



# Shamag

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## BSU hosts 23rd Regional Higher Education Press Conference



The BSU's Mountain Collegian emerged as the overall champion at the 23rd Regional Education Press Conference held at the BSU NPRCRTC on February 12-14, 2025//BTayaban

Benguet State University (BSU) hosted the 23rd Regional Higher Education Press Conference, themed "PRESS PLAY: Campus Journalists as Game Changers in the Digital Revolution." The event, held on February 12-14, 2025 at the Northern Philippines Root

Crops Training Center, was organized by the Tertiary School Publication Advisers Association-Cordillera Administrative Region (TSPAA-CAR).

The event was participated by 11 student publications of 10 public and private Higher Education

Institutions in CAR. The participating student publications were: The Flame of Baguio Central University; Tonisian Reflectors of Saint Tonis College, Inc.; Sparks Publication of Divine Word College of Bangued (DWCB); White & Blue of Saint Louis University; BSU hosts...continued on page 4

## Kochi University of Japan partners with BSU for enhanced education and sustainability

Benguet State University (BSU) and Kochi University (KU) of Japan have affirmed their partnership on various aspects through the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU). The partnership aims to enhance education, innovation, and sustainability that would benefit both universities and respective communities. BSU

President Kenneth A. Laruan and KU President Hiroyuki Ukeda led the virtual MOU signing ceremony witnessed by officials from both institutions on February 18, 2025.

During the event, Iwasa Kazuyuki, KU's Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences Dean, shared how the partnership was initiated. He said that the collaboration is a result

of KU's visit to Benguet Province and BSU in March 2024, the 50-year sister Province relationship between KU and Benguet, and the previous educational exchange between KU and BSU.

Kazuyuki emphasized the anticipated impact of the collaboration which includes deeper academic exchange and joint research that tackles serious global and local issues.

"By collaborating, we open the door to a new era," Kazuyuki said.

In his message, Laruan thanked KU for the initiative and acknowledged its long partnership with the Benguet Province. He emphasized the significance of establishing international linkages in BSU's SUC leveling, global rankings, Kochi University...continued on page 5

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Jennyline S. Tabangcura  
Brixan Gyle A. Tayaban

### DESIGN

Elsie M. Bawayan

### PHOTOGRAPHERS

Ellejohn A. Bawang  
Elsie M. Bawayan  
Prince Jheruel D. Gadang  
Brixan Gyle Tayaban

### CONTRIBUTOR

International Relations Office  
SLS Mountain Breeze

### CIRCULATION

UPAO Staff  
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### CONSULTANTS

Kenneth A. Laruan  
Janet P. Pablo  
Roscinto Ian C. Lumbres  
Richard H. Kinnud  
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*Shamag*, first published in 1996, is the official newsletter of Benguet State University. It was named after the Ibaloi word for news. It is one of the platforms for BSU to disseminate the programs, achievements and advocacies to its stakeholders. *Shamag* aims to help the University advance its goals by championing effective communication and partnerships.

Articles, pictures, comments, suggestions, reactions, and letters to the Editor may be submitted to the BSU-Public Affairs Office at [publicaffairs@bsu.edu.ph](mailto:publicaffairs@bsu.edu.ph). However, the *Shamag* staff reserves the right to edit submitted materials for mechanics and ethics. The *Shamag* is guided by the Associated Press (AP) style and journalistic standards.

For a complete view of articles and photos, visit [www.bsu.edu.ph](http://www.bsu.edu.ph) and [fb.com/BenguetStateUniversityOfficial](https://fb.com/BenguetStateUniversityOfficial). *Shamag* may shorten content and omit photos due to space limitations.

## Benguet State University

### VISION

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

### MISSION

**BSU CARES** to: **C**hallenge innovation, **A**dvance technology and facility, **R**evitalize administration, **E**ngender partnership, and **S**erve 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 Center for Culture and the Arts conducts third inter-college socio-cultural competition



Participants showcase their talents for the visual arts competition at the SLS covered court on February 19, 2025//PGadang

Benguet State University Center for Culture and the Arts (BSU-CCA) conducted its third Inter-College Socio-Cultural Competition with the theme, "Kalinangan: Illuminating the Filipino Artistic Spirit." Held on February 19, 2025 at the College of Teacher Education's Dominador S. Garin Hall and the Secondary Laboratory School Covered Court, the event was participated by the students of the three BSU campuses.

