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# Gazette

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



MSU-IIT launches Research Week 2024, integrates it into the annual university events

Academics and Research swap Vice Chancellors

MSU-IIT provides more than 19M for 2024 research projects



## Letter from the Editor

In addition to these exciting developments, we bring your attention to other noteworthy changes happening at MSU-IIT. These include the swapping of the two Vice Chancellors, the renaming of the Vice Chancellor for Planning and Development to Strategic Initiatives, as well as the establishment of new facilities on campus. These updates speak to the university's commitment to progress and creating an exceptional learning environment for its students.

Thank you for your continued support, and we look forward to keeping you informed and inspired with more stories of excellence and innovation in the coming months.



## Gazette

The Gazette is the official newsletter of the Mindanao State University - Iligan Institute of Technology (MSU-IIT), published by the Office of Communications (OfCom) with an office above the Office of the Chancellor.

Dear Readers,

Happy 2024!

Exciting developments are underway at MSU-IIT. In this issue of the Gazette, we bring you highlights of recent changes and advancements at the university.

To begin, we are thrilled to announce the establishment of Research Integrity and Compliance Office (RICO). RICO will play a vital role in advancing research and innovation at MSU-IIT, fostering integrity and ensuring compliance with ethical standards. With RICO in place, the university reaffirms its dedication to promoting excellence and ethical practices in research and scholarship.

Alongside the establishment of RICO, we also showcase the recent celebration of MSU-IIT's Research Week. This momentous occasion marks the first of its kind for the university, and it will now become an annual event, included in the academic calendar. Research Week serves as a platform to celebrate the remarkable research achievements of students and faculty, fostering a culture of discovery, innovation, and collaboration.

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## About the Cover

The photo was taken in one of the laboratories at the Premier Research Institute of Science and Mathematics. At the center of the scientist's attention is a circular petri dish, carefully positioned, allowing the scientist to examine its contents with great precision.

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

# Chancellor Ditucalan sets tone for MSU-IIT in 2024

by Michelle Jeanne Casiple Caracut | Jan 08 2024

In a flag-raising ceremony on January 8, hosted by the Office of the Chancellor, Office of Public Information, and Office of the Campus Secretary, Chancellor Alizedney Ditucalan gave his first message of the year to MSU-IIT constituents. He set the tone for the new year with an inspiring address to the MSU-IIT community.

In his message, Chancellor Ditucalan articulated a vision that transcends the symbolism of the flag. "Today, I stand before you with a heart swelling with gratitude. Together, we've crafted an exceptional 2023, and it is because of your unwavering dedication, innovative spirit, and collaborative efforts that our beloved Mindanao State University – Iligan Institute of Technology stands as a beacon of excellence," he said.

Charting a course into 2024, Chancellor Ditucalan outlined a comprehensive agenda focused on elevating MSU-IIT to new heights. He emphasized the abundance of opportunities the year presents, inviting the university to redefine the contours of learning, enhance the scholarly environment, and strengthen the bonds within the university family.

The Chancellor unveiled initiatives, including the development of state-of-the-art facilities like a student center, the College of Health Sciences building, a manufacturing hub, and the improvement of the university facade.

Acknowledging the global landscape, MSU-IIT aims to embrace international collaboration by hosting international conferences this year and welcoming foreign academic leaders. According to the Chancellor, the University is also committed to fostering Research Excellence, propelled by a dedicated focus on projects like the ANTENA and Sociology Roadmap.

Furthermore, MSU-IIT is poised to achieve global recognition, working towards AUN-QA Accreditation this year as a testament to its enduring promise of quality education.

Chancellor Ditucalan emphasized the importance of unity and collaboration, urging the MSU-IIT community to persist, continue, and advance together - *Magpadayon* - a Sebuano term for continue.

He underscored the university's commitment to diversity and inclusivity, aiming to sculpt a community that recognizes and celebrates its multifaceted strength.

Chancellor Ditucalan concluded his address with a call to embark on the academic year with a shared vision and collective aspiration. He expressed his hopes for another fulfilling year of growth, innovation, and excellence, urging the entire MSU-IIT community to carry the torch of the university's legacy forward with pride and determination.



# BS Philosophy student receives the AFP ROTC Male Cadet of the Year title

by Kassandra Buenafe, OfCom | Jan 16 2024



Among the 15 Regional Community Defense Group (RCDG) representatives from all over the country, third-year BS Philosophy student, Cadet Colonel Alsadjaik Y Sabdul First Class, was declared by the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) as the 2023 AFP Reserve Officers' Training Corps (ROTC) Male Cadet of the Year.

