

2026

NARRATIVE REPORT ON INTERNATIONAL LINKAGES AND CONSORTIA/ INTERNATIONALIZATION INITIATIVES OF THE UNIVERSITY OF SOUTHERN MINDANAO



Office of International Affairs



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NARRATIVE REPORT ON INTERNATIONAL LINKAGES AND CONSORTIA/ INTERNATIONALIZATION

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NARRATIVE REPORT ON INTERNATIONAL LINKAGES AND CONSORTIA/ INTERNATIONALIZATION INITIATIVES OF THE UNIVERSITY OF SOUTHERN MINDANAO

I. Internationalization Initiatives of USM

The Commission on Higher Education (CHED) defines internationalization as a process of integrating international, intercultural, and global dimensions into the goals, functions (teaching, learning, research, and service), and delivery of higher education. It involves a process of interchange of higher education between nations, with partnerships between nations, between national systems of higher education, and between institutions of higher education.

As a strategy for quality, CHED through internationalization envisions to 1) enhance the quality of Philippine higher education; 2) uphold the country's reputation as a center of higher education in identified niches/programs of excellence; 3) strengthen the country's role in an interconnected global community; 4) develop Philippine HEIs as productive members of the international academic community; 5) produce graduates with 21st century competencies who are able to live and work in a diverse/multicultural setting; and 6) foster closer cooperation and understanding between the Philippines and the rest of the world. Moreover, CHED released CMO No. 55 s. 2016 or the Policy Framework and Strategies on the Internationalization of Philippine Higher Education). The CMO provides framework and approaches for the development of institutional internationalization strategies and implementation planning including best practices, partnership building, curriculum development, research opportunities and funding mechanisms.

Furthermore, Republic Act 11448 or The Transnational Higher Education Act of 2018 provides the legal framework for modernizing the Philippine higher education sector and bringing international quality standards and expertise into the country, with a view to making higher education globally competitive, attracting a flow of talented students, faculty, and staff, and improving the country's human resource base. This will enable higher learning to be globally competitive by attracting pool of talented students, faculty, and researchers and consequently improving the human resource base of the country.

The University of Southern Mindanao with its vision of providing quality and relevant education for its clientele to be globally competitive, culture-sensitive, and morally responsive human resources for sustainable development, has a need to strengthen its international visibility by expanding its partnership and linkages with higher education institutions and research development organizations abroad. To become a global university, USM shall be engaged in internationalization activities in accordance with CMO No. 55 s. 2016 and RA 11448 to strengthen the University's international visibility. Hence, the

establishment of the Office of International Affairs is timely and relevant in the move for internationalization of the University. The OIA was approved by the USM Board of Regents by virtue of the BOR Resolution No. 36, series of 2022.

II. Plausible Future for USM as an International HEI

The University of Southern Mindanao as a premier university envisions to be recognized as a globally recognized higher education and research institution. The internationalization initiatives of the University shall focus on education, research and development, collaboration through effective international linkages with foreign higher education and research institutions, and international ranking and accreditation of its undergraduate and postgraduate degree programs. USM envisions to become a recognized HEI in terms of its international programs for education including student education, student and faculty exchange and mobility.

As a research university, internationalization will create an avenue for USM to become globally recognized in terms of excellent, innovative, and impactful research projects and initiatives. The University also will maintain its effective collaboration with international institutions and envisions to be a center for international education and research. The established linkages of the University will be sustained, and new linkages will be formed through sharing of resources, manpower, and innovative technologies. Institutional membership to international organizations shall be encouraged as well. With increased web presence and impact of USM as an international higher education and research institution, the University will be recognized as one of the top universities in terms of global ranking and accreditation.

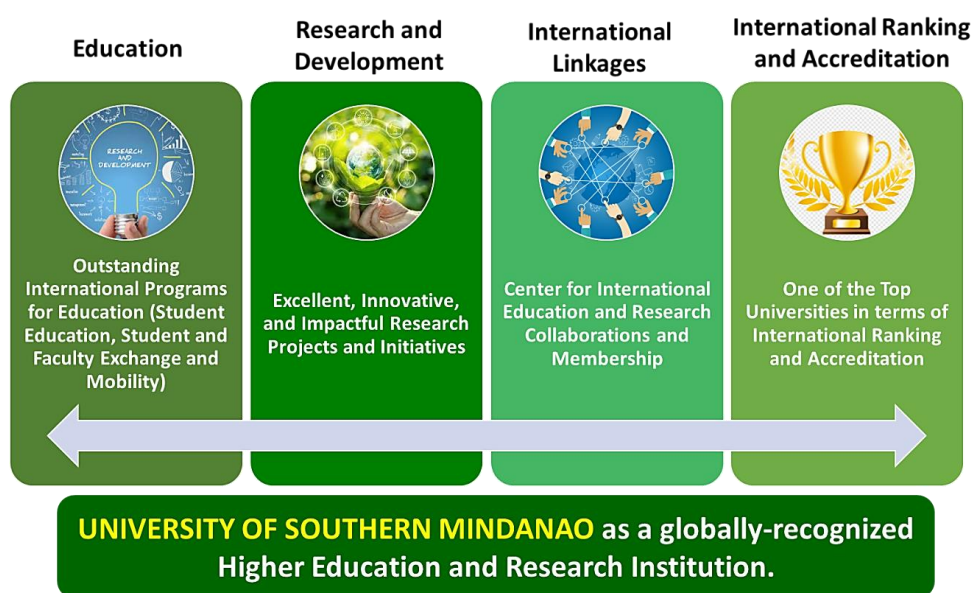


Figure 1. Plausible future for University of Southern Mindanao as a globally recognized higher education and research institution.

III. Office of International Affairs

The internationalization of University of Southern Mindanao is anchored in its vision and mission of providing quality education and producing globally competitive graduates. The USM Office of International Affairs' (USM-OIA) main mission is to create and sustain international linkages with Foreign Higher Education Institutions (FHEIs) and research institutions and organizations. Moreover, the OIA ensures that partnerships between international linkages are efficiently and effectively carried out. The Office performs its task in bringing the University into a globally recognized status in terms of quality and relevant education, innovative and impactful research, and effective collaboration.

The following are the functions of the USM Office of International Affairs:

1. Internationalize the University and its undergraduate and postgraduate degree programs;
2. Support activities related to initiating and coordinating collaboration with international higher education and research institutions;
3. Initiate and facilitate Memorandum of Agreements or Memorandum of Understanding between partner higher education and research institutions;
4. Take lead in the promotion, coordination, and overall logistics in exchange of international students, faculty members, and researchers;
5. Increase international mobility programs for the University's academic and non-academic employees, as well as students;
6. Keep track, manage, and update the University's international affairs;
7. Make international affairs consulting programs more accessible;
8. Create and maintain a database of the University's international activities;
9. Inform the university community, relevant authorities, and the general public on the results of foreign affairs initiatives;
10. Supervise activities pertaining to the University's international ranking, accreditation, and membership.

A. Functions of the Director

The office shall be headed by a Director who shall perform the following:

1. Provide leadership in the preparation, implementation, development, and evaluation of internationalization activities of the university;
2. Coordinate with Vice President for Academic Affairs, Vice President for Research Development and Extension, and Vice President for Administration and Finance on matters on international affairs of the university;
3. Develop strategic alliances and manage institutional partnerships and collaborations with international organizations and other foreign universities and colleges;

4. Provide leadership and coordinate with different academic, research, and extension units in developing international education direction, research and extension agenda including international agreements, funding opportunities, information on student exchanges, participation in visits and profile-raising;
5. Provide information and advice to the University community about the different international programs available within the scope of education and research.
6. Create collaborative programs pertaining to international student and their issues;
7. Attend and be visible/present in events/programs on campus that are relevant to international student and their issues;
8. Work closely with administrators, directors, faculty and staff, as well as attend staff meetings related to internationalization;
9. Assist student organization, academic colleges and administrative units on addressing concerns on internationalization;
10. Assist the University to build its international profile through visits, media coverage, events, and conferences to ensure presence of the University at international education and research force.

B. Functions of the Department Heads

B.1. Head of the Department of International Linkages and Programs for Education

The Head of the Department of International Linkages and Programs for Education shall perform the following functions:

1. Assist the Director in developing strategic alliances and manage institutional partnerships and collaborations with international Higher Education Institutions;
2. Work with different academic units on the formulation of their plans and strategies on education-related internationalization activities;
3. Coordinate with the Office of the Vice President for Academic Affairs, Admission and Records Office, and Office of the Director for Instruction on matters pertaining to admission, internship, exchange, and mobility of both inbound international and outbound USM students.
4. Assist inbound international students during the initial stage of the enrollment/admission process e.g. entrance exam, academic document requirements, payments, visa requirements, accommodation, etc.;
5. Coordinate with the Office of the Human Resource Management Office on matters pertaining to faculty and staff exchange and mobility;
6. Assist the Office of Student Affairs to develop and manage international opportunities for students;
7. Provide faculty members of the University information on international capability and capacity-building activities, conferences, fora, trainings, and workshops; and,
8. Cascade all information to all concerned personnel;

B.2. Head of the Department of International Linkages and Programs for Research and Extension

The Head of the Department of International Linkages and Programs for Research and Extension shall perform the following functions:

1. Assist the Director in developing strategic alliances and manage institutional partnerships and collaborations with international research and extension institutions;
2. Work with different academic units on the formulation of their plans and strategies on research and extension-related internationalization activities;
3. Coordinate with the Office of the Vice President for Research Development and Extension, Office of Research Development, Office of Publication Services, and Office of Extension Services on matters pertaining to researcher and extensionist exchange and mobility and publication of outputs.
4. Assist the VPRDE in developing and managing international opportunities for researchers and extensionists;
5. Inform and advise the University community about the different international programs available within the scope of research and extension;
6. Advise faculty, students, researchers, and extensionists in international research and extension collaborations;
7. Provide researchers and extensionists of the University information on international capability and capacity-building activities, conferences, fora, training, and workshops; and,
8. Cascade all information to all concerned personnel.

B.3. Head of the Department of International Accreditation and Linkages

The Head of the Department of International Linkages and Programs for Research and Extension shall perform the following functions:

1. Assist the Director in developing strategic alliances and managing institutional partnerships and collaborations through memberships in international higher education institutions and research and extension organizations and consortia;
2. Ensure that the roles and responsibilities of the University as a member of international organizations are carried out;
3. Facilitate the application of the University to international accreditation such as QS University Rankings, Webometrics, World Universities with Real Impact (WURI), Zairi Excellence in Higher Education, etc.
4. Coordinate with the Office of University Quality Assurance on international accreditation-related matters;
5. Coordinate and assist the academic units on the international accreditation of undergraduate and postgraduate degree programs;
6. Cascade all information to all concerned personnel.

A. Department of International Linkages and Programs for Education

The Department will take charge and assist the director in collaboration with the Vice President for Academic Affairs, Director of the Admission and Records Office, and the Director of the Human Resource Development and Management Office on concerns related to the following:

- Admission of international students in undergraduate/postgraduate degree programs
- Student Exchange
- Student Mobility
- Faculty and Staff Exchange
- Faculty and Staff Mobility
- Membership to consortium of higher education institutions
- Linkages with other international universities

B. Department of International Linkages, and Programs for Research and Extension

The Department will take charge and assist the director in collaboration with the Vice President for Research Development and Extension, Director of Research Development Office, and Director of Publication Services Office on concerns related to the following:

- Linkages with research institutions
- Linkages with international organizations for extension
- Research and extension collaborations
- Researcher mobility
- Researcher training
- Capacity and capability building of researchers
- On-the-job training or research internships

C. Department of International Accreditation and Membership

The Department will take charge and assist the director in collaboration with the Director of the University Quality Assurance Office on concerns related to the following:

- International ranking of the University such as QS University Rankings, Webometrics, World Universities with Real Impact, etc.
- International accreditation
- Membership to international organizations



TABLE OF ORGANIZATION
UNIVERSITY OF SOUTHERN MINDANAO
OFFICE OF INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS (USM-OIA)
BOR Resolution No. 36 series of 2022

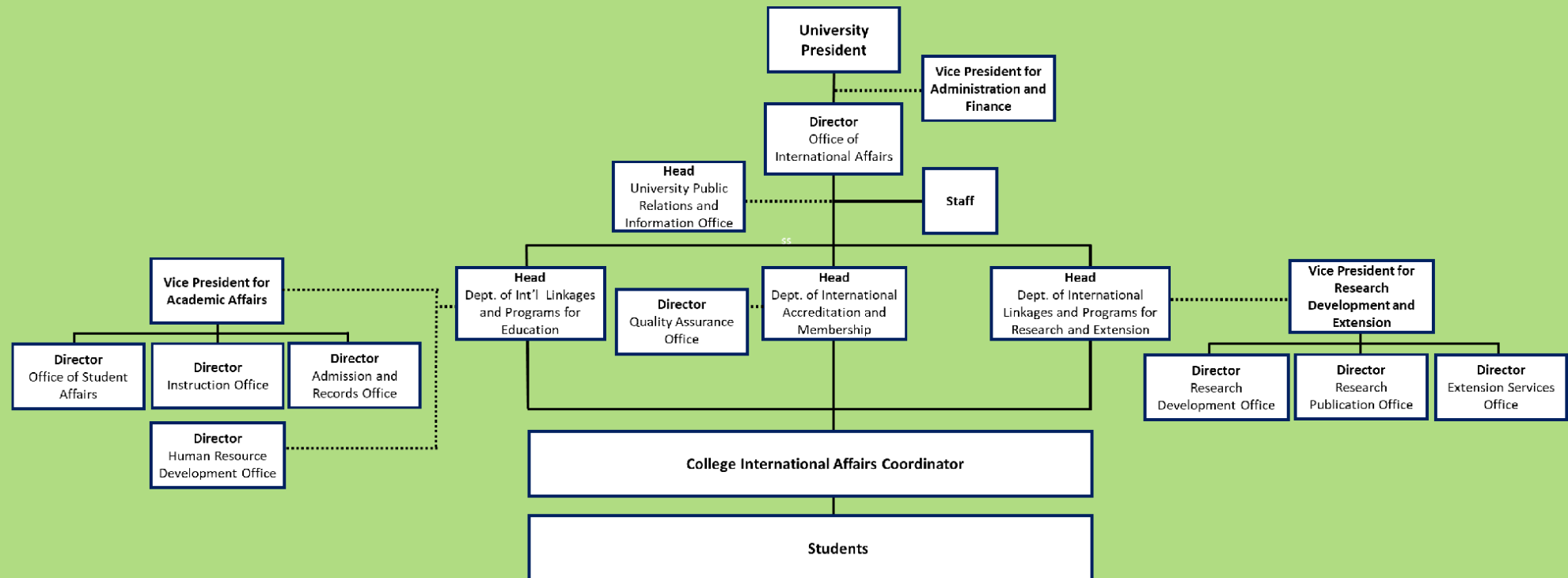


Figure 2. Table of organization for the University of Southern Mindanao-Office of International Affairs (USM-OIA) as per BOR Resolution No. 36 series of 2022.

BOR Resolution No. 36, series of 2026 (Insitutionalization of the Office of International Affairs)

 Republic of the Philippines UNIVERSITY OF SOUTHERN MINDANAO Kabacan, Cotabato email address: boardreg@usm.edu.ph 	
BOARD OF REGENTS	
MINUTES OF THE 147TH REGULAR BOARD MEETING OF THE USM GOVERNING BOARD HELD ON MARCH 30, 2022 VIA ZOOM TELECONFERENCE	
CERTIFIED TRUE COPY	
JAMELLA C. MANGIGING Administrative Aide VI USM, Kabacan, Cotabato	
5 PRESENT:	Resolution No. 36 Series of 2022
6 Hon. RONALD L. ADAMAT, PhD PD	JAMELLA C. MANGIGING Administrative Aide VI USM, Kabacan, Cotabato
7 Commissioner, CHED	Resolution No. 36 Series of 2022
8	Approving the proposal for institutionalizing the Office of
9 Dr. FRANCISCO GIL N. GARCIA	International Affairs, including the Table of Organization and the
10 President, USM	description of duties.
11	APPROVED
12 Hon. JOEL VILLANUEVA	I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THE FOREGOING MINUTES IS A TRUE AND
13 Chairperson, Senate Committee on Education,	CORRECT RECORD OF THE PROCEEDINGS OF THE 147 TH REGULAR
14 Culture and Arts	MEETING OF THE BOARD OF REGENTS.
15 Represented by: Hon. RALPH RYAN H. RAFAEL	JENNIFER E. SINCO Board Secretary V
16	
17 Hon. MARK O. GO	
18 Chairman, Committee on Higher and Technical	
19 Education	
20 Represented by: Cong. JOSE I. TEJADA	
21	
22 Hon. TERESITA SOCORRO C. RAMOS	
23 Regional Director, NEDA XII	
24	
25 Hon. SAMMY P. MALAWAN	
26 Regional Director, DOST XII	
27	
28 Hon. YVONNE V. SALILING	
29 President, USM Alumni Association	
30	
31 Dr. MA. LESLIE C. SALES	
32 President, USM Faculty Association	
33	
34 Hon. KAREN MICHIE T. DE GUZMAN	
35 President, University Student Government	
36	
37 Hon. LORETO V. CABAYA	
38 Private Sector Representative	
39	
40 Hon. RAMON N. FLORESTA	
41 Private Sector Representative	
42	
43	

Minutes of the 147th Regular Meeting
USM Governing Board
30 March 2022
Via Zoom
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Resolution No. 31
Series of 2022

Approving the Table of Organization and Seal of the PALMA Cluster Campuses.

APPROVED

Resolution No. 32
Series of 2022

Approving the Logo of the College of Medicine.

APPROVED

Resolution No. 33
Series of 2022

Approving the adoption of the User Guide on ICT Services for Students.

APPROVED

Resolution No. 34
Series of 2022

Approving the adoption of the *Agapay* (USM Help Desk), an online facility whose purpose is to streamline the University's client feedback system from accepting client requests and queries to forwarding them to relevant offices for resolution.

APPROVED

Resolution No. 35
Series of 2022

Approving the adoption of the procedures for online document requests from the Admission and Records Office.

APPROVED

D. Research Matters

The Chair remarked that all items under research matters were not controversial and therefore, may be approved. He asked the President if the putting up of the Office of International Affairs and the Ecology Conservation

1 Laboratory are needed by the University. The President replied in the affirmative.
2 The Chair then made a motion for their approval. This was seconded by Hon.
3 Sales. With no objections posed by the other members, the Board passed the
4 following resolutions on research matters:

Resolution No. 36
Series of 2022

Approving the proposal for institutionalizing the Office of
International Affairs, including the Table of Organization and the
description of duties.

APPROVED

Resolution No. 37
Series of 2022

Approving the proposal for establishing the Ecology and
Conservation (Eco/Con) Research Laboratory, including the Table
of Organization and the description of duties.

APPROVED

IV. OTHER MATTERS

**1. Proposal to Reconstitute the Composition of the Board's
Standing Committees (CAFI and CARE)**

The Chair asked why there was a need to reconstitute the committees. The
Board Secretary informed the Board that CAFI is chaired by Director Ramos as
Chair and that previously, the members were the then Faculty Regent Atok and
one other Private Sector Representative. Presently, only Hon. Ramos is left in the
Committee. The Chair suggested that the same composition be followed and that
the Honorable Cabaya and Honorable Floresta agree among themselves who will
sit in the Committee. However, Hon. Cabaya nominated Hon. Floresta to sit as
member of the CAFI. The Chair asked Hon. Floresta if he was amenable to the
nomination. Hon. Floresta replied he was willing to take up the challenge. CARE,
on the other hand, will retain its former composition. The Chair made a motion to

Special Order of the Director of the Office



Republic of the Philippines
UNIVERSITY OF SOUTHERN MINDANAO
Kabacan, Cotabato
Tel No. 63 (64) 572 - 2138
email address: op@usm.edu.ph
OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT



Special Order No. 1127C
Series of 2025

TO: **PROF. BRYAN LLOYD P. BRETANA**

SUBJECT: **Designation as DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS**

DATE: **Friday, 28 February 2025**

In the exigency of the service and pursuant to the policy of harnessing the capabilities of faculty member/employee in managing the affairs of the University, you are hereby designated as **DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS** being implemented by the University of Southern Mindanao, in addition to your appointive position effective immediately.

As such, you are expected to perform the following task;

1. Provide leadership in the preparation, implementation, development, and evaluation of internationalization activities of the university;
2. Coordinate with Vice President for Academic Affairs, Vice President for Research Development and Extension, and Vice President for Administration and Finance on matters on international affairs of the university;
3. Develop strategic alliances and manage institutional partnerships and collaborations with international organizations and other foreign universities and colleges;
4. Provide leadership and coordinate with different academic, research, and extension units in developing international education direction, research and extension agenda including international agreements, funding opportunities, information on student exchanges, participation in visits and profile-raising;
5. Provide information and advice to the University community about the different international programs available within the scope of education and research
6. Create collaborative programs pertaining to international student and their issues;
7. Attend and be visible/present in events/programs on campus that are relevant to international student and their issues;
8. Work closely with administrators, directors, faculty and staff, as well as attend staff meetings related to internationalization;
9. Assist student organization, academic colleges and administrative units on addressing concerns on internationalization;
10. Assist the University to build its international profile through visits, media coverage, events, and conferences to ensure presence of the University at international education and research force.

Page 1 of 2

**"UNITY IN DIVERSITY AND
SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT IN
MINDANAO THROUGH QUALITY AND RELEVANT EDUCATION."**

USM-SYS-F70-Rev.1.2020.07.14





Republic of the Philippines
UNIVERSITY OF SOUTHERN MINDANAO
Kabacan, Cotabato
Tel No. 63 (64) 572 - 2138
email address: op@usm.edu.ph
OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT



Furthermore, by virtue of this designation, you shall be entitled to a **load displacement of twelve (12) units and receive additional pecuniary benefits and privileges** thereto appertaining subject to existing laws and policies on the matter.

This designation shall remain in force and in effect on **March 03, 2025 until March 02, 2026** otherwise the same is revoked by the undersigned or by a higher competent authority. All issuances that contradict to any of the provisions hereof are deemed revoked, amended or superseded.


JONALD L. PIMENTEL, PhD
SUC President IV

Conforme:

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____ File
____ COA file
____ Board Secretary





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Kabacan, Cotabato
Tel No. 63 (64) 572 - 2138
email address: op@usm.edu.ph
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Special Order No. 413

Series of 2023

TO: PROF. BRYAN LLOYD P. BRETAÑA

SUBJECT: Redesignation as EXECUTIVE ASSISTANT FOR INTERNATIONAL LINKAGES/PROGRAM FOR RESEARCH

DATE: Monday, July 3, 2023

In the exigency of the service and for the best interest of the University, you are hereby redesignated as **EXECUTIVE ASSISTANT FOR INTERNATIONAL LINKAGES/PROGRAM FOR RESEARCH** in addition to your plantilla position, effective immediately subject to the performance evaluation as set in the OPCR.

As such, you shall perform the following duties and responsibilities:

1. Develop strategic alliances and manage institutional partnerships and collaborations with international organizations and other universities and colleges;
2. Work with the different colleges to develop their international research agenda. This includes international agreements, funding opportunities, information on student exchanges, participation in visits and profile-raising;
3. Assist the VPRDE to develop and manage international opportunities for researchers students;
4. Assist the university to build its international profile through visits, media coverage, events and conferences to ensure presence of the University at international research force;
5. Information & advice to the University community about the different international programs available within the scope of research;
6. Advise faculty and staff researchers on international research collaboration;
7. Provide the faculty of the University with information on professor exchange and international research, scientist cooperation programs;
8. Assist the different colleges in handling acceptance of foreign exchange professor;
9. Cascade information to all concerned personnel;
10. Serve as Executive Assistant for International Linkages/Programs for Research in acting capacity, until confirmed and duly acted upon by the USM Board of Regents; and,
11. Perform such other functions as may be assigned by the University President.

By virtue of this redesignation, you shall be entitled to a **load displacement of six (6) units, on Vacation/Sick leave status**. As such, you shall integrate in your IPCR the following success indicators:

- a. percentage of colleges with international research agenda drafted;
- b. number of international meetings attended;
- c. number of MOA's facilitated and approved;
- d. number of IEC materials posted/published;
- e. developed/revised guide for foreign professor, research, scientist;
- f. number of international research collaborations facilitated.

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**"UNITY IN DIVERSITY AND
SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT IN
MINDANAO THROUGH QUALITY AND RELEVANT EDUCATION."**

USM-SYS-F70-Rev.1.2020.07.14



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Kabacan, Cotabato
Tel No. 63 (64) 572 - 2138
email address: op@usm.edu.ph
OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT



This redesignation as **Executive Assistant for International Linkages/Program for Research** shall take effect on, August 1, 2023 until July 31, 2024, unless otherwise revoked by the undersigned or by a higher competent authority. All issuances that contradict to any of the provisions hereof are deemed revoked, amended or superceded.


FRANCISCO GIL N. GARCIA, Ph.D
SUC President IV 

Conforme:

Copy Furnished
___ records
___ HRMDO/201 file
___ File
___ COA file
___ Board Secretary



IV. Budget Allocation for Internationalization



Republic of the Philippines
UNIVERSITY OF SOUTHERN MINDANAO
Kabacan, Cotabato
budget@usm.edu.ph

BUDGET OFFICE

CERTIFICATE OF AVAILABILITY OF ALLOTMENT

This is to certify that the University has the following budget related to international linkages for the period covered 2022-2026.

Particulars	Fund	Period Covered					Total Amount
		2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	
Travelling Expenses - Foreign	05	-	1,000,000.00	3,817,865.00	2,000,000.00	1,090,500.00	7,908,365.00
	07					90,000.00	90,000.00
Membership dues and Contribution to Organization (QS ranking)	05				1,260,000.00	1,260,000.00	2,520,000.00
Total		-	1,000,000.00	3,817,865.00	3,260,000.00	2,440,500.00	10,518,365.00

Issued this 4th day of September 2026 at Kabacan, Cotabato. This certification is issued for whatever purpose this may serve.


