



UP SYSTEM PUBLIC SERVICE REPORT



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At a time when the Philippines continues to confront the COVID-19 pandemic in addition to recurring sociopolitical and economic issues, the University of the Philippines retains its frontline leadership role as the national university by mobilizing its rich intellectual and human resources for the implementation of public service initiatives that will guide Filipinos across the difficult landscape of the “new normal.” UP is at the forefront in the fight against disinformation while simultaneously promoting research dissemination, producing valuable information, education, and communication (IEC) materials, ensuring learner and educator welfare for another academic year of remote learning, and providing relevant support to vulnerable sectors.

Combating the Proliferation of Fake News and Disinformation

September marks the UP Day of Remembrance, an annual commemoration of the University's resistance to the dictatorship. This year, the week-long *Dambana ng Gunita* featured realities of and lessons from the Marcos Regime, with particular focus on Martial Law, and refuted false claims about this dark part of our history. UP Diliman followed this with *Kwentong Mulat: The Diliman Commune Virtual Pasyal* which was organized by the Asian Institute of Tourism to transport viewers back to the days of the Diliman Commune when the UP community, particularly the students and the administration, took a stand against the Marcos dictatorship.



The Dambana ng Gunita is a series of webinars that shared realities and lessons about the Marcos dictatorship.

On a similar note, the UP Visayas (UPV) Division of Humanities partnered with Rappler's Move.PH and UPV Libertas for the webinar *Fact-Checking in the Time of Coronavirus*. A public service-oriented online program *TV Talk Show* sponsored by the Academic Program Improvement Project of UP Mindanao invited experts to discuss vaccine myths and misinformation.

Fostering Well-Rounded Learning and Effective Teaching During the Pandemic

A. Retooling of Educators for the Conduct of Remote Learning

UP Baguio conducted *Teaching Effectiveness Seminar* to provide its faculty the proper tools and skills necessary for effective teaching amidst the implementation of remote learning. Meanwhile, UP Los Baños' webinar *Social Media as an Educational Tool* gave strategies for educators that they can harness to develop methods of instruction and assessment. Teachers were also given additional resources through the short courses opened by the UP Professional School for Agriculture and the Environment. Lessons on insects, birds, fungi, and plants from the biodiversity workshops by the UPLB Museum of Natural History can also be utilized in remote learning. In a similar manner, the UP Visayas College of Fisheries and Ocean Sciences developed relevant modules for the BS Fisheries program that it shared with the University of Antique and other higher education institutions (HEIs) in the region. The series titled *Conversations on Remote Teaching & Learning in the Health Sciences* was organized by the Interactive Learning Center and UP College of Medicine Medical Education Unit for health educators. Finally, the UP Diliman College of Education's *EDUC+COLLAB Webforum* series featured community-based initiatives that assisted students to succeed in remote learning.

B. Assisting Learners through Bridge Programs

For students who had just begun their academic journey in UP, the learning resource centers in different Constituent Universities organized bridge programs. Mathematics and English were the focus of the program organized by the UP Diliman Learning Resource Center and UP Visayas Tacloban College Teaching and Learning Resource Center for incoming first-year students. Meanwhile, 88 incoming students of UP Los Baños successfully finished the three-week bridge program organized by the UPLB Learning Resource Center. The topics of the program included grammar, literature review, technical writing, pre-calculus topics, psychosocial concerns, and LIFE (Leadership, Integrity, Faith, Excellence).



Bridge programs prepared incoming UP students for subjects they will take in college.

