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Let's ACHIEVE!

By SHIRLEY C. AGRUPIS

**“Continue to lead in crisis and reimagine the future.”**

I am overwhelmed with much joy, gratitude, and pride as I greet you a Happy Teachers' Day! Joy, because we are all together in celebrating this milestone despite the ongoing pandemic. Gratitude, because you remained committed to your vocation, teaching with even greater passion as you confront the new normal. And pride, because, through your creativity and dedication, you have defined the new MMSU: a resilient institution, ever-dynamic and evolving in the face of change. Truly, you embody the kind of teachers envisioned in this year's World Teachers' Day theme: **Leading in crisis, reimagining the future.**

Indeed, the role of teachers in bringing about significant change cannot be overemphasized. We do not just teach our students concepts – we equip them with skills. We do not just provide them knowledge; we empower them with the ability to think and to do. We do not just prepare them for careers – we build their future. It is a daunting task that never ends, despite the rapidly-changing realities of today's world. It is a task that is only for the brave.

My dear MMSU teachers – regardless of level, rank, discipline, or employment status – you have proven time and again how brave you are for in the face of crises you have remained strong and unfazed. Rather, you poured your hearts into mitigating its impact on our stakeholders, despite the fact that you yourselves have been severely affected mentally, physically, and even economically. You joined hands with the rest of the University in our *Saranay Against COVID-19* efforts: leveraging technical expertise to help in the formulation and production of

alcohol as disinfectant; producing protective equipment and food packs; donating a portion of your hard-earned income to other members of the MMSU family; and, coming up with your own Wi-Fi or mobile gadget donation drives to help our students cope with the demands of flexible learning. You have led crisis response efforts in your own communities. During the ECQ and up until this time, you sacrificed the time that you could have spent with your families just so you can continue fulfilling your duties as teachers.

I am all the more grateful and proud seeing how you pour your hearts out in embracing the demands of the new normal. I am deeply moved by how you have devotedly attended webinars and trainings to update yourselves with new trends and upgrade your competencies. How you have painstakingly crafted learning materials – print, online, video, and other modes. How you overcome your discomforts and anxieties and continue to explore and master the mVLE despite not being as *techie* as others. I have heard of stories of teachers who did not have laptops before the pandemic but have now purchased and set-up their own recording studios at home to record their video lessons. I can see how you continue to be ever-patient and understanding to our students even at a time when communicating with them becomes even more difficult. For sure, you have felt helpless and frustrated, maybe even angry or depressed – but you all continue to show admirable courage and passion.

Every time I hear these stories or even see posts on Facebook of your various ways of coping and winning over these challenges, it breaks my heart that I cannot thank you in person. But I do offer a silent prayer that the Lord may continue to bless the work of your hands, as much as He blesses you with good health and strength. I may not be

able to hug you or tap your back to show my appreciation, but even meeting you virtually gives me enough confidence that someday, we shall be together again as one big MMSU family of teachers.

It is for this reason that I have proposed this Virtual Teachers' Day Celebration as a humble tribute to all of you. It may not be tantamount to the myriad of sacrifices you have made, but through this we hope you realize how significant your efforts are. Our students, parents, and other stakeholders in the education community, recognize as well your efforts. Please rest assured that I and the rest of the administration will continue to support you and help address your needs and concerns.

They say that the future of education is defined by technology. But technology is just a tool – what will continue to spell the success of learning is the teacher. As we embark on the MMSU of the future – investing on more advanced technology and transforming MMSU into a Smart Campus – you shall remain at the heart of the teaching and learning process. Continue to reimagine the future, not just in making the shift to borderless learning, but engaging in research and extension that will help bring about lasting change in various sectors of society. Invest on your own future by engaging in trainings and professional development authorities.

My dear fellow teachers, as we empower others, let us also continue empowering ourselves so that with wisdom and courage, we face the future with hope, regardless of any pandemic that may come our way. Happy Teachers' Day and God bless us all. 

MMSU ties up with Ilocos Norte LGUs for learning spaces



MMSU President Shirley C. Agrupis and the local chief executives of Badoc, Currimao, Dumalneg, Pagudpud, Piddig, San Nicolas, Solsona, and the City of Batac in Ilocos Norte sign a memorandum of understanding for the establishment of learning spaces.

By DANIEL P. TAPAOAN, JR.

The Mariano Marcos State University (MMSU) has joined hands with eight local government units (LGUs) in Ilocos Norte to establish learning spaces in their towns so that University students can cope with the flexible learning mode in the new normal.

Also known as the “MMSU-LGU-TELCO Convergence for Virtual Learning Project,” the University and the LGUs have agreed to pool their resources together to deliver quality learning alternatives such as the creation of “learning hubs” that contain computer units, printing stations, and internet connectivity for the students.

This development partnership was formalized on October 7 between MMSU President Shirley C. Agrupis and the chief executives of Badoc, Currimao, Dumalneg, Pagudpud, Piddig, San Nicolas, Solsona, and the City of Batac through a signed memorandum of agreement (MOA) at the MMSU Function Hall.

Dr. Agrupis said that since government guidelines disallow face-to-face classes due to the COVID-19 pandemic, MMSU has shifted its

delivery of instruction to flexible learning scheme (online and remote).

