



## CHED, PGT, TSU lead ceremonial groundbreaking of the first community sports and wellness center

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Tarlac State University is the first state university in the country to receive a grant for the Tarlac Community Sports and Wellness (TCSWC), according to Commission on Higher Education chairperson Dr. J. Prospero “Popoy” De Vera III during the groundbreaking and MOA

signing ceremony between TSU and the Provincial Government of Tarlac on November 28, 2022, at the San Isidro Campus covered court.

The three institutions are called to work together to put up the TCSWC for the province’s student-athletes, sports administrators and managers.

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## TSU receives official QS rating award; officials attend QS Summit

■ Jodie Andrea G. Pangilinan



Photos from PH-QS Summit Delegation

Tarlac State University formally received its certification for being granted the Three Stars rating by the Quacquarelli Symonds (QS) last November 9, 2022 at the QS Awarding Ceremony during the QS Higher Education Summit: Asia Pacific 2022 Hybrid Conference and Exhibition at Intercontinental Jakarta Pondok Indah in Indonesia.

This additional international milestone was personally awarded by QS officials in the in-person ceremony, as the university received the results last September 14, 2022 via email.

University President Dr. Arnold E. Velasco said in a social media comment that he is both grateful and hopeful for the next QS Stars evaluation.

“I commend and thank all

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## TSU, Chinese educational organization establish partnership for academic, cultural exchange

■ Maria Adelaida D. Calayag

Tarlac State University and Beijing PHIHUA International Education Technology Co. Ltd. entered a memorandum of understanding (MOU) on November 17, 2022, at the TSU Main AVR.

The MOU between the two academic institutions wishes to establish a partnership for academic and cultural exchange in education and research areas, as well as other activities.

To promote international academic cooperation, both institutions agreed to work together for faculty scholarships covering master's and doctoral degrees, undergraduate scholarships, an English Language proficiency program, a credit-transfer program, laboratory or research facilities sharing, faculty and student exchange, internships, cultural experience programs, seminars, and conferences.

"I am honored to present Tarlac State University and commit to the MOU between our humble university and the Beijing PHIHUA International Education Technology Co. Ltd., which aspires to enhance the relationship between the two institutions and to develop academic and cultural exchange in all areas of education, research and other activities to promote international academic corporations. This will provide a platform for the growth of collaborative relationships," TSU President Dr. Arnold Velasco E. said in his speech.

Established in 2018, Beijing PHIHUA serves as an international organization founded by overseas returnees.

It is committed to bring international advanced vocational education courses to China to promote the high-quality development of vocational education in China.



"We would like to link our Chinese HEIs (higher education institutions) and provide free Chinese courses [through] TSU to our local Filipino students and also [faculty members], whoever wants to learn Chinese, because our PHIHUA knows that so many Chinese people and also many Chinese-Filipinos people living in the Philippines. Therefore, our local Filipino students and also [faculty members], if you can (enroll in Chinese) class, [experience] a little bit of Chinese vacation, [it] is a very big advantage for our Filipino students and [faculty members]," Dr. Mei Yakun said in Mandarin, which was translated by Ms. Joy Romualdo.

PHIHUA is highly active in the field of transnational vocational education and research development.

"We also would like to introduce some advanced courses in TSU, especially you note[d] that the cross border E-commerce is really [a] very strategic course already in the world (sic). And you also note[d] that in China, they really have [a] good advantage of the E-commerce. Therefore, we can see Shopee, Lazada, etc., which developed so fast in the Philippines and like GCash, Ali Pay. That's why we also would like to introduce those courses," Yakun further said in his message of commitment.

## 107 faculty members promoted thru NBC 461 Cycle 8

■ Jodie Andrea G. Pangilinan



Tarlac State University's newly promoted faculty members took their oath on November 15, 2022, at the Alumni Center in Lucinda Campus as they received their re-classification through DBM's (Department of Budget and Management) NBC No. 461 (National Budget Circular) 8th Cycle.

Out of over 160 applicants, 107 faculty members successfully passed the said cycle.

Previous applicants were evaluated from 2016 to 2019, while new entrants were evaluated from the start of their careers until 2019.

Before the oath-taking proper, Dr. Arnold E. Velasco congratulated the faculty members as the presiding officer and university president. He said that even though it's just a piece of paper, the document where the oath of office was printed plays a very significant meaning in their lives.

"Ang gusto ko po sa susunod sana mas maraming ma-promote na mas mataas pa. Ako po, as university president, kahit papaano may alam din po ako. Kung may maitutulong ako, feel free and huwag po kayong mag-hesitate magtanong. Mas gusto ko po mas maraming masaya, mas maraming ma-promote. Iyon po ang puso ko, bilang presidente," he said.

Moreover, he challenged those promoted to the professorial rank to help faculty members in the lower

ranks, especially in research.

"Noong ako po'y nakakuha ng ganoong posisyon, hindi po ako nagdamot. Nagre-research po ako pero 'yung pangalan po binibigay ko na sa iba... 'Sir, bakit ganito?' – Mas masarap sa pakiramdam. This is a chance for the professors this afternoon. Mas malaki po 'yung blessings na darating sa atin if we keep on giving," he said.

Pres. Velasco then urged that "if it cannot be done, continue to help others."

"Huwag tayong makulitan sa mga nangungulit sa atin, asking help from us, kung paano ba 'yung ganito – especially don sa mga nasa instructor pa lang or assistant professor. 'Yung golden rule po natin, 'do unto others what you want others to do unto you.' Kung ano po 'yung tinanim niyo, 'yun din po 'yung aanihin niyo. If you want to receive more blessings from God, then do it. Makikita niyo, masaya na kayo, nakatulong pa kayo," he said.

As released by DBM, the NBC No. 461 seeks to establish and prescribe rules and regulations governing the implementation of the Revised Compensation and Position Classification Plan for faculty positions in state universities and colleges (SUCs) and higher education institutions (HEIs) per the modified Common Criteria for Evaluation

(CCE) and Qualitative Contribution Evaluation (QCE).

