

# The ISSI News

The official newsletter of  
UP Institute for Small-Scale Industries



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THE



*In This Issue*



ICESMED 2023

UP ISSI Spearheads 1st Int'l Conference  
on Entrepreneurship, SME Development



ISSI ANNIVERSARY

UP ISSI Celebrates Anniversary with  
bazaar, learning, mentoring sessions



BUYANIHAN PART 3

BUYanihan sa Diliman Features  
Pinoy MSMEs

## UP ISSI Spearheads 1st Int'l Conference on Entrepreneurship, SME Development

By Patricia Chua



The University of the Philippines Institute for Small-Scale Industries spearheaded the 1st International Conference on Entrepreneurship and SME Development on November 28-29, 2023 at UP Diliman, Quezon City.

Themed "Resilience and Relentlessness—Bouncing back and

leaping forward," the conference was a hub of discussions encompassing crucial aspects of entrepreneurship and SME development. It also convened experts who each offered their unique insights.

For the plenary session of Day 1, Dr. Vanita Yadav, a Senior Research Fellow from the Urban Transformations Research Centre at Western Sydney University, Australia, and Dr. Napoleon K. Juanillo, Jr., Assistant Secretary, Department of Science and Technology (DOST) focused their discussions on Sustainable Business Model Innovation for SMEs.



Dr. Vanita Yadav



Dr. Napoleon K. Juanillo, Jr.

**Cont. on page 2**



Dr. Timothy Eing Ming Wu, Executive Director of Edu-Connect Southeast Asia Association at Shu Te University, shared valuable perspectives on leveraging education for entrepreneurial success in Southeast Asia as the keynote speaker of Day 2.



*Dr. Timothy Eing Ming Wu*

Moreover, Dr. Lisa S. Dacanay, President of Institute for Social Entrepreneurship in Asia, Ms. Cho Bu-young, Country Director of CAMP Asia-Philippines, and Dr. Norby Roque Salonga, Founding Director of Lasalian Social Enterprise for Economic Development Center of De La Salle University, served as plenary speakers during the second day of the conference.



*Dr. Lisa S. Dacanay*



*Ms. Cho Bo-Young*

UP ISSI Director Melanie Moraga-Leaño, UP Diliman Chancellor Atty. Edgardo Carlo L. Vistan II, and Quezon City Mayor Joy Belmonte, also graced the event and emphasized the importance of collaboration among different stakeholders in fostering entrepreneurial endeavors.



*From left to right: Dir. Melanie Moraga-Leaño, Chancellor Atty. Edgardo Carlo L. Vistan II, and QC Mayor Joy Belmonte*



*Dr. Norby Roque Salonga*

Academics, researchers, scholars, and postgraduate students presented their research and diverse insights across various themes covered during the conference. From entrepreneurial behavior and technology adoption to addressing challenges posed by the pandemic, the wealth of discussions promised to shape the future landscape of entrepreneurship and SMEs.



*Plenary participants and speakers*

As the conference concluded, it highlighted the potential for resilient business practices and innovative approaches in the entrepreneurial sphere. The event's success lies not just in the discussions held but also in the connections made and the collective effort toward a more robust ecosystem for SMEs and entrepreneurial ventures.



# UP ISSI Celebrates Anniversary with bazaar, learning, mentoring sessions

By Patricia Chua



*Tara Na Lecture*

The University of the Philippines Institute for Small-Scale Industries (UP ISSI) recently commemorated its anniversary with a profound celebration titled "Pagsulong at Pasasalamat: Commemorating Philippine MSME Development through the Years." The event, spanning three days, was vibrant with insights, workshops, and interactions, encapsulating the journey and dedication towards fostering Micro, Small, and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) in the Philippines.

Kicking off the festivities, the event commenced with an invigorating HRDO GETUP session while MSME exhibitors prepared their spaces with various unique merchandise.







## Day 1 Highlights (Aug 29):

Director Melanie Moraga-Leaño set the tone with a warm opening address, followed by Lucy A. Lastimososa, a Supervising Science Research Specialist, who shared invaluable insights on the programs and services offered by DOCT-PCAARRD, empowering Philippine MSMEs and startups.

