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FROM THE EDITOR

When the Faculty Center (FC) was gutted in April 2016, I did not only lose a personal working space. I lost a lot of pamana – 18th and 19th century komedya and sarsuwela manuscripts, especially the Salat (Komedya de Angeles) original written (or more appropriately annotated) by my lolo.

“Pamana” is loosely translated as inheritance, but some Filipinologists also use it as the direct translation of heritage in Filipino. Commonly, ‘pamana’ is passed on from one generation to the next and has a historic or cultural value.

The manuscripts in my FC office were passed on from one generation to another. My lolo and his contemporaries received them from their elders. These then were handed over to me in hope that I become instrumental in the conservation and preservation of these cultural assets that belong to the rich literary and performing arts heritage of my city. Moreso, it was important for my older folks that I do the same in the future: pass on the same cultural assets to future generations.

I mourned over these pamana. Until now, I cannot completely say I have moved on over the loss of these treasures.

This issue of UPDate Diliman is not really about pamana. However, the stories are about passing on ideas from one generation to another: the significance of data privacy vis-à-vis security, coming from the rich literary and performing arts heritage of my city.

These wise words are pamana not only dedicated to our UP MBT but also to every Isko and Iska. UP Diliman has always served as a dingas (spark) of ideas, creativity and even hope amidst political turmoil. There are times the fire is shut off. But it is not a reason to fret and to look down because we know, one day, that light will be lit again.

Sir Anril Pineda Tiatco  
Editor
In 2016, a Manila public school teacher was scammed by a person after he uploaded a photo of his newly earned professional ID card in Facebook. This photo was used to take out loans amounting to ₱800,000 from three different banks.

Identity theft is just one of the cybercrimes that violate a person’s data privacy, or the “right to keep personal information private.” RA 10173 or the Data Privacy Act of 2012 defines personal information as “any information whether recorded in a material form or not, from which the identity of an individual is apparent or can be reasonably and directly ascertained by the entity holding the information, or when put together with other information would directly and certainly identify an individual.”

Whether as a whole or in part, anything that can positively identify or single out an individual (also known as “data subject”) is personal information. It can include anything from a person’s marital status or PhilHealth records to his/her religion or political ideologies.

RA 10173 laid out the rights of the data subject with regard to their personal information: the right to be informed of the nature and extent of the information manipulation, the right to object, the right to access the collected information, the right to rectification, the right to erase or blocking, the right to damages and the right to file a complaint.

Violation of the Data Privacy Act, if proven in a court of law, can result in penalties ranging from one and a half years of imprisonment with a ₱500,000 fine to up to seven years in prison with a ₱1-million fine.

DATA PRIVACY AT UPD. In a data privacy seminar held on Mar. 14 at the School of Labor and Industrial Relations Auditorium, UP Data Protection Officer and head of the UP Data Protection Team, lawyer Elson Manahan likened personal information’s value to that of money, saying “...pera mo, iwan mo ba sa lamesa mo tapos magla-lunch break ka? Hindi di ba?”

The University’s data privacy policies are outlined in the UP Diliman (UPD) Data Privacy Portal (https://upd.edu.ph/privacy/). This covers topics ranging from placing the UPD Privacy and Confidentiality Notice at the end of every official email to creating “terms of use” notices for those connecting to WiFi@UPD hotspots.

Manahan said it is a lot of grounds to cover, and integrating data privacy in practice is easier said than done. A large portion of data and information contamination arises from human error or employee oversight. He claims this is also partly from the openness of Filipino culture.


As employees of the country’s national university, data privacy is important. “…[T]ayo po ay nasa pinakamahusay na unibersidad sa buong bansa. That makes us a high value target. Maraming masasamang loob na maaaring magnakaw ng impormasyon,” Manahan said.

Even something as innocuous as leaving documents containing personal information on top of work desks for everyone to see is potentially dangerous. Manahan admits that because such habits have been done for years, the UP Data Protection Team is taking its time to advise UPD employees.


Overseeing data privacy in the country is the National Privacy Commission (NPC), an independent body created in 2016 to “administer and implement the
Data Privacy Act of 2012 and to monitor and ensure the country’s compliance with international standards set for data protection.”

The commission’s efforts bore fruit on Oct. 25, 2018 when the Philippines gained a voting seat in the 5-member executive committee of the International Conference of Data Protection and Privacy Commissioners, a worldwide conference of 119 independent regulators from all over the world considered the world premiere body on data protection and privacy.

Public awareness of the right to privacy has larger implications because technology companies like Google and FB are able to use personal information to deliver targeted advertisements to its users.

For example, if a person liked FB pages about animals or went on a Youtube binge of funny cat videos, he or she can reasonably expect to see “more of what they love” in the form of online advertisements for pet supplies, a page for cat breeding services or suggestions of an FB group for cat video enthusiasts.

Or say a commercial brand wants to reach out to young people. It can create a Facebook page and pay the company to put its page’s latest posts in the timeline of users born in 2000 onwards.

Apply this to topics like politics or the ongoing drug war, multiply it by large groups of people in social-media savvy Philippines, compound it over a period of time and the discussion may take a darker turn.

If the public is aware of data privacy and the personal information they are entitled to and should not give away, it will be harder for unsavory elements to target them online and in real life.

While the field of data privacy is relatively new, integrating its principles and making it a natural part of the ebb and flow of daily work will go a long way to protecting the life and property of thousands of faculty, students and staff in UPD.
Responding to the changing educational and economic situation worldwide, the UP Dilliman (UPD) University Council (UC) approved the 2017 New UPD General Education (GE) Program at its 142nd Special Meeting immediately after the UPD GE Conference on Mar. 20, 2017 at the National Institute of Physics Auditorium.

The two main factors for the change are the implementation of the K-12 program and the ‘internationalisation’ of higher education particularly in the context of the ASEAN integration, which are cited in the 2013 UP GE Program revision proposal from the UP System GE Council. Prior to the approval, a series of conferences in UPD were held to discuss issues raised by those for and against the 2017 New UPD GE Program, specifically the reduction of GE units and revision of the objectives of the GE program.

“We are the last constituent university (CU) to approve the new GE framework as the other constituent universities approved it a year earlier,” said UPD Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs Evangeline C. Amor. The 2017 New UPD GE Program consists of 21 units of core GE courses and 0 to 24 units of program-strand courses for a total of 21 to 45 units, depending on the degree programs of different academic units.

The K-12 program, or the Enhanced Basic Education Act of 2013 (RA 10533), “encompasses at least one year of kindergarten education, six years of elementary education, and six years of secondary education which includes four years of junior high school and two years of senior high school (SHS) education.” This was signed into law on May 15, 2013 but the implementation for the kindergarten education started as early as June 2012. Two salient features are the “mother-tongue based multi-lingual education” and the “specialized kindergarten education.”

