



# Shamag

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## BSU leadership transitions: Kenneth A. Laruan named 8th BSU president

A Turnover of Leadership Ceremony to honor Felipe Salaing Comila as the outgoing University President and to welcome Kenneth A. Laruan as the new President was held on November 26, 2024 at the BSU Centennial Park.

The ceremony opened with the welcome remarks by VP for Academic Affairs Samuel S. Poliden. Details of the selection process for the BSU presidency was then presented by Patselyn A. Botiwey, the University and Board Secretary.

In his address, the outgoing president expressed his well wishes for the new president and hoped for the continued growth of the university. He also thanked BSU constituents for all the support during his presidency.

The ceremony was highlighted with the turnover of the Mace, the Charter, and the Medallion (BSU symbols of authority) from Comila to Laruan. The turnover was assisted by the VP for Academic Affairs Samuel S. Poliden, VP for Research and Extension Roscinto Ian C. Lumbres, VP for Administration and Finance Allan C. Sacpa, and VP for Business Affairs Norma P. Banania. This was witnessed by the BSU community, BOR members, and guests.

*BSU leadership...continued on page 6*



*Outgoing BSU President Felipe Salaing Comila handed BSU symbols of authority to Kenneth Alip Laruan, the incoming University President, during the Turnover of Leadership Ceremony on November 26, 2024 at the Centennial Park //EBawang*

## CTE Reaffirmed as Teacher Education-COE for 2024-2025

The College of Teacher Education (CTE) was granted the extension of its recognition as a Teacher Education-Center of Excellence (COE) in a formal ceremony on November 27, 2024 at the Bulwagan ng Karunungan, Rizal Building, DepEd Central Office in Pasig City. This extension is effective for one year, from November 1, 2024 to November 30, 2025. This recognizes the BSU's ongoing commitment to excellence in teacher education.

The honor was granted through Republic Act No. 11713, known as the Excellence in Teacher Education Act. This legislation empowers the Teacher Education Council (TEC) to identify and designate COEs among public and private Teacher Education Institutions (TEIs). The TEC is also responsible for overseeing these COEs through the Commission on Higher Education (CHED) and

formulating strategic plans to develop teacher education across various regions and provinces in the Philippines.

The CTE's re-designation as a COE highlights its crucial role in shaping the future of education through innovative practices and quality instruction. BSU aims to maintain high standards in teacher education, to contributing significantly to nation-building by preparing competent and compassionate educators equipped to face the challenges of a rapidly evolving educational landscape.

This recognition reaffirms CTE's mission to uphold excellence in teacher education and its commitment to producing educators who are not only knowledgeable but also responsive to the needs of their communities. The CTE's programs are designed to foster a dynamic learning environment that encourages both academic and professional growth among future teachers.//JBelardo

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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.

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## 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



# Business Affairs Sector holds first summit

Benguet State University's Business Affairs Sector held its first summit with the theme, "Collaborate, Celebrate, Participate: Towards Business Affairs' Success." The event was held on November 4-8, 2024 at the BSU Marketing Grounds.

VP for Business Affairs Norma P. Banania opened the summit by thanking all the participants.

Jeftee Ben Pinos-an, Manager of the Marketing Center, highlighted that the summit is to let all participants engage with each other not only the seven Income Generating Projects (IGPs) but also with UBA's various partners.

Pinos-an added that the sector is working in support of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) particularly on the industry, innovation and infrastructure (SDG 9) and on responsible production and consumption (SDG 12). He hoped that the UBA Summit would thrive and improve in the years to come.

Next, BSU President Felipe Salaing Comila inspired everyone with his advocacy of entrepreneurship and encouraged the attendees to surround themselves with fellow entrepreneurs. He also shared

that entrepreneurship is the language of advanced countries.

Following Comila's message, Elmer Macalingay, the guest speaker of the event

emphasized the importance of collaboration in business. He added that while many people prefer to work alone, collaborating with others will help maximize talents and skills.