Digitally signed by
Seto Shereen Mae
Villanuz
SHEREEN MAE V. SETO
Head, Budget Office



V. Existing International Collaborations/ Linkages and Details of Cooperation

Institution	Country	Linkage	Year	Nature of Collaboration	What was done so far/ remarks	Contact Person/ Contact Details
1. Muban Chombueng Rajabhat University (MCRU)	Thailand	Education	2026	Faculty and Student Mobility	Conducted an International Educational Tour at Muban Chombueng Rajabhat University (MCRU) in Ratchaburi, Thailand from February 23 to March 7, 2026.	Dr. Kriangwut Nilacupt, Dean of the Faculty of Education, MCRU
2. Ho Chi Minh City University of Technology (HUTECH)	Vietnam	Education and Engineering	2026	Academic Cooperation	Conducted signing of Memorandum of Understanding last March 30, 2026.	Dao Nguyen Dong Thao (Ms.) International Relations Officer Department of International Relations and Project Management Ho Chi Minh City University of Technology (HUTECH) Phone: (+84) 867 767 259 Email: dnd.thao@hutech.edu.vn
3. Universiti Sultan Zainal Abidin (UniSZA)	Malaysia	Medicine	2026	Cooperation in Medical Education	Signed Memorandum of Understanding on on April 15, 2026	Prof. Dr. Harmy Bin Mohd Yusoff, Dean of the Faculty of Medicine UniSZA Medical Campus on Jalan Sultan Mahmud, 20400 Kuala Terengganu, Malaysia fp@unisza.edu.my

Institution	Country	Linkage	Year	Nature of Collaboration	What was done so far/ remarks	Contact Person/ Contact Details
4. Tropic Biosciences Ltd.	United Kingdom	Research	2025	Collaboration	Signed Memorandum of Agreement and conducted initial activity for the establishment of test sites for banana pathogen research.	Dr. Maricar Salacinas-Niez Crop Trials Study Manager, Tropic Biosciences Ltd. maricar.salacinas-niez@tropic.bio
5. Universitas Almuslim	Indonesia	Education and Research	2025	Partnership/ collaboration	Signed Letter of Intent	Dr. Marwan, M.Pd., Rector Jl. Tengku Abdurrahman No. 37, Matangglumpangdua, Kecamatan Peusangan, Kabupaten Bireuen, Provinsi Aceh, Indonesia (Kode Pos: 24261) universitas@umuslim.ac.id
6. SIL Global	USA	Education	2025	Partnership/ collaboration	Conducted International Lecture on Language Issues in Education (MOU on process)	Dr. Thomas Edward Payne Senior Linguist Consultant, Summer Institute of Linguistics (SIL) Global and Research Associate in the Department of Linguistics at the University of Oregon Tom_Payne@sil.org
7. Asia Society Philippines	USA	Education	2025	Partnership/ collaboration	USM hosted International Discussion on Chinese Investment	Timothy Joseph Henares

Institution	Country	Linkage	Year	Nature of Collaboration	What was done so far/ remarks	Contact Person/ Contact Details
Foundation and AidData					(no MOU; activity is facilitated by USM)	2/F AIM Conference Center, Benavidez cor. Trasierra Sts. Legaspi Village, Makati City 1260, Philippines Tel: 8550-2612 Manila@asiasociety.org
8. Maejo University, Chiang Mai	Thailand	Education and Research	2022	Partnership/ collaboration	No activity as of this time	63 Moo 4, Nong Han, San Sai District, Chiang Mai 50290, Thailand maejo@mju.ac.th
9. Universitas Gadjah Mada (UGM)	Indonesia	Education and Research	2022	Partnership/ collaboration	No activity as of this time	Bulaksumur, Caturtunggal, Depok, Sleman, Yogyakarta 55281, Indonesia info@ugm.ac.id
10. Daegu Health College	South Korea	Education and Research on Health	2022	Partnership/ collaboration	No activity as of this time	National Institute for International Education(NIIED) webmaster@studyinkorea.go.kr
11. British Council	United Kingdom	Cooperative Education/ Faculty Training	2021 to present	Partnership/ collaboration	- Trained 3 USM faculty members as EME Master Trainers - USM received funding from the British Council (P132,000.00)	Kris Anne Cortez Programme Officer, Education British Council 7/F The Curve 32nd Street corner 3rd Avenue Bonifacio

Institution	Country	Linkage	Year	Nature of Collaboration	What was done so far/ remarks	Contact Person/ Contact Details
						Global City, Taguig City 1635 Philippines krisanne.cortez@britishcouncil.org.ph
12. Ajeenkya DY Patil University	India	Education and Research	2021 to present	Partnership/ collaboration	Conducted joint research international conference with USM faculty as resource speakers	Dr. Vijay Kulkarni, Professor, HOD, Centre for Research, Member Doctoral Research Committee (DRC- ADYPU), Conference Chair , International Conference - 6 , 7 & 8 Oct 2021 Ajeenkya DY Patil University, D Y Patil Knowledge City, Charholi BK, Via Lohegaon, Pune , Maharashtra, India www.adypu.edu.in What's app : +919373919926, +919284594473, www.adypu.edu.in vijay.kulkarni@adypu.edu.in
13. Universitas Muhammadiyah Sidoarjo	Indonesia	Education and Research	2017 to present	Partnership/ collaboration	No activity as of this time	Office of International Affairs by email: iro@umsida.ac.id
14. Sultan Syarif Kasim State	Indonesia	Education and Research	2018 to present	Partnership/ collaboration	No activity as of this time	Sultan Syarif Kasim State Islamic University

Institution	Country	Linkage	Year	Nature of Collaboration	What was done so far/ remarks	Contact Person/ Contact Details
Islamic University of Raiu						Jl. Subrantas Km. 15, Pekanbaru, 28293 Tel: 0761-562223 Email: humas@uin-suska.ac.id
15. Shu-Te University	Taiwan	Education and Research	2017 to present	Partnership/ collaboration	No activity as of this time	Contact : Office of International and Cross-Strait Affairs Tel : +886-7-6158000 ext.1607,1609,1610,1615 Email : oica@stu.edu.tw Address : No.59, Hengshan Rd., Yanchao Dist., Kaohsiung City, 82445 Taiwan (R.O.C.)
16. Faculty of Agriculture, Khon Kaen University	Thailand	Education and Research	2015 to present	Partnership/ collaboration	Khon Kaen University sent 2 students for internship in the USM in 2015	Darunee Jothityangkoon darcho@kku.ac.th Assoc. Dean for Planning and Quality Improvement Faculty of Agriculture, Khon Kaen University, Khon Kaen, 40002, Thailand Tel.: 66-4320-2360 Fax.: 66-4320-2361
17. Centre de Coopération Internationale en Recherche Agronomique pour	France	Research/ Faculty Training	2016 to 2020	Partnership/ collaboration	One faculty of USM was trained by CIRAD on somatic embryogenesis of rubber.	42, rue Scheffer, 75116 Paris, : +33 1 53 70 20 Cirad.fr

Institution	Country	Linkage	Year	Nature of Collaboration	What was done so far/ remarks	Contact Person/ Contact Details
le Développement (CIRAD)					DOST-PCAARRD funded the training, CIRAD provided expertise.	
18. Association of Universities of Asia and the Pacific (AUAP)	Asia Pacific Region	Education, Research, Inter-university cooperation	2017 to present	Membership	USM is an active member of AUAP.	Supaporn Chuangchid Executive Secretary Association of Universities of Asia and the Pacific (AUAP) Suranaree University of Technology Academic Building 2, 111 University Avenue Suranaree District. Muang, Nakhon Ratchasima 30000, Thailand Email: auapmembersevents@g.sut.ac.th Phone: +66 857687474
19. Chulalongkorn University	Thailand	Education and Research	2014 to present	Partnership/ collaboration	Chulalongkorn University provided training to one faculty of USM under the Chemistry Department.	Dr. Azhar Bin Ariffin Halal Science Center Chulalongkorn University azhar@halalcouncil.org
20. University of California – Davis	USA	Education and Research	2015 to present	Partnership/ collaboration	UC-Davis researchers provided lecture to USM.	Jim Hill jehill@ucdavis.edu UC Davis

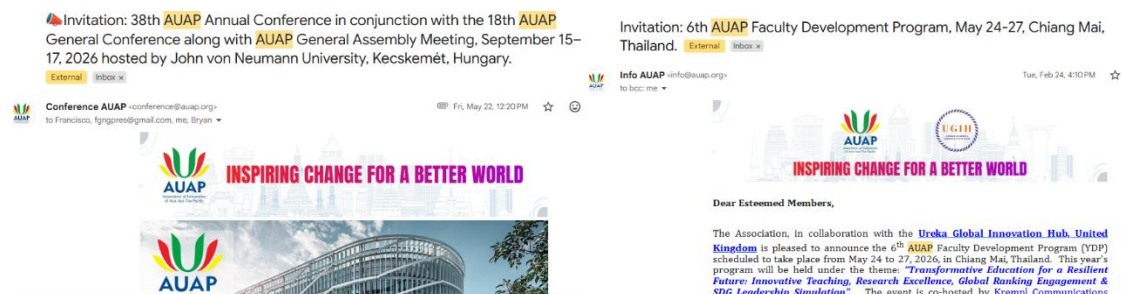
Existing International Consortia and University Network Membership of University of Southern Mindanao

1. Association of Universities of Asia and the Pacific (AUAP)



USM is a regular member of the Association of Universities of Asia and the Pacific (AUAP). The purpose of Association of Universities of Asia and the Pacific (AUAP) membership is to serve as a collaborative platform for higher education institutions in the Asia-Pacific region to foster academic cooperation, quality assurance, and internationalization.

AUAP provides universities opportunities for global networking, reduced registration fees for international events and student competitions, access to staff and student exchange programs, institutional rankings support, and leadership development opportunities across the Asia-Pacific region.



2. Times Higher Education Sustainability Impact Network



The Sustainability Impact Network is a membership community created by Times Higher Education (THE) to support universities advancing the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). It underpins the relaunched Sustainability Impact Ratings (formerly the THE Impact Rankings).



University of Southern Mindanao (USM) improved its standing in the 2026 Times Higher Education (THE) Impact Ratings, (formerly *Impact Rankings*) advancing from the 1501+ bracket in 2025 to the 1001–1500 bracket this year. The university secured its place among 1,603 higher education institutions worldwide evaluated for overall sustainability impact.

3. Philippine-EAGA Higher Education Institutions Consortium (PEHEIC)



The Philippine-EAGA Higher Education Institutions Consortium (PEHEIC) is a Securities and Exchange Commission-registered network of universities and colleges across Mindanao and Palawan. It builds academic, research, and socio-cultural partnerships under the Brunei Darussalam–Indonesia–Malaysia–Philippines East ASEAN Growth Area (BIMP-EAGA) framework.

University of Southern Mindanao (USM) is a founding member of the Philippine-EAGA Higher Education Institutions Consortium (PEHEIC), actively participating in its quarterly meetings to advance regional partnerships, human resource development, and international engagement under the BIMP-EAGA socio-cultural framework.



USM College of Medicine Partners with Malaysia's UniSZA for Student, Faculty Exchange



A new international partnership is now in place between the College of Medicine of the University of Southern Mindanao (USM) and Universiti Sultan Zainal Abidin (UniSZA) of Malaysia, following the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding on April 15, 2026, in Cotabato City.

The agreement opens opportunities for collaboration between the two institutions, particularly in faculty exchange, joint research, and the conduct of academic and specialized seminars. It also allows for the possible offering of each other's academic programs, subject to approval from their respective higher education authorities.

Student exchange is also included in the partnership, covering both short-term and long-term academic engagements. In addition, the MOU provides for training, clinical attachments, and other areas of cooperation that may be mutually agreed upon.

The agreement will be in effect for five years and may be extended.

Representatives from both UniSZA and USM attended the signing, while some participants joined the ceremony via Zoom.



Link to article in the USM Website: <https://www.usm.edu.ph/usm-college-of-medicine-partners-with-malaysias-unisza-for-student-faculty-exchange/>

USM College of Medicine Enters International Partnership with Malaysia's UniSZA



To establish a strong academic partnership, the University of Southern Mindanao (USM) College of Medicine and the Universiti Sultan Zainal Abidin (UniSZA) Faculty of Medicine of Malaysia, signed a Letter of Intent (LOI) on July 23, 2025 at the Office of the President, USM, Kabacan, Cotabato.

The Malaysian delegation, composed of Prof. Dr. Harmy Bin Mohd Yusoff, Dean of the Faculty of Medicine; Prof. Dr. Shaik Farid; and Prof. Dr. Azizul, both emergency medicine physicians, paid a courtesy call to USM President Dr. Jonald L. Pimentel prior to the signing ceremony. Dr. Gio P. Someira and Dr. Abdul Alekhine Guiani, emergency medicine specialists from Cotabato Regional and Medical Center (CRMC), joined the group.



Link to article in the USM Website: <https://www.usm.edu.ph/usm-college-of-medicine-enters-international-partnership-with-malaysias-unisza/>

USM Welcomes Another Partner from United Kingdom



The University of Southern Mindanao (USM) welcomed representatives from Tropic Biosciences Ltd. of the United Kingdom—Dr. Maricar Salacinas-Niez and Dr. Daniel Ponndorf—on December 15, 2025, for an initial discussion on a proposed joint research project focused on banana trials for Fusarium Wilt (TR₄) resistance.

Dr. Niez is the Crop Trials Study Manager, and Dr. Ponndorf is the Disease and Pest Resistance Team Lead of the Tropic Biosciences Ltd., a company based in England and Wales, United Kingdom.

During the meeting, both parties discussed the overall project plan, how the activities will be carried out, and the long-term direction of the collaboration. The discussion was held with Dr. Jonald Pimentel, USM President; Debbie Marie B. Verzosa, Vice President for Research, Development, and Extension; Dr. Tamie C. Solpot, PICRI Director; and Prof. Bryan Lloyd Bretaña, Director for International Affairs of USM.

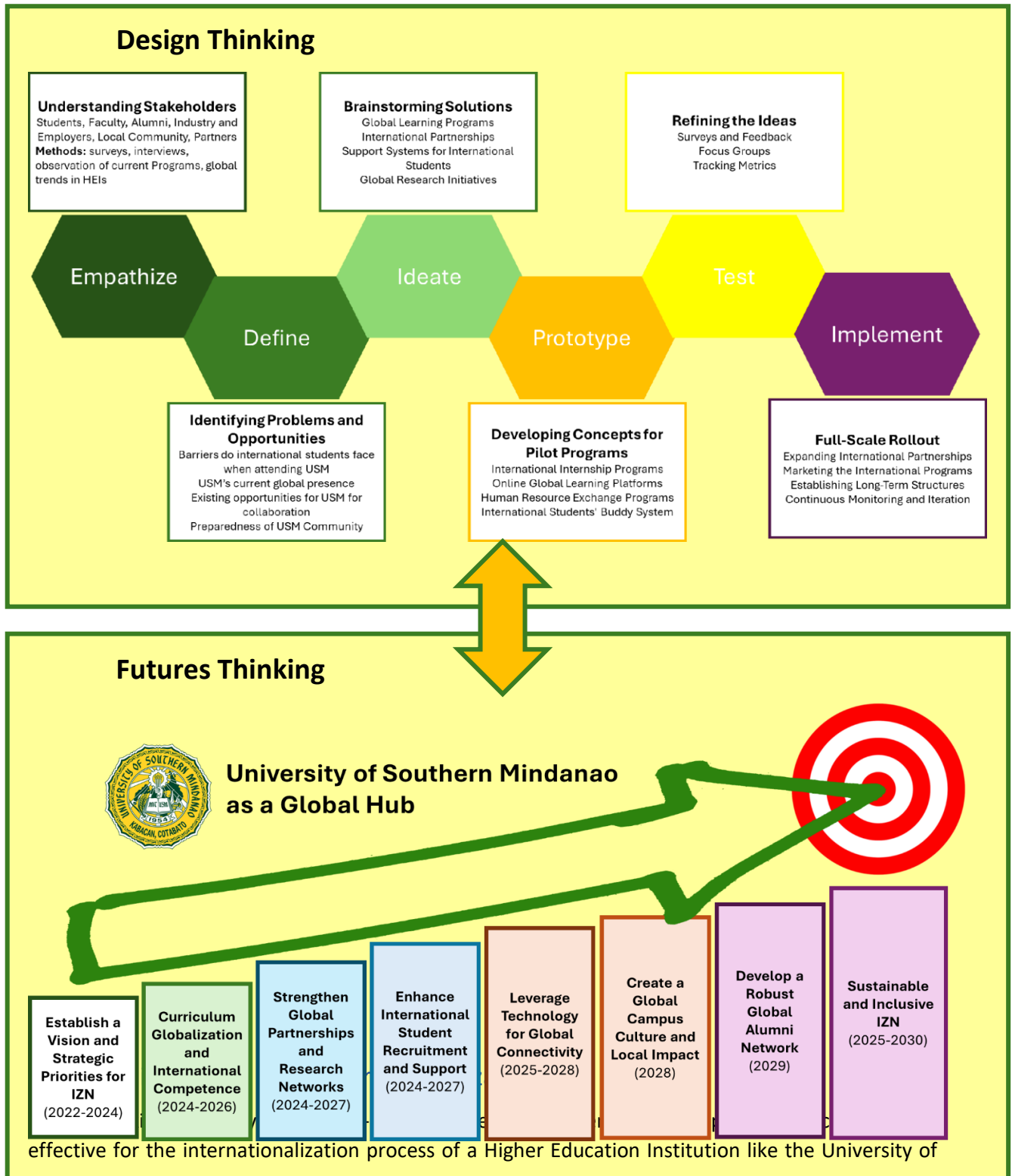
Tropic Biosciences expressed its intention to formally partner with USM for the implementation of the project. The company recognized USM's strong technical skills and experience in crop research, which are seen as vital to the successful conduct and monitoring of the project in the country. Dr. Solpot will lead the USM project team, and the research activities are planned to begin in 2026.



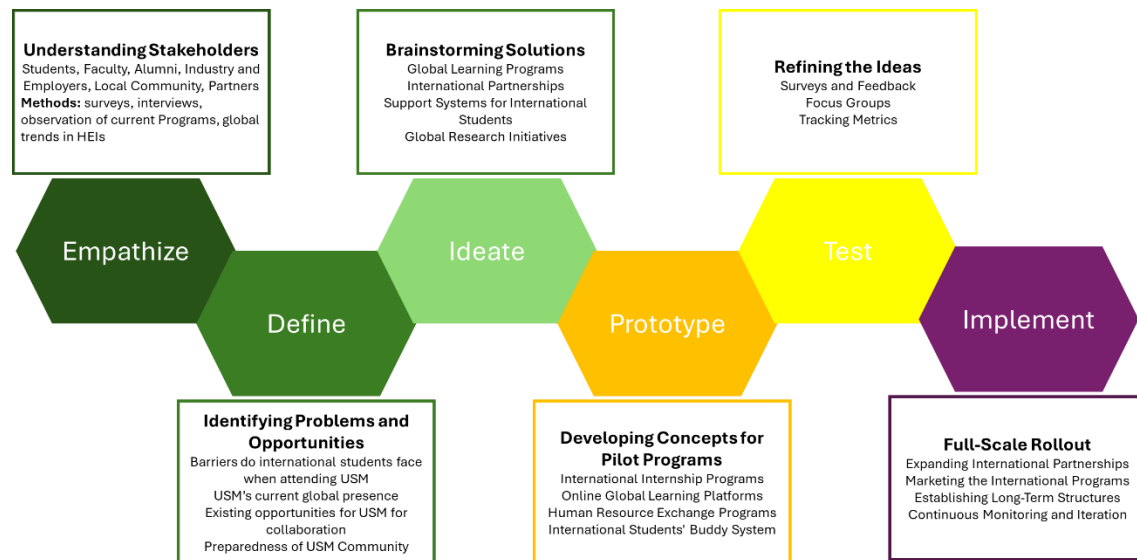
Link to article in the USM Website: <https://www.usm.edu.ph/usm-welcomes-another-partner-from-united-kingdom/>

VI. Internationalization Road Map and Strategic Plan

Design Thinking + Futures Thinking for USM Internationalization



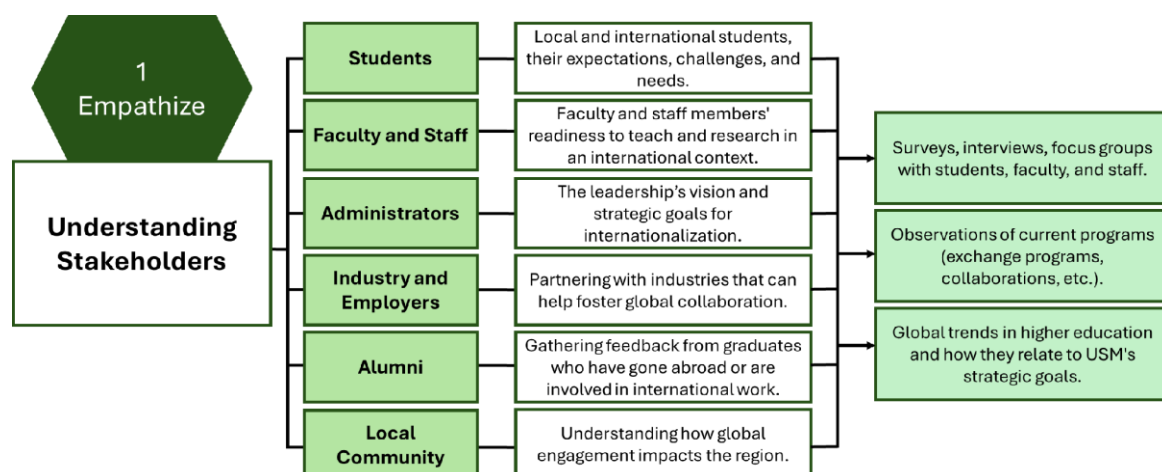
Southern Mindanao. Internationalization refers to integrating global perspectives into the University's instruction, research and development, extension or community engagement, and resource generation.



Design thinking framework for USM Internationalization.

Empathize – Understanding Stakeholders

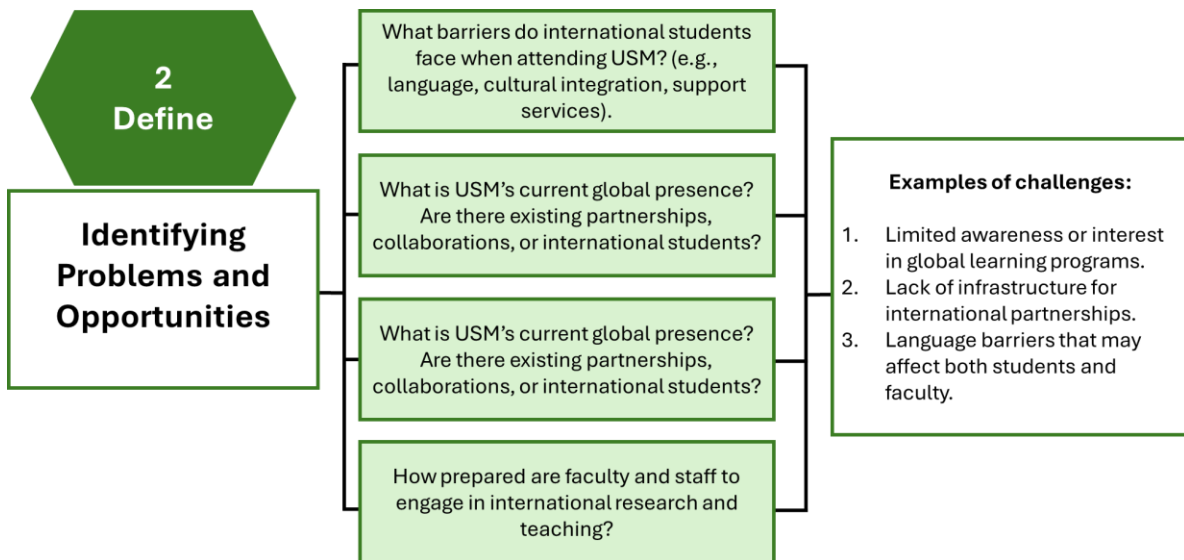
The first step includes gaining a deep understanding of the stakeholders to be involved in USM's internationalization process:



Empathize Stage of Design Thinking for USM Internationalization.

Define - Identifying Problems and Opportunities

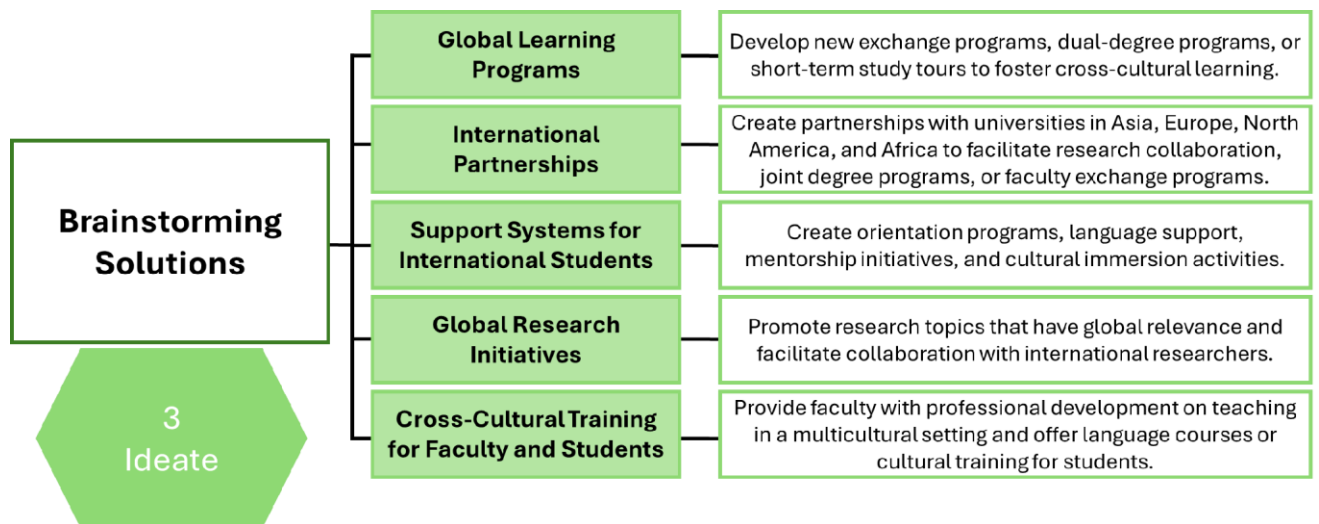
Based on the insights from the Empathize phase, you need to define the core problems and opportunities that USM faces in internationalization.



