



## CatSU empowers LGBTQIA+ Community with Inclusive Symposium on Responsible Sexual Expression

by Caroline I. Vecillas

The Catanduanes State University (CatSU) Auditorium was filled with students celebrating diversity, inclusion, and pride during the “Hubad na Katotohanan: Talk on LGBTQIA+ Responsible Sexual Expression” symposium on March 27, 2023.

The event, organized by the Guidance, Counseling, and Testing Office (GCTO) in partnership with the Gender and Development (GAD) Services, aimed to provide students with a deeper understanding of the challenges faced by LGBTQIA+ individuals and foster a society where everyone is respected.

The symposium featured several speakers who shared reflections on psychology, sociology, and spirituality, as well as unique insights into human sexual and gender diversity beyond borders.

Among the insight givers were Ardyne Tuazon, MACP, LPT, Rpm, RPSY, co-chair

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# CatSU conducts seminar-workshop to strengthen international linkages, boost global competitiveness of graduates

by Caroline I. Vecillas

In order to address the high demand for internationalization in Philippine Higher Education Institutions, the Quality Assurance Services (QAS) collaborated with the Center for International Relations and Continuing Professional Development Services (CIRCPDS) to conduct a Seminar-Workshop on March 17, 2023.

The objective of the workshop was to strengthen international linkages initiatives and to discuss the University's internationalization framework.

The event was held in the Accreditation Room and was attended by CatSU top officials, College Deans and their respective Chairpersons, and the Unit Directors or Office Heads.

The Resource Speaker, Prof. Zyra Mae T. Tumala, who is also the International Relations Director, gave a brief overview of the Philippine government's initiatives since 1987 and discussed the Structure and Operations of the International Relations office.

The seminar-workshop focused on developing and implementing the Internationalization Strategy towards Quality Assurance, developing best practices, scholarship opportunities such as short and long-term programs (including Fullbright, UMAP, MEXT among others), and CatSU's vision and target projection for the next five years on Internationalization Initiatives.

Dr. Edna A. Pante, the QA Head, emphasized the need to set a clear direction for internationalization initiatives, formalize a structure, and formulate implementing guidelines as competition is now international in scope.

"A very clear direction has to be set for internationalization initiatives, therefore the formalization of a structure and formulation of implementing guidelines are pivotal," Dr. Pante emphasized.

Dr. Lily P. Custodio, Executive Vice President, commended Directors Pante and Tumala and all participants for a job well done, stressing the need for cooperation to achieve CatSU's internationalization goals.



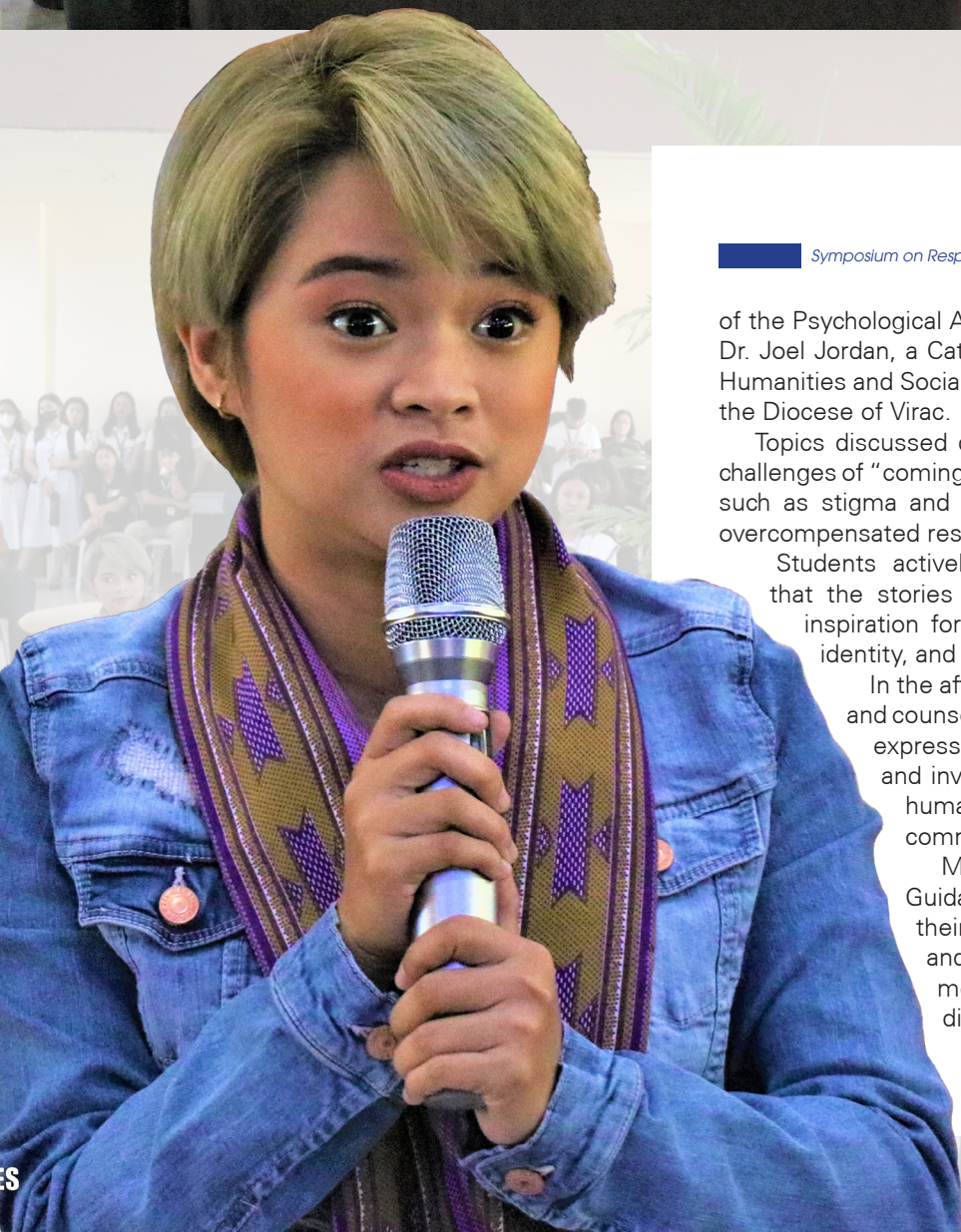
"It is in our strong support to each other, the collaborative efforts we evidently have, in supporting the administration's vision of HOPE, and all the hard work that we do, that we can fulfill our mission of putting CatSU on the global scale," Dr. Custodio said.

