



UP SYSTEM PUBLIC SERVICE REPORT



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As the country slowly approaches its third year of combating the pandemic, the University of the Philippines (UP) remains unyielding and continues to show exemplary efforts in fulfilling its mandate of leadership as a public service university. This report contains the different public service initiatives mobilized by each of the eight Constituent Universities (CUs) across the UP System, each primarily addressing the struggles of the community amidst the new normal. The CUs, with joint efforts from the government, private sector, and civil units, spearheaded programs and events that brought both direct and indirect assistance to its constituents and the general public. These initiatives include tackling the challenges of conducting limited face-to-face classes, as well as psychosocial support for both students and faculty with the stress that comes along the transition from fully remote to blended learning.

Furthermore, the University maintains its standard in the production and sharing of knowledge, capacity building, provision of medical assistance, promotion of research and development, and volunteerism. All of these are undertaken by the University in the fulfillment of its role in serving Filipinos with honor and excellence.

UP at the Vanguard against COVID-19

The University steadily provides various forms of assistance to both its constituents and the general public throughout the pandemic. The UP Diliman COVID Task Force continues to deliver updated reports on the number and health status of the active cases among its constituents. With regards to the dissemination of relevant and timely information on COVID-19, The *Stop C.O.V.I.D Deaths Webinar Series* by UP Manila continues to disseminate relevant and timely information on COVID-19 by holding a weekly roundtable discussion on a myriad of clinical topics which are open to the public. The award-winning series has evolved past the issues of COVID-19 and now sheds light on various concerns regarding public health and other medical updates. This month's topics include fatty liver, pediatric visual impairments, motorcycle road accidents, and the use of simulation in OB-GYN training. Highlighting the role of genomics in the context of a pandemic, the Philippine Genome Center of UP Mindanao held its *Mindanao-Wide Omics Webinar* last 27-28 October 2022. The two-day webinar showcased the various technologies developed by the Mindanao omics research in mitigating the impacts of a pandemic.



The Mindanao-Wide Omics Webinar, in celebration of PGC Mindanao's 3rd year anniversary

The University Health Service (UHS) across each CU adheres to its function as a model health facility that provides only the best primary care services for its constituents. The UP Diliman Health Service offered another RT-PCR swab testing for its residents and started the booster vaccination rollout to immunize the members of the UP Diliman community. Along the same vein, the UP Los Baños Health Service distributed pneumonia and flu vaccinations as part of the *Kalusugan Festival* in celebration of the 25th anniversary of the Office of the Vice-Chancellor for Community Affairs. The festival conducted a variety of free health services such as diagnostic screenings, provision of pharma and nutraceuticals, and distribution of free medical supplies. The UP Manila College of Pharmacy Gender Committee, in collaboration with the Philippine Cancer Society, held the *Breast, Cervix, and Prostate Cancer Screening Program* which examined 61 and 14 patients for breast/cervical and prostate cancer, respectively.



People registering for the UPCM Breast, Cervix, and Prostate Cancer Screening Program

As higher education institutions ease into the new normal after two years of remotely holding classes, the University has updated both its administrative and academic processes following the issuance of Memorandum 2022-123 otherwise known as *Guidelines for Campus-based Activities under Different Alert Levels and the PGH-HICU Guide*. The UP Diliman Cash Office has included a contactless method in transactions where payments can be completed through GCash. The UP Mindanao Ugnayan ng Pahinungod, together with the UP Office of Admissions and UP Mindanao Registrar Office, conducted its *UP College Admission 2023 Orientation* via webinar. School principals, senior high school coordinators, and senior high school graduates and students can review the orientation by visiting the Facebook page of UP Mindanao. The UP Diliman College of Science held a hyflex (online and onsite) public seminar titled *Pagbabalik sa Unibersidad: Mga Aral Batay sa Paghahanda at Karanasan* which provided a platform for health experts to discuss the best practices for conducting safe face-to-face interactions. On the other hand, UP Los Baños held an orientation on COVID-19 campus prevention and mitigation protocols and the use of the *Online Health Monitoring System (OHMS)* for its student.



UP Mindanao College Admission 2023 Orientation webinar

The University has been keen on the mental health of its students, employees, and staff, especially with the resumption of face-to-face classes wherein most, if not all, are still recovering from the impact of the pandemic. Different units across the CUs affirmed their support for the UP community and have conducted various activities to help them cope with transitional stress. The UP Mental Health Month (UP MHM), a congregation of different psychology-focused organizations from UP, in celebration of World Mental Health this October, organized a series of events centered on the theme “Ahon, Bangon: Tungo sa Bagong Panahon”. One event was a workshop entitled *So sinong mag-aadjust? Tayong Lahat, Mars!* that focused on assisting the UP community in managing the stress brought by the sudden conduct of face-to-face classes. On a similar note, the UP Diliman PsycServ prepared a program for students, faculty, and employees dubbed *Paghinga, Pahinga, at Paghanap ng Ginhawa*, consisting of virtual group sessions that addressed demotivation, stress management, and grief. UP Manila also organized informative and timely lectures on student well-being in the College of Medicine’s hybrid conference *Back-to-School: Lovin’ the Times*. Maximizing the use of social media in engaging the public, the Philippine General Hospital (PGH) Department of Rehabilitation Medicine released a daily set of Information, Education, and Communication materials as part of its *USAPangPsych Series* which covered topics on improving one’s mental health.



