

# AUP HIGHLIGHTS

The Official Newsletter of the Adventist University of the Philippines

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## AUP Hosts 10th International Scholars' Conference

Advancing knowledge and research, the Adventist University of the Philippines hosted the 10th International Scholars' Conference on October 24-25, 2023. The conference, in partnership with Asia-Pacific International University (AIU), Universitas Klabat (UNKLAB), and University Advent Indonesia (UNAI), was themed: Toward a New Decade of International Interdisciplinary Collaborative Research in the Next Normal.

A total of 379 participants from 17 institutions: AIU, UNKLAB, UNAI, Adventist International Institution of Advanced Studies, Central Philippine Adventist College, Loma Linda University (LLU), Andrews University, Department of Education-Central Office, Department of Social Welfare and Development, Libang Elementary School, Manila Adventist College, Naga View Adventist College, Polytechnic University of the Philippines-Manila, South Philippine Adventist College, Southern

Luzon State University, De La Salle University-Dasmariñas, and University of the Philippines, attended the conference.

### 1st Plenary Session

"[May] we all experience heartwarming ISC: Interactions, Boundless Synergy, Unwavering Commitment to a lifelong pursuit and excellence of God's glory," Dr. Gracel Ann Saban, the vice president for academics, welcomed the delegates during the first plenary session on October 24, 2023.

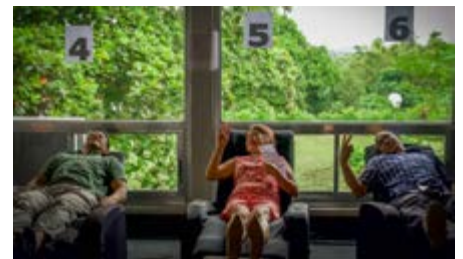
Dr. Bienvenido Mergal, Education Department director of the Southern-Asia Pacific Division, gave an inspirational message during the opening of the conference's session. With biblical references, he emphasized how our search for things in this world "should be for God's glory, not ours." He mentioned that research is about "seeing the world and our role through God's eye." *(Continued on next page)*



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Dr. Arceli Rosario, president of AUP, discussed the research attitude, interdisciplinary approach, and international collaboration within the context of the Bible during the plenary address. Her presentation was entitled “International Interdisciplinary Collaborative Research in the Next Normal: Key to Innovation Among Adventist Higher Education Institutions.” During the study’s recommendations, she challenged researchers to “dream big and do impactful research” by partnering with AHEIs in collaborative research. Having Jesus Christ as the inspiration for research, Dr. Arceli Rosario emphasized that “God has given us examples in the Bible of how to do interdisciplinary, international, collaborative research and that we will be able to do big things, innovative things in our higher education institute and even in our basic education.”



Dr. George Jackson, Earth and Biological Sciences professor at Loma Linda University, was the keynote speaker. He presented his study about a collaborative research venture from the Galapagos Islands to Lake Tanganyika, Africa, about “Mercury Bioaccumulation in Aquatic Organisms.” He also shared about his adventures and expeditions during the study. “It does not have to be boring; it can be exciting doing your research,” he encouraged the

participants to reach a high standard in striving for goals in this new normal of collaborative research.

After the plenary session, the conference split into parallel sessions. A total of 168 studies were presented



covering various disciplines. After the parallel sessions, masterclasses were held for the presenters and participants alike to hone and gain more knowledge in the field of research. The first masterclasses were: “Establishing Rigor in Qualitative Research,” by Dr. Arceli Rosario, president of AUP, and “Discovering the Neuropharmacologist in Me,” by Dr. Ike Dela Peña, Pharmaceutical and Administrative Sciences associate professor of LLU.

From singing to dancing, a cultural presentation completed the first day by celebrating the culture and heritage rendered by diverse AUP groups. Showcasing the beauty of cultural tapestry, representatives from



each partner institution completed the night with their special participation. UNKLAB delegates rendered a traditional Indonesian song, “O Ina Ni Keke,” while AIU performed a traditional Thailand rice dance entitled “Ramtai Seung Kratip.”