Dr. Joseph G. Zafe, former Director of CIRCPDS, and now the newly appointed Assistant Vice President for Academic Affairs, regarded the reorientation to cover internationalization initiatives as a strong action to produce globally-

competitive graduates.

The whole day seminar-workshop concluded with the presentation of outputs from each group of active participants.

Prof. Tumala shared her excitement and motivation, realizing the opportunities to focus on and having a visionary and supportive President, Dr. Azanza, at the helm. She believed that with determination and strength, CatSU could fulfill its mission of putting itself on the global scale.



*Symposium on Responsible Sexual Expression.. from page 1*

of the Psychological Association of the Philippines – Bicol Chapter; Dr. Joel Jordan, a CatSU Associate Professor from the College of Humanities and Social Sciences; and Rev. Fr. Salvador T. Rojas from the Diocese of Virac.

Topics discussed during the event included the struggles and challenges of “coming out,” the benefits of coming out, social issues such as stigma and discrimination, same-sex relationships, HIV, overcompensated responsibility, and aging LGBTQIA+ individuals.

Students actively participated in the symposium, sharing that the stories and insights provided encouragement and inspiration for discussing their sexual orientation, gender identity, and expression (SOGIE) with their families.

In the afternoon, the event offered free HIV screening and counseling. Mr. Noly Benavides, CatSU GCTO Head, expressed satisfaction with the students’ interest and involvement in discussions about sexuality and human rights, particularly within the LGBTQIA+ community.

Ms. Janette O. Labayani, the University Guidance Counselor, reminded students that their office is always open for those seeking help and assistance with various psychological and mental issues, including fighting SOGIE-based discrimination and bullying.

# CatSU Director attends Philippine Meteorological Society Annual Convention for Climate Change Adaptation

by Caroline I. Vecillas



As the need for timely and relevant weather and climate information continues to grow, Engr. Dexter M. Toyado, the Director of Catanduanes State University's Center for Island Climate Change Solutions (CICCS), attended the Philippine Meteorological Society (PMS) Annual Convention.

The event, organized in cooperation with the Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration (PAGASA) and in partnership with DOST-PCIERD, took place on March 20-21, 2023, at the Camelot Hotel in Quezon City.

PMS is a unique organization of meteorologists and related professionals, providing opportunities and venues for members and allied researchers to share recent advances and applications of meteorology and its allied sciences in the Philippines.

Engr. Toyado stressed the importance of the university's involvement and participation in such national organization initiatives, noting that they serve as essential support for the university's climate change adaptation programs and

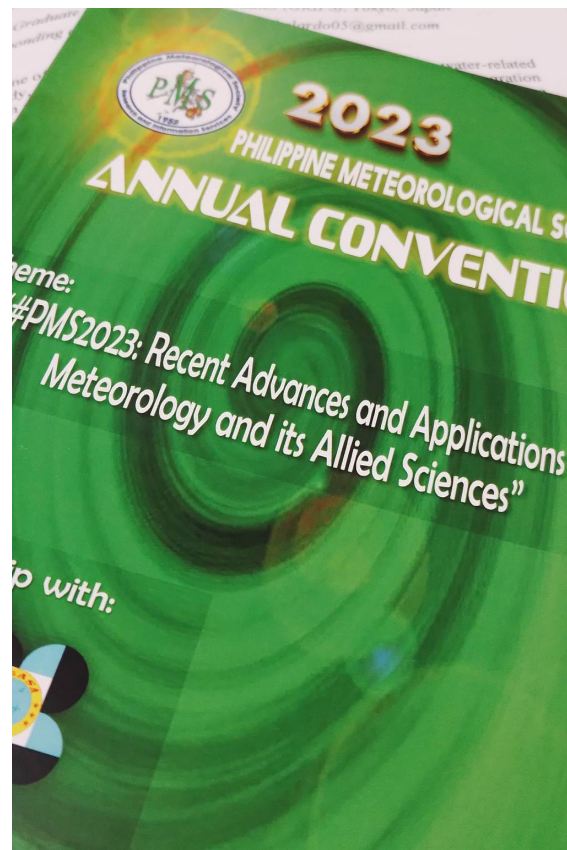
projects.