Define Stage of Design Thinking for USM Internationalization.

Ideate – Brainstorming Solutions

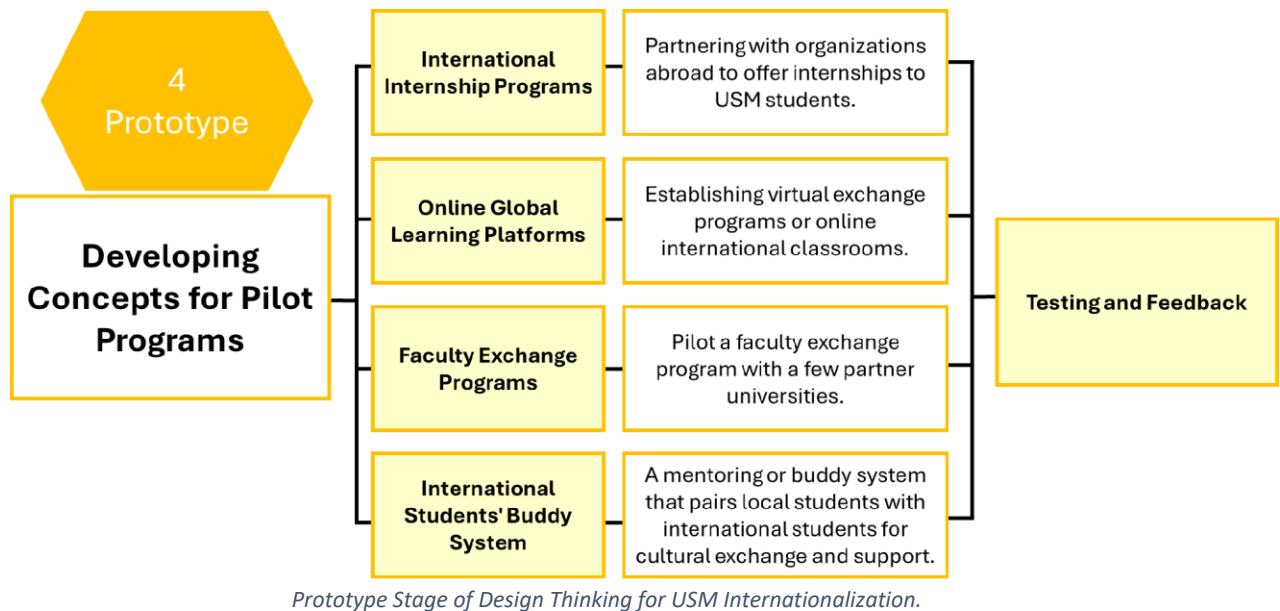
This is the stage where creative and innovative ideas for addressing the identified problems are generated. USM can engage stakeholders in brainstorming sessions to explore potential solutions.



Ideate Stage of Design Thinking for USM Internationalization.

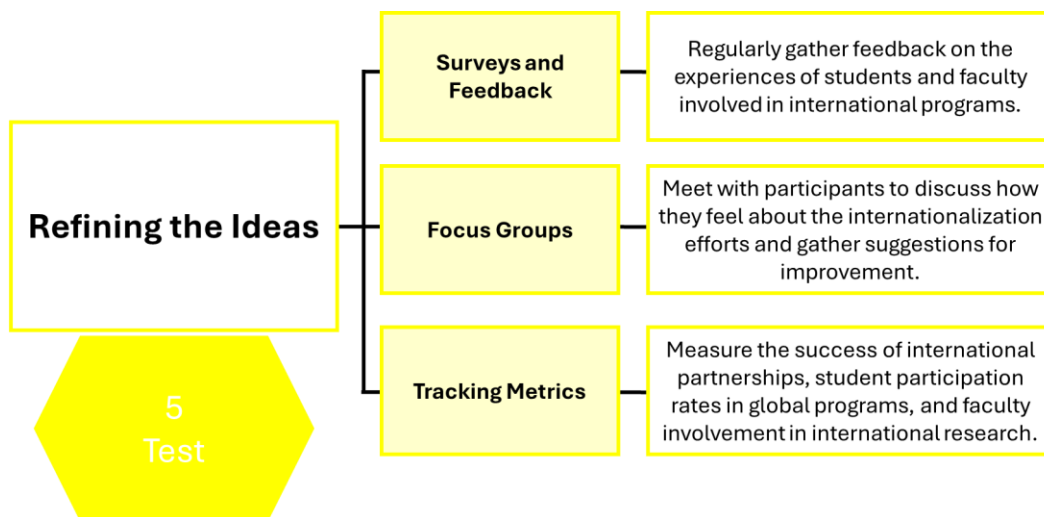
Prototype - Developing Concepts for Pilot Programs

In this stage, USM develops low-cost, small-scale versions of the internationalization programs or initiatives that were brainstormed in the Ideate phase. These prototypes should be tested on a small scale and continuously refined based on feedback from users.



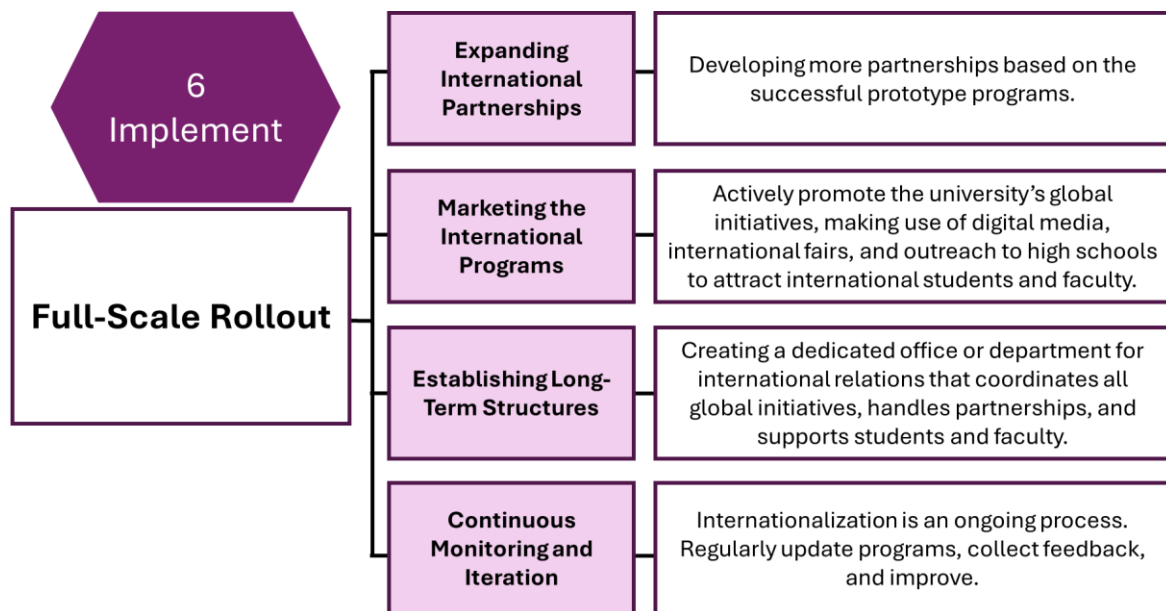
Test – Refining the Ideas

Once prototypes are launched, it's time to assess their effectiveness and refine them. Collect feedback from all stakeholders (students, faculty, international partners) to see if the programs are meeting their needs and expectations.



Implement – Full-Scale Rollout

After gathering feedback and refining prototypes, the final step is to scale up the successful initiatives.



Implement Stage of Design Thinking for USM Internationalization.

Futures Thinking for USM Internationalization

Future Thinking Strategy

2.2.2.1 Establish a Vision and Strategic Priorities for Internationalization

To establish a vision and strategic priorities for internationalization, this project considers two (2) aspects: 1) creation of a clear global vision and 2) establishing strategic focus areas (2024-2030). In creating a clear global vision, this project will develop a future-oriented vision for internationalization that aligns with USM's mission and values. This vision shall emphasize global engagement, research excellence, and community impact. USM shall envision itself a leader in global issues such as sustainable agriculture, climate change, peacebuilding, and rural development, particularly in Southeast Asia and the Mindanao Region. This vision also shall address Sustainable Development Goals. The Strategic Focus Area of USM shall include research excellence by becoming a regional and global leader in research in areas such as sustainable agriculture, disaster resilience, and cultural preservation. Through this project, USM shall also increase international student enrollment by at least 5-10%, focusing students from Southeast Asia.



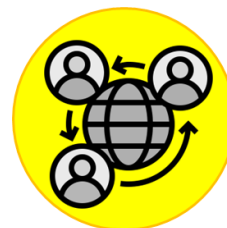
Curriculum Globalization and International Competence



This project will integrate global perspective into the curricula of both undergraduate and graduate degree programs of the University (2024-2026) by embedding international and global perspective across all disciplines. This is possible by developing specialized courses that focus on global sustainability, international development, and good health. In addition, USM can offer international case studies and cross-cultural learning opportunities. Global citizenship modules can be created that will challenge students to think critically about international issues and cultural differences.

Strengthen Global Partnerships and Research Networks

In strengthening global partnership and research networks, this project will develop strategic international collaborations (2024-2027) by establishing a set of targeted global partnerships with top universities, research centers, and organizations that complement the University's areas of expertise such as agriculture, biology, veterinary medicine, education, peace studies, and development. A priority will be given to institutions in the ASEAN region.



Collaborations will focus on bilateral research collaborations and interdisciplinary projects. In addition, through this project, USM will be able to join Global Research Networks (2025-2030). The University could aim to be part of major international research networks or consortia, like those focused on climate resilience, biodiversity conservation, and agricultural innovation. These partnerships aim to increase the University's access to global research platforms, publications, and partnerships.

Enhance International Student Recruitment and Support



This project will develop a Global Recruitment Plan and Support (2024-2027) by crafting a comprehensive strategy for recruiting international students, including targeted outreach to ASEAN region. This plan shall include scholarship programs, international student services, study-abroad and exchange programs. This plan shall also take into consideration CMO No. 55 s. 2016, Republic Act 11448, and other existing laws and policies of relevant government agencies such as the

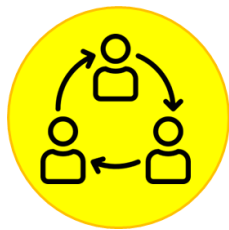
Department of Foreign Affairs. This project will also promote the University's unique strengths by highlighting niche strengths such as agricultural science, biological sciences, veterinary medicine, education, engineering, and peacebuilding.

Leverage Technology for Global Connectivity

The University has already an existing Learning Management Platform, the USM Virtual Learning Education (USM-VLE) that can be utilized as a platform in developing online and hybrid programs (2024-2027). Enhancement of existing digital infrastructure will provide access to educational degree offerings by international students. One good example is the offering of Massive Open Online Courses (MOOCs), short-term certifications, and microcredentials. Through this project, virtual exchange programs can be expanded to allow students from around the world to take part in the University's programs without having to physically relocate.



Create a Global Campus Culture and Local Impact



Through this project, the University shall promote cultural exchange programs (2024-2026) to enhance cultural exchange initiatives that will allow students, faculty, and staff members to travel abroad for research internships and service learning. With this, reciprocal exchange programs shall be conducted where students, faculty, and staff members from partner institutions come to Mindanao to contribute to local communities, especially in the fields of agriculture, rural development, and peacebuilding. In addition, to attract international faculty members to the University, an International Faculty and Staff Development Program (2024-2027) shall be developed that will prepare faculty members for international collaboration. Faculty exchanges, mobility, and joint research initiatives with international institutions will increase the University's global visibility. USM can also pilot global initiatives that benefit local and global communities by positioning the University's local communities as laboratories for global development solutions.

Develop a Robust Alumni Network

This project shall promote global expansion of alumni relations (2029) by establishing an active global alumni network that will create a community of former students who can provide mentorship, career support, and investment. This alumni network could be instrumental in building partnerships for the University, provide internship and employment for current students, and organize international events and conferences to bring alumni together and promote collaboration with the University.



Sustainable and Inclusive Internationalization

In 2030, the University shall ensure sustainable international partnerships by prioritizing the creations of sustainable international partnerships that focus on long-term, mutually beneficial goals. These should include collaborative research. Exchange of best practices, and capacity building initiatives and programs that align with the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals.



Detailed Internationalization Strategy

This roadmap takes into account historical accomplishments, on-going projects, and future plans to sustain internationalization in the University. The following strategies are provided in each aspect of internationalization to determine the methods that work best given a particular timeline of activities. This is to ensure that targets are delivered effectively and in a timely manner. Deliverables will be reported periodically and presented to the Performance Management Team for evaluation.

International Accreditation and University Ranking

Internationalization Aspect	Methods/Plans/Strategy	Year								
		2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	2030
1. QS University Ranking	✓ Increase the ranking of USM in QS University Ranking ✓ Increase the overall QS stars to three (3) or better ✓ Sustain areas with 3 stars (academic development) and 4 stars (facilities) ✓ Develop strategies for the improvement of QS stars for areas on teaching, employability, internationalization, research, online learning, subject tracking, program strength, arts, and culture, innovation, social responsibility, and inclusiveness.	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
2. QS Asia University Rankings	✓ Improve ranking of USM ✓ Develop strategies for the improvement of QS Asia University Rankings for areas on teaching, employability, internationalization, research, online learning, subject tracking, program strength, arts, and culture, innovation, social responsibility, and inclusiveness.			✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
3. Webometrics and EduRank	✓ Improve the ranking of USM (top 30 in 2022 onwards) in terms of online visibility ✓ Review indicators and methodology for the 2022 evaluation onwards ✓ Improve and sustain the rank of the University	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
4. Zairi's International Excellence Awards (Research Excellence Award)	✓ To be shortlisted and eventually considered for Research Excellence Award ✓ Improve research impact and productivity ✓ Crafting and submission of research proposals that are innovative, state-of-the-art, novel, and impactful	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
5. World University Ranking for Innovation (WURI)	✓ To qualify for World University Ranking for Innovation (WURI) ✓ Review indicators and methodology of WURI		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
6. Times Higher Education World	✓ To qualify for Times Higher Education World University Rankings ✓ Review indicators and methodology of THE		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓

Internationalization Aspect	Methods/Plans/Strategy	Year								
		2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	2030
University Rankings										
7. International University Accreditation (Accreditation Service for International Schools, Colleges, and Universities or ASIC) (UK-based)	✓ To be the first ASIC-accredited university in the Philippines ✓ Review the areas to be evaluated, methods of evaluation, accreditation fee, etc. ✓ Coordinate with the University Quality Assurance Office			✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
8. Other program-based international accreditation	To qualify for program-based international accreditation for STEAM degree programs				✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓

Education-related Activities for Internationalization

Internationalization Aspect	Methods/Plans/Strategy	Year								
		2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	2030
1. Admission/ Enrollment of International Students	✓ Admit international students to the University's undergraduate and postgraduate degree programs	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
	✓ Harmonize policies on education-related matters/international student admission/enrollment	✓	✓							
2. Student exchange and mobility	✓ Adopt existing mechanisms on student mobility and exchange (e.g. Erasmus Mundus) and evaluate applicable provisions to USM				✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
	✓ Explore the possibility of offering dual degree programs with partner HEIs; preliminarily evaluate degree programs with potential for dual degree programs (setting of criteria such as accreditation level, COE/COD status, etc)			✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
3. Faculty Exchange and Mobility	✓ Adopt existing mechanisms on faculty mobility and exchange (e.g. Erasmus Mundus) and evaluate applicable provisions to USM			✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
	✓ Consider formulation of policies on international professorship (compensation, accommodation, etc.)			✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
4. Personnel (Faculty, Academic Staff, Administrator s) and Student Development Programs and Training	✓ Encourage faculty members to pursue post-graduate education in international higher education institutions.	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
	✓ Provision of funding support for international seminars, trainings, workshops.	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
	✓ Attendance of administrators, faculty, staff, students to international conferences, trainings, workshops, fora, etc. for potential collaboration, improvement of teaching and learning strategies, curriculum design and revision, and degree program offering.	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
5. Curriculum Design for International Students	✓ Benchmark on best practices of Higher Education Institutions in the Philippines and abroad.	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
	✓ Harmonize curriculum of identified degree programs with potential for internationalization (student admission, mobility)			✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
	✓ Explore the possibility of inter-university offering of degree programs for transnational education (TNE)			✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓

Research, Development, and Extension

[illegible]

Membership

Internationalization Aspect	Methods/Plans/Strategy	Year								
		2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	2030
1. Association of Universities of Asia and The Pacific Note: USM is already a member USD 800 for one year or USD 2400 for three years	✓ Sustain membership in the organization ✓ Allocate budget for the annual membership.	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
2. International Association of Universities (IAU) Note: USM is NOT yet a member 3,100 euros (middle income country with more than 10000 students) annually	✓ Improve on the university's profile to be listed as a member HEI ✓ Allocation of budget for membership			✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓

VII. Participation in International Ranking or related QA Initiatives

Ranking/ Quality Assurance Initiative		Rank/ Certification	Date/ Year	Certifying Body	Link to Certifying Body
1.	ISO 9001:2008	Certified	2018-2020	TÜV Rheinland	https://www.certipedia.com/quality_marks/9108634167?locale=en
2.	ISO 9001:2015	Certified	2020 to present	TÜV Rheinland	https://www.certipedia.com/quality_marks/9108634167?locale=en
3.	Philippine Quality Awards	Level II	2022 to present	Development Authority of the Philippines	https://pdc.dap.edu.ph/index.php/philippine-quality-award-pqa-administration/
4.	Times Higher Education Sustainability Impact Ratings 2026	Rank:1001-1500	2026	Times Higher Education	https://www.timeshighereducation.com/world-university-rankings/university-southern-mindanao
5.	Times Higher Education Impact Rankings (THE) 2025*	Rank: 1501+	2025	Times Higher Education	https://www.timeshighereducation.com/ https://www.timeshighereducation.com/impactrankings
6.	Times Higher Education Impact Rankings (THE) 2024	Rank: 1501+	2024	Times Higher Education	https://www.timeshighereducation.com/ https://www.timeshighereducation.com/impactrankings
7.	World University Rankings for Innovation (WURI) 2026	480 th in the World 25th in Representative Research Project 73rd in University-based Entrepreneurial Projects 99th in University Brand and Reputation	2026	World University Rankings for Innovation (WURI)	https://www.usm.edu.ph/usm-ranks-among-worlds-most-innovative-universities-in-wuri-2026/

Ranking/ Quality Assurance Initiative		Rank/ Certification	Date/ Year	Certifying Body	Link to Certifying Body
8.	World University Rankings for Innovation (WURI) 2025*	Rank: Top 60	2025	World University Rankings for Innovation (WURI)	https://www.wuri.world/
9.	World University Rankings for Innovation (WURI) 2024	Rank: Top 50	2024	World University Rankings for Innovation (WURI)	https://www.wuri.world/
10.	QS Asia University Rankings 2025	Rank: 901+	2025	Quacquarelli Symonds	https://www.topuniversities.com/asia-university-rankings
11.	QS Asia University Rankings South-Eastern Asia 2025*	Rank: 169	2024	Quacquarelli Symonds	https://www.topuniversities.com/asia-university-rankings
12.	QS Stars Rating	2 Stars Rating	2019-2024	Quacquarelli Symonds	https://www.qs.com/solutions/university-ratings
13.	Ranking of Web Universities (Webometrics)	Rank (Philippines): Jan 2022: 30 July 2022: 16 Jan 2023: 17 July 2023: 28 Jan 2024: 39		Cybermetrics Lab	https://www.webometrics.info/en

Ranking/ Quality Assurance Initiative		Rank/ Certification	Date/ Year	Certifying Body	Link to Certifying Body
14.	EduRank 100 Best Universities in the Philippines	Rank (2023): Philippines: 39 World: 6955 Asia: 2692 For Biology: Philippines: 16 World: 4008 Asia: 1751 Rank (2022): Philippines: 29 World: 6633 Asia: 2561	2022 to present	EduRank	https://edurank.org/
15.	HE Higher Education Ranking 2025*	Rank: 156	2025	Higher Education Quality and Assessment Council (HEQAC)	https://ranking.heranking.com/

Ranking/ Quality Assurance Initiative		Rank/ Certification	Date/ Year	Certifying Body	Link to Certifying Body
16.	HE Higher Education Ranking 2024	Rank: 127	2024	Higher Education Quality and Assessment Council (HEQAC)	https://ranking.heranking.com/
	IRIS University Research Rankings (Top University in Research Productivity)	Rank: Science: 19 Engineering: 67 Health: 38	2019	Institutes for Research, Innovation, and Scholarship	http://www.theirisedu.org/



ISO 9001:2008 and ISO 9001:2015 Certifications

Certificate scope

ISO 9001



Management
System
ISO 9001:2015

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Design, Development and Provision of Tertiary Education including Research and Extension Services (College of Agriculture, College of Arts and Social Sciences, College of Science and Mathematics, College of Veterinary Medicine, College of Engineering and Information Technology, College of Education, College of Human Ecology and Food Sciences,

College of Business Development Economics and Management, Institute of Sports, Physical Education and Recreation, College of Trades and Industries)

Certificate

Standard **ISO 9001:2015**

Certificate Registr. No. **01 100 1634777**

Certificate Holder: **University of Southern Mindanao**
Brgy. Poblacion, Kabacan, Cotabato, Philippines

Scope: Design, Development and Provision of Tertiary Education including Research and Extension Services (College of Agriculture, College of Arts and Social Sciences, College of Science and Mathematics, College of Veterinary Medicine, College of Engineering and Information Technology, College of Education, College of Human Ecology and Food Sciences, College of Business Development Economics and Management, Institute of Sports, Physical Education and Recreation, College of Trades and Industry)

Proof has been furnished by means of an audit that the requirements of ISO 9001:2015 are met.

Validity: The certificate is valid from 2023-02-13 until 2026-02-12.
First certification 2017

2023-02-13


TÜV Rheinland Cert GmbH
Am Grauen Stein · 51105 Köln

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Note: ISO 9001:2008 and ISO 9001:2025 certifications have the same ID/ Test Mark Number: 9108634167.

To verify certification, you may access these links:

https://www.certipedia.com/quality_marks/9108634167?locale=en,

<https://www.certipedia.com/certificates/01+100+1634777?locale=en>

USM Maintains ISO 9001:2015 Certification



The University of Southern Mindanao (USM) once again earned its certification for International Organization for Standardization (ISO) 9001:2015 after the second surveillance audit held on April 10-11, 2024.

Mr. Ramoncito Puyat along with Ms. Jogina Mendiola, and Ms. Jean Laguitao from TÜV Rheinland Philippines, Inc. conducted the two-day audit.

The recent audit resulted in three noted Best Practices, 14 Opportunity for Improvement (OFI), and one Minor Non-Conformity. The audit team commended the preparedness, professionalism, and dedication of USM's ISO Core Team, unit heads, and personnel throughout the process.

The primary objective of the surveillance audit is to evaluate the University's adherence to the ISO 9001:2015 standards. It also aims to assess the effectiveness of its Quality Management System (QMS) implementation, as well as to identify opportunities for improvement.

USM earned its ISO 9001:2015 recertification in 2020, and passed its 1st surveillance audit on February 23, 2024. Since then, the University has continuously strengthened its quality assurance mechanisms, and aligned its academic and administrative systems with internationally recognized standards.

USM President Dr. Jonald L. Pimentel, expressed his appreciation to the USM Community. He shared that the audit was not merely a compliance exercise, but an opportunity for growth. "This audit shows us where we are doing well and where we can still grow. That is the heart of quality management: to always look inward, to listen, to adjust, and to keep moving forward," he said. With this mindset, the University of Southern Mindanao continues to move forward, grounded in purpose, driven by improvement, and united in its pursuit of quality.

USM's ISO processes and other related activities are spearheaded by the University Quality Assurance Office (UQAO) headed by its Director, Dr. Lawrence Anthony U. Dollente.



Links to articles in the USM Website:

<https://www.usm.edu.ph/usm-maintains-iso-90012015-certification/>

<https://www.usm.edu.ph/administration/iso-9001-quality-management-system/>

Philippine Quality Awards Level II - Proficiency in Quality Management



The University of Southern Mindanao received the Recognition for Proficiency in Quality Management (Level II) conferred by the Office of the President of the Philippines last May 17, 2022 at the Malacañang Palace Guest House.

By reaching Level II of the Philippine Quality Award (PQA), USM has achieved significant progress in building sound processes which demonstrates the institution's commitment to excellence and its dedication to upholding quality standards in education.

The conferment ceremony facilitated by the

Department of Trade and Industry (DTI), was attended by high-ranking officials of the DTI and the Development Academy of the Philippines (DAP), awardees representing their respective organizations, PQA board of judges, and PQA assessors. Executive Secretary Lucas Bersamin represented President Ferdinand Marcos, Jr. in awarding trophies to the 12 awardees of the 25th PQA Cycle.

