



## More Central Luzon farmers benefit from TSU, DA solar project

Tarlac State University and the Department of Agriculture Regional Field Office III (DA RFO III) turned over around eight integrated solar-power generators and water/irrigation pumps (ISPIS) units to various farmers' associations and cooperatives in Central Luzon on September 29, 2023, at the TSU Main AVR.

TSU and DA RFO III sealed the project through a memorandum of agreement and deed of donation signing with representatives of farmers' groups from San Miguel town in Bulacan, San Antonio town in Nueva Ecija, Magalang town in Pampanga, Mabalacat City in Pampanga, Sta. Ignacia town in Tarlac, barangays Dalayap and Balanti in Tarlac City, and the Bantog Climate Resilient Farmers Association Inc.

The project, funded by DA RFO III amounting to 6.5 million pesos with



a TSU counterpart of 26 percent, aims to address water supply security, agricultural technology innovation, and have a low-cost intervention in farming practices.

Currently on its Phase 3 Technological Demonstration, the project titled "Development, Fabrication and Performance Evaluation of an Integrated Solar Power Generator/Water Irrigation Pump" has produced ISPIS units that

are set to be installed on farms in Tarlac, Pampanga, Nueva Ecija, and Bulacan.

"Alagaan po natin na lalong ma-enhance at mapaganda (ang proyektong ito) upang lalong matulungan ang mga farmers. Angkinin nating atin po ito," TSU President Dr. Arnold E. Velasco said.

Moreover, Pres. Velasco thanked

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## TSU confers degrees for midyear graduates; AB ELS produces lone magna cum laude

■ Mary Joy B. Manalo



Tarlac State University completed its 34th Commencement Exercises for 2023 last September 27, 2023, at the TSU Gymnasium with one magna cum laude from the Bachelor of Arts in English

Language Studies program out of the 287 midyear graduates.

Precious V. Berdolaga, the sole magna cum laude graduate under the

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### More Central Luzon farmers benefit from TSU, DA solar project

■ Mary Joy B. Manalo



the DA for its support and efforts to further the lives of the farmers.

Over the years, TSU has helped communities in Tarlac through solar-powered technologies as a solution to the prevailing oil price hike.

"TSU is not only implementing the project but also extending financial support for the past six years in order to express the desire of TSU to help the countryside, especially in our region. We can make the research and development in technology region-based, world-class, and state-of-the-art innovation in terms of rice production," project leader Prof. Rodel T.

Botio said.

To show their gratitude to TSU and DA, Nambalan Riverside Agriculture Cooperative Chairman Dr. Josie Valdez and Mawaque Dapdap Sta. Maria Irrigators Farmers Association Chairperson shared their testimonies on how the ISPISs boosted their productivity and profitability, which helped their communities as they were few of the many beneficiaries of the project.

Aside from providing water, the pumps also help generate electricity for different households.

DA Chief Science Research Specialist Dr. Irene Adion and Regional

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Director for Research Integrated Laboratory and Regulations Dr. Arthur Dayrit also thanked TSU for their contributions and value in agricultural technological expertise.

Dr. Dayrit also wished for more partnerships with TSU, especially in agriculture, as a result of the successful coordination between the two institutions.

At present, TSU is developing a micro-sprinkler overhead solar power irrigation, a promising technology for San Marcelino town in Zambales, which can be used on vegetables and nurseries.

Furthermore, DA and TSU are planning on upscaling the ISPIS to help more farmers with its Phase 4 implementation or the region-based technology adoption and utilization that will be conducted from 2024-2026.



### 702nd Brigade Commander wishes to strengthen ties with TSU

□ Jazzel Llanelli M. Manabat

BGEN Gulliver L. Señires PA, the 23rd Commander of the 702nd Infantry (Defender) Brigade, 7th Infantry Division, Philippine Army, paid a courtesy visit to Tarlac State University President Dr. Arnold E. Velasco on September 13, 2023, at the Main Campus.

The visit aims to strengthen the relations between TSU and the 702nd Brigade, particularly in enhancing the ROTC Unit and delivering basic and advanced military education among the university's students.

He also underscored the need to make ROTC "exciting," especially now that the ROTC is about to become mandatory among tertiary education institutions.

Moreover, BGEN Señires emphasized that the Ready Reserve Infantry Battalion or military reservists should also be capacitated for ROTC education and to serve the military in its



other needs and functions.

Both parties looked at the possibility of forging a partnership in the future centered on the delivery of relevant lectures and other services that each institution can provide.

Joining the courtesy visit are COL. Leonardo A. Soratos, 302 CDC Director; LTC Romulo R. Dugenia, 202 RRIB Commander; and 2LT Adrian Magtoto, 302 CDC Deputy Director.

