Evidences 15.2.6.

1. **SMU Holds Special Seminar on Ecotourism and Farm Tourism**

   On February 27, 2025, the Community Extension and Indigenous People's Study Center and the School of Accountancy and Business – Hospitality and Tourism Management Department hosted an insightful seminar featuring Dr. Rogelio T. Andrada II, a Professor at the University of the Philippines Los Baños – Institute of Renewable Natural Resources and the College of Forestry and Natural Resources. The seminar offered students a comprehensive look into ecotourism and farm tourism, with a special focus on the Farm Tourism Act of 2016.

   Prof. Andrada's lecture delved into the core concepts of ecotourism, emphasizing its importance in promoting sustainability. He highlighted the relationship between ecotourism and environmental preservation, drawing comparisons with other forms of tourism, including mass tourism, alternative tourism, and nature-based tourism.

   A key segment of the discussion was dedicated to Republic Act 10816, outlining the strategic action plan for farm tourism in alignment with the Philippine Constitution. Through this, Prof. Andrada provided attendees with a clearer understanding of how the Act supports the development of farm tourism as a sustainable and economically viable industry.

   The seminar not only deepened the students' knowledge of ecotourism but also inspired further discussions on the role of responsible tourism in safeguarding the environment while benefiting local communities.



2. HTM Department Hosts Groundbreaking Research Forum

The Hospitality and Tourism Management (HTM) Department of Saint Mary's University (SMU) successfully hosted its inaugural Research Forum on December 4, 2024, themed "Creative Sparks: Igniting Innovation and Imagination." This event marked a significant milestone in the department's commitment to fostering a global research presence and collaboration, aligning with SMU's overarching goal of enhancing its international footprint through impactful research publications.

The forum featured esteemed external evaluators from the Lyceum of the Philippines University-Laguna, including Professor Ryan A. Gamoso, Ph.D, DHM, LPT, PD-TQM, and Chef Ybethe Castillo, owner of Yanis Cakesserie, Guest Chef of Umagang Kay Ganda of ABS-CBN Channel, a Diploma Holder of International Baking and Pastry Arts and finished Bachelor of Science in Nutrition and Dietetics. Their participation underscored the importance of national and international partnerships in achieving high-quality research outcomes.

The event encapsulated the new HTM tagline: "3i of HTM: Inspire, Innovation, Influence." Six research groups from the Bachelor of Science in Hospitality Management (BSHM) and eight from the Bachelor of Science in Tourism Management (BSTM) presented their projects, successfully defending their research. Congratulations are extended to Team 1 from BSHM and Team 8 from BSTM for achieving the highest grades in their presentations (90+).

- Team 1:
  Title: Chasing the Rainbow: Studying Safe Space For LGBTQIA+ in the Hotels of Nueva Vizcaya
  Researchers: Aaron Ray F. Bautista, Princess B. Cabanag, Xzkyl L. Dela Cruz, Jenna Belle C. Fernando, Samantha Cyrah A. Seraspi
  Adviser: Mr. John Michael C. Ibarra

- Team 8:
  Title: Empowering the Community through Ecotourism Management: The Case of Communal Falls
  Researchers: Gian Carlo E. Barboza, Tabitha Jubel C. Cabot, Jeremiah S. Ebreo, Nick Andrei M. Labasan, Luis Arvin G. Mendoza
  Adviser: Dr. Harrison T. Villanueva

The success of this forum was made possible through the leadership of Mr. John Michael C. Ibarra, HTM Department Head and research instructor. The department expresses gratitude to the SMU administration, particularly the University Research Center and the Office of the Academic Dean of the School of Accountancy and Business (SAB), for their support.

The HTM Department at SMU remains committed to its mission of excellence in research and education, continually inspiring innovation and influencing positive change within the hospitality and tourism sectors.



3. SMU-HTM and TESDA Forge New Path for Hospitality and Tourism Education

A historic moment unfolds as SMU-HTM and TESDA sign a Memorandum of Undertaking today, November 27, 2024, at the Boardroom, A Building, Saint Mary's University, College Campus. Led by the visionary faculty head, Mr. John Michael C. Ibarra, and the dynamic JTHMAP-SMU Chapter Governor, Miss Almyra Garcia and her officers, together with the advisers/HTM Instructors Mr. John Rey C. Piñera and Mr. Neil Aldrin S. Cacal, this groundbreaking collaboration marks a significant step towards elevating tourism education and industry standards.