"I am more than grateful to have been invited to this year's convention, where the themes and prepared sessions offered a wealth of relevant ideas that are truly impactful and useful, especially given our President, Dr. Azanza's vision of making the university a National Center for Climate Change Adaptation and Disaster Risk Management," Engr. Toyado shared.

The event aimed to gather and promote innovative research in the field of meteorology and allied sciences, contributing to the development of the National Meteorological and Hydrological Sciences.

This year's convention was themed "PMS 2023: Recent Advances and Applications of Meteorology and its Allied Sciences" and covered six major thematic areas: weather, climate, water, climate and weather extremes, applications of meteorology, and other related fields.

Engr. Toyado was joined by fellow Catandunganon, Mr. Rojas from Bato, who is also the resident meteorologist of ABS-CBN.



# CatSU students, employees participate in National Simultaneous Earthquake Drill 2023

by Caroline I. Vecilles



CORPORATE COMMUNICATIONS SERVICES

To promote awareness and preparedness among students and faculty, the Incident and Calamity Operations (ICO) conducted an Earthquake Drill on March 16, 2023, headed by its Commander, CatSU President Dr. Patrick Alain T. Azanza and assisted by Prof. Emlyn M. Lanon, In-charge of Continuing Education, Training, Drills, and Calamity Awareness Campaign.

The Earthquake Drill was held in relation to the Memoranda from the RDRRMC regarding the regional conduct of the 1st Quarter National Simultaneous Earthquake Drill (NSED) 2023. Students and employees participated in the drill at exactly 2:00 PM.

According to Prof. Lanon, this drill is important to develop and practice muscle memory of the duck-cover-and-hold among students and faculty, build resilient communities in the university, and assess the readiness of students and faculty in times of earthquakes.

Engr. Benjamin Hannycel T. Nuyda, Planning and Development Services Director, gave an orientation during the conduct of the drill, while Dr. Ryan T.

Timbal, Head of CatSU Security Services, provided necessary assistance and monitoring during the activity.



CORPORATE COMMUNICATIONS SERVICES

# CatSU launches 'Kogus' organization to support pregnant, parenting students

by Francis John B. Templonuevo

A conference attended by 50 students and faculty members at Catanduanes State University (CatSU) led to the formation of a new organization called "Kogus" for pregnant and parenting students on March 28, 2023.

The conference, organized by the Gender and Development Services (GAD) and headed by Focal Person Prof. Melinda V. Abichuela, aimed to provide a platform for these students to voice their experiences and concerns, forwarding them to the CatSU administration for deliberation and appropriate action.

"Kogus," the working name until its constitution and bylaws are established, will act as a support group for young parents juggling their demanding roles, as advocated by Prof. Reashiela L. Khan.

During the People's Forum, mother-students shared their disheartening experiences, such as difficulties in obtaining excuse letters from professors to attend to their sick infants. Others suggested that attendance at college week and university-wide Olympic events should not be mandatory for parents, allowing them to focus on their children.

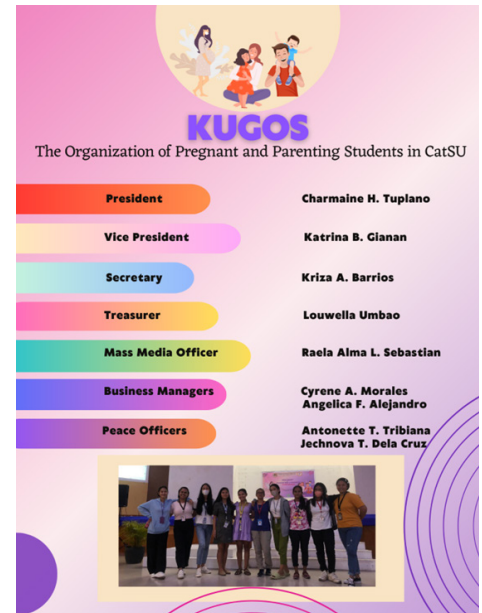
Elected officers for Kogus include President Katrina B. Gianan, Vice President Charmaine H. Tuplano, Secretary Kriza A. Barrios, Treasurer Louwella Umbao, Mass Media Officer Raela Alma L. Sebastian, Business Managers Cyrene A. Morales and Angelica F. Alejandro, and Peace Officers Antonette T. Tribiana and Jechnova T. Dela Cruz.

The Parenting and Pregnant Students' Conference is part of CatSU-GAD's series of activities in celebration of National Women's Month.

Meanwhile, an ongoing activity, "Women in CatSU," was also launched by GAD to feature inspiring stories from notable women who have significantly contributed to the university, such as Ms. Milagros Gianan III, Ms. Marilyn G. Tejada, Ms. Madilyn Borromeo, Dr. Gemma M. Samas, Dr. Rosana S. Abundo, Dr. Gemma G. Acedo, Dr. Lily P. Custodio, and Prof. Jane Rose Azanza.

Their stories can be seen in the CatSU official Facebook page.