The instruments used for this 8th cycle are similar to the previous cycles, even with the delay in implementation, according to Vice President for Planning and Quality Assurance and CCE Chairperson Dr. Niño B. Corpuz.

"These guidelines are already set for the faculty promotions and reclassifications. Ibig sabihin, you grow with your own item. Ang competition sa NBC is not a competition sa ibang faculty members. Ang competition ay sa sarili mo. Nasa sa iyo na kung gusto mong tumaas, kasi wala ka namang iniwan na item," he said.

He also said that promotion entails responsibility and echoed Pres. Velasco's message for the newly promoted faculty members.

"As we get promoted, meron kaakibat na responsibility. Like for us, sa mga full-fledged professors, we are required/mandated to contribute in the research culture of the university. Habang tumataas 'yung rank mo, tumataas 'yung expectation. Dapat maging motivation sa mga faculty 'yung rank nila. Hindi 'yung maging complacent na sila. We have to become role models and use our rank to inspire others to better – to be achievers din," he added.

## CHED, PGT, TSU lead ceremonial groundbreaking of the first community sports and wellness center

■ Maria Adelaida D. Calayag



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trainers, and coaches. The center is also intended for the underrepresented sectors in Tarlac such as the out-of-school youth, indigenous peoples, people with illnesses and disabilities, and people of varying ages who are interested to have a healthier lifestyle.

Moreover, the TCSWC aims to safeguard the Tarlaqueños' mental health through various sports and wellness programs.

TSU first entered an agreement with CHED in 2021 under the term of former TSU president Dr. Myrna Q. Mallari, where coaches and sports administrators initially underwent a training workshop.

The 20-million-peso grant will be used for the construction of the TCSWC which will soon rise at the San Isidro Campus covered court across the Technology Building.

"TSU complied with all the requirements of CHED for us to become qualified recipient of this project, and one of which, ang requirement nito is participation ng TSU, particularly the Provincial Government of Tarlac, kaya meron tayo nitong project na ito," Pres. Velasco said in his speech.

"Since we are the first SUC to be given this project, we will serve as model or template for other SUCs (state universities and colleges) applying for the same project grant," Pres. Velasco

added

This center is under the umbrella project called TSU PATH (Promotion of Awareness, Teamwork, and Health) towards community sports and wellness, which promotes physical education and sports to develop professional athletes that will represent the country in the future.

It is connected to the prospect of Tarlac Province being eyed as a center for sports and excellence in the country. The province also houses the New Clark City sports hub and the Tarlac Recreational Park (TRP) with state-of-the-art facilities meant for regional, national, and international sports meet hosting and training programs.

"Ako po, I used to be an athlete. From swimming, badminton, martial arts, equestrian, diving – very varied noh, so which one should we focus on?" Gov. Yap said.

In congruence with the province's plan, TSU is advocating sports as it aims to promote world-class physical and health literacies towards the long-term Athletes Unified Development Program and to raise awareness through community sports and wellness programs.

"I do not want this first program to be in limbo. It must be a focused, targeted program where are we going sa sports. It is not just a mere building, 'di ba... With TSU partnering with us, I am very hopeful, and I have a lot of

trust that we will be able to become leaders in crafting a well-planned sports program," Gov. Yap furthered.

"It is very essential that sports should be integrated into every Tarlaqueno. Kailangan merong kahit na among skill," Gov. Yap added.

### **The Tarlac Community Sports and Wellness Center facilities**

The 3,000 square meter TCSWC has a conference room and gymnasium for training with machines for cardio and resistance exercises such as treadmills, weight machines, barbells, kettle balls, and the like.

It also has shower rooms with lockers for male and female student-athletes and an information room.

Meanwhile, the second floor is designated for indoor games with four table tennis courts and an area for the audience. It also features a multipurpose court, four courts for badminton and one for volleyball.

The existing covered court of the San Isidro Campus will be converted into an indoor court connected to the multipurpose courts.

The TCSWS will be utilized for training and capacity-building activities of all sports administrators, managers, trainers and coaches, game officials, and adjudicators. It is advocated to be used by student-athletes of Tarlac Province who wish to have formal training for various sports competitions.

## TSU receives official QS rating award; officials attend QS Summit

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distinct individuals for their unselfish service and contributions to realize this prestigious award for the University. With the admirable dedication and service of the TSU community, I am very hopeful that, with God's grace, we will not just sustain the three stars but have four stars in the next QS evaluation," he wrote.

Meanwhile, Vice President for Planning and Quality Assurance Dr. Niño B. Corpuz said that this event gave TSU a chance for possible partnerships with different universities and colleges.

"Nung awarding, maraming nagco-congratulate both international and Philippine universities like Malayan Colleges Laguna (a subsidiary of the Mapua University). Nakakatuwa kasi parang doon kami nagkaroon ng initial conversation about possible tie-ups especially with engineering. Tamang-tama, we are searching for research partners because isa sa mga flagship (courses) natin ang engineering," he said in an interview.

Upon receipt of the certification, the university is now allowed to use the QS Stars badges across its promotional and IEC (information, education, and communication) materials.

As a marketing tool, the QS Stars badges will highlight areas of excellence, increase international recognition, enhance student recruitment practices, and assess performance against consistent benchmarks, which can be used to create a data-driven performance report.

The QS Stars rating system, operated by the QS Intelligence Unit, evaluates universities across a wide range of important performance indicators, highlighting both the excellence and diversity of the rated institution.

Aside from the awarding, the QS Higher Education Summit featured workshops and interactive panels by experts in the academe for innovation in the Asia-Pacific (APAC) region.

Themed "The Next Big Thing: Addressing new opportunities and existing challenges in APAC higher education," the summit is an avenue for higher education leaders to discuss trends and challenges in the APAC.

According to VP Corpuz, the Philippine delegation led by CHED (Commission on Higher Education) Commissioner Dr. Ronald L. Adamat had a booth to showcase Philippine HEIs (higher education institutions).

"Because it's a summit, you can introduce your university, exchange calling cards and information, especially when going around the booths. When we shared about our university, interested naman sila. And during breaks, nagkaroon din ako ng opportunity to speak with other universities. That is a good start," he said.

