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LAW SCHOOL LOGO UNVEILED. Catanduanes State University President Dr. Patrick Alain T. Azanza (left) pulls off the string to unveil the official logo of the university's College of Law, accompanied by Dean and Board of Regent Member Atty. Santiago T. Gabionza Jr. (right) and Retired Associate Justice Atty. Alfredo D. Ampuan (second from the right). The unveiling is part of the launch of the first law school in Catanduanes.

First law school in Catanduanes opens at CatSU

Albert G. Clemente

Set to produce homegrown lawyers in the coming years, the Catanduanes State University (CatSU) made history on June 28, 2024, after it launched the first-ever law school in the province of Catanduanes.

The College of Law was inaugurated by CatSU President Dr. Patrick Alain T. Azanza, Court of Appeals former Justice Atty. Alfredo D. Ampuan, and other key officials.

In his remarks, the CatSU president believed that the newly opened law school would help address the scarcity of lawyers in the province.

"Ang reality sa Catanduanes, kulang ng mga abogado, even judges limited din," Dr. Azanza told the attendees and shared that this would benefit Catandunganons, allowing them to pursue legal education within the province.

The president likewise recounted the 'bayanihan' and collaborative efforts of alumni and various stakeholders in order to meet the requirements set by the Legal Education Board, especially in the procurement of law books.

"It's not a single man's effort para mabuo itong College of Law, so I want to thank everyone," he added.

Following the launching,

the attendees and university officials witnessed the unveiling of the College of Law logo and the blessing of the rooms, moot court, and the law school's library.

As of this writing, the university officially accepts student applicants in the Juris Doctor Program this academic year after LEB issued the Certificate of Government Permit Level I on May 3, 2024.

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CatSU seeks CHED approval to open 15 new courses next school year

Albert G. Clemente

To offer 15 new degree programs starting School Year 2025-2026, the Catanduanes State University (CatSU) has submitted applications to the Commission on Higher Education (CHED) for the grant of a government initial permit to operate the courses across six colleges, including Graduate School and College of Medicine.

President Patrick Alain T. Azanza announced in his social media post that the university has already submitted the applications and started complying with all the requirements needed by CHED.

The new courses submitted for approval are the Bachelor of Science in Cooperative Development under the College of Accountancy, Bachelor of Science

in Psychology, and Bachelor of Science in Social Work under the College of Humanities and Social Sciences.

From the College of Sciences, the Bachelor of Science in Disaster Management and Sustainable Development and Bachelor of Science in Marine Biology were also applied.

Dr. Azanza emphasized that the establishment of the degree in Disaster Risk Management aims to position the university as the "National Center for Disaster Risk Management and Climate Change Adaptation" in line with his Vision of HOPE introduced in 2021.

Meanwhile, three new courses under the College of Health Sciences are set to be

offered: Bachelor of Science in Medical Technology, Bachelor of Science in Radiologic Technology, and Bachelor of Science in Public Health.

In the College of Education, they submitted the application for the Bachelor of Early Childhood Education, and Bachelor of Science in Food Technology for the College of Agriculture and Fisheries.

Other new degree programs to be offered are Bachelor of Science in Electrical Engineering for the College of Engineering and Architecture, Doctor of Philosophy in Mathematics in the Graduate School, and Bachelor of Science in Fisheries and Bachelor of Science in Forestry in the Panganiban Campus.

Meanwhile, following the establishment of the College of Law on June 28, the opening of the College of Medicine is now President Azanza's top priority.

"Lahat ito bahagi ng Vision of HOPE na kung saan ay tutukan ang mga kursong kailangan sa pag-unlad ng mga Catandunganon at ng ating isla," Dr. Azanza wrote in his post on July 2.

Once approved, these programs will expand the university's offerings, adding to the 12 newly opened programs under President Azanza's administration.

Ron Madrigal wins in Best in National Costume at Ginoong Pilipinas 2024 Coronation Night

Anjo G. Tugay

Catanduanes State University (CatSU) alumnus Ron Aldrene Madrigal won the coveted Best in National Costume award with his abaca-inspired attire, during the Ginoong Pilipinas 2024 Coronation Night held at the RCBC Plaza, July 18.

The national costume, designed by CatSU faculty Mr. Joven Ombos Añonuevo, is a masterpiece crafted from abaca, which pays tribute to the hard work of abacaleros and the solidarity of the Catandunganons. The costume also honors the parahag-ot families and celebrates the patron saint of the province, Nuestra Señora De La Naval.

With CatSU as the in-charge of managing the logistics for the national costume of Madrigal, the intricate details of the costume, from the bahag to the nilubid, was crafted to symbolize the resilience and unity of Catandunganons in times of calamity and uncertainty. The pagbug-ong, showcasing abaca fiber and paper, represents the sacrifices made by abacaleros to support their families.

