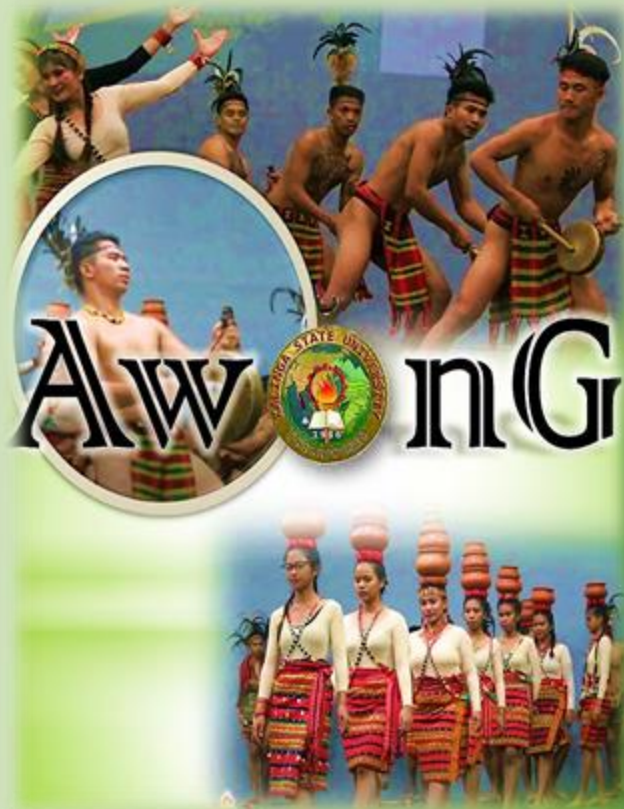


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# AWONG

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# Kalinga State University Celebrates 7th University Charter Day and Pays Tribute to Dr. Ernesto T. Miguel: KSU Continues to Excel in the "Now Normal" with a Focus on Excellence and Engagement



Kalinga State University (KSU) marked its 7th University Charter Day with a grand celebration on May 19, 2023. The event, held under the theme "KSU in the Now Normal: C.R.E.A.T.E.S.," which stands for "Continues the ripple of excellence; activates teamwork and engagement to success," showcased the university's commitment to fostering excellence, collaboration, and success.

The program commenced with a solemn mass, setting the tone for the day's festivities. Dr. Robert Rodolfo, Vice President for Academics and Student Development, delivered a warm welcome message, expressing gratitude to all the attendees and highlighting the significance of the occasion.

Dr. Perfelia R. Buen, Board and University Secretary, took the stage to present a captivating historical account of KSU's journey and milestones since its establishment as a university.

Dr. Eduardo T. Bagtang, the esteemed University President, emphasized the importance of KSU's mission in providing quality education and the university's unwavering dedication to achieving excellence in all endeavors.

A momentous highlight of the event was the recognition of the bar and board passers, acknowledging their outstanding achievements and contributions to their respective fields.

Dr. Ronda Vail Leyaley, Director for Quality Assurance, provided an overview of the KSU's pursuit of the Philippine Quality Award (PQA), sharing the institution's progress and efforts to meet the highest standards of excellence.

Dr. Joy Grace P. Doctor then presented updates on the DBM-CHED joint circular No. 3, s. 2022, focusing on institutional promotion and the implementation of the Revised Organizational Structure and Staffing Standards for State Universities and Colleges (ROSS) for phase 1. >>Next Page

Transitioning to the second part of the program, a heartfelt tribute was paid to the esteemed Dr. Ernesto T. Miguel, a distinguished figure in the KSU community, the former dean of the College of Agriculture and the Vice President for Research Development, Extension and Training. Mr. Danilo T. Buen delivered an inspiring biography, recounting Dr. Miguel's remarkable contributions and dedication to the university.

Dr. Jovita Saguibo and Dr. Ruby Orange Agyao, colleagues and friends of Dr. Miguel, delivered testimonial messages, expressing their deep admiration and gratitude for his valuable service and mentorship.



In a heartfelt response, Dr. Ernesto Miguel expressed his appreciation for the recognition and shared fond memories of his journey at KSU, expressing optimism for the university's future.

The program concluded with the presentation of a certificate and token of appreciation to Dr. Ernesto Miguel by the KSUEA and KSUFFAI Presidents, symbolizing the university community's heartfelt gratitude for his exceptional service.

The 7th University Charter Day celebration and tribute to Dr. Ernesto T. Miguel was a remarkable event that showcased KSU's commitment to excellence, collaboration, and honoring its distinguished members. The university's dedication to fostering a culture of success and engagement remains unwavering as it continues to navigate the "now normal" with resilience and determination. / MUW-UJO

# KSU President Eduardo T. Bagtang and **CAR-SUCs** Presidents Collaborate

## with Senator Loren Legarda to Advance Cordillera Region's Development



In a significant stride towards advancing the development of the Cordillera Administrative Region (CAR), KSU President Eduardo T. Bagtang, together with other CAR-SUCs Presidents, convened a crucial meeting with Senator Loren Legarda at the Senate in Manila yesterday. The meeting aimed to discuss and seek possible funding for the proposed CAR-SUC projects—an outcome of their previous meeting with DBM Secretary Pangandaman held in Baguio City on April 26, 2023.

During the meeting, Senator Loren Legarda, known for her unwavering support for regional development, urged the Presidents of CAR-SUCs to submit comprehensive proposals for regional and institutional projects that would address the specific concerns of the Cordillera Administrative Region.

One of the notable proposals submitted was the regional proposal for the whole region to work on titled "Innovative Coffee Productivity through Science and Technology in the Province of Kalinga" by the CAR-SUCs. This proposal aspires to establish a sustainable supply of high-quality coffee beans, utilizing science and technology innovations to drive progress within the communities of Cordillera. Furthermore, Kalinga State University (KSU), through Pres. Bagtang presented its institutional proposal, "MATIPOY," which stands for "Masaganang Agrikultura through Indigenous Vegetable Production and Conservative Employing Organic Farming-Way of the Ykalinga." The project's objective is to provide a healthy community in the Cordillera Administrative Region with accessible, affordable, nutritious, and safe food options by conserving indigenous vegetables. >>Next Page

Senator Loren Legarda expressed her support and assured the Presidents of CAR-SUCs of her assistance in realizing their projects. She encouraged the SUCs to publish more books in both hard copies and digital formats, to be uploaded on their websites and Facebook pages, including the senator's Facebook page and website, fostering the dissemination of knowledge and information.



Furthermore, Senator Legarda highlighted her commitment to aiding the weavers of CAR through the Department of Labor and Employment's (DOLE) Kabuhayan program, with technical assistance to be provided by the SUCs. She also applauded KSU for their successful implementation of the Landslide Project, funded by her office with 5 million pesos.

Meanwhile, President Bagtang seized the opportunity to discuss the issue of Cordillera autonomy with Senator Robin Padilla. He emphasized the urgent need to file the bill in the Senate, and Senator Padilla pledged his commitment to adopting the bill previously filed in Congress.

Additionally, the CAR-SUCs Presidents paid a visit to the office of Senator Angara to express their gratitude for the inclusion of 1.3 million pesos in the 2023 budget for research and innovation.

The meeting concluded with a sense of optimism and renewed dedication to the progress and development of the Cordillera Administrative Region. With the unwavering support of Senator Loren Legarda and other key figures in the government, the CAR-SUCs Presidents remain determined to drive positive change and uplift the communities they serve.

# Kalinga State University

## Inaugurates Two Landmark

### Projects and Celebrates IPED

Kalinga State University recently inaugurated two significant projects, marking a major milestone in the university's history. The inauguration, combined with Indigenous Peoples Education (IPED) celebration, brought together community leaders, officials, and cultural enthusiasts to witness the unveiling of a new road network and a state-of-the-art performing arts theater.

Said program, which took place on Friday, October 27, 2023, commenced with Commissioner Marita R. Canapi leading the ribbon-cutting ceremony for the road network and the performing arts theater. Commissioner Canapi's visit to KSU coincided with the Board meetings of the CAR-SUCs, which were held from October 25 to 27.



President Eduardo T. Bagtang, in his welcome address, highlighted the significance of the two projects as a proof to the successful implementation of what has been approved in terms of policies and initiatives. "By coming up with this performing arts theater, we will be able to impart our culture, dances, and songs for students in KSU and nearby Higher Education Institutions." He added.

He went on to encourage students to utilize the theater as a platform to showcase their talents and the cultural heritage of the Cordilleras and nearby provinces, ensuring that this unique cultural tapestry is not lost but enhanced.