C. Producing Relevant Learning Resources

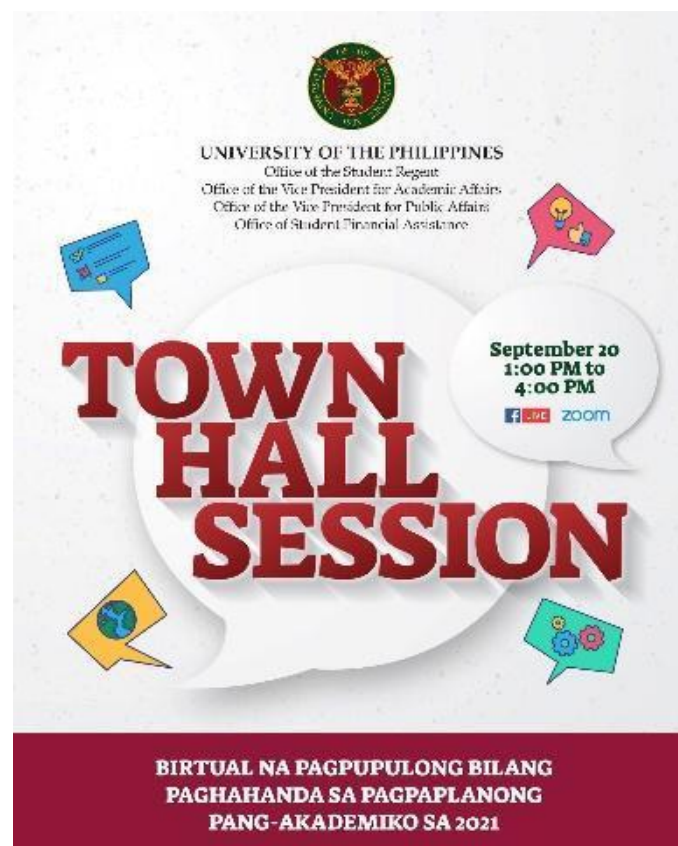
The UP Resilience Institute published the August 2021 issue of UPTake which reported present data on the state of vaccination rollout in the National Capital Region and a list of provinces that had reached critical hospital facility utilization and have high weekly COVID-19 positivity rates.

Online resources were also produced by several UP units this month. UP Baguio shared the Learner's Library Starter Kit, a set of infographics that highlighted websites and tools that students can use to jumpstart their academic journey in the University. The UPLB Office for Institutional Development in Higher Education released educational materials on action research, research proposal writing, publications, ethics in research, and curriculum design, while the Department of Human and Family Development Studies and the Department of Social Development Services jointly produced *Tsikiting Stories: Mga Kwentong Pambata ukol sa Pagpapaunlad ng Pamayanan Series* which showed how children can be part of community development. Likewise, the UP Open University made available its resources on various topics, such as sustainable higher education, leadership, course design and delivery, quality assurance, classroom management, teenage pregnancy, and the Mandanas ruling.

Conducting Informative Webinars for Knowledge Enrichment

To further enrich the knowledge of different audiences on the safety of their homes and provide updates on key issues, UP units continued organizing webinars and online fora led by reliable subject experts from inside and outside the University.

The UP Center for Integrative and Development Studies held *Roundtable Discussion: Making Our Way Back to the Classroom* to tackle the future of education against the backdrop of the pandemic. Health experts, administrators from HEIs, local chief executives, and other stakeholders spoke about the pandemic situation, readiness for classes, shift in COVID-19 transmission in the provinces, and booster shots in different installments of this month's *Stop COVID Deaths* webinars. UP Manila's webinar *Well-Being and Caring in Nursing* was well-attended by nurses from different hospitals. The *Town Hall Session* organized by the UP Office of the Student Regent, UP Office of the Vice President for Academic Affairs, Office of the Vice President for Public Affairs, and the Office of Student Financial Assistance took stock of the impact, challenges, and lessons learned from the past academic year of remote learning.



Students and university administrators discussed plans for the new academic year in a Town Hall Session.

Multiple webinars held by UP Los Baños served to promote the conduct of research amidst the COVID-19 pandemic. The webinar titled *Pandemic or Without Pandemic: Relevance of Development Communication Research* focused on the relevance of development communication research, while the webinar *Enhancing STEM Learning through Natural History Collections* conducted by the Museum of Natural History (MNH) aimed to encourage the youth to pursue a career in STEM. In a separate webinar, the MNH highlighted the importance of museums and herbarium collections in studying the Philippines' biodiversity and ecological research. Meanwhile, Professor Emeritus Dr. Eufemio T. Rasco, Jr. headlined the webinar of UP Mindanao Center for the Advancement of Research in Mindanao, entitled *Our Food Future is in the Past: The Science Behind Traditional Food*.

Climate change and environment protection and conservation were also the topics of many webinars held this month. An installment of the UP Cebu Teaching and Learning Resource Center's *Tunob Bulawan* webinar series focused on how climate change ultimately affects everyone's lives. The UP Los Baños' *Forest Policy E-Talks: Watershed Management Webinar Series* tackled the state of watersheds in the Philippines and how it can be rejuvenated, while the *SESAM ExChanges: Environmental Challenges and Solutions Seminar Series* endeavored to promote environmental awareness among the public.

UP Mindanao hosted the *Ledivina V. Cariño Webinar Series: Sulong Pahinungod* that showcased how the experiences of Pahinungód administrators, volunteers, and former volunteers as speakers contributed to their careers.

