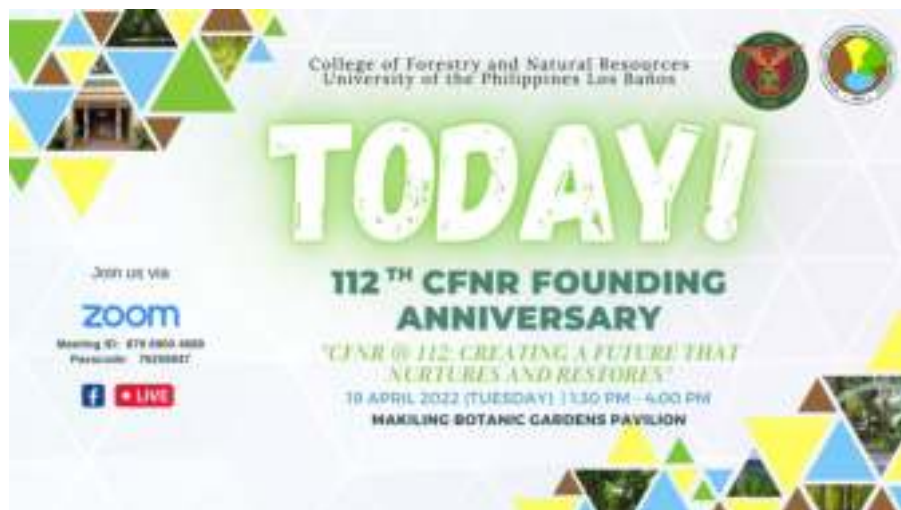




CFNR marks its 112th year in blended celebration mode



The country's premier forestry school and Center of Excellence in Forestry Education celebrated its founding anniversary through dual modes: face-to-face and video conferencing via Zoom platform and FB live stream.

The event was held on the afternoon of 19 April 2022 at the Makiling Botanic Gardens (MBG) Pavilion with the theme, "Creating a Future that Nurtures and Restores." MBG is a 300-hectare facility inside the Mount Makiling Forest Reserve (MMFR) in Los Banos, Laguna.

For the inspirational message, Chancellor Jose V. Camacho, Jr. highlighted the role of the College of Forestry and Natural Resources (CFNR) in the newly-minted research and extension agenda of UPLB, the AGORA or Accelerating Growth Through One Research and Extension in Action. He challenged CFNR to promote the adoption of forest and natural resource technologies to ensure the conservation and sustainability of the country's forests.

Dean Marlo D. Mendoza welcomed everyone in the first blended celebration after two years of lockdown due to the pandemic. Referring to the awardees, he mentioned that dedicated service, excellence, honor, loyalty, and outstanding contributions of the College constituents serve as building blocks to create a strong foundation for the future of CFNR. Its 112 years of existence and long list of achievements and accomplishments make CFNR a pillar in Philippine Forestry. However, he cautioned everyone not to be complacent and instead prepare for the next 100 years of a better future for the College and the country.

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UPLB-CFNR student tops 1st online national forestry quiz contest



Justine A. Marasigan, a BS Forestry student at the College of Forestry and Natural Resources (CFNR), bagged the championship at the 1st Online National Forestry QuizCon, held on 26 February 2022.

The National Forestry QuizCon is an academic competition among students of 17 participating state universities and colleges in the Philippines. It aims to forge

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CFNR marks its 112th...

To make the event more meaningful, a short video of the history of Foundation Day was presented. It showcased glimpses of the past and historical milestones to inspire the college constituents to be more dynamic and responsive. The video showcased dynamic drone shots and a collage of vintage photos from 1910.

CFNR recognized 10 service awardees, 11 retirees, 8 UP scientists (2020-2022), 1 posthumous, and 2 special awards for outgoing unit heads. Also, outstanding personnel awards were given to 7 CFNR staff while 1 student award was given for being the 1st Online National Forestry Quiz Contest champion. All awardees received plaques of appreciation.

To close the event, Associate Dean Analyn L. Codilan commended the efforts of College Secretary Rosalie C. Mendoza, as overall coordinator of the Foundation Day, and the various sub-committee members for their time, effort, and commitment. She also thanked OVCCA, UPMO, OPR, and ITC for providing the necessary support. Most importantly, she thanked the outstanding awardees, UP Scientists, and student awardees for their passion and dedication to their respective work/advocacies.