During the opening program, Leonardo L. Samonte, Director of CCA, shared the three main goals of the event: to provide a platform for all college students to

showcase their talents in the arts; to select official contestants for the 2025 Cordillera Administrative Region Association of State Universities and Colleges (CARASUC) Socio-Cultural competition; and to celebrate the National Arts Month.

BSU President Kenneth A. Laruan emphasized the importance of the event as an opportunity for students to display their talents, which are often unnoticed due to academic requirements. He also advised them to continue developing their art, as these can be beneficial when applying for work. Furthermore, he urged

them to promote camaraderie throughout the competition.

The competitions in visual arts, music, and radio drama began after the BSU President's message. The visual arts competition was divided into five sub-categories: charcoal rendering, on-the-spot poster making, painting, pencil drawing, and photography. The music competition was also divided into five sub-categories: instrumental solo, vocal solo, vocal duet, and pop solo.

Jeric Bautista of CTE won first place in charcoal rendering, Shanely Palitogen of the College of Human Kinetics (CHK) won the second place and Sheal Domeyeg of the College of Home Economics and Technology (CHET) earned the third place. The on-the-spot poster making competition was won by Travis C. Balacio of CHK, followed by Gundran P. Cadulas in second place, and Margareth Jacinto in third place.

Krizle Galino of CHK won first place in painting while Pauleen B. Arce of CTE and Clarisa G. Tarnate of the College of Arts and Humanities (CAH) shared the second place followed by Kyleigh Christen D. Materum of the College of Veterinary Medicine at third place. For the pencil drawing, Gary T. Bangsao of Bokod campus garnered first place, followed by Ruuthe Gumpad of CTE in second place and Regie A. Bosque from the College of Public Administration and Governance at third place. Jessica C. De Guzman of CSS won first place in the photo contest, followed by Moses Yisrael D. Chua of CIS at second place and Liezel P. Palayao of CHK at third place.

In the musical category, Justine Balero of CHET playing the violin was first place in the instrumental solo while John Ray Gonzalo of CIS and Devorah Acuña of CSS followed at second and

BSU Center...continued on page 7

## Odisee University College, Belgium and BSU reignite partnership

BSU welcomed representatives from Odisee University College, Belgium, from February 17 to 21, 2025, to renew their academic partnership. Kathy Pletinckx and Sabrien De Prez visited the University to explore continued collaboration.

During the Flag Raising Ceremony on February 17, IRO Director Rex John G. Bawang formally introduced the Belgian delegates to the BSU community. They later paid a courtesy visit to BSU President Kenneth A. Laruan, College of Nursing (CN) Dean Mark U. Gay-as, and other CN representatives to discuss future academic exchanges and joint initiatives.

As part of their visit, they toured key research centers, including the Cordillera Regional Apiculture Center

(CRAC) and the Institute of Highland Farming Systems and Agroforestry (IHFS), gaining insight into BSU's research and extension programs. A cultural welcome followed in the afternoon, where the KONTAD cultural group performed traditional dances, showcasing the University's rich heritage.

BSU and Odisee University College previously collaborated on a student exchange program, with two Belgian nursing students sent to BSU in 2020. However, the initiative was interrupted by the COVID-19 pandemic. With this renewed engagement, both institutions aim to revive student exchanges and explore broader academic collaborations, including potential partnerships with the College of Teacher Education.//IRO

*BSU hosts...from page 1*

The Louisiana Today of St. Louis College of Bulanao; Earthline of Kalinga State University (KSU) Main Campus; The Organon of KSU's Rizal Campus; The Alternative of University of the Cordilleras; The Mountain Collegian of BSU; The Upland Farm of Ifugao State University; and Tala: The Mocking Bird of Mountain Province State University (MPSU).

The opening program started with the introduction of participants by Juman Kevin B. Tindo, Secretary of the TSPAA-CAR.

In her welcome remarks, Esther Josephine D. Sagalla, representing VP for Academic Affairs Janet P. Pablo, welcomed the participants from various schools. She shared that the activity had three objectives: to develop camaraderie among campus journalists, to enhance their journalism skills, and to heighten the practice of responsible campus journalism.

She emphasized the importance of responsible journalism in standing up against fake news and false narratives. Sagalla also hoped that the participants would enjoy their time in the campus.