President Bagtang also expressed gratitude to the province's leaders for their untiring support, with special recognition for the new academic building, initially funded by the Office of Congressman Honorable Allen Jesse Mangaoang.

In his concluding message, President Bagtang emphasized KSU's unique role in serving the most disadvantaged in the province. "We cannot afford to leave the youth of this province behind. Let us bring them to the forefront of society, for they will undoubtedly become productive citizens of this province," he asserted, underscoring the university's commitment to inclusivity. >>Next Page

Honorable Allen Jesse Mangaoang lauded the university for its great achievements and the transformative changes that have taken place during President Bagtang's tenure. He cited the university's rapid infrastructure development and its accolades in internationalization and quality as examples of the remarkable progress achieved under President Bagtang's leadership.



In his message, Honorable James Edduba, represented by Atty. John Paul Baguiwan, emphasized the vital role of Higher Education Institutions in preserving indigenous culture through research programs that incorporate indigenous knowledge and languages. He also congratulated KSU on the inauguration of the two completed projects, recognizing their importance in promoting cultural heritage.

Mr. Cirilo A. Bawer, a cultural bearer of Kalinga, expressed his deep admiration and appreciation for the university's commitment to indigenous culture, particularly through its Indigenous Peoples Education (IPED) program. He described this initiative as a precious gift to the indigenous people of Kalinga, celebrating the preservation of their cultural heritage.

The highlight of the event was the unveiling of the performing arts theater, where traditional arts found a platform for genuine and unique expression of the 'YKalingas' cultural identity. Bawer emphasized the dynamism and creativity of teachers and students, who continue to explore the boundless beauty of traditional arts, ensuring the evolution and preservation of indigenous culture.

The program concluded with the recognition of local Kalinga artists, and it was attended by officials from the province, marking this eventful occasion that celebrated education, culture, and community spirit here at Kalinga State University.



# College of Forestry concludes research venture with ACDI/VOCA

The College of Forestry is about to conclude its partnership with ACDI/VOCA on a research venture on the flavor profile of Kalinga Robusta coffee through a conference to be held on December 1, 2022. During the conference, the results of the research are disseminated to the coffee farmers involved in the research.

Other coffee farmers are included to learn about the harvest and post-harvest technology implemented in the project. This conference is an avenue to encourage coffee farmers to follow tested technologies to improve the quality of Kalinga coffee.

The underlying concept of this research is to establish a process for identifying flavor profiles in Kalinga at present and in the future. This endeavor directly supports the aim to determine the flavor profile of Robusta coffee from different elevations, which shall be used to improve coffee quality in Kalinga province.

The selection of these areas is based primarily on the hypothesis of elevation as a factor or determinant that influences flavor profile. As part of the project, the activities shall also aim to establish a process for identifying flavor profiles in the Kalinga province now and in the future.

The research included capacitating the technical team and the farmers of post-harvest technology. Initial training was undertaken for the research team and selected students by PhilCAFE on Nov. 22-26, 2021. Follow-up training/coaching was conducted in December 2021 to equip the team on the standards and proper processes/technology for producing quality green coffee beans. >>Next Page



The College of Forestry implemented the project through the help of the Provincial Coffee Council in cooperation with the Office of the City Agricultural Services (OCAS) and the Office of the Municipal Agricultural Services (OMAS). There were 31 coffee farmers from different municipalities who were selected and participated in the research.

The 31 coffee farmer-cooperators also underwent training through individual coaching or mentoring by the research assistants. The farmers were involved in their coffee cherries' harvest and post-harvest processing.

The peak activity of the project was the cupping by Q graders conducted on August 22-25, 2022, within the premises of the KSU. Three Q graders in the person of Emeline Sabado, Brenda Claver, and Mario Macalalad, evaluated the 31 samples. Their rating revealed that the Kalinga Robusta coffee is classified as Premium Robusta or Fine Robusta.

ACDI/VOCA ([www.acdivoca.org](http://www.acdivoca.org)) is an international economic development organization that implements the Philippine Coffee Advancement and Farm Enterprise (PhilCAFE) project, which is funded through a cooperative agreement with the United States

Department of Agriculture (USDA) and is designed to support the coffee sector in the Philippines.

The research has a total budget of Php2,582,481.00; ACDI/VOCA provided Php1,184,681 to cover materials and RA salaries, and KSU's leverage covered Php2,582,481.00, which included the researcher's salaries and services, travel, and other costs.

It must be remembered that for the coffee to reach these ratings, it must undergo proper harvest and post-harvest techniques to come up with green coffee beans that will pass the scrutiny of the Q graders.

The cupping activity was made possible because the university has cupping facilities from the Philippine Rural Development Program Department of Agriculture in 2018. The PhilCAFE project has provided additional mini-cupping, and post-harvest tools, which were turned over on November 22, 2021. These cupping facilities enable the university to conduct future cupping activities./Irene Calsiyao

The project team and Q graders with the KSU president Dr. Eduardo T. Bagtang



**CHED**

**Chairperson**

**De Vera**

**Graces KSU's**

**4 CHED Funded**

## **Infrastructure Projects; CHED-CAR Director and 3 SUC Presidents Join the Inauguration**

Kalinga State University is lucky for the second time to have the CHED Chairperson, Dr. Prospero De Vera III visiting the university.

De Vera was the first Chairperson of CHED to come to KSU where his first visit was that of last year, March 3, 2022 during the ground breaking of the Proposed Kalinga Cultural Heritage and Edu-Tourism Center where he was adopted as son of Kalinga and given the native name, "ALINGAG", having been given the privileges to protection as mandated in the Pagta of the Bodong.

This time on the same day, March 3, 2023 was the inauguration of said project together with the other 3, the Online Radio, Modernization of Engineering Laboratory Equipment and the HRM Extension Building.

In his message, De Vera applauded the University President, Dr. Eduardo T. Bagtang for the on-time implementation of the projects. He added that Bagtang has the leadership which is really committed to internationalization.

During the first online radio broadcast, De Vera expressed his full support to the online radio. "I am honored and privileged to join the initial broadcast and the commission is happy to have partnered with KSU in facilitating this project so that there are various ways of reaching the students in using the technology. I hope this will continue and will be a regular activity of the university to be able to reach its various constituents, its family, students, alumni, and the communities that are served by the university."

Meanwhile, he emphasized that the Modernization of Engineering Laboratory Equipment is only found in KSU which made it distinct from other SUCs. Dr. Demetrio Anduyan Jr, CHED-CAR Director, in his message over the online radio's first live broadcast, informed the public that there were already approved more slots for the Tulong- Dunong Program which will offer more scholarships to the students. >> **Next Page**



Dr. Eva Marie Dugyon, Ifugao State University President, also congratulated the university president and the CHED, our partner for development, for coming up with this great initiative for the Development Communication students.

Dr. Felipe Comila, Benguet State University President also thanked the CHED for its generosity. "I see the happiness of Dr. Bagtang in leading the university through this avenue of expressing what we want to happen for our Kalinga people", he added during the online radio live broadcast.

Dr. Edgar Cue, Mountain Province State Polytechnic College President, who hails here in Kalinga was also present during the inauguration. "Mysa nga anakak ti taga Kalinga, Mabuhay ti

KSU, Mabuhay ti Kalinga". He said in his short but inspiring message.

On her opening remarks, Atty. Lili Frieda Milla gave a background of the Cultural Heritage and Edu-Tourism Center. She added that this project will pave the way to support tourism industry not only in the province but throughout the country thus, bringing internalization to Philippine Higher Education Institutions.

Prior to the inauguration, a DOMOG was performed in the new buildings of the Cultural Heritage Center and the HRM Extension building. A DOMOG is a Kalinga ritual to drive away bad spirits and to ensure good health among people who come in and out of the buildings..>>Next Page

Honorable Allen Jesse Mangaoang, represented by his better half, Dr. Carolyn Agyao-Mangaoang, extended his warm congratulations to KSU for another historic milestone it has achieved. "The heritage center I believe will foster a better understanding of our arts and culture where our peaceful co-existence amidst our diversity made possible the evolution of a province that recently gained universal fame because of the beauty of its culture through the record-breaking Awong Chi Gangsa, Agtun chi Banga." Mangaoang added.



Honorable James Edduba said, "we recognize our important role and we are inspired to see KSU to be developed and evolve through the years."

Atty. Catherine Apaling, NCIP-Kalinga, expressed her gratitude to CHED for funds allocation to the Kalinga Cultural Heritage and Edu-Tourism Center. "This is so important to us for it preserves our material culture", she added.

