



## Forestry graduate is top 10 in licensure examination

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Mikaella Gabrielle A. Esuejo with her mother during the 98th Commencement Exercises. Esuejo passed the October 2023 Forestry Licensure Examination at 10th place with a rating of 89.85%.

## BSU recognized at 2<sup>nd</sup> ICONS Awards 2023

*Benguet State University is among the Philippine Higher Education Institutions (HEIs) that earned distinction at the 2nd Internationalization Champions of Nation-Building and Sustainability (ICONS) Awards 2023 held at the Philippine International Convention Center, Metro Manila on October 6, 2023.*

Organized by the Commission on Higher Education – International Affairs Service (CHED-IAS), the ceremony intended to recognize Philippine HEIs for their exemplary achievements and contributions to their academic and social community and their noteworthy pursuits toward elevating the Philippines in the global education platform.

“These HEIs have commendable performance in recognized international rankings, trailblazing efforts to advance internationalization of HEIs, and pursuing innovative

initiatives that contributed to the country’s economic and societal goals,” remarked CHED Commissioner, J. Prospero E. De Vera III.

Recently, BSU was included as among the Rank 201-300 at the World University Ranking For Innovation (WURI)/ The Times Higher Education (THE) Impact Rankings also gave BSU a position among the top 1001+ universities around the globe.

Other CAR HEIs recognized in the event include Abra State Institute of Science

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## BSU retains ISO 90001:2015 certification

*Benguet State University has successfully passed the ISO 90001:2015 Surveillance Audit conducted by the TUV Rheinland on October 24, 2023. This means that BSU will retain its certification.*

The audit was held onsite by the TUV Rheinland audit team headed by Jean R. Laguitao. It aimed to verify the conformity of BSU’s quality management system with the ISO standards, determine its compliance with applicable legal, regulatory, and contractual requirements, and assess the effectiveness of the University’s management system in achieving its objectives.

The audit involved: interviews with the top management, internal audit team, and other process

owners; verification of previous audit findings; and visit and observation of office processes. Documents or evidence on: human resource management and development; registrar’s services; admissions and placement processes; guidance and counselling; supply and procurement services; library services; health services; facility maintenance; and research and extension services were also reviewed.

The Audit Team presented the results of

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First published in 1996, *Shamag* is one of the official publications of Benguet State University. It was named after the Ibaloi word for news. It is a medium for employees, clients, students and partners to disseminate their programs, achievements and advocacies. *Shamag* aims to help the University goals in developing proactive programs for quality service by developing effective and efficient innovative platforms for cascading information and strengthening public-private partnerships.

Articles, pictures, comments, suggestions, reactions, and letters to the Editor may be submitted to the Editor or Associate Editor of *Shamag* at the Benguet State University Public Affairs Office through (074) 422-2127 loc. 69 or through email at [publicaffairs@bsu.edu.ph](mailto:publicaffairs@bsu.edu.ph).

Submitted materials will be acknowledged but Editors will determine whether materials submitted for publication shall be printed based on the Filipino Journalist's Code of Ethics. The editors also reserve the right to edit submitted materials for mechanics. The *Shamag* is guided by the journalistic standards of the Associated Press. Any opinions expressed are those of the writer and do not necessarily reflect the views or opinions of the *Shamag* staff.

## VISION

BSU as an International Smart University engendering graduates to walk the intergenerational highways.

## MISSION

BSU CARES to: Challenge innovation, Advance technology and facility, Revitalize administration, Engender partnership, and Serve intergenerational role.

## DEVELOPMENT GOALS

Goal I. Challenge Innovation in the four fold functions of the University

Objectives:

1. (Instruction) To provide quality education responsive to the needs of time;
2. (Research) To enhance research productivity contributing to sustainable development;
3. (Extension) To disseminate relevant research outputs and other scholarly activities consistent with BSU's mandated programs;
4. (Production) To promote sustainable and appropriate resource generation strategies for the implementation of development plans; and
5. (Administration) To advocate for resource management and effective energy efficiency in addressing the demands of climate change.

