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# EXCELLENCE

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF MINDANAO STATE UNIVERSITY-GENERAL SANTOS CITY

## Culture and Arts for Peace

Halim Tabi, a Cultural Affairs Staff, weaves a *banig* in his traditional Sangir attire.

## GEARING TOWARDS NATIONAL PEACE UNIVERSITY

page 01

## MSU Governing Board approves Medical School

page 03

## COVID-19 Initiatives

page 20

## Paham Alimbukad: 1026 graduates of Class 2020

page 34



# INSIDE

01

Gearing Towards  
National Peace  
University

05

BOR approves  
construction of  
10 MSU-GSC low-cost  
housing units

09

MSU-GSC forges  
partnership with LGU  
Lake Sebu to protect  
three Lakes

10

MSU-GSC soars high with  
Politeknik Piksi  
Ganesha-Indonesia  
collaboration

13

MSU-GSC launches  
1st International  
Seminar Series

15

MSU General Santos at  
the Forefront of Research  
and Extension in  
Region XII

17

MSU-GSC conducts  
Monitoring and Field  
Evaluation of DOST-  
PCAARRD Lake Sebu  
Research Project

18

MSU-GSC hosts 1st Virtual  
Orientation for 2021  
Online Accreditation

19

University Internal  
Accreditors participate in  
AACUP virtual seminar

24

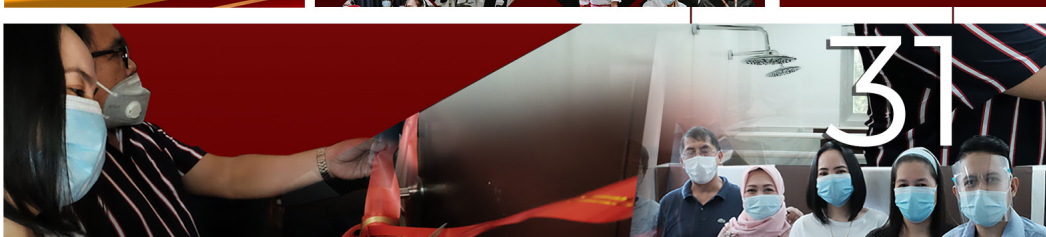
University Units join  
in Strategic Planning  
Workshop

26

University constituents  
celebrate Year-end  
Milestones

31

Chancellor Ali unveils  
Newly Rehabilitated  
Toilets in University  
Dormitories







# GEARING TOWARDS NATIONAL PEACE UNIVERSITY

■ Jasmin P. Saricala

Mindanao State University is a product of Peace Initiatives. It was born and crafted for peace. Through RA 1387, MSU was established on September 1, 1961 as a brain child of the late Sen. Domocao A. Alonto as one of the government's responses to the so-called "Mindanao problem." In 1954, the Congressional Committee conceptualized it as a social laboratory for national integration, thus, making MSU as the only state university in the Philippines with the unique special mandate of educating the youth of Mindanao, Sulu and Palawan (MINSUPALA) by offering degree programs in various fields of learning. Besides, it was established to integrate the Muslims and other cultural communities into the mainstream of national life by providing them with opportunities for quality and relevant public education for their self-development, and to support businesses and industries in the region by providing their manpower requirements.

As a matter of fact, MSU is the only university that integrated Peace Education (i.e. Fundamentals of Peace Education) in its multifarious programs. It teaches students to become peace advocates and to mediate conflicts.

With these reasons, the current administration through the leadership of Chancellor Anshari P. Ali envisioned the University not just becoming globally competitive but as a National Peace University in the Philippines. In becoming a National Peace University, the administration believes that commitment in performing its mandate is the primary step. That is to perform and discharge traditional functions of the University namely: (1) enhance programs and activities under Instruction, Research and Extension Service; (2) help accelerate the program of the integration among the peoples of Southern Philippines particularly the Muslims and other cultural minorities; and (3) provide trained manpower skills and technical know-how for the economic development of Mindanao, Sulu and

Palawan region in Bangsamoro. In gearing towards becoming a National Peace University, MSU-GSC wanted to contribute to Peace and Development in the Southern Philippines through knowledge production and extension services. It aims to strengthen the implementation of all academic programs towards accreditation and quality assurance while ensuring the delivery of quality student support and services; streamline priority programs in Science and Technology and Engineering, Business and Administration, and Social Science programs; strengthen policies on selection and recruitment and performance monitoring and evaluation of faculty and staff; promote values formation, culture of peace and well-being of MSU community; raise international profile of the university through scholarly publication; increase production of innovative technological outputs; institutionalize the culture of research and publication; institutionalize policies to extension services; engage in relevant extension-serviced communities including the conflict vulnerable areas; and, communicate MSU-GSC research findings to various stakeholders. Through its extension services, MSU-GSC aims to produce globally-competitive and peace-loving servants from Southern Philippines;

Furthermore, the Campus-Institute of Peace and Development in Mindanao (IPDM) was established to streamline activities and initiatives within and outside the university. Its various strategic priorities and accomplishments are: amplifying peace and development narratives in quad media; revitalizing research on peace and development in Mindanao; contextualizing the delivery of fundamentals of Peace Education Curriculum; empowering the Colleges in integrating peace in the realization of their tri-focal functions; establishing conversation platforms for intra-group and inter-group bridges; sustaining institutional capacities on peace building; and strengthening multi-stakeholders engagement to peace and development

initiatives.

In continuing the pursuit of vital solutions to the problems in Mindanao, Realization of Peace, Reconciliation and Integration in Mindanao is part of the vision of MSU-GSC. Through the Office of the International Affairs (OIA), MSU-GSC signed various Memorandum of Understanding with the institutions that promote Islamic Values and Peace in the region. The university partnered with the University of Sharjah of the United Arab Emirates, Universiti Islam Sultan Sharif Ali (UNISSA) of Brunei Darussalam and Al-Zuhri Institute of Singapore. It also hosted the 1st International Symposium on Islamic Education.

The goal of Mindanao State University-General Santos as clearly stated in its mission and vision is definitely to answer the call of peace not only in Southern Mindanao but all over the Philippine Archipelago. Hence, MSU-Gensan on its way forward will continue to conceptualize and organize activities that promote interfaith and multicultural exchanges; establish an inclusive student experience which embraces diversity and champions respect; designate areas around the campus that inspire innovation and collaboration and where students, staff and community feel welcome; establish a Harmony Center to highlight the seamless weaving of multicultural and various religious group within the University and a Peace Park that can be freely used by all religious denominations for their activities; establish a Mosque to accommodate the needs of our Muslim brothers which will serve not only as a religious edifice but also a university landmark and tourist attraction; and lastly, create an agreement cooperation in the formulation of the Regional Action Plan on Bangsamoro Community Resilience in BARMM.

MSU-Gensan becoming a National Peace University is more than just an identity claim. It is a dream of becoming an avenue and source of Peace be it in the field of Education, Governance, Active Citizenship or Culture and Arts.



# MSU conducts dialogue on peace research with the Office of Senator Pacquiao

■ Jovanie C. Espesor, PhD



Ms. Joana Grace Banting Lapore, Senator Pacquiao's Supervising Legislation Staff Officer, communicates plans in partnering with MSU-Gensan to expand opportunities for peace research.

On 7 December 2020, the Mindanao State University- General Santos City held a dialogue on peace research with the Office of Senator Emmanuel 'Manny' Pacquiao at the Conference Room, Y Building of MSU General Santos.

During the dialogue, MSU General Santos Chancellor, Dr. Anshari P. Ali, who is also an ulama or Muslim scholar, shared his vision of transforming the entire Mindanao State University into a national peace university in the Philippines. Dr. Ali presented the historical background of the Mindanao conflict, which started because of the colonialist expulsion policy of the Spanish during colonial era.

Atty. Jamaloden Basar, the Vice President for Administration and Finance graced the event as the official representative of MSU System President, Dr. Habib W. Macaayong. According to Atty. Basar, the National Peace University is a system-wide project as peace education is a core mandate of the Mindanao State University. He emphasized that MSU is instrumental for the recovery of Marawi that was destroyed by the siege when the ISIS-inspired Maute Group occupied the Islamic city.

The Delegation from the Office of Senator Emmanuel Pacquiao was composed of personnel from the Political Affairs Department. The senator's Supervising Legislative Staff Officer, Ms. Joana Grace Banting Lapore shared that she received a marching order from the good senator to prepare a briefing material on Peace and Economics. As a result, they decided to tap MSU General Santos owing to its expertise on peace research. Ms. Lapore was joined by the Chief Political Affairs Officer, Mr. Dominador Lagare III and Political Affairs Officer III, Mr. Mosler Paul Lapore. In pursuing the peace research agenda of the University, the Office of Senator Pacquiao promised to help increase the research budget of MSU in succeeding fiscal years.

Dr. Jovar G. Pantao, the Director of the Campus-Institute for Peace and Development in Mindanao showcased the wide array of peace initiatives of the University. University academics who are also engaged in peace work and peace research shared their ideas on how the University can amplify its contribution to peace in consideration to its assets and potentials. These pool of scholars include: Professor Najifah C. Macaraya, Dr. Abdul M. Lantong, Dr. Lolymar J. Reyes, Dean Maria Theresa Pelones, and Dean Maulawi Calimba.

## 33rd SFDA highlights Peace Initiatives

■ Jaydee G. Paid, LPT

To further expand the role of 'Dialogue Towards Harmony,' the celebration of Mindanao Week of Peace 2020 was materialized through the accomplishment of Kilos Kalinaw Virtual Plays at the 33rd Season and Festival of Dramatic Arts last November 27 to December 3, 2020.

In collaboration with the Office of Sarangani Governor, Sulung Kapayapaan Program, Basic Institute for Dramatic Arts (BIDA) GenSan, MSU-GSC Institute of Peace and Development in Mindanao (IPDM), Equal Access International, and SOX Messaging Hub, the Mindanao State University General Santos City held its annual theater festival through dramaturgy of four (4) plays.

In this year's edition, the performances concentrated their representation on peace-related issues. Four productions, John Jay Morido's Ang Bigkas ng Pagkakabigkis directed by Mark Ivan Caro, Normal Ralph Isla's PanDasal directed by Karl Cedric Fredeluces, Karen Umadhay's Mga Tala sa

Lupa directed by Yanzy Dizon, and Jaydee Paid's Tunglo directed by Charlene Epilepsia, were mounted to discuss topics such as violent extremism, interfaith dialogue, peace and conflict, and healing and reconciliation, respectively. The playwrights, directors, and actors were a consortium of university faculty members and students.

The challenges posed by the COVID-19 pandemic turned out to be advantageous. Due to the restrictions towards face-to-face gathering, the event was organized virtually or via online platforms, reaching broader audience participation. Directly after the performances, talk-back session and open forum were scheduled to deliberate and deepen the understanding regarding the said topics.

Students from Art Appreciation and Fundamentals of Peace Education (FPE) classes and Senior High School Department graced the said activity.







*Perspective of the STEAMS Building that will house the College of Medicine*

# MSU Governing Board approves Medical School creation in General Santos City

■ Jovanie C. Espesor, PhD

Recognizing the urgent need to strengthen the public health system of the country that is challenged seriously by the outbreak of the Covid-19 pandemic, the Mindanao State University Board of Regents on its 252nd meeting on 30 September 2020 approved the establishment of an independent College of Medicine in General Santos City.

The approval of the establishment of an independent Medical program is expressed through BOR Resolution No. 250, series of 2020. It can be recalled that in 2019, the Board authorized the opening of a medical course in MSU General Santos as an extension program of the MSU Marawi's College of Medicine. However, due to distance between Marawi City and General Santos City and travel restriction posed by the pandemic, the Board's Executive Committee, with the overwhelming support of MSU System President Habib W. Macaayong, approved the humble appeal of MSU General Santos Chancellor, Dr. Anshari P. Ali to have an independent College of Medicine in General Santos.

The College of Medicine is set to open in August 2021. The Technical Working Group for the College of Medicine submitted the formal application together with other pertinent documents of the University to the Commission on Higher Education. MSU General Santos aims to secure the provisional authority to offer

from the Commission, so that the University can jumpstart its medical program in the first semester of the academic year 2021-2022. The George P. Royeca Hospital that is owned and managed by the City Government of General Santos will serve as the primary base or training hospital of the Medical school. Moreover, the Philippine Medical Association is an important partner of the University in the recruitment of highly qualified medical doctors, who will be teaching in the Medical program.

The Science, Technology, Engineering, Agriculture, Mathematics and Sustainability (STEAMS) Building that is located in the city campus of the University will house the College of Medicine. The Phase 2 of the construction of the said building is about to start due to the generous support of Senator Edgardo Angara, who sponsored an allocation of Php 50 million from the 2021 General Appropriations Act (GAA). Moreover, Congresswoman Shirlyn Bañas-Nogales and Congressman Rogelio Pacquiao sponsored the House Bill No. 7809 that will ensure a block grant for the College of Medicine. The said bill was approved already by the House of Representatives' Committee on Higher Education chaired by Congressman Mark Go. Hon. Bañas-Nogales also sponsored the construction of the Library and Laboratory buildings for the Medical program with the total funding of Php 37 million from the 2021 GAA.





Members of the Curriculum Committee review the implementation of DB-Flex learning for 1st Semester of A.Y. 2020-2021, January 28-29, 2021 in Lake Sebu, South Cotabato.

## MSU-GSC implements DB-Flex Learning Approach

■ Rossel M. Audencia, MIE

As a response to the pandemic crisis, Mindanao State University-General Santos implemented the Discipline-Based Flexible (DB-Flex) Learning approach during the first semester of academic year 2020-2021. This is in accordance with Republic Act No. 11480 and CHED COVID Advisory to continue the conduct of classes in higher education institutions (HEIs) without face-to-face interaction.

In lieu of this, Special Order (SO) No. 313-20C was issued by the Office of the Chancellor dated September 3, 2020 entitled "Guidelines on the Implementation of Discipline-Based Flexible (DBFlex) Learning for the Academic Year 2020-2021." The first part of the guidelines spelled out the following: adjustment in school calendar for 2020-2021, modalities of DB-Flex, Assessment and Grading System, and Monitoring and Attendance of both faculty and students. The second part contains the roles of the management, the college dean, the department chairperson, the faculty, and the students.

### Modalities of DB-Flex

One of the highlights of the DB-Flex learning approach is the offering of different modalities that can be employed by the faculty in delivering instruction, namely: offline, blended, and online. These can be applied in terms of technology, learning content or materials, assessment, and attendance. The faculty can also choose between synchronous or asynchronous mode of teaching and learning in the conduct of classes or can do both.

### Syllabi, Modules Preparation and Moodle

Another highlight of the DB-Flex learning approach is the preparation of the syllabus by the faculty members according to their load assignments. The syllabi become the basis of the modules which contain the learning resources and activities of each course. The syllabi and the modules are to be migrated to the official Virtual Learning Environment of the University which is the Moodle.

### Series of Seminars

To capacitate the faculty in the implementation of the DB-Flex learning approach, a series of seminars and trainings were conducted by the Office of the Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs (OVCAA), facilitated by the Curriculum Development Committee, and in partnership with the Information and Communications Office (ICTO).

On May 27, 2020, the *Workshop on the Realignment and Plotting of Subject Offering for AY 2020-2021* in Conformance with Flexible Teaching-Learning Approach was held at the Regional Science Research Center (RSRC), MSU Fatima Campus. Attended by the department Chairpersons and college Deans, the workshop aimed to realign the subject offering for the first semester and to address the imbalance in the faculty loading for the incoming semesters of AY 2020-2021.

The *Listening Session on University Curriculum and Instruction during Public Health Emergency* was conducted on June 17, 2020. The purpose of the activity was to discuss issues, concerns and strategies related to the adoption of a Flexible Teaching-Learning Approach to ensure academic continuity in the incoming semester/s. The sessions with the faculty were done simultaneously in three (3) different venues, namely: Regional Science and Research Center (RSRC), Science and Technology Training Center (STTC), and the AVR-Library.

To capacitate and assist the teaching workforce in the design and delivery of a Flexible Teaching and Learning Mechanism, the *Syllabus Review and Curriculum Constructive Alignment Workshop* was conducted on July 10 and 14, 2020 at the Graduate School AVR, MSU-CETD, J.P. Laurel Avenue, General Santos City. The workshop

was attended by all faculty of the campus who were oriented on the importance of reducing the content of their syllabi and retaining only the essential learning competencies during the time of pandemic.

The *Workshop on Module Writing and Hands-on Training on Moodle* were simultaneously held on July 16, 17, and 21, 2020 at the Graduate School AVR, MSU-CETD, and Computer Center, New Library of the MSU-GSC campus, respectively. The two events were supplementary to the previously conducted Syllabus Review and Curriculum Constructive Alignment activity to help the faculty in the preparation of their modules and to be equipped with the use and features of the Moodle.

In preparation for the conduct of classes and supplementary to the previously conducted Hands-on Training Workshop on Moodle, the *Enhancement Training on MSU-GSC Virtual Learning Environment: Moodle* was conducted on August 18-28, 2020, at the 2nd floor, New Library, MSU Fatima Campus. This was attended by the faculty, from different colleges of the University, who were introduced to the more advanced features of the Moodle, including the use of the forum, and making and scoring of quizzes and exams for assessment purposes.



# BOR approves construction of 10 MSU-GSC low-cost housing units

■ Jorgelyn C. Rivera, LPT

The proposal to construct ten (10) low-cost housing units was approved by the Board of Regents during its 253rd Regular Meeting on December 19, 2020.

The Housing Management Division of MSU-GSC was recreated through Special Order No. 390-20C dated November 5, 2020 which is pursuant to MSU BOR Resolution No. 173, s. 1989 on the Establishment of a Housing Management Division at MSU-General Santos as stipulated under Special Order No. 166-89C dated June 13, 1989, and in view of the continuing growth of the university campus as a residential community.

The office

will supervise all residential facilities inside the Fatima campus. The scope of the supervision includes the formulation of housing rules and regulations together with the Housing Award Committee, and to recommend guidelines for policy enactment regarding maintenance, upkeep, and proper disposal of university residential facilities.

Furthermore, the Housing Management Division shall keep all the records related to housing including Housing Contracts of Lease and list of all residents in the campus. It will make proposals to management on all proposed housing facilities.