The afternoon route was more interesting with the CHED Chairperson enjoyed biking and later toured to AWICHON Echo Village where they finally had their tattoo sessions. /UIO





## **Cordillera's shout for Regional Autonomy: KSU takes the lead**

Gathering support for the passage of Regional Autonomy, University students, youth leaders, KSU staff and personnel, visitors, and distinguished guests celebrate the 2023 Cordillera Regional Autonomy Summit and Youth Fora at the Kalinga State University gymnasium.

Having the Theme " Garnering People Support for Regional Autonomy towards Inclusive and Sustainable Regional Development," KSU University President Dr. Eduardo T. Bagtang extends his Welcome

Remarks through his representative, Dr. Marilou Adora, KSu Vice President for Academics. The message conveys that "Embarking on a journey of dialogue, collaboration, and innovation as we strive for a future of shared prosperity and sustainable growth in our beautiful Cordillera Region, each active participation is crucial in sharing the path towards autonomy, fostering inclusivity, and building a sustainable foundation of generations to come and as well as may this summit and fora be a platform for meaningful exchanges, forging connections and laying the groundwork for United and empowered cordillera." .->>Next Page



Audiences were likewise been inspired by our Provincial leaders as Hon. Governor James S. Edduba, represented by Former Counsilor Atty. Zoraida Wacnang expresses how the governor proactively supports our shout for Regional Autonomy. Highlighting the important role of the youths is a part of his message, as he mentions that the "youth's vibrant energy and adaptiveness to modern technology, particularly on social media and other web platforms, stand as the torchbearers of change. The youth's voices echo far beyond our mountains, reaching the corners that we've never touched, and their influences in this digital age extend beyond physical borders. Let the youth embrace this power of responsibility and use the platforms as a megaphone for the collective dreams of the Cordillera people. Let our unity resound in every tweet, resonate with every post, and echo every shared story".

Moreover, Hon. Congressman Allen Jesse C. Mangaoang, represented by

his office Chief of Staff, Mr. Regie Wacas, congratulates the planners and organizers of this Regional Autonomy Summit. He mentions "the need to explore all strategic approaches to expand the education campaign on the proposed Autonomous Region 'for the Cordillera. Having a limited understanding, reaching out to all the sectors of society will certainly increase the level of appreciation and, consequently, the chances of its ratification.

Emphasizing the pertinent provisions of House Bill No. 3627 and the strategic plans that they conceptualized for the speedy passage of the bill, our will toward Regional Autonomy will have more power in the control and supervision over the exploration, utilization, development, and protection of our lands, our forest, our water and mineral resources, thus will make a symbolic affirmation of our commitment to a more inclusive and just society".

Furthermore, various LGU mayors expressed their message through video clips so as with Senator Robin Padilla and Sec. Lope B. Santos III, Lead Convenor, National Anti-Poverty Commission. Mr. Oliver Mendoza representing the Acting City Mayor DICK G. Bal-o, on the other hand, emphasized as well how the City LGU firmly advocates Regional Autonomy.

Taking into note these fruitful messages from our provincial leaders, NEDA-CAR, Mr. Aries Dos M. Campos, presented the Cordillera Development Plan to express further how regional autonomy works and continues to garner trust, support, and understanding towards Regional Autonomy

# Kalinga State University Receives Prestigious Commendation at **ICONS** Awards 2023: Advancing Global Higher Education Internationalization

Kalinga State University (KSU) was recently honored by the Commission on Higher Education (CHED)- International Affairs Services (IAS) for its steadfast dedication to promoting the internationalization of Philippine Higher Education Institutions. The recognition was bestowed upon KSU during the International Champions of Nations-Building and Sustainability (ICONS) Awards 2023 ceremony, held at the Philippine International Convention Center (PICC) in Pasay City today.



KSU's remarkable commitment to internationalization was accentuated by its outstanding performance in globally recognized rankings and ratings, particularly its notable achievement in the World University Rankings for Innovation 2023, where it secured a remarkable position within the range of 101-200.

The ICONS Awards 2023 event served as a platform to celebrate the contributions of Philippine Higher Education Institutions (PHEIs) to sustainability, their noteworthy accomplishments in international rankings and ratings, their pioneering efforts in advancing internationalization, and their valuable contributions to the prosperity of the ASEAN region.>>**Next Page**



Among the international league tables acknowledged by CHED are QS, THE, and WURI, with 76 State Universities and Colleges (SUCs) in the Philippines being recognized. Notably, within the Cordillera Administrative Region (CAR), nine (9) SUCs were celebrated for their exceptional contributions. These institutions include Abra State Institute of Science and Technology (ASIST), Benguet State University (BSU), Cordillera Career Development College (CCDC), Ifugao State University (IFSU), Kalinga State University (KSU), Mountain Province State Polytechnic College (MPSPC), Saint Louis University (SLU), University of Baguio (UB), and University of the Cordilleras (UC).

Dr. J. Prospero De Vera III, CHED Chairperson, acknowledged and applauded the collective achievements and commitment of all Higher Education Institutions (HEIs) in the Philippines. "In three (3) years, we have seen a remarkable increase in the number of Philippine HEIs from a little less than 20, there are 76 PHEIs, internationally benchmarking with the best universities in the world." De Vera added.

It is recalled that on May 18, 2023, KSU made waves in the global education community when it secured an impressive ranking between 101 and 200 among the World University Rankings for Innovation.

KSU President, Eduardo T. Bagtang expressed his gratitude to the internationalization team, faculty, staff, and students and to all who contributed to the university's remarkable success. /muw-uio



# EDITORIAL PAGE

## Celebrating Kalinga State University's Rise in World University Rankings for Innovation

Innovation has long been recognized as the lifeblood of progress, driving societies forward and shaping the future of humanity. In an increasingly interconnected and competitive world, the ability of universities to foster innovation has become a key measure of their impact and relevance. Therefore, it is with great pride and optimism that Kalinga State University is given commendation for its astonishing achievement in the latest World University Rankings for Innovation, where it secured a position among the top 101-200 universities globally.

Kalinga State University's ascent in the rankings is a testament to its unwavering commitment to excellence and its dedication to pushing the boundaries of knowledge and creativity. Situated in the heart of Kalinga, a region renowned for its rich cultural heritage and natural beauty, the university has emerged as a beacon of innovation, nurturing talents and fostering a culture of ingenuity among its students and faculty.

At the core of Kalinga State University's success lies its relentless pursuit of innovation across various disciplines. From groundbreaking research in sustainable agriculture and environmental conservation to cutting-edge developments in information technology and renewable energy, the university's contributions to the advancement of knowledge are both diverse and profound.

One of the key drivers behind Kalinga State University's rise in the rankings is its emphasis on interdisciplinary collaboration and partnerships. By fostering an environment where scholars from different fields can come together to exchange ideas and expertise, the university has created a fertile ground for innovation to flourish. This interdisciplinary approach not only enriches the learning experience for students but also facilitates the cross-pollination of ideas, leading to groundbreaking discoveries and solutions to some of society's most pressing challenges.

Moreover, Kalinga State University's commitment to community engagement and social impact has

further distinguished it as a leader in innovation. Through various outreach programs and initiatives, the university has leveraged its expertise to address local needs and empower marginalized communities. Whether it is through sustainable development projects or capacity-building initiatives, Kalinga State University has demonstrated its dedication to using innovation as a force for positive change.

As we celebrate Kalinga State University's remarkable achievement in the World University Rankings for Innovation, it is essential to recognize that this is not just a testament to the university's excellence but also a reflection of the collective efforts of its faculty, staff, students, and stakeholders. It is a testament to the power of vision, perseverance, and collaboration in driving meaningful change and shaping the future of education and research.

Moving forward, it is imperative that we continue to support and invest in institutions like Kalinga State University that are at the forefront of innovation. By providing them with the resources and support they need, we can unleash their full potential to address the complex challenges of our time and pave the way for a more sustainable, prosperous, and equitable future for all.

Kalinga State University's ascent in the World University Rankings for Innovation is a cause for celebration and inspiration. It serves as a reminder of what is possible when we dare to dream, strive for excellence, and harness the power of innovation to create a better world. Congratulations to Kalinga State University on this exceptional achievement, and may it continue to inspire generations of innovators and changemakers to come.

# Empowering Indigenous Futures: Strengthening Cultural Foundations in Education at KSU through the Kalinga Wisdom Lecture and Forum



IPMR Representative, Mr. BENEDICTO B. SUGUIYAO serves as the lecturer during the Indigenous Education Lecture held Today, December 14, 2023, at KSU, RnD building.