Former UP ISSI Director, Fortunato T. Dela Peña, delivered a compelling keynote, drawing from years of experience and expertise, while Dr. Karla M. Velas, from the Bureau of Internal Revenue, shed light on the various programs tailor-made for MSMEs, emphasizing their significance in fostering growth.

Also, Mona Celine Marie V. Yap, representing the Quezon City Government, shared the city's initiatives dedicated to the development of MSMEs, while esteemed personalities, including Dr. Carl Michael F. Odulio, Ester Buzgan, UP Chancellor Atty. Edgardo Carlo L. Vistan III, and Dr. Uri Yerimiyahu, enriched the day with their perspectives.







## Day 2 Highlights (Aug 30):

Dr. Carl Michael F. Odulio, Vice Chancellor for Research and Development at UP Diliman, extended his support through a message, reaffirming the commitment to MSME development.

Engaging workshops took center stage, featuring a Brand Strategy Workshop by Marco Angelo J. Rasos and a session on Maximizing Brand Impact by Wendy Bersamin Mendoza, Founder & CEO of Old Baguio Flavors of Cordillera.



Dr. Felix Concepcion Veroya from Ask Lex PH Academy and other distinguished speakers brought their expertise as well.

The second day drew to a close with Ian Jester M. de Vera, Dprof., Head of the Research Division of UP ISSI, delivering closing remarks.







### Day 3 Highlights (Aug. 31):

PJ Lanot enlightened the audience with insights on Practical Cashflow, while Taxumo presented "A Guide to Starting Your Business Right."

Atty. Edgardo Carlo L. Vistan III, Diogenes C. Dy, and Shiela Elaine Silan graced the event with their knowledge and expertise.

An open forum on all three days provided attendees with the opportunity to engage directly with the speakers, fostering dialogue and exchange of ideas.

The event also showcased the diversity and innovation of MSMEs with exhibitors like Cebuana Lhullier, Alama Guitars, Human Nature, and others, displaying their unique offerings.

The UP ISSI would like to extend heartfelt gratitude to the sponsors whose support was invaluable in making this celebration a resounding success—Clara Ole, Reckitt, Tonik Digital Bank, Enstack, Taxumo, WIN DRR, P.J. Lhullier Inc., and Landbank UP Diliman.

The UP ISSI Anniversary Celebration stood as a testament to the collaborative effort and unwavering dedication toward uplifting the MSME landscape in the Philippines. As the curtains drew on this inspiring event, it left behind a trail of enriched and empowered Pinoypreneurs and a strengthened resolve to continue nurturing the spirit of entrepreneurship.





For the third time,

# BUYanihan sa Diliman Features Pinoy MSMEs

By Patricia Chua



University of the Philippines Institute for Small-Scale Industries initiated another BUYanihan sa Diliman last November 15-17, 2023 at the CSSP Grounds (Palma Hall).

Dubbed BUYanihan sa Diliman, the 3rd Pinoy Micro Small and Medium Enterprise showcase is the third installment of the bazaar that came from two successful events last May 25-27 for the first BUYanihan and during the anniversary celebration of the institution last August 29-31, 2023.







For three days, the grounds buzzed with the energy of Pinoypreneurs and Pinaypreneurs showcasing their diverse products and services. From various food and beverages to fashion and accessories, as well as home and lifestyle offerings, the bazaar reflected the entrepreneurial spirit and creativity among Filipino businesses.



The bazaar catered to various members of the UP community including the students, faculty members, research and extension staff, admin staff and visitors.



The third run installment of the BUYanihan sa Diliman aimed to continue its legacy of championing MSMEs in the community.





# UP ISSI Secures Championship at 2023 GFI Cup Invitational Basketball Tournament



Big cheers to the UP ISSI team for clinching the championship at the 2023 GFI Cup Invitational Basketball Tournament last August 5th, Saturday.

Engr. Gamaliel F. Itao (long-sleeved polo), a former staff member of UP ISSI and now the president of Mechatronics Technologies Corporation and Industrial Controls Corp., was the major sponsor of the yearly GFI Cup Basketball Tournament.



The small team from UP ISSI also secured a second runners-up position in last year's tournament.





