

GLOBAL HORIZONS: OUR JOURNEY TO INTERNATIONALIZATION EXCELLENCE



CHED QUALITY AWARDS 2025

Achievements for the Period of June 2024 to May 2025

Together, we achieve greater outcomes!!!!



INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS AND LINKAGES OFFICE

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ILOILO STATE UNIVERSITY OF FISHERIES SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

VISION: A leading and empowering research university in fisheries, agriculture, and technology in Southeast Asia by 2030.

MISSION: To produce globally competitive and empowered graduates in fisheries, agriculture, education, and technology, and to capacitate individuals and communities towards sufficiency for nation-building.

"Iloilo State University of Fisheries Science and Technology (ISUFST) is committed to the continuous development of academic institution advance knowledge, skills and values in educating students by promoting a culture of excellence in high quality teaching training and research, service to community and consultancy towards life-long learning to teach the minds, touch the hearts and transform the lives of graduates for nation-building."

INSTITUTIONAL OBJECTIVES

- Produce quality graduates who will contribute to the advancement of their chosen field.
- Conduct viable researches, develop and disseminate technologies, and provide technical assistance to the community for an increased production.
- Offer courses that are responsive to the needs of the community and industries for national development.
- Promote self-employment and entrepreneurship.
- Strengthen opportunities for student scholarship and access to quality education. Promote faculty and staff development.
- Strengthen and develop linkages with other agencies or institutions to achieve the goals and objectives both in the national and international levels.
- Improve facilities and structures that will efficiently and effectively carry out quality instruction, research and development, extension, and production.

GUIDING PRINCIPLES

I S D A

Integrity is not only about the quality of being honest and having strong moral principles; it is also the state of being whole and undivided. Integrity for the men and women of ISUFST encompasses professionalism, accountability, and therefore, as public servants, service to the Filipino people.

Aside from it being a guiding principle in framing the Philippine constitution, **S**ocial Justice is the ISUFST view that everyone deserves equal economic, political, and social rights and opportunities. *Social Justice*, the ISUFST way, is empathy, from which results the educational means to help other social institutions bridge the gap between poverty and progress among the Ilonggo families.

As a guiding principle, it refers to the importance of fostering a culture of academic rigor, personal responsibility, and respect for others. It means creating an environment where students are challenged to learn and grow and where they are held accountable for their actions. **D**iscipline in this context is not about punishment, but rather about self-regulation and making responsible choices. It is about creating a community of learners committed to academic excellence and their peers' well-being.

ISUFST's **A**cademic excellence is not only about producing globally competitive, innovative, and empowered graduates in fisheries, agriculture, and technology but also, and more importantly, about coupling such excellence with virtues in order to capacitate individuals and communities towards sufficiency for nation building—excellence not for its own sake, but for substantive contribution to the sustainable development goals.

INTEGRITY • SOCIAL JUSTICE • DISCIPLINE • ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE





JUNE 2024 TO MAY 2025

Office of International Affairs and Linkages: Advancing Global Engagement

The Office of International Affairs and Linkages (IAL), formerly known as the Office of Advancement and Linkages, operates under the Office of the President to advance internationalization across the university. As the central hub for international and domestic collaborations, IAL facilitates diverse initiatives, including student, faculty, and staff exchanges; academic, research, and extension partnerships; knowledge and resource sharing; professional development programs; and scholarship opportunities. Established in 2014, the office has evolved to reflect its pivotal role in international education, particularly as the first fisheries university in the Philippines. IAL is dedicated to forging partnerships aligned with the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and gender equality initiatives, fostering an inclusive culture, and enhancing global engagement.

In the past year, IAL has successfully fostered collaborative partnerships with various international entities and agencies across Thailand, Indonesia, Japan, France, China, and Vietnam. These collaborations have enabled 43 faculty members to participate in international engagements, including research presentations, seminars, workshops, and immersion programs. A notable achievement includes the "International Fisheries Modeling Training," supported by the French Embassy's Youth and Oceans Fund, which brought together experts from the National Research Institute for Sustainable Development (IRD) and Blue Nations to advance sustainable fisheries practices. Additionally, IAL has facilitated international opportunities for students, with 19 Bachelor of Science in Hospitality Management (BSHM) students completing internships abroad and 10 College of Education (CoEd) students participating in immersion programs.

Promoting global understanding and cultural exchange has been at the forefront of IAL's initiatives. Committed to sustainability and inclusivity, the office champions programs that address global challenges while promoting equitable opportunities. Through workshops, seminars, and interactive sessions, IAL strives to bridge cultural divides and foster mutual respect among diverse populations. The office organizes international conferences and forums, such as the recent online conference on halal food in collaboration with Universitas Brawijaya (UB) and the International ICT Research Colloquium with Universitas Muhammadiyah Sumatera Utara (UMSU), featuring over 20 research projects and international speakers. These platforms convene thought leaders and experts to share insights and innovative solutions while fostering academic collaboration. By embracing different perspectives and traditions, IAL enriches institutional practices and creates a more inclusive environment for growth and innovation.

Looking ahead, IAL aims to expand its network of partners, with upcoming student internship programs in Japan, Taiwan, and Thailand for BSHM and College of Agriculture students, as well as an international conference in Indonesia. These efforts not only enhance our global standing but also empower individuals to become ambassadors of goodwill, paving the way for a more harmonious and interconnected world. Through these initiatives, IAL creates new avenues for intercultural exchange and collaboration, aligning with the United Nations SDGs. By integrating global perspectives into education and research, the office ensures ISUFST remains at the forefront of international fisheries education. Through its unwavering commitment to excellence, IAL aspires to cultivate future leaders equipped to thrive in an interconnected world, driving sustainable development and innovation in the fisheries sector and beyond.

INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS AND LINKAGES

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International Affairs and Linkages of ISUFST



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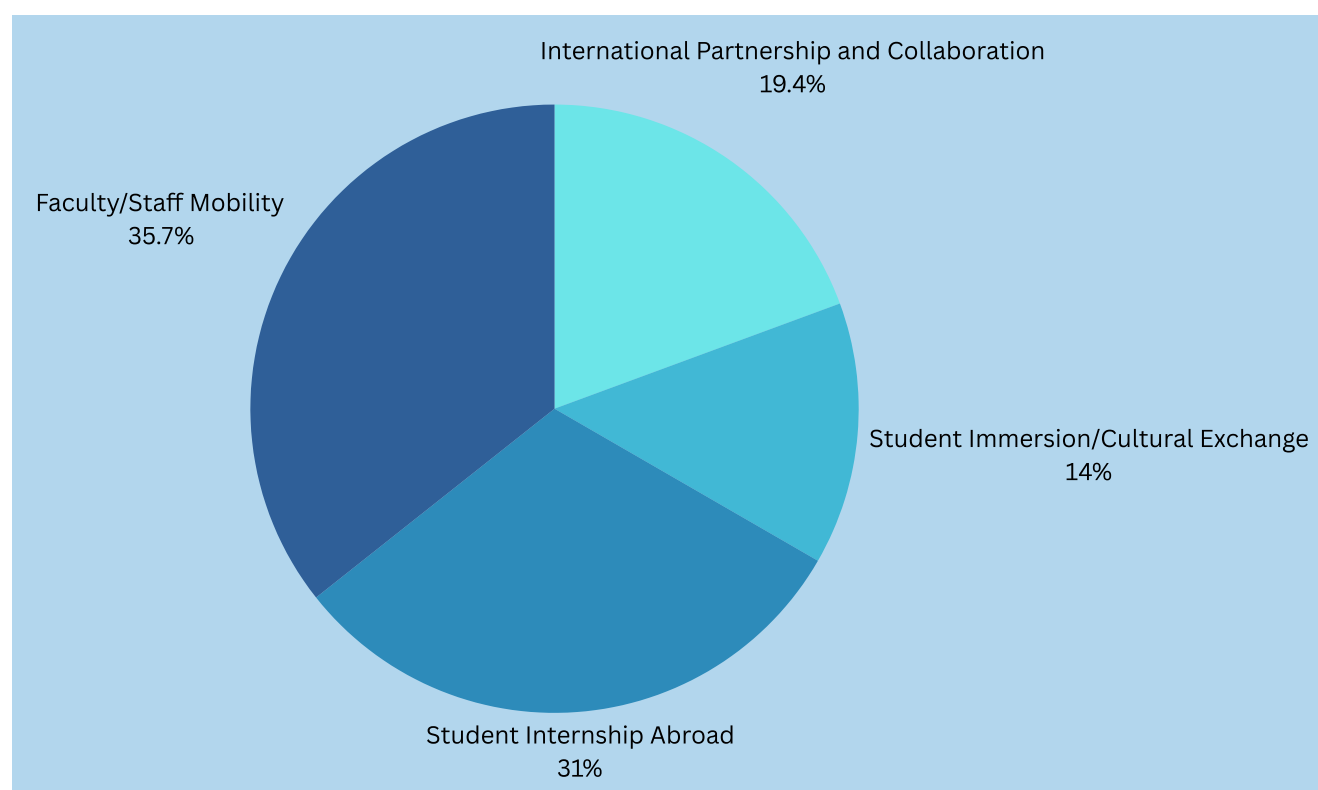


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- **Faculty Mobility & Conferences**
- **Student Internship Abroad Program**
- **Student Cultural exchange program**
- **International research Presentation**
- **International academic and research collaboration – guest lecturers**
- **Forging International Partnerships with MOU**
- **Global Conference and workshop**



INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS AND LINKAGES

Faculty Mobility

ISUFST Prof completes halal food training in Indonesia, plans curriculum integration



Food processing expert Prof. Cjay Soliven, a faculty member of the Iloilo State University of Fisheries Science and Technology (ISUFST) College of Fisheries and Aquatic Sciences (CFAS), has successfully completed the prestigious Short Course on Halal Food Standard Compliance in Jakarta, Indonesia. The course, part of the Commission on Higher Education's (CHED) Higher Education Upskilling and Study for Advancement of Staff and Faculty (HUSAY) Program, ran from November 25 to December 4, 2024, at Universitas Bakrie.