“We have continued reaching out to our students in various towns in Ilocos Norte and outside the province so that we can deliver quality learning alternatives that the university is offering to them,” she said, emphasizing that the university’s Virtual Learning Environment (mVLE) is one of these alternatives.

“We have also explored other initiatives such as the donation of pocket wi-fi, gadgets, and the provision of load allowances,” she added.

Despite these, the university president admitted that implementing flexible learning mode has posed great challenges to both the faculty and students.

“That’s why we have decided to bring learning spaces in every town with the help of LGUs,” she said, revealing that a total of 4,249 students are coming from the eight pilot towns for the project and that “this number will be assisted by this collaborative effort.”

The MMSU president said that of this number, 1,552 students are from the City of Batac, 732 from San Nicolas,

498 from Badoc, 381 from Solsona, 375 from Pagudpud, 330 from Piddig, 321 from Currimao, and 60 from Dumalneg.

In response to this effort, the town and city executives have expressed their commitment to the project and promised to provide needed resources to help the MMSU students.

The MMSU president, too, thanked the Provincial Government of Ilocos Norte for allowing students to go to their respective municipal and city learning spaces for educational purposes.

Prior to this agreement, the MMSU launched its Oplan *Sappuyot* (OS) program where employees donated various amount, mostly giving their one-day salary, to serve as seed money for students’ support.

The OS caters those who are graduating, whose family’s source of income was dissipated due to the pandemic crisis, whose parents’ annual income is not more than Php 100,000, or those who are not enjoying any scholarship program in MMSU and in any government agency. 

MMSU leads training on flexible learning in Region I

By DANIEL P. TAPAOAN, JR.

The Mariano Marcos State University (MMSU) is leading the state universities and colleges (SUCs) in Region I and the private higher education institutions (HEIs) in Ilocos Norte in conducting series of training-workshops on strengthening the online teaching capability of their faculty members.

Approved by the Commission on Higher Education (CHED), the training project aims to extend the current technologies and best instructional practices of MMSU to other tertiary schools in the region as they embrace the flexible learning mode in the new normal.

Conducted in five batches from October 19 to November 10 via online (webinar and self-paced), the project is under the Revised and Expanded Continuing Professional Education (RECPE) of CHED with MMSU as the lead institution in Region I.

During the opening program on October 19, MMSU President Shirley C. Agrupis thanked the CHED and MMSU Board of Regents (BOR) for the rare opportunity to lead the HEIs in Ilocos

region in promoting flexible learning in the wake of COVID-19 pandemic.

“This training project reflects MMSU’s commitment to its role as both the Center of Excellence (COE) in Teacher Education and Center of Development (COD) in Information Technology as we champion flexible learning in the region,” Dr. Agrupis said.

The university president said that MMSU has invested on computer and network infrastructure, and it has also further improved its learning management system (LMS) and developed virtual instructional materials for online instruction.

“In this training project, we deliver our best practices in flexible learning through our MMSU Virtual Learning Environment (mVLE),” she stressed, saying that turning this into an opportunity to band with other HEIs in the province and in the region magnifies Ilokano unity and harmony amid the crisis.

The MMSU’s Information and Technology Center (ITC) has significantly developed the mVLE as the University’s LMS since 2013.

Prof. Wilben Christie R. Pagtaconan, project team leader, said the regional project seeks to train around 3,000 teachers from MMSU, University of Northern Philippines (UNP), Ilocos Sur Polytechnic State College (ISPSC), North Luzon Philippines State College (NLPSC), Don Mariano Marcos Memorial State University (DMMMSU), Pangasinan State University (PSU), and private HEIs in Ilocos Norte.

Pagtaconan said the main topics being delivered in the training are the following: Adapting to the New Normal of HEIs; Designing Courses for Online Teaching and Learning; Developing Learning Packages for Online Teaching; Setting an Online Course using a Learning Management System; and Training on the use of ICT Tools for Teaching.

He added that the MMSU-ITC, together with the Department of Computer Science (DCS) and the College of Teacher Education (CTE), facilitates the regional project; while faculty members from DCS, College of Industrial Technology (CIT), and the College of Engineering (COE) serve as trainers in the training sessions.

Strengthening the Online Teaching Capability of Faculty Members of SUCs in Region 1 and Private HEIs in Ilocos Norte

Paradigm of Online Teaching and Learning

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MMSU to advance social technopreneurship integration

By JOHN VINCENT B. TORIBIO

The Mariano Marcos State University (MMSU) is partnering with Innovation for Social Impact Partnership (ISIP) in order to conduct series of activities to promote technological innovation and boost technological entrepreneurship in the university.

Led by Dr. Nathaniel R. Alibuyog, dean of the College of Engineering (COE), this partnership program has brought in visiting professors (VP) from other countries to the University.

This was made possible because MMSU is one of the Philippine universities that belong to the Technopreneurship Hub Network, a group of HEIs serving as Centers of Techno-preneurship Excellence.

Other schools that belong to the network are Ateneo de Davao University, Caraga State University, Ateneo De Naga University, Central Philippine University, Central Luzon State University, Eastern Visayas State University, De La Salle University, Technological Institute of the Philippines, and University of the Philippines - Los Banos.

The ISIP program aims to increase the capacity of Philippine higher education institutions, such as MMSU, to facilitate the development of university-based startup enterprises with social impact. The VP brings in international experts to equip faculty and administrators with the best practices on entrepreneurship teaching.