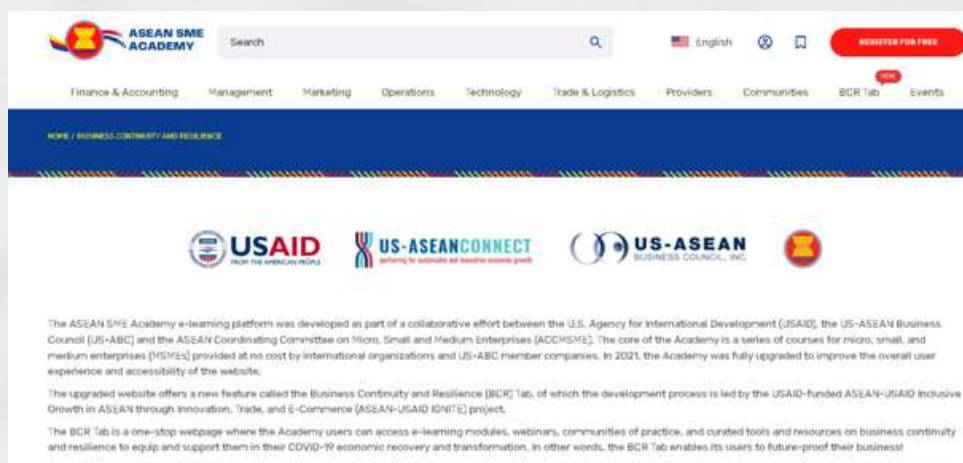
# Empowering ASEAN MSMEs: ASEAN SME Academy 2.0 and BCR Tab Promote Business Continuity and Resilience

By Nova Navo



Marsha Lee Arnan-Delfinado, University Extension Specialist at the University of the Philippines Institute for Small-Scale Industries (UP ISSI) speaks in the ASEAN SME Academy Business Continuity and Resilience (BCR) Tab Public Outreach Workshop, a one-day workshop designed to commemorate the International MSME Day and to promote the usefulness and benefits of the ASEAN SME Academy 2.0 and the BCR Tab to MSMEs in Cebu City Philippines last June 27, 2023.

Around 200 MSMEs in Cebu City attended the event in-person at the Marco Polo Hotel in Cebu City and 1,000 MSMEs joined virtually via Zoom from the Philippine Department of Trade and Industry's (DTI) seventeen regional offices and MSMEs from Brunei Darussalam, Malaysia, and Singapore. Ms. Delfinado's talk was the in-person version of the micro-videos recorded for the ASEAN SME Academy BCR Tab, which was pre-recorded in Malaysia.



Source: <https://asean-sme-academy.org/en/business-continuity-and-resilience>



The BCR Tab public outreach officially announced the availability of the one-stop webpage where potential MSMEs and users can access e-learning modules, webinars, communities of practice, curated tools, and resources on business continuity and resilience to equip and support them in future-proofing their business, and to promote the BCR Tab as a networking platform where users may share their learning and training experience with other ASEAN MSMEs through communities of practice.

The ASEAN SME Academy e-learning platform was developed as part of a collaborative effort between the United States Agency for International Development (USAID), the US\_ASEAN Business Council (US-ABC), and the ASEAN Coordinating Committee on Micro, Small, and Medium Enterprises (ACCMSME) led by the DTI- Bureau of Small and Medium Enterprise Development (BSMED) and the Philippines Trade Training Center (PTTC). At the core of the Academy is a series of courses for MSMEs provided at no cost by international organizations and member companies of US-ABC. Since 2021, the Academy has been revamped to improve the overall user experience and accessibility of the website. The Academy 2.0 was launched in April 2022. To enhance the resiliency of MSMEs to disruptions, with support from DTI-BSMED and PTTC along with US-ABC, ASEAN-USAID Inclusive Growth in ASEAN through Innovation, Trade and E-commerce (IGNITE) developed new courses for the Academy 2.0, and this new feature is the BCR Tab.