Chancellor Jose V. Camacho, Vice Chancellor Roberto P. Cereno, and Vice Chancellor Nathaniel C. Bantayan attended the event. Around 100 staff and guests came to MBG to celebrate while 70 attendees participated via Zoom. -- BY Aileen Peria

CFNR's 112th Foundation Day

Creating a Future that Nurtures and Restores

The collage features several categories of award recipients:

- Service Awardees:**
 - 25 years: Prof. Romeo B. Rosales, Jr. (FSC)
 - 30 years: Prof. Rosalinda Espinosa (FISHING IAT), Mr. Wilfredo O. Rosales (IA), Mr. Jaime S. Gueping (MBS)
 - 35 years: Mr. Wilfredo P. Bantayan (MBS), Mr. Feliciano S. Pacion (IA)
 - 40 years: Mr. Juan M. Pacion (BPO), Ms. Cynthia S. Sison (FSC), Ms. Dina S. Insua (FSC), Ms. Zenaida B. Lanza (IA)
- Retirees:**
 - Dr. MA. Maria G. Manal (Founding prof of 1910-1911)
 - Prof. Benito G. Peralta (Founding prof of 1910-1911)
 - Prof. Leonardo S. Sison (Founding prof of 1910-1911)
 - Dr. Rex Valdez-C. Cruz (Founding prof of 1910-1911)
 - Dr. Regino B. Nolas (Founding prof of 1910-1911)
 - Mr. Andres A. Ben (Founding prof of 1910-1911)
 - Mr. Benito M. Pacion (Founding prof of 1910-1911)
 - Mr. Romeo S. Ben (Founding prof of 1910-1911)
 - Prof. Gerardo S. Aguirre (Founding prof of 1910-1911)
 - Mr. Zenaida M. Rosales (Founding prof of 1910-1911)
 - Mr. Esteban S. Bantayan (Founding prof of 1910-1911)
- Outstanding Personnel:**
 - Dr. Catherine C. De los Angeles (1st ASEAN)
 - Dr. Magasin M. Caldeira (1st ASEAN)
 - Business Public or NITP Project 4
 - Dr. Priscilla F. Dizon
 - George M. Alvarez
 - Emmanuel L. Serrano
 - Dr. Arlene D. Rosales
- Student Awardee:**
 - James A. Mavrogen
- Posthumous:**
 - Priscilla E. Rosales, Jr. (1910-1911 - 11 November 2022)
- Outgoing Unit Heads:**
 - Dr. Priscilla C. Dizon (IA)
 - Prof. Roberto P. Cereno (MBS)
- UP Scientists:**
 - Dr. Mercedes Ben
 - Dr. Juan D. Caldeira (IA)
 - Dr. Benito S. Cruz (FSC)
 - Dr. Juan M. Pacion (BPO)
 - Dr. Wilfredo P. Rosales (MBS)
 - Dr. Regino B. Nolas (MBS)
 - Dr. Leonardo S. Sison (FSC)
 - Dr. Zenaida M. Rosales (IA)
 - Dr. Esteban S. Bantayan (MBS)

UPLB-CFNR student tops 1st online national quizcon...

connections between participating schools and promote forestry knowledge and scholastic competition among the best forestry students in the country.

UP Zeta Beta Rho Honor Fraternity and the UP Mussaenda Honor Sorority, both CFNR-based student organizations, organized the event.



Photo by RCMendoza

Justine happily poses with quizcon mentors (L-R For. Dida, ColSec Mendoza, For. Cabatbat and For. Timog) and co-participant (Ms. Natividad in red top).

Other winners were Renchel Kaye Lopez (1st runner-up), representing Benguet State University, and Raven Daryl Suarez (2nd runner-up) from Caraga State University. Atty. Fritzielyn Q. Palmiery served as head coach, with CFNR faculty members serving as coaches for their respective areas, namely aP Jan Joseph V. Dida from the Institute of Renewable Natural Resources; For. Anna Marie S. Cabatbat from the Department of Forest Products and Paper Science; and For. Emmanuel Bonifacio S. Timog from the Department of Forest Biological Sciences. Christine Jane M. Natividad served as UPLB's alternate participant. -- BY Dr. Leila D. Landicho

Published online at the UPLB Horizon on 30 March 2022 https://uplb.edu.ph/academic/uplb-cfnr-student-tops-1st-online-natl-forestry-quizcon%ef%bf%bc/?fbclid=IwAR3HyKwfKgQzDDeTNNwsxRM-EO_Workw_nUgHCRYfweWyc9lhQuC5TaYe2w

CFNR's 2022 Strategic Planning Workshop in a nutshell

BY Aileen S. Peria

Strategic planning is never easy but having a starting point makes a difference.