## MSU-GSC forges partnership with BARMM Regional Government

■ Jovanie C. Espesor, PhD

The Ministry of Basic, Technical and Higher Education (MBTHE) of the Bangsamoro Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (BARMM) government taps the Mindanao State University – General Santos City as an institutional partner in facilitating the employment of potential applicants from General Santos, Sarangani and South Cotabato, who are aiming to join the bureaucracy of the new political entity in the southern Philippines.

On 17 July 2020, Minister Mohagher Iqbal of the MBTHE sent his emissary, Ustadz Haron Salah to meet Chancellor Anshari P. Ali in MSU Gensan to discuss the terms of the partnership. Both institutions agreed to push through the partnership. As a result, the University will help the Ministry in administering the online assessments among job applicants by allowing the latter to use its facilities.

The examination is set on 23 July 2020 at the Computer Laboratory 2 located in the College of Social Sciences and Humanities Building. Moreover, the University will mobilize three of its IT personnel to aid the Ministry in the administration of the online examination.

Also present in the meeting is Professor Rufa Cagoco-Guam, who is the Senior

Strategic Liaison and Inclusion Advisor of the Palladium Group, the consultancy firm of the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade of the Embassy of Australia in the Philippines. The Australian Government provides generous aid and development assistance to the MBTHE through the Pathways for Peace Program. Professor Guam shared that “there is a need to facilitate partnership between MSU and the Ministry to have the examination here in General Santos rather than requiring job applicants to travel to BARMM because they are faced with the difficulty of travelling to Cotabato City due to the risk posed by the Covid-19 pandemic.” Professor Guam is a retired full professor and former Director of MSU’s Campus-Institute for Peace and Development in Mindanao.

Dr. Anshari P. Ali expressed his gratitude to Minister Iqbal for reaching out to the University for such noble undertaking. The Chancellor is hoping that the said engagement will pave way for more partnerships with the BARMM Regional Government in the future. As a national peace university, MSU is determined to provide assistance to the new autonomous government as a way of building sustainable peace and development in the Region.



## MSU-GSC provides mobile communication subscription to various offices

■ Rhea M. Ayop, MBM

In the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic, the global economy plummeted and its effect boiled down to all government agencies and institutions. To alleviate the challenges involving communication across offices, MSU-GSC provided mobile communication subscription to various units of the university.

Universities and colleges from SOCKSARGEN area extended assistance through frontliners and health service providers to the community while discerning how to settle both ways of providing academic services and protecting the students and educators against the virus.

Likewise, MSU-GSC despite the struggle to combat the threat against the plague drives to pursue its mandate to deliver academic services through virtual and other forms of communication.

In order to address the situation, Chancellor Anshari P. Ali’s administration took the initiative to provide mobile communication subscription for various colleges and offices in order not to impede public service delivery and hamper the operation.

Through providing an efficient communication system, virtual conferences, meetings, and deliverables were done and proper coordination with concerned units was enhanced and promoted.



# College of Medicine receives additional infrastructure funding

■ Monlouie M. Sorzano, MA

MSU-Gensan's College of Medicine (COM) gets additional funds for its Phase 2 construction and building of Infirmary, Laboratory, and Library edifices.

After the end of the Phase 1 construction allocated with a budget of P162 million, COM is set to receive P50 million for its second phase and P10-million for its Infirmary building. These additional funds were sponsored by Senator Eduardo "Sonny" Angara who committed in the completion of the buildings that will house the college.

The Phase 1 construction ended last December 2020 with the next phase underway and expected for partial completion before the target opening of the college in August 2021.

Laboratory and Library buildings with the budget allocation of P20 million and P17 million respectively were also included in the General

Appropriations Act (GAA) of 2021 as confirmed by South Cotabato 1st District Representative Shirlyn Bañas-Nogralles. In a coordination meeting conducted by the congressional office, specific matters were discussed with key university officials to expedite the construction of the said buildings.

In an interview of Philippine Muslim Today, Chancellor Ali expressed his immense gratitude over the influx of support given to the university. "We feel like no amount of words can suffice to describe our elation over the continuing inflow of fiscal supports...in our humble strides in bringing the institution to greater heights. I can only say, praise the Lord or Alhamdulillah," Chancellor Ali said.

The opening of MSU-Gensan's independent College of Medicine was approved by the MSU System last September 30 via BOR Resolution No. 250, series of 2020. Previously, the college was intended as an extension of the MSU-Marawi College of Medicine, but with the efforts of the administration, the college was declared as an independent entity. This was also backed by Rep. Nogralles and Sarangani Rep. Rogelio Pacquiao sponsoring the House Bill No. 7809 last October 1, 2020 and approved by the House of Representative's Committee on Higher Education declaring the college as "full-fledged and autonomous" and securing separate funding from the national government.



Senator Eduardo "Sonny" Angara

## MSU-GSC receives farm machineries from DA-RFO 12

■ Edward R. Lapong, PhD

On October 21, 2020, the Department of Agriculture – Advocacy for Agricultural Intervention Development (DA-AID) Project of DA-RFO 12 extended its support to the university by donating farm machineries and equipment worth Php 597,120. The Turn Over Ceremony and Signing of the Agreement were led by DA 12 Regional Executive Director Arlan M. Mangelen and MSU-GSC Chancellor Anshari P. Ali.

The partnership aims to develop more food production areas in Region 12 by exploring more means of extending services to all farmers in SOCCSKSARGEN. For DA 12, the initiative will help the agency promote agricultural activities especially in times of a global pandemic. For the College of Agriculture, the direct beneficiary of the partnership, the availability of machineries in its premises will help in providing capacity-building activities and training to the serviced communities, particularly to the students, staff, and farmworkers.

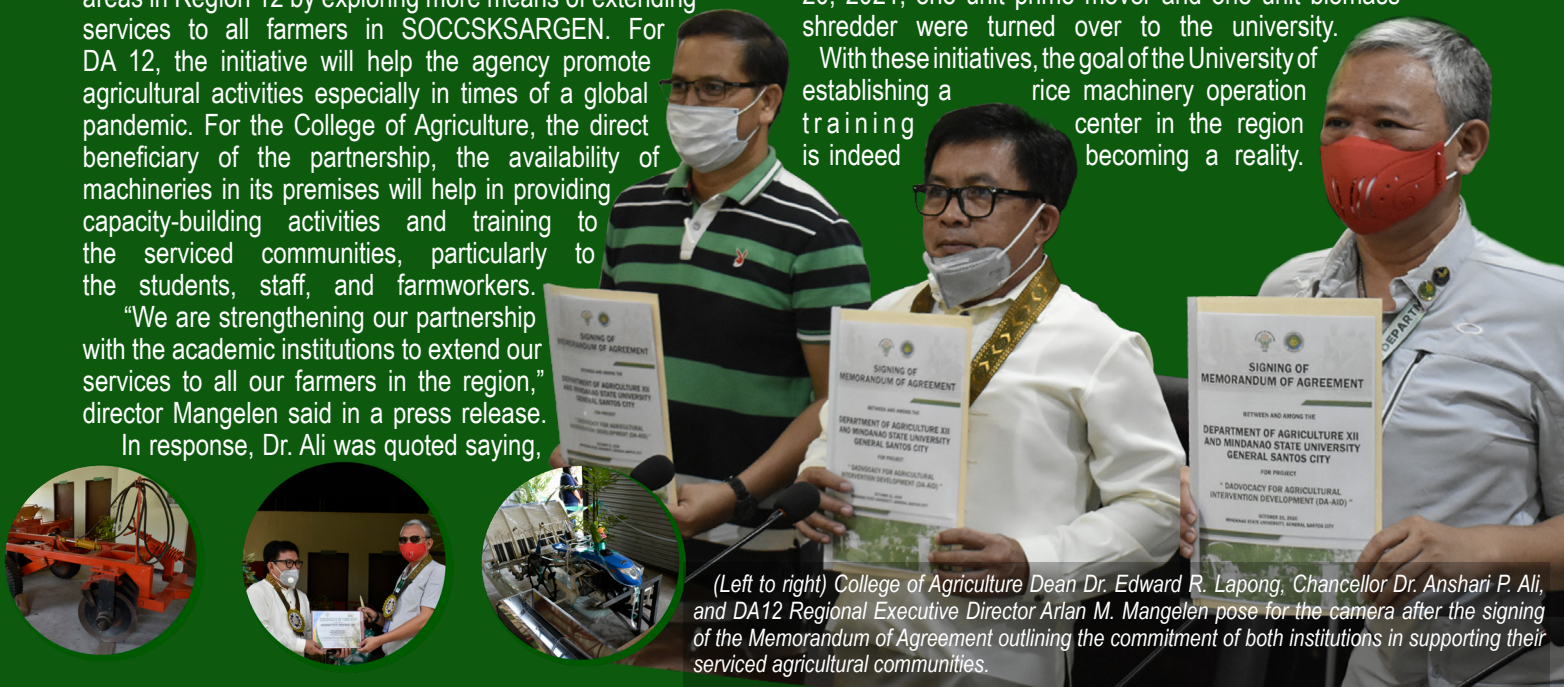
"We are strengthening our partnership with the academic institutions to extend our services to all our farmers in the region," director Mangelen said in a press release.

In response, Dr. Ali was quoted saying,

"The administration of this university is very much willing to establish and strengthen the partnership, whatever activities designed for the welfare of farmers in SOCCSKSARGEN."

The donation included one unit rice thresher, one unit rice transplanter, one unit hand tractor, and two units seed spreaders. The donation was further increased in the first quarter of 2021 with another grant worth P250,000 by DA 12 through the Organic Agriculture Program (OAP). On January 20, 2021, one unit prime mover and one unit biomass shredder were turned over to the university.

With these initiatives, the goal of the University of establishing a rice machinery operation training center in the region is indeed becoming a reality.



(Left to right) College of Agriculture Dean Dr. Edward R. Lapong, Chancellor Dr. Anshari P. Ali, and DA12 Regional Executive Director Arlan M. Mangelen pose for the camera after the signing of the Memorandum of Agreement outlining the commitment of both institutions in supporting their serviced agricultural communities.





# BARMM applicants take online examination in MSU Gensan

■ Jovanie C. Espesor, PhD

On 23 July 2020, the Ministry of Basic, Technical and Higher Education (MBTHE) of the Bangsamoro Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (BARMM) government administered the online assessment among individuals, who are applying for permanent positions in the Ministry. The examination was held at the Computer Laboratory II of the College of Social Sciences and Humanities, MSU-Fatima campus. The use of the University's computer laboratory is part of the commitment of MSU Gensan to help the BARMM government in recruiting qualified and competent personnel.

A Maranao woman, Nashiba D. Hanafi, 25, said: "bilang isang Moro, mag-apply ako sa Bangsamoro government upang makatulong sa aking kapwa Moro. Isa ito sa mga nais kong magawa sa aking buhay. Nais ko ring tulungan ang Bangsamoro government na makamit ang pag-unlad ng nasasakupan nito na may pangmatagalang kapayapaan. Nais ko rin madagdagan ang aking experience sa paglilingkod bayan. Nais kong e-share sa Bangsamoro government ang aking kaalaman na maaring makatulong sa pag-unlad nito."

(As a Moro, I am applying in the Bangsamoro government so that I can help my fellow Moro. This is one of the things that I want to do in my life. I also want to help the Bangsamoro government to achieve development of its territory with long-lasting peace. I want to enrich my experience in public service and I want to share to the Bangsamoro government my knowledge that might be of help to foster development.)

Meanwhile, a young Maguindanaoan lass, Jovaira Abdulkarim, 21, who is applying for the position of Program Specialist II shared her motivation of seeking a job in the Ministry. According to her, she wants to play a role in the Bangsamoro community by imparting knowledge to her fellow Moro, especially among children in school.

It is worth noting that job opportunities in BARMM are not exclusive to Muslim people. In an interview with an Ilonggo woman, Shaira B. Batiller, 23, she said: "I applied in this job because I always wanted to work with people and for the people regardless of their culture and traditions. I also want to learn more by sharing my own ability to the

Bangsamoro government."

Due to travel restrictions brought about by the COVID-19 pandemic, applicants from General Santos, Sarangani, Sultan Kudarat and neighbouring localities were not required to have the examination in Cotabato City, where the seat of the Bangsamoro government is located. Sandra Sapal Karim, 30 from Sarangani shared, "napakalaking tulong na dito na held ang exam instead sa Cotabato City sa sitwasyon po ngayon dulot ng COVID-19 pandemic, mas mahihirapan po kami kung sa Cotabato City na held ang exam. So, napakalaking tulong para sa amin na mga applicants na dito na held ang online exam, bukod sa mas malapit at na maintain ang social distancing, mas nakaka-encourage pa ang maraming applicants. At na welcome kami dito, nag-enjoy kami sa online exam kahit yung iba medyo mahirap sagutin. Mas napadali ang travel lalo na sa aming galing pa ng Sarangani. Dahil sa COVID-19 pandemic maraming dapat iwasan kaya mas mainam na dito na held ang online exam."

(It is of big help to us that the examination is held here instead in Cotabato City. Because of the current situation posed by the COVID-19 pandemic, it will be difficult for us if the venue of the examination is in Cotabato City. Hence, it is of big help to applicants that the examination is held here [in MSU]. Aside from the fact that it is geographically closer and social distancing is maintained, it encourages more applicants. We feel welcome here and we enjoyed the online exam, although some of the questions are difficult to answer. It is also easy to travel, especially for us from Sarangani. Due to many restrictions brought by the COVID-19 pandemic, it is appropriate to take the online examination here.)

The online examination was administered by MBTHE personnel headed by the Ministry's IT Officer, Ustadz Haron D. Salah. He is assisted by Mr. Yawmel Jihad S. Guialal and Mr. Julsani M. Abdulkadil. Some IT personnel of MSU Gensan provided technical assistance to the Ministry during the entire process of examination. The result of the online examination can be used by takers who have multiple applications in the BARMM government.



## MSU-GSC inks MOA with BFAR-RFO 12

■ Gaily Jubie S. Hontiveros, MS

The Mindanao State University- General Santos City College of Fisheries (MSU-GSC COF) signed a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) with the Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources Regional Field Office (RFO) XII on September 29, 2020. The COF through its Fisheries Students Organization (FISO) was identified as a beneficiary by the Cabinet's Human Development and Poverty Reduction (HDPR) cluster for the Bottom-Up Budgeting (BUB) which provides funding for grassroots organizations to improve the delivery and access of the services in the community.

Prior to the MOA signing, BFAR representatives were also present to witness the stocking of Pacific whiteleg shrimp *L. vannamei* at the College of Fisheries Laboratory and Research Station (CFLRS) at Barangay Bawing, General Santos City. BFAR-RFO XII provided 80,000 pieces of *L. vannamei* post-larvae (PL) and 136 bags of commercial feeds. Going forward, the office shall also monitor the regular sampling activities at CFLRS every 15 days and the harvest of the first production targeted on the first week of December 2020.

The MOA was signed by BFAR RFO XII OIC- Regional Director Usop D. Pendaliday Jr., BFAR RFO XII OIC- Provincial Fisheries Officer for South Cotabato Medardo L. Jamiro Jr., MSU-GSC Chancellor Dr. Anshari P. Ali, MSU-GSC College of Fisheries Dean Prof. Ariel T. Ortiz, Chairperson of the Aquaculture Department and Adviser of the FISO Prof. Glennville A. Castrence.

On July 30, 2020, BFAR also turned over two fiberglass boats-- one non-motorized and one 6.5 HP motorized unit-- to support of the instruction, research, and production activities at CFLRS.

## MSU-GSC and UNISSA-Brunei Darussalam collab for conduct of Post-Graduate Seminar

■ Norlailah M. Macasilang - Samanoden

Graduate students and researchers from Mindanao State University - General Santos City (MSU-GSC) and Universiti Islam Sultan Sharif Ali (UNISSA) - Brunei Darussalam participated in a Post-Graduate Seminar on November 3, 2020.

The event was hosted by the Office of International Affairs (OIA) as part of its 1st International Seminar Series. The event featured paper presentations on the

"Challenges and Prospects of Halal Science in the 21st Century".

The event aimed to bring globally competitive and emerging young scholars to share their knowledge and expertise on Halal Science. It showcased not only a sharing of research findings and academic pursuits, but also a sharing of cultural discourses. Furthermore, the event is a great addition to the body of knowledge on Halal Science as it faces many

challenges nowadays.

The event means another victory for both the educational institutions to continue their mission to push learning despite the ravaging global pandemic. The collaboration made the participants appreciate the value of international partnerships and global educational opportunities in their own locale and abroad.





## MSU-GSC inks with University of Wisconsin-Madison, USA

■ Jorgelyn C. Rivera, LPT

The ceremonial virtual signing of the Letter of Intent between MSU-General Santos and the University of Wisconsin-Madison, USA was held last December 16, 2020.

The virtual signing was duly represented by Dr. Anshari P. Ali, Chancellor of MSU-GSC and Mr. Josh Juedes, the Director of Visiting International Student Program (VISP) of UW-Madison. It was also graced by some officials from both parties including the Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs of MSU-GSC, the Director of the Office of International Affairs, the Culture Attache from the Embassy of US, the Director of the International Affairs Staff of the Commission of Higher Education, and the Education Program Specialist and Desk Office for American Affairs.

The Letter of Intent outlines how the two institutions can work together by providing undergraduate and graduate students enrolled at MSU-GSC a study experience for one or two terms, with a maximum length of one year at the University of Wisconsin-Madison. Students can apply to begin their studies during any of the terms. The study experience will be as visiting non-degree students under the Visiting International Students Program (VISP) within the Division of Continuing Studies.

## MSU-GSC signs MOU with International Islamic University College Selangor (KUIS) Malaysia

■ Jorgelyn C. Rivera, LPT

On November 16, 2020, MSU-General Santos City (MSU-GSC) agreed to explore ways of cooperation and collaboration with International Islamic University College Selangor (KUIS), Malaysia by signing a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) via Zoom Teleconferencing.

