



UNIVERSITY OF THE PHILIPPINES

2023

# UP SYSTEM PUBLIC SERVICE REPORT



**MARCH 2023**





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The University of the Philippines under the leadership of President Angelo A. Jimenez continues to devote efforts towards national development and serving Filipinos. All the initiatives held this March 2023 underlined the University's outstanding and continued leadership in public service as seen in its safeguarding of human rights, particularly women's rights, forging agreements and partnerships with national and international partners, promoting knowledge sharing and management, and providing social services to underserved communities.

## **#WEcanbeEquALL: 2023 National Women's Month Celebration**

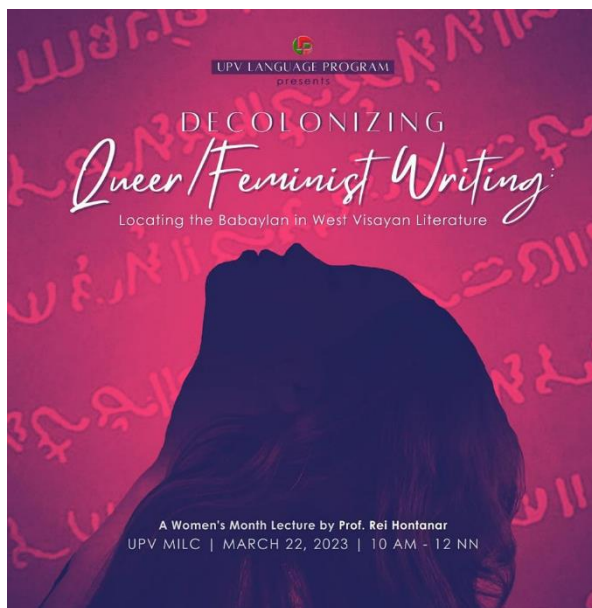
As part of their celebration for National Women's Month 2023, the eight Constituent Universities (CU) of the University of the Philippines organized several open forums, lectures, and orientations promoting gender equality and inclusive societies. While each event focused on different aspects of women's struggle, they all contributed to the conversation about and advocacy for women's rights and gender equality.

Nearly 300 first-year students attended **Start 'Em Young**, an orientation on gender-sensitive and National Service Training Program (NSTP) held by the UPD Office of the Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs. In their input, the UP Diliman Gender Office provided information about fundamental gender concepts and relevant services that address gender-related needs and issues.



UP Baguio carried out a similar activity for its students, teachers, and staff via Zoom and in person. Included in the discussion was the UP Anti-Sexual Harassment Code.

UP Manila employees and students participated in the **#IamRemarkable** session, a Google and UP Manila Learning Resource Center initiative to challenge modesty norms and glass ceilings through confidence in presenting oneself in both the professional and personal spheres. This event provided women and other underrepresented groups a chance to develop their motivational and self-promotional skills while reviving self-promotional dialogue through a shift in social views.



A seminar titled **Advancing Gender Equality, Sustainability, and Inclusive Society: Role of Permaculture, Community Forest Development, and Native Trees as Sustainable-Based Livelihoods in the Philippines** was hosted by UP Open University's Faculty of Management and Development Studies. In addition to honoring Women's Month, this occasion commemorated the annual United Nations International Day of Forests on 21 March. The day after, 22 March, the lecture **Decolonizing Queer/Feminist Writing:**

**Locating the Babaylan in West Visayan Literature** was conducted by Professor John Ray "Rei" Hontanar of the UP Visayas Language Program. Still in UP Visayas (UPV), clad in purple shirts with matching purple flags, hundreds of women joined the **Purple Parade: Lakad Para sa Kababaihan** in Miagao, Iloilo City. The parade was a joint undertaking of the women's organizations and the UPV University Student Council (USC) Gender Committee to show support for the institution of the Localized Ordinance on Safe Spaces Act.

The **Third Virtual GAD Research Forum**, hosted by the UP Mindanao Office of Gender and Development (GAD), honored Women's Month by featuring female scientists, researchers, and experts in artificial intelligence (AI), and information and communications technology. Meanwhile, women-owned companies in UP Los Baños dominated the **Kalakalan 2023**. The UPLB Gender Center (UPLB GC) held the bazaar from 6 to 11 March 2023, giving women business owners a place to network, learn new skills, and grow their companies by promoting their goods and services.



Photo by: UP Los Baños Business Affairs Office, UP Los Baños Gender Center

### **Expanding Horizons: Fostering Local and International Collaborations**

The University's new connections with regional, international, and local partners opened up exciting possibilities for the entire community.