Goal II. Advance Technology and Facility by shaping the University become responsive to modern needs.

Objectives:

1. (Instruction) To use information and communication technology learning resources to sustain and enhance quality of alternative teaching - learning continuity endeavors;
2. (Research and Extension) To upgrade facilities and enable researchers/extensionists to conduct activities using specialized facilities;
3. (Production) To acquire and upgrade state-of-the-art facilities in the projects innovation; and
4. (Administration) To upgrade facilities and establish modern physical infrastructures.

Goal III. Revitalize Administration by harmonizing performance monitoring, information, and reporting systems.

Objectives:

1. To elevate the BSU PRIME-HRM to a level of excellence for good governance and efficient public service;
2. To reinforce transparency, integrity, and objectivity in the delivery of service;
3. To regenerate instruction, research, extension, production, linkages, governance, management, and policies; and
4. To streamline operations to be efficient, effective, and responsive to challenges and changes.

Goal IV. Engender Partnership by proactively strengthening linkages

Objectives:

1. (Instruction) To establish academic partnerships with local, regional, national, and international institutions providing educational opportunities for faculty, staff, and students;
2. (Research) To increase and sustain university relations with academe, industries, GOs, NGOs, and LGUs for research funding;
3. (Extension) To increase and sustain partnership with academe, LGUs, NGOs, Industries, and others; and
4. (Production) To comply with existing laws, policies and other requirements.

Goal V. Serve Intergenerational Role by revitalizing the Spiritual, Physical, Economical, Cultural, Intellectual, Emotional, and Social (S.P.E.C.I.E.S.) state.

Objectives:

1. To offer programs that embody social, cultural, economic and developmental needs both for local and global markets;
2. To champion local culture and languages in the University context through research, extension, and academic programs;
3. To document best practices of the University.

AdCo Action No. 03, s.2021

## Quality Policy

Benguet State University is continuously committed to improve its Quality Management System, satisfy requirements of relevant interested parties and provide excellent service for quality education and innovative research aligned with sustainable development and client satisfaction.

Board Resolution # 2847 S.2016

# BSU researches bag 19 awards in 2023 Regional Symposium Student Research Congress

*Benguet State University researches garnered 19 Best Paper Awards during the 13th Regional Symposium on RDE Highlights & 6th Regional Student Research Congress held on October 24-26, 2023 at the Luna Campus of Apayao State College.*

Seven research papers won in the oral presentation, six papers won in the poster presentation while six papers won in the students' presentation. The winning papers were evaluated under the different categories which include Social Aquatic, Agriculture and Natural Resources (Social AANR), Science and Technology Aquatic, Agriculture and Natural Resources (S&T AANR), Development, Socio-cultural, Education, and Industry, Energy, and Emerging Technologies (IEET).

There were 158 research presentations in the symposium in which 63 were presented under the professional

level-oral category, 30 under the student level-oral category, and 59 under the poster category. There was also an institutional booth competition where BSU garnered 2nd place.

During the closing program, BSU VP for Research and Extension, Dr. Johnny G. Dati Sr. representing BSU President Felipe Salaing Comila, thanked the Consortium Member Institutions of CorCAARRD and CIEERDeC for their unwavering support in the conduct of the regional symposium. He highlighted that the R&D efforts of the member agencies are a modality to generate technologies,

inventions, and innovations to specifically and appropriately respond to regional developmental challenges. President Comila also chairs the CorCAARRD RRDC.

On the other hand, Sancho A. Maborang, Undersecretary for Regional Operations of the Department of Science and Technology, also encouraged the participants to commercialize research outputs and not just stop at publication or research presentations. He also emphasized the need for Technology Business Incubation that is responsive to the needs of the people.