### TSU confers degrees for midyear graduates; AB ELS produces lone magna cum laude

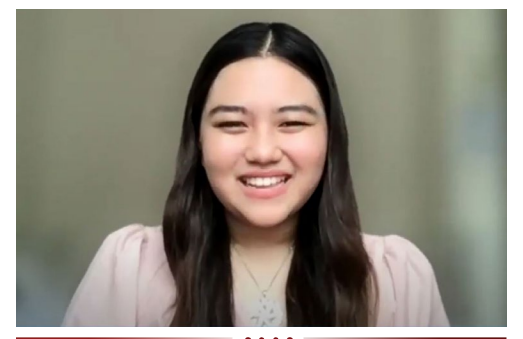
■ Mary Joy B. Manalo

From page 1

College of Arts and Social Sciences (CASS), delivered her valedictory speech via a recorded video, as she is currently studying in a Christian training school in Malaysia since June 2023.

In her message, Berdolaga highlighted the importance of having one's own identity and letting oneself decide for his or her future.

"The choices you will make today will determine your future... As you plan and make decisions for your life, may you always choose to allow God to direct and establish your steps," she said.



Berdolaga represented the university during the 2021 Metro Manila Toastmasters Club (MMTC) - Club Contest Category: International Speech, where she won first place with her six-minute piece titled "The Water I Drank."

She was also a top-five finalist during the 2022 District 75-Philippines International Speech.



Meanwhile, Hon. Christopher Lawrence "Bong" Go, senator of the 18th and 19th Congress of the Philippines, graced the ceremony as the commencement speaker and shared his experiences as a public servant since 1998.

He advised the graduates to love



and serve their fellow citizens.

"Seize the opportunities that come your way, but also create opportunities for others... Be ambassadors of change and models of integrity, and lastly, be the best version of yourselves," Sen. Go added.

To honor the graduates' hard work, Sen. Go distributed grocery packs to all graduates and gave tokens to the three graduates with Latin honors as well

**"The choices you will make today will determine your future... As you plan and make decisions for your life, may you always choose to allow God to direct and establish your steps"**

as to the "class goat."

Aside from Sen. Go, Tarlac Province Governor Susan A. Yap, Tarlac City Mayor Maria Cristina C. Angeles, and Filipino actor Philip Salvador attended the graduation ceremonies.

A total of 62 graduates from various master's and doctoral degree programs received their diplomas, along with 225 graduates from the bachelor's degree programs.

Last September 22, the baccalaureate services were held with a Holy Mass presided over by Rev. Fr. Robert M. Cabrera. This was followed by the ecumenical rites and prayer for the graduates.

The baccalaureate speaker was TSU alumnus Engr. Aser Sunga Mallari, Department of Public Works and Highways Central Office engineer.



## TSU strengthens alliance with National Taipei University for research, academic partnership

■ Mary Joy B. Manalo



Tarlac State University formally sealed a memorandum of understanding and an agreement on exchange with the National Taipei University (NTPU) to promote research collaboration and academic partnership.

Initiated by the Office of University Research and Development, the signing ceremony held on September 12, 2023, via Microsoft Teams, emphasized the two institutions' dedication to enhancing academic and research endeavors.

The partnership focuses on the development of joint academic degree programs and research initiatives, student and faculty exchanges, organization of seminars, conferences, and workshops, exchange of educational materials and publications in fields of interest of both parties, creation of short-term and summer programs, and development of double diploma programs and intensive courses.



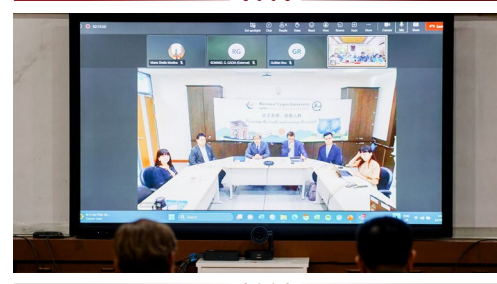
OURD Director Dr. Robert V. Marcos underscored the importance of organizing conferences as part of this alliance.

"This prioritization of collaboration includes a conference which we see as an opportunity for the researchers – for our researchers to comprehensively learn from each other in the hope of coming up with impactful outcomes on people's lives in our common advocacy in advancing the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals," Dr. Marcos said.



Moreover, TSU President Dr. Arnold E. Velasco thanked NTPU and affirmed the university's commitment and purpose to share collaborative research, academic materials, and other activities.

He also pledged to ensure the collaboration's success by combining knowledge and perspectives to enhance the expertise of both institutions



significantly.

"This partnership lets us continue working together for more significant, purposeful, and impactful programs and activities. We can keep making a difference in our communities with the projects and initiatives we intend to undertake jointly," Pres. Velasco added.

Likewise, NTPU President Dr. Chen-Jai Lee also expressed his commitment to providing a venue of opportunity for both institutions. He also wishes for a successful linkage and friendship between TSU and NTPU.