His lecture highlights the yKalinga's Core values known as "Paniyaw", "Ngilin", "Bain" and with the addendum of "Attom" which he considers as ethical as it denotes fortitude, temperance, patience, and a virtue that is required in observance of the "PNB". Kalinga's Indigenous political structure mentioned in (RA 8371, Chapter II, sec. 3i) and the so called "BODONG" commonly known as peace pact was given emphasis through profound discussions on its processes and common terms.

The conduct of this event is through the initiatives of its proponents Dr. JUAN MOSHE M. DUYAN and its member Ms. Kristine Ann Diki. As a rationale to this event, this is an initial effort in support to and in preparation to the future passage of House Bill No. 7948 also known as "Revised Kalinga State University Charter" introduced by Congressman Allen Jesse C. Mangaoang. Moreover, this initiative strengthens Indigenous knowledge among the University faculty staffs contributing to the Universities continuous culture learning and development and in achieving various Sustainable Development Goals.

Teachers play a vital role to ensure that indigenous students receive an empowering education on the rich cultural heritage and traditions of IP communities. They act as key contributors in the preservations and in revitalizing our unique cultural traditions, which is why the events participants are the faculty, heads and members of various Colleges such as the, CPAIG, CLASS, COED and Department of Social Sciences.

# Kalinga State University and DSWD-CAR Join Forces to Streamline Recruitment Process



Kalinga State University (KSU) and the Department of Social Welfare and Development-Cordillera Administrative Region (DSWD-CAR) have announced a landmark partnership aimed at revolutionizing the agency's hiring-related activities. The signing of a Memorandum of

Understanding (MOU) on April 24, 2023, has paved the way for a close collaboration between the two entities, aimed at streamlining the recruitment process.

The MOU outlines a number of key terms, which include KSU disseminating the DSWD-CAR's Notice of Vacancy to its school premises and alumni social media pages, advocating for character reference checks for fresh graduate applicants, and inviting the DSWD-CAR to participate in Career Guidance activities or information dissemination initiatives. In return, the DSWD-CAR will conduct background checks of applicants, send representatives to participate in Career Guidance activities, and provide orientation on the agency's hiring process.

This partnership, which takes immediate effect, is set to last for one year unless either party decides to withdraw from the agreement by giving written notice. By joining forces, KSU and DSWD-CAR will benefit from each other's resources, expertise, and network, resulting in a more efficient and effective recruitment process for both parties.

The collaboration has been hailed as a significant milestone, particularly for KSU, as it represents an opportunity for the university to contribute to the development of the region by assisting in the recruitment of talented and skilled individuals. For DSWD-CAR, the partnership will provide an avenue for the agency to tap into KSU's pool of graduates, enabling it to attract top-quality applicants to fill key positions within the organization.

The KSU-DSWD-CAR MOU signing is a clear indication of the two institutions' commitment to providing quality service to the region's citizens, and it is expected to result in a more efficient and effective recruitment process, ultimately benefiting the local community.

# MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

It is with great pride and anticipation that I extend my gratitude for the release of Volume 3 of AWONG, the official publication of the Kalinga State University since its reactivation after the pandemic. This marks not only a milestone in our academic journey but also a proof to the usual commitment and scholarly excellence that define our institution.

AWONG stands as a beacon of creativity, intellect, and innovation, showcasing the diverse talents and scholarly pursuits of our students, faculty, and staff. Through its pages, we are offered a glimpse into the rich tapestry of ideas, research, the different programs and activities and the artistic expressions that flourish within our university.

As we turn the pages of this second volume, let us take a moment to reflect on the journey that has brought us here. It is a journey marked by perseverance and a relentless pursuit of excellence in all endeavors. Each article contained within AWONG is the passion and ingenuity that define our collective pursuit of knowledge.

In the spirit of academic inquiry and intellectual curiosity, let us embrace the opportunities presented to us by this publication. Let us engage with its contents, challenge our perspectives, and inspire one another to reach new heights of scholarly achievement.

As we look to the future, let us reaffirm our commitment to fostering a culture of excellence and innovation at the Kalinga State University. Let us continue to support and empower our students, faculty, and staff in their pursuit of academic and personal growth.

I extend my heartfelt congratulations to the editorial team, contributors, and everyone involved in the production of AWONG Volume 3. May it serve as a source of inspiration and knowledge for generations to come.



# Itsy Bitsy Spider:

## A Mother's Prayer

**By: Jinky Valdez**

She goes up and down the sloping terrain of our backyard, enjoying the warm weather, with the cloudy sky above. Her giggles speak so much of innocence and absence of violence. I am beaming with so much joy and pride as I listen to her singing the Itsy-bitsy Spider. . .

### ***Itsy-bitsy spider climbed up the water sprout***

The United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) put women and girls in higher pedestal as it prioritizes the strengthening of policies and protection mechanisms to prevent and respond to gender-based violence. This is in partnership with the Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD), and the Bangsamoro Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (BARMM) Ministry of Social Services.

Gender-based violence is defined as a phenomenon deeply rooted in gender inequality, and continues to be one of the most notable human rights violations within all societies.

### ***Down came the rain and washed the spider out***

There was darkness, there was I and my older sister, there were my “Kuyas” beside us. All lined up in sleeping position, the same floor, the same banig. Suddenly, I was awakened. There was heaviness, I can't breathe. The horror was inexplicable. I reckoned my terrified body to move, then it was gone. The night went on as if nothing happened. I tried to speak and call out for my sister but my voice betrayed me. Tears kept rolling down my cheeks as I sat in the corner, praying for the night to be over. It was indeed the longest night ever.

The 2017 National Demographic and Health Survey reported that 1 in 20 women and girls age 15-49 have experienced sexual violence in their lifetime. Yet, most of these cases remains shrouded in a culture of silence. .>>Next Page

*“Haan mun ibagbaga ken daddim,”* those were the words from my grandmother. I remember the face of that man, filled with patches of blood and blackened eyes due to punches here and there. He was punished for his attempt to destroy me. However, the torture was left in me, being a girl barely 12 years of age, with so much innocence and trust with people around.

I just understood that family is everything. I held my silence.

The health consequences of violence are enormous and include permanent disability, unwanted pregnancies, lingering psychological trauma, sexually transmitted infections including HIV, and even death.

### ***Out came the sun and dried up all the rain***

Time has the magic to heal everything. The trauma has gone. The gratefulness remains. I am healed.

As there are more numbers of women who struggle against their trauma and fears with worse experiences, the UNFPA also has a multi-sectoral response to Gender-Based Violence, working with health, police, judicial and social service providers because the challenges raised by GBV are insurmountable through isolated approaches.

### ***The itsy-bitsy spider climbed up the sprout again***

Just as the itsy-bitsy spider has a rise and fall, and so does life. In every fall, there's always a chance to rise once again. I hope my daughter gets to understand and live with it. Along with this hope is a fervent prayer that the “fall” of every little girl won't be caused by Gender-Based Violence.

# An Ugly Truth

by Juman Kevin B. Tindo

A silent truth sliced the darkness of the night. The air was thick with fear and sorrow. Three players were present at that moment: a naked woman, bruised and broken, lay motionless on the street; a man running as fast as he could away from the scene; and the bystanders, they stood in a state of disbelief, unable to comprehend the injustice that had taken place.

Anguish cries of the woman echoed in minds of the bystanders, as they watched her suffer in silence. The bystanders were unable to act while the man was now at a safe distance too tired to care about the woman.

The violence against this woman was not an isolated incident. It was part of a larger, unspoken terror that plagues society. The woman's plight was a reflection of the countless other women who suffer in silence. In fact, according to the 2017 National Demographic and Health Survey, 1 in 20 Filipinas, aged 15-49, have experienced sexual violence in their lifetime. The fear of speaking out kept these women from seeking justice.

Accordingly, violence against women and girls undermines the health, dignity, security, and autonomy of its victims, yet it remains shrouded in a culture of silence.

It was also revealed that the health consequences of these violence are enormous ranging from permanent disability to unwanted pregnancies, from psychological trauma to sexually transmitted infections, and even death.

An international survey by the Gender Social Norms Index (GNSI) reported some important - and shocking - global statistics. Nearly 90% of men and women from all over the world hold some bias against women. Furthermore, according to the index, 50% believe that men make better political leaders, over 40% feel that men make better business executives, and 28% feel that it is justified for a man to beat up his wife.

"Violence against women is an appalling human rights violation. But it is not inevitable. We can put a stop to this," Hollywood actress Nicole Kidman said. And many organizations are banner campaigns to champion these rights of women.

One institution geared towards gender-based violence (GBV) prevention and response is the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA).