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## MATATAG Curriculum's Teacher Support System: a promising start at Initialization Conference

*The ambitious MATATAG Curriculum, designed to enhance teacher education in the Philippines, has taken a significant step forward with the successful Initialization Conference held from October 3-6, 2023, at the Heritage Hotel, Manila, Philippines. This pivotal event brought together academic leaders and esteemed faculty members all over the Philippines, setting the stage for the development of materials aimed at supporting the MATATAG Curriculum.*

The conference was attended by BSU VP for Academic Affairs, Samuel S. Poliden; CTE Dean, Divina M. Yango; and CTE Faculty members Esper L. Feliciano, Apler J. Bansion, and Jingle Cuevas. During the four-day event, the attendees embarked on a comprehensive exploration of MATATAG, its foundational principles and the integral role they will play in its success.

### **Understanding MATATAG**

MATATAG stands for "Make the curriculum relevant to produce job, ready, Active and responsible citizens; Take

steps to accelerate the delivery of basic education service and provision facilities; TAKE good care of learners by promoting learner well-being, inclusiveness learning, and positive learning environment; and Give support for teachers to teach better.

Dr. Yango believed that the realization of this project lies in the productive collaboration among stakeholders. As part of the bigger system, the teacher education institution's contributions in this project will be crucial in its realization. The College of Teacher Education, greatly supports and will activity participate in the project.

The event commenced with a

walkthrough of the MATATAG Curriculum, an educational framework rooted in strength and resilience. Dr. John Pegg, Director of University of New England Science, ICT and Mathematics Education for Rural and Regional Australia and Co-Director of the Philippine National Research Center for Teacher Quality, delivered a thought-provoking address. He highlighted the underlying philosophy, theories, principles, and the core concepts that shape MATATAG. Dr. Pegg stressed the importance of considering these foundations when crafting learning materials to ensure they align with the curriculum's vision.

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BSU VP for Academic Affairs Samuel S. Poliden and College of Teacher Education (CTE) Dean Divina M. Yango along with CTE Faculty Members Esper L. Feliciano, Apler J. Bansion, and Jingle Cuevas during the Initialization Conference held from October 3-6, 2023, at the Heritage Hotel, Manila, Philippines. (Photos by Johna G. Belardo)

BSU Researchers bags 19 awards... from page 3

## The BSU winners are the following:

### Professional Level - Oral Presentation

#### *Social AANR Category*

1st BEST PAPER - Enhancing Gender Responsiveness and Growth of the Strawberry Processing Enterprise - Ruth Batani, Cheryl Launio, Janet Pablo, Jao-jao Somyden, Elvie Nang-is, and Sheler Ramos

2nd BEST PAPER - Cost-Benefit Analysis of Selected Climate Resilient Adaptation Practices for Selected Crops in Apayao (Proj. 3) - Cheryl Launio, Roscinto Ian Lumbres, Mark Bulangen, and Rovilyn Tulian

#### *S&T AANR Category*

2nd BEST PAPER - Integrated Pest Management in GAP and Organic Production of Broccoli and Strawberry under Protected Structures in Benguet and Mountain Province - Jocelyn Perez and Teresita Mangili

3rd BEST PAPER - Heirloom Rice R&D: Increasing Rice Landraces' Production Through Acceptable Cultural Management Options in Benguet and Mountain Province - Belinda Tad-awan, Alexander Fagan, Nordalyn Pedroche, Gennie Soyon, Joel Faroden, Jasmin Chomawat, and Daren Dumanni

#### *Socio-Cultural Category*

1st BEST PAPER - Spirituality, Health, and Well-being - Ruth S. Batani, May Angeline Lapuz, and Remedios Thompson

#### *IEET Category*

2nd BEST PAPER - Climate Risk Vulnerability Assessment of Priority Crops in Ifugao Province - Quinerlyn Godio, Angelica Batingal, Lynn Talkasen, Roscinto Ian Lumbres, Myra Nieves Lingaling, and Levi Ezekiel Daipan