BSU President Kenneth A. Laruan also emphasized the importance of being cautious when using artificial intelligence, as it can change the outcome of ideas. He highlighted that the event is an opportunity for the participants to shine and showcase their skills and knowledge and reminded them of the need for responsible journalism. Additionally, Laruan encouraged the participants to promote camaraderie with their competitors.

This was followed by Karen O. Laking, President of TSPAA-CAR, who shared the mechanics and guidelines of the competition and the introduction of judges and speakers by Faith B. Napudo, Treasurer of TSPAA-CAR.

Before the discussion and competition began, the BSU Glee club rendered a song and Lendel Matthew Paat of the DWCB-Sparks Publication led the Journalism's Creed.

The program was followed by lectures on Editorial Writing and Opinion/Column Writing by Delmar O. Cariño; Poetry Writing and Literary Graphics Illustration by Frank Cimatu; Photojournalism by Karlston Lapniten; Feature Writing by Heather Ann Pulido; Editorial Cartooning and Comic Strip Drawing by Wreigh Jann Tamayo; Copy Reading, Headline Writing and News Writing by Romulo Bagacina Jr.; Layouting and Development Communication Writing by Paul Joseph A. Nuval; Sports Writing by Roderick Osis; Digital Art: Editorial Cartooning, Comic Strip Drawing, Literary Graphics Illustration, and Infographics by Mark Samuel de Guzman; and Radio Broadcasting by Jordan Tablac. A competition was then held after each discussion.

The closing and awarding ceremony began with a message from Laking. She expressed her gratitude to the BSU administration for hosting the event. She emphasized to the journalists that joining their university publication provides them the opportunity to hone their journalism skills. She added that joining the RHEPC showcases their skills and hoped that the press conference had taught them a lot. Laking encouraged the journalists to celebrate as they receive their medals and to work hard for their next steps.

Geraldine F. Casipit, Chief Education Program Specialist of the Commission on Higher Education-Cordillera Administrative Region (CHED-CAR), representing CHED-CAR Director Septon A. Dela Cruz, commended the participants for taking on the challenge and emphasized that journalists are game changers. She highlighted the responsibility of journalists to seek and uphold the truth, as well as their commitment to serve the public with integrity. She said that in an era where misinformation spreads rapidly, journalists play a crucial role in ensuring that accurate information prevails in the digital landscape.

Casipit further mentioned that the awards won are not just for recognizing their achievements, but are also a testament to the journalists' potential to lead and innovate. She urged the participants to carry forward the lessons they have learned and reminded them that their role in the digital revolution is not only to inform but also to inspire and empower others.

"Let us celebrate not just the winners but also the spirit of journalism that unites us all. Together, let us rise to the challenges of the digital revolution and prove that campus journalists are indeed the game changers the world needs," she said.

An awarding ceremony was held to recognize the winners in various categories, including group events, individual events, overall winners for group events, highest individual pointers, and the top five best student publications.

The highlight of the event was the announcement of the overall champion. The championship title was earned by BSU's The Mountain Collegian. SLU's White & Blue was the first runner-up followed by KSU's The Organon (second runner-up), UC's The Alternative (third runner-up), and MPSU's Tala: The Mocking Bird (fourth runner-up).

The top five winners in various categories will represent CAR at the Luzon-wide Higher Education Press Conference (LHEPC) on April 2025 in Lucban, Quezon Province.

The event concluded with a message from BSU VP for Administration and Finance Richard H. Kinnud. He shared that dreams have different stories, like plants in nurseries that are healthy, devastated, overgrown, fresh, or a nursery that has a space for new beginnings. He emphasized that dreams may exist in various stages, but nurseries of dreams are always open, as they can be nurtured and repurposed. Kinnud also expressed hope that the conference showed participants the power of collaboration, highlighting that everyone can be allies, even in competition. He reiterated that we are all united in facing challenges in responsible journalism and the rise of artificial intelligence.//BTayaban



Kochi University, Japan and Benguet State University conduct virtual signing of a Memorandum of Understanding for various collaborative areas on February 18, 2025//IRO

# Benguet Corporation commits support to BSU on mine rehabilitation



MOA Signing between BSU and Benguet Corporation led by BSU President Kenneth A. Laruan and BCVP-Resident Manager Valeriano B. Bongalos Jr. on February 24, 2025 at the Office of the President//EBawayan

Benguet Corporation (BC) has committed support to Benguet State University (BSU) in its project "Bamboo Industry Development for Environment Conservation and Countryside Post-COVID Economic Boom (BIDEC)" through the ceremonial Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) signing on February 24, 2025 at the Office of the President.

