THE Campus Live SE Asia highlights regional collaboration, development

DE LA SALLE UNIVERSITY ORGANIZED THE TIMES HIGHER EDUCATION (THE) CAMPUS LIVE SE ASIA on the Manila campus last November 22-23. It focused on the theme “Higher education as a tool for economic and social transformation” and highlighted the evolving trends and critical issues in higher education.

Continue on Page 2

What’s inside

2
Accountancy students bag grand prize in 23rd Intercollegiate Finance Competition

3
Sulong Digital Program: The Way Forward

4
Winners of 13th GEOMATE International Conference Best Paper Award

5
New partnership eyes creation of SDG knowledge hub in Cebu
In his keynote address, Commission on Higher Education (CHED) Chairman Dr. J. Prospero de Vera III emphasized the critical role of higher education in catalyzing economic development within Southeast Asia. Atty. Lily Frieda Milla, director of the International Affairs Office of CHED, delivered de Vera’s message.

The Chief Global Affairs Officer at Times Higher Education, Phil Baty, as well as DLSU President Br. Bernard Oca FSC, welcomed the more than 360 participants composed of key HEI personnel, industry leaders, and policy experts from the region.

DLSU Vice President for External Relations and Internationalization Dr. Laurene Chua-Garcia moderated the session that delved into emerging workplace trends in the region, with heads of top companies sharing their experiences and insights. She was joined by Ericson del Castillo, general manager or talent management (ASEAN) and human resources lead of Nissan Philippines; Dino Francisco, chief operating officer of VistaMall; Juan Miguel del Rosario, CEO of Toon City; and Phillip Stephens, director of technology development of Dyson Philippines.

Meanwhile, Baty also served as moderator for some sessions, including one that tackled the role of higher education as a tool for collaboration across the region. Dr. Choltis Dhirathiti, executive director of the ASEAN University Network and Dr. Agustin Kusumayati, secretary of Universitas Indonesia, served as resource speakers in this session.

Baty also moderated a panel discussion of university leaders who underscored the need for HEIs to promote access and drive social development. The administrators who shared their experiences were Dr. Mohamed Ibrahim bin Abdul Mutalib, vice-chancellor of Universiti Teknologi Petronas; Br. Bernard Oca FSC; Dr. Eng Chye Tan, president of National University of Singapore; and Fr. Roberto Yap SJ, president of Ateneo de Manila University.

The session on transnational education in SEA was moderated by Simone Dilena, president (APAC) of THE. She was joined by Dr. Kaywalee Chatdarong, vice-president of strategic planning, innovation and global engagement of Chulalongkorn University; Simon Davies Burrows, manager of internationalisation of Edith Cowan University; Harfiz Mohamad, country manager of Singapore University of Social Science; and Dr. Joyce Teo, assistant vice-chancellor and vice-president of global affairs of University Brunei Darussalam.

Participants were also treated to a musical concert by renowned pianist Dr. Raul Sunico held at the DLSU Learning Commons to cap off the first day.

During the second day of the conference, Br. Dennis Magbanua FSC, local Superior of De La Salle Christian Brothers in Hong Kong SAR, led the session on the educational mission of the Lasallian schools and discussed how the network navigated and thrived during challenging times.

Day 2 of the regional meet also featured a series of parallel sessions, each delving into diverse aspects of higher education, from blended learning to entrepreneurship, alignment with the Sustainable Development Goals, transformative business models, and more. These breakout groups were moderated by academic and industry experts from the region.

Organized by the DLSU Office of the Vice President for External Relations and Internationalization, this was the second staging of THE Campus Live SE Asia and was the first to be hosted by a Philippine university.

A STUDENT TEAM FROM DLSU DEPARTMENT OF ACCOUNTANCY EMERGED AS CHAMPION in the recently concluded 23rd Intercollegiate Finance Competition (ICFC) held at the Assembly Hall of the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas last November 29.

