

MMSU Chronicle

ISSN 2719-0358



GATEWAY TO INFORMATION AND TRANSPARENCY

VOLUME 4 ISSUE NO. 9 | SEPTEMBER 2020



Oplan SAPPUYOT FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE



SAPPUYOT: MMSU employees unite for students' online classes

(page 3)

INSIDE

PSCA is CSC Presidential Lingkod Bayan regional awardee (page 2)

Univ embraces global virtual faculty exchange (page 4)

MMSU unveils Chinese corner (page 6)

Researchers pitch patents to investors (page 10-11)

CTE launches TVEd building (page 14)

Univ promotes vegetable gardening (page 16)

PSCA is CSC Presidential *Lingkod Bayan* regional awardee

A service-oriented academic leader, an innovative institution builder, and a visionary resource mobilizer.

These attributes of MMSU President Shirley C. Agrupis made her an outstanding public servant, thus, the Civil Service Commission (CSC) cited her as one of the 2020 Presidential Lingkod Bayan (PLB) Regional Awardees.

The PLB award is one of the three major awards of the CSC's Search for Outstanding Government Officials and Employees under its Honor Awards Program (HAP). The other two are the CSC Pagasa and Dangal ng Bayan awards.

Dr. Agrupis is one of the two Lingkod Bayan regional recipients and among the 12 HAP regional awardees this year.

The PLB was one of the highlights in the celebration of the 120th Philippine Civil Service Anniversary. The citation was part of CSC's advocacy of promoting excellence and recognizing public servants for outstanding performance, contribution and achievements, and consistent manifestation of exemplary ethical behavior in the civil service.

Since assuming the MMSU presidency in August 2017, Dr. Agrupis has brought to the MMSU her 35 years of fruitful experience as a faculty member, researcher, and administrator.

She initiated innovative approaches toward improved service delivery for all MMSU stakeholders, with the end goal of achieving MMSU's vision to become a premier Philippine university by 2028.

To attain this vision, she crafted her 7-point agenda dubbed ACHIEVE: Academic excellence; Creative, relevant and innovative research programs; High impact and transformative extension and outreach programs; Improved revenue generation and resource management; Expanded external linkages and partnerships; Vibrant and encouraging, culturally-focused university campus; and Effective and efficient management.



Under her three-year leadership, MMSU aggressively levels up and responds with the international standards and Industry 4.0 demands. As proofs, MMSU obtained the International Organization for Standardization (ISO 9001:2015) certification, garnered three stars under the prestigious Quacquarelli Symonds (QS) Stars System, and sustained its status as Level IV university and its Center of Excellence (COE) and Centers of Development (COD).

Despite the demands of presidency, Dr. Agrupis dynamically involves herself in research, extension, and development (RDE) initiatives by leading the three big research projects of the university: Bioethanol Research and Extension Program; *Tuklas-Lumas* Development Program; and Black Garlic Research Project.

Having been raised in a family of smallholder farmers, her research goals are geared toward developing technologies that help bring inclusive and sustainable development in the communities.

Moreover, under her administration, MMSU has forged partnerships with various universities, agencies, and

organizations here in the Philippines and in other countries.

The numerous awards and citations she harvested include the William D. Dar Research Leadership Award given by the Philippine Association of Research Managers, Inc. in 2019, one of Laoag City's 55 Inspiring Heroes in the time of Pandemic, and a Noteworthy Leader in times of crisis in 2020 by The Ilocos Times.

Dr. Agrupis is also the concurrent president of the Association of State Colleges and Universities – Solid North (ASCU-SN), and a member of the Philippine Association of State Universities and Colleges (PASUC) Technical Working Group Platform for Innovating SUCs for Industry, and Commission on Higher Education (CHED) Technical Panel for SUC Levelling.

Through her leadership, the MMSU's National Bioenergy Research and Innovation Center received last July the CSC *Gantimpala Agad* Award for its innovation efforts in response to the COVID-19 pandemic crisis. 

SAPPUYOT: MMSU employees unite for students' online classes



By DANIEL P. TAPAOAN, JR.

Faculty and non-teaching personnel of the Mariano Marcos State University (MMSU) have pooled their concerted effort in providing financial assistance to students who are pursuing their education in the face of the COVID-19 pandemic.

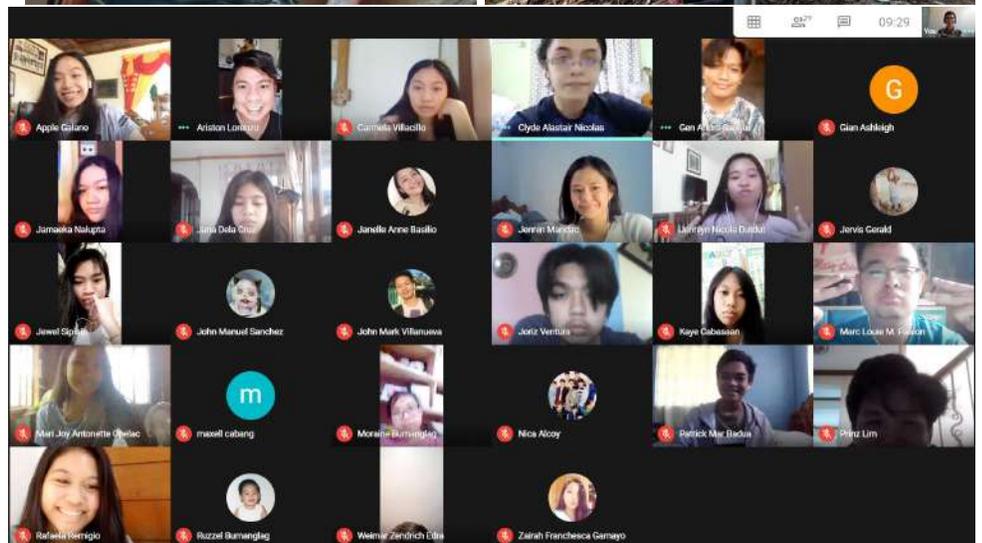
In a project dubbed Oplan *Sappuyot*, some university personnel have donated various amount, mostly giving their one-day salary, which will serve as seed money for the immediate support to students as they learn in flexible modes in the new normal.

Sappuyot is an Ilokano term which means “to carry with tenderness, care and affection.”

Initiated by the MMSU Office of Student Affairs and Services (OSAS), the program will give to each student a one-time amount of Php 2,500 per semester.

“The initiative is meant to ensure that all currently enrolled MMSU students will be able to cope with financial and technological difficulties as they pursue to finish their college degrees,” said OSAS Director Elizabeth Marfel F. Gagni, explaining that the project prioritizes students who belong to a low-income family and have no single gadget to access the internet.

“It also includes those who are graduating, whose family’s source of income was dissipated due to the pandemic, whose parents’ annual income is not more than Php 100,000,



and those who are not enjoying any scholarship program [in the university],” she added.