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The effects are consequential. Example is the major change in Mathematics subjects. “There are no more Math 11 (College Algebra), Math 14 (Plane Trigonometry) and Math 17 (Algebra and Trigonometry) since these will be taught in SHS. Math 53, 54 and 55 (Calculus series) were changed to Math 21, 22 and 23. There is a non-credit audit course offered by the Institute of Mathematics to ensure that the student is ready to take Math 21,” Amor explained.

Through the new SHS curriculum, select high school graduates could land a job because of their technical or vocational skills for the needed workforce in the ASEAN integration.

The ASEAN Economic Community (AEC) formed in 2015 is a major milestone of the regional economic integration agenda in ASEAN. This agenda, according to asean.org, is guided by the AEC Blueprint 2025 which is “aimed towards achieving the vision of having an AEC by 2025 that is highly integrated and cohesive; competitive, innovative and dynamic; with enhanced connectivity and sectoral cooperation; and a more resilient, inclusive, and people-oriented, people-centered community, integrated with the global economy.”

The AEC integration expects graduates to “possess 21st century skills of critical and creative thinking, oral and written communication, innovation, flexibility and adaptability, team player, social and cultural awareness, and civic leadership.”

The Key Evaluation of the GE Program (K-Eval GE) Functional Evaluation, and the Student Performance Evaluation at the end of the five-year program, will be used to evaluate the success of the program.

Evaluating the GE Program. While the GE program had undergone several major and minor revisions, it remains the embodiment of the UP tradition of “liberal education for the Filipino” as articulated in the inaugural address of UP President Rafael Palma in 1925. “The primary aim of all education is to form the habit of thinking, of judging facts and circumstances in their proper light, of logically deducing inferences from them – and this aim cannot be attained save through the instrumentality of a liberal education.”

EFFECTS OF K-12 AND ASEAN INTEGRATION. “The reduced number of GE courses resulted from the review of our GE program as early as 2013 because of the two factors and this led to a mandatory review of all curriculum of undergraduate degree programs,” Amor said.

To align with the revised GE framework, all existing GE courses will have to be reconfigured and revised which includes updating of the syllabus used, topics discussed, materials needed and teaching methods done. On the other hand, some academic units proposed newly-instituted GE courses in accordance with the 2017 New UPD GE Program.

“I also recall at the start of the reviews that the main point of discussion is the additional two senior high school years. Even before the GE proposal came, our conversations focused on the college courses that will also be taught in Grades 11 and 12. So that will free up some space. Will you add major courses or reduce the length of your program? Those were the earliest questions,” former UPD GE Center Director Carlene P.C. Pilar-Arceo said.

The seven core GE courses (three units each) for UPD students are Philo 1 (Philosophical Analysis); Kas 1 (Kasaysayan ng Pilipinas); Fil 40 (Wika, Kultura at Lipunan); Arts 1 (Critical Perspectives in the Arts); Soc Sci 2 (Social, Economic and Political Thought); Eng 13 (Writing as Thinking) or Speech 30 (Public Speaking and Persuasion); and STS 1 (Science, Technology and Society) or DRMAC (Disaster Risk Mitigation, Adaptation, and Preparedness Strategies).
The latest 2017 New UPD GE Program, as stated in the final version of the 2016 UP GE Framework prepared by the UP GE Task Force headed by Prof. Patricia B. Arinto of UP Open University, “shall provide students with a broad foundation of study that will broaden intellectual and cultural horizons, hone critical and creative thinking, develop a passion for learning and scholarship, cultivate a high sense of intellectual and moral integrity, and foster a commitment to nationalism and social justice.”

In the framework, there should be regular evaluations done at the CU and System levels “to ensure that courses and the program as a whole remain relevant and effective; and to measure the achievement of the knowledge, skill and attitudinal dimensions of the GE program and course objectives.”

“The System GE Council already launched a GE portal last Dec. 4 where a survey for the GE courses will be answered by both students and faculty,” Pilar-Arceo said.

In 2017, the UPD GE Committee and Ad Hoc Committee conducted a survey on the GE program from Jan. 17 to Feb. 25 for UPD alumni and students with student numbers 1960s to 2010s. The purpose of the survey is to get “a feedback on perceptions on GE subjects, the factors for choosing or recommending GE subjects, and suggestions on improving the GE program.”

The survey is neither a (complete) census nor a (representative) survey, and is made to capture the pulse and/or snapshots of opinions.

FUTURE OF GE PROGRAM. “At this point, the future of this new GE program cannot be ascertained because it only started recently. In terms of achieving the ‘Tatak UP’ education [humanism and nationalism], I think it cannot be attributed solely to the GE program, but should be evaluated as a whole, as part of the degree program,” Amor said.

The assessment on the effects of the new GE program will be after students graduate. This is already in the radar of the UP System, specifically the Office of the Vice President for Academic Affairs (OVPAA).

As far as UPD OVCAA and the UPD GE Center are concerned, we will do our best that the GE program will realize its goals. We are now looking into how to evaluate the GE program – is it achieving its objectives, are there concerns, how to address the concerns, and other related issues,” Amor said.

For her part, Pilar-Arceo said, “We will do our best to see to it that the teachers, students, the program and the courses are guided accordingly. We will see to it that the operationalization, everything, will be as smooth as possible.”

Source: GE through the Years 2010 to 2017 by OVCAA. The OVCAA, OAT and GEC, together with the UP Diliman GE Committee, have expended all efforts to make this GE Timeline comprehensive.

In 1996, tragedy struck the province of Marinduque when the drainage tunnels of the open pit where the Marcopper Mining Corporation had been keeping its tailings ruptured, spilling tons of toxic mine waste into the Boac River, killing plant and animal life and turning the water an iridescent blue.

The incident forced the government to declare the Boac River, a major source of livelihood for the surrounding villages, dead. Marcopper mining soon ceased operations.

Disposing of mine tailings, or the materials left over after the target metal has been extracted from the raw ore, is one of the most important concerns of any mining operation.

Because it is toxic and is left behind long after the mine has dried up, tailings are almost always quarantined and are a big source of headache.

Tailings are often highly acidic and still contain high concentrations of the target metal dissolved inside it. A study conducted by Ma. Chela Cenia, a graduate student of the College of Engineering Environmental Engineering program, thinks that by floating grass on the tailings, it is possible to not only reduce its toxicity, but also to extract more of the target metal.

The method is called phytomining, the production of a ‘crop’ of a metal by growing high-biomass plants that accumulate high metal concentrations. Phytomining is a type of phytotechnology, an emerging field that uses plants to solve engineering and scientific problems.

Unlike traditional technologies that may have high energy requirements and involve the use of chemicals/costly raw materials and equipment, phytotechnology is powered by sunlight and requires minimal manpower.

Working under the guidance of Prof. Herman D. Mendoza, PhD of the Department of Mining, Metallurgical and Materials Engineering and Prof. Juliana Janet M. Puzon, PhD of the Institute of Biology, Cenia and graduate assistants Marecris Soriano and Richelle Aragua conducted a series of experiments from 2016 to 2017 investigating how much copper can be taken in by vetiver grass and if the copper can be extracted from that grass.