Moreover, VP Corpuz shared that he appreciated the panel discussions from Dr. Ethel Agnes Pascua-Valenzuela, Director of SEAMEO Secretariat, during the conference, especially since she is the only Filipino presenter.

The TSU delegation is led by Pres. Velasco, VPPQA Corpuz, and Quality Assurance Office Director Dr. Ma. Socorro D. Valdez.

Meanwhile, the Philippine delegation is composed of representatives from 13 universities, including TSU, led by CHED Commissioner Adamat; his Chief of Staff, Mr. Albert Añoso; and CHED Regional Office X Director Dr. Freddie T. Bernal.

The 2022 QS Higher Education Summit was held last November 8-11, 2022.



## TARLAC STATE UNIVERSITY

### Vision

Tarlac State University is envisioned to be a premier University in the Asia Pacific Region.

### Mission

Tarlac State University commits to promote and sustain the offering of quality and relevant programs in higher and advanced education ensuring equitable access to education for people empowerment, professional development, and global competitiveness.

### Towards this end, TSU shall:

- 1.) Provide high quality instruction through qualified, competent and adequately trained faculty members and support staff.
- 2.) Be a premier research institution by enhancing research undertakings in the fields of technology and sciences and strengthening collaboration with local and international institutions.
- 3.) Be a champion in community development by strengthening partnership with public and private organizations and individuals

### 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.

## EDITORIAL

At long last, the much-awaited physical certificate of Tarlac State University's "Three Stars Rating" from Quacquarelli Symonds was personally received by the university's key officials in Indonesia, led by TSU President Dr. Arnold E. Velasco. But what does this piece of paper mean to TSU? How can it help TSU in its vision of becoming a premier university in the Asia-Pacific and a top sustainable university globally?

This month, the university yet again produced topnotchers in a board examination. Two nursing graduates placed third and eighth in the Philippine Nurse Licensure Examination of November 2022. This is another feather added to the cap of TSU – another means to market TSU further among hopeful collegiate students. But more than acing the board exams,

## Increased international presence thru QS

a national recognition, how can TSU be internationally known? And this is where the QS Stars Ratings take place. All recognitions and achievements are grouped accordingly, evaluated, and eventually translated into stars that could seal its international presence.

Speaking of international presence, TSU is now included among the universities listed on the prestigious QS website, [topuniversities.com](http://topuniversities.com). A webpage on this website comes alongside the rating TSU received. With this, the university's salient features, like admission policies, tuition, and campus locations, among others, are available to students in every nook and cranny of the world with just one click. Aside from the TSU website, the university boasts an additional legitimate web presence to increase its number of enrollees and partner institutions locally and

internationally.

The certification is more than just a piece of paper. This certificate adds credibility to the already credible Tarlac State University. Although TSU has been rated later than its neighboring higher education institutions, what matters is the leap of faith to present the university to a wider global audience.

Putting the university's vision in mere words is not enough since actions are pivotal to put its name out there in the world. TSU took the challenge and gained what it must gain for quality assurance. From the Philippine Quality Award to THE Impact Rankings up until the QS Stars Ratings, Tarlac State University has proven that it can be at par with its international counterparts for better customer service and world-class education to its students and stakeholders.

## TSU CCS to launch TPPO portal through MOA with Tarlac PNP

■ Maria Adelaida D. Calayag

Tarlac State University – College of Computer Studies (CCS) and the Tarlac Police Provincial Office (TPPO) strengthened their partnership through the signing of a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) at the TSU AVR on November 15, 2022.

Initiatives to help the community, stakeholders, and other academic institutions are part of the university's commitment through its research and extension services.

The TSU Extension Services Management Office and CCS, the partner college, granted TPPO's request for a heavier cyberspace presence.

"Tiningnan ko po sa internet [at] wala pong presence ang PNP sa cyberspace -- what I mean is 'yung sarili po nilang identity (website). They are using social media, [like] Facebook, where in fact, that is one of the reasons kung bakit nagkakaroon ng inconsistency sa information dissemination. [It] is basically [because] they are relying too much on social media," Mr. Carlos Flores Jr., project designer and developer, said before his presentation.

With this, Flores, also a CCS faculty member, presented the initial prototype of the TPPO portal aimed to help the uniformed personnel digitize their documents and upload announcements, administrative orders, and other papers for archiving and efficient internal access.

According to Flores, the system intervention will make it easier for the PNP to track needed documents and other requirements necessary for their personnel to rise from the ranks. This will also help their clients and other civilians to access public records or laws for their guidance.

Moreover, the portal will also display the hotline numbers of each municipal police station, facilitating better communication among civilians.

Aside from access to public records, the TPPO portal features an e-Library for archiving books and references, digital forms, and cybersecurity measures.

Profiling of personnel and data statistics for internal use are other key features of the portal for the monitoring of targets and accomplishments.



Flores said he developed the TPPO portal in two days as the TPPO plans to launch the portal in December.

"I think it is high time that PNP will promote their own identity, their own portal in cyberspace, so pwede po natin itong gawing stepping stone," Flores said.

In a message during the program, TPPO Provincial Director PCol Erwin Sanque emphasized the pressing need for the TPPO to be empowered through information and communication technology (ICT).

"So, sa akin every policeman must be equipped with knowledge and information in order to effectively respond to the challenge of the vast and growing information and communication technology. Dito po kami nagkukulang kasi 'yung mga personnel namin ay lagi yan nasa field. Sabi ko nga pagdating sa technology, sa ICT, ang layo namin. Hindi malayong mataas, napakababa namin when it comes to ICT. Especially today, 'yung mga kalaban namin mga gamit na nila sa cyberspace; kinukulang kami. Darating talaga 'yung panahon na lahat

'yan, illegal transaction, everything nasa cyberspace," PCol Sanque said in his message of commitment.

In response, TSU President Dr. Arnold E. Velasco affirmed the university's commitment to the TPPO.

