Strict government health protocols limit, as well as restrict their movements.

For the past few years, GUIDE, Inc. has been organizing the Kasama, Sama Ka (KSK) event held annually every December, in celebration of the International Day of PWD (ID-PWD). The annual event aims to provide psycho-social activities to PWD, allow them to enjoy leisure and sports activities with other children and passion driven volunteers; and to be a venue for their integration to the community as well as for sharing and helping among people who care.

On the ninth year of KSK, due to the pandemic, it was held virtually with R.O.A.R.S. (Risks, Opportunities, and Responsive Signs as its theme. KSK 9 is GUIDE, Inc. 's way of providing connection, socialization, and integration of PWD through games, dance, storytelling and other fun stuff and at the same time to celebrate the ID-PWD. KSK 9 also held a parenting seminar to promote resilience among stakeholders amidst adversaries. Volunteers were tapped to organize the program as well as to beef up the roster of performers and celebrities to entertain the PWD and their families.

With support from friends and organizers, KSK 9 was able to reach out to 150 PWD who were also treated to a sumptuous Jollibee meal. Despite the struggle, the PWD and their families had fun and enjoyed KSK 9. Parents were also enlightened through the sharing of a mother's journey during the pandemic and how the experience kept them going. KSK has once again proven that with sheer determination, the impossible can become possible.



## **Strengths-based Approach to Economic Security in an Indigenous Community**

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At this time, when society encounters the reality of a VUCA (volatile, uncertain, complex, and ambiguous) world, many communities, including indigenous communities, become vulnerable to economic insecurity. This is aggravated by the impacts of the Covid-19 pandemic on the indigenous peoples' opportunity to find sources of livelihood. As indigenous communities are mainly agricultural, this farm-based project highlights diversified farming in response to the economic challenges confronting indigenous families by utilizing strengths-based and systems approaches to achieve economic security.

The project aims to engage with the indigenous peoples, the academic institution, government agencies, civil society organizations, and businesses in various capacities. This engagement brings about empowerment rooted in the optimization of resources and capacities that are readily available in the community. In this paper, there will be further presentation and discussion of the primary activities undertaken, including the identification of social capital and underutilized resources in the community, building multi level and threefold partnerships, developing self-sustaining mechanisms using the systems approach, and providing opportunities to access services leading to people empowerment and economic freedom. This project is a pilot initiative aiming to provide a work plan with definite outputs, lessons, and inspiration ready for replication in other indigenous communities with similar contexts.

## **Medispatch PH: A Medicine Delivery Service for Senior Citizens and Persons with Disability**

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Due to the COVID-19 crisis, the local government of Iligan City, like the rest of the Philippines, has restricted the movement of vulnerable groups like senior citizens (SCs) and persons with disabilities (PWDs). This restriction significantly affects their access to procure medication. Medispatch PH is a startup founded by students of the Mindanao State University-Iligan Institute of Technology (MSU-IIT) that employs youth delivery riders. Local pharmacies were tapped as partners in the procurement and delivery of prescription and over-the-counter medicines for SCs and PWDs. Launched on January 4, 2021, Medispatch PH utilized social media platforms as the startup's minimum viable product to facilitate inquiries and bookings as well as close coordination with the pharmacies as supply partners and youth delivery riders as logistics partners through an optimized service blueprint. Currently in its early business operations phase and at the same time a research of MSU-IIT, Medispatch PH has already served more than twelve (12) SCs and PWDs; employed three (3) youth riders; and has partnered with eight (8) local pharmacies. Medispatch PH is an on-going public service engagement that exhibits the partnership between the academe, businesses and communities in serving the vulnerable groups of Iligan City by providing their medicine needs while giving sustainable income to its partner youth riders and increasing the revenue of local partner pharmacies.



# PARALLEL SESSION 4D

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## **Setting-up of Community Pantries as Public Service during the Pandemic**

This panel features several initiatives that revolved around the concept of building community pantries, a phenomenon that became popular during the pandemic.

## **Social Technology in Community Pantries: Perspectives and Insights from Social Technology Graduates**

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This article seeks to find ways to integrate the evolving community pantry initiatives with social technology as an approach during the peak of lockdown that contributes to lessening hunger in peripheral communities. Philippine government support called the Ayuda for the communities is limited during its implementation. It is based on Bayanihan Heal as One Act, a policy passed by the legislators for pandemic interventions. The paper explores the insights of the social technology graduates' experiences on setting up community pantries and in using various perspectives about social technology approaches.

From the different reflections, it showed that community pantries engaged people to organize and mobilize through their community of belonging and enabled their human capacity or agency. It also described mobilization of community resources through networks and various human organizations as social beings and social relations. The discussions related the graduate's insights and perspective within the human ecological framework and how these contexts play into one another while looking at how it may be part of a social development framework.

The paper recommends a more appropriate human and people-centered social technology strategy to support the communities and to also to have a social development policy that serves the best interest of the people. Coordinated support and effort by the national government, local government, and other potential partners from the private sectors, academe, and community organizations can be concrete actions in bridging the implementation of social development interventions. In the end, strengthening a more collective and directed partnership through collaboration mechanisms is also necessary for a more inclusive social development approach to fulfill the development of human potential in a concerted and organized manner.

## **FBC Community Pantry: Learning From Initial Engagement**

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The FBC Community Pantry was the institution's response to bring relief to vulnerable members of the community during COVID-19 pandemic. In the months of May to June, the college through its different departments, in partnership with the stakeholders conducted community pantry activities to provide basic necessities to beneficiaries who belong to the lower socio-economic class.

This descriptive study was conducted to assess the effectiveness and the perceived impact of the community pantry as evaluated by the recipients. There were 155 respondents who evaluated the activity as very effective and very beneficial. The following themes and insights emerged from the qualitative data coming from recipients' responses: negative impact of COVID 19 on the lower class, gratefulness for the assistance, provision of relief, and addressing needs beyond the physical concerns. Further, the following reflections were noted from the FGD conducted to the organizers of the program: value of partnership, collaboration, strengthened bond among organizers, and fulfillment amidst difficulty.

Based on experience, recommendations are provided on how educational institutions can engage in relief programs as part of community extension during this time of pandemic.

## **Strength Amidst COVID-19 Pandemic: A Case Study of Cebu Institute of Technology – University’s Community Pantry**

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The Cebu Institute of Technology-University is one of the best schools in the Visayas and Mindanao regions of the Philippines. It has produced examination board topnotchers in the fields of engineering, nursing, and education, and is one of the 9 Centers of Excellence in IT education in the whole country. With the sudden change in the lives of people globally due to the emergence of the COVID-19 pandemic, the university had been able to create effective and innovative ways to continue its mission and vision of not just ensuring quality instruction to meet local, national and global demands, but to demonstrate how a global pandemic can motivate the strengthening of the bond that exists between an academic community and its neighboring and partner communities in pursuit of the sustenance of the quality of life.

This case study presents how the CIT University, through the strategies of its Community Extension Services Office (CESO), exhibited resilience amidst the challenges brought about by the pandemic, as it simultaneously pooled its resources to strengthen its partnerships with Barangay Labangon and Barangay Calamba and allow both its internal and external community members to thrive and succeed in spite of resources and financial limitations. Overall, the case provides a discussion on how the university strengthens its hold on its credibility not just as a source of quality education but also as an institution that unites and empowers its stakeholders in battling the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic to the people. This case also focuses on the challenges encountered by the CIT-U CESO and its successes in implementing its pandemic response.



## **“Sharing is Caring”: A COVID-19 Community Fundraising Led by UP Alumni Networks in Four Countries Raised 500% of its Original Target**

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The pandemic was a challenge in terms of mental health issues for many people around the world, but in the Philippines, it remains a game of survival. The group aimed to help and set up some of the 1,000+ community pantries in the Philippines, with a mantra: Sharing is Caring. The fundraising is a start to the goal of establishing a strong international UP alumni network especially in Europe. The aim is to care for others and establish a solid support group to assist NGOs and non-political sectors in the Philippines during calamities and disasters. In addition to the establishment of community pantries, the group also spearheaded three events.

The steering group was based in the Philippines and Finland. Originally setting a goal of 150€, the donations went beyond expectations and the group was able to receive 500% more than the original goal. The financial support from Filipinos and foreign donors were from Finland (Rovaniemi, Espoo Vantaa, Helsinki) USA (San Francisco, New Jersey, and New York), Australia (Perth and Melbourne), and the Philippines.

From the successful fundraising campaign, a hefty donation for food supplies to a community in need was made possible. The “Caring is Sharing” seniors in Mindanao, Philippines supported a community pantry with vegetables from local farmers, canned goods and foods, and PPEs. The feat was made possible through its coordination with LGU in Region X. Volunteers sourced the food supplies directly from small farmers and were brought straight to the Community Pantry. Thus, facilitating the support of agriculture livelihood in Mindanao. The help extended to three barangays targeting 100 people internally; thus, a total of 300 people were impacted.