First Party:

- Dr. John Octavious S. Palina (University President)
- Dr. Christopher Allen Marquez (Director, Community Engagement and Indigenous Peoples Studies)
- Dr. Regina D. Ramel, CPA (Academic Dean)
- Mrs. Claire L. Guinomon (CDA Coordinator)
- Mr. John Michael C. Ibarra (HTM Department Head)

Second Party (TESDA-NV Provincial Office)

- Hon. Engr. Dominador D. Dizon (Provincial Acting Director)
- Ms. Eva T. Doniego, J.D (Supervising TESD Specialist)
- Mr. Ayton A. Belis (TESD specialist II)

This partnership promises to empower future tourism and hospitality professionals, fostering innovation, sustainability, and community engagement. Together, SMU-HTM and TESDA are shaping a brighter future for the tourism industry.




FICS
4th
INTERNATIONAL
CONFERENCE
ON CULTURAL STUDIES

SAINT MARY'S UNIVERSITY

BAYOMBONG, NUEVA VIZCAYA, PHILIPPINES

in partnership with

WWF

Co-convenors:

4th National Conservation, Indigenous Peoples and Biodiversity Congress

"From Tradition to Innovation:
Indigenous Solutions for Global Challenges."

February 26-28, 2025

SAINT MARY'S UNIVERSITY

BAYOMBONG, NUEVA VIZCAYA, PHILIPPINES

in partnership with

WWF

Co-convenors:

MESSAGE

I am elated to extend my warm greeting to the organizers of the Fourth International Conference on Cultural Studies on February 26-28, 2025. It is with your chosen theme. "From Tradition to Innovation: Indigenous Solutions for Global Challenges", that reflects the overview of this affair.

We laud the partnership of the University of the Philippines Los Baños, World Wildlife Fund-Philippines and Saint Mary's University for spearheading this milestone that aims to foster collaboration to ensure natural resource protection and sustainable management. Moreover, its notable intention of bringing together academicians and researches who worked on studies related to indigenous peoples and biodiversity is worthy of emulation.

The province of Nueva Vizcaya being the melting pot of cultural diversity and home to the various ethno-linguistic tribes of Northern Luzon, play a vital role in natural and historical preservation. We value the importance of our indigenous people who contribute enormously to the rich heritage of our province. Furthermore, this undertaking shall not only strengthen the preservation of the cultural heritage and ecosystems for the Kalanguya-Ikalahan ancestral domain but also all other tribes that co-exist with them.

In our consistent call for unity and cooperation among our peoples, we recognize the role of the IP community in the preservation of our natural haven through the efficient and effective management of their respective ancestral domains. They likewise contribute to the progressive growth and development of our province as part of the legislature given their representations in our local legislative bodies from the provincial, municipal and barangay levels, respectively.

As we continue to strive to preserve the roots and traditions of our ancestors, the provincial government shall always do its part in promoting and preserving the cultural heritage of Nueva Vizcaya. We shall always be supportive to avenues like this that shall pave the way in recognizing the invaluable contributions of all the stakeholders in the academe and our indigenous cultural communities.

On behalf of the provincial government, along with my family, I join you wishing the successful and productive conduct of the Fourth International Conference on Cultural Studies!

PROVINCE OF NUEVA VIZCAYA

OFFICIAL SEAL



GOVERNOR ATTY. JOSE "JING" GAMBITO

SAINT MARY'S UNIVERSITY

BAYOMBONG, NUEVA VIZCAYA, PHILIPPINES

in partnership with

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Co-convenors:

MESSAGE

We are delighted to welcome our plenary and keynote speakers, presenters, and participants of the Fourth International Conference on Cultural Studies at Saint Mary's University, Philippines, in partnership with the University of the Philippines, Los Banos, World Wide Fund for Nature-Philippines, and ASEAN Center for Biodiversity and with Saint Louis University, University of Saint Louis Tuguegarao, Saint Louis College, and Holy Name University-Bohol as co-convenors.

This year's conference features an impressive line-up of national and international speakers with backgrounds in Indigenous youth leadership and research, historical museums, and biodiversity conservation. On the other hand, the research presenters will discuss interesting topics such as biodiversity studies, landscape studies, social geography, literary/language studies, education, Indigenous studies, and vernacular architecture.

The theme "From Tradition to Innovation: Indigenous Solutions for Global Challenges" speaks about the worldwide clamor for solutions to various local and global concerns on biodiversity conservation. The conservation of biodiversity has become more important and urgent than ever before. Recent studies indicate that the natural world already lacks biodiversity because of overexploitation of resources like agricultural land, wildlife, and water; habitat destruction; and pollution. As a result, the world has seen devastating effects such as global warming and, to a broader extent, climate change.