Madrigal, who hails from

the municipality of Viga and earned his bachelor's degree in Secondary Education Major in Social Studies in 2018 at CatSU, expressed his gratitude on Facebook, saying the experience of joining the pageant brought in the value of brotherhood which he will not forget.

"Setting foot on the stage of Ginoong Pilipinas to represent my province Catanduanes is an experience that I will be forever grateful of. The brotherhood that we Ginoos forge along the journey will be embedded in my core memory for a lifetime."

Meanwhile Añonuevo, also expressed his gratitude in a social media reel for the support of his family and CatSU.

"Dios mabalos sa sakuyang matinuwang na pamilya, sa mga estudyante, at sa mga gatuwang lalo na ang CatSU."

The Ginoong Pilipinas 2024 Coronation Night featured 18 contestants showcasing their heritage and pride through their respective ethnic costumes.



Photo Credit:
Jomar Franche Photography

CAPTION. Caption. (Photo Credit: Jomar Franche Photography)

CatSU hosts three-day dance, theater workshop with Miss Saigon Alumnus Miguel Braganza II

Albert G. Clemente

Miguel C. Braganza II, a distinguished alumnus of the internationally acclaimed musical "Miss Saigon," conducted a three-day free dance and theater lecture-workshop titled "Street of Dreams Philippines" at the Catanduanes State University from July 9-11, 2024.

Organized by the Center for Catandungan Heritage and the Arts, the event was attended by many talented youths across Catanduanes. It provided a unique opportunity for them to learn from the Miss Saigon alumnus, a seasoned professional with extensive experience in the performing arts.

He was also a scholar in the dance performance and choreography program at Harvard University in the 1980s, bringing a wealth of knowledge and expertise to the event.

Braganza's impressive career includes a 14-year tenure with the U.S. and international productions of Cameron Mackintosh's mega-musical "Miss Saigon."



GIVING IT ALL. Miss Saigon Alumnus Miguel Braganza II gives his best and wholehearted effort in teaching dance and theater to the younger generations of the 'Happy Island' during the Catanduanes State University's three-day free workshop at the university auditorium.

Building a Culture of Safety:

CatSU holds hazard awareness, risk reduction seminar for employees

Anjo G. Tugay

To enhance productivity and efficiency in the workplace by minimizing accidents and injuries, Catanduanes State University (CatSU) conducted a one-day hazard awareness and risk reduction seminar for its Buildings and Grounds Services (BGS) personnel on July 26.

The learning activity, aligns with the University's commitment to maintaining a safe and secure community, was graced by CatSU President Dr. Patrick Alain T. Azanza underscored the significance of promoting safety-friendly policies and procedures within the institution.

"Importante ang paghururon na alog kaini ta an buhay dae napapalitan," he said.

Meanwhile, in his message, Vice President for Administration and Financial Affairs Engr.

Benjamin Hannycel T. Nuyda emphasized that "safety is not just a top priority but a core value that ensures the success of an operation."

Serving as one of the resource speakers, College of Engineering Dean Engr. Dexter M. Toyado talked about occupational safety and health at work.

Held at the Extension Services training hall, the seminar covered several topics, including the importance of wearing personal protective equipment, electrical and fire safety, power tools safety, and conducting safety inspections.

The university aims to instill a culture of safety among its employees, ultimately contributing to a safer work environment for all.



SAFETY FIRST. As the former chief of Buildings and Grounds Services (BGS), Vice President for Administrative and Financial Affairs, Engr. Benjamin Hannycel T. Nuyda, emphasizes the importance of safety as not only a top priority, but also a core value during the hazard awareness seminar on July 26th.

CatSU seals MOA with Kochi University of Japan for Academic Exchange, Research Collaboration

Mack Neil T. Vital

Catanduanes State University (CatSU) has formalized a significant partnership with the National University Corporation Kochi University of Japan through a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA). Signed by CatSU President Dr. Patrick Alain T. Azanza and Kochi University President Dr. Hiroyuki Ukeda, this agreement

aims to foster academic and educational cooperation between the two institutions.

The MOA outlines various collaborative activities, including the exchange of faculty, researchers, administrative staff, and students, as well as the conduct of joint research projects, lectures, symposia,

and the sharing of academic information and materials. Both universities are committed to promoting mutual understanding and equal partnership through these initiatives.

This cooperation agreement is valid for five years and will be subject to renewal and renegotiation. It signifies a

step forward in enhancing the international presence and academic capabilities of CatSU, benefiting both the university community and the broader educational landscape.

CatSU receives P5M grant from DA for Abaca Tissue Culture Laboratory

Mack Neil T. Vital

To further strengthen the abaca industry in the 'Abaca Capital of the Philippines,' the Catanduanes State University (CatSU) has received P5 million worth of funding from the Department of Agriculture (DA), through the Agricultural Competitiveness Enhancement Fund (ACEF) Executive Committee, for Abaca Tissue Culture Laboratory.