### POSTER Presentation

#### *Social-AANR Category*

BEST POSTER - Climate-Resilient Agriculture Practices Assessment of Major Crops in Apayao - Janet Pablo, Madeline Kingan, Esther Josephine Sagalla, Jetro Neil Gapasin, Joyce Leona Bandisa, Love Joy Gumpod, and Nonalee Graile Aggalao

#### *S & T AANR Category*

1st BEST POSTER - Determination of Appropriate Rate and Timing of Fertigroee N,P, & K Nanofertilizers for Potato and Cabbage - Pompei Sta. Cruz, Janet Pablo, Darwin Basquial, Felicia Fiacatang, Louie Rimas, Maria Victoria Bascon, Kim Nyka Perdiguerra, Khaner Belmor, Juiel Busingit, and Kristine Joy Balatian

2nd BEST POSTER - Survey of Plant Parasitic Nematodes and Potential Biocon Agents Prevalent in White Potato Growing Areas

in Benguet and Mountain Province - Judith Lawilao, Nordalyn Pedroche Lynn Talkasen, Asuncion Nagpala, Joan Bacbac, Socorro Rulloda, Crisz Bolinget, Jonas Sabo, Ezra Balusdan, and Kirby Gasigas

#### *Socio-Cultural Category*

1st BEST POSTER - The Effect of a Sports Competition Involvement on the Anxiety Level of Employees Working Amidst the Covid-19 Pandemic - Jenny Victor-Esiong

#### *IEET Category*

1st BEST POSTER - Development of Ready-to-Eat Dehydrated Beetroot (*Beta vulgaris* L.) - Lesley Dale Umayat, Jeftee Ben Pinosan, and Zinnia Das-ilen

### Student Level - Oral Presentation

#### *AANR and Social AANR Category*

1st BEST PAPER - Biomass, Carbon Stock and Economic Value Assessment of Daclan Communal Forest Parcel IV in Tublay, Benguet - Author: Roshel Banganan, Nayvie Carantes, and Ruthlane Taynan, Adviser: Roscinto Ian Lumbres

2nd BEST PAPER - Floral Diversity Assessment and Community Appraisal for Forest Ecosystem Importance, Issues, and Management Practices of Mt. Natoo in Sebang, Buguias, Benguet, Philippines - Author: Johndale Rein Bullong and Jim Siverio, Adviser: Jones Napaldet

#### *Non-AANR Category*

1st BEST PAPER - Perceived Academic Stress and its Relationship on the Eating Behavior of the Bachelor of Science in Nutrition and Dietetics (BSND) Students of Benguet State University, La Trinidad Campus, Authors: Jiara Eika Nitron, Xyliene Bernyze Obiacoro, Lea Jenelle Retuerne, and Hazel Sinadcop Adviser: Pelin Belino

2nd BEST PAPER - Learning Management Dynamics of Elementary Education Student-Parents, Authors: Jerosabelle Antonio, Charity Mae Agtulao, Yvonne Shane Balinag, and Ronalyn Bayas, Adviser: Esper Feliciano

#### *IEET Category*

1st BEST PAPER - Salt Solution and Modified Weigner's Solution as Alternative to Preserving Dog Muscles for Gross Dissection Studies - Authors: Divina Gracia Beligan, Adviser: Maureen Theresa De Vera

2nd BEST PAPER - Spatio-Temporal Analysis of the Land Use Land Cover Change in the Upper Agno River Basin Resource Reserve Using Remote Sensing - Authors: Mikaella Gabrielle Esquejo, Kelaiah Ulao, and Stephanie Suzzane Valdez, Adviser: Roscinto Ian Lumbres...//ASantiago



BSU VP for Research and Extension Johnny G. Dati Sr., CorCAARD Director Janet Pablo and the Consortium Member Institutions of CorCAARRD and CIEERDeC after the 13th Regional Symposium on RDE Highlights & 6th Regional Student Research Congress closing program held on October 24-26, 2023 at the Luna Campus of Apayao State College. (Photo by CorCAARD)