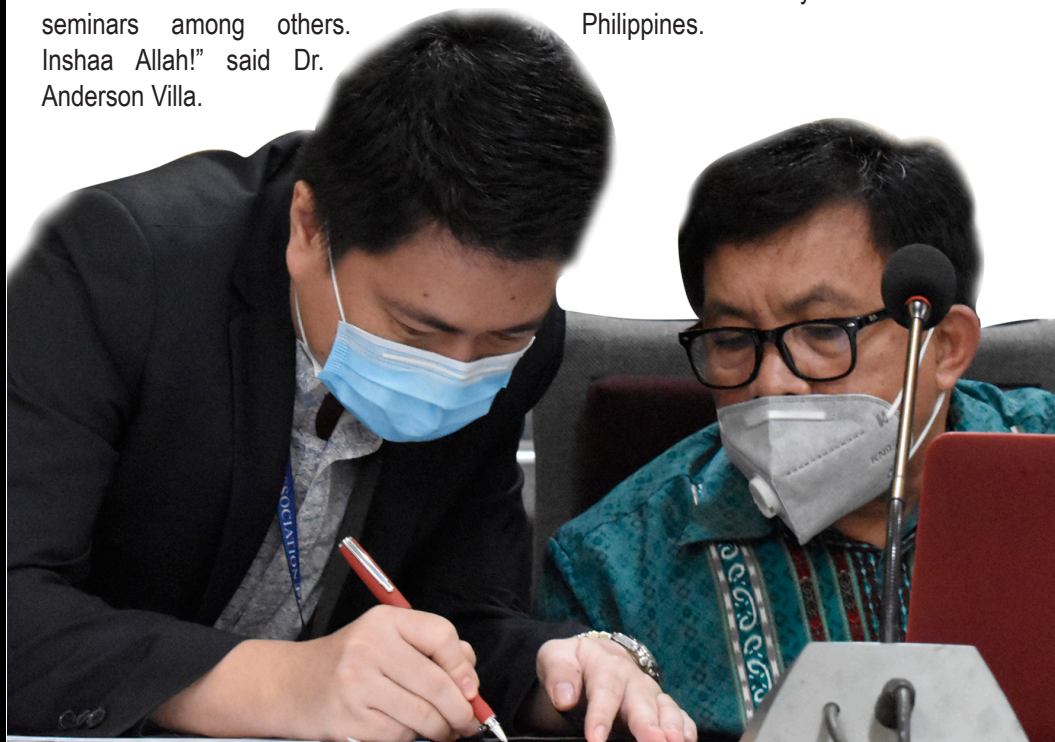
The MOU was signed by Dr. Anshari P. Ali, Chancellor of MSU-General Santos and Prof. Dato' Dr Ab Halim Bin Tamuri, Rector of KUIS Malaysia. Some officials, Heads of Offices, and faculty members from both parties including the Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs of MSU-GSC, Dr. Mishell D. Lawas, Director of the Office of International Affairs of MSU-GSC, Dr. Anderson V. Villa, Deputy Director for Academic & Research of KUIS, Malaysia, Dr. Mokmin Basri, and a Filipino Professor of KUIS, Malaysia, Prof. Dr. Humamad Yusuf Marlon Abdullah attended the virtual ceremonial signing of the MOU. Also present was Consul Ahmadulkuddus Husain who represented Hon. Nur M. Harun, the Consul General of Malaysia in Davao City.

"Alhadumdulillah! Despite the pandemic crisis, we are able to push through with our international engagements. We are looking forward to strengthen our partnerships with KUIS through joint research program and exchanges including the holding of international conferences and seminars among others. Inshaa Allah!" said Dr. Anderson Villa.

Chancellor Ali expressed his gratitude to the officials of the International Islamic University Colleges Selangor, Malaysia especially to Dr. Sarifah Ismail who was constantly coordinating with the Office of International Affairs of MSU-GSC. In his speech, he highlighted the importance of said collaboration:

"For the interest of the Muslim Ummah, the educational partnership between our universities will become beneficial for the Muslims Ummah including the Muslims in the Philippines to intensify Da'wah li i'lai kalimatillah in this part of the country. It can also help our Muslim brothers and sisters in strengthening their information and wisdom about the importance of adhering to the basic principles of Shariah on Halal food and business transaction being part of the good opportunities in this 21st century and good instrument for health protection from this coronavirus Pandemic."

The MOU defines the frame for future relevant educational undertakings between MSU-GSC and KUIS Malaysia. It is part of the programs of the University to strengthen its international linkages and cooperation with other academic institutions in Southeast Asia and the Middle East in gearing towards achieving its vision to be a Globally Competitive and National Peace University in Southern Philippines.





# MSU-GSC forges partnership with LGU Lake Sebu to protect three Lakes

■ Jovanie C. Espesor, PhD

The Mindanao State University, General Santos signs a Memorandum of Understanding with the Municipality of Lake Sebu to establish formal partnership between the University and LGU Lake Sebu in promoting sustainability through protecting the health of the municipality's three lakes: Lahit, Seloton, and Sebu. The signing of the MOU is part of the sustainability mechanism of a multi-million research project of the University, which is funded by the Department of Science and Technology- Philippine Council for Agriculture, Aquatic and Natural Resources Research and Development (DOST-PCAARRD).

Lake Sebu is known for its natural beauty and wonderful ecotourism destinations, particularly its seven waterfalls and three lakes. Its Tilapia aquaculture industry is a major source of revenue of the place. Moreover, the entire place is an ancestral domain of the T'boli tribe. Nevertheless, significant natural landmarks of the place are under critical condition as indicated by the recent phenomenon of fish kills in the area.

Mayor Floro Gandam expressed his gratitude to MSU General Santos,



Lake Sebu Mayor Floro Gandam (left) and Chancellor Anshari P. Ali

particularly to the members of the research team for helping Lake Sebu in investigating the condition of three lakes therein. The Mayor shared that in previous years, 60% of the area of the lakes had been utilized for raising Tilapia in fish cases. At present, such figure is down to 16%. Nonetheless, the law prescribes that only 10% of the portion of a lake should be used for aquaculture activities, in order not to compromise the natural carrying capacity of such critical ecosystem. Mayor Gandam also promised that they will do their best to extend assistance to the University in conducting scientific investigation on the health of three lakes.

MSU General Santos Chancellor, Dr. Anshari P. Ali said during the event that the University is very keen to help in developing the Municipality. He added that the signing of the MOU is just the beginning of partnership between the University and the LGU in taking good care

of the lakes. In addition, Vice Chancellor for Research and Extension, Dr. Edna Oconer announced that the University will be implementing another 10 million-peso worth of project for the farmers of Lake Sebu.

Dr. Jaime Namocatcat who is the program leader of the said DOST-funded project shared some important findings of their research. According to Dr. Namocatcat, his team found that the total organic carbon content in the lake is considerably high that caused significant reduction in the amount of dissolved oxygen in water, which consequently contributed to the fish kill phenomenon there. Another interesting finding is that Lake Seloton is now the shallowest, which used to be the deepest lake relative to the depths of Lake Sebu and Lake Lahit. This phenomenon is due to siltation, erosion and increasing temperature in the place over the years.

## MSU-GSC holds seminar on “Mindanao in the International”

■ Hannee S. Badilles

Mindanao State University - General Santos City through the Office of International Affairs (OIA) conducted a seminar on “Mindanao in the International” on November 20, 2020, via Zoom. The seminar is part of the 1st International Seminar Series of the university.

The online seminar was organized in partnership with the Center for Politics and International Affairs (CPIA) of Ateneo de Davao University (AdDU, Departments of Political Science and History of the College of Social Sciences and Humanities (CSSH) of this university.

Prof. John Harvey Gamas, Assistant Professor and the current Chairperson of

the International Studies Department of AdDU, was invited to impart his knowledge related to the theme. His lecture focused on “Butuan in the Precolonial Southeast Asian International System: Restructuring International History from Text, Memory, and Artifacts.”

With his lecture, the virtual participants were enlightened about how the ‘mandala’ polity system was manifested in the survival of existing chiefdoms, like Butuan, during the pre-colonial era. Further, his research implies that Mindanao has rich historical narratives that pertain to its relations to Mainland China and the Southeast Asian region.

The talk of Prof. Gamas was also significant as the National Government is preparing to commemorate the Quincentennial Anniversary (500 years) of the Spaniard's initial contact in 1521.

The second session of this panel features the work of Dr. Carmina Yu-Untalan on “The Postcolonial Condition of East Asian International Relations: Mindanao, Okinawa, and the US Hegemony” in partnership with International Academic Forum (IAFOR) Research Center. IAFOR Research Center at the Osaka University School of International Public Policy (OSIPP) on November 24, 2020.





Chancellor Dr. Anshari P. Ali video conferences with the delegates of Politeknik Piki Ganesha-Indonesia during the signing of the Memorandum of Understanding.

## MSU-GSC soars high with Politeknik Piki Ganesha-Indonesia collaboration

■ Anderson V. Villa, PhD

Mindanao State University - General Santos City signed the Memorandum of Understanding for Academic Cooperation and the Memorandum of Agreement for Scholarship Offering with the Politeknik Piki Ganesha on September 22, 2020.

MSU-GSC's journey with Piki Ganesha started during the international virtual seminar sponsored by the Embassy of the Republic of Indonesia on June 19, 2020 on the topic of various learning strategies during COVID-19 and the next new normal era in the Philippines and Indonesia. From then on, both campuses started to explore exchanges amidst the pandemic. Both institutions hope to

implement the joint partnership in the early of 2021 or as soon as the situation reverts to normal. Students from MSU-GSC will be given a chance to study in Piki Ganesha under Full Scholarship Student Exchange Program especially for students from low-income families with the following coverage: free tuition fee, dormitory, meals, health insurance, and book allowance until graduation as well as free lessons for Bahasa language before the start of classes. All accommodation and transportation to and from Philippines-Indonesia will also be fully covered.

Nevertheless, amidst the pandemic, MSU-GSC and Politeknik Piki Ganesha

have been engaged in several virtual events and online seminars among others such as the "International Seminar Series" on November 26, 2020 with the theme, "Resiliency in Islamic and Religious Practices amidst the Pandemic Crisis: Philippines and Indonesian Experience" in partnership with the Consulate General of the Republic of Indonesia in Davao City and the Budayaw-Kumpulan Online Conversation on BIMP Arts and Culture on December 15, 2020 with the theme, "Connecting Cultures in BIMP-EAGA amidst the Ongoing Pandemic" in close coordination with the MSU-GSC Cultural Affairs Office.

## MSU-GSC initiates Visiting Researcher Program with Wiratri

■ Dun Oliver Abiera

Mindanao State University - General Santos City launched its first-ever Visiting Researcher (VR) Program with Amorisa Wiratri. Wiratri, a 10-year researcher and Ph.D. candidate at the University of Western Australia, became the first researcher that benefited from the program of the university's Office of International Affairs (OIA). The program aims to assist researchers by linking them to individuals, groups, and institutions who can help in the fulfillment of their studies.

In October 2020, a Memorandum of Agreement was signed between Wiratri and Mindanao State University - GSC for the VR program. By November, the program was implemented through a hybrid of virtual and physical arrangements. MSU-GSC coordinated

with Wiratri by virtually providing research assistants from the university staff. Online meetings and orientations were held to ensure efficient communication and documentation of the data gathered. Furthermore, physical arrangements were made possible by the collaboration of the university with the local government unit of General Santos City to identify Persons of Indonesian Descents (PIDs) as respondents of her study. Despite the physical limitations, the data gathering of Wiratri's research on Indonesian diaspora in the Celebes Sea was successfully implemented and paved the way to further analyze the plight of PIDs in the Philippines.

As we gear towards global

competitiveness, research becomes a vital component in becoming a holistic university. The Visiting Researcher (VR) program is one of the many steps towards developing a well-connected academic community catering to various facets of scholastic development.





# MSU-GSC strengthens partnership initiatives with Japan

■ Anderson V. Villa, PhD

The COVID-19 pandemic crisis has indeed crippled much of the day-to-day operations of universities and colleges in the Philippines and across the globe. What is encouraging is that MSU-GSC still chose to open its doors to international partners especially from Japan. In January 2020, several faculty members from the Mindanao State University-General Santos City presented their research papers at the 18th Annual International Conference in Japanese Studies at the Ateneo de Davao University (January 31 – February 1, 2020).

In February 2020, the University of Shizuoka (UoS) invited the Office of International Affairs, represented by its Acting Director, Dr. Anderson V. Villa, to present his paper about Japanese Prewar Presence in Mindanao. Dr. Villa took the opportunity to meet with the faculty members of the university's Center for Global Studies (CEGLOS) to explore inter-university cooperation and inter-department research collaboration. The incoming Director, Dr. Takahito Sawada offered MSU-GSC their Visiting Researcher Program in the field of international relations.

In early March, Japan Foundation launched its Japan Film Week at MSU-GSC grounds. Mr. Roland Samson represented JF Manila during the opening of the film festival. Hon. Yoshiaki Miwa of the Consulate General of Japan in Davao City graced the opening program and launching of the festival. During his

campus visit, Hon. Miwa had a private conversation with the Chancellor, Dr. Anshari P. Ali to explore opportunities and partnerships with Japanese universities abroad.

In the succeeding months, Social Science faculty members and scholars from MSU-GSC and the Ateneo de Davao University developed a proposal and successfully received a grant from Japan Foundation to proceed with their project, "Toward an Anthology of Japanese Presence in Mindanao, Philippines: A Writing Workshop among Japan and Southeast Asian Scholars," that ran from August to December 2020. The ceremonial launching and virtual opening program of the project was attended by JF former Director Hiroaki Uesugi, Assistant JF Director Tomoko Nakamura, and Program Manager, Carlos Ortiz.

In October 26, 2020 the MSU-GSC Office of International Affairs successfully launched its 1st International Seminar Series with scholars from Japan as invited



Office of International Affairs (OIA) organizes a seminar on the 100th Anniversary Celebration of the Consulate General in Davao, March 2, 2021.

guest speakers including Dr. Shieba Magno-De Gula who recently obtained her Ph.D. at Kyorin University, Tokyo and Dr. Carmina Yu-Untalan from Osaka University – Osaka School of International Public Policy (OSIPP).

Henceforth, MSU-GSC plans to organize more engagements with the Consulate General of Japan and/or Embassy of Japan in the Philippines amidst the pandemic. In fact, MSU-GSC partners with Japan in its upcoming celebration of the 100th Year Foundation Anniversary of the said office in Davao City. All of these initiatives are part of MSU-GSC's strategic direction of strengthening its internationalization efforts for global cooperation and partnership.

## MSU-GSC features Film on sustainable Tuna Farming

■ Gaily Jubie S. Hontiveros, MS

Mindanao State University - General Santos City through the Office of International Affairs (OIA) hosted the "Talakayang Buhay Abroad Film Screening" featuring the Japanese movie, "Tuna Girl" last December 8, 2020. The film screening is one of the activities of the first International Affairs Week of the university celebrated throughout December 7 to 11, 2020.

The event, which was launched through Zoom and was simultaneously streamed through Facebook Live, was attended by 87 students of the College of Fisheries. The 2-hour watch party featured "Tuna Girl." The film centers on a group of college students visiting an aquaculture facility pioneering on sustainable tuna farming. With a delightful and educational plot, the movie shows the whole process of farming tuna eggs to rearing them, and finally selling marketable sizes to restaurants. Students enthusiastically participated in the film screening and shared their learning

and reactions afterwards.

"Tuna Girl reflects how delicate and fragile tuna farming is and that it needs careful observation and tedious research in order for them to survive. The most important thing I learned from the movie is how crucial is research to ensure sustainable fish farming and marketing, and how this impacts our ecosystems, trade, and food consumption," remarked by Jenny Abellera, a 3rd Year BS Fisheries student.

"The film was highly informative. It made me realize that passion, goal-setting, and hardwork in pursuing aquaculture is indeed a great key for success. Even though we may lack practical class

activities during this pandemic, the experiences of the characters also gave me a glimpse of what we could expect during our field exercises, on-the-job training, and our possible career," Aljin Chung, a 3rd Year BS Fisheries student, shared after watching the movie.

### Talakayang Buhay Abroad Film Screening

DECEMBER 8, 2020 | 2 - 4 PM (GMT+8)  
Film Screening (Watch Party) with  
Fisheries Students





# MSU-GSC and AMDA's partnership produces 526 Theater Trainees

■ Raydan M. Tangwayan, LPT

A total of 526 trainees underwent a series of theater workshops through the partnership of the American Musical and Dramatic Academy (AMDA) and Mindanao State University-General Santos City. The workshops started on December 9, 2020 and concluded last January 13, 2021.

A total of four (4) workshops were conducted under the partnership, namely: Musical Theater, Contemporary Dance Theater and two Theater Acting workshops for Junior and Senior groups with ages 14 to 18 and 19 and above respectively.

The Musical Workshop took place last December 9, 2020 with Mr. Christopher Stephens as the workshop master. He is a Singer, Pianist, Music Director, and Improv Actor who has worked

on "Wicked", "Matilda", "Anything Goes", "Shout! The Mod Musical", and at Carnegie Hall in "Take the Stage".

The series

was followed by the Contemporary Dance Workshop with AMDA faculty member, Mr. Gerran Reese teaching the participants some basic figures of the dance. Aside from teaching at AMDA, Mr. Reese has worked with huge stars like Beyoncé and other performers in Hollywood.

As the year 2021 began, two Theater Acting Workshops were lined up. The first one happened last January 9 with Ms. Alex Rose Wiesel as the workshop master for the Theater Acting of ages 14 to 18. Ms. Wiesel is a seasoned actor and performer both on and off-stage. Her film and television credits include: So Random (Disney), Hart of Dixie (CW), Two and a Half Men (CBS), Hotel Du Loone (Brat), Deceit, Unlucky Charms, House of Lies webisodes (Showtime) and Dexter (Showtime). Her theatre credits include Les Miserables, Robin Hood, Disney's Enchanted Experience, Scooby Doo Live!, Journey to the Lost Temple, Lucky Stiff and Holiday Follies.

On January 13, 2021, the workshops concluded with the Theater Acting Workshop led by Mr. Noam Shapiro, an Actor, Writer, Director and former Rapper who is now teaching at AMDA. He ended the workshop with the words, "All of the characters you embody are you".

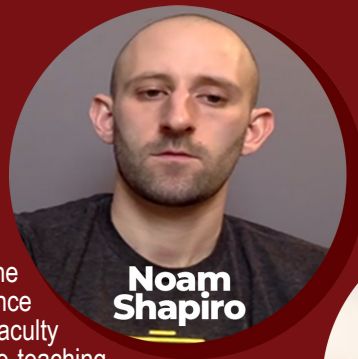
The participants of the workshop series were demographically mixed. Students and Teachers, Theater Directors and Performing Arts Group Directors gave time for the workshop in order for them to cull – out new learnings, specifically

the Western Perspective of Musical and Dramatic Arts.