In the past, they held outreach projects for youth, street children & home for the aged. This will be our common benefactor goals even after the pandemic. Through this initiative, the contribution, kindness and generosity reverberated globally, with “To Give Is to Receive” as the buzzword.



# PARALLEL SESSION 5A

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## **Involving the Community in Developing Remote Teaching and Learning Strategies**

This panel features how various institutions have harnessed the potential of grassroots knowledge building in the development of remote teaching and learning strategies to adopt to the new normal.

## **Localizing Field Instruction: Building Stronger Academe-Grassroot Community Partnership**

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One of the challenges which academic communities faced during the pandemic was maintaining the quality of instruction, especially for courses that require hands-on community experience. This became a principal concern to Social Work Education wherein students need to have firsthand experience working with individuals through welfare agencies, families, groups, and communities. Such interface ultimately became impossible given the risks of contracting Covid-19. Thus, this initiative aimed to provide quality field instruction experience to social work students through partnership with grassroot communities without compromising the health safety and psychosocial well-being of stakeholders. Moreover, this also aimed to contribute to community development as a response to the effects of the pandemic.

Localizing field instruction was thought of as an alternative where students were assigned to their respective communities with the goal of finishing their academic requirements and simultaneously making significant changes in their communities through the process of community organizing and community development. The barangay local governments welcomed this initiative, seeing it as an opportunity to mitigate the economic and psychosocial effects of the pandemic. The school's social work department drew partnerships with seven (7) barangays in five (5) municipalities in North Cotabato. Community projects focused mainly on social capital formation and empowerment through capacity-building, skills training, and development which involved different sectors. In turn, the barangay officials and the community people served as learning facilitators in order for the students to develop their skills and monitor and evaluate their individual performances. In addition, a community-based laboratory was established for students to test the practice frameworks they learned and developed throughout the course of the initiative.

## Exploring the Use of Community of Inquiry in Peace Studies

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In response to the need to develop learning resources appropriate for remote learning, Dr. Lumberto G. Mendoza led a partnership project among the University of the Philippines Diliman Department of Philosophy, the Mindanao State University-General Santos City (MSU-GenSan), and the Affiliated Network for Social Accountability in East Asia and the Pacific (ANSA-EAP), which aimed to develop modules for teaching ethics online using the Community of Inquiry (CoI) as framework. The project was launched through the webinar entitled, “Teaching Ethics in the Time of COVID: Using Community of Inquiry as Framework”, that was aired last November 16, 2020.

The event stirred a special interest in MSU-GenSan to focus on the use of CoI in Peace Studies, which was also delivered in a webinar last March 22, 2021. The webinar generated informed discussions on the use of the CoI framework for distance education, and explored the use of virtual CoI for peace studies.

The participating teachers overwhelmingly affirmed the effectiveness of the webinar in providing a model approach to peace education. Through the breakout sessions, they were able to freely share experiences and perspectives on the application of CoI in their physical and virtual classrooms. Outcomes of this extension project include the sharing of theoretical and practical lessons on the use of memes for peace studies, insights on implementing the peace studies program at MSU-GenSan, and effective exchange of lessons about the trying out the CoI approach. This webinar contributed to the participants’ readiness to teach ethics in the new setting, whether it is peace studies or other subjects, though much work remains to be done.

As a manifestation of a high level of interest and commitment, Dr. Wilfred D. Bidad, Dean of the MSU-GenSan Graduate School, announced in his message that there is a possibility of finding funds for the generation of publications based on the extension project.

## **Attaining STEM Education Competencies through Community and Research-Based Initiative for Sustainable Environment (CRISE) Project**

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In response to the public health crisis, the Department of Education has issued DM-CI-2020-00085 which stipulates the guidelines for work immersion implementation during crisis situation. The document provides that in lieu of the Work Immersion, a Capstone Project may be done by SHS learners under Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics strand. Consequently, Zamboanga del Norte National High School crafted programs. The Inquiries, Investigation and Immersion (3Is) requires STEM students to come up with innovations in Agriculture, Climate Change, Data Science, Physical Science, Life Sciences, Engineering, Information Technology and Citizen Science where they are expected to produce products brought about by innovation, care for the environment and improvement of people's lifestyle where they need to strategize on how to come up with innovations given the available resources in their home while following the minimum health protocols. The work immersion, on the other hand, allows students to select a locality, agency or institution which could benefit from the results of their capstone project.

To carry out the convergence, the SHS STEM initiated Community and Research-Based Initiative for Sustainable Environment to combine 3I's Capstone projects and Work Immersion activities. This initiative aims to help communities in solving sustainability issues. The community outreach hopes to build sustainable programs in the future. The outreach projects were directed to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals. Some of these were HAWA VIRUS which developed and put up handwashing station, Project CUBE which assessed and advocated for propagation of flora and fauna, STEP OFF which put up a sensor ensuring social distancing, WET X which developed hydrophobic paper from pennyworth, AGRI TAYO SA TUBIG which utilized free energy hydroponics in air pumps, D-WATA which subjected various crops to drought and waterlogging simulations to assess plant adaptability, survivality and revivality, ZINC which developed an e-journal archive, AEGYS which developed Arduino-based emergency GPS, Project CurBe which projected local COVID-19 cases and provided mechanisms to bend the COVID-19 curve, Project BITOON which advocated citizen participation in assessing light pollution, 3Ps (People, Pet, Protection which evaluated pet diversity and advocated responsible pet caretaking and other projects.

## **Reviewing the 2017 UP Anti-sexual Harassment Code in Time of COVID-19**

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The University of the Philippines has always kept its stance that all forms of sexual harassment are unacceptable. The UP Diliman Office of Anti-Sexual Harassment (UPD OASH), initiated a review of the UP Implementing Rules and Regulations (UPIRR) in 2015 to address the gaps and challenges of responding to sexual harassment, which eventually led to the passage of the 2017 UP Anti-Sexual Harassment Code (ASH Code) that was approved by the UP Board of Regents to be implemented within the UP System. In November 2020, the Office of the Chancellor approved UPD OASH's project proposal to review and amend the ASH Code. The review's central purpose is to improve delivery of services and expedite resolution of complaints/cases, and to conform with the Republic Act No. 11313 or the Safe Spaces Act of 2019 and its IRR. The Covid-19 pandemic has affected the usual delivery of services and protocols in handling complaints/cases of sexual harassment; hence, the review incorporates as well exploring possibilities on the most efficient way to implement the ASH Code in the "new normal" set-up. This initiative highlights the overlap of spaces where sexual harassment occurs, may it be in the physical or digital world, the evolving forms of gender-based sexual harassment in the present time, and the role of community partner entities in the investigation and prevention of sexual harassment in public spaces within and outside the University. The review team was composed of the ASH Council, sectoral representatives from the students, teaching and non-teaching staff, who regularly held online meetings via Zoom and online consultations with the UP community stakeholders within the period of January to July 2021. The final draft of the amendments to the ASH Code shall be submitted to the UPD Office of the Chancellor for review and endorsement to the UP Board of Regents.



## Achieving Value and Transformation through Sustained Service Learning with Students and Partner Communities

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Service learning (S-L) is a form of experiential education that combines public service with reflection in a structured learning environment. Studies have shown that S-L, to be truly valuable and transformative, must undergo the following stages: (1) stakeholder preparation; (2) feasible project design; (3) ample project execution; and lastly (4) adequate project evaluation. However, each stage requires ample time for the entire S-L engagement to mature and flourish. The problem is, this cannot be fully achieved within a semester, more so, when compressed in a quarter. Thus, this study argues that significant outcomes for all stakeholders in the S-L partnership are more likely to result from long-term, intensive involvement in S-L projects, which spans across different semesters/quarters. This has been done through engineering the alignment of three online courses taken up by around 40 third year Development Studies students in a private university to provide them a year-long and sustained S-L engagement with their respective partner communities during SY 2020-2021.

Using mixed methods to measure impact of the approach to students and partner communities, results show significant positive impact for both S-L stakeholders in different domains. Students appreciated that they are serving and learning at the same time while personally witnessing their relationships grow with their partner communities towards fruitful engagements. On the other hand, partner communities reported that S-L projects implemented with the students brought a very favorable impact in terms of skills and competencies, motivation and commitments, personal growth and self-concept, and acquisition of knowledge. This study is important for educators looking for inclusive approaches to ensure that students and partner communities derive value and benefit from the S-L experience.



# PARALLEL SESSION 5B

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## **Strategies Addressing Specific Learning Needs of Students during the Pandemic**

With a focus on specific learning needs of different students, this panel aims to discuss the different strategies utilized by educational institutions in their implementation and delivery of remote learning during the pandemic.