CatSU President Dr. Patrick Alain T. Azanza announced on his social media page on July 5, that the fund has been downloaded and expressed gratitude to Sec. Francisco P. Tiu Laurel.

"Dakulang tabang ini bako

sana sa CatSU kundi sa mga abacaleros sa bilog na isla," the president wrote.

A memorandum of agreement was signed between the two parties in the project called "Upgrading of a Multi-Variety Specialized Abaca Tissue Culture Laboratory (MATIC-LAB)."

It was signed by the DA secretary, who is also the ACEF EXECOM chairperson, and the CatSU president, signifying a joint commitment to advance agricultural research and development.

The collaboration aims to enhance CatSU's research

facilities and capabilities in abaca tissue culture.

This initiative aligns with the ACEF's mandate under RA 10848 to support research and development activities in state universities and colleges.

Key provisions of the agreement include the implementation of the project as per the approved detailed proposal, stringent financial accountability, and regular monitoring and evaluation by the DA/ACEF EXECOM.

The project is expected to commence within three months of fund receipt and to be

completed within one year.

This collaboration underscores the CatSU and DA's vision of a food-secure and resilient Philippines, empowering local farmers and fishers through scientific advancements and improved agricultural practices.

It also reflects the university's commitment to empowering the abaca sector in the province, ensuring sustainable growth and enhanced competitiveness in both domestic and international markets.

Expanding Global Reach

CatSU's USWAG Journal Now Indexed in Philippine E-Journals

Anjo G. Tugay

Catanduanes State University's (CatSU) USWAG Journal: Philippine Journal of Multidisciplinary Research has achieved another breakthrough by being indexed in the prestigious Philippine E-Journals (PEJ), enhancing its accessibility to international readers and researchers.

This achievement was made possible through the approval of the Board of Regents, following the recommendation of SUC President III, Dr. Patrick Alain T. Azanza, who advocated for

CatSU's partnership with C&E Publishing, Inc. to join PEJ.

Now joining 240 academic publications and 52 multidisciplinary journals within the PEJ, the USWAG Journal, as CatSU's official research journal, advances the university's internationalization efforts and global academic engagement. This indexing boosts the likelihood of its articles being cited in global journals.

This milestone means that peer-reviewed research articles, reviews, and commentaries

across disciplines published by CatSU faculty will now reach a broader audience.

These disciplines include mathematics, physical, biological, and environmental sciences, agriculture, fisheries, forestry, agribusiness, social sciences, humanities, language, literature, communication arts, information and communications technology, health and nutrition, engineering, energy, industrial technology, business, accountancy, management, education, medicine, law, and policy studies.

Hosted by C&E Publishing, Inc., the Philippine E-Journals is an expanding online repository of academic publications from diverse higher education institutions and professional organizations. Its comprehensive database enables users to easily access abstracts, full journal articles, and related research materials, thereby offering global accessibility to these academic journals.

CatSU shares best practices in environmental sustainability management with Sorsogon State U benchmarking visit

Albert G. Clemente

The **Catanduanes State University (CatSU)** welcomed delegates from the Sorsogon State University (SorSU) during a benchmarking visit about environmental sustainability management on Thursday, July 4.

Benchmarking in higher education involves learning the best practices from other institutions to enhance academic and managerial standards.

Extending his warm welcome to the SorSU delegation, Executive Vice President Dr. Roberto B. Barba Jr. briefed the delegates about the institutional profile of the university.

Meanwhile, Vice President for Administrative and Financial Affairs Engr. Benjamin Hannycel

T. Nuyda introduced the present administrative officials to the SorSU delegation inside the university conference room.

Ar. Garner Ted G. Olavere, chair of the sustainability committee of SorSU, also introduced his delegation and said that the visit would strengthen the collective efforts of both SorSU and CatSU toward a sustainable future.

Through an audio-visual presentation, the University presented the Saringaya achievement to the SorSU team, featuring the CatSU solar farm and other green initiative projects.

Sharing the university's completed, ongoing, and future

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SHARING BEST PRACTICES. Garner Ted G. Olavere, chair of the sustainability committee from Sorsogon State University, expresses gratitude to Catanduanes State University for hosting their benchmarking activity on environmental management sustainability.

Celebrating Resilience and Service: CatSU holds NSTP commencement exercises for Class of 2024

Mack Neil T. Vital

On July 8, the Catanduanes State University (CatSU) celebrated the culmination of the National Service Training Program (NSTP) with its Commencement Exercises at the CatSU Gymnasium. Themed "From NSTP Student to NSRC Reservist: Saluting Service, Empowering Resiliency," the ceremony honored the commitment of graduates to national service and resilience in the face of challenges.

CatSU President Dr. Patrick Alain T. Azanza delivered a message of support and encouragement to the 4,254 NSTP graduates, emphasizing their role in supporting their communities.

