



## DLSU hosts AUN exec meetings for global higher ed

**De La Salle University hosted ASEAN University Network's 16th Rectors' Meeting and the 40th Board of Trustees Meeting held last July 24-25 at Diamond Hotel, Manila.**

With the theme "From Networks to Impact: The Future of Global Higher Education," the event served as a venue for member institutions to discuss various perspectives and challenges of higher education in the region.

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More than 80 top university administrators from 10 countries attended the flagship event which was co-organized by the University of the Philippines.

De La Salle Philippines President and Ramon Magsaysay Award Foundation Chairperson Mr. Edgar Chua AFSC delivered a Special Remarks during the official dinner hosted by the Ministry of Higher Education, Science, Research and Innovation, Thailand. His talk focused on The Role of Higher Education in ASEAN's Sustainable Future.

DLSU President Br. Bernard Oca FSC and UP President Atty. Angelo Jimenez gave the welcome remarks while ASEAN University Network Acting Executive Director Assoc. Prof. Dr. Thanapan Laiprakobsup gave the introductory message.

Br. Bernie also delivered a presentation titled "Transforming Societies: Universities Driving Impact Through Multilateral Alliances" during the first session of the Rectors' Meeting. Here, the Brother President affirmed the strategic importance and effectiveness of multilateral partnerships.

He stressed "No university, however excellent, can address today's global challenges alone. The transformative power of knowledge lies in its circulation and exchange, and the wonder is how our collective intelligence is increased manifold with every new application in a particular local context or environment."

The AUN BOT meeting was opened by the welcome messages of the presidents of DLSU and UP and the address of the chairman of the AUN Board of Trustees, Professor Dr. Supachai Pathumnakul who also serves as the Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Higher Education, Science, Research and Innovation, Kingdom of Thailand.

The BOT agenda reflected the strategic priorities, strength of AUN partnerships, and the organization's collective aspiration toward academic excellence and regional impact.

Also during the BOT meeting, the Board approved the appointment of Dr. Thanapan Laiprakobsup as AUN Executive Director.

## University Strategy Brief

*In May 2024, the University launched the Jubilee Strategy and Performance Management Program, which provides training and coaching as part of a University-wide initiative to improve unit-level performance. Under the guidance of Gagement, a Melbourne based consultancy, unit heads and their leadership teams are equipped with tools, routines, and skills to formulate structured actionable plans and deploy them to ensure the University delivers on its A.Y. 2023-2027 Jubilee Strategy.*

# NAVIGATING CHANGE: BUILDING TRUST AND SHARED LEADERSHIP

**Since joining the Strategy and Performance Management Program, one department has been reshaping how it works—embracing open dialogue, shared leadership, and continuous adaptation.**

"The conversations have changed," the Director shared. "People are more engaged, more willing to challenge ideas respectfully, and more invested in our strategy. That's a big shift. While the team once hesitated to provide feedback, they now feel confident enough to raise concerns, share new ideas, and co-create solutions. We're not just following the plan—we're shaping it together."

When concerns were raised about how some measures might conflict with standards, the team didn't push through — they paused, listened, and worked together to find a

respectful solution. That process not only upheld the department's values, but it also strengthened trust and reinforced a shared commitment to the strategy.

The Director explained. "We listened, acknowledged that discomfort, and found a respectful middle ground. That process itself showed how much the team cares—these discussions are evidence of people's investment, not resistance."

The department has also seen improvements in operations. Daily monitoring has become routine, and our people understand how their growing experience builds competency. Regular coaching and dynamic planning have enabled the team to align more closely with university goals, while remaining responsive to feedback from the ground.

The Director reflected on the deeper change: "We're practicing shared leadership. It's not just one person directing anymore. Everyone is starting to lead from where they are."

Her advice to other leaders? "Sit with the uncomfortable. Sometimes opposing perspectives can both be true. When you can hold space for that tension, that's where growth happens."

This is not just a cultural shift—it's a commitment to lead differently. By creating space for diversity, respectful disagreement, and ethical practice, this department is modeling a new way forward at DLSU.





## DLSU STUDENTS EXPLORE PROSPECTS OF AI RESEARCH IN GLOBAL YOUTH SUMMIT

**Two De La Salle University students joined other representatives from across the globe in the National University of Singapore Young Fellowship Programme** held at National University of Singapore from June 23 to 27.

Lasallians Jan Edrian Ariola (III-BS Psychology) and Mark King Gabon (IV-BS Management of Financial Institutions) were among the close to 100 international students representing 29 countries and 57 leading universities across the globe who were selected to participate in the weeklong face-to-face lectures and workshops led by NUS professors and researchers.

They also had three weeks of online tutorials and hands-on practice in project presentations.

The program focused on exploring the application of Artificial Intelligence in PhD research. Participants also engaged in intensive discussions on best research practices, collaborated with fellows from diverse cultural and academic backgrounds to tackle real-world research challenges, and the opportunity to network with professors across disciplines.

It also included visits to several of the NUS' research laboratories, which offered firsthand insights into some of the most advanced scientific and technological innovations.