The BIDEC project, being implemented by the BSU-College of Forestry (CF), aims to develop economically viable production technologies for raw materials and bamboo-based as a tool for forest conservation and restoration. The project output is to establish innovation model farm for bamboo species.

BSU President Kenneth A. Laruan and BC VP-Resident Manager Valeriano B. Bongalos Jr. led the MOA signing. This was

witnessed by BSU VP for Research and Extension Roscinto Ian C. Lumbres and Rex L. Calde Jr. of the BC- Benguet Antamok Gold Operation (BAGO) and other BSU and BC personnel.

In his message, Laruan expressed optimism, emphasizing the commitment of both parties to the agreed-upon programs.

Lumbres also shared that the Benguet Province would be a good model for bamboo cultivation in mining rehabilitation.

"I am hoping that this partnership continues, *para makatulong sa community natin. Bilang nasa private sector at bilang nasa academe, we have shared goals of helping the communities surrounding our areas. Thank you so much for accepting the challenge with us. Thank you for accepting advocacies na meron ang Benguet State University,*" said Lumbres.

Among its collaborative efforts outlined in the MOA, BSU-CF will spearhead the establishment of an innovation model farm of bamboo species such as "giant bamboo," "bayog," and "kawayan-tinik" in the Antamok and Ucab mining areas of Itogon, Benguet. The BC has committed post-establishment maintenance and protection of the said farm.

Lumbres emphasized the project's potential to rehabilitate degraded mine lands using bamboo, highlighting its resilience to promote soil recovery and environmental restoration.

The Benguet Corporation is the first and oldest mining company committed to sustainable mining practices and environmental conservation.//EBawayan

## Kochi University...from page 1

and fulfillment of the BSU's mandate of providing research and extension services or community involvement.

"As we move forward, we are hoping that this partnership will bloom and will lead to the economic and socio-economic development in the province of Benguet and BSU, with your support," he expressed.

Ukeda said this MOU is a significant step towards building a stronger partnership between the two universities, acknowledging

the importance of building a multicultural and inclusive society.

"To realize a future multicultural society, I believe KU has a vital role to play. We aim to increase the number of international students to 20 percent and foster an environment where all stakeholders can learn from each other. This goal can be achieved through partnership with esteemed institutions like yours," he said and expressed appreciation to everyone who

has contributed to making the partnership a reality.

In the MOU, the partnership agreement focuses on academics, culture, skills training, research agenda, or other collaborative areas. Specifically, BSU and KU will partner in the conduct of faculty, staff, and student exchanges, share resources on scientific materials, publications, and other information, and work together on research, lectures, and symposia.//EBawayan

## Center for Culture and the Arts of BSU Bokod hosts first inter-campus socio-cultural competition

The Center for Culture and the Arts (CCA) of the BSU Bokod conducted its first Inter-Campus Socio-Cultural Competition with the theme, "Kalinangan: Illuminating the Filipino Artistic Spirit." Held on February 21, 2025 at the BSU Bokod Covered Court, the activity was participated by BSU Bokod and BSU La Trinidad students.

During the opening program, BSU Bokod Executive Dean Chester B. Esnara welcomed CCA Director Leonardo L. Samonte who was accompanied by the advisers of the different BSU-CCA-La Trinidad performing arts groups, personnel of the CCA staff, and the participants from the La Trinidad campus. Esnara expressed her gratitude to the BSU La Trinidad representatives. She explained how the competition would help develop collaboration between the campuses.

"This can be a way that we can unify as a community of indigenous people, as a community in Benguet State University," Esnara said. She continued by presenting the rationale of the competition and the schedules set.

The competitions in Indigenous Dance, Contemporary and Hip-hop Dance, Center for...continued on page 7



Among the BSU Bokod students' participants for the Indigenous dance competition at the Inter-Campus Socio-Cultural Competition in Bokod Campus on February 21, 2025//EBawang

## Thailand's Chaopraya University and BSU ink partnership agreement



Chaopraya University, Thailand and BSU sign a partnership agreement on February 13, 2025 at the BSU Office of the President//IRO

Benguet State University and Chaopraya University, Thailand, signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) on February 13, 2025. The agreement aims to foster partnerships in various educational programs between the two institutions.