"Maski natapos niyo na ang saindang NSTP course, magpadagos man siyempre kamo na magtabang sa satayang mga kahimanwa," the CatSU president urged the graduates.

Dr. Gemma G. Acedo, Vice President for Academic Affairs,

echoed similar sentiments during her conferment address. "Please remember that the spirit of service does not end here on your graduation," she said.

"The values and lessons you have learned through NSTP will continue to guide you in your personal and professional life," VP Acedo added.

Delivering her keynote address, Hon. Francine Mae T. Tayo, student regent/University Student Council president, emphasized the noble call to service.

"The noblest person you can be is to be born for service and for humanity, from NSTP student to NSRC reservist na handang magbigay ng Pambansang Serbisyo kapag merong sakuna at kalamidad at pangako na tumulong sa ating bansa na walang hinihinging kapalit," Tayo expressed.

The ceremony concluded with words of gratitude from NSTP/NSRC Director Emlyn



SERVE THE PEOPLE. Hundreds of freshmen march together during the graduation ceremony of the National Service Training Program (NSTP), marking the culmination of their hard work and dedication.

M. Lanon, who expressed appreciation for the dedication of the graduates.

"We look forward to seeing your continued contributions to our nation," the NSTP director said.

This year, 384 students

completed the Reserve Officers Training Corps (ROTC) program, while 2,511 from the Civic Welfare Training Service (CWTS) program, and 1,359 under the Literacy Training Service (LTS) program.

Fashion Exhibit now open at CatSU lobby until Aug. 9 featuring Catandunganon designers' stunning creations

Albert G. Clemente

Featuring stunning creations made of eco-friendly materials like abaca fiber, the Catanduanes State University (CatSU) launched its weeklong Fashion Exhibit at the university lobby today, July 29, celebrating the creativity and talent of the university's Garments, Fashion, and Design (GFD) students, alumni, and educators.

Organized by the Center for Catandungan Heritage and the Arts (CCHA), the fashion exhibit will run until August 9, 2024, and offer a sensory journey as it features more than 30 garments with different unique and colorful designs.

"Magagayon baga, looking every piece, it evokes a sense of pride," CatSU President Dr. Patrick Alain T. Azanza expressed as he graded the event this morning.

Vice President for Academic Affairs Dr. Gemma G. Acedo also said that "these works are more than just products; they are our heritage and arts,"

Among the highlights is the abaca-inspired costume worn by Ron Madrigal at the Ginoong Pilipinas 2024, which won Best National Costume, honoring the hard work of abacaleros and was

crafted by Joven Añonuevo, a CatSU-GFD instructor, and Joshua Balbaderos, a GFD student from Bohol.

Another notable piece is an elegant Filipiniana gown created by GFD alumnus Julius Eric Cuison, which was recently featured on ABS-CBN News, transforming abaca fibers into a sophisticated fashion statement.

During the exhibit's opening, Añonuevo shared advice with aspiring fashion designers: "Pirmi natong pairalin ang puso at damdamin, bago ang isip, ta minsan sa isip, diyan may halong inggit."

Dr. Azanza expressed hope that these creations will gain further exposure through the university's official social media channels and publications like The Herald and The CatSU Statesman.

"All these unique and beautiful pieces deserve to be seen by the world, as it speaks about the Catandunganon culture and arts. It represents who we are," he concluded.

According to CCHA Director Francis B. Tatel, the creations on display will also be featured in an upcoming fashion show next month.



FEAST FOR THE EYES. Inside the Catanduanes State University Fashion Exhibit 2024, a multi-sensory display of talents and creativity of CatSUans debuts on July 29. It features over 30 creations by students, faculty, and alumni from Garments, Fashion, and Design.

On a mission to give back through arts: Miss Saigon Alumnus' Street of Dreams project made its 25th stop at CatSU

Albert G. Clemente

"This project makes me happy, this is a free project. This is my mission, God gave me this mission," Miss Saigon Alumnus Miguel Braganza II shared how he felt about his project the 'Street of Dreams Philippines Dance and Theater Lecture-workshop' after making its 25th stop at the Catanduanes State University in July.

Started in 2010, the Street of Dreams Philippines, according to Braganza, is his way of giving back to the younger generation in the country. This is open to children, teens, adults, and even 90 years old.

Before returning to the Philippines, Braganza conducted dance and musical theater workshops across the globe,

including in the United States, Canada, Germany, the United Kingdom, and Portugal. His passion for the arts resonated deeply with the Catanduanons, inspiring them to embrace the transformative power of artistic expression.

For Hero Jay, a student from Catanduanes National High School, the workshop was a source of great enjoyment. Other participants echoed similar sentiments, appreciating the opportunity to learn new skills in ballet and musical theater that were not typically taught in their schools.

Arturo Aguilar, an incoming freshman at Bicol University, shared a valuable lesson he learned: "According to Sir Miguel,

being confident can get you anywhere. Without confidence, you won't get anywhere."