*Delfinado (left) joins the panel expounding the features of the new ASEAN SME Academy 2.0 BCR Tab.*



# Edu-Connect, Taiwanese Investors Explore Business Prospects and Academic Partnerships with UP

By Danica Q. Pacardo



During the first few days of the trip, they visited Ongpin Street in Binondo, Manila, Area 2 of UP Diliman, Gyudfood, and three major malls in Quezon City to have a glimpse of the existing small and medium food and non-food enterprises in the National Capital Region (NCR).

On July 18, 2023, they met with Ma. Margarita Santos, Head of Quezon City's Business Permits and Licensing Department (BPLD), and learned about the office's various programs which automate processing of business operations requirements. They also had a brief visit in QC's Negosyo Center. In the afternoon, the delegates joined a tour on the construction site of the University Shopping Center to determine possible business investments in the commercial area.

The following day, Engr. Rolando Ramon Diaz, UP ISSI Training and Entrepreneurship Education Division Head, oriented them on the status of Philippine MSMEs. They also discussed possible collaborative projects with the Institute.



On July 20, the delegation attended an exploratory meeting with the Southeast Asian Regional Center for Graduate Study and Research in Agriculture (SEARCA) in the University of the Philippines Los Banos (UPLB). SEARCA and UPLB representatives presented the results of their research on livestock and provided tours of the SEARCA's agriculture museum and the laboratories of the Institute of Animal Science.

The weeklong tour enabled the delegation to become aware of the nature of businesses within UP and to identify prospective entrepreneurial opportunities in the university.



# UP ISSI staff receives BCI Global APAC Awards 2023

By Jake A. Villanueva



Joanna Rose T. Laddaran, a University Extension Specialist III at the University of the Philippines Institute for Small-Scale Industries (UP ISSI), has garnered significant recognition for her exceptional contributions to promoting diversity, equity, and inclusion in the field of business continuity and resilience.

In a hybrid ceremony held in London on November 1, 2023, Joanna was honored with the 2023 BCI Global Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Ally/Champion of the Year award. This accolade, presented by the Business Continuity Institute (BCI), stands as a testament to her leadership and advocacy for diversity, equity, and inclusion within the resilience sector.

Joanna expressed her gratitude upon receiving the award, acknowledging the support of various entities including The BCI, UP ISSI, the BCMAP, and the WIN DRR – Philippine Chapter, as well as her mentors Dr. Okabe and Rinske. She highlighted the importance of amplifying the voices of Micro, Small, and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) through initiatives like the HANDA Program: Disaster Preparedness and Business Continuity Planning for MSMEs.

This isn't the first time Joanna's efforts have been celebrated. Earlier, on August 10, 2023, she was recognized at the BCI Asia Pacific (APAC) Awards as the Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Ally/Champion of the Year. Her commitment to creating diverse and inclusive spaces has been evident through her involvement in numerous programs aimed at enhancing the resilience of MSMEs, Local Government Units, and other stakeholders, spanning both public and private sectors.

Joanna's work has been instrumental in advocating for the marginalized sectors, particularly women-led MSMEs, acknowledging their vulnerabilities exacerbated by the COVID-19 pandemic. Her involvement with the UP ISSI and various organizations has allowed her to witness firsthand the differential impact of disasters on these communities, emphasizing that disaster effects are not gender-neutral.

Reflecting on her decade-long experience at UP ISSI, Joanna emphasized the necessity of addressing the challenges faced by the Philippine MSME sector. She underscored the importance of collaborative efforts involving various entities such as the Gender and Development Committee within UP ISSI, the WIN DRR – Philippine Chapter, and the BCMAP, to amplify the voices of women-led and LGBTQIA+-led MSMEs through programs like the Communities of Practice for Entrepreneurship (COPE).

Joanna's commitment to resilience-building has been recognized not only through these recent awards but also through past accolades, including the Gawad Tsanselor para sa Natatanging REPS in UP Diliman in 2021 and the BCI APAC Awards in 2020 and 2021.

Her tireless dedication and impactful initiatives stand as a beacon, inspiring others in the business continuity and resilience community to continue striving for a more diverse, equitable, and inclusive future.