President Francisco Gil N. Garcia, PhD and the Chairman of USM BOR, Commissioner Ronald L. Adamat, PhD received the award for the University of Southern Mindanao.

The Philippine Quality Award (PQA), is the centerpiece program of the National Action Agenda for Productivity (NAAP), the blueprint for the country's integrated approach to improve economy-wide productivity. It sets a standard of excellence to help Filipino organizations achieve world-class performance and serves as a 'template' for competitiveness based on the principles of Total Quality Management (TQM).

Through the award, the University of Southern Mindanao has once again proven its lead in the delivery of quality education as it is the first and the only HEI (Higher Education Institution) in the province and only the second HEI in Region 12 to have been conferred the award.

USM was evaluated in various aspects of its operations, including leadership, strategy, customers, measurement, analysis and knowledge management, and human resource.



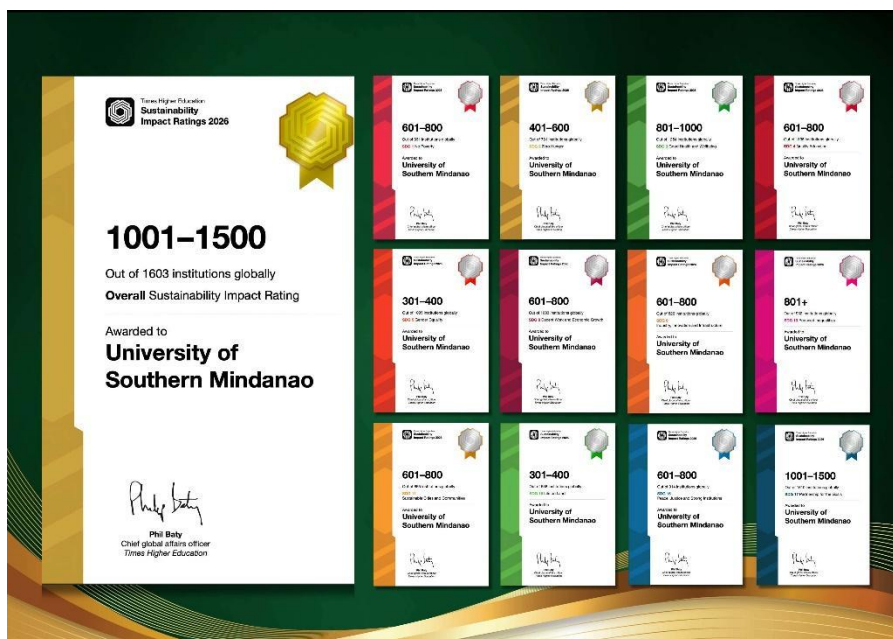
Link to articles in the USM Website: <https://www.usm.edu.ph/usm-conferred-recognition-for-proficiency-in-quality-management-by-malacanang/>

Times Higher Education Sustainability Impact Ratings 2026



Now on its third consecutive year in the rankings, the University of Southern Mindanao (USM) improved its standing in the 2026 Times Higher Education (THE) Impact Ratings, (formerly Impact Rankings) advancing from the 1501+ bracket in 2025 to the 1001–1500 bracket this year. The university secured its place among 1,603 higher education

institutions worldwide evaluated for overall sustainability impact.



This improvement stems from the university's sustained commitment to initiatives aligned with the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), its continued support for communities and stakeholders, and its efforts to ensure that teaching, research, extension, and governance contribute meaningfully to sustainable development.

In addition to its overall ranking, the university secured placements in 12

SDGs under the 2026 THE Impact Ratings, as detailed below:

SDG 1 No Poverty (601–800) Out of 931 institutions globally

SDG 2 Zero Hunger (401–600) Out of 731 institutions globally

SDG 3 Good Health and Wellbeing (801–1000) Out of 1254 institutions globally

SDG 4 Quality Education (601–800) Out of 1335 institutions globally

SDG 5 Gender Equality (301–400) Out of 1095 institutions globally

SDG 8 Decent Work and Economic Growth (601–800) Out of 1003 institutions globally

SDG 9 Industry, Innovation and Infrastructure (601–800) Out of 826 institutions globally

SDG 10 Reduced Inequalities (801+) Out of 932 institutions globally

SDG 11 Sustainable Cities and Communities (601–800) Out of 865 institutions globally

SDG 15 Life on Land (301–400) Out of 658 institutions globally

SDG 16 Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions (601–800) Out of 914 institutions globally

SDG 17 Partnership for the Goals (1001–1500) Out of 1610 institutions globally

The Times Higher Education Impact Ratings are the only global performance metrics that evaluate universities based on their contributions to the United Nations SDGs. The four core pillars of evaluation that THE Impact Ratings uses were research, stewardship, outreach, and teaching.

Joining USM from Region XII are Central Mindanao Colleges (CMC), Holy Child Central Colleges, (HCCC) Inc., Holy Trinity College of General Santos City, Mindanao State University – General Santos (MSU-GSC), North Valley College Foundation, Inc. (NVCFI), Notre Dame of Dadiangas University (NDDU), Notre Dame of Marbel University (NDMU), Cotabato Foundation College of Science and Technology (CFCST), Green Valley College Foundation, Inc., Ramon Magsaysay Memorial Colleges, (RMMC) Inc., and RMMC–Marbel, Inc.

Notably, USM was the only institution from the region included in the rankings in 2024. Through sustained efforts, strong institutional support, and the guidance of the Commission on Higher Education (CHED) Region XII, the number of ranked institutions from the region has grown to twelve this year.

Prof. Bryan Lloyd P. Breña, the Director of the Office of International Affairs (OIA), spearheads the international rankings initiative of USM. He also is the President of the Council of International Relations Officers (CIRO) Region XII.

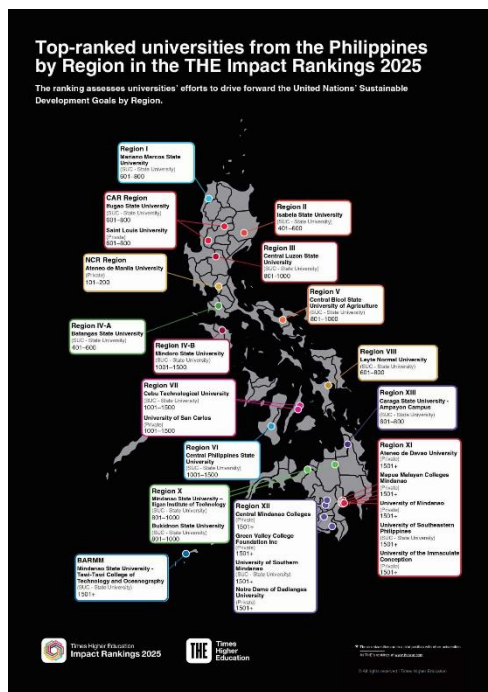
Link to article in the USM Website: <https://www.usm.edu.ph/usm-improves-global-standing-in-times-higher-education-impact-ratings/>

Times Higher Education Impact Rankings 2025



The University of Southern Mindanao (USM) once again secured its ranking for two consecutive years in the 1501+ bracket in the Times Higher Education (THE) Impact Rankings 2025, despite a significant increase of participating institutions—from 1,963 last year to 2,318 this year.

This year, Central Mindanao Colleges (CMC), Green Valley College Foundation Inc. (GVCFI), and Notre Dame of Dadiangas University (NDDU) joined USM in the Times Higher Education Impact Rankings. From participating in only six Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in 2024, USM has expanded its involvement to thirteen SDGs this year. These include the following with its corresponding ranking:

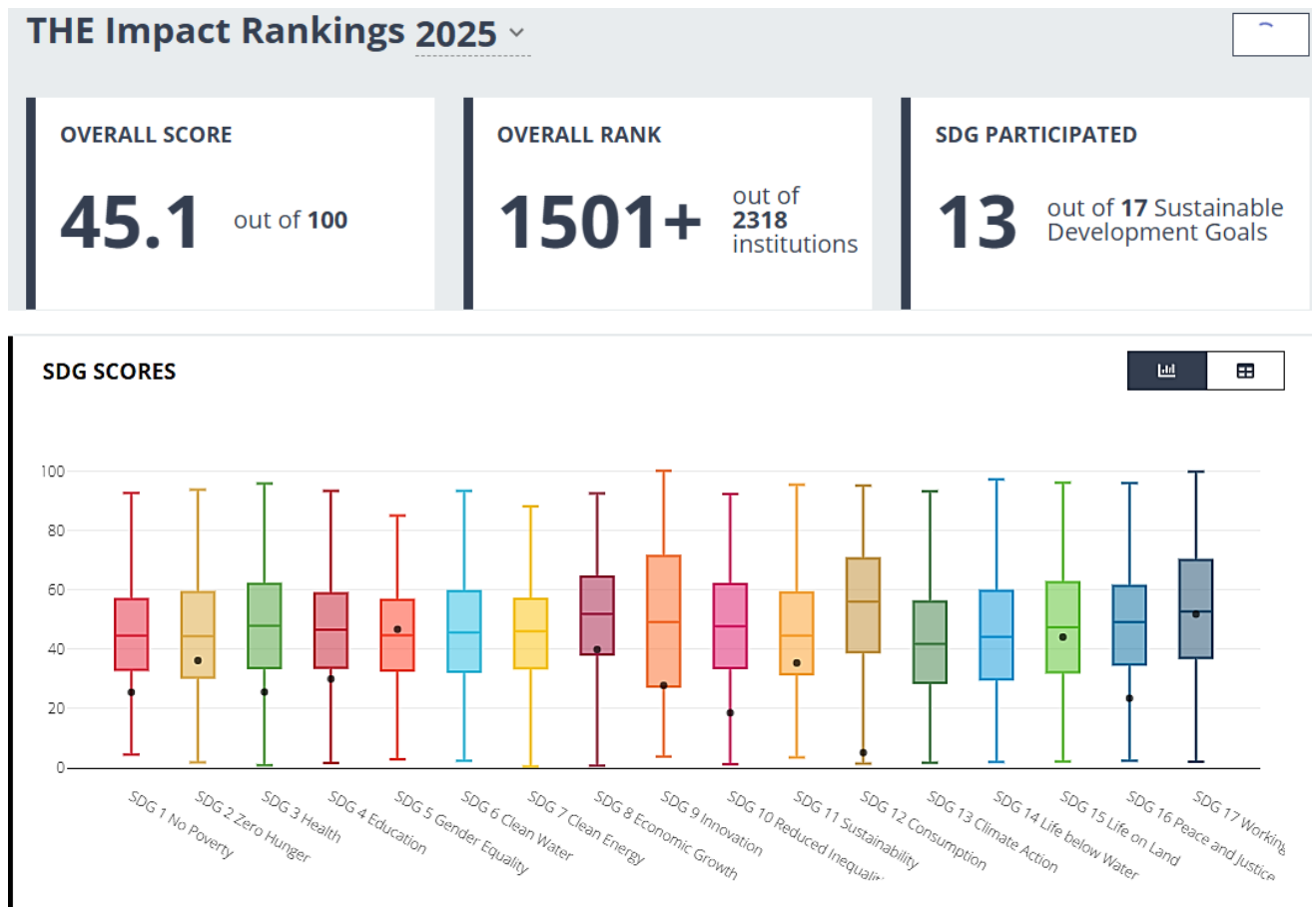


SDG1 No Poverty (Rank 1001+)
 SDG2 Zero Hunger (Rank 601-800)
 SDG3 Good Health and Well Being (Rank 1501+)
 SDG4 Quality Education (Rank 1501+)
 SDG5 Gender Equality (Rank 601-800)
 SDG8 Decent Work and Economic Growth (Rank 801-1000)
 SDG9 Industry Innovation, and Infrastructure (Rank 801-1000)
 SDG10 Reduced Inequalities (Rank 1001+)
 SDG11 Sustainable Cities and Communities (Rank 601-800)
 SDG12 Responsible Consumption and Production (Rank 801+)
 SDG15 Life on Land (Rank 401-600)
 SDG16 Peace, Justice, and Strong Institutions (Rank 1001+)
 SDG 17 Partnership for the Goals (Rank 1001-1500)

This year's impact rankings feature 121 Higher Education Institutions (HEIs) in the Philippines, a notable increase from only 56 institutions the previous year. The Times Higher Education Impact Rankings are the only global performance metrics that evaluate universities based on their contributions

to the United Nations SDGs.

Link to article in the USM Website: <https://www.usm.edu.ph/usm-secures-ranking-in-times-higher-education-anew/>



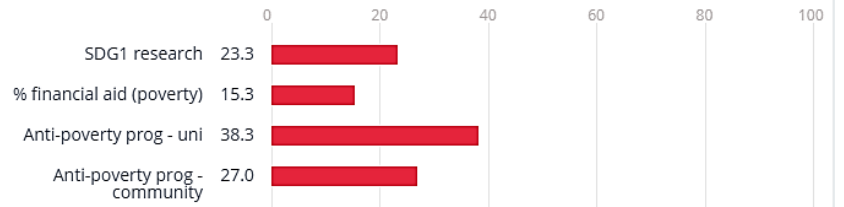
1



NO POVERTY

SCORE RANK
25.5 **1001+** out of 1267 institutions

[Details](#)



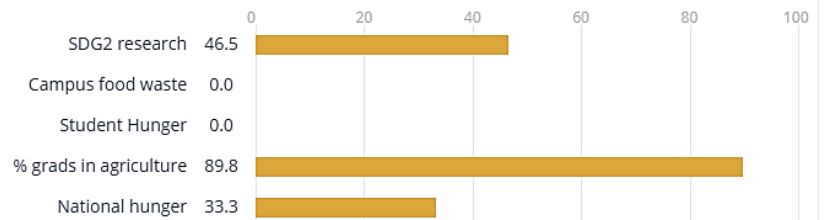
2



ZERO HUNGER

SCORE RANK
36.2 **601-800** out of 955 institutions

[Details](#)



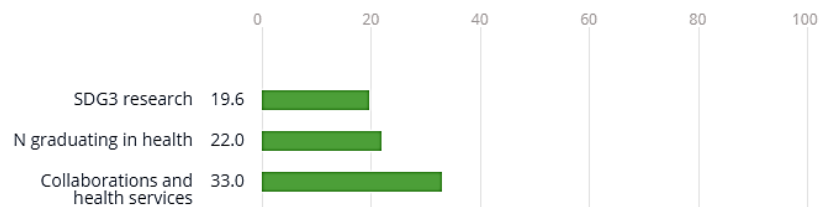
3



GOOD HEALTH AND WELLBEING

SCORE RANK
25.6 **1501+** out of 1788 institutions

[Details](#)



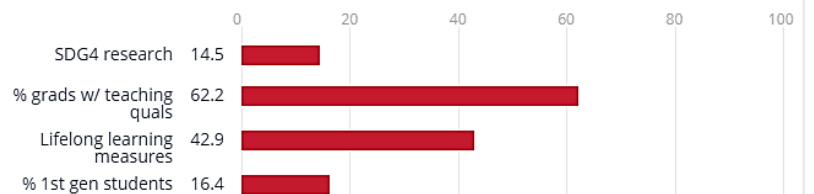
4



QUALITY EDUCATION

SCORE RANK
30.0 **1501+** out of 1975 institutions

[Details](#)



5

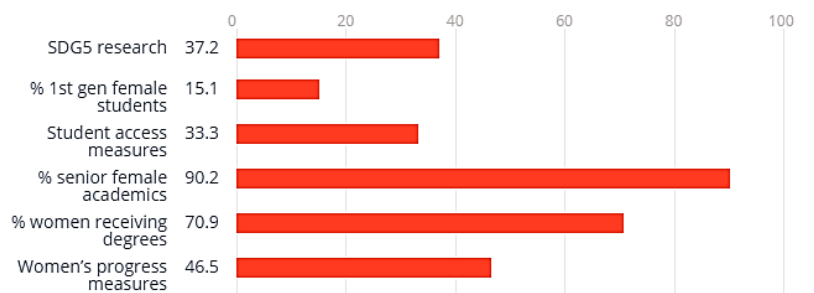


GENDER EQUALITY

QUALIFYING SDG - 26% OF OVERALL

SCORE RANK
46.7 **601-800** out of 1559 institutions

[Details](#)



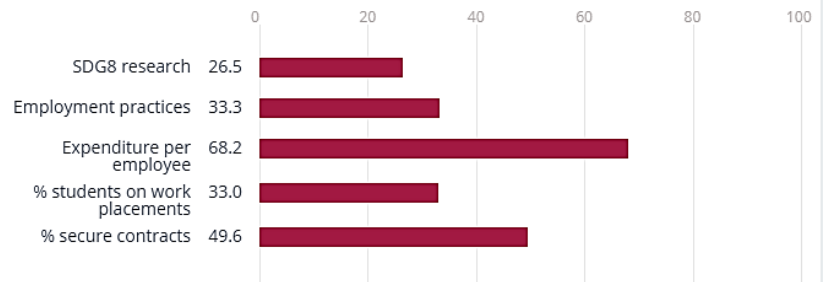
8

DECENT WORK AND ECONOMIC GROWTH

QUALIFYING SDG - 26% OF OVERALL

SCORE RANK
39.9 **801-1000** out of 1350 institutions

[Details](#)

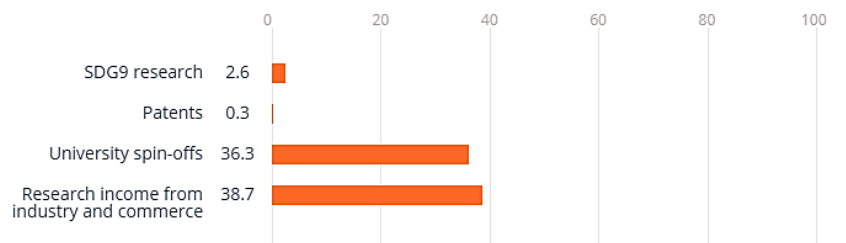


9

INDUSTRY, INNOVATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE

SCORE RANK
27.8 **801-1000** out of 1156 institutions

[Details](#)

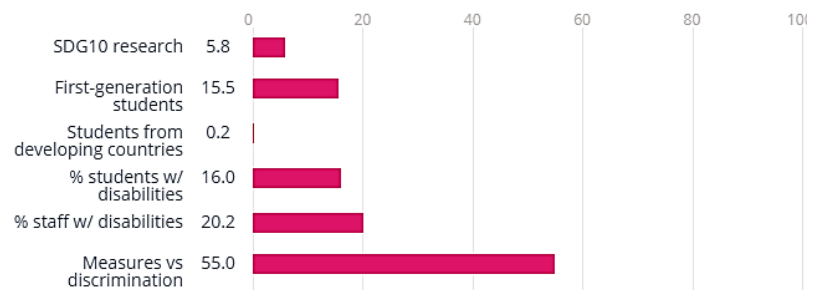


10

REDUCED INEQUALITIES

SCORE RANK
18.6 **1001+** out of 1261 institutions

[Details](#)

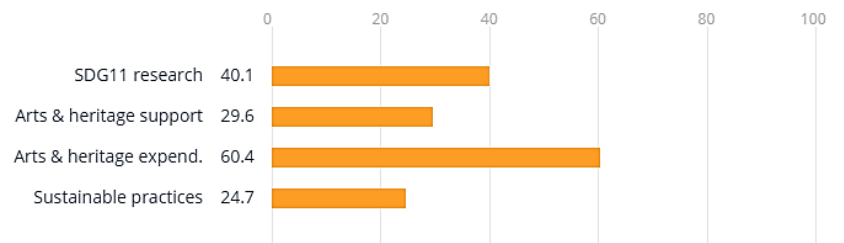


11

SUSTAINABLE CITIES AND COMMUNITIES

SCORE RANK
35.4 **601-800** out of 1154 institutions

[Details](#)

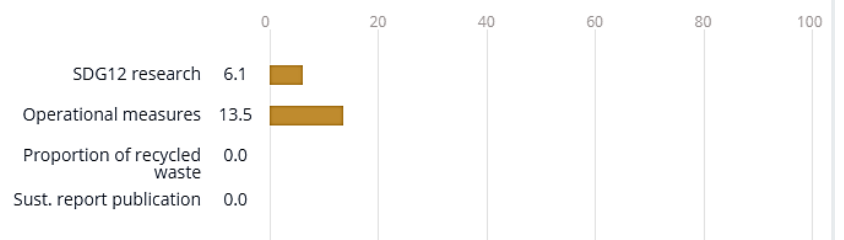


12

RESPONSIBLE CONSUMPTION AND PRODUCTION

SCORE RANK
5.2 **801+** out of 973 institutions

[Details](#)



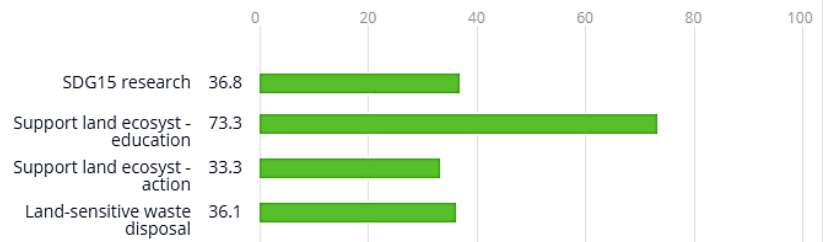
15

LIFE ON LAND

QUALIFYING SDG - 26% OF OVERALL

SCORE RANK
44.1 **401-600** out of 854 institutions

[Details](#)

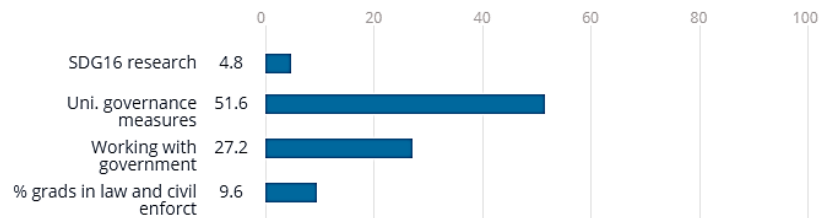


16

PEACE, JUSTICE AND STRONG INSTITUTIONS

SCORE RANK
23.5 **1001+** out of 1265 institutions

[Details](#)



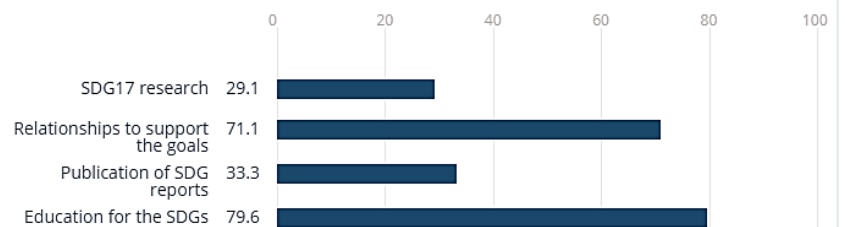
17

PARTNERSHIP FOR THE GOALS

MANDATORY QUALIFYING SDG - 22% OF OVERALL

SCORE RANK
51.8 **1001-1500** out of 2389 institutions

[Details](#)



Times Higher Education Impact Rankings 2024



The University of Southern Mindanao (USM) is newly ranked in the Times Higher Education (THE) Impact Rankings 2024.

Among 2,152 universities from 125 countries, USM's specific rank will be posted on June 12, 2024, during the official launch of the THE Impact Rankings 2024 at 6:00 a.m. BST (UK time) via the Times Higher Education website (timeshighereducation.com).

The THE Impact Rankings are the only global performance tables that assess universities against the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). In addition, they highlighted that THE uses carefully calibrated indicators to provide comprehensive and balanced comparisons across four broad areas: research, stewardship, outreach, and teaching. The number of universities that join the rankings rapidly grows each year; hence Times Higher Education welcomes regular change in the order of institutions as universities continue to drive this urgent agenda.