For instance, a social entrepreneur from Singapore, Mr. Russ Neu Wee Teck, has served as visiting professor to MMSU and provided guidance to the university's needs on entrepreneurship teaching, startup enterprise mentorship, and incubator operations through workshops, consultation meetings, and mentorship sessions.



Mr. Russ is the CEO and founder of Social Collider Pte Ltd, a social enterprise awarded with the Global Ambassador Award from the Singapore International Foundation for impact to the youths and sustainability. He has a vast experience in running social impact programs at National University of Singapore, Nanyang Technology University, and Ngee Ann Polytechnic.

In his intensive 10-day virtual sessions with students and faculty, Russ discussed social entrepreneurship framework, stages of startups, social venture business canvass and the creation of shared value strategy. He, too, facilitated a bootcamp that gave the participants an avenue to reflect and work on a sustainable idea that helps the society.

Meanwhile, this development venture was started with the re-entry plan of Dr. Alibuyog after he participated in a training conducted by PhilDev, a non-profit organization geared at accelerating science and technology for national development.

It was an activity to prepare for the offering of technopreneurship programs. This is in relation to the Commission on Higher Education's move to mandate all engineering programs in the country to offer techno-preneurship courses.

Achieving in a five-year plan

With ISIP's conceptual framework, MMSU must be

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Tanggol Kalikasan partners with MMSU for Institute of Environmental Governance

By DANIEL P. TAPAOAN, JR.

The Tanggol Kalikasan, Inc. (TK) has collaborated with the Mariano Marcos State University (MMSU) for the establishment of the Institute of Environmental Governance (IEG) in Ilocos Norte.

The IEG serves as a strategic response to the ever-increasing demand for capacity-building among local government units (LGUs) in the province in promoting environmental governance.

Composed of levels 1 and 2, the IEG is designed to cater the needs of local officials by training them to manage, plan, protect, and conserve the environment.

This development partnership was formalized last October 27 through a virtual launching and signing of memorandum of understanding (MOU) between MMSU President Shirley C. Agrupis and TK President Ramon M. Grimaldo.

In the MOU, the MMSU and TK have agreed to contribute their resources and expertise in the pursuit of environmental education in the locality.

In the event, Dr. Agrupis thanked the agency for partnering with the university “in upgrading the quality of life in the province through environmental education.”

As the host institution in Ilocos Norte, MMSU will provide the venue, office space and other physical requirements of the IEG. It shall also lead the development, conduct and implementation of IEG’s research programs in aid of curriculum development, monitoring and evaluation.

Meanwhile, the TK shall provide the initial resources for the development of the institute and fund the development of training modules and other activities of the IEG.

Both agencies shall assign IEG coordinators and allow their faculty members and staff to participate in the institute’s training programs.

To craft the policies and programs of the IEG, MMSU and TK shall create its management committee,



which will be composed of five individuals. There will be two representatives each from the school and agency while the fifth member shall come from the LGU in Ilocos Norte.

The TK is a non-profit and non-governmental organization involved in public interest environmental advocacy in the Philippines. It has already partnered with 26 schools across the country for the establishment of IEG in their respective provinces.

This partnership kicked-off through a webinar series on environmental governance for LGU department heads in Ilocos Norte held from October 27 to November 26. 🌍

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holistically ready with the following in order to become a technopreneurial University: a) leadership and governance; b) organizational capacity, people and incentives; c) technopreneurial development in teaching and learning; d) pathways for entrepreneurs (internal and external opportunities for employees); e) external relationships of the University for knowledge exchange; f) internationalization; and g) measuring impact.

With this, Dr. Alibuyog and his team drafted a five-year roadmap to ultimately integrate social entrepreneurship in MMSU.

In the University framework, the academic, research, extension and business units must be highly involved

in technology and innovation. By uniformly planning, implementing, and evaluating social entrepreneurship initiatives together, MMSU is geared at becoming a wellspring of technology and innovation in support of sustainable growth and development.

Particularly, the University targets to increase copyrights, patents and utility models; to escalate the number of spinoffs, startups and incubators; to enhance sustainable agri-enterprises; to improve on job creation and employment; and, to expose new products, equipment, and machines in the market.

These can be achieved through curriculum development, faculty training and immersion, hosting of more visiting professors, pitching competitions, techno-forum and science technology innovation

competitions, fab lab development and patent licensing.

Further, the university is set to optimally operate its Science and Technology Park, the University’s haven for innovation exhibits. It will also try to strengthen the academe-industry partnership through joint research collaboration and student-faculty immersion and boost the commercialization of its developed technologies.

MMSU President Shirley C. Agrupis commended the MMSU – ISIP team for this extraordinary intervention.

“I am very much excited to see the development of the University as a center and haven for these novel outputs which will uplift the lives of the Ilokanos and the larger community,” she said. 🌍

MMSU constituents brace for collaborative veggie gardening



University employees and students receive vegetable seeds and seedlings as they engage themselves into collaborative vegetable gardening spearheaded by the MMSU Extension Directorate.

By **KIMBERLY S. MIGUEL**
Correspondent

Employees and students of the Mariano Marcos State University (MMSU) attended the pre-dispersal training on Fighting COVID-19 with Collaborative Vegetable Gardening (COVEG) held at the University Function Hall on October 26.