## Promoting Knowledge Sharing and Online Discourse on Social Initiatives for Special Needs Learners

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The pandemic has created a social divide. With no immediate solutions, organizations are finding ways to help sustain operation as well as address issues and concerns of its constituents. Thus, online discourse was thought of as an intervention that can hopefully bridge the current social divide.

The Guided Webinar Series (GWS) are designed to address issues and concerns of specific groups, teachers, parents, disability-based professionals and advocates in providing care, service and assistance to special needs learners (SNL). The following GWS: Evidence-Based Practice in Special Education (EPSE), Your Parenting Guide (YPG) and Disability, Education, Accommodation and Rehabilitation (D.E.A.R.) of Special Children (DEAR) are organized as learning and discussion platforms undertaken on a monthly basis to showcase research-based evidence, home-school management practices and school-based pedagogies and interventions to strengthen and reinforce support to SNL during the pandemic.

EPSE is a research-based webinar initiative on innovative and practical strategies or modalities to assist SPED teachers, parents and SNL. YPG is a webinar support mechanism platform crafted to help families of SNL on their journey as parent or sibling where experiences, best home remedies, intervention and other modalities are shared and discussed for the best interest of SNL. D.E.A.R. Special Children is a webinar designed to support the professional growth of knowledge-seeking individuals in the field of special education, rehabilitation, advocacy and disability.

The GWS is running in its seventh month and has already served over 500 participants. Their feedback has yielded positive contributions to the understanding and resolution of prevailing issues and concerns in managing the special needs of SNL during the pandemic. The next five months will focus on similar objectives after which an assessment will be initiated to identify the strengths and weaknesses of the GWS to reinforce early initiatives and further develop and sustain them as knowledge sharing, discussion and learning platforms for its intended beneficiaries.

## **The Teaching Performance of Special Education Teachers in Online Class during Pandemic**

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The online class has been perceived as the “new normal” in education since COVID-19 has affected the Philippines. Students and teachers are forced to learn within the comfort of their own homes rather than in the classroom. This research shows the relationship of the demographic profile of special education teachers and their performance, challenges, and opinions about the appropriate ways to conduct online classes.

The researchers used correlational research design to examine the relationship of the variables. In choosing their respondents, the researchers used purposive sampling to choose special education teachers in Rizal who teach online classes. The researchers used survey questionnaires via Google forms to gather the respondents’ responses. As for the data analysis, the researchers used ANOVA and percentages to analyze the data. Based on the findings of the researchers, they found that there is no significant relationship between the demographic profiles of special education teachers to their teaching performances and challenges in online classes. Since the p-value of the respondents’ performance is 0.865 and the p-value of their challenges is 0.650. Both didn’t meet the alpha value which is 0.05 hence, there’s no significant relationship between the variables. However, there is a significant relationship between the special education teachers’ demographic profiles and their responses to the appropriateness of mitigating measures for challenges they experience during online classes since the p-value of mitigating measures is 0.000 which is lower than the alpha value (0.05).

This research can help future teachers to be aware of possible challenges that they can face during online classes. It can provide ideas on how to enhance their teaching performances in teaching online classes. Additionally, this study shows the appropriate ways to teach in online classes which future teachers can consider applying.

## **Bridging the Learning Gap Program: Teachers' Practices and Challenges in the New Learning Landscape**

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This study determines the practices and challenges encountered by teachers in the implementation of the Bridging the Learning Gap Program (BLGP) in the new learning landscape. It describes the demographic profile of the respondents in terms of age, gender, civil status, highest academic attainment, position title, and length of teaching service. It investigates the significant differences in the respondents' practices when grouped according to their demographic profile. And, it also makes certain the challenges encountered by the respondents as they implement the BLGP. Further, it examines the significant relationship between the respondents' practices and the challenges they encountered during the implementation of BLGP.

The study was conducted in Iligan City National High School, Iligan City Division during the School Year 2020-2021. The descriptive-correlation design was utilized. A validated researcher-made survey questionnaire was used in gathering the data from 40 respondents. One-way ANOVA and Independent T-test were used in determining the significant difference on the practices of teachers when grouped according to their profile; and Pearson Moment of Correlation was used in determining the relationship between the respondents' problems encountered and their practices.

Major findings showed that most of the challenges encountered by the teachers in BLGP in the new learning landscape were on remedial learning and psychological and wellness activities. Their practices were more noticed in remedial learning activities. Their practices did not significantly differ from their profile and their practices were significantly correlated to the challenges they encountered in BLGP. The respondents had challenges to contend with in accomplishing their role as intervention teachers in bridging the learning gaps of their students. It was concluded that the respondents' challenges and practices were more inclined to remedial learning activities than in support, follow-up, and psychological and wellness activities. An action plan was proposed as the output of the study for possible implementation by teachers in ICNHS.

## Beyond Books: Helping Poor Readers Learn from Home

Portia P. Padilla, John Denrie N. Jose, Ma. Celina A. Marino,

Jeunneze Anne Q. Peñaflor, Don Galleli I. Raymundo, and Julie W. Aparato

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The initiative was undertaken in EDLIT 179, a UP College of Education undergraduate course that is focused on approaches, strategies, and instructional materials for literacy education in the intermediate grades. During the second semester AY 2020-2021, the students taught struggling readers from public schools, instead of more able children in the laboratory school. This was done through the Interactive Children's Literacy Program (ICLiP), a community-based project in Quezon City providing free reading lessons to urban poor children struggling at reading.

The initiative was a form of service learning, which “links the classroom to real-world problems and needs without compromising academic rigor or discipline-specific objectives” (American Association for Higher Education, 2002). The aim was for the students to learn course-related knowledge and skills and to apply these in real life, to help improve the plight of the disadvantaged in society. With the remote learning set-up amidst the pandemic, socio-economically and educationally challenged children are “the last, the least, and the lost” (Matthew 20:16; Matthew 25:40; Matthew 18:11) who need help the most.

After an orientation on ICLiP, followed by class observations, EDLIT 179 students designed and taught literature-based reading lessons to the children, in 30-minute sessions via Facebook Messenger. Lessons were continuously adjusted to make them more appropriate to the learners, informed by their performance, as well as feedback from the program coordinator and the course instructor.

By the end of the semester, the reading skills of the ICLiP children had improved and they had become more eager to have reading lessons. Moreover, the EDLIT 179 students had achieved the course objectives and expressed a sense of fulfillment in helping underprivileged children. Finally, they resolved to make literacy learning more inclusive, relevant, and enjoyable.





# PARALLEL SESSION 5C

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## **Alternative Approaches in Teaching and Learning: Experiences, Challenges and Assessment I**

This panel features the different innovative ways educational institutions have utilized in order to adapt to the new normal.

## **An Alternative Approach to Students' Immersion in Communities during the COVID-19 Pandemic**

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"Learning is not the product of teaching. Learning is the product of the activity of learners."  
— John Holt (Growing Without Schooling magazine, no. 40 (1984))

Civic Welfare Training Service (CWTS) is an action-oriented course in the National Service Training Program. A key activity in CWTS is the engagement of cadets in communities to conduct project-based fieldwork. The COVID-19 pandemic brought about the stoppage of the face-to-face classroom and fieldwork learning activities. The Silliman University Civic Welfare Training Service program coordinators designed a teaching and learning methodology that would meet the goals and objectives of the engagement of cadets in communities during fully online learning. The online methodology is grounded on a Student-Centered Approach and Self-Directed Learning (Knowles, 1972). The Self-Directed Project replaces community fieldwork in partner communities. A new and significant objective is for the CWTS cadets to "develop skills and attitudes for civic consciousness at the time of the COVID-19 pandemic" and "help in food security and climate change adaptation at a household level." In the self-directed learning approach, CWTS Cadets are given responsibility for their learning, where they take the responsibility in identifying their specific learning project and setting specific learning activities to attain the learning goals and outcomes of the project. Community learning activities take place where the students are located.

The health protocols in the students' respective communities were strictly observed as self-directed projects were conducted.

This paper presents reflections on the response to the need to creatively design an online teaching methodology that shall serve as alternative to the actual immersion of students in communities to conduct projects in community service and develop civic consciousness. The methodology being used in the project study draws from the Illuminative Evaluation technique of Partlet and Hamilton (1977). This paper portrays the students' responses to the methodology and our insights about the methodology we created.

## Teaching Ethics in the Time of COVID: Using Community of Inquiry as Framework

Marielle Antoinette H. Zosa, Lumberto G. Mendoza, Redempto S. Parafina,  
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Promoting the Community of Inquiry (Col) as framework for teaching ethics was the UPD Department of Philosophy's innovative response to the unprecedented need for distance learning during the pandemic. For this purpose, it banked on Dr. Zosimo Lee's pioneering work on Philosophy for Children (P4C) which has employed Col in various teachers' trainings back in the 1990s-2000s. Dr. Lumberto Mendoza, together with other faculty, tested the current appetite for this pedagogy by launching the first webinar on "Teaching Ethics in the Time of COVID: Using Community of Inquiry as Framework" last March 22, 2021. The event registered a significant number of participants nationwide which kicked off momentum for a wider and deeper appreciation of Col among ethics teachers.