## BSU students make it to DAP Start Hackathon

*A team of BSU students named "Byte Busters" made it as one of the ten finalists who were qualified to compete in the Start Hackathon 2023 held on October 17-19 in Tagaytay. The Byte Busters' entry was selected out of 75 entries coming from both professionals and students nationwide.*

The team is composed of third year Information Technology students namely: Maron Harvey Sanchez, the back-end developer; Vernon Palking for business and marketing; McLean P. Sabado, the front-end developer; Rechelle D. Mayoda, the data researcher; and Kiezel Kate B. Minas, the project manager. The team was accompanied

by IT faculty member, Frevy T. Orenca. For the 48-hour hackathon, Byte Busters was challenged to develop a public transport information service using data and digital technologies to improve travel decisions and reduce travel times.

The hackathon is a platform for coming up with creative ways and innovative solutions to address complex

issues and challenges faced by the LGUs, towards smart city development. This was organized by the Development Academy of the Philippines (DAP)-Center for Strategic Futures under their Linking Innovation Partners Towards Accelerated Development in the Philippines (LIPAD) program.//JSTabangcura



"Byte Busters," a group of BSU students, advances to the final ten, earning the right to participate in the Start Hackathon 2023, which takes place in Tagaytay from October 17–19. The Byte Busters' submission is chosen from 75 entries submitted by professionals and students around the country. (Photos by Jessica V. Caranay and Frevy T. Orenca)

## BSU Showcases Cordi and Highlands Culture via Photo Exhibit & Intercultural Exchange

*Students, faculty staff, and evaluators from the Schools Division of Baguio City and Benguet gathered at the CAS Annex grounds on the bright morning of October 27, 2023 to witness another Visual Research and Intercultural Exchange showcasing the vibrant and*

With the theme, "Showcasing the Gender & Cultural Expressions of the Cordilleras and the Lowlands," the whole-day event featured presentations colleges.

In his welcome remarks, Stanley F. Anongos Jr., Dean of the College of Social Sciences expressed the indispensability of the said event, citing cases where students only learned indigenous dances when they studied at Benguet State University (BSU).

"The community, I presume, is not completely or thoroughly teaching our children some of our traditional ways like dancing. Clearly, schools and universities like BSU, have become a venue for learning [cultural] dances..." he remarked.

University President Felipe Salaing Comila and Director for Gender and Development Office Estrellita M. Daclan likewise shared their enthusiasm for the said activity and warm regards to all attendees. Students then presented the various indigenous dances and songs of the ethnolinguistic groups in the Cordillera and the Lowland. They also showcased the different indigenous dishes and specialties of the Cordilleras and Lowlands before the panel of evaluators.

During the afternoon session, Richard H. Kinnud shared his impressions on the intercultural exchange activity, saying that being able to answer who we are as indigenous peoples? is the underlying question of this activity.

He further pointed out the dynamicity of culture and

issues for debate surrounding the infusion of contemporary times and cultural practices and beliefs. "Of course, there are also modern cultural expressions... what is important is that we do not lose our very own identity as an indigenous people," he explained.

Ros Hansel O. Gualdo from Benguet National High School (BNHS) also accorded to the idea when he said that "the culture we carry with us is not ours but it is the community. Sometimes, it will change... what's important is we know that this is our culture, this is who we are, and we should not shy away from these."

The activity was supported by Foro Internacional de Mujeres Indigenas (FIMI)/International Indigenous Women's Forum (IIWWF). It was organized by the College of Social Sciences (CSS) in partnership with the Masters of Arts in Social Studies Students' Association (MASSSA), Kritikal na Kamalayan sa Kasaysayan (KKK), Gender and Development Office (GAD), BSU Alumni Association, Inc. (BSUAAI), and BSU Museum.

Tecah C. Sagandoy, Chairperson of the Department of History, in closing, urged support for activities like this in the Cordillera Heritage 101, a newly opened General Education course in the university.