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UNFPA has a multi-sectoral response to GBV, working with health, police, judicial, and social service providers because the challenges raised by GBV are insurmountable through isolated approaches, when different actors act alone and are not connected.

Furthermore, UNFPA works closely with the Department of Social Welfare and Development and the Department of Health to coordinate the delivery of humanitarian assistance to meet the specific needs of women and girls and support survivors of GBV.

This partnership includes establishing women-friendly spaces, clinical and psychological support, a referral

pathway to access services, and capacity building.

“We also work with partners to support the full implementation of the Magna Carta of Women, a comprehensive women’s human rights law that seeks to eliminate discrimination and all forms of violence against women and girls,” UNFPA said.

Truly, now is the time to take a stand and create a world where women can live free from, violence, and discrimination. The UNFPA, as part of this advocacy, is also producing studies that demonstrate the consequences of violence against women such as “Harnessing the Power of Data to Address Violence Against Women and Girls: A dedicated VAWG Survey in the Philippines” and “Counting the Cost: The Price Society Pays for Violence Against Women and Girls.”

# Kalinga State University

## Birthing Center

### Celebrates First Successful

### Normal

### Delivery

Kalinga State University Birthing Center recently achieved a significant milestone by successfully conducting its first-ever normal delivery. Under the supervision of Dr. Cristina Ammakiw, Dean of the College of Health and Natural sciences, the center has set a new standard in maternal care, marking a triumph for the dedicated team of healthcare professionals and staff.



On the memorable evening of June 4, 2023, at precisely 7:05 PM, Mrs. Winie Sagao Ambong, a resident of Tawang Balbalan, experienced the joy of giving birth to a healthy baby girl. The delivery, conducted through a Normal Spontaneous Delivery, was overseen by a team of clinical instructors and midwifery students of the College of Health and Natural Sciences.

Leading the team was Dr. Mary Durance Guyang, an affiliated OB doctor, who ensured the highest level of medical expertise throughout the process. Dr. Guyang's guidance and experience were invaluable in ensuring a safe and successful delivery for Mrs. Ambong and her newborn. >>Next Page

Assisting the clinical instructors were two midwifery students, Ms. Rocel Clemencia and Jane Balangue, who gained valuable hands-on experience as they actively participated in the delivery process. Their dedication and enthusiasm showcased the bright future that lies ahead for the next generation of midwives.

The center's excellent facilities and well-trained staff contributed to creating a calm and comfortable environment for Mrs. Ambong during her delivery. The team's expertise and compassionate care ensured that she felt supported and empowered throughout her birthing experience. The arrival of the baby girl, named "Zoffany Bless Ambong," brought immense joy to her parents and the entire birthing team.

Weighing a healthy 3.14 kilograms, little Zoffany's arrival symbolizes the successful collaboration between the medical professionals and the birthing center, making it a momentous occasion for all involved.

The Kalinga State University Birthing Center's achievement in facilitating a normal delivery reflects its commitment to providing exceptional maternal care services to the community. The center continues to prioritize the well-being of expectant mothers and their babies, ensuring safe and memorable birthing experiences.

This event will be remembered as a testament to the dedication and expertise of the Kalinga State University Birthing Center team. It serves as a shining example of their unwavering commitment to promoting healthy deliveries and ensuring the well-being of mothers and newborns in the region. /MUW-UJO



# KALINGA STATE UNIVERSITY DEMONSTRATES UNITY AND COMPASSION IN PROVIDING AID AND HOPE TO BONTOC FIRE VICTIMS

In a heartwarming display of solidarity and compassion, employees of Kalinga State University (KSU) joined hands through the CHED-CAR PROJECT CARE initiative to extend a helping hand to those affected by a devastating fire. The generous donations, totaling PhP 22,400, were a testament to the benevolence and empathy of the KSU community.

The KSU Employees Association (KSUEA) Fund contributed PhP10,000, while an additional PhP12,400 was collected through cash donations from KSU employees. This remarkable sum reflects the collective efforts and unwavering commitment of the university's faculty and staff to support those in need during challenging times.

With a deep sense of urgency and responsibility, Sharmaine D. Codiam, the President of KSUEA, coordinated with Dr. Mark Preston Lopez, VPASD of Mountain Province Polytechnic College (MPSPC), to ensure that the donations reached the intended recipients promptly. Their efforts included liaising with the Office of the President of MPSPC and the Bontoc Local Government Unit (LGU).

During a courtesy call, Dr. Edgar Cue, the President of MPSPC, gratefully received PhP16,400 in cash, along with 4 sacks of rice, canned goods, and noodles. These essential supplies were intended for the 5 MPSPC employees and 15 students affected by the fire. The assistance extended by KSU employees will undoubtedly alleviate the immediate needs of the fire victims and help them in their journey towards recovery.

Recognizing the significance of community support, Sir Arthur Odsey, Executive Assistant to the Mayor, received PhP6,000 in cash, as well as 2 sacks of rice, canned goods, noodles, and various clothing items on behalf of the Bontoc LGU. These contributions will aid the local government in its efforts to provide relief and support to the affected families in the Bontoc area.>>Next Page



On the other hand, the Kalinga State University Central Student Government (KSU-CSG), in collaboration with the Supreme Student Council and Cordillera Youth Brigade, generously donated in-kind items and cash to assist said affected students at MSPC. The in-kind donations included three boxes of noodles and assorted clothes, and a total cash of PhP 4, 120 providing immediate relief and essential supplies to those impacted by the fire.

Sharmaine D. Codiam, the President of the KSU Employees Association (KSUEA), alongside Jemalyn Grace T. Mendoza, the Vice President of KSUEA, and Ricci T. Bitao, the Student Regent and KSU-CSG President, personally delivered the generous donations to Mountain Province Polytechnic College (MPSPC). Their dedication and commitment to the cause were evident as they made the journey to MPSPC, ensuring that the much-needed aid reached the hands of the affected students. Their selfless actions exemplify the spirit of compassion and solidarity that exists within the KSU community, and their involvement in the donation handover reinforces the importance of collaborative efforts in providing support and assistance to those in need.

The outpouring of generosity from the KSU community has left an indelible mark on the lives of the fire victims and serves as a reminder of the power of compassion and unity. The KSUEA, together with the faculty, staff, and students, express their heartfelt gratitude to all the kind-hearted individuals who selflessly shared their blessings



# KALINGA STATE UNIVERSITY HOSTS SUCCESSFUL PCSMT 3RD-4TH QUARTER JOINT COUNCIL AND SECRETARIAT MEETING

Kalinga State University hosted the PCSMT 3rd- 4th Quarter Joint Council and Secretariat Meeting, held at the University Alumni Center on November 30 to December 1, 2023.

Reinforcing the programs of the Philippine Consortium for Science, Mathematics and Technology (PCSMT), KSU President, Dr. Eduardo T. Bagtang welcomed all the participants involved in the Consortium.

With the theme “Navigating Intellectual Property Rights, Legal Aspect and Management”, Day 1 of the Joint Council and Secretariat Meeting is the determination of

Quorum followed by the Approval of Proposed agenda and presentation of New Business for the consortium. Day 2 featured a comprehensive discussion on the Approval of the provisional Agenda where several presentations were made.

These presentations emphasized the evaluation for the Students Webinar on Reinforcing Expertise and Awareness on Competence and Habits (REACH) which is a PCMST webinar series for students as well as the presentation of the Faculty Webinar series, Financial/ Billing Statements and updates on the Faculty, Students, and Institutional membership to PCSMT.

The active participation and collaborative efforts of all attendees culminated in the successful approval of each agenda, leading to a productive and well-concluded meeting.

# Kalinga State University Marks Milestone: Reflecting on Eight Years of Excellence and Achievement

On December 15, 2023, Kalinga State University observed its 8th University Day with a theme focused on "Celebrating Achievement: Recognizing Excellence" at the university gymnasium. The event commenced with a warm welcome and opening remarks by Dr. Lope T. Buen, the Vice President for Research and Extension. Dr. Buen underscored the significance of Republic Act 10584, emphasizing the university's compliance, which led to its official recognition by the Commission on Higher Education (CHED) on December 15, 2015. This achievement was a result of the collaborative efforts of the administration, faculty, staff, and stakeholders.

Reflecting on the challenging journey towards the passage of RA10584, Dr. Eduardo T. Bagtang, the University President, shared poignant memories during his address. Dr. Bagtang acknowledged the collective efforts that played a pivotal role in transforming Kalinga Apayao State College into Kalinga State University, expressing gratitude for the support received. This University Day celebration holds special significance as it marks his final tenure as president.