Spearheaded by the MMSU Extension Directorate, the COVEG

project is a strategy of the University to transfer relevant crop production technologies to its constituents and engage them into producing their own food through backyard vegetable gardening.

Attendees in the pre-dispersal training are those who signified their interest to become part of the project.

In the training, the beneficiaries received vegetable seeds and seedlings such as pole sitao, pechay, upland kangkong, bottle gourd, bitter gourd,

squash, tomato, eggplant, and finger pepper.

Also, topics such as vegetable production, record keeping, organic fertilizer production, and values enhancement were discussed to the participants.

Resource speakers on the topics were Ms. Marylis Nalundasan and Ms. Marissa Atis, personnel of research directorate; Dr. Sosima Demandante, chief of technology demonstration; Dr. Floramante Pastor, faculty member of College of Agriculture, Food and Sustainable Development; and retired CAFSD professor Beatriz Malab, respectively.

“Let us go viral [in this endeavor] until we can put something in our dining tables,” said MMSU President Shirley C. Agrupis as she encouraged the participants to make their gardening activities more productive not only for the beauty of their surroundings, but also for healthy and safe food for their families.

Aside from being beneficiaries, the project participants will also serve as models on backyard gardening to other households, as they are expected to share the technology to their own communities, thereby ensuring food security in the locality.

The COVEG project is in support of the Plant, Plant, Plant program of the Department of Agriculture and is coherent with the mission to building sustainable households and communities.



Univ celebrates Teachers' Day online

“Through your creativity and dedication, you have defined the new Mariano Marcos State University (MMSU) – a resilient institution that is ever-dynamic and evolving in the face of change. Truly, you embody the kind of teachers who lead in crisis and reimagine the future.”

This statement was crystallized by University President Shirley C. Agrupis as she addressed the MMSU faculty members in the University’s Virtual Teachers’ Day Celebration held last October 6.

Initiated by the MMSU president, the virtual activity served as the university’s way of commending the efforts and sacrifices of its mentors who remained committed to their vocation amid the COVID-19 crisis.

During the program, Dr. Agrupis lauded the MMSU teachers who embraced the demands of the new normal by attending webinar trainings, crafting learning materials in flexible learning mode, and mastering the university’s Virtual Learning Environment (mVLE).

Likewise, the university president expressed gratitude to the faculty who helped their students cope the adverse effects of the pandemic through the *MMSU Saranay Against COVID-19* program.

“It may not be tantamount to the sacrifices you have made, but through this [virtual celebration], I hope you realize how significant your efforts are,” she expressed.

She, too, assured that the MMSU faculty will remain at the heart of teaching and learning process as the university embarks on investing on more advanced technology and on transforming itself into a smart campus.

For her part, Dr. Prima Fe R. Franco, vice president for academic affairs, encouraged the faculty members to “reflect on how we have become teachers and how we have been performing, and recapitulate ourselves.”

Meanwhile, Dr. Marlina L. Lino, president of the MMSU’s Faculty Association, Inc., led the distribution of rainforest seedlings as tokens of gratitude to the faculty members. She said the seedlings symbolize the



teachers' passion in nurturing their students even in the days of uncertainty.

Moreover, the virtual program also involved cultural presentations such as the "Mazurka de Jarna," a traditional dance performed by the MMSU Faculty Cultural Troupe; short film "Online Class" produced by selected MMSU students; and, "Isang Mundo, Isang Awit" sung by the MMSU Faculty Chorale.

The successful event was facilitated by a committee headed by Prof. Rowell C. Tagatac, cultural development chief.

Viewers of the online celebration also greeted the faculty members. The online event has already reached around 10,000 views, more than 759 likes, 220 comments, and 92 shares as of this writing.

The World Teachers' Day is celebrated every year on October 5 to commemorate the anniversary of the signing of the 1966 United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) Recommendation concerning the status of teachers. It sets forth the rights and responsibilities of teachers, and standards for their initial preparation, ongoing professional development, recruitment, employment, teaching and learning conditions. – by DP

Tapaoan, Jr. 



MMSU strengthens gender mainstreaming

By DANIEL P. TAPAOAN, JR.



Some 100 faculty and staff underwent a webinar on Philippine Gender and Development (GAD) approach and strategy last September 23 to strengthen the gender mainstreaming (GM) efforts in the university.

Participants in the webinar comprised the Gender and Development Focal Point System (GFPS) of the University.

Ms. Arlene I. Pascual, a certified GAD trainer and a member of the

Philippine Commission on Women (PCW), served as the resource speaker in the session who also facilitated the team in determining the MMSU's level of compliance to basic GM elements, and on how to address the mainstreaming gaps in the school.

Pascual said that GM integrates a proper gender perspective into the preparation, design, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of an institution's programs and policies to promote equality and to eliminate discrimination.

MMSU President Shirley C. Agrupis said that strengthening GM in the university entails the transformation of institutional structures, culture and practices anchored on MMSU's core functions on instruction, research, extension, and production.

To make it happen, Dr. Agrupis urged the university officials to "consciously integrate GAD in MMSU's regular operations in order to move forward and eventually raise innovations and model programs that are inclusive."

Nataliza Llapitan, GFPS-GAD Mainstreaming Monitoring System focal person, said that prior to the conduct of the activity, MMSU conducted a GAD Training Needs and Assessment for GFPS members from July to August this year. The event aimed to determine the levels of knowledge, attitude, perception, and skills of MMSU officials on GAD principles and concepts.

