



UP SYSTEM PUBLIC SERVICE REPORT



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The University of the Philippines continues to commit to Filipinos through its numerous contributions and milestones in research and public service. By utilizing the expertise of its community members, the University has produced research breakthroughs and responsive policies in public health, science and technology, national development, and sustainable growth. In its commitment to social responsibility, UP has constantly assisted various sectors in mitigating and coping with the challenges of the ongoing COVID-19 crisis.

The University continues to be the institutional leader in research and public service by strengthening and expanding its ongoing public service efforts. For the observance of the 18-Day Campaign to End Violence Against Women, Constituent Universities (CUs) launched and organized training programs, webinars, and other related activities to educate the public on the most pressing concerns in gender and development. This report also highlights the initiatives of CUs on research and development and public service engagement, ranging from capacity-building training programs, workshops, and seminars/webinars to strategic partnerships. These accomplishments reaffirm the commitment of the University to national development and the overall improvement of Filipino lives.

Debunking COVID-19 myths through public service

Since the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic, UP has proven its commitment to public service via the promotion of research and public service initiatives that save and preserve lives. A special edition of the Stop COVID Deaths webinar entitled *BAGO NA NAMAN? XBB and BQ.1.1 Alamin!* focused on the newest Omicron subvariants. Dr. Franco Felizarata, an infectious disease specialist based in California, provided the latest and most relevant information on the variant. On the other hand, Dr. Anna Ong Lim, a pediatric infectious disease specialist from the Philippine General Hospital (PGH), provided additional information on how we can protect ourselves from the variant vis-a-vis



new policies issued in the prior weeks. Another episode entitled *To Mask or Not to Mask?* focused on the lingering questions with regard to when and where a person should use a mask. Dr. Marissa M. Alejandria, Immediate Past President of the Philippine Society for Microbiology and Infectious Diseases and Chair of the UP Clinical Epidemiology Unit, discussed the basic principles of keeping ourselves safe and protected when using masks. Dr. Ralph Elvi Villalobos, a leading PGH pulmonologist, shared that face masks not only prevent the spread of COVID-19 but are also effective in protecting individuals from other respiratory infections like influenza and pneumonia. In the episode *May Liwanag Ba Ang Bukas Para Sa Mga Health Workers?*, Dr. Joselito Gapas, Head of Occupational Health of First Philippine Holdings and the Lopez Group of Companies, discussed workplace preparedness and response to the pandemic from the perspective of the private sector. Dr. Gapas also talked about the opportunities health workers have to be able to take control over their lives and health, especially during peaks in disease transmission during a pandemic. Veteran journalist Roby Alampay was the reactor in the discussion, who also shared his perspective on the issue.

A team of researchers from UP Manila, the University of Santo Tomas, and St. Luke's Medical Center found evidence regarding the association between COVID-19 and cognitive dysfunction. The findings from the study may help in re-evaluating the impact of the virus and aid in earlier treatment, allowing medical practitioners to effectively manage the neurological manifestation of cognitive impairments in COVID-19 patients. The research team also suggested how the study can be used to improve the implementation of comprehensive treatment modalities and rehabilitation throughout the COVID-19 care continuum.

To assist the government in its COVID-19 vaccination campaign, the UP Diliman Health Service offered COVID-19 vaccinations and booster shots for ages 12 and above on 9 November.

UNiTEd for a VAW-free Philippines

The University joined various sectors and government agencies in the observance of the 18-Day Campaign to End Violence Against Women, with UNITED for a VAW-free Philippines as this year's theme. The 25th of November is the International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women (IDEVAW). UP CUs launched and organized training programs, webinars, and other synchronous and asynchronous initiatives, aiming to educate the public on the most focal issues in gender-based violence and development today.

In UP Diliman, the UPD Technology Management Center under the UPD Ugnayan ng Pahinungod program organized a webinar entitled Empowered and Cybersafe Digital World: A Gender-Sensitive Approach for a Technology-Driven Society, as an initiative for the 18-day Campaign to End Violence Against Women. Meanwhile, the UP Diliman Gender Office initiated activities, including the 3rd UPD Professional Development Training Series (PDTs) 2022: Gender-based Violence First Responder Training, and the 13th UPD Gender and Development (GAD) Summit 2022 on 23-25 November to kick off the 18-Day Campaign.

