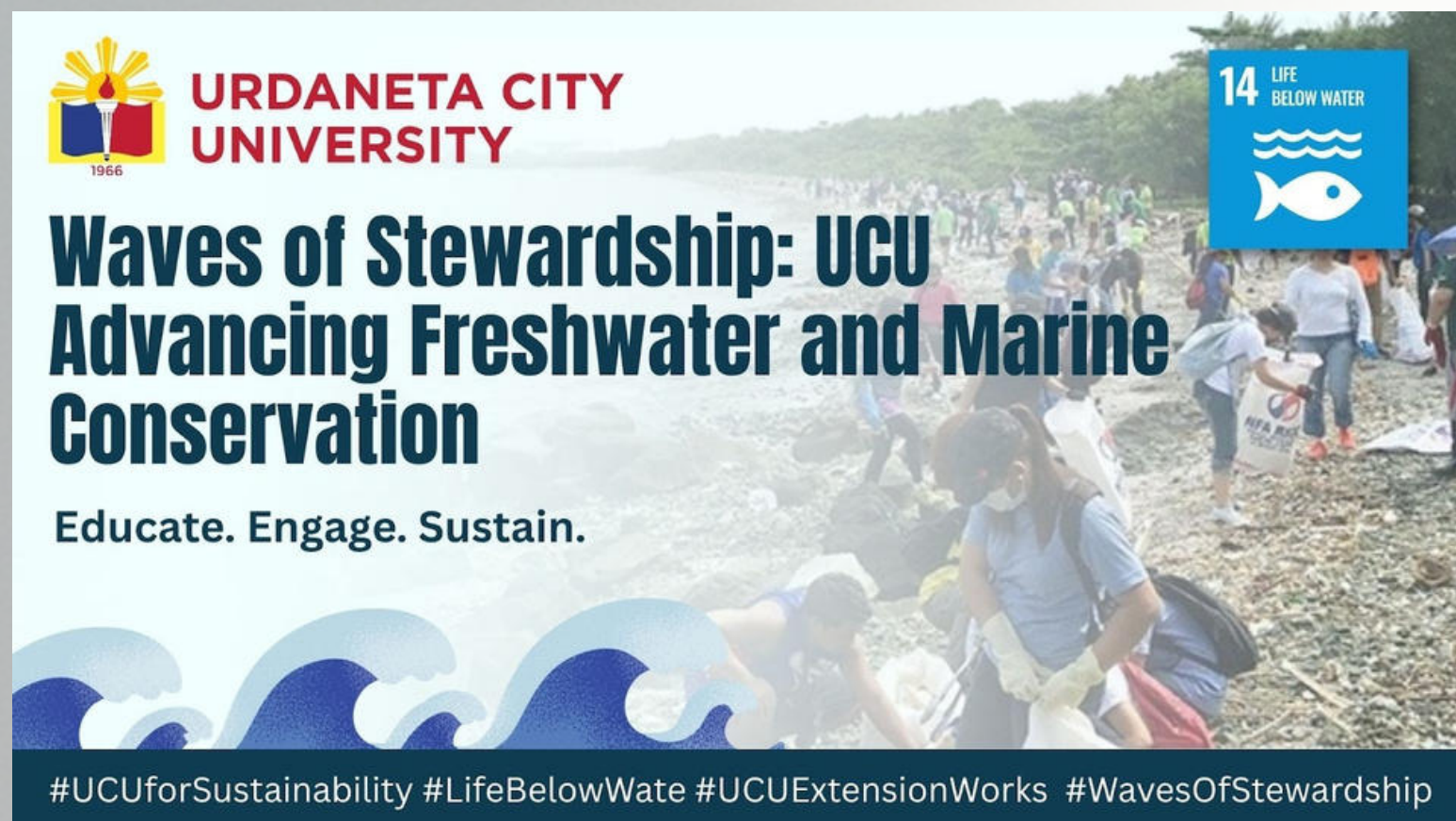




URDANETA CITY UNIVERSITY: ADVANCING FRESHWATER AND MARINE CONSERVATION THROUGH EDUCATION AND COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Urdaneta City University (UCU) upholds its strong commitment to the United Nations Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 14: Life Below Water by promoting the conservation and sustainable use of aquatic resources through education, research, and community engagement. The University ensures that its initiatives and partnerships reflect policies supporting the sustainable harvesting and management of aquatic ecosystems.



Through the Center for Community Development and Extension Services (CCDES) and Training Services Unit, UCU implements programs that build community awareness and technical capacity in responsible aquaculture, water resource management, and fisheries conservation. In partnership with Pangasinan State University–Binmaley Campus, the University conducts training on freshwater management, catfish (hito) culture, hydroponic systems, and water reuse. These initiatives equip farmers, fisherfolk, and local leaders with sustainable techniques that balance livelihood development with environmental protection.

UCU's outreach programs also extend to coastal resource management and sustainable aquaculture practices. Workshops and demonstrations on pond management, hatchery operations, post-harvest handling, and disease prevention emphasize low-impact and eco-friendly approaches that help improve productivity while preserving marine biodiversity. Collaboration with the Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources (BFAR), local government units, and regional academic institutions reinforces the University's advocacy against overfishing and destructive fishing practices, promoting instead community-based management and responsible resource use.

Within its campus, UCU integrates water and resource conservation in its daily operations. The installation of low-flow systems, rainwater harvesting units, and student-led environmental initiatives like "Bayanihan sa Unibersidad" (University Clean-Up Drive) reflect its continuing effort to model sustainable practices institution-wide.

Through these integrated actions, Urdaneta City University demonstrates a clear institutional policy and practice supporting the sustainable use of aquatic ecosystems. By combining education, research, and policy-based engagement, UCU continues to nurture environmentally conscious communities and future professionals dedicated to safeguarding freshwater and marine resources for future generations.

MAKE SDG#14 A REALITY