Link to article in the USM Website: <https://www.usm.edu.ph/usm-unlocks-new-international-recognition/>

THE Impact Rankings 2024

OVERALL SCORE

42.4 out of 100

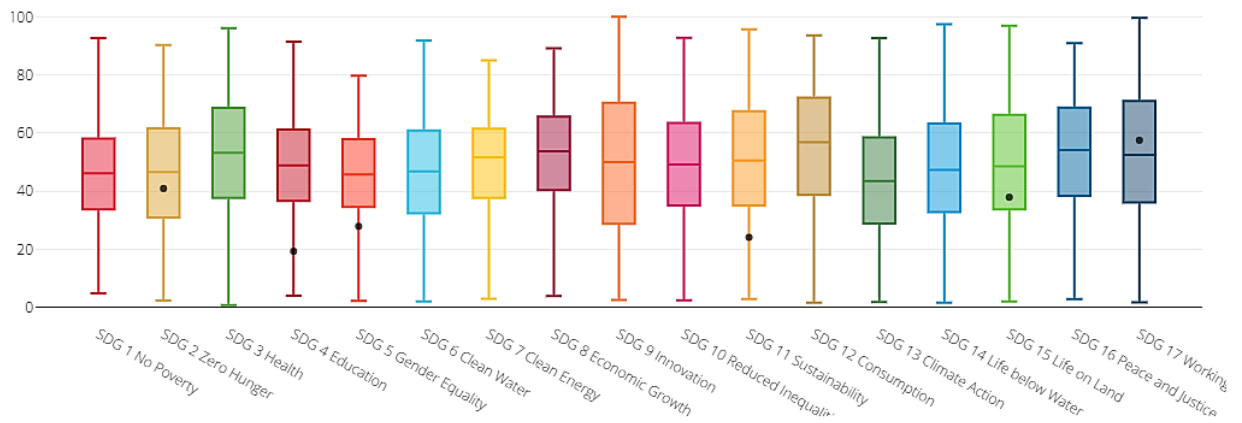
OVERALL RANK

1501+ out of 1963 institutions

SDG PARTICIPATED

6 out of 17 Sustainable Development Goals

SDG SCORES



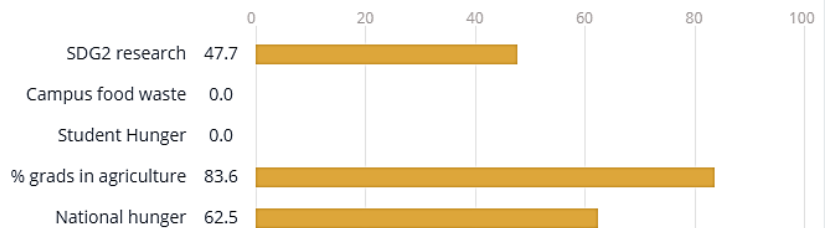
2

ZERO HUNGER

QUALIFYING SDG - 26% OF OVERALL

SCORE **40.9** RANK **401-600** out of 803 institutions

[Details](#)

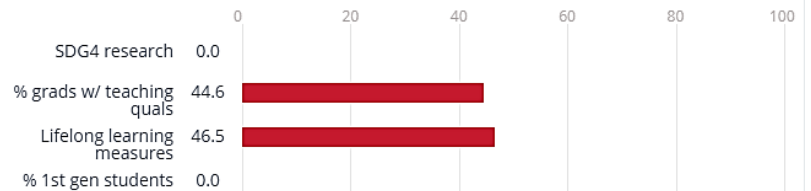


4

QUALITY EDUCATION

SCORE **19.3** RANK **1501+** out of 1681 institutions

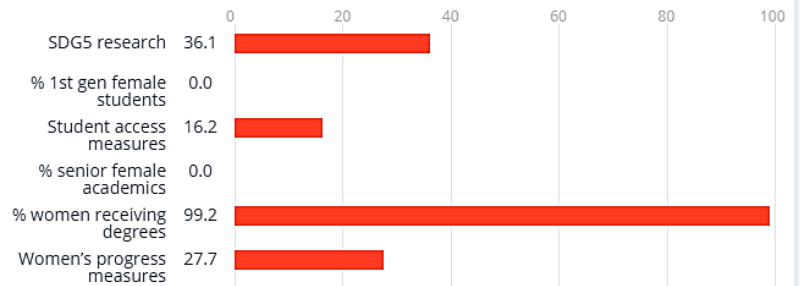
[Details](#)



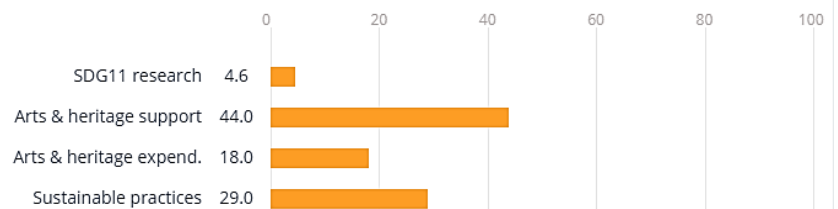
5

GENDER EQUALITY

QUALIFYING SDG - 26% OF OVERALL

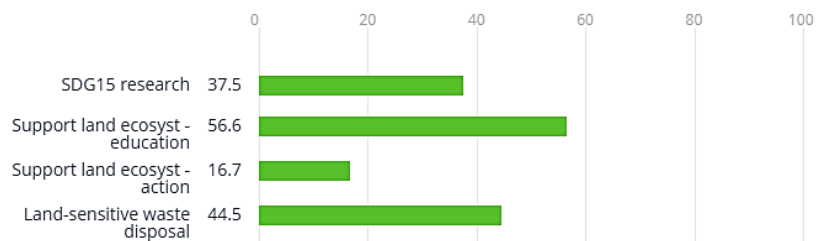
SCORE RANK
27.9 **1001+** out of 1361 institutions[Details](#)11

SUSTAINABLE CITIES AND COMMUNITIES

SCORE RANK
24.1 **801-1000** out of 1026 institutions[Details](#)15

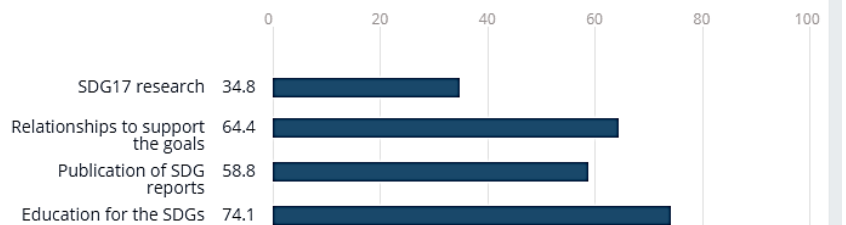
LIFE ON LAND

QUALIFYING SDG - 26% OF OVERALL

SCORE RANK
37.9 **401-600** out of 741 institutions[Details](#)17

PARTNERSHIP FOR THE GOALS

MANDATORY QUALIFYING SDG - 22% OF OVERALL

SCORE RANK
57.5 **801-1000** out of 2031 institutions[Details](#)

World University Rankings for Innovation (WURI) 2026



Adding to its growing list of achievements, the University of Southern Mindanao (USM) secured the 480th spot for the first time in the World University Rankings Innovation (WURI) 2026 Global Top 500 Innovative Universities. The ranking recognizes universities that create strong contributions to industry and society through innovative education, research, and community engagement.

Aside from its overall ranking, USM also placed **25th in Representative Research Project**, **73rd in University-based Entrepreneurial Projects**, and **99th in University Brand and Reputation**. These recognitions came from more than 13,000 innovative programs submitted this year, a huge increase from the 4,866 programs recorded in 2025.

WURI also highlights higher education institutions that continue to introduce effective and practical ways of learning, research, and public service that help improve communities and inspire other universities around the world.

The rankings were based on the criteria of innovativeness, implementability, and impact.



Link to article in the USM Website: <https://www.usm.edu.ph/usm-ranks-among-worlds-most-innovative-universities-in-wuri-2026/>

World University Rankings for Innovation (WURI) 2025 – Student Mobility and Openness Category

The University of Southern Mindanao (USM) has once again earned a place on the international stage after being included in the 2025 World University Rankings for Innovation (WURI). This marks the second consecutive year that USM has been recognized for its innovative approaches to education, research, and community engagement.

WURI, a global ranking system that highlights forward-thinking institutions, announced the results during in July 2025. The rankings emphasized real-world impact and creativity rather than traditional academic measures.

This year, USM ranked 61st under Student Mobility and Openness. USM's back-to-back recognition reflects its continuous efforts to drive meaningful change through relevant programs and services.

In 2024, USM ranked 50th globally under WURI's "Crisis Management" category. The recognition stemmed from the university's initiatives that addressed pressing societal issues, including disaster response, health education, and climate resilience.

University President Dr. Jonald L. Pimentel expressed pride in USM's continued global recognition, stating that the achievement is a dedication of the university community to creating solutions that matter. He emphasized that USM is committed to pursue innovations that directly benefit students and communities across the region.

With its back-to-back placement in the WURI rankings, USM strengthens its position not only as a premier higher education institution in Mindanao but also as an emerging global player in innovation-driven development.



Link to article in the USM Website: <https://www.usm.edu.ph/back-to-back-recognition-usm-secures-spot-in-2025-wuri-innovation-rankings/>

World University Rankings for Innovation (WURI) 2024 – Crisis Management Category

With over thirteen (13) categories, the University of Southern Mindanao (USM) ranked 50th in the World University Rankings for Innovation (WURI) in the “For Society” category – Crisis Management, as released on June 07, 2024.

The said category focuses on managing environmental and economic crises that universities face from the greater society, such as climate change, diseases like COVID-19, and other global and local crises.

The World University Rankings for Innovation assesses the concrete contributions of higher education institutions to industry and society, highlighting innovative education, research, and societal engagement. The ranking aims to spotlight higher education institutions that excel in these innovative approaches, thereby inspiring advancements across the academic and societal landscape.

Joining for the first time, USM highlighted the projects and initiatives of the Office of Student Affairs (OSA) during its submission in WURI.



Link to article in the USM Website <https://www.usm.edu.ph/usm-receives-another-international-acknowledgement/>

QS Asia University Rankings 2025 and QS Asia University Rankings South-Eastern Asia 2026



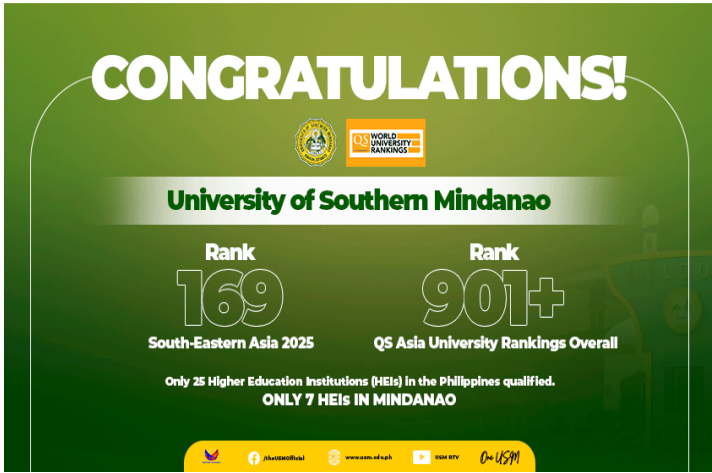
The University of Southern Mindanao (USM) proudly secured its place in the QS World University Rankings 2026, landing 242nd in Southeast Asia and within the 1501+ bracket in Asia. Standing tall as the only university from Region XII to make it to the list, USM joins 35 other top institutions from the Philippines, marking another milestone in its growing reputation for academic excellence and innovation.

This year's edition of the QS World University Rankings: Asia is the largest in its history, featuring 1,526 universities from 25 countries and territories. The expanded list includes 550 new Asian entrants, with 10 coming from the Philippines.

The QS ranking looks beyond numbers—it recognizes the quality and impact of an institution. Universities are assessed through a balanced set of indicators, including academic and employer reputation, faculty-to-student ratio, international research collaborations, and citations per research paper, among others. USM's presence in the rankings highlights its growing influence in these key areas, reflecting the dedication of its faculty, researchers, and students in shaping a university that competes with the best in Asia.

Link to article in the USM Website: <https://www.usm.edu.ph/usm-among-top-asian-universities-in-qsrankings-2026-the-only-university-from-region-xii/>

QS Asia University Rankings 2025 and QS Asia University Rankings South-Eastern Asia 2025



The University of Southern Mindanao (USM) ranked 169th in the QS Asia University Rankings South-Eastern Asia 2025. It is one of only 25 higher education institutions (HEIs) from the Philippines to make the list. In the overall Asian rankings, USM falls within the 901+ bracket.

Academic reputation (30%), Employer reputation (20%), Faculty/student ratio (10%), International research network (10%), Citations per paper (10%) and papers per faculty (5%), Staff with a PhD (5%), Proportion of international faculty (2.5%) and proportion of international students (2.5%) were the indicators used to compile the QS Asia University Rankings.

According to the QS website, the rankings highlight the top universities in Asia annually, with results available in an interactive online table that allows users to compare universities based on individual performance indicators.

Notably, USM is the only institution from Region XII to be recognized, and one of just seven HEIs in Mindanao to earn a spot.



ASIA 2025 : SOUTH-EASTERN ASIA

NEW ENTRANT

169

University of Southern Mindanao

November 2024

Date



Ben Sawler
Senior Vice-President
QS Quezonville Symonds



ASIA 2025

901+

University of Southern Mindanao

NEW ENTRANT

November 2024

Date



Ben Sawler
Senior Vice-President
QS Quezonville Symonds

Link to article in the USM Website: <https://www.usm.edu.ph/usm-secures-ranking-in-q5-asia-university-rankings-south-eastern-asia-2025/>

QS Stars Rating

The QS Stars rating system is a comprehensive method for evaluating universities beyond the scope of traditional league tables. Unlike the QS World University Rankings, which provide a hierarchical list, the QS Stars system offers a broader diagnostic tool, awarding institutions between one and five+ Stars based on their performance across a wide range of criteria. This approach recognizes that universities have different strengths and missions, allowing a specialist institution to excel in its own right, even if it doesn't place highly in an overall global ranking. The system is designed to provide a more nuanced picture to prospective students, highlighting excellence in specific areas like teaching, employability, or facilities.

To achieve an overall Star rating, universities are assessed across several categorized areas. These core categories include Teaching, which evaluates student satisfaction and faculty quality; Employability, measuring graduate outcomes and employer reputation; Research, assessing productivity and impact; Internationalization, reviewing the diversity of the student body and faculty; and Learning Environment, which focuses on facilities such as libraries, IT infrastructure, and campus assets. Additional specialized ratings can be earned in areas like Program Strength (for specific subjects), Arts & Culture, Inclusiveness, and Innovation, providing a multi-faceted profile of an institution's strengths and specializations.





University Of Southern Mindanao

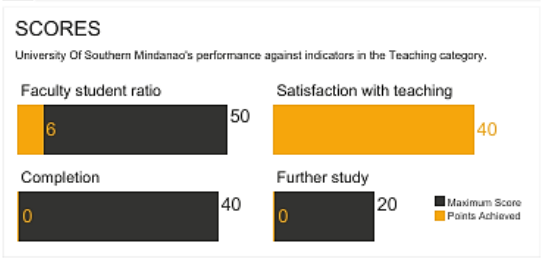
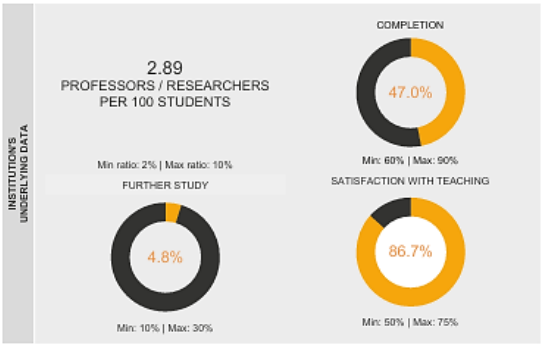


OVERALL SUMMARY

TEACHING	★ 2	46	150
EMPLOYABILITY	★ 2	51	150
INTERNATIONALIZATION	★ 2	51	150
RESEARCH		NOT ASSESSED	
ACADEMIC DEVELOPMENT	★ 3	62	150
FACILITIES	★ 4	60	100
ONLINE LEARNING		NOT ASSESSED	
SUBJECT RANKING		NOT ASSESSED	
PROGRAM STRENGTH	★ 2	67	200
ARTS & CULTURE	★ 2	46	50
INNOVATION		NOT ASSESSED	
SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY		NOT ASSESSED	
INCLUSIVENESS	★ 2	17	50
OVERALL	★ 2	370	1000

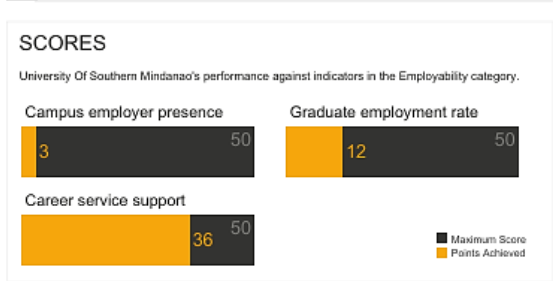
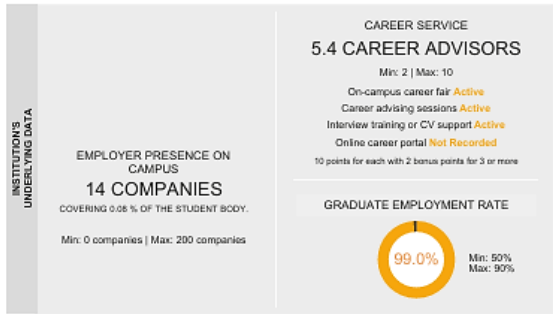
TEACHING

A key role of universities is to nurture its students' learning and personal development. Great teaching inspires today's students to become tomorrow's leaders. In this category we consider areas such as the faculty-student ratio, student satisfaction, and the rate of further study.



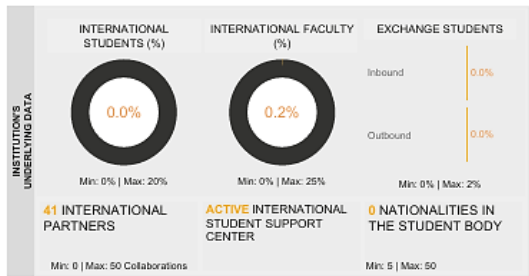
EMPLOYABILITY

Graduate employability depends on more than academic strength, focusing on readiness for work – the ability to working effectively in a multi-cultural team, deliver presentations, and to manage people and projects. Areas like the university's reputation among employers, the graduate employment rate, and career service support are considered here.



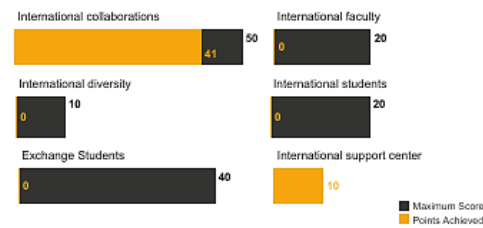
INTERNATIONALIZATION

A university's reputation on the global stage is more important than ever. This is boosted by partnerships with international institutions and the recruitment of international faculty and students. In this category we consider areas such as international research collaborations, the number of international exchange students, and international diversity on campus.



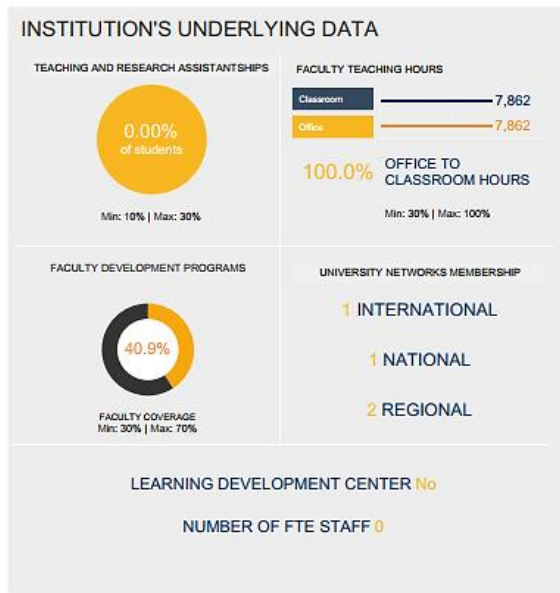
SCORES

University Of Southern Mindanao's performance against indicators in the Internationalization category.



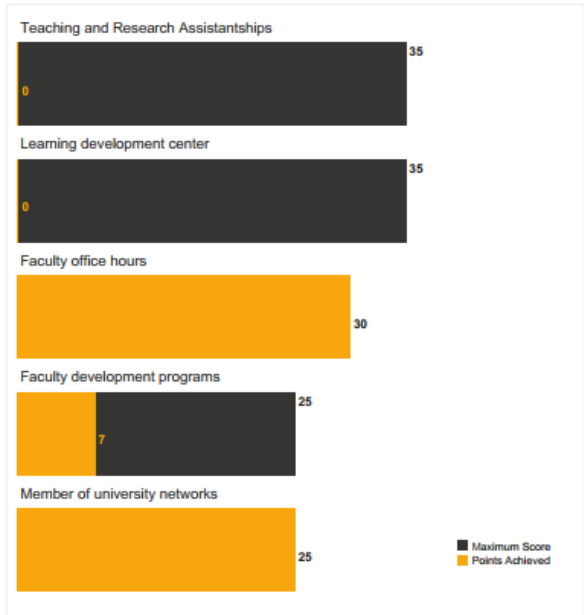
ACADEMIC DEVELOPMENT

In this category we look at a university's commitment to academic development for its students and faculty beyond teaching. This includes areas such as assistantships for students, the availability of faculty outside of the classroom, and the number of faculty participating in development programs.



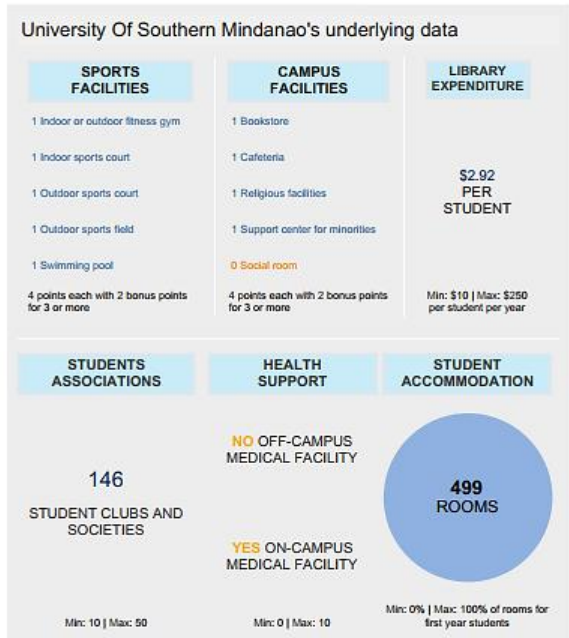
ACADEMIC DEVELOPMENT

University Of Southern Mindanao's performance against indicators in the Academic Development category.



FACILITIES

The Facilities category looks at the physical infrastructure of an institution, providing students with insight into the environment they can expect for their university experience. Here we consider indicators such as sporting facilities, student accommodation, and library expenditure.

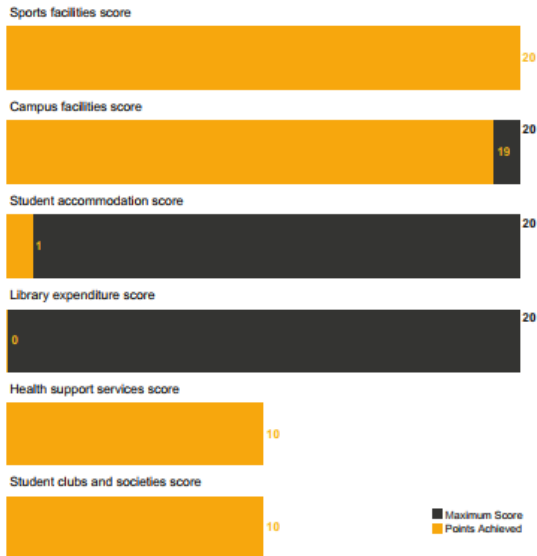


FACILITIES



University Of Southern Mindanao's performance against indicators in the Facilities category.

SCORES

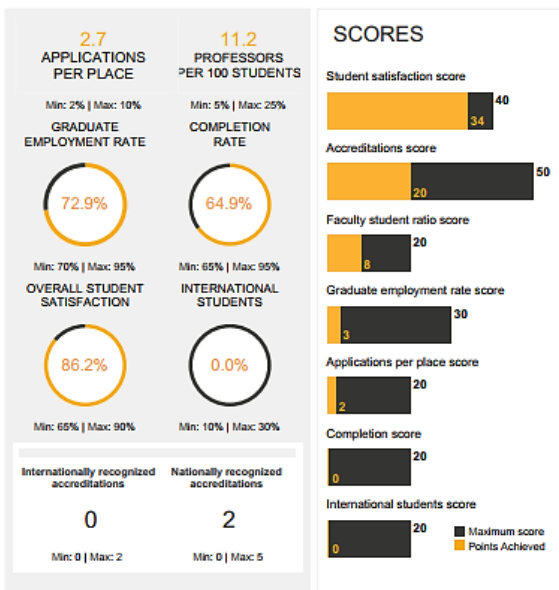


PROGRAM STRENGTH

The Program Strength category identifies an institution's specialist program, looking at the competitiveness and strength of a specific, named program chosen by the institution from the degree programs on offer.

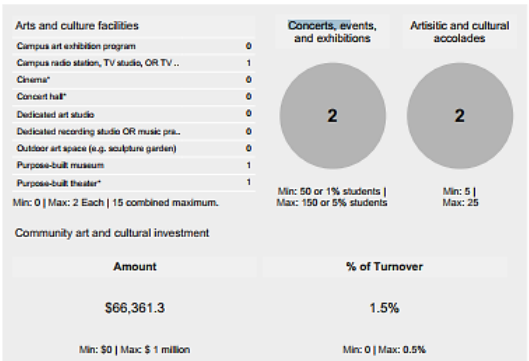


Bachelor of Science in Agriculture

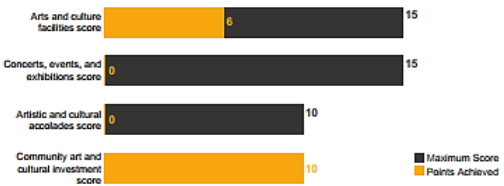


ARTS & CULTURE

With governmental and private investment increasingly encouraging higher education institutions to focus on science and technology, universities have to work harder than ever to promote and contribute to the arts and national culture. This category is designed to recognize excellent in these areas, looking at elements such as the number of artistic events available to students and the financial contribution to arts and cultural projects.

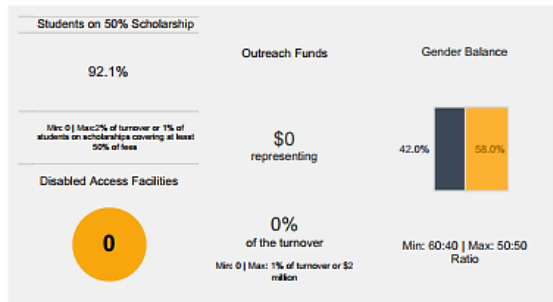


SCORES

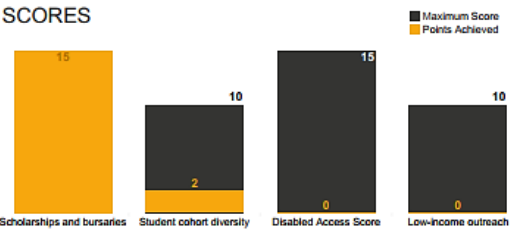


INCLUSIVENESS

For institutions that aspire to become truly world-class, their mission and its impact must extend beyond the basics as they strive to be inclusive of all types of students. In this category we look at areas such as the provision of access and support for a variety of disabilities, the number of students from low-income backgrounds, and the amount of funds available for student support.