For her study, Cenia chose to use Chrysopogon zizanioides (L.) Roberty, or vetiver grass, a perennial bunchgrass (grass that grows in clumps) native to India. They sourced the vetiver from local companies Cocos Nucifera Pacific Corporation and Vetiver Farms Inc.

Aside from its fast growth and resistance to a variety of plant stressors such as acidity, weather and water conditions, vetiver is also a hyperaccumulator, a plant able to absorb large amounts of nutrients including heavy metals.
Cenia conducted the study at the Materials Recovery Facility in UP Diliman using tailings taken from a small-scale plant in Benguet province.

One-month old seedlings were placed on pontoons (flatbottomed boats where the grass can sit) and made to float in a solution containing copper extracted from the tailings. The solution is meant to simulate the wastewater found in tailings storage facilities.

The researchers discovered that the longer the vetiver was in the solution, the more copper it absorbed, but only up to a certain point before the plant would begin to die because of the amount of copper in it.

To extract the copper, vetiver was harvested, dried and burned. The ashes were then dissolved in citric acid to dissolve the copper in them.

Citric acid is organic and easier to handle compared to inorganic acids like sulfuric acid. It eventually breaks down and becomes a natural part of the environment it was released in.

After two years of experimentation and study, Cenia discovered that it is possible to recover approximately 2 grams of copper for every 1,000 grams of dried vetiver grass that had been exposed to the copper solution for six weeks.

“Para sa akin siya yung optimum kasi kinonconsider mo rin yung ibang factors like time so pweede mo na siyang kunin tapos magatman ka na lang ng hagao para mas maraming saiyang nakuha,” Cenia said.

Cenia’s study has been featured in several international conferences. In 2016, it was featured in the 9th Annual Conference on the Challenges in Environmental Science and Engineering in Kaohsiung, Taiwan. In 2017, Cenia’s group gave an oral presentation at the 13th International Conference on Environmental Science and Technology in Rhodes, Greece. And in 2018, they presented their study at the 11th Regional Conference on Environmental Engineering in Phnom Penh, Cambodia.

Decades after the Marcopper mining disaster, residents of the surrounding areas are still feeling its effects. In 2017, the “Philippine Daily Inquirer” reported that the government detected leaks in one of the abandoned dams that might still contain tailings.

While Cenia admits that phytomining is a very attractive option environmentally as it uses no chemicals or electricity, it’s far less efficient than traditional methods of tailings disposal.


“Para sa akin, more research pa para mas maging viable siya. Pero kung kasi itingganan mo siya [from the point of view] na nullilin mo iyong environent at the same time may mabukas ka[ng material], Marami pang study na pwedeng magawa. Hindi ko pa siya nagawa sa actual mine tailings pond so maganda siguro kung may mag-study na gawin siya doon or gawin siya sa mine tailings mismo, iyong ores mismo,” she said.

She hopes other researchers would take an interest in phytomining as the field is relatively new but the benefits are worth the effort. She said two ways the study could be taken further is to conduct a cost-benefit analysis of her method to determine its financial viability, and develop methods to improve its efficiency.

Although toxic to plants and animals in large amounts, copper is also the third widely used metal in the world after iron and aluminum. The Philippines is home to three active copper mines and produced P20 billion worth of copper concentrate in 2018 according to the Mines and Geosciences Bureau.

THE SURVEYS. Among the government surveys on hunger are the National Nutrition Survey (NNS) of the Food and Nutrition Institute of the Department of Science and Technology, the Food Consumption Survey (FCS) and the Family Income and Expenditure Survey (FIES) of the Philippine Statistics Authority (PSA).

THE SOURCE

by Chi A. Ibay

PHILIPPINE NATIONAL HEALTH RESEARCH SYSTEM

HUNGER. David defines hunger as the painful sensation caused by lack of food; the recurrent and involuntary lack of access to food. “Hunger is a feeling. There is inadequate access to food due to socio-economic deprivation which is distinctly different from a feeling of hunger.”

There are direct and indirect measures of hunger, she said.

“You can measure nutrition or energy intake. You can measure whether a child is undernourished or not but whether they feel hungry is something they experience: they have to tell you. A direct measure of hunger is asking someone if they feel hungry.”

On the other hand, she said “Indicators such as whether you have money to purchase food, how many times you ate, etc. are all derived and are not direct measures of hunger.”

There are a number of surveys on poverty and hunger.

From 1999 to 2013, government poverty surveys estimated the number of Filipino families who experienced hunger at 9.4, 8.9 and 6.2 percent.

For the same period however, the Social Weather Station (SWS) Survey was in the area of 20 percent. “The figures do not agree” said Prof. Clarissa C. David, PhD of the College of Mass Communication.

In the paper “Validity of Self-Reported Hunger,” David examines self-reported measures of hunger, comparing the SWS estimates with government methods and results. The study sought to examine the validity of SWS estimates “by investigating the methodological differences: how are these things measured, comparing the SWS estimates with government methods and results and recommend their use if appropriate.”
Done every five years, the FCS determines and evaluates the food intakes, nutrition and health status of Filipinos and provides official statistics on food, nutrition and health situations of the country. They literally measure how much soy sauce you consumed a day, how much sugar, etc. It is a very detailed counting of your intake,” she explained.

The NNS, through its component the FCS, also measures self-reported food insecurity every three years through a series of questions. According to its website, the NNS has evolved to become the key source of data for the national government not just on nutrition-related information but on health matters as well.

The FIES is conducted every three years and measures income and does not actually measure how much food one consumes or how often the respondent is hungry. “They make a theoretical calculation of much you should be spending on food so that you won’t be food poor,” David said.

According to the PSA’s website, the FIES provides data on family income and expenditure which include, among others, levels of consumption by item of expenditure as well as sources of income in cash and in kind.”

On the other hand, the SWS surveys, which are done quarterly, are on self-reported hunger. The SWS is a non-stock, non-profit research institution. According to its website, its survey questions about the family’s experience of hunger are directed to the household head. “These items are non-commissioned and are always included on SWS’s own initiative and released as public service.”

SURVEY METHODOLOGIES. According to David, estimates on food and subsistence poverty, along with income-derived estimates of poverty and food security are all derived from measures of hunger. However, there are differences in the sampling procedures and error margins, sampling errors in the conduct of the survey and in the measurement instruments of the various surveys.

David said the SWS would typically have larger error margins because the sample size is smaller, usually 1,200 households. National surveys are in the region of 60,000 and the FIES around 40,000 households.

“The margin of error is higher for SWS. It may or may not be larger than what they claim but not large enough to account for the differences in the actual results that we see. The sampling procedure on the ground uses fixed interval total which means that they may not be reaching most rural areas and households that are very far away from urban and town centers. Even if that were true, that would mean in fact that the estimates of the SWS are underestimated and not over estimated for hunger.”