The Honorable Allen Jesse C. Mangaoang, the distinguished guest of honor, extended congratulations to KSU for its remarkable achievements, including securing the 8th place in the Licensure Examinations for Teachers and demonstrating excellence in the LET, Bar, and Licensure Examinations for Agriculturists. Mangaoang highlighted the university's commitment to quality and excellence, particularly in recognizing newly appointed and promoted employees.>>Next Page





In his concluding remarks, Mangaoang drew inspiration from Ralph Waldo Emerson, urging the university community to be trailblazers, paving the way for success and inspiring others. The celebration also featured personal testimonies, including Mr. Mervin Dalingay, a promoted non-teaching staff, who shared his journey and expressed gratitude to President Bagtang and

the merit promotion and selection board. Dr. Karen Razelle Duyan, representing the promoted teaching staff, echoed appreciation for the administration and employees, emphasizing the values of hard work, perseverance, learning, sacrifice, and love for one's work. Closing the event, Dr. Romualdo U. Wacas, the Chief Administrative Officer,

lauded the university's accomplishments under President Bagtang's 16 years of exceptional leadership, highlighting rapid progress in promotions, infrastructure development, and internationalization. The celebration was graced with a thanksgiving mass officiated by Fr. Romeo Dawaton.



# Kalinga State University **Receives** **Certificates** for Dual 2023

## **WURI Awards**



Kalinga State University is celebrating a historic achievement as it proudly receives two prestigious certificates, solidifying its position among the world's leading universities in fostering innovation and promoting student mobility and openness. The certificates were officially awarded on July 16, 2023, recognizing KSU's exceptional performance in the World University Rankings for Innovation.

Earlier this year, on May 18, 2023, KSU made waves in the global education community when it secured top positions in two distinct categories. In the first category, KSU secured an impressive ranking between 101 and 200 among the World University Rankings for Innovation. In the second category, the university achieved an outstanding position between 51 and 100 among the World University Rankings for Innovation in Student Mobility and Openness.

The accolades came because of KSU's relentless commitment to nurturing an environment of innovation and academic excellence. Among the key contributors to

this achievement were 3 groundbreaking projects that captivated the attention of the World University Ranking for Innovation committee.

The second project, "Project MARISO: Making ASEAN Requisites Intensified and Strengthened through Organized Learning Sessions," demonstrated KSU's strong commitment to fostering regional cooperation and understanding among Southeast Asian nations. By promoting organized learning sessions that encourage students to engage actively with ASEAN's cultural, economic, and social intricacies, KSU has become a hub for cross-cultural exchange and dialogue. >>Next Page

The third project, TraCIES: Tracing Culture for Inclusive Education Sustainability, which highlights the establishment of the Campus-based Kalinga Cultural Heritage and Edu-Tourism Center under the StudyPh Program, that aims to provide experiential learning for participants of cultural exchange by developing programs, learning visits and collaborations with the indigenous local culture as the centerpiece. Thereby, making the university a viable educational tourism destination.

Dr. Eduardo T. Bagtang, University President, expressed his profound gratitude for the recognition the university has received. He emphasized that KSU's success is the result of the collective effort of its brilliant faculty, dedicated staff, and talented students. "We are immensely proud of our university's achievements and its positive impact on our local and global communities. These awards motivate us to continue our journey towards greater excellence and innovation," he remarked.

The dual WURI awards have elevated Kalinga State University to new heights, reinforcing its position as a trailblazer in higher education and research. As the university continues to push the boundaries of knowledge and embrace a culture of openness and collaboration, the future looks even brighter for KSU and the communities it serves.

The certificates received by KSU serve as an attestation to the stunning strides made in innovation and student mobility, making the entire Kalinga Province proud of their beloved institution. The university's success sets an inspiring example for other institutions worldwide, urging them to strive for innovation, inclusivity, and academic excellence in all their endeavors. /muw-uo



# **KSU Hosts CHED Cultural Immersion in Kalinga: Promoting Language Preservation, Indigenous Studies, and Peace Education**

In a remarkable showcase of commitment to indigenous education and cultural heritage, the Commission on Higher Education (CHED) embarked on a transformative cultural immersion program in Kalinga. Led by Dr. Ronald L. Adamat, CHED Commissioner, the program aimed to integrate indigenous peoples' studies into higher education curricula while celebrating the unique cultural treasures of Kalinga.

The journey began with a warm welcome program held at the KSU Theatre Arts Center on May 24, 2023. Dr. Adamat, accompanied by a distinguished delegation, was greeted by a vibrant gathering of participants from Kalinga State University (KSU) and the local community. The event set the stage for an immersive experience that would deepen the participants' understanding of Kalinga's rich cultural heritage. Following the welcome program, the delegation visited the KSU Cultural Heritage and Edu Center, where they were treated to breathtaking displays of Kalinga treasures. The scenic exhibits captivated the visitors, showcasing the intricate craftsmanship and vibrant traditions of the province.



The journey continued to Gimpong Radio, where Dr. Eduardo T. Bagtang, KSU president, emphasized the honor of choosing Kalinga as the venue for this immersive experience. Dr. Adamat, in turn, commended KSU for its potential to become a hub for culture, arts, and indigenous governance, highlighting CHED's unwavering support for the university's endeavors.

Dr. Adamat, an Indigenous Peoples (IP) advocate from Mindanao, shared his own commitment to language preservation through his compositions. His artistic efforts align with CHED's broader goal of preserving indigenous languages and incorporating them into educational initiatives.

During the live interview, Dr. Cherrie Melanie Diego, CHED Director for the Office of Programs and Standards Development, emphasized the importance of IP and peace education in fostering unity among people. She highlighted Dr. Adamat's notable achievements as a recipient of the Mahatma M. Gandhi peace awards, underscoring the significance of promoting peace and understanding within the context of indigenous education. >>Next Page



Dr. Bagtang expressed his full support for the cultural immersion program, emphasizing its aim to strengthen the rights of indigenous people, particularly IP students. He underscored the need to educate the younger generation, who often find themselves engrossed in technology, about their cultural heritage. Through this program, the participants aimed to ensure that the cultural traditions of Kalinga are preserved and passed down to future generations.

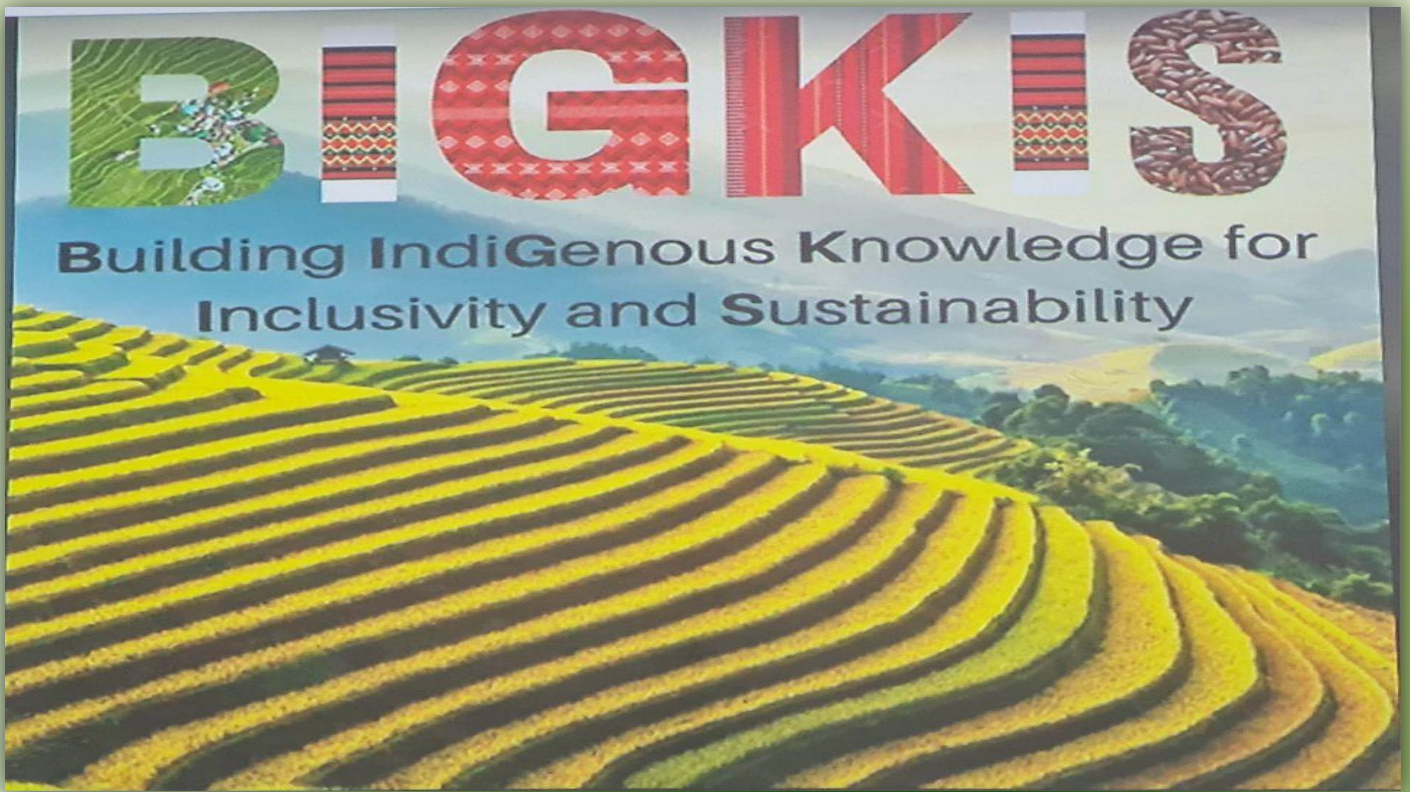
During the radio interview, Dr. Bagtang also highlighted a regional proposal on innovative Coffee Productivity through Science and Technology in Kalinga. The proposal, presented during a meeting with Senator Loren Legarda, received resolute support from the esteemed senator. Coffee, a symbol of Kalinga's warm welcome to visitors, held immense potential for economic development and cultural representation.

