



# Gazette

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The Official Publication of Mindanao State University - Iligan Institute of Technology

MSU-IIT implements  
2024 extension projects to  
help achieve UN SDGs

Heart and excellence:  
Dr. Reserva's influence on the  
academe and community

MSU-IIT remains among top 1000+  
universities worldwide in 2024  
THE Impact Rankings, shows  
remarkable progress in SDGs

To our valued Gazette readers,

Welcome to the latest edition of the Gazette!

In this second quarter issue, we delve into the heart of our university's dedication to serving the community through our extension services and local engagements.

With this issue, we turn our attention to the people and programs that are re-affirming our sense of community and finding new ways to connect, to better understand one another, and to help those in need. Like Chancellor Alizedney Ditucalan who convened SUC leaders in Northern Mindanao to discuss and address crucial issues in higher education in Region X or the impactful projects and programs championed under the MSU-IIT WECARE framework, including the reform initiatives in the admission policy to promote inclusive education.

From our unwavering commitment to the UN Sustainable Development Goals to the transformative social development efforts driving Northern Mindanao forward, each feature underscores our shared journey towards a brighter, more sustainable future.

A highlight of this issue is our exclusive interview with the visionary director of the We Care Office, Prof. Rosario Reserva. Through her leadership, MSU-IIT continues to pioneer effective and responsive extension services that empower individuals to enhance their quality of life and contribute to sustainable development.

Furthermore, we invite you to meet Alab, the spirited mascot of the MSU-IIT Cats, embodying the unity and sportsmanship that defines our university's community spirit. Together, we embrace Alab's essence as a symbol of camaraderie and pride, uniting us in our collective pursuit of excellence.

Thank you for being a part of our journey as we navigate the boundless possibilities of community-driven progress. Enjoy this issue, and may it inspire you to join us in shaping a better tomorrow, today.

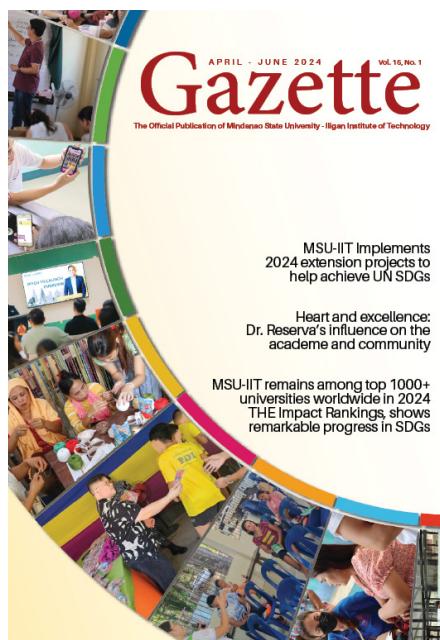
*Michelle Joanne  
Caraple Caracut*

## About the Cover

The Gazette cover features photos of the university's different extension activities set against the SDG color wheel logo.

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[opi@g.msuit.edu.ph](mailto:opi@g.msuit.edu.ph)

Photos and caption must be separated from text. The Editor reserve the right to choose the articles and photos that appear in Gazette.

## Letter from the Editor



## Special Features

9

- Heart and excellence:  
Dr. Reserva's influence  
on the academe and  
community

11

- Meet ALAB! The MSU-  
IIT Cats Spirit Icon and  
Mascot

## Editorial Board

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## MSU-IIT implements 2024 extension projects to help achieve UN SDGs

by Michelle Jeanne Casiple Caracut | Apr 11 2024

*Prof. German V. Gervacio from the Department of Filipino and Other Languages taught Grade 4 and 5 pupils on Editorial Writing, as part of the extension activity entitled "Magbansay Kita: Isang Palihang-Panulat sa Pamahayagang Pangkampus Para sa mga Mag-aaral ng Tambo Central School."*



In order to further contribute to the achievement of the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), the Mindanao State University - Iligan Institute of Technology (MSU-IIT) is implementing a series of extension projects in 2024. These projects aim to address various issues that can have a positive impact on local communities and the environment.

Among the 27 projects that have been approved, 13 of them are entirely new initiatives, while the remaining 14 are continuing projects from previous years. The university has allocated more than 2 million pesos in funding to support these projects and ensure their successful implementation.

One notable aspect of these extension projects is their broad coverage across the SDGs. In fact, they directly tackle issues related to 16 out of the 17 SDGs, highlighting the university's commitment to comprehensive progress.

Under the university's WE CARE framework, these extension projects are carefully designed to contribute to multiple SDGs simultaneously. For instance, seventeen extension projects specifically address issues related to SDG 4, which focuses on ensuring

quality education for all. This indicates MSU-IIT's dedication to providing accessible and relevant education to communities within its reach.

In addition, fifteen of the approved projects align with the objectives of SDG 17, emphasizing the importance of partnerships and collaboration to achieve sustainable development. These initiatives aim to foster cooperation between MSU-IIT and various stakeholders, including local communities, government agencies, and nonprofit organizations, to create long-lasting positive change.

Gender equality, a critical aspect of sustainable development, is another focus of MSU-IIT's extension projects. Fourteen of them have been dedicated to addressing the specific challenges faced by women and promoting gender equality, in line with SDG 5.

Furthermore, the university recognizes the significance of sustainable cities and communities, as exemplified by the inclusion of eleven projects aimed at achieving SDG 11. These initiatives seek to improve urban planning, enhance resilience to disasters, and promote inclusive and sustainable urbanization.

Nine projects have been allocated to address SDG 8, focusing on decent work and economic growth. These projects aim to foster entrepreneurship, support local industries, and promote economic empowerment within communities.

Seven projects have been designed to achieve SDG 3 and SDG 10. These initiatives prioritize improving healthcare access and quality, promoting mental health, and creating inclusive programs that address disparities in society.

Five projects are dedicated to addressing both SDG 1 and SDG 12. These projects aim to alleviate poverty levels by providing sustainable livelihood opportunities and developing social protection programs. They also focus on responsible consumption and production, promoting waste reduction and sustainable practices.

Four projects have been specifically designed to contribute to SDG 9, focusing on industry, innovation, and infrastructure. These initiatives aim to promote technological advancements, foster innovation within local industries, and ensure inclusive and sustainable industrialization.

Three projects have been allocated to address both SDG 2, which is zero hunger, and SDG 16, which focuses on peace, justice, and strong institutions. These projects aim to tackle food insecurity through sustainable agricultural practices and promote peaceful and inclusive societies through education and justice reforms.

Two projects have been approved for SDG 13, which pertains to climate action, and SDG 15, which focuses on life on land. These initiatives aim to enhance climate resilience, promote reforestation, and protect biodiversity.

Furthermore, one project has been allocated for SDG 6, which is clean water and sanitation, and another project for SDG 7, which focuses on affordable and clean energy. These initiatives will contribute to ensuring access to clean water and promoting renewable energy solutions for a sustainable future.

## MSU-IIT CHS, BJMP-Iligan City launches program for PDLs

by Dani G. Ortega, CHS | Apr 26 2024



The College of Health Sciences (CHS), Mindanao State University-Iligan Institute of Technology (MSU-IIT) in collaboration with the Bureau of Jail Management and Penology of Iligan City (BJMP-Iligan City) on April 12, 2024 launched a new program for Persons Deprived of Liberty (PDL) held at the BJMP-Iligan City.

The half-day program entitled "Mga Nars kaabay sa Kalusugan ug Kaluwasan Project para sa PDL (Persons Deprived of Liberty) BJMP-Iligan City," with PDLs attending from 8:00 AM to 12:00 PM, kicked off with an opening remarks from MSU-IIT's Professor Rosario L. Reserva, PhD, Director of Extension, WECARE Office of the Office of the Vice Chancellor for Public Affairs (OVCPA).

It was subsequently followed by a brief message from CHS Dean Abdullah Junior S. Mangarun, DScN, MAN, and then a presentation about the History of Partnership between MSU-IIT CHS and BJMP-Iligan City by AJ.O. Walter W. Mainit.

Following this was a discussion about the Rationale of Project and Future Plans for BJMP-Iligan City delivered by CHS faculty Assistant Professor Lynuel R. Santillana, MAN, RN and Associate Professor Jiddo Andrei G. Maranda, MN, RN, who also hosted the event.

And then, afterwards, was the distribution of hygiene kits, the presentation of Certificates and Tokens, a photo op session, and then it ended with a closing remarks from BJMP Iligan City Jail Warden JCINSP Carlo F. Obrique.