## 2nd Plenary Session

On the second plenary session, Pstr. Gerardo Cajobe, president of the

North Philippine Union Conference, talked about embracing collaborative research in the next normal in his inspirational message. He discussed that searching for knowledge should “convoke collaboration, coherence of purpose, and advantage of diversity” for God’s glory. “When researchers from different disciplines unite with a shared goal and purpose, they synergize their efforts and bring about a greater impact in the fulfillment of the mission of the church,” he stated, emphasizing the divine principle of research.

Afterward, Dr. Ike Dela Peña, Asso. Prof. of Pharmacology, LLU, delivered his keynote address. Delving into “Intellectual Humility in Research and Interdisciplinary Collaboration,” Dr. Dela Peña emphasized the role of humility in meaningful advancements. “True progress in research and interdisciplinary collaboration often hinges on intellectual humility, which encourages individuals to acknowledge their limitations and work together to overcome them,” he stated.

Dr. Ronny Walean, vice president for academic affairs of UNKLAB, shared



about the “Innovative Learning Model in the New Normal Era: Indonesian Independent Learning-Independent Campus” in response to the challenge of civilization due to the revolution of the industry and society of today.

Presenting about health, Dr. Jarurat Sriratanapapat, president of AIU, focused on the disparity to the success of global health collaboration research.

Parallel sessions and masterclasses  
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## AUP and OneMark Engineering and Technologies Seal Contract for AUP Teaching Hospital Design

On October 17, 2023, a momentous occasion unfolded as the Adventist University of the Philippines and OneMark Engineering and Technologies sealed the University 100-Bed Level III Teaching Hospital design through a contract signing ceremony. The contract signing ceremony was a significant milestone in the University's vision to build a teaching hospital.

Engr. Jessrel Lagariza, the director of Facilities Development, gave a brief background on the meticulous selection process that led to choosing OneMark Engineering and Technologies.

Architect Charren Kate Carta, representing OneMark Engineering and Technologies, unveiled the conceptual design. In response, Dr. Arceli Rosario, president of AUP, conveyed her gratitude and faith in this collaboration. "This [AUP teaching hospital] is our vision. We invite you [OneMark Engineering and Technologies] to work with us. We entrust you this project with much faith and prayer that our partnership will succeed," she expressed. Seeking God's benediction for the project and the partnership, Pastor Lani Esteves, senior pastor of the Philippine International Church, offered a dedicatory prayer.

Afterward, the signing of contracts commenced, signifying the formalization of the agreement. Engr. Mark Juanitas and Architect Charren Kate Carta signed on behalf of OneMark Engineering and Technologies. Dr. Arceli Rosario and Dr. Gracel Ann Saban represented the University.

Key figures and dignitaries from both parties attended the signing event. Notable attendees from OneMark Engineering and Technologies included Dr. Leopoldo



Vega, and Architect Diane Ann Cuisson, from OneMark Engineering and Technologies. Additionally, Atty. Gizelle Fugoso, Dr. Joyosthie Orbe, Engr. Jessrel Lagariza, Engr. Rex Pueblo, Dr. Prudencio Sta. Lucia, Mr. Oemer Rey Daquila, Rene Ballenas from EASNAC, Dr. Jahnen Tanamal and Mrs. Nerissa Tindoy were present to witness this significant step toward realizing the AUP Teaching Hospital.



## AUP Administration Launches God's Abundant Basket Ministry

God's Abundant Basket" is an institutional initiative led by the General Administration team that was launched on October 27, 2023. The aim of this initiative is to address the issue of food scarcity and food insecurity



among the work scholars at the University. Attended by 158 work scholars, the dedication program was held at the Finster Hall of All Nations at 2:30 p.m. to mark the launch of this noble initiative.

Through AUP's Strategic Plan under "Committed Christian Service and Ministry," God's Abundant Basket is rooted in Proverbs 14:21, Deuteronomy 15:7-8, Galatians 6:9-10, and Matthew 25:40. Mrs. Maureen Mariñas, the Planning and Institutional Effectiveness administrative assistant, shared the history behind this institutional initiative ministry. From brainstorming to the receiving of the first donation, "We can see how the Lord leads and

provides," she expressed as she narrated God's provisions for launching the ministry.