This feat was a surprise according to Sabdul because he initially applied for the cash incentive allowance for the Chief of Staff Armed Forces of the Philippines (CSAFP) Scholarship. His qualification for the scholarship opened the doors for him to be eligible to apply for Cadet of the Year. The 10th RCDG chose him to be the representative for the selection.

The adjudging was carefully done by deliberating their performances in three aspects— interview, training, and recommendation. In one of his interviews with the Generals, he highlighted the importance of one's knowledge of World Geopolitics.

Sabdul also underwent Advanced ROTC Academic Phase Training in July 2023 where he both did physical and academic preparations.

Sabdul is the son of a late soldier and he acknowledges that his father's character is relevant in forging the person that he is right now. When asked about the importance of ROTC in our status quo, Sabdul believes that it is necessary for readiness in unpredicted chaos.

During an interview, Sabdul said that he wants to continue serving the country at a young age while pursuing the path he wants to take with a Philosophy degree. According to Sabdul, studying philosophy has greatly helped him in his perspective and attitude toward ROTC.

“Being a Philosophy student, it’s not just about questioning the system but also understanding why the system happens and why it’s continuing” he said. He further added that while the principle of the military is to comply and serve, being a cadet with a background in philosophy influences one to be more critical.

He hopes that being the Cadet of the Year will shift some perspectives on the military and will paint the picture that someone embodying the IITian values can be part of this field as well. He wants to work in the academe when he graduates.

# 5 newly-refurbished CEBA rooms inaugurated

by Michelle Jeanne Casiple Caracut | Jan 22 2024

In a simple turnover ceremony held on January 15, the MSU-IIT National Multi-Purpose Cooperative (NMPC) showcased its commitment to education by funding the refurbishment of five classrooms within the College of Economics, Business and Accountancy (CEBA). The 3M renovation project is poised to enhance the learning environment for CEBA students and faculty alike.

The ceremony, attended by key figures from both MSU-IIT and MSU-IIT NMPC marked the culmination of months of collaborative effort to revitalize educational spaces within the institution. The refurbished classrooms boast a modern and clean design aimed at providing an optimal setting for classes. These enhancements are expected to contribute to a more engaging and interactive learning experience for students pursuing various disciplines within CEBA.

In the ceremony, CEBA Dean Dr. Maria Rizalia Teves shared that after 57 years at MSU-IIT, the college has shown signs of aging and deterioration, necessitating a crucial renovation. With the recent refurbishments to its five classrooms, she said that students will no longer find themselves in the predicament of having to use umbrellas during rain while attending classes. Additionally, both faculty and students can now enjoy a more conducive learning environment, free from the disturbances of external noise and the discomfort of heat.

Dr. David N. Almarez, Chair of the Board of Directors of MSU-IIT NMPC, highlighted the cooperative's dedication to supporting educational initiatives that uplift both the institution and the community it serves. He said that this project aligns with the cooperative's broader mission of fostering sustainable development and social responsibility. Almarez added that "MSU-IIT NMPC is willing to return back the favors in the help that MSU-IIT has given it in the process of growing to be a 2.5B cooperative this time."

Chancellor Alizedney Ditucalan, in his acceptance speech, conveyed his gratitude for the cooperative's generous funding allocated for the classroom renovation. He underscored the significance of enhancing learning spaces, stating that it is fundamental and contributes to an enriched learning experience for students. Additionally, he highlighted the positive impact on faculty members, presenting them with opportunities to enhance their teaching methodologies. Chancellor Ditucalan also reiterated the University's commitment to maintaining and improving all academic spaces, both internal and outdoor spaces, under the current top management.



"Prof. Metillo, as we know, formerly held the post of Director for Research of MSU-IIT, and was recognized by the National Academy of Science and Technology (NAST) as an Outstanding Young Scientist of the country. He is also a National Research Council of the Philippines (NRCP) Lifetime Achievement Awardee," Chancellor Ditucalan said.

## Academics and Research swap Vice Chancellors

by Office of the Campus Secretary | Jan 22 2024

**Prof. Ephrime B. Metillo, PhD**

*VICE CHANCELLOR FOR RESEARCH AND ENTERPRISE*

The Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs and Vice Chancellor for Research and Enterprise are switching places in a move that is seen to benefit the greater University.

With last week's release of their Special Orders from MSU's Office of the President, VCAA Prof. Ephrime B. Metillo will take over the Office of the Vice Chancellor for Research and Enterprise (OVCRE) while VCRA Prof. Gaudencio C. Petalcorin, Jr., will head the Office of the Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs.