The program ended with a community dance led by the organizing team.//CANapiloy

# BSU participates in National Scouting Month 2023 through SOFAD

*As a part of National Scouting Month this October 2023, more than 30 Scout Officials for a Day (SOFAD) from various schools in Benguet assumed the as one-day officials of Benguet State University on October 9, 2023.*

The SOFAD's day began with the Turn-over and Opening Program held at Benguet Provincial Office, La Trinidad, Benguet. Afterwards, the scout officials proceeded to the various offices of the university to assume their responsibilities as BSU officials.

In the afternoon, the Scout Officials For-a-Day gathered at the BSU RDC Hall to share their learning experiences and listened to the inspirational message from BSU President Felipe Salaing Comila. The University

President shared that failure is part of life. He then encouraged the scouts to become optimistic as they continue their journey in life. "Keep on, regardless of what kind of life you have today do not be discouraged, life is beautiful tomorrow," he said.

The objective of the SOFAD program is to motivate students to actively participate in public service and education, with a strong emphasis on fostering civic responsibility.// OGDacocotJr.



*BSU President Felipe Salaing Comila and Executive Assistant IV Maridel P. Langbis with SOFAD Kirsten Manis during her stay at BSU as the University President.*

Forestry tops licensure examination... from page 1

*Mikaella Gabrielle A. Esquejo, a Bachelor of Science in Forestry (BSF) graduate from the BSU College of Forestry, emerged as top 10 in the Foresters Licensure Examination (FLE) held on October 2023 by the Philippine Regulation Commission. She garnered an average of 89.85%.*

Esquejo, who hails from Pangasinan, revealed that the forestry field was not her dream but she chose BSF, one of the degree programs prioritized by the Department of Science and Technology (DOST), in order to secure a scholarship. She may not have preferred BSF from the start but she shared that along the way, she came to enjoy being a Forestry student. She also expressed gratitude for the DOST scholarship that financially sustained her throughout her four-year study. She graduated magna cum laude during the BSU 98th Commencement Exercises on July 20-21, 2023.

As the only Latin honor graduate of her class, she felt pressured from the expectation that she would top the FLE. This further motivated her to excel and top the board exam. When asked about how her family reacted to her remarkable achievement, she replied that her family is proud of her. She added that she felt honored to be the College of Forestry alumna to secure a top spot in the FLE after 10 years.

Esquejo acknowledged the great contribution and support of the CF to the success of FLE examinees from BSU such as the refresher course offered to

those who will be taking. She added that her review and preparation for the National Forestry Quiz Contest this year, where she landed first runner-up, also helped her in hurdling the examination.

For her, becoming successful in a licensure examination requires two values: discipline in getting things done and grit towards the end goal. She advises those who will soon take the FLE to stay focused, find motivation, do mock examinations, and know themselves.

*"Una, mag-focus ka sa goal... pangalawa, mag-focus sa mock exams para ma-train yung utak mo na humanap ng keywords at mag-cross out ng mga malalayong options para ma-narrow down yung mga possible answers. At pangatlo, kilalanin ang sarili. Kung saan ka best na matututo at kung saan best na mag-work ang utak mo. Tulad sa akin, kung pagod ako, hindi ko pinipilit na mag-aral. Makinig ka sa utak mo at sa katawan mo. Kung pagod ka, rest para may energy ka ulit na mag-start [mag-aral] the next day. (First, focus on your goal, next, focus on the mock exams to train your brain to find keywords and cross out unlikely options. Third, observe the circumstances conducive for your study. For me, I don't force myself to study when*

I'm tired. I rest to have the energy to start studying again)," she said.

Esquejo is currently exploring possibilities to further hone her knowledge and skills. She is also considering working at the College of Forestry in the future.

Out of the 70 first-timers and retakers of the FLE, 40 passed listing a BSU passing rate of 54.79%.

The Dean of the College of Forestry, Dr. Gerry M. Alfonso, assured that they will exert more effort in reviews and other necessary preparation for the next board examination and solicited cooperation among the faculty members. He hopes to surpass the national passing rate in the next FLE.