"We start this by faith," Dr. Arceli Rosario, AUP president, stated during the declaration of purpose. "We do this not because we have money. We do this because we care for you," Dr. Rosario added. This ministry is committed to distributing food every Friday at 3 p.m. to empower 350 work scholars to balance their academic and work responsibilities while ensuring access to nutritious food. This initiative will have a profound impact on their overall well-being and educational success. The core objectives of this ministry include the following: (1) Foster a sense of community and togetherness by

involving volunteers, donors, and recipients in a collective effort to address food scarcity and food insecurity among University work scholars. (2) Collaborate and partner with organizations and supporters to maximize the impact of food distribution and support services to the University work scholars.

During the dedication program, Pastor Julio Amurao, the vice president for student services, focused his message on Matthew 25:40, which states, "When you did it to one of the least of these, my brothers and sisters, you were doing it to me!" He linked this verse to the ministry mission of God's Abundant Basket, where both the receiver and the giver have the opportunity to experience the love of Christ. In conclusion, he stated that everyone "can experience the love of Jesus, and [this ministry] is an avenue for that experience."

The litany of blessings and serving was led by Dr. Isabelo Susada, followed by a prayer of dedication from Pastor Lani Esteves and Pastor Roniel Villamor. The ministry was officially launched when Dr. Arceli Rosario and Pastor Julio Amurao cut the ribbon, commencing the first serving of God's Abundant Basket.







Station 2: Karada Body Scan. A Karada Body Scan is a body fat analyzer made available by the Nutrition and Dietetics Department. It enables faculty and staff to gain insights into their physical well-being and make informed health decisions.

Station 3: Massage Chair. Six massage chairs were rented to enhance mental and physical relaxation, allowing faculty and staff to enjoy 15-minute massages.

Complementing these wellness stations were creative activities aimed at nurturing mental well-being. These activities included engaging hand dexterity games, mind games, and spatial ability puzzles.

## AUP Academic Team Celebrates World Teachers' Day

In a heartfelt tribute to the Academic Team at the Adventist University of the Philippines (AUP), the University celebrated World Teachers' Day with a 3-in-1 wellness treat on October 3, 2023, at the Finster Hall of Nations. The event honored educators' dedication and contribution and emphasized the importance of their well-being.

The special program started from 8:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m., offering three unique wellness stations:

Station 1: Blood Pressure Check. The academic team had the opportunity to have their blood pressure checked, rendered by College of Nursing students.

The day's celebrations culminated at 4:00 p.m. with a Thanksgiving program, uniting all teachers to celebrate the joy of teaching.





## AUP Administration Holds Appreciation Night

Let us serve the Lord in whatever capacity we have," Pastor Israel Bacdayan shared a message about the importance of service during the "Pasasalamat: Servant Leader's Appreciation Night" on October 19, 2023. This thanksgiving program was held at the Finster Hall of All Nations for the associates and assistants in administration.

Pausing momentarily to enjoy togetherness and thankfulness, AUP President Dr. Arceli Rosario conveyed her deep gratitude during her welcome remarks, saying, "You have served faithfully."

Cavite Mission President Pastor Israel Bacdayan was the keynote speaker. He anchored his message on the leadership of Joshua. No matter where Joshua was or what circumstance came his way, he uttered, "We will serve the Lord." Pastor Bacdayan emphasized that the focus of one's direction must be the direction where "the Lord wants us to be" because He will be with us. He also shared words of motivation referencing from the Spirit of Prophecy: "If you know you are serving the Lord, you will not be distracted. You will be faithful in what you do."



After the message, the administrators paid their tribute to the 85 associates and assistants in their departments, recognizing their hard work and service to the University. Dr. Lolina Mostaza, the Human Resource director, distributed certificates to acknowledge their contributions. Dr. Saban affirmed the associates and assistants in administration: "You are AUP."







## AUP Establishes NPUC Alumni Chapter

The University administration established the NPUC Alumni Chapter on October 2, 2023, to strengthen bonds and foster a strong sense of community with the alumni. This significant event featured a devotional service led by AUP.