The webinar aimed to encourage educators to adopt Col in college-level ethics courses. Interestingly, there was high demand for Ethics teaching in MSU-GenSan, this project's partner institution. In the webinar, Dr. Lee traced the history of Col through P4C in the Philippines and expounded on its philosophical underpinnings. Prof. Aleta Villanueva then walked the participants through the actual use of Col in distance learning. On the challenge of asynchronous distance learning, Prof. Aleli Caraan also shared insights on text-based discussions through Facebook. To simulate the conduct of Col, Dr. Mendoza delivered a lecture on using memes as stimuli for dialogue. Groupwork later allowed the participants to process the lectures, practice the skills, and share lessons. Finally, Prof. Marielle Sundiang led the discussion on the assessment of institutional preparedness to adopt online Col in classes.

The extent of teachers' participation that the project was able to generate nationwide and their high level of interest are testaments to the project's success. Dean Wilfred Bidad of MSU-GenSan was particularly committed to pursue further the partnership on Col in both instruction and research. Most participants also look forward to creating more venues and opportunities to learn about Col.

## Teaching Learning Dynamics of Pre-Service Teachers

Sofia Dianne G. Tajonera, Mikaela B. Palaruan, Jewel Lyn R. Pablo, and Amelyn B. Austin

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Teachers are perceived as among the most influential members of society and now more than ever, teachers played a critical role in the educational system during the pandemic. This research seeks to determine how Cooperating Teachers and Student-Teachers adjusted in the face of the new normal through a qualitative approach. This study aims to prove that Student-Teachers can sustain the efficiency in teaching while addressing the challenge in the new normal system of education.

The findings of the study show that the new standard setup has a major impact on the virtual classroom experience. Furthermore, in a wider understanding of the face of education in the new normal, teachers need to remarkably perform no matter what platform is used. Hence, the results and findings signified different types of components namely the evaluation, factors in teaching-learning, activities and lessons that can affect the quality and efficiency of education in the new normal.

In the light of the conclusions derived from the results of the study, the researchers made several recommendations. Student-Teachers may undergo several seminars on how to expand the knowledge in Information Communication and Technology and may broaden their capability to utilize the technology for learning purposes. Cooperating Teachers may discover new factors in terms of the mode in assessing the student teacher. School administration may have a financial plan in place to provide internet allowance to instructors who don't have access to a wireless internet connection to teach efficiently and competently. Furthermore, providing laptops to all teachers is extremely advantageous. In the new standard system, all teachers must have access to resources.

The future researchers may use mixed method qualitative and quantitative approaches to discover other outcomes of new normal education.

## **Community Welfare Training Service (CWTS) Implementation Amidst the Covid-19 Pandemic: An Interdisciplinary Approach to Online Community Service**

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The implementation of the Civic Welfare Training Service (CWTS), a tertiary course that focuses on the welfare and betterment of communities under the National Service Training Program (NSTP) of the Philippines, involves field visits and face-to-face interactions to address the needs of communities. Health and safety protocols that are being implemented due to the Covid-19 pandemic prevent these essential activities and present challenges in facilitating meaningful community engagement and services that are central to the course. At the same time, limited interactions with organizations heighten the vulnerability of communities that require aid and assistance. Due to these critical changes that are posed in the delivery of the course, the academe needs to explore how it can safely reach communities to extend its services. However, the range of literature on service-learning does not adequately address the issues brought forth by the sudden necessity to shift to remote service-learning. It is in this light that the study aims to inform community engagement pedagogy by evaluating synergies among different organizations in the online implementation of a public service training course for undergraduate students. Specifically, the study examines the online engagement among CWTS students from the University of the Philippines College of Architecture and the School of Economics, the pre-selected communities identified by non-government organizations (NGOs), namely the Technical Assistance Movement for People and Environment Inc (TAMPEI) and the Homeless People's Federation of the Philippines Inc (HPFPI), and the faculty. The study describes the processes involved in the interdisciplinary collaboration and provides a post-project review to determine the potentials of strategic partnerships between the academe and NGOs in service-learning and community service.

## **Academic-Community Partnership Amidst Covid-19 Pandemic: UP Cebu Students' Experiential Learning with MSMEs**

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A 2020 ADB study discloses that after the COVID-19 ECQ restrictions and lockdown implementation measures, about 73.1% of MSMEs discontinued their business operations. As the driver of the Philippine economy, MSMEs account for 99.5% of businesses and employ 63% of the labor force. A 2021 UNIDO impact assessment on the Philippines' manufacturing firms stresses that during recovery, recommendations pertinent to "support for and investments in MSMEs" are crucial. Meanwhile, in response to the COVID pandemic, the education system transitioned into various configurations of technology-mediated teaching/learning modalities. The University of the Philippines implemented the remote learning system, replacing the traditional in-person learning.

For the final paper requirement of the undergraduate course Introduction to Marketing Management that was offered in the first semester of AY 2020-2021, students were tasked to prepare a basic but realistic marketing plan. The faculty-in-charge requested the Mandaue Investment and Promotion Action Center and the Mandaue Chamber of Commerce and Industry to match the student teams with MSME entrepreneurs who were willing to provide their businesses' situational challenges. The students constructed their marketing plans and recommendations based on their appreciation of the entrepreneurs' situation particularly under extraordinary COVID conditions.

Because of the public service opportunity of the activity, the faculty-in-charge coordinated with the UP Cebu Ugnayan ng Pahinungod. The UP Pahinungod provided the venue where each student team presented the highlights of their marketing plans to the partner-entrepreneurs, with the participation of the Executive Director of the MIPAC and the President and/or Executive Director of the MCCI. The per-team Zoom meet-ups likewise served as the formal turnover of the student teams' marketing plans. Albeit done remotely, restrictions brought about by the pandemic could not hinder the partner-entrepreneurs interaction with the students, with experiential learning affordances, and much less deter the African proverb, "it takes a village to educate a child."





# PARALLEL SESSION 5D

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## **Alternative Approaches in Teaching and Learning: Experiences, Challenges and Assessment II**

This panel features presentations that tackle the different innovative ways that educational institutions have utilized in order to adapt to the new normal.

## Embracing the New Normal: DMMMSU's Best Practices

Dr. Cristita G. Guerra and Dr. Maricon C. Viduya

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The Don Mariano Marcos Memorial State University (DMMMSU) through the Open University System remained true to its mandate in delivering quality instruction by sustaining its efficient teaching delivery during the COVID-19 pandemic. As such, the DMMMSU has implemented high-impact strategies that include remote flexible learning where learners are accommodated by their teachers synchronously or asynchronously. Teachers use online collaboration tools like Google Suite and other various learning platforms.

Learning modules are also prepared and produced for use. Through the “eOpenU iSchool,” a student affairs program aired via the official Facebook Page of the University, various student services are made accessible to students. Students also have unlimited access to the library through online library services such as AskDORLA which serves as the library's frontliner in assisting library users with their information needs. DORLA is designed to reach out, entertain, and answer all of her clients' online queries. In addition, the Online Public Access Catalog (OPAC) provides access to digitized books and other learning materials that are in DMMMSU libraries.

Electronic resources that support the curricular offerings of the University as well as digitized theses and dissertations are made accessible. E-Library, a Google Play learning application, is also available for DMMMSU Open University System (DOUS) students to download and access learning materials anytime, anywhere. Moreover, DMMMSU is subscribed to Gale Reference Complete, an online academic library which offers high quality and authoritative contents, and unlimited access to multidisciplinary titles. Other online services used include Turnitin, an internet-based plagiarism detection device designed to promote academic integrity through detailed and user-friendly document grading and feedback.

The DOUS also carried out projects that continued its service to the public, such as the Project Tanglaw, an three-year rehabilitation e-Extension program designed to continuously serve clients from the Department of Justice Parole and Probation Administration amidst the pandemic. With its second-year implementation, a live-streamed radio program dubbed “Kapihan sa DMMMSU” aired over 97.1 DZAG Radio Philippines and through the official Facebook pages of DMMMSU-OUS and DZAG also serves as DMMMSU's extension services platform. Effective public communication became the key to keeping DMMMSU's stakeholders informed, trained, and rehabilitated.

Finally, the University's EduMedia Hub was approved by the Commission on Higher Education (CHED) Chairman J. Prospero de Vera III, was established for the teachers' and students' engagement in remote blended learning. The distance learning program continued to help make a huge difference in the teaching-learning process by bringing in technology-based learning materials.