"I am excited about the possibilities that lie ahead and look forward to wonderful opportunities established with (you)," Dr. Lee said.

Vice President of Academic Affairs Dr. Agnes M. Macaraeg shared the same sentiments, noting that this signing ceremony is just the beginning of a long-lasting relationship.

TSU is the second partner university of NTPU, Taiwan's prominent national university, in the Philippines.

The five-year agreement came into fruition following the discussions between TSU and NTPU during the four-day visit of the TSU delegates to several Taiwanese universities from April 23 to 29, 2023. The discussions explored various avenues for collaboration, including short-term courses, faculty exchanges, small-scale research projects, and joint research efforts.



## TSU, Hankuk University of Foreign Studies sign MOU on research

■ Maria Adelaida D. Calayag



Tarlac State University forged a partnership with the Hankuk University of Foreign Studies (HUFHS) Graduate School Department of Global Culture and Contents in South Korea to explore joint research projects and joint international research conferences.

The memorandum of understanding signing was held on September 7, 2023, via Zoom platform.

The MOU, valid for five years, states that both parties seek to invite faculty members and staff to participate in research projects, publications, theses, and the exchange of essays and information in the field of research.



"I would like to learn from the experiences of Tarlac State University, and if possible, with the student exchange, faculty exchange, the joint research and joint lecture to academic research and workshops," Dr. Dae Geun Lim, Graduate School Department of Global Culture and Contents Head Professor, said in his speech.

According to Office of University Research Development Director Dr. Robert V. Marcos, the MOU is historic because this is the first partnership

for research that will focus on global culture and contents. He considers this a step toward strengthening research on international collaborations, especially on culture.

HUFHS delegates are expected to visit the Philippines to join the Multidisciplinary Research Conference in December 2023.

In a message of commitment, TSU President Dr. Arnold E. Velasco assured the Korean partners that the provisions in the MOU would be implemented.

"We commit that we will implement [and] uphold the policies, guidelines, and other conditions set in this memorandum of understanding in order to implement all areas, particularly promoting institutional exchange, facilitating the exchange of academic materials as well as conducting joint international research conferences. We are very thankful [to HUFHS] for considering us, Tarlac State University, in this endeavor," Pres. Velasco said.

Both institutions agreed to work with the concrete contents of research projects and venture into different areas in the future via a separate agreement.



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## David family awards land titles for TSU Lucinda Campus dorm

■ Maria Adelaida D. Calayag



Through the S.G. David Realty & Development Co. Inc. (SGD RDCI), Serafin and Lucinda David's family transferred land titles to Tarlac State University for its future male and female dormitories at the Lucinda Campus on September 12, 2023, held at the Engineering AVR.

The eight certificates of land titles, totaling a 2,592 square meter lot, were awarded to TSU through Mr. Fidel S. Feliciano, SGD RDCI representative. These lots were initially given to TSU via a deed of donation last January 19, 2023, during the 50th anniversary of the Lucinda Campus.

"Yung walong titulo nakapangalan na po sa Tarlac State University. Meron na rin pong tax declaration, naka-register na sa Tarlac City Assessor's Office. Sa ngalan po ng David family, sana po ito ay makapagbigay ng kontribusyon sa mga hangarin at misyon ng Tarlac State University. Ito po ang iaabot ko ngayon sa ating Pangulo na sasaksihan po nating lahat," Feliciano said in a speech, which is a message on behalf of the David family.

The male and female dormitory will soon rise at the Villa Lucinda Subdivision, opposite the TSU Lucinda Campus facade.

"This will be a big help for our students, especially those who are from far-flung places of our province; not only our province but there are also students from nearby provinces. So this will be a big help for the students," TSU President Dr. Arnold E. Velasco said.

He went on to thank the David family for their generosity to TSU.

It was former TSU president Jack Smith's leadership that paved the way for the establishment of the Lucinda Campus, where Mr. Serafin Gomez David, a native of Tarlac, gifted him a ten-hectare land to expand the Tarlac College of Technology (presently known as TSU) on August 29, 1973.

Pres. Smith fondly called it 'Barrio Sampu' because of its ten-hectare land.

The Lucinda Campus, situated between barangays Ungot and Maliwalo, was named after Serafin's wife, Lucinda Carillo David.

In a 2018 news report from the

Office of Public Affairs, Atty. Alipio Vittorio David-Fernandez, Serafin and Lucinda's grandson, shared that Serafin donated the land to TCT in honor of his wife, who was suffering from cancer at that time. Lucinda was also one of the signatories of the said donation.

Atty. Fernandez also noted that Lucinda knew that Serafin was donating the land to support the education needs of the people of Tarlac.

Lucinda Campus houses four colleges (COEd, CCJE, COS, CBA), the



Jose V. Yap Library, the Alumni Center, the TSU Hotel, research and extension offices, the Student Center, the Food Technology and Research Center, some laboratories, the TSU Lagoon, and several areas for sports and recreation.