"We are confident that this switch will optimize these two important offices and benefit our University," Chancellor Alizedney M. Ditucalan said.

"Prof. Petalcorin is bringing with him his stellar experience as an administrator, and academic affairs is not new terrain for him," Chancellor Ditucalan said.





**Prof. Gaudencio C. Petalcorin, Jr., PhD**

VICE CHANCELLOR FOR ACADEMIC AFFAIRS

Prof. Petalcorin is a faculty member of the Department of Mathematics and Statistics of the College of Science and Mathematics (CSM) who earned his PhD in Mathematics from UP Diliman and Australian National University.

He has served as MSU-IIT's Vice Chancellor for Research and Enterprise since April 2022. Prior to that, Prof. Petalcorin held the post of Vice Chancellor for Planning and Development from 2019 to 2022. He was also Director for International Affairs (2018 - 2020) and Director for Undergraduate Programs (2018) of MSU-IIT.

Prof. Petalcorin's administrative experience includes four years of being Vice President for Academic Affairs, Research, and Extension of Butuan's Northern Mindanao State Institute of Science and Technology (NORMISIST), before integration into the Caraga State University.

He also served as College Dean of NORMISIST's College of Engineering and Information Technology as well as Campus Dean of said Institute's Cabadbaran Campus.

Prof. Metillo is a faculty member of CSM's Marine Science Department who earned his PhD in Aquatic Zoology from Australia's University of Tasmania.

He was recognized in 2007 by the NAST, the highest recognition body for science and technology, as an Outstanding Young Scientist of the Philippines. In 2018, Prof. Metillo was given the Lifetime Achievement Award (Biological Sciences) by the NRCP, the most prestigious research council in the country. He currently chairs the NRCP's Mindanao Cluster.

Prof. Metillo has served as Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs since April 2022. He also held the post of CSM Dean from 2019 - 2022. He was also the Director for Research of the OVCRE from 2000-2001.

Prof. Metillo is a former chair and graduate program coordinator of the Department of Biological Sciences of CSM. He also used to be the Director of CHED's Zonal Research Center for Regions IX, XII, and ARMM.

Prof. Petalcorin and Prof. Metillo are two of the top administrators in the Ditucalan administration.

"I see the complementarity of the two. By working together, they can accomplish greater things for MSU-IIT," Chancellor Ditucalan said.

# Planning & Dev't position renamed to Strategic Initiatives

by Office of the Campus Secretary | Jan 31 2024

To capture the evolving functions and responsibilities of the position of Vice Chancellor for Planning and Development (VCPD), the University is changing its name to Vice Chancellor for Strategic Initiatives (VCSI).

The name change would also reflect the more active role the Vice Chancellor is playing in setting and executing strategic University-wide initiatives.

Prof. Pamela Fuentes Resurreccion, current designee to the position, explains that the name change is brought on by the fact that the tasks of the position have clearly expanded beyond strategic planning and project development, monitoring, and evaluation.

"It also sends a strong and clear signal that MSU-IIT is committed to adapting to changes and will continue to drive forward-thinking initiatives," she says.

The use of "Strategic Initiatives", according to Prof. Resurreccion, "aligns with modern organizational trends that prioritize flexibility, innovation, the ability to respond effectively to change, and ultimately, the long-term sustainability of the University".

"The management considered that the VC position was overseeing not just P&D initiatives but quality management and quality assurance, policy review and development, and other organizational-level initiatives," she says.

Prof. Resurreccion is a faculty member of the Department of Business and Innovation (formerly Department of Marketing) of the College of Economics, Business, and Accountancy (CEBA).

She served for nearly three years as Director of the Office of Quality Assurance Management Services, a unit under the OVCVD, before being designated VCPD in April 2022.

The Strategic Initiatives name was agreed upon during deliberations of the MSU-IIT Management Committee in December last year after Chancellor Alizedney M. Ditucalan suggested it.

The name change was then approved by the MSU Board of Regents during its 265th meeting held in Quezon City on December 12, 2023.

**Prof. Pamela F. Resurreccion, PhD**  
*VICE CHANCELLOR FOR STRATEGIC INITIATIVES*

Prof. Resurreccion points out that aside from the name change, the board also approved the updating of the functions of the position.

"Due to the rationalization of the mandates of the office, the Office of Business Affairs (OBA) will now be under the oversight of the VCSI," she reveals.

"OBA will be positioned as a strategic office actively engaged in resource generation for MSU-IIT," Prof. Resurreccion adds.

