UCU STRENGTHENS GLOBAL COMMITMENT TO PEACE AND SUSTAINABILITY THROUGH PARTNERSHIP WITH GLOBAL PEACE FOUNDATION

Urdaneta City University (UCU) continues to advance its mission of fostering education that promotes peace, sustainability, and global citizenship through international collaboration. In a milestone initiative, the University formalized a strategic partnership with the Global Peace Foundation (GPF) on November 17, 2023, marking its active engagement in global and regional networks that support the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)—particularly SDG 4 (Quality Education) and SDG 16 (Peace, Justice, and Strong Institutions).

The Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) was signed in a ceremony graced by key representatives, including Mr. Ingil Rai, GPF ASEAN Representative, members of the GPF Board of Directors, Dr. Christine Nabor-Ferrer, Regional Director of the Commission on Higher Education (CHED) Region I, and Dr. Sonny Soriano, UCU's Director for External Affairs and Linkages. The event symbolized a shared vision between academia, government, and civil society in cultivating education as a tool for sustainable peace and development.

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UCU's partnership with the Global Peace Foundation is not an isolated effort. It was part of a broader regional collaboration involving several higher education institutions in Northern Luzon—such as Ilocos Sur Polytechnic State College, Pangasinan State University, Unibersidad de Dagupan, University of Eastern Pangasinan, University of Pangasinan, University of Luzon, Lyceum Northwestern University, Virgen Milagrosa University Foundation, and WCC Aeronautical and Technology College. Together, these institutions affirm a unified front in promoting peace education and SDG-aligned initiatives across the region.

Through this collaboration, UCU seeks to develop innovative programs and research initiatives that integrate peacebuilding and sustainability into academic and community contexts. These include faculty and student engagements in leadership development, intercultural understanding, and service-learning activities that connect local action with global goals.

The partnership underscores UCU's long-term commitment to act as a bridge between education and social transformation, recognizing that achieving the SDGs requires collective effort across sectors and nations. By collaborating with international organizations like the Global Peace Foundation and with government agencies such as CHED Region I, UCU demonstrates how higher education can serve as a catalyst for enduring peace, equity, and inclusive development.

As UCU continues to expand its global partnerships, the University stands firm in its mission—to deliver transformative education that not only shapes competent professionals but also cultivates compassionate, socially responsible global citizens dedicated to building a peaceful and sustainable world.

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