According to Gabon, "The NUS Young Fellowship Programme deepened our understanding of how Generative AI is transforming research and innovation by enabling the creation of synthetic data, enhancing simulations, and accelerating discoveries across fields such as medicine, finance, and design. We had the privilege of collaborating with student leaders from around the world, engaging in thoughtful discussions, and exploring cutting-edge research that is shaping the future of technology."

Ariola added, "I'm honored to have collaborated with brilliant peers to explore how we can thoughtfully integrate GenAI into the rigor we call research. I'm also grateful for the foundation the Lasallian education laid, as it guided me to be a curious learner, dependable teammate, and someone committed to passing on what has been generously entrusted to me."



## Project Salinaw: A lifeline of hope for communities in Rizal



**The DLSU National Service Training Program (NSTP) concluded its Project Salinaw last July 12**, which focused on providing essential disaster-preparedness supplies for the residents of Purok 5, Manggahan, Barangay Tabing Ilog, Rodriguez in Rizal Province.

Project Salinaw, inspired by the Filipino words "salin" (to transfer) and "naw" (hope), was anchored on the mission of providing hope through disaster preparedness and risk reduction initiatives.

To enhance the community's disaster resilience, they were provided solar-powered charging stations to ensure communication during power interruptions, rechargeable flashlights for safety during blackouts, waterproof containers to protect important belongings, and an inflatable lifeboat to serve as a safe evacuation tool during severe flooding. The

latter was immediately used during the recent Typhoon Crising for rescue operations in areas affected by flash floods.

The NSTP also allocated surplus resources to donate construction materials for the community's church and daycare center.

Project Salinaw involved volunteers from the Resource Mobilization Committee led by Carina Jardiniano, Finance Team headed by Eyrah Dalisay, Documentation and Creatives Team led by Sophia Emperado, Project Planning Committee under Alyssa Bautista, and overall lead Project Director Dominic Chen. Guiding and supporting these efforts were the National Service Training Program-Civic Welfare Training Service Section, particularly Project Development Officer Rosylyn Arnigo.



# DLSU Laguna Campus - SHS Research Congress highlights AI for Humanity

**DLSU Laguna Campus hosted its 7th Senior High School Research Congress, featuring the theme, “AI for Humanity: Reframing the Power of Artificial Intelligence in Empowering Societies and Connecting Communities,”** in a hybrid setup from June 23 to 25.

Congress Director for the Laguna Campus Dr. Marvin Aquino delivered the welcome remarks during the opening event at the Enrique K. Razon Hall.

On the first day of the congress, DLSU Distinguished Full Professor Dr. Napoleon Mabaquiao, Jr. of the Department of Philosophy was the keynote speaker.

Dr. Benito L. Teehankee, full professor at the Department of Management and Organization of the Ramon V. del Rosario College

of Business, conducted a Master Class session that highlighted collaboration and the integration of research into creating innovative and sustainable actions, in view of human-AI engagement.

On the second day, the plenary sessions featured speakers from the DLSU faculty who shared insights for the different SHS strands: Dr. Ezekiel Bernardo for Accountancy and Business Management (ABM), Dr. Cheryll Ruth Soriano for the Arts and Design Track (ADT), Dr. Mark Anthony Dacela for Humanities and Social Sciences (HUMSS), Geraldine Go-Bernardo, PTRP, MBM for the Sports Track (SpT), and Engr. Michael Manguerra for Science and Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM).

Parallel sessions were also held during the two-day event.



## RVRCOB team joins other youth leaders in YASA 2025

**A delegation of students from Ramon V. del Rosario College of Business (DLSU RVRCOB)** represented De La Salle University at the Youth Across Southeast Asia (YASA) Project 2025, which was held from June 28 to July 5. The event was hosted by BINUS University International.

DLSU, the sole Philippine university in this year’s event, joined other leading institutions from Indonesia, Malaysia, Thailand, Singapore, and Vietnam.

A premier international learning initiative, the YASA Project provided the participants the opportunity to collaborate. They were challenged to develop their digital skills and enhance

their intercultural understanding by creating a video campaign that addressed a selected social issue related to the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (UN SDGs).

The DLSU RVRCOB team was composed of Tattiana Ulob (AB CAM), Manu Retrato (ADV), Marti Oira (ADV), Jeian Ruiz Nicol (MFI), Samantha Nicole Caliguiran (ACM), Kyle Adrianne Decena (LGL), and Charm Tan (ADV). They were accompanied by RVRCOB faculty member Noel Murad from the Department of Marketing and Advertising.



Photo: RVRCOB FB





The workshop participants

# NexCities 2025 Workshop: Forging the Path Towards Circular Nutrient Economy

**In the Philippines, sanitation remains a major hurdle under Sustainable Development Goal 6 (SDG 6), with only 67% of domestic wastewater safely treated, according to a 2022 UN report. As the country grapples with this challenge, a paradigm shift is gaining momentum—rethinking wastewater not as waste, but as a valuable resource.**

This vision anchored the 2025 NexCities Workshop, held recently at the Henry Sy Sr. Hall, De La Salle University. With the theme “Our Way Forward to Circular Nutrient Economy: Human Waste-Derived Fertilizers as a Sustainable Pathway,” the event convened key stakeholders from government agencies, water concessionaires, academia, industry, and environmental organizations.