SCORES



Ranking of Web Universities (Webometrics)

The Webometrics Ranking of World Universities, commonly known as the Webometrics ranking, is a large-scale initiative that evaluates the online presence and impact of higher education institutions globally. Established in 2004 by the Cybermetrics Lab, a research group within the Spanish National Research Council (CSIC), its primary mission is to promote the open publication of web-based knowledge and encourage universities to disseminate their research and academic activities online. Rather than measuring the quality of teaching or faculty, Webometrics operates on the principle that a university's web footprint is a significant indicator of its global engagement, visibility, and commitment to knowledge transfer in the digital age.

The ranking is calculated based on a composite indicator derived from four main metrics, which collectively assess both the volume and impact of a university's web content. These are Visibility, measured by the number of external links a university's domain receives, which acts as a proxy for global influence and reputation; Transparency, which evaluates the number of citations from top authors according to Google Scholar profiles, reflecting research impact; Excellence, which assesses the number of a university's research papers among the top 10% most cited in their respective fields; and Presence, which simply measures the volume of web content hosted under the university's domain. By focusing on these web-based indicators, Webometrics provides a unique and complementary perspective to traditional academic rankings, highlighting how effectively universities are contributing to and engaging with the global digital ecosystem.



The banner features the University of Southern Mindanao (USM) logo on the left, which includes the text "UNIVERSITY OF SOUTHERN MINDANAO", "KABACAN, COTABATO", and "1954". To the right of the logo, the ranking is displayed in large, bold, white and yellow text: "1ST REGION XII" and "5968TH IN THE WORLD". Below this, a laurel wreath encircles the text "6118TH", with "PREVIOUSLY RANKED IN 2024" written underneath. At the bottom left, the "Webometrics RANKING WEB OF UNIVERSITIES" logo is shown. To its right, a small text block describes the ranking: "The Ranking Web or Webometrics is the largest academic ranking of Higher Education Institutions offering every six months an independent, objective, free, open scientific exercise for providing reliable, multidimensional, updated and useful information about the performance of universities from all over the world." The bottom of the banner contains social media icons for Facebook, Twitter, and YouTube, along with the website "www.usm.edu.ph" and the "USM RTV" logo. A handwritten signature "Ow USM" is visible in the bottom right corner.

1ST REGION XII
5968TH IN THE WORLD

6118TH
PREVIOUSLY RANKED IN 2024

Webometrics
RANKING WEB OF UNIVERSITIES

The **Ranking Web or Webometrics** is the largest academic ranking of Higher Education Institutions offering every six months an independent, objective, free, open scientific exercise for providing reliable, multidimensional, updated and useful information about the performance of universities from all over the world.

[www.usm.edu.ph](#) USM RTV

Ow USM

Ranking	World Ranking	University	Det.	Country	Presence	Impact	Openness	Excellence
44	11257	University of Southern Mindanao			13322	14138	6462	6033

2018 **91** 2019 **44**

RANKING WEB OF UNIVERSITIES

<https://www.webometrics.info/en/Asia/Philippines>




#GreatUSM Follow us on Social Media:    @theUSMofficial  www.usm.edu.ph  (064) 572-2138

TOP PERFORMING UNIVERSITIES IN THE PHILIPPINES
Webometrics Ranking
JULY 2022 EDITION

UNIVERSITY OF SOUTHERN MINDANAO

RANK 16 of 366 Universities/Colleges

Impact Rank: **7829** Openness Rank: **5726** Excellence Rank: **5776**

Source: <https://www.webometrics.info/en/asia/philippines>



#GreatUSM

UNIVERSITY OF SOUTHERN MINDANAO

RANK 17

Top Higher Education Institutions in the Philippines
Webometrics | January 2023 Edition



UNIVERSITY OF SOUTHERN MINDANAO  www.usm.edu.ph  @theUSMofficial  (064) 572-2138  USM TV  USM

Link to article in the USM Website: <https://www.usm.edu.ph/usm-leaps-47-places-in-ph-university-rankings-webometrics/>, <https://www.usm.edu.ph/usm-is-among-the-top-20-universities-in-the-philippines/>, <https://www.usm.edu.ph/usm-seals-top-20-mark-among-philippine-heis/>, <https://www.usm.edu.ph/usm-rises-higher-in-webometrics-ranking/>

EduRank 100 Best Universities in the Philippines 2026

USM Remains Rank 1 in Region XII in EduRank Rankings; Rank 30 in the Philippines



The University of Southern Mindanao (USM) moved up in the latest rankings released by EduRank, an independent body that evaluates 14,131 universities from 183 countries.

USM is now ranked 30th in the Philippines, improving from its previous position at 42nd. It also placed #2,473 in Asia and #6,520 worldwide. It also ranked as 25th in Environmental Science, 22nd in Biology, 49th in Liberal Arts & Social Sciences, 36th in Medicine, 26th in Chemistry, 43rd in Engineering, 37th in Physics, 46th in Mathematics, and 42nd in Economics among the Higher Education Institutions in the Philippines.

Other schools listed from Region XII include Notre Dame of Dadiangas University at 124th, Notre Dame of Marbel University at 134th, and Notre Dame of Kidapawan College at 174th nationwide.

Among these institutions in Region XII, USM holds the highest rank, placing it at number one in the region based on the EduRank results.

The rankings are based on research output, citations, and alumni impact. The results show that USM continues to improve its performance in these areas.

Link to article in the USM Website: <https://www.usm.edu.ph/usm-remains-rank-1-in-region-xii-in-edurank-rankings-rank-30-in-the-philippines/>

EduRank 100 Best Universities in the Philippines 2025

EduRank is an independent, data-driven platform that provides non-academic rankings of universities worldwide. Unlike traditional rankings that heavily rely on surveys and reputational data, EduRank's methodology is based primarily on analyzing public web data. It aggregates information from diverse sources such as bibliometric citations, industry connections, and the online prominence of a university's alumni. The core philosophy is to measure a university's real-world impact and influence by examining its digital footprint, offering an alternative perspective on institutional performance that focuses on outcomes rather than inputs or reputation alone.

The "EduRank Top 100 Best Universities in the Philippines" applies this methodology to the Philippine higher education landscape. This ranking provides a unique snapshot of institutional impact within the country, typically dominated by long-established public and private institutions. The ranking serves as a valuable tool for students and stakeholders to identify institutions with significant academic and professional reach, highlighting not only the top-tier leaders but also showcasing the strengths of regional universities and specialized colleges across the nation.



Link to article in the USM Website: <https://www.usm.edu.ph/usm-ranks-29th-among-100-best-ph-universities/>, <https://www.usm.edu.ph/usm-remains-in-the-29th-spot-of-100-best-universities-in-the-philippines/>

HE Higher Education Ranking

HE Higher Education Ranking Project is a scientific, academic, and research ranking institution that ranks higher education institutions according to specific criteria, and performance indicators that contribute to improving the operation and performance of higher education institutions.

The ranking approach is based on supporting academic transparency and freedom, access to information and data, achieving the cultural, social, and scientific impact of higher education institutions, promoting social equity and equality, and eliminating all forms of discrimination in higher education institutions. The ranking is based on measuring the university's level of performance at all levels according to 25 criteria and 138 performance indicators, and thus, ensures the development and improvement of the university and its achievement of added value.

The approach of HE Higher Education Ranking is to develop and improve the operation of higher education institutions around the world by measuring real, fair, equitable, and impartial Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) that focus on developing and improving the operation of higher education institutions around the world.

The approach is to enhance access to higher education, support internationalization, and scientific research, improve the teaching process in higher education institutions, achieve a societal approach, and bridge the gap with the labor market. The ranking approach is based on supporting academic transparency and freedom, access to information and data, achieving the cultural, social, and scientific impact of higher education institutions, promoting social justice, and eliminating all forms of discrimination and injustice in higher education institutions.

No.	Criteria	Value percentage
1	Research	9%
2	Internationalization	7%
3	Teaching	8%
4	Student Success, and Graduation	5%
5	Faculty & Staff	6%
6	Funding, Finance, and Grants	3%
7	Facilities & Resources, and management	3%
8	Social, and Cultural Impact of the University	4%
9	Quality Assurance, Accreditation, and Networking	6%
10	Equity, equality, Diversity, and inclusion	4%
11	Foreign Language, and Linguistic Impact	4%
12	UN SDGs, and 2030 Agenda.	2%
13	Labor Market	4%
14	Recreation, support, and entertainment	3%
15	Information Technology, and computer equipment	3%
16	Lifelong learning	5%
17	Data Management	3%
18	Admissions & Enrollments	4%
19	Media	3%
20	Academic Freedom	2%
21	Support of distance learning	3%
22	Innovation and creativity	3%
23	Sustainability and management	2%
24	Academic Transparency	2%
25	Futuristic Concept of the University	2%

HE Higher Education Ranking 2024

March, 15th, 2024

Report ID: R2024.mpi127

HE Higher Education Ranking

HE Higher Education Ranking, 2024 Edition

Ranking Report for:

University of Southern Mindanao

University Profile:

Name of the university: University of Southern Mindanao

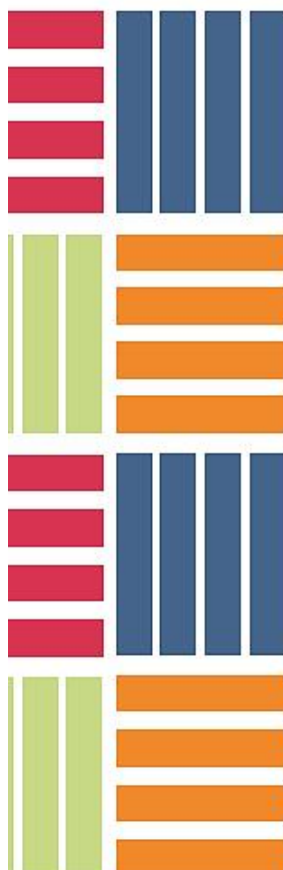
Country: Philippines

Website: <https://www.usm.edu.ph>

Overall Ranking: 127th/303

Overall points for the ranking: 6362

Description: The University of Southern Mindanao (USM) is a premier land grant university in Southern Philippines. Formerly known as the Mindanao Institute of Technology (MIT), the USM was founded by the late Bai Hadja Fatima Matabay Plang, a dedicated Muslim educator and philanthropist. Formally starting its operations on October 1, 1954, the USM achieved its university status through P.D. 1312 on March 13, 1978. USM is one of the four leading state universities in the country that achieved excellence in agricultural education. Today, it is one of the nine among 120 or so state-owned universities and colleges (SUCs) that earned Level IV status. In the first half of 2005, it was rated very satisfactory by the Department of Budget and Management Regional Office XII using the same instrument as that used in the level accreditation process.



Certificate of Ranking

This certificate is awarded to

[University of Southern Mindanao]

For being ranked (127th) in HE Higher Education Ranking, 2024 edition.

We acknowledge the outstanding commitment and excellence demonstrated by your university in maintaining a high standard of education and research, and for contributing towards the advancement of knowledge and innovation.

The ranking is accessible via the following link:

<https://ranking.heranking.com/2024/usm.edu.ph>



HE Higher Education Ranking 2025

HE Higher Education Ranking, 2025 Edition

Ranking Report for:

University of Southern Mindanao

University Profile:

Name of the university: University of Southern Mindanao

Country: Philippines

Website: <https://www.usm.edu.ph>

Overall Ranking: 156th/422

Overall points for the ranking: 6380

Description: The University of Southern Mindanao (USM) is a premier land grant university in Southern Philippines. Formerly known as the Mindanao Institute of Technology (MIT), the USM was founded by the late Bai Hadja Fatima Matabay Plang, a dedicated Muslim educator and philanthropist. Formally starting its operations on October 1, 1954, the USM achieved its university status through P.D. 1312 on March 13, 1978. USM is one of the four leading state universities in the country that achieved excellence in agricultural education. Today, it is one of the nine among 120 or so state-owned universities and colleges (SUCs) that earned Level IV status. In the first half of 2005, it was rated very satisfactory by the Department of Budget and Management Regional Office XII using the same instrument as that used in the level accreditation process.





IRIS University Research Rankings (Top University in Research Productivity)

Top Philippine Universities in **Research Productivity in Science, Engineering, and Health** as presented by Institutes for Research, Innovation and Scholarship (IRIS).

USM ranked 19th in Science, 38th in Health and 67th in Engineering. One hundred six (106) universities, public and private, were ranked in the three fields.

Ranking is based on the cumulative publications and citations from both Elsevier's Scopus and Thomson Reuter's Web of Science and the h-index.

**TOP PHILIPPINE UNIVERSITIES IN
RESEARCH PRODUCTIVITY
(OUT OF 106)**

Congratulations!
University of Southern Mindanao

Rank 19	Science
Rank 38	Health
Rank 67	Engineering

IRIS Presented by
Institutes for Research,
Innovation and Scholarship

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RESEARCH
RANKINGS
PHILIPPINES

SCIENCE ENGINEERING HEALTH

ACE ACCESS
CONCEPT
EXPLORE

Science content
access made easy.
theiriscard.com

Link to article in the USM Official FB Page:

<https://www.facebook.com/profile/100064554438621/search/?q=IRIS%20University%20Research%20Rankings%20>

VIII. Internationalization Awards and Distinctions of the University

	Name of Award	Nature of Award	Sponsoring Agency	Year	Link to Certifying Body
1	Internationalization Champion of Nation-building and Sustainability (ASEAN ICONS) Awards	International Rankings Awards	Commission on Higher Education	2024	https://ched.gov.ph/https://ieducationphl.ched.gov.ph/news-events/iconsawards2024/
2	Certificate of Commendation from the Commission on Higher Education	Performance in globally-recognized rankings (QS and THE)	Commission on Higher Education	2024	https://ched.gov.ph/https://ieducationphl.ched.gov.ph/news-events/iconsawards2024/
3	Plaque of Recognition from RDC XII	Recognition of USM's Global Ranking Performance	Regional Development Council XII	2024	https://sites.google.com/view/nro12 https://www.usm.edu.ph/usm-receives-recognition-from-rdc-xii/
4	2022 Zairi International Award Excellence for Higher Education (Award of Excellence for Research Impact category) (Shortlisted as one of the top 3 HEIs)	Excellence in Research in Higher Education	Center for Learning Innovations and Customized Knowledge Solutions (CLICKS)	2022	https://cli-cks.com/zairi-international https://cli-cks.com/2022-nominations
5	Asia's Outstanding Academic Institutions	Excellence in Higher Education	CMO Asia with Asian Confederation of Businesses	2022	https://www.cmoasia.org/cmo-asia-awards
6	Philippine Quality Award Level II	Proficiency in Quality Management	Development Authority of the Philippines	2022	https://pdc.dap.edu.ph/index.php/philippine-quality-award-pqa-administration/
7	Certificate of Commendation from the Commission on Higher Education	Performance in globally-recognized rankings (QS Stars University Rating)	Commission on Higher Education	2022	https://ched.gov.ph/
8	Resolution of Commendation	Recognition of USM's performance in 2022 Zairi International Award Excellence for Higher Education (Award of Excellence for Research Impact category) (Shortlisted as one of the top 3 HEIs)performance in Zairi	Provincial Government of Cotabato	2022	https://cotabatoprov.gov.ph/
9	Plaque of Recognition	Recognition of internationalization initiatives of the University	Commission on Higher Education Regional Office XII	2022	https://ched.gov.ph/

	Name of Award	Nature of Award	Sponsoring Agency	Year	Link to Certifying Body
10	Plaque of Recognition	Support to implementation of research project	Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, Korea International Cooperation Agency	2019	https://www.fao.org/home/en https://www.koica.go.kr/sites/koica_e

Internationalization Champion of Nation-building and Sustainability (ASEAN ICONS) Awards 2025

Certificate of Commendation from the Commission on Higher Education



The University of Southern Mindanao (USM) received the ASEAN Internationalization Champions of Nation-Building and Sustainability (ICONS) Award on December 10, 2025, from the Commission on Higher Education (CHED) through the International Affairs Service (IAS) at the Philippine International Convention Center (PICC) in Pasay City.

Dr. Jonald L. Pimentel, USM President, together with Prof. Bryan Lloyd P. Bretaña, Director of the Office of International Affairs, and Engr. Renel M. Alucilja, Director of the Planning and Development Office, accepted the ICONS Award Plaque and the Certificate of Commendation from CHED.

The ICONS Award, the third for USM, recognizes the outstanding accomplishments of Philippine Higher Education Institutions (PHEIs) in various areas of excellence. The event also highlighted newly recognized PHEIs acknowledged by international ranking bodies. As the centerpiece of the celebration, ICONS Awards 2025 honored high-impact initiatives in sustainability, strong performance in international rankings and ratings, pioneering efforts in advancing internationalization, and meaningful contributions to ASEAN's regional growth and prosperity.

The internationalization initiatives of USM were led by the Office of International Affairs under the direction of Prof. Bryan Lloyd P. Bretaña, who also serves as the President of the Council of International Relations Officers (CIRO) in Region XII. Notably, USM qualified for major international rankings, placing in the Quacquarelli Symonds (QS) Asia Rankings 2026 (1501+) and the Times Higher Education (THE) Impact Rankings 2025 (1501+). Other State Universities and Colleges in Region XII also qualified for the first time this year, to wit, Central Mindanao Colleges (CMC), Mindanao State University-General Santos City (MSU-GSC), Notre Dame of Dadiangas University (NDDU), Ramon Magsaysay Memorial Colleges Inc. (RMMC), and Green Valley College Foundation Inc. (GVCF).



Link to article in the USM Page: <https://www.usm.edu.ph/usm-receives-asean-icons-award-for-the-third-time/>

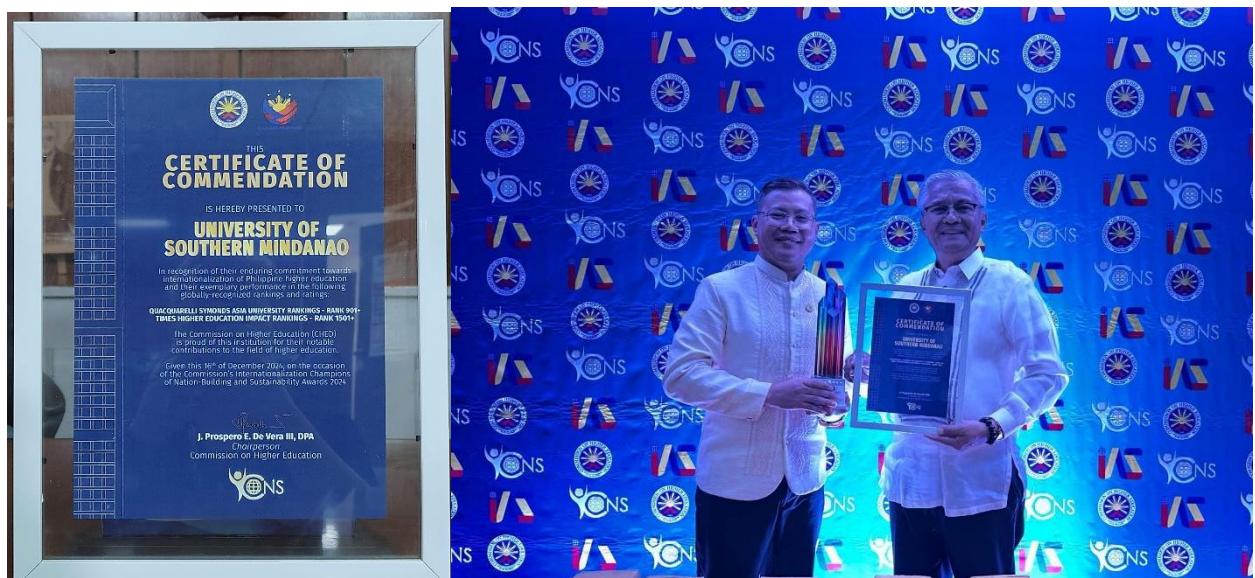
Internationalization Champion of Nation-building and Sustainability (ASEAN ICONS) Awards 2024

Certificate of Commendation from the Commission on Higher Education



The University of Southern Mindanao (USM) is the only Higher Education Institution (HEI) in Region XII conferred with the Internationalization Champion of Nation-building and Sustainability (ICONS) Awards 2024 (International Rankings Awards) by the Commission on Higher Education (CHED) International Affairs Service (IAS) in 2022 and 2024. USM is among the country's institutions that excelled in international rankings, including the Quacquarelli Symonds (QS) World University Ranking, Times Higher Education (THE) Impact Rankings, and World University Rankings for Innovation (WURI).

According to CHED IAS, the Ranking Awards are given to Philippine HEIs that championed the global reputation of Philippine higher education through their commendable performance.





Internationalization Champion of Nation-building and Sustainability (ASEAN ICONS) Awards 2022

Certificate of Commendation from the Commission on Higher Education 2022



The University of Southern Mindanao is one of the universities that championed internationalization in Philippine Higher Education. Earlier today, USM President Dr. Francisco Gil N. Garcia received the QS Stars University Rating during the "ASEAN Philippine Higher Education Internationalization Champions of Nation-building and Sustainability Awards Night (ASEAN ICONS) held at Hilton Manila Hotel, Newport Blvd, Pasay, Metro Manila.

The ASEAN ICONS Internationalization Awards is an avenue to recognize exemplary Philippine higher education institutions that championed the global reputation of Philippine Higher Education through their commendable performance in recognized international rankings and ratings, trailblazing efforts to advance the internationalization of Philippine HEIs, and valuable contributions to ASEAN's regional prosperity.

Prof. Bryan Lloyd P. Bretana, USM Executive Assistant for International Linkages/Programs (Research) and Dr. Lawrence Anthony U. Dollente, Director of the University Quality Assurance Center also attended the awards night.



Link to article in the USM Website: <https://www.usm.edu.ph/usm-q5-stars-university-rating/>

USM Earns CHED Commendation for Excellence in Global Higher Education Rankings



The University of Southern Mindanao (USM) received Certificate of Commendation from the Commission on Higher Education (CHED) Regional Office XII in recognition of its commitment towards internationalization of Philippine higher education and its exemplary performance in the globally-recognized rankings and ratings.

The award was given on August 08, 2025 during the occasion of the ASEAN Month 2025 opening ceremony at the Notre Dame of Dadiangas University, General Santos City. Part of the citation of the certificate says: *The Commission on Higher Education Regional Office XII (CHEDRO XII) is proud of USM for their notable contributions to the field of higher education especially in the Times Higher Education Impact Rankings 2025 in the 1501+ bracket.* Dr. Jonald L. Pimentel, the USM President, along with Prof. Bryan Lloyd P. Bretaña, the Office of International Affairs (OIA) Director, and Ms. Emily T. Montero, the University Public Relations and Information Office (UPRIO) Director, Ms. Rosiely M. Laco, the Executive Assistant of the President, received the award.

In an interview, Prof. Bryan Lloyd P. Bretaña expressed deep gratitude to CHEDRO XII for the esteemed recognition. He acknowledged the crucial support of the commission and the collaborative efforts of other higher education institutions (HEIs) in the region. As the Council of International Relations Officers (CIRO) President, he said that HEIs' participation has been vital in advancing the region's internationalization goals for this year. The University of Southern Mindanao (USM) received Certificate of Commendation from the Commission on Higher Education (CHED) Regional Office XII in recognition of its commitment towards internationalization of Philippine higher education and its exemplary performance in the globally-recognized rankings and ratings.

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Link to article in the USM Website: <https://www.usm.edu.ph/usm-earns-ched-commendation-for-excellence-in-global-higher-education-rankings/>

Plaque of Recognition from RDC XII



The University of Southern Mindanao (USM) received a Plaque of Recognition from the Regional Development Council (RDC) XII on December 4, 2024, at Narra Hall, Cinco Niñas, City of Koronadal, South Cotabato.

According to RDC XII, the plaque was presented as a token appreciation for USM's significant accomplishment and its invaluable contributions to regional development, specifically on promoting quality higher education and innovation in Region XII.

Notably, USM was recognized for its outstanding achievement in Times Higher Education and the QS World University Rankings 2025, securing a place as among the top 901+ Universities in Asia and 169th in Southeast Asia.



Link to article in the USM Website: <https://www.usm.edu.ph/usm-receives-plaque-of-recognition-from-rdc-xii/>

2022 Zairi International Award Excellence for Higher Education (Award of Excellence for Research Impact category) (Shortlisted as one of the top 3 HEIs)

The University of Southern Mindanao made history as it is shortlisted for the 2022 inaugural edition of Zairi International Award Excellence for Higher Education (Award of Excellence for Research Impact category) along with King Abdulaziz University, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and The University of South Africa (UNISA), South Africa.

USM is among the numerous Higher Education Institutions (HEIs) from 31 countries nominated for excellence in research and is the first and only Philippine HEI nominated for the award.

The Award is a formal international recognition of outstanding performance for Higher Education institutions around the world in specific areas pertinent to research, digital transformation, community engagement, etc. and to those who successfully addressed global educational challenges. It aims at highlighting inspiring success stories of higher education institutions and celebrate institutions that have developed and implemented creative responses to current and ongoing issues in the sector.

The award has been named after the late Professor Mohamed Zairi, a very well-respected expert in the field of quality and excellence who has during his lifetime published over 70 books and led numerous international and regional government level excellence awards. He was recognized globally for his contribution in the field and received several medals and recognitions.

The award criteria and process are endorsed by key leading organizations from across the globe. The award is managed by an International Executive Committee comprising of six international experts in the fields of higher education as well as quality and excellence. It is administered on an annual basis by the Center for Learning Innovations and Customized Knowledge Solutions (CLICKS). Award recipient was be presented during the official opening ceremony of MENA Higher Education Leadership Forum on March 23, 2022 in Dubai, UAE.