The 10-day training, which covered essential Halal standards, processes, and production aspects, has equipped Prof. Soliven with specialized knowledge that he intends to integrate into ISUFST's Bachelor of Science in Fisheries program. He plans to draw inspiration from Indonesia's well-established Halal ecosystem, applying best practices to the university's curriculum and research. Prof. Soliven, a top 5 Fisheries Technologist Board Exam topnotcher in October 2016, emphasized that this initiative will not only strengthen the program's relevance and standards but also promote inclusivity in the predominantly non-Christian communities of the region.

"The insights gained from today's session will significantly contribute to ISUFST, particularly under the Bachelor of Science in Fisheries program," Soliven said. "By understanding the essentials, standards, processes, and production aspects of Halal compliance, I can help integrate these critical elements into our curriculum. Drawing inspiration from Indonesia's strong Halal ecosystem, we can benchmark and apply similar successful practices."

He also highlighted the opportunity to develop courses and modules focusing on Halal principles and market dynamics, equipping students with competencies in Halal compliance and increasing their employability. "This approach will not only develop our students' competencies in Halal compliance but also raise awareness and foster inclusivity," he added.

Dr. Nurdy D. Siason, Jr., President of ISUFST, expressed support for Prof. Soliven's initiative, stating, "This opportunity reflects ISUFST's unwavering commitment to fostering excellence and integrity in education. By equipping our faculty with specialized training, we are paving the way for our students and community to embrace sustainable practices and innovations."

Prof. Soliven's participation in this program aligns with ISUFST's commitment to becoming a leader in fisheries, agriculture, and technology research in Southeast Asia. His efforts contribute to the university's broader goal of equipping graduates with the specialized knowledge needed to meet industry demands and contribute to sustainable development. (Photos by Cjay Soliven/Text by Herman Lagon/PAMMCO)

Food Processing Expert Prof. Cjay Soliven, a faculty member at the Iloilo State University of Fisheries Science and Technology (ISUFST) College of Fisheries and Aquatic Sciences (CFAS), has successfully completed the prestigious Short Course on Halal Food Standard Compliance in Jakarta, Indonesia.

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ISUFST DELEGATES PARTICIPATE IN PRESTIGIOUS INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE IN CHINA



Dr. Wenda Panes, Professor V and Dean of the College of Computer Studies at ISUFST San Enrique Campus, and Dr. Matthew Lasap, Associate Professor IV and Dean of the College of Education at ISUFST Main Campus-Tiwi Site, represented the university at the 22nd Conference on International Exchange of Professionals in Shanghai and Jinhua, China from November 1-5, 2024. Hosted by China's Ministry of Human Resources and Social Security, the conference themed "Gathering Global Talent, Fostering Win-Win Cooperation" brought together over 133 countries to strengthen global partnerships in education and research. The delegates presented ISUFST's research outputs and extension projects during parallel sessions, showcasing the university's academic contributions on an international platform.

The engagement included benchmarking activities at Zhejiang Normal University in Jinhua City, where the deans participated in best practice sharing sessions organized by the College of Education. Dr. Panes delivered a lecture during the "Voices from Other Countries' Educational Experts" series, highlighting ISUFST's educational innovations. This opportunity enabled the university to foster international collaborations, gain exposure to cutting-edge methodologies, and align its practices with global standards in higher education and research.



ISUFST PROFESSOR COMPLETES AIMS SUMMER INTENSIVE PROGRAM IN JAPAN

A mathematics and science professor at the Iloilo State University of Fisheries Science and Technology (ISUFST), Dr. Herman Lagon, has successfully completed the recently concluded AIMS (Asian International Mobility for Students) Summer Intensive Programme conducted at Hiroshima University, Japan. The program was held under the theme "Future of Higher Learning from Student Perspectives" last August 1-8, 2024.

Dr. Lagon's participation in the program, which brought together 28 students from various countries, including the Philippines, Japan, Singapore, Malaysia, Thailand, Cambodia, China, Nigeria, and Indonesia, was recognized with a certificate signed by Asst. Prof. Dr. Romyen Kosaikanont, Centre Director of SEAMEO RIHED, and Dr. Hotta Taiji, Deputy Executive Director (SGU) and Professor of the IDEC Institute at Hiroshima University. Among the participants, Dr. Lagon was acknowledged as one of the group's elders, being one of only five participants already engaged in graduate studies. The rest of the cohort comprised senior undergraduate students and leaders from diverse fields such as engineering, environmental science, programming, education, microbiology, agriculture, psychology, history, business, international politics, tourism, and law.

Dr. Lagon led his team in formulating a higher education pitch entitled the Free University Microcredential International Hybrid Program, one of the outputs of the Summer Program. The assessors considered this proposal groundbreaking and designed to democratize education on an unprecedented scale and champion social justice by making it accessible and free for all who wish to enhance their employability. Like its five other counterparts, the team presented it to 200 higher education leaders from different Asian universities under the AIMS network last August 8, 2024, at the Hiroshima Peace Memorial Hall at the heart of Hiroshima City. No less than CHED IAS Director Atty. Lily Freida C. Macabangan-Milla affirmed the team's "excellent" performance.

Dr. Lagon, former Director of the Office of International Affairs and Linkages (OIAL) and present Director of the Public Affairs, Marketing, and Media Communications Office (PAMMCO) of ISUFST, is among the four Filipino delegates who passed a rigid screening process done by both the Commission on Higher Education International Affairs Service (CHED IAS) and the Southeast Asian Ministers of Education Organization Regional Centre (SEAMEO RIHED). His nomination was endorsed by the school where he is finishing his PhD in Educational Leadership, the University of St. La Salle (USLS)-Bacolod, one of the few select members of the AIMS program in the Philippines. This marks the first time ISUFST has been represented in the CHED-SEAMEO-RIHED-supported AIMS Program.

Upon arriving at Hiroshima University (HU) on July 31, participants were immediately immersed in their journey with an orientation and campus tour. The activities kicked off on August 1 with ice-breaking exercises and brainstorming sessions, designed to foster interaction and camaraderie among the group. The day concluded with a warm and welcoming dinner, setting a positive tone for the days ahead.

On August 2, students engaged in "Ideas Mining" workshops, aimed at stimulating innovative thinking and collaborative problem-solving. The afternoon featured an educational tour of the Naka Incineration Plant, offering valuable insights into Japan's environmental sustainability practices.

August 3 was dedicated to lectures and discussions at Hiroshima University's Graduate School for International Development and Cooperation (IDEC). Students delved into cutting-edge topics such as "Society 5.0 and the Future of University," "Diversity and Inclusiveness," and "What Makes a Good Teacher?" These sessions, led by distinguished professors, prompted participants to reflect on the future of education and their roles as emerging leaders.

The fourth day centered on preparation for a mid-program presentation. Students received guidance on creating effective presentation slides, enhancing public speaking skills, and overcoming common presentation challenges. In the afternoon, participants presented their initial ideas and insights, applying the knowledge gained from previous sessions.

A pivotal part of the program occurred on August 5 and 6, with visits to Hiroshima's Peace Memorial Park and attendance at the Peace Memorial Ceremony. These experiences allowed participants to reflect on global peace and the profound impact of history on contemporary society. A particularly emotional moment was hearing the vivid accounts of an A-bomb survivor Michiko Kono and a Jesuit priest who narrated how his spiritual director Fr. Pedro Arrupe, SJ, saved the lives of more than 150 survivors at ground zero, providing a deeply personal perspective on the importance of peace and being a person for others.

The final days of the program were dedicated to preparing and delivering final presentations. On August 8, students showcased their learning and group work at the International Conference Center Hiroshima. The delegates also attended the 18th Annual Review Meeting of AIMS, followed by a wrap-up session and a farewell lunch. August 9 marked the end of the program as delegates bid farewell to their colleagues and departed for their respective destinations.

Initiated in 2010, the AIMS Programme has been a transformative experience for about 7,000 students, enriching their education through living and studying in other countries. It facilitates student mobility and collaboration between Asia and other regions in the world, promoting academic and cross-cultural skills development, regional integration, and development, among governments, universities, and students. Many alumni of the program have described their exchange experiences as life-changing and have made significant contributions to regional understanding, cooperation, and friendship.

Dr. Lagon's involvement in the AIMS Programme is a testament to ISUFST's commitment to internationalization, professional development, and collaborative education. By participating in this program, ISUFST further solidifies its role in contributing to the sustainable development of the ASEAN region and Asia as a whole, which is in line with AIMS' goals of fostering globalized human resources and promoting greater inclusivity through multilateral efforts. (PAMMCO)





ISUFST FACULTY, ADMINS EMBARK ON HISTORIC THAILAND INT'L CROSS VISIT

In a groundbreaking move, the faculty and administrators of Iloilo State University of Fisheries Science and Technology (ISUFST) College of Fisheries and Aquatic Sciences (CFAS) went on board on the first-ever international cross visit in the university's 67-year history. This historic visit, which is also the first of its kind in the country in the field of fisheries education, aims to elevate ISUFST's status as a Center of Excellence in Fisheries and achieve higher standards.

The cross visit, taking place from June 1-8, 2024, includes engagements with prominent institutions in fisheries education and technology such as Kasetsart University (KU), the Asian Institute of Technology (AIT), Rajamangala University of Technology Thanyaburi (RMUTT), and the Southeast Asian Fisheries Development Center (SEAFDEC). This initiative is part of ISUFST's Faculty Development Plan, designed to immerse faculty in environments that exemplify cutting-edge research, sustainable collaboration, and robust quality assurance systems.