## TSUFFU, NASA sign CNA with TSU administration

■ Maria Adelaida D. Calayag



Tarlac State University's Federated Faculty Union (TSUFFU), formerly TSU Faculty and Personnel Union, and Non-Academic Staff Association (TSU-NASA) entered a Collective Negotiation Agreement with the university administration on September 22, 2023, at the Main AVR.

Following Republic Act 11695 or the new TSU charter, which establishes the TSU-NASA as an independent body with representation to the Board of Regents, the TSUFFU and TSU-NASA signed separate memoranda of agreement for their respective CNAs starting this year.

According to TSUFFU President

Prof. Douglas Ferrer, the union will ensure the provision of a breastfeeding station among the university's campuses while considering gender-sensitive matters.

He also mentioned that they guided the TSU-NASA to incorporate some of their provisions so the members can enjoy privileges similar to those implemented in other state universities and colleges.

Both groups' CNAs include a free annual flu vaccine from the university.

Moreover, TSUFFU and TSU-NASA members with plantilla will enjoy a 5,000-peso subsidy that can be used for their optical, dermatological, or other medical

needs following a free annual checkup and physical examination to be provided by the university.

Meanwhile, under TSU-NASA, the university shall provide a 5,000-peso internet connectivity assistance for employees on an alternative work arrangement due to COVID-19 and other viral illnesses.

The CNA is a contract negotiated by a legitimate employee organization with a management body on maintaining and regulating terms and conditions for the employees, such as having "just and equitable" working conditions and other benefits.

## SSCSP visits TSU for capacity building invitation

□ Maria Adelaida D. Calayag



The Supreme Student Council Society of the Philippines (SSCSP), a group aimed at fostering student leadership and empowerment, conducted a courtesy visit to Tarlac State University President Dr. Arnold E. Velasco on September 19, 2023, at the Main AVR to invite TSU students for a capacity building.

SSCSP, established in 2019, seeks to raise awareness for peace and

development under their community development and values transformation programs.

According to Daniela Castro, SSCSP national president, their group requests the attendance of four TSU students and their adviser to the launching of their Pampanga and Tarlac chapters, as their 16th and 17th chapters, in November.

The face-to-face gathering will

be held at the Airforce City in Mabalacat, Pampanga, while other students can join via Zoom.

They are expecting 60 participants from 15 senior high school and tertiary education institutions in Tarlac and Pampanga.

For future representations and to

# TSU SOL's golf cup garners 1M donations; SOL faculty members give lectures in international conferences

■ Mary Joy B. Manalo

Tarlac State University's School of Law (SOL), in partnership with the Justice Jose C. Dela Rama Sr. Foundation, collected one million pesos worth of proceeds from the 12th Ang Dekano Cup held on August 18, 2023, at Pradera Verde Golf and Country Club in Prado Siongco, Lubao town in Pampanga.

SOL Dean Dr. Jose I de la Rama Jr. led the activity along with the 140 players of the golf tournament.

This year, TSU SOL hosted the annual golf tournament to benefit the 38 children from Mariveles, Bataan and the abused women residing at the DSWD Tarlac Home for Women.

A feeding program was organized for the children, who also received school supplies from the SOL.

Meanwhile, the Tarlac Home for Women were the chosen recipients of two sewing machines to assist them in their livelihood training. The equipment were turned over on September 6, 2023.

Aside from the turnover, the SOL also delivered a lecture on women empowerment.

### International Contributions

Aimed at bringing together experts from various domains of forensic science to share and discuss the latest developments, Dean de la Rama was invited to be a guest speaker at the 14th International



Photo credits: Dr. Jose I. de la Rama Jr. & IASR

e-Conference on Forensic Science 2023, organized by the International Association of Scientists and Researchers (IASR).

The four-day e-Conference took place from August 24 to 27, 2023, and was attended by various keynote speakers and learners all over the globe.

In 2021, Dean de la Rama published his book "Problem Areas in Positive Identification, Alibi, and The Emerging Role of Forensic Science," exhibiting his expertise at the conference.

Furthermore, Dean de la Rama and selected SOL faculty members served as lecturers in the 2nd Association of Universities of Asia and the Pacific (AUAP) Youth Development Programme

held in Phuket, Thailand, from August 6 to 11, 2023.

During the program, Dean de la Rama engaged in discussions on International Humanitarian Law and Human Rights, while Atty. Salvador Moya II discussed the role of obtaining higher education in alleviating poverty.

The annual AUAP program targets students interested in personal growth within an inclusive environment. It explores how student development can impact global issues.

The first AUAP Youth Development Programme was held in Bangkok and Pattaya in Thailand last November 2022.