The UPD PDTs was a 3-day training seminar that primarily focused on Training for UP Diliman GAD Committee Members as Counseling First Responders for Gender-Based Violence. This initiative was launched as a result of the previous GAD agenda, GAD summit roundtable discussions, and requests for training GAD committee members on their responsiveness and assistance in gender-based violence scenarios.



[UP Diliman] Training for UP Diliman GAD Committee Members as Counseling First Responders for Gender-Based Violence

The UPD PDTs was followed by the 13th UP Diliman Gender and Development Summit 2022, the first in-person Gender and Development Summit in UP Diliman since the

pandemic forced the shift to virtual events. The Summit revolved around the milestones and best practices in GAD from all units and colleges in UP Diliman.

In UP Manila, the UPM Guidance and Counseling Program initiated the 2022 eVAWC Campaign that highlighted the impact of combining individual efforts towards collaboration and a united thrust for a VAW-free Philippines. To support this initiative, the Office of Student Affairs, in partnership with external and internal stakeholders, participated in the #RaiseYourVoice Experience Sharing Campaign and #VowToEndVAW Online Commitment. Various synchronous and asynchronous activities were organized to promote safer and more inclusive spaces for women and children.

In UP Mindanao, the International Webinar on Women Empowerment & Leadership in Agriculture was co-organized by the Central Bicol State University of Agriculture (CBSUA) and the Meryl Williams Fellows - Philippines, in partnership with the following: UP Mindanao (School of Management and Gender and Development - Agriculture, Aquatic, and Natural Resources) Cavite State University (College of Veterinary Medicine and Biomedical Sciences), Caraga State University (College of Agriculture and Agri-industries), Mindanao State University (Naawan), and the Australian Center for International Agricultural Research. Resource speakers from the Philippines, Australia, Mongolia, and Timor Leste shared their knowledge and experiences on the following topics: gender inclusive research project design, gender research in agriculture, aquatic and natural resources in the Philippines, and women leadership in agriculture, among others.

Research productivity and innovation for national development

As the country's premier research university, UP has produced exceptional research outputs that contributed to the country's national development, scientific innovation, and sustainable growth.

The University, through the Office of the Vice President for Academic Affairs and the UP System Technology Transfer and Business Development Office, organized and held *Agham + Sining* on 28-29 November at its Bonifacio Global City campus. For the "Agham" component, the 2-day event showcased the best technologies and promising research from the University's faculty and researchers. It also featured the best technologies adopted by

the University's industry partners and research projects in their commitment to fulfill the UN's Sustainable Development Goals. For the "Sining" component, the event promoted the digital and physical outputs of the University's creative minds and talents from history to art and cinema, and indigenous and local cultures to education and innovation. During the event, officials from the UP System and UP Mindanao offered the DiWA (Disease Watch and Analytics) web-based application for the use of the Department of Health (DOH) Davao Region. DiWA was one of the inventions offered in the Sealing the Future: UP Partners With Industry program that featured a ceremonial signing between the Inventor and University representative Prof. May Anne Mata and Industry Partner DOH-Davao Regional Director Dr. Annabelle Yumang.



[UP System] *Agham + Sining* at UP BGC Campus

The Science Research Center of the College of Science in UP Baguio launched the Quantification, Identification, Classification, and Mapping of Plastics Pollution (QulCMaPP) facility on 18 November. Through the support of the DOST-funded project PlastiCount Pilipinas, the QulCMaPP facility has hosted an AI-based model that automates the quantification, identification, and classification of macroplastic pollution and generates a publicly accessible online database on plastics research in the country. The launch also included a lecture on AI-assisted classification methods, a citizen science event, and a demonstration of the technology by the QulCMaPP facility.

Serving the people through research and public service

Following its mandate, UP has shown its consistent leadership in research and development, the dissemination and application of knowledge, and public service. The University's research outputs and public service initiatives have supported communities, public and volunteer service, and provided technical assistance to the government, private sector, and civil society. These are driven by the University's commitment to give back to society by improving the quality of life of all Filipinos through capacity development and public service engagements.