## **Lights... Camera... Action Research Colloquia!**

Early Sol A. Gadong, Mr. Prabhat Ranjan B. Ubas, John Bert C. Tutisura,

Elna Mariel M. Nanta, Leo B. Dedoroy, Ed.D., Rey B. Aguilar, and Eulah B. Acosta

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Ever since the Department of Education (DepEd) became more vigorous in requiring teachers to do research, faculty members of the College of Arts & Sciences of the University of the Philippines Visayas (UPV-CAS) have regularly received requests for teacher training programs to address this need. Over the years, recipients of these programs have successfully developed their research but have had very limited opportunities to share their outputs beyond in-school sharing sessions. Moreover, in the most recent iteration of its Research Management Guidelines/RMG (DepEd Order No. 16, s. 2017), the importance of dissemination and utilization has been highlighted. Regional Officers are therefore encouraged to organize research fora/conferences for the sharing of research findings. Furthermore, both UPV-CAS and DepEd Regional Office VI are mandated to forge research-related partnerships with various stakeholders. As such, a series of online action research colloquia was designed to provide teacher-researchers with a venue to share their research with their peers all over the region. Additionally, other teachers will be able to learn about various classroom interventions developed by their fellow teachers. Of equal importance is the going back to the grassroots of UPV faculty members so that they will know the plight of teachers in the basic education. Since its implementation in May 2021, three iterations of the colloquium have been completed, with 17 papers presented and over a thousand participants joining via Zoom and Facebook Live. Post-colloquium evaluation show that participants enjoyed the manner with which the colloquia were conducted, citing its informative and fun nature. Many participants have also revealed that while they still acknowledge that there are challenges in conducting action research, the process is manageable and very rewarding. The project team intends to complete six (6) more iterations of the colloquium before the end of 2021.

## **Capacity Building of High School Science Research Teachers in Laguna for Remote Learning: A Public Service Initiative of the Biology Teachers Association of the Philippines - UPLB Chapter and the Institute of Biological Sciences, University of the Philippines Los Baños**

**Damasa M. Macandog, Rita P. Laude, Redella Vista, Nerissa K. Torreta, Aimee Lynn B. Dupo, Ma. Carmina C. Manuel, Lea P. Garcia, Ronilo Jose D. Flores, John Vincent R. Pleto, Charina Gracia B. Banaay, Faith S. Maranan, Analinda M. Fajardo, Joseph G. Campang, Marlon Rivera, Therese Jullienne T. Medina, Ma. Dalisay Maligalig, Nonnatus Bautista, Jickerson P. Lado, Romella T. Beringuela, and Ivy Amor F. Lambio,**

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The abrupt shift to a remote and modular-based virtual classroom following the sudden implementation of strict community quarantine and travel regulations last March 16, 2020 forced educators to transform learning materials into modular form for remote delivery. This posed logistic and pedagogical challenges to the students and teachers especially with respect to the delivery of teaching and the achievement of learning outcomes. Research is a required subject for both junior and senior high school students in the Philippines and it is traditionally given in a face-to-face mode with a laboratory or with a research internship component. The Biology Teachers Association of the Philippines-UP Los Baños Chapter and the faculty of the Institute of Biological Sciences of UPLB organized a Capacity Building Program for high school Science teachers in Laguna that aimed to up-skill the participants with research teaching methods and mentorship strategies for the effective delivery of the research subject. A series of seminars and training-workshops were organized from September to December 2020 with 28 public high school teachers present. A seminar on Research Paper Preparation detailed the characteristics and contents of a sound research paper. The training-workshops consisted of presentation and critique of 2 research proposals submitted by the students. A team of professors from BIOTA-UPLB and IBS-UPLB served as trainers and evaluators of research projects. Practical application of skills on research design mentorship and research paper scrutiny were also incorporated in the workshops. Open discussions towards identification of common challenges, best practices, alternative strategies and ways forward were also part of the training. The capacity building program helped in equipping high school teachers in the delivery of the high school research subject in a remote modality. Replication of this training is currently being planned in other places and groups.

## **DepEd Teacher Training: Spanish as a Foreign Language in Filipino Basic Education**

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After ten years of implementation, the Special Program in Foreign Language (SPFL) in the Philippine public secondary education is still confronted by significant limitations. Not only is there a shortage of up-to-date and context-sensitive materials, the teachers themselves lack sufficient language proficiency. The efforts made by the DepEd to overcome these limitations have not been sustained since these initiatives were dependent on the support of international institutions and were organized as isolated occurrences that delivered short-term benefits but ultimately did not overcome long-term challenges.

To decrease dependency on external establishments and to bridge the gap between policy and implementation, the ultimate goal is to foster mentorship among DepEd teachers where those who are more linguistically skilled and experienced can train their colleagues. This collaborative project aims to provide the DepEd teachers with the necessary linguistic and didactic tools to perform their job adequately and to deliver the goals set by the policymakers. To do so, a ground-up approach was designed to encourage capacity building among DepEd teachers and, by extension, to decrease the SPFL program's institutional dependency. This project adds to other initiatives carried out by national and international institutions by creating a self-sustaining program that shifts the focus to the teachers themselves, who have created an association as a platform for exchanging learning materials, sharing teaching experiences, and providing linguistic and didactic mentorship to their peers.



# PARALLEL SESSION 6A

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## **Innovation and Development in Various Sectors Under the New Normal**

Following the limited operations of various institutions brought by the community lockdown, sectors have been pushed to find innovative ways to adapt to the new normal. This panel features public service initiatives that highlight the different innovations from social enterprise to product development.



## **Edible Landscaping: Magtanim ng Gulay Para sa Isang Masagana, Malusog, at Makulay na Buhay**

Fernando C. Sanchez Jr., Melanie C. Ilang-Ilang, Norma G. Medina,

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Food supply has become one of the concerns of people in this time of pandemic caused by the coronavirus disease. As a response, the Department of Agriculture (DA) implemented the Ahon Lahat, Pagkaing Sapat (ALPAS COVID-19) or the Plant, Plant, Plant Program which aims to ensure sustained food production, availability, accessibility, and affordability. Thus, in support to the DA's Plant, Plant, Plant Program, the Edible Landscaping (EL) Team of the University of the Philippines Los Baños (UPLB) proposed a project entitled, Edible Landscaping: Magtanim ng Gulay para sa Isang Masagana, Malusog, at Makulay na Buhay which aims to promote EL in urban farming incorporating various available technologies that urban settlers can adopt. Specifically the project aims to: (1) coordinate with local government units (LGUs), state universities, and other support groups for the establishment of demonstration gardens; (2) establish a demonstration garden at the central offices of DA, DA-Bureau of Agricultural Research, and DA-Agricultural Training Institute which will serve as a model of urban garden technologies which the people can adopt; (3) conduct an e-training for the authorized personnel who will maintain the demonstration gardens; (4) develop information, education and communication materials such as starter kits which can help in promoting urban farming and guide people in doing EL and; (5) produce starter kits which can be used in practicing urban farming.

To date, the UPLB EL Team has been producing EL starter kits for distribution to urban settlers. The team is continuously turning over starter kits to different LGUs in Metro Manila and to the DA Central Office, for their distribution. With regards to the demonstration gardens, the team has already started the initial preparations at the DA site before the actual implementation will commence, while that of the DA-BAR and DA-ATI sites are already in the design phase.

## **One Page to Find Them All: The Student Corner of the Asian Center, University of the Philippines Diliman**

**Janus Isaac Nolasco**

Asian Center, University of the Philippines Diliman

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This presentation describes the Student Corner of the UP Asian Center. It is a single page within the website of the Asian Center that compiles the links to forms, procedures, and policies of the college and across different university offices, from the OUR, OVPA, OVCSA, Computer Center, University Library, and the UP Cash Office, among others.

The Student Corner seeks to be a one-stop source of information that allows the students of the UP Asian Center to find information on student registration, getting the UP Mail, paying for tuition, enrolling for residency, etc. It centralizes and links to key information so that students have less need to monitor different social media pages, documents, websites of different UP offices and other loci of information, such as their email inboxes. This way, the Student Corner helps provide faster access to information if and when students need it, speeding transactions and saving time of both students and employees.

The Student Corner first came online in August 2020 amidst the COVID-19 pandemic and the university's transition to remote learning. Since then, the page has been regularly updated by the Information Office of the UP Asian Center, in close coordination with the Office of the College Secretary. The Office also monitors all social media pages and websites of the offices within UP.

In discussing the Student Corner, this presentation offers a case study of how web design can improve the way information is accessed by end users (i.e. students) and help streamline government-citizen relations.

