



# Mindanao International Studies Society Convention (MISSCON) 2025

Reconnecting International Studies in Mindanao:  
Weaving Together our Histories, Current Dynamism,  
and Visions for the Future

February 24-27, 2025  
Pinnacle Hotel and Suites, Davao City





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Reconnecting International Studies in Mindanao:  
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The study of the international in Mindanao thrives and continues to integrate nascent transboundary trends into our understanding of the world. Imitating the complexity of indigenous textile patterns, doing International Studies in Mindanao is the active interweaving of a worldview that emanates from the island's rich heritage, contemporary positionalities, and hopeful transitions. Emerging from the five-year pandemic-induced hiatus, the Mindanao International Studies Society (MISS) reconvenes to reconnect the IS community of Mindanao by weaving together our histories, current dynamism, and visions for the future. The 2025 MISS Convention (MISSCON) will allow us to trace our common past, accompany each other in the present journey, and together dream of a shared tomorrow.





# Event Participants

The participants for this convention include the students, faculty members, and alumni of the following organizations in Mindanao:

1. **Ateneo International Studies Students Organization** – Ateneo de Davao University
2. **Ateneo Diplomatic Corps** – Xavier University – Ateneo de Cagayan
3. **International Studies Shogunate** – Mindanao Kokusai Daigaku
4. **Licean Consulat Diplomatique** – Liceo de Cagayan University
5. **La Liga Diplomatica** – University of Southern Mindanao – Main Campus
6. **International Studies Organization of Ateneo** – Ateneo de Zamboanga University
7. **Department of Islamic and International Studies** – RC Al Khwarizmi International College Foundation Inc.



# Program Flow

[February 24] Day 0 - Afternoon		Dress Code
2:00 PM	Hotel Check-in	N/A
Day 0 - Evening		
5:00 – 5:30 PM	Call Time and Registration	Organization Shirt
5:30 – 5:35 PM	Preliminaries <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Opening Prayer</li> <li>• National Anthem</li> </ul>	
5:35 – 5:40 PM	Opening Spiels	
5:40 – 5:45 PM	<b>Opening Remarks</b>  <i>Fr. Karel San Juan, SJ</i> <i>President, Ateneo de Davao University</i>	
5:45 – 6:00 PM	<b>The Genesis of the Mindanao International Studies Society Convention</b>  <b>Fr. Eric Anthony S. Escandor, SJ</b> <i>Chaplain, Ateneo de Davao University – Senior High School</i>	
6:00 – 6:40 PM	Introduction of MISS Member-Schools and their Organizations <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Ateneo de Davao University</li> <li>2. Ateneo de Zamboanga University</li> <li>3. Liceo de Cagayan University</li> <li>4. Mindanao Kokusai Daigaku</li> <li>5. RC Al Khwarizmi International College Foundation Inc.</li> <li>6. University of Southern Mindanao – Main Campus</li> <li>7. Xavier University</li> </ol>	
6:40 – 6:50 PM	Awarding of Certificates to Speakers	
6:50 – 6:55 PM	Grace Before Meals	
6:55 – 7:30 PM	Socials Night Dinner	
7:30 – 7:45 PM	Activity	
7:45 – 7:50 PM	Closing Spiels	
7:50 – 7:55 PM	Photo Opportunity	
End of Day 0		

[February 25] Day I - Morning		Dress Code
7:15 – 7:30 AM	Event Preparations	Business Casual
7:15 – 7:30 AM	Call Time for Assembly of Delegates	
7:30 – 8:30 AM	Breakfast	
9:30 – 9:40 AM	Preliminaries <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Opening Prayer</li> <li>• National Anthem</li> </ul>	