*Business Affairs...continued on page 8*



# Researchers gathered for *tongtongan* on education policies

Benguet State University through the Higher Education Regional Research Center (HERRC), College of Teacher Education (CTE), Research and Extension Publication (REPO), and the Office of Extension Services (OES) successfully organized the 3rd Educator's Forum or 'Tongtongan' on November 7-8, 2024.

This year's theme for the forum was "Transforming Insights into Impact: Leveraging Research to Shape and Implement Effective Policies in Education." The event aimed to bridge the gap between research and policy implementation. This is in collaboration with the Commission on Higher Education - Cordillera Administrative Region (CHED-CAR), the Department of Education (DepEd) - Benguet Division, the Philippine Association for Teacher Education Association (PAFTE)-CAR, and the State Universities and Colleges Teacher Education Association (SUCTEA)-CAR. The forum provided a platform for faculty researchers to share their findings with policymakers and end-users.

The forum catered to both Basic Education and Higher Education institutions. A unique feature of this year's event was the introduction of reverse pitching. This innovative approach allowed stakeholders like the DepEd, CHED and local government education committees to share their research needs, fostering collaboration and identifying potential partnerships with researchers.

The first day of the event started with a doxology and singing of the national anthem led by the BSU Glee Club followed by a welcome remark from the Officer-in-Charge (OIC) of the Office of the VP for Research and Extension (OVPRE), Kenneth A. Laruan. In his welcome message, Laruan expressed his gratitude to the organizers and participants of the forum.

Dina Teresita P. Balaan - Chair of the Philippine Association for Teachers and Educators - CAR Chapter, also the Dean of the College of Teacher Education and Liberal arts of Kings College of the Philippines (KCP) then introduced the first keynote speaker in the person of Felina P. Espique - VP for Academic Affairs (VPAA) at Saint Louis University (SLU).

Espique emphasized the importance of research in promoting legislative changes and policy reforms. She pointed out that policy recommendations should be supported with data and evidence to avoid being charged with perjury. Additionally, she shared with the participants the reports from the Second Congressional Commission on Education (EDCOM II) and the Teacher Education Council (TEC). Espique then urged educators to acknowledge their influence in determining the future of education in the country as she concluded her speech.

"Let us transform the insights we gain from research into tangible actions that shape policies and form practices and evaluate our educational standards to new heights", she said.

Following the session of Espique, University President Felipe Salaing Comila gave his message to the participants about leveraging the beauty we get from research in making an impact to the world.

Afterwards, Janet Lynn M. Balagtey, HERRC Director shared the rationale and mechanics of the activity. Balagtey started her discussion by reminding everyone that a research not disseminated is a research not conducted. She then gave a short narration as to how the 'tongtongan' started and highlighted that the forum comes with nine Continuing

Professional Development (CPD) units granted by the Professional Regulation Commission (PRC). After her talk, she introduced the discussants for the day; Dina Teresita Balaan from KCP, Elizabeth Sagubo - University of Cordillera, and Bernardita C. Ayunon - Philippine Association for Teachers and Educators - CAR.

Succeeding the introductions and remarks, participants from several state institutions and schools in Benguet presented their research papers. Later on, a fruitful 'tongtongan'/forum about the researches with the presenters and participants happened.

The second day of the event began with a message from the VP for Research and Extension Roscinto Ian C. Lumbres proposing and encouraging a separate regional consortium for education research as he believes that educators are ready to compete.

Next, CTE Dean Divina M. Yango introduced the second keynote speaker; Soraya T. Faculo - Schools Division Superintendent of the DepEd - Baguio City. Faculo's talk focused on the collaboration of policy makers and school stakeholders with implementing, iterating and influencing through research. In connection with the theme, she also shared how insights are transformed into impact and how to turn complaints into data especially in the education sector.

The last strand of research presentations followed after Balagtey reiterated the mechanics of reverse pitching. The pitchers were: Mayumi G. Belandres, OIC - Division Chief, Research Management Division representing CHED National; Jardson S. Onio, Education Program Supervisor Mathematics for DepEd - Benguet; and Hon. Teddy C. Walang

*Researchers...continued on page 8*

# BSU graduates pass licensure exams

Benguet State University (BSU) graduates excelled in various licensure examinations held on October and November 2024.