In the SWS, the available measure is the self-reported question on hunger. “What it measures is a household with at least one member who experienced hunger at least once in the last three months,” David said.

She however clarified that the respondent did not go hungry because he or she was on a diet. “You were hungry because you did not have anything to eat. It is a Yes or No question.”

The NNS looks at food insecurity and uses a self-reported battery of nine questions. “The concern is that there is not enough to eat. It asks: Are you concerned there is not enough food for the family? Are you worried about food availability in the future? What is your experience of shortage of food?”

Food insecurity is defined by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations as the lack of a secure access to sufficient amounts of food for normal development.

According to David, in 2011, 69 percent of households in the Philippines reported themselves as food-insecure. “They calculate your income and say if you make this much, you don’t make enough money to purchase enough food for your family. Therefore you must be food-poor.”

According to David, food-poor in the Philippines is “something like 15 percent.”

Of all the hunger-related government data, food poverty, which is derived from income, is the most visible and widely used, David noted. “It is always much lower than the SWS and it is always stable and hardly ever changed,” David said.

While self-reported hunger is higher, she attributes
the volatility of hunger levels partly to the larger error margins and the fact that hunger is seasonal. “In rural areas, if you are past harvest season, there is no food; there is going to be more hunger than in harvest season.”

In urban areas, however, “hunger tends to be really, really high. If you don’t have money, you don’t eat. In rural areas, if you don’t have money, you still have stuff growing in your garden, or you can forage, or hunt then you can eat.”

CONCLUSIONS. So how does self-reported hunger relate with official measures?

David concludes that the SWS self-reported hunger is a closer representation of hunger than official government estimates.

“The measures of hunger in an analysis of matched 2003 NNS and FIES [data] show a 45 percent success rate of already classified food poor into energy-deficient households. For food insecurity, the first income decile—the poorest 68 percent—are food insecure. Of the 25 percent of the households which have below the recommended intake, 61 percent are food insecure and among the hungry. On self-reported hunger, 68 percent were food insecure.

David said these are comparable levels of validity in terms correlating hunger with the 87 percent of the poorest decile and by 10 percent of those who are in the first to third deciles. “Official measures are either indirect, infrequent or measure consequences of chronic hunger.” However, she cautions: “They do not measure hunger.”

She recommends a 4-item food and security hunger question which is to be given quarterly and reducing the experience of hunger from three to one month “to get a really more fine point to when they experience hunger as well as careful training and observation to reduce the interviewer effects in the survey.”
Five seasons ago or in UAAP Season 76, the Maroon cagers brought home an empty basket—0–14—becoming the center of ridicule among basketball fans and non-fans alike. Yet, the “fighting” in the Fighting Maroons prevailed, together with the mantra “nowhere to go but UP.” The battlecry consolidated the support of the win-hungry UP community and even became the name of an alumni group meant to offer help. As if a self-fulfilling legacy, the slogan “nowhere to go but UP” was later the name of an alumni group meant to support the win-hungry UP community and rally the support of the UPMBT members.

UPDATE: Why did you choose to serve as coach of the UPMBT?

COACH BO: That was a long process after coaching Ateneo. Siyempre, even when I was coaching Ateneo, there were friends, parang fellow alumni na nagtatangon na “Coach, after you are with Ateneo, pwede bang tulungan mo kami dito?” Kasi very obvious naman iyong need ng direction ng program at that time. But, siyempre, initially, wala talaga si isip ko ‘yung bumalik dito because I know the problem. Iyong isa sa mga assistant coaches ko sa Ateneo, siya ang head coach dito dati, si Coach Ricky Dandan. He would tell me about the challenges dito pero sabi ko, “Hindi coach ang kailangan ng UP kundi somebody himself whose eyes are set on building the team to bo-ttom dwellers to bo-ast-worthy; a returning talent man who helped propel the UPMBT from being up-bottom to becoming the center of ridicule among basketball fans and non-fans alike. Yet, the “fighting” in the Fighting Maroons prevailed, together with the mantra “nowhere to go but UP.” The battlecry consolidated the support of the win-hungry UP community and even became the name of an alumni group meant to offer help. As if a self-fulfilling legacy, the slogan “nowhere to go but UP” was later the name of an alumni group meant to support the win-hungry UP community and rally the support of the UPMBT members.

UPDATE: Of course, the UP Fighting Maroons has different temperaments and attitudes, how were you able to restore or strengthen the harmonious working relationship of the UPMBT members?


UPDATE: What are the concrete programs have you implemented to fix the problem?

CB: ‘Ang una naming ginawa diyan, siyempre ang pangingiba ‘ang iiba-ibang sectors na kasama muna. Una ni Chancie (Chancellor Michael Tan), kasi importante talaga ang suporta ni Chancie at that time. Kapapasok lang dito ‘ng President DandiCon (Danilo Concepcion) at that time. ‘Palagay ko 3 years ago.

Si Chancie, well, kilala niya ako dahlil sa isip ko na ‘yung na-join ako sa Ateneo. ‘But, he doesn’t know naging estudyante niya rin ako. ‘Noong sabihin ko sa kanya, nagkaroon siya ng suporta na “O siye. Ituloy mo ‘yan.”

Number two, iyong foundation na tumutulong talaga ‘yan. ‘Iyong Nowhere to go but UP Foundation and then, iyong mga sponsor natin, at then, iyong mga supporters natin. Iyong ‘yung mga tinatagaw kong pilars kasi kailangan mo ng support ng admin. So, si Chancie, talagang full support iyon. “O siye, Coach, kung ano ang maitutulong ko sabihin mo lang kung ano ‘ang ang weighing.” Pagdating naman dito sa mga ‘ang Nowhere to go but UP Foundation.
And then your Pangako, pag umaangat na ang programa mo, mangangalang kan ng mas maraming finances. Kailangan mo na ng training. Kailangan mo ng facility. Kapag najrecruit ka ng player, kailangan patitirahan mo rin iyong ng libre sa dorm. Bibigyan mo ng libreng pagkain, ng mga sapatos, ng living allowance. Kapag najrecruit ka ng Filipino-Americans o kaya imports katulad ni Bright, may mga asikasuhin ka na mangingalang kan ng finances.


**UPDATE:** Sa pag-aachieve po ng goals na ito, sino-sino kasama ninyo? Of course, hindi ito kakayanin ng supporters lang. Kasama niya, ‘yon coaches, the sponsors, ‘yon magpapalakas talaga. Hindi ito kakayanin ng supporters lang. ‘Yon programang nagandar ‘yon pillars ng structure natim.


Coach Bo and the UP MBT in one of their practice sessions at the Epsilon Chi Health and Fitness Center.
a coach, para ma-correct. Uy, hindi iyan pang-team. Pang personal iyang gínagawa mo. Probably we could win kung hahayaan kita but we are not going to go far, iyan ang sinasabi ko palagi sa kanila.