BSU President Dr. Kenneth A. Laruan, Chaopraya University representative Chiranun Kamolsin, and Director of International Affairs Swiss Dej-Sira formalized the partnership by signing the documents. The signing was witnessed by IRO Director

Rex John Bawang, IRO Deputy Director Doreen I. Allasiw, and College of Teacher Education (CTE) Dean Divina Yango.

Ahead of the signing, the delegation from Chaopraya University and the Prasert-Tasnee Poongkumarn Foundation paid a courtesy visit to President Laruan on February 12, 2025. The Thai delegates included Kamolsin, Dej-Sira, Tinagorn Poolput, Foundation representatives Sunee Singhakacern and Sawang Singkahacern, and Director Sippanon Mang-Ana from Khortor

School. They were accompanied by La Trinidad's former mayor, Edna Tabanda, and Faustina Gualdo. During the meeting, both parties explored potential collaborations, leading to the formalization of the agreement.

In a meeting facilitated by IRO, CTE Dean Divina M. Yango and IRO Coordinator Dolores Alawas engaged with the Thai delegation to exchange insights on their respective university programs and explore avenues for collaboration.//IRO

## SLS demonstrates proper disposal of worn-out Philippine Flag



BSU Secondary Laboratory School burns worn-out Philippine flag pursuant to Republic Act 8491 on February 12, 2025//SLS Mountain Breeze

The National Historical Commission of the Philippines encourages Filipinos to treat our National Flag with the honor it deserves.

In line with this, the CTE - Secondary Laboratory School (SLS) students and faculty held a 'rare but memorable' retirement ceremony of worn-out Philippine flag at the SLS first quadrangle amidst the drizzle on February 12, 2025.

The SLS scouts and Citizenship Advancement Training officers led the ceremony coupled by the singing of Nationalistic songs performed by selected GSP and Band members to make the activity notable and heartfelt.

Brenda Langaoen, the SLS Chair, explained the reason behind the activity. She noted that worn out Philippine flag should not be disposed like our garbage but should be burned to show respect to our Philippine flags.

Furthermore, worn-out Philippine flags are cremated and buried in compliance with Section 14 of Republic Act 8491, also

known as the Flag and Heraldic Code of the Philippines, which stipulates that a flag that has become worn out due to wear and tear should not be thrown away but rather should be solemnly burned to prevent misuse or desecration. The flag should be replaced as soon as it starts to show signs of wear and tear.

After how many years of existence and service, the Philippine flag of SLS reached its peak leading to the flag burial rite.

In fact, Agustin Nang-is proudly said, "The Philippine flag we are using has never been replaced since 2003 when I first worked here."

But the SLS Prefect of Discipline added that his reference was only during his time and continued that the Philippine flag of SLS might have served the school for more than 22 years now.

After the activity, most of the teachers and students pointed out that the ritual was educational even if it was their first time to witness such ceremony.//SLS Mountain Breeze

*BSU Center...from page 3*

third place respectively. Justine A. Leon of CTE owned the spotlight as the lone contender for the piano instrumental solo.

For the bandurria instrumental solo, Charles Balala of the College of Engineering won first place, John Ray Gonzalo of CIS and Warry James Fomeg-as of CTE shared the second place, and Precylyn Humakey of CHK earned third place. Gonzalo also won the classical guitar instrumental solo followed by Ethan Yssach Meimban of the College of Agriculture at second place and Glenn Russel Royales of CAH at third place.

The competition also featured vocal talents. Darsen Suyat and Charisse Pelino of CTE won first place in the vocal duet, Jhomel Lander Calam and Florence Tristan Tacedena of CAH won second place and Genesis Habon and Ronalyn Faye Espada of Bokod campus placed third. In the pop solo category, Arebella Joan Moltio of CIS won first place, followed by Habon in second place and the third place was a tie between Micah Jade Marzan of CAH and Jay-ron D. Sadio of CTE. The vocal solo (kundiman) was won by Jethrine Ann Pasion of CHK followed by Melchedec Boraga of CTE at second place and Larry Mangawa of CAH at third place.

The Radio Drama competition was won by the team of Clarence Pakigan, Gideon C. Balang, Annan Desierto, Joseph P. Longao, and Jessa Mae Gaddang of CIS. The second place was awarded to the group of Farah Trisha Kiw-an, Angel Faith Saysayap, Arianne Rose Alubia, Daniela Dalilis, and Tiane Mae Amoggao of CTE. The third place was won by three teams from the CHET, Bokod campus and CHK. The CHET group consisted of Charlie Papag, Lance Darryl C. Manaday, Kenan Pepocsa, Clint Lestine, and John Rey Marcos. The Bokod campus group consisted of Tyron Justine D. Nanglegan, Airah Cher Pili, Rhea Grinaran, Jaylord Timama, and Adly June Quinio while the CHK group consisted of Jesalyn Addug, Shakira Dio, Van Andrei Evasco, Rosemarie Sabado, and Ismael Sumacyab.