"We will continue the offering of a one and a half month-refresher course during weekdays to cater to those fresh graduates and non-working retakers. Since the result of the exam of retakers is very low, we try to offer weekend refresher courses for the working retakers. We did that before the year 2013-2016 and surpassed the national passing rate for successive years. Further, it really needs the cooperation of every faculty in the college," he said. //EMBawayan

### MATATAG Curriculum's Teachers Support... from page 3

"Our participation in this project will help us better align our teacher training content and experiences with the actual learning needs and expectations," Yango added.

#### **Orientation of institutional heads**

The first day of the conference was dedicated to orienting the institutional heads who will play a critical role in the successful execution of MATATAG. They were informed of their responsibilities, the expectations associated with nominating writers from their institutions, and the importance of their commitment to the project. The support and active engagement of institutional leaders are vital to ensuring the curriculum's success.

#### **Empowering the writers**

The subsequent two days of the conference were devoted to orienting the writers who will be responsible for creating the learning materials that will bring the MATATAG Curriculum to life. They were introduced to the structure and content of the curriculum, as well as the expected learning outcomes. The writers were also provided with insights into the innovative

pedagogical approaches that MATATAG promotes, encouraging them to think creatively and inclusively in developing their materials.

The heart of these days comprised a series of interactive workshops, providing the writers with the knowledge, skills, and tools required to craft materials that effectively align with MATATAG's objectives.

#### **Commitment to excellence**

One of the most significant outcomes of the conference was the solicitation of commitment from the participating faculty members. Dr. Esper L. Feliciano, Dr. Apler Bansiong, and Dr. Jingle Cuevas have already submitted their commitment forms, underscoring their unwavering dedication to the MATATAG Curriculum. Their commitment is a testament to the caliber of educators involved in this vital project.

#### **The road ahead**

As the Initialization Conference concluded, the stage is set for the next phase of the project. The writers, armed

with their newfound insights and guided by their commitment, are ready to embark on the development of learning materials that will support the MATATAG Curriculum.

The MATATAG Curriculum is more than just a framework; it represents a significant leap towards enhancing teacher quality in the Philippines. According to Dr. Feliciano, the creation of these materials marks a pivotal moment in the country's educational landscape, promising a resilient and robust future for both educators and students alike.

She continued that with a strong foundation, dedicated faculty members, and the commitment of institutional leaders, the MATATAG Curriculum is poised for success, offering hope for a brighter educational future in the Philippines. The coming months will undoubtedly witness the fruits of this effort as the curriculum takes shape and becomes a beacon of resilience in Philippine education.//

JGBelardo

### BSU retains ISO... from page 1

their assessment in a closing meeting. They observed that BSU has established and maintains an effective system in conformance with its policy and objectives. The University has remained to be compliant with the standards of the ISO 9001:2015. The Audit Team recommended that BSU maintains its existing certification. This was the second follow-up audit for BSU's recertification.

Finance Division Chief Administrative Officer Andres Arnold W. Lampacan in behalf of BSU President

Felipe Salaing Comila, expressed his gratitude to the auditors for their patience, diligence, and time spent in the University. He also commended the BSU employees for their cooperation throughout the audit.

"We thank you for confirming that BSU is meeting the expectations of the accreditation. We also hope to communicate to the community and to the rest of the country that BSU is really spending the government's fund well as we deliver services within the four-fold

functions of the University," he said.

The University is ISO 9001:2015 certified since 2018. It's quality policy is a commitment to the continuous improvement of its Quality Management System to satisfy requirements of relevant interested parties, and provide excellent service for quality education and innovative research aligned with sustainable development and client satisfaction.//EMBawayan



Benguet State University successfully passes the Surveillance Audit for the ISO 9001:2015 Certification conducted by TUV Rheinland on October 24, 2023. This retains BSU's certification.