Braganza's teaching philosophy emphasizes inspiring students rather than forcing attendance. He focuses on those who show genuine interest, instilling the principle that 'Hard Work beats Talent.'

He ensures that participants understand the necessity of putting in effort and actively engaging in the workshop.

"I am so inspired by these young kids. They've got so much talent here, beautiful voices, and they have their interest. You know, when I came this morning, they were rehearsing, and I was so touched by that," Braganza recounted his experience with

the Catanduanons.

As a first-time visitor to the 'Happy Island,' Braganza was also impressed by the local cuisine and natural beauty. "The food is wonderful. I like the water, the mountains, and the Pacific Ocean," he said, appreciating the convergence of nature's bounty and beauty.

The project's journey to Catanduanes became possible through Joseph Jerome T. Francia, the first Vice President and Head of International Operations of GMA Network, Inc., and a proud Bicolano, who coordinated with a close friend of the CatSU President.



A light moment with CatSU President Dr. Patrick Alain T. Azanza during a courtesy visit to His Excelency Bishop Luisito Andal Occiano, D.D. at the Fiat Village, July 19

Anjo G. Tugay

Staunch advocates for ecological protection and youth spiritual development, both leaders shared a light-hearted yet meaningful moment discussing their shared ecological advocacies and youth apostolate.

Resonating with the recent pronouncement of the Catholic Bishops' Conference of the Philippines (CBCP) in Cagayan De Oro, the first meeting Bishop Luisito attended, he shared how

the CBCP has decided to upgrade their diocesan ecology desks to a full ministry focused on 'integral ecology,' making the care for creation a priority pastoral concern.

For CatSU, which has taken a firm stand against mining in the province and has been active in "green" initiatives, this connection represents a partnership in advocacy.

Moreover, the university's

Roman Catholic Campus Ministry, under the advisership of Professor Emlyn M. Lanon, plays a crucial role. This ministry, one of the main programs for evangelization of the Commission on Youth Apostolate (CYA) of the Diocese of Virac, focuses on improving the spiritual, mental, and social well-being of all students, faculty, and

staff at CatSU—a mission Bishop Luisito is eager to know more about and strengthen further.



CAPTION. Caption.





From rain to resource:

How Catanduanes State University is leading in sustainability

Anjo G. Tugay

Eyeing its vision for a greener future, Catanduanes State University (CatSU) will soon launch its first-ever Water Catchment Facility, an innovative project that not only symbolizes environmental stewardship with a more sustainable and efficient campus environment but also promises significant cost savings for the university.

A state-of-the-art water catchment system

The Water Catchment Facility incorporates a state-of-the-art basin with a capacity of 350 cubic meters, designed to collect rainwater from the 17 university buildings. This harvested water is redirected for non-potable uses, such as toilet flushing and cleaning. CatSU President Dr. Patrick Alain T. Azanza, who pioneered this innovation said

the implementation of this water catchment system is expected to significantly reduce the university's monthly water bill by up to 50%. Thus, it is expected to save the university around Php 43,000 monthly, reducing the average water bill from Php 86,000 during regular classes.

Equipped with a solar pump and an automatic booster, the system ensures reliable water distribution throughout the campus, even reaching

higher floors of university buildings. Enhancing the overall functionality of the campus infrastructure, this Php 14.4 M facility is part of the University's Land Use Development Plan, which was created by the present administration and approved by the Board of Regents after being reviewed by representatives from CHED, DPWH, DAR, DENR, and other government agencies.

The old covered court, which
see page 12



CAPTION. Caption

CatSU partners with Finland-based university for academic cooperation

Anjo G. Tugay

Catanduanes State University (CatSU) has officially signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with Seinajoki University of Applied Sciences (SeAMK) on _____, cementing a collaborative partnership aimed at enhancing academic exchange and cooperation.

The signing ceremony took place at the CatSU Conference Room and was attended by SeAMK President Dr. Jaakko Hallila, CatSU President Dr. Patrick Alain T. Azanza, Executive Vice President Dr. Roberto B. Barba Jr., Vice Presidents, and deans of all colleges.

This partnership will facilitate various initiatives, such as the exchange of faculty members and researchers, student

exchanges, joint projects, and the development of academic programs. Both universities are committed to collaborating on conferences, sharing information and publications, and engaging in mutually agreed-upon activities.

During the signing, Dr. Azanza shared his enthusiasm for CatSU's collaboration, highlighting the university's entry into the global rankings. He expressed optimism about the potential benefits this partnership could bring, emphasizing that there is much more to offer through this collaboration.

"I am glad that this year, as we enter the global rankings as a university, we feel we have more to offer in our partnership. The presence of all the deans

here signifies a strong interest in your university," Dr. Azanza said, adding that the participation of all deans signifies the university's strong interest in expanding its collaboration with SeAMK.