His Excellency, Dato Seri Anwar Ibrahim, the 10th Prime Minister of Malaysia, received the Doctor of Laws degree, *honoris causa*, from the University of the Philippines on 2 March 2023. This award recognizes his advocacy work and notable accomplishments in Malaysia and the ASEAN region. The Prime Minister gave the lecture **30 Years of Asian Renaissance: Strategic Takeaways for ASEAN** after receiving the award.







On 14 and 15 March 2023, respectively, UP President Angelo Jimenez hosted His Excellency Niall Collins, Minister of State at the Department of Further and Higher Education, Research, Innovation, and Science of the Republic of Ireland; as well as Hae Kyong Yu Public Service Medal (PSM) awardee, the Australian Ambassador to the Philippines. While the meeting with Australia sought to develop diplomatic connections between the countries through university relations, exchanges with Irish officials focused on potential collaborations in research, faculty and student exchanges, and cultural programs.



Tim Given, the deputy ambassador for New Zealand, paid a visit to UP Tacloban earlier in March to learn the key findings of a study on the effects of the Western Samar Coastal Agricultural Project (WSCAP), a Food for the

Hungry Philippines (FHP) project implemented in Marabut and Basey, Samar. FHP collaborates with Tearfund New Zealand (TFNZ) and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade New Zealand (MFAT NZ) to promote sustainable economic growth and development.

Mussel farmers in Visayas will soon see the establishment of a comprehensive and sustainable value chain as a result of the memorandum of understanding signed by UP Visayas and the Gerry Roxas Foundation (GRF)-Hublag Microfinance Foundation.



UP Los Baños also tapped local and international partners such as Batangas Egg Producers Cooperative (BEPCO) and Nagoya University (NU) to provide agricultural research opportunities for its students.

To promote partnerships, capacity building, skill development, and public safety, CUs in Luzon also engaged with government organizations. School principals of Libtong Integrated School (LIS), Santol Vocational High School (SVHS), La Union Special School for Culture and Arts (LUSSCA) and program coordinators of the Department of Education (DepEd) Indigenous People (IP) met with the UP Baguio Program for Indigenous Cultures (PIC) and Ugnayan ng Pahinungód Baguio to foster relationships and later offer workshops for the incorporation of Indigenous Knowledge, Systems, and Practices (IKSP) into their primary education curriculum.





Photo by: Erika Diwata Jacinto, Divine Loraine Peñaflor, Ruth Darylle Pugong

In their visit to the Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD), UP Diliman OIC Chancellor Dr. Payongayong and Dean Polotan-de la Cruz of the UP College of Social Work and Community Development (UP CSWCD) spoke with Secretary

Rex Gatchalian about potential partnerships and collaborations between the University and DSWD for the advancement of its social work practices and service delivery as well as the provision of support for capacity enhancement of local government employees.