A total of 35 graduates passed the Foresters Licensure Examination conducted on October 2024. BSU garnered an overall passing rate of 71.43% surpassing the national passing rate of 58.96%. The first time takers listed a passing rate of 100% and the repeaters' passing rate is 22.22%.

In the October 2024 Veterinarians Licensure Examination, the BSU achieved a passing rate of 45.69%, producing 53 new veterinarians. The first timer takers listed a passing rate of 34.62% and the repeaters listed a passing rate of 48.89%. The university's passing rate is close to the national passing rate of 46.92%.

For the Nutritionist-Dietitians Licensure Examination, 43 BSU examinees passed listing a passing rate of 81.13% surpassing the national passing rate of 69.73%. The first time takers recorded a passing rate of 91.49%.

There are also 66 successful examinees in the November 2024 Agriculturists Licensure Examination (ALE). BSU garnered an overall passing rate of 61.88% surpassing the national passing rate of 50.81%. BSU first time takers achieved a passing rate of 67.16% while the repeaters listed a passing rate of 46.81%.

In the November 2024 Philippine Nurses Licensure Examination, the University achieved a passing rate of 100%, with 37

successful examinees. It exceeded the national passing rate of 85.01%

Deans from the College of Forestry (CF), College of Veterinary Medicine (CVM), College of Home Economics and Technology (CHET), the College of Agriculture (CA), and the College of Nursing (CN) expressed gratitude to the BSU administration for its support in the preparation for the said board exams.

BSU President Kenneth A. Laruan was delighted about the licensure exam results while urging the colleges to strive for continuous improvement. He further suggested the conduct of end-of-year assessment exams. Laruan highlighted the significance of higher ALE performance in sustaining the CA's recognition as a Center of Development (COD).//EBawayan

## Kankanaey language featured in 7th ThinkTalk

The 7th ThinkTalk webinar series held on November 15, 2024 at the Research and Extension Building Everlasting Hall showcased four BSU studies on the Kankanaey language. The webinar series on languages, literature, arts and communication was organized by the Institute of Social Research and Development (ISRD) and the College of Arts and Humanities (CAH).

The webinar also convened 80 face-to-face participants in addition to its online participants. It aimed to share Kankanaey language research, capacitate present and future teachers to integrate Indigenous Peoples' Education (IPEd) into their lessons, and promote appreciation for indigenous languages.

VP for Research and Extension Roscinto Ian C. Lumbres opened the webinar by appreciating the organizers and encouraging participants to seek external project funding. He also urged young researchers and those interested on international research presentation to familiarize themselves with the University research processes, from proposal submission to presentation.

Lumbres highlighted the significance of international engagements for BSU's global ranking and the potential of international collaborations. He

also encouraged BSU experts to involve younger generations in research for sustainability.

Karen O. Laking, a CAH faculty member, presented the activity's overview and rationale. This was followed by presentations of research studies by CAH Faculty Members Ronda B. Tullay, John Rey O. Pelila, Mitche A. Aglasi, and CTE Faculty Member Anna Cris L. Langaoan.

In the morning session, Tullay gave the participants a glance at the Kankanaey Language through their upcoming book titled "Encyclopedia of Benguet Indigenous Knowledge System". One section of the book focused on the Kankanaey language and Tullay elaborated on how the spelling of the word "Kankanaey" has evolved. Based on their findings, the word "Kankanaey" also has its own syllable structure.

Likewise, Pelila talked about his research project titled, "What can 1966 and 2023 Tell Us About the Evolution of Kankanaey Translation." He presented the evolution of the Kankanaey language by presenting words from 1966 and their translations in 2023.

In the afternoon session, Langaoan presented her study titled "Classifying the Pragmatic Particles in the Kankanaey Language." She highlighted the potential

for indigenous language endangerment, emphasizing the significant role of language documentation to preserve indigenous languages. Her study revealed that Kankanaey pragmatic particles significantly contribute to expressing emotions in discourse such as certainty, sympathy, uncertainty, and surprise.