Llapitan said the TNA results implied that university's GFPS members need to be trained first so that MMSU can truly strengthen its GM efforts.

In addition, MMSU also joined the GAD webinar sessions spearheaded by the PCW held on September 10, 29 and on October 13 and 15.

MMSU braces for New Normal accreditation

By DANIEL P. TAPAOAN, JR.

In the face of the COVID-19 crisis, the Mariano Marcos State University (MMSU) remains committed in elevating the quality of its degree programs for academic excellence.

The University is set to submit 13 academic programs for the first-ever online accreditation by the members of the Accrediting Agency of Chartered Colleges and Universities (AACCU) this November and December.

Of this number, one program comes from the College of Arts and Sciences (CAS); two each from the College of Agriculture, Food, and Sustainable

Development (CAFSD), College of Aquatic Sciences and Applied Technology (CASAT), and College of Industrial Technology (CIT); and three each from the College of Engineering (COE) and Graduate School (GS).

The BS Chemical Engineering, BS Electronics Engineering, and BS Computer Engineering of COE; and the BS Marine Biology and BS Fisheries of CASAT will undergo Level III, Phase 1 revisit on November 16-21.

Meanwhile, AB English Language of CAS will go through Level III, Phase 2 accreditation. The BS Agriculture and BS Forestry of CAFSD, BS Industrial Technology and Bachelor of Technical

Teacher Education of CIT, and MS Crop Science, MS and PhD Rural Development in GS will undergo Level IV, Phase 2 accreditation on November 30 to December 4.

Areas to be evaluated during the accreditation are the following: vision, mission, goals and objectives; faculty; curriculum and instruction; support to students; research; extension and community involvement; library; physical plant and facilities; laboratories; and administration.

Dr. Frederick F. Rodrigo, director of MMSU Quality Assurance (QA) directorate, said that in preparation for

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MMSU undergoes QMS internal audit



The internal auditors (left) interview the heads of university units as part of the second round of internal audit of the MMSU Quality Management System (QMS).

By DANIEL P. TAPAOAN, JR.

Offices and academic units of the Mariano Marcos State University (MMSU) subjected their processes to the second round of internal audit of the University's Quality Management System (QMS) on October 19-23.

Spearheaded by the MMSU Quality Assurance (QA) directorate, the internal audit aimed to evaluate the implementation of the MMSU QMS according to the requirements of the International Organization for Standardization (ISO) 9001:2015.

Specifically, the week-long QMS internal audit sought to determine the level of compliance of MMSU offices and units to applicable customer and regulatory requirements, assess effectiveness of their processes in achieving both customer and organizational objectives, and identify progress they made toward continual improvement.

The MMSU internal audit team, led by QA director Dr. Frederick F. Rodrigo, audited the management, core (instruction, research, and extension), and support processes of the Batac, Laoag, and Currimao campuses of the University.

The internal audit was done through random sampling, interviewing of process owners, observing processes, and verifying documents and records of MMSU offices and units.

University President Shirley C. Agrupis said the activity is crucial in helping MMSU concretize the principle of continual improvement as highlighted in the University's Quality Policy.

"Our collective outputs in this second round of audit will be valuable in ensuring the success of our forthcoming surveillance audit to be held before the end of the year," Dr. Agrupis said.

The MMSU president likewise commended the university internal auditors and process owners for being focused in addressing the non-conformities that were surfaced in their respective offices and units during the ISO audit held in 2019.

"Recognizing your concerted efforts toward this positive direction, the MMSU leadership assures you of all the support that you need," she added.

Last December 19, 2019, MMSU obtained the ISO 9001:2015 certification, subject to its adherence to the agreed ongoing program, and to its successful endorsement of certification following a yearly audit and to its compliance with its terms and conditions.

Prior to this, the MMSU Extension Directorate got the ISO certification first on December 19, 2018. 

Alumna donates cash to improve reading room

An alumna of the MMSU College of Agriculture, Food and Sustainable Development (CAFSD) donated Php 60,000 for the improvement of the reading room of the college campus in Dingras, Ilocos Norte.

Ms. Kristine Joy A. Agcanas, a BS Environmental Science graduate and the owner of KIJ construction, together with Ms. Girlie Jane B. Sylvania, gave the amount to Dr. Jocelyn A. Bernabe, campus program coordinator. It

was witnessed by Prof. Robert T. Barangan, in-charge of the CAFSD Dingras reading room, and college faculty member Dr. Sosima Demandante.

Barangan said the amount was used in buying a computer set with printer, and curtains, which were recently installed in the said room.

"The donations are of great help to improve our campus reading room and to keep abreast with the Quality Management System (QMS) standards of the university," he said.

– by DP Tapaoan, Jr. 



MMSU hosts virtual English Language Fellow

By JOHN VINCENT B. TORIBIO

With the persistent move to internationalize its programs, the Mariano Marcos State University (MMSU) is hosting an English Language Fellow to serve as a lecturer to various undergraduate students and webinars.

Ms. Carla Bailey, a training specialist from Cuyahoga Community College, Ohio, USA, currently serves as lecturer for AB in English Language (ABEL) and Master of Arts in English Language and Literature (MAELL) students on semantics of English and language test construction and evaluation.