“In case two students are siblings, only one will be accommodated in the financial assistance,” she noted.

Moreover, a balance of Php 70,900 from the University’s Oplan SAWAR (Student Affairs, Whereabouts and Recourse) program is an added fund to the said initiative.

Eligible students may apply for financial assistance by accomplishing the online form which can be accessed at <https://forms.gle/2dv4NQR9wdmgxoHRA>.

“The approval of applications will be on first come, first served basis,” Gagni said, adding that 100 slots have

already been reserved for the first batch of target beneficiaries.

The OSAS director said that donations can be deposited to Landbank via SA # 2131-1085-51 (Account name: Shirley C. Agrupis, Amelita U. Pungtilan and Elizabeth Marfel Gagni).

Oplan *Sappuyot* is one of the initiatives of the University to support students under the MMSU *Saranay* Against COVID-19 program, which includes the Oplan SAWAR, Oplan PARUBBUAT (Program to Accompany and Return University Brothers/sisters to their Beloved Utmost Abodes thru Travel provisions), Oplan *Salinong* (shelter), Project pa-WiFi, and E-SALUN-AT (Electronic Space for Assistance thru Listening, Understanding, Nurturing, Affirmation, and Trust).

Univ embraces global virtual faculty exchange

By JOHN VINCENT B. TORIBIO

Academic resiliency sets in a global MMSU.

In a ceaseless pursuit to upgrade its brand of premier education, the University ventures into international virtual exchange programs with foreign universities amid the COVID-19 pandemic crisis.

Despite the limitations posed by the health crisis, the University is pursuing international academic exchange to share its faculty's expertise with foreign universities, to gain new knowledge and practices and to continue to build its stature in the global academic scene.

With the dynamism of the Office for External Linkages and Partnerships, headed by Dr. Mee Jay A. Domingo, the University has started to map out and implement the schedule and program of instruction for the said virtual exchange.

This semester, various faculty from the College of Arts and Sciences (CAS), College of Business, Economics and Accountancy (CBEA) and College of Health Sciences (CHS) have started working with the professors of Indonesian universities, such as the Universitas Muhammadiyah Prof. Dr. Hamka (Uhamka) of Jakarta, and the Universitas Pendidikan Ganesha (Undiksha) of Bali.

Dr. Domingo has initiated making consultations and arrangements with Dr. Purnama Syaeh Purrohman, Uhamka's international relations officer, and Dr. I Nyoman Jampel, Undiksha's rector.

Here, three departments of CAS are involved in the program. First, the Department of Computer Science (DCS) shares its expertise to Undiksha through Prof. Lee Carlo P. Simon who conducts lectures and laboratory classes on computer networking. Prof. Simon meets his foreign students two hours a week.

Second, the Department of Languages and Literature - Communication faculty will also serve as guest lecturers at Uhamka. Prof. Irene Abigail S. Guerrero, Prof. Editha B. Valdez, and this writer will hold special



sessions on art reporting, development communication, and social change communication among the communication students of the said foreign University.

Third, the Department of Mathematics is also set to exchange its faculty to Uhamka with Dr. Lawrence A. Eclarin, who specializes on modern geometries and mathematical crystallography; and Dr. Michelle D. Reynera who specializes on algebra and graph theory.

Meanwhile, CBEA's Economics Department will also teach Uhamka students. Prof. Orlyno J. Mandac and Prof. Mishael S. Barrera will teach introductory to economics, managerial economics and industrial economics.

Uhamka's Dr. Ahmad Diponegoro, Dr. Bambang Dwi Hartono, and Dr. Enny Gusniarti will also teach economics and public policy subjects to MMSU economics and accountancy students.

Moreover, CHS' Department of Pharmacy also extends its expertise to Uhamka through Profs. Janelyn V. Rojas and Angelica May DC Mendoza

who will serve as lecturers on respiratory pharmacology and dyslipidemia among Uhamka students.

In return, three members of Uhamka's Faculty of Pharmacy and Sciences — Dr. Apt. Siska, Apt. Lusi Putri Dwita, and Apt. Nurhasnah — will teach pharmacy students on hypertension and diabetes mellitus.

Domingo said "this virtual venture does not only showcase our aggressiveness as an institution with respect to internationalization, but also demonstrates our unending goal to advance and re-shape our instruction."

For her part, MMSU President Shirley C. Agrupis expressed her zeal and support for the venture saying that "as we continue to progress in spite of the global pandemic, we could really show that we ACHIEVE no matter what."

The global virtual faculty exchange was approved by the Commission on Higher Education (CHED) and is bound by signed Memorandum of Agreements among the three universities. 



Aquino

A professor of the Mariano Marcos State University (MMSU) was appointed as guest scholar of the Gifu University in Gifu, Japan.

Dr. Marlowe U. Aquino, also the MMSU's science and technology park director and international programs chief, will serve as GU's visiting professor until March 31, 2021.

As guest scholar, he will conduct academic initiatives at the host university in areas like agriculture and sustainable

MMSU prof named guest scholar in Japan university

community development, indigenous knowledge system and cultural management, and natural resource management.

His appointment was confirmed by Prof. Ken Hiramatsu, dean of the GU's United Graduate School of Agricultural Science.

The Japanese official hopes that Dr. Aquino's appointment can further contribute to closer cooperation and exchange of valuable resources between MMSU and GU.

In 2018, the two universities signed a memorandum of understanding, allowing them to collaborate in academic and research activities, internationally-funded projects, course development and delivery, training

programs, and organization of technical programs, among others.

MMSU and GU have also agreed to work together on student and faculty exchanges, letting their faculty, personnel and students pursue graduate and undergraduate studies in both schools.

Moreover, MMSU has become a member of the International Consortium of Universities in South and Southeast Asia for the Doctoral Education in Agricultural Science and Biotechnology (IC-GU12), being led by GU.

It has also partnered with other Japan universities such as Ashikaga University, Shizuoka University, and Kyoto University. – by DPT 

CAS faculty wins international film award

By **KARLA AURIA S. GALEON**
Correspondent

Dagiti Tallo a Virgen by Melver Gomez, a faculty member of the Department of Languages and Literature, won the Top Foreign Film award by the Kolkata Online International Film Festival last September 16.

An experimental film about the dilemma of choosing between passion and career, Gomez's film stood out from the 300 films which competed in the rigorous selection process by the India-based film award-giving body.

"The culture and traditions of the Ilokanos are unique. I find it only fitting to share these to the world by using our own language— Ilokano—in my films," shares Gomez when asked why he started his film-making career.