Dr. Nardy Siason, Jr., ISUFST President, expressed his full support for this endeavor, recognizing its significance in ensuring quality education through a globally competitive faculty. "Change has come to our school. This international cross visit is a testament to our commitment to providing world-class education to our students," Dr. Siason stated. "We are determined to put ISUFST fisheries on the global map and demonstrate why we are the first and only fisheries university in the country."

Dr. Siason further emphasized the strategic importance of this visit. "Our goal is to foster international partnerships and expose our faculty to top-tier educational and technological practices. This initiative will not only enhance our curriculum and research capabilities but also align us with global standards," he added. "With this visit, we are setting the groundwork for future collaborations that will benefit our students and faculty alike."

Dr. Dennis Gomez, Team Leader of the cross visit, highlighted the meticulous planning behind the initiative. "We designed this cross visit to address all the competencies and deliverables raised by Dr. Siason. This strategic engagement is crucial for our goal to achieve higher accreditation levels and enhance our institutional capacity," Dr. Gomez noted. He also extended gratitude to the Board of Regents for their unwavering support. "The team thanks the Board of Regents for allowing us to pursue this project. It will undoubtedly push CFAS to new heights."

The delegation comprises a diverse group of experts, each with specific roles and specializations aimed at maximizing the benefits of the visit. Fish diseases and biotechnology expert Dr. Dennis Gomez, CFAS Research Coordinator, leads the team. Other notable members include Dr. Rolindo B. Demo-os, Jr., Dean of CFAS, specializing in Geographical Information Systems (GIS) Mapping and Marine Fisheries; Dr. Roy C. Villanueva, Director of the Resource Generation Office and Fishpond-in-charge of the school's Brackishwater Commercial Fishpond, focusing on aquaculture; and Dr. Quin Y. Clarito, Chairperson of the BS in Fisheries Program, specializing in marine fisheries.

The team also includes Dr. Lou G. Magbanua, a social science expert; post-harvest and fish processing specialist Prof. Cjay B. Soliven, in charge of the university's Fish Processing Plant and Laboratory; fish biochemistry and microbiology expert Prof. Ma. Roelle D. Silva, in charge of the Fisheries Science Laboratory; and Dr. Edgar M. Hortillosa, Chairperson of the BS in Marine Biology, specializing in marine fisheries and mangrove ecosystems.

Dr. Jescel B. Bito-onon, Director of the Research and Development Office, specializes in coastal resource management, while Prof. Jerry B. Bedonia, a marine biology expert specializing in ichthyology, and Engr. Ermie V. Bedia, specializing in marine and mechanical engineering, round out the team. Dr. Herman M. Lagon, Director of Public Affairs, Marketing, and Communication, is tasked with documenting the whole process and ensuring sustained global collaborations.

Although Engr. Rowen R. Gelonga, a member of the Board of Regents and Director of DOST Region VI, was supposed to join the team, he could not participate due to health reasons. However, DOST's Chief Science Research Specialist, Ms. Juafe N. Abareles, regional focal person for Fisheries, and Senior Science Research Specialist, Ms. Desiree Faith N. Sy, Regional Executive Assistant and Head of the Linkages and External Relations Office (LERO), will also be joining the cross visitation process, on his behalf.

This international cross visit is expected to yield significant outcomes, including documented key programs, curricula, and initiatives from each visited campus, assessments of research agendas and innovation policies, and identified actionable practices for potential adaptation at ISUFST. The initiative will serve as a standard assessment tool, allowing ISUFST to measure its educational and research practices against those of leading ASEAN institutions.

The project has the full support of the Board of Regents, the President, Vice Presidents, Academic Council, and Administrative Council of ISUFST. With the combined efforts and expertise of the delegation, ISUFST is poised to advance its educational offerings, expand international collaborations, and enhance its research capabilities, contributing significantly to the global community of fisheries and marine sciences.

"By engaging with Thailand's premier institutions, we are not just aiming for accreditation; we are striving for excellence that resonates on a global scale," Dr. Siason concluded. "This visit is a milestone in our journey towards becoming a world-class institution in fisheries and marine sciences." (Herman Lagon/PAMCO)



ISUFST VISITS SEAFDEC THAILAND TO EXPLORE COLLAB PROSPECTS

The ISUFST team was welcomed by Mr. Longpathai Saraphaivanich, Head of the Training and Information Section, and his team. The visit began with an exchange of information, highlighting the mandates, thrusts, and services of both institutions, followed by a thorough exploration of SEAFDEC-TD's training areas, equipment, facilities, exhibits, and ship.

The Iloilo State University of Fisheries Science and Technology (ISUFST) delegation visited this Tuesday, June 4, 2024, the Training Department of the Southeast Asian Fisheries Development Center (SEAFDEC-TD) in Phra Samut Chedi District, Samut Prakan, Thailand. This visit is part of ISUFST's initiative to establish partnerships with leading institutions in fisheries and marine sciences.

We hope this partnership will continue to grow," Mr. Saraphaivanich remarked. "Both institutions have much to offer in terms of resources and expertise, and I believe we can achieve great things together."

Established in 1968 and formally operating since 1970, SEAFDEC aims to develop modern fishery technologies and address workforce shortages in marine capture fisheries in Southeast Asia. SEAFDEC-TD is supported by the Government of Thailand and other donor governments, with Japan being the most generous contributor.

The ISUFST delegation, composed of experts in marine fisheries, aquaculture, post-harvest and fish processing, fish biochemistry, and marine engineering, reflected positively on the visit. They recognized the significance of technology transfer and research collaboration in enhancing their educational and research programs. Dr. Jescel Bito-onon, Director of the Research and Development Office at ISUFST, highlighted the visit's importance for future research initiatives. "Understanding SEAFDEC-TD's methodologies and best practices will enable us to develop more effective research projects and improve our overall academic offerings," she said.

"This visit underscores the importance of international collaboration in advancing our technological capabilities and achieving sustainability in fisheries," remarked Dr. Roy Villanueva, an aquaculture specialist.

Dr. Dennis Gomez, the team leader, expressed his optimism about the potential collaboration, stating, "The insights and knowledge we gained from SEAFDEC-TD are invaluable. We look forward to building a strong partnership that will drive innovation and excellence in our fisheries programs."

The visit provided ISUFST faculty and administrators with valuable insights into SEAFDEC-TD's advanced fishery technologies and training programs. Dr. Nopporn Manjit, Marine Fisheries Senior Researcher, emphasized the benefits of collaboration, stating, "Sharing our knowledge and technology with ISUFST will not only enhance their capabilities but also contribute to the sustainable development of fisheries in Southeast Asia."

Dr. Rolindo Demo-os, Dean of CFAS, appreciated the opportunity to learn from SEAFDEC-TD. "This visit is crucial in our efforts to elevate ISUFST's status as a Center of Excellence in Fisheries," he noted. "We are particularly interested in their research agendas and innovative practices, which we hope to integrate into our programs."

Dr. Herman Lagon, Director of Public Affairs, Marketing, and Communication at ISUFST, concluded, "By engaging with SEAFDEC-TD and other leading institutions, we are not just aiming for accreditation; we are striving for excellence that resonates globally. This visit is a milestone in our journey towards becoming a world-class fisheries and marine sciences institution."



The visit to SEAFDEC-TD is part of a broader initiative that includes engagements with other prominent institutions in Thailand, such as Rajamangala University of Technology Thanyaburi (RMUTT), Kasetsart University, and the Asian Institute of Technology (AIT). Supported by the ISUFST Board of Regents, led by CHED Chairman Popoy de Vera and University President Dr. Nordy Siason, Jr., this internationalization initiative aims to document critical programs, curricula, and initiatives, assess research agendas, and identify actionable practices for potential adaptation at ISUFST.

The ISUFST delegation for this International Cross Visit to Thailand includes a diverse group of experts, each with specific roles to maximize the visit's benefits. Besides Dr. Gomez, Dr. Demo-os, Dr. Villanueva, Dr. Bito-onon, and Dr. Lagon, the team includes Dr. Quin Clarito, a marine fisheries specialist;

Dr. Lou Magbanua, a social science expert; Prof. Cjay Soliven, a post-harvest and fish processing specialist; Prof. Ma. Roelle Silva, a fish biochemistry and microbiology expert; and Dr. Edgar Hortillosa, a marine fisheries and mangrove ecosystems specialist. Prof. Jerry B. Bedonia and Engr. Ermie V. Bedia round out the ISUFST team with specializations in ichthyology, and marine and mechanical engineering. Partner-institution DOST Region VI's Ms. Juafe N. Abareles and Ms. Desiree Faith N. Sy also joined the cross-visit, making the number of delegates 14.

This week, the team will visit the fisheries departments and facilities of KU's two campuses, which rank 15th and 58th globally in implementing UN SDG 1 (No Poverty) and SDG 14 (Life Below Water), and the AIT, ranked fourth in Thailand and 63rd in the QS World University Rankings for Agriculture and Forestry. (Herman Lagon/PAMCO)



The 9th SEA Teacher Evaluation Conference: Empowering the Educators of Tomorrow



The serene city of Chiang Rai with Chiang Rai Rajabhat University hosted this year's 9th Evaluation Meeting for the Pre-Service Student Teacher Exchange in Southeast Asia (SEA-Teacher Project) at the prestigious Wiang Inn Hotel today, June 21, 2024.

Dr. Sunny G. Gabinete, Dean of the College of Education Main Campus Poblacion-Site and Dr. Rene Estomo, Chair of Instruction at Dingle Campus represented Iloilo State University of Fisheries Science and Technology (ISUFST) with this invaluable networking opportunities engaging with representatives from approximately 200 participating universities and other interested institutions to foster collaborative research projects, faculty exchanges, and joint academic programs.