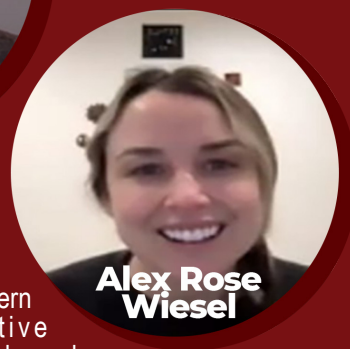
AMDA is a College and Conservatory of Performing Arts in the United States of America, with two campuses at New York and Los Angeles. The free workshops they offered are part of their strategy in discovering new talents and potential students. They also scheduled an open house to cater auditionees for their Conservatory and Degree Programs in New York and California. AMDA is represented by Mr. Junnan Liao, the Assistant Director for International Recruitment.

"This event is just the start of our established rapport with AMDA. This is a good opportunity for our participants to learn and also me. I may not be into performing arts but this event has helped me learn the basics", said Dr. Anderson Villa, the Director of the Office of International Affairs of MSU – GSC.

The partnership of AMDA and MSU-GSC is made possible through the joint efforts of the Office of International Affairs (OIA) under Director Anderson V. Villa, Ph. D. and Cultural Affairs Office (CAO) under Director Alma Celestia D. Aguja, MBM.



**Noam Shapiro**



**Alex Rose Wiesel**



**Gerran Reese**



**Christopher Stephens**

## MSU-GSC conducts 1st International Affairs Week

■ Dun Oliver Abiera

The Office International Affairs (OIA) of Mindanao State University-General Santos City, together with its Supreme Student Council (SSC), USGAA - SOX, and Yabong Philippines, organized the first-ever university-wide International Affairs Week last December 7-11, 2020.

This initiative was held online and participated by different faculty members, staff, and students of MSU-GSC. Students and staff members participated in a film screening and art workshops. The MSU-GSC Professors who had the opportunity to study in various countries worldwide were featured through the Talakayang Buhay Abroad. Dr. Malona Alinsug (National University of Taiwan), Dr. Jovanie Espesor (University of Canterbury), Dr. Jane Malasador (Asian Institute of Technology), and Dr. Lolymer Reyes (University of Sydney) were the

speakers of the first segment as they share their Asia-Pacific study experiences. Meanwhile, Dr. Mario Aguja (Nagoya University), Dr. Josh Elisha Ocutra (The University of Tokyo), Dr. Edward Lapong (Ehime University), and Dr. Anderson Villa (Ritsumeikan APU) who were scholars of the Japanese universities were featured during the second segment. From the United States and Europe perspective, Dr. Wilfred Bidad (University of Birmingham), Engr. Paisar Gadiaware (Oklahoma State University), Dr. Lynn Esther Rallos (Virginia Polytechnic University), Dr. Camille Silvana (West Virginia University), and Mr. Paolo Tagaloguin (University of Tennessee) gave their thoughts and sentiments when they studied abroad. All speakers from Talakayang Buhay Abroad segment gave global recognition and were a hallmark of excellence inside and

outside the university.

Lastly, the culminating event started with the virtual signing of Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the University of Wisconsin-Madison which strengthens the university's partnership and collaboration with universities abroad. The event also launched "Project Global Citizens" that showcased international, national, and local opportunities for high school, college, and graduate students who want to improve their skills, jumpstart their career, or volunteer and study abroad.

Overall, the MSU - GSC International Affairs Week became a platform for discussion among university staff, faculty, and students towards the goal of the university to be internationally recognized and globally competitive one step at a time.





Office of International Affairs Director  
Dr. Anderson V. Villa

## MSU-GSC launches 1st International Seminar Series

■ Marhama C. Dimaporo

Mindanao State University - General Santos City through the Office of International Affairs (OIA) proudly launched the 1st International Seminar Series which aims to bring globally competitive and emerging young scholars to share their knowledge and expertise to the MSU-General Santos campus virtually, and to appreciate the value of international partnerships and global educational opportunities here and abroad.

The first session for the series with the theme "Global Migration" was held on October 26, 2020 via Zoom. This virtual series aims to link MSU-GSC to the wider academic community and to strengthen the actions, events, and projects towards reaching the vision to be Globally Competitive University in Southern Philippines.

Speakers for the Global Migration talk series are Dr. Shieba Magno-De Gula, an award winning professional teacher who specializes in Japanese Language and International Studies, who recently obtained her Ph.D. in International Cooperation Studies major in Development Studies in Kyorin University in Tokyo, Japan last August 2020, and Dr. Renan M. Kasilag, an assistant professor at De La Salle University-Lipa, who also serves as Research Coordinator of the College of Education, Arts and Sciences. They were invited to impart their knowledge on the theme of the seminar series.

With their lecture, the virtual participants were enlightened about Foreign Language Education policies. The policies included opportunities for native speakers of English to be Assistant Language Teachers or ALT's from government-sponsored Japan Exchange Teaching or the JET Program or by privately-run companies. Furthermore, the paper entitled "Health-seeking Behaviors of Overseas Filipino Workers (OFWs) in Singapore: Retest of Social Capital Theory and Theory of Planned Behavior" was presented. The research emphasized the need to promote internationalization in local communities by helping improve the foreign language education and developing international exchange at the community level around the world.

# Aggie and BA&A researchers shine in International Research Symposia

■ Edward R. Lapong, PhD

In the 24th International Academy of Global Business and Trade (IAGBT) - Korea International Trade Research Institute (KITRI) Biannual Conference and Research Symposium last August 14 - 15, 2020, Dr. Keno Jay M. Balogbog being the only presenter from MSU - General Santos presented his research paper via online entitled "Determinants of Productivity and Technical Efficiency of Upland Rice in Sarangani Province, Philippines". This research paper is one of the recipients of an honorable mention award from the said conference for original and cutting-edge contribution to the body of knowledge, appropriate application and rigor of methodology, relevance to global business and trade practice, soundness of development, and effective communication of critical concepts.

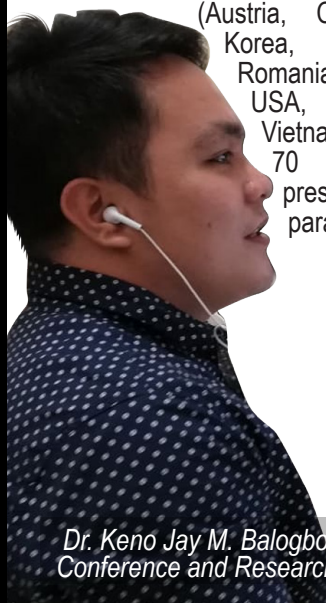
In addition, Ms. Kringle Marie Mercado, Mr. Evann Keith C. Tabasa, and Dr. Keno Jay M. Balogbog were also able to participate in the 1st East Asian Trade Association (EATA) - Northeast Asian Business and Economic Association (NABEA) - Korea International Trade Research Institute (KITRI) Biannual International Conference and Research Symposium which was also held online last October 30-31, 2020. They were given the responsibilities of being paper discussants and session moderators for the said conference.

Finally, the 25th IAGBT - KITRI Biannual Conference and Research Symposium was conducted online last January 21- 23, 2021 with the theme, "At the Forefront of Global Business and Trade Recovery and Continuity: Transformation and Resilience", researchers and academicians from different countries all over the world gathered for the online conference and brought forth a myriad of information and research ideas. With about 200 participants from 10 countries (Austria, China, Ireland, Korea, Philippines, Romania, Thailand, USA, Uzbekistan, Vietnam), over 70 papers were presented in 3 parallel sessions in

Chinese, Korean and English.

In this conference, the faculty and staff members of Mindanao State University - General Santos City are honored to take part in this online conference as moderators, discussants, and paper presenters. Dr. Keno Jay M. Balogbog and Kringle Marie P. Mercado, from the Department of Agribusiness Management, College of Agriculture; Evann Keith C. Tabasa from the College of Business Administration and Accountancy; and Maria Kiesha Yvet P. Mercado, a staff of the Office of the Vice-Chancellor for Research and Extension represented the University in this prestigious conference. Instructor Evann Kieth C. Tabasa was assigned as a discussant on the first day of the conference, while Assistant Professor Keno Jay M. Balogbog acted as a moderator for a session on the second day. Instructor Kringle Marie P. Mercado also discussed a paper presented by Dong Eui University, South Korea. She was also the co-presenter for OVCRE staff-member Maria Kiesha Yvet P. Mercado's paper presentation entitled, "A Situationer on the Coconut Sugar Industry in SOCKSARGEN Region, Philippines at the Onset of the COVID-19 Pandemic: A Case Study".

"This pandemic has made the world even smaller for researchers to gather and share information." These are the words imparted by Prof. Ko Jonghwan of Pukyong National University, Busan, South Korea in his closing remarks at the end of the third day of the conference. Also, Professor Soon Hwan Jeon (IAGBT Chairman/KITRI President and Professor of Joongbu University) delivered his closing remarks and thanked everyone for their active participation. Professor Alisher Tuychiyev (Vice-Rector for Academic Affairs, Tashkent Institute of Finance, Uzbekistan) also delivered his congratulatory address, after which Mr. Evann Keith Tabasa sang for the group to end everything on a positive note.



Dr. Keno Jay M. Balogbog presents his research in the 24th IAGBT-KITRI Biannual Conference and Research Symposium on December 14-15, 2020.





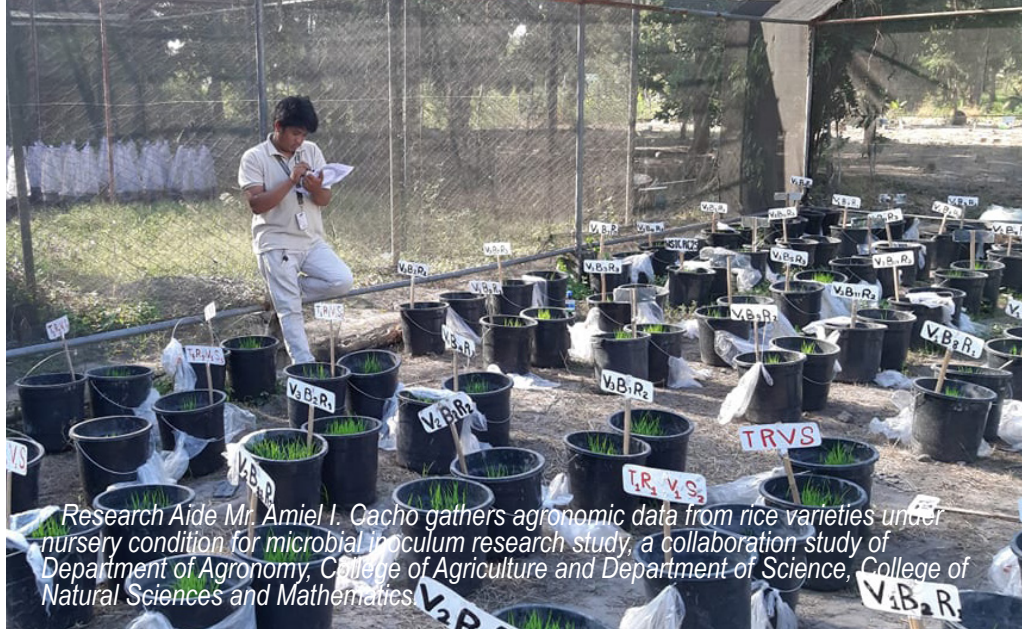
# NSM and Agriculture researchers present in Minadanao-wide webinar series in Omics Research

■ Edward R. Lapong, PhD

October 9, 2020 – The Philippine Genome Center - the University of the Philippines Mindanao kicks off the first of its month-long webinar series, “Mindanao-wide Webinar on Omics Research,” which focuses on major themes such as agriculture, food, health, and diagnostic research, with the theme, “Moving Past Pandemics: Omics in Agriculture.”

Hosted by the Philippine Genome Center UP Min (PGC-UPMin), the webinar, with focus on the use of omics research in agricultural development, details, progress, and examples of omics research in both crop breeding and production especially sustainable microbiome engineering amidst the challenges of the current COVID-19 pandemic.

Dr. Lynn Esther Rallos, Chairperson of the Department of Science of CNSM, is one of the webinar’s guest speakers. She outlined some of the uses of omics research in banana through her ongoing collaborative study with the MSU-GSC College of Agriculture - regarding the use of plant microbiomes to answer the challenges in the current sustainable rice



Research Aide Mr. Amiel I. Ocho gathers agronomic data from rice varieties under nursery condition for microbial inoculum research study, a collaboration study of Department of Agronomy, College of Agriculture and Department of Science, College of Natural Sciences and Mathematics.

production in SOCKSARGEN.

Dr. Rallos, in partnership with Prof. Joy Padilla and Prof. Renaldy Tupas of the Department of Agronomy (COA) and Dr. Remedios Flamiano of the Department of Science (CNSM) and the Program Head of the project, were able to investigate the potential use of plant microbiome for rice crop protection.

The program is composed of four projects and dealt more accurately with PGPR, Lignocellulolytic activity, and molecular identification of microorganisms (Drs. Flamiano and Dr. Rallos). Another study (by Profs. Mercado and Tupas) is the biological control of the known plant pathogen *Xanthomonas oryzae* pv. *oryzae* (the causative agent of Rice Bacterial Blight or BLB) and the important pest *Sconitophara coarctata* Fabricius (commonly known as Rice Black Bug or RCB) - using antagonistic bacterial microorganisms isolated from

rice rhizosphere and entomopathogenic fungal microorganisms isolated from black bug cadavers, respectively.

The team has been partially successful in identifying promising microorganisms that offer potential control for the prevalently harmful pathogen and pest, and shall soon be confirming their potential in more rigid trials, hopefully through which, the helpful microorganisms will aptly demonstrate their antagonistic capacity and further, agricultural production through sustainable and cost-effective means.

The team's successful application of microbiome engineering in rice crop protection puts into focus one of the practical applications of omics research as outlined in the webinar, proving that omics research is transdisciplinary, and is increasingly becoming useful not only in matters of health and food safety but also in Agricultural production technology.

## MSU-GSC to award up to Php 50,000 research incentives

■ Irene Lara M. Abad

Fifteen (15) members of the Research and Development Council (RDC) participated in a meeting to craft new policies and guidelines to grant up to Php 50,000 research incentives to faculty's research publications and presentations last January 18, 2021 at the Conference Room, Y-Building, Mindanao State University, General Santos City.

Researchers applying for cash incentive starting 2019 will receive Php 50,000 for ISI journals; Php 10,000 for Non-ISI journals and Asia-Pacific Journal of Science, Mathematics and Engineering articles; Php 10,000 for local publication in MSU-GSC journals (JEEAR and JHRS); Php 40,000 and Php 50,000 for authorship of a book with a national and international circulation respectively; and Php 10,000 and Php 20,000 for authorship of a chapter in a book with national and international circulation, respectively.

Committee members discussed

and created new regulations to be incorporated onto the existing publication and presentation incentive guidelines approved last January 2019 to address and clarify several issues such as the distribution of incentives for papers with multiple authors and the internal mechanism to identify predatory journals and conferences.

Dr. Edna P. Oconer, Vice Chancellor for Research and Extension (VCRE) and Vice Chairman of the RDC, pointed out that the purpose of the meeting was to make the university more responsive to the accreditation requirements since there is a lack of stringent requirements and guidelines on evaluating research papers worthy of receiving incentives.

The Office of the VCRE continues to accept applications for faculty and researchers who wish to claim monetary incentive for their research publications and presentations.



Vice Chancellor for Research and Extension Dr. Edna P. Oconer leads the meeting of the Research Development Council (RDC) tasked to create policies and guidelines for grants of research incentives.



# MSU General Santos at the Forefront of Research and Extension in Region XII

*2020 status and advances in research and extension gearing towards community development and sustainability.*

■ John Christian D. Entia

The Mindanao State University-General Santos, in pursuit of research and community extension services towards global competitiveness, successfully implemented several research projects to bring the university's name in the national and international scientific research arena.

In recent years, the Office of the Vice Chancellor for Research and Extension headed by Dr. Edna P. Oconer established and improved the research and community extension services into greater heights and employed to advance various programs and projects in the region supported by renowned and reputable funding agencies.

In 2020, the Department of Science and Technology-Philippine Council for Agriculture, Aquatic, and Natural Resources Research and Development (DOST-PCAARRD) approved the ongoing research program entitled, "Reproductive Biological Characterization, Dietary Analysis, and Life-History Patterns of Philippine Tuna Species Towards Genetics Conservation for Sustainable Fishing Industry in Mindanao" with a budget pegged at PhP 57,984,520.00, one of the biggest funded research around the country. The Tuna research program aims to understand and provide crucial biological information on the most commercially exploited neritic and oceanic tuna species, as well as elucidate its feeding habits, migration, and its life history patterns.

This program spearheaded by Dr. Malona V. Alinsug, Dr. Edna P. Oconer, Prof. Ariel T. Ortiz, Prof. Julius V. Mingoc, and Prof. Gaily Jubie S. Hontiveros, promises and pursues to name the university as 'the future leading research university' in relation to tuna fisheries sciences in the Philippines, in consideration to the academe situated at the Tuna Capital of the country.

Two more promising studies in 2020

highlight the field of agricultural sciences with recently implemented research projects entitled, "Corn Farmers Response and Mitigating Measures on Climate Change in South Cotabato," and "Lowland Rice Farming: The Case of South Cotabato." The studies led by Dr. Helen I. Perpetua and Dr. Keno Jay M. Balogbog with budgets of the former at PHP 500,000.00 and the latter at PHP 300,00.00 seek to improve and address corn and rice challenges in South Cotabato.

In the social sciences, a project principally supervised by Dr. Jovanie C. Espesor along with Dr. Jovar G. Pantao and Prof. Najifah Macaraya was implemented in 2020 that will support the conflict-sensitivity development. The project entitled "1-year GFFO Project Supporting Conflict-Sensitive Development Through CSO Capacity Building in BARMM" with an approved funding of PhP 312,400.00 from the NGO Relief International. The project aims to explain the contribution of Relief International in promoting stabilization and socio-economic development at the village-level in post-BOL Bangasamoro.

Further, the university is set to carry out various research, extension, and institutional development projects in 2021 that will be beneficial not only to the research community but also to the region in entirety.







## MSU General Santos takes part in HERDIN Plus Online Learning

■ Gerald G. Lobredo

Faculty researchers, research office staff, ICTO staff, and library staff of MSU General Santos, headed by Vice Chancellor for Research and Extension Dr. Edna P. Oconer, with OIC-Director for Research Dr. Jovanie C. Espesor and Extension Services Assistant Director Dr. Keno Jay M. Balogbog actively participated in the Health Research and Development Information Network (HERDIN) Plus Online Learning held last January 13, 2021 via Zoom Online Conference.