## **FABarter: A Crowdsourced Product Development Approach in Addressing the Spread of COVID-19**

**John Carl Marlo Andrade\*, Arvin John Lucas, Dexter Ken Lopera,  
Kenno Michael Uy, Reinna Kris Calo, and Lemuel Clark Velasco**

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In June 2020, when most Filipinos were already well informed and accustomed to guidelines and health protocols issued by the Inter-Agency Task Force for the Management of Emerging Infectious Diseases, ubiquitous low-cost innovations were independently developed by various communities as proactive initiatives to contribute in limiting the spread of COVID-19. To formalize these initiatives and create optimum impact, FAB LAB Mindanao of the Mindanao State University–Iligan Institute of Technology (MSU-IIT) implemented FABarter as a community-based collaborative product development platform where innovators from various localities in Iligan City and neighboring areas gets to join a virtual hub for the exchange of ideas and create possible engagements. Using a crowdsourcing approach to product development, a call for FABarter participants was released on June 8, 2020 and was able to gather more than twenty-five (25) participants composed of makers, hobbyists, software developers, engineers and health professionals. Four (4) FABarter teams were then formed based on the interests and on-going projects of the participants who joined the virtual launch and were given two months to conceptualize and prototype using FAB LAB Mindanao’s digital fabrication suite followed by testing and beta usage of these innovations in various communities. To culminate the collaborative product development efforts, a Manufacturers’ Demo Day was hosted in September 9, 2020 by the Makers Without Borders Webinar Program of the U.S. Embassy’s American Spaces Philippines wherein interested partners and users were invited to witness the four output presentations: a pedal mechanized sanitation accessory for jeepneys, a mechanical hands free alcohol dispenser with QR coding contact tracing, a touch less door opener tool, and no rinse hand soap. With financial support from the MSU-IIT administration and DTI-10, a community-based problem analysis, ideation, prototyping and innovation dissemination was successfully implemented for the purpose of addressing the spread of COVID-19.

## **Spatial Mapping of Covid Facilities in the Philippines Using Geographical Information System and K-means Clustering Algorithm**

**Pocholo Pio B. Bernad, Kimberly D. Omamos, Almie Kaye Jane L. Pagente,  
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The Covid-19 pandemic is one of the major crises that every country is currently experiencing. Many Covid facilities are being used, and more patients are arriving every day. Continuing the delivery of essential health services, using health systems' capacity and ability is a crucial strategy. The Geographical Information System (GIS) can be a flexible tool to locate every Covid facility in the Philippines. The researchers aim to design a web-based application that combines the Department of Health's records with a Geographical Information System (GIS) to create a Spatial Mapping of Covid facilities in the Philippines. Furthermore, the researchers intend to employ the K-Means Clustering Algorithm and depict it using a Geographical Information System (GIS) that pinpoints the locations of hospitals and their features on a map. The K-Means technique has long been considered one of the simplest and widely used clustering algorithms. The approach is used to figure out how many clusters there are in order to partition the unlabeled dataset into subgroups. By using the K-means clustering algorithm the researchers can cluster the different facilities in the Philippines based on the data provided by the DOH. This study will aid potential Covid-19 infected individuals in selecting the appropriate hospitals to meet their needs. This can also be used as a foundation for hospitals to improve how they deal with patients and improve their facilities.

## **Document Delivery Social Enterprise as a COVID-19 Community Service**

**Marlou Xerkxex Rentucan\*, Jay Joshua Largo,**

**Philip James Joseph Mendoza, and Lemuel Clark Velasco**

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Waiting in long lines to process essential documents can be stressful especially for pregnant women, persons with disabilities and senior citizens, and such queuing can increase the risk of exposure to COVID-19. In January 2021, student social enterprise founders from the Mindanao State University-Iligan Institute of Technology attempted to offer a viable solution to address this problem. A Document Delivery Social Enterprise was conceptualized that employs Out of School Youth (OSY) partners. The OSY partners, as the main beneficiaries of the enterprise, render the services for vulnerable individuals. This is a win-win situation as the needs of the customers are catered to while providing opportunities to poverty stricken communities. The main objective of the project is to ensure that the OSY partners earn sufficient funds, incentives and benefits for rendering the services while performing transactions that follow health protocols and government guidelines for processing legal documents on behalf of the customers. After critical planning and assessment of relevant considerations and use case scenarios, a minimum viable product was launched in social media as a customer touchpoint platform in booking desired services while the social enterprise founders managed the back-office processes and coordination with the OSY partner. The project outcome includes important findings with a highlight observation that document delivery, despite its demand, is not an essential service unlike food or grocery delivery that is much more needed by the public. Despite organizations and agencies moving in migrating to online and paperless document transactions driven by the COVID-19 pandemic, findings during the early operations of the social enterprise provides remarkable experience in validating the viability of such value proposition along with the founders' edifying experience to be in a position to contribute to the lives of the OSY partners while solving the pain points of vulnerable individuals in the community.



# PARALLEL SESSION 6B

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## **Building Business and Financial Resilience Amidst the Pandemic**

This panel features initiatives that centers around how institutions have sought to help not only the business owners, but also marginalized sectors in building business an financial resilience during the pandemic.



## **Building a Resilient and Sustainable Entrepreneurial Ecosystem Amidst the Pandemic: The Role of Public-Private Partnership**

Jonathan C. Gano-an

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While the majority acknowledged the difficulties and worsening economic problems experienced by underprivileged households and minimum wage workers during and after the lockdown, little attention is placed on understanding the struggles of micro, small, and medium enterprises and how their status amidst a seemingly hostile and unpredictable environment. This paper seeks to understand, recognize, and document the strategies and mechanisms employed by micro, small, and medium size businesses towards maintaining resiliency and eventually contribute to building a sustainable entrepreneurial ecosystem by the support of leading government agencies and the private sector.

This study was conducted in the City of Tagum, Davao del Norte through a multiple case study method. Findings showed that after the lockdown, entrepreneurs felt the enabling response from public-private partnership through these initiatives: deferment of loan payments, provisions of subsidies/grants, empowerment of workers, technical assistance, skills development, and gender and development programs. Drawing from these initiatives, along with their entrepreneurial prowess, they have (1) developed a collaborative culture; (2) appreciated diversity; (3) welcomed change as default strategy; (4) established prudence; and (5) developed a forward looking principle. On the other hand, the participants also recounted some issues like exploitation, manipulation, and corruption. There may be arguments against the PPP model, but its commendable outcomes, especially for the major economic actors of a developing society, cannot be denied.

## **Market Validation of Student-Founded Social Enterprises addressing COVID-19 Community Frustrations**

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The COVID-19 crisis has forced the local government unit of Iligan City in Southern Philippines to impose protective measures such as lockdowns and stay-at-home protocols that disrupt economic activities, however, new business opportunities were generated as a result of community frustrations. Eleven (11) student-founded social enterprises (SE) from the Mindanao State University-Iligan Institute of Technology explored these unprecedented opportunities brought about by the COVID-19 crisis by partnering with an NGO having Out-of-School Youth (OSY) beneficiaries in the use of technology such as online booking platforms and social media for customer touch points and online payment systems, as well as delivery of fast, reliable and safe services. The SEs used the process of market validation in identifying common customer pain points and testing the service concept and unique value proposition by verifying the business models of each SEs through a minimum viable product. Due to the community's mobility restriction brought by COVID-19 health protocols, the 11 student-founded social enterprises were launched in January 2021 to offer delivery services of essential goods ranging from groceries, fresh produce, laundry and medicine. As a result, the SE's concept plans, service blueprints, human resource structures, formal partnership engagements and derived business models were tested with real customer transactions and business operations. The market validation of these service offerings shed light on which among the COVID-19 community frustrations are temporary problems and which solutions can be explored as sustainable social enterprises.

## **Do-it-Yourself Hands-free Handwashing Kits as a COVID-19 Business Resilience Intervention**

**Kenno Michael Uy\*, Reinna Kris Calo, and Lemuel Clark Velasco**

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Businesses in Iligan City like the rest of the Philippines are subject to the operations guidelines as mandated by the local government based on the locality's COVID-19 community quarantine classification. With most businesses closing down and some struggling to operate during the COVID-19 pandemic, the mandatory adherence to guidelines like temperature checks, handwashing mechanisms and contact tracing logs are just some of the basic requirements that must be complied with by the businesses in order to operate, over and on top of the restricted customer capacity. With the goal to assist local businesses in complying with these business operations requirements, FAB LAB Mindanao of the Mindanao State University-Iligan Institute of Technology, in partnership with DTI Region X, has implemented the FAB4BIZ Business Resilience Assistance Program which aims to help Iligan-based businesses bounce back in their operations. Launched in November 2020, do-it-yourself (DIY) foot-operated handwashing kits were distributed to a total of forty (40) local businesses along with a specially developed no rinse hand soap as a low-cost and sustainable handwashing mechanism for the customers of the business. With scheduled pick-up of the hand washing kits within the city's strategic locations by those who signed up in the business resilience assistance program, a video tutorial in the assembly of the provided materials was published online to guide the businesses in installing these simple devices. Before the end of 2020, nine (9) various businesses from manufacturing, service and merchandising sectors were then featured through produced multimedia presentations among select social media channels as a result of the site visits by the organizers. Despite being a simple but easily replicable intervention, this public service initiative serves as a model of how academe, government and businesses can work together to ensure that enterprises continue to operate and generate jobs despite the changing COVID-19 community classifications and restrictions.