Participation in the 9th SEA Teacher Evaluation Conference significantly bolsters the internationalization program of ISUFST (ISUFST). By engaging in this conference, ISUFST is directly contributing to the development of globally competent educators. This aligns with the university's strategic goals of enhancing its educational standards to meet international benchmarks.

The 9th SEA Teacher Evaluation Conference offers ISUFST a unique platform to advance its internationalization program. The conference not only reinforces ISUFST's commitment to educational excellence but also paves the way for a more interconnected and internationally engaged academic community. **TC** (Sunny G. Gabinete)





ISUFST'S SUCCESSFUL PARTICIPATION IN EAIE 2024

ISUFST is proud to have been a part of the Philippine delegation to the European Association for International Education (EAIE) 2024 conference in Toulouse, France. This initiative was organized by the Commission on Higher Education (CHED) International Affairs Service and the Embassy of France to the Philippines Micronesia thru Atty. Lily Freida Milla and Sylvain Lamourette respectively. This is the first time PHEIs to join the EAIE as this provides a valuable platform for international education professionals to share knowledge, best practices, and explore opportunities for collaboration.

SEPTEMBER 2024

Representing ISUFST, our International Affairs and Linkages Director Dr. Jeanette G. Bayona had the opportunity to engage with European universities and discuss potential partnerships in areas such as Erasmus+ projects, student and faculty mobility, internships, research collaborations, and dual degree programs. These discussions opened doors for ISUFST to expand its international reach and enhance academic offerings beyond fisheries and agriculture.

Key highlights of the participation include, meetings and campus visits with Science Po, the University of Toulouse, and ICAM which laid the groundwork for future collaborations. Attendance at various capacity building sessions at EAIE, provided valuable insights into international education trends and best practices. Finally, a presentation featuring Campus France, led by Dr. Rovick, and the Philippine Delegation, headed by Sylvain Lamourette, Attaché de Cooperation, showcased various programs and potential areas for collaboration.

This experience marks a significant step forward in ISUFST's internationalization efforts. By establishing partnerships with European institutions, we aim to offer our community more opportunities for international education, cultural exchange, research projects, capacity development, and prepare our graduates for the global market.

ISUFST participation in EAIE 2024 will be instrumental in aligning our institution with international standards and advancing our vision for the next five years.

#isufst_isda_first #SDG17partnershipsforthegoals



ISUFST'S LICERA REACHES HALFWAY MARK IN HANDS-ON AUTOMOTIVE TRAINING IN KOREA



Instructor Melchor “Bilog” P. Licera, Jr. of the Iloilo State University of Fisheries Science and Technology (ISUFST) is now halfway through his intensive training at Honam Vocational College in South Korea. As part of a three-week Rotary International-funded initiative, Licera has been immersing himself in hands-on sessions using state-of-the-art automotive equipment and engaging with highly skilled mentors who guide trainees with patience and precision.

Since April 19, 2025, Instructor Melchor “Bilog” Licera, Jr. of ISUFST-CIT has been in South Korea for a three-week hands-on training under the Rotary International VTT Grant, which runs until May 11, 2025—an initiative designed to upskill Filipino automotive educators and empower youth through globally aligned, future-ready instruction.

“These past days have been both challenging and inspiring,” Licera shared. “Even with the language gap, we’re learning well—thanks to our passionate instructors and great facilities. Every day here is a reminder of how far hard work and lifelong learning can go.”

This mid-training milestone marks not just technical progress, but also a cultural and personal journey—one that Licera is eager to bring home to ISUFST through echo trainings and curriculum improvements. His experience reflects ISUFST’s commitment to world-class technical education, made possible through the support of Rotary partners in Korea and the Philippines.





ISUFST FACULTY, STUDENTS EMBARK ON INDONESIA IMMERSION

As part of its drive towards internationalization, the Iloilo State University of Fisheries Science and Technology (ISUFST) has dispatched a delegation of 14 faculty members and students to participate in a week-long immersion program at the University of Brawijaya (UB) in Indonesia. Running from August 18 to August 24, 2024, this initiative is aimed at broadening the global competencies of ISUFST's academic community by exposing them to international standards in education and cultural practices.

The delegation is composed of seven faculty members and nine students from various departments. Leading the charge from the College of Information and Communications Technology (CICT) are Dr. Benjamin Cornelio Jr., Dr. Noel Caliston, Dr. Renante Diamante, and Instructor Alex Facelo Jr., accompanied by four Bachelor of Science in Information Technology (BSIT) students.

Concurrently, faculty members from the College of Agriculture (COA) and the Office of International Affairs and Linkages are guiding three Bachelor of Science in Agriculture students through a series of specialized activities.

The CICT participants are involved in workshops, lectures, and collaborative research projects that delve into the latest innovations in information technology, aiming to bring these insights back to enrich ISUFST's ICT programs.

Meanwhile, the COA contingent is engaging in agricultural studies, attending field visits, and collaborating on research addressing regional agricultural challenges and advancements.

The immersion not only reinforces ISUFST's international partnerships but also supports its mission to produce globally competitive graduates.

Upon their return on August 24, 2024, the faculty and students are expected to share their acquired knowledge, benefiting both their personal development and the wider academic community at ISUFST.

(Text by Herman Lagon and Julius Ruger Hermanto/Photos by Jeanette Bayona/PAMMCO)



"This immersion program is a crucial step in our commitment to align ISUFST with global standards. I encourage our faculty and students to maximize this experience, absorb as much knowledge as possible, and share these valuable insights with the ISUFST community upon their return."

Dr. Nordy Siason, Jr.



“ UB Visit and immersion



Thrilled to discuss academic and research partnerships with the Faculty of Fisheries and Marine Science and Faculty of Animal Science at UB. We explored opportunities to enhance ISUFST's fisheries and agriculture programs through the Dual Degree and 3-in-1 programs. Looking forward to fostering collaboration and promoting academic growth in these vital fields.

Had a productive visit to UB, including a tour of their facilities and a meeting with the head of the Faculty of Mathematics and Physical Science. We discussed potential partnerships in research and faculty/student exchanges. Looking forward to exploring opportunities for collaboration and mutual growth.



Had a wonderful time sharing about the Philippines, the City of Love (Iloilo), and ISUFST with Indonesian students of UB. It was refreshing to focus on cultural exchange and understanding. For a change it was not about the X and the Y thing. Grateful for this opportunity to connect and learn from each other.

Dr. J. Bayona
Director, IAL

PAGBATI | CICT Students Complete AI+X Orange Short Course in Indonesia

Four students from the College of Information and Communications Technology (CICT) at the Iloilo State University of Fisheries Science and Technology Main Campus-Poblacion Site completed the AI+X Orange short course program at the University of Brawijaya, Malang, Indonesia, from August 18-25, 2024.

Nikki Muriel Buensuceso, Nazarrío Benjamin Sobida, Claine Reniva, and Kent Bryan Belandres, along with Instructor Alex Facelo and CICT Dean Renante A. Diamante, represented ISUFST Main Campus-Poblacion Site in the program. The AI+X Orange program focused on advanced topics in artificial intelligence and its applications.

The students' participation in this international program is a testament to their academic excellence and commitment to learning. Their experience in Indonesia will undoubtedly enhance their skills and knowledge in information and communications technology.

Lay out by **Joel C. Biona**





ISUFST

Republic of the Philippines
ILOILO STATE UNIVERSITY OF FISHERIES SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY
COLLEGE OF INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATIONS TECHNOLOGY
MAIN CAMPUS-Poblacion Site, Barotac Nuevo, Iloilo
 // email: cictisufst2023@gmail.com Website: isufst.edu.ph
 // Contact Nos: (033) 3672-786 Local 1012






Congratulations!

to

NIKKI MURIEL BUENSUCESO **KENT BRYAN BELANDRES** **NAZARRIO BENJAMIN SOBIDA** **CLAINE RENIVA**

on completing the short course
 program in **AI+X Orange** at the
University of Brawijaya, Malang,
Indonesia, on August 18-25, 2024.

Your CICT family is proud of you!