“  
Women’s  
rights are  
human rights  
– let’s make  
them a reality  
”





# CatSU leads workshop to strengthen support for Catanduanes abaca industry through Collective Mark application ■ by Caroline I. Vecilles

The CatSU Abaca Technology and Innovation Center (ATIC), under the leadership of its Director, Prof. Abelisa D. Evangelista, conducted a seminar cum-writeshop on the application of Collective Mark of Abaca Fiber in the university accreditation room on March 22, 2023, to increase support for the province's abaca industry.

The Department of Trade and Industry (DTI), Provincial Local Government of Catanduanes, Philippine Fiber Industry Development Authority (PhilFIDA), Department of Science and Technology (DOST), and the Intellectual Property Office of the Philippines (IPOPHL) collaborated to organize the workshop.

The event served as an information drive and a writeshop for the stakeholders of the abaca industry in Catanduanes, particularly the members of Catanduanes Abaca Industry Development Council (CAIDC), where CatSU is an active member.

Prof. Evangelista stressed that the

Origin-Based Branding of Catanduanes Goods and Services was critical in strengthening the support to the province's abaca industry.

"We are here to encourage and enhance the competitiveness of our abaca farmers, traders, processors, government and non-government agencies, researchers, the academe, and other stakeholders," Prof. Evangelista said.

The workshop began with an introduction to the Intellectual Property Office of the Philippines by Mr. Rolan O. Leaño. Succeeding topics included the Importance and Benefits of Protecting Geographical Indications and Collective marks, and Developing a Geographical Indication & Collective Mark: Next Steps, presented by Atty. Joan Janneth M. Estremadura and Ms. Danica M. Muyargas, respectively, of the Bureau of Trademarks.

The Director hopes that this significant progress will attract more investors to

provide more employment opportunities and sustain the demand and productivity of the province's abaca industry. The workshop also covered salient features of Geographical Indications and Regulations.

A day prior to this event, the group visited an abaca farm in San Roque, Bato, to observe the unique farming management and practices of abaca in the island, in relation to the application of the Collective Mark of Abaca Fiber. IPOPHL Consultant Engr. Nino Angelo Torre facilitated the initiatives of the CatSU-ATIC, led by CatSU President Dr. Patrick Alain T. Azanza, through the Catanduanes Abaca Industry Development Council (CAIDC) headed by Gov. Joseph C. Cua.

The preliminary activities of the farm visit were supported by CatSU Vice President for Research, Extension, and Production Affairs (REPA), Dr. Ramon Felipe A. Sarmiento, Assistant Vice President REPA, Dr. Kristian Q. Aldea, and CatSU-ATIC Faculty-in-Charge Engr. Jhomann U. Socito.

# Heartstrings: A Chorale Concert celebrates Art, Culture, and Community in CatSU

by Caroline I. Vecilles



Catanduanes State University (CatSU) celebrated its commitment to arts, culture, and the development of aesthetic sensibilities and artistic sensitivities within its academic community with the “Heartstrings: A Chorale Concert” event.

Led by CatSU President Dr. Patrick Alain T. Azanza, the university supported the musical concert staged by the Catanduanes Koro Hubilyo, in collaboration with Musika Arimbukad and directed by Mr. Joey G. Vargas.

Held on March 18, 2023, at the CatSU auditorium, the free concert aimed to provide students, particularly those studying music or art in general, with a laboratory experience where they could witness the application of theories learned in class.

The concert also showcased the progress of training given to members of the CatSU official university choir under the direction of Dr. Jose Z. Tria.

Described as “an emotional journey filled with heartwarming moments, powerful performances, and unforgettable memories,” the concert was a night to remember.

The Koro Hubilyo is one of the major performing musical groups based in Catanduanes State University.

The name “Koro” means choir, and “Hubilyo” is a Bicol term that refers to tying threads of abaca fibers to produce a strong rope. Combined, the name symbolizes the union of different voices and instruments, tones and silences, to create a harmonious and well-balanced musical group.

Founded in 2020 by Dr. Jose Z. Tria, the current choirmaster of the group, the CatSU Koro Hubilyo is composed of students from various programs within the institution. The group performs various musical genres, with a focus on Bicol cultural music to preserve and promote the rich culture of the province.







# CatSU faculty researchers boost record-breaking DOST-TAPI IP workshop in Catanduanes

by Francis John B. Templonuevo

Catanduanes State University (CatSU) played an essential role in achieving a record-breaking intellectual property workshop sponsored by the Department of Science and Technology - Technology Application and Promotion Institute (DOST-TAPI) on March 28-30, 2023 at ECrown Hotel, San Vicente, Virac, Catanduanes.

The event, dubbed INVENTouring: Regional Proposal Enhancement Workshop resulted in 56 intellectual property right (IPR) outputs assessed and approved for the institute's IPR Assistance Program, marking the highest number of IPR approvals in a single event.

The workshop's objective was to provide participants with the necessary skills and knowledge to identify, develop, and protect their intellectual property. In doing so, they contribute to the nation's growth and competitiveness on regional and global levels.

Intellectual property is a crucial element in a country's competitiveness, and DOST-TAPI has significantly contributed to protecting and promoting local innovations through its responsive programs and regional partnerships.

"This activity provided technical assistance for the CatSU IP (Intellectual Property) policy, and the writeshop for IP application and potential IP for commercialization allowed us to learn more about its importance," said Prof. Abelisa.

Dr. Patrick Alain T. Azanza, represented by Dr. Lily P. Custodio, Executive Vice President of CatSU, delivered a message of support during the program.