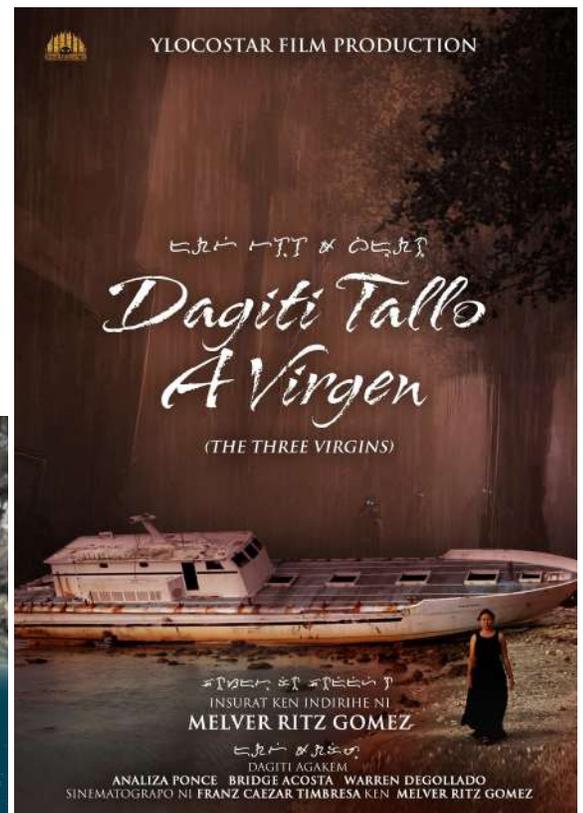
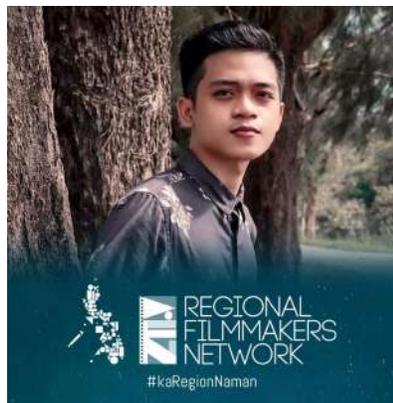
Additionally, Gomez's documentary film *Abel Paoay* is an official selection in the Abrenian Heritage Film Festival 2020.

He was also selected, out of 1,200 applicants, to join sixty other film-makers in the country in the virtual Ricky Lee Film Scriptwriting Workshop (Batch 24) last April 2. The workshop is still ongoing.

Handling literature and humanities classes this semester, Gomez is imparting to his students the significance and power of storytelling and the arts.

Founded in 1995, the Kolkata International Film Festival the third oldest international film festivals in

India. It is organized by the West Bengal Film Center under the West Bengal Government. 



MMSU unveils Chinese corner



MMSU President Shirley C. Agrupis (right), Chinese Consul Zhou Youbin (in black suit), and Provincial Board Member Saul Lazo (in white polo) unveil the Chinese Corner located at the University Main Library. (Photo by Peri B. Dafun, Jr.)



By DANIEL P. TAPAOAN, JR.

The Mariano Marcos State University (MMSU) and the Consulate of the People’s Republic of China in Laoag City unveiled the Chinese Corner (CC) located at the first floor of the University Main Library, City of Batac, Ilocos Norte last September 3.

The CC contains various book titles, a television set, DVD player, teaching materials, and photo exhibits to be used by university faculty and students.

The unveiling ceremony was led by Consul and Head of Post Zhou Youbin and MMSU President Shirley C. Agrupis, together with Atty. Saul Lazo, *Sangguniang Panlalawigan* member and head of the education sector of the Provincial Government of Ilocos Norte (PGIN), and some university officials.

To signify the close ties between the consulate and the university, Dr. Agrupis and Consul Zhou signed a memorandum of agreement for the maintenance of the corner.

Dr. Agrupis thanked the consulate for its relentless support to MMSU especially in the time of pandemic, saying that the university continues to share its resources and pursue stronger collaboration with the embassy.

“With the Chinese Corner in MMSU, there will be no more boundaries in knowing more about China in terms of culture, education, and technologies,” she said.

She further stressed that the opening of the CC is in consonance with the offering of Mandarin courses in the university, as well as the subjects of the BS in Tourism program.

For his part, Zhou said the CC is a good resource for MMSU students and faculty to learn Chinese language, thereby bridging the gap between its people in understanding and appreciating each other.

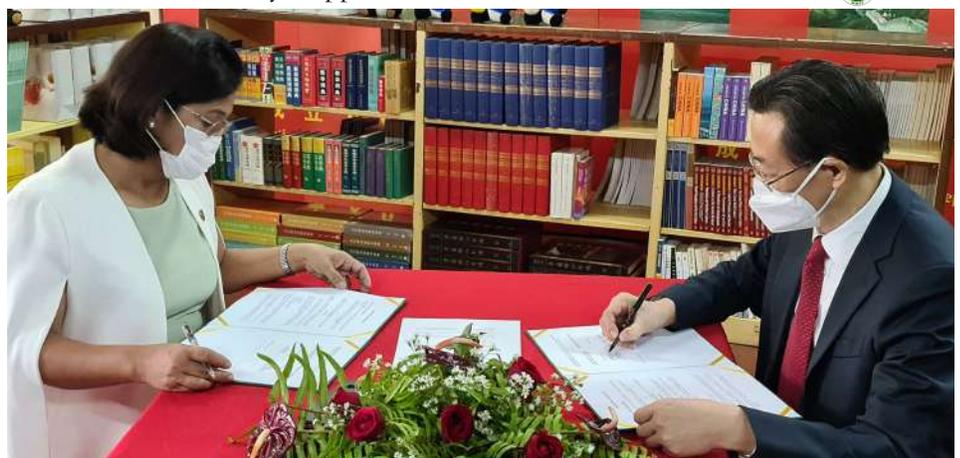
The Chinese diplomat assured that the consulate will always support

Ilocos Norte and MMSU to promote cultural and educational exchanges.

Dr. Agrupis said that MMSU is expanding its partnerships with some schools in China.

“Through the Chinese Consulate in Laoag, the university has already started communicating with the universities in China, like the Shandong Normal University, Minnan Normal University, and Fujian Normal University,” she said.

Previously, the Chinese Consulate in Laoag donated thousands of face masks and sets of personal protective equipment (PPEs) to MMSU to help the latter cope with the adverse effects of the COVID-19 pandemic.



University President Shirley C. Agrupis and Chinese Consul Zhou Youbin sign a memorandum of agreement for the maintenance of the Chinese Corner at MMSU. (Photo by PB Dafun, Jr.)

PSCA bares plan to put up Confucius Institute

By REYNALDO E. ANDRES

The Mariano Marcos State University (MMSU) and the Chinese Consulate of Laoag are planning to put up a Confucius Institute (CI) to make the Mandarin language readily available to all Ilocanos, and make them more competent in finding jobs elsewhere in the world.

MMSU President Shirley C. Agrupis said the CI will be one way of strengthening the partnership between MMSU and the various colleges and universities in China, and that this program was well-supported by Zhou Youbin, head of the Chinese consulate in the province.

“This program is to promote the Chinese language and culture in Ilocos Norte, as we plan to support and strengthen the teaching of Mandarin language, aside from facilitating cultural exchanges between the MMSU and some reputable Chinese universities,” Agrupis said, adding that MMSU has 150 Ilocano students enrolled in

Mandarin class in its Department of Languages and Literature of the College of Arts and Sciences.