The HERDIN Plus Online Learning, made possible with the assistance of the Department of Science and Technology in Region XII (DOST XII), was implemented by the Philippine National Health Research System (PNHRS) through the DOST – Philippine Council for Health Research and Development (DOST-PCHRD). The activity introduced how the HERDIN Plus, an online health research information management system and collaboration platform, can assist the university in collecting, organizing, and disseminating research information.

During the activity, DOST-PCHRD's HERDIN Plus Team, headed by Ms. Kristine Dominique Zamora, discussed the overview of the HERDIN Plus System and its important features which include free and wider access to Filipiniana research, access to local full-text journal articles, and monitoring of research proposal submissions, among others. The team also presented how to create researcher and institution accounts in HERDIN Plus, method presentation, and data responses in the database.

Dr. Jovanie C. Espesor, also presented the research management process of MSU General Santos to shed light to the PCHRD as to how they can best assist the university with the HERDIN Plus System. The OIC-Director for Research also expressed commitment, in support to the PCHRD, to upload information of published health research articles of the university to the HERDIN Plus System.

In closing, Dr. Balogbog, on behalf of the MSU General Santos, extended gratitude to the DOST-PCHRD and the DOST XII for the opportunity the agencies have provided to the university highlighting that the undertaking is just the beginning of a meaningful partnership between the university and the DOST.

After the activity, the PCHRD will hold the second phase to the online learning called HERDIN Plus Research Camp which will be a workshop on how to directly encode research information to the HERDIN Plus System using the researcher and institutional accounts. The schedule of the said Research Camp is yet to be set.

Ultimately, at the end of the trainings, participating higher education and research and development institutions are expected to consistently contribute their research information to the system.

## MSU General Santos among ten Partner-SUCs chosen by DOST-PCIEERD given access to Science Direct and Scopus

■ Gerald G. Lobredo



MSU General Santos faculty members and researchers can now have free access to Elsevier's ScienceDirect and Scopus until December 2021 according to the Department of Science and Technology – Philippine Council for Industry, Energy, and Emerging Technology Research and Development (DOST-PCIEERD), and Elsevier.

This grant comes with MSU General Santos' commitment to the DOST-PCIEERD to: 1) promote and maximize the use of ScienceDirect and Scopus, 2) increase the number of research proposals submitted to the DOST or PCIEERD for possible funding, and 3) increase the number of publications in Scopus and ISI-indexed journals.

Faculty members can create user profiles in ScienceDirect using their institution email and activate the remote access feature to log in to the database from any device, anywhere. By doing so, faculty members will have unlimited access to more than 4,000 academic journals and 25 million articles across 26 subject areas in ScienceDirect. They will also have access to abstracts from over 5,000 publishers and 76 million research articles in Scopus using the same account.

In addition to free access to ScienceDirect and Scopus, DOST-PCIEERD and Elsevier will conduct workshops among their partner SUCs and institutions, including author writing and how to navigate and maximize the use of ScienceDirect. The workshops are tentatively scheduled in the first quarter up to the third quarter of 2021.





## MSU-GSC conducts Monitoring and Field Evaluation of DOST-PCAARRD Lake Sebu Research Project

■ Gerald G. Lobredo

The internal Technical Working Group created for the DOST funded research entitled “Trophic Status and Aquatic Biodiversity Assessment for Sustainable Upland Freshwater Ecosystems in the Municipality of Lake Sebu, South Cotabato” monitored and evaluated the progress of the 12M-worth project last December 2, 2020 at the Municipality of Lake Sebu, South Cotabato upon the Philippine Council for Agriculture, Aquatic Natural Resources Research and Development (PCAARRD), the agency that monitors the research program, after being restricted by the COVID-19 pandemic.

The TWG which conducted the activity was composed of Vice Chancellor for Research and Extension Dr. Edna P. Oconer, the then Director for Research Dr. Epimaco A. Cabanlit, Jr., OIC – Vice Chancellor for Administration and Finance and concurrent Budget Officer Dir. Sheila J. Loable, Extension Services Assistant Director Dr. Keno Jay M. Balogbog, newly-designated OIC-Director for Research Dr. Jovanie C. Espesor,

Head of Supplies Management Office Ms. Minerva D. Tomado, and Accounting Office staff and designated Project Bookkeeper Mr. Daniel M. Galzote. The group assessed the project’s progress, compliance to the approved work plan and schedule, budget utilization and management, and the status of the project equipment, guided by monitoring and evaluation forms of the funding agency.

Dr. Jaime A. Namocatcat, the Project Leader, presented the sampling results and project accomplishments, and raised problems and concerns experienced by the research team in the implementation of the project. The TWG, in turn, pointed out concerns observed in the project and offered recommendations that would possibly address the issues.

Results of the monitoring and field evaluation activity will be submitted to the PCAARRD for compliance and perusal to serve as basis in decision-making and actions with regard to the implementation and future direction of the program.

## MSU-GSC endeavors faculty research and extension uphill

■ Irene Lara M. Abad

Mindanao State University - General Santos City (MSU-GSC) will conduct four research and extension capability training and seminar-workshops for faculty members of the University this 2021 as the institution looks to enhance the skills of the faculty in conducting and managing their research and extension activities.

Sixty faculty members will undergo Seminar-Workshop on Research Ethics, IACUC, and NCIP and on Policies, Guidelines, and Fast-Tracking of Procurement Processing in February 2021 to enhance their knowledge on the ethical considerations in conducting research which involves human participants.

Forty faculty members will also undergo Training on Technology Commercialization in March 2021 to learn how to innovate,



generate, and commercialize technology from their research results.

Furthermore, sixty-two faculty-researchers will undergo Training Workshop on Quantitative Research Methods and Data Analysis Using Statistical Software: SPSS in April 2021 to help them gain knowledge on how to use various statistical tools in organizing, analyzing, and interpreting quantitative data.

Lastly, sixty faculty members will undergo seminar and training on intellectual property

rights in April 2021 to provide them with legal knowledge, skills, and techniques on how to protect their intellectual property.

Dr. Edna P. Oconer, the Vice-Chancellor for Research and Extension, will supervise the organization of these seminars and trainings which will be funded by Commission on Higher Education under its Institutional Development and Innovation Grant (CHED-IDIG).





# COVID-19 Initiatives

■ Jorgelyn C. Rivera, LPT

MSU-General Santos had been fervently doing and adopting all necessary measures to support the operations against COVID-19 pandemic including mobilization of resources in view of the collaborative efforts, engagements, and initiatives of the government and concerned agencies to render full assistance in addressing the COVID-19 situation. Numerous activities and preventive measures were conducted by the management of the university in order to curtail and eliminate the COVID-19 threat.

## Composition of MSU-GSC COVID-19 Task Force

Through Special Order No. 201-20C, the MSU-GSC COVID-19 Task Force was created to work on necessary precautionary measures to contain and prevent the spread of Corona Virus Disease 2019 (COVID-19). The task force was directed to develop and implement mechanisms and strategies to prevent the emergence and/or contain transmission of the said virus; to continuously provide monitoring and updates for potential occurrence of the COVID-19 in the University and suggest available measures necessary to reduce or stop the threat of transmission; to collaborate with various line agencies, both external and internal parties to attain effective and responsive prevention and control of infectious disease specifically the COVID-19 in the campus; and, to present and achieve timely and effective emergency measures and responses through the collaborative efforts of various stakeholders.

## Conduct of Campus-wide Disinfection

The MSU-GSC COVID-19 Task Force conducted the Campus-Wide Building Disinfection last March 21-22, 2020 (for Fatima Campus) and March 23, 2020 (for MSU-CETD Campus). The initiative was one of mechanisms and strategies implemented by the management with the help of the Medical Services to prevent the emergence and/or contain transmission of the virus that can have substantial public health impact to the University and nearby community.

## Provision of Subsidy to Stranded Students

At least 219 students of MSU-GSC who were stranded in their dormitories and boarding houses due to a series of lockdown and the implementation of the Enhanced Community Quarantine (ECQ) in General Santos City received food packs and cash allowance to help them cope with shortage of basic necessities.

The distribution ran from March 16, 2020 (1st wave), March 30, 2020 (2nd wave), April 1, 2020 (3rd wave), APRIL 08, 2020 (4th wave), April 23, 2020 (5th wave), May 4, 2020 (6th wave), October 22, 2020 (7th

wave). Recipients of rice and cash subsidy included MSU Students from MSU-Fatima Campus, Siguel Campus and Brgy. Fatima, GSC. Some employees of the university were also able to receive rice subsidy at a later date of the distribution. Other sponsors include Congresswoman Shirlyn Bañas-Nogralas, Dr. Precy Regalado, Regalado Family, & some Alumni.

## Sending Stranded Students back to their homes

The management provided the transportation and security assistance to ensure that all stranded students reach home safely. The ever supportive Chancellor and the Technical Working Group for the stranded students worked out for the return of the stranded students. MSU-GSC transport team reached areas as far as South Cotabato, Sultan Kudarat, Cotabato City, Marawi City, Davao Oriental, Bukidnon, and Surigao del Sur.

## Partnership with the Local Government Unit of General Santos City for the Establishment of COVID-19 Testing Facility Center

In line with the declaration of "Level 4 Code Red alert Sub-level 2" by the National Government caused by Corona Virus Disease 2019 (CoVID-19), and pursuant to the Executive Order No. 11 series of 2020 of the Local Government of General Santos



*"Today, we are living amidst the pandemic with the greatest threats in our lifetime to global education but MSU-Gensan is still committed in fulfilling its special mandate that is preserving and promoting the cultural heritage of the region, conserving its natural resources, and integrate good moral character and spiritual values for the young minds while strengthening the major function of the university in instruction, research activities or scientific discoveries, technological innovation and the internationalization of its linkages or global competitiveness. Although we are challenged by the new normal, MSU-GSC never stopped in fulfilling its mission and vision, and continued its effort in providing quality education because truly this University is envisioned to become a globally competitive University in Southern Philippines".*

**- Chancellor Anshari P. Ali, Ph.D.**



provide services to the people and at the same time securing the safety and supporting the already set guidelines of the government.

#### **Online Community Care Center**

The COVID-19 pandemic brought in a number of challenges including ways on safeguarding our mental health. Providing a portal to connect with, "Busting COVID-19 Online Care" was created to answer calls for delivery of counseling online since physical contact is restricted due to risk of contagion of the virus.

While physical and social health are given importance in the fight against COVID-19, it is emphasized that mental health is equally important. In this regard, online care counseling is expected to reach out to as many as those needing help. In the process, clients can be capacitated to overcome this life-threatening and mind-crippling situation we are in at present.

Online service targets students, faculty and staff of the university. Technological affordances were configured so that essential elements governing counseling are present. These elements include privacy, confidentiality and trust to protect and preserve formed alliance between the counselor and the counselee. Online care is expected to help develop meaningful engagements and hope to contribute to efforts in minimizing the negative impact of the disease.

The management is indeed continuously working on relevant measures to support and sustain the conduct of the operations against COVID-19 pandemic. Close monitoring is also done to be updated through various platforms and through constant communication with other concerned agencies.

Prof. Nelson Benares) were in-charge of the production of sensor-based Sanitation Tent that was installed at Dr. Jorge P. Royeca Hospital.

#### **Launching of "Busting COVID-19" Facebook Page**

MSU-General Santos launched its "Busting COVID-19" Facebook page. This page served as online platform for communicating MSU-GSC initiatives, raised awareness on COVID-19 pandemic (e.g. virology and mechanisms for prevention of spread of disease), delivered relevant information, such as pronouncements from line agencies and the local government unit to our target partners and beneficiaries. Busting COVID-19 is the initiative established by faculty and staff of Mindanao State University - Gen. Santos to assist Gen. Santos City Community in preventing, defending, and mitigating the risks associated with the COVID-19 pandemonium.

#### **Online Medical Consultation**

The MSU-GSC Medical Services launched its online medical consultation in order to decrease possibility of exposure to and transmission of COVID-19 to decongest medical facility, a virtual nurse initially assesses the patient and refers the case to the physician. An e-prescription is sent with appropriate home advice. Furthermore, the department also entertains cases that need psychological counselling which is facilitated by the university guidance counselors.

This initiative has been derived from the fact that most medical facility has adopted such mechanism to continuously

City, Dr. JORGE P. ROYECA CITY HOSPITAL

with the coordination of Congresswoman Shirlyn Bañas-Nogales aimed to establish a CoVID-19 TESTING FACILITY CENTER. In order to complete the implementation of this plan, Royeca City Hospital requested to borrow equipment from MSU-General Santos to be transferred to the city hospital immediately to earnestly combat this medical crisis. In response, the good Chancellor ordered the immediate release of the said requested equipment thru Dr. Aplicador with a sealed Memorandum of Agreement.

#### **Production of PPEs, Automated Sanitation Tents, Masks, Face Shields, Alcohol, and Disinfectants**

The management has taken the initiative to produce and distribute bunny suit PPEs, DIY Face Shields, DIY Masks, Hand Sanitizers, Liquid Soap, Disinfectant, and Sanitation Tent (sensor-based) to the local frontliners.

Bunny suit PPEs were produced in partnership with Zard Gates of the House of Philigraphy. DIY Face shields were made by QUAMS Office, Foundation for Peace Education (FPE) Teachers, and MSU-CETD Faculty. The management also partnered with local seamstresses for DIY masks. In addition, Hand Sanitizers, Liquid Soap, and Disinfectant (following FDA and WHO standards) were produced by the faculty and staff from the College of Natural Sciences and Mathematics. The ECE-ME-EE Team (Prof. Cristina Pagalan Dadula, Prof. Danilo Dadula, Prof. Noel Gunay, and





# 1st University-wide Virtual Orientation for 2021 Online Accreditation

■ Rodel A. Mohamad

To keep track of its constitutional mandate to provide quality education, the Mindanao State University – General Santos City (MSU – GSC) through Quality Assurance Management Services Office (QuAMSO) adapted to an online platform in response to the restriction of physical contact. A virtual orientation, in preparation for the Accrediting Agency of Chartered Colleges and Universities in the Philippines (AACCUP) Inc. Online Accreditation Survey Visit, was conducted on the 1st day of October 2020 via Zoom Video Conferencing.

The virtual orientation began with an Opening Address given by Dr. Mishell D. Lawas, the Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs. Dr. Lawas expressed her firm support to the University as it embarks this unique venture of remote accreditation. She further stated that this paradigm shift will surely pave the way for a seamless and efficient means of accreditation system. She urged the attendees to take up the gauntlet to stay on top in ensuring quality education as the University battles on the obstacle which the pandemic brings as well as with the changing times.

The Director of QuAMSO, Dr. Josh Elisha R. Octura, initially discussed the benefits of accreditation. He stated that some foreign universities consult the AACCUP regarding the accreditation status of programs attended by Filipino students seeking admission abroad. He also emphasized that accredited programs would have rational basis for budgetary requests.

The one-day orientation was joined by the College Deans, Program Chairpersons and some faculty and staff of the University. The Internal Accreditors and some of the attendees took part in exchanging significant foresights to deal with the new format of AACCUP accreditation despite the impediments posed by the global pandemic.

The MSU – GSC is taking strategic measures in subjecting seven of its programs, viz (1) Doctor of Philosophy in Educational Management, (2) Bachelor of Secondary Education, (3) Bachelor of Elementary Education, (4) Bachelor of Arts in Filipino, (5) Bachelor of Science in Biology, (6) Bachelor of Science in Mathematics and (7) Bachelor of Science in Information Technology for the AACCUP Level III Online Accreditation Survey Visit.

*Quality Assurance Management Director Dr. Josh Elisha R. Octura leads the accreditation virtual orientation.*

## MSU-Maguindanao benchmarks MSU-GSC Accreditation practices

■ Rodel A. Mohamad

Delegates from Mindanao State University-Maguindanao, led by their newly-installed Chancellor, Dr. Bai Hejira Sinsuat Macalandong - Limbona, conducted Benchmarking Activities at Mindanao State University-General Santos City on January 26, 2021.

The university, headed by the Chancellor, Dr. Anshari P. Ali, together with the Vice-Chancellor for Academic Affairs, Dr. Mishell D. Lawas, the Vice Chancellor for Research and Extension, Dr. Edna P. Oconer, the OIC-Vice Chancellor for Administration and Finance, Prof. Sheila J. Loable, the Director of Quality Assurance Management Services Office, Dr. Josh Elisha R. Octura and the Director of Internal Audit Services, Lorraine M. Dagalangit

warmly accommodated the guests from MSU - Maguindanao.

The said activities were done in accordance with the recommendation from the Accrediting Agency of Chartered Colleges and Universities of the Philippines (AACCUP), Inc. to benchmark on the best practices from other Higher Education Institutions. Moreover, the said activities were also part of their preparation for their Institutional Self-survey to make an internal assessment to determine their programs' readiness for external review.

The MSU - Maguindanao is currently gearing up for AACCUP Accreditation to further secure and strengthen the quality of education it offers in Maguindanao for Bangsamoro's continuing growth for all.



*Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs Dr. Mishell D. Lawas (left) cordially welcomes MSU-Maguindanao Chancellor Dr. Bai Hejira Sinsuat Macalandong-Limbona during the welcome ceremony of the benchmarking delegates.*



# University Internal Accreditors participate in AACCUP virtual seminar

■ Rodel A. Mohamad

To strengthen and deepen knowledge with the online institutional accreditation system as a paradigm shift implemented by the Accrediting Agency of Chartered Colleges and Universities in the Philippines (AACCUP) Inc., a three – day virtual webinar was conducted on 23 – 25 September 2020 via Zoom Video Conferencing. Some University Internal Accreditors, headed by Chancellor Anshari P. Ali, joined a total of more than 300 participants from various State Universities and Colleges (SUCs) in the country.

Participants from the Mindanao State University – General Santos City (MSU – GSC) include the Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs, Dr. Mishell D. Lawas, the Director of Quality Assurance Management Services Office, Dr. Josh Elisha R. Octura, the Director of Information and Communications Technology Office, Prof. Jose T. Trillo II, and the University Internal Accreditors namely Dr. Salome France – Sestina, Dr. Ava Clare Marie O. Robles, Dr. Precy M. Regalado, Dr. Debbie M. Cruspero, Prof. Paul R. Olvis and Dr. Keno Jay M. Balogbog.

