



# UP SYSTEM PUBLIC SERVICE REPORT



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Through its diverse initiatives in the country, the University of the Philippines (UP) remains active in fulfilling its mandate of leadership in public service, innovation, and development. With the needs of the country constantly evolving, the University has responded by enacting timely and relevant projects in different fields in its role as a national university. This report will highlight projects that the University and its constituent universities (CUs) have conducted and participated in, such as projects for knowledge sharing, physical and mental health, technology, and national development.

## **Strengthening intellectual foundations through knowledge sharing**

Keeping in mind its responsibility to maintain and enhance high academic standards, the University continues to contribute to the knowledge base of students. The UP Diliman University Library organized a hybrid training series. Its first activity had the theme “Saliksik, Suri at Sulat: Cultivating Research Culture and Excellence in the University Library”. There were two talks for the first activity, the first was Moving Beyond Writer’s Block, Strategies on Overcoming It by Professor Rhea Apolinario. The second talk was Taking Your Research Paper to the Next Level: Navigating Research Writing and Publishing Process by Mr. Johan Jang. Both talks were aimed at helping the participants hone their writing skills.

Knowing the importance of public administration, the UP Diliman Extension Program in Pampanga and Olongapo arranged a lecture called “Strategic Thinking through Social Learning and Societal Development” for their first batch of Master in Governance and Innovative Leadership students. The lecture was delivered by Dr. Eing Ming Wu, a Taiwanese professor with expertise in public administration. The aim of the lecture was to provide students with a



*Dr. Wu receiving her certificate (top) and with the participants (bottom)  
(Photo Credit: UP Clark)*

broader and comparative perspective on strategic management in the public sector. The Department of Social Sciences at UP Manila also hosted a Career Talk that linked

undergraduate students with alumni from various fields and specializations. The talk aimed to emphasize a multidisciplinary approach to development and nation-building.

With the rising popularity of the Artificial Intelligence (AI) chatbot called ChatGPT, the UP Open University (UPOU) Networks has created a series discussing its implications for academic use. For the month of April, the UPOU Networks in partnership with the Faculty of Information and Communication Studies held the second episode of their Open Talk webinar series titled “ChatGPT: The Dark Side and the Bright Future of AI”. In the episode, speakers delved into the implications of AI, specifically the potential downsides of ChatGPT in educational institutions and its ethical considerations.

The University of the Philippines Institute for Small-Scale Industries (UP ISSI) conducted a special run of the Micro Business Simulation for Grade 12 students of the University of the Philippines Integrated School. The simulation aimed to provide students with knowledge about effectively managing a store as well as dealing with business challenges and



*UPHSI student with Calaparan Elementary grade school students  
(Photo Credit: UPHSI)*

opportunities. Meanwhile, Grade 10 students of UP High School in Iloilo (UPHSI) conducted their first on-site community service-learning engagement of Project UP: *Ulikid kag Pagkabalaka* with Calaparan Elementary School in Iloilo City. Professors from UPHSI were there to discuss future school-level teacher training activities. Their current project is a literacy support program aimed to create literacy-enhancing environments for identified Grade 1 to 3 students.



*UP Tacloban Ugnayan ng Pahinungod Southern Leyte English tutorial session  
(Photo Credit: UP Ugnayan ng Pahinungod)*

In April, the UP Ugnayan ng Pahinungod conducted its Affirmative Action Program in different areas of the country. The program aims to enhance the knowledge and skills of Junior and Senior high school students through review and tutorials in preparation for college education. The UP Tacloban Ugnayan ng Pahinungod conducted an English tutorial session on 22 April for Grade 11 students from different public high schools in Eastern Samar. On 29 April, organizers held another English tutorial session for 107 Grade 11 students in Southern Leyte, and a Math tutorial session for 91 Grade 11 students in Eastern Samar. An orientation for the Affirmative Action Program was also held in Laguna for Grade 11 students and their guardians from different high schools in the area, which is planned to start on 6 May.

## **Empowering UP staff and personnel through capacity building**

The University can better fulfill its responsibilities to the country by equipping its staff and personnel with relevant skills through knowledge and training programs. Thus, a number of initiatives have been conducted by the University and its CUs to ensure continued excellence from its personnel.

Last April, the UP Diliman Human Resource Development Office (HRDO) held a campaign called “LAYAG: Explore the Depths of Learning”. The campaign was a learning and development caravan that toured offices, units, and colleges of UP Diliman, providing people with information about the latest learning and development programs. The campaign focused on providing employees opportunities to learn and develop through various development programs, specifically in recruitment, selection, placement, performance management, and rewards.