She said aside from the establishment of the CI, the university is collaborating with China’s Shandong province, with the help of the provincial government of Ilocos Norte, to pursue a collaborative effort to strengthen agricultural research, especially in areas of smart agriculture, through student and faculty mobility.

Smart agriculture will be one of the government’s efforts to modernize and strengthen the agriculture sector, which involves the promotion and adoption of advanced technology to increase farm productivity.

“In line with this, we are also eyeing to send faculty scholars to various partner-universities in China so that they will be educated and learn the modern technology that China is promoting,” Agrupis said. 



In this photo are University Library System Director Eliza Villarin, MMSU-VP for Planning and Development Carmelo J. Esteban, Chinese Consul Zhou Youbin, MMSU President Shirley C. Agrupis, Provincial Board Member Saul Lazo, MMSU-VP for Academic Affairs Prima Fe R. Franco, and Ms. Jane Jing Chen of the Chinese Consulate (from L-R). (Photo by PB Dafun, Jr.)



Congratulations!

2020 JOSE P RIZAL MEMORIAL AWARD

FINAL TOP 3 FOR THE DISTINGUISHED

FILIPINO PHYSICIANS (ACADEME)

Dr. Ricardo Sotelo Guanzon

Dean, College of Medicine
Mariano Marcos State University



GS dean joins DAP training program for senior executives

By DANIEL P. TAPAOAN, JR.

Dr. Virgilio Julius P. Manzano, Jr., Professor VI and Dean of the MMSU Graduate School, has joined the Senior Executive Class (SEC) Batch 9 of the Public Management Development Program (PMDP) of the Development Academy of the Philippines (DAP).

Manzano was accepted by the PMDP Steering Committee based on the qualifications set for senior executives. The candidates for the program also took written and oral examinations, making the entry to SEC more competitive.

As an SEC participant, he is entitled to a government scholarship that includes free tuition fee and training materials, accommodation and curriculum-related transportation as necessary.

The PMDP-SEC is designed for senior officials who possess outstanding intellectual and creative abilities, deep commitment to public service, and demonstrate potential for shaping policy and management at higher levels of government.

In the light of the current situation, the DAP has adopted flexible learning to deliver the program. This involves a combination of synchronous and asynchronous activities using available technologies in Google Suit and other collaborative platforms.

Conducted in one year, the SEC includes residential training, sensing journey, and study mission on international governance and policy innovations in a span of 10 months, specifically one week every month. The remaining two months are focused on the conceptualization to finalization of the participant's capstone paper.



Manzano

The SEC participants shall receive their certificates upon completion of the academic work. Likewise, they shall receive a diploma in development management after acceptance of the capstone paper.

PMDP is the national government's career executive service development program that aims to produce a network of peak-performing, development-oriented, ethical, and committed government executives and middle managers in the Philippine bureaucracy.

LES mentor to receive LEAD national award

By NIÑA CHRISTELLE M. SUMINTAC

Correspondent

A faculty member of the MMSU Laboratory Elementary School (LES) in Laoag City was chosen as a recipient of the prestigious National Excellence Award by the Leadership in Education Academy Development (LEAD) Philippines, Inc.

Ms. May Flor C. Rivera was cited as outstanding elementary teacher after a meticulous evaluation of her documents by the organization's board of members. She was selected among hundreds of teachers across the country who were nominated for the category.

The awarding ceremony will be held online on October 3 at 5:00 pm via official Facebook page of the national organization.

"I thank God for His never-ending grace and mercy. I am so honored that my work and efforts were recognized," Rivera said.

"I know that I still have much to learn, but with the continued support and encouragement from people around me, I know I can accomplish a lot," she added.

Aside from being a teacher for seven years, Rivera is also a winning coach of various provincial and national academic and cultural competitions.

Meanwhile, the LEAD National Excellence Award is given to exemplary administrators and teachers in the different fields of education. It also recognizes those who excel in the fields of journalism, research, and business education.

LEAD Philippines Inc. is a service-oriented organization that provides



Rivera

seminars and workshops to educational leaders and teachers. It is also internationally-accredited by United Nations Economic and Social Council (UN-ECOSOC).

It is registered with the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) with accreditation as CPD provider for professional teachers by the Professional Regulation Commission (PRC). 

CIT prof wins in regional ASEAN contest



Domingo

By ATHEN LEE D. DELOS SANTOS
Correspondent

Airrie Anne A. Domingo, a Food Processing and Service Management (FPSM) professor at the MMSU College of Industrial Technology (CIT), emerged fourth place in the Asynchronous Teaching Demonstration contest during the 2020 regional Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) Month celebration.

The event was one of the several activities scheduled by the Commission

on Higher Education (CHED) Regional Office I to celebrate the 2020 ASEAN Month in August, which is pursuant to Proclamation No. 282.

"I find the contest very relevant especially now that we need to shift our modalities from traditional to digital," Domingo said, adding that the competition enabled her to expand her knowledge and skills in making video for asynchronous teaching.

Expressing gratitude for the opportunity, she hoped that other faculty members of the university will also be given the chance to experience the same contest.

In the competition, Domingo submitted her five-minute recorded video in an mp4 format along with the syllabus of the topic aligned with the degree program of the CIT.

In the same event, Christian Jay I. Espejo, a third year FPSM student, finished third in the Spoken Word Poetry Competition with his video presentation.

His entry was uploaded in the official Facebook page of CHED Region I.

Higher education institutions (HEIs) in the region participated in the following competitions from August 10 to August 27: Online Infographic Making; Online On-the-spot Essay Writing; Online Digital Art Making; Online Spoken Word Poetry; Canvass Painting; Online Chorale; Online Teaching Demo (Synchronous and Asynchronous); and Creative Facemask and Beadband Making (ASEAN- and Region 1-inspired).

Themed "Cohesive and Responsive ASEAN," the celebration underscored the need to enhance the member-countries' unity, cooperation and solidarity, economic integration, awareness and identity; and it emphasized the importance of promoting ASEAN pro-activeness and capacity in seizing opportunities as well as in addressing the challenges brought about by rapid changes in the regional and global landscape. 

Researchers pitch patents to investors

By DANIEL P. TAPAOAN, JR.

Innovation.
Investment.
Income.

Researchers of the Mariano Marcos State University (MMSU) virtually pitched their patented technologies to potential investors here in Ilocos Norte last September 8.

During the Technology Pitch Day event conducted by the MMSU Intellectual Property – Technology Business Management (IP-TBM) office, the participants presented their technologies to gain possible investments from or collaboration with agencies and individuals to generate income for the University.

The researchers presented agri-based food and non-food products in the said program.

For the food category, Ms. Milen Inocencio pitched the black garlic, a processed garlic cloves with sweet syrupy taste and hints of balsamic vinegar.