## AMMEI and MIMSA host a gathering in celebration of Eid Al-Fitr

by Norol-Huda M. Boransing, OC | Apr 15 2024



The Association of MSU-IIT Muslim Employees (AMMEI), in collaboration with the MSU-IIT Muslim Students Association (MIMSA), hosted a gathering in celebration of the Eid Al-Fitr, which marked the end of the holy month of Ramadan on April 12, 2024.

Held at the MSU-IIT Mini Theater, the event was attended by Chancellor Alizedney Ditucalan; Vice Chancellor for Strategic Initiatives, Prof. Pamela Resurreccion; Vice Chancellor for Student Services, Prof. Rohane Derogongan; Vice Chancellor for Administration and Finance, Atty. Yaslani Bantuas; and Vice Chancellor for Public Affairs, Prof. Nancy Echavez. Faculty members, staff, and students were also present in the said activity.

Chancellor Ditucalan delivered a message to his fellow Muslim constituents, highlighting the significance of the celebration of the Eid Al-Fitr.

Mr. Ismael Alango, former AMMEI President, opened the event with welcoming remarks, providing a brief overview of the program. He also engaged with the audience through trivia questions, in which the attendees actively participated.

The program was followed by a recitation from a verse in the Qur'an by Mr. Hassanor Bansao, current AMMEI President and Chief Security Officer of MSU-IIT.

Following the welcome remarks and Qur'an recitation was a posed inquiry:

"What is your best narrative as someone who practices the Islamic faith?" Asst. Prof. Yasmira Moner shared how Ramadan allowed her to cultivate self-discipline, strengthen faith, and be consistent in her daily prayers.

Another highlight of the event was the Adhan (call to prayer) competition, where three attendees participated. Mr. Edris Mama was announced as the winner of the said competition.

As the event drew to a close, the audience witnessed a performance from the Kalilang Cultural Ensemble, showcasing the rich culture of the Maranao traditional music.

The closing message was delivered by Atty. Yaslani Bantuas, where he emphasized Kapakaisa-isa (Unity) in Islam. He also explored the relevance and concept of obedience in Islam, where the general affairs of Muslims are overseen by the designated Amir. People of authority or leaders hold the same meaning as Amir. He ended his message by expressing his gratitude to the officials, faculty and staff members, and students present at the event.



## MSU-IIT extends support to MSU-TCTO in Crafting a Strategic Internationalization Plan

by OVCIA | Apr 28 2024



In a collaborative effort to pave the way for comprehensive internationalization endeavors, MSU-IIT extended its support to the Mindanao State University – Tawi-Tawi College of Technology and Oceanography (MSU-TCTO) in crafting a Strategic Internationalization Plan (SIP). The workshop was held at the MSU-TCTO Dormitel Conference Hall on April 1 to 3, 2024, with the theme: "Navigating Global Horizon" highlighting the cultivation of a global mindset and intercultural competence.

The event was graced by the Chancellor of MSU-TCTO, Prof. Mary Joyce Z. Guinto-Sali, and the participants gained insights from MSU-IIT's Prof. Gaudencio C. Petalcorin Jr., Prof. Joey Genevieve T. Martinez, and Mr. James M. Laranjo, who served as resource persons. Their presentations resonated with the participants, emphasizing the importance of interdisciplinary collaboration, the pursuit of Tier 1 university status, and effective communication in forging pathways in strategic internationalization.

The workshop aimed to facilitate the creation of the MSU-TCTO SIP document, which is crucial for guiding the planning

and implementation of internationalization programs. With a focus on relevance to the unique context and needs of MSU-TCTO, engaging discussions and strategic sessions underscored the significance of research excellence, support from regulatory bodies, and intercultural understanding.

Prof. Petalcorin, in his address, emphasized the importance of research output in teaching excellence, advocating for interdisciplinary collaboration, and securing funding from regulatory bodies. Prof. Martinez underscored the support from regulatory bodies in achieving university status. He shared about the internationalization framework of MSU-IIT and the university's good practices.

Mr. Laranjo highlighted effective communication as the cornerstone for bridging cultures. His emphasis on communication as a bridge-builder not only gave prominence to its importance but also stressed the need to surpass barriers to attain collective objectives.

As MSU-TCTO sets sail towards greater horizons, it emerges not just as an institution of learning, but as a testament to the power of internationalization.

# MSU-IIT to implement reforms on student admission: integrates EDI, employs A.I.

by Office of the Campus Secretary | May 14 2024

MSU-IIT is implementing revolutionary reforms to student admission that will see it using, among other things, affirmative action to make its admission policy more inclusive and equitable.

The integration of the Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion principles into MSU-IIT's admission policy cements the University's commitment to provide inclusive education that values the contributions of every member of the community. It also represents the culmination of efforts begun last year by the administration of Chancellor Alizedney M. Ditucalan to make the University's admission policy more progressive.

The reforms will also see the use of an Artificial Intelligence (AI) tool that will guide admissions to avoid student-course mismatches.

It will also see MSU-IIT no longer relying solely on the MSU's System Admission and Scholarship Examination (SASE) in determining student admission.

Instead, it will only consider said SASE results along with certain other additional factors.

"The employment of these admission techniques and tools are aimed at making the admission process more efficient and at solving the perennial problem of filling a limited number of slots from thousands of qualifiers," Chancellor Ditucalan explained.

The Admission Recommendation System Application Software, an AI tool developed by MSU-IIT, will make its debut during next semester's enrollment. This software application will aid the admission process by matching applicant-students with the academic programs that best suit them.

The AI tool integrates predictive analytics and student profiling, and leverages machine learning models and clustering algorithms. Through its intuitive interface, student applicants can input their admission information which the software will analyze before generating personalized recommendations for top courses to enroll in.

The software application will make dramatic changes to the admission process by optimizing decision-making for students and admission officers.

The AI tool is the product of a research project commissioned by Chancellor

Ditucalan, and undertaken by a team led by Mathematics Professor Daisy Lou Polestico and Professor Emeritus Arnulfo P. Supe.

Data shows that an average of 16,000 MSU SASE test takers indicate MSU-IIT as their campus of choice; however, MSU-IIT only has an absorptive capacity for first year students of around 15% of that number.

"The changes are revolutionary in terms of the MSU System as we are the only campus to institute such changes to the admission requirements of our undergraduate curriculum programs," Chancellor Ditucalan said.

The imposition of the additional requirements is authorized by the MSU Code of Governance, he pointed out.

The revision of MSU-IIT's admission criteria and process for first year students is also driven by the need of the University to adopt and implement new policies to conform with the Implementing Rules and Regulations of Republic Act No. 10931, commonly known as the "Universal Access to Quality Tertiary Education Act of 2017." Rule 2, Section 7 mandates that all State Universities and Colleges (SUCs), Local Universities and Colleges (LUCs), and Technical Vocational Education and Training (TVET) institutions develop and execute affirmative action programs to improve the accessibility of underprivileged students, including Lumads, Muslims, and other indigenous peoples; individuals with disabilities; students from public schools; and those from economically disadvantaged areas.

Furthermore, this evolution in the admission process is spurred by directives from governmental bodies such as the Commission on Higher Education (CHED) and the Department of Budget and Management (DBM), as well as by the University's commitment to align with the Sustainable Development Goals set forth by the United Nations.

Beginning August, admission into the University's various degree programs in the undergraduate level will now be governed by the new policy that categorizes



the admission of students into the following three categories:

20% to be taken from the MSU-SASE top scorers whose preferred campus is MSU-IIT;

70% as part of the University's Regular Admissions; and

10% as part of the University's affirmative action (EDI Policy)

### **The Top 20%**

The first 20% to be admitted, composed of SASE top scorers, are given the privilege of choosing, as first priority, any academic undergraduate program to enroll in.

### **The Majority (70%)**

The majority (70%) of admissions shall be subjected to further scrutiny, based on the following criteria: MSU SASE Rating (50%); Grade 10 grades (10%); Grade 12 first semester grades (10%); Financial Status (10%); and Other program-specific requirements (20%), like interviews or additional examinations, etc.

For highly subscribed programs like Accountancy, an applicant will be asked to submit a personal essay on top of the other requirements.

In the absence of program-specific requirements, the weight to be given to the SASE rating shall increase from 50% to 70%.

The requirements relating to Grade 10 and Grade 12 grades shall automatically be waived if the applicant is a graduate of the Philippine Science High School or Integrated Developmental High School (IDS) of MSU-IIT. Notwithstanding the criteria, and subject to availability of slots, DOST scholars maybe given special considerations for admission.