# 3 engineering programs undergo 3rd, 4th level survey visits in online accreditation

■ Mary Joy B. Manalo

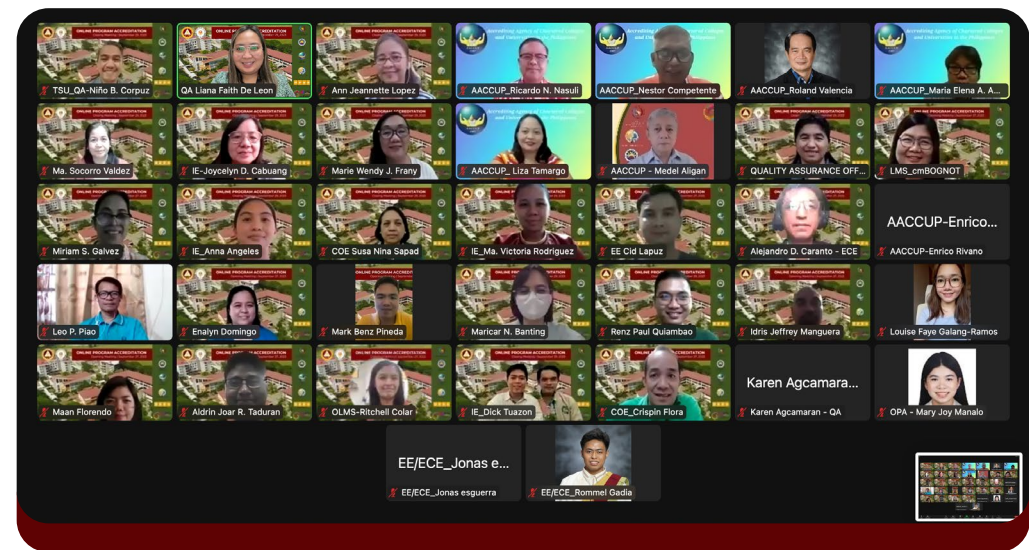
To ensure the delivery of quality education, Tarlac State University's three programs under the College of Engineering (CoE) completed the online program accreditation for Levels III and IV Phase 2 survey visits on September 29, 2023, via Zoom.

The programs assessed by the accreditors from the Accrediting Agency of Chartered Colleges and Universities, Inc. (AACUP) are the Master of Science in Electrical Engineering (MSEE), Bachelor of Science in Electronics Engineering (BSECE), and Bachelor of Science in Industrial Engineering (BSIE).

This is the second batch of engineering programs that underwent the AACUP's levels III and IV accreditation.

Prof. Nestor C. Competente, the overall coordinator from Rizal Technological University (RTU), was impressed by the university's initiative and hands-on preparation for the accreditation process and recognized the administration's efforts to improve its current state.

Furthermore, he shared the recommendations of the accreditors to enhance the programs further.



In response, CoE Dean Dr. Marie Wendy J. Frany and Quality Assurance Director Dr. Niño B. Corpuz committed to adhering to the recommendations of the accreditors for the improvement of their programs.

The third survey visit for MSEE and BSECE evaluated the areas of instruction, research, faculty development, and library, while the BSIE's fourth survey visit assessed the program's research, graduates' performance, community service, international linkages

and consortia, and the planning process.

TSU President Dr. Arnold E. Velasco expressed his gratitude to the accreditors, as well as to Dean Frany and the college's local accreditation task force for their collaborative efforts in ensuring the success of the survey visit.

The Master of Arts in Education major in Filipino and Early Childhood Education programs, both from the College of Education (COEd), also underwent the third survey visit in May 2023.

# SSCSP visits TSU for capacity building invitation

□ Maria Adelaida D. Calayag

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be heard on a national scope, the group targets the Northern and Central Luzon areas to be with leaders from different regions.

They will also provide free leadership training to instill values and make the youth realize their role in the community.

"We want them to be an effective and efficient leader in their respective communities. Siyempre hindi naman kami forever na nasa school. Magiging future leaders sila ng kanya-kanyang komunidad at magiging effective na sila, equipped na



sila ng skills and knowledge bago lumabas ng school. We believe na siyempre nahohone 'yung skills sa universities, but

with the opportunities sa SSCSP, they will become more aware sa mga societal issues," Castro said.

## 14th INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE-2023 FORENSIC SCIENCE

### Meet our Esteemed Speaker



Photo credit: fr IASR

## INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE-2023 FORENSIC SCIENCE

### FORENSIC SCIENCE



Photo credit: fr Deaan Peng Jr.