The Office of the Faculty Regent continued its initiative called UGNAYAN or *Usapang Guro at Pamayanan*, a series of faculty meetings with different CUs and UP campuses. The aim of the talks is to share initiatives and programs and know the status and issues of the faculty and employees with regard to University policies. The CUs included UP Manila, Visayas (Miag-ao and Iloilo Campuses), Baguio, and Cebu. In a similar vein, UP Economics Towards Consciousness held a multi-perspective talk on paychecks, prices, and productivity in the Philippines on 1 April. Speakers discussed the areas for reform in the labor market and the other important institutions in the Philippine economy.



*Day 2 of UPOU Open Distance eLearning Training  
(Photo Credit: UPOU)*

The UPOU conducted a Blended Training Course on Open Distance eLearning for 19 graduate faculty of the Department of Political Science of UP Diliman. The three-day course which started on 11 April, aimed to provide an overview of distance education, its foundations, and its

implications on learning design. Some of the topics discussed were redesigning course syllabi for online learning, effective learning activities and assessments for online learning, and addressing educational quality assurance online. At the end of the training course, the

participants presented their sample redesigned study guides for online learning delivery. In a similar fashion, UP Manila conducted a three-day development program called “Empowering Our Own: Cultivating Academic Leadership among UP Manila Junior Faculty”, with the goal of helping its faculty build an academic portfolio, becoming more effective teachers, improving as leaders, and better learning to manage academic responsibilities.

The importance of technological know-how in daily life is not lost on the University. The Diliman Learning Resource Center held a seminar for their MentorClass series called “Learn to use Google Sheets for Data Analysis & Visualization”. The seminar targeted skills such as organizing large data sets, creating visually appealing charts, and drawing meaningful insights from the data gathered. Additionally, the UP Diliman HRDO held a webinar called “Managing and Protecting Today’s Digital Records” which tackled protecting data records while shifting into a physical work arrangement. It also aimed to assist University personnel in comprehending the requirements of the law with regard to office paperwork and personal documents.

**Holistic service, nourishing both physical and mental health**

Photo Credit: UP Diliman College of Engineering

The University has conducted initiatives that target physical and mental health. The UP Diliman College of Engineering conducted a workshop called “Express to Destress: A Workshop Series for Wellness”, which aimed to promote creativity and wellness in UP Diliman students, specifically student dormers who are far from home. The workshop, which started on 15 April and is currently being held on Saturdays until May, includes topics on mindfulness, healthy and nutritious cooking, art therapy, and mental health. The UP Diliman Ugnayan ng Pahinungod also held a dance session on *Pangalay*, a traditional dance from Sulu that brings wellness benefits.

The topic of the Stop COVID Deaths episode, handled by TVUP and UP Manila, was diabetic retinopathy, an eye condition that causes loss of sight in people who have diabetes. The presenters Dr. Maria Florentina Gomez and Dr. Gregory Germar discussed how it can be prevented and the current strategies and approaches to improve referrals to ophthalmologists. Aside from this, the UP-Philippine General Hospital organized a Parkinson’s Disease Lay

Forum tackling what the disease is, how to deal with its symptoms, if it's curable, and if vitamins can help with its management. The UPOU also held a blood donation drive on 4 April. It had 124 volunteers and garnered 79 total blood bags.



UPOU Blood Donation Drive  
(Photo Credit: UPOU)

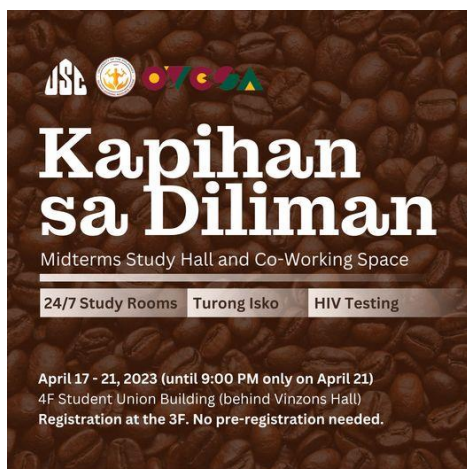


Photo Credit: UP Diliman University Student Council

Additionally, the UP Diliman University Student Council, together with the UPD Office of the Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs, and the Diliman Learning Resource Center hosted their event called *Kapihan sa Diliman*, a multi-faceted event to support students during their Midterms starting 17 April. The main initiative for the event was a 24/7 study hall where students can study and rest. The students were provided with free food, tutorials, and emotional support animals. The event also provided free HIV testing and free menstrual pads at a separate location.

## Supporting national development through partnerships

The University and its CUs continue their commitment to national development in various areas by leading projects and supporting the government and civil sectors in their undertakings.