# UP Visayas Secures First Patent for Microalgae Paste Technology

By Uziel Guthrie D. Naguit



The University of the Philippines (UP) Visayas has secured its first patent for the invention on Methods and Composition of Microalgae Paste on August 16, 2023. The technology is currently being rolled out by Algacon Aquafeeds Manufacturing (AAM), a spinoff enterprise and one of the first beneficiaries of the Levelling Up of Innovative Agriculture, Aquatic and Natural Resources-based Startups/Spinoffs thru Promotion, Assistance, and Development (LIPAD) Project.

The LIPAD Project is a collaborative project between the Department of Science and Technology Philippine Council for Agriculture, Aquatic and Natural Resources Research and Development (DOST PCAARRD) and UP Institute for Small-Scale Industries (UP ISSI). It aims to provide commercialization support to innovative startups and spinoffs in the agriculture, aquatic, and natural resources sectors. The project provided AAM with training, mentoring, and linkages, which helped them to accelerate the commercialization of their product.

The paste is now commercially available under the brand name Juan Algae. Algacon has also received the green light from the Bureau of Customs to export Juan Algae, making it available to customers around the world.

The microalgae paste is the brainchild of AAM founder Ms. Soledad S. Garibay, a University Researcher at the Institute of Aquaculture, and Prof. Leticia J. Ami, a retired faculty from the Institute of Fisheries Processing and Technology, College of Fisheries and Ocean Sciences, UP Visayas.

The microalgae paste is a cost-effective and sustainable feed for aquaculture. It is made from microalgae, which are microscopic organisms that are rich in nutrients. The paste can be used to feed a variety of aquaculture species, including fish, shrimp, and mollusks.

This innovative product addresses a longstanding problem in the aquaculture industry – the vulnerability of hatcheries to culture collapse during adverse weather conditions. The microalgae paste serves as a reliable green water stimulator, ensuring a steady supply of nutrition during periods of insufficient feed. The technology has the potential to revolutionize the aquaculture industry and help to ensure food security in the Philippines.



# UP ISSI GABAy Open House Mentoring Empowers 42 MSMEs

By Uziel Guthrie D. Naguit



The University of the Philippines Institute for Small-Scale Industries (UP ISSI) recently held its GABAy Open House Mentoring Program as part of its anniversary celebration from August 29 to 31, 2023. GABAy is UP ISSI's flagship advocacy program that aims to accelerate the growth and sustainability of MSMEs by providing mentoring and marketing support.

The program was attended by 42 individuals who sought assistance on marketing, operations, human resources, and finance. They were matched with 14 mentors from UP

ISSI's Business Enterprise Development Division, Training and Entrepreneurship Education Division, and Research Division.

The mentors provided personalized advice to the entrepreneurs to help them diagnose and resolve their operational issues. In addition to helping those who were already running businesses, the mentors also extended their assistance to individuals who had not yet taken the leap into entrepreneurship. They also encouraged the mentees to attend the training programs offered by UP ISSI to enhance their entrepreneurial skills.

The mentees include 18 members of the Metro Manila Vendors Alliance (MMVA) which is based in the National Capital Region. The MMVA is an alliance of informal sector vendors, mostly ambulant vendors selling food and non-food products. The MMVA sought UP ISSI's aid in enhancing their marketing efforts, with a particular focus on producing marketing materials and exploring online marketing opportunities.

The said vendors were mentored by Mr. Uziel Guthrie D. Naguit and Ms. Karen Kay Bravo-Coballes from the Business and Enterprise Development Division. A follow-up mentoring session is scheduled for September 7, 2023 where three (3) MMVA members will receive training on creating brochures.



# Communities of Practice for Entrepreneurship (COPE) Program Seminars/Webinars

July

August

September



Honing Agents for National Disaster Awareness (HANDA) Program: Disaster Preparedness and Business Continuity Planning for the Cooperatives in Aurora 25-26 September 2023 | AMCO Beach Resort, Daler, Aurora

October



# RD's Cabotaje attends APO Workshop on Productivity Enhancement for Women Entrepreneurs

By Melanie V. Cabotaje



Ms. Melanie V. Cabotaje, a University Extension Specialist at the Research Division of the UP ISSI, attended the Workshop on Productivity Enhancement for Women Entrepreneurs conducted by the Asian Productivity Organization (APO) and Singapore Productivity Center (SPC) on August 14 to 17, 2023 at Aqueen Hotel, Paya Lebar, Singapore.