The success of the INVENTouring workshop, along with the active participation of CatSU faculty researchers, paints a bright future for intellectual property in the region and the country.

The collaborative efforts between DOST-TAPI and local institutions like CatSU will continue to propel innovation and solidify the Philippines' reputation as a hub for scientific and technological advancement.





## Sunflowers at CatSU: A Symbol of Hope, Resilience, and Growth

by Francis John B. Templonuevo

As the semester draws to a close and summertime approaches, the Catanduanes State University (CatSU) campus is adorned with bright and beautiful sunflowers, thanks to an initiative by CatSU President, Dr. Patrick Alain T. Azanza.

These captivating blooms, featuring vivid yellow petals and towering stems, serve not only as a stunning backdrop for Facebook, Instagram, and graduation photos but also as a symbol of hope and resilience for the CatSU community.

Dr. Azanza's sunflower project has transformed the campus, adding a touch of natural beauty that enhances the atmosphere for students, faculty, and visitors alike. The radiant blossoms create a sense of warmth and optimism, reminding everyone at CatSU of the importance of nurturing both the environment and the human spirit.

These sunflowers represent the growth, optimism, and strength of the university's students and faculty. As sunflowers grow, they display heliotropism, a unique characteristic that involves following the sun's movement throughout the day. This remarkable ability to seek out light and warmth resonates with the CatSU community, as



students and staff alike strive to pursue knowledge and personal growth in the face of challenges.

The sunflower's hardy nature and ability to thrive in various conditions also parallel the resilience of CatSU's students. Despite facing obstacles such as rigorous academic requirements, extracurricular activities, and personal hardships, these students continue to flourish and achieve their goals, much like the sunflower that

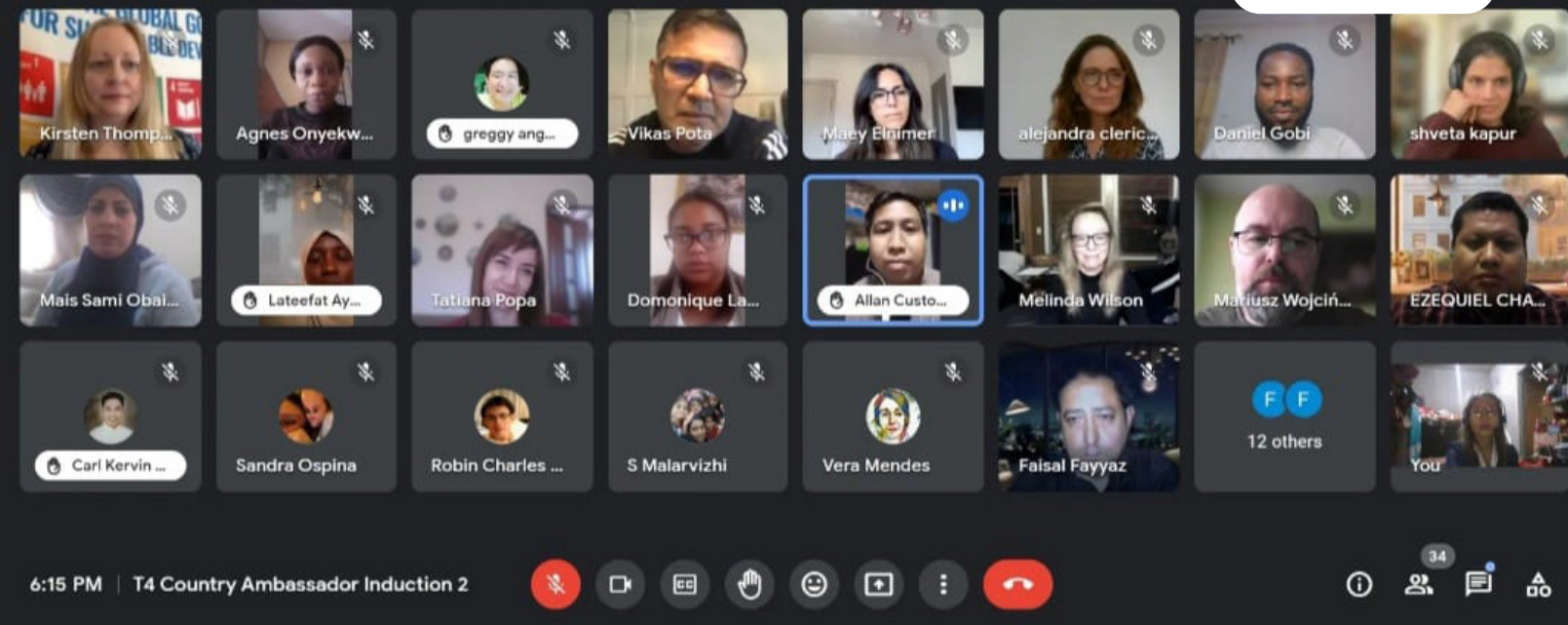
stands tall and strong amid adversity.

Beyond its symbolism, the sunflower's presence at CatSU promotes environmental awareness and sustainability. The university's initiative to cultivate these flowers encourages biodiversity and supports pollinator populations, including bees and butterflies, which are essential for maintaining a healthy ecosystem.

