

Membership of the University of Southern Mindanao to different Consortia

In an era where knowledge generation and technological innovation drive national and regional development, the role of state universities extends beyond instruction and community service. State universities are expected to be centers of research excellence and innovation that address pressing societal challenges. One effective mechanism to strengthen these roles is through active membership in academic and research consortia.

Participation in consortia allows state universities to pool expertise, resources, and facilities with other higher education institutions and research organizations. This collective effort fosters interdisciplinary collaboration, enhances research productivity, and ensures that generated knowledge has greater impact and visibility. For resource-limited state universities, consortia membership provides opportunities to access advanced technologies, funding windows, and specialized training that may otherwise be unattainable.

Moreover, being part of a consortium strengthens the university's capacity to pursue large-scale and high-impact projects, benchmark against global standards, and align with national and regional research priorities. It also enhances faculty and student mobility, encourages joint publications, and creates pathways for technology transfer and innovation commercialization. In essence, consortia membership transforms a state university from being an isolated institution into an active contributor to a dynamic network of academic, research, and industry partners.

Thus, the importance of state universities joining academic and research consortia lies in their potential to magnify institutional strengths, overcome limitations, and collectively advance scientific, technological, and socio-economic development at both local and global scales.

Table 1. Membership of the University of Southern Mindanao to different consortia

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| <p>SOCCSKSARGEN Agriculture, Aquatic and Natural Resources Research and Development Consortium (SOXAARRDEC)</p> | <p>Based at the University of Southern Mindanao (USM), SOXAARRDEC is an organization composed of 20 member agencies in the SOCCSKSARGEN Region promoting research and development in agriculture, aquatic and natural resources.</p> <p>It envisions responsive, culturally sensitive, and sustainable Research, Development, Extension innovations in the region with the mission of engaging minds to effect positive change in the lives of people in the Agriculture, Aquatic and Natural Resources (AANR) sector through Research & Development, Technology Transfer, Science Communication and ICT initiatives in the SOCCSKSARGEN Region.</p> <p>It has nine priority commodities where the Consortium Member Institutions (CMI) are working, namely: rice, corn, cacao, banana, coffee, rubber, ruminants and poultry, tilapia and tuna.</p> <p>Faculty members of the PhD program are active in research and development involving their graduate students with their short-term researches.</p> |
| <p>SOCCSKSARGEN (SOX) Industry, Energy, Emerging Technology Research and Development Consortium (SOXIEERDC)</p> | <p>The Consortium shall create a mechanism for proper coordination, programming, development, and utilization of resources for related R&D works; foster inter-agency collaboration and participation between and among the academe, local / national government agencies, and private sector / industry; promote adoption and utilization of R&D output; formulate an R&D Agenda for sectors that will be identified by the Consortium; and generate funding to conduct R&D activities.</p> |

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| Region 12 State Universities and Colleges | <p>Capacity building, Collaboration on research, development and extension, Addressing regional sustainable development goals (SDGs), enhancement of niches of each SUC to address needs and gaps</p> |
| MINSUPALA – IRDC (Mindanao, Sulu, Palawan-Innovative Research and Development Consortium) | <p>The University of Southern Mindanao joins a consortium of agencies formed to coordinate regional innovative research and development priorities anchored on the Philippine Development Plan 2023-2028. The newly created consortium, named MINSUPALA – IRDC (Innovative Research and Development Consortium), consists of state universities and colleges (SUCs) from Mindanao, Sulu, and Palawan. It was formalized through the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding held at the Department of Budget and Management (DBM) Regional Office, Koronadal City on July 20, 2023.</p> <p>The consortium aims to promote innovative research and development for sustainable and inclusive development of communities in the MINSUPALA region, provide an avenue for joint planning, monitoring, evaluation, and sharing of R&D resources through collaborative interventions among its members, collaborate with the national and regional Government through DBM XII and consortium member SUCs in maximizing the utilization of research results to support regional development, and source other funds for the use in the implementation of R&D.</p> <p>Through the consortium, member institutions will be provided opportunities to enhance their research and extension capabilities, participate in the consortium's key activities, access technical support and endorsement to develop and package R&D proposals for possible funding from DBM through DBM Region XII, and utilize recommended relevant R&D management tools.</p> <p>The IRDC will be hosted by DBM Region XII being the proponent of the organic program proposal</p> |

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| | <p>submitted to the DBM National Office. Joining USM in the new consortium are Sultan Kudarat State University, Mindanao State University Maguindanao, Mindanao State University General Santos City, Cotabato State University, Adiong Memorial Polytechnic State College, South Cotabato State College, and Cotabato Foundation College of Science and Technology.</p> <p>The MOU signing was attended by SUC Presidents, DBM Secretary Amenah F. Pangandaman, and DBM Regional Director Akmad J. Usman.</p> |
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Table 2. Membership of the University of Southern Mindanao to different consortia and the nature of linkages and benefits

| Name of Consortium | Parties Involved | Nature of Linkage | Funds | Benefits |
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| SOCCSKSARGEN Agriculture, Aquatic and Natural Resources Research and Development Consortium (SOXAARRDEC) | With 20 Consortium Member Institutions (CMIs) namely: USM, SKSU, CFCST, CotSU, SCSC, MIST, SEAIT, VMC MC, Inc, DA RFO 12, DA-PRRI, DA-ATI, DA-PhilRice-MES, NEDA, DOST-PCAARRD, DOST XII, | Research & Development, Science Communication, Tech | Each CMI contributes Php 65,000 with USM (base agency) contributing Php 320,000, SKSU contributing Php160,000 and DOST-PCAARRD with funding of 5 million for 3 years. | Capacity Building, Collaboration on Technology Transfer, Research Partnerships, Policy crafting, IEC Materials Production, sharing of resources |

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| SOCCSKSARGEN Agriculture, Aquatic and Natural Resources Research and Development Consortium (SOXIERRDEC) | | | | Capacity Building, Collaboration on Technology Transfer, Research Partnerships, Policy crafting, IEC Materials Production, sharing of resources, sharing of expertise, sharing of resources persons |
| Region 12 Future's Thinking Consortium | | | | Capacity Building, Research Partnerships, Policy crafting, IEC Materials Production, sharing of resources, sharing of expertise, sharing of experts as resources persons |

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| MINSUPALA-IRD Consortium | | | Five million allocation for each SUC member | Through the consortium, member institutions will be provided opportunities to enhance their research and extension capabilities, participate in the consortium's key activities, access technical support and endorsement to develop and package R&D proposals for possible funding from DBM through DBM Region XII, and utilize recommended relevant R&D management tools. |
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