### **The last 10% (Affirmative Action/EDI)**

Admissions based on the application of the University's EDI Policy shall be admitted using the following criteria: SASE rating (25%); High School Grades General Average (10%); Financial

Status (25%); EDI policy and other protected characteristics (indigenousness, gender) that warrant recognition and support (40%).

Applicants who want to be considered under the last criteria would have to submit supporting documents that will be evaluated using the Inclusion, Diversity, Equity Applicant Screening (IDEAS) tool.

Special consideration shall also be given to students possessing exceptional skills in the arts and in sports.

The admission process for first year students has also been streamlined to allow for less delays.

For instance, those applying to take the SASE shall be made to also apply at the same time for admission to MSU-IIT. Those who get invited to enroll are given two days to confirm and two weeks to submit requirements, as well as to submit to program-specific evaluation (if also required by the chosen course).

The revision of MSU-IIT's admission criteria and process for freshmen students was approved by the MSU Board of Regents during its 266th meeting held on April 23 at the conference room of the Commission on Higher Education in Quezon City.

## **MSU-IIT wins 2nd place in CHED's PADS Innovative Awards 2024**

by Kassandra Buenafe, OfCom | May 21 2024

After successfully advancing from the regional level to compete on the national stage, MSU-IIT won second place in the 2024 Philippine Anti-Illegal Drugs Strategy (PADS) Innovative Awards for Higher Education, organized by the Commission on Higher Education's (CHED). The awarding ceremony, held on May 17, 2024, at the CHED Auditorium in Diliman Quezon City, saw 34 higher education institutions (HEIs) vying for recognition in this nationwide competition.

The PADS Innovative Awards for Higher Education is an initiative of CHED, in accordance with Executive Order No. 66 s. 2018, also known as "Institutionalizing of the Philippine Anti-Illegal Drugs Strategy (PADS)" was established to implement and institutionalize the Philippine Anti-Illegal Drugs Strategy (PADS) across various sectors, including state universities and colleges. HEIs showcased their significant projects and programs aimed at fortifying anti-illegal drugs efforts within their institutions.



MSU-IIT's participation was led by the Office of the Vice Chancellor for Student Services (OVCSS) and the Office of Communications. The award was received by the Vice Chancellor for Student Services, Prof. Rohane M. Derogongan; Director of the Office of Student Development Services, Prof. Phyllis Marie Teanco; and Ms. Kiziah Dato, OVCSS staff.

This achievement reaffirms MSU-IIT's unwavering commitment to the pursuit of a drug-free Philippines. The University will continue to make more policies and activities aimed at creating a society void of illegal drugs.

## CCS partners with ILIGANiCE to provide MSMEs with information systems solutions

by Jems Brian J. Zapatos, CCS | May 21 2024

Peddlr is a free mobile point-of-sale application developed by Peddlr Philippines Inc. that is designed to help micro, small, and medium enterprises in the Philippines streamline their business operations. The primary goal of this initiative was to instill a deep understanding of the value of the information systems among the MSMEs, ensuring they grasp its significance.

The training encompassed thorough guidance on navigating the various information systems modules, equipping trainees with the necessary skills for seamless technology integration into their actual business operations, thereby enhancing their overall performance and efficiency.

Through an array of workshops, training sessions, and personalized consultations, the teams engaged closely with the MSMEs to evaluate existing systems, pinpoint areas for enhancement, and implement customized solutions tailored to their unique requirements.

The BS Information Systems students under the class ISY114-IS Strategy, Management, and Acquisition conducted a comprehensive training program tailored for the 17 MSMEs seeking to delve into and use the Peddlr point-of-sale and inventory management application within their day-to-day functions.

The students who served as the associate information systems strategists of the MSMEs played a pivotal role as remote technical support and technology trainers for the MSME beneficiaries of ILIGANiCE. The students assumed the role of remote associate information systems strategists, aligning the MSMEs' business strategies with their IT strategy through activities encompassing business policy, IS plan development, IT change management, and technology adoption initiatives. For five months from January to April 2024, these students introduced a mobile-based information system to the MSMEs, revolutionizing their business operations with automated functionalities in expense tracking, ledging, store management, accounting, point of sale, and inventory management.

By fostering strong connections between the government, industry, and academic sectors, this initiative propels the growth of a knowledge-based and innovation-centric economy in Northern Mindanao, marking a significant stride towards a more technologically empowered and economically vibrant region.



# Heart and excellence: Dr. Reserva's influence on the academe and community

by: Kassandra Buenafe, OfCom

It is an indisputable truth that men have always dominated and have been the primary contributors in various disciplines. Since the monopoly of power is in their hands, the majority of the works and contributions of women often go unnoticed or inevitably become an afterthought.

However, with the change of times, we have also witnessed the gradual shift of the landscape of knowledge as more women are recognized and valued appropriately in such fields.

At MSU-IIT, women have greatly contributed to the milestones of the academe as they are forces that continue to make enduring marks through research, community engagements, and other facets of the University. One of them is Dr. Rosario Reserva, fondly known as Ma'am Rose.

Ma'am Rose is a faculty member of the Physics Department with a degree of Doctor of Philosophy in Physics major in Biophysics and is currently the Director of the WE CARE Office (formerly Department of Extension) under the Office of the Vice Chancellor for Public Affairs.

Ma'am Rose believes that she plays a crucial role in inspiring and mentoring the next generation of our students to become successful physicists. As she puts it, her teaching experience, achievements, and stature in the Physics Society, particularly in the Samahang Pisika ng Visayas at Mindanao

(SPVM), is a loud and powerful reminder that Physics is a field open to everyone regardless of gender.

She has helped establish the collaboration of the Physics Department with the Tokyo University of Science, the University of Islam Indonesia, and the Vietnam National University under the auspices of the e-Asia Joint Research Program. Moreover, she has published scientific papers in Scopus-indexed and in other reputable journals as a result of research works at the Soft Matter and Biophysics Laboratory, in the Primier Research Institute of Science and Mathematics, and the collaboration established with foreign physicists.

In addition to her exemplary record as a teacher and mentor in Physics, she has also been in touch with the community through the WE CARE Office where she shows her passion for spearheading various initiatives, coordinating programs, and carrying out projects that forge a strong relationship between the University and the community.

Like many other women, her leadership skills have brought positive changes by organizing numerous training and capacity-building programs for the DepEd teachers and Bureau of Jail Management and Penology (BJMP) in Iligan City, LGU-Iligan Personnel, out-of-school youth, marginalized groups, and different MSU Campuses as well.

She sees that her sense of empathy and resilience coupled with her desire to contribute and do something to the community provide an environment of mutual and inclusive learning and growth. Ma'am Rose has always believed that one must be the agent of positive change one wishes to see and have.

As a notable woman both in community engagement and in the field of Physics, Ma'am Rose is hopeful that many more women will continue to pursue these paths. The road to getting it is difficult and to ease the obstacles that come along the way, Ma'am Rose shares the following pieces of wisdom:

*"Follow and cultivate your passion in Physics; build a strong foundation—read and study your lessons; seek mentorship—look for professors, researchers, or professionals in the field who can provide advice, share their experiences, and offer guidance on academic and career opportunities; engage in research and internships because hands-on experience will allow you to apply your knowledge, develop practical skills, and gain exposure to the scientific research process."*

Ma'am Rose's story is proof of the power of determination and passion. Her meaningful contributions from the academe to the heart of community engagement exemplify the boundless potential of women to break barriers, transform communities, and influence the future.

In the footsteps of Ma'am Rose, may more women find the courage to pursue their dreams, undeterred by the challenges that lie ahead.

*"She sees that her sense of empathy and resilience coupled with her desire to contribute and do something to the community provide an environment of mutual and inclusive learning and growth."*



*mutual and inclusive learning and growth.*

*Ma'am Rose has always believed that one must always put in one's heart and be the agent of positive change one wishes to see and have."*

*Rosario L. Reserva, PhD  
WECARE DIRECTOR*

## Meet ALAB! The MSU-IIT Cats Spirit Icon and Mascot

by Michelle Jeanne Casiple Caracut | Apr 27 2024

At the Opening Ceremony of the PALAKASAN 2024 on April 27, 2024, the university launched its spirit icon, the MSU-IIT Cats.