Finally, Aglasi shared her research on Estilistika at Katangian ng mga Bugtong ng Kankanaey-Benguet. In her study, she analyzed the linguistic styles and the characteristics of bugtong or riddles of the Kankanaey-Benguet.

Each presentation was followed by an open forum, allowing discussions, knowledge sharing, and appreciation of the Kankanaey language.

At the end of the event, CAH Faculty Member Adrian Kyle C. Cariño provided a synthesis of the event. ISRD Director Ann Heather B. Kiwang also delivered her closing remarks by sharing two surveys related to indigenous languages.

She shared that according to the 2018 United Nations' report, over half of the world's languages are at risk of extinction by 2100 and majority of these endangered languages are indigenous languages. She also cited Masud Khawaja's 2021 research which highlighted that language loss impaired intergenerational knowledge transfer and compromised the personal identity of indigenous communities.

"Sa tanong na kung may silbi ang ating ginagawa (on research)? Meron yan. May silbi ang ating ginagawa for as long as it is for the purpose of honoring and respecting our own language and culture," Kiwang said.//EBawayan



The 7th ThinkTalk webinar series was held on November 15, 2024 at the Research and Extension Building Everlasting Hall.



# BSU recognized for eNGAS implementation



Benguet State University (BSU) continues to excel in financial management, earning recognition from the Government Financial Management Innovation Circle (GMIC) Inc. for its efficient use of the eNGAS (Enhanced Electronic New Government Accounting System).

BSU received the eNGAS Inclusiveness Award (formerly Gallantry Award) and the Outstanding eNGAS User Entity Award for its outstanding implementation of the system in all its campuses on November 22, 2024. For the eNGAS Inclusiveness Award, BSU was among the four awardees out of 72 nominees. On the other hand, the User Entity Award recognized the university for submitting a complete set of eNGAS-generated

consolidated financial reports for fiscal year 2023, free of material errors, on or before the due date prescribed by the Commission on Audit (COA).

"The award represents the outstanding performance of BSU eNGAS users, this implies that the university is doing well in utilizing the benefits provided by the system. Also, it represents BSU as a university going towards sound financial management and digitalization.

The eNGAS also gives additional branding to the university in the aspect of financial management and system utilization," said Imelda B. Galinato, the University Accountant.

BSU through the Accounting Office has consistently received recognition for its exceptional implementation of eNGAS receiving the award in 2018, 2019, and 2023. This recognition established BSU as one of the role models among SUCs in Northern Luzon. Remarkably, BSU is the only institution to implement the eNGAS system remotely.

"We are hoping next year, we will receive the Hall of Fame award. Challenge you and ang nakikita kong impact is the continuous improvement and utilization of the system and at the same time sustain the collaboration award," Galinato added.

BSU began implementing the eNGAS system in 2006 with the collaboration of the Accounting Office and the Information and Communication Technology (ICT) Division. Since then, it has significantly improved the university's financial management, especially during the COVID-19 pandemic.

The recent awards were received by outgoing University President Felipe Salaing Comila and University Accountant Imelda B. Galinato during 2024 Membership Conference held at the Crown Legacy Hotel, Kisdad Road, Baguio City on November 22, 2024.

The eNGAS is an accounting software developed by the COA to ensure correctness, reliability, completeness and timeliness in recognizing government financial transactions and to generate financial reports in accordance with the Philippine Public Sector Accounting Standards (PPSAS) and Revised Chart of Accounts (RCA).//PGadang

## DepED SDO Baguio City renew collaboration on extension activities with BSU



The Benguet State University (BSU) and the Department of Education (DepEd) Schools Division Office (SDO) of Baguio City committed to continue its partnership on extension through the signing of a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA). BSU President Felipe Salaing Comila and DepEd Baguio Schools Division Superintendent Soraya T. Faculo led the MOA signing on November 22, 2024 at the Office of the University President to formalize the renewed partnership. The MOA signing was witnessed by some officials of DepEd SDO Baguio City and the members of CSS Execom, research and extension coordinators.