CFNR organized a three-day planning workshop to take stock of unit accomplishments, identify significant challenges and uncertainties, and generate future-proofing plans and programs.

With Dean Marlo D. Mendoza at the helm, the first day was held on 4 April 2022 via Zoom and open to all CFNR constituents. To give updates on current UPLB initiatives, Vice Chancellor Jean O. Loyola presented the UPLB academic plans while Vice Chancellor Nathaniel C. Bantayan shared UPLB's research and extension plans. Afterward, academic, non-academic units, and selected committees (Curriculum Committee, Research and Extension Committee, Student Concerns/OCS, MMFN, ITP, Forestry Products Processing Facility, Innovation and Entrepreneurship, CIMRC, and Administrative Matters) presented status reports, major accomplishments, and strategies for future activities.

Days 2 and 3, held face-to-face at TREES on 11 and 18 April 2022, focused on specific strategic plans as well as complementing monitoring and evaluation



Day 2 of CFNR Strategic Planning Workshop held at TREES and via Zoom on 11 April 2022. Photo from Dean's Office.

activities. Presentations were made by unit heads and chairpersons of various committees such as Curriculum Committee, Research and Extension Committee, Student Concerns/OCS, MMFN, ITP, UP Land Grant, Forestry Products Processing Facility, Innovation and Entrepreneurship, CFNR-CIMRC, Renewable Energy, MBG (Ecotourism), CFNR Carbon Footprint Offsetting, and Administrative Matters.

Dr. Maricel T. Villamayor, coordinator of the three-day event, described the activity as a work in progress. Final outputs and documentation reports are being prepared for dissemination.

Former UPLB Chancellor, Dr. Rex Victor O. Cruz retires after 43 years of exemplary service

BY *Marinel B. Andal, John Mark L. Anzia, & Kristhel Allyana O. Canares*



A former UPLB Chancellor, a remarkable professor at the Institute of Renewable Natural Resources, and a homegrown CFNR alumnus, Dr. Rex Victor Cruz has retired as a professor, scientist, and administrator after more than 43 years of service to the University.

Dr. Cruz is known as one of the country's leading experts in watershed management and climate change studies. He was recognized for his various exemplary works in forest resources management, including watershed and ecosystem management, biodiversity, climate change, forest policy studies, land-use change, and sustainable forest management. During his service, he made impactful contributions to the development of the Environmental Forestry Programme and several academic courses such as Environmental

Forestry, Tropical Forests and Climate Change, and Watershed Management.

With his exemplary work, commitment, and dedication to the field of forestry, he received numerous local, national, and international recognitions. Some of his notable awards include the Nobel Peace Prize in 2007 as one of the members of the UN Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), the National Academy of Science and Technology (NAST) Environmental Science Award in 2016, and the recognition as an Academician in 2019.

He is also one of the 11 CFNR retirees this year and was recognized during the 112th CFNR Founding Anniversary held on 19 April 2022. On 26 August 2021, IRNR organized a virtual retirement ceremony to commend his notable works and contributions. Dr. Cruz is currently UP Scientist III and the Editor-in-Chief of CFNR's official journal publication—The Ecosystems and Development Journal.



Game On: Database workshop for CFNR unit representatives

BY *Louie D. Amongo*

Anchored on the vision of a robust CFNR RDE database system, the Office of the Coordinator for Research, Extension, and Linkages (OCREL) organized a two-hour in-house database workshop for selected CFNR unit representatives on 1 April 2022, via Zoom.

Database developer Mr. Roy V. Rita, presented the CFNR online database system's graphical user interface to around 20 participants. Before the workshop, modifications were made by Mr. Rita and OCREL to deliver consistency and improve the database's overall design.

The database system aims to consolidate and update data across CFNR units, including completed and ongoing research, extension, and public service activities. It shall also simplify the data extraction needed by the UPLB and UP systems.



Further, OCREL produced a series of "how-to" videos to supplement the workshop and address queries thrown in by the participants during the workshop. CFNR's database is a work in progress, and regular inputs from the constituents are vital components of the process.

IAF holds a special webinar on enhancing the adaptive capacity of rural farming communities in Southeast Asia

BY Dr. Leila D. Landicho

The UPLB Institute of Agroforestry (IAF) held a Special Webinar on 28 April 2022 with the theme “Enhancing Adaptive Capacity of Rural Farming Communities in Southeast Asia: Best Practices and Lessons Learned.”