With the name change, Prof. Resurreccion says that the Office of the VCSI will continue to work to provide support to the Chancellor and the organization in planning and development of programs, activities, and projects.

She also announces that there are major initiatives already in the works that include collaborative projects with the Institute for Policy Innovation and Leadership (IPIL) and the Human Resource and Management Division.



## IIT establishes Research Integrity and Compliance Office; Palad is Director

by Office of the Campus Secretary | Feb 01 2024

To ensure all research conducted by University constituents adhere to professional standards and are rooted in integrity and ethical conduct, MSU-IIT is establishing the Research Integrity and Compliance Office or RICO.

RICO will take over the defunct Institute Research and Ethics Committee in helping craft policies and procedures related to research governance and in policing research activities on campus.



Its creation is also just in time for the holding of the two-day Basic Research Ethics Training on campus that opened today. The training is conducted by the DOST's Philippine Health Research Ethics Board, and co-hosted by MSU-IIT and MSU-Marawi.

RICO's creation was green lighted by the MSU Board of Regents last year but its formal establishment on campus only occurred this month when Chancellor Alizedney M. Ditucalan issued Executive Order No. 00006-2024 and designated Assoc. Prof. Eddie Bouy B. Palad as its Director.

Palad is a faculty member of the Information Technology Department of the College of Computer Studies who, until very recently, chaired that department. He is an active researcher with several papers published in scopus-indexed journals.

Palad currently also serves as the Director of the MSU-IIT Fabrication Laboratory (FabLab) Mindanao, the first digital fabrication laboratory in Mindanao that serves as a technical prototyping platform for invention and innovation.

Palad, who is also a lawyer and partner at the Javier, Lim, Cruz, Palad Law Offices, believes that the way for MSU-IIT to safeguard the credibility of its research endeavors and fulfill its responsibility to society is to balance the pursuit of knowledge with ethical considerations.

"We will strive to provide clear guidance on ethical standards, facilitate the ethical review process, ensure transparency and intellectual honesty, and foster a supportive environment for responsible research conduct in MSU-IIT," he said.

Such a supportive research environment has indeed been carefully cultivated on campus as can be seen in the impressive increase in MSU-IIT's research output through the years.

For the year 2023, the Office of the Vice Chancellor for Research and Enterprise reported that the University completed 389 research outputs, surpassing its target of 180. It also reported that 248 research papers were published in scopus-indexed journals and 15 in in-house journals last year.

With the ramping up of research activities on campus, concerns regarding their responsible conduct naturally arise.

It is in this context that the RICO has been established to guide and advise researchers on ethical considerations related to their projects, review and approve proposals, and monitor ongoing research activities to ensure compliance with ethical and regulatory requirements, particularly those involving human and animal subjects.

The office is also mandated to investigate allegations of research misconduct like plagiarism, falsification, data fabrication, and predation/exploitation, if ever there are cases to be reported.

"I hope to implement a robust and effective ethical oversight mechanism to address predatory academic practices and prevent researchers exploiting the research publishing system for personal gain," Palad said

"We should put a stop to those engaging in manipulative tactics to advance their careers or gain undue recognition," Palad said.

Such practices are "detrimental to the pursuit of knowledge," he added.

On the use of Artificial Intelligence (AI) in research being a hot topic, Palad, as a practicing lawyer and IT associate professor, said that he was excited to look into or review research works involving it in IIT.

"The ethical implications of AI, as well as the need for responsible and transparent AI practices, are also prominent aspects of research discussions in today's academic landscape," he said.

The RICO is an office lodged directly under the Office of the Chancellor that seeks to foster a culture of research integrity and ethical conduct in MSU-IIT.

The RICO will also provide training and education to researchers, students, and staff on various ethical issues, such as responsible conduct of research, data management and sharing, and conflict of interest.

The office will also receive disclosures of conflicts of interest arising from the conduct of research, and assist in the mitigation of the conflict.

Palad views his role as RICO Director as a responsibility that is crucial to strengthening MSU-IIT's culture of research integrity.

"Research integrity in a university is essential as it establishes a foundation of trust and credibility, without which the validity of findings is compromised, hindering the progress and the positive impact of research on society," he emphasized.



# MSU-IIT launches Research Week 2024, integrates it into the annual university events

by Kassandra Buenafe, OfCom

To further the ambition of becoming a research-intensive university in Mindanao, MSU-IIT launched and held the first Research Week from March 4-8, 2024 which is now officially included and integrated into the University's annual events.

On its first day, an Opening Program took place at the Gymnasium. The event, attended by University officials, invited guests, faculty and staff members, and students, had the theme “Synergizing Innovation and Interdisciplinarity: Pathways to a Sustainable Future”.