The cultural immersion program featured engagements with Commissioner Ronald L. Adamat, focusing on directions and strategies for implementing CHED Memorandum Order No. 2, Series of 2019, in the Cordilleras. Additionally, a paper presentation and discussion with the editorial board fostered scholarly discourse on indigenous studies. Notably, the participation of the Cordillera Heritage Workbook cover and the subsequent awarding of certificates and prizes to the winners added a sense of celebration to the event. Dr. Demetrio Anduyan, Jr., the Regional Director for CHED-CAR, presided over these ceremonies.

To provide a comprehensive experience, the itinerary included travel, engagement, and immersion at the Naneng Heritage Village and Awichon Village in Lubuagan, Kalinga. These immersive experiences allowed the delegation to witness firsthand the living traditions and cultural practices of the indigenous communities, further solidifying their commitment to preserving and celebrating indigenous culture.

The CHED Cultural Immersion program in Kalinga served as a testament to the importance of indigenous education, language preservation, and peace education. With the resolute support of CHED, KSU, and the local communities, this immersive experience aimed to ensure that the rich cultural heritage of Kalinga continues to thrive and inspire generations to come.

Said immersion was participated by the six State Universities and Colleges of the Cordillera Administrative Region./ **MUW-UIO**



## **OPSD, CHED Launches Building Indigenous Knowledge For Inclusivity and Sustainability (BIGKIS) Initiative in KSU; A Step towards Empowering Indigenous Communities in Education and Research**

Tabuk City, Kalinga - On May 25, 2023, OPSD Director Cherrie Melanie A. Diego With CHED -CAR and Central Office proudly Launched the Building Indigenous Knowledge for Inclusivity and Sustainability (BIGKIS) initiative in KSU.

The event took place at M Hotel and brought together educators, scholars, and experts dedicated to advancing Indigenous knowledge systems, cultural preservation, And sustainable development

. It was participated by the SUCs and HEIs in the Cordillera Administrative Region such as IFSU, MPSPC, BSU, ASIST, ASC, KSU, CCDCC, KCP, SLU, UB, UC, CA+CT, SLCB and KCP.

The BIGKIS initiative encompasses various components aimed at fostering inclusivity and sustainability while celebrating the rich heritage of the indigenous peoples (IPs) in the region. These components include the establishment of IP knowledge hubs in higher education institutions (HEIs), capacity building programs, curricular integration of IP like the Cordillera 101, cultural mapping, intercultural immersion, and research collaboration on Indigenous Knowledge Systems and Practices, Culture, and Arts.

The event commenced with a warm welcome from Dr. Eduardo T. Bagtang, Kalinga State University president, who expressed his enthusiasm for the initiative and highlighted its significance in promoting cultural diversity and sustainable practices.

Dr. Ronald L. Adamat, the Oversight Commissioner for Indigenous Peoples and Peace Studies/Education, delivered a powerful message emphasizing the importance of Indigenous knowledge and its role in fostering peace and understanding among diverse communities.

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The event also featured presentations by esteemed academics and experts. Dr. Reymundo D. Rovillos, a Professor from the University of the Philippines, shared his expertise on Indigenous knowledge systems and practices, shedding light on their significance in contemporary society. Prof. Agnes N. Balwan and Dr. Therese Grail C. Lawagan presented best practices on the integration of IP studies in education, showcasing successful models and initiatives that promote the cultural heritage and sustainable practices of Indigenous communities.

Ms. Aline G. Magalong, the Chief of the Standards Development Division-OPSD, facilitated a consultative session on the development of criteria for the establishment of IP knowledge hubs, ensuring that the future knowledge hubs are effective in promoting and preserving Indigenous knowledge.

The launch event culminated with a Local Cultural Immersion, allowing

participants to experience the vibrant traditions and customs of the local community firsthand. This immersive experience further highlighted the importance of cultural preservation and appreciation.

The BIGKIS initiative represents a significant step forward in promoting inclusivity, sustainability, and the recognition of Indigenous knowledge systems in Northern Luzon. By establishing IP knowledge hubs, integrating IP studies into curricula, and fostering research collaboration, Kalinga State University is leading the way in empowering Indigenous communities and ensuring their knowledge and heritage are preserved for future generations. With this bold initiative, KSU envisions a future where Indigenous knowledge and practices are valued, respected, and integrated into every aspect of society, contributing to a more inclusive and sustainable future for all.

# Project CLEARs team attends the 2023 Regional Science, Technology, and Innovation Week

In celebration of the 2023 Regional Science, Technology, and Innovation Week (RSTW), the Kalinga State University Project Community-Level Evaluation and Assessment of Rain-Induced Landslide Susceptibility (CLEARs) team attended the launching of the mobile application and web system today at Bangued, Abra. This is in partnership with Department of Science and Technology- Cordillera Administrative Region (DOST-CAR) in collaboration with the Office of the Civil Defense (OCD-CAR).



With the theme, "Siyensya, Teknolohiya, at Inobasyon: Kabalikat sa Matatag, Maginhawa at Panatag na Kinabukasan", this event was distinguished by the formal signing of a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) between KSU represented by our university president, Dr. Eduardo T. Bagtang and the DOST-CAR and OCD-CAR for the implementation of Phase II of CLEARs project. This signifies our relentless pursuit for disaster resilience throughout the region.

KSU and DOST CLEARs team is also conducting a CLEARs application orientation and unveiling of the CLEARs exhibit. These strategic moves are designed to disseminate vital information and deeply engage our community, fostering widespread adoption and effective utilization of the CLEARs system.

The KSU-CLEARs team was led by President Eduardo T. Bagtang with his members, Dr. Ronald U. Wacas, Engr. Rhonjohn R. Garming, Engr. Gine O. Ganagan, Engr. Jasmin Malaga, Mr. Mathew Jun P. Mariani and Mr. Joseph Christian c. Padin.

# S.A.F.E SKILLS TRAINING: Capability training program for provincial security group of the PLGU-Kalinga.

The launching of the S.A.F.E skills capability training program for the Provincial Security Group of the Provincial local government of Kalinga was held at RND Training Hall KSU main Campus, Bulanao.

This undertaking was conceptualized, organized, and implemented by the concerned agencies and offices- The Kalinga State University, the Provincial Local Government of Kalinga and the Professional Criminologist Association of the Philippines, Kalinga Chapter.

It represents a commitment to elevate the capabilities of the security personnel in the Province of Kalinga. The primary aim of this training initiative is to elevate the skill set of the security personnel, deliberately selecting key domains such as fostering advanced capabilities in effective communication, technical report writing and industrial security management. It also addresses about the intricacies of investigations and reporting, gun safety to ensure a comprehensive and holistic skill set.

The expected outcome will be Empowered Security Personnel, Effective Industrial Security Management, Clear and Concise Communication, Thorough and Accurate Investigations, Adaptation to Technological Advances and Safe Handling of Firearms through the promotion of gun safety rules and practical shooting training, security personnel will demonstrate proficiency and adherence to safety standards in situations involving firearms.

Dr. Lope T. Buen, Vice President for Research and Extension mentioned in his opening remarks emphasized on the rules of engagement. "It is important that we gain knowledge on the basic domain of this training to improve our skills and abilities.", he added.

