



TSU officially receives WURI 2024 plaques



Photo Credits: Liana Faith Q. De Leon

Tarlac State University has been officially awarded plaques at the 2024 WURI Global Conference held at aSSIST University in Seoul, South Korea on September 25, 2024.

TSU received a gold plaque for ranking 279th in the Global Top 300 Innovative

Universities of the World University Ranks for Innovation (WURI) 2024.

In addition, the university was recognized for its performance in specific categories, officially receiving plaques as 30th in Student Support and Engagement (A1),

39th in Crisis Management (A5), and 52nd in Funding (B2).

These plaques were presented on the second day of the conference by Dr. Kim Jin-Suk, WURI Global Conference Executive Chair, and Dr. Cho Dong-Sung, WURI Foundation Chair.

Representing TSU at the conference are TSU President Dr. Arnold E. Velasco, Quality Assurance Assistant Director Dr. Ma. Socorro D. Valdez, and International Accreditation Unit Head Ms. Liana Faith Q. De Leon.

Liana Faith Q. De Leon [OQA]

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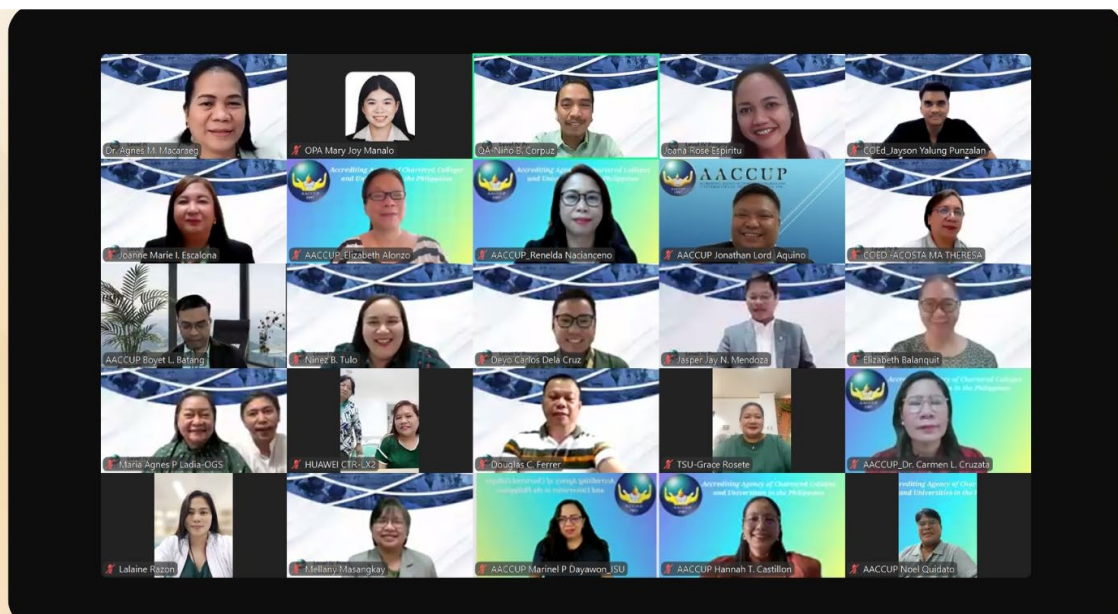
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Five programs under the College of Education underwent the online program accreditation 4th survey visit, 2nd cycle on September 25 to September 27 via Zoom.

The programs assessed by the Accrediting Agency of Chartered Colleges and Universities in the Philippines (AACCUP) were the Master of Arts in Education major in Education Management, Technology and Livelihood Education, and Mathematics, as well as the Bachelor of Elementary Education, Bachelor of Secondary Education, Bachelor of Early Childhood Education, and Bachelor of Technology and Livelihood Education.

All programs were visited in the areas of research, performance of graduates, community service, international linkages, and planning process.

During the closing meeting, AACCUP Overall Coordinator Dr. Boyet L. Batang of Isabela State University commended TSU's strong commitment to excellence in

delivering quality education to its clientele.

"TSU has shown us its own definition and articulation of what quality education services are...Your accolades and being a recipient of Times Higher Education and other awards is truly an indication that quality is embedded in the DNA of TSU," Dr. Batang said.

Meanwhile, on behalf of TSU President Dr. Arnold E. Velasco, Vice President for Academic Affairs Dr. Agnes M. Macaraeg thanked the AACCUP survey team for their invaluable contribution to TSU.

She also expressed her gratitude to the Office of Quality Assurance, led by Dr. Niño B. Corpuz, for guiding the local accreditation task force throughout the process.