Attended by 260 participants, the webinar highlighted the 10 capacity development projects funded by the Asia-Pacific Network for Global Change Research (APN). These projects centered on climate change adaptation and community resilience.

Among the critical lessons distilled from projects are: a) the importance of collaboration and partnership not only in facilitating project implementation, but in promoting resource sharing and integration of efforts; b) addressing the needs of the local communities matters most to ensure their active participation and sustainability of project activities; c) promoting policy-science linkages would pave the way for the institution and execution of local policies with science-based data as basis; d) awareness-raising is an essential component of capacity development projects; e) building model farms and demonstration plots showcase the workability and viability of the technology, which could help enhance technology adoption; f) universities taking the lead in project implementation count a lot because of their technical expertise and mandate to undertake capacity-building programs; and, g) active engagement of local communities ensures genuine participation and help develop sense of project ownership, which could pave the way for the sustainability of the initiatives.



The webinar, which is a part of the Early-Career Science Communication project of Dr. Leila D. Landicho, also highlighted a video presentation on the significant contributions of the projects, as articulated by the local partners.

In the closing remarks by Dr. Ngon Chi Kim, Co-Chair of APN Scientific Planning Group, she expressed appreciation for several significant experiences and lessons generated by the 10 capacity development projects. She also emphasized the need to sustain collaboration and partnership.

More details and related videos can be found at <https://www.apn-gcr.org/event/special-webinar-enhancing-adaptive-capacity-of-rural-farming-communities-in-southeast-asia-best-practices-and-lessons-learned/>

Back in the game: FDC travels to Bicol and Ilocos for reforestation data

BY Michiko Karisa M. Buot

The all-women project team of the Forestry Development Center (FDC), led by Dr. Priscila C. Dolom, resumed their data-gathering activities this March 2022 in Bicol and Ilocos study sites after two years of postponement due to COVID-19 travel restrictions. The project, “Parameters and Indicators for Measuring Successful Reforestation Projects in Luzon, Philippines” seeks to address the low success rate of reforestation projects.

The FDC project team traveled to some provinces in Bicol on 7-11 March 2022 and Ilocos on 21-25 March 2022 to visit the National Greening Program (NGP) or reforestation study sites. They also consulted with experts and key stakeholders from the provincial and local offices of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR), local government units, non-government organizations, people’s organizations, and the academe on their experience with reforestation efforts.

The project aims to update the monitoring and evaluation framework for the DENR and other private entities to use as a tool to measure the success of reforestation projects. In addition, FDC will create a policy recommendation to address the lingering issues and concerns in reforestation programs. The project was implemented in December 2020. During the COVID-19 pandemic, the team learned to adapt to remote work and performed major activities despite the restrictions. Also involved in the project are Dr. Leonida Bugayong, Engr. Magdalena Villanueva, Ms. Ma. Cynthia Casin, For. Jean Nicmic, For. Judith Castillo, and Ms. Diorella Mari Garcia. The project covers four regions including Bicol, Ilocos, Cagayan, and Central Luzon.



Photo 1. The FDC team consults with the faculty of Mariano Marcos State University in Batac, Ilocos Norte. From left to right: Dr. Roseller Ayson, Campus Director Dr. Joselito Rosario, Dr. Priscila Dolom, Engr. Ma. Magdalena Villanueva, and For. Jean Nicmic.

Photo 2. NGP Coordinator For. Mei de Leon and CBFM-PO President Catalino de Jesus guide FDC staff For. Judith Castillo and Dr. Priscila Dolom, in the CBFM area NGP site in Brgy. Tibli, Sipocot, Camarines Sur.

Photo 3. Dr. Priscila Dolom interviews Principal Allan Forte of Don Servillano Platon Memorial High School in Goa, Camarines Sur (Photos by DMTGarcia).



<https://www.facebook.com/cfnrsofficial>

Student contingents from CFNR excelled in the 2022 ASEAN Geospatial Challenge

BY Mirasol M. Guinto, Cary Maynard R. Olivar, & Gaudencio H. Ramos III

CFNR congratulates four BS Forestry students for receiving the Excellence Award in the ASEAN Geospatial Challenge 2022 (Youth Edition). Venice Jiezzele C. Nesperos conceptualized the winning project with team members of PJ G. Caparros, Monique B. Evangelista, and Niomi Ashley Ilejay.