Participants from *So sinong mag-aadjust? Tayong Lahat, Mars!* webinar by UP MHM

The University remains unhindered in maintaining its lead in setting academic standards in spite of the pandemic. Each CU strives to provide avenues for knowledge-sharing in various fields, as well as opportunities for training and developing both academic and non-academic skills through public webinars, online conferences, and hyflex workshops. One such example is *READ UP: A language and literacy training* organized by the UP Visayas Language Program. The two-day workshop made use of read-aloud strategies to improve daycare teachers' aptitude for creativity, pedagogical approach, and language skills. The University also develops innovative methods for learning especially in Higher Education Institutions (HEIs), such as UP Open University's *Open Talk* episode dubbed "Developing Immersive Learning Programs for Higher Education: AR, VR, and Beyond" which explored the possibilities of using augmented reality (AR) and virtual reality (VR) as a platform for higher learning. Likewise, UP Los Baños' Graduate School held the *UPLB Graduate Education Summit* with the theme "SHAKERS: Shaping Knowledge Ecosystems for a Reimagined Society".



Daycare teachers attend UPV's READ UP: A language and literacy training

UP Mindanao has its fair share of developing technological innovations which stem from the *UP Growing and Developing Enterprises (UPGRADE)* and its incubation program, *Innovative Startup Knowledge Optimizer (ISKO)*. ISKO was realized in a partnership between UP Mindanao and the Department of Science and Technology Philippine Council for Industry, Energy, and Emerging Technology Research and Development (DOST-PCIEERD). Its third run this October bore three startup technologies: (1) the Artificial Intelligence Meets Human Intelligence (AIMHI) software, the first AI-driven project management platform for construction projects; (2) the Virtulahan, an online training school specifically designed for persons with disabilities; and (3), GeoPik Technologies Inc., a software-as-a-service technology for accurately pinning locations.

Capacity-building in terms of medical knowledge and technical know-how was the center of a variety of programs and events held by the University. In an effort to capacitate Barangay

Health Workers (BHWs) in Visayas, faculty members from UP Visayas comprised the *Training of Trainers* team as part of the Health Hearts Program. The team aimed to train the BHWs in the use of the noncommunicable disease (NCDs) flipchart, produced by the Department of Health and World Health Organization, which contains information on NCDs such as hypertension, diabetes, cancer, and certain types of pulmonary diseases. The UP Los Baños Institute of Biological Sciences, on the other hand, conducted a *Hands-on Demo Training Workshop on the Use of ELISA* in partnership with Noveaulab.