Meanwhile, Mr. Jonathan Ramos presented sand-cooked peanut, also a processed product that has lesser moisture and prolonged shelf life.

Other presenters for the same category were Prof. Fairie Anne Domingo for the pink noodles which was made out of dragon fruit peel; Ms. Noralyn Legaspi for the *kamangeg* flour, a gluten-free alternative to wheat flour; and Ms. Christine Quiapo for the *kamangeg* Cheesecake.

For the non-food category, Ms. Alecsis Villarin pitched the DFATm, a plant-based biopesticide for early blight of tomato; while Ms. Maridette Saclayan presented bioethanol distiller, an improved apparatus for reflux distillation of hydrous ethanol.

Dr. Dionisio Bucao, project leader of IP-TBM at MMSU, said that the pitched products will give potential investors and entrepreneurs an opportunity to adopt these via start-ups, spin-offs, and licensing agreements.

He added that prior to the event, the participants underwent a seminar-writeshop on technology commercialization last August 18-20. They were mentored by Dr. Lily Ann Lando, program leader of the Applied Communication Division of the Philippine Council for Agriculture, Aquatic and Natural Resources Research and Development of the Department of Science and Technology (DOST-PCAARRD). She is also the national team leader of WorldFish, an international, nonprofit research organization based in Malaysia.

Dr. Lando taught the participants on how to prepare marketing and business plans of their patented technologies, and to calculate the value of their products using income, cost, and market methods.

In the technology pitch day, the researcher-pitchers were evaluated and ranked based on their performance during their presentations and ability to respond during the open forum.

The presenters of the *kamangeg* flour, biopesticide, and the black



Graphic designs by Catalino Barroga, Science Research Assistant of MMSU IP-TBM

garlic were regarded as the first, second, and third best pitchers, respectively. They were given certificates and cash prizes amounting to Php 5,000 (1st place), Php 3,500 (2nd place), and Php 2,000 (3rd place). Other participants received consolation prizes of Php 1,000.

“More than the certificates and cash prizes, this event ultimately facilitates the transfer and commercialization of patented technologies through partnerships with various industries, both in the locality and nationwide,” Bucao stressed.

University President Shirley C. Agrupis commended the IP-TBM project team and the technology pitchers for the successful activity, saying that such bold move potentially creates more opportunities even during the pandemic.

“Our technology pitchers have also proven that there is no limit to our

will and commitment to make human life better through research-based products,” she said.

Ilocos Norte Governor Matthew M. Manotoc thanked MMSU and DOST-PCAARRD for their efforts to grow innovations in the province by supporting local inventors and innovators. He, too, assured that the provincial government supports the

agencies’ goal to promote technology generation.

The event was conducted in cooperation with the Provincial Government of Ilocos Norte and the DOST-PCAARRD.



OSAS trains coordinators for 'new normal' student activities

Student affairs and services coordinators of the Mariano Marcos State University (MMSU) attended the first **BUKEL (Brave, Understanding, Knowledgeable, Excellent Leaders)** training-workshop at the University Hostel last September 4.

Organized by the MMSU Office of Student Affairs and Services (OSAS), the activity trained participants to conduct student activities in the 'new normal,' and harmonize these in the university to come up with a roadmap for student development.

Dr. Elizabeth Marfel F. Gagni, OSAS director, said the Office is adapting the university's student activities to the 'new normal' because she believes that student development must continue amid the COVID-19 pandemic.

She also expressed optimism that the training-workshop will serve as compass to direct the development of the students under the new form of academic environment.

Meanwhile, Dr. Prima Fe R. Franco, vice president for academic affairs, urged the participants to help satisfy the needs of



college students because they are the main clientele of the university.

"Students should be developed as human capital who are ready to work in the real world," she said.

University President Dr. Shirley C. Agrupis expressed delight with the conduct of the training-workshop. She, too, encouraged the participants to become innovative and attentive to the needs of the students, saying that higher education institutions, like MMSU, are development-oriented.

Resource speakers for the activity were Dr. Geraldeen B. Pascual, chief for

student welfare; Prof. Milagros B. Barruga, chief for institutional student programs and services; and Dr. Jan Rich A. Guira, student development chief. They discussed the following topics, respectively: Sustainable Mental Health Activities for Students; Gender-Sensitive Student Activities and Programs; Revisiting the Roles of Student Affairs Coordinators; and Student Activities in the New Normal.

Engr. Marcial Gabriel, former faculty regent, served as keynote speaker who discussed "The Excellent Leader in the New Normal." --by DPT. 

Univ reviews research projects

By DANIEL P. TAPAOAN, JR.

The Research Directorate (RD) of the Mariano Marcos State University (MMSU) is bracing the 'new normal' through strengthening its research and development initiatives.

Guided by this endeavor, a total of 58 research projects were presented and evaluated during the Agency In-House Research Review (AIHRR) held at the MMSU Function Hall last September 21-23.

This annual event was part of the RD's monitoring and evaluation protocol in which all researches conducted by university personnel in the previous year were classified as either technologies for verification, commercialization, or for dissemination.

It also served as the 'clearing house' of MMSU in endorsing research papers

for presentation in external conferences, symposia, and other similar events.

These projects, either funded through the General Appropriations Act (GAA) or Grants-In-Aid (GIA) from other funding institutions, were clustered by research centers of the university.

Of the 58 researches, 20 were under the Natural Resource Conservation and Management Center (NRCMC); 19 from the National Bioenergy Research and Innovation Center (NBERIC); five each from Garlic Research Center (GRC), *Tuklas-Lumas* Development Center (TLDC), and Humanities, Social Sciences, Communication, and Education Research Center (HUSSOCOMERC), and four from the Regional Research and Training Center for Climate Change Studies (RRTCCCS) and Center for Innovative Materials and Emerging Applications (CIMEA).

Members of the AIHRR's panel of evaluators for each cluster were

Dr. Epifania O. Agustin, Dr. Janet dL. Villamor, Prof. Andres Y. Tungpalan, and Ms. Joana P. Crosby (NRCMC and GRC); Dr. Aileen O. Camangeg, Dr. Doreen D. Domingo, Dr. Agustin, and Dr. Reynold M. Caoili (TLDC, RRTCCCS, and CIMEA); Dr. Edmund Edison A. Esteban, Dr. Caoili, Dr. Agustin, Dr. Saturnina F. Nisperos, Dr. Bobby A. Eclarin, and Ms. Mishael Joy S. Barrera (NBERIC); and Dr. Carmelo J. Esteban, Dr. Sherlyn B. Nicolas, Dr. Errol John Valdez, Prof. Rhoda Garcia, Ms. Barrera, and Dr. Marilou P. Lucas (HUSSOCOMERC).

The RD will announce the best presenters and research papers for external presentation later on after consolidating all evaluators' comments

Meanwhile, the winners of the Technology Pitch Day held last September 8 also presented their patents during the AIHRR: Noralyn Legaspi (kamangeg flour), Alecsis Villarín (biopesticide DFATm), and Milen Fileza Inocencio (black garlic). 