Recognizing the importance of learning from the Finnish education system, renowned for its innovative policies, Dr. Azanza stated that CatSU has much to learn from SeAMK, which he described as one of the best in the world due to its cutting-edge policies and practices.

Banking on this, he also emphasized the need for strong leadership in education, when he welcomed the recent appointment of Atty. Sonny Angara as DepEd Secretary, as he

mentioned during the signing.

"A positive development is the recent designation of Atty. Sonny Angara as DepEd Secretary. His deep understanding of our education system, stemming from his role as a commissioner of EDCOM 2, is crucial as we need leaders who will propel progress from basic education to higher education," he said.

Seeing this perspective of strengthening the internationalization efforts of the university under his term, Dr. Azanza further pointed out the potential benefits of the partnership.

"With programs offered by Seinajoki University of Applied Sciences, such as nursing, agriculture, and advanced

technology in food processing, we believe there is much to gain. Your technological expertise would greatly benefit our initiatives," he said, referring to areas that are particularly relevant as CatSU develops its agro-industrial post-

harvest facilities in its economic zones.

Dr. Jaakko Hallila expressed his pleasure at being on the island for the first time, lightly noting that first impressions can be hard to change, but in the case of his visit, "the impression has been



CAPTION. Caption.

PRESIDENT'S



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very positive.”

“I also see a lot of agricultural opportunities, which is particularly interesting to me as I come from a province in Finland known for food processing and manufacturing machinery,” he said, seeing agricultural opportunities on the island as particularly promising.

Dr. Hallila also shared how he has been keeping in touch with Dr. Azanza for this cooperation, and that the CatSU president has been very open to this

cooperation.

“We also wanted to partner with universities that have visionary leadership, and from what we saw, Catanduanes State University definitely has a clear plan and goals,” he said.

“The Finnish government has identified several countries for future cooperation in higher education, and the Philippines is one of them. They see great potential for growth and progress in higher education here,” he emphasized, reaffirming

the Finnish government’s commitment to educational collaboration with CatSU.

Still grateful for the partnership under the term of President Azanza, when CatSU has debuted in three global rankings, Dr. Hallila shared how strong leadership could achieve significant breakthroughs.

“As the saying goes, if you don’t have a plan, any road will take you nowhere, but with a plan, you can achieve something significant—especially with

strong leadership.”

Meanwhile, after the signing, Dr. Hallila extended an invitation for future collaboration, encouraging CatSU to participate in their upcoming “International Days” event in February 2025.

CatSU’s Padagos na Patanos joins forces with gov’t agencies in information, service caravan

Anjo G. Tugay

Catanduanes State University (CatSU) advanced its flagship initiative, ‘Padagos na

Patanos,’ during the Information and Service Caravan organized by the Philippine Information Agency (PIA) Catanduanes Information Center and the Catanduanes Government Communicators Network (CGCN), on June 29 at Barangay Timbaan, San Andres.

PIA Information Center Manager Edna A. Bagadiong explained the caravan’s purpose, describing it as “an initiative to promote a one-stop shop for various social services needed by the constituents of the barangay.”

A total of 31 agencies participated in the caravan, which commenced with a tree-planting activity. In addition to providing free services, agency representatives informed the barangay’s residents about their programs, projects, and services.

Key features of the caravan included a feeding activity for school children, see page 13



CAPTION. Caption.



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was severely damaged during Typhoon Rolly, has been demolished with the necessary permit from the Office of the Building Official of Virac, to make way for this innovative structure. The scrap materials were preserved by the Building and Grounds Services (BGS) and were used in constructing a covered basketball court inside the University Sports Complex.

The Zen Garden

Integrating beauty with functionality, the Water Catchment Facility is also home to CatSU's first-ever "Zen Garden." This space not only serves as a green area but also provides a relaxing environment for students and staff.

The president stated that this garden aims to be more than just a visual

delight; it will serve as a venue for poetry recitals and other creative arts events, noting that students can access the university's 1.5 GBPS internet connection with Starlink backup there.

"We place high value on the creative arts, and its related events can be hosted in the garden as an alternative venue similar to practices in prominent universities like UP, as well as other universities in Europe and the US," he said.

Aside from its aesthetical appeal, this initiative complies with the open green space requirements for universities in the Philippines. Looking ahead for future plans and sustainability, the university plans potential projects that could arise from the savings generated by the Water Catchment Facility, such as establishing water purification stations on campus to provide free drinking water for students and staff.

An oasis of hope for the community

For the CatSU administration, its passion for sustainability is not just an internal initiative; it is rooted with the broader community of Catanduanes.

"My leadership style is to inspire people to complete our projects at CatSU because, in the end, it benefits not just us but the entire island," the president said, expounding on the administration's community-centric approach which aligns with the university's mission for environmental awareness and responsibility among its stakeholders.