Team DLSU is composed of the following students: Gennise Bernadette Betita, Ma. Ellory Villanueva, Jackie Rirole Untalan, and Dominic Narag. Faculty members Perry Carl Lim and Michelle Ang served as their coaches. ICFC is organized by the Junior FINEX Committee of the FINEX Research & Development Foundation, Inc.
GOKONGWEI COLLEGE OF ENGINEERING PROFESSOR DR. ANDRES WINSTON ORETA OF THE DEPARTMENT OF CIVIL ENGINEERING recently received the Senior Category Teaching Excellence Award of the Philippine Association of Engineering Schools last November 9.

The Award is given to the Engineering teacher who pursues teaching and learning as scholarly activities, exhibits a strong sense of commitment to the academic community in addition to personal success in the classroom, provides on a regular basis, constructive, and objective feedback to students, and finds unique and creative ways to connect students to each other.

Last year, Oreta was selected by the National Research Council of the Philippines as the Research and Development Leader for Northwestern University, to help promote research and development in the country.

SULONG DIGITAL PROGRAM: THE WAY FORWARD

DE LA SALLE UNIVERSITY RECENTLY LAUNCHED THE SULONG DIGITAL PROGRAM as it formally closed the BITUIN Program—the Enterprise Resource Program which was started in 2019 and deployed at the height of the pandemic.

During a townhall last November 14 at the Henry Sy Sr. Hall, University President Br. Bernard Oca FSC and the program’s executive sponsors, Provost Dr. Robert Roleda and Senior Vice President Ramon Trajano, presented the lessons learned from the BITUIN experience. They likewise shared actions taken so far to redirect the University’s resources toward a new approach.

Following the presentation of the BITUIN Health Check Report, DLSU will shift from an IT-focused approach to one that embraces the facets of “People, Process and Platform.”

In the area of Program Organization and Governance, the University will underscore a culture of accountability and ownership with a clear delineation of roles. It will regularly review its organization structures to ensure efficiencies, focus on goals, and continuously improve.

To improve the area of Methodology and Approach, DLSU established simple process or policy changes that have reduced bottlenecks for the students and Lasallian Partners, noted as “Quick Wins” in the BITUIN Health Check Report.

Skills and Competencies, another key aspect of the Sulong Digital Program, will define the critical roles and skills needed by the University. To date, external consultants and vendors with the right competencies were tapped, while internal talent resources were identified, specifically for Change Management and Enterprise Architecture.

DLSU is also in the process of building its IT capabilities in order to adapt to technological innovations and challenges.

With regard to Vendor and Contract Management, the University disengaged with poorly performing vendors and established clear screening and rating criteria for the selection of new vendors.

In the area of Community and User Engagement, DLSU has run Health Checks and User Experience Surveys across HR, Finance, and Student Life Cycle domains.

PAES Teaching Excellence Award
A TEAM OF RESEARCHERS FROM THE DLSU CIVIL ENGINEERING won the Best Paper Award at the 13th International Conference on Geotechnique, Construction Materials and Environment (GEOMATE) in Tsu City, Mie, Japan last November 14-16.

The authors, PhD student and full-time DOST-ERDT scholar Engr. Emerzon Torres and Vice President for Laguna Campus and Dean of School of Innovation and Sustainability Dr. Jonathan Dungca, won for their paper titled “Understanding Lateral Spreading Case Histories using Interpretable Machine Learning.”

The paper discusses that lateral spreading, which is one of the most common secondary earthquake effects, can cause severe damage to structures and lifelines. While there is no widely accepted approach in predicting lateral spread displacements, challenges on the existing empirical models include: obscurity, overfitting, and reluctance of practical users.

Using the available lateral displacement database, their study uncovers rules that describe the relationships of various attributes that significantly caused lateral spreading.

The output of this study, a decision support system, can be very useful to decision-makers and planners in understanding the lateral spreading phenomena.

Recommendations for the model improvement and for further studies were discussed.

AKI, SOE share projections on the future of PH economy

SCHOOL OF ECONOMICS DISTINGUISHED PROFESSOR DR. JESUS FELIPE talked about the future of the Philippine economy in a special lecture organized by the Angelo King Institute for Economic and Business Studies together with the college last November 15 at the Teresa Yuchengco Auditorium of De La Salle University.

Over 600 students, faculty, administrators, staff participated in Felipe’s lecture titled “The Future of the Philippine economy: Where are we going?”, which questioned the attainability of economic targets set by the current Philippine administration.