Drawing from the life of Elisha, Dr. Arceli Rosario, AUP president, delivered a devotional message expounding on the meaning of AUP's motto, "a school that trains for service." After the devotional service, the NPUC Chapter key officers were elected.

The distinguished officers elected are Pastor Jose Zabat, president; Pastor Jerry Estabillo, vice president; Mrs. Delba de Chavez, secretary; and Mr. Rabi Velasco, treasurer. The establishment of this new chapter aims to create opportunities for the University. Reflecting the rich legacy of AUP, the NPUC Chapter aspires to unite and engage alumni in a shared commitment to service, reinforcing the spirit of unity and collaboration.



### AUP Hosts 10th... (cont. from pagd 2)

continued in the afternoon, covering the arts, humanities, and social sciences; business and governance; education; engineering, mathematics, science, and technology; health and allied health; and theology.



All about mathematics and sciences, the second masterclasses were "Reliability and Validity Evidence in Likert-type Scales," by Dr. Jimmy Kijai, Graduate School Education faculty of AIIAS and Dr. Edwin Balila, College of Science and Technology dean of AUP, and "Re-evaluating Origins: Perspectives on Creation and Evolution," by Dr. George Jackson, professor of LLU.

### 3rd Plenary Session

During the third plenary session, Dr. Williams Kwasi Peprah, associate professor of finance at Andrews University, tackled "Moving Forward Together: Collaborating for the Future." His presentation delved into



how various academic disciplines and businesses can harness the power of research collaboration to drive innovation, foster resilience, and secure sustainable growth.

Dr. Caroline Victorine Katemba, vice president for academic affairs of UNAI, delivered the plenary address on behalf of the president of UNAI, Dr. Milton Thorman Pardosi. She presented the study of Dr. Pardosi entitled "Toward A New Decade of International Interdisciplinary Collaborative Research in the Next Normal."

The conference concluded with Dr. Jolly Balila, research director of AUP, delivering a vote of thanks. Then, Dr. Wanlee Putsom, research director of AIU; Dr. Debby Sondakh, research director of UNKLAB; and Dr. Joshua Tobing, research director of UNAI, uttered their words of appreciation as fellow partner institutions. In promoting the following research conference, Dr. Tobing extended an invitation to the 11th ISC, which UNAI will host.

The International Scholars Conference is a multidisciplinary research conference organized by the partnership of Adventist University of the Philippines (AUP), Asia-Pacific International University (APIU), Universitas Klabat (UNKLAB), and University Advent Indonesia (UNAI). This collaborative effort among these institutions was a testament to the commitment to advancing knowledge and research across borders, fostering academic excellence.



## Data Privacy Office Conducts Its 1st Awareness Day

"It is crucial that we understand and protect the rights of data subjects as we navigate this data-driven landscape," Mrs. Penina Vegafría, the Data Privacy officer, stated during her welcome remarks during the first Data Privacy Awareness Day on October 13, 2023. The day served as a platform "to delve into the rights, responsibilities, and challenges associated with the handling of personal data in our interconnected world."

The first segment of the event was held at the Philippine International Church, with Mr. Ian Kenneth Bermeo, vice president for operations of the Adventist Medical Center Manila, serving as the keynote speaker. Mr. Bermeo delivered an enlightening discourse on individuals' rights as data subjects entitled, "Unlocking Your Privacy Rights." His message centered around the critical importance of safeguarding personal data in our rapidly evolving technological landscape. In a world where virtually everything finds its way online, he stressed the need to "demonstrate to God that everything we do is for His glory."

The event's second segment, attended by faculty and staff representatives, was held in the Administration Conference Room. The distinguished resource speaker, Mr. Rossel Roldan, the Data Privacy Officer of the Adventist Medical Center Manila, delved into a seminar about cybersecurity. He emphasized data collection, highlighting the fundamental principles of legitimate purpose, proportionality, and transparency that should guide such processes.



After the seminar, a question and answer portion proceeded. During the closing of the second segment, Dr. Arceli Rosario, AUP President, remarked, "We are doing this because we want to protect AUP."