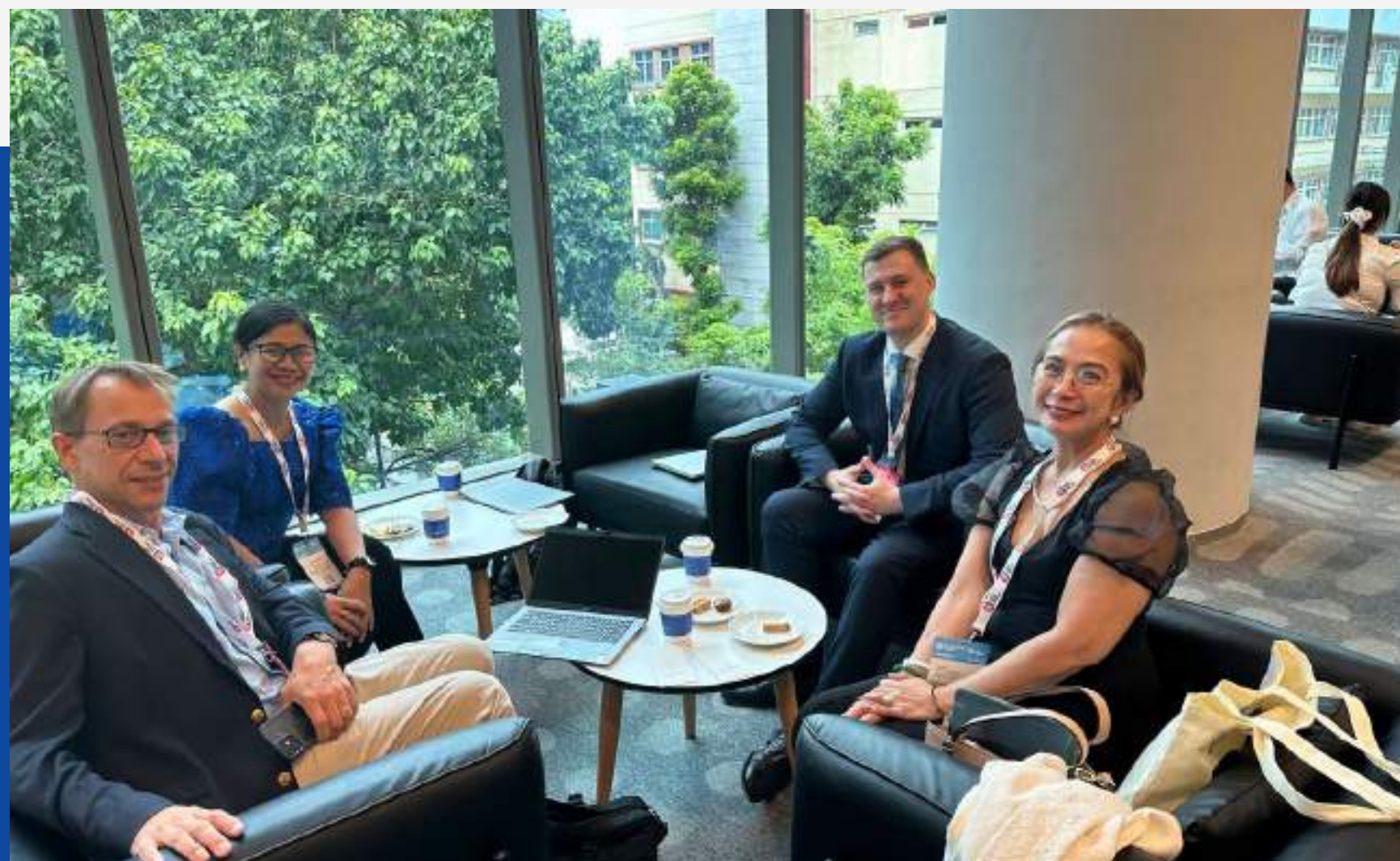
ISUFST FACULTY ENHANCE PEDAGOGICAL EXPERTISE THROUGH IMMERSION PROGRAM IN THAILAND

Bangkok, Thailand – Five distinguished faculty members from the Iloilo State University of Fisheries Science and Technology (ISUFST) participated in a week-long immersion program at Phranakhon Rajabhat University from July 8 to 12, 2024. The initiative, approved by the Office of the Vice President for Academics, aimed to strengthen instructional competencies and foster international best practices in education. The delegation comprised Dr. Michelle Bales (Chair of Instruction, Main Campus-Tiwi Site), Dr. Jinky Perez (Dean, College of Education, Dingle Campus), Dr. Nancy Daguro (Chair, Office of Extension Services and Development, Dingle Campus), Dr. Ariel Calanao (BEEd Program Chair, Dingle Campus), and Dr. April Joy Acosta (BEEd Faculty).



The program focused on curriculum innovation, student-centered teaching methodologies, and sustainable community engagement models. Participants engaged in workshops, classroom observations, and collaborative planning sessions with Thai educators, emphasizing the integration of technology and culturally responsive pedagogy. Dr. Perez highlighted the value of cross-cultural exchange: "This immersion allowed us to refine our approaches to teacher education, particularly in aligning our curricula with ASEAN standards." The faculty also explored Phranakhon Rajabhat University's signature programs in vocational education and community development, which resonate with ISUFST's commitment to hands-on, impact-driven learning.

ISUFST LEADERS ATTEND TIMES HIGHER EDUCATION CONGRESS IN THAILAND



Three top executives from Iloilo State University of Fisheries Science and Technology (ISUFST) participated in the Times Higher Education Global Sustainable Development Congress in Bangkok, Thailand, from June 10 to 13, 2024. They were Dr. Joan Belga, VP of Academic Affairs; Dr. Johnny Dolor, VP of Administrative Affairs; and Dr. Jeanette G. Bayona, Director of the Office of International Affairs and Linkages.

The Times Higher Education Global Sustainable Development Congress serves as a platform for global collaboration, bringing together educational institutions and businesses. Its primary goal is to steer the focus toward tangible outcomes in education, research, innovation, and outreach initiatives that tackle sustainability issues.

ISUFST was part of the delegation of Philippine higher education institutions led by Commissioner Dr. Ethel Agnes P. Valenzuela and Atty. Lilly Milla, OIC Executive Director of CHED. This delegation provided a valuable opportunity to discuss with peers from various sectors, including higher education, government, and civil society. These discussions focused on collaborative leadership and implementing systemic reforms to expedite progress toward common sustainability objectives.

The insights gained from the congress are expected to directly target areas needing improvement in Philippine higher education institutions, particularly in global vision and research collaboration, as assessed by international ranking indicators. (Text and photos by Jeanette Bayona/PAMCO)



6 ISUFST faculty complete int'l fisheries engagement

Six faculty members from the Iloilo State University of Fisheries Science and Technology (ISUFST) successfully participated in the 1st International Conference on Responsible Fisheries and Sustainable Aquaculture (ICORFASA) held from July 3-5, 2024, at the Limketkai Luxe Hotel in Cagayan de Oro City, Misamis Oriental, Philippines. The event was attended by 200 participants from 22 schools across seven countries.

Dr. Roy Villanueva and Dr. Jescel Bito-onon, both pioneers of the Ph-Turkey project that prompted the conference, served as concurrent session moderators during the event. Dr. Villanueva presented a poster on innovative techniques for induced spawning of African catfish, while Prof. Caryl Jade Villanueva and Prof. Rother Gaudiél delivered separate papers on the health of the Tinori-an River, mangrove composition, and coastal habitat and management, while Dr. Rolindo Demo-os, Jr., dean of the College of Fisheries and Aquatic Sciences (CFAS), discussed his research on coastal habitat mapping using remote sensing. All ISUFST entries were in the non-contesting category.

Dr. Herman Lagon delivered a plenary pledge of support from ISUFST to partner universities on behalf of ISUFST President Dr. Nordy Siason, Jr. He highlighted the university's unwavering dedication to sustainable fisheries and aquaculture practices. Dr. Lagon, along with Dr. Jescel Bito-onon, who was also recognized as one of the best-dressed delegates, engaged in strategic discussions with partners to outline future steps for the fisheries consortium.

Dr. Siason expressed his support for the event, stating, "ISUFST is deeply committed to advancing our programs in fisheries and aquaculture. We believe that through international collaboration, we can drive innovation and elevate the standards of our research and education. This conference exemplifies our dedication to working alongside global partners to address the pressing challenges in fisheries and aquaculture."

Reflecting on the conference's impact, Dr. Bito-onon, the team leader for the ISUFST delegation, remarked, "Participating in ICORFASA is a tremendous opportunity for our faculty and students. It allows us to engage in meaningful research and knowledge exchange, opening doors for collaborative initiatives that will significantly enhance the fisheries and marine biology standards at ISUFST."

Dr. Elnor Roa, Chancellor of Mindanao State University (MSU) Naawan, praised the conference's success and future potential, stating, "The attendance exceeded our expectations, demonstrating a strong commitment from all participants. This conference marks the beginning of robust collaborations and future projects among our institutions, paving the way for significant advancements in responsible fisheries and sustainable aquaculture."

The conference featured a series of activities, beginning with registration and opening ceremonies, which included multimedia presentations, and remarks from key dignitaries. Various keynote and plenary talks were delivered by experts from the Philippines, Turkey, Malaysia, and Thailand, followed by Q&A sessions and breakout discussions for deeper engagement. It also included a stakeholders' forum, poster sessions, and series of breakout sessions, culminating in a closing ceremony with awards and messages of support from partner universities and the signing rites for the pledge of support.

Some of the keynote and plenary speakers include CHED Chairman J. Prospero de Vera III, DOST X Regional Director Engr. Romela Ratilla, Ankara University Dr. Emre Keskin, Canakkale Onsekiz Mart University Prof. Dr. Sebahattin Ergun, Universiti Malaysia Terengganu Prof Dr. Khor Waiho, Asian Institute of Technology-Thailand Prof. Kyoko Kusakabe, BFAR Region X Regional Director Edward Yasay, and BFAR National Mariculture Center and ISUFST Alumnus Dr. Jericardo Mondragon.

ICORFASA aims to become a cornerstone international event, promoting sustainable practices and innovative solutions in fisheries and aquaculture. The participation of ISUFST faculty in such events underscores the university's dedication to contributing to global discussions on responsible fisheries and sustainable aquaculture. (Herman Lagon/PAMMCO)

#isufst_isda_first



ISUFST, UNIV BRAWIJAYA TO LAUNCH 1ST INT'L ICT RESEARCH COLLOQUIUM

The Iloilo State University of Fisheries Science and Technology (ISUFST), in collaboration with Indonesia's Universitas Brawijaya, is hosting its first-ever International Research Colloquium on Information and Communications Technology (ICT) tomorrow, April 25, 2025, at the newly inaugurated Techno Hub in the Main Campus-Poblacion Site, Barotac Nuevo, Iloilo. The event will also be accessible online via Zoom.

With the theme "Resilience and Adaptation: Research for a More Equitable and Secure World," the colloquium brings together over 20 research presentations and 4 international speakers from the Philippines, Indonesia, France, and Vietnam. The gathering reflects ISUFST's growing commitment to fostering international research partnerships and promoting ICT-based innovations that respond to real-world challenges.

"This is more than a milestone—it is a message," said ISUFST President Dr. Nurdy Siason, Jr. "It shows that a state university like ISUFST is serious about building global bridges through collaborative research. We want our students to realize that their ideas, when nurtured well, can shape more inclusive and resilient futures."



