UNIVERSITY OF THE PHILIPPINES

2021

UP SYSTEM
PUBLIC SERVICE REPORT

AUGUST 2021

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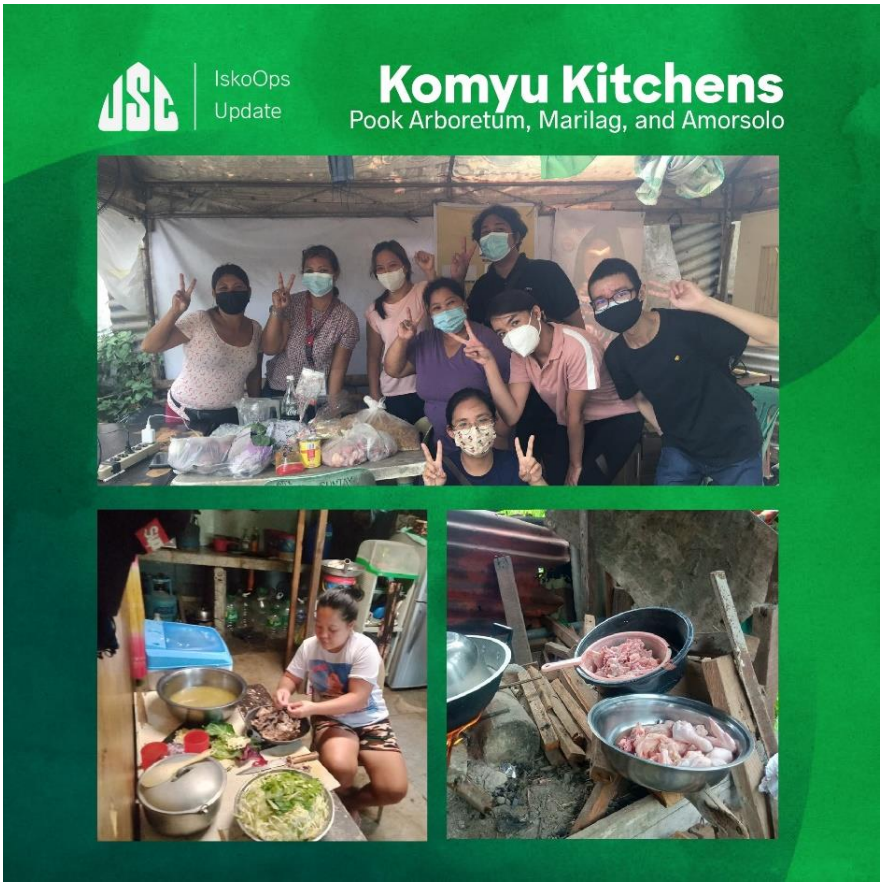
UP's public service efforts are evolving in response to the needs of the public as the people continue to adapt to the new normal. The public service initiatives are now enabling communities to keep up with the new normal's demands and live through a pandemic. Innovative methods and strategies now facilitate public service delivery better. Some of the initiatives of the University are summarized below.

Addressing the Impact of the COVID-19 Pandemic

Provision for Food

In UP Diliman, the UP COVID-19 Response Volunteers initiated a Call for Donations to benefit the UP Community Pantry and Pharmacy. Simultaneously, the *IskoOps* launched its first community kitchen – *IskoOps Komyu Kitchens*, for the residents of Pook Arboretum, Pook Marilag, Pook Amorsolo, and Amorsolo (Self-Built Units) last 20 August 2021.



Source: UPD USC Facebook Page

In UP Mindanao, the UP Alumni Association raised their "Davao Snack Food Fund for Vaccination Site Volunteers."

Meanwhile, in UP Los Baños, the School of Environmental Science and Management organized a Community Pantry for its faculty, administrative staff, and researchers to support their hard work.

In UP Visayas, they facilitated the distribution of food packs to the Ati Community in Calinog, Iloilo. Seventy-five (75) received the said food packs, and more families accepted food aid.