9:40 – 9:45 AM	Opening Spiels
9:45 – 9:50 AM	<b>Opening Remarks</b>  <b>Ms. Krizza Janica B. Mahinay</b> <i>Chair, International Studies Department</i> Ateneo de Davao University
9:50 – 9:55 AM	Introduction to the Plenary Session and Speakers  <b>Day I Theme: Reconnecting Mindanao International Studies</b>  The starting point of the conference is our positionality as students and scholars of International Studies in Mindanao. The morning panel seeks to acquaint participants with the history, present situation, and prospects of Mindanao IS/IR programs. From this positionality we are called to decolonize our view of the world through the integration of the diverse and collective Mindanao experience in our study of the “international.” Decolonizing our positionality ultimately allows us to make a deeper appreciation and more critical self-reflection of pressing issues.
9:55 – 10:25 AM	<b>Plenary Session #1: International Studies from the Periphery: The Past, Present, and Prospects of Mindanao International Studies Programs</b>  <b>Mr. John Harvey D. Gamas, MA</b> <i>Assistant Professor IV, International Studies Department</i> Ateneo de Davao University
10:25 – 10:35 AM	Snacks
10:35 – 11:05 AM	<b>Plenary Session #2: Decolonizing International Studies through Mindanao</b>  <b>Nassef Manabilang Adiong, PhD</b> <i>Director II, Policy Research and Legal Services, BARMM Bangsamoro Transition Authority</i> <i>Professional Lecturer III, Asian Center, University of the Philippines - Diliman</i>
11:05 – 11:35 AM	<b>Plenary Session #3: Unpacking the Sulu Exclusion: Reflections on Moro Nationhood, Self-Determination, and Decolonization Option</b>  <b>Mansoor L. Limba, PhD, SCL</b> <i>Associate Professor, Islamic Studies Department, Ateneo de Davao University</i>
11:35 – 11:55 AM	Open Forum
11:55 AM – 12:05 PM	Awarding of Certificates to Speakers
12:05 – 12:10 PM	Announcements and Closing Spiels

12:10 – 12:12 PM	Grace Before Meals	
12:12 – 12:45 PM	Lunch	
Day I - Afternoon		
12:45 – 1:00 PM	Call Time for Assembly of Delegates	
1:00 – 1:15 PM	Ice Breaker	
1:15 – 4:00 PM	<b>Activity: Weaving our Stories Together</b>  <b>Ms. Maria Lourdes S. Bracerros, MS</b> <i>Assistant Professor, International Studies Department,</i> <i>Ateneo de Davao University</i>	
4:00 – 5:45 PM	Free Time	
Day I - Evening		Conference Shirt
5:45 – 6:00 PM	Call Time for Delegates	
6:00 – 6:05 PM	Opening Spiels	
6:05 – 6:15 PM	Solidarity Message  <b>H.E. Amb. Hjayceelyn M. Quintana</b> Permanent Representative of the Republic of the Philippines to ASEAN	
6:15 – 6:20 PM	Grace Before Meals	
6:20 – 7:20 PM	Socials Night Dinner	
7:20 – 8:05 PM	Presentations per School  1. Xavier University 2. University of Southern Mindanao – Main Campus 3. RC Al Khwarizmi International College Foundation Inc. 4. Mindanao Kokusai Daigaku 5. Liceo de Cagayan University 6. Ateneo de Zamboanga University 7. Ateneo de Davao University	
8:05 – 8:10 PM	Photo Opportunity	
End of Day I		

[February 26] Day 2 – Morning		Dress Code
7:15 – 7:30 AM	Event Preparations	Business Casual
7:15 – 7:30 AM	Call Time for Assembly of Delegates	
7:30 – 8:30 AM	Breakfast	
9:00 – 9:10 AM	Preliminaries <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Opening Prayer</li> </ul>	
9:10 – 9:15 AM	Opening Spiels	
9:15 – 9:20 AM	Introduction to the Plenary Session and Speakers  <b>Day 2 Theme: Reconnecting with the Global Realities, Uncertainties, and Frontiers</b>	