The MOA extends the successful collaboration initiated in 2020 between the BSU's College of Social Sciences (CSS) and the Institute of Social Research and Development (ISR/D), and the SDO Baguio City. The partnership focused on the conduct of extension initiatives through capacity building. The BSU faculty members will serve as resource speakers in capacitating the SDO Baguio City teachers.

Under the agreement, BSU and the SDO Baguio will conduct seminars and trainings in the field of Social Science and research, such as but not limited to preparations of research proposals, data analysis, packaging of research results into learning materials, and trainings on the content and pedagogies in teaching Araling Panlipunan subjects.

CSS Extension Coordinator Gigy G. Banes emphasized the significance of the partnership in sharing BSU's expertise with the DepEd teachers in the School Division Office of Baguio City, promoting a deeper appreciation for Philippine History.//EBawayan

# UST and BSU team up to capacitate science educators and students

The University of Santo Tomas (UST) and Benguet State University (BSU) joined forces to capacitate 60 science educators and students, through the hands-on training titled "FUN-GuYS: FUNgal research for the next Generation of Filipino Young Scientists" on November 5, 2024 at the CAS building.

The event aimed to equip participants with essential techniques and tools in fungal taxonomy. It also intended to provide early career researchers or young scientists, students, and science educators the opportunity to engage in hands-on experiments on lichen/fungal identification, as well as stay updated on the latest advancements in fungal biology.

The participants actively engaged in the two parallel sessions. The first session

catered to faculty members, while the second session was designed for high school, undergraduate, and graduate students.

Experts and faculty members from the UST including Melfie E. Bungihan, Thomas Edison E. dela Cruz, Jeane V. Aril-dela Cruz, Jaycee Augusto G. Paguiran, and Ghimel P. Espinosa shared their knowledge and expertise. Topics covered included Outcome-Based Education (OBE) strategies in teaching science, designing active learning materials, and fungal applications in food, agriculture, health, and the environment. Workshops included designing active learning activities with American Society for Microbiology (ASM) Educational resources and lichen and fungal identification.

Thomas Edison E. dela Cruz, ASM Country Ambassador-Philippines, further introduced the ASM to the participants. As one of the largest professional organizations dedicated to the life sciences, ASM promotes and advances microbial sciences through various initiatives, including publications, conferences, and global outreach programs.

At the closing ceremony, participants shared their valuable insights and experiences gained throughout the training.

BSU La Trinidad Campus Executive Dean Eugene S. Lumasok expressed gratitude to UST for the collaboration and highlighted the significance of the event in enhancing teaching and extension activities in both institutions.//EBawayan

# Firefighters train BSU personnel on managing emergencies

To enhance emergency preparedness and response, the Benguet State University Gender and Development Office (BSU-GAD) in collaboration with the Bureau of Fire Protection-CAR-La Trinidad Fire Station, conducted a Fire Suppression and Emergency Management training on November 15, 2024 at the BSU Gymnasium. The participants were already the 11th batch of employees trained on the subject.



Participants from various BSU offices were immersed in hands-on activities on basic life support, fire extinguisher management, firefighting techniques, self-contained breathing apparatus, and high angle rescue technique.

The training aimed to make the participants acquire proper techniques and skills to minimize incidents, injuries, and other related emergencies.

"Mayat piman daytoy nga training ta mausar da nga tools ken mang i-prepare jay participants nga ag-respond ti any kind of disaster or accidents and tapnu mas napasas nga maiwaras dagijay knowledge nga i-imipart tayo para ti participants ken jay family and jay community" said Fire Officer II Kevin Jean Pulacan of the BFP-CAR La Trinidad Fire Station.

"Nanayunan ti knowledge, at least when it comes to emergency scenarios nabigyan kami ng idea kung ano yung proper response na gagawin," said Rael Collado, one of the participants.