Provision for Frontliners

UP Los Baños opened *Bahay Bayani*, a housing facility that will help ensure the safety of frontliners and UPLB University Health Service staff as they continue to protect the community.

Source: UPLB website

Provision for Students

The UP System launched "Isko, Iska, Break Muna Tayo: Midyear Competitions and Workshops for UP Students." Through this initiative, students across all UP constituent universities and campuses sustain their creative and critical thinking skills and get to know one another during the midyear break and despite the pandemic.

In UP Diliman, the Aklatang Bayan Online continues to be operational to cater to the academic needs of students.

In UP Visayas, they conducted their Bridge Program for incoming first-year students. The Teaching and Learning Resource Center facilitated the bridge program in English and Mathematics.

COVID-19 Knowledge Management *(Provision for COVID-19 related IEC Materials)*

The Stop Covid Deaths Webinar continues to inform the public regarding the various issues and concerns surrounding COVID-19. The UP Pandemic Response Team published the *#UPTake* COVID-19 Philippine Situationer for July 2021, which, according to the UP Resilience Institute, contains data-at-a-glance on the recent earthquake, the occurrence of the Delta variant of COVID-19, LGUs with critical hospital facility utilization, and high weekly positivity rates for COVID-19, and policy recommendations.

The UP Diliman COVID-19 Task Force released their Weekly Reports and updated the active COVID-19 cases area map.

In UP Manila, they continuously publish PGH COVID-19 Daily Reports, HICU Updates, Infographics: UP Manila Health Advisory: For Mild COVID Cases; PGH Infographics: "Status of COVID-19 Vaccination Among COVID-19 Patients Admitted in PGH" (as of 15 August 2021), and conduct the UP Med Webinars 2021, and BEST (Outcome-Based, Effective, Socially-Responsive, Timely) Webinars.

The UPLB COVID-19 Update released an infographic that provides current data on the COVID-19 situation in UPLB.

The UP Mindanao's INFODEMIC SERIES Pilot Episode: *BAKUNA, BAKUNA, PAANO KA GINAWA: Debunking Vaccine Myths and Misconceptions* was showcased. The series is a public service-oriented online TV Talk Show sponsored by the Academic Program Improvement Project of the University of the Philippines Mindanao. The INFODEMIC SERIES 2nd Episode was about *COVID-19 Pandemic: Scam o Hindi?*

In UP Visayas, the clinical trial on *tawa-tawa* (Euphorbia hirta) as a potential adjunctive treatment for mild and moderate cases of COVID-19 is nearing completion, according to Dr. Philip Ian Padilla, Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs of the University of the Philippines Visayas.

Source: Panay News Photo

Meanwhile, UP Mindanao provided free molecular identification services. UP Mindanao's Department of Biological Sciences and Environmental Studies (DBSES) and Department of Food Science and Technology (DFST), and the Department of Humanities (DH), in partnership with the Philippine Genome Center (PGC), put forward a public service program for Mindanao researchers and collaborators through research assistance coupled with technical support on species identification. Meanwhile, UP Mindanao's Center of Applied Modeling, Data Analytics, and Bioinformatics for Decision Support Systems in Health (AMDABIDSS-Health) conducted a BioStatistics Workshop for students of State Colleges and Universities.

Supporting the Vaccination Efforts of the Government

The UP System relaunched *Yani the Endcovbot*, designed to facilitate the searching of available vaccination sites, hospital bed and ventilator availability, COVID-19 stats, and more by merely chatting with Yani the Endcovbot: m.me/YaniEndCovBot.

The RESBAKuna continues in UP Mindanao to administer second doses to essential workers in government service. As part of its mandate as a public service university and as an advocate of science supporting public policy, the UP Mindanao continuously serves as a cooperating agency in the RESBAKuna program.