"Your commitment and willingness to put your combined efforts are really extraordinary. This would really mean a lot to the university in attaining our mission of quality education," she said.

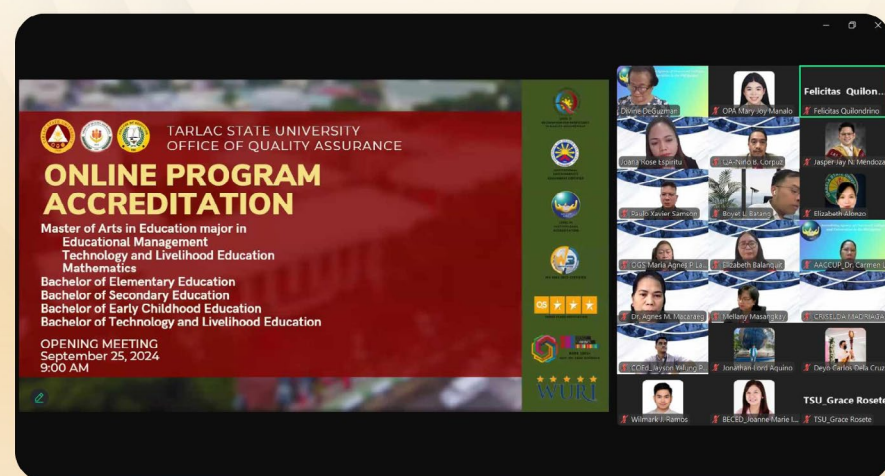
Dr. Corpuz reaffirmed the office's dedication to uphold and safeguard the university's quality standards.

"I always believe that

quality assurance culture in TSU will always be promoted, implemented, and protected," he said.

Moreover, CoEd Dean Dr. Jasper Jay N. Mendoza highlighted the college's endeavor to become "collaborative ingenuity having excellence centered as a habit."

Dean Mendoza also committed to keep abreast of the latest best practices and methodologies to serve students with quality education and identify areas for improvement.



TSU is the first SUC in PH to partner with ISOCARP

Jodie Andrea G. Pangilinan



Tarlac State University and the International Society of City and Regional Planners (ISOCARP) signed a memorandum of understanding for research, capacity building, and international networking opportunities.

The MOU was inked through the university's College of Architecture and Fine Arts, while EnP. Haydee JM Quintana Malubay, WPC60@NCC local organizing committee head, represented the ISOCARP last September 10, 2024 at the National Government Administrative Center, New Clark City, Capas, Tarlac.

TSU is the first state university in the country to partner with the ISOCARP for its 60th World Planning Congress (WPC) – 1st International Congress for New Cities.

The 1st International Congress for New Cities: Planning New Regenerative

Cities is the first leg of ISOCARP's 60th WPC Diamond Anniversary Series (WPC60@NCC), organized by the ISOCARP and the Philippines' host organization composed of the local organizing committee and the Provincial Government of Tarlac, led by Gov. Susan A. Yap.

ISOCARP is a non-governmental organization of professional urban and regional planners with a vision to make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient, and sustainable through integrative participatory urban and territorial planning.

This collaboration will provide a platform for the CAFA faculty and students to present their research, facilitate networking opportunities with international urban planning professionals and academics, and explore capacity-building programs such as specialized

training sessions, seminars, or joint workshops.

According to TSU President Dr. Arnold E. Velasco, CAFA students can present their research and exhibit their works to showcase their talents, which may open possibilities for international internships. This will also serve as a means to promote the country's rich culture.

"Itong partnership with ISOCARP is considered a success for TSU kasi out of all the SUCs naman in the Philippines, tayo ang naimbitahan dito sa World Planning Congress nila. We have showcased our talents through the Performing Arts Dance Troupe and the exhibit of CAFA. This is our way of promoting our institution to the rest of the world," Pres. Velasco told the Office of Public Affairs in an interview.

In return, the college is set to organize and lead a technical tour of Tarlac for the participants, showcasing key urban planning and development projects in New Clark City that will offer insights into local sustainable practices and community development

initiatives.

Moreover, TSU participated in the ribbon-cutting event, marking the exhibit's formal opening with 33 booths from local sellers and companies offering traditional snacks, crafts, and innovative technologies.

The CAFA was also invited to set up its booth to display its students' and faculty's academic and creative works, highlighting innovative architectural designs, urban planning projects, and sustainable development solutions.

The planning conference was held until September 13, 2024, with keynote lectures, expert debates, research and case study track presentations, technical tours, special sessions, networking and social events, Indigenous storytelling, and tourist visits around the province.