Also, she is holding a webinar series with eight sessions on English language competencies until December. Specifically, she discusses the following



topics: a) ESL writing made easy; b) critical thinking skills in English; c) principles of exemplary teaching of English learners; d) engagement and motivation; e) speaking and listening class lessons; f) how the internet and culture has changed the English vernacular; g) strategies for virtual teaching; and, h) free – low and no tech ways to create interactive class lessons.

MMSU President Shirley C. Agrupis expressed gratitude to the US embassy

for the continued opportunities being offered to the university saying that MMSU “will always take all of these academic ventures meaningfully and proactively.”

This first-ever Virtual EL Fellowship is a result of the dynamism of the Office of External Linkages and Partnerships headed by Dr. Mee Jay Domingo. 🇵🇭

Student gets Gokongwei scholarship grant

By DANIEL P. TAPAOAN, JR.



A student from the Mariano Marcos State University (MMSU) got the prestigious Gokongwei Group Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) Scholarship for Excellence this academic year 2020-2021.

Manisha Jeanette R. Arellano, a third year BS Information Technology student, was accepted to the program that was initiated by the Gokongwei Brothers Foundation (GBF), one of the

reputable philanthropic institutions in the Philippines.

The scholarship program supports outstanding college students in STEM degree programs who possess good academic record, demonstrate leadership potential and community involvement, and require financial assistance to pursue higher education.

These programs are in line with accounting, applied mathematics, computer science, information technology, mathematics, veterinary medicine, and engineering.

As a Gokongwei Group STEM scholar, Arellano will receive a fixed grant amount every academic year until she completes her college degree.

Likewise, the MMSU student shall enjoy coaching and mentorship programs, learning opportunities, internship and possible employment in a Gokongwei Group company.

To maintain the scholarship, the grantee shall consistently belong to the top 30 percent of the course batch and meet the retention requirements of the school.

The scholarship is given to students enrolled in GBF’s priority universities across the country, including MMSU.

To join the program, applicants may access the complete requirements checklist and application form through bit.ly/gbfstemsfe2020application. Inquiries may be directed to stemsfeapplication@gbf.com.ph.

Established in 1992, the GBF works toward the advancement of STEM education, believing this is the driving force for sustainable national development. 🇵🇭



CTE faculty completes TESOL online course

By NIÑA CHRISTELLE
M. SUMINTAC
Correspondent



Asuncion

Dr. Jahnese D. Asuncion, associate professor of MMSU College of Teacher Education (CTE), recently completed an online course given by the Teaching English to Speakers of Other Languages (TESOL) International Association.

Asuncion took the TESOL: Training for Trainers for Continuing Professional Development course from September 2 to October 13, 2020.

She said that through her participation in the course, her knowledge in planning and conducting continuous professional development (CPD) courses and trainings for teachers was greatly enriched.

To apply for the online course, Asuncion submitted a training plan project that focused on drafting CPD plans and modules primarily intended for professional teachers.

Through this online course, the participants were able to expand their repertoire of training and development techniques; enhance their knowledge of observation, mentoring, and feedback methods; identify trainee and program needs; build a model to create or improve a program based on those needs; and begin transforming existing English language teacher education program capacity.

The course was built on the praxis of adding reflection, action and reflection to come up with transformation. As a result, the participants were able to conduct assessment; build and design a CPD plan and module; identify key techniques, tools and resources; plan and implement a pilot test; deliver engaging workshops;

evaluate pedagogical change; sharpen the CPD plan; and grow program capacity and enhance the collaborative communities of practice.

Asuncion attended the program through the recommendation of Dr. Mee Jay Domingo, director for external linkages and partnerships, and through the sponsorship of the United States Embassy in the Philippines.

Formerly known as Teachers of English to Speakers of Other Languages, TESOL International Association is the largest professional organization for teachers of English as a second language. It was founded in 1966, and is based in Alexandria, Virginia, in the United States.

ACCREDITATION...from page 10

the online AACUP accreditation, all documents will be digitized and uploaded in a private website to be created by the University Information and Technology Center (ITC).

He added that the focal persons in each concerned department will undergo a one-day orientation on the use of the website before the actual accreditation.

LES pupil hailed 2nd best in Zonta Club's *Nalaing a Balasitang* tilt

By JOHN LORENZ O. ADRIATICO
Correspondent

Ava Madison A. Arzadon, a Grade 6 pupil of the MMSU Laboratory Elementary School in Batac campus, emerged second place in the search for *Nalaing a Balasitang* (Exemplary Ilocana Girl) contest held at the Zonta Building in Laoag City last October 24.

Spearheaded by the Zonta Club (ZC) of Ilocos Norte, the competition was conducted in celebration of the International Day of the Girl Child as declared by the United Nations, gathering young Ilocana girls aged 10-16 years old. The event also highlighted their meaningful and relevant activities within the province.

Shortlisted candidates were required to submit a narrative on their inspiring stories dealing with innovative solutions or leading efforts towards positive change.

Arzadon's powerful essay against bullying among young girls bested other six finalists coming from various elementary and high schools in the province.

The ZC is conducting this annual activity to emphasize the adolescent girls' roles and their active participation in the issues concerning the society today. This year, the activity aimed to amplify the voice of young girls realizing the importance of gender equality in the schools and community with the theme, "My Voice, our Equal Future."