Prior to the Opening Program, a ceremonial cutting of the ribbon was done to formally open the Research and Innovation Expo which was led by Chancellor Alizedney M. Ditucalan who was joined by this year's keynote speaker from UP Manila and the President of the National Research Council of the Philippines, Dr. Leslie Michelle M. Dalmacio; Provincial Director of the Department of Trade and Industry, Ruel B. Paclipan; and other MSU-IIT officials.



The gymnasium was filled with booths of the various colleges and centers, exhibiting research from various disciplines, a testament to the vibrant research community of MSU-IIT. Dr. Ephrime B. Metillo, the Vice-Chancellor leading the office who is spearheading this academic gathering, the Office of the Vice-Chancellor for Research and Enterprise, emphasized that this year's theme underscores the collaborative innovation and interdisciplinarity that results in a more equitable, diverse, inclusive, sustainable, and better tomorrow.

In her keynote address, Dr. Dalmacio banked on the relevance of this year's theme and further highlighted that universities are pivotal in addressing the needs of a technology-driven world. She discussed the benefits of interdisciplinarity and challenged MSU-IIT to always assess its scorecard in its research performance metrics.





Chancellor Ditucalan, in his message, reiterated the roadmap envisioned for MSU-IIT which is to become a research-intensive university, and highlighted that this event is a tangible venture towards interdisciplinary and integrative research for sustainable development. “I say this because our aim this week is not only to showcase our research and innovation projects but also—and more importantly—to encourage a space where everyone has the opportunity to collaborate,” he said.

He also took the privilege of presenting the Premier Research Institute of Science and Mathematics as the Graduate School of the College of Science and Mathematics and the Research Institute for Engineering and Innovative Technology Center as the Graduate School of the College of Engineering.





"We will continue to document our work so that our work continues to generate inspiration. That is ultimately the underlying goal of recognition. We recognize the work that we have done, so that our best practices can be replicated. We recognize the best among us, so that we may emulate their dedication," he said.

The week-long celebration of knowledge and innovation marked a significant step forward in steering MSU-IIT.

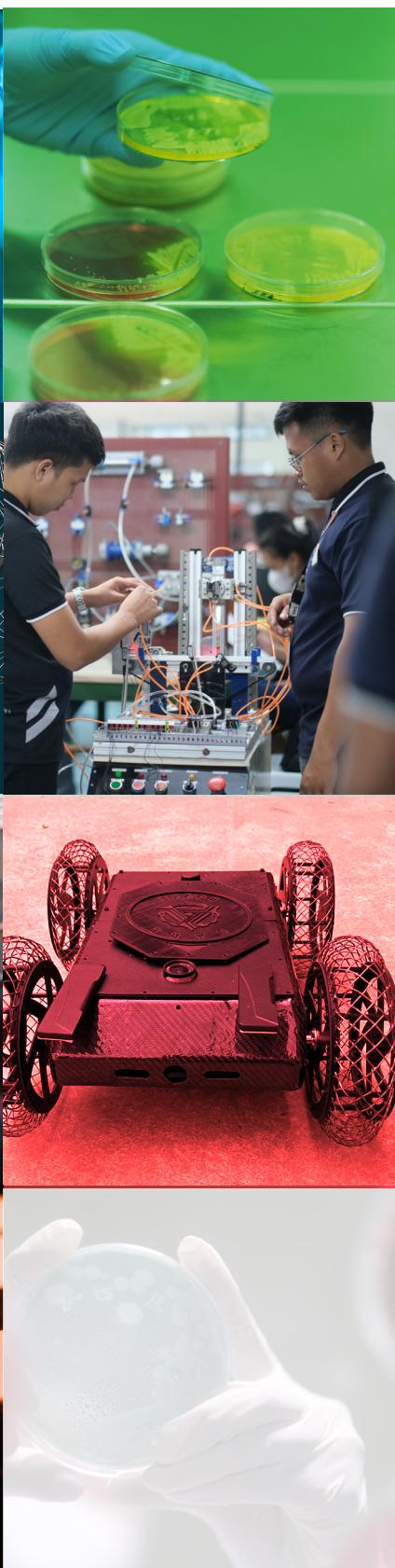
To conclude this scholarly undertaking, a Closing Program and an Awarding Ceremony of Outstanding Researchers was held at the Gymnasium on March 8, 2024, still attended by University officials, faculty members, and students.