The event is co-led by the College of Information and Communications Technology (CICT) and supported by ISUFST's Research and Development Office and the Office of International Affairs and Linkages.

"This colloquium is our first international platform to showcase the work of our ICT students and faculty in a space where innovation meets global relevance," said Dr. Renante Diamante, Dean of CICT and overall event chair. "From AI to IoT and smart agriculture, our students are stepping up to tackle local issues using emerging technologies."

Keynote speakers include Dr. Muhammad Ali Fauzi from Universitas Brawijaya, Prof. Julie Ann A. Salido of Aklan State University, Dr. Arnaud Grignard of France's National Research Institute for Sustainable Development, and Dr. Sammy V. Militante of the University of Antique. Topics will cover areas like machine learning for phishing detection, privacy-preserving systems, AI-powered reading apps, and smart farming technologies.

The program includes two research tracks: AI, Machine Learning, and IoT and Web and Mobile Applications. A panel of experts from Philippine universities and research institutes will evaluate paper and poster presentations.

As ISUFST strengthens its global footprint and pushes for the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (particularly SDG 4, 9, and 17), tomorrow's event is seen as a turning point in the university's internationalization efforts and a bold step in empowering ICT researchers in the region. (Herman M. Lagon/PAMMCO)





ISUFST Student Interns Embark on International Internship at X10 Resort Khaolak, Thailand

Bachelor of Science in Hospitality Management (BSHM) students from the Iloilo State University of Fisheries Science and Technology (ISUFST) - representing the Main Campus- Poblacion Site, Dingle Campus, Dumangas Campus, and San Enrique Campus - have successfully commenced their internship at the prestigious X10 Khaolak Resort in Phang Nga, Thailand. The six-month program, running from November 20, 2024, to May 13, 2025, aligns with ISUFST's mission to produce globally competitive and empowered graduates by providing hands-on training in international hospitality standards.

This initiative, supported by a signed Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) between ISUFST and X10 Resort, underscores the university's commitment to internationalization and academic excellence. Under the leadership of Dr. Jeanette G. Bayona, Director of International Affairs and Linkages and SIAP (Student Internship Abroad Program) Coordinator, the interns will undergo immersive training in guest services, food and beverage operations, and resort management, equipping them with skills and values at par with global industry demands. ISUFST President Dr. Nurdy D. Siason, Jr., CESO VI, reaffirmed the university's full support, stating, "This program reflects our dedication to fostering robust international partnerships that elevate our students' readiness for the global workforce while contributing to the university's growth and standing."

The internship not only enhances participants' technical proficiencies but also cultivates cross-cultural adaptability, a critical asset in hospitality careers. Post-program, interns will receive certifications and performance evaluations to bolster their employability. ISUFST plans to expand such collaborations, reinforcing its vision to be a leader in globally relevant education and creating pathways for more students to gain transformative international exposure.



ISUFST Students Complete Virtual CommTECHNusantara 2024

Institut Teknologi Sepuluh Nopember (ITS), Surabaya, Indonesia, initiated the Virtual CommTECHNusantara 2024: Wonderful Folk Tales Indonesia short program, which five (5) ISUFST students successfully completed. This fascinating program, which ran from June 24 to July 5, 2024, aimed to introduce various Indonesian cultures to participants from all over the world.

The program also places a strong emphasis on art and culture activities, including introducing participants to traditional music and dance, exploring cultural activities in each region, exploring local foods, and much more.

These talented students embarked on an enriching journey, delving into the rich tapestry of Indonesian folklore, which provided them with unique insights into the nation's diverse cultural heritage. Each participant was inspired by the vibrant stories and the wisdom embedded within these tales, sparking their imagination and creativity.

Throughout the program, they engaged in interactive workshops and collaborative projects, fostering a sense of camaraderie and mutual respect among international peers. This immersive experience not only broadened their understanding of Indonesia's cultural landscape but also equipped them with invaluable skills in cross-cultural communication and creative expression.

Moreover, at the end of the program, participants presented their creative ideas in a virtual project exhibition. Delivering the special theme of Wonderful Folk Tales Indonesia, participants explored amazing folk tales in Indonesia.

@Rudolph Francis Antenor
@Meryl Rose Marterior
@Azer Jane Dajay
@Pia Mae Ansino
@Sheriel Blancad



ISUFST SETS SIGHTS ON GLOBAL UNIVERSITY RANKINGS

The Iloilo State University of Fisheries Science and Technology (ISUFST) has successfully concluded its "Orientation and Workshop on the University's International Ranking," held August 13-14 at Park Inn by Radisson in Mandurriao, Iloilo City. This strategic initiative, a pioneering effort by the university, aimed to strengthen ISUFST's position in international rankings, including the QS World University Rankings and Times Higher Education (THE).

Throughout the workshop, select participants from the five campuses and sites of the university engaged in comprehensive discussions with Panpacific University Vice President for Internationalization Dr. Engelbert Pasag on the metrics used by QS World University Rankings, Times Higher Education (THE), and World University Ranking for Innovation (WURI). These discussions hoped to equip them with the tools necessary to elevate the university's global reputation.

Dr. Pasag, a seasoned expert in internationalization, sharing insights from their own successful journey in global rankings, provided participants with valuable "hacks" for processing applications for these international evaluation platforms, further enhancing the university's strategic approach to global rankings. He emphasized that participating in international metrics serves not only as a means of recognition but also as a benchmark to measure performance against the world's leading institutions. He also underscored the importance of aligning university programs with the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and achieving high scores or ratings, contributing to continuous improvement in education, research, and community engagement.

In their respective messages, both Vice President for Academic Affairs Dr. Joan Belga and Vice President for Administration and Finance Dr. Johnny Dolor expressed strong support and commitment to the internationalization efforts. Dr. Belga stated, "This workshop is a critical step in our journey towards global excellence. We are committed to implementing the strategies discussed and ensuring that ISUFST remains competitive on the world stage." Dolor said, "Our goal is to elevate ISUFST's standing in international rankings, and I am confident that with the collective efforts of our faculty and administrators, we will achieve this milestone."



Dr. Pasag highlighted the deeper significance of global rankings, emphasizing that they are not merely about current standings but about envisioning and striving for future aspirations. He conveyed that these rankings challenge institutions like ISUFST to continually push boundaries, innovate, and raise standards. Pasag noted that by embracing these benchmarks, ISUFST is positioning itself among the world's leading institutions and committing to a future of transformative education and impactful research. He underscored that this pursuit is not just about recognition, but about creating a global legacy that will benefit future generations. He concluded with a powerful message, advising the university community to "eat, breathe, and live the UN SDGs and internationalization," as this commitment will shape the university's path forward.

Furthermore, Dr. Pasag praised ISUFST's unwavering commitment to international standards, world-class education, and fostering global partnerships. Recognizing the enthusiasm and dedication of the participants, and understanding the university's journey and achievements, he confidently assured the community, saying, "Kaya ninyo ito (you can do this)," emphasizing that with the strong faculty portfolio, new infrastructures, and the innovative strides already made and those planned ahead, ISUFST is well-equipped to align with the global stage.

The second day of the event featured a message from University President Dr. Nurdy Siason, Jr., who commended the faculty and administrators for their commitment to internationalization. Dr. Siason emphasized, "Our journey toward becoming a leading and empowering research university in Southeast Asia by 2030 is strongly tied to our internationalization efforts. I fully commit to supporting these initiatives as part of our mandate and vision."

Dr. Siason further reflected on the broader impact of ISUFST's internationalization efforts, stating, "Our pursuit of global recognition is not merely about rankings, but about building a legacy of excellence that transcends borders. We are elevating our institution and inspiring generations of students, faculty, and communities to aim higher, think bigger, and act globally by adopting international standards. Our goal is to create a culture of continuous growth and innovation that prepares our students to lead Southeast Asia and the world."

Resilience and unity are crucial, he said, "Let us remember that our strength lies in our collective vision and determination as we navigate internationalization. We will succeed with unwavering commitment and collaboration, despite the challenges ahead. We are creating a future where ISUFST is a beacon of academic excellence, research innovation, and societal impact in the Philippines and worldwide."

The workshop concluded with the discussion on the SDG that the university desire to highlight and the formulation of a commitment plan to sustain ISUFST's progress in international rankings. ISUFST's pursuit of academic excellence and global recognition advances with this event. This workshop hopes to help ISUFST boost its global profile and ensure that its educational offerings meet and exceed international standards. (Text by Herman Lagon/Photos by Julius Ruger Hermano and Lagon/PAMMCO)



ISUFST HOSTS INT'L FISHERIES MODELING TRAINING BACKED BY FRENCH EMBASSY



Barotac Nuevo, Iloilo—The Iloilo State University of Fisheries Science and Technology (ISUFST) opened its doors this week to a dynamic blend of local and international experts, students, and researchers, all united by a shared mission: advancing sustainable fisheries practices. The week-long training on fisheries management and agent-based modeling, supported by the French Embassy through the "Youth and Oceans" Fund, kicked off on November 25 at the ISUFST Main Campus-Tiwi Site, setting the stage for five days of collaboration, innovation, and learning.

In collaboration with the National Research Institute for Sustainable Development (IRD) and Blue Nations, the weeklong training aims to equip participants with innovative tools to model and analyze complex fisheries systems. With lectures, hands-on group projects, and high-tech simulations, the event highlights the critical role of technology in addressing challenges in marine resource management.

"This initiative is a testament to our shared commitment to sustainability, particularly in the fisheries sector, which is crucial to the livelihoods of millions," said ISUFST Vice President for Administration and Finance Dr. Johnny Dolor in his welcome remarks this morning, November 25.