The winners from the different categories will represent the university to the upcoming 2025 CARASUC Meet at Mountain Province State University on March 24-26, 2025.

The event ended with the message of Tecah Sagandoy, Unit Head of the University Museum. He congratulated the participants for the wonderful display of their talents and encouraged them to continue pursuing their passions. //BTayaban

*Center for...from page 6*

and Short and Sweet Play (Musical) began after Esnara's opening remarks. The judges for the Indigenous Dance competition are Janthor Gideon W. Ambrosio, Dexter Dalignoc, and Chadrick Clent B. Cawaing. The Contemporary and Hip-Hop Dance competition judges are Paul Joseph A. Nuval, Mark Gonzalo Benter, and Caroline M. Wagnel. The Short and Sweet Play (Musical) judges are Markneel Balgos, Marissa Cabillo, and Erric Donn Ignacio. After competitions, the judges shared their thoughts on the performances of

each group, encouraging them to learn more techniques and continue growing their arts.

The activity ended with the closing remarks of BSU Bokod Assistant Dean Gleemoore C. Makie.

"This event is a celebration of our identity, our history, and our shared artistic spirit. Every performance, every artwork, every role played as a testament to the richness of the Filipino culture," he said adding that the activity also became a way for students to express their cultural identity.//EBawang

## BSU, Bokod and Buguias LGUs team up on health program implementation



BSU President Kenneth A. Laruan signs MOA with Bokod Mayor Thomas K. Wales Jr. and Buguias Mayor Ruben L. Tinda-an on February 6 and 7, respectively at the Office of the President for health-related program implementation//EBawayan

Benguet State University (BSU) has formalized its partnerships with the Local Government Units (LGUs) of Bokod and Buguias to implement health-related programs by signing Memorandums of Agreement (MOA) at the Office of the President.

The University's partnership with the LGU of Bokod was formalized on February 6, 2025, while its collaboration with the LGU of Buguias was formalized on February 7, 2025. These MOA signings were led by BSU President Kenneth A. Laruan, Bokod Mayor

Hon. Thomas K. Wales Jr., and Buguias Mayor Hon. Ruben L. Tinda-an. The witnesses included VP for Academic Affairs Janet P. Pablo, University and Board Secretary Lynn G. Talkasen, Faculty Regent Darwin A. Basquial, Attorney IV Reynante B. Basco, and College of Medicine (COM) Dean Dr. Ruel Revilla.

BSU and the two LGUs will collaborate on the development, planning, implementation, and evaluation of community-based health programs in the municipalities of Bokod and Buguias.

BSU, through its colleges offering health-related programs such as the Natural

Sciences, Nursing, Home Economics and Technology, and the soon-to-be-established College of Medicine, will spearhead the conduct of the programs.

This partnership offers invaluable experiential learning opportunities for BSU students enrolled in BS Biology, BS Chemistry, BS Nursing, BS Nutrition and Dietetics, and future Doctor of Medicine students. Students will gain experience and develop the competencies of a professional healthcare provider and/or physician for the Philippine Healthcare System.//EBawayan

## BSU still ISO 9001:2015 certified; new certificate covers all campuses

Benguet State University (BSU) has received its new ISO 9001:2015 certificate following the conducted recertification audit by the TUV Rheinland on December 17-19, 2024. This marks the third consecutive time BSU has been compliant to the ISO standards since its certification in 2018.

The newly awarded certificate covers all BSU campuses such as the La Trinidad, Bokod, and the Buguias Campus.

The official presentation of the certificate was held during the flag-raising ceremony on February 24, 2025. Office for Quality Assurance and Accreditation (OQAA) Director Joanna Alafag presented

the certificate to BSU officials, led by President Kenneth A. Laruan.

Alafag acknowledged the collective efforts of the faculty and staff of the previous and current BSU administration that led to the successful ISO recertification audit.//EBawayan



BSU officials and employees pose after the official presentation of the new ISO 9001:2015 certificate at the flag-raising ceremony on February 24, 2025//PGadang