	From our Mindanao context, the conference will then reconnect us to contemporary global realities and invite us to consider possible futures. The presentations will take us to a deep dive of regional and global security trends and uncertainties. We are called to take a closer look at the consequences of the growing complexity of cyberspace to gender, human rights, security, and politics, among others. Rather than cower in this fast-changing world, we are called to proactively engage with it. One such area of engagement is diplomatic practice – a popular career goal of IS/IR students.	
9:20 – 9:50 AM	<b>Plenary Session #1: Regional and Global Security Trends and Outlook</b>  <b>Mr. Lucio Blanco Pitlo, III, MA</b> <i>President, Philippine Association for Chinese Studies Research Fellow, Asia-Pacific Pathways to Progress Foundation</i>	
9:50 – 10:20 AM	<b>Plenary Session #2: Gender and International Security</b>  <b>Atty. Archill Niña Faller-Capistrano</b> <i>Assistant Professor, Political Science Department, University of the Philippines - Cebu</i>	
10:20 – 10:30 AM	Snacks	
10:30 – 11:00 AM	<b>Plenary Session #6: International Relations and Social Media</b>  <b>Dr. Manuel R. Enverga III, PhD</b> <i>Director of European Studies Program, Ateneo de Manila University; Jean Monnet Chair in European Studies</i>	
11:00 – 11:20 AM	Open Forum	
11:20 – 11:30 AM	Awarding of Certificates to Speakers	
11:30 – 11:35 AM	Grace Before Meals	
11:35 AM – 12:45 PM	Lunch	
<b>Day 2 - Afternoon</b>		
12:45 – 1:00 PM	Call Time of Assembly for Delegates	
1:00 – 1:05 PM	Opening Spiels	
1:05 – 1:20 PM	Ice Breaker	
1:20 – 2:20 PM	<b>Mindanao in Philippine-EU Relations</b>  <b>H.E. Massimo Santoro</b> <i>Ambassador of the European Union to the Philippines</i>	
2:20 – 2:40 PM	Open Forum	
2:40 – 2:45 PM	Awarding of Certificate to Speaker	
2:45 – 2:50 PM	Snacks	



2:50 – 3:10 PM	On the Philippines' Foreign Service Officer Examination Department of Foreign Affairs	
3:10 – 3:30 PM	Open Forum	
3:30 – 3:35 PM	Awarding of Certificate to Speaker	
3:35 – 5:30 PM	Free Time	
Day 2 - Evening		
5:30 – 5:45 PM	Call Time of Assembly for Delegates	National Costume
5:45 – 5:50 PM	Opening Spiels	
5:50 – 6:00 PM	Messages from the Consular Corps	
6:00 – 6:05 PM	Grace Before Meals	
6:05 – 7:05 PM	Social Nights Dinner	
7:05 – 7:35 PM	Awarding Ceremony	
7:35 – 7:45 PM	Turn-Over of MISSCON Hosting	
7:45 – 7:50 PM	Closing Remarks  Ms. Hannah Nicole Bitana <i>Executive Director, Mindanao International Studies Society Convention (MISSCON) 2025</i>	
7:50 – 8:00 PM	Photo Opportunity and Egress	
End of Day 2		

[February 27] Day 3 - Morning		Dress Code
7:30 – 8:30 AM	Breakfast	N/A
11:00 AM	Hotel Check-out	



# About the Speakers



**Fr. Eric Anthony S. Escandor, SJ** is the newest member of the Davao Jesuit Community. Fr. Eric earned his AB in International Studies from Xavier University-Ateneo de Cagayan in 2003, his bachelor's degree in Sacred Theology from the Loyola School of Theology in 2014, and a Master's in Pastoral Ministry from Ateneo de Manila University in 2016. He joined the Society of Jesus in 2003, ordained a priest in 2014, and recently completed his Tertianship in Australia. Fr. Eric has held various roles within the Jesuit community, including teaching at Ateneo de Davao Junior High School and serving as a Campus Minister, Chaplain at Xavier University Junior High and Grade School, and Director of the Philippine Jesuit Province Vocations and Candidacy House. As Vice President of the Ateneo Diplomatic Corps of Xavier University, he was one of the organizers of the first ever Mindanao International Studies Society Convention (MISSCON) in 2003.