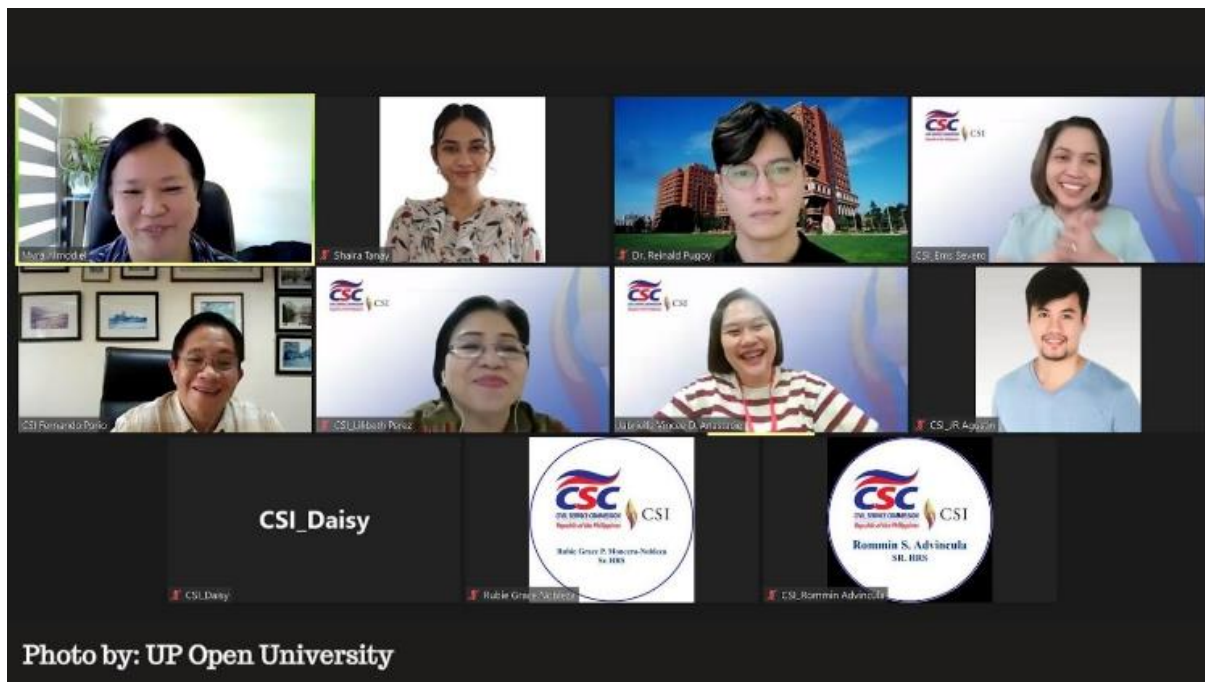


Photo by: UP Open University

In another meeting, the UP Open University (UPOU) virtually met with the Civil Service Institute (CSI) - CSC for a brief about UPOU's programs and the fundamentals of a Learning Management System (LMS) by the UPOU MODeL. The discussion focused on equipping the CSI LMS Team with knowledge in and conduct of e-Learning course design to educate and train more government employees.



Photo by: UP Manila

Toward the end of the month, the UP Manila National Institutes of Health (NIH) gathered different national government agencies, hospitals, and private and international organizations to establish an interagency collaboration that will direct

the **Road Safety and Injury Prevention Institute (RSIPI)**. By pooling information, exchanging significant insights, and developing evidence-based solutions, this policy and research center will work to put into practice effective interventions to solve the country's concerns with road safety and injury prevention.

**Taking the Learning, Making It Last: Knowledge Sharing and Management**



Photo by: Department of Health

On 1 March 2023, the UP Manila College of Public Health and the Zuellig Family Foundation (ZFF) formally introduced the **Program for Health Equity (PHE)** and the **Dr. Stephen Zuellig Health Leadership and Governance Program (DSZ-HLGP)**, the former of which will carry out public health research to inform policy making and the latter of which will collaborate with municipalities and provinces nationwide to improve health leadership and governance. Dr. Maria Rosario Singh-Vergeire, the Department of Health's OIC, attended the event and offered some input on the Universal Health Care (UHC) Law.



The Office of the Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs at UP Diliman and its partners organized the **University Job Fair 2023** which sought to provide students with skills to explore career options. Speakers during the event focused on the use of social media trends for career advancement and how to achieve work/school-life balance. Workshops on resume preparation and practice interviews were among the activities at the career fair. Additionally, the organizers provided counseling and career seminars.

Several CUs held online and physical workshops and lectures that addressed current issues. On 10 March 2023, Algin Gultia, a program alumna and Program Officer for Social and Behavior Change and Gender of USAID and Johns Hopkins University REACHHEALTH Project, was invited to speak about **The Practice of Health Communications in the Philippines** organized by the Department of Humanities - UP Mindanao BA Communications Program. The UP Los Baños Philosophy Division, in collaboration with the UPLB Philosophical Society and the UPLB Sophia Circle, discussed the epistemic and ethical implications of AI in **AI think, therefore AI am, but AI am not**. The speech was part of the 25th anniversary lecture series organized by the Division.



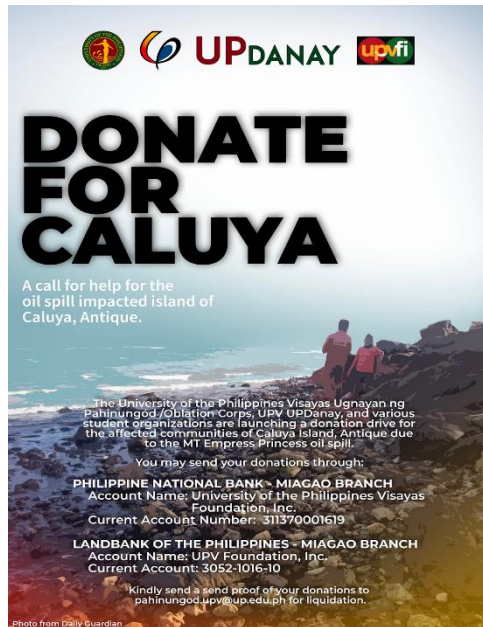
The UPOU Faculty of Education, UP Los Baños, and other HEIs collaborated to organize the **Seminar-Workshop on Academic Practice (SWAP)**. Faculty representatives from Cavite, Laguna, and Batangas gathered at the Centennial Center for Digital Learning Auditorium at UPOU

Headquarters to learn more about the CHED-funded initiative **Transformative Academic Practice for Higher Education in the Philippines (TAPHEP)**.