The second leg of the WPC Diamond Anniversary Series will be held in Siena, Italy, on October 8-12, 2024, with the theme, "Reinventing The (In) visible Cities."



TSU, LGU Anao to work for modernized info system

Mary Joy B. Manalo

Tarlac State University, through the Center for Community and Local Governance Studies and Policy Development, sealed a memorandum of agreement with the Municipality of Anao as the pioneer town for Project PRISM on September 20, 2024 at the TSU Main AVR.

Collectively known as "Project PRISM: Program Revitalization of Information System Management," the project will modernize the municipality's information infrastructure to improve its local governance and community service.

The CCLGSPD, with the assistance of the College of Computer Studies, will revamp the existing information system database of the Municipal Social Welfare and Development (MSWD) of Anao and create an online digital repository of the resolutions and ordinances issued by the Sangguniang Bayan.

Anao Vice Mayor Hon. Jocelyn C. Punzalan, who represented Anao Mayor Hon. Gian Pierre O. De Dios, thanked



the TSU community for their continuous support.

"Ibibigay po namin ang 1,000% na commitment namin sa project na ito. Kami po ay nagpapasalamat dahil sa pangalawang pagkakataon ay nagpaalaga na naman po kami [sa TSU]. Sana po sa ibang pagkakataon ay kami naman po ang madalaw ninyo at maimbita rin po namin kayo sa Anao," Hon. Punzalan said.

Last May 2024, the

LGU also entered into a MOA with TSU for Project CARE (Consultancy and Research on Localizing Child Protection Policy in the municipality of Anao).

Meanwhile, TSU President Dr. Arnold E. Velasco said that the university is more than willing to do research, extension projects, and other services to help the municipality.

Furthermore, CCLGSPD Director Dr. Cynthia G. Quiambao shared that TSU, through CCS and CCLGSPD, represents the "light that passes through a prism."

"The output of this project will spread like the light that will pass through the prism and will result in different colors, and the colors now are the services to be utilized by our municipalities. This is in lieu of our Futures Thinking for quality and excellence and in good governance," Dr. Quiambao said.

Apart from modernizing database systems and creating an online repository, training and capacity-building workshops will also be given to the beneficiaries to familiarize them with the project's features and functions.



OHRDM director commended with 'mark of recognition' from CSC regional office

Maria Adelaida D. Calayag



Photo Credits: Dr. Marlon C. Dela Cruz

Tarlac State University's Office of Human Resource Development and Management Director received an award concerning the university's attainment and sustenance of its PRIME-HRM Bronze Award-Maturity Level II.

The Civil Service Commission Regional Office III recognized OHRDM Director Mr. Marlon C. Dela Cruz with a plaque for his "contribution and hard work," along with the OHRDM staff, in the university's conferment of the Program to Institutionalize Meritocracy and Excellence in Human Resource Management (PRIME-HRM) Bronze Award-Maturity Level II accreditation.

The awarding ceremony was held during the Philippine Civil Service Anniversary 2024 celebration of the CSC RO III last September 11, 2024 at the City of San Fernando, Pampanga.

PRIME-HRM strengthens the Personnel Management Assessment and Assistance Program (PMAAP) and the CSC Agency Accreditation Program (CSAAP), which lets the human resource management of government agencies enhance their competencies, systems, and practices toward human resource excellence.

In April 2017, TSU was the only SUC awarded with a Maturity Level II in all

four "core HRM systems."

TSU's PRIME-HRM journey

TSU was first accredited by the CSC with Maturity Level II in 2013. Since then, the university has consistently passed the online and on-site assessments for the regional and national levels of the PRIME-HRM.

As stated in the CSC Memorandum Circular No. 19, series of 2016, government agencies who achieved their "Process Defined Levels in all their Core HRM Systems" will be awarded the Maturity Level II accreditation dubbed as the National Bronze Award for PRIME-HRM.

Government agencies are evaluated on their four Core HRM Systems, namely

Recruitment, Selection, and Promotion; Learning and Development; Rewards and Recognitions; and Performance Management through the PRIME-HRM's "Lenses of Systems and Competencies with Pillars on Governance, Development Planning, Performance Planning and Commitment, and Performance Review and Evaluation."

Director Dela Cruz represented the university in receiving its PRIME-HRM distinction last July 2019 during the awarding ceremonies of the 2019 Public Sector HR Symposium in Manila.

He was then joined

FEATURE

TSU powerlifting team garners medals, advocates for more powerlifters

Maria Adelaida D. Calayag



Four members of the Tarlac State University Powerlifters bagged seven golds and three trophies during the 2024 Central and North Luzon Powerlifting Championships held at the St. Vincent Gym in Baguio City last September 28-29, 2024.