"The conduct of short courses on computer literacy and usage of online forms of reports will be beneficial to the employees of the PNP. These activities that will be conducted will surely generate outputs and quality services that are for excellence and quality of service," Pres. Velasco said.

"This agreement also intends to strengthen the programs, projects, and activities of the Philippine National Police Region III office. Likewise, this will serve as an opportunity to strengthen our partnership with the community by providing exceptional services," Pres. Velasco added.

Other uniformed officials present during the MOA signing are PLtCol Romel Santos, Deputy Provincial Director for Operations; PMaj Ruperto Calosa Jr., Provincial Administrative and Record Management Unit OIC; and their staff.

## FEATURE

### TSU Guard: Education Has No Age Limit

■ David Ande Gene P. Pabon

Tarlac State University fosters diversity in education. Throughout the years, TSU has been a home to students of different races, cultures, beliefs, sexuality, and age. TSU not only opens its doors for quality education to aspiring college students, but the institution also encourages its non-teaching staff to finish their degrees at the university where they can juggle their time between work and studies.

In September 2022, one non-teaching employee of TSU under the Civil Security Unit (CSU) graduated with a bachelor's degree in Public Administration.

Mr. Rocel P. Corpuz, 47, has been serving the university as a security guard for over seven years. With his lighthearted personality, employees and students would fondly call him "Manong Rocel." According to them, Manong Rocel is polite and approachable. He is often seen at the Main Campus, but he also serves at the Lucinda and San Isidro campuses, depending on his shift and

schedule.

According to Manong Rocel, he was already contented with his job as a security personnel until an opportunity came to pursue his college studies. He then decided to enroll and take advantage of the implemented Free Tuition Law signed by former president Rodrigo Duterte in 2018. Because of this law, he shared that his dream to finish college was ignited regardless of him being a security guard and a father of four.

Manong Rocel's top choice was really public administration, a program under the College of Public Administration and Governance. It will serve as a strong foundation for his goal to become a public servant.

Little did everyone know that Manong Rocel ran for SK (Sangguninang Kabataan) Chairman during the 90s in Brgy. Estipona of Pura, Tarlac. However, he failed to win. Meanwhile, in 2008, he gave himself another chance to run for a higher position as kagawad



(Sangguninang Barangay Member) in Estipona. Again, he lost in the elections.

After losing twice, this was

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## TSU employees join basketball tourney, advance to semi-finals

■ Jazzel Llanelli M. Manabat

Selected Tarlac State University employees formed a team as its entry to the Mentors Cup Season 16 under the Educators Division organized by the Samahan ng Basketbolista sa Pilipinas-Tarlac.

The group, dubbed TSU Firefox, was formed to strengthen the team's dynamics for the upcoming SCUFAR-III (State Colleges and Universities Faculty Association of Region III) Sports and Cultural Festival. Furthermore, it also serves as a recreational and wellness activity for the employees.

"Itong pagsali namin sa Mentors Cup, preparation dapat sa SCUFAR and para ipagpatuloy 'yung nasimulan noong ASCU (Association of State Colleges and Universities) [Summer Olympics 2022] para hindi mawala 'yung nasimulan na team. Para rin ito sa camaraderie," team captain Bryan Jan S. Dizon said in an interview.

Out of ten participating teams from the Tarlac Province, the TSU Firefox clinched



a spot in the semi-finals after winning by default against the team of educators from Paniqui and Gerona last November 11, 2022.

The TSU team will face the teaching staff of Don Bosco Technical Institute-Tarlac for its first game in the semi-finals.

Dizon also mentioned the all-out support of the TSU administration when they pitched the idea of joining the cup through a letter. The admin even sponsored the team's

uniforms.

TSU Firefox is composed of players from different offices and colleges of the university regardless of employment status. They were allowed by the administration to join the sports activity since games are held beyond office hours.

Said basketball tournament commenced in August 2022 and will end this November 2022.

## TSU Guard: Education Has No Age Limit

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the time he realized that, perhaps, the reason for his losses might be his lack of education and further knowledge about laws and governance.

Going back to college after almost 30 years has been a challenging journey to Manong Rocel, primarily dealing with his classmates who are 20 years younger than him.

"Marami akong karanasan tulad ng tatawanan ka, minsan kukutyain ka na 'matanda na siya nag-aaral pa.' Maraming hindrance para sakin," he shared.

Aside from being bullied and criticized, another immense challenge for him was using technology. When studying, having a computer or laptop is necessary, especially for assignments and projects.

"Sa panahon noon at ngayon, malayo. Dahil noon wala pa tayong teknolohiyang ganito kaganda. Noon ang thesis at mga term papers lang [sa] Manila paper, ngayon puro PowerPoint kaya mahirap. Kung wala kang knowledge talaga kagaya ko, mahirap para sakin na makipagsabay sa mga

kabataan," he said.

Manong Rocel had difficulty in time management as well. As a security guard, his shift regularly changes. According to him, he would sometimes work from 7:00 AM to 3:00 PM or 11:00 AM to 7:00 PM in different campuses; right after his duty, he would go straight to classes from 6:00 PM to 9:00 PM.

Despite the challenges, he is grateful to TSU for allowing him to study while working. The CSU also gave him the support and consideration which he truly valued.

But mainly, his family has been his source of inspiration and motivation to keep going. As a father, he wanted to be an inspiration to his children. For him, education is the most important asset a person can ever have. Education is the ultimate legacy he can pass on to his children.

With the support from his family, Manong Rocel played a major role in their group's thesis as he was assigned to gather data. Their study is related to government officials, and his first-hand experience in SK elections came handy. With all their hearts poured out, their

group successfully defended their thesis and was given a grade of 1.75.

"Sobrang laki ng suporta ng pamilya ko sakin. Kung hindi dahil sa kanila, hindi ko magagawa ang lahat ng projects ko, term paper ko, dahil wala akong knowledge sa computer... Walang mga problema at mga balakid ang makahahadlang para sa edukasyon," he added.

His passion for public service never wavered. In fact, now that he has already graduated, he plans to give himself another chance to run as barangay kagawad. He sees this as his stepping stone to get a higher position in the future. But more than being a public servant, graduating from college is also his way to give his family a better life.