In line with our commitment to embracing MSU-IIT's values, character, and culture, MSU-IIT recognized the need for a spirit icon that reflects these elements. To that end, last year, the University organized a competition to find the best icon for the MSU-

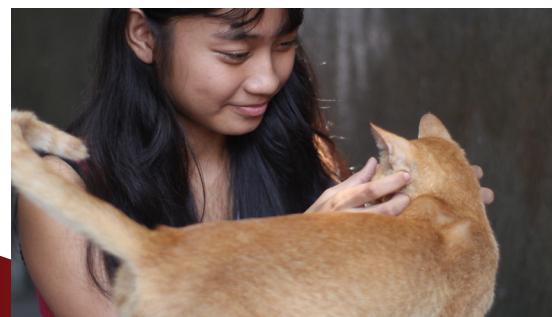
IIT Cats. But why MSU-IIT Cats?

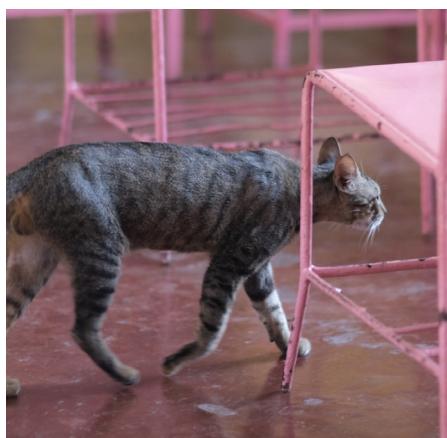
On campus, a special community thrives. Amidst the vibrant campus life, there exists a group of feline friends that has become synonymous with the essence of our beloved University.

This diverse and charming assembly of feline companions have made our university their home. These cats have become integral members of our community, weaving their way into the fabric of MSU-IIT life.

As the University sought to encapsulate its identity and spirit in a visual symbol, it became evident that these cats were the embodiment of our collective pride. These feline friends, roaming the campus with a graceful nonchalance, mirror the resilience, compassion, adaptability, and unity that define the MSU-IIT spirit.

The selection of the cat as the University's icon is more than a nod to these animals' charming presence; it symbolizes the shared experiences, diversity, and interconnectedness of the university community.





because like IITians—aside from Alab’s tail looking like a blaze or fire—IITians have a “passion” for learning and for progress.

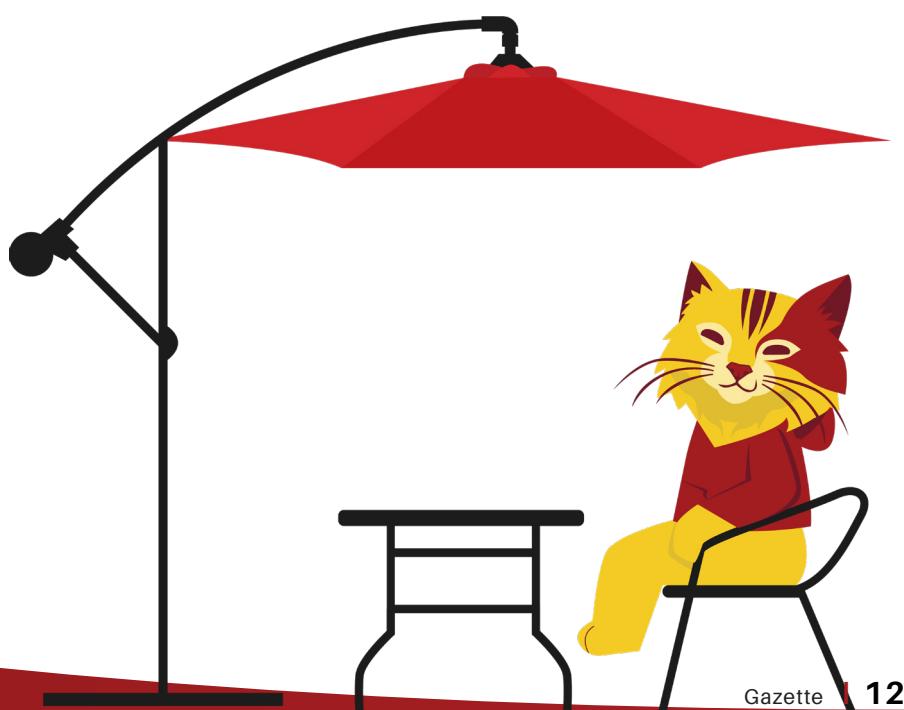
“It’s also a reference to the university hymn “Silahis ang katulad mo ...”. Silahis, beams of sunlight. Just like MSU-IIT Cats, they burn like fire or rays and illuminate or brighten up the IITians day in the campus somehow. With Alab, your burning passion to study and graduate never snuff out. Seeing Alab is such a ray of sunshine,” he said.

Alab instills a strong sense of pride and spirit in students, alumni, faculty, staff, and all those who proudly support the University and its mission. Symbolizing resilience, compassion, adaptability, unity, and diversity, this MSU-IIT Cat serves as a constant reminder of the values and principles that define MSU-IIT. It represents the rich experiences and backgrounds within the university community, fostering a deep connection and sense of belonging among its members. It stands as a symbol of unity and a shared commitment to excellence, inspiring all to embrace the MSU-IIT’s mission and work towards its success.

Each cat represents a unique facet of MSU-IIT, from the quiet corners of the libraries to the bustling energy in the various colleges.

Last December, we held a competition to find the best icon for our MSU-IIT Cats. We received more than 20 incredible entries, each one showcasing the talent and creativity of our university community. After much deliberation and consideration of the given criteria, we finally chose the best icon that truly captured the spirit of the MSU-IIT Cats.

The best design was awarded to Abdul Karim Y. Tawakim, a BS Information Technology senior. He named the cat mascot Alab. According to him, he named it Alab





## MSU-IIT Cats bag overall first runner up in the MSUSAA 7th Unity Games

by Michelle Jeanne Casiple Caracut

The MSU-IIT Cats pounced their way to an impressive first runner-up finish in the highly competitive Mindanao State University Athletics Association (MSUSAA) 7th Unity Games held at the MSU-General Santos campus, General Santos City on May 30 - June 6, 2024.

Racking up a total of 257 points, the Cats showcased their athletic finesse and determination across a wide array of sports categories, leaving fans thrilled and opponents in awe.

Among the standout performances, the Cats excelled in the Arnis competitions, with the men's team securing multiple victories and landing the title of overall first runner-up.

### ARNIS (Men)

Overall first runner-up

#### Champion

- Single Weapon Anyo
- Spada Y Daga
- Padded Stick Bantamweight (55-60 kg)

#### First runner up

- Team Synchronization Single Weapon
- Team Synchronization Spada Y Daga
- Synchronization Double Baston
- Sabanal (Middleweight combat)
- Limpiado (Welterweight Category)
- Individual Double Weapon
- Full Contact Padded Stick (90kg)

#### Second runner-up

- Lightweight combat
- Welter Lightweight Sparring
- Full Contact Padded Stick Middleweight
- Solo Baston Anyo

The women's Arnis team emerged as the overall champions, showcasing their skill and dedication in the following various categories.

### ARNIS (Women)

Overall Champion

#### Champion

- Individual Single Weapon
- Flyweight Category
- Middleweight Category
- Individual Double Weapon
- Bantamweight Category
- Individual Spada Y Daga
- Lightweight Category
- Synchronize Single Weapon
- Synchronize Double Weapon
- Synchronize Spada Y Daga

#### First runner-up

- Individual Single Weapon
- Welterweight Category

#### Second runner-up

- Featherweight Category



In the Athletics events, both the men's and women's teams showcased their prowess, with notable achievements in javelin throw, distance running, sprints, and relay races. Despite facing stiff competition, the Cat-athletes demonstrated resilience and determination throughout the games.