"All of this requires hard work. It is not about personal gain or honor, but for all Catandunganons," said Dr. Azanza, underscoring the collective efforts under his leadership,

with breakthroughs happening in the university, reflecting CatSU's mission to serve its stakeholders and the people of Catanduanes.

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senior citizens, and lactating mothers at the Timbaan Elementary School Covered Court. This initiative was supported by the Provincial Nutrition Office, Philippine Statistics Authority, Provincial Cooperative and Development Authority Office, and Catanduanes State University, which introduced its EduKain Program.

CatSU offered medical and dental services, conducting free medical check-ups for 35 individuals and dental check-ups and fluoride applications for 46 primary grade pupils.

The Technical Education and Skills Development Authority (TESDA) provided free massages, haircuts, pedicures, and manicures. The Department of Agriculture and the Provincial Agricultural and Services Office distributed vegetable seeds and farm tools to selected farmers'

organizations in the barangay.

Prominent agency heads actively participated in the event, including Congressman Eulogio Rodríguez, CatSU President Dr. Patrick Alain T. Azanza, PIA Manager Edna A. Bagadiong, Radyo Pilipinas Catanduanes Manager Arlene O. Bagadiong, DOST Provincial Director Engr. Gram Molina, TESDA Provincial Director Archangel Rodriguez, DTI Provincial Director Maria Belma Escueta, PhilHealth Chief Maria Zaila B. Romero, PAGASA Chief Juan Pantino Jr., and

representatives from other agencies.

The event also featured a symbolic boodle fight, which PMAJ Rosalinda M. Gaston highlighted as a celebration of solidarity among the participating agencies.

Building on the success of this event, organizers plan to cluster barangays for future caravans to serve more constituents effectively.



Threads of Inspiration

Anjo T. Tugay

Just recently, CatSU alum Ron Madrigal made headlines by placing in the top 10 of the Ginoong Pilipinas 2024 pageant and winning the coveted Best in National Costume award. Behind this award-winning national costume is Joven Ombos Anonuevo, a university faculty member who is weaving his dreams with creativity and perseverance.

For Joven, creativity knows no bounds when it's rooted in 'passion and determination'. From a young age, his potential in design was unmistakable, and his classmates and teachers at Republic Colleges (formerly Flores Institute) recognized his talent. When he was given the opportunity to design festival costumes for the Lambat Festival, for him, it was more than just a task—it was a calling.

Despite facing early setbacks, Joven's determination never wavered. He initially pursued a degree in BS Computer Engineering; however, he soon realized his true passion lay elsewhere. Inspired by his good friend Jerry Rodriguez, Joven made a bold decision to shift his focus to LBSIT Garments Fashion and Design, embracing his calling with renewed vigor.

Now in the spotlight, Joven revealed that the inspiration for Ron Madrigal's national costume came from his own experiences and memories as a young parahag-ot (abaca stripper). The costume, he shared, is steeped in symbolism and tells a story of resilience, heritage, and faith.

"The binutngol backdress symbolizes the burdens we carry in life, reflecting how faith and courage can help overcome obstacles. The bahag pays tribute to the Aetas, the first settlers of Catanduanes, honoring their legacy and traditions. The parabug-ong represents the hard work of the local abacaleros. And the image of Nuestra Señora De La Naval, the patron saint of Catanduanes, signifies divine guidance and protection."

Creating this masterpiece was a collaborative effort involving Joven's family. "Eighty-five percent of the costume is made from raw abaca fibers, crafted by my mother," Joven shared.

His father constructed the metal backdress, with wooden beads and rhinestones which added a touch of sparkle, symbolize the bright futures of the Catandunganons, he shared.

Winning the Best in National Costume award was a moment of overwhelming emotion for Joven. "I felt like all the sacrifices we encountered vanished in just a glimpse," he recalled.

This recognition is particularly significant given the challenges



his course faced during his college years, often dismissed as "easy" or "just for repairing underwear," he shared. Overcoming these stereotypes has made his achievements even more meaningful.

Continuing the Legacy

As an instructor at CatSU's College of Industrial Technology, Joven continues to inspire future generations. "CatSU always believed in my potential, and I am grateful to our president, Dr. Patrick Alain Azanza, for his support," Joven shared, the university's backing has been instrumental in his success, providing him with opportunities to showcase his talents on prestigious platforms.

Joven's talents have taken him far, in fact, he designed the national costume for Binibining Pilipinas 2023 and winning Best Designer at the 5th Abaca Festival Queen Costume Competition, along with several awards in regional and national competitions.

His advice to aspiring designers is to follow their hearts with passion. "Dapat pairalin natin ang puso bago ang isip, dahil sa isip - minsan ay may halong inggit," he advised. He encourages resourcefulness and imagination, turning "trash into class," and always believing in oneself.

"I always adore the word 'padagos' since all of us have infinite talent," he said, reflecting his belief in the boundless potential within everyone - proving that with faith and determination, one can weave dreams into reality.