Manong Rocel wants to be the epitome of success for those who feel like finishing college and going after their dreams is only for young and privileged people. He also stated that validation from others is not a necessity. And when criticism comes, it is best to ignore them and divert one's attention to accomplishing goals.

## TSU, NGO intensify extension service to Maruglo ES; serves around 480 Students through Project K3

■ Jhayvi Dizon [IALO]

To promote volunteerism, Tarlac State University (TSU), through the International Affairs and Linkages Office (IALO), TSU Faculty and Personnel Union (TSUFPU), and the TSU-Non-Academic Staff Association (TSU-NASA), partnered with the non-government organization Agapito-Milla-Camba-Ogame (AMCO) Advocates, LTD towards the fruition of a strengthened extension service to Maruglo Elementary School (MES), its adopted community.

Project K3: Kaakbay ng Kabataan tungo sa Karunungan is a university-wide extension program. The activities under this outreach program were held on November 3-4, 2022 in Capas, Tarlac.

The project catered to 484 pupils of MES through AMCO's Lingguhang-Lakbay Aral (LLA): Teaching Reading Literacy Program. This was complemented by the generosity of the TSU community with the distribution of education packs to individual learners that were prepared by the TSUFPU and TSU-NASA officers and members.

"Mahal natin ang mga batang ito. Bibigyan namin kayo ng materyales para matuto kayo at para maging maayos ang pagpasok ninyo sa paaralan. Ang una naming handog sa inyo ay kahit paano ay matulungan namin kayo sa abot ng aming makakaya para kayo ay matutong magbasa," said Dr. Ninez Tulo, International Affairs and Linkages Office Unit Head, before the distribution.

Meanwhile, to realize the objectives of the two-day activity, volunteer students from the League of Prospective English Educators (LPEE), Pre-school Education Society (PES), and Linguistic Society (LingSoc)



spearheaded the reading activities during the breakout sessions.

"As soon as I arrived, I fell in love with the place and the people. I helped in the school for two days and I was able to get to know young kids who are very much eager to learn. It is truly a heartwarming experience to have shared and inspired the young learners during the literacy program. Maruglo (MES) is filled with beautiful children who have dreams and I would like to thank TSU and AMCO for this opportunity," LPEE president Alrianne Katrina A. Hulipas shared about her experience.

Moreover, one of the activities during the breakout sessions was the writing of wishes on holiday cards in line with the upcoming Christmas season.

"Pinagsulat namin sila ng mga mensahe at kung ano ba ang Christmas

wishes nila sa Christmas cards. Nagtatanong-tanong si teacher sa ibang mga estudyante kung ano nga ba ang wish nila. Hindi mo mapipigilang hindi maantig ang puso mo dahil sa mga simpleng hiling ng mga bata," one of the PES students mentioned.

The students' humble wishes for this upcoming 'season of giving' were not material possessions.

One learner remarked, "Ang gusto ko lang po sa Pasko ay ang matutong magbasa," while another said, "Pangarap ko pong matutong makapagsulat."

With these, AMCO, through Ms. Patricia Mhae Agapito, mentioned that their organization, along with TSU, will plan to come back in December for another outreach program aimed to fulfill the simple hopes of the Maruglo learners.

## 2 nursing grads rank in 2022 nursing boards

■ Ma. Teresa D. Madriaga

**CONGRATULATIONS TO THE NEWLY LICENSED TSUIAN NURSES!**  
NOVEMBER 2022  
NURSE LICENSURE EXAMINATION (NLE)

FIRST TIME TAKERS	<b>95.86%</b>	<b>TOP 3 (89.60%)</b>
INSTITUTIONAL PASSING RATE	<b>94.74%</b>	<b>MICHELLE JOY L. LIM</b>
NATIONAL PASSING RATE	<b>74.40%</b>	<b>TOP 8 (88.60%)</b>
		<b>HARYL LYN C. DELA VEGA</b>

The TSU community is very proud of you!

Two nursing graduates of Tarlac State University are among the topnotchers in the November 2022 Philippine Nurse Licensure Examination per the results released by the Professional Regulation Commission (PRC) last November 29, 2022.

Michelle Joy L. Lim claimed

the third spot with a rating of 89.60%, while Haryl Lyn C. Dela Vega reached the eighth rank with 88.60%.

Furthermore, the university recorded a 94.74 institutional passing percentage against the 74.40 % national passing rate.

The passing rate for TSU's first-time takers is 95.86%.

**CONGRATULATIONS TO THE NEWLY LICENSED TSUIAN ENGINEERS!**  
NOVEMBER 2022  
CIVIL ENGINEER LICENSURE EXAMINATION

FIRST TIME TAKERS	<b>45.30%</b>
INSTITUTIONAL PASSING RATE	<b>41.00%</b>
NATIONAL PASSING RATE	<b>39.34%</b>

The TSU community is very proud of you!

## TSU-IALO explores partnership, collaboration in CHED Canada Mission

■ Jhayvi Dizon [IALO]

To strengthen internationalization initiatives, Tarlac State University, through the International Affairs and Linkages Office (IALO), participated in the Philippine Partnership Mission in Canada organized by the Embassy of Canada and the Commission on Higher Education (CHED) on November 13-16, 2022.

Through this mission, 13

Philippine higher education institutions (PH-HEIs), including TSU, convened during the annual conference of the Canadian Bureau for International Education (CBIE) and engaged in university visits with Canadian universities and colleges.

The annual CBIE conference offers an avenue for the exploration

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## DOST-PCIEERD greenlights DOST-TSU 'Aslagan' TBI

■ Jodie Andrea G. Pangilinan (with report from Zepaniah L. Lacsina [TDTCO])



Photos from Zepaniah L. Lacsina [TDTCO]



Tarlac State University signed a memorandum of agreement (MOA) with the Department of Science and Technology – Philippine Council for Industry, Energy, and Emerging Technology Research and Development (DOST-PCIEERD) during the 6th TBI (Technology Business Incubation) Summit last November 16, 2022, at the Blue Leaf Events Pavilion in Taguig City.