Source: UP Mindanao Facebook page

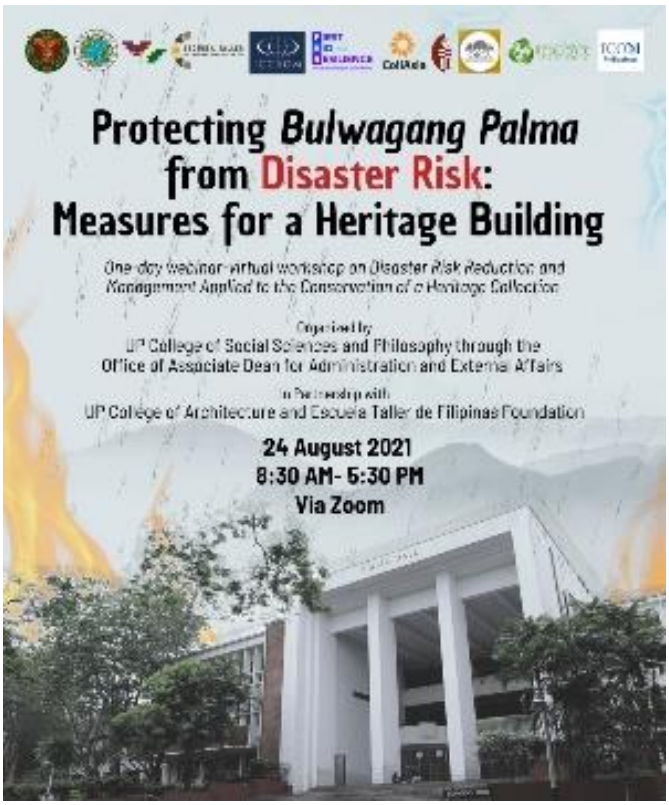
Providing Technical Assistance to Specific Sectors of Society

The UP System presented its UP CIDS podcast series entitled the *Multilevel Crisis Governance Podcast Series,* which aims to give widespread understanding and discussion of the policy and governance issues surrounding the COVID-19 pandemic in local and international landscapes.

In UP Los Baños, the BIDANI Network Program's #BIDANIVirCons featured a discussion on the Mandanas Ruling and its implications on LGU Governance and Budgeting. The Local Government Academy (LGA) of the Department of the Interior and Local Government and the College of Public Affairs and Development of the University of the Philippines Los Baños (UPLB CPAf) signed a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) for the project entitled, *Baseline Study of the Governance Systems among the ASEAN Plus Three Countries.*

The UP Open University (UPOU)' 's *#BawalBastos: Know More About the Safe Spaces Act (RA 11313)* podcast discussed the salient points of the Safe Spaces Act. UPOU also invited various State Universities and Colleges (SUCs) to apply for its *Sustainable Institution Building for Open Learning (SIBOL)* program, a mentoring and technical support initiative for online, blended, and remote learning teacher training programs.

The Maritime Industry Authority (MARINA) entered into a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) with UP Diliman to bring science and technology innovations to the Philippine maritime industry. The UP-led study entitled *Dengue Communication: Discovering Prevailing Perceptions Toward Dengue and Dengvaxia* revealed the impact of distrust in the Dengvaxia vaccine on the national government's immunization efforts. Dr. Elena Pernia, Vice President for Public Affairs and professor at the UP College of Mass Communication, headed the study. The University of the Philippines also featured the *Protecting 'Bulwagang Palma' from disaster risk: Measures for a Heritage Building*, a one-day virtual webinar-workshop about Palma Hall as a heritage building and to solicit from Palma Hall building administrators and staff recommendations on its conservation and protection from disaster risk.



Providing Psychosocial Support in the Community

The UP Alpha Phi Omega Sorority ETA Alumnae Association, Inc., in cooperation with the Office of Alumni Relations of the UP System Office of the Vice President for Public Affairs, organized *It's Time to Love Myself: A Talk on Self-compassion*. The talk featured MLAC Institute for Psychological Services development psychologist Rachel Ann Rosales Parr, Ph.D.