The acronym SAFE encapsulates the essence of our endeavor – Safety, Awareness, and Fundamental Efficiency. This training program is not just about honing technical skills but fostering a culture of safety, raising awareness, and building fundamental efficiencies that are crucial in the realm of provincial security as mentioned by Ms. Lourdes Adeline Nicole Y. Cosmiano, Department Chair for Languages. She also explained the objectives and the expected outcomes of the training.

Cosmiano further said, "Security is not the absence of danger, but the presence of measures to deal with it."

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Let us embark on this journey of building safer communities together, equipped with the skills and awareness to face the challenges that lie ahead. Dr. Mary Grace M. Ignacio, CCJE Dean, discussed the Memorandum of Agreement, the responsibilities of the Kalinga State University, PCAP-Kalinga Chapter, and the PLGU-Kalinga.

Dr. Eduardo T. Bagtang, University President, talked about the functions of Kalinga State University as the partner agency. One of which is the Extension Services which covers said training. He added that the university is fortunate to have experts in this endeavor who will be sharing their expertise and expressed his gratitude to the provincial government for the financial assistance and other forms of cooperations. "This program will empower our security personnel to navigate these challenges, securing our safety and security", he added. Moreover, Hon.

Governor James S. Edduba, represented by Atty. John Paul Baguiwan, the Provincial Legal Officer expressed his thoughts on this auspicious occasion. "In an ever-changing world, our dedication to the protection and safety of those entrusted to our care demand a continuous adaptation and enhancement of our capabilities. This skills program is a major step toward the advancement of this initiative." He added.

Baguiwan further explained the importance of effective communication, technical writing, investigation, and the emphasis on gun safety is paramount.

Atty. Francis B. Calsiyao, President, PCAP-Kalinga Chapter, also extended his appreciation to all involved in bringing this vision to life.

The diverse sessions that constitute the core of this SAFE Skills project include Interpersonal Skills Enhancement, Industrial Security Management, Technical Report Writing Training-Workshop, Investigation and Reporting, New Developments in Security Instruments and Basic Gun Safety Rules and Practical Shooting.



# Triumph at the Summit: KSU Prodigy, Febie Gel Laquiao Dagson, Secures 8th Spot in LET 2023

Kalinga State University is ablaze with pride as it celebrates the outstanding achievement of Ms. Febie Gel Laquiao Dagson, who clinched the 8th position in the 2023 Licensure Examinations for Teachers (LET). Hailing from the picturesque Man-obal, Tinglayan, Kalinga, the 20-year-old prodigy graduated with the highest academic distinction, Summa Cum Laude, in June 2023 from the Kalinga State University, having completed her Bachelor in Elementary Education.

Ms. Dagson, a shining star among six siblings, was nurtured in the academic ethos by her parents, Mr. Benet Walis Dagson and Mrs. Nancy Laquiao Dagson, both esteemed educators themselves.

In an exclusive phone interview with the University Information Officer, Mary June Wacas, Ms. Dagson expressed her gratitude to Kalinga State University, acknowledging the crucial role played by her professors in the College of Education, her ever supportive family, and all those who contributed to her remarkable success.

When questioned about the strategies that led to her LET triumph, Ms. Dagson humbly shared her reliance on faith, stating, "I prayed to God, and I came across the Bible verse, 'Therefore I tell you, whatever you ask for in prayer, believe that you receive, and it will be yours.'" She emphasized setting clear goals, dedicated and rigorous review, familial encouragement, regular intake of vitamins, and ample rest as crucial elements in her journey to excellence. Graduating as the second child in her family, Ms. Dagson has proven her academic prowess since her early years. She secured the top 2 spot in elementary and the coveted top 1 position in high school at the KSU Laboratory High School.

Looking ahead, Ms. Dagson envisions a future as a national lecturer and college instructor at KSU. Her plans include inspiring the next generation of educators and contributing to the academic legacy of her alma mater.

In the wake of this remarkable achievement, Kalinga State University extends its congratulations to Ms. Febie Gel Laquiao Dagson, an epitome of academic excellence and a source of inspiration for aspiring educators nationwide.



# SPEAK UP FOR THE VOICELESS

Jessie Grace M. Sannadan

There are no telltale signs of physical abuse, no blood nor bruise, but you can see the loud scream of a soul that is forever broken. Such is the result of the violence that undermines the health, dignity, security, and autonomy of its victims who become voiceless over time.

Violence against women and girls appears as one of the most pervasive social problems in any society. As defined by the UN Declaration on the Elimination of Violence against Women (1993), violence against women (VAW) is “any act of gender-based violence that results in, or is likely to result in physical, sexual or psychological harm or suffering to women, including threats of such acts, coercion or arbitrary deprivation of liberty, whether occurring in public and private life. Gender-based violence is any violence inflicted on women because of their sex.”

It includes, but is not limited to physical violence or the act that includes bodily or physical harm, Sexual violence or the act that is sexual in nature, committed against a woman or her child, psychological violence or the act or omission that causes or likely to cause mental or emotional suffering of the victim; and Economic abuse or the act that makes or attempts to make a woman financially dependent.

Two decades into the 21st century, yet this social problem remains shrouded in a culture of silence. Many countries still have a long way to go to address this concern. In fact, the Sustainable Development Agenda, adopted

by UN Member States in 2015, set a 2030 deadline for the achievement of gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls. Now, with less than 10 years left to meet it, the world is not on target. Amid the intersecting crises of COVID-19, the climate emergency, and rising economic and political insecurity, progress on gender equality has failed to move and may even be on the reverse. Globally, a growing backlash against women’s rights is threatening even well-established freedoms and protections.

In the Philippines, 1 in 20 women and girls age 15-49 have experienced sexual violence in their lifetime, according to the 2017 National Demographic and Health Survey. This trend still prevails despite the fact that the Philippines has ranked 17th among 156 countries in the Global Gender Gap Report 2021 of the Geneva-based World Economic Forum (WEF). This performance was second-best in the East Asia and Pacific region, after New Zealand.

This is not to say that the Philippine government is not doing anything to address this. The UNFPA (United Nations Fund for Population Activities) works closely with the Department of Social Welfare Development and the Department of Health to coordinate the delivery of humanitarian assistance to meet the specific needs of women and girls and support survivors of gender-based violence.

These include establishing women-friendly spaces, clinical and psychological support, a referral to access services, and capacity building.

A most significant achievement of the Philippines is the Gender and Development (GAD) budget policy that was introduced through the General Appropriations Act (GAA) in 1995 as “The Women’s Budget” to support with actual resources the implementation of programs and projects focused on gender advocacy and commitment to women’s empowerment. This policy directs all government departments and agencies to allocate a minimum of five percent (5%) of their total annual budgets for gender programs, projects, and activities. It has been an important feature of the annual GAA and further strengthened by the Magna Carta of Women (RA 9710).

Surprisingly, the country’s ranking in the Global Gender Gap Report deteriorated to 17th place from ranked sixth in the world when the WEF started its gender equality report in 2006.

Some realities contribute to the vulnerability of women to violence. One is the “culture of silence” in Philippine society. Many of the victims are ashamed to relate their experiences. In contrast, others tend to dismiss their ordeal as a result of their lack of faith in the country’s justice system caused by frustrations over the lack of results in filing complaints. Moreover, an even greater problem is that many violence cases against women often go unreported.

There is also sexist humor that is deeply ingrained in Philippine society. Even professionals are guilty of promoting this. Sadly, professionals at KSU are not immune to this. Just recently, one senior faculty posted a video of a woman who proudly and happily proclaimed that she chose her husband and so when her husband says jump, she happily jumps and when he says sit, she does so willingly. The video ends up with the woman claiming that this is her way of showing respect.

While concerned faculty may claim that posting this video was an innocent play and for nothing more than fun, a quiet signal creating a context in which some men feel comfortable expressing traditional gender roles has been sent. Most of all, it was taught that sexist humor is not a bad thing. It further goes to show how humor is embedded so deeply into gender disparity.

The acceptance of sexist humor leads men to believe that sexist behavior falls within the bounds of social acceptability.

It is uncertain when this trend will totally diminish in the Philippine setting, but as long as current efforts to fight VAW are sustained, hope could be set high. Without a heightened commitment from the community, gender equality will remain nothing more than an unrealized goal. The time to act and invest in women and girls is now. As Malala Yousafai aptly put it: “I raise up my voice—not so that I can shout, but so that those without a voice can be heard... We cannot all succeed when half of us is held back.”

Speaking up for the Voiceless is everyone’s responsibility toward a strong, comfortable, and secure Philippine society.