## AUP's Bayanihan-inspired Campus Clean-up Unites Faculty and Staff

The Adventist University of the Philippines (AUP) witnessed the spirit of the Filipino tradition of bayanihan as faculty and staff carried out a campus-wide cleaning and maintenance initiative on October 1, 2023. The goal was to maintain the campus's cleanliness through community efforts. The Bayanihan started at 6:30 am -10:00 am.

Twenty-three groups representing various academic units and administrative departments were responsible for cleaning and maintaining their designated areas. These areas included the main gate, cafeteria, Student Park, Central Parking, Centennial Park, University gymnasium, academy, elementary, student complex, and Philippine International Church.

The Maintenance, Motor Pool, Environmental Resource Management, and the Grounds and Janitorial were support departments responsible for grass cutting, painting, manlift operations, and garbage collection, ensuring a comprehensive clean-up effort.

AUP's faculty and staff showcased their commitment to creating a cleaner, greener campus and demonstrated their dedication to fostering a welcoming environment.







## AUP Con Corda Resonate At Vista Mall, Sta. Rosa

The AUP Con Cord conducted a concert titled "Panglakaton" concert at the Vista Mall, Sta. Rosa on October 22, 2023.

The concert also featured the AUP Music Department Chimes Ensemble. They welcomed the guests through a musical prelude. Part 1 presented a musical voyage to Italy with "Venezia La Seconda," followed by a step back in time with Mozart's "Divertimento in F," and a dose of tango from Carlos Gardel's "Por Una Cabeza."

During the concert intermission, the University's promotions were highlighted. Mrs. Sheryl Ann de Dios, the Music Department chair, discussed the various programs offered by the department. Dr. Gracel Ann Saban, vice president for academics, thanked the University

community for supporting the concert. She also extended her appreciation to all the guests and emphasized the benefits of Adventist Education, such as the opportunity to develop musical skills for service. Additionally, the faculty, staff, and students distributed brochures that showcased the University's programs and information.

Part 2 featured captivating pieces such as "Ako Na To!" including the swashbuckling "Swashbucklers Saga," the frigid "Iditarod," the glorious "Legends of Glory," and the folk-inspired "Kruhay."

Mr. Oemer Rey Daquila, the University Advancement director, expressed his gratitude and gave a vote of thanks to everyone who made the concert possible, with special recognition given to the marketing officer of Vista Mall.

An encore of "Plink, Plank, Plunk!" thrilled the audience and resulted in another encore love song piece, "Kahit Maputi Na Ang Buhok Ko."







## Unceasing Cantica's "Avenior" Concert: A 20th Anniversary Celebration for a Cause

The Unceasing Cantica, in collaboration with the University and College of Arts and Humanities, commemorated its 20th anniversary through a fundraising concert for the CAH Building. The event, held on October 8, 2023, at the COM Siew Huy Memorial Atrium, featured the theme "Avenior," which embodies the desire to anticipate memories. The concert was a tribute to Unceasing Cantica's legacy, characterized by the harmonious union of voices in service to a higher purpose, "one voice, one harmony, we offer unto Thee."

The concert was divided into three distinctive parts, with 15 songs, each meticulously curated to evoke various emotions and musical genres. The repertoire featured

religious, contemporary, and cultural song pieces.

Poetry spiels, performed by Aiesha Faith Cañete and Ronn Andrei Quicoy, enhanced the repertoire entitled "A Love Story in Four Parts," adding a layer of beauty to the evening's ambiance.

A total of PHP 113,110 was generated from ticket sales. At the same time, Dr. Jeimylo and Kenne De Castro generously donated an additional substantial contribution of PHP 100,000 to the CAH building project.

"The songs . . . are not only memorable music, [but] they are [also] a reflection of two decades of dedication, passion, and love for music. This concert was not only about our music but also fundraising for the CAH building," Mr. Leoven Kyle Vallejos, the Unceasing Cantica conductor, expressed during his closing remarks. He thanked everyone for supporting the CAH building and God: "We raise our voices in eternal gratitude, for His grace has illuminated our path."

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**AUP HIGHLIGHTS** is a monthly newsletter of the Advancement Office

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