### ATHLETICS (Men)

First runner-up - Javelin Throw

Second runner-up - 5,000-Meter Run

Fifth place - 3,000-Meter Run  
- 5,000-Meter Run

Sixth place - 400-Meter Sprint

Eighth place - 100-Meter Sprint

Fourth place - Classical Relay  
- 4x400-Meter Relay

### ATHLETICS (Women)

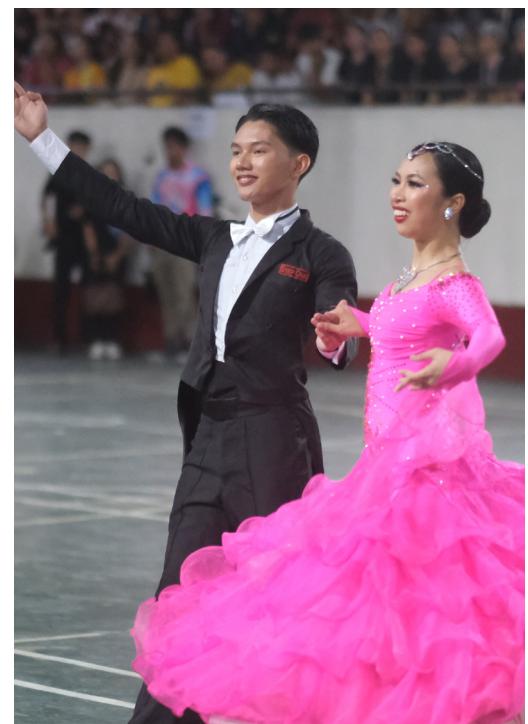
First runner-up - 3,000-Meter Run

Second runner-up - Classical Relay  
- 4x100-Meter Relay

Fourth place - 5,000-Meter Run

Eighth place - 100-Meter Sprint  
- Javelin Throw

Fifth place - 200-Meter Sprint  
- 3,000-Meter Run



The badminton teams dominated both the individual and team categories, claiming the championship titles in a stellar display of skill and strategy. Additionally, the Cats showed their strength in softball, basketball, beach volleyball, chess, dance sports, karate-do, sepak-takraw, soccer, table tennis, lawn tennis, and volleyball, showcasing their versatility across multiple disciplines.

**Champion** - Badminton  
(Men and Women)



**First runner-up** - Softball



**First runner-up** - Basketball (Men)

#### Dancesport

Overall First runner-up

**Second runner-up** - Basketball (Women)

**Second runner-up** - Latin America

**Champion** - Beach Volleyball (Men)

**Champion** - Modern Standard

**Third runner-up** - Beach Volleyball  
(Women)

**Best in Cha Cha Cha, Tango, and Quickstep**

**Second runner-up** - Chess (Men)

#### Karate-Do (Men)

Overall First runner-up

**First runner-up** - Chess (Women)

**Champion** - Kata open category

**Third runner-up** - Sepak-Takraw

**Second runner-up** - Senior Kumite category  
(below 55 kg)

**Champion** - Soccer

**First runner-up** - Senior Kumite category  
(below 75 kg)

**Champion** - Table Tennis (Men)

**Champion** - Senior Kumite category  
(below 85 kg)

**First runner-up** - Table Tennis (Women)

#### Karate-Do (Men)

Overall First runner-up

**Fifth runner-up** - Lawn Tennis

**Champion** - Kata open category

**Sixth runner-up** - Volleyball (Men)

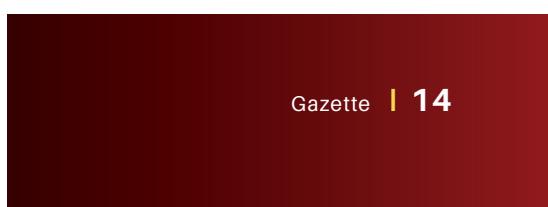
**Second runner-up** - Senior Kumite category  
(below 55 kg)

**First runner-up** - Volleyball (Women)

**First runner-up** - Senior Kumite category  
(below 75 kg)



**Champion** - Senior Kumite category  
(below 85 kg)



#### Karate-Do (Women)

Overall Third runner-up

**First runner-up** - Kata open category

**Third runner-up** - Senior Kumite category  
(below 50 kg)  
- Senior Kumite category  
(below 55 kg)

Chancellor Alizedney M. Ditucalan expressed his pride and joy at the exceptional performance of the MSU-IIT athletes, attributing their success to hard work, dedication, and teamwork. He extended his heartfelt congratulations to the teams and emphasized the importance of the lessons learned during the Unity Games in shaping the athletes into outstanding individuals ready to serve the community and the nation.

The MSU-IIT Cats' remarkable achievements marked a significant improvement from their third runner-up placement in the previous MSUSAA event in 2019. Looking ahead, the Cats are already gearing up for the next challenge as they prepare to compete in the upcoming MSUSAA Unity Games to be held at MSU-Sulu next year.

## Ditucalan convenes leaders of NorMin SUCs to enhance social development in higher education

by Michelle Jeanne Caracut | May 22 2024



In a bid to foster collaborative efforts to address crucial issues in higher education in Region X, Chancellor Alizedney M. Ditucalan convened leaders from various State Universities and Colleges (SUCs) in the region for a one-day meeting inside the MSU-IIT campus.

The meeting that was held on May 9, 2024 at the University Boardroom aimed to generate proposals on important topics that will be presented during the 2nd Quarter Regional Development Council - Social Development Committee (RDC-SDC) meeting.

The Regional Development Council sets the direction of social development within a region and through which regional development efforts shall be coordinated.

Participating SUCs were MSU at Naawan; Bukidnon State University; Northern Bukidnon State College; Camiguin Polytechnic State College; Central Mindanao University; Northwestern Mindanao State College of Science and Technology; and University of Science and Technology of Southern Philippines.

The Iligan City National School of Fisheries and the Oroquieta Agro-Industrial School were also represented at the meeting in light of their imminent conversion into the Iligan City Polytechnic State College

and the Misamis Occidental State College, respectively.

With MSU-IIT taking the lead in the discussions, the Presidents and representatives of the participating SUCs tackled the following three topics: (1) Addition of expenditure item in the National Expenditure Program on the internationalization of SUC research; (2) Utilization of cost-of-living index per region on rationalizing tuition fees; and (3) Equity in the distribution of student financial assistance slots to the region.

According to Chancellor Ditucalan in an interview, the meeting was a crucial step towards aligning the goals and aspirations of local SUCs with the broader regional and national development plans.

"By fostering collaborative efforts and encouraging open dialogue, this meeting set the stage for positive changes within the higher education landscape of Northern Mindanao," he said.

The addition of expenditure items in the NEP for the internationalization of SUC research represents a strategic investment in enhancing the global competitiveness, research excellence, and knowledge exchange capabilities of Philippine higher education institutions. This investment not only benefits the academic community but also holds the potential to drive economic growth and societal development.

Ditucalan reported that it was agreed during the meeting that SUCs from Region-X would develop a regional Strategic Internationalization Plan (SIP).

Addressing the issue of regional disparities, the meeting also focused on the utilization of cost of living data to rationalize tuition fees. By taking into account the varying economic conditions across the Northern Mindanao region, this approach aimed to promote fairness and equity in education.

Ditucalan said that the body agreed to develop a proposal on the ideal rate of tuition fees for Region-X.

Another important topic that was

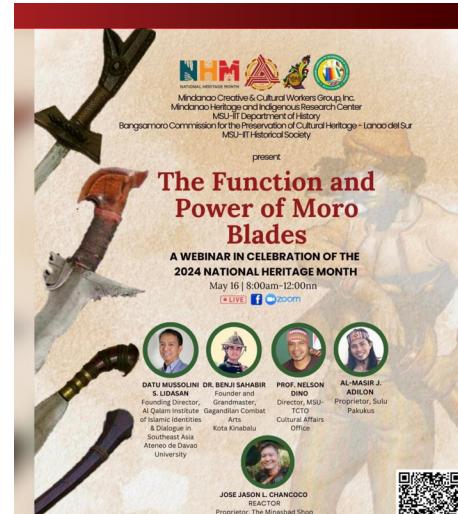
discussed was the distribution of student financial assistance slots. The SUC leaders recognized the need to ensure equal opportunities for students within the region. By addressing any imbalance in the allocation of financial assistance, SUC leaders hoped to provide greater support to students from underprivileged backgrounds, enabling them to pursue higher education without financial constraints.

To enhance educational opportunities for all students, the body discussed prioritizing equity in the distribution of said slots.

During the meeting, it was agreed upon that participating SUCs would contribute more data from their respective institutions to enrich and finalize the proposals.

Ditucalan said that the SUCs will reconvene to present and discuss details of the proposals before submitting these to the Commission on Higher Education- Region X.

## MSU-IIT celebrates 2024 National Heritage Month on May 16



The scant resources on Moro Blades prompted the exploration of these weapons and heirlooms during the 2024 National Heritage Month with a webinar, "The Function and Power of Moro Blades" on May 16, 2024.