The workshop focused on the following topics: profile of women entrepreneurs in APO-member countries; main challenges hindering women's entrepreneurship; impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic on the productivity of businesses owned by women; and effective policies and schemes to support women entrepreneurs in enhancing productivity and sustaining business growth.

Ms. Cabotaje, together with Ms. Joanna T. Tattao of the Technical Education and Skills Development Authority (TESDA), presented a paper on women's entrepreneurship in the Philippines. They gave a quick profile of women entrepreneurs in the country and discussed the main challenges they face. They also enumerated the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic on women entrepreneurs and the response of the Philippine government. Ms. Cabotaje and Ms. Tattao also identified some of

the major policies and programs in the Philippines that support and promote women's entrepreneurship. They also maximized this opportunity to highlight the initiatives of their own organizations. Ms. Cabotaje talked about the Community of Practice for Entrepreneurship (COPE), an advocacy program of the UP ISSI that brings entrepreneurship education to the marginalized sectors. Ms. Cabotaje emphasized how the COPE Program benefits women micro-entrepreneurs, particularly those in the informal economy, in terms of capacity building, mentoring, and networking.





Apart from attending lectures and giving presentations, Ms. Cabotaje and her fellow workshop participants also visited an enterprise owned by a woman entrepreneur. They visited a branch of Soup Spoon, a restaurant that prides itself on offering healthy bowls of soup and pastries (note: no preservatives and no MSG added!). They also had the opportunity to meet Ms. Ms. Anna Lim – the woman behind this successful restaurant. Ms. Lim shared her entrepreneurial journey – from establishing the first outlet of Soup Spoon restaurant in 2002, opening new branches, deciding to close some, surviving SARS and COVID-19 pandemic to opening its 29th outlet – along with the lessons and realizations through the two decades of running the enterprise.

On the last day of the workshop, Ms. Cabotaje and her fellow participants presented their action plans upon returning to their home countries. Ms. Cabotaje and Ms. Tattao discussed a possible collaboration between the UP ISSI and TESDA as part of their action plan.

The four-day workshop was premised on the significant gender gap in the scale and nature of entrepreneurship, which was highlighted and was further exacerbated during the COVID-19 pandemic. The workshop aimed to promote the productivity of women entrepreneurs, foster a gender-sensitive entrepreneurship regulatory environment, and strengthen women’s entrepreneurship policies and support schemes



The workshop had 19 participants coming from the Philippines, Bangladesh, Cambodia, Fiji, India, Indonesia, Malaysia, Nepal, Pakistan, Taiwan, South Korea, Sri Lanka, Thailand, and Turkiye.

The APO is an intergovernmental organization established in 1961 to increase productivity and sustainable socioeconomic development in the Asia-Pacific region through policy advisory services, acting as a think tank, and undertaking smart initiatives in the industry, agriculture, service, and public sectors. The APO is comprised of 21 economies, including Bangladesh, Cambodia, the Republic of China, Fiji, Hong Kong, India, Indonesia, the Islamic Republic of Iran, Japan, the Republic of Korea, Lao PDR, Malaysia, Mongolia, Nepal, Pakistan, the Philippines, Singapore, Sri Lanka, Thailand, Turkiye, and Vietnam.



# Gov't employees convene in PH for APO training: 4 Filipinos partake to be Public-sector productivity specialists

By Jake A. Villanueva



*4 Filipino delegates to the APO Training on the Development of Public-sector Productivity Specialist*

PASAY CITY – To equip skill sets and competencies for public-sector productivity specialists, four government employees represented the Philippines in the Asian Productivity Organization training on the Development of Public-sector Productivity Specialists on November 06 – 17, 2023.

The selected Filipino delegates include Ms. Eden Lanuza, Department of the Interior and Local Government – Region V, Mr. Erico V. Salting, Department of Trade and Industry – Region V, Ms. Glenda N. Ibanez, DILG – Masbate, and Mx. Jake A. Villanueva, University of the Philippines Institute for Small-Scale Industries.