The event was made more momentous as the contributions of the faculty members in research were acknowledged. The categories of awards given and granted were Scopus-Indexed Paper; Book and Book Chapter; Best Paper, Poster, Presenter; Creative Works; Internally Funded Project; Externally Funded Project; and Patent Application. A total of 193 awardees were recognized.

In his speech, Chancellor Alizedney M. Ditucalan congratulated everyone for the success of Research Week and highlighted the significance of holding an awarding ceremony.







# MSU-IIT provides more than 19M for 2024 research projects

by Michelle Jeanne C. Caracut | Feb 05 2024

This year, MSU-IIT supports innovative faculty research projects with over 19 million in internal funding, according to a new report from the Office of Research Management.

Following a rigorous evaluation process, 65 research proposals have been submitted and approved for funding and implementation.

Projects receiving support from the University included those under the following categories:

- Applied and Theoretical Science - 1.7M
- Culture, Technology, and Society - 2.3M
- Disruptive Innovation and Smart Nation - 3.7M
- Integrative Resiliency and Sustainable Solutions - 1.8M
- Materials Science - 3.3M
- Natural Products and Biotechnology - 5.3M
- Peace and Governance - 580K
- Teaching and Learning - 709K

Chancellor Alizedney M. Ditucalan expressed enthusiasm about this significant stride in research, and said, "Our faculty researchers are at the forefront of their respective fields, dedicated to pursuing groundbreaking ideas that have the potential to transform our country, our world. The substantial investment in these research projects reflects MSU-IIT's unwavering commitment to excellence in research and innovation."

"This internal allocation of funds is critical to support faculty because this allows them to explore initial concepts and ideas. Subsequently, faculty can leverage these internal funds to seek external funding and forge partnerships that will propel their work to new heights. By supporting diverse initiatives across multiple disciplines, we aim to contribute not only to the advancement of knowledge but also to societal development at large," he added.

In addition to the internally-funded research projects, MSU-IIT has 12 externally-funded research projects in 2024, supported by partner institutions such as the Department of Science and Technology and its sectoral planning councils, R&D institutes, and S&T service institutes.

# MSU-IIT confers Professor Emeritus honorary title to former Chancellor Sukarno D. Tanggol

by Kassandra Buenafe, OfCom | Jan 29 2024

To recognize and honor his significant contributions to the academic community, MSU-IIT confers Professor Emeritus honorary title to former Chancellor, Dr. Sukarno D. Tanggol on January 24, 2024, at the MSU-IIT Gymnasium, during the celebration of the 40th Founding Anniversary of the College of Arts and Social Sciences (CASS). The event was attended by Chancellor Alizedney M. Ditucalan, the University officials, CASS faculty members and students, and the honoree's family.

The Professor Emeritus title is given to a faculty member who has attained formal retirement and is chosen based on their achievements and exemplary service to the University. The awarding of Professor Emeritus rank to Dr. Tanggol was approved during the 264th MSU Board of Regents meeting held last year.

Dr. Tanggol obtained his Doctorate in Public Administration (1992) from UP Diliman, his Master of Public Administration (1985), and his BS in Public Administration (1981) from MSU-Marawi. He was a faculty member at MSU-IIT (1981-1984) and MSU-Marawi (1985-1999) before being appointed ambassador to the State of Kuwait from 1999 to 2002. Most importantly, Dr. Tanggol