Let’s say ngayon, ang talented players mo like Ricci, si Kobe, they’ll probably have a super one game or two games that they can probably get a win with their kind of game, pero hindi siya laayong kung siya lang kasi marami ring malakas na teams. So ibig sabihin, they have to understand early na okay, eto ‘yung talent ko, and has to come hand in hand with the talents of my teammates. I’m not saying that I have already figured it out. We are trying to figure it our everyday. Ano ba ‘yung dapat nating gawin to be much better?

UPDATE: May mga kino-conduct ka bayang programs like team building?

CB: Marami. Siyempre doon sa drills namin kasama iyan. Nareflect mo na isang mga teamwork, doon sa drills mayyaman namin daya, Nae-empower mo na sa kailanman, Two things are happening at this point, hindi na ‘yan magkakaroon ng PBA players from UP. Kasi matalaga na wala e. Bilang na bilang na lang. Di ba?

UPDATE: Coach, may cases ba na nag-disagree sila sa coaching style mo lalo na kung may drills o practice?

CB: Sa College, wala masyadong ganyan. Kasi, these are your direct recruits e. Most of these guys are my direct recruits. At saka, una, these are growing guys in terms of their games, in terms of their mindset. Ano ito, parang teacher-student [relationship] ito. Ito pa ‘yung panahon na naguturo ka. Minsan sa pro, nararanasan ka iyon pero. Pero ito sa college level, very minimal. Susunod ang most of them, rahter, all of them will follow instructions from coaches.

Sa pro, may nagbibigay ng suggestions [ang players] kasi, ‘yung iba baka mas matalaga pang naglaro kayas sa you and a higher level. Ito, kulang ng requirements, pero hindi mo sila talagang iniisip mo na ‘yan magtatanong sa kanila kung “how do we defend this particular star player?” Pero sa level na ito [college], hindi... at saka marami tayong coaches na maga-falaging na may nagbibigay sa kanila [ng advices].

UPDATE: May nararamdaman ka kayong pressure from the UP community given the fact na ‘yan magkakaroon ng PBA players from UP. Kasi matalaga na wala e. Bilang na bilang na lang. Di ba?

CB: Sa assessment n’yo po, sino ang mga nakikitaan ninyo ng malaking potential na magiging professional basketball player?

CB: Marami. Most of them. Before, noong pagpasok ko, wala talaga. Nandoon dati si Paul, nakikita mo siya ng potential at that time, three years ago, pero iniisip mo na ‘paq hindi tayo nanalo, Paul, malayo ang tsansa mo. Magaling ka pero paq hindi tayo nanalo, hindi ka kukunin.” E blessing sa kanya na nanalo tayo. First draft, na-pick pa siya. Pero ito ngayon na ito, these are potential PBA players, most of them. Doon na ‘yan maga-falaking ng mga PBA players from UP. Kasi matalaga na wala e. Bilang na bilang na lang. Di ba?

UPDATE: Coach, may cases ba na nag-disagree sila sa coaching style mo lalo na kung may drills o practice?

CB: Sa College, wala masyadong ganyan. Kasi, these are your direct recruits e. Most of these guys are my direct recruits. At saka, una, these are growing guys in terms of their games, in terms of their mindset. Ano ito, parang teacher-student [relationship] ito. Ito pa ‘yung panahon na naguturo ka. Minsan sa pro, nararanasan ka iyon pero. Pero ito sa college level, very minimal. Susunod ang most of them, rahter, all of them will follow instructions from coaches.

Sa pro, may nagbibigay ng suggestions [ang players] kasi, ‘yung iba baka mas matalaga pang naglaro kayas sa you and a higher level. Ito, kulang ng requirements, pero hindi mo sila talagang iniisip mo na ‘yan magtatanong sa kanila kung “how do we defend this particular star player?” Pero sa level na ito [college], hindi... at saka marami tayong coaches na maga-falaging na may nagbibigay sa kanila [ng advices].
UPDATE: A final message for your team and to the community? Something that we will all look forward to. Una para sa team at ang ikalawa sa community.

CB: Ang team, lagi ko naman silang sila ng kinaasaap na ang lagi kong bilin sa kanila, "We have to find a way on how to maximize what we have and this would mean sacrificing." Most of them have to sacrifice. Ibig sabihin, iyung personal agenda. Kasi most of them ay may personal agenda na gusto mo magpakita, [na] "maagat ako." E marami nang maagat. Di ba? Kaya kailangan, somebody has to step down. Example, si Paul last year, he has to step down a little bit in his scoring kasi andyan si Juan, andyan si Bright. The question is, sino ang maagat pumalit ang magpakita. Ang mas sikat kasi ay mas maraming score. But at the end of this, are you going to win as a team? Ang medyo tricky part is that, all the teams are not going to, definitely, take us lightly. Before pa ng sinabi mong UP, counted na 'yan. Win one, win two. Ngayon, hindi na. Maghahanda na sila ng todo.

Sa community naman, the expectations are just on par. Par for the course 'yan e. Ibig sabihin, tama lang na maagat ka. Even the coaches are expecting to win, even the players. Sama-sama lang tayo na even in the losses, the future, the adversities, dapat magkasama tayo kasi mataag na rin naman tayo mga nasa baba. Kasi marami dyan, ngayon lang nila nakita 'yung struggle. In fact, hindi nila nakita 'yung struggle ng program noon. Zero, zero, one, three, walang panalo, and then all of the sudden, nakita nila, 'yung championship. Akala nila 'ito na 'yun. So, hindi nila nakita kung saan nagigaling 'yron. Dapat mas supportive ka in a way na regardless kung nag-i-struggle ba o nananalo 'yung team.


UPDATE: How do you deal with bashers, Coach?
This February, the University of the Philippines (UP) celebrated its 70th year of transfer from Manila to its Diliman campus.

As part of the festivities, there was a series of free campus walking tours organized by the UP Diliman (UPD) Office for Initiatives in Culture and the Arts in partnership with the UP Asian Institute of Tourism (AIT). The tour was designed for those who want to know more about UPD. The UPD walking tour is an example of an activity in archaeological tourism or archaeotourism.

In a country where there is a significant number of tourist destinations “directed toward beaches and coral reefs,” experts say destinations that promote archaeological attractions are often overlooked. According to ResearchGate (www.researchgate.net), archaeological tourism or archaeotourism “is a travel that focuses on visiting and experiencing ancient sites and historical places. The motivating forces behind archaeological tourism are a passion for the past and an interest in learning about the ancient or historical cultures that inhabited the area being visited.” The tourists are attracted by the exotic nature of the locations and often desire unique experiences.

Researchers Jack G. L. Medrana and Richard Philip A. Gonzalo in their study “Visitor Motivation and Destinations with Archaeological Significance in the Philippines” wrote there is a neglect of scholarship on archaeological tourism in the country. It is through their study that they hope to shed light on the potentials of the Philippines’ cultural heritage that can be developed and be sources of economic opportunities to the local communities. They said the value of heritage can be used to manage tourists and conservation in heritage sites.