The ASEAN Geospatial Challenge, in its second year, is an annual international event that aims to “bring youth in the ASEAN region together to use geospatial technology and information to support nations in achieving their Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)” (<https://aseangeospatial.org/>, n.d.). The team’s proposal, “Project Sulong Bakauan: An Ultimate Guide Map for Establishing Sustainable Mangrove Rehabilitation Areas,” aims to provide an accessible and user-friendly tool to help determine appropriate planting sites for different mangrove species with the help of geospatial technology. CFNR first bagged the Excellence Award in last year’s ASEAN Geospatial Challenge 2021: Youth Edition through Project GEO-AID: A Geospatial Database Crowdfunding Application Development. The project aims to address poverty through an application that provides information regarding the poverty status of different areas using geospatial data visualization, which, in turn, will allow the effective mobilization of resources and services with the help of crowdfunding. The 2022 event was participated in by 27 teams from five countries.

CFNR congratulates the newly-elected
CFNR Student Council
 for Academic Year 2022-2023!



OCREL hosts 2022 Saliksik-Hayagan conference online

BY For. Amelita C. Luna and Dr. Tomas D. Reyes, Jr.

CFNR through OCREL organized the first online 2022 Saliksik-Hayagan webinar on 19 April 2022.

The guest speakers in the recent online conference were For. Marie Jessica C. Gabriel, Assistant Professor of the Institute of Renewable Natural Resources; Mr. Neil Jun S. Lobite, Assistant Professor of the Department of Forest Biological Sciences; Dr. Maricel T. Villamayor, Program Development Associate of the CFNR and Assistant Professor of the Department of Social Forestry and Forest Governance; and Eng. Jeanette O. Grande, Assistant Professor of the Department of Forest Products and Paper Science.

Saliksik-Hayagan, which started in 2006, is a college-wide conference for faculty, research staff, and students that aims to provide a venue for the presentation of the latest scientific findings of the CFNR staff to the UPLB community. Further, it is a forum for identifying new research methodologies, techniques, and equipment that other researchers may find helpful in their respective research works.

Dean Marlo M. Mendoza delivered the welcome remarks. The program was officially closed by OCREL Coordinator, Dr. Tomas D. Reyes, Jr. The webinar serves as part of the morning highlights of the 112th CFNR Foundation Anniversary.



Bamboos as bioremediation tool in restoring nickel mined-out areas in Zambales project receives support from NRCP

BY For. Amelita C. Luna

The National Research Council of the Philippines (NRCP), an attached agency to the Department of Science and Technology (DOST), granted CFNR initial one-year funding support (1 March 2022 to 28 February 2023), amounting to PhP 4.0M for the project, “Bamboos as Bioremediation Tool in Restoring Nickel Mined-out Areas in Zambales.”

Led by Dr. Lerma SJ. Mardia of the Department of Forest Biological Sciences (DFBS), the project aims to assess the potential of bamboo in bioremediation by selecting appropriate species suitable for restoring nickel mined-out areas. Specifically, it seeks to assess the rooting performance of culm and branch cuttings of selected species (*e.g.*, buho, kawayan tinik, bayog) of bamboos using root hormones under nursery conditions; determine the field growth performance of rooted bamboos inoculated with arbuscular mycorrhiza (H-Q VAM1), an organic fertilizer developed by the DENR-ERDB; evaluate soil quality, heavy metal concentrations of bamboos, biomass, carbon stock, carbon sequestration potential of outplanted bamboo in nickel mined-out areas; provide capacity building on bamboo propagation and planting, and processing of bamboos to selected target beneficiaries; and produce information, education, and communication (IEC) campaign materials for technology dissemination.

The project is anchored on then-DENR Secretary Roy A. Cimatu’s memorandum requiring mining companies to establish additional bamboo plantations equivalent to 10% of the declared mining area to increase the bamboo plantation in the Philippines. Its goal is also aligned toward rehabilitation and restoration of the mined-out areas as stipulated in Section 69 of the Republic Act No.7942 (An Act Institutionalizing a new system of mineral resources exploration, Development, Utilization, and Conservation or the Philippine Mining Act of 1995).

Also involved are S&T consultants: Dr. Ramon A. Razal and Dr. Armando M. Palijon as well as project staff composed of Dr. Marilyn S. Combalicer, Dr. Crusty E. Tinio, and Dr. Leila D. Landicho, For. Amelita C. Luna, and Mr. Louie D. Amongo.

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