

URDANETA CITY UNIVERSITY STRENGTHENS PARTNERSHIPS WITH GOVERNMENT AGENCIES TO ADVANCE WATER SECURITY AND SDG 6

Introduction

In pursuit of the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goal 6 (SDG 6): Clean Water and Sanitation, Urdaneta City University (UCU) continues to take proactive steps to promote water security through strong collaborations with local, regional, national, and international government agencies. Recognizing that access to clean and safe water is a shared responsibility, UCU integrates education, research, and community service with policy and governance efforts to ensure the sustainable management of water resources for present and future generations.

Collaborating for Local and Regional Water Security

At the local and regional levels, UCU works closely with Urdaneta City's Environment and Natural Resources Office (CENRO), the City Agriculture Office, and surrounding barangay councils to monitor water usage and improve community awareness on conservation practices.

Key initiatives include:

- Community water assessment projects, where UCU faculty and students gather data on water availability, quality, and distribution.
- Rainwater harvesting demonstrations and water conservation seminar for households and local schools.
- Tree planting and watershed rehabilitation programs to protect water recharge zones and reduce runoff.



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National Partnerships for Sustainable Water Governance

At the national level, UCU actively supports programs of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR), Department of Science and Technology (DOST), and Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH) related to clean water systems, wastewater management, and sustainable extraction practices.

UCU researchers and students participate in national conferences and technical workshops focusing on:

- Water quality monitoring and testing standards.
- Innovation in low-cost purification and filtration technologies.
- Policy formulation for equitable water distribution and sustainable groundwater use.

The university's collaboration with these agencies helps translate research into policies that safeguard water security while promoting inclusive access across Philippine communities.

Global Engagement and Knowledge Exchange

Beyond the national level, UCU also engages in international collaborations that align with global best practices in water management. The university participates in academic exchange programs, research partnerships, and virtual conferences under initiatives supported by UNESCO, ASEAN University Network (AUN), and Southeast Asian Ministers of Education Organization (SEAMEO).



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Research and Policy Contributions

UCU's Center for Environmental Research and Sustainability serves as a vital hub for data-driven decision-making on water security. The center conducts multidisciplinary studies that inform local government policies and resource planning.

Recent research includes:

- Mapping groundwater levels to identify zones at risk of depletion.
- Developing community-based monitoring tools for water quality.
- Assessing the social impacts of water scarcity in rural communities.

By providing credible research and policy recommendations, UCU helps local and national agencies design more effective and sustainable water management programs.

Community Education and Capacity Building

Understanding that sustainable water management starts with awareness, UCU extends its advocacy through education and capacity-building programs. The university organizes training sessions, forums, and extension services that empower citizens, teachers, and youth leaders to become water stewards in their communities.



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