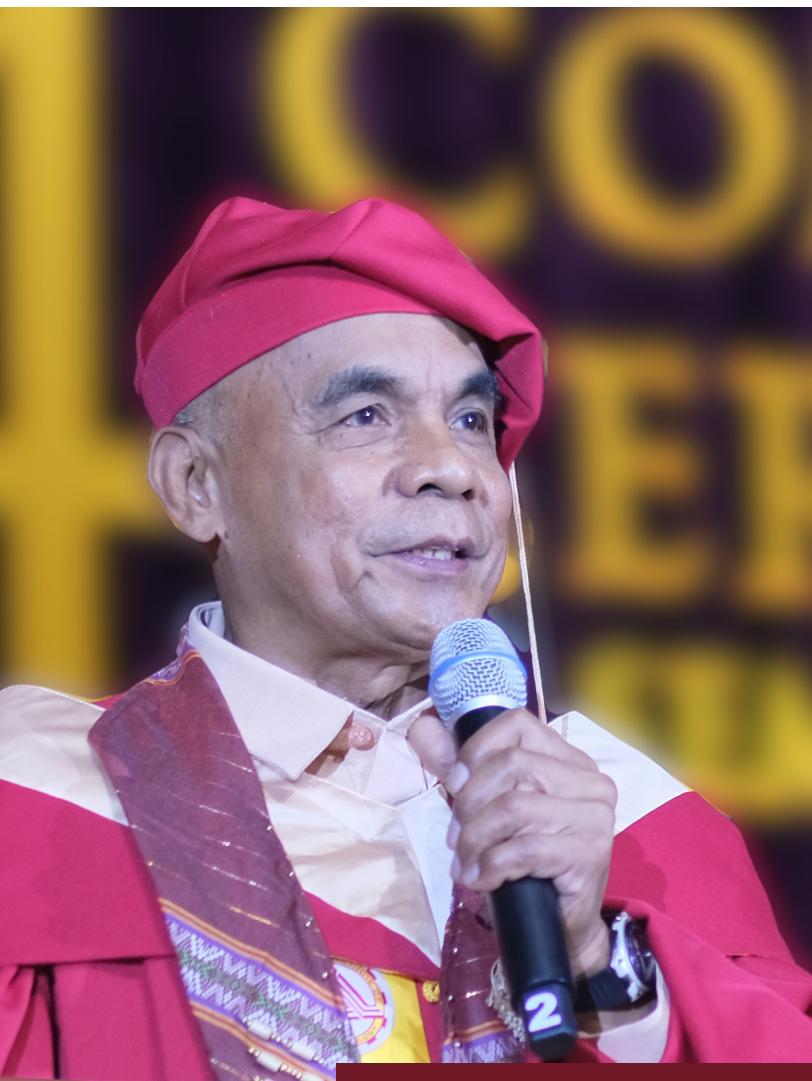
is notable for his contributions and the indelible marks he has made in improving the processes and policies at MSU-IIT during his term as Chancellor from 2011 to 2015 and his reappointment from 2016 to 2022.

He is also a prolific writer who has written a total of four books on the topics of Public Policy and Governance. In addition to his scholarly publications, Dr. Tanggol has also received the following awards: Distinguished Alumni Award in Peace and Social Cohesion from the University of the Philippines Alumni Association; Distinguished Service Award - Silver from the Department of Foreign Affairs; and Certificate of Recognition for Leadership and Solidarity to face the New Normal from the Commission on Higher Education - Region 10.

In his inspirational message during the conferment ceremony, Chancellor Ditucalan spoke of the weight of responsibility he has to carry and the ease that comes with succeeding in an excellent and transparent administration led by Dr. Tanggol. "Chancellor Tanggol's catchphrase was soaring to greater heights. And I will say this: we will be able to influence the future only because we have been able to soar to greater heights," he said.

Dr. Tanggol humbly accepted the award and hoped that he would be able to live up to the expectations attached to it. In his acceptance speech, he shared the four things he plans to pursue: (1) to lecture in at least one major course in the Academic Year 2024-2025; (2) to do research and revise his book on federalism; (3) to do research and write on HEI governance in the Philippines; and lastly, (4) to continue their extension project, an advocacy and awareness effort on federalism.

Being part of the roster of Professor Emeriti at the University and being the first to be awarded from CASS, Dr. Tanggol said in an interview that he is more motivated than ever to fulfill his lifelong goal of working not for himself but for society.



## Former MSU-IIT Chancellor Salazar is Commencement Speaker to 314 midyear graduates

by Michelle Jeanne C. Caracut | Feb 02 2024

Dr. Marcelo P. Salazar, who served as MSU-IIT's Chancellor from 1999-2011, is the University's Commencement Speaker for the 54th Commencement Ceremonies First Semester Graduation (13th Midyear Academic Graduation) held on February 2, 2024 at the gymnasium.

Dr. Salazar began his speech by expressing profound gratitude to Chancellor Alizedney M. Ditucalan for the honor of being the commencement speaker. He highlighted the humbling experience, noting that it was unique as he was not a national figure, unlike many previous speakers with whom MSU-IIT had strategic alliances.



Reflecting on his remarkable journey, Dr. Salazar emphasized the 50th year since joining MSU-IIT in 1973. His loyalty spanned 35 years, contributing significantly until his retirement in 2012. Despite retiring, his dedication and contributions continued, echoing the sentiment that loyalty to the institution never ends.

Addressing the 314 graduates, Dr. Salazar congratulated them for completing their degrees in an institution now recognized as one of the best in the country. Encouraging them to be excellent achievers in their future endeavors, he emphasized the rigorous standards of MSU-IIT, urging them to aspire to become

the best versions of themselves. As a key takeaway, Dr. Salazar imparted a simple yet powerful message: “Be the best version of yourself.”