The UP National College of Public Administration and Governance met with the National Youth Commission to discuss the second implementation of the Youth Participation in Local Governance project, a massive open online course for Sangguniang Kabataan officials and Local Youth Development Council members. The course will last for six hours and aims to have participants appreciate the significance of youth participation, understand the challenges of it, familiarize themselves with various spaces and avenues for youth, learn the factors for youth participation, and discover ways to increase engagement. In relation to youth actions, the UP Resilience Institute spearheaded an event called “UPD Student Org’s Actions for Resilience” where the role of students and student organizations in disaster risk reduction management and climate change adaptation and mitigation were discussed. The talk aimed to ensure that the plans of action of student councils and organizations take into account resiliency.



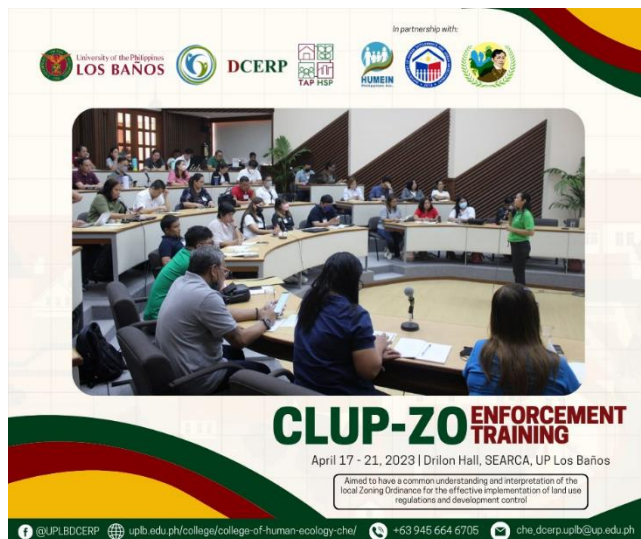
*Ernesto Labuntog treats a murky water sample from Marikina River  
(Photo Credit: UP ISSI)*

The University has conducted a number of initiatives for the protection of the environment. The UP ISSI and Dana Asia collaborated to enhance the business model of the Alpas Community Housing eco-store project. Located in San Jose Del Monte City, Bulacan, the eco-store serves as a refilling station for household essentials like coffee, rice, and sugar in the area. It aims to reduce plastic usage in the community and entice residents to enact more environmentally friendly consumption practices. The UP ISSI also teamed up with the Ateneo Intellectual Property Office (AIPO) to support Filipino inventor and engineer, Ernesto Labuntog, with his portable water treatment device. UP ISSI and AIPO organized a



successful demonstration for the product in Marikina River and have been helping him commercialize his invention, which is able to produce clear potable water at under two pesos per liter.

The University and CUs have launched and partnered with different organizations regarding land and infrastructure initiatives. The UP Resilience Institute and the National Institute of Geological Sciences will be jointly undertaking the research project “Effects of Extreme Weather Conditions on Coastal Concrete Structure in the Philippines”, a Department of Science and Technology (DOST) funded project in partnership with other government agencies. They aim to investigate the concrete composition and coastal conditions in various ports in the Philippines to determine the ideal concrete cover to ensure their long-term resilience.



The University has also organized events tackling proper land use and conversions in the country. The UP Los Baños Department of Community and Environmental Resource Planning held their five-day training on Comprehensive Land Use Plan and Zoning Ordinance with participants from different Local Government Units and private companies. It aimed to create a common understanding and interpretation of the

local Zoning Ordinance for developmental control. Similarly, the UP School of Urban and Regional Planning held a webinar on Unplanned Agricultural Land Conversion, where the speakers aimed to deepen the understanding, assess the laws and policies, and create a policy framework for agricultural land conversion.

Additionally, new technologies have been created by UP personnel for various uses. The UP National Center for Transportation Studies held a hybrid seminar on pavement maintenance, culminating in the showcasing of their Prototype Automated Visual Survey Equipment (PAVE), a DOST-funded project. There were three speakers who shared pavement maintenance techniques from around the world: Dr. Christopher Jabonero for Texas, Dr. Carlo Eclipse for South Korea, and Dr. Julius Marvin Flores for Sydney. This was followed by a demonstration of the PAVE hardware and software by Engineer John Paul Dacanay. Meanwhile, Dr. Jose Ildefonso Rubrico of UP Mindanao and his team are currently

developing AI-powered vehicles- one aerial drone and one land vehicle. Dr. Rubrico and his team plan for these vehicles to be used in maintaining plantations; for weather forecasts, search, and rescue; and others. UP Mindanao is also developing an AI knowledge database to train future AI models.

Finally, the Center for Leadership, Citizenship, and Democracy completed the research project called Impact Assessment of the Rehabilitation Program of the Parole and Probation Administration (PPA). The study evaluated the PPA Rehabilitation Program in its effectiveness and efficiency and ended with valuable program recommendations for the improvement of the program.