During the first day of the webinar series, the AACCUP Executive Director, Dr. Milabel E. Ho discussed the topic on the paradigm shift of institutional accreditation, followed

by the AACCUP President, Dr. Myrna Q. Mallari who covered the topic on the systems and procedures of online institutional accreditation. Dr. Raul F. Muyong and Dr. Anthony M. Penaso presented the institutional accreditation instrument and portfolio and the preparation of institutional accreditation reports, respectively, on the second leg of the webinar series.

Associates from the University have been awarded with Certificate of Completion and they have also been included in the roster of qualified Institutional Accreditors of AACCUP during the culmination of the webinar series. The virtual training was conducted by the AACCUP to prepare SUCs in the country for institutional quality through Institutional Accreditation and foster professional and ethical responsibilities of online accreditors.

Institutional Accreditation is the status granted by the AACCUP to an institution that has met or exceeded established standards for educational quality and excellence. Further, it is the comprehensive evaluation of the institution with an essential set of criteria or identified components of evaluation.



## University Internal Accreditors attend AACCUP Institutional Accreditation System

■ Rodel A. Mohamad

Along with the State Universities and Colleges (SUCs) invited by the Accrediting Agency of Chartered Colleges and Universities in the Philippines (AACCUP) Inc., the internal accreditors of Mindanao State University – General Santos City (MSU – GSC) attended the AACCUP Webinar on Outcomes – Based Quality Assurance and Online Accreditation Orientation on 15 – 18 December 2020 via Zoom Video Conferencing.

The AACCUP Board of Trustees recognized some of the faculty of MSU – GSC during the webinar as they asked Dr. Josh Elisha R. Octura, the Director of Quality Assurance Management Services Office, to present the synthesis on the third leg of the webinar series. They have also requested Dr. Keno Jay M. Balogbog, the Assistant Director of Extension Services Office, to take the floor for his insights on behalf of the SUCs in the whole Mindanao on the culmination day of the said webinar.

Dr. Octura highlighted the importance of

teamwork in the accreditation process and the efficient strategies in the preparation and production of accreditation reports. He also emboldened his fellow accreditors to believe in the concept of quality in unity. On the other hand, Dr. Balogbog stated that he is honored for the efforts exerted by the resource speakers in capacitating them to fully perceive the online accreditation in another lens.

Dr. Milabel E. Ho, Executive Director of AACCUP, discussed the AACCUP outcomes – based accreditation system and online accreditation and the implementation of CHED – sponsored quality assurance in state higher education institutions on the first leg of the webinar series. Various topics were also discussed throughout the course of the virtual seminar – workshop such as the implementation of the CHED – initiated outcomes – based quality assurance system by Dr. Maria Glenda O. De Lara, the rating system by Sultan Kudarat State University President

Rolando F. Hechanova, the decision making and team consultation by Dr. Raul F. Muyong, the strategies in preparing and writing accreditation reports by Caraga State University President Anthony M. Penaso and the professional and ethical responsibilities of online accreditors covered by Dr. Dexter R. Buted.

Participants from MSU – GSC include Vice Chancellor Mishell D. Lawas, Dr. Josh Elisha R. Octura, Dr. Salome France – Sestina, Dr. Ava Clare Marie O. Robles, Dr. Precy M. Regalado, Prof. Paul R. Olvis, Prof. Jose T. Trillo II, Dr. Keno Jay M. Balogbog, Engr. Paisar L. Gadiaware and Dr. Debbie M. Cruspero.

In addition to intensifying accreditors' professional and ethical responsibilities using online accreditation, the virtual seminar – workshop was conducted to explain the accreditation program survey instrument and the program performance profile instrument through online platforms.



# Medical Services holds programs to combat COVID-19

■Usmaima Lily Fatima Usman-Naga, MD

As early as February 2020, the Medical Services Department of the Mindanao State University-General Santos Campus launched several measures and interventions in support of the already existing policies of the government in the fight against the COVID-19 pandemic.

Official visits to the City Health Office were done to acquire official data and relevant protocols in addressing possible Covid cases that may arise in the university community. To reinforce the extensive information drive of the Department of Health and the World Health Organization, the Medical Services Department published and released infographics through the social media platform. Emphasis on several preventive measures such as regular hand washing was also highlighted in the department's official Facebook page. Subsequently, COVID-19 brochures and pamphlets were also distributed among MSU employees, staff, and students.

On March 11, 2020, an extensive discussion regarding Covid19 was presented during the Campus Executive Committee Meeting which eventually led to the creation of MSU GSC Task Force COVID headed by Vice Chancellor for Administration and Finance (VCAF) Edgardo Dazo, JD. The creation of the said task force served as a jumpstart for the Medical Services to launch its Infectious

Control Committee whose task is to recommend guidelines to the Task Force to prevent the potential spread of COVID and to come up with mechanisms in addressing the evolving nature of the disease.

Guidelines and interventions that were established included the three-day Campus-wide building disinfection, MSU GSC Utility Staff orientation on surface disinfection and COVID-19 prevention, and the implementation of COVID-19 precautionary measures such as the provision of footbaths and thermal scanners to both entry and exit points of the University. All scheduled activities of the Medical Services that required assembly of students were also suspended. Emergency purchases of necessary medical equipment and supplies were also done to provide adequate supply, especially to the frontliners.

Services of the MSU infirmary are also extended by launching the Online Medical Consultation. A virtual nurse initially assesses the patients and refers to the physician for the prescription. The online consultation is also an effort to reinforce the Stay at Home policy of the government and to also decongest the various medical facilities in the community. Such initiatives are not only limited to medical



assistance but also mental health issues which are addressed by referring them to the university's Guidance Counselors. The infirmary is also made open even on weekends to cater to patients.

To continuously support the department, several donors provided the staff's Personal Protective Equipment (PPE). Dr. Anderson Villa, together with his doctoral students gladly donated face shields to the Medical staff. Busting COVID-19 Team headed by Dr. Jaime Namocatcat also delivered their donations which consist of face shields, washable masks, rubbing alcohol, hand sanitizers, and disinfectants to the Medical department.

Furthermore, the Medical Services Department, with the support of Chancellor Anshari P. Ali, continues to provide services to the university constituents as the world endures the fight against the pandemic.

## Vice President Robredo donates PPE

■Usmaima Lily Fatima Usman-Naga, MD

The Mindanao State University-General Santos City Medical Services Department headed by Dr. Usmaima F. Usman received Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) donations from the Office of the Vice President Leonora "Leni" Robredo last June 30, 2020 through the initiative of Mr. Mohammad Nazief Naga of the Office of the Vice Chancellor for Research and Extension (OVCRE). The donations included Kn95 masks, gowns, goggles, gloves, shoe covers and head covers.

VP Robredo's Angat Buhay Program is the Vice President's anti-poverty flagship, which aims to offer and provide an avenue

for various private organizations challenges faced by country. Multitude have already been adopted local The said program responding to six rural development, nutrition, universal education, women and housing Chancellor the Mindanao State Santos City Campus endless thanks to

and finds this as another opportunity to reaffirm his commitment in taking part in this fight against this global health crisis. Dr. Ali's leadership has always been integral in initiating various programs in an attempt to help the local government in addressing the pandemic.

Dr. Usman, Medical Services Director, emphasized that the country will only end up victorious if collaborative efforts from different sectors are set in place. Furthermore, the department maintains its stand in upholding its mandate in providing quality health services to the community.

# ANGAT BUHAY

individuals and to alleviate communities in the of partner projects mobilized in different government units. is geared towards advocacy areas: food security and health care, public empowerment resettlement. Anshari P. Ali, of University-General has expressed his the Vice President



# MSU-SHS RCY launches “Radyo Remedyo para sa Bag-ong Balaod”

■Denise Caroline Asturias

The Red Cross Youth Philippines, 20th National Youth Council, and its international partner the Netherland Red Cross initiated a funding opportunity, the YCURE-GRASP (Youth for COVID United Response - Grants for RCY Advocacies and Social Projects). Its main objective is to support the youth's local initiatives to help their communities in these trying times. Chapter Youth Councils, Schools, and Community Red Cross Youth throughout the Philippines were encouraged to brainstorm and apply for the grant to help their communities that are highly affected by the pandemic. Only Fifteen (15) Chapter Youth Councils and twenty (20) RCY School or Community Councils were given the said grants.

Out of all Red Cross Youth Councils in school, community, and 35 Chapter Youth Councils in the Philippines, three (3) projects were granted in General Santos City, including the Chapter Youth Council of GENSAR RCY, Johnny Ang National High School, and Mindanao State University-Senior High School. The MSU-GSC SHS Red Cross Youth Council's project proposal was recognized by YCURE-GRASP during its second wave of application. They brainstormed how to help the community. Since face-to-face classes are not yet allowed, new learning modalities are now being implemented in the new normal. One of these is Radio-based Instruction where students can learn through radio broadcast. Although the said program's trial was found sufficient, not every community in remote areas has its radio unit.

The MSU-SHS Red Cross Youth project entitled “Radyo Remedyo para sa Bag-ong Balaod” aims to support the DepEd's Radyo-Eskwela program. This project intends to provide a safe and accessible way of learning for struggling students to keep up with their studies. At least 30 radio units and 30 flash drives were distributed to the selected public schools in General Santos City's remote areas. The flash drives also contain information to educate residents on the precautionary measures that must be taken to ensure their safety from the virus.

The implementation of the new normal education came without warning. A lot of less fortunate students will undoubtedly be left behind. Not everyone can afford online classes due to the lack of resources. It's a sad reality that many of these students who came from low-income families and areas unreachable by internet connection won't be able to continue to pursue their education in the midst of the pandemic. In the new normal, education must continue, but we must help ensure that no student is left behind.







# STRATEGIC PLANNING WORKSHOP & TEAMBUILDING ACTIVITY



## University Units join in Strategic Planning Workshop

■ Monlouie M. Sorzano, MA

Heads and staff of academic, semi-academic, and non-academic units actively participated in the University Strategic Planning Workshop and Teambuilding Activity held at Isla Jardin del Mar Resort, Gumasa, Sarangani last January 20-22, 2021.

The program started by creating a common understanding of the vision of the university to become a National Peace and Globally-Competitive University in Southern Philippines. The facilitators, led by Prof. Jovar G. Pantao, solicited definitions from the participants that were then consolidated to create an elaborate definition of the university's vision.

The program also set clear the strategic directions of the university in its mandate of providing trained manpower for the development of the Mindanao, Sulu, and Palawan (MinSuPala) region. The strategic directions were crafted by the participants after they were divided into their respective domains (i.e. Office of the Chancellor, Office of the Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs, Office of the Vice Chancellor for Administration and Finance, and Office of the Vice Chancellor for Research and Extension).

Each of the domains generated their own strategic directions as guided by four main goals which are to: (1) Contribute to Peace and Development in Southern Philippines (through Knowledge Production and Extension Services), (2)

Streamline Efficient Process and Resource Management, (3) Promote Inclusivity, Access, and Internationalization, and (4) Enhance Human Resource Development and Welfare.

Various offices were also given the time to present their plans of action in contributing to the university's thrust for excellence in fields of instruction, research, extension, production, and administration. Apart from the university units, both the Faculty Union and the Administrative Staff and Support Services Association (ASSSA) were also invited to communicate their plans for their respective members. The presence of the two associations was momentous as it marked the first of the many strategic planning workshops consolidating their plans as part of the university's mandate of providing quality service to its employees.

The program was not just about strategic planning as teambuilding activities were also conducted to complement the workshop. Various activities engaged the participants in a purposeful and enjoying three-day event.



# GSCCCII cites MSU-Gensan as “a true entrepreneurial hero” amid COVID-19

■ Monlouie M. Sorzano, MA

General Santos City Chamber of Commerce & Industries, Inc. (GSCCCII) recognized MSU-Gensan for its efforts during the COVID-19 pandemic, citing the university as a “true entrepreneurial hero.”

GSCCCII commended the university for displaying kindness and courage in extending help to those affected by the pandemic. Despite the challenges, MSU-Gensan “prevailed to sustain the business, helping employees, the community, and the local economy of General Santos.” This citation is etched on the plaque of recognition given by the agency on December 4, 2020.

The recognition is a testament to the initiatives of the university in alleviating the setbacks experienced by its constituents. To name a few, the university created a Special Task Force directed to work on necessary precautionary measures in combating the threat of the virus within the university. Along with this is the creation of “Busting COVID-19” Facebook page dedicated to online dissemination of necessary updates about the pandemic and the efforts of the university in mitigating the risk of the virus. Furthermore, the Medical Services also launched its online medical consultation in which a virtual nurse is stationed to respond to immediate medical concerns.

At present, MSU-Gensan ensures that the university premises are safe for its stakeholders by following stringent health protocols. Regular disinfections are conducted in offices and facilities to make sure that the university environment is sanitized and prevented from possible contamination of the virus.

The university also provided food packs and cash allowance to stranded students and assisted in shuttling them back to their residences as far as South Cotabato, Sultan Kudarat, Cotabato City, Marawi City, Davao Oriental, Bukidnon, and Surigao del Sur.

In the part of instruction, the university launched its Virtual Learning Environment (VLE) in response to the migration of learning online. The launching of the VLE helped optimize the delivery of learning to its students. Curriculum planning workshops and capability-building trainings were also conducted to capacitate its teachers for online instruction.

The continuous efforts of the university speak truth to the commendation given by GSCCCII and other agencies it partnered with in making sure that its constituents receive the necessary support and assistance they need in the trying times of the pandemic.



## MSU-GSC administers digital Student Orientation

■ John Jay L. Morido

Adapting to the environment of the new normal, the Mindanao State University, General Santos City successfully conducted a Virtual University Orientation last September 14 via Facebook Live.

The online initiative is attended by university officials headed by Chancellor Dr. Anshari P. Ali. In terms of online trending, the virtual orientation reached 65,000 FB users, 4.9K live viewers, and 45,000 views. The support from the students, parents, faculty, and staff in the online world is manifested in the online stats, as well as in the number of comments and shares.

The event was spearheaded by the Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs, Dr. Mishell D. Lawas, and Acting Vice Chancellor for Administration and Finance, Prof. Sheila J. Loable, directed by Ms. Alma Celesthia Aguja, Cultural Affairs Director, and hosted by Mr. Norman Ralph Isla, Mr. Ricky Bustos, and Ms. Jasmin Saricala. Ms. Ayna Vor Aguja, Mr. Rodel Pareñas, Mr. Raydan Tangwayan, Mr. Khalil Ambalong, and Prof. Jose Trillo II formed part of the technical team.

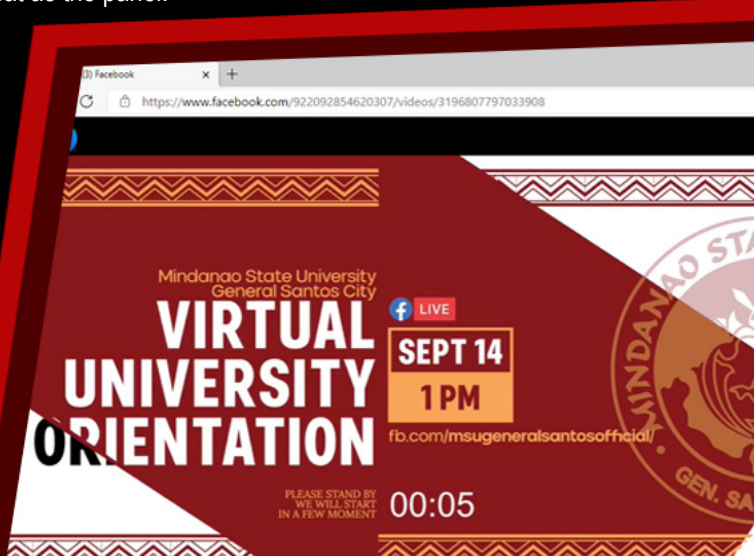
The virtual orientation was divided into two: Part 1 includes the University vision, mission, goals, and objectives, Introduction

of key officials and heads of offices, as well as inspiring messages from the VCAA and the Chancellor, and Part 2 contains the orientation wherein key university officials answered the queries of the student viewers. Campus Registrar Prof. Tessa Castillo, Campus Librarian Ms. Betty Celda, Office of Student Affairs Director Engr. Paisar Gadiaware, ICTO Director Prof. Jose Trillo II, and Ms. Elvie Pasicolan of the Medical Services Department sat as the panel.

Amidst the challenges that everyone is facing, Chancellor Ali emphasized that “as the university is confronted with the new challenge of coping with the so-called new normal and the education sector, as your Chancellor, I am giving you the assurance that the administration is exerting efforts of resolving any

problem and obstacles that we might encounter in adapting a virtual and asynchronous teaching and learning modalities to deliver academic lectures and assessments to our students.”

The online world has been one of the best ways in coping with the problems posed by the pandemic, especially, in the field of education. The Mindanao State University is doing its best in making solutions for the welfare of the students and its stakeholders.





MINDANAO STATE UNIVERSITY-GENERAL SANTOS

# THANKSGIVING

C E L E B R A T I O N





# University constituents celebrate Year-end Milestones

■ Jasmin P. Saricala

While nothing can entirely replace the face-to-face experience, MSU-General Santos finds all sorts of ways to connect and celebrate its Year-End Thanksgiving Party on December 16, 2020.

Faculty and staff of the University join the celebration of the Year-End Thanksgiving Party via Zoom in their respective offices. The dynamic Vice Chancellor for Academic affairs, Dr. Mishell D. Lawas, opens the program and welcomes everyone in attendance. To make the program fun and lively, various offices, departments and colleges showcased their virtual presentations. The overall performances demonstrate the versatility of all the employees.

Along with the year-end event is the celebration of the second year in office of Dr. Anshari P. Ali as the elected Chancellor of MSU-General Santos. Chancellor Ali presented the year-end milestones and challenges of his administration amidst the challenges brought about by the new normal.

"Indeed, leading this one of the top-performing universities in the country to become a center of development and excellence during pandemic is a great challenge. However, the challenge of the new normal did not stop our University from fulfilling its mission of providing quality education along with its journey towards realization of its vision to become a globally competitive and National Peace University in Southern Philippines", Chancellor Ali said.

The virtual gathering is the celebration of public service of each employee to the University, despite the COVID-19 pandemic. Because of that, Chancellor Ali emphasized in his speech how the administration is accountable to its people. He even said, "we gathered in this end of the year celebration of our public service to the University despite the COVID-19 pandemic which is indeed scaring everyone. That is the very reason of our carefulness in dealing with our celebration by following certain protocols and social distancing guidelines as we are concerned of your happiness and protection from the pandemic aside from our wish to grant you whatever privilege to be allowed by law as long as within the financial capabilities of the University".