Link to article in the USM Website: <https://www.usm.edu.ph/usm-shortlisted-for-2022-zairi-international-award-excellence-for-higher-education/>

Asia's Outstanding Academic Institutions

The award was received by Prof. Lydia Pascual, Director, USM Research and Development Office at Pan Pacific, Singapore. The certification was provided by World Federation of Academic and Educational Institutions.

The awards of the highest reputation are presented to individuals and institutions which have surpassed several levels of excellence, are set as role models, and displayed exemplary leadership. Specifically, they were evaluated based on the following: educational achievement, placements, leadership, class infrastructure, student impact (internal to the organization), and future orientation. Institutions were intensely researched and were not required to submit documents. The research cell consisted of individuals with Post Graduate Studies in History & Management and with over 7 years of research experience.

The jury members for CMO Asia Awards were composed of:

1. Dr. Arun Arora, Ex-President, and CEO, The Economic Times; Chairman, Edvance Pre-schools Pvt. Ltd. & Emeritus Chairman, World HRD Congress;
2. Professor Indira Parikh, President – Antardisha, India's Iconic HR Leader;
3. Nina E. Woodard, President & Chief "N" Sights Officer, Nina E. Woodard & Associates, a division of NDPendence, Inc.;
4. Dr. C. M. Dwivedi, Group Chief Human Resource Officer, ESDS Software Solutions Pvt Ltd;
5. Dr. Saugata Mitra, Chief People Officer & Group Head HR, Mother Dairy Fruit & Vegetable Pvt. Ltd.;
6. Dr. R L Bhatia, Founder, World CSR Day, and World CSR Congress; and
7. Dr. Sanjay Muthal, Executive Director, INSIST Executive Search.
8. Other awardees from the Philippines were UP Baguio, MSU GenSan, CMU, and Southern Leyte State University.

The recipients expressed gratitude to CMO Asia, World Federation of Academic and Educational Institutions, Asian Confederation of Businesses, and Stars of the Industry Group.



Link to article in the USM Website: <https://www.usm.edu.ph/usm-soars-as-one-of-asias-outstanding-academic-institutions/>

Philippine Quality Awards Level II - Proficiency in Quality Management



The University of Southern Mindanao received the Recognition for Proficiency in Quality Management (Level II) conferred by the Office of the President of the Philippines last May 17, 2022 at the Malacañang Palace Guest House.

By reaching Level II of the Philippine Quality Award (PQA), USM has achieved significant progress in building sound processes which demonstrates the institution's commitment to excellence and its dedication to upholding quality standards in education.

The conferment ceremony facilitated by the Department of Trade and Industry (DTI), was attended by high-ranking officials of the DTI and the Development Academy of the Philippines (DAP), awardees representing their respective organizations, PQA board of judges, and PQA assessors. Executive Secretary Lucas Bersamin represented President Ferdinand Marcos, Jr. in awarding trophies to the 12 awardees of the 25th PQA Cycle.

President Francisco Gil N. Garcia, PhD and the Chairman of USM BOR, Commissioner Ronald L. Adamat, PhD received the award for the University of Southern Mindanao.

The Philippine Quality Award (PQA), is the centerpiece program of the National Action Agenda for Productivity (NAAP), the blueprint for the country's integrated approach to improve economy-wide productivity. It sets a standard of excellence to help Filipino organizations achieve world-class performance and serves as a 'template' for competitiveness based on the principles of Total Quality Management (TQM).

Through the award, the University of Southern Mindanao has once again proven its lead in the delivery of quality education as it is the first and the only HEI (Higher Education Institution) in the province and only the second HEI in Region 12 to have been conferred the award.

USM was evaluated in various aspects of its operations, including leadership, strategy, customers, measurement, analysis and knowledge management, and human resource.



Link to article in the USM Website: <https://www.usm.edu.ph/usm-conferred-recognition-for-proficiency-in-quality-management-by-malacanang/>

Resolution of Commendation from Provincial Government of Cotabato



The Office of the Sangguniang Panlalawigan on its 124th Regular Session held on March 15, 2022 had passed and approved Resolution No. 211: Commending the University of Southern Mindanao (USM) Kabacan, Cotabato for being shortlisted as one of the finalists in the Zairi International Award Excellence for Higher Education (Award of Excellence for Research Impact category) (Award of Excellence for Research – Impact Category). The Plaque of Commendation was received this morning by Dr. Ma. Teodora N. Cabasan – Vice President for Research, Development, and Extension, and Prof. Bryan Lloyd P. Bretaña – Executive Assistant for International Linkages/Programs (Research) during the 126th Regular Session of SP at Gov. Rosario P. Diaz Building, Amas, Kidapawan City.





Link to article in the USM Website: <https://www.usm.edu.ph/usm-receives-plaque-of-commendation-from-sangguniang-panlalawigan-ng-cotabato/>

Plaque of Recognition on internationalization initiatives of the University



This distinguished Plaque of Recognition, conferred by the Commission on Higher Education (CHED) Regional Office, stands as a formal and prestigious testament to the University of Southern Mindanao's (USM) exceptional commitment to advancing its global footprint. Presented on September 22, 2022, the award specifically honors the university's strategic and impactful internationalization initiatives and programs, which have significantly elevated its academic profile and service beyond national borders. It symbolizes an official endorsement from the country's premier higher education body, validating USM's successful efforts in fostering cross-cultural academic exchanges, building robust international partnerships, and integrating a global perspective into its curriculum and research endeavors.

The plaque itself serves as a permanent record of this milestone, commemorating the university's achievement in aligning with both national and global educational standards. By receiving this

accolade, USM is not only recognized for its past accomplishments but is also galvanized to continue its trajectory as a leading higher education institution in the Philippines. The award, dated September 22, 2022, marks a significant moment in USM's history, underscoring its dedication to cultivating globally competitive graduates and contributing meaningfully to the international academic community.



Plaque of Recognition Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations and Korea International Cooperation Agency

This Plaque of Recognition was presented to the University of Southern Mindanao in profound appreciation of its invaluable partnership and exceptional contributions to the project "Support to Agriculture and Agribusiness Enterprises in Mindanao for Sustainable Development." Forged through the strategic alliance of the Korea International Cooperation Agency (KOICA) and the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), this initiative has been significantly enriched by USM's expertise and commitment. The University's role as a cornerstone of agricultural knowledge and innovation in the region has been instrumental in driving the project's mission to empower local communities and strengthen the foundations of a resilient agribusiness sector.

Awarded on the 20th of June 2024 in Cotabato City, this honor celebrates the tangible impact of USM's collaboration, which has directly advanced sustainable development goals across Mindanao. Through the dedicated efforts of its faculty, researchers, and extension specialists, USM has provided critical technical support, capacity-building, and research-driven solutions that have elevated farming practices and entrepreneurial ventures.



IX. International Faculty and Student Engagements

1. USM Welcomes Consul General of Indonesia



The University of Southern Mindanao welcomed Consul General Agus Trenggono, Consulate General of the Republic of Indonesia in Davao, and the Indonesian delegates on May 20, 2026, at the College of Arts and Social Sciences (CASS) AVR, USM, Kabacan, Cotabato.

During the visit, both parties discussed possible partnerships, future academic collaborations, and scholarship opportunities between Indonesia and the Philippines.

In his message, the Consul General emphasized his appreciation for the engagement that provided the opportunity to further strengthen the longstanding friendship between Indonesia and Philippines especially in education. Meanwhile, Ms. Umi Yanti Febriana Silalahi, Consul for Information, Social, and Cultural Affairs, shared insights on Indonesia's soft power diplomacy in Mindanao and the role of public diplomacy in promoting regional and global peace.

Dr. Jonald L. Pimentel, the USM President, expressed gratitude for the visit of the general. According to him, as USM and Consulate General of the Republic of Indonesia already have prior engagements, the visit further strengthened the ties between the two institutions. The visit aims to explore potential areas of collaboration, to wit. Indonesian Government scholarship programs, Academic partnerships and cultural exchange initiatives, and Indonesia's economic diplomacy and other matters of mutual interest.





Link to article in the USM Website: <https://www.usm.edu.ph/usm-welcomes-consul-general-of-indonesia/>

2. USM Delegation Explores Innovation, Sustainability at Singapore's NTU



Delegates from the University of Southern Mindanao (USM) conducted a comprehensive educational visit to the Nanyang Technological University (NTU) in Singapore on October 22, 2025. This visit was the third day of the Educational Visit and Cultural Innovation Immersion Program, an initiative under the leadership of Governor Emmylou “Lala” J. Taliño-Mendoza and Vice Governor Rochella Marie “Ella” Taliño Taray of the Provincial Government of Cotabato.

The 3rd day was designed to familiarize the USM team and other innovators with global best practices in technological innovation, advanced research systems, and sustainable campus operations at the globally recognized powerhouse for engineering, AI, data science, and sustainability. The tour was led by BluC 53's Chief Thinking Officer, Dr. Michael L. Abundo. The first stop was the NTU Administration Building, which features a fully 3D-printed map of the campus. Dr. Abundo explained that NTU's newer buildings were intentionally designed to serve as test beds for innovation. For instance, the campus infrastructure doubles as a site for testing new building materials, while many spaces are purposefully built to support experiments. The buildings also reflect NTU's commitment to sustainability, featuring tempered glass that delays heat entry and wall gaps that promote natural ventilation. Even the campus food hall—operated by students and open to alumni investors—embodies this spirit of innovation. Every corner of the NTU campus reflects a commitment to creativity, sustainability, and forward thinking.

Included in the tour was NTU's Green Mark Platinum Building, a structure that achieves Singapore's highest environmental performance rating by operating at zero net energy, generating all its required

power. The delegation also visited the Earth Observatory of Singapore (EOS), an institute dedicated to studying global catastrophes like tsunamis and climate change, which served as a lesson in global scientific responsibility despite Singapore's relative safety from natural disasters. The campus's operational efficiency was highlighted by the use of QR code kiosks throughout the grounds to actively gather user feedback, confirming a commitment to systems that serve the students. Inside the research centers, the USM team was given a glimpse into advanced technologies. They viewed cutting-edge robotics, including a fully autonomous, remotely controlled robot-motorboat, and toured facilities with advanced 3D printers used for constructing and modeling new materials. At the Air Traffic Management Research Institute (ATMRI), the focus was on safeguarding regional skies, where the aerospace lab utilizes AI and data analytics to develop high-tech turbines and equipment for safe and efficient air travel. The modern learning environment was showcased in the SMART Classrooms, which feature flexible layouts with movable furniture and tables connected to screens, reflecting NTU's dedication to a technology-driven educational approach.

The team also witnessed NTU's strong focus on innovation through visits to several key facilities. At the NTUpeneur Academy, they explored programs that foster entrepreneurship and showcase university innovations updated every quarter. They also visited the Innovation Port, described as a "one-stop hub dedicated to all things innovation, entrepreneurship, and enterprise." Finally, at the Mechanical and Aerospace Engineering Laboratory, they observed the development of sustainably powered vehicles built entirely from scratch.

The afternoon session concluded with an insightful lecture by Engr. Michael Abundo, who offered key lessons on leadership and policy. Engr. Abundo encouraged the visitors to move beyond a fixed mindset toward growth and flexibility, stressing that systems should always serve people, and the populace must have the power to change a system if it fails to work. He also presented a compelling perspective on workplace conflict, explaining that disagreement, or "locking horns," can be productive in a healthy work environment when all parties are ultimately aligned toward the same organizational goal. The interaction provided a powerful method for strengthening purpose and collaboration.

The visit to NTU's innovation hubs showed that progress thrives where technology, entrepreneurship, and sustainability intersect. It gives the USM delegation valuable insights to strengthen their own efforts in advancing science, technology, and governance.



Link to article in the USM Website: <https://www.usm.edu.ph/usm-delegation-explores-innovation-sustainability-at-singapores-ntu/>

3. Three USM Colleges Explore Student Exchange in Vietnam



Deans and faculty members of the College of Arts and Social Sciences (CASS), College of Business, Development Economics and Management (CBDEM), and College of Science and Mathematics (CSM) held an exploratory meeting with Ton Duc Thang University (TDTU) in Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam, via Zoom on June 8, 2026 to discuss possible areas of academic collaboration.

During the meeting, professors and administrators from Ton Duc Thang University shared their interest in welcoming USM students and faculty to their campus for short-term exchange programs, academic seminars, study visits, and cultural exchange activities. These programs may provide opportunities to learn in a different academic and cultural setting while strengthening ties between the two universities.

The discussion also covered academic and student exchange programs, faculty and student mobility, student internships in Ho Chi Minh City, joint research and extension activities, and cultural exchange initiatives.

Joining the personnel from the colleges were USM Vice President for Academic Affairs Dr. Leorence C. Tandog, Director for International Affairs Prof. Bryan Lloyd P. Bretana.

Link to article in the USM Website: <https://www.usm.edu.ph/three-usm-colleges-explore-student-exchange-in-vietnam/>

4. USM CTI Connects with International Academic Institution for Collaboration



The University of Southern Mindanao (USM) College of Trades and Industries recently held an online meeting with the Vanuatu Institute of Technology (VIT) to discuss possible academic partnerships, including a Collaborative Online International Learning (COIL) initiative and a proposed Faculty Exchange Program. The meeting took place on May 11, 2026.

Based in Port Vila, Vanuatu (Oceania), VIT is a technical institution that offers programs in Automotive Engineering, Electrical Engineering, Architectural and Wood Engineering, along with other skilled trades.

During the discussion, both institutions expressed interest in launching the partnership in time for the opening of the first semester of Academic Year 2026–2027. Early plans included identifying one priority skilled program and one core subject that could be jointly delivered by both schools. They also discussed the importance of aligning course syllabi, schedules, and timelines early on, especially with the time zone differences between the two countries.

Representing VIT were School Principal Mr. Wade Evans, School Manager Mr. Tom Saute, Trainer Mr. Karl Alvin Advincula — a USM CTI alumnus currently deployed by Suzuki Japan, and other VIT instructors.

Joining the meeting on behalf of USM were University President Dr. Jonald L. Pimentel, Vice President for Academic Affairs Dr. Leorenice C. Tandog, Director for Instruction Dr. Leonard Paleta, Director for International Affairs Prof. Bryan Bretaña, CTI Dean Dr. Joel V. Misanes, and faculty members from the CTI.

Both institutions described the initial talks as productive and are expected to continue coordination meetings in the coming months to finalize the details and prepare the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) before the planned implementation next semester.

Link to article in the USM Website: <https://www.usm.edu.ph/usm-cti-connects-with-international-academic-institution-for-collaboration/>

5. Two BPEd Students Earn International Scholarships



Kayle Arbado, a third-year Bachelor of Physical Education student from the College of Human Kinetics (CHK) at the University of Southern Mindanao, earned selection as a 2026 Dr. Thomas L. McKenzie International Scholarship awardee.

The International Organization for Health, Sports, and Kinesiology (IOHSK) established the Dr. Thomas L. McKenzie Scholarships to honor the enduring legacy of Dr. Thomas L. McKenzie, its Lifetime Honorary President and a globally recognized leader in physical education, physical activity promotion, and public health. Through this program, IOHSK continues to recognize students who demonstrate excellence and commitment to advancing health and movement sciences worldwide.

In a parallel achievement, Alijan Akmad, also a third-year student from the same college, secured the 2026 Lucy T. Shoham Memorial Scholarship.

This scholarship preserves the memory of Lucy T. Shoham, who passed away in 2022 at the age of 100. She was the mother of Randi (Shoham) McKenzie and the mother-in-law of Dr. Thomas L. McKenzie. The award continues her legacy by supporting students who pursue meaningful contributions in health, sports, and education.

Both scholarship programs operate under IOHSK, which designs these opportunities to support outstanding undergraduate and graduate students who exhibit strong academic performance, research potential, leadership skills, and a deep dedication to advancing physical education, kinesiology, and physical activity for diverse communities across the globe.

Dr. Ruben L. Tagare, Jr., a CHK faculty member who serves as Philippine Ambassador to IOHSK, IOHSK Board Member, and IOHSK Fellow, recommended both students, helping strengthen their eligibility for the international awards.

Following these achievements, the College of Human Kinetics expressed its sincere appreciation to IOHSK, led by President and CEO Dr. Hosung So, for continuously opening global opportunities that allow students to develop their potential and pursue academic excellence.

Currently, CHK records six IOHSK scholars. Alongside this milestone, two students in 2025 secured selection for a travel and research grant, which will send them to Korea for the 9th IOHSK International Conference.

Link to article in the USM Website: <https://www.usm.edu.ph/two-bped-students-earn-international-scholarships/>

6. Miles Angelo Sodejana Returns from Japan, Shares His Unforgettable Physics Experience

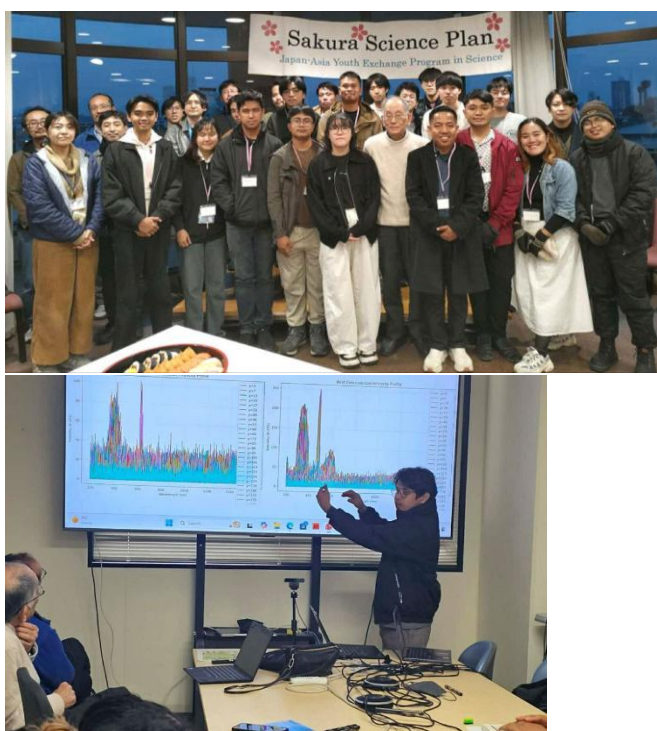


Miles Angelo Sodejana, a 4th year BS Physics student at the University of Southern Mindanao, recently returned to the Philippines from his Sakura Science Exchange Program at Okayama University, Japan.

A fully funded initiative, Sakura Science Exchange Program offers students the opportunity to engage in hands-on physics experiments and academic exchange at Okayama University that are intended for BS Physics and BS Applied Physics students from the Philippines Universities. According to Sodejana, he enjoyed the seven-day stay in Japan, where he took part in various experiments with his groupmates as part of the program.

The activities included: (1) construction of a spectroscope and observation of spectral lines, (2) construction of a light-emitting diode circuit and measurement of Planck's constant, (3) construction of a readout circuit for a light sensor, (4) observation of single photons (light quanta), (5) laser oscillation and double-slit interference experiment, and (6) interference experiment with single photons.

They also attended a lecture and problem-solving session on the double-slit experiment, which focused on wave interference and fringe formation. Moreover, they carried out a spectroscopy experiment by building and using a spectroscope to observe spectral lines from different light sources. This showed that different elements emit distinct wavelengths of light, reinforcing the idea of quantized energy levels. He also shared that they had a laboratory tour of an advanced research facility, where discussions covered studies on the electron dipole moment and thorium-229 isotopes.



Link to article in the USM Website: <https://www.usm.edu.ph/miles-angelo-sodejana-returns-from-japan-shares-his-unforgettable-physics-experience/>

7. USM, Hiroshima University Explore Stronger Cacao Partnership



The University of Southern Mindanao (USM) recently welcomed a delegation from Hiroshima University, Japan, as both institutions continue to explore ways to strengthen their collaboration in cacao and chocolate development.

The visit builds on earlier engagements between the two institutions, particularly in initiatives that support grassroots cacao production and capacity-building for local farmers. During the meeting,

representatives shared updates on ongoing activities, including training programs and the use of technologies to improve the quality of cacao beans.

Representatives from the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries, and Agrarian Reform (MAFAR) of the Bangsamoro Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (BARMM) also joined the discussion. The region is a key beneficiary of the project supported by the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA), which aims to improve cacao production systems through technical support, training, and knowledge exchange. The group also discussed a proposed Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) that will formalize the partnership between USM and Hiroshima University. They reviewed possible areas of cooperation, including research, extension services, and farmer-level interventions. The agreement remains under review as both sides continue to refine its provisions.

The partnership is expected to help develop the cacao and chocolate industry in BARMM by strengthening local capacities and improving product quality through science-based approaches. University officials have yet to release full details of the partnership, as coordination among stakeholders is still ongoing.



Link to article in the USM Website: <https://www.usm.edu.ph/usm-hiroshima-university-explore-stronger-cacao-partnership/>

8. USM College of Education Brings New Learning from Thailand



The College of Education at the University of Southern Mindanao (USM) recently held an International Experiential Learning and Classroom Observation at Muban Chom Bueng Rajabhat University (MCRU) in Ratchaburi, Thailand.

The activity aimed to help faculty and students gain global teaching experience and learn from different classroom practices. One of the highlights of the international activity was the classroom observation. Participants watched how teachers taught, managed their classes, and engaged students. This helped them better understand teaching methods and reflect on how these can be applied in local classrooms. It included several classroom observations and teaching sessions held at the same time. During the activity, twelve English major students from USM—Princess Joy Gamala, Christian Dave Osis, Clarence Jileen Fortunado, Andrea Vera Alejandro, Kristine Mae Suela, Lance Andrei Nicor, Jebraidah Abdulkadir, Gisselle Krim Dagooc, Jaylieka Abdulhamid, Princess Malayghja Palaguyan, Mayshel Garcia, and Caryn Kylie Roquero—took on the role of teachers at MCRU.

Cultural immersion was an important part of the program. Participants got to experience Thailand's traditions, language, and way of life. This helped them better understand and respect different cultures. Joining in local activities also allowed them to connect with people and see the value of inclusivity in education. The program showed how working with other schools can create meaningful learning experiences. It prepared future teachers to be more adaptable, globally aware, and ready to bring new ideas to their classrooms.

In an interview, Dr. Girlie D. Batapa, Program Chairperson of the Bachelor of Secondary Education of CED, shared her experience with admiration. She said she was amazed by the culture, describing the students as disciplined and polite. She noted that their culture is rich and deeply rooted in strong relationships. They place high value on time and show great respect for it. She also observed a unique trait among them—that their day does not end without showing kindness to others. Moreover, the delegation of USM expressed its sincere thanks to MCRU for the warm welcome and well-organized activities as well as to Asst. Prof. Dr. Atthapon Usayapan, President of MCRU, together with the administrators, faculty, and staff of the Faculty of Education. Their support and guidance made the academic and cultural exchange meaningful.



Link to article in the USM Website: <https://www.usm.edu.ph/usm-college-of-education-brings-new-learning-from-thailand/>

9. USM CED Students Begin Two-Week Educational Tour in Thailand



Twenty-nine fourth-year students of the College of Education (CED) of the University of Southern Mindanao (USM), together with their instructors, begin their International Educational Tour at Muban Chombueng Rajabhat University (MCRU) in Ratchaburi, Thailand from February 23 to March 7, 2026.

The group includes five students from the Bachelor in Elementary Education (BEEd) program, four from the Bachelor of Secondary Education major in Mathematics, and 20 majoring in English. Joining them are CED faculty members Dr. Girlie D. Batapa, Dr. Lezel P. Pataray, Dr. Paul John B. Ongcoy, Prof. Jay G. Regulacion, and Prof. Merlyn A. Musali.

USM strengthens this academic engagement through its partnership with MCRU, formalized by a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) and Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) signed in the last quarter of 2025. Through this collaboration, students observe actual classroom settings and explore how teaching is delivered in a different educational environment. The experience allows both students and faculty members to exchange traditions, ideas, and practices that promote cultural understanding and mutual respect. Through this collaboration, USM and MCRU work together to develop innovative programs and enhance learning materials for their respective academic communities.

Link to article in the USM Website: <https://www.usm.edu.ph/usm-ced-students-begin-two-week-educational-tour-in-thailand/>

10. New Zealand Embassy Brings Manaaki Scholarship to USM



The University of Southern Mindanao welcomed the representatives from the New Zealand Embassy who visited on March 19, 2026, to introduce the Manaaki New Zealand Postgraduate Scholarship Programme.

Dyan Mabunga, Head of New Zealand International Development Cooperation, led the visit. She also conducted a lecture at the College of Arts and Social Sciences Audio Visual Room, USM, Kabacan, Cotabato.

During the session, participants were given information about the scholarship, including eligibility requirements and the application process. The program is open to individuals who show a strong commitment to community service. The scholarship gives priority to programs related to development, including agriculture and other fields that support community and national growth, while still remaining open to other relevant areas of study.

The Manaaki New Zealand Scholarships, a flagship program of the New Zealand Government, offer opportunities for students from partner countries to pursue postgraduate studies in New Zealand. The term "Manaaki" which means to cherish, conserve, and sustain, reflects the program's focus on supporting individuals who can contribute to the growth and development of their communities.

The Embassy also encouraged the university to invite qualified applicants, especially those from underrepresented sectors, to apply for the program.





Link to article in the USM Website: <https://www.usm.edu.ph/new-zealand-embassy-brings-manaaki-scholarship-to-usm/>

11. USM Deploys Personnel to Rubber Farmers' Camp in Thailand



With the goal of strengthening agricultural research as well as its internationalization initiatives, two employees from the University of Southern Mindanao (USM) joined the 14-day International Young Smart Rubber Farmer Camp 2026 in Thailand from January 13 to 26, 2026.