The other participating countries include Cambodia, Fiji, India, Indonesia, Lao PDR, Malaysia, Mongolia, Nepal, Pakistan, Republic of Korea, Sri Lanka, Thailand, and Vietnam. Through the collaboration of APO and Development Academy of the Philippines, the two-week training program highlighted four main themes including E-Governance, Citizen-Centered Services, Change Management and Foresight in the Public Sector.

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The participants also conducted site visits in the LandBank of the Philippines – Main Office, Quezon City Government and Philippine Statistics Office (Region 3) to prepare their group reports and recommendations as application of their lessons in the course.



*Site visit in the main office of LandBank of the Philippines for the Change Management team*

“Challenge kasi ngayon to public-sector productivity to improve its productivity that is why we are continuously organizing this type of interventions to assist not only government agencies in the Philippines, but also government agencies in member countries of APO,” said Mr. Peter Dan B. Baon, Program Director, COE-PSP, DAP during an interview.

He also added that since the Philippines is the Center of Excellence on Public-Sector Productivity, the country is expected to be at the forefront in championing this program.

“Part of the success indicators is to have them as productivity specialists who will share the lessons they gained and projects they started that the next participants could use,” Mr. Baon said.

The pool of resource persons included Dr. D. Brian Marson, President of Public Service Excellence Institute in Canada, Dr. Myung Jae Moon, Underwood Distinguished Professor of Yonsei University, Republic of Korea, Ms. Magdalena L. Mendoza, Senior Vice-President for Programs of DAP, and Ms. Maria Rosario A. Ablan, Program Director, AO 25 Secretariat of DAP. After the training course, the participants submitted their individual action plan to map the programs they will initiate as a requirement for their certification in becoming a public-sector productivity specialist.



# Empowering Productivity Specialists: A Recap of the APO-MPC Training Program

By Jefferson C. Sumalabe



From November 6 to 17, 2023, the Asian Productivity Organization (APO) and the Malaysian Productivity Corporation (MPC) successfully concluded a transformative training program on the “Development of Productivity Specialists.” Held at the elegant Capri by Fraser Bukit Bintang in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, the program attracted 26 participants from 16 APO member countries, representing a diverse cross-section of professionals eager to enhance their skills in productivity improvement.

The collaboration brought together experts and practitioners from Malaysia, Japan, Singapore, and Taiwan to serve as resource persons. This diverse lineup ensured a rich exchange of knowledge, incorporating global best practices and regional insights into the training curriculum.

University of the Philippines Institute for Small-Scale Industries (UP ISSI) staff Jefferson C. Sumalabe and Yuri Munsayac from the Development Academy of the Philippines represented the Philippines in the program. Their participation highlighted the commitment of the Philippines to building a cadre of skilled productivity specialists.





The "Development of Productivity Specialists" is a flagship program by the APO, designed to instill knowledge, skills, and capabilities in candidates, enabling them to lead productivity improvement programs at the organizational level. The course is a crucial initiative to develop the capacity of National Productivity Organization (NPO) professionals, equipping them with the latest techniques and tools for enhancing productivity in organizations.

Qualified productivity practitioners emerging from this program are expected to play pivotal roles in national productivity drives, contributing to sustainable socio-economic development. The course underscores the importance of fostering professionals who can actively lead and support efforts to improve productivity on a national scale.

The training program focused on enhancing the skills of productivity specialists, providing in-depth knowledge of advanced productivity tools and techniques. Armed with this expertise, participants are poised to serve as trainers, consultants, practitioners, and champions in various sectors within their home economies.



## AA attends Tokyo training

By Allysa Anne Mari-De Guzman

A Training Course on Digital Manufacturing for SMEs last 13-17 November 2023, in Tokyo, Japan was held with our very own staff attending the training program.

Ms. Allysa Anne De Guzman, University Extension Specialist of UP-ISSI flew over the Japanese city to train on Digital Manufacturing where the Japan Productivity and the APO Secretariat as joint organizers.