Controlled irrigation technique has many advantages

Rice farmers should maintain a two-inch depth water level for their crop just after transplanting until the time when the panicles are almost ready for harvesting. This irrigation technique provides more advantages to them and to their plants.

This is the advice of Jovino L. De Dios, a soil and water management expert from the Philippine Rice Research Institute (PhilRice), to farmers preparing their rice fields for this year's cropping season.

De Dios said this controlled irrigation technique will continue to hasten the recovery of the transplanted seedlings in the same way as when they are given the traditional amount of water. This technique is sure to give farmers substantial savings in labor, irrigation costs, and other farm inputs.

In most parts of the Ilocos region and central Luzon, where irrigation water is abundant during the rainy season, farmers generally apply the traditional amount of 700 to 1,500 millimeters (mm) of water throughout the vegetative stage of the rice plant. This is usually done at the harrowing stage, and lasts until the panicles of the crop mature.

But the PhilRice expert said that too much water during this period causes an adverse effect, both on the soil and the farmers' pockets. Instead of helping farmers attain substantial profits, too much water results in increased irrigation costs without creating any additional benefits for the crop. In addition, PhilRice research showed that the excessive application of water to ricefields results in the plant's imbalanced acquisition of zinc, which can affect its yield potential.



De Dios said that if farmers control the volume of water applied, they can save as much as 16 to 35 percent on irrigation and labor costs, including the fuel costs for water pumps used in irrigating the crop.

Another experiment conducted by PhilRice showed that controlled irrigation improves the physical condition of the soil, strengthens the crops' tillers, and prevents the loss of zinc that is usually caused by excessive flooding and leaching.

The researcher added that this controlled irrigation technique increases the yields of farmers in areas with a limited supply of water for irrigation, or in areas where farmers depend on deep wells as water sources, and in farms with limited zinc component.

How to apply the controlled irrigation technique

De Dios said that although rainfall is abundant during the rainy season, farmers should still control the volume of water in paddies so that important soil nutrients will not be washed away.

Here's how to do it. First, it is important to employ the complete land preparation method when the soil is still moist, but avoid too much flooding. Cut down on the usual number of days used for preparing the land, limiting the entire process to just one week when the field has many rice stalks but is free of weeds. However, when the land has plenty of rice stubbles and weeds, land preparation can be done in three weeks.

Construct small canals close to the ditches so that these can serve as impounding areas for excess water. The impounded water can be used later when the supply of water for irrigation is low.

There are two dimensions for the small canals that farmers can use when constructing them. For instance, they can be 30 centimeters (cm) wide, which is just enough for the water to pass through, or they can be as wide as the width of a hand tractor if farmers want a faster flow of water. This space is equivalent to the distance of 4 to 5 rows of transplanted *palay* seedlings.

During the entire life cycle of the rice crop, the PhilRice expert recommends five-time irrigation frequencies. This means that rice plants are first irrigated at 7 to 10 days after transplanting (DAT). During this



period, the seedlings are expected to have attained initial recovery. Maintain a two-inch depth of water for every application, roughly equivalent to the length of the thumb. As soon as the right volume of water is attained, replant the missing hills.

De Dios said that water is very important in the first 10 DAT. This is the period when the seeds of weeds start to germinate. The application of water during this period will prevent their emergence.

Despite this, farmers should still apply pre-emergence herbicide at 1 to 3 DAT. If this is not possible, they apply post-emergence herbicides as soon as the weeds have germinated, instead at 10-15 DAT, or 1 to 3 days before the second irrigation, which is the usual practice of farmers.

Remember to strictly follow the method of applying herbicides as indicated on the label of the product being used. Why? Because there are herbicides that should only be applied on flooded farms, and those that should be applied only on drained soil.

The second irrigation should be done at 7 days after the first irrigation. The soil must contain just the exact amount of water that the *palay* needs within seven days of the next irrigation schedule.

Using this technique, less water will be wasted — only about 16 to 25 percent on farms with pulverized soil, and about 31 to 35 percent in ricefields with medium-textured soil.

Seven days after the second irrigation, it is expected that the farm will be drained; thus, farmers should apply the third irrigation. Again, let the water drain within 7 to 10 days. After this period, irrigate again.

Repeat the whole process until the panicles are almost ready for harvesting. But be sure to maintain the two-inch depth, especially when the plants are in the panicle stage, so that the soil will not crack.

This controlled irrigation technique, according to De Dios, will control the emergence of weeds without affecting the yield potential of the crop, whether it is the hybrid or inbred variety.

If the crop does not receive the right amount of water in the last portion of its growth cycle, its flowers will not be fertilized very well, and this will make them produce panicles with unfilled grains.

The PhilRice expert said that rice plants should receive the exact amount of water they need from the tillering stage until the hardening of dough

stage. He even recommends that farmers irrigate the field at two weeks before harvesting.

In the same experiment he conducted, De Dios found that the yield potential of rice is not affected even when farmers apply irrigation only once in every 14 days.

What's more? Farmers can save a lot if they practice the following techniques to supplement their efforts. For instance, if their soil is heavy clay, they can apply water at a depth of 5 cm once in every 14 days and after 10 DAT.

If the soil is hard-textured, just maintain a shallow amount of water throughout the plants' life cycle. A one- to two-centimeter water depth is enough.