MOTIVATIONS. Conducting three stages of research, the study produced data from qualitative methods and found that, among other things, Filipinos are motivated to tour archaeo-historical destinations when there are activities that engage in the consumption of history and culture; cultural attractions have interactive exhibits, have affordable entrance fees and can be a bonding time with family and friends; and there is a positive image of the archaeotourist attraction communicated in media, particularly, the digital media through the internet.

The study employed a sample size of 50 Filipinos whose ages range from adolescents to 50 years old, and who were familiar with Intramuros, most of them having visited the site. “These 50 respondents consisted of four occupational groups such as managerial employees of a fast food company, regular Research and Extension Professional Staff and administrative employees of an office at UPD, students of a Revised General Educational Program class at UPD and technical staff of a solar energy company based in Laguna province,” the researchers wrote. They limited their respondents “to demographic segments that are likely to be middle class, have ample purchasing power for luxury goods like tourism products, and are likely to try unusual or new offerings in the market like historical and archaeological tours.”

INTRAMUROS. Medrana, a former faculty of the UP Archaeological Studies Program (ASP) and a PhD candidate of Archaeology, and Gonzalo, assistant professor of AIT, focused the study on the 64-hectare Intramuros because it “is one of Metro Manila’s premier tourist destinations and the historic nucleus of this big urban complex.”

In the study, tourists associated Intramuros “very much with learning something about history and culture, which differentiates it from other tourist attractions in Metro Manila and its surrounding provinces.”
Examining what makes Filipinos visit historical places, they found most of the male interviewees and females aged 41 to 50 said they often bring balikbayan relatives or friends for a cultural tour. According to Oxford Dictionaries, a balikbayan is “a Filipino visiting or returning to the Philippines after a period of living in another country.”

Most females and young adult males take particular interest in the scenery, with the oldest group of both sexes taking photographs during their visits. Many elderly females also visit to attend Roman Catholic mass and join guided tours.

The study found that “a strong component of the visitors’ sense of heritage touches on their emotions and their identification with what is sensed in the destination site.”

**PHOTOS.** An integral part of the tourist experience of Filipino and non-Filipino visitors is picture-taking. Iconic historical markers, landscapes and perspectives are objects of focus. These also become backgrounds to the visitors’ pictures. Most popular spots where visitors take their photos are the doorways, entrances and arches.

In Intramuros, the “spots of the fort enclave where photographs are oftentimes taken include those presenting with dramatic landscapes such as at the walls between Medio Baluarte de San Francisco and Casa del Castellano where the Pasig River and buildings of San Nicolas district become the subject, or the background of the human subject.” Filipinos have the tendency to arrange “a mock pictorial of themselves when visiting touristic historical sites.”

In the study, the Filipino tourist respondents like “to have a monetary charge for cultural attractions that is commensurate to their status as heritage stakeholders and to the good preservation of the cultural resources.” Most prefer a free or affordable entrance to cultural attractions like museums. An entrance fee of P100 was deemed as costly.

“According to them, affordability should be most applicable to students and the local community,” the authors wrote.

**DIGITAL COMMUNICATION.** People also heavily rely on the internet for information on the tourist destinations. Popular media also has an effect in producing a tourist attraction’s positive image.

“People are unanimous that in order to reach a wider clientele, information about cultural attractions should be sent to different kinds of mediated communication channels. A standout among these channels is the internet. Respondents wish that information are clear and detailed such as putting contact details for clarification, but should also stimulate a sense of mystery and discovery,” the authors wrote.

**PERCEPTIONS OF ARCHAEOLOGY.** In addition, Medrana and Gonzalo found that many of their respondents associated archaeology with research and science, so they remind heritage interpreters like tour guides to “be equipped with ample information generated by academic research.”

The research “Visitor Motivation and Destinations with Archaeological Significance in the Philippines” was published in the Volume 20 issue of “Hukay,” ASP’s refereed journal.
The World Health Organization declares that antimicrobial resistance (AMR) is a growing serious threat to global public health.

AMR is the ability of microbes to grow despite providing standard treatment, making some infections increasingly difficult and sometimes impossible to treat.

In an Institute of Biology (IB) research, it was found that bacteria resistant to antibiotics are present in public computer service providers (CSPs) and utility jeepneys (PUJs) in UP Diliman (UPD).

The research "Staphylococcus aureus and Methicillin-resistant S. aureus (MRSA) carriage in Public Computer Service Providers and Utility Jeepneys in UP Diliman" found that CSPs and PUJs on campus are carriers of S. aureus and MRSA.

S. aureus is a kind of bacteria that causes ordinary skin infections to more serious even fatal diseases such as food poisoning and toxic-shock syndrome. Meanwhile, the "Medical News Today" website defines MRSA as "a form of contagious bacterial infection that is resistant to numerous antibiotics including methicillin, amoxicillin, penicillin and oxacillin."

The IB research led by Jann Eldy L. Daquioag and Ricardo Benedict C. Almirol is an epidemiological account to add to the growing body of knowledge on the prevalence of bacteria and other pathogens in public places.

Daquioag said S. aureus are normally found in the nose and on human skin. They are also present in almost all fomites and are likely to carry infection. "If they are present in inanimate objects in public places, like doorknobs, handrails and computer peripherals, they can easily be transmitted," he said.

Among the studies that prompted the researchers to know the prevalence of bacteria resistant to antibiotics in UPD is the review 'Antimicrobial Resistance: Tackling a crisis for the health and wealth of nations' by Jim O’Neill and his team.

The review estimated that by 2050, AMR or any drug-resistant pathogens are projected to become a main cause of a yearly 10 million deaths worldwide.

MRSA in computer peripherals had a prevalence of 3.1 percent, while prevalence in jeepneys was at 2 percent.

Daquioag clarified that the study is not about the high or low prevalence of the bacteria.

Prevalence of S. aureus is much higher in computer peripherals than in jeepney handrails. Of the 27 CSPs with 162 computer peripherals (81 keyboards and 81 mice) as samples, 25 (92.6%) tested positive of S. aureus contamination. Thirty-three of 81 (40.7%) keyboards and 26 of 81 (32.1%) mice had S. aureus.

Of the 196 jeepney handrails sampled from the six UPD routes (of the 196 jeepneys, only one handrail per jeepney was used as a sample), S. aureus prevalence was at 14 out of 196 (7.1%). The bacteria was detected in all jeepney handrails except for the jeepney plying the UP-SM North EDSA route. The highest was at 11.6 percent and was found in jeepneys of the UP-Katipunan route.

MRSA in computer peripherals had a prevalence of 2 percent, while prevalence in jeepneys was at 2 percent.

Daquioag clarified that the study is not about the high or low prevalence of the bacteria.
The mere presence of antibiotic-resistant pathogens in fomites around UPD poses threat to public health. Drug-resistant pathogens or AMR is an escalating problem worldwide. In fact, there was a recent report on the prevalence of Vancomycin-resistant S. aureus reported in New York and in other developed countries. Vancomycin is a higher type of antibiotic.