After the awarding of certificates to the BFP personnel, BSU-GAD Office Director Estrellita M. Daclan thanked the trainees for their active participation and recognized the BFP CAR for their unwavering commitment and efforts in supporting the University.//PJGadang

## BSU leadership...from page 1

"I stand before you today with humility. I accept the responsibility of being the university president, starting today," declared Laruan in his acceptance speech.

Laruan thanked his mentors, teachers, faculty members, and all who supported him in his journey. He also acknowledged the achievements of past BSU presidents and pledged to build upon their legacy. However, he emphasized that he cannot lead the University alone. He then sought the support of the BSU community and invited their insights and feedback as he embarks on his presidency.

"We will make BSU greater than the past years. I-angat po natin ang BSU in the next years to come," he committed.

Afterwards, Administrative Services Division Chief Matias C. Angiwan Jr. led the BSU community in prayer for the new President. Angiwan prayed for God's guidance, wisdom, and compassion for the University's new leader. He also prayed for honesty and integrity in the administration of BSU.

The ceremony ended with the closing remarks by Sacpa who emphasized the importance of perseverance despite failures and encouraged everyone to keep moving forward.

Laruan was selected as the 8th BSU President by a majority vote from the BSU BOR members during the 213th Board of Regents (BOR) meeting on November 18, 2024 at the CHED Central Office in Quezon City. His appointment is effective from November 26, 2024 until November 25, 2028. He also took his Oath of Office before Marita R. Canapi,

Commissioner of the Commission on Higher Education (CHED) and BSU BOR Chairperson on the same day.

He envisions to establish BSU as a premier institution in research, technology, and environmental conservation in Northern Luzon by 2032. However, he stated in several occasions that the BSU VMGO is not his alone but of the University. Laruan is currently soliciting opinions from BSU constituents about the BSU vision.

On November 25, 2024, a send-off program was held for Comila also at the BSU Centennial Park. BSU officials, faculty and staff members, and guests who were gathered shared their gratitude and fondest memories of the former president. The four sectors of the university and the Bokod and Buguias campuses each serenaded Comila, who will be retiring from government service after his BSU presidency.//JTabangcura&EBawayan





## BSU's first Mokusaku machine installed

A Mokusaku machine in Benguet State University was installed at the area behind the Agricultural Training Institute – DA – CAR on November 14, 2024. This was after a three-day training workshop co- coordinated by BSU, the Japanese Agricultural Exchange Council (JAEC) and the Local Government Unit (LGU) of La Trinidad. The training workshop aimed to introduce Mokusaku production to the participants comprised of researchers,

extensionists, students, and farmers. The activity is an offshoot of the recently signed Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) between the parties.

The opening program, held at the International Relations Office (IRO) Hall, was led by Office of Research Services (ORS) staff and interns. VP for Research and Extension Roscinto Ian C. Lumbres welcomed the participants while ORS Director Gretchen Gaye

C. Ablaza explained the rationale and overview of the activity. JAEC Local Coordinator Seiya Yoshida oriented the participants about JAEC and its activities in the Philippines followed by a discussion on the outline and usage of Safe Vegetable from Rich Soil (SAVERS) technology by JAEC Chief Technical Guidance Staff Wilfredo M. De Chavez.

Yoshida provided an online tour of the Mokusaku facilities installed in Benguet and the Mokusaku making process followed by Department of Agriculture (DA) – CARES Retired Farm Superintendent II Eva B. Pugay who presented a research on Mokusaku technology. GOFASTAC owner Alexander R. Disu also discussed the adaptation of the SAVERS technology in Pangasinan.

The study tour on the second day began at the Tublay Mokusaku and Composting Facility where the participants were oriented by Tublay Municipal Technologist Susan A. Lino and Tublay Municipal Agriculturist Jeffrey D. Sotero. The participants next proceeded to Isaac Laruan's Flower Farm and were oriented by Isaac Laruan then to the La Trinidad Organic Demo Farm in Bahong where they were oriented by Ricky V. Chiok of the La Trinidad Municipal Agriculturist Office. All the sites visited by the participants use SAVERS technology.