Professor Bernadith T. Borja, a faculty researcher from the College of Agriculture, and Jayson S. Baltazar, Education Program Specialist, represented the Philippines among the 175 participants from Thailand, China, Malaysia, Indonesia, Myanmar, and Japan. Their participation gave USM firsthand exposure to Thailand's highly organized rubber sector, from plantation management to processing and export systems. As the world's leading rubber producer, Thailand provided practical lessons that can help strengthen rubber research, instruction, and extension work at the university.

In an interview with Baltazar, he described the experience as a rare opportunity to learn directly from Thailand's rubber institutions and farming communities. He shared that the camp introduced them to advanced technologies, best practices, and farmer support programs implemented by the Rubber Authority of Thailand (RAOT), covering plantation establishment, farm management, harvesting, and post-harvest processing. Baltazar also pointed out the strong role of rubber cooperatives in Thailand, particularly in purchasing latex and processing it into export quality smoked rubber sheets. He noted that these systems offer valuable lessons that can be adapted to improve rubber production and farmer support initiatives in the Philippines. The camp also focused on innovation, sustainability, and efficiency in the rubber industry, which



Baltazar said are essential for ASEAN countries to stay competitive in the global market. He added that the experience encouraged Filipino youth to see agriculture, especially rubber farming, as a viable and rewarding field.



Link to article in the USM Website: <https://www.usm.edu.ph/usm-deploys-personnel-to-rubber-farmers-camp-in-thailand/>

12. USM B'dadali Brings Philippine Culture to Malaysia



The University of Southern Mindanao (USM) proudly brought Mindanaoan culture to an international audience as USM B'DADALI performed at the Sarawak International Festival of Music and Arts (SIFMA 6.0) recently at the Sarawak State Legislative Assembly in Kuching, Sarawak, Malaysia. Invited to take part in the international festival, USM B'DADALI presented Dumendingan, a traditional harvest dance of the indigenous Subanen tribe from the Zamboanga Peninsula, Mindanao, Philippines. The dance celebrates a bountiful harvest and the well-being of the community, expressing gratitude for nature's blessings. It is performed with rhythmic bamboo poles and gongs, requiring agility, timing, and coordination from the dancers. USM B'DADALI is the sole dance troupe from the Philippines along with performers from Taiwan, Indonesia, Singapore, Thailand, Vietnam, and China.



Prof. Jessa S. Buisan, USM Culture and Arts Head and coach of the troupe, shared her experience in preparing for the festival. She mentioned that the team faced several challenges but managed to adapt. She said, *"When we were preparing the team, we considered some challenges that we might encounter, such as the venue, the type of stage, and the production, which are vital in staging our piece. I prepared two setups for staging as countermeasures before the actual festival, and I am just thankful that the artists were quick and professional enough to adapt to the changes."* She also said that SIFMA was



more than just a performance opportunity, *"SIFMA gave us the opportunity to showcase not just our excellence in the performing arts, but also to introduce who we are as people of Mindanao."* She also hopes that this success will open doors for more artists in the future, *"after the overwhelming reception and great success of our SIFMA journey, more invitations from other countries have been laid down this year. We are hoping that these opportunities will continue and will open more doors not just for the USM Bdadali Dance Troupe, but also for other USM artists," she underscored.* Meanwhile, SIFMA 6.0 served as a gathering of artists from various backgrounds, allowing performers to witness different artistic expressions and learn from one another through live performances and festival activities.

The members of USM B'DADALI who performed at SIFMA 6.0 were Shane Valerie A. Mamaril, Althea Joy E. Paraon, Icy Danille P. Rulona, Krystyl R. Agbay, Maria Mae T. Arquino, Reillyn Jane R. Enopia, Jan Joseph Reynald L. Salome, Kurl Vincent L. Borbon, James M. Paragas Jr., Razid B. Lampak Jr., Emmanuel J. Galendez, Earl Jhon W. Garcia. Prof. Buisan, Prof. Muhammad Rajiv Buisan, and Dr. Norge D. Martinez, the College of Human Kinetics Dean, spearheaded the delegation. The university also expressed its gratitude to the Provincial Government of Cotabato under Governor Emmylou "Lala" Taliño-Mendoza, 3rd District Representative Cong. Ma. Alana Samantha Santos, and the Local Government Unit of Kabacan led by Mayor Evangeline Guzman for sponsoring the students' trip. The participation of USM B'DADALI showed the dedication and cultural pride of USM students in bringing indigenous Filipino traditions beyond the country. Their performance in Sarawak stands as a proud moment for the University, as it carried the rhythm, spirit, and heritage of Mindanao to an international stage.

Link to article in the USM Website: <https://www.usm.edu.ph/usm-bdadali-brings-philippine-culture-to-malaysia/>

13. USM Welcomes PE Professor from Japan



Dr. Naoki Suzuki, a Physical Education (PE) Professor from Tokyo Gakugei University in Japan, visited the University of Southern Mindanao (USM) for a Lecture Visit to Bachelor of Physical Education (BPEd) and Bachelor of Science in Exercise and Sports Sciences (BSESS) November 29, 2025, at the University Commercial Building, USM, Kabacan Cotabato. He began his discussion by

talking about Gakugei University. It is one of 11 national universities in Tokyo, Japan, and is known as a leading university for education. He explained that Gakugei University has developed programs to better support professional school teachers and also hosts several national research centers focused on education.

In his lecture, he shared different teaching and learning strategies with the students and College of Human Kinetics (CHK) faculty members. He stressed that teachers should teach games by letting students play and learn through them. He also said that teachers need to design games that help students improve their understanding and skills. According to him, teaching is more about guiding and supporting students than just giving instructions. Teachers also create assessment methods that encourage learning and make it long-lasting. He even showed videos demonstrating how Virtual Reality (VR) and AI were used in PE classes, both for regular students and for students with special needs. During the lecture, he emphasized that technology—especially VR—helps students assess their own performance and correct mistakes after seeing them. For students with special needs, VR also boosted their confidence, allowing them to participate and perform without the fear of being judged. *"Solving the problem is important for students... I think jumping over the obstacle is not the whole point, it is when they know how to decide for themselves, see it using the technology and learn from it,"* The Japanese Professor remarked.



Link to article in the USM Website: <https://www.usm.edu.ph/usm-welcomes-pe-professor-from-japan/>

14. USM BPEd Students to Represent USM at International Conference in Seoul, Korea



Two Bachelor of Physical Education students namely, Edjay Cajucom Canonigo and Nicole Ocoy, of the University of Southern Mindanao (USM) were announced as recipients of the Travel & Research Grant Recipients for the 9th IOHSK International Conference on July 22-24, 2026 in Seoul, South Korea. The International Organization for Health, Sports, and Kinesiology (IOHSK) announced on November 28, 2025 through its facebook page.

According to the IOSHK post, Canonigo and Ocoy were among three recipients from USM in the Philippines, joined by one recipient from the University of Santo Tomas, as well as other awardees from Romania, Bangladesh, Nepal, and India. Additionally, all recipients are required to attend the conference either in person or virtually and will receive reimbursement for the cash portion of the grant upon arrival. Those attending in person are also required to stay at the international guest house on the Chung-Ang University campus.

In an interview, Canonigo discussed that he looks forward to gain new knowledge from international experts and other student-researchers in the field of health, science, and kinesiology.

"I am excited to present my work there to gain valuable insights and engage in meaningful academic discussions... Whatever I learn there, I plan to bring back to the classroom and share with my classmates and teachers, helping enrich discussions, inspire new research ideas, and encourage more students to get involved in global academic activities," he explained.

Dr. Ruben L. Tagare, a faculty member of the College of Human Kinetics at USM, recommended the students for the opportunity. In a Facebook post, Dr. Tagare expressed his gratitude for yet another chance given to his students to showcase their potential on an international stage.

"This year, we were truly blessed when two of our students were accepted into prestigious international scholarships under the IOHSK. And now, our hearts are overflowing with joy once again as two of our BPEd students have been awarded the IOHSK Travel and Research Grants to participate in the 9th International Conference on July 22–24, 2025, in Seoul, South Korea.... To Dr. Hosung So and the entire International Organization for Health, Sports, and Kinesiology family, words will never be enough to express our gratitude," his post said.

IOHSK, on their social media post, said that they are deeply thankful to all donors whose generosity has made this opportunity possible for our international members. And that IOHSK is excited to host the recipients at the international conference and looks forward to welcoming them to Seoul, Korea.

Link to article in the USM Website: <https://www.usm.edu.ph/usm-bped-students-to-represent-usm-at-international-conference-in-seoul-korea/>

15. USM Physics Student Earns Best Oral Presenter Award at International Conference



Miles Angelo P. Sodejana, a 4th-year BS Applied Physics student from the University of Southern Mindanao (USM), earned the Best Oral Presenter Award at the International Conference on Particles and Radiation held on October 23–25, 2025, at the University of San Agustin, Iloilo City.

His research paper, titled “Circular Motion of Magnetized Particles around Uniformly Magnetized Schwarzschild Black Holes,” was advised and co-authored by Dr. Jelly Grace Nonesa.

Sodejana presented his paper alongside foreign researchers, postdoctoral fellows, professors, and graduate students from renowned institutions such as UP, UST, MSU-IIT, and universities in Italy, Germany, Thailand, Malaysia, Indonesia, Japan, and France. When the Best Oral Presenter Award was declared, a moment of pride for the university resonated when the recognition went to “USM–Philippines.”

Because of his Best Presenter win, Sodejana, together with his teammates and adviser, has been invited to an international astrophysics conference in Thailand next year.

Among the delegation were the following:

Shahannie Akmad – 4BS Chemistry
DC Lou Belle Arimang – Physics Faculty
Winsome Carl Camus – 4BS Chemistry
Norhanie Malidas – 4BS Applied Physics

Meljean Digawan – 4BS Applied Physics
Baihanan Dilangalen – 4BS Applied Physics
Noron Nasiha Ismael – 4BS Applied Physics
Dr. Jelly Grace Nonesa – Adviser

The Samahang Pisika ng Visayas at Mindanao (SPVM) and the University of San Agustin organized the international conference, which brought together physicists, researchers, and students from across the Philippines and abroad. Participants shared innovations and findings in high-energy physics, radiation physics, particle interactions, and other related disciplines.

Link to article in the USM Website: <https://www.usm.edu.ph/usm-physics-student-earns-best-oral-presenter-award-at-international-conference/>

16. USM Students represent PH in int'l confab in Malaysia



PhotoSynth, a startup team composed of DOST scholars from the University of Southern Mindanao (USM), proudly represented the Philippines during the International Digital Economy Conference Sarawak (IDECS) 2025, held on October 22–23, 2025, at the Borneo Convention Centre Kuching (BCKK), Malaysia.

Nystee Margotte Diaz, a science education student, and Joyshaira Kate VM Toribio, a civil engineering student represented the team. As one of the startup awardees of the Scholars Technopreneurship Training Program (STTP) under the Department of Science and Technology – Science Education Institute (DOST-SEI) and the DOST Regional Office XII, PhotoSynth joined over 120 exhibitors and thousands of participants from across Asia to promote technology-driven innovation for sustainability and community development.

Representing the Philippine delegation, the USM team showcased its innovation, ChloroMeds, at the StartUps Village, one of the main highlights of IDECS 2025. The exhibit attracted attention from various industries, offices, and agencies, including the Malaysia Bioeconomy Development Corporation, which expressed interest in exploring future collaborations with the team.

PhotoSynth's participation underscored USM's growing role in advancing research and innovation beyond the national level, aligning with the university's vision of being a globally competitive institution committed to innovation and societal impact.

PhotoSynth's involvement in IDECS 2025 was made possible through the support of the Sarawak Digital Economy Corporation (SDEC) and Leave a Nest Philippines, Inc., which provided avenues for international exposure, collaboration, and learning among emerging Filipino innovators.

Text: Rico John Gorieza, Former EIC, The Mindanao Tech, USM Alumnus

Link to article in the USM Website: <https://www.usm.edu.ph/usmians-photosynth-represents-ph-in-intl-confab-in-malaysia/>

17. USM Connects with South Korea as Dr. Oh Eung-Soo Introduces Global Sport FunEBall



The University of Southern Mindanao (USM) strengthened its global linkages as it welcomed Professor Dr. Oh Eung-Soo from Dong-A University, South Korea, who personally introduced FunEBall—a sport he invented to promote inclusivity, teamwork, and enjoyment among students and teachers. The professor paid a courtesy visit to USM President Dr. Jonald Pimentel at the Office of the President on October 20, 2025, where he turned over FunEBall equipment to the university. He later conducted a meeting with the College of Human Kinetics (CHK) faculty for discussions on sports innovation and international collaboration.

Moreover, he also held an international lecture, demonstration, and FunEBall tournament for USM students the next day at the USM Auditorium. The activity showcased the sport's values of inclusivity, cooperation, and fun, with students and faculty actively joining both the demo and the friendly competition. Dr. Oh, a professor and inventor from Dong-A University, explained that FunEBall, short for Fun and Easy Ball for Everyone, was developed to make physical education more engaging and inclusive. *"FunEBall is designed to help teachers and students maximize participation. Everyone can play and enjoy,"* he said.

He also shared his journey as an educator. *"I worked hard to finish my degree. I wanted to teach PE, but later I realized I wanted to teach the teachers of PE,"* Dr. Oh said.

"I believe God always leads me and helps me. So, if you are challenging something, God will lead you," he added. The visit culminated with the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between USM and Korean FunEBall Association, Dong-A University, signifying their commitment to strengthening academic and sports collaboration.





Link to article in the USM Website: <https://www.usm.edu.ph/usm-connects-with-south-korea-as-dr-oh-eung-soo-introduces-global-sport-funeball/>

18. USM Leads Regional IZN & TNHE Caravan, ASEAN 2025 Youth Forum Focusing on Inclusivity, Sustainability



The University of Southern Mindanao (USM) hosted the Internationalization and Transnational Higher Education (IZN and TNHE) Caravan & ASEAN 2025 Youth Forum, bringing together students, educators, and partner institutions from across Region XII to tackle the theme “Inclusivity and Sustainability” on August 29, 2025, at the University Auditorium, USM, Kabacan, Cotabato.

Regional Director Engr. Phlorita Riadao, Department of Economy, Planning, and Development XII, in her speech, underscored the importance of equipping the youth with inclusive and sustainable perspectives as they lead future communities. The forum became a venue for dialogue on ASEAN priorities.



Meanwhile, messages of support also came from Cotabato Governor Emmylou “Lala” Taliño-Mendoza “Today remind us that working together is so

important. Not just as a province or as a region but as part of one ASEAN community” she mentioned.

Also, Commission on Higher Education Regional Office XII Regional Director Dr. Rody P. Garcia thanked the USM and its leaders for being the warriors in terms of promoting quality instruction, research, and extension. “USM is the leading university, in terms of world ranking university in Region 12,” he stated. “We believe that we can achieve greatest thing when we are united,” he added.

Further, a recorded message from Hon. Deddy Faisal Ahmad Salleh, Consulate General of Malaysia in Davao City, reaffirmed ASEAN’s commitment to shared growth and cooperation.

In the youth presentations, the Makilala Institute of Science and Technology (MIST) secured first place, followed by the University of Southern Mindanao (USM) in second, and the Notre Dame of Midsayap College (NDMC) in third. NDMC was also recognized with the Best Booth award in the ASEAN exhibit competition. The ASEAN Youth Forum Presentation serves as a venue for students to craft policy proposals that respond to the social, economic, and environmental concerns of Region XII. The event spearheaded by the Commission on Higher Education Regional Office XII (CHEDRO XII) in partnership with USM Office of International Affairs headed by Prof. Bryan Bretaña, showed how inclusivity and sustainability remain central to ASEAN’s 2025 vision

Link to article in the USM Website: <https://www.usm.edu.ph/usm-leads-regional-izn-tuhe-caravan-asean-2025-youth-forum-focusing-on-inclusivity-sustainability/>

19. AMSC Taps USM for Insights on Globalization, SDG Work



Personnel from Adiong Memorial State College (AMSC) visited the University of Southern Mindanao (USM) to explore how the university handles internationalization, digital systems for Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), and participation in global university rankings on August 5, 2025.

Hosted by USM’s Office of International Affairs (OIA) through its Director, Prof. Bryan Bretaña, the benchmarking session focused on how USM works in aligning its academic and community programs with global frameworks like the Times Higher Education Impact Rankings and World University Rankings for Innovation (WURI).

According to Prof. Bretaña, the university put real effort into globalization. USM invested budget in strengthening digital infrastructure, including the launch of its SDG Hub, a web platform that tracks programs and news articles based on the SDGs. The tool is part of USM's strategy to map and monitor its contributions to development goals, making data easier to share with global partners.

Mr. Aliasgar M. Mimbawag, Information Officer, led the AMSC delegation. Joining him we're Omaidah B. Adiong, Sohryah A. Jamel, Abdul Fattah M. Minalang, and Jeanette Louise Labial. The visit ended with an open discussion on how state universities can work together to boost their visibility and impact by meeting international standards.



Link to article in the USM Website: <https://www.usm.edu.ph/amsc-taps-usm-for-insights-on-globalization-sdg-work/>

20. USM Shares Internationalization Strategies with SKSU



Prof. Bryan Lloyd P. Bretaña, the Director of the Office of International Affairs (OIA) welcomed the delegation from Sultan Kudarat State University (SKSU) for a benchmarking activity on internationalization on July 30, 2025 at the University Skyroom, USM, Kabacan, Cotabato.

He presented the USM's key initiatives on internationalization, outlining the university's strategic approach to improve its standing in the global impact rankings and visibility. He emphasized the role of the OIA in fostering international collaborations and showcased the office's accomplishments over the years. He also highlighted the USM GreenBridge, a dedicated section of the university's website that features activities, articles, and news aligned with the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

As the President of the Council of International Relations Officers (CIRO) in Region XII, Prof. Bretaña consistently conducts mentorship to State Universities and Colleges (SUCs) and private higher education institutions, to offer strategic guidance on internationalization initiatives and to help them advance toward global university rankings. The SKSU delegation expressed their appreciation to USM OIA for accepting the request on mentoring them on internationalization. Dr. Marites B. Java, the Vice President for Academic Affairs of SKSU, headed the delegation that included directors and focal persons from SKSU's Legal Office, Quality Assurance, Instruction, and International Affairs.



Link to article in the USM Website: <https://www.usm.edu.ph/usm-shares-internationalization-strategies-with-sksu/>

21. USM Reinforces Global Engagement by Joining 2025 International COIL Conference



To reinforce its commitment to internationalization and global academic partnerships, Dr. Jonald Pimentel, the University President and Prof. Bryan Bretaña, Director, Office of International Affairs participated in the 2025 International Collaborative Online International Learning (COIL) Conference held at the Green Leaf Hotel, General Santos City on May 21-22, 2025.

Organized by the Commission on Higher Education- International Affairs Service with Holy Child Central Colleges, Inc., and USM being one of the supporting Higher Education Institution, the two-day event was themed, "Transforming Local to Global Academia: Advancing Inclusive Internationalization through Collaborative Online International Learning." Bringing together local and international educators, and administrators, the global collaboration advocates to explore how COIL can bridge educational systems across borders.

The conference featured high-level keynote speeches from international academic leaders including Hope Windle (SUNY COIL Center), Prof. Keiko Ikeda (Kansai University, Japan), and Prof. Kelly Moran (University of Hawaii at Hilo, USA), among others. The program also included the launching and signing of the Manual of Cooperation, sessions on strategic COIL planning, and institutional networking activities. The participation of Dr. Pimentel and Prof. Bretaña underlined USM's strategic goals of integrating global perspectives into its curriculum and enhancing cross-border collaborations for faculty and student development.



Link to article in the USM Website: <https://www.usm.edu.ph/usm-reinforces-global-engagement-by-joining-2025-international-coil-conference/>

22. USM Leads Regional Push for Website Enhancement, Global Visibility at CHEDRO XII Workshop



As a premier higher education institution in Region XII, the University of Southern Mindanao (USM) reaffirmed its leadership in internationalization efforts by spearheading the recent Website Enhancement Strategies Workshop hosted by the Commission on Higher Education Regional Office XII (CHEDRO XII) on April 22, 2025, at the CHEDRO XII Regional Center, Koronadal City.

USM representatives, Prof. Bryan Lloyd Bretaña, Prof. Eugene Ranjo, and Prof. Alvin Mibalo, shared their expertise on key areas such as website development best practices, international accessibility standards, and the use of analytics to drive web performance. Their insights aimed to empower participating institutions to strengthen their digital presence and align with global education standards.

A total of 11 Higher Education Institutions (HEIs), took part in the capacity-building event themed “Strengthening Institutional Visibility: Enhancing HEI Websites for Global Competitiveness.”

In an interview with the University Public Relations and Information Office (UPRIO), Prof. Bretaña highlighted USM’s upcoming initiatives, including on-site visits to various HEIs across the region to offer targeted support and mentorship. These efforts are part of USM’s strong commitment to

advancing the internationalization and global competitiveness of the higher education sector in Region XII.



Link to article in the USM Website: <https://www.usm.edu.ph/usm-leads-regional-push-for-website-enhancement-global-visibility-at-chedro-xii-workshop/>

23. USM Advances Internationalization Efforts with Lecture by Japanese Expert on Violence, Human Rights, and Harassment in Universities



The University of Southern Mindanao (USM) took a step toward internationalization by hosting a lecture on violence, human rights violations, and harassment in universities on March 21, 2025, at the University Commercial Building, USM, Kabacan, Cotabato. This initiative was organized under the leadership of Prof. Bryan Lloyd Breña, Director of the Office of International Affairs, in collaboration with the Office of the Vice President for Academic Affairs and the USM Extension Services Office. It demonstrates USM's commitment to fostering international collaboration and expanding its global network. Hiromi Yamauchi, an Associate Professor from Harassment Consultation Office, Hiroshima University, Japan and a clinical psychologist served as the keynote speaker. Her participation exemplifies USM's effort to learn from global perspectives on addressing sensitive issues within the academic environment. The lecture addressed sexual harassment, gender-based violence (GBV), and gender harassment, focusing on barriers to reporting and available support systems. Yamauchi provided a comparative analysis of anti-harassment policies in Japan and the Philippines, noting that while Japan has stricter policies, reporting rates remain low. Conversely, the Philippines has progressive laws but faces enforcement challenges. Faculty members actively engaged in discussions, voicing their concerns and raising thought-provoking questions.

Dr. Debbie Marie Verzosa, USM Vice President for Research, Development, and Extension, emphasized the importance of international perspectives in shaping more effective policies. She highlighted that many cases still go unreported, reiterating USM's commitment to strengthen its anti-harassment policies, enhance reporting mechanisms, and ensure proper implementation. Following the lecture, a discussion was held between USM and Professor Yamauchi to explore potential partnerships and collaborative projects. These talks aimed to strengthen institutional ties, facilitate research exchanges, and promote a deeper understanding of global issues affecting university communities.



Link to article in the USM Website: <https://www.usm.edu.ph/usm-advances-internationalization-efforts-with-lecture-by-japanese-expert-on-violence-human-rights-and-harassment-in-universities/>

24. USM Strengthens International Engagement in PEHEIC Meeting



The University of Southern Mindanao (USM) reinforced its commitment to regional collaboration and academic development by actively participating in the Philippine-EAGA Higher Education Institutions Consortium (PEHEIC) hybrid meeting on March 5, 2025.

Held at the CHED Regional Office XI Conference Hall, the event gathered key education leaders to discuss strategic initiatives for the Brunei Darussalam, Indonesia, Malaysia, and Philippines-East ASEAN Growth Area region.

As one of the nine founding member higher education institutions (HEIs) of the consortium, USM played a crucial role in advancing discussions on PEHEIC's 2025-2026 strategic direction, membership expansion, and preparations for the upcoming BIMP-EAGA Research Conference and Training.

Represented by USM Vice President for Research, Development, and Extension (VPRDE) Dr. Debbie Marie B. Verzosa, and Prof. Bryan Lloyd P. Bretaña, Executive Assistant for International Affairs, the university reaffirmed its commitment to strengthening academic and research collaborations within the region. Currently, Prof. Bryan Bretaña serves as a member of the Technical Working Group (TWG) and the Vice President for External Affairs of PEHEIC, further solidifying USM's presence in the consortium's leadership and decision-making processes.

The meeting, hosted by CHED Regional Office XI, was attended by CHED RO XI Regional Director, Dr. Maricar R. Casquejo, PEHEIC President, Dr. Hanlie A. Taha, and PEHEIC Founding Officers and Advisory Board members from Regions IX, X, XI, XII, CARAGA, MIMAROPA, and BARMM. Aligned with CHED's Internationalization Roadmap, USM's participation highlights its dedication to fostering regional cooperation and expanding opportunities for academic growth.



Link to article in the USM Website: <https://www.usm.edu.ph/usm-strengthens-international-engagement-in-peheic-meeting/>

25. USM Leads Regional Collaboration in Strengthening Internationalization Initiatives through CIRO XII



The University of Southern Mindanao played an active role in the Council of International Relations Officers (CIRO) XII Annual Oath-Taking and Induction Ceremony on January 17, 2025, at Cinco Niñas, Koronadal City, South Cotabato. Representing USM, Prof. Bryan Lloyd Bretaña, the



newly inducted CIRO XII President, pledged to enhance collaboration among higher educational institutions in Region XII.

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Bretaña, the newly inducted CIRO XII President, pledged to enhance collaboration among higher educational institutions in Region XII.

The ceremony also included the formal presentation of CIRO XII's leadership. Following the ceremony, the council held a meeting to discuss the Vision, Mission, Goals and Objectives, Constitutional By-Laws, committee members and leaders, and other important matters.

Beyond its formalities, the event provided a platform for fellowship and networking, strengthening ties among leaders in the academic community. USM's prominent role in the proceedings reaffirmed its commitment to regional educational development and leadership in shaping the future of higher education in Region XII.



Link to article in the USM Website: <https://www.usm.edu.ph/usm-leads-regional-collaboration-in-strengthening-internationalization-initiatives-through-ciro-xii/>