The research is also not about comparing which of the two fomites the microorganisms adhere more to because computer peripherals and steel handrails are not comparable in terms of adherence.

“Ang mouse at keyboards kasi ay umiinit, conducive sa near 37ºC na tirahan ng microorganisms. At the same time, mas rough ang surface ‘nya. Mas mataas ang chance na mag-cling ang microorganisms sa rough surface than smooth surface,” said Daquioag.

AMR prevalence “is very alarming because it is not just an emergence, but high emergence. Hopefully, we will see this not just as a personal thing, it is not just your problem but our problem, the community’s problem,” Daquioag said.

The high emergence of antibiotic-resistant bacteria can be partly attributed to misuse and abuse of antibiotics.

“Yung bibigyan ka ng reseta ng doctor then after two to three days, you’ll stop taking the medicines because you felt better. Ang nangyayari doon ay hindi mo pinapatay ‘yung buong pathogen, ang pinapatay mo lang ay ‘yung mga hindi kayang mag-withstand sa antibiotics. Ang naixiwan sa katawan mo na very minute ay ‘yung mga kayang i-withstand yung antibiotics at ito ‘yung mga nagiging antibiotic-resistant strains,” Daquioag said.

The practice of self-medication or taking antibiotics without any medical prescriptions is another reason for the high emergence of antibiotic-resistant bacteria.

AWARENESS CAMPAIGN. Daquioag hopes that his team was able to contribute to an awareness on threats brought by AMR, especially for the computer users and commuters in UPD.

Daquioag said library supervisors, internet cafe owners and PUJ drivers/owners who participated in the study accepted their recommendation.

“When I visited a library two weeks after we told them the result, I saw a hand sanitizer in the table of the library custodian,” he said.

In addressing AMR prevalence, Daquioag said its rising trend could be curbed. If one is ill, it is best to follow the doctor’s prescription or complete the prescribed course of medication for ailments.

“Do not misuse and abuse the use of antibiotics, because pathogens are finite source, they are everywhere. Halos na-exhaust na natin lahat ang source ng antibiotic, so in the long run hindi na tayo makakahanap ng gamot sa mga antibiotic-resistant bacteria,” he said.

The IB researchers recommended that “computer users and commuters need to disinfect hands after being in CSPs and PUJs.”

He hopes that the study will be able to contribute for clearer sanitation guidelines and policies on AMR awareness in the future, especially since health experts have labeled AMR prevalence as the “biggest threat to global health.”

Daquioag

Microorganisms may cling to rough surfaces encountered everyday

“Staphylococcus aureus and Methicillin-resistant S. aureus (MRSA) carriage in Public Computer Service Providers and Utility Jeepneys in UP Diliman” was first published in the January-June 2018 issue of “Science Diliman.”
SAMPLING SIZE. The study employed inclusion and exclusion criteria in determining sampling size for computer service providers (CSPs). Only CSPs with at least three computer units and have signed the consent forms and allowed the unannounced sampling dates were included in the study. On the other hand, the PUJs per route were randomly sampled. Sample collection for CSPs were done on weekdays, between 1 and 4 p.m. Three computers from each CSP were chosen: nearest the door, those furthest the door and those in the middle of the facility. For the PUJs, sampling was conducted every Thursday from 2:30 to 5:30 p.m. Samples were swabbed using sterile cotton swabs dipped in a sterile saline solution.

There were 162 computer peripherals (81 keyboards and 81 mice) sampled from 27 CSPs (22 libraries and five internet cafes). The CSPs were clustered into four quadrants based on their locations. For PUJs, 196 handrails from 196 jeepneys from the six UPD routes were examined. In each jeepney, only one handrail was used as sample. Ten centimeters of each handrail was swabbed 10 times. The PUJ per route were randomly sampled.

The research also assessed 11 risk factors. These are variables that increases the chance or susceptibility to infection or disease: years in service; service hours; comfort room availability; number of computer units; number of clients per day; usual gender of clients; duration of computer use; consumption of food and drink; frequency of cleaning the facility; frequency of cleaning the peripherals; and availability of hand sanitizers.

POSITIVE CONTAMINATION. The study showed that from the 27 CSPs sampled, 25 (92.6%) tested positive of S.aureus contamination. CSPs in quadrants II and III were 100 percent contaminated with the said bacteria, while quadrants I and IV showed 85.7 percent contamination. (See map)

Prevalence of S. aureus among keyboards was at 33 out of 81 (40.7%). Keyboards in Quadrant II registered the highest occurrence of S. aureus with 10 of 18 (55.6%), while 5 of 21 sampled (23.8%) in Quadrant IV had the lowest occurrence. Meanwhile, the incidence of S. aureus among mice was 26 of 81 (32.1%). Mice in Quadrant II recorded the least occurrence of contamination at 27.8 percent.

MRSA in computer peripherals had a prevalence of 3.1 percent and was present in one keyboard in Quadrant II, tone keyboard and one mouse in Quadrant III and two keyboards in Quadrant IV. S. aureus in PUJs were detected in all the routes except for SM North EDSA, though the prevalence of said bacteria was 71 percent or 14 out of 196 jeepneys, which is relatively low compared to that of the computer peripherals. PUJs plying the Katipunan route registered the highest incidence at 11.6 percent. Meanwhile, the MRSA prevalence in PUJs was at 2 percent and was present in routes along Katipunan (1), Pantranco (2) and Tolbi (1).

For the risk factors analysis, Daquioag said there was no significant association with contamination occurrence.
victims were conniving with the NPA (New People’s Army) and were teaching the students to rebel against the government,” said Jurane.

Jurane is a teacher and one of the 77 Lumad that stayed in UPD from January to March this year as part of their Bakwit (evacuees) school program. Manilakbayang 2015 reports that from 2010 to 2015 there were 71 cases of Lumad killings. Manilakbayang is a non-government organization (NGO) organizing the yearly caravan of Lumad from Mindanao to Manila. According to a bulatlat.com report, at least 50 Lumad were killed from June 2016 to August 2017. Meanwhile, Jurane further said he received reports from community residents who on Aug. 18, 2015 allegedly saw the killing of five people in Brgy. Mendis, Pangantucan, Bukidnon. He named the five as Herminio Samia (70 years old), Jobert Samia (70 y/o), Welmer Somina (19 y/o), Emer Somina (17 y/o), and Norman Samia (14 y/o). Jurane said the witnesses alleged the perpetrators were members of the Armed Forces of the Philippines 1st Special Forces Battalion.

He added there were also witnesses to the killing of Lumad school director Emerito Samarca and two Lumad leaders Dionel Campos and Datu Bello Sinzo on Sept. 1, 2015 at Brgy. Diatagon, Lianga, Surigao del Sur. The witnesses alleged that AFP soldiers and the Magahat-Bagani paramilitary group were responsible for their deaths. During the previous administration, three Lumad schools were closed due to incomplete requirements while more than 70 of the Lumad schools were attacked, as per data of Save our Schools Network (SOS), another NGO helping the Lumad schools. Sadly, in the 2019 SOS data, 85 Lumad schools were shut down from July 2016 to March 2019. The SOS data also showed that as of December 2018, at least 500,000 persons (Lumad, Muslims and Christians) left their houses because of harassments, intimidations, threats and killings.