The team, led by international powerlifter champion Ken Andrey Austria from the College of Business and Accountancy, is composed of the Gutierrez siblings, namely Vince Gerald Gutierrez, 22, Lisha Mae Gutierrez, 21, Zyus Gervi Gutierrez, 19, and Caedmon Dyre Catalan, 20.

These powerlifters are under the supervision of Mr. Hilario Romen III, a non-teaching personnel of TSU, who

serves as their coach, and Mr. Wesley Roi Equila, the assistant coach.

The 2024 Central and North Luzon Powerlifting Championships include deadlift, squat, and bench press. Participants are from different colleges and universities in Central and Northern Luzon.

Gutierrez siblings

Lisha Mae, a Bachelor of Secondary Education major in English student, is the team's only woman powerlifter. She bagged two gold medals in the under 52 kg. Women's College and under 52 kg. Women's Junior categories. She also received a silver medal in the under 52 kg. Women's Novice

category.

She shared that her eldest brother, Vince Gerald, and her younger brother, Zyus Gervi, influenced her to join.

Vince Gerald is a BSED English alumnus and currently a School of Law student. He started training in December last

year and encouraged his other siblings to join him.

His usual day starts early morning to train, read and prepare, and attend his law classes at night.

He was awarded best lifter both in the college and junior categories. Moreover, he received three gold medals in the under 83 kg. Men's College, under 83 kg. Men's Junior, and under 83 kg. Men's Novice categories.

Meanwhile, Zyus Gervi, a Bachelor of Elementary Education student, won two gold medals for the categories under 74 kg. Men's Junior and under 74 kg. Men's College.

Aside from the Gutierrez siblings, Catalan, a BS Accountancy student, also received a silver medal in the under 74 kg. Men's College category and a bronze medal in the under 74 kg. Men's Junior category.

Also part of the team is the youngest powerlifter, Fhrex Elijah Lacuesta, 18, a College of Business and Accountancy student.

Promoting powerlifting

According to Austria, the president of Tarlac State University Powerlifting, they plan to train aspiring

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Photo Credits: Lisha Mae Gutierrez

OHRDM director commended with 'mark of recognition' from CSC regional office

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by Recruitment, Selection, and Promotion Unit Head Josefina M. Obiena, Employees' Welfare Unit Head Elmer D. Granil, and Prof. Nerissa S. Olarte, the Performance Management Unit Head at the time.

"Along with Ma'am Josie, Sir Elmer, and Ma'am Nerie, my co-unit heads under HR at the time, and with the guidance of Ma'am Geraldine Lenon and Ma'am Maria Teresa Agustin, we took the lead towards achieving the PRIME-HRM Bronze Award," Director Dela Cruz said in an interview.

"I was primarily in charge [of] the area Rewards and Recognition of the PRIME-HRM Assessment. Generally, I provided assistance to the other PRIME-HRM Areas on the narratives, documentation, and packaging of the evidence submitted to attain Level IV in Recruitment, Selection, and Placement, Performance Management, as well as Learning and Development," he added.

According to the OHRDM director, the office sustains the four core HRM systems through continual review of HR processes and documentation in light of the CSC standards.

"We continually keep ourselves updated with the trends and new standards in the field so that we don't miss any changes in the standards. We also revisit our systems during the planning sessions and review issues we encounter. We believe in continual improvement, so the feedback we gain from our clientele and

stakeholders [is] taken [into] the picture to check where we can improve. Sustenance is part of our department performance commitment and review (DPCR), so we really have to ensure that we are sustaining what we have achieved," he said.

Goal towards PRIME-HRM Gold Award

Director Dela Cruz said the OHRDM works to achieve a higher PRIME-HRM Award for the university — to become a "Center for HR Excellence" or the Gold Award.

"Right now, we are laying the groundwork for Level III. Little by little, we are injecting higher standards into our practices so that the TSU community will not be forced to adopt new ways of doing their work, and there will be less resistance. We live by the principles of management by Peter Drucker, [which states] that 'Culture eats strategy for breakfast,'" the OHRDM Director told OPA.

He also shared that they need to implement the Human Resource Information System, which requires the support of the TSU administration.

"I take pride [in] honoring my HR team who worked hard with me and continually shares with me the vision to achieve (the) PRIME-HRM Gold Award. And I dedicate this to my predecessors, to my mentors, to the TSU community, to my family, and most importantly to our Creator," Director Dela Cruz said.