### Meet our Esteemed Speaker!

Dr. Jose I. Dela Rama Jr. is Professor and Dean at the Tarlac State Unive School of Law. He is also a member of the law faculty of the universi St.Thomas, San Sebastian College - Recoletos, Pamantasan ng Lungso Maynila Graduate School f Law, Bulacan State University, and St. Dor Savio College of Law. He previously served as president of the integrater of Philippines (IBP) Gat. Marcelo H. del Pilar Bulacan Chapter, and Governor representing Central Luzon. He founded the Justice Jose C. Rama Sr. Law Foundation, Inc., in honor of his late father. Through Foundation, he has opened doors for many law students to have access to education through scholarship and other initiatives.

Register Now and learn from the stalwart!

## NHCP, TSU settle plans for historical marker installation

■ Maria Adelaida D. Calayag



National Historical Commission of the Philippines representatives, led by Commissioner Dr. Lino L. Dizon, met with their counterparts from Tarlac State University on September 21, 2023, at the Main AVR to finalize the plans for the installation of the marker pedestal in commemoration of the Philippines' 125th independence and nationhood.

Tarlac, the last revolutionary capital of President Emilio Aguinaldo's Republic in 1899, will be honored with a 1.8-meter marker pedestal set to stand in front of the Main Campus Administration Building.

installation, and the university will decide about the site's landscaping and further beautification.

The NHCP and TSU agreed to unveil the marker on June 21, 2024, which coincides with the 125th anniversary of the Aguinaldo Republic's transfer to Tarlac from Bamban town, per Teodoro M. Kalaw's accounts, as relayed by Comm. Dizon.



Former president Aguinaldo stayed in Casa Real de Tarlac when Tarlac became the revolutionary capital in 1899. This is where Aguinaldo signed significant decrees, like the prohibition of the merchant vessels flying the American flag from territories held by the Philippine Republic, the organization of the Supreme

Court and inferior courts, and the promulgation of the General Orders of the Army.

A historical marker can also be seen at the foremost College of Engineering building from the entrance gate, the Casa Real's original site.



Aside from Comm. Dizon and Engr. Ongkingco, the NHCP was also represented by Ar. Dan Paul Awarayan, history researchers Juvelyn Nierves and Aljon Concillado, and Ronie Plete.

They also visited the Museo Archivo Tarlaqueño, where Comm. Dizon and Prof. Jose Russell S. Arador, Tarlaqueno Studies Head, showed them the old Casa Real de Tarlac photos.



## TSU kicks off 2023 ASEAN week celebration; awards competition winners, co-organizers

■ Mary Joy B. Manalo



Themed "ASEAN Matters: Epicentrum of Growth," Tarlac State University formally opened its 2023 ASEAN Week celebration on September 26, 2023, at the CASS Theater Room, Main Campus.

The first week-long activity spearheaded by the Office of International Affairs and Linkages (OIAL) aims to foster a deeper understanding of the multifaceted cultures, traditions, and histories of Southeast Asian nations.

"Through the ASEAN Week celebration, we impart to our students the significance of international collaboration and cooperation, offering them a valuable lesson in the importance of working together on a global scale," OIAL Director Dr. Maria Vanesa P. Arador said in her welcome remarks.



TSU President Dr. Arnold E. Velasco encouraged the TSU community to participate, display, and foster their sense of belonging to a larger regional community that advocates peace and cooperation.

"Let us take pleasure and contribute to the growth, campus unity, and collaboration within our significant community," Pres. Velasco said.

During the closing program on September 29, the OIAL awarded the winners of ASEAN-themed competitions with certificates and cash prizes, while the selected offices and colleges were also recognized as event implementers.

"Usually, university offices are not spotlighted, but this time around, we want to empower all the different university stakeholders to celebrate our various university events, especially for ASEAN," Mr. Rolien Mark Balisi, OIAL Unit Head for Linkages, said.

Mr. Balisi added that the ASEAN Week will become a recurring event, and the OIAL is looking forward to a bigger and better celebration next year with more substantial participation from students, university offices, and faculty members.

Vice President for Academic Affairs Dr. Agnes M. Macaraeg thanked the OIAL, through a message delivered by Prof. Augusto N. Lulu Jr., Executive Assistant to the VPAA, for their dedication and commitment to fostering international understanding and active participation of the TSU community throughout the ASEAN Week celebration.



"Let us continue to celebrate the richness of diversity and recognize the ASEAN region as the epicenter of growth, not only in terms of economics but also in the wealth of culture and heritage it offers," Prof. Lulu read.

Meanwhile, Dr. Ninez B. Tulo, OIAL Special Programs Unit Head, thanked their office's co-organizers for their efforts, which contributed to the event's success.



## TSU, CDA pioneers CLAP in Central Luzon via MOA

□ Mary Joy B. Manalo



Tarlac State University and the Cooperative Development Authority (CDA) sealed a memorandum of agreement for the implementation of the CDA Laws Awareness Program (CLAP) on September 13, 2023, at the TSU Main AVR.

CLAP is a program established to train law students and practitioners to expand their legal knowledge in cooperative laws and uplift the level of education and quality of life of the cooperatives and their members.