Through the UP Visayas Foundation Inc. and in partnership with DOH Region VI and World Health Organization Philippines, faculty members from UP Visayas organized a Training of Trainers on the use of the noncommunicable diseases (NCD) flipchart. Forty-three (43) barangay health workers and health professionals, including nurses and midwives from the provinces of Capiz and Aklan attended the training, which aimed to capacitate them in the NCD rollout in their respective municipalities and/or barangays. The NCD flipchart, a component of the Job Aids of the Healthy Hearts Technical Package, contains relevant information on various NCDs such as diabetes, hypertension, lung diseases, and cancers. On 9-11 November, UP Visayas also conducted a policy workshop for NCD prevention in 11 local government units (LGUs) in the province of Iloilo. The facilitators were Dr. Philip Ian Padilla, Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs, and Professors Josephine Firmase, Melanie Sartorio, and Alexander Porras. The workshop's main objective was the development of a draft ordinance that would establish a Health Club in the LGUs.



[UP Visayas] *Training of Trainers on the use of the noncommunicable diseases (NCD) flipchart.*

The UPLB Elderly Development Program (EDP), an extension initiative of the College of Human Ecology and the Department of Human & Family Development Studies, invited senior citizens to the relaunch of its face-to-face sessions on 19 November. The event held activities such as physical fitness sessions, free health screening tests, lectures, and games. The Tsikiting Stories at EDP project, a collection of stories about the elderly, was also relaunched.

UP Manila's long-running e-med record system licensee is set to capacitate more rural health units (RHUs) and other health facilities. The Department of Science and Technology granted funding to Pivotal Peak Digital Health Solutions Inc. (PPDHSI), a spin-off company of UP Manila and exclusive licensee of its Community Health Information Tracking System (CHITS), for its deployment to more health facilities and training of more RHU personnel. Developed by the National Telehealth Center of the UP Manila National Institutes of Health in 2004, CHITS is the pioneering electronic medical record (EMR) system for community health centers and RHUs across the country. CHITS provides accurate, timely, and complete information on the patients at the point of care, allowing healthcare workers to treat patients with greater efficiency.

UP Diliman launched the 24-hour *Kapihan* sa Diliman Study Hall and Review Center initiative to provide students with an alternative space to review and prepare for mid-semester exams. The initiative offers free tutorials for selected subjects; coffee and snacks; printing services; shower, napping, and recreation areas; and emotional support animals. The facility is located in the Student Union Building.

Strategic partnerships for education, research, and development

The University has also actively coordinated and sustained strategic engagements with various institutions in both public and private sectors to bolster development towards facilitating the efficient transfer, exchange, and sharing of knowledge and technological assets and capabilities.

UP Baguio is one of the 15 Higher Education Institutions (HEIs) that signed a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) with the Department of Science and Technology Philippine Council for Industry, Energy, and Emerging Technology Research and

Development (DOST-PCIEERD). These HEIs were granted funding to establish and operate their respective Technology Business Incubators (TBIs) under the Handholding Starting Incubators from HEIs for Readiness towards Innovation and Technopreneurship Preparatory and Skills Acceleration for TBI Managers Optimizing Regional Startup Ecosystem (HIHEIRIT PA MORE!) program. All 15 HEIs also signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) for the continuation of the two-year program. The second year of implementation includes the handholding of both new and prospective TBIs. UP Mindanao also joined the MOU signing as the University of the Philippines Growing and Developing Enterprises (UPGRADE) continues to spearhead the implementation of the program's second run.



[UP Baguio] Memorandum of Agreement with DOST-PCIEERD

UP Diliman, through the Asian Center, and the Mindanao State University signed an MOU to forge partnerships that would promote the interface of Mindanaoan and Asian studies in the two campuses. Other areas for collaboration include faculty, research, and staff exchanges, research projects, academic presentations, and conventions, as well as cultural, material, and information exchanges.

UP Manila renewed its five-year partnership agreement with Tokyo Medical and Dental University. A commemoration of the signing of the partnership agreement was held last 16 November and attended by officials, faculty, and staff of the two institutions. On 24 November, Prof. Dr. Francis R. Capule, Dean of the College of Pharmacy at UPM, visited Mahidol University's Faculty of Pharmacy to establish an academic network and discuss

possibilities for mutual collaboration between the two institutions, including academic exchange, research collaborations, and student exchange.