## **An Academe-Banking Industry Partnership for an Increase of the Probability of Use In Mobile Banking Services by the Marginalized Sectors: A Financial Inclusions Perspective**

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The development of mobile services has allowed a significant number of service innovations in the banking industry to take place, with the use of mobile banking steadily increasing worldwide due to its flexibility and convenience. The increase in terms of usage is particularly evident in well-developed countries. This is not the case for the Philippines despite having a large percentage of adults owning mobile phones, as the BSP 2019 Financial Inclusion survey reported that only 1 out of 10 adults use a mobile phone for banking transactions.

This study assessed the factors that hinder Filipinos from using mobile banking, and proposed a model that may guide the conceptualization of policies and programs to extend financial inclusion to marginalized sectors. Also, due to the risks of infection, it is imperative that bank account holders avoid face-to-face transactions and turn to mobile banking. In order to acquire a good grasp of the situation of financial literacy, the project proponents conducted a banking summit in the campus which was attended by branch managers of selected universal banks. Webinars have also been conducted to promote the use of technology that will promote financial inclusion.

A component of the study is the conduct of binary logistics analysis to predict the probability of use of mobile banking. An optimum level of three variables (level of engagement of people, increased awareness, and technology) are needed to improve the use of mobile banking services by marginalized sectors. The project yielded proposed policies and programs that the academe and the banking industry could work on to increase financial inclusion.



# PARALLEL SESSION 6C

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## **Learning Experiences Under the New Normal**

This panel focuses on the different learning experiences of higher educational institutions as they adapted to an online modality during the pandemic. It features the challenges and prospects of the implementation of remote learning and the delivery of public service.

## **Virtual Classroom: The Next Normal of the University's Community Relations Literacy Program**

**Dr. Jezreel Tanilon and Dr. Liza Lorena C. Jala**

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Before the world even experienced its worst enemy, the Literacy program of the university was an active collaboration of the local government, through the adopted barangay, and the university's community relations office. With the COVID-19 pandemic reshaping the educational landscape as well as the community relations activities, face-to-face engagement of the university and the community became impossible. Online teaching has become a learning modality, with the use of virtual classrooms as the top mode of teaching and learning. Teachers and students can present course materials, engage and interact with one another, and work in groups using different learning management systems and other social media platforms. These virtual classrooms take place in a live and synchronous setting as part of the Literacy program of the university. Teachers and student teachers from the College of Education act as mentors and instructors of children who are mostly in elementary and junior high school and are currently residing in Barangay Kamagayan, Cebu City. Remedial classes take place every other day for an hour: after dinner or before the children go to sleep. These were mostly focused on the 3Rs of the program – reading, writing, and arithmetic for the elementary level and mathematics for the junior high school level. Virtual classes provide a substantial amount of help as learning supplements in order for children to better understand the more difficult subjects that parents may not be able to teach by themselves. Remote learning and teaching modules were the ultimate output of this community extension activity under the Literacy program in response to the COVID-19 pandemic.



## **Transforming Face-to-Face Digital Fabrication Training Programs into an Online Modality as a Prototyping Center's Productive Response to COVID-19 Community Restrictions**

Gerald Jan Demecillo\*, Dexter Ken Lopera,  
John Carl Marlo Andrade, and Lemuel Clark Velasco

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Fabrication laboratories like FAB LAB Mindanao in the Mindanao State University-Iligan Institute of Technology thrives in a learning-by-doing approach in the delivery of digital fabrication training programs to academic and community beneficiaries with various clientele ranging from students, faculty members, entrepreneurs, hobbyists, researchers, and the community of maker-innovators in Northern Mindanao. When COVID-19 community restrictions were issued by the national and local government to ensure the safety of the community, the challenge of employing the tried and tested experiential learning approach to hands-on training programs in 3D modelling and machines operations of FAB LAB Mindanao's digital fabrication suite became a roadblock in achieving the prototyping center's public service targets in being a training provider of these prototyping technology solutions. As a productive response to continually serve the community, FAB LAB Mindanao transformed its face-to-face digital fabrication training programs into an online modality with the use of live and recorded broadcast solutions from online conference systems and crossposting features of social media platforms. With FAB LAB Mindanao's innovative approaches to training planning along with painstaking revisions of the training modules, training plans, promotion to documentation mechanisms and trainer-trainee feedback methodologies, the prototyping center tested this novel approach through weekly produced recorded episodes up until feedback from the community was integrated in the implementation of live online training. Since July 2020, FAB LAB Mindanao has already produced more than 30 digital fabrication multimedia content published and crossposted with a total of more than one thousand viewership among various social platforms. Additionally, the prototyping center has also implemented more than 20 online training programs which include 3D modelling and designing in various computer-aided design (CAD) software applications, machine operations and maintenance of 3D printers, laser cutters, digital embroidery and computer numerically controlled milling and router machines. This presentation of best practices in training management can contribute to the methodologies of technology and skills trainers in effectively training community beneficiaries despite implemented community restrictions.

## **A Virtual Experience in Public Service: Community Engagement of UP College of Dentistry Interns During the Pandemic**

Michael Antonio F. Mendoza , Arlene Cecilia A. Alfaro , Ma. Bianca B. Barrameda, Jose Gabriel M. Cadiz, Jeanne Louise S. De Paz, Keren Lois R. Medina, Ariane Pauline C. Mendoza, Candace Noelle S. Quicio, Madeleine M. Rayos, Cyreyn Jeal D. Santos, Clarita Mae F. Tan, Rheena Joyce M. Tan, Meia Vonn Silka A. Tominez, and Charles Kenneth A. Yao

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Students of the University of the Philippines College of Dentistry (UPCD) take a community-based course in their final year with the objective of planning, implementing, monitoring, and evaluating oral health programs while working with community partners. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, face-to-face academic activities, including field visits, have been prohibited. The course was redesigned and adapted for remote learning through the conduct of virtual interactions with the municipality of Mendez, under the University of the Philippines Manila Community Health and Development Program (UPM-CHDP) and its partnership with the Province of Cavite. With 19 daycare centers as the target population, participative online activities with the daycare workers (DCWs) and other stakeholders were done to develop responsive programs that promote, achieve and maintain oral health of the pupils.

Situational analysis through a Zoom-ustahan with the DCWs was done to assess the oral health needs of the population, and they expressed the need for Information, Education, and Communication (IEC) materials that will teach oral health and give guidance on how to visit the dentist in the Rural Health Unit (RHU) while observing public health restrictions. Consultations with the RHU dentist and the municipal education coordinator using online platforms (e.g. Messenger, Viber, Zoom) were done to develop the IECs. Follow-ups through e-mails and additional coordination were done through the UPM-CHDP community organizer. The IECs were later turned over to the Municipal Health Officer. The guide was approved for posting in the municipality's Facebook page, expanding the benefits of the IECs beyond the target population.

The impact of the virtual academic activities is yet to be evaluated, but learning continued at the time of the pandemic as the needs of the community were addressed.

## **Communities of Practice for Entrepreneurship: Building Forward towards a Better Normal**

**Glennis S. Uyanguren and Allysa Anne M. De Guzman**

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The Communities of Practice for Entrepreneurship (COPE) program is an advocacy initiative of the Training and Entrepreneurship Education Division of the UP Institute for Small-Scale Industries that aims to bring entrepreneurship education to the people, most especially the communities that have less opportunities to access such social service through formal education. Originally designed to partner with communities, local organizations, and MSME associations, the COPE program has since evolved into a virtual community when the pandemic began. With limited physical interaction with community and association partners, COPE has transitioned into an online avenue for sharing knowledge and insights as the MSME sector and other stakeholders strive to build forward, aiming for a better normal. Following the framework of adult learning in entrepreneurship education, the COPE program utilizes a synergy of entrepreneurship fundamentals, practical knowledge in the industry, and innovations in the field. The topics of the online forums range from enterprise development, digital marketing and e-commerce, finance literacy, business continuity and disaster preparedness, to business planning and sustainability.

The paper will present the various perspectives of a “better normal” as we all respond to the effects of the pandemic; at the same time, put forward insights on how partnerships among various sectors - such as the academe, MSME sector, public agencies and private institutions - contribute to efforts to build forward.

The COPE program, while both a personal and institutional advocacy of the proponents, is essentially a testament of the people’s collective strength amidst adversities and challenges. As a community of practice, the heart of this project lies in the sense of community that is forged through shared learnings and shared experiences.