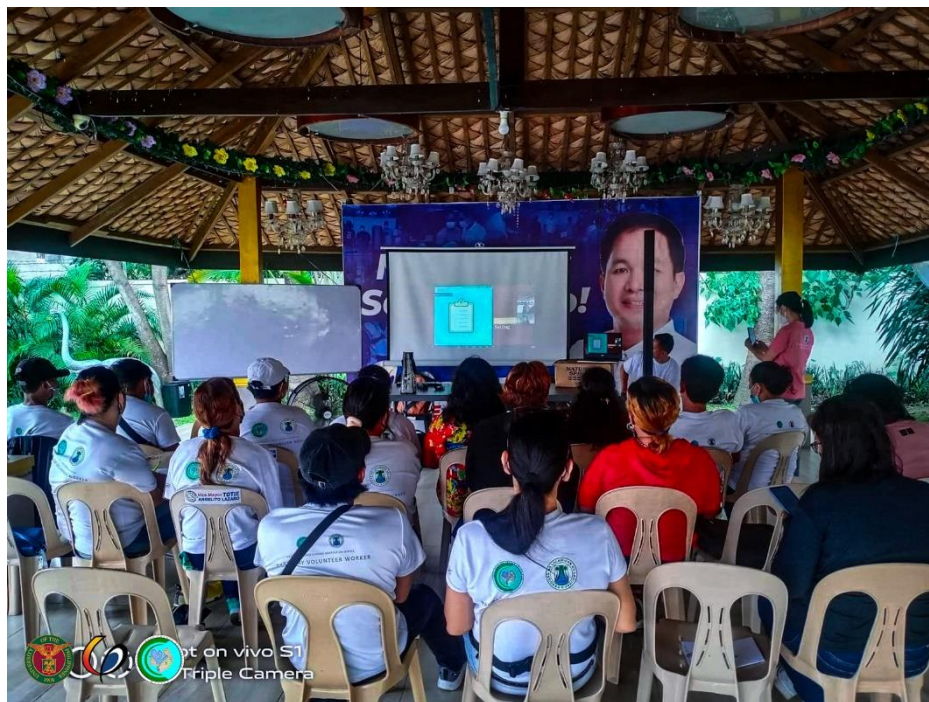


UPV, WHO, and DOH in the Training of Trainers on NCD flipchart rollout

Recognized by the Commission on Higher Education as a Center of Excellence in Agriculture, UP Los Baños spearheaded training and workshops in the field of agricultural research. For instance, analysts and technicians from various LGUs and the Department of Agriculture offices were upskilled through the *Training on the Use of Rapid Test Kits for Pesticide Residues* organized by the UPLB College of Agriculture and Food Science (CAFS) National Crop Protection Center (NCPC). UPLB CAFS NCPC also shared its expertise abroad at the *Training Workshop on Diagnostics of Begomovirus and Development of LAMP-PCR* in Serdang, Malaysia, through the ASEAN Plant Health Cooperation of ASEANET and the Department of Agriculture of Malaysia.

Since the country's disaster risk profile is described as "prone to all types of natural hazards" due to its geographical location and geotectonic setting, the University lends its expertise

in empowering its constituents and government units in disaster risk reduction management. The UP Baguio National Service Training Program (NSTP) Office held *When Things Go South: An Introduction to Basic DRRM Know-How* webinar to discuss disaster risk reduction management in the Cordillera Administrative Region. On a similar note, the NSTP Office of UP Diliman featured experts on volcanology and seismology for the second installment of *BAYANIHAN* web series titled “Kahandaan: Disaster Risk Reduction and Management”. Moreover, the UP Diliman NSTP Office, in collaboration with the Quezon City Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Office, held the *Community-Based Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Workshop* under its *UNLAD 2022 – Kawayan: Tatag at Tibay Pampamayanan*. Meanwhile, LGUs in Laguna participated in the lecture *Early Warning Systems and Contingency Planning for Baranggay Volunteer Workers* organized by the UP Los Baños Ugnayan ng Pahinungod, together with the Laguna Climate Change Adaptation Office and the Laguna Provincial Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Office.



Early Warning Systems and Contingency Planning for Baranggay Volunteer Workers lecture for the LGUs in Laguna

The CUs have been relentless in the promotion of gender equality, as well as steering the University into a safe environment for all genders through sensitivity training and webinars. The UP Visayas Gender Development Program and the Office of Anti-Sexual Harassment conducted a *Gender Awareness and Sensitivity Orientation* and the *Anti-Sexual Harassment (ASH) Orientation* for UPV security guards at the Miagao and Iloilo City campuses, respectively. Similarly, members of the UP Baguio community participated in the *Gender Sensitivity and Anti-Sexual Harassment*

Orientation required for the recognition of student organizations. Furthermore, the UP Baguio Office of Anti-Sexual Harassment held consultations regarding the revised draft of the *Anti-Sexual Harassment Code*. In celebration of UP Pride 2022, discussions centered on gender equality in the local and national contexts were held in UP Diliman's three-episode *Equality Talks*. As for UP Visayas' contribution to the cause, the UPV Gender and Development Program, together with the Ugsad Regional Gender Resource Network, organized the webinar *Pride Representation: Discussing Gender and SOGIESC in Today's Landscape* which shed light on the topic of gender representation in media and status of SOGIESC in the country. The UP Diliman Gender Office hoisted the colors of the LGBTQIA+ community in the *Raise Your Flags! Common LGBTQ Flags and Identities* infographics uploaded on social media.



UPV guards as participants of the Gender Awareness and Sensitivity Orientation and the Anti-Sexual Harassment (ASH) Orientation

The University remained resolute in its commitment to serving the public outside knowledge-production and sharing, and continuously lends a helping hand through volunteerism efforts across communities in each CU. UP stood with the victims of Super Typhoon Paeng, where KASAMA sa UP and the UP Office of the Student Regent set up a *Donations Directory and Sensing Forms* for the communities across the UP System for those severely affected by Paeng. The directory provided a matrix that contained every student council organized under each CU that called for donations and relief efforts. Meanwhile, the UP Manila Ugnayan ng Pahinungod Medical and Surgical Team conducted its *Annual Medical and Minor Surgical Mission* at Brgy. Tiniguiban, Calauag, Quezon, in collaboration with the barangay health workers of Brgy. Tiniguiban and various departments under the PGH.



Social media post of the UP System Sensing and Donations Forms for the victims of Typhoon Paeng

In an effort to support environmentalism, a number of “greening” initiatives were organized by CUs. The UP Diliman Environmental Management Office (DEMO), together with the Quezon City Environment Multi-Purpose Cooperative, Inc. (QCEMPCI/Linis-Ganda), conducted a drop-off and collection program for recyclable materials and single-use plastics in the UP Diliman campus. In a much greener perspective, the UP Visayas Miagao campus organized an *NSTP Tree Planting Activity* and planted a variety of trees close to identified camping ground in the campus. In the same vein, UP Visayas and the UP Validus Amicitia Brotherhood inked a *Memorandum of Agreement for the Establishment of an Eco-Trail Project* in the UP Visayas Miagao campus.



NSTP tree planting activity at the UPV Miagao campus