University President Dr. Arnold E. Velasco personally signed the agreement, extending his support towards this project.

Out of 27 applicants, TSU is one of the 15 universities approved for TBI funding under the Higher Education Institution Readiness for Innovation Technopreneurship (HEIRIT) program per the email communicated last November 9, 2022.

This will be the first DOST-PCIEERD-funded TBI in the province.

The funding will be used to classify the needs of DOST-TSU Aslagan TBI (formerly known as TSU-TALAHIB) and nurture the university's potential startups through technology, innovation, and collaboration in food production and product development areas.

The renaming from TSU-

TALAHIB (Technological Advancement for Livelihood and Holistic Innovation for Food Businesses) to DOST-TSU Aslagan is based on the DOST-PCIEERD Governing Council's recommendation after TSU passed its last proposal defense on November 3, 2022.

"Aslagan" is a Kapampangan word that means sunrise or "to be lighted upon."

As the expedition of the DOST-TSU Aslagan TBI kicks off, the team led by Project Leader Mr. Aldrex Laxamana anticipates the full support of different partner agencies and university offices to promote a culture of quality among food businesses and cooperation among startups, industry mentors, and investors.

The TBI Summit is an annual event that associates all DOST-funded incubators, along with other government innovation agencies, private incubators, innovators, and some international incubator managers. The activity is an avenue to promote partnership and discuss possible dilemmas of the startup community.

Themed "Homegrown Heroes: Cultivating Future Tech Giants," this year's summit was held during the Philippine Startup Week 2022 (November 14-18, 2022) to engage startup founders, investors, corporates, academia, media, and government agencies promoting

collaboration, innovation, and the available support towards further growth of the Philippine startup ecosystem.

Pres. Velasco led the TSU delegation. He was joined by the TBI members, namely project leader Mr. Laxamana, ITS (Innovation and Technology Support Office) Manager Dr. Wilmark Ramos, food technology consultant Ms. Emmerly Balbas, research consultant Mr. Jaidriel Cabanding, and technical staff Ms. Zepaniah Lacsina.

### DOST-TSU 'Aslagan'

To help local MSMEs (micro, small, and medium enterprises) and promote a culture of quality among food businesses and cooperation among the startups, industry mentors, and investors, DOST-TSU Aslagan focuses its banner program on food technology and product development for local fruit and vegetable innovation.

Its services are grouped into four categories – *Pamanintun* (To Find), *Pamagluid* (To Conserve), *Pamisali* (To Create), and *Pamanggawa* (To Market).

*Pamanintun* seeks to create networks, build campaign awareness, and conduct capacity-building activities. *Pamagluid* will help with product development and testing, standardizing recipes and costing, and FDA (Food

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@opaitsu



+63 45 606-8123



opai@tsu.edu.ph  
helpdesk@tsu.edu.ph

## DOST-PCIEERD greenlights DOST-TSU 'Aslagan' TBI

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and Drug Administration) registration assistance, among others. *Pamisali* will venture into marketing, financial institution bridging, and brand coaching. Meanwhile, *Pamanggawa* will focus on packaging and assistance with IP (intellectual property) protection and business registration.

According to Mr. Laxamana, their team had to defend the project proposal five times, including a mock defense, to different groups of panelists coming from the UPD UPSCALE (The DOST-UP Sustaining Collaboration in an Advanced Learning Environment), UP Mindanao, PCIEERD Management Team, PCIEERD Technical Panel (TP), and the PCIEERD Governing Council.

"Intense 'yung TP. They were very strict when it comes to the incubation. Talagang ginisa kami when it came to the incubatees (startups), the programs, the process... Na-scrutinize tayo ng mabuti. Nonetheless, nakasagot naman tayo," he said in an interview.

On the other hand, he said that the panelists were impressed because they

already have a risk management plan.

This was developed with the help of DOST project managers, especially Engr. Norman Nicole Jimenez from the DOST-PCIEERD's Research Information and Technology Transfer Division. He also served as the focal person for DOST-TSU Aslagan.

Moreover, Mr. Laxamana shared that their previous benchmarking activities with Bulacan State University, Cagayan State University, and Nueva Vizcaya State University helped in their preparations.

When asked about his takeaways during the panel presentations, he said that we must always think of our country.

"Talagang para sa bayan itong ginagawa natin, and not just for us (TSU). In the long run, ang magbe-benefit dito is the economy of our country. Magkakaiba man tayo ng political mindset, but at the end of the day, we are still one with the government para mapabuti 'yung innovation natin," he said.

Meanwhile, the panelists' recommendations have already been incorporated into the current project. Aside

from the TBI's new name, the project also changed its focus to a more specific one.

"Marami ang nagbago. Before, we were just focused on food. 'Yun lang. But after the series of defense tinanong sa atin, 'Anong focus sa food? Ang lawak-lawak ng food.' So, we had to specialize and chose local fruit and vegetable innovation," he said.

The multi-million project is targeted to be launched in the second quarter of 2023.

This project will be a "great addition" to the university, according to Mr. Laxamana, enabling TSU to become a step closer to being a premier university in the Asia-Pacific region and a top sustainable university in the world.

"May karagdagang office na naman tayo, and this will really optimize our potential as a cradle for MSMEs in the region, not only in the province. We are looking forward to the support of the whole TSU community dito sa project na ito since it's not just a business-related office, but all of the colleges/students will partake in this journey with us," Mr. Laxamana added.

## SOL seeks partnerships with three international institutions through AUAP

David Ande Gene P. Pabon

Tarlac State University's School of Law secured three memoranda of understanding with international universities during the AUAP Youth Development Program last November 23, 2022, at Brighton Grand Hotel in Pattaya, Thailand.

SOL Dean Dr. Jose I. Dela Rama Jr. expressed his intention to build good relationships and potential collaborations with other universities from other countries through the AUAP.

The program focuses on molding the all-round development of students in dealing with global issues and changes.