PhilRice experts assured that when farmers follow the controlled irrigation technique, they can save as much as half of the total amount spent on irrigation per cropping season, in addition to bringing back the good condition of the soil. 

Agri students receive load cards

Twenty-eight BS Agriculture students of the Mariano Marcos State University (MMSU) received Php 300 worth of load cards each in a simple ceremony held at the University Function Hall on October 26.

Conducted by the MMSU Extension Directorate, the load cards were given to the students who helped transplant the 3rd Rice Paddy Art of the University last August.

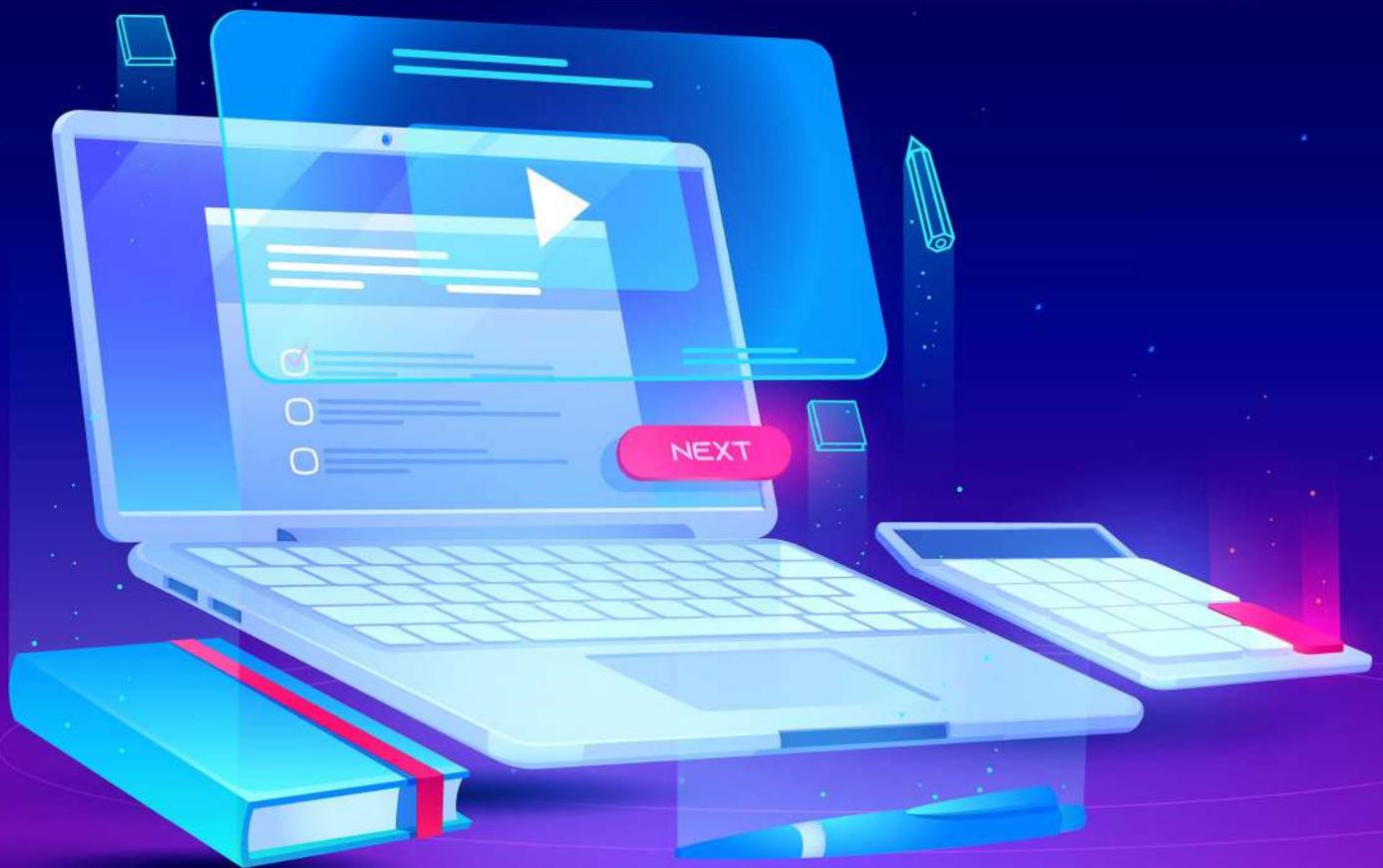
Dr. Aris Reynold V. Cajigal, extension director, said that the load cards are not only a reward but also a form of assistance to the students as they deal with flexible learning.

Aside from the load cards, 10 lucky students also received a pocket wi-fi with Php 250 load each. The prizes were sponsored by Smart Communications, Inc.

The incentive distribution was graced by MMSU President Shirley C. Agrupis and CAFSD Dean Joselito I. Rosario. — by KS Miguel 

They say that the future of education is defined by technology. But technology is just a tool – what will continue to spell the success of learning is the teacher. As we embark on the MMSU of the future – investing on more advanced technology and transforming MMSU into a Smart Campus – you shall remain at the heart of the teaching and learning process. Continue to reimagine the future, not just in making the shift to borderless learning, but engaging in research and extension that will help bring about lasting change in various sectors of society. Invest on your own future by engaging in trainings and professional development authorities.

-Message of Dr. Shirley C. Agrupis during the Virtual Teachers' Day Celebration



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