The Mindanao Creative and Cultural Workers Group, Inc. (MCCWG) and the Department of History headed by Dr. Jamelyn B. Palattao and the Department of History's Mindanao Heritage and Indigenous Research Center headed by Asst. Prof. Jed Otano in cooperation with the BARMM Commission on the Preservation of Cultural Heritage presented an exploration of Moro Blades with the following speakers:

Datu Mussolini Sinsuat Lidasan to speak on "The Different Types of Blades of the Iranun and Magindanao: their Traditional and Present Symbolisms". Lidasan is Founding Director of Al Qalam Institute of Islamic Identities and Dialogue in Southeast Asia at the Ateneo de Davao University; Assistant Professor of History Nelson Dino with his topic "Insights into Sulus Indigenous Cultural Heritage: Unveiling the Secrets of Barung, Ukkil and their Symbolisms. Dino is Director, Mindanao State University-Tawitawi College of Technology and Oceanography; Tirmizy E. Abdullah, to talk about "Meranaw Blade Weapons". Abdullah is a faculty member of the MSU main campus Department of History;

Benji Sahabir, Founder and Grandmaster, Gagandilan Combat Arts and District Chairman, State Silat Sport, Kota Kinabalu, Malaysia to discuss the "Tausug Warrior's Gagandilan Attire and Combat Arts"; and

Al-Masir J. Adilon to show a video presentation of Sulu blades. Adilon is proprietor of Sulu Pakukus and is responsible for reviving the traditional arts in Sulu.

The reactor to all speakers was Jason Chanchoco of Bladed Bicol and proprietor of The Minasbad Shop. Chancoco was a writing fellow of the Iligan National Writers Workshop.

Dr. Ephrime B. Metillo, Vice Chancellor for Research and Enterprise and BARMM Commissioner Bobby Alonto gave messages during the program and Dr. Christine F. Godinez Ortega, Founding Chair of the Mindanao Creative & Cultural Workers Group opened the event.

- Contributed News

## CCS Computer Applications launches my.comApps

by Kyle Christian Belono, CCS | May 24 2024



The Computer Applications Department of the College of Computer Studies (CCS) officially launched my.ComApps extension program. The launching was led by Ms. Apple Rose Alce, Project Leader; her Training Assistant, Mr. Kyle Christian Belono, and the esteemed faculty of the Computer Applications Department. This initiative represented a significant leap forward in enriching educational opportunities for Senior High Schools.

The team kicked off their workshop series at St. Michael's College (SMC) from April 24-26, 2024, at the initiative of Asst. Prof. Maria Fe Bahinting. The workshop, which saw the participation of 54 students, provided them with a unique opportunity to explore microcontrollers early, thereby enhancing their proactivity in technology development. Dr. Ritzcen A. Durango, SMC's Vice President for Academic Affairs, expressed gratitude for this enriching experience for their senior high students and the increased knowledge it brought to their college students.

Moreover, Ms. Alce and her team took the initiative to conduct courtesy meetings with two public high schools in Iligan City. This outreach effort aimed to introduce the my.ComApps extension program and explore potential collaborations to enrich educational opportunities for students. Dr Carlito A. Abarquez, Principal of Senior High

School Students at Iligan City National High School (ICNHS), expressed his delight at the prospect of collaboration with CCS Computer Applications, recognizing the potential for a positive impact on the school's educational landscape.

According to Ms. Alce, she believes that with sufficient motivation, the development of technology aimed at solving community problems can be maximized through shared efforts. This philosophy underscores the program's ethos, emphasizing the potential for technology to catalyze positive change when coupled with collaborative initiatives and collective determination. She emphasizes that the program's impact begins with the younger generation, who still has the freedom to explore and choose their future fields of endeavor.

This focus on empowering the youth underscores the program's commitment to fostering a generation of technologically adept and socially conscious individuals poised to address the challenges of tomorrow.

## DBI hosts first business pitching event, Pitch to Launch

by Emily Rose Blando, BS Entrep | May 26 2024

In a display of innovation and entrepreneurship, the Department of Business and Innovation (DBI), through its Entrep 112 class, hosted the first-ever business pitching event called "Pitch to Launch" on May 17, 2024, at iDEYA, MSU-IIT.

The event brought together student entrepreneurs, and potential alumni angel investors, and invited stakeholders to witness the exhibition of business ideas, strategies, and innovations of the eight student-run companies under the guidance of Assoc. Prof. Marlo Novino.

The event served as a platform to facilitate connections between students and alumni to explore potential opportunities for investment, collaboration, and mentorship. The young entrepreneurs pitched their business ideas before a crowd of alumni to assess the readiness of these learning companies to enter the market. Each team showcased not only their game-changing products but also their business models and strategies for the next 10 months of operations.

The range of products presented was diverse, reflecting the wide array of interests and expertise among the student entrepreneurs. These included innovative siomai rice, jute bag collections, beauty and oil essentials, upcycled garments, and resin art. The pitches focused on how these companies will be able to establish and sustain their competitive advantage amidst growing competition. Beyond academic requirements, these budding entrepreneurs are preparing themselves to intensify economic opportunities and collaborative development with the help of various stakeholders.



Invited guests and stakeholders included Dr. Pamela Resurreccion, MSU-IIT Vice Chancellor for Strategic Initiatives; Dr. Maria Rizalia Teves, CEBA Dean; Dir. Jane Marie Tabucan, Department of Trade and Industry (DTI) Lanao del Norte Provincial Director; Ms. Iris Chin Castillo, DTI Negosyo Center Business Counselor; Ms. Dorina Marie Ytang, Department of Science and Technology (DOST) Provincial Science and Technology Office Lanao del Norte Senior Science Research Specialist; Ms. Maria Rhodora Omlero, LGU Iligan Permits and Licenses Division Head; and Mr. Mev Xylef Jued Seraña, Bureau of Internal Revenue Collection Officer.

Connecting the past and present members of the Department's growing alumni and business community, the event featured alumni entrepreneurs who shared value-adding business knowledge with students. Invited alumni included Ms. Joanna Marie Ong, Chief Marketing Officer of Eudor Group of Companies, owned by a Marketing Alumna, Ms. Josephine Taojo; Mr. Sean Dela Cruz, owner of The Groom Squad, GlamCam360, and S&M Events; Mr. Jonathan Elano, owner of WiseCart; Mr. and Mrs. Jherald and Sheila Ebao, owners of AYZ Café, Nailax, and Frapella; Ms. Marilou Bado, owner of MBBI Corporation and Closet99; former Professor Julita Bokingo; Mr. and Mrs. Maxell and Lyra Adiong, owners of Lomex Tires and Accessories; and Ms. Kate Andrea Cawaling, owner of Kiss and Tell and Wirelace Sales and Services.

Their messages shared one common theme: to love and trust what you do. As they stated, entrepreneurs often face uncertainties, and to thrive in a chosen path, one must be resilient and open to continuous learning to provide the best value to customers.

The event will be an annual public event that gathers business leaders and alumni, reflecting the Department's commitment to fostering innovation and entrepreneurship. Pitch to Launch celebrates the entrepreneurial spirit that combines the collective efforts of the university, government, alumni, and other stakeholders in nurturing the next generations of IITian business leaders.

## MSU-IIT completes the 2023 CSIS Project in the LGU-Iligan

by IPIL | May 26 2024

The Mindanao State University-Iigan Institute of Technology (MSU-IIT), through the Institute for Policy Innovation and Leadership (IPIL), recently completed the 2023 Citizen Satisfaction Index System (CSIS) Project in the Iligan City Local Government Unit (LGU). Consequently, a Focus Group Discussion (FGD) with the civil society organizations was conducted on May 14, 2024, at the University Boardroom at the CEBA Building.

The Focus Group Discussion (FGD) was conducted to have an in-depth

discussion on the initial results of the CSIS. This activity ensured that the citizens' voices, the sole data source in generating CSIS survey results, were represented in the development of LGU plans. As the FGD progressed, intervention activities and plans were proposed by the CSOs to address service delivery gaps in the communities. These plans and proposed interventions, as articulated by the participants, shall be incorporated in the formulation and enrichment of the Citizen-driven Priority Action Plan.

The attendees included select Civil Society Organizations within Iligan City that advocate for the welfare of the citizens and

represented local government service areas including health, support to education, social welfare, government and response, public works, and infrastructure, environmental management, economic and investment.

Also present were the project team from IPIL, who serves as the partner Local Resource Institute of DILG, and the representatives from DILG-Iigan Office. The representatives from different CSOs were the main participants since they are deeply involved in improving society and human conditions. Lastly, these organizations are acknowledged and accredited organizations of the local government.

## Dep't of Econ's EFLEX concludes its 2-day financial literacy training at Brgy. Digkilaan

by Stephanie R. Concha | May 29 2024

In a determined effort to promote financial literacy within the community, the Department of Economics at the College of Economics, Business, and Accountancy (CEBA), in partnership with the We Care Office and the MSU-IIT National Multi-Purpose Cooperative (NMPC), recently organized a comprehensive two-day financial literacy workshop for the Digkilaan women.