ISUFST President Dr. Nurdy Siason Jr. highlighted the significance of such initiatives in advancing the university's mission. "This training exemplifies our goal to integrate technology and innovation in education to address real-world challenges. By engaging in global collaborations, we prepare our students to be leaders in sustainable development, particularly in fisheries management," he said.

ANOTHER HEADING HERE.

Vice President for Academic Affairs Dr. Joan Belga also emphasized the importance of the training, stating, "This program not only strengthens the technical expertise of our students and faculty but also reaffirms ISUFST's mission to be at the forefront of advancing sustainable practices in fisheries. It's a privilege to work alongside global experts to nurture the next generation of environmental stewards."

A highlight of the program is the presence of international experts such as Arnaud Grignard and Tri Nguyen-Huu, researchers from IRD's UMMISCO Lab, and Julius Millano Bañgate, a researcher from the IGN French National Geographical Institute. Their expertise introduces participants to cutting-edge methodologies, including agent-based modeling—a powerful tool for simulating human and ecological interactions in fisheries systems.

While giving the training overview, Tri Nguyen-Huu, Head of Science for Complex Models at IRD, emphasized that the youth are vital to the future of sustainable fisheries. He highlighted that engaging with advanced modeling tools enables them to gain valuable insights into managing ocean resources more effectively.

EMPOWERING THE NEXT GENERATION

The training involves fisheries and information technology students, faculty members in fisheries and science education, and school's top-performing fisheries board passers. All participants are immersed in activities aimed at enhancing their fisheries management skills. Participants engage in lectures, project inception workshops, and collaborative group activities, culminating in the presentation of their outputs on November 29.

This opportunity bridges the gap between theoretical knowledge and real-world application for many attendees. One student observed that the training effectively bridges the gap between theoretical knowledge and real-world application. By working in a simulated environment, participants gain valuable insights into the consequences of their decisions, equipping them to navigate the complexities of managing marine ecosystems.

The training will close on November 29 with presentations of project outputs, certificates awarded, and closing messages from Dr. Rolindo Demo-Os, Dean of the College of Fisheries and Aquatic Sciences, and Dr. Renante Diamante, Dean of the College of Information and Communication Technology.

As the event progresses, the ISUFST community continues to embrace innovation, aiming to lead in sustainable development for fisheries management across Western Visayas and beyond. (Photos by Julius Ruger Hermano/Text by Herman Lagon/PAMMCO)

A commitment to
excellence

“

Collaboration with institutions like IRD and the French Embassy helps elevate the university's role in addressing global challenges in fisheries and sustainability.

Dr. Bayona



ISUFST Concludes Five-Day Fisheries Management Modeling Training



The Iloilo State University of Fisheries Science and Technology (ISUFST), through its Office of International Affairs and Linkages (OIAL), successfully hosted a five-day Fisheries Management Modeling Training from November 25 to 29, 2024, at the ISUFST Board Room, Main Campus - Tiwi Site. The training mentored 30 participants, including Fisheries and IT students, to utilize advanced tools like the GAMA platform for fisheries management simulations. This initiative supports SDG 14: Life Below Water and teaches students computer modeling to address environmental issues.

Dr. Bayona, Director of OIAL, said, "This training is not only an opportunity for our students to deepen their technical skills, but also reinforces our commitment to addressing global environmental challenges through innovation and research."

Sylvain Lamouret, Co-Operation Attaché at the Embassy of France, congratulated the participants online, stating, "I'd like to congratulate the students and student organizations of the State University of Fisheries Science and Technology for completing the Fisheries Management Modeling training of the Institut de Recherche pour le Développement. This training program aims to support civil society and young Filipinos to become advocates for ocean protection. We are delighted to have linked the Institut de Recherche pour le Développement and ISUFST, and we hope it will lead to further collaboration."

The training supported ISUFST's mission to become a leading research university in Southeast Asia's fisheries, agriculture, education, and technology by 2030. The program primarily focused on Agent-Based Modeling (ABM), where students learned how to create bio-economic fisheries models using the GAMA platform. French experts Arnaud Grignard and Tri Nguyen-Huu from the UMMISCO Lab, National Research Institute for Sustainable Development, and Julius Millano Bangate from the French National Geographical Institute led the sessions.

Each training day focused on a specific aspect of fisheries management and modeling. On Day 1, students were introduced to ABM, learning about agent behaviors and essential model development using the GAMA platform. Day 2 covered spatial modeling, GIS, and global fisheries management concepts, including sustainability metrics and policies. Day 3 focused on marine protected areas and fish aggregation devices and began the students' design of their fisheries models.

In the final two days, participants worked on developing their models, designing simulations, and analyzing different scenarios. On Day 5, students presented their completed models during a culminating activity. Five groups shared their innovative solutions. Four groups from the College of Fisheries and Aquatic Sciences simulated real-world issues such as overfishing and natural disasters using 3D modeling in GAMA. The fifth group, from the College of Information and Communications Technology, created a website to showcase and consolidate the models into a centralized platform.

The students impressed the speakers and organizers with their creativity and technical expertise. Faculty mentors and international trainers praised the participants' ability to apply complex concepts to real-world problems, demonstrating a deep understanding of the subject matter.

The Embassy of France to the Philippines and Micronesia supported the training under the Youth and Ocean Funds initiative in collaboration with the National Research Institute for Sustainable Development (IRD). Key ISUFST faculty members, including OIAL Director Dr. Jeanette Bayona, Research and Development Office Director Dr. Jescel Bito-onon, College of Fisheries and Aquatic Sciences Dean Dr. Rolindo Demo-os, and College of Information and Communications Technology Dean Dr. Renante Diamante, delivered the closing remarks.

Participants expressed excitement about applying their new skills to their academic research, especially in their thesis projects. The speakers also expressed interest in hosting similar training sessions further to enhance ISUFST's efforts in internationalization and innovation.

Speakers and attendees received certificates to conclude the event this Friday, November 29. This ended a transformative learning experience that improved students' skills and broadened their perspectives on sustainable fisheries management. (Julius Ruger Hermanto/OIAL/PAMMCO)



ISUFST Partners with Philippine Legacy Nihongo Center for Japanese Language Information Session



April 2, 2025 – Iloilo Science and Technology University (ISUFST) collaborated with the Philippine Legacy Nihongo Center Corporation to have a special information session on the Japanese Language Course for 3rd and 4th-year BSIT, BSHM, BSTM, and BSIT students.

This initiative aims to provide students with valuable insights into Japanese language training and the pathways to becoming Specified Skilled Workers (SSW) in Japan with the help of Ms. Ma. Theresa B. Ignacio and Sir Adhor I. Piad, Marketing Officers from Philippine Legacy Nihongo Center Corp., who shared their expertise on language training programs and career prospects in Japan.



ISUFST continues its commitment to preparing students for international career opportunities that will eventually open doors for career advancement and international exposure, by fostering partnerships that enhance skills and knowledge beyond the classroom and equipping students with the skills needed for global employment. #ISUFST #JapaneseLanguageTraining #GlobalOpportunities #CareerGrowth #SSWJapan #StudyNihongo #PhilippineLegacyNihongo #SkillDevelopment #InternationalCareers #FutureReady

(Jose Eugene E. Salazar/PAMMCO)

(Photo by Matthew Lasap and Leo Paparon/PAMMCO)



A Taste of the World: ISUFST Hosts Chef Bowe's Culinary Masterclass

The Iloilo State University of Fisheries Science and Technology (ISUFST) recently orchestrated a vibrant international learning experience, "International Culinary Class: An Exclusive Lecture-Demo with Chef Bowe." This initiative, spearheaded by the College of Management in collaboration with the Office of International Affairs and Linkages, successfully connected students with global culinary expertise.

Selected Bachelor of Science in Hospitality Management (BSHM) students from ISUFST's Main Poblacion, Dingle, and San Enrique campuses participated in the exclusive event. Each campus sent their top students, accompanied by a faculty member, to absorb the knowledge shared by renowned Chef Martin Bowe.



Chef Bowe, a seasoned culinary professional, captivated the students with an insightful lecture-demonstration. He shared his expertise, techniques, and unique perspectives on international cuisine, providing a valuable learning opportunity beyond the traditional classroom setting. Following the demonstration, the students engaged in a return demonstration, allowing them to apply the skills and knowledge they had acquired.

This hands-on approach fostered a dynamic learning environment and allowed the students to experience international culinary practices firsthand. The event proved to be a resounding success, further solidifying ISUFST's commitment to providing students with global exposure and practical skills.

The institution expressed its profound gratitude to Chef Martin Bowe for the opportunity and to Adapter Consultancy Management for facilitating this significant undertaking, highlighting the importance of collaborative efforts in enriching the students' educational journey and fostering international linkages. This event stands as a testament to ISUFST's dedication to providing its students with world-class learning experiences.