**John Harvey D. Gamas** is an Assistant Professor of the International Studies Department, Ateneo de Davao University. He previously served as chair of the said department from 2015-2023 and is currently the managing editor of *Tambara*. He earned his bachelor's degree in International Studies, major in Asian Studies and minor in Philosophy, Magna Cum Laude, from the same institution. He obtained his Master of Arts in International Studies, major in European Studies, from De La Salle University. In 2017, he was selected by the US State Department to attend the Study of the United States Institute (SUSI) on US Foreign Policy at Bard College, New York. He is a member of the board of trustees and Vice President for Conferences of the Philippine International Studies Organization (PHISO). He is also a member of the Board of Trustees of the European Studies Association of the Philippines (ESAP) and the Asian Studies Association of the Philippines (AsiaPhil). His research interest focuses on Non-Western International Relations, international history, Southeast Asian and Mindanao Studies.



**Nassef Manabilang Adiong** is the founder of four academic network associations (International Relations and Islamic Studies Research Cohort, Philippine International Studies Organization, Decolonial Studies Research Network, and the Bangsamoro Research and Legal Network); the founding Chief Editor of *International Journal of Islam in Asia* (Brill Publishers), *Islam and Global Studies* series (Springer), *International Relations in Southeast Asia* series (Routledge), *Islam in Southeast Asia* series (Palgrave Macmillan), *Islam in the Philippines* series (IIUM Press), and *Islam and International Relations* series (Gerlach Press); authored *Decolonizing Religion: Wishful Thinking or a Real Possibility* (2023), *The Indigenous Peoples' Rights in the Bangsamoro Local Governance Code* (2023), *Decolonial Approaches to Legislation in the Bangsamoro Context* (2023), *The Irony of Systemic Racism in the Global South Academy: How 'Othering' Perpetuates the Western Colonisation of Knowledge* (2021), *The Evolution of Islamic Education in the Philippines*

(2020), *Muslim Views of the Polity: Citizenry, Authority, Territoriality, and Sovereignty* (2019), among others; reviewer of select legislations (both the congress and BARMM Parliament) and articles of *Journal of Law and Religion* (Cambridge University Press), *Foreign Policy Analysis* (Oxford University Press), *Critical Research on Religion* (SAGE Publications), *Millennium: Journal of International Studies* (SAGE Publications), *Sociological Research Online* (SAGE), *Third World Quarterly* (Routledge), *NRCP Research Journal* (DOST-NRCP), *Asian Journal of Women's Studies* (Routledge), *Kritika Kultura* (Ateneo de Manila University), etc.; and presently the Director of the Bangsamoro Parliament's Policy Research and Legal Services as well as Professorial Lecturer at UP Diliman's Asian Center and Miriam College's International Studies department.

**Mansoor L. Limba, PhD, SCL** is an Associate Professor of Islamic Studies at Ateneo de Davao University and a Shari'ah Counselor-at-Law. He is a dedicated scholar of international politics, Islamic studies, and interfaith dialogue. He is recognized in the AD Scientific Index as among the Top 5 scholars at Ateneo de Davao and among the Top 15 in the Philippines in the fields of History, Philosophy, and Theology. Moreover, he was awarded the prestigious 13th International Farabi Award in 2022 in Humanities and Islamic Studies and has served as the Fellows Programme Regional Coordinator for South and Southeast Asia at the King Abdullah bin Abdulaziz International Centre for Interreligious and Intercultural Dialogue (KAICIID). He has been a featured speaker at numerous forums and events, where he has provided valuable insights on the Palestinian Question. He is also the author of "The Power of International Quds Day in Cyberspace," and is actively involved in areas such as conflict resolution, legal pluralism, and Islamic personal finance. Beyond the academia, he is a publisher-entrepreneur and a strong advocate for financial education, the halal industry, and youth development through chess.