Held on May 2nd and 23rd, 2024, in Barangay Digkilaan, Iligan City, this extension project entitled "EFLEX mo yan, Digkilaan! Economic and Financial Literacy Extension of Brgy. Digkilaan, Iligan City," aimed to enhance the financial management skills of the beneficiaries both in their households and their livelihood pursuits. This undertaking builds upon the foundation laid by Phase 2 of the Social Enterprise Development Project, envisioning to empower and upskill the women of Digkilaan.

On its first day, Dr. Martha Joy J. Abing discussed the significance of financial literacy and imparted strategies for effective personal finance management. The session gained additional depth with the presence of esteemed guest lecturer, Dr. Dimas Bagus Wiranatakusuma from Universitas Muhammadiyah Yogyakarta, who shared insights into Islamic Financial Literacy, enriching the discourse.

On the next day of the workshop, Dr. Abing delved further into financial goal setting. Assistant Professor Resa Mae S. Laygan then led the discussions on Financial Planning, Savings, Investment, and Budgeting and Spending Decisions, guiding the women through the process of crafting detailed financial plans and budgets. Moreover, beneficiaries were encouraged to explore safe and legitimate investment avenues to optimize their financial resources.

The two-day workshop culminated with the Digkilaan women expressing heightened confidence in managing their household finances and anticipating improved management of their profits from handicraft products. This initiative marks a meaningful step towards advancing financial resilience and empowerment within the Barangay Digkilaan community.



## MSU-IIT supports J.H. Cerilles State College- Dumingag Campus in elevating Peer Facilitator Program Standards

by Ray Nino Comendador, OSPF | May 29 2024



The MSU-IIT, through the Office of Guidance and Counseling (OGC) welcomed and supported the J.H. Cerilles State College - Dumingag Campus on May 10, 2024, at MSU-IIT, aiming to enhance the standards of the Peer Facilitator Program under the Guidance and Counseling Services Office.

The event commenced with opening remarks delivered by MSU-IIT OGC Director, Mr. Reynald P. Kyamko, RGC, RPM, RN, LPT, emphasizing the services offered to meet the needs of students at the OGC. Among the services highlighted was free counseling provided by college guidance counselors, offering multiple interventions aimed particularly at enhancing students' overall mental well-being. Following this, Mrs. Wella Rose D. Dico, RGC, Guidance Counselor III, introduced a recently trained group of peers from J.H. Cerilles State College who share the same advocacy for securing students' well-being.



"Students choose to advance their skills in caring, understanding, acceptance, and trustworthiness so that they may be of service to others in the school community. They engage themselves in OSPF & LAV to practice these skills and then make themselves available to anyone in need. Each year, they have the opportunity to renew their

commitment to this service they provide to our school community," said Mr. Kyamko as he further discussed the services.

Following that, Mrs. Reynalou B. Lagare, OSPF Adviser, alongside the President and Vice President, Ray Nino Comendador and Luchi May Mallare, introduced the Organization of Student Peer Facilitators—an organization under the Office of Guidance and Counseling consisting of dedicated and committed students aiming to extend a helping hand for counseling referrals, as well as improving one's skills through engagement in enrichment programs and other activities provided by the organization. One of the highlights is the sharing of the organization's work ethics in realizing the plans catered for students, as well as the process of membership, implementing programs, training, and plans for the organization.

Embodying the core values of the institution, specifically service, and compassion, the organization successfully imparted the valuable key pillars in turning vision into action towards the peers of J.H. Cerilles State College, benchmarking the programs offered to further empower and equip the peer facilitators in their respective community by turning passion into progress for a common purpose.

## CEBA conducts Financial Literacy Training for women leaders

by Firdausiah T. Mangca and Albert A. Jaim | Jun 10 2024



On May 4, 2024, the College of Economics, Business, and Accountancy (CEBA), in partnership with the Office of the City Mayor - Gender and Development (CMO-GAD), successfully conducted a Financial Literacy Training for Key Women Leaders in Iligan City. The activity is part of the extension project entitled "Professionalizing Leadership and Entrepreneurial Competency - Key Women Leaders," also known as ProfLec-KWL@Iligan City (2023-2025).

The training was held in Room ODO and Room 110 in CEBA. Asst. Prof. Resa Mae C. Laygan, the project leader, led the training and was co-facilitated by Dr. Maria Rizalia Y. Teves, Dr. Martha Joy J. Abing, and Asst. Prof. Charlyn M. Capulong.

The extension activity strives to empower and equip women leaders with a financial education that will enable them to confidently manage finance-related matters for personal and association purposes.

The said training was composed of 5 modules discussed by Asst. Prof. Laygan throughout the day—Module 1: Financial Literacy and Personal Finance; Module 2: Financial Goal Setting; Module 3: Financial Planning, Savings and Investments; Module 4: Budgeting and Spending Decisions; and Module 5: Financial Decision in an Organization.

The whole-day lecture concentrated on topics on setting a realistic financial goal — guided by the SMART criteria, guidelines on achieving stability and security through informed decision-making, and adaptable approaches to overcoming setbacks. Additionally, the lecture highlighted that the



## IPIL launches new Human Rights module

by IPIL | Jun 10 2024

The Policy Center for Human Rights and Sustainable Development (PCHRSD) of the Institute for Policy Innovation and Leadership (IPIL) hosted the module launch of the project titled 'Human Rights Starter Pack: A Human Rights Education Course-Pack Development Program' on May 29, 2024, from 1:00 PM to 3:00 PM, at Room E53, CASS New Building.

In partnership with the Xavier University Center for Legal Assistance (XUCLA) and funded by MSU-IIT's Gender and Development Center (GADC), this project aimed to enhance human rights education through carefully developed modules. The activity was conducted both in person and via Zoom, including attendees from CASS Faculty Members, authors, and contributors of the module, representatives from different colleges, and the Chancellor.

For the opening remarks, the head of the policy center, Dr. Maria Pia Sison, emphasized the essential role of advancing human rights in achieving sustainable development, highlighting the significance of the human rights module. Following her, Chancellor Ditucalan praised the learning material for its experiential learning approach and expressed that this project inspired the next module focusing on mainstreaming sustainable development goals (SDGs).

As a former head of the policy center and coordinator of the project, Assoc. Prof. Lynrose Jane Genon presented the project's rationale and outline. She shared the importance of the "Young Southeast Asian

latter can be attainable through exercising financial regulation and prioritizing good spending habits.

The training also involved interactive activities and concluded with collaborative group work, where all participants cooperated and input their ideas.

The partnership of CEBA, MSU-IIT, and CMO-GAD, together with the active participation of key women leaders in Iligan City, made the project come to a realization. The training enables women leaders to learn about financial literacy management and share it with the women in their communities. Furthermore, financial literacy equips key women leaders with skills such as efficient planning and implementing doable strategies for their organization, allowing women in Iligan City to lead confidently and be flexible to changes.



Leaders Initiative (YSEALI) Bangsamoro Street Law Program," which served as an inspiration for this project.

This new project involves a series of module development write-shops and capacity-building workshops to create learning resources for NSTP students. These resources aim to introduce basic knowledge of human rights, foster an appreciation for legal concepts, and emphasize the central role of human rights education in promoting gender equality, peace, and development.

As the director of XUCLA and project coordinator, Atty. Neri delivered a message underscoring the importance of education in the pursuit of justice, highlighting that laws alone are insufficient.

As a contributor to the module, Dr. Josefina Tabudlong stressed the fundamental importance of understanding human rights to human existence and in the enhancement of human life. Dr. Irish Mae Fernandez-Dalona, another contributor, emphasized the concept of transformation and the critical role of pedagogy in mainstreaming human rights.

As an author and reviewer of the module, Asst. Prof. Ian Embradura shared his experiences, expressing fulfillment in his contribution to the project. Representing Asst. Prof. Yasmira Moner from GADC, Ms. Sitty



Aisah Pumbaya affirmed GADC's ongoing support for initiatives related to human rights, especially those promoting gender equality.

For the event's conclusion, printed copies of the module and a photo opportunity were given to the participants. This event marked a significant step forward in the promotion and integration of human rights education.

## MSU-IIT's PCHRSD orients enumerators for a research project on SDG

by IPIL | Jun 10 2024

The Policy Center for Human Rights and Sustainable Development (PCHRSD) is embarking on a significant research project titled "Assessing the Awareness and Implementation of Sustainable Development Goals: A Study of Alignment from Iligan City's Local Government Unit to Barangay Local Government Units." This study aims to gauge the awareness and understanding of SDG implementation in Iligan City, focusing on the Barangay Local Government Units (BLGUs). As part of this initiative, an orientation session was conducted for the enumerators regarding the protocols for before, during, and after

fieldwork. Ten enumerators and members of the research team attended the session.