Moreover, the sunflower's aesthetic appeal adds a touch of natural beauty to the CatSU campus, enhancing the overall atmosphere for students, faculty, and visitors. The vibrant blossoms serve as a reminder of the importance of nurturing both the environment and the human spirit.

The sunflowers at Catanduanes State University are more than just beautiful decorations for campus scenery, and perhaps graduation ceremonies. They embody the hope, resilience, and growth that define the university's community, and their presence serves as a reminder of the importance of fostering both personal and environmental well-being.

As the sunflowers stand tall and proud, so do the students of CatSU, ready to face the world and make their mark.



# CatSU Professor selected as T4 Education Country Ambassador for the Philippines

by Francis John B. Templonuevo

A professor from Catanduanes State University's Panganiban Campus is among 10 educators from the Philippines selected to join the 2023 Cohort of Country Ambassadors for the T4 Education Community.

Gregorio V. Angeles Jr., Assistant Professor, will serve in this role for a year, ending on January 31, 2024.

As an Ambassador, Prof. Angeles must commit to 50 hours, or approximately 4 hours per month, of voluntary service throughout the year.

In his capacity as an ambassador, Prof. Angeles will choose a volunteer role in either the Social Media Squad or the Teacher Outreach Squad.

As a member of the Social Media Squad, Prof. Angeles will need to be active on at least three platforms, such as Facebook, Instagram, LinkedIn, Twitter, or YouTube. His responsibilities will include supporting the community during major events like the Teacher Tech Summit, as well as similar regular events launching in 2023. Additionally, he will assist with co-hosting or supporting live events, such as Twitter chats.

As part of the Teacher Outreach Squad, Prof. Angeles will prioritize contacting teachers in the country to recruit them to join the community, including the T4 Communities app, registering them for events, and encouraging participation

in research, prizes, and challenges. He will be expected to have methods for contacting and engaging teachers in the country, with guidance from the T4 Ambassadors. He will also take on the role of hosting (or co-hosting with T4) webinars to promote various activities.

"I am privileged to be one of the Country Ambassadors for the Philippines. As a 2023 Cohort, I am proud to represent our country and offer selfless service to fellow educators not only in our nation but also in other countries. I am honored to be part of this significant advocacy," Prof. Angeles shared.

## About T4 Education and its Founder, Vikas Pota

T4 Education is a digital platform created by founder and CEO Vikas Pota. This platform emerged in response to the global challenges the pandemic posed to education. T4 aims to empower educators and schools by offering opportunities for learning and collaboration, while developing tools to support their global community's progress.

Before T4, Vikas was heavily involved in the education sector. He founded and managed a philanthropic foundation dedicated to teachers, launching the Global Teacher Prize to celebrate the teaching profession. He

has also advocated for the Sustainable Development Goals at the UN, G20, and various governments. Additionally, he established a technical and vocational skills business in Africa to address youth unemployment, created a corporate venture capital business investing in high-growth edtech companies, and led branding, marketing, communications, and corporate affairs strategies for a renowned K-12 education business.

Vikas serves on numerous non-profit boards, including The Education Outcomes Fund, Artists in Residence, Global School Leaders, Queen Rania Teacher Academy, Educate Girls, and Teach for All. He is an Honorary Lecturer at the UCL Institute of Education, a former Visiting Practitioner at Harvard Graduate School of Education, and a Senior Policy Fellow at the University of Cambridge's Centre for Science & Policy.

Recognized as a Young Global Leader by the World Economic Forum, Vikas has been named one of London's 1000 most influential people, is a member of the Young Presidents Organization, and has received two honorary doctorates for his accomplishments. A frequent voice in the media, Vikas passionately advocates for the transformative potential of quality education and actively works to build a global community of educators and schools to make that vision a reality.

# A Closer Look at Binibining Catandungan 2022, Suzaine Rose T. Timola

by Caroline I. Vecillas

The Philippines is a nation known for its beautiful women and colorful pageantry. One such remarkable woman is the reigning Binibining Catandungan 2022, Suzaine Rose T. Timola, a sophomore Civil Engineering student at the College of Engineering and Architecture in Catanduanes.

Rose, as she is affectionately known to family and friends, was born on July 21, 2001, to Rosalie and Sanito Timola. Raised with her two siblings in a simple family from Buenavista, Bato, Catanduanes, Rose consistently excelled academically throughout her elementary and high school years. A talented student at Bato Rural Development High School, she graduated with High Honors in both her Junior and Senior years.

A gifted mathematician, Rose represented her school in the Mathematics Teachers Association of the Philippines (MTAP) contests. In 2016, she became the Provincial Champion for MTAP and later represented Catanduanes in the regional competition. Besides her love for numbers, Rose also participated in essay writing competitions and quiz bees, showcasing her well-rounded academic abilities.

During her Senior High, Rose enrolled

in the Accountancy, Business, and Management (ABM) strand, driven by her



aspiration to become an accountant. In 2018, she won 2nd place in the Accounting Quiz for the National Accountancy Week Celebration. Furthermore, Rose excelled in creating business and marketing plans and often pitched ideas, crediting her strong communication skills to her

involvement in these presentations.

Understanding the financial challenges faced by her family, Rose took a chance at the 2019 DOST-SEI Scholarship. She was among the 9,852 successful candidates out of the 73,712 applicants nationwide and continues to maintain her scholarship to this day.