AA De Guzman, front row, holding the APO banner (left side)

## UP ISSI participates in the MSME Digitalization Agenda 2023-2028 Workshop

By Melanie Moraga-Leaño

To promote economic growth by advancing the digital ecosystem and economy in the Philippines, the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) through the USAID Strengthening Private Enterprise to the Digital Economy (SPEED) Activity and the Micro, Small and Medium Enterprise Development Council (MSMED Council), through its Secretariat, the Department of Trade and Industry- Bureau of SME Development, organized the MSME Digitalization Agenda 2023-2028 Workshop held at the Dusit Thani Hotel on November 22, 2023. Pre-workshops were also conducted on four themes: Access to Technology and Innovation; Access to Skills; Access to Finance; and Access to Markets.

UP ISSI Director, Asst. Prof Melanie Moraga-Leaño and University Extension Specialist and Science and Technology Fellow, Ms. Nova Navo participated in the said workshop that aims to guide the government's systematic approach to support the transformation of MSMEs in the country as a critical driver of development through digitalization. Outputs of this activity will serve as inputs to the MSMED Plan 2023-2028 which will be submitted to the President by the end of December 2023. This will likewise be an input to the National Digital Transformation Agenda (NDTF) which the USAID SPEED intends to finalize by March 2024, where a series of stakeholder consultations and research will be pursued.





# ISSI conducts midyear strategic planning in Batangas

The staff of the UP Institute for Small-Scale Industries conducted their midyear strategic planning last July 3-4, 2023, at Calubcub Resort in San Juan, Batangas with Dir. Melanie Moraga-Leaño who led the session.

All divisions of the Institute presented their accomplishments and plans for the remaining months of the year with team-building activities to build camaraderie among the staff.

Savor some pictures of the activities to feel what happened during the two-day activities.



*The wISSIh bus (Wish Bus), a videoke session during the trip to Batangas resort.*



*RD staff doing some final touches on their report*



*DO presentation*





*Dir. Mel opens the planning session*



*RD's turn in presenting their Division's plans and accomplishments*



*ADD's Menchie reporting*



*TEED's AA explains about the COPE*



*Sir Ferdz of the BEDD*



*Feeding time*









*Groufies before leaving the venue*





# Quarterly celebrations for the ISSI family

The Special Events Committee organized the Quarterly General Assembly cum Birthday Celebrations on September 22, 2023, bringing together individuals born in July, August, and September while the last GA of the year happened last Dec. 1, honoring those ISSI staff born in October, November, and December.

The festivities were enhanced with snacks, providing a sumptuous merienda cena that added a delightful touch to the celebration. Complementing the food delights, a brief program was curated to spotlight and celebrate the individuals whose birthdays fell within the designated months.

This Quarterly General Assembly cum Birthday Celebrations served not only as a platform for communal joy but also as an opportunity for ISSI members to come together, share in the spirit of camaraderie, and extend warm wishes to colleagues on their special days. The event was a testament to the vibrant community spirit within ISSI and the commitment of the Special Events Committee to create memorable and inclusive experiences for all members.









# Earthquakes: from a drill to real

The Institute regularly conducted an earthquake drill to be always ready in case the dreaded Big One happens.



*June 8 earthquake drill*

Twice the second half of the year, two real earthquakes occurred, the latest of which was on Dec. 5 which happened around 4:23 PM, having a magnitude of 5.9 with Lubang, Occidental Mindoro as its epicenter. The other one was last October 13, with a magnitude of 5.0 located in Calaca, Batangas.

These phenomena did not affect the building of the Institute but for safety reasons, all tenants and ISSI staff were tucked in the safer grounds before they were allowed to enter the building.



*October 13 earthquake*



*December 5 earthquake*



*December 5 earthquake*



# MORE STAFF NEWS

Our ISSI Family continues to grow professionally and in number. We wish our newly-promoted personnel a heartfelt congratulations!

## Promotions



**ALLYSA ANNE MARI-DE  
GUZMAN**

University Extension Specialist II  
Training and Entrepreneurship  
Education Division

## New Staff



**MARIA KRISTEL D.  
CORDON**

Administrative Assistant II  
Research Division



# UP Integrated School Interns



**ZERAH BERNADETTE A. BALLARTA**

Business Enterprise Development Division



**PATRICIA NIÑA S. CHUA**

Director's Office



**GABRIEL DIWA M. BRITO**

Training and Entrepreneurship Education Division



**JOHN LEO VENEDICT M. PEREZ**

Training and Entrepreneurship Education Division





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