Dean Dela Rama led the



MOU signing with the University of Mpumalanga in South Africa, represented by Dr. Paul Maminza; Mizoram University in India, represented by Prof. H.K. Laldinpui Fente; and Universiti Kebangsaan



Photos from Dr. Jose I. Dela Rama Jr.

Malaysia, the National University of Malaysia, represented by Dr. Norissan Kamil Othman.

The signing aims to enhance relations among the higher education

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## TSU hosts in-person CAASUC 3, lands 1st runner-up overall

David Ande Gene P. Pabon



After two years of the pandemic, the Culture and the Arts Festival of the Culture and the Arts Association of State Universities and Colleges in Region III (CAASUC 3) was held in person and hosted by Tarlac State University where it placed 1st runner-up in the overall rankings.

The festival took place last November 21, 23, and 25, 2022.

CAASUC 3 Culture and the Arts Festival is an annual regional competition committed to helping students succeed in various areas, including singing, dancing, and literary arts, among others.

With the theme "Pagpapanday sa Sining at Kultura: Tugon sa Nagbabagong Panahon at Naglalakihang Hamon," TSU formally opened the ceremony at the TSU Gymnasium on November 31 welcoming the delegates from the 13 state universities and colleges (SUC) of Region III.

"Being the host of this very significant event is sensational. Being with the state universities and colleges' presidents and representatives of Region III is something that should

be treasured and be proud of," TSU President Dr. Arnold E. Velasco said during the opening program.

As chairperson of the CAASUC 3 Executive Board, he also extended his appreciation to the SUC presidents and key officials who pledged their support.

Moreover, Pres. Velasco reminded the participants about the importance of good sportsmanship in the competition.

"Always remember that win or lose, innumerable opportunities to gain skills will last a lifetime. Respect, teamwork, honor and fair play, excellence and hard work, discipline, perseverance, goal setting, planning, value for culture, and the significance of cultivating a competitive spirit are the things that you will gain from this opportunity given to you," he said.

CAASUC 3 Board of Management Chairperson Prof. Marcelino Balanquit announced the schedule of the three-day affair.

Participants competed in the following categories: (1) Literary and Performing Arts, including Spoken Poetry, Pagkukuwento, Story Telling,

Essay Writing, Pagsulat ng Sanaysay, Radio Drama, Short & Sweet Play (Drama), Short & Sweet (Musical); (2) Music, comprised of Kundiman, Pop Duet, Choral, Pop Solo, Rap Singing, Live Band, Guitar, Violin, Bandurria, and Piano; (3) Dance, specifically Hip-hop Dance, Contemporary Dance, Folk Dance, and Indigenous Dance; (4) Visual Arts that involves Pencil Drawing, Charcoal Rendering, On-the-spot Poster Making, Photography; and (5) Pageantry through Mr. & Ms. CAASUC 3 2022.

Said competitions were held at the TSU Main Campus, San Isidro Campus, and Kaisa Hall of the Tarlac City Government.

### TSU wins 1st runner-up overall

TSU bagged the championship titles, worth 10 points each, in Radio Drama, Short and Sweet Play-Musical, Poster Making, and Hip-Hop Dance, while Ms. TSU 2022 Ayumi Cayabyab was crowned as Ms. CAASUC-3 2022.

Delegates from Pagkukuwento, Choir, Solo Kundiman, Piano, and Live Band garnered the first runner-up

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## SOL seeks partnerships with three international institutions through AUAP



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institutions and develop academic and cultural interchange in all areas of education and research and promote international academic cooperation.

“The signing of the three MOU from different universities is a gateway to international learning and collaboration. This will open a floodgate for virtual or face-to-face interaction that will benefit both parties,” Dr. Dela Rama Jr. said.

He also said these universities

are looking forward to gaining knowledge from TSU.

“They are also interested to learn from us, and in that way, we can have mutual understanding, advancement, and progress through mutual cooperation,” he added.

SOL commits to fulfilling this advocacy in the international arena as TSU continues to work with universities from other nations that will help achieve its mission of being a top sustainable university globally.

To witness the signing, Dean Dela Rama was joined by SOL faculty members, namely Civil Law Chairperson Dr. Mariemeir I. Marcos-Rivera, Clinical Legal Education Program Chairperson Dr. Mykedox Knoel T. Cuchapin, Remedial Law Chairperson Dr. Salvador N. Moya II, Student Affairs Chairperson Atty. Socrates A. Padua, Atty. Jewel O. Dela Cruz, and eight selected SOL students who also took part in the AUAP program.

infrastructure projects until 2025 based on the university’s approved Land Use Development and Infrastructure Plan (LUDIP).

According to Office of Planning, Performance Monitoring, and Evaluation Director Dr. Mervin P. Mohammed, the 2023 targets and priorities are anchored on Philippine President Ferdinand R. Marcos Jr.’s recent State of the Nation Address, the nation’s socio-economic agenda, the United Nation’s Sustainable Development Goals, and TSU President Dr. Arnold E. Velasco’s plan of action delivered during his presidential investiture last July 14, 2022.

Moreover, the university’s direction towards strengthened internationalization efforts was also

discussed during the meetings. This will be reflected in the targets and plans of the colleges and offices.

Meanwhile, the Administrative Council convened on November 4 where the university’s directions, targets, and priorities were echoed and deliberated. Concerns and suggestions of college deans and directors were addressed in the said meeting.

In a message, President Velasco shared his stance on the importance of planning sessions for the fruition of the university’s targets. He reinforced his proposed TSU core values centered on transparency, service, and unity as guiding principles in the succeeding planning activities.

“We need this planning in

realizing our plans for the university. Mas marami po tayong magagawang kung tayo po ay magkakaisa,” he said.

“We will make all possibilities for these to be realized, of course, in the legal or proper way,” he added.

From November 8-12, deans, directors, and unit heads are scheduled for planning activities to distribute targets and draft their strategic and action plans.

Offices and colleges, together with their respective faculty members, non-teaching staff, and stakeholders, are set to hold a presentation of plans and targets.

After the consolidation and approval of plans, the Administrative Council is scheduled to have a planning activity with the Board of Regents in January 2023.