The orientation commenced with an introduction session where each enumerator introduced themselves, stating their names and addresses in Iligan City. This information is crucial for assigning them to appropriate areas. Thereafter, the head of the policy center and project leader, Prof. Maria Pia Sison, provided an overview of the research project and discussed the study's background, rationale, and objectives, highlighting its aim to bridge the gap between global sustainability goals and local governance structures. By examining awareness levels and implementation strategies, the findings are expected to inform policy recommendations, enhance collaborative efforts, and contribute significantly to the effectiveness of sustainable development initiatives from the LGU to the grassroots level.

Next, the University Researcher at the policy center and a member of the research team, Ms. Rholaisa Mamailao, detailed the research methodologies, respondent profiles, and the study locale. She further explained that the study employs mixed methods, combining quantitative and qualitative approaches, including surveys, in-depth interviews, document analysis, and focus group discussions (FGDs). The respondents include individuals from diverse backgrounds, such as LGU and BLGU officials, community representatives, civil society organizations, local business owners, and other stakeholders involved in SDG initiatives in Iligan City. The study covers all forty-four barangays in Iligan City, emphasizing grassroots realities. Further, she emphasized that the survey will cover BLGU level only.

Ms. Mamailao then covered the protocols for before-fieldwork activities. She emphasized to the enumerators the importance of attending orientation and collaboration meetings with LGUs and BLGUs and being familiar with the respondents. Further, she also emphasized checking dispatch materials before fieldwork, including questionnaires, fieldwork IDs, informed

consent forms, and other necessary materials in the fieldwork toolkits.

The head of the Executive Education Unit, Ms. Bainorah Amate, discussed protocols during fieldwork and outlined the steps for conducting surveys, maintaining consistent updates, completing questionnaires, and adhering to timelines. Ms. Amate spent considerable time on the questionnaire content, familiarizing enumerators with the research instrument section by section. The questionnaire covers SDG awareness, implementation, perceived barriers and challenges, and suggested recommendations. She also emphasized the importance of documentation, which includes taking photos and keeping a fieldwork diary.

Ms. Joy Gabion, another University Researcher at the policy center and a member of the research team, addressed after-fieldwork protocols. She focused on data cleaning and encoding of completed questionnaires, providing templates for data entry. Her previous experience with these research components was invaluable to the enumerators.

For the open forum, various key points were raised, including the importance of attending collaboration meetings with

BLGU representatives and the appropriate times to visit areas, such as during Barangay Assemblies. The research team reiterated their support in coordinating with BLGUs.

Following the open forum, Ms. Mamailao led the simulation of the questionnaire and feedback session. Enumerators practiced the questionnaire in pairs, which revealed a range of issues, including the need for a standardized translation of the questionnaire and the problem with the questionnaire's length. Despite efforts to shorten it, the team decided to maintain the original length due to the unique importance of each SDG indicator. The team assured enumerators that familiarity with the questionnaire would reduce completion time.

Lastly, for the final part of the orientation, the financial assistant at the policy center, Ms. Hazel Mae Seville, discussed the enumerators' compensation, contracts, and transportation reimbursement processes. Additionally, enumerators were allowed to choose their assigned barangays, with each covering three non-remote and one remote barangay. The orientation concluded with a photo opportunity.

## DBI concludes 3-day Production Planning Training for Digkilaan women

by Stephanie R. Concha, CEBA | Jun 24 2024



The Department of Business and Innovation (DBI) of the College of Economics, Business, and Accountancy (CEBA), in collaboration with the We Care Office and the MSU-IIT National Multi-Purpose Cooperative, recently concluded the three-day training of their extension project entitled "Production Planning of the Social Enterprise Development Project" on June 5, 2024, at Barangay Digkilaan, Iligan City. This successful collaboration was instrumental in the positive outcome of the training program.

The three-day activity starts in the morning with the proper training of crocheting earrings and tulip flowers. To upskill the Digkilaan women in production management, the extension project team also prepared 8 modules to teach the women fundamental knowledge of the production process.

On its first day, April 24, 2024, Ms. Dharafe S. Susas and Ms. Athena Gwyneth T. Colao, both 4th-year students from BS in Entrepreneurship, taught the women how to crochet earrings. Meanwhile, the talks in the afternoon were spearheaded by the graduate program coordinator and project leader, Dr. Abdullah R. Sirad, by discussing sustainable resource sourcing. Assoc. Prof. Stephen C. Fajardo speaks about how a production workflow design functions in a women-centric environment, and Assoc. Prof. Melissa B. Mangali briefly discussed market research and demand forecasting.

The next day, May 15, 2024, Ms. Jo Airen V. Macabale, a lecturer from the Departamento ng Filipino at Ibang mga Wika,



taught the women to create crocheted tulip flowers. The series of lectures was also continued with Dr. Safa D. Manala-o discussing inventory management, Assoc. Prof. Marlo C. Novino on eco-friendly packaging, and Asst. Prof. Shiny Rose S. Narit on product costing.

The last training session on June 5, 2024, was not only a culmination of the women's hard work but also a testament to the practical application of the training. The session was fruitful, with the completion of a crocheted flower bouquet, a tangible product of their newly acquired skills.

In addition, Asst. Prof. Earvin John J. Medina talked about product development and innovation of crocheted products, and Dr. Pamela F. Resurreccion on quality control and waste disposal, further equipping the women with the necessary knowledge to continue their production.

The three-day training concluded with the Digkilaan women expressing their gratitude for the time and effort spent teaching them crochet and managing the production process of handicrafts. The women are now eager to create crocheted products and showcase them to the public.

## MSU-IIT remains among top 1000+ universities worldwide in 2024 THE Impact Rankings, shows remarkable progress in SDGs

by Michelle Jeanne Casiple Caracut | Jun 13 2024

Mindanao State University-Iligan Institute of Technology (MSU-IIT) has once again secured its place among the top 1000+ universities worldwide in the prestigious Times Higher Education (THE) Impact Rankings for 2024. With an overall score of 54.1 out of 100, MSU-IIT continues to be recognized for its exceptional contributions to global sustainable development goals (SDGs).

The university has shown remarkable progress, surpassing its previous rating of 50.5 and improving by 4 points. This significant development can be largely attributed to MSU-IIT's unwavering commitment to tackling global challenges and making a positive impact on society.

In the ranking, MSU-IIT also proudly stands as the top university in Mindanao with regards to SDG initiatives. The university's commitment to sustainable development is exemplified by its significant progress across multiple SDGs, underscoring its position as a leader in driving positive change in the region.

Among the 17 SDGs set by the United Nations, MSU-IIT has actively participated in 16, showcasing its dedication to various areas of sustainable development.

According to THE, MSU-IIT has shown notable progress in SDG 1: No Poverty, SDG 2: Zero Hunger, SDG 3: Good Health and Well-being, SDG 4: Quality Education, SDG 5: Gender Equality, SDG 7: Affordable and Clean Energy, SDG 11: Sustainable Cities and Communities, SDG 12: Responsible Consumption and Production, and SDG 13: Climate Action.

The University's efforts are particularly commendable in SDG 2: Zero Hunger, where MSU-IIT has made tremendous strides and seen unprecedented growth.

Chancellor Alizedney M. Ditucalan expressed his satisfaction with the university's latest achievement. "This improvement reflects the University's commitment and continuous efforts to address global challenges and contribute to sustainable development."

The young chancellor further emphasized that MSU-IIT will remain dedicated to reviewing and documenting their initiatives as they strive for even greater progress in all areas. This commitment

to continuous improvement highlights the university's determination to make a lasting impact and serve as a catalyst for positive change within the local and global communities.

The recognition bestowed upon MSU-IIT by the THE Impact Rankings reinforces the institution's reputation as a leader in sustainability and global development. It also underscores the university's rich academic environment, which fosters holistic education and empowers students to become active contributors to society.

As MSU-IIT continues to excel in its pursuit of sustainable development goals, the university serves as an inspiration and role model for other educational institutions around the world. With its remarkable progress, MSU-IIT is leading the charge in transforming education and making a meaningful impact on a global scale.



### SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS



EDTUR  
- Kampung/Pasirpan  
- Lirainan/Bayag  
- Rehogen/Pwo  
- Bonsa  
- Asya  
- Mando  
- Umburso



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