Dr. Salazar encouraged everyone to focus on the present moment, drawing inspiration from a priest’s words on the past, present, and future. He invoked the lyrics of John Denver’s song “Today,” emphasizing the importance of cherishing the present joys.

Acknowledging the challenge of delivering an inspirational message, Dr. Salazar opted to share his own story, providing insights into his career. Despite initially questioning the relevance of his journey to the graduation theme, “Influencing the Future,” he proceeded to offer a framework and biblical insights for shaping the future.

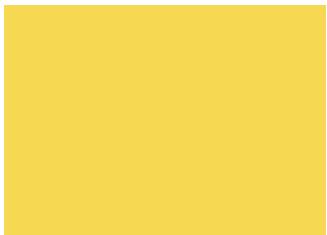
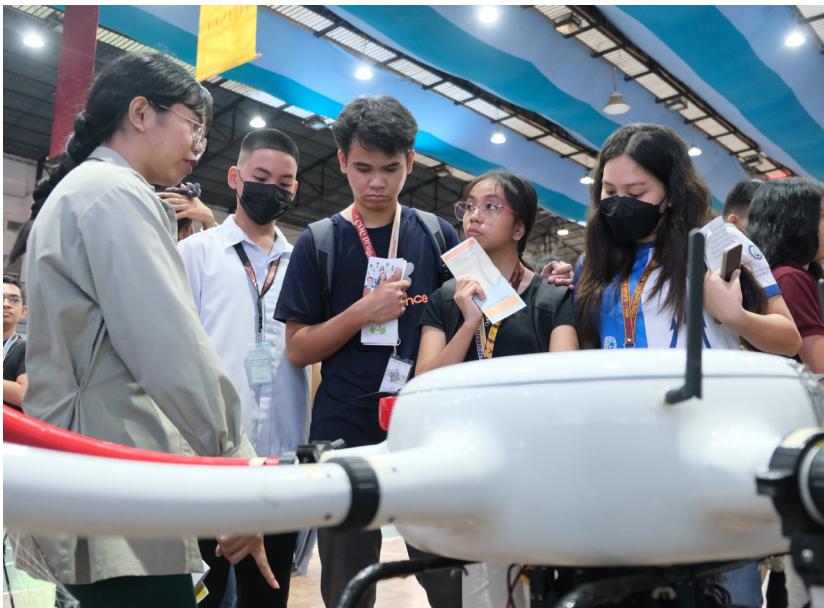
Sharing key lessons from his 50-year career, Dr. Salazar highlighted the role of blessings, humility, and a love for every job undertaken. He emphasized that character formation is crucial for influencing the future, citing biblical virtues like prudence, justice, fortitude, and temperance.

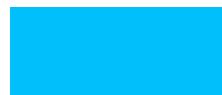
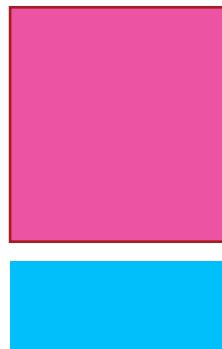
Dr. Salazar concluded by stressing the importance of acting with integrity, building trust, and recognizing a higher power as the source of talents and abilities. He urged the graduates to complement their knowledge and skills with faith and the right character to become effective influencers.

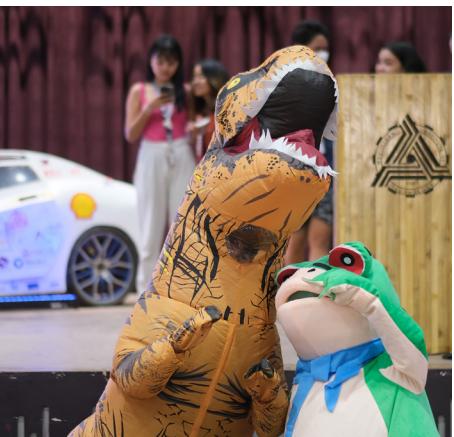
He quoted St. Peter, encouraging the graduates to “make every effort to supplement your faith with virtue, knowledge with self-control, endurance with devotion, and mutual affection with love.”

The Class of 2024 that had 11 Magna Cum Laudes, 80 Cum Laudes, and 9 leadership and activity distinction awardees was led by BSEd Mathematics student, Anthon John P. Legaspi, who had a GPA of 1.35235.

The graduates were conferred their degrees (69 graduate and 245 undergraduate) and titles by Chancellor Ditucalan, who represented MSU President Atty. Basari D. Mapupuno, in the presence of MSU Board of Regents, MSU system and IIT officials.







COLLEGE OF HEALTH SCIENCES  
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