Rose's pageantry journey began during her elementary school days. In 2017, she was crowned Miss Earth Water, and in 2019, she won Miss VTC. Eventually, she achieved the prestigious title of Binibining Catandungan 2022.

Despite not initially dreaming of becoming a beauty queen, Rose discovered her passion for being on stage and speaking for various causes. She reflects on her journey: "I never dreamed of becoming a beauty queen, but it's true that I love being onstage. I like speaking for different causes. It really makes me happy knowing that I am able to inspire more and more people, and that I believe is the real essence of being a queen."

Suzaine Rose T. Timola's story is one of dedication, determination, and empowerment. As Binibining Catandungan 2022, she serves as an inspiration for countless individuals, proving that dreams can indeed become a reality.

## A Story of Perseverance: Carmencita C. Zafe's Journey to a Permanent Position at CatSU

by Caroline I. Vecilles

Carmencita C. Zafe, a dedicated worker at Catanduanes State University (CatSU), has long dreamt of securing a permanent position at the institution. Having served the university for over 11 years as a job order staff member, Menchie, as she is affectionately known by friends and colleagues, has consistently displayed her unwavering dedication and commitment to her work.

As a mother to five children, Menchie has always strived to help her husband provide for their family. Despite facing challenges and occasional doubts about her future at CatSU, she has remained optimistic, hoping that one day her dream would become a reality.

Over the years, Menchie has witnessed many of her peers receive permanent positions at the university. Although she never complained, she continued to excel in her role, earning praise for her hard work at the Ladies Dormitory. Guests regularly offered positive feedback about the quality of her service, reflecting her diligence and

attention to detail.

Menchie's perseverance did not go unnoticed. Even the university president, during several surprise visits to the dormitory, commended her for her dedication and determination. Menchie's humble approach to her work is evident in her own words: "Kahit tagalinis o tagagarden ako dyan sir, kahit sa mga toilets pa ako ma-assign, never ako nagreklamo po kasi para sa akin ito ay isang marangal na hanapbuhay at malaking tulong ito para sa ikabubuhay ng pamilya ko" (Even if I were assigned to cleaning or gardening, or even the toilets, I never complained, because for me, this is an honorable job and a great help for my family's livelihood).

On August 3, 2023, Menchie's dream finally came true. She was officially appointed as a permanent Admin Aide I SG 1. Her journey is a testament to the power of perseverance and the rewards of staying hopeful, even in the face of adversity. Menchie's story serves as an inspiration to others, demonstrating the importance of hard work, dedication, and never giving up on one's dreams.



## Jessa P. Arcilla's Journey to Success: From Job Order Staff to Admin Aide IV at CatSU

by Caroline I. Vecilles

Jessa P. Arcilla, a consistent honor student throughout her elementary and secondary school years in Hawan, Virac, holds a Bachelor's degree in Science and Information Technology. Jessa began her career at Catanduanes State University (CatSU) as a Job Order staff member assigned to the Office of Student Support Services.

In her role, Jessa mastered the art of service and compassion, providing much-needed assistance to students both financially and academically. Her consistent work ethic and friendly, accommodating nature made her the go-to person for many students in the office.

Despite her dedication and years of service, Jessa struggled to secure a permanent position within the university. The hiring process was a continuous source of frustration, as she repeatedly missed out on opportunities for career advancement.

However, when Dr. Azanza took the helm as university president in June 2021,

Jessa felt a renewed sense of optimism. Encouraged by the positive atmosphere, she submitted her application for several open positions. Though she initially experienced some setbacks, Jessa remained determined to seize the right opportunity.

Her persistence paid off on March 4, 2022, when Jessa achieved the top rank and was appointed as Admin Aide IV at the Records Services. Currently, she is working in the Office of Legal Services under the guidance of Atty. Nikko Rhey Santelices.

As a mother of two boys, Jessa continues to embody the same diligence and responsibility she has always displayed. She is grateful to the university president for giving her the opportunity to excel in her various roles as a mother, wife, daughter, government worker, and friend to all.

Jessa P. Arcilla's story serves as an inspiring example of how perseverance, hard work, and a positive attitude can lead to success and growth in one's

professional life. Her journey highlights the importance of never giving up on one's dreams, even in the face of adversity.



# Mhar Ariz Marino: Inspiring Change as the New ASEAN Data Science Explorers Ambassador

by Caroline F. Vecillas

Chosen from over 1,000 applications, Mhar Ariz Marino has been appointed as one of the new ambassadors of the ASEAN Data Science Explorers (ADSE) program. In this role, Marino will promote the program, encourage participation, and support participants as they develop their projects. He will also serve as a mentor, providing guidance and advice to participants as they work on their data science projects.

Passionate about data science, Marino is committed to helping others develop their skills and knowledge in the field. "I am thrilled to be appointed as an ADSE Ambassador," said Marino. "I believe that data science has the power to transform the world, and I am excited to help young people in the ASEAN region develop their skills and knowledge in this field. I am looking forward to working with the participants and helping them to develop innovative solutions to social and economic challenges in their communities."

The ADSE program, an initiative of

the ASEAN Foundation and multinational software company SAP, aims to promote data science literacy and skills among ASEAN youths. It encourages them to develop data-driven solutions to social and economic challenges in their communities.