Turning Research Initiatives into Technical Assistance Programs

This month also bore witness to the research programs and forms of technical assistance that UP continues to offer to the public. UP Manila formally launched the *UP Surgical Innovation & Biotechnology (UP SIBOL)* program, a result of its partnership since 2020 with UP Diliman designers and engineers who worked with clinicians and health scientists for the development of biomedical tools that are adapted to the needs of Filipinos. Meanwhile, the UP Los Baños Biomathematics Team formulated mathematical algorithms that can yield data for optimum distribution of vaccines among LGUs in the Philippines. Members of the research team from UP Resilience Institute conducted field visits and interviews with local leaders and residents in Barangay San Agustin in Novaliches and Barangay San Antonio in District 1, Quezon City that are prone to

flooding, as part of UP's collaboration with the Quezon City Government to implement the city's *Drainage Master Planning*. Finally, UP Los Baños launched the first *Virtual Halal S&T Knowledge Center*, a web-based and open-access knowledge hub related to the global halal market.



Members of the UP Resilience Institute conducted field visits in preparation for the implementation of the QC Drainage Master Planning.

Enabling Significant Forms of Support for the Public

A. Psychosocial Support

Recognizing that mental health is gravely affected by the pandemic, UP units continue to extend much-needed psychosocial support to those who are in need of a comforting hand and listening ear. The UP Resilience Institute held the webinar *Dealing with the Emotional and Educational Challenges of Children During the Pandemic* to help parents and carers guide children when they experience difficulties. UP Manila's Guidance and Counseling Program led the webinar *Celebrating Life, Hope can Happen: Conversations on Suicide Prevention* to remind audiences that they are not alone and could help others realize the value of life. UP Visayas conducted *PAGPADAYON: A Webinar Series on Mental Health and Well-Being in This Time of Pandemic* to encourage graduate students to take care of themselves as they meet the rigors of graduate school. Meanwhile, the UP Mindanao community drew lessons from the webinar titled *Mindfulness for Stress Reduction and Well-Being*. The third installment of UP Los Baños' *Intersections* webinar discussed parenting and well-being during the COVID-19 pandemic.

B. Assistance for Vulnerable Sectors

Public service programs initiated by UP units and students also endeavored to provide other means of support for marginalized sectors. The second *Career Convention* of UP Los Baños strove to help students and non-students navigate the “new normal” of working and career pivoting. The Office of Scholarship and Grants also utilized the *Aid and Scholarship Services Informational Support to Students (ASSIST)* platform to inform UPLB students about available grants-in-aid, student loans and claims, scholarships, and the University’s student assistantship program. *Kuwentuhan Tungkol sa Pagtulong sa Mga Batang nasa Laylayan*, a webinar organized by the UP College of Education, explored the innovative ways of addressing the immediate and longterm needs of less-privileged children. Finally, the UP Fisheries Guild of UP Visayas organized a fundraising campaign that had helped in its purchase of alcohol dispensers that it donated to the Dumolog Elementary School.



The UP Fisheries Guild donated alcohol, hand wash, face masks and infrared thermometer to Dumolog Elementary School.

C. Trainings and Capacity Building Programs

Trainings were also organized to enhance the skills of different members of the UP community and the general public.

The UP Visayas Language Program conducted a webinar series titled *English at the Workplace* that aimed to provide UPV faculty and staff the necessary refresher courses to reinforce their communication skills in English technical writing and speaking.

The UP College of Law Training and Convention Division held the four-day *Barangay Legal Education Online Seminar* to inculcate tenets of financial management among local chief executives.

ASEAN youth participated in *Ugnayan ng Pahinungód's e-ASEAN Youth Volunteer Programme (e-AYVP)* where they underwent workshops with the goal of identifying and crafting solutions to complex challenges faced by the education sector.

The UP Open University organized the webinar *Therapeutic Communication, Open Talk: Pagnenegosyo sa Gitna ng Pandemya*, and another installment of *Introductory Course on Contact Center Services* for aspiring contact center professionals.

UP Mindanao collaborated with the League of DOST Scholars in conducting the free *Financial Literacy and Technopreneurship* webinar for DOST scholars of Region XI.

Protecting the Population Against COVID-19 through Vaccination

The *Bakunahan sa Diliman* program of UP Diliman opened vaccination slots for students this month, a step made in preparation for the implementation of face-to-face classes. In UP Los Baños, the vaccination program was expanded to accommodate vaccinees who preferred the drive-thru mechanism.



The UPLB University Health Service opens the drive-thru option for vaccinees.