The workshop spotlighted circular nutrient recovery, the recovery of phosphorus, nitrogen, from domestic wastewater, as a viable and sustainable approach to sanitation. Experts from the University of Surrey, De La Salle University’s Center for Engineering and Sustainable Development Research- Waste and Resource Management Unit (CESDR-WaRM), the Society for the Conservation of Philippine Wetlands, Inc. (SCPW), and De La Salle Araneta University (DLSAU) highlighted the urgent need to mainstream these practices in the Philippines.

Dr. Aileen Orbecido of the DLSU Department of Chemical Engineering opened the discussion with a clear picture of the country’s sanitation landscape. Drawing from national data, she noted that many non-highly urbanized cities (non-HUCs) continue to suffer from poorly maintained septic systems, groundwater contamination, and open defecation.

Dr. Carla Mae Pausta of the same department presented the Newton Prize Project, which developed a nutrient recovery reactor that extracts 290g of phosphorus per 100 liters of septage. She highlighted its potential to reduce eutrophication and address resource scarcity but also acknowledged existing barriers such as the absence of fertilizer standards, high energy consumption, and public skepticism.

Sharing about his research at Salikneta Farm, Mr. Elmer Montebon from De La Salle Araneta University (DLSAU) talked about successful trials using struvite-based fertilizers on eggplant and tomato crops, noting performance on par with commercial products.

He stressed the need for continued research on product safety, regulatory frameworks, soil impact, and public acceptance.

Ms. Amy Lecciones of SCPW showcased the NexCities project’s achievements in public engagement, including farmer training and communication efforts like the “Paki-explain Pls!” video series. Farmer feedback indicated growing trust and openness to septage-derived fertilizers, especially when guided by scientific expertise.

Offering an international lens, Dr. Devendra Saroj of University of Surrey outlined how several EU countries have already integrated human waste-derived fertilizers into policy through the EU Fertilizing Products Regulation—suggesting a potential model for Philippine regulatory development.

The 2025 NexCities Workshop marked a pivotal step in reshaping the Philippines’ wastewater narrative, championing circularity, innovation, and multi-sector collaboration as key drivers of sustainable sanitation and agricultural resilience.

Building on this momentum, the Newton Prize Project aims to scale its impact by engaging DLSAU’s research center and involving the Salikneta Farm academic community in both local and international forums. With increased industry collaboration and student engagement, the project envisions supporting undergraduate students in nutrient recovery research, equipping them with certifications and hands-on experience to drive future innovations in circular sanitation.



From left: Project co-leaders Dr. Angelo Promentilla of DLSU and Dr. Devendra Saroj of University of Surrey, with University Fellow and UNESCO Philippines Commissioner Dr. Alvin Culaba.

Receive Jesus today  
with respect and thanksgiving.

*De La Salle*

-Med 114.2

ANNOUNCEMENT

CALL FOR DONATIONS

STS CRISING, TY DANTE AND HABAGAT  
Bulletin No. 1  
July 22, 2025

Severe Tropical Storm Crising (International Name: Wipha), Typhoon Dante (International Name: Kujira), and the Southwest Monsoon (Habagat) rains brought heavy rainfall, causing unexpected heavy flooding in huge portions of Metro Manila and other parts of Luzon in the past days. It has adversely affected families/communities, damaged infrastructures, and hampered economic activities.

With this, we are knocking on the hearts of everyone for assistance (through cash donations) for our initially affected partner communities (18) from the areas/cities of Manila, Pasay, Valenzuela, Quezon City, Caloocan, Malabon, and Rizal (Montalban and San Mateo), totalling to 1,898 affected families (or about 9,490 individuals).

Your generosity can make a difference in the lives of those adversely affected by the flooding due to typhoons and monsoon rains.

You may give your support in two ways:

1. CASH DONATIONS

Cash donations via bank transfer or deposit:

<b>BDO Unibank, Inc. (Philippine Peso Deposit)</b> 2422 Taft Avenue Malate Manila 1004	<b>BDO Unibank, Inc. (US Dollar Deposit)</b> 2422 Taft Avenue Malate Manila 1004
Account Number (in PHP): 004588008272 Account Name: DE LA SALLE UNIVERSITY, INC.	Account No. (in USD): 104580228807 Account Name: DE LA SALLE UNIVERSITY, INC. Swift Code: BNORPHMM

As part of the donation procedure, kindly send a scanned copy of the official receipt/deposit slip to <https://forms.gle/6yQpr8ZWABdDFrNE9>

2. SALARY DEDUCTION

To give via salary deduction, click the link below and fill out the form: <https://forms.gle/iNASKgvNFzY46YWw6>

Deadline for the submission of forms for salary deduction:

Deadlines for the Submission of Forms	Faculty/ASF/APSP/ CAP salary dates of:
August 10, 2025	September 10, 2025
August 25, 2025	September 25, 2025

You can access the Call for Donation in COSCA’s Facebook Page and LMO’s Facebook Page.

Thank you for your compassion and support.



2401 (twe’n’tē fôr’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.

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