**Lucio Blanco Pitlo III** is a foreign policy and security analyst. He is the President of the Philippine Association for Chinese Studies and a Research Fellow at the Asia-Pacific Pathways to Progress Foundation. He was a Taiwan Fellow and a Visiting Scholar at the National Chengchi University Department of Diplomacy and Center for Foreign Policy Studies in Taipei. He was a lecturer at the Chinese Studies Program of the Ateneo de Manila University and the International Studies Department of the De La Salle University. Mr. Pitlo was formerly a technical assistant with the National Coast Watch Council Secretariat, now known as the Presidential Office for Maritime Concerns. He also served as a research associate and consultant for several projects on maritime issues and Philippine foreign policy. He obtained his Master of Laws from Peking University. His commentaries and analyses on Philippine security and foreign policy and Southeast Asian affairs appear in the *South China Morning Post*, *China-US Focus*, *Asia Times*, *CSIS Asia Maritime Transparency Initiative*, and *The Diplomat*.



**Archill Niña Faller-Capistrano** is an assistant professor for Political Science and the coordinator of the Office of Anti-Sexual Harassment of the University of the Philippines Cebu. She is also the chairperson of the Board of Trustees of the Children's Legal Bureau (CLB) and the immediate past president of the Philippine International Studies Organization (PHISO). Her research interests include liquid modernity, human trafficking, gender and human rights in international relations.



**Dr. Manuel R. Enverga III** is the Director of Ateneo de Manila University's European Studies Program and is the first Philippine academic to have been conferred the prestigious Jean Monnet Chair in European Studies by the European Union. The distinction is awarded to academics who have made recognizable contributions to research and teaching in the field of European Studies. His teaching and research include topics on EU-Philippine relations, digital diplomacy, and global flows. His academic publications have appeared in prominent specialist journals, such as the International Journal of Cultural Policy, Place Branding and Public Diplomacy, and the Journal of Contemporary European Studies. Outside of his academic work, Dr. Enverga also shares his expertise by writing articles for mainstream media publications, providing insights on television news, or conducting workshops, seminars, or lectures for international organizations, diplomats, multinational companies, or Philippine government agencies. Outside of his academic work, he hosts The Eurospeak Podcast, where he and his guests talk about European influences on contemporary popular culture.

**H.E. Massimo Santoro** is the current Ambassador and Head of Delegation of the European Union to the Philippines, a position he has held since September 1, 2024. Prior to this appointment, he served as Head of Division for Policy Coordination and Head of the Office of the Secretary General of the European External Action Service (EEAS). He also headed the Unit for "Human Rights, Humanitarian International Law and Council of Europe" at the Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs, within the Directorate General for Political Affairs. Ambassador Santoro holds a Master's Degree in Diplomatic Studies from the Italian Society for International Organization (SIOI) and a Degree in Law with a specialization in International Studies from the University of Florence.



# Registration Fee

Earlybird Registration (Nov. 5, 2024 – Jan. 15, 2025)	Live-in (Shared)	Live-in (Solo)	Live-Out
	Php 12,000	Php 16,500	Php 7,500
Regular Registration (Jan. 16 – 31, 2025)	Live-in (Shared)	Live-in (Solo)	Live-out
	Php 12,500	Php 17,000	Php 8,000

## Live-in Inclusions:

- Accommodation
- Function Room
- Breakfast, AM Snacks, Lunch, PM Snacks, Dinner
- Delegate Kits

## Live-out Inclusions:

- Function Room
- AM Snacks, Lunch, PM Snacks, Dinner
- Delegate Kits

The mode of payment for the registration fee is through the bank only. The details are as follows:

RCBC	Account Number	Account Name
	9052069330	Mauriz Pagangpang

Should there be any concerns regarding the details of the convention, please message the following contact persons:

### **Hannah Nicole R. Bitana**

*Executive Director, MISSCON 2025*

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### **Heart Haezel M. Gacayan**

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