With Prof. Harold M. Monteclaro, UPV Vice Chancellor for Research and Extension and co-project manager of Too-Big-To-Ignore (TBTI) Philippines, serving as the resource person, the University of Visayas sponsored the TBTI Philippines monthly webinar series titled **A Closer Look at the Social Relevance of Small-Scale Fisheries in the Philippines**. The Ugnayan ng Pahinungód Baguio also held a teachers' training in mathematical investigation as part of the **EDUKaravan sa Ifugao**. In addition, Director Domogo of Pahinungód Baguio gave the attendees an overview of their office's programs.

## Leading by Serving: UP Engagements and Services with and for the Community

The University of the Philippines continues to engage the Filipino community by providing much-needed services.



On 3 March 2023, a dead female dugong was found washed up on the shores of Barangay San Rafael, Miagao, Iloilo City, prompting the local government unit to seek assistance from the marine specialists of UP Visayas. The UPV response team performed an *in-situ* necropsy and took samples from the dugong to further examine its demise. Similarly, UPV Ugnayan ng Pahinungod/Oblation Corps, UP Danay, and other student organizations responded to the ongoing financial crisis faced by Mindoro and neighboring municipalities as a result of the MT Empress Princess oil spill last February, by making an appeal for donations to help residents of Caluya, Antique.



UP Los Baños collaborated with the Institution of Plant Breeding (IBP) to deliver seed packets and farming implements to fishing villages affected by the oil leak, as a substitute source of food and income. The Department of Agriculture in MIMAROPA will help the locals grow vegetables by holding a series of workshops.



In UP Mindanao, Professor and program director of the Autonomous Societally Inspired Mission Oriented Vehicles (ASIMOV) Dr. Jose Ildefonso Rubrico, shared the program's ongoing efforts to develop AI-powered vehicles that will significantly help banana farmers with proactive pest control and plantation maintenance.



Nearly 300 enthusiastic cyclists participated in UP Los Baños' **LEAD: Padyak Laguna Para sa Lawa** under project LEAD intending to promote Laguna de Bay's sustainable ecotourism. The bikers circled Laguna's many tourist hotspots, including the Nagcarlan Underground Cemetery and the Anilag Festival Grounds. In UP Open University, native trees, including Katmon, Arius, Paraiso, Salingogon, and Bagauak-Morado, were planted all over the UPOU campus. The planting was led by administrators and faculty from the Faculty of Management and Development Studies. On the same day, elementary and high school students from Laguna enjoyed a virtual and actual tour of the recently opened **PERMA G.A.R.D.E.N. (Growing Appreciation toward Resilience, Development, Entrepreneurship, and Nutrition)**, where they learned about crops, including their culinary and therapeutic uses.

Some 120 grade 11 students from public schools in Davao City's Districts 2 and 3 benefited from several UPCAT tutorial sessions led by the Ugnayan ng Pahinungod Mindanao through the **Affirmative Action Program**. The tutorials took place at the UP Mindanao Campus in Mintal, Davao City. Meanwhile, the UP Office of Admissions restored the **Online Helpdesk Messenger Room**, which incoming first-year students can access Monday through

Saturday to ask questions and voice their concerns about their application for the UPCAT 2024.



Photo by: PM Magadan for UPM SHS Tarlac

Healthcare services were provided by UP Manila and UP Diliman. The UP Diliman Health Service and the UP School of Economics (UPSE) offered **free HIV screenings** on separate occasions. UPSE also supplied self-care kits. The **Healthcare for Down 2023** event, organized by the alumni association of the UP Manila College of Allied Medical Professions, offered free screenings for kids with Down syndrome. In addition, as part of their commitment to Universal Educability and maximum tolerance, UP SHS Tarlac visited its Aeta learners with special needs at Sitio Malan-ac, Barangay Nabuklod, Floridablanca, Pampanga.