# 34th BBEAL Season Kicks Off

*The Baguio-Benguet Educational Athletic League (BBEAL) Season kicked off its 34th season on October 28, 2023 at the Benguet State University, this season's host. This event brought together student-athletes, coaches, and sports enthusiasts from various educational institutions in Baguio and Benguet.*

The event started with a parade of athletes. Each team, wearing their school colors and displaying their banners, marched proudly into the BSU gymnasium.

In his opening remarks, BSU President Felipe Salaing Comila emphasized the importance of sports not only in promoting physical well-being but also in fostering teamwork, discipline, and leadership among the youth. He spoke about the value of the BBEAL as a platform for student-athletes to showcase their talents and dedication to their respective institutions.

The event was further enriched by the captivating intermission performances of BSU cultural groups. The BSU Sinagtala showcased their artistic mastery through a fusion of contemporary and traditional dance forms while the BSU Kontad showed their graceful movements, rhythmic dance routines, and vibrant traditional attires, showing the beauty of Cordillera's cultural heritage.

This was followed by the lighting of the BBEAL torch, carried by Ms. Lorjane Aludos, a BSU student and two-time national player of the U16 football team, which symbolizes unity and sportsmanship. The BSU basketball varsity player Alvin Castillo also led the oath of sportsmanship.

Among the highlights of the event was the recognition of past athletic directors for their invaluable contributions to the BBEAL. Among the awardees were Philippine Military Academy (PMA) Athletic Directors Edgardo B. Batinay, Thomas B. Bawayan Jr., and Edbert L. Ngina; Cordillera Career Development College (CCDC)

Athletic Director Eduardo R. Laureano; Baguio Central University (BCU) Athletic Director Percy A. Sacyafen; Pines City Colleges Athletic Director Quirico Jr. L. Bambico, and BSU Athletic Director Rex John G. Bawang. CCDC was also awarded for hosting the 33rd BBEAL Season.

Afterwards, the unfurling of banners was led by the athletic directors followed by the Ceremonial Toss led by BSU President Comila, which signifies the declaration of the opening of the 34th BBEAL Season.

The participating teams include BCU Eagles, Baguio College of Technology Atoms, BSU Wildcats, CCDC Cagers, PMA Cavaliers, Saint Louis University Navigators, University of Baguio Cardinals, University of Cordilleras Jaguars, and University of the Philippines Maroons.

The UB Cardinals is still the reigning champion and will look to defend its title this season.

The BBEAL has a long history dating back to its humble beginnings in 1989. Over the years, the league has grown in both scale and prestige, becoming a symbol of unity and sportsmanship among the diverse academic institutions in Baguio-Benguet.// PjGadang



*The 34th season of the Baguio-Benguet Educational Athletic League (BBEAL) opened on October 28, 2023 at Benguet State University, the host institution for this season. Student-athletes, coaches, and sports fans from several schools in Baguio and Benguet come together for this event.*

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and Technology (ASIST), Cordillera Career Development College (CCDC), Ifugao State University (IFSU), Kalinga State University (KSU), Mountain Province State Polytechnic College (MPSPC), Saint Louis University (SLU), University of Baguio (UB), and University of the Cordilleras (UC).

In his message, De Vera accentuated the integral role of the urgency and ineluctability of change in university policies and administration in this ever-changing world where innovation and internationalization are the new name of the game for advanced education institutions.

"Whether we like it or not, the world has changed and universities now have to look beyond the horizons, their political boundaries... I think that we have seen a significant change that the journey towards internationalization has also been a journey

of change in every HEI. A journey of change that is anchored on their relentless pursuit of excellence and a relentless commitment to be globally competitive," he said.

Still, he offered a modest reminder that these rankings should not be treated as the ultimate goal but as a mechanism to continuously improve and grow as the measure of success does not lie in a one-year rank or a one-year score.

To close, "Together, we can share a future for Philippine higher education institutions to stand at the forefront of global recognition and leadership. Let us continue moving in this direction," he said.

International Relations Office (IRO) Deputy Director Dr. Rex John G. Bawang received the award in behalf of the university. //CANapiloy