From CATCH to MARKET:

CatSU's hands-on training transforms 'turay' fish into profitable products for fisherfolks families

Mack Neil T. Vital

Catanduanes State University (CatSU) has taken a significant step towards community empowerment and sustainable livelihoods with an innovative training session on processing "Turay" fish into bottled sardines and ice cream, held at the College of Industrial Technology's SS FoodLab on July 12.

"Panghabang buhay na progreso para sa pamilya," said SUC President III Dr. Patrick Alain T. Azanza, emphasizing the long-term benefits for the families of the 22 trainees, who are residents from Barangays Cabungahan and Manambrag, San Andres.

This session marks the second run of the training, following the first all-women training for 60 participants held in Manambrag a few months ago.

Under President Azanza's leadership, CatSU has consistently engaged in community outreach through its Padagos na Patanos Extension Service.

The university's scientist-professors and extension service workers have diligently worked on initiatives to alleviate poverty and enhance industry standards in the province.

The training, attended by Extension Service Director Dr. Adem Nalu V. Rubio and CIT Dean

Dr. Edwin T. Romero, introduced participants to the production processes of Turay Sardines and Turay Ice Cream, focusing on creating marketable products from the province's abundant natural resources. They learned to make three flavors of Turay Ice Cream: sorbetes, plain, chili-infused.

CatSU ensured full participation by providing transportation for the participants to the training venue.

Prof. Tugay explained that in two days, a maximum of 80 bottles of Turay Sardines could be produced, with a break-even price of Php 139.12 per piece.

President Azanza assured the marketability of the trainees' products, which will be showcased at the CatSU Pasalubong Center and ARDCI Mart.

This initiative aims to provide the fisherfolk community with additional sources of income and sustainable livelihoods, creating new market opportunities and promising long-term progress for the families involved.



CPA Passers Courtesy Visit

Catanduanes State University passers of the 2022, 2023, and 2024 Licensure Examination for Certified Public Accountants paid a courtesy visit to the University officials, July 18, ahead of their testimonial

ceremony.

They were welcomed by the university officials led by Vice President for Academic Affairs, Dr. Gemma G. Acedo. The passers were accompanied by the College of Business and Accountancy Dean, Ian V. Aranel, and Philippine Institute of

Certified Public Accountants (PICPA) officers: Atty. Ralph B. Bodota, Joseph Allan B. Abundo, and Michelle F. Go.

From the accountancy examinations held between October 2023 to May 2024, the university has produced 25 new accountants.



CatSU Renews MOU with UPLB

At the start of his term as CatSU President, Dr. Patrick Alain T. Azanza wasted no time to enter into academic and research collaboration with reputable

higher education institutions. UP Los Baños was among the first partner universities of CatSU under Dr. Azanza's administration.

On July 1, Dr. Azanza on his social media account, shared the

news of agreement renewal with UP Los Baños. He thanked Chancellor Jose V. Camacho for the partnership.

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projects, Planning Officer II Engr. Joshua Patrick Tadoy talked about the Land Use Development and Infrastructure Plan (LUDIP) of the university.

Other projects and accomplishments presented were the Abaca Technology Innovation Center, Extension programs of the university, and the UI GreenMetrics Ranking, where CatSU secured the 481st place in the world, and ranked 8 in the country.

Before the first part of the visit concluded, Vice President for Research,

Extension, and Production Affairs Dr. Rosana S. Abundo thanked the SorSU team for choosing CatSU in their benchmarking activity.

"We just hope that we were able to contribute, and attain the objectives of your visit," VP-REPA told the SorSU team.

Dr. Abundo also oriented the visitors about the places to be visited in the afternoon's campus tour, which included the solar farm and the newly constructed water catchment basin with a garden on its top.

The SorSU delegation was composed of Ar. Olavere (Assistant Professor II), Dr. Christopher Jaramiel (Director of the Office of General Services

and Maintenance), Ar. Luisita F. Gegajo (Director of Project Management Office), Engr. Juliene Marie Janer (Instructor I), Engr. Rap Anthony D. Tatad (General Services and Maintenance), Engr. Jeffrey S. Jazareno (Registrar Staff), Prof. Saturnino C. Carranza (Assistant Professor IV), Engr. Dennis M. Mular (Head, Global Quality Awards).*



HERALD

The **HERALD** is the official publication of Catanduanes State University which is produced by Information Unit (IU).

The **HERALD** complements the multi-platform communication arm of Information Unit which utilizes print, radio broadcasting, and social media, as well as the World Wide Web, in the dissemination of the different milestones, programs, projects, activities and achievements of the University, particularly on areas of Instruction, Research, Extension, Production, Governance and Management, and Student Services.

The **HERALD** exists to advance the interest of development communication in higher education, and to provide another venue in informing, involving, and empowering the stakeholders of the Catanduanes State University.

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