The Mokusaku machine installation on the last day of the activity allowed the participants to have a hands-on experience in installing the machine. They were guided by De Chavez and JAEC Technical Guidance staff, Rene A. Walang. To Conclude the activity, Yoshida presented a final lecture on JAEC FIVPS technology and SAVERS past projects. JAEC staff Debbey Andry Anne R. Busongan gave a synthesis of the activities. Certificates were awarded to the participants of the activity by Yoshida and Ablaza followed by a closing remark by Yoshida.//EBawang

## BSU launches Encyclopedia of Benguet IKS during the Adivay Grand Cañao

The Encyclopedia of Benguet Indigenous Knowledge Systems was officially launched during the Adivay Grand Cañao on November 23, 2024. The encyclopedia is a compendium of literatures and studies from various libraries. Close to 600 pieces of literatures were accessed for this encyclopedia. It was accompanied by photos that visualize the lifeways of Benguet Igorot Societies during the colonial times. These were sourced from various repository libraries such as the Peabody Museum of Ethnology and Harvard University among others. Graphic representations of scientific data in the form of timelines, infographics, and process flows were also presented.

The encyclopedia features 10 chapters containing different IKS themes, namely: History and Ethnicity; Governance and Politics; Spirituality, Health, and Wellbeing; Family and Kinship; Land Use, Environment, and Resource Management; Agriculture and Food Systems; Industry,

Trade and Crafts; Indigenous Arts and Sports; Indigenous Science, Education, Engineering and Mathematics; and Languages.

"This is an attempt to evaluate the IKS studies conducted on Benguet. The aim is to identify which areas have been extensively researched and which ones need further investigation. Comparing different themes, there is a substantial amount of literature on spirituality, beliefs, and rituals, but limited research on environment and resource management, sports, science, engineering, and mathematics. Instead of conducting additional studies, the team decided to consolidate previously conducted research and create an encyclopedia," explained Stanley Anongos, Jr, the project team leader.

Authored by BSU researchers, the encyclopedia book was born to heed the call for the need of a resource material and reference book among IKS educators in DepEd's Indigenous Peoples Education Program, and CHED-HEI's course in CORD1101. The book

is not only a repository of literatures itself but a representation of a holistic need for a one-stop-shop of Benguet IKS accordingly, for integration of IKS education, sources, approaches, methods, and organizational set-ups have to be available. This project contributes to making sources available for IKS integration and advocacy.

The project was funded by the Commission on Higher Education (CHED) and printed for its first release by the Development Board for Information Materials and Books on Home (DIBSHO)/Benguet Provincial Book Development Board.

Copies of the encyclopedia were distributed to the different municipalities of Benguet to serve as a reference material for the learners and future generations. Pre-order of the book will be announced on December 2024 through the BSU's Research and Extension Publication Office (REPO).// Judea B. Ballagan

Business Affairs...from page 3

Macalingay also spoke about the business Chinese concept of *guānxi*, which embodies the spirit of collaboration and connection through trust, reciprocity, and mutual support. He further discussed how *guānxi* allows business people to operate on trust. He observed that this principle is present in local communities, particularly in the eastern part of Sagada, where collaboration is practiced.

He also emphasized the importance of embracing the principles of *ub-ubo* and *bayanihan*. He stated that collaboration makes us stronger, more resilient, and capable of achieving remarkable outcomes not just for ourselves but also for the communities.

Allan C. Sacpa, VP for Administration and Finance, stated in his remarks that the business sector is essential to funding and managing operating costs of the University.

Sacpa also expressed gratitude to the sector for planning the summit and pursuing ISO standards to improve quality control and refine processes.

Following the program, a seminar took place at the College of Home Economics and Technology (CHET) Function Hall focusing on several key topics needed for professional development. The sessions covered Financial Literacy, Excellent Customer Service, Orientation on Food Safety, Orientation on Good Manufacturing Practices, and Basic Records Management.

After the seminar, an awarding ceremony was held to recognize the outstanding service awardees. The event also featured a discussion between UBA staff and stakeholders that allowed valuable insights and feedback to be heard.