A highlight of Marino's ambassadorship was the Training for Trainers event held virtually on March 29, 2023. The event brought together participants from faculties across Catanduanes State University, helping them learn and develop data analytics skills in support of the region's sustainable development.

The training program seeks to equip participants with the necessary knowledge, skills, and competencies to become certified ADSE trainers. These trainers will then facilitate training sessions and workshops on data analytics for university students in their respective countries, contributing to a talent pool of data analytics experts capable of supporting the region's sustainable development goals.



## CatSU faculty members join training for trainers by ASEAN Data Science Explorers

Faculty members from various colleges at Catanduanes State University (CatSU) participated in a Training for Trainers (TOT) program organized by the ASEAN Data Science Explorers (ADSE).

This initiative, a collaboration between the ASEAN Foundation and SAP, aims to equip educators across the region with the skills and knowledge needed to teach data science and analytics to students.

The event was initiated by ASEAN Data Science Explorers Youth Ambassador, Mr. Mhar Ariz T. Marino, and the Director of the Center for International Relations and Continuing Professional Development Services (CIRCPDS), Zyra Mae T. Tumala.

A total of 33 CatSU faculty members took part in the program.

Upon completing the session, participants are expected to hold echo sessions with their colleagues and students to share the knowledge and skills they have gained.



## CatSU students excel in ICT Proficiency Diagnostic Examination in Programming

Covey Jorjet S. De Luna, a 4th-year Computer Engineering (CpE) student from Catanduanes State University's College of Engineering and Architecture (CatSU CEA), was one of two passers in the recently conducted ICT Proficiency Diagnostic Examination in Programming.

The examination took place on February 22, 2023, at the DICT Catanduanes Provincial Office.

De Luna is now eligible to take the next level of the exam, the ICT Proficiency Examination, along with another CatSU student from the College of Information and Communications Technology, Joshua Villafuerte.

The ICT Proficiency Diagnostic Examination aims to assess an individual's level of proficiency in either systems analysis and design or programming.

The success of De Luna and Villafuerte in the examination demonstrates the high quality of education provided by CatSU in the fields of computer engineering



*Congratulations!*

to the passers of the ICT Diagnostic Examination in Programming conducted in DICT Catanduanes Provincial Office last February 22, 2023.

**De Luna, Covey Jorjet S.**  
**Villafuerte, Joshua R.**

Passers are now qualified to take the ICT Proficiency Examination. Our Field Operations Office focal person will contact you for additional information regarding the said examination.

 DICT Region V- Catanduanes

and information and communications technology.

Their accomplishments also highlight the importance of developing a strong foundation in programming and systems analysis for students pursuing careers in these fields.

The strong performance of CatSU students in the ICT Proficiency Diagnostic Examination is a testament to the university's commitment to nurturing skilled and proficient graduates who are ready to contribute to the ever-evolving world of technology.



# HERALD

OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE CATANDUANES STATE UNIVERSITY

The **HERALD** is the official publication of Catanduanes State University which is produced by Corporate Communications Services (CCS).

The HERALD complements the multi-platform communication arm of CCS Office which utilizes print, broadcast, television, and social media, as well as the World Wide Web, in the dissemination of the different milestones, programs, projects, activities and achievements of the University, particularly on areas of Instruction, Research, Extension, Production, Governance and Management, and Student Services.

The HERALD exists to advance the interest of development communication in higher education, and to provide another venue in informing, involving, and empowering the stakeholders of the Catanduanes State University.



## CatSU, DICT collaborate to empower students with improved internet, laptop access

The Department of Information and Communications Technology (DICT) Regional Director Engr. Carmela P. Valencia and DICT Provincial Officer-in-charge Mario John D. Gonzales recently visited Catanduanes State University (CatSU) to further their partnership with the institution.

During their visit, they met with CatSU Executive Vice President Dr. Lily P. Custodio, Federated College Student Council (FCSC) President Angelo Piolo M. Laynes, and Information Technology Services (ITS) Director Mae Ezra T. Abundo.

RD Valencia shared plans to continue

collaborating with CatSU in various training programs and to provide laptops for students, which will be managed by the FCSC.

Recently, the DICT Regional Office approved ITS Director Abundo's request for an additional bandwidth of 150 Mbps for the university's internet connection, which is scheduled to be configured this week.

This enhanced partnership between DICT and CatSU aims to provide better support for students and promote access to technology and communication services that can benefit the society and the academic community.

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Catanduanes State University was recently congratulated by the University of Santo Tomas-Legazpi for obtaining one of the two best Research Capsules in Local History

during the Seminar-Workshop on Cultural Research last February 22-25, 2023.

The said research capsule, titled "Development of Catanduanes Bikol Orthography," was presented by Prof. Reashiela L. Khan.

The lead proponent of the research is Dr. Adem Nalu V. Rubio, with Prof. Khan, Prof. Francis John B. Templonuevo, and Prof. Francis B. Tatel as co-proponents. The quartet are all faculty members of the Languages Department of the College of Humanities and Social Sciences (CHUMSS).

In a letter addressed to CatSU SUC President III, Dr. Patrick Alain T. Azanza dated March 7, Dr. Susana C. Cabredo, Director of UST-Legazpi Bikol Studies Center, expressed her gratitude for Dr. Azanza's strong support, which helped in achieving the target research output.

Dr. Cabredo also extended her congratulations to Prof. Khan for the recognition of her submitted research capsule.