## TSU hosts in-person CAASUC 3, lands 1st runner-up overall

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spots, giving the university additional seven points for each category.

Meanwhile, the university secured ranks in the top five in Storytelling, Pagsulat ng Sanaysay, Spoken Poetry, Short and Sweet Play-Drama, Vocal Duet, Solo Pop Singing, Bandurria, Pencil Drawing, Charcoal Rendering, Contemporary Dance, and Mr. CAASUC-3.

Garnering 120 points, TSU was hailed as the first runner-up in this year’s festival, while Bulacan State University bagged the overall champion title with 127 points.

Following TSU is Central Luzon State University as 2nd runner-up, Don Honorio Ventura State University as 3rd runner-up, and President Ramon Magsaysay State University as 4th runner-up.

The winning teams and individuals are set to represent Region III at the National Festival of Culture and the Arts next year in Iloilo Province.



## TSU administration sets targets, commences planning sessions for FY 2023-2024

■ Jazzel Llanelli M. Manabat

With a new set of executives, Tarlac State University held a series of meetings to lay down the targets for fiscal year 2023 to be cascaded to colleges and offices per the submitted university targets to the Department of Budget and Management.

Separate sessions with the university’s Executive Committee and Administrative Council were conducted with a discussion concerning planning guidelines and forms to be used for the strategic and action plans for 2023-2024.

In a meeting last October



20, 2022, the Executive Committee reviewed the targets attained and accomplishments for fiscal years 2021-2022 as the bases for the

feasibility of targets for next year.

The discussion continued on November 3 wherein the committee talked about the prioritization of



## TSU-IALO explores partnership, collaboration in CHED Canada Mission

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of possible partnerships encouraging international collaborations among education professionals from various regions of the world who champion transformative and responsive sustainable and internationalized systems of education.

Along with TSU, other PH-HEIs that participated in this internationalization (IZN) mission are Northern Bukidnon State College, Romblon State University, University of the Philippines-Los Banos, University of Southern Mindanao, Don Mariano Marcos Memorial State University, The Manila Times College of Subic, Far Eastern University, Panpacific University, World Citi College and WCC Aeronautical and Technological College, and Universidad de Dagupan.

With goals to promote TSU and map connections with Canadian institutions, IALO Director Dr. Jasper Jay N. Mendoza and IALO Unit Head for Academic Programs Dr. Myrel M. Santiago represented the university throughout the mission's activities.

International exploration through CBIE

Themed "Finding Balance," this year's CBIE conference zeroed in on the recovery of IZN by instilling among international educators the importance of a problem-centered approach in solving pandemic-related concerns affecting international education.

Anchored on this objective, the conference provided sessions of plenary talks with in-depth discussions on Diversity and Inclusion, Global Engagement, and Immigration Policy towards International Student Advising, among others.

Moreover, CHED Chairperson Dr. J. Prospero "Popoy" E. De Vera III virtually presented the "Breakthroughs and Missions, Bridging Higher Education to the World" to the Philippine delegation. This was followed by remarks of CHED International Affairs Staff Director Atty. Lily Freida Macabangon-Milla who opened the floor for the networking opportunity featuring a table-hopping

activity with the Canadian HEIs.

Both TSU representatives took advantage of this opportunity. They first sought to identify Canadian HEIs with similar programs and curricular offerings as that of TSU.

Afterwards, Dr. Mendoza and Dr. Santiago met with the identified HEIs with similar niche programs such as nursing, engineering, computer studies, teacher education, arts and social sciences, and business management.

Among the Canadian HEIs, they had initial discussions with the following for possible partnerships: Fanshawe College, Memorial University, Kwantlen Polytechnic University, Vancouver Community College, IBT College, Humber College Institute of Technology and Advanced Learning, and the University of Guelph.

"We anticipate that this international visit with Canadian institutions through the CBIE Annual Conference will help the university in fulfilling its vision on IZN as we set to forge partnerships that will provide opportunities for students and faculty members to be more exposed in the international academic setting," Dr. Santiago mentioned when asked what the CBIE participation meant for the university.

### Mapped out plans

During the university visits, the Philippine delegation signed various memoranda of agreement and understanding with select Canadian universities and colleges.

Aimed to address sustainability, the PH delegation conceptualized a collaboration with Dalhousie University titled PHEIs-Dalhousie Blue Economic Network, a project aligned to the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals 14 and 15 – Life on Land and Life Below Water.

This possible partnership in addressing the sustainability concerns on various bodies of water is anchored on the UN's definition of "Blue Economy" which greatly mandates economic sectors to determine interventions on existing environmental challenges. This collaboration will provide various

opportunities both for the PH HEIs and Dalhousie University, such as research programs, capacity-building activities, and social entrepreneurship.

To push further the opportunities for partnerships during the said university visits, the PH delegation signed a memorandum of understanding with Queens University.

The MOU with Queens University will pave the way for the implementation of the Philippines & Queens University Economic and Environmental Network for Sustainability (PH-QUEENS), a program that seeks to capacitate HEIs in promoting environmental sustainability initiatives through Teaching and Research, Administration and Governance, People and Society, and Environment and Climate.

Furthermore, the TSU-IALO took the chance to discuss possible partnerships with Queens University officials about faculty and student mobility and COIL for early childhood education, business courses, and English courses, and capacity-building and sharing of experiences on SDGs.

Correspondingly, the Philippine delegation conceptualized a memorandum of understanding set to be signed in January 2023. It will be a springboard for collaborations among cited areas of cooperation, namely sharing of e-learning resources, sharing of human resources and experts, and inter-university research undertakings, to name a few.

Moreover, the PH delegation also visited the following Canadian universities and colleges: OCAD University, St. Lawrence College, Conestoga College, and Mohawk College.

The aforementioned exploratory discussions among Canadian universities and colleges are expected to provide a sense of community between the Philippine and Canadian academic institutions as embedded within the statement CHED-Office of Program and Standards Development Director Dr. Cherrie Melanine Ancheta – Diego, "Co-creation. Co-becoming. Co-transformation."