The partnership materialized through the collaborative efforts of CDA and the TSU School of Law headed by SOL Dean Dr. Jose I. Dela Rama Jr.

As the pioneer of CLAP in Central Luzon, the SOL entered the partnership to help the cooperatives in various legal matters by applying knowledge, skills, and values as part of their Clinical Legal Education Program (CLEP).

The implementation of the partnership between the two institutions aims to promote the spirit of "cooperativism" and social justice, enhance law students' learning opportunities by instilling the value of

legal professional social responsibility and prepare them for the practice of law in the cooperative sector, and educate Law Student Practitioners (LSPs) of the SOL Developmental Legal Advocacy Center (DLAC) on the substantive and procedural aspects of the 2019 CDA Charter.

The alliance is also eyed to provide opportunities for the SOL's CLEP to conduct information sessions and training in educating the cooperative's members on their legal rights and render legal services to cooperatives.

Through the agreement, law students will undergo general orientation on the CDA, its mandate, organizational structure, goals, and functions. They will also have a series of training on legal matters involving cooperatives.

Moreover, students will also have the chance to immerse themselves in the CDA to learn its processes and apply their training through legal services.

Deputy Administrator Atty. Leah Banagui-Han, the author of CLAP, expressed her deepest gratitude to TSU for accepting CDA's program.

According to her, around 20 lawyers only practice CDA laws, catering to 18,000 cooperatives.

Likewise, Dean Dela Rama thanked CDA for choosing TSU SOL as the first university to implement CLAP.

"Makakaasa po kayo na sa pamamagitan po ng pag-uumpisa at paglagda ng ating pagkakasunduan ngayong hapon na ito ay mananatili sa aming mga puso at maitatanim namin sa aming mga estudyante ang pagtulong sa komunidad na aming tinuturo sa aming unibersidad," Dean de la Rama said.

CDA Chairman Usec. Joseph B. Encabo also extended his appreciation to the university via a video message for its wholehearted collaboration and dedication to the agreement.

"Together, we will make a profound and true impact on the cooperative sector and in the lives of countless individuals and communities... Let us seize this opportunity to enrich our knowledge, fortify our cooperatives, and contribute to the sustainable development of our beloved country," Usec. Encabo said.

In his message of commitment, TSU President Dr. Arnold E. Velasco



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## TSU's IP Center holds lecture for indigenous culture preservation

■ Howard Aries V. Ronquillo, CPIPRD

To address the current need for cultural engagement and study, Tarlac State University's Center for Peace, Indigenous People's Resources, and Development organized a lecture on using research to preserve indigenous traditions.

Around 50 participants from various colleges and offices attended the CPIPRD's seminar on cultural engagement and research about Indigenous People in Central Luzon on September 22, 2023, at the TSU Hotel, Lucinda Campus.

Dr. Raymundo Rovillos, a history professor from the University of the Philippines Baguio and former UPB chancellor, was the invited resource speaker who exemplified the importance of "respectful" research in preserving indigenous traditions.

Dr. Rovillos' presentation focused on the complexities of cultural engagement with indigenous peoples. He emphasized the challenges researchers and outsiders frequently confront when engaging with these communities, such as trust, respect, and the possibility of exploitation.

Moreover, he underlined the



significance of approaching indigenous cultures with humility, understanding their diverse worldviews, and the value of consent and partnership, noting that "respectful study is not only ethical but also practical in terms of sustaining indigenous customs."

Dr. Rovillos also discussed that researchers and institutions must prioritize long-term relationships with indigenous populations based on mutual respect and benefit, including incorporating

indigenous peoples in the research process, protecting their intellectual property rights, and ensuring that research results are used to benefit the communities.

According to the CPIPRD, this seminar has created the groundwork for significant and long-term efforts to safeguard the cultural heritage of Central Luzon's indigenous groups by addressing the complexities of cultural interaction and highlighting the importance of mutual respect.

## Again, TSU opens its doors to suppliers via hybrid forum

■ Jhenna Micah A. Manankil [BAC Secretariat]



Photo credit: BAC Secretariat

Tarlac State University's Procurement Unit conducted its Annual Suppliers' Forum on September 29, 2023, at the Engineering AVR, Main Campus.

The annual forum, which is open to registered suppliers and contractors, allows direct communication with the suppliers on procurement opportunities

at TSU.

This is part of the university's continuous efforts to enhance relations with local companies.

Fourteen suppliers joined the in-person forum, while 15 attended via Zoom, where they participated and demonstrated their capacity and interest to supply goods, services, and infrastructure works, whether in an alternative mode of procurement or bidding process.

Moreover, the Procurement Unit allowed the attendees to raise their issues and concerns about the procurement process.

Procurement Unit Head Ms. Elena May T. Teofilo led the forum along with the Bids and Awards Committee, technical working groups, and the BAC secretariats.