In his opening message, DLSU President Br. Bernard Oca FSC reminded the participants to rethink deeply the impact of economics on the everyday lives of Filipinos. He also shared how DLSU has been contributing to the country’s economic development through research and knowledge generation.

During the lecture, Felipe argues that while the Philippine economy is not hopeless, the targets are deemed ambitious with the current rate of the country’s economic growth. The distinguished professor made use of AKI’s model of the Philippine economy to provide relevant data supporting this claim.

The economic model suggested an upgrade on the economic structure of the country by advancing intermediate products and developing knowledge products from both the government and the private sector.
DE LA SALLE UNIVERSITY AND CEBU INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY-UNIVERSITY (CIT-U), represented by Presidents Br. Bernard Oca FSC and Engr. Bernard Nicolas Villamos, respectively, entered into a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) for the establishment of the CIT-U x DLSU SDG Knowledge Hub Project last November 15 at the DLSU Yuchengco Hall.

Under the MOU, the project aims to establish and enable CIT-U as a leading knowledge hub in Cebu City and the Cebu Province on Sustainable Development Goals. For five years, the parties will co-produce research programs, technologies, and tools aligned with the goals and needs of the community to create evidence-based solutions for local development problems.

They will also develop digital strategies and startup ecosystems to enhance SDG localization performance as well as mobilize resources for the successful implementation of the project.

The partnership was initiated by Engr. Richard Maghanoy, a CIT University alumnus and now CEO of a company in California, and Robert Dumaul, a New York-based Fil-Am community advocate and former student of Dr. Francisco Magno of the DLSU SDG City Lab.

JRIG to provide training and development program for AmCham Philippines

DE LA SALLE UNIVERSITY, THROUGH THE JESSE M. ROBREDO INSTITUTE OF GOVERNANCE (JRIG), will provide training and development programs for American Chamber of Commerce of the Philippines (AmCham PH) under a Memorandum of Agreement signed last November 20 at the DLSU Yuchengco Hall.

Signing the MOA were DLSU President Br. Bernard S. Oca FSC and AmCham PH Executive Director David Ebb Hinchliffe. AmCham PH, through its Center For Training and Development, engaged the services of DLSU JRIG for its training and development programs to enhance the skills and knowledge of AmCham PH members and its program participants.

DLSU JRIG will provide experts and assist AmCham PH in delivering high-quality training programs, which include Procurement Courses, Data Privacy Courses, and Government Relations, Policy, and Compliance.
Guiding Principles of the Sulong Digital Program

**Focusing on People, Process, and Platform**

**Lasallian Student-Centric Experience**
To better serve our students, we must develop a seamless user experience and support evolving student needs that are aligned with the University’s strategic objectives.

**Lifelong-Learner Partners**
As Lifelong-Learner Partners, we need to be proactive and open to change. We commit to up-skilling and the development of high-value work proficiencies. We take the lead in creating a future-proof University.

**Data-Driven Decisions**
To better understand our Users, we must take advantage and apply the use of data analytics and emerging data technologies to make sound decision-making. These data-driven decisions are founded on the University’s Core Values.

**Data Stewardship**
Data is more powerful than ever. Therefore, as a University, it is our commitment to safeguard the University’s information and practice responsible data governance.

**IT as Strategy-Enabler**
IT and Infrastructure are important investments. A plan to build a well-defined architecture roadmap to support the vision of a Digitally Transformed University is important to enable processes that are cost-effective, flexible, and highly integrable through the use of right-fit technology.

Source: Sulong Digital Team

---

2401 (twen’té för’o, wun) is a landmark number along Taft Avenue. It is the location ID of De La Salle University, home to outstanding faculty and students, and birthplace of luminaries in business, public service, education, the arts, and science. And 2401 is the name of the official newsletter of DLSU, featuring developments and stories of interest about the University.

2401 is published bi-weekly by the Strategic Communications Office (AH-21F, intercom 144). Editorial deadline is 3 p.m. Tuesdays. Contributions should include the name, office and signature of the sender. Materials may be edited for clarity or space.

2401 may be accessed online through the URL: http://www.dlsu.edu.ph.