CTE holds nat'l training for teachers

By **MARK IAN C. TAGAMI**
Correspondent

The MMSU College of Teacher Education (CTE) spearheaded the conduct of a six-day National Training Program for Newly-Hired Teachers under the Junior Level Science Scholarship Program of Republic Act 10612.

With the theme, “The Teaching Profession: Its Context, Foundations and Quality Requirements,” the training program aimed to equip newly-employed teachers with pedagogically sound and technically efficient teaching models and methodologies suitable for secondary learners. Teacher quality requirements, principles, philosophies, and laws relevant to the teaching profession were discussed in the series of webinars held last September 4-5, 11-12, and 18-19.

Dr. Marlina L. Lino, chief of MMSU Language Center, graced the training and served as keynote speaker during the opening program and highlighted the need for teachers to have good grasp of effective communication skills in delivering lessons.

Speakers in the program were Prof. Aleli R. Martin, Dr. Ronald Candy S. Lasaten, Dr. Bert A. Gamiao, Dr. Aris Reynold V. Cajjgal, Dr. Jahnese D. Asuncion, Prof. Irene T. Acuna, Prof. Gorge M. Bagaioisan, Dr. Rosabel L. Acosta and Prof. Julius Pumaras for the following topics: Philippine Professional Standards for Teachers, e-Professional portfolio development, factors and processes of school culture, educational worldviews, the link between the past and present education, inclusivity, ideals of a professional teacher, the Filipino teacher in a glocalized context, and group outputs for competency standards, respectively.

Asynchronous sessions were conducted after every synchronous virtual meetings to allow participants to express their learnings and reflection.

ADDRESSING THE CLIMATE AND ENVIRONMENTAL CRISIS:

A webinar celebrating Joey Comiso's contributions to Climate Change Studies

September 21, 8:00 PM - 11:00 PM EDT



Dr. Joey Comiso

Senior Research Assistant
National Aeronautics
and Space Administration (NASA)

The Speakers



Shirley Agrupis

President
Mariano Marcos State
University, Philippines



Lemnuel Aragones

Director & Professor
Institute of Environmental Science
and Meteorology, University of the
Philippines (UP) Diliman



Kohel Cho

Executive Director & Professor
Tokai University Research &
Information Center, Japan



Gisela Concepcion

Emeritus Professor, UP Diliman /
President, Philippine-American
Academy of Science &
Engineering (PAASE)



Lourdes Cruz

Emeritus Professor, UP Diliman /
National Scientist, National
Academy of Science and
Technology, Philippines



Maria Victoria Espaldon

Professor
School of Environmental Science
and Management, UP Los Baños,
Philippines



Arnold Gordon

Professor
Earth and Environmental Sciences
and Lamont-Doherty Earth
Observatory, Columbia University,
USA



Manfred Lange

Emeritus Professor
Energy, Environment and Water
Research Center, Cyprus
Institute, Cyprus



Rob Massom

Principal Research Scientist
Australian Antarctic Division,
Australia



Claire Parkinson

Senior Scientist
National Aeronautics and Space
Administration (NASA), Goddard
Space Flight Center, USA



Peter Wadhams

Emeritus Professor
Applied Maths and Theoretical
Physics, University of Cambridge, UK

A special webinar on ‘Addressing the Climate and Environmental Crisis’ was held last September 21, 2020, in celebration of the 80th birthday of Dr. Joey Comiso and his contributions to climate change studies. He is a senior research scientist of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) and was a participant of the Philippine *Balik-Scientist* Program. MMSU President Shirley C. Agrupis was among the 11 resource speakers in the virtual event who discussed the topic, ‘Alternative Source of Energy: The Bioethanol Program of MMSU’ during the program.

CTE launches TVLEd academic building



MMSU President Shirley C. Agrupis (in pink suit), VP for Administration and Finance Ami Ruth R. Cocson (in red blouse), and CTE Dean Eliza T. Samson (in maroon blouse), lead the inauguration of the TVLEd building. (Photo by PB Dafun, Jr.)

By NIÑA CHRISTELLE M.
SUMINTAC

The MMSU College of Teacher Education (CTE) inaugurated its Technical-Vocational and Livelihood Education (TVLEd) Academic Building last September 1.

University President Shirley C. Agrupis, together with Engr. Ami Ruth R. Cocson, vice-president for administration and finance, led the whole CTE community in launching the PhP 14.1 million-worth building.

In the ribbon-cutting activity, the University President said, “The journey of its construction is very memorable because we really fought for it during a budget hearing that happened just after I assumed my office as the seventh president of MMSU.”

The building is composed of new-normal-designed lecture rooms and laboratories for the Bachelor of Technology and Livelihood Education (BTLEd) and Bachelor of Technical-Vocational Teacher Education (BTVED) programs of the college. It was one of

the proposals under the University’s 3-Year Rolling Project (3RP) to improve the infrastructural landscape of the different campuses.

College Dean Eliza T. Samson ceremonially received the building which is envisioned to be a haven of excellent teaching and learning.

Prof. Edwin B. Rivera, TVLEd department chair, expressed his excitement and zeal to fully utilize the building to deliver quality education. In the event, he led the open-house tour.

Fr. Ambrose Emeric Monroy, assistant parish priest of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Laoag, led the group to invoke God’s blessing upon the building.

The event was participated in by the faculty members of the college and the laboratory schools (high school and elementary departments). Dr. Cesario Pacis, dean of the College of Industrial Technology (CIT) and Dr. Virgilio Julius Manzano, Jr., graduate school dean, also graced the occasion.

The new infrastructure replaced the building built back in the 1960s, and renovated in 1974. It was, then, the old Home Economics practice house which was extended to include a multi-purpose hall. In the 1980s, classrooms and the MMSU Multipurpose Cooperative occupied most of the building.



Project leaders, farm managers set better trend in MMSU land use

By **KIMBERLY S. MIGUEL**
and **SHERLYN B. NICOLAS**
Correspondents

Thirty-five project leaders, farm managers, projects-in-charge and demonstrators, including chiefs and directors of offices have convened at the MMSU Function Hall last September 8-9 to enhance the trend in the use, care, and maintenance of the land resources of the University to recalibrate the system of the Research, Extension, and Business (REB) directorates as three important functions of the University aside from instruction.

This convergence was in line with the operational sustainability of the University through its generation of funds from its vast lands and was part of the Farm Management Planning-Workshop for MMSU Research, Extension, and Business Project Leaders. It was designed as part of a key to strategically plan and maximize the efficient utilization of land use for greater food productivity.

The planning-workshop also aimed to enhance the interrelated operations in the utilization of MMSU's farm lands which are intended for research,

extension, and production so that activities that are conducted alongside with them shall continue to generate funds, while projecting sustainability through the years.

By setting this strategic plan, the University shall soon have its key destination places where MMSU-generated products and technologies will be showcased to the public, while ensuring smooth, systematic, and quality management system.