Concluding the event, Banania urged everyone to strive for excellence, maintain a positive and enthusiastic work attitude, and practice respect and discipline. The event ended with a raffle draw and an exchange of gifts among the IGP staff.//BTayaban

Researchers gathered...from page 3

from the Municipal Education Committee of the Local Government Unit (LGU) La Trinidad.

A quick concept paper formulation was later done by the participants about the insights they have gained from the reverse pitching. After the workshop, Cheryll C. Launio, Director of REPO had a brief session about publication opportunities. She introduced existing journals such as the Mountain Journal of Science Interdisciplinary Research (MJSIR), and the Journal of Humanities and Language Education (JHLE).

The event ended with Apler J. Bansiog, Research Coordinator of CTE who shared the synthesis of the two-day activity, followed by Ana Cris L. Langaoan Director of OES with her closing message. She expressed her gratitude to the researchers, organizers, and their partners for the success of the event. Langaoan encouraged everyone to sustain their commitment in promoting a culture of research and collaboration that will drive a quality education in the community.//DPaydowan, LGuzman

# BSUGETAI holds 2024 General Assembly



*BSUGETAI President Donato Wanawan Jr. presides at the BSU General Assembly on November 15, 2024 at the DSG Hall//EBawang*

The BSU Government Employees Association, Incorporated (BSUGEA Inc.) General Assembly held on November 15, 2024 at the College of Teacher Education Dominador S. Garin Hall reviewed the performance of the association in 2023 and proposed amendments to its Constitution and By-Laws.

The assembly was participated by University employees from the three campuses. The assembly began with the determination of quorum, approval of the agenda, and the review and approval of the minutes of the previous general assembly facilitated by BSUGEA Inc. President Donato R. Wanawan Jr. and BSUGEA Secretary Jeanne H. Balacay.

Next, the BSUGEA President and Treasurer Jane S. Baliag presented their reports. After the two presentations, Balacay presented the proposed amendments to the BSUGEA Constitution and By-Laws. This was followed by an open forum.

BSU President, Felipe Salaing Comila attended the assembly with his message inspiring the BSUGEA members to continue supporting each other. The general assembly ended with the closing remarks of BSUGEA VP David Joseph L. Bognadon.//EBawang

# BSU lights up for Christmas 2024



Benguet State University (BSU) ushered in the holiday season with its annual Christmas Lighting Ceremony held on November 13, 2024 at the BSU Centennial Park, spearheaded by the BSU Government Employees Association Inc. (BSUGETAI).

After an invocation by Administrative Services Division Chief Matias C. Angiwan Jr., VP for Administration and Finance Allan C. Sacpa welcomed the attendees. He shared a message of hope, citing the bible verse, John

8:12: "I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness but will have the light of life."

Sacpa emphasized the true meaning of Christmas, highlighting the birth of Jesus Christ as the reason for the season.

Keynote Speaker Maria Luz D. Fangasan, a BSU retiree, expressed her joy at witnessing the Christmas Lighting that evolved into a cherished tradition in the University. She reminisced about the first Christmas Tree Lighting Ceremony in December 2018, which gave more meaning to the lighting of the Christmas tree and has been consistently celebrated since then. Following the 2018 lighting ceremony, a Christmas Lights Retreat has also become an annual tradition.

Fangasan highlighted the unique and special appearance of the Christmas tree, sharing its symbolism with the BSU community. She explained that the tree's decorations represent the beautiful relationships among BSU employees, the gifts beneath the tree symbolize the sharing of knowledge and skills with students and colleagues, and its lights signify the employees' ability to overcome challenges.

Following the keynote speech, BSU President Felipe Salaing Comila led the lighting of the Christmas tree witnessed by the BSU employees, students, guests, and the public.

Comila shared an inspiring message summarized by the acronym "LLIGHTS," which stands for Light, Life, Individuality, Generosity, Health, and Truth.

The event concluded with a message of gratitude from BSUGETAI President Donato Wanawan, who thanked the BSU community for their support and contributions to the successful event.//EBawang