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EDITORIAL

Worsening traffic woes

Tarlac City is the lone city in and the capital of the Tarlac Province, with 17 municipalities surrounding it. It is the central business hub of the province where most establishments are built, coupled with a booming population and employment. As an economic and commercial center, there will inevitably be a high volume of public and private vehicles, leading to traffic — a pressing problem for students and workers. The worsening traffic in Tarlac City may be pinpointed to numerous factors. Reasons range from the urbanized lifestyle in the city to the road and drainage constructions and the lack of or lax traffic management.

At every graduation ceremony of TSU, the university officials, teaching and non-teaching employees, and, most significantly, the graduates and their families strive to be early at the venue. Vehicle parking

is their utmost consideration, as spaces inside and around the Main Campus are limited. However, a certain number came in late on the designated midyear graduation day, which is not a "fashionable" kind of late. Those who arrived right in the nick of time are all cursing the traffic jam along Romulo Boulevard, Zamora Street, and the Aquino Bridge, with some graduates walking from their stuck vehicles to the venue while wearing their Filipiniana and barong. This may not be the first time, but it could probably be considered one of the worst traffic jams to date.

The road and drainage construction along Zamora Street increases the traffic burden. The one-way flow of vehicles is a common sight with road repairs, but managing the flow is vital. The motorists' discipline in practicing a give-and-take attitude should come

first. Moreover, such discipline must be supplemented by the presence of enforcers, whose schedule is limited to specific times or days. This could be a reason for the need for consistent traffic management.

Arguably, the government cannot do away with road improvements. One aspect of development is infrastructure, which must be integrated into a comprehensive plan. The timing of construction and refurbishments are crucial, especially along major thoroughfares. Regarding traffic management, city planners should carefully consider urban planning so as not to hamper the daily routine of citizens, institutions, and businesses. It would take approximately 15 minutes to travel from the Main Campus to the Lucinda Campus. Additionally, the trip from Main Campus to the San Isidro Campus would only

cover five minutes. Given the worsening traffic jams, each trip would cost an extra five to ten minutes. Students and faculty members with classes in two different campuses and non-teaching staff who must deliver documents from one campus to another bear the burden of leaving earlier than usual. Otherwise, being late would sometimes become unacceptable.

Effort on each part is mandatory to render reactive and proactive solutions. The discipline of motorists, valuing time by being early, citizens' participation in urban planning, and appropriate traffic management by the government are some requisites to lift the woes of traffic matters. Pointing fingers would be ineffective, but the right actions speak volumes when forming a collaborative, proactive cure.

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powerlifters as young as high school to college students to raise awareness about their sport. They also intend to promote powerlifting to all, regardless of gender or whether they are beginner or intermediate lifters.

Lisha Mae said



she was first intimidated upon seeing several men joining the competition, yet she reminded herself that her siblings fully trusted her and that she only needed to enjoy and focus on her first competition.

"Pinaka-naging source of inspiration ko po talaga ay sila [siblings]. Pero nung naging maalam na po ako sa sports, ang dami pa po pala sa women na ang lalakas, 'yung kaya nilang buhatin twice, thrice, or even more. Ang goal ko po maging ganon rin, 'yung strength po talaga," she said in an interview.

TSU powerlifting team garners medals, advocates for more powerlifters

"Yung experience ko po sa kanila okay naman atsaka 'yung sa powerlifting community. First time ko rin na-experience 'yung first competition, masaya po tsaka 'women support women' talaga. Kaya sana po dumami kaming members," the only female powerlifter in the university added.

Austria said students who are willing to join the sports need not be shy, for professional and champion lifters will guide them throughout their journey, like Assistant Coach Equila, one of the first powerlifters in Tarlac Province, who has also garnered several awards in different

competitions.

"Kailangang isipin nila lahat ng struggles at oras na ginugol nila sa training kasi kung hindi mo iisipin 'yon, sayang naman lahat ng sakripisyo para makapagtraining, kung panghihinaan ka lang din ng loob sa mismong laban," Coach Equila said.

The Tarlac State University Powerlifting Team will prepare for the 2025 National Powerlifting Championships and are planning to compete for the Asian University Cup next year to be held in India.

Photos during the International Society of City and Regional Planners (ISOCARP)





TARLAC STATE UNIVERSITY

Vision

A globally competitive university recognized for excellence in sciences and emerging technologies.

Mission

TSU shall develop highly competitive and empowered human resources fostering responsive global education, future-proof research culture, inclusive and relevant extension programs, and sustainable production projects.

Core Values

- T-ruth in words, action and character
- S-ervice with excellence and compassion
- U-nity in diversity

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.