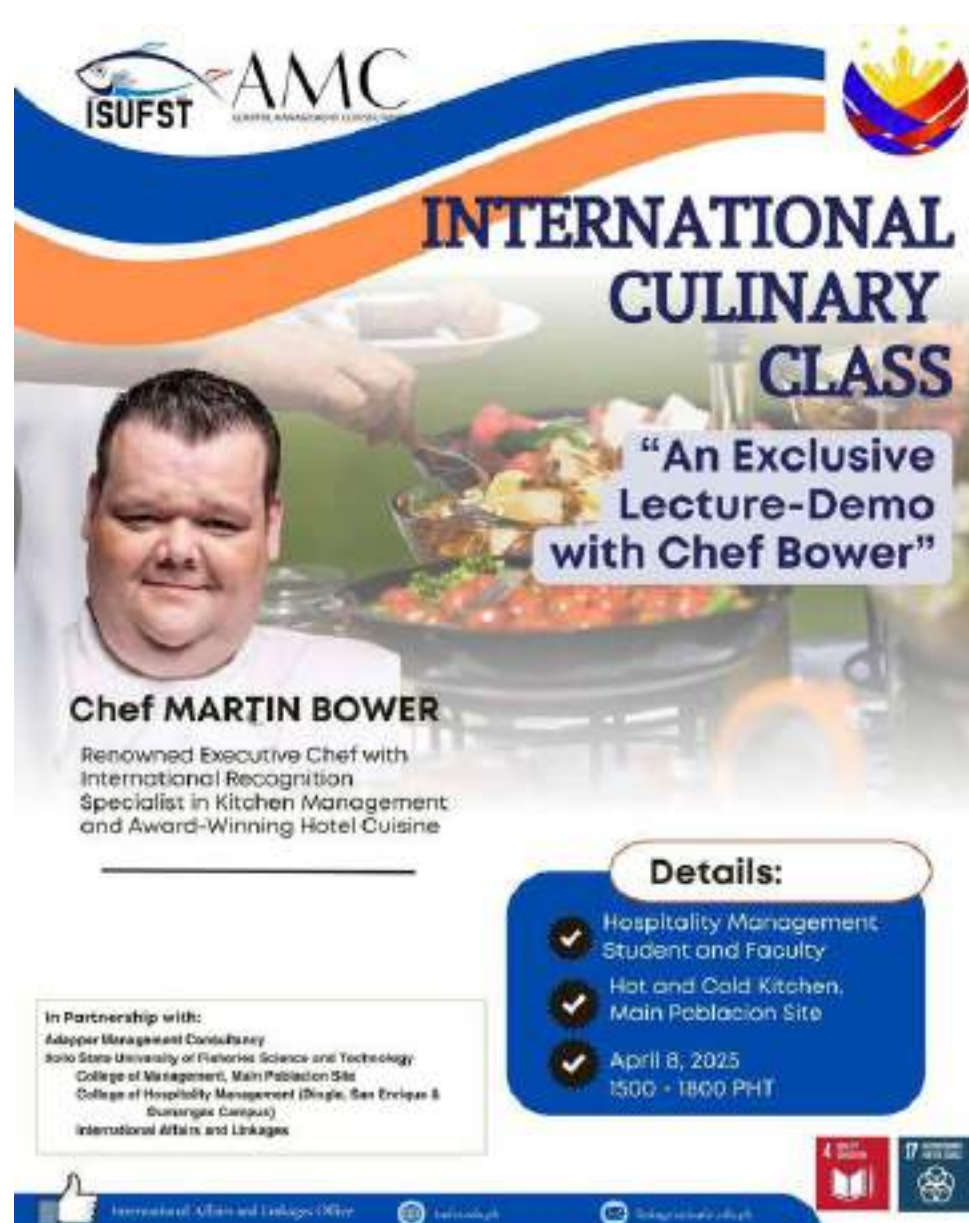
Venue: Hot & Cold Kitchen @ ISUFST Main Campus funded by CHED.

#cmfamileads

#ISUFST_ISDA_BEST

#isufstisdafirst

📍 Office of International Affairs & Linkages, Sir Leo, Sir PJ



ISUFST INKS MOU WITH INTACT BASE, CHENG SHIU UNIVERSITY TO BOOST GLOBAL OPPORTUNITIES FOR STUDENTS



The Iloilo State University of Fisheries Science and Technology (ISUFST) has solidified its partnership with the International Talent Circulation Base (INTACT Base) and Cheng Shiu University through the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) on February 19, 2025. The ceremony took place at the ISUFST Boardroom, Main Campus, Poblacion Site, marking a significant step toward academic collaboration and talent development between the institutions.

The signing was attended by esteemed ISUFST administrators, including Dr. Nurdy D. Siason Jr., University President; Dr. Joan M. Belga, Vice President for Academic Affairs; and Dr. Jeanette G. Bayona, Director of International Affairs and Linkages. Representing INTACT Base and Cheng Shiu University were Dr. Chen Shan-Mei, Director of the Office of International Affairs at Cheng Shiu University and Deputy Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of INTACT Base Taiwan-Philippines, and Ms. Krystl Lim, Officer of the Office of International Affairs at Cheng Shiu University and Program Director of INTACT Base Taiwan-Philippines.

The ceremony began with opening remarks from Dr. Joan M. Belga, who expressed her appreciation and excitement for the initiative. She emphasized that the partnership would greatly benefit students and faculty from the College of Information and Communications Technology (CICT) and the College of Industrial Technology (CIT), enabling them to develop their expertise and global competence.

In his message of commitment, Dr. Nurdy D. Siason Jr. highlighted ISUFST's mission to uplift students from underprivileged backgrounds. He stated, "Most of our students come from the poorest of the poor, and one of the university's goals is to help them break free from the cycle of poverty. Through this opportunity abroad, we hope they can achieve a better future."

The partner institutions also expressed their gratitude for the collaboration and their commitment to extending these opportunities to ISUFST stakeholders. Following the signing, Ms. Krystl Lim conducted an information session for students and faculty from CICT and CIT. She detailed the opportunities available, including scholarships, internships, and the chance to earn while gaining valuable experience. Additionally, the collaboration will include Mandarin language training to further enhance students' global competitiveness.

The Director of International Affairs and Linkages, Dr. Jeanette G. Bayona, will oversee the implementation of these initiatives, ensuring that the partnership delivers its intended benefits to the ISUFST community.

This partnership marks a milestone in ISUFST's efforts to provide transformative opportunities for its students and faculty, fostering academic excellence and global engagement. (Julius Ruger Hermano/OIAL/PAMMCO)



ISUFST inks landmark MOA with Goushigaisha training center for student internship in Japan

Morozaki, Aichi Prefecture, Japan—The Iloilo State University of Fisheries Science and Technology (ISUFST) has pursued another “first” in its commitment to internationalization and attainment of global education standards by signing the Memorandum of Agreement with Goushigaisha Mifune, one of the leading SIAP Training Centers in Japan. The MOA, signed today, August 9, at Guminoki, Morozaki, Minamichita, Chita, Aichi Prefecture, was represented by Mr. Ota Masataka for Goushigaisha Mifune and University President Dr. Nurdy Siason, Jr. for ISUFST.

This pioneering partnership provides unmatched opportunities for ISUFST students enrolled in the Bachelor of Science in Hospitality Management (BSHM) and Bachelor of Science in Tourism Management (BSTM) programs, among others, on all its campuses and sites. If qualified, the interested students will be placed on at least a six-month internship at the most prestigious establishments in Japan, with full pre-training that includes Japanese culture, the Japanese language, and other related practices.

Dr. Nurdy Siason, Jr., on his part, said, "The partnership is a testament to our commitment to internationalization and collaboration without compromise. It is another first of its kind under the aegis of our principles of integrity, social justice, discipline, and academic excellence —'ISUFST_ISDA_First.' We are poised to prepare students and faculty for harnessing requisite skills and knowledge in answering global calls of the 21st century."

Also, the Aichi side said that they are open to the partnership because there is a guaranteed support to be given to the students of ISUFST. They look forward to helping the students become accustomed to what they will do in their internships and are excited to host dedicated and talented interns from ISUFST.

This MOA is another hallmark achievement for ISUFST, which has been progressing toward internationalization in the recent past. After its success with the help of successive programs in Thailand and Indonesia post-pandemic, ISUFST hopes to extend to Hong Kong and Japan, so that more students are able to reach their international experiences through the Student Internship Abroad Program (SIAP) and other modes such as student exchange, research, conference, training, and collaboration abroad.

This comes on the heels of the 3rd Regional Quality Awards 2024, in which the university received the Award for Excellence in Internationalization Initiatives, among others, last May 2024. These awards bear witness to ISUFST's commitment to the advancement of education, ensuring that the highest quality is maintained in both local and global environments.

This new collaboration puts ISUFST at the cutting edge of preparing its students with tools and experiences relevant to succeed in the global arena, making ISUFST a true leader in educational innovation and quality. (Text by Dr. Herman Lagon/Photos by Dr. Nurdy Siason, Jr./PAMMCO)



ISUFST Ties Partnership with Indonesian University Through Virtual MoU Signing

In a significant step toward internationalization, the Iloilo State University of Fisheries Science and Technology (ISUFST) has solidified its partnership with Universitas Muhammadiyah Sumatera Utara (UMSU) of Indonesia by signing a memorandum of understanding (MoU) virtually via Zoom on March 24, 2025.

Facilitated by the Office of International Affairs and Linkages (IAL), the agreement was executed between Dr. Nurdy D. Siason, Jr., CESO VI, ISUFST President, and Prof. Dr. Agussani, M.AP, UMSU Rector, represented by Assoc. Prof. Dr. Rudianto, M.Si., Vice Rector III, with other key representatives from both institutions in attendance. The partnership aims to enhance both institutions' academic and research capabilities.

In his message of commitment, Dr. Siason expressed his enthusiasm for the new partnership: "We are excited to collaborate with one of the leading universities in Indonesia to learn and adopt their best practices and believe that combining our expertise and resources will yield remarkable results."

Meanwhile, Assoc. Prof. Dr. Rudianto, M.Si., Vice Rector III of UMSU, emphasized that the collaboration aligns with their goal of becoming a world-class university: "We are very enthusiastic about this partnership. ISUFST has an excellent reputation in fisheries and marine science, and we are confident this cooperation will bring significant benefits to both institutions."

One of the first activities under this partnership will be a student exchange program under the SEA Teacher Project, set to commence in July 2025. The program aims to equip future educators with innovative teaching strategies, cultural exposure, and global perspectives—strengthening education, science, and culture while promoting sustainable human development in Southeast Asia.

This collaboration is also expected to broaden the perspectives of ISUFST students and faculty, reinforcing the importance of internationalization in higher education.