Teacher Jurane believed that the attacks on the Lumad were rooted in two main reasons: the riches of Mindanao and the plunder of these riches. According to the Department of Environment and Natural Resources Mines and Geosciences Bureau, Mindanao has vast deposits of gold, nickel, and copper particularly in Agusan del Sur, Davao and Surigao del Norte. In 2018 alone, the total cost of exported minerals and mineral products was US$4.637 B (P 201.85-B). Majority of these mineral deposits are in the ancestral lands of the Lumad. Jurane said at the forum that the “mining companies want to acquire these lands.” Since 2015, UPD served as ‘home’ to an average of 500 indigenous people from Luzon to Mindanao during the annual “Lakbayan ng Pambansang Minorya,” also called Manilakbayang. “Lakbayan ng Pambansang Minorya” is where representatives of some indigenous people would come to Manila and have a dialogue with the Philippine President regarding their concerns. The yearly caravan starts in October and ends on Dec. 10, the International Human Rights Day. “Lakbayan” aims to increase the awareness of the people about the plight of the Lumad and seek support to join the Lumad in their fight for their ancestral lands and in stopping the attacks on their schools, communities and people.

FIGHTING FOR WORKERS’ RIGHTS. In the same forum, Elizar Diayon, Vice President of NAMASUFA (Nagkaisahang Mamumuo sa Suyapa Farm [United Workers in Suyapa Farm]), presented data on violations of workers’ rights.

“Data gathered by labor group Kilusang Mayo Uno (KMU) also showed malicious attacks on civil liberties,” Diayon said. Based on Diayon’s presented data, there are 686 documented cases of trumped-up charges filed against farmers, indigenous people, mass activists, HR defenders and environmentalists: 268 in Caraga Region, 241 (Southern Mindanao Region), 78 (Northern Mindanao), 77 (Soccsksargen Region) and 22 (Western Mindanao Region). Nationwide, KMU documented violations of workers’ rights, namely contractualization, extremely low wages and lack of social benefits, violation of workers’ freedom of association or union busting, non-existence or lack of occupational safety and health (OSH) standards, and violation of other labor standards.

Diayon also shared the NAMASUFA workers’ problems with its employer Sumifru Philippines Corporation (Sumifru). Sumifru is a Japanese multinational company engaged in ‘sourcing, production, shipment and marketing of fresh fruits, primarily the export of pineapples, papaya and Cavendish bananas. Sumifru operates in more than 12,000 hectares of land in Mindanao.”

NAMASUFA was organized on Mar. 14, 2008 by workers of Packing Plant 90 (PP 90) of Fresh Banana Agricultural Corporation (FBAC) and filed a petition for certification election (PCE) before the Department of Labor and Employment (DOLE). The PCE aimed to certify NAMASUFA as the sole and exclusive bargaining agent (SEBA) of the 140 rank and file FBAC workers.

On Jun. 20, 2008, FBAC merged with Sumifru, with the latter emerging as surviving corporation. This

IMAGES BY Benito V. Sanvictores, Jr. PHOTO MANIPULATION BY Jacelle Isha B. Bonus
prompted NAMASUFA’s efforts to file a PCE with Sumifru as employer. The latter denied being the employer of the PP 90 workers, and instead, pointed to A2Y Contracting Services as the employer. DOLE-Region 11 Mediator-Arbitrator declared Sumifru as the employer of the PP 90 workers on Jul. 28, 2008 and ordered to conduct a Certification Election.

On Feb. 8, 2010, then DOLE Secretary Marianito Roque affirmed the decision of DOLE-Region 11 Mediator-Arbitrator. Sumifru refused to comply with the DOLE decision and brought the case to the Court of Appeals (CA) which affirmed the DOLE Secretary’s decision. Sumifru then brought the case to the Supreme Court.

The Supreme Court (SC) dismissed Sumifru’s petition on Jun. 7, 2017 and affirmed the CA resolution declaring the PP 90 workers as Sumifru employees.

Even with the SC decision, Sumifru continued to refuse to bargain with NAMASUFA until the latter legally launched its strike on Oct. 1, 2018. On Oct. 11, a combined group of at least 300 strikebreakers, police and AFP personnel swarmed into the strike camps, dispersed the striking workers violently and destroyed the camps without any Court Order.

“The strikebreakers were cuddled by the national government using the municipal grounds as the staging and withdrawal points for their plan,” Diayon sadly said.

A KMU data showed that Sumifru operates in 2,200 hectares of land in Compostela Valley with nine packing plants. The plants have a total production capacity of at least 19,000 boxes per day or almost 7 million boxes per year. The gross daily income for this province alone is PhP 19-M (US$ 380,000).

According to the National Conciliation and Mediation Board (NCMB), there were 233 total strike cases handled as of Dec. 31, 2018. Of the strikes, 149 cases were “disposed within the process cycle time (PCT) of 60 days, while 48 cases were disposed beyond the PCT.”

As of Dec. 31, 2018, there were 36 pending which were carried on to 2019.

For 2019, NCMB data showed that there were 34 new cases filed in January making a total of 70 cases as of Feb. 28, 2019. Of the 70 cases, 22 were already resolved and 48 are still pending.
UP Diliman Month THROUGH THE YEARS

1994

1995
UP Diliman Exposition (Feb. 1995)

1999
National Government proclaims February as National Arts Month.

1999
Board of Regents (BOR) approves the creation of Office for Initiatives in Culture and the Arts (OICA).

2007
OICA inaugurates the Arts Hub

2008
First National Komedyang Fiesta

2015
UP Diliman Month 2015: Pride of Place, Boldness of Vision

2016
UP Diliman Month 2016: Panahon ng Lumahtari

2017
UP Diliman Month 2017: Salaysayan: Kwentong Bayan Kaalamang Bayan

2018
UP Diliman Month 2018: Kult(1)jawaan

2019
Sarswela Festival
A map of Diliman campus made in 1949 showed the areas designated for future construction with the map recording its expansion projects. Soon after, the Diliman landscape was dotted with new buildings – the University Library, the College of Engineering, the Women’s Residence (now Kamia Residence Hall), the Conservatory of Music (now College of Music), the Administration Building (now Quezon Hall), and the President’s Residence (now Executive House). Meanwhile, the rest of the colleges and administrative offices had to make do with temporary shelters made of sawali and galvanized iron sheets.
Clockwise from top left photo: Gonzalez Hall which is the UPD Main Library; UP Lagoon, 1952 with Gonzalez Hall (Main Library) in the back; Malcolm Hall; Transfer of the Oblation from UP Manila to UP Diliman in Feb. 11, 1949; and the Sundial at UP Manila.