To recognize its employees, the University awarded some loyal employees which became the highlight, and perhaps the most poignant and cheered part of the celebration. MSU-General Santos honored employees who had been serving the university for 25-40 years.

## Employees serving the university for 35 years are the following:

### Those who served for 25 years are the following:

Amanoddin, Agakhan J.  
Bergante, Harold P.  
Casas, Prescilyn B.  
Dadula, Danilo P.  
Doblon, Mario T.  
Dorado, Rodulfo Jr. L.  
Llorente, Rita M.  
Macatibol, Joybeth N.  
Manriquez, Crisente B.  
Pachio, Dalancio V.  
Perpetua, Helen I.  
Villagantol, Reynaldo T.

Barbero, Eliseus B.  
Bogador, Juliet B.  
Buhian, Marine O.  
Campos, Raquel M.  
Canacan, Nurleila G.  
Dindang, Cheryl D.  
Espinosa, Haydee A.  
Macabodbod, Roger T.  
Mnaimog, Edmundo T.  
Sombero, Ronald P.  
Telen, Elpedio D.

**In addition, the University never forgets to acknowledge the service all the retirees for the year 2020. These retirees served the university for more than half of their lives. These are the following:**

Romero, Maria Imelda R.  
*42 years in service*  
Punla, Maria Amelia R.  
*41 years in service*  
Abiera, Mary Lynn S.  
*40 years in service*  
Galagala, Maria  
*40 years in service*  
Escolano, Edwin B.  
*39 years in service*  
Labajo, Salvador V.  
*39 years in service*  
Loable, Paterno S.  
*38 years in service*  
Antonio, Alfonso H.  
*38 years in service*  
Narvaez, Romeo F.  
*36 years in service*  
Morta, Amelita D.  
*35 years in service*  
Caliza, Pablo I.  
*34 years in service*  
Labado, Samuel D.  
*33 years in service*  
Casiple, Karen Mae B.  
*33 years in service*  
Marohombsar, Franklin K.  
*32 years in service*  
Dazo, Edgardo A.  
*28 years in service*

## Employees serving the university for 40 years are the following:

Anab, Norhata A.  
Bernas, Maria Bai A.  
Bodegas, Nimfa L.  
Castillo, Tera R.  
Decenillia, Hilarion A.  
Diaz, Janet J.  
Santander, Salvacion B.

## Employees serving the university for 30 years are the following:

Aniñon, Clotilde P.  
Banayag, Joan T.  
Bidad, Wilfred D.  
Cheeke, Jinny L.  
Delos Santos, Annabelle M.  
Flamiano, Remedios S.  
Kusain Mikhail Ting M.  
Mercado, Joy P.  
Mohamad, Zacaria S.  
Mosaid, Mando P.  
Musaid, Milo L.  
Oprel, Pedro B.  
Reyes, Lolymar J.  
Sinobago, Imelda C.  
Tablo, Diomedes L.  
Tuya, Mohalidin M.  
Zapico, Florence L.

## The University also recognized outstanding utility personnel who have done exemplary performance in their assigned area. These are:

Acido, Amelia  
(Library)  
Benigay, Ronald  
(Boys Dorm Annex)  
Estrada, John  
(Centennial Lane/ Front gate)  
Kudanding, Talib  
(College of BA&A)  
Mamasarogan, Mamao  
(Ground maintenance & cleanliness)  
Sangaban, Evelyn  
(College of Law)  
Vilches, Avelino  
(College of Engineering)

Generally, the celebration ended with a success. All employees enjoyed their lunch and gift packs in their respective offices. The Vice Chancellor for Research and Extension, Dr. Edna P. Oconer, reminds everyone in her closing remarks to be positive, not with the virus but be positive in life. Dr. Oconer encouraged everyone to be hopeful and optimistic that something positive awaits us in the coming years.



MINDANAO STATE UNIVERSITY- GENERAL SANTOS  
JOINS ALL THE CONSTITUENT CAMPUSES  
IN CELEBRATING THE

# 59<sup>TH</sup> FOUNDATION ANNIVERSARY

OF THE MINDANAO STATE UNIVERSITY SYSTEM ON THIS 1ST DAY OF SEPTEMBER 2020 WITH THE THEME:

## Mindanao State University turns 59, celebrates Online

■ Raydan M. Tangwayan, LPT

Amid the restrictions caused by the COVID-19 pandemic, Mindanao State University System's 59th Foundation Anniversary was celebrated virtually via Facebook Live on September 1, 2020.

With the theme, "MSU at 59: Relentlessly Forging Ahead in the New Normal to Blaze New Paths for Quality Education", the event commenced with the University Chancellor, Dr. Anshari P. Ali's message. He shared the history of MSU System and its mandate of uplifting the living conditions of the Indigenous Peoples and Moros in Mindanao.

He also emphasized the role played by MSU as a catalyst for societal change in order to attain peace and social justice.

There were thousands of online participants who enjoyed the activities prepared by the committee. Hying up the virtual crowd were hosts Prof. Norman Ralph Isla and Former Student Regent Jasmin Saricala. Prizes were also given to several winners who answered the Trivia Questions for the purpose of refreshing MSUans of the university's history.

The online celebration is no less than successful as it reached 66,000

audiences, 7,600 comments and around a thousand shares with the official hashtag #MSUShinesAtFiftyNine.

The event is organized and made possible by the working committees: Office of the Vice Chancellor for Administration and Finance headed by Prof. Shiela J. Loable, Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs headed by Dr. Mishell D. Lawas, and the Campus Secretary, Prof. Jorgelyn C. Rivera. Ms. Alma Celesthia D. Aguja, Director of the Cultural Affairs Office, directed the event and Ms. Ayna Vor D. Aguja led the technical preparations.

## MSU-GSC tunes online, celebrates 47 years

■ Engr. Algem Cris B. Crusis

### "MSU General Santos triumphs through the test of times."

Remembering its 47 years, Mindanao State University, General Santos had its Founding Anniversary Online Celebration through Facebook Live last October 10, 2020.

Aired at exactly 2:00 PM, the celebration kicked off with a throwback montage of the birth of the vision of MSU- Gensan, as well as its spreading of wings through its milestones. Mrs. Thelma Dacera, one of its founding members, graced the said event with her storytelling of MSU's conception, and shared and advised, "my dear MSU students and to all... help to improve and not to further mess the present and the future by being lazy, ignorant, entitled, and disrespectful towards authorities. Do your part in making our society better because the next generation is

counting on you."

Mr. Ildefonso Loable, the former Campus Registrar, brought back memories in the segment MSU NOON: BALIK TAMBLER. Greetings from the alumni and performances from different colleges, Kabpapagariya Ensemble and Arya Band, and online fun games added color to the program.

As MSU Gensan soars high, Chancellor Dr. Anshari P. Ali gave his greetings to the 47 years of MSU by highlighting the achievements of the University amidst the pandemic, such as the establishment of international relations and linkages in several academic institutions in Southeast Asia and the Middle East, the approved multi-million projects for the construction of facilities,

and the continuing research activities of the University from different stakeholders.

The successful event was through the initiative of the administration and directed by Ms. Alma Celesthia Aguja. Prof. Norman Ralph Isla, Mr. Monlouie Sorzano, and Ms. Karla Sechong-Torcelino were the hosts plus students, Ryan Padernilla and Mark Saruda. Ms. Ayna Vor Aguja, headed the technical team together with the ICTO Director, Prof. Jose Trillo II and his staff. Dr. Jovanie Camacho Espesor headed the promotion and mobilization and Ms. Toni Abiera, Mr. Rodel Pareñas, Mr. John Jay Morido, Mr. Raydan Tangwayan, Mr. Halim Tabi Jr., Mr. Mamerto Herrera III and Ms. Arianne Mejia were part of the production team.







• NORMAN RALPH ISLA'S

# PANDEMONYO

## Isla, KE, BIDA highlight IP in National Theater Fest

■ John Jay L. Morido

The Mindanao State University- General Santos' Kabapagariya Ensemble and Basic Institute for Dramatic Arts (BIDA) Gensan represent Mindanao in the 14th Tanghal National Theater Festival highlighting Norman Ralph Isla's "Pandemonyo", an Indigenous People (IP) play during the pandemic, through Facebook live streaming last October 11-25.

MSU General Santos is one of the six representatives coming from Mindanao alongside Teatro Dasuliman of the Jose Rizal State University of Dapitan City, University Theater Guild of Western Mindanao State University of Zamboanga City, Teatro Guindogan of La Salle University of Ozamis City, Liceo Office of Cultural Affairs of Liceo de Cagayan University of Cagayan de Oro City, and Teatro Pawan of Central Mindanao College of Kidapawan City.

The said festival is a project of the National Commission for Culture and the Arts – Committee on Dramatic Arts (NCCA-CDA) in partnership with LUSONG – Luzon Arts and Culture Network Inc., and Artist Inc. converging all the theater practitioners in the country representing the sub-regions of Luzon, Visayas and Mindanao and National Capital Region (NCR).

The play was starred by the Cultural Affairs

staff Mr. Raydan Tangwayan and Halim Tabi Jr., and student Mr. Karl Cedric Fredeluces. Superstar, Nora Aunor, and Nanding Josef also performed in the said event together with the prominent theater artists of this generation all over the country.

"Pandemonyo" highlighted the life of Abet, a desperate young Manobo who breaks into a hospital to get his father's cadaver. While trying to recover everything, he was caught in a predicament by the doctor and later called a demon for help. With the playwright's mentor Professor Romeo Narvaez, the said theatrical collaboration is an amalgamation of wry humor against the traditional lighting and minimalist set design. With rituals, chants, and dances, this short play challenges the battling concepts of

culture versus science.

In response to positive reviews, Isla answered during the talkback that, "it was ingrained in my stay in MSU that I learned how to value and appreciate the Muslims and Indigenous Peoples, and with our university mission to help improve the lives of these amazing individuals, I mostly portrayed them in my plays. In "Pandemonyo", we use the power of theater to magnify the situation of the IPs, especially in times of pandemic. I thank MSU, KE, and BIDA for the opportunity, support, and inspiration."

**"Buhay  
ang  
Sining"**



## Gensan LGU awards Special Citation to MSU-GSC

■ Jorgelyn C. Rivera, LPT

The City Council of General Santos passed Resolution No. 673, S. 2020, "RESOLUTION EXPRESSING APPRECIATION AND COMMENDATION TO MINDANAO STATE UNIVERSITY-GENERAL SANTOS CITY (MSU-GSC), FOR DEMONSTRATING ITS BEST PRACTICES AT THE ACADEME AND ITS CONTRIBUTION TO THE CITY GOVERNMENT OF GENERAL SANTOS IN THE FIGHT AGAINST COVID-19 PANDEMIC" on a motion carried out by City Councilor Richard L. Atendido for joint sponsorship, duly seconded by City Councilors Lourdes F. Casabuena, Shandee Theresa O. Lido-Pestaño, Jonathan T. Blando, Jose Orlando R. Acharon, and Lucio D. Cawayan, Sr., during the 19th Sangguniang Panlungsod, City of General Santos on its 60th Regular Session held on December 9, 2020.

The said resolution puts emphasis on how the administration of MSU-General Santos prepared the academe from the appalling consequences of the deadly virus. Besides, the university was able to extend its knowledge and expertise to the City Government through various initiatives which benefited various LGUs such as LGU General Santos, LGU Malungon, and other barangays in the city including Dr. Jorge P. Royeca City Hospital.



# Kalilangan Festival 2020 goes Online

■Raydan M. Tangwayan,LPT

February 1, 2020, General Santos City – Kalilangan Festival 2020, the carrier event of the 81st Foundation Anniversary of the City of General Santos, shifted online with 40 culturally significant events set for the whole month of February.

Kalilangan Secretariat transformed the festivities online in response to the restrictions posed by the COVID-19 pandemic and in view of the directive from the Department of Health ordering the suspension of public gatherings.

As a protective measure, the Local Government Unit of General Santos City, through its Local Chief Ronnel C. Rivera suspended the entire crowd-drawing activities of the Kalilangan Festival. The Festival Director, Councilor Shandee Lido-Pestaño; Assistant Festival Director, VCAA Dr. Mishell Lawas; and the Festival Manager, Cultural Affairs Director Ms. Alma Celesthia D. Aguja and other LGU officials met and discussed matters in response to the directive.

The Kalilangan Secretariat went for the safer alternative and entrusted a Social Media team for the festival's shift to virtual activities. Headed by Mr. Louie Pacardo of Nomadik Media Company, the team pitched for the "Online Pakwela". It involved

the Daily Online Trivia, Daily Selfie Challenge, Music Video Contest (through Tiktok) and Photography Contest giving the Generals a chance to win cash prize and merchandise.

Moreover, significant spots in GenSan like the fish port, transport terminal and airport were also visited, bringing the Sumpay Challenge and Public Trivia Pakulo. Even with the limited number of people allowed to participate, the Secretariat tried their best to ignite the people's festival spirit.

The highlight of the online activities was the four-day Program launched in Facebook – the "KURO-KULTURA: Kalilangan Live!". Kuro-Kultura is a talkshow fused with a variety of games and presentations. As for the talks, it has four different topics namely; General Santos' History, Tourism Development and the City's International Engagements, Talks on Culture and Tradition and the Showcase of Local Talents.

February 7 marked the last day of the Festival. The Generals, led by the City

Government of General Santos, the Descendants of the late General Paulino Santos and the Pioneers of General Santos, the Department of Education, Business Sectors, Indigenous Peoples, Officials of the Mindanao State University and other stakeholders joined the Wreath Laying Ceremony at the Plaza Heneral. A 21-gun salute was rendered by the Philippine Army, in honor and respect to the Founder and the Father of the City, the late General Paulino Santos.



# Solon, Sarangani commend MSU – GSC, IPDM, 2 faculty during Mindanao Week of Peace

■John Jay L. Morido

Sarangani Province, with the Office of the Governor, Steve Chiongbian Solon, commended the Mindanao State University-General Santos in the annual Mindanao Week of Peace last November 26-December 2, 2020. The university's Institute of Peace and Development in Mindanao (IPDM) headed by Dr. Jovar Pantao and the two faculty members from the English Department, Prof. Norman Ralph Isla and Prof. Russtum Pelima were awarded for their respective contributions to the success of the event.

Prof. Isla was appreciated for being the Festival Director of the Kilos Kalinaw Virtual Plays at the 33rd

Season and Festival of Dramatic Arts. This event combined peace and arts by presenting four original plays written by young playwrights in the region from Basic Institute for Dramatic Arts (BIDA) Gensan: Isla's "PanDasal" on interfaith dialogue, Morido's "Ang Bigkas ng Pagkakabigkis" on violent extremism, Paid's "Tunglo" on healing and reconciliation and Umadhay's "Mga Tala sa Lupa" on peace and conflict.

In a documentary film, Prof. Pelima was recognized for directing and writing "Arts not Arms" that portrayed the stories of

Mindanaoans as creative artists and highly skilled artisans who continue to promote their respective cultural roots and the role they play as peace influencers amidst the violence that they had experienced from the past.

The  
M S U -  
I P D M

headed by Director Dr. Jovar Pantao spearheaded the various events together with the Office of Governor Solon, BIDA Gensan, Equal Access International, SOX Messaging Hub, Sulong Kapayapaan - Kalinaw and co-presented by MSU English Department, Senior High School, Cultural Affairs Office and the Kabpapagariya Ensemble.

According to Dr. Pantao, "Mindanao State University has a special mandate to sustain the gains of peace by integrating the cultural communities in Mindanao into the mainstream of the nation's socio-cultural and political life by providing opportunities for quality and relevant education. As a social laboratory for coexistence, the university has to promote peaceful coexistence despite cultural diversity. It has the power to create platforms such as asserting creative assets to educate for peace while preserving the identity and culture of people" on the role of MSU General Santos in terms of arts, policy, and peacebuilding.

Mr. Mohammad Alia'an Abdulatif, MSU PPD Director, received the plaque of appreciation on behalf of MSU General Santos and Chancellor, Dr. Anshari Ali. Also, the Senior High School Department and Kabpapagariya Ensemble accepted the said commendation.



IPDM Director Dr. Jovar G. Pantao (first from left), BIDA-Gensan Founder and Artistic Director Prof. Norman Ralph B. Isla (third from left) receive their plaques of recognition during the Culmination of Mindanao Week of Peace.



# Chancellor Ali unveils Newly Rehabilitated Toilets in University Dormitories

■ Jasmin P. Saricala



The turn-over ceremony of the newly renovated comfort rooms of the Mindanao State University, General Santos dormitories on 4 September 2020 signified the attainment of a dream of the University to provide better services to its students.

Chancellor Anshari P. Ali, together with the Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs, Dr. Mishell D. Lawas, Vice Chancellor for Research and Extension, Dr. Edna P. Oconer, Acting Vice Chancellor for Administration and Finance, Prof. Sheila J. Loable, Director of the Office of the Students Affair, Engr. Paisar L. Gadiaware and Manager of Dormitories Ms. Cheryl D. Dindang led the turn-over ceremony.

The ceremony which started at 09:30 in the morning began with ribbon cutting and photo opportunity for University officials, faculty and staff. Soon after, the Chancellor expressed his delight about the completed renovation of toilets and shower rooms in all dormitories.

"This project is meaningful and truly relevant to the need of the university for convenience and comfort of our students, particularly those residing in

dormitories. This is the first time to have the renovation of the comfort rooms of dormitories since 1981 as I have stayed here in boys' dormitory in 1994. That was almost 40 years ago and that is the reason why I have given priority for the renovation of the dormitory comfort room. This is a manifestation that our administration is very much concerned of the needs of the students," Chancellor Ali said.

The chancellor also reminded everyone in attendance in the event to maintain cleanliness, especially during this time of the COVID-19 pandemic.

**"Do your part in maintaining cleanliness. We need to strengthen our program on cleanliness because that is in line with our fight against the COVID-19 pandemic."**

We need to cooperate with one another in maintaining cleanliness and follow the protocol and guidelines

on COVID-19 prescribed by the IATF and Local Government for protection and safety. Above all we need to ask protection from God to save us from this pandemic," the Chancellor added.

Director of the Students Affair, Engr. Paisar Gadiaware expressed his gratitude to the Chancellor for making the renovation of the dormitory comfort rooms as one of the priority projects of his administration. Engr. Gadiaware believes that having clean comfort rooms is a determinant of one's personality.