UP Cebu's Ugnayan ng Pahinungód, in partnership with Cordova Public College, organized *I CARE, WE CARE!*, a Psychological First Aid Training for Cordova Public College Instructors and Staff. UP Cebu also conducted a second run of the webinar on *Mental Health Support* with Dr. Annabelle Maglasang and a rerun of the *Empathetic Listening webinar* by Mr. Cipriano Olita, RGC, and *Basic Principles of Psychological First Aid*.

UP Diliman released their "*UPD Ugnayan ng Pahinungod Volunteer Handbook*" and "*UPD Ugnayan ng Pahinungod Psychosocial Support Program (PSP) Handbook* and launched the *Search for UP Student Mental Health Advocacy Projects 2021*, and invited student organizations to join the "*Sandigan, Sandalan: Training and Advocacy Programs for Mental Health*." The said program aims to encourage mental health advocacy projects among students by featuring student-led programs that other student groups can replicate.

The UPOU launched the *Ledivina V. Cariño Forum Series*, with the first episode focusing on conversations about mental health promotion.

Enhancing Knowledge and Skills through the Conduct of Various Training Programs and Webinars

The University of the Philippines and TVUP partnered with the Philippines Communication Society in organizing the National Forum on Communication and Democracy, with the first webinar entitled *Battle of the Trolls*. The UP Center for Women's and Gender Studies held their *Research Dissemination Forum* featuring research implemented by grantees of the UPCWGS Research Grant of 2020.

The following webinars were hosted by UP Diliman: *Tara Na, Negosyo Na! Year 11 MSMEs Thriving in the New Normal*; *Aruga at Agapay: Pagtataguyod ng Pagpapasuso ng Ina sa Gitna ng Pandemya*; "*Kumustahin ang Bayan*;" *Decolonizing International Relations: Conversations on Asian (Non-Western) Connections*; *SAUP-SAUP 1*; Democracy as a Memeplex: Patronage Democracy in Local Elections; *Understanding the President's Treaty Powers, Senate Concurrence and Vested Rights under the Recent Pangilinan v. Cayetano Ruling*; and *Binalot: Opium and the Philippine Revolution: Disruption and Adaptation in the Midst of Regime Change*

UP Manila showcased the following webinar series: *HIV & COVID-19 Webinar Series: Communities and COVID-19: A Roundtable with Community-Based Organizations*; and *Next Steps: The Post-Pandemic Philippine HIV Epidemic Response*; and the *How We Do It: An Engineering and Clinical Perspective on Health Innovation*.

UP Los Baños had a symposium entitled, *Parenting children with exceptionalities under the new normal: issues, support, and best practices*. They also conducted a forum entitled, *Plantastique: Sustainable Gardening for Home and Business;* and webinars on *IDEA TO INDUSTRY: How to Set Up Your Start-Up*; *Enhancing Philippines - Indian Economic Relation; enLITEn: Webinar on Research Writing and Oral Presentation Skills; Engaging Higher Education Institutions in Social Research*.

UP Cebu initiated an exclusive webinar for teachers on *Integrating Action Research in Remote Learning Context*; *Spatial Point Patterns with R Application*; and *Longitudinal Data Analysis and Missing Data*.

UP Visayas featured their *Assessment of Diversity and Ecological Services of Aquatic and Riparian Plant Species in Twin Lakes, San Pablo City, Laguna*. They also conducted a webinar entitled, *Ban on single-use plastics and best practices in seafood processing during the Covid-19 pandemic*. The UPV Tacloban College highlighted the webinar on "UsaPangwika" (Usapang Pangwika), as part of the celebration of the Buwan ng Wika.