# EDITORIAL

## Tricycle fare vs. tricycle drivers' welfare



On social media, the successive Facebook postings of the Tarlac City Public Order and Safety Office or POSO featuring tricycle drivers tagged as violators of City Ordinance No. 014-12 garnered mixed reactions from netizens. Some are in favor of finally using the iron fist to discipline the abusive drivers. In contrast, others showed compassion and empathy to the same drivers who will lose a month's worth of income because of the suspension placed as a consequence. How should we put these concerns in equilibrium, knowing that both commuters and drivers are on the losing end because of the changing economic landscape and the needs of the present time?

The said ordinance, issued in 2012, puts a cap on the tricycle fare based on the travel distance and number of passengers – a regulation issued 11 years ago without any amendments. Could this be a shortcoming

from the local lawmakers? After three terms totaling nine years, a topsy-turvy of oil price hikes, and an inflated cost of living, the ordinance remained with seasonal enforcements. Drivers blatantly collect fares higher than what is on the matrix because they have been considering how they could feed their families coupled with the vehicle maintenance and other requirements, putting the burden of paying a higher amount on the ordinary person. If only the councilors reviewed and updated the law, there could be fewer complaints and fewer violators.

Eventually, the implementers are put in a bad light just because they enforce the law. The POSO are crucified for castigating the drivers and attending to the commuters' woes, yet they are just doing their jobs. They are at the forefront of instilling order and discipline in the city, living up to their office's name. However, they are the ones reaping harsh

comments on social media after they made their actions public on social media.

Though the POSO cannot be entirely blamed for this, the same is true for the drivers. The current fare matrix does not correspond to the inflation being experienced by Filipinos today. As they work, the drivers think of their families and contemplate strategies to fulfill their basic needs using their meager income, especially if they follow the ordinance. But realistically, this does not excuse them from following the set rules. At the end of the day, they still lose the battle as they surrender their franchise for a month.

The citizens cannot be blamed in this case, as well. They only want to ensure they get what they deserve based on the city ordinance. The POSO entertains the complainants because it is part of the commuters' rights. Like the drivers, the high cost of living is a primary reason for the people's complaints, apart from the proper implementation of the law. Harm towards the drivers and their families is not their direct intention; this is just how the rule of law works.

Citizens are left in limbo for 11 years regarding economic returns to the drivers and operators and the daily expenses of commuters. The sudden publicized stricter implementation of the 2012 tricycle fare ordinance this September exhibits justice. But is this the right solution given the economic situation today?

This leaves us with a pressing question: how do we balance the commuters' woes, the oil price hike problems of drivers, and the livelihood sustenance for the drivers' families?



## TSU, CDA pioneers CLAP in Central Luzon via MOA

□ Mary Joy B. Manalo

pledged his support and promised to enforce all the agreement's provisions to have a more united and progressive university.

“Sa pamamagitan ng partnership na ito ay makatutulong na mapagsilbihan (ng aming mga estudyante) ang mga mamamayan, hindi lamang sa Tarlac, kundi pati na rin sa mga lugar na mapupuntahan ng

mga estudyante upang makatulong sa kooperatiba,” Pres. Velasco added.

The tentative schedule for the orientation of law students is on October 26, 2023.

With the fruition of the partnership, CDA hopes that cooperative laws will become a part of the university's curriculum as an elective course.



Five Japanese students from Tokyo City University (TSU) under the Philippine-Japan Friendship Students Exchange program visited the three campuses of Tarlac State University in Tarlac City on September 7, 2023, to learn Filipino socio-cultural traditions. The annual Philippine-Japan Friendship Students Exchange is a joint project of Yujin Juku Enterprises and TCU.





Tarlac State University's student-athletes from the ROTC Unit, along with university officials, faculty members, coaches, trainers, and staff, participated in the Philippine ROTC Games 2023 Luzon Regional Qualifying Leg at the Cavite State University-Indang Campus on September 17, 2023.



Oath-taking of newly appointed, upgraded, and promoted faculty members and non-teaching staff of Tarlac State University | September 13 & 22, 2023



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## TARLAC STATE UNIVERSITY

### Vision

A globally competitive university recognized for excellence in sciences and emerging technologies.

### Mission

TSU shall develop highly competitive and empowered human resources fostering responsive global education, future-proof research culture, inclusive and relevant extension programs, and sustainable production projects.

### Core Values

T-ruth in words, action and character  
 S-ervice with excellence and compassion  
 U-nity in diversity

### Quality Policy

Tarlac State University is committed to continuously strive for global competitiveness and excellence in the delivery of instruction, research, extension (training and consultancy), and administrative support services, compliant to regulatory and statutory requirements for the utmost satisfaction of its valued customers while ensuring safe and healthy working conditions for its students, employees, clientele and reducing environmental impact of its operations.