During the meeting, MMSU President Shirley C. Agrupis urged everyone "to become co-owners of this dream and this vision of pushing MMSU to become a premier Philippine university by 2028," saying that by being co-owners means that "your heart, your commitment, and your dedication are on-board to achieve the university's 7-point agenda."

Speakers in the two-day training were Sheena Marie Lidora (CAFSD) on the



Principles of Farm Management; Dr. Sosima Demandante and Ms. Hazel Achuela (CASFD) on Computing of Farm Inputs for Crops and Animals; Dr. Oscar Agpaoa (Finance) on Cost and Return Analysis and Return on Investment (ROI); Prof. Reynold Villacillo (Planning) on the Organizational Structure of REB and Communication Protocols and the Report Forms and Frequency; Dr. Bobby Eclarin on Farm Management Digitalization (Data Science); Lenie Bayangos (Business) on Basic Problem Solving Skills; and Rodel Reyes (CAS) on Values Re-Orientation. 



Aerial photo of MMSU farmland captured by Marco Leo A. Magno

Univ promotes vegetable gardening

By DANIEL P. TAPAOAN, JR.

The Mariano Marcos State University (MMSU) is promoting a Collaborative Vegetable Gardening (COVeG) in Ilocos Norte in an attempt to arrest food scarcity that is slowly being felt by those who are subjected to community quarantine during the COVID-19 pandemic crisis.

COVeG is a package of technology (POT) developed by the MMSU's Extension Directorate (ED) that aims to train university employees and students to build their own backyard vegetable garden.

In the POT, the Technology Demonstration Section of the ED will provide open pollinated vegetable seeds and seedlings to beneficiaries and train them on how to raise the crops so that they would have a ready and sustainable food supply.

Seeds that are directly planted are those of *pechay*, *kangkong*, and pole sitao, while seedlings of eggplant, ampalaya (bitter gourd), *upo* (bottle gourd), squash, and finger pepper are given to the beneficiaries of the seed dispersal program after they have attended the training or when their vegetable garden is ready for planting.



The Extension Directorate introduces a new dispersal project dubbed 'Collaborative Vegetable Gardening' which aims to train university constituents on how to build their own backyard vegetable garden. (File photo)

To sustain the nutrients requirement of their crop, the beneficiaries are required to make their own organic fertilizer and produce their own seeds for the succeeding cropping seasons. Periodic monitoring activities will be undertaken by the ED to ensure efficient and effective implementation of the project.

The project also aims to make MMSU employees and students to become models on backyard gardening to other households, as they are expected to share the POT to their

own communities, thus, ensuring food security in the locality.

According to Dr. Aris Reynold V. Cajigal, ED director, the project will encourage the MMSU academic community in adopting organic-based backyard vegetable gardening “so that everyone becomes resilient during the pandemic crisis, ensuring that healthy food is served on dining tables,” adding that many have already expressed interest to become part of the project.

Those interested must send a letter to University President Shirley C. Agrupis signifying their interest to join the project.

“More than the utilization of lands owned by the university, this project essentially aims to inform the people about the recommended POT for vegetable crops, inspiring them on the value of agriculture for food security and sustainability,” Dr. Cajigal said.

Meanwhile, the COVeG is another project of the university in line with the government's Plant, Plant, Plant program.

Last May, MMSU launched the project, “*Pangontra iti Epekto ti COVID-19: Agmulatayo*” at the Farming Demonstration Area, west of the College of Agriculture Food and Sustainable Development (CAFSD) building.



Agripreneurs trained to produce oyster mushroom

By KIMBERLY S. MIGUEL and MERCY R. GAÑO

Five agripreneurs from Pasuquin, Ilocos Norte were trained on how to raise mushrooms at the Mariano Marcos State University (MMSU) Oyster Mushroom Production Project last September 7-8.

The activity was conducted in response to their request for a training upon seeing the viability of growing mushroom as food and a good source of income especially those whose business were affected by the COVID-19 pandemic.



Ten personnel from the MMSU's Extension Directorate (ED) served as lecturers and hands-on demonstrators who beefed up the two-day training to fully capacitate the participants on the viability and profitability of venturing an oyster mushroom business.

A site visit to a successful oyster mushroom producer was also conducted in Currimaog, Ilocos Norte to further encourage the trainees to venture into mushroom production and gave them

first-hand information on how to go with the production.

Dr. Charito Samsam of the Research Directorate lectured on the overview of the mushroom industry, oyster mushroom production technology, and post-harvest

handling for oyster mushroom, while Roque Mangoma, in-charge of the mushroom project of the ED led the hands-on demonstration activity. On the other hand, Prof. Errol John Valdez, faculty member of the College of Business, Economics and Accountancy (CBEA) talked on the Cost and Return Analysis of growing mushroom.

For years, the MMSU's Oyster Mushroom Project, which is a part of the Minuyongan Project of the ED, continues to showcase the viability of growing mushroom and, at the same time, serves as a show window to people who might want to venture into mushroom production. The project demonstrates the profitability of growing mushroom with less investment capital and time, and that its social impact as a family enterprise brings more profit despite a small space requirement.

The Minuyongan Project, now Sustainable Household-based Integrated Farming Type (SHIFT) Model, is a model farm of the ED that aims to demonstrate the viability of integrated farming for sustainable food and income for the family and community.

It is hope that after the training, the participants will start their mushroom livelihood project and they, too, will serve as models of this worthwhile enterprise. 

The Coordinated Agribusiness, Research, and Extension Strategies (CARES) program of the Mariano Marcos State University (MMSU) continues to assist its farmer-cooperators by giving them interest-free farm inputs such as high-yielding registered rice seeds and fertilizers for this year's rice planting season.

Aimed to fortify the resiliency of Ilokano farmers in sustaining food for their families, these farm inputs were the improved seedstocks of PSB Rc 82 and NSIC Rc 160 rice seeds, including organic and inorganic fertilizers.

Prior to the distribution of the inputs, a pre-dispersal training was conducted to ensure that the beneficiaries will be applying the recommended farming practices to their rice crops.

Technical assistance will also be provided throughout the rice season to help them manage their farms more effectively and efficiency. To safeguard the crops against unprecedented calamities,

Farmers get interest-free farm inputs

these will also be insured with the Philippine Crop Insurance.

Recipients of the inputs were members of the five clusters of the farmer-cooperators of MMSU United Irrigators Association that was organized under the MMSU - CARES) Program. With 88 founding members, the group grew to 90 farmer-cooperators this year.

Meanwhile, the MMSU CARES Program is a transformative strategy of the University to enhance the utilization and productivity of the university landholdings. The program covers a total of 26 hectares of contiguous farms located in Brgy. Quilling Sur, City of Batac, spanning from the back of the College of Arts and Sciences (CAS) and College of Engineering (COE), and at the northeastern side of the university's Ferdinand E. Marcos Hall (formerly the Administration Building).