Meanwhile, Ms. Dindang, Manager of the university dormitories assured the administration to discipline the dormers in order to preserve the quality and cleanliness not just of the dormitory comfort rooms, but also the entire dormitory environment so that students of the next generation will also enjoy these facilities and amenities of the university.

This renovation project of the dormitory comfort rooms has an approved budget of 4.7 million pesos. The Chancellor announced that the renovation of comfort rooms is just the beginning because the renovation of the four dormitories is now in the pipeline.



# MSU-GSC SHS holds first virtual commencement exercises

■ Jaydee G. Paid, LPT

After the global pandemic forced the institution to defer its commencement ceremonies, the Mindanao State University - General Santos City Senior High School conducted a virtual ceremony to celebrate the Class 2020 and 3rd Commencement Exercises and first-ever virtual graduation last February 10, 2021.

Gwen Anne B. Agorilla, Class Valedictorian, led the 328 Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM) Strand students, 47 Accountancy, Business, and Management (ABM) Strand students, and 59 Humanities and Social Sciences (HUMSS) Strand students, a total of 434 graduates.

In his touching opening remarks, Woodbrey B. Sinamban, Class Salutatorian, iterated the values of humility and excellence, "Although our achievements are remarkable, I truly believe that we merely scratched the surface of our potential. We have grown into intellectuals and strong-spirited individuals, and we

must not stop unless we leave massive footprints in this earth." Then, Prof. Catherina B. Cunanan, MAEd, SHS Directress, presented the graduates and who were confirmed by the University Chancellor, Dr. Anshari P. Ali. Instead of the traditional distribution of diplomas and reception of academic excellence, special, and distinction awards, the students' names and graduation photos were streamed virtually.

In their respective messages, Dr. Mishell D. Lawas, Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs emphasized the value of upholding the University core values: "As you leave the gates of the MSU-GSC Senior High School, always remember to RISE, respect for others, act with integrity, serve people, pursue excellence. Meanwhile, Chancellor Ali shared his approach to success—reliance and divine guidance for destiny in life and leadership, sincerity in upholding duties and responsibilities as a student and as a leader, and strong commitment in achieving dreams in life and ambition to the university.

The ceremony culminated with the participation of selected students in their performance of graduation and community song and Himno ng Pamantasang Mindanao.







# TRAILBLAZERS OF Kabpagpagariya Ensemble

## Baliong, Tangwayan, Tabi champion Mindanao Storytelling Techshop

■ Raydan M. Tangwayan, LPT

The Cultural Affairs Office of MSU-General Santos prides itself on the success of three Kabpagpagariya Ensemble Alumni and at the same time staff: Rochelle Claire P. Baliong (KE Coordinator), Raydan M. Tangwayan (Arya Coordinator) and Halim G. Tabi Jr. (Museum staff) for bagging awards in the "Mindanao Storytelling Techshop: Kwentuhan Na!". The program is organized by the Kambayoka Center for Culture and Arts Development and the MSU Sining Kambayoka Ensemble.

Ms. Baliong bagged the Best Female Performer Award for her story, "Siling", a Blaan folktale; Mr. Tangwayan secured the Best Interpretation Award for his story, "Dakel Bolan" (The Tale of Caburan), a

Manobo legend; and Mr. Tabi Jr. took the Best Male Performer, Best Production Design, Best Storyteller (Runner – Up) and Best Story (Runner – Up) Awards for his story, "Ang Mga Dagkung Tawo", a Sangir legend.

The Techshop was launched on September 6, 2020 and attended by different theater and performing arts group in Mindanao, namely: Teatro Guindegan of De La Salle University-Ozamis City, Cagayan-an Performing Arts of Cagayan de Oro City, Sining Kandilimudan Ensemble of Mindanao State University-Maguindanao, Sining Kambayoka Ensemble of MSU-Marawi City, and MSU-General Santos' Kabpagpagariya Ensemble.

Speakers of the Techshop were Frank G. Rivera, Founding Director of Sining Kambayoka Ensemble and International Storyteller, Richard Dian Villar.

In the awarding ceremony, Kambayoka Center President, General Romeo "Bogs" Magsalos shared a quote from Albert Einstein that "If you want your children to be intelligent, read them fairy tales. If you want them to be more intelligent, read them more fairy tales." He further emphasized that storytelling must stay alive.

Stories of the participants are now available in the Kambayoka Center's Official Youtube Channel.

## Newly Constructed Building houses AMSUA Preschool

■ Andrea V. Campado, PhD

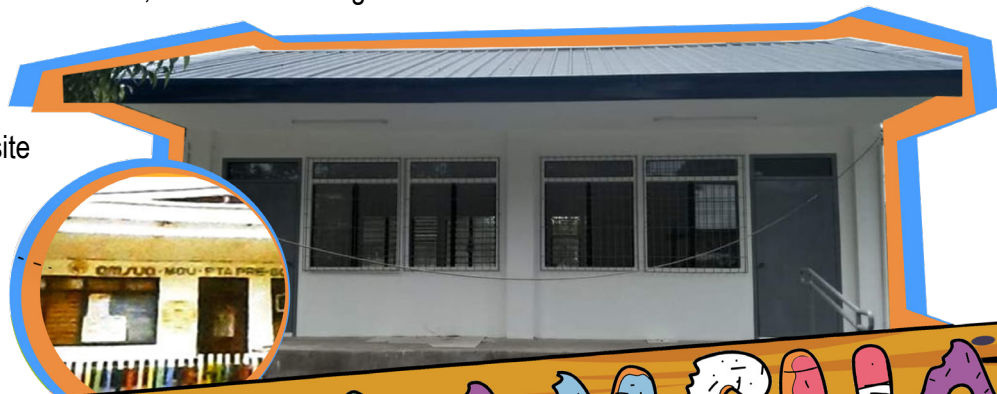
In 1987, there were no Day Care Centers located within the newly established Mindanao State University—Fatima Campus and the neighboring barangays of Fatima and Tambler. Some alumni officers who were MSU employees residing within campus then envisioned providing early education to their children on campus, while they were working and teaching. The classroom was then housed at the left side of the University Gymnasium provided by the first MSU-Gensan Chancellor, the late Engr. Abedin Limpao Osop.

In response to the Department of Education requirement for a building in a site of its own away from the noise of the Gymnasium, a Usufructuary Agreement was signed by MSU – Gensan Chancellor Atty. Abdurrahman T. Canacan and Association of MSU Alumni (AMSUA) Preschool President Flaviano P. Gimongala in 2018 for the use of a 1,000

square meter area within the MSU-Fatima Campus. The agreement was later confirmed by the University Board of Regents. The dream was to construct a two-classroom building, however, AMSUA Preschool can only manage to save for one classroom due to its modest tuition fees. The MSU-Multipurpose Cooperative generously donated Php 250,000.00 to complete the amount needed for the building of a one-classroom facility. By August 2020, a building of its own is

now standing proud.

The MSU community is grateful to all the alumni, post-graduate student donors, and other friends who donated precious amounts to augment the completion of a one-classroom facility, and to the previous Chancellor, Atty. Abdurrahman T. Canacan. Also, they are thankful to the present Chancellor, Dr. Anshari P. Ali who made the construction of the new AMSUA Preschool Building possible after 33 years.





# PAHAM ALIMBUKAD

MINDANAO STATE UNIVERSITY - GENERAL SANTOS

■ Jovanie C. Espesor, PhD

On 9 July 2020, the Mindanao State University, General Santos City confirmed the degrees of 1,026 students from the 7 colleges and school of Graduate Studies. It can be recalled that the MSU System cut short the 2nd semester of the academic 2019-2020 in mid-March due to the complex health emergency posed by the COVID-19 pandemic. The health crisis consequently resulted to a widespread lockdown of all private and public organisations, including the University.

MSU decided to adopt a mass promotion scheme for all its students owing to the premature conclusion of classes.

Although formal graduation rites for the Batch Paham Alimbukad was held in abeyance as mass gathering is prohibited, MSU General Santos conferred various academic distinction awards to excellent and brilliant students. For A.Y. 2019-

2020, eleven graduates are conferred with Latin honors, Cum Laude. Based on the standards of the University, students with grade point average (GPA) of 1.75 or better are deserving to receive Latin honours. For Batch Paham-Alimbukad, Mr. Joris C. Alderite from the Department of History, College of Social Sciences and Humanities garnered the highest GPA of 1.5840. Joining Alderite in the Latin honour circle are:





**For certificate and diploma programmes, with honours are awarded to the following students whose GPA are 1.75 or better. They are,**

**Tirso R. Arnilla** | Diploma in Electrical Technology  
**Arshen M. Acla** | Certificate in Agricultural Science in Agronomy  
**Jane Mae R. Navasquez** | Certificate in Agricultural Science in Agronomy  
**Sandrine Jane T. Piedraverde** | Diploma in Electrical Technology  
**Myca Jane C. Monton** | Certificate in Agricultural Science in Agronomy  
**Jerson V. Eusalina** | Diploma in Electrical Technology  
**Marje Fearl B. Panal** | Certificate in Agricultural Science in Agronomy  
**Hanneza C. Joaquin** | Certificate in Agricultural Science in Animal Science  
**Patricia Mae J. Humbe** | Certificate in Agricultural Science in Agronomy  
**Patricia T. Barroga** | Certificate in Agricultural Science in Agronomy  
**Melvirch M. Tablo** | Certificate in Agricultural Science in Agronomy  
**Tereza B. Famular** | Certificate in Agricultural Science in Animal Science  
**Justine E. Ortiz** | Diploma in Electrical Technology  
**Wennjee C. Wanda** | Diploma in Electrical Technology

**To recognise students who earned sterling accomplishments in various non-academic fields, the following awards are given to the following individuals:**

**University Leadership Award**

Jasmin P. Saricala | Social Sciences and Humanities

**College Leadership Awards**

Myles Bianca Y. Disca and Jenny Rose Navarro | Agriculture  
Rafael Tan | Engineering  
Helemer Potestad | Social Sciences and Humanities

**Distinction Award for Sports**

Vanessa A. Maglente [Volleyball women] | Social Sciences and Humanities  
McLaine Ryuichi M. Espeña [Swimming men] | Engineering

**Distinction Award for Dance**

John Jay Morido | Social Sciences and Humanities

**Distinction Award for Music**

Jasper Jess P. Apiag | Business Administration and Accountancy

**Distinction Award for Visual Arts**

Paula Mari Cia | Social Sciences and Humanities

**Distinction Award for Community Service**

Helemer Potestad | Social Sciences and Humanities

Mindanao State University, General Santos led by its Chancellor, Dr. Anshari P. Ali wishes to congratulate all the graduates of the Batch Paham-Alimbukad, especially those with academic and non-academic distinction awards. These thousands of new graduates are joining the alumni community of the University who are excelling in various fields and industries in many parts of the globe.



# Vice Chancellor Lawas takes oath as IECEP National President

■Rodel A. Mohamad

The Mindanao State University - General Santos City (MSU-GSC) was once again placed in the limelight when the Institute of Electronics Engineers of the Philippines (IECEP), Inc. elected Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs Dr. Mishell D. Lawas as its National President during its 70th Annual General Membership Meeting and Convention, a virtual event dubbed as "e-AGM 2020", held on November 21 - 28, 2020.

Dr. Lawas brought honor to MSU-GSC when she was accorded the mandate to lead one of the biggest professional organizations in the country composed of more than 70,000 licensed electronics and communications engineers from 35 local and 10 foreign chapters.

The Vice Chancellor became the fifth female President with a Professional Electronics Engineer license and a Doctorate degree in Engineering to be elected as National President of the institution since its formation in 1950.

Dr. Lawas served IECEP in several capacities. Back in 2014, she was the Governor of the IECEP - SOCCSKSARGEN Chapter for three

consecutive years. With her dedication to serve her fellow engineers, she became the National Vice President for Education and Student Affairs in 2019. She then ran for Board of Directorship in the recently concluded national election of the IECEP Officers. She swept the board and secured the first spot by garnering majority of the votes.

Dr. Lawas, a full-fledged Professor VI of Electrical and Electronics Engineering Department, took her oath of office as the IECEP National President before Honorable Alan A. Silor, the Undersecretary for Resilient Government Emergency Communications of the Department of Information and Communications Technology (DICT), on January 30, 2021 during the Oath Taking and Turn Over Ceremony of 2021 IECEP National Officers. The said oath taking ceremony was hosted by Engr. Tanya Molaro Osorio, a faculty of MSU-GSC and currently the Governor of the IECEP - SOCCSKSARGEN Chapter

"The road ahead will be challenging, as unpredictability will continue to rule, but with full hearts and steady

hands, with faith in IECEP and its members, and with love for our profession, it is easier for us to achieve our goals & aspirations!", President Lawas said during her acceptance speech.

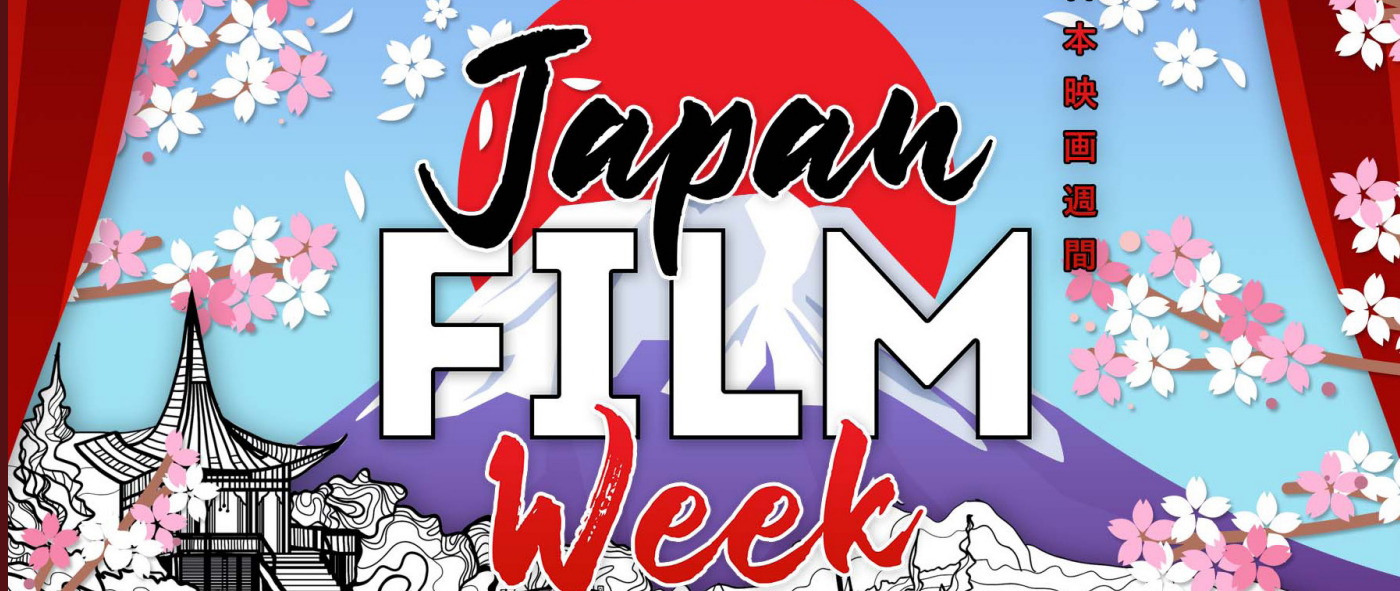
In 2019, Dr. Lawas was awarded as one of the Inspiring Filipina Engineers during the 4th Philippine Technological Council Women Engineers Summit held at the Royce Hotel Clark.

She has also authored several papers published in International Publications and has been conferred with Best Paper Award in a research colloquium in Phuket, Thailand on October 10 - 12, 2017.

Vice Chancellor Lawas is indeed an empowered woman fueled by her passion and enthusiasm for leadership and public service.







## MSU-GSC celebrates 1st Japan Film Week

■ Maria Sofia P. Narvaiza

The 1st Japan Film Week (JFW) in Gensan, brought by the partnership of Mindanao State University-General Santos City and Japan Foundation, Manila (JFM), wrapped up successfully despite significant compromises. JFW Gensan has initially been part of the Kalilangan 2020 festivities but respecting the local DILG and DOH's directive on banning big public gatherings in light of the pandemic, JFW continued as an intimate but still meaningful event.

The event was held in MSU-GSC Library AVR with a rough estimate of around 1,000 audiences attending the two-day free screenings last March 5-6, 2020. The festival featured four top-

grossing Japanese films; Okko's Inn, Tears of Malumpati, Weathering With You, and Dad's Lunch Box.

The MSU-GSC Japan Film Week Committee, in coordination with the Office of International Affairs and the Cultural Affairs Office, saw this event as an opportunity to showcase Japanese films in General Santos City and to encourage viewers in the SOCCSKSARGEN area (Region XII) to participate in future events and activities of Japan Foundation, Manila such as the annual Japanese Film Festival (Eigasai).

Giving the opening speeches during the first day of screenings were Hon. Yoshiaki Miwa, Consul General of Japan in Davao.

Dr. Anderson V. Villa, Director for International Affairs at the Chancellor's Office (MSU-GSC), and Dr. Mario J. Aguja, Sociology Professor and a member of MSU-GSC's Japan Film Week Committee. Showing their support were also Dr. Josh Elisha Octura, QuAMSO Director, Ms. Ayna Vor Aguja, SHS Faculty, and Mr. Roland Samson, JFM Program Officer.

The 1st Japan Film Week Gensan was made possible through the collaborative effort of The Japan Foundation Manila, the Film Development Council of the Philippines (FDCP), and Mindanao State University – General Santos City Office of International Affairs (OIA).

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## About the Cover

A *banig* is a hand-woven mat constituted of individual dyed straws, each beautiful on its own even more when intertwined. Just like weaving, peace is attained through convergence—harmony amid differences. Each network, the university, its constituents, and the society, assumes varying roles in the constant plight for peace. When put together, these collective efforts produce a significant impact in peacebuilding.

With the special mandate of serving and empowering the Moro and the Indigenous Peoples' communities, Mindanao State University-General Santos City has consistently celebrated Mindanaoan culture and arts. It firmly believes that by doing such, the university streamlines its peace initiatives. As it envisions towards becoming a National Peace University, MSU-GSC aims to be a prime mover in promoting the culture of peace in Southern Philippines.

The global pandemic is only one of the many challenges the institution will face in its commitment for development and sustainability. However, just like a sturdy *banig* that withstands the test of time, the MSU-GSC will continue to champion its mission for peace.