UPOU organized the following webinars: *Understanding Teenage Pregnancy: Its Impact on the Family, Alternative Learning System (ALS) in the Philippines; Research Journeys: Writing Research Arguments; and Résumé Writing and Job Interview Preparation.*

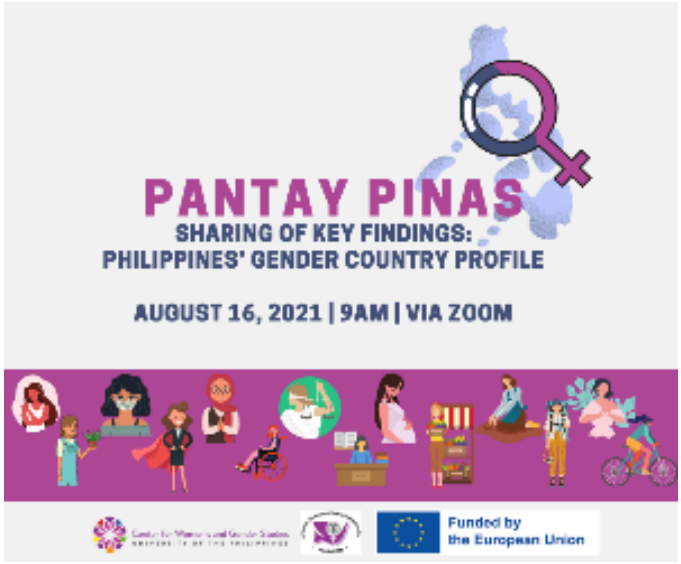
UPOU Networks also produced the following new resources: Multimedia Center: Wikang Filipino sa Panahon ng Internasyonalisasyon ng Edukasyon; Remote Learning Para sa SPED at Katutubo, Paano nga ba?; Responsible Use of Social Media by Mr. Alvin Sosmeña and Ms. Cathrine L. Yap-Yang; Achieving Success in Mathematics by Mr. Rito Joseph Dominado and Ms. Jeancell Paraiso; Global Digital Citizenship by Dr. Cherry Mae L. Limbaco and Ms. Mary Luz Pelesco; 5G as the Innovation Platform by Dr. Nurendra Timothy M. Senathirajah; Cyber Security by Dr. Gregorio Cyrus R. Elejorde, Mr. Angel T. Redoble and Mr. Kim Faburada; Introduction to Sustainable Development Goals by Dr. Roel F. Bermejo and Ms. Kristine L. Jimeno-Rivadelo; Lifelong Learning by Dr. Rustica R. Lorenzo and Dr. Melinda dP. Bandalaria; Flexible Learning: An Overview by Dr. Melinda dP. Bandalaria; Philippine Higher Education During the COVID-19 Pandemic by Dr. J. Prospero de Vera III; University of the Philippines: A National University with International Dimensions by Dr. Imee S. Martinez; Sustainable Higher Education in a Post COVID World by Prof.

Asha S. Kanwar; Higher Education of the Future: Perspectives and Reflections from UNESCO Bangkok by Dr. Libing Wang; Internationalization Before, During, and Beyond the COVID-19 Pandemic: The PNU Experience and Prospect by Dr. Bert J. Tuga.

UP Baguio organized the last pre-event lecture for the 8th Cordillera Creative Writing Workshop (CCWW), entitled "May Katapusan and Still Outliving Us: The Land/Daga as Material Reality and Space," by Ivan Emil Labayne. UP Baguio also had a successful launch of its groundbreaking Ph.D. in Indigenous Studies Program.

Promoting and Strengthening Gender and Development Approaches

The UP Center for Women's and Gender Studies presented the 2021 Philippines' Country Gender Profile in a forum entitled "*Pantay Pinas: Sharing of Key Findings of the Philippines' Gender Country Profile 2021*". The forum updated the 2016 Gender Country Report of the Philippines. The UP Center for Women's and Gender Studies, in partnership with UN Women Philippines, is also looking for fellows who will join in keeping cyberspace safe, especially for the youth in the *Safe in CyberSpace — A Youth Fellowship for Developing Capacity and Inclusivity in the Digital Sphere*.



UP Los Baños' 7th episode of Gend[ER]live! entitled, "Wika at Kasarian, meron nga bang ugnayan?" answered the following questions: Ano nga ba ang dapat gamitin dekano o dekana? Gender fair nga ba ang wikang filipino? Saan nagmula ang mga salitang baklush? Mayroon bang pagkakaiba sa pakikipagusap ang mga babae at lalaki?