## **Impact of Online Volunteerism on Student-Volunteers' Content Knowledge, Personal Growth, and Public Service during the Pandemic**

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This research examined the impact of UP Cebu undergraduate students who volunteered as e-tutors on Public Speaking (PS) to 22 Grade 10 students at a public school in Cebu. Using the IPARD Model, the study underwent different stages. During the investigation stage, the UP Cebu Ugnayan ng Pahinungod explored how the e-Tutorial Program on PS could be adapted for the students of the requesting teacher, as this is one competency of her students that required more assistance and exposure. Pahinungod and the Grade 10 teacher then conducted training for the 18 tutors on e-tutoring, PS theories and practices, and online learning platforms, and organized an online Team Building for the tutors and the tutees. The teacher developed the PS lesson guides for the tutors to use. The action stage marked the conduct of the e-tutorial via Google Meets and Facebook Messenger in a one-on-one format for 22-contact hours from March to May 2021. Synchronous meetings for presentation of lessons were held every Wednesday, while asynchronous meetings for submission of tasks and provision of feedback were made within the week.

After each session, the tutors submitted their feedback of the students and recordings to Pahinungod for monitoring and formative feedback. Despite the challenges to Internet connectivity, power shortages, and gadget issues, the tutorials were sustained. During the reflection stage, the online surveys, reflections, and FGD showed that the e-tutorial developed the volunteers' knowledge and skills on PS, facilitated their personal growth on empathy, patience, flexibility, and time management, and allowed them to render public service. The online volunteerism promoted their positive mental health during the pandemic. Finally, a comparison of the tutees' pretest-posttest speech videos showed positive improvements during the demonstration stage. According to the students and the teacher, the e-tutorial helped them develop their confidence and organization.



# PARALLEL SESSION 6D

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## Securing Sustainable Post-COVID Communities

Recognizing the effects of the pandemic to various communities, the public service initiatives in this panel aim to shed light on the importance of sustainable COVID-19 response measures.

## Mitigating the Impact of COVID-19 Pandemic: Community Engagement of the University of the Visayas

Jezreel Taniñon, Anna Lou C. Cabuenas, and Victorina H. Zosa

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Committed to transformative and innovative education, the University of the Visayas (UV) extension program serves as a catalyst for social transformation by capacitating communities. The study aimed to cluster community engagement according to its attainment of the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (UN SDG), and apply the “SDG Push” scenario in crafting an integrated approach to avert extreme poverty and “accelerate progress toward a more fair, resilient and green future.” This scenario envisions investments in governance, social protection, green economy, and digitization. UV’s Community and Linkages Office reported a total of 14 extension activities during the pandemic, with direct beneficiaries estimated at 1,196. The community engagements revolved around the fulfillment of nine SDGs, including zero hunger, good health and well-being, quality education, clean water and sanitation, decent work and economic growth, sustainable cities and communities, life below water, justice, peace and strong institutions, and partnership for the goals. The International Futures “SDG Push” scenario identifies four mitigating factors that dampen the COVID-19 impact on people-related SDGs. The data revealed that the majority of community engagement focused on governance (71%), and social amelioration (64%), with a few focusing on green economy and digitization. The results suggest three courses of action. First is to devise a mechanism where SDG-clustered extension projects of schools can be forwarded for inclusion in SDG achievement rate of the country. Second is to propose a balanced approach towards post-COVID extension, with projects on green economy and digitization taking priority. Finally, extension projects should proactively foster partnership for the goals, implying university collaboration with industry, government, and non-government organizations (the quadruple helix) to realize the targets.



## **Towards Synergized Multi-Sectoral Nutrition-in-Development Efforts During the COVID-19 Disruptions: The BIDANI Experience**

Angelina dR. Felix, Pamela A. Gonzales , Ana B. Castañeda, Arnold T. Abuyog,  
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The COVID-19 pandemic has undeniably caused sudden disruptions in the delivery of services and mandates of state universities and colleges (SUCs), particularly the instruction-research-extension trilogy of functions. It also affected local government units (LGUs), especially in terms of service delivery, planning, and development. This further complicates the perennial need to solve malnutrition and food and nutrition insecurity.

Achieving nutrition improvement and food and nutrition security needs multi-sectoral efforts. The COVID-19 pandemic, which caused disruptions in food supply and food value chain and in the provision of nutrition programs and services further emphasizes the need to address food and nutrition insecurity.

The concept of nutrition-in-development (NID) promotes synergism of efforts across various sectors. This is a major principle being espoused by the Barangay Integrated Development Approach for Nutrition Improvement (BIDANI), an action research and extension program implemented by state universities and colleges (SUCs). Originating from the University of the Philippines Los Baños, BIDANI uses a systematic and community-based approach of planning involving all actors to prioritize development activities. It is also a holistic, comprehensive, integrated, multi-sectoral strategy operating on a bottom-up approach.

This paper discusses how BIDANI is able to articulate and practice nutrition-in-development despite the disruptions brought about by the COVID-19 pandemic. In particular, this paper identifies good practices in implementing the BIDANI action research and extension program through the following: capacity development through online means, streamlining e-governance in the provision of COVID-19 related services and assistance/aid of LGUs, continuing product development and technology transfer, online nutrition education and communication, and continuing policy advocacy.

State universities and colleges contribute to the fight against COVID-19 and towards food and nutrition security through their extension programs that employ a strategy that espouses NID, BIDANI's key principle.

## **A Waste Pickup and Disposal Social Enterprise for the Waste Management Problem of a Highly Urbanized City**

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To address Iligan City's perennial community problem of waste management and garbage disposal, E-Labay was founded by students from the Mindanao State University-Iligan Institute of Technology with the aim to implement a privatized waste collection system while at the same time employing out-of-school youth (OSY). With so much household considered unserved by the waste collection mechanisms and policies of the local government, E-Labay developed a process wherein local households can book the pickup of their garbage on a desired time for a fee divided among the social enterprise and the OSY partner which will be in-charge of a safe disposal procedure. A prototype of the service model was implemented in 2021 as a Business-to-Consumer (B2C) model but the results of the market validation showed that the waste pickup and disposal service is better implemented in a Business-to-Business (B2B) model with the food sector as primary communities to be served, specifically among restaurants and fast food chains. Despite the demand for the service from both households and business establishments along with the willingness of the OSY partners, the social enterprise also experienced unprecedented resource limitations in the conduct of its services in terms of logistics, human resources, environmental safety, facilities and local government support. With the B2C and B2B customer base willing to pay for the services of the startup social enterprise, this presentation on the challenges to fully operate shares the importance of public service collaboration between the academe, businesses and community partners in hustling to deliver a huge operation despite the resource limitations to solve a community's shared environmental challenge.

## Enhancing Healthful Living in the New Normal: Our Well-being Story

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Following the University's engagement with the Well-being Cluster, the humanitarian response activities have been enriched. This cluster is part of a more comprehensive portfolio of projects funded by the UK's Department for International Development (DFID) and Disasters Emergency Preparedness Programme (DEPP), which explores how well-being approaches can be improved and transformed within the humanitarian sector. The Well-being Cluster has been tasked to create and pilot a dedicated platform that brings humanitarian agencies together to prioritize the well-being of aid workers, with a key focus on supporting mental health. Initially, the main idea of the cluster was to address the need from the humanitarian sector. However, after further discussions, the Wellbeing Cluster has agreed that mental health is also a concern in workplaces and is not only limited to the humanitarian sector's responders and paved the way for various well-being activities. The Wellbeing Cluster was piloted in Central Visayas through the Jump-Start Cebu Wellbeing Cluster Project in partnership with Central Visayas Network of NGOs (CENVISNET) and Ramon Aboitiz Foundation Inc. (RAFI), and funded by the Humanitarian Leadership Academy (HLA).

Even amidst the COVID-19 pandemic and the challenges posed by the new normal, the delivery of extension services continued with several modifications on its operations to meet the health and safety protocols. Part and parcel of this was the extension activities that were delivered through e-community outreach services. The well-being initiatives continued online through its webinars via Zoom and live streaming at the different college Facebook pages. The activities were clustered according to the eight components of well-being namely emotional/mental, physical, spiritual, environmental, financial, social, occupational and intellectual. The initiative assisted the community in becoming more aware of their own well-being while also considering the well-being of others.

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# Appendix

## Zoom links for panel discussion

### **Webinar Registration:**

<https://bit.ly/CUPSConWebinarReg>

*Note: The Webinar link and passcode may be found in the confirmation email that will be sent after registering. The same Webinar link and passcode will be used for both days of the Conference, kindly refer to the Confirmation email when returning to the Plenary sessions after the parallel sessions.*

### **Panel Session A:**

**Zoom Link:** <https://bit.ly/CUPSConA>

**Passcode:** cupsconA

### **Panel Session B:**

**Zoom link:** <https://bit.ly/CUPSConB>

**Passcode:** cupsconB

### **Panel Session C:**

**Zoom Link:** <https://bit.ly/CUPSConC>

**Passcode:** cupsconC

### **Panel Session D:**

**Zoom Link:** <https://bit.ly/CUPSConD>

**Passcode:** cupsconD

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