The pre-dispersal training that was conducted prior to the distribution of the

farm inputs was an effective strategy of the university's Seedstock Dispersal Program. It is a promotional strategy to increase and enhance the knowledge and skills of the beneficiaries in producing rice production with lower production cost but higher yield and income. 





Kawayan charcoal is an efficient bio-organic fertilizer

Dr. Stanley C. Malab, a retired agricultural scientist of the Mariano Marcos State University (MMSU), has discovered that crushed bamboo charcoal is a very effective component in the organic fertilizer requirements of eggplant, *kangkong*, and other high value commercial crops.

Malab, who was also the former director of the Ilocos Agriculture, Aquatic and Resources Research and Development Consortium (ILAARRDEC), calls the bamboo charcoal Kawayan biochar (KBC) because when it is mixed with vermicompost and applied to the soil during land preparation, it enhances the soil's organic matter content and helps the plants attain their yield potential.

ILAARRDEC is a consortium of 19 government agencies in Region 1 involved in agricultural research and extension. Its main office is located at the MMSU's Crops Research Laboratory building in Batac City.

Malab found out that the use of the mixture of KBC and vermicompost markedly increased the soil's phosphorus content to 301.8 parts per

million (ppm) and its potassium content to 1,141.5 ppm. This means that the soil was richer in these elements by 500 percent than when it was not applied with this by-product, even when it was applied with the right amount of bio-organic fertilizer.

Results of his experiment showed that ordinary garden soil which was not applied with combined KBC and vermicompost contained only a maximum of 0.74 ppm of phosphorus and 265.8 ppm of potassium. When he only applied vermicompost without the KBC, the soil's phosphorus and potassium contents reached only about 182.7 ppm and 591.5 ppm, respectively.

Studies have proven that these soil elements are crucial in the life of vegetables and other high-value commercial crops. Phosphorus and potassium are known to help plants develop strong roots, stems, uowers, and bigger and juicier fruits, especially during cool weather. It is necessary that plants have a substantial amount of these essential soil elements throughout their life cycles.

An insufficient amount of these two important elements will stunt the

growth of plants and lead them to produce small and narrow leaves, and have weak stems and roots.

Its effects on eggplant and *kangkong*

In his experiment, Malab found that *kangkong* and eggplants fertilized with KBC and vermicompost were healthier than the control plants, which did not receive the treatments and those which were applied with sole organic fertilizer and KBC.

Also, *kangkong* plants fertilized with KBC and vermicompost were heavier than the other test plants which did not receive the treatments. The main test plants subjected to this new intervention reached an average of 95.9 grams per plant, while those which received sole organic fertilizers reached only an average of 86.3 grams per plant.

The control plants which did not receive any treatment had an average weight of 14.6 grams per plant, while those which received sole KBC treatment had an average weight of 19.3 grams per plant. This means that those *kangkong* plants which were fertilized with KBC and vermicompost were healthier throughout their vegetative stage.

The same effect was observed in the *kangkong* plants, whose tops became bigger and longer than those produced by the control plants and those that were fertilized with sole organic fertilizer. The tops of test plants that received the new technology intervention reached an average of 15.9 centimeters (cm), while those which received sole organic fertilizer produced tops with an average measurement of 12.7 cm.



The control plants produced the smallest tops, which averaged to only 4.1 cm, while those which received only sole KBC produced tops with an average measurement of 6.34 cm.

Malab also found that weeks after applying KBC and vermicompost, the organic content of the soil in the test plots was improved by about 4.92 percent in contrast to the 3.31 percent improvement of the soil in the plots which received only vermicompost. Soil in the control plots registered only a 0.61 percent improvement in their organic matter content.

Malab also used corncob charcoal to test if their use had the same effects on the test plants. He tried mixing crushed corncob charcoal with vermicompost and applied this to the soil intended for *kangkong* and eggplants. However, the results were not as good as those he got from the use of combined KBC and vermicompost.

For users to get the maximum benefits from the combined products, Malab recommends a 1:1 ratio of vermicompost and pulverized KBC for a one-hectare farm of eggplant or of any other high value commercial vegetable crop. For instance, if the fertilizer requirement of a

one-hectare eggplant farm is 8 tons of bio-organic fertilizer, reduce the amount by half and make up the remaining half with KBC.

During the experiment, Malab noticed significant effects of the applied inputs on the plants at 60 days after transplanting (DAT). The test plants were taller than the control plants and those that only received sole ordinary organic fertilizer and KBC.

Eggplants fertilized with KBC and vermicompost gave a yield of 10 tons per hectare, while those in the other test plot, which was applied with a mixture of ordinary organic fertilizer and pulverized corn cob charcoal, gave 7.9 tons per hectare.

Meanwhile, the eggplants fertilized with a mixture of ordinary organic fertilizer and KBC yielded 9.7 tons per hectare, while those which were applied with sole vermicompost yielded 9 tons per hectare. The control plot, which did not receive any of the treatments, gave a yield of 8.5 tons of fruit per hectare.

That's not all. Eggplants fertilized with KBC and vermicompost produced broader and healthier leaves than those in the different test plots. 



Officials of MMSU and Philippine Rice Research Institute (PhilRice) - Batac Branch ceremonially open the rice paddy art for public viewing at the University's Extension Demonstration Area on September 29. Now on its third year, the rice paddy art features the facial image of Dr. Santiago R. Obien, second MMSU President and the founding Executive Director of PhilRice. A showcase of art and agriculture through technology, the paddy art aims to inspire the public to appreciate agriculture as a way of life and to boost agri-tourism in the province. *(Photo by PB Dafun, Jr.)*



MARIANO MARCOS STATE UNIVERSITY

VISION

A premier Philippine
university by 2028

MISSION

To develop virtuous human capital
and sustainable innovations
in a knowledge-driven
global economy

EDITORIAL BOARD

John Vincent B. Toribio
Editor-in-Chief

Daniel P. Tapaon Jr.
Associate Editor

Procopio B. Dafun Jr.
Managing Editor

Ryan Roi B. Domingo
Circulation Manager

Renzie A. Aguada
Sharon L. Cadavona
Graphics and Layout Artists

Marco Leo A. Magno
Photo Editor

Niña Christelle M. Sumintac
Mark Ian C. Tagami
Correspondents

In this Issue
Kimberly S. Miguel
Karla Auria S. Galeon
Contributors

Athen Lee D. Delos Santos
Contributors

Mercy R. Gaño **Sherlyn B. Nicolas**
Contributors

Reynaldo E. Andres
Editorial Director

Shirley C. Agrupis
Editorial Adviser and Consultant

MMSU Chronicle

Official in-house publication of the
Mariano Marcos State University
City of Batac, Ilocos Norte
Website: www.mmsu.edu.ph
Email: mmsu.stratcom@gmail.com



Published monthly by the
Office for Strategic Communication
Office of the President
FEM Building
City of Batac 2906 Ilocos Norte