In one of its latest feature stories, the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) highlighted the importance of Indigenous knowledge in the fight against climate change, which may lead to biodiversity, citing the following reasons: Indigenous peoples are custodians of unique knowledge and practices emphasizing the balance between humans and the natural world, and many Indigenous traditional practices offer effective climate solutions, sustainable agriculture systems and climate-resilient water management.

In contrast, a recent study conducted by researchers at the Institute of Environmental Science and Technology at the Universitat Autonoma de Barcelona in collaboration with a broad group of researchers, practitioners, and Indigenous Peoples' representatives, questions the scientific validity of the long-term repeated claim that 80% of the world's biodiversity is found in Indigenous Peoples' territories.

These studies highlight conflicting empirical results and show that indigenous solutions to a global challenge, such as conserving biodiversity or climate change, are topics that trigger meaningful discussions among scholars. Aside from these topics, presentations that touch on Indigenous youth leadership, language, and historical museums, among others, may also provide valuable insights for future research. Through the presentations, I hope we can have productive exchanges of ideas about managing our ecosystems and natural habitats well and that your participation will also lead to conducting joint research projects with other participants on various topics that will be discussed.

We thank our partners, keynote speakers, participants, and organizers for making this conference possible. For our onsite attendees visiting the Philippines and our university for the first time, I hope you will enjoy your stay on our campus and the naturally vibrant province of Nueva Vizcaya. I am certain that the immersion activity on the second day is a well-established site in the province dedicated to biodiversity conservation will add a fun and meaningful learning experience for everyone.

Please enjoy and make the most of the conference. Thank you everyone for taking part!

SAINT MARY'S UNIVERSITY · 1928 · BAYOMBONG, PHILIPPINES



DR. JOHN OCTAVIOUS S. PALINA

SAINT MARY'S UNIVERSITY
BAYOMBONG, NUEVA VIZCAYA, PHILIPPINES

in partnership with

WWF

Co-convenors:

University of the Philippines
LOS BAÑOS

Office of the Chancellor



MESSAGE

On behalf of the University of the Philippines Los Baños (UPLB), I extend our warmest congratulations to Saint Mary's University, Bayombong, Nueva Vizcaya, on the successful conduct of the Fourth International Conference on Cultural Studies (FICCS). With the inspiring theme, "From Tradition to Innovation: Indigenous Solutions for Global Challenges," this conference underscores the indispensable role of indigenous knowledge and biodiversity conservation in addressing pressing global concerns.

We applaud your efforts in bringing together distinguished academicians, researchers, and stakeholders who share a commitment to preserving cultural heritage and protecting the environment. By highlighting the *Kalanguya-Ikalahan* ancestral domain and integrating traditional wisdom into modern frameworks, you are setting a powerful precedent for sustainable management of natural resources. Through the workshop sessions, participants will foster a collaborative spirit—one that ensures local communities are not only heard but also actively engaged in shaping solutions that safeguard our ecosystems. Meanwhile, the stakeholders' consultation further reinforces this shared vision by offering a platform for future collaborative research projects aimed at preserving both cultural heritage and biodiversity.

UPLB is proud to co-organize this endeavor alongside the World Wide Fund For Nature Philippines and the ASEAN Centre for Biodiversity. We remain steadfast in our commitment to advancing science-based strategies and partnerships that nurture inclusive, resilient, and thriving communities. Your collective work to merge time-honored traditions with cutting-edge innovation exemplifies the transformative power of scholarship when it is guided by reverence for cultural identity and respect for ecological balance.

Once again, congratulations on the success of your conference. May you continue to forge meaningful collaborations, foster deeper understanding of indigenous perspectives, and champion the stewardship of our natural heritage for generations to come. We look forward to the lasting impact this gathering will have on the *Kalanguya-Ikalahan* ancestral domain and beyond.

Mabuhay kayong lahat!

JOSE V. CAMACHO, JR.
Chancellor

SAINT MARY'S UNIVERSITY

BAYOMBONG, NUEVA VIZCAYA, PHILIPPINES

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Co-convenors:

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kkp@wwf.org.ph
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MESSAGE

Dear Delegates,

We warmly welcome you to the 4th International Conference on Cultural Studies (FICCS), organized by our partners St. Mary's University and University of the Philippines – Los Baños, and co-presented by WWF-Philippines. This early, we express our gratitude for your presence and participation in this event – and for your pledge to our shared goal to journey *From Tradition to Innovation: Indigenous Solutions for Global Challenges.*

Indigenous communities worldwide have long been guardians of biodiversity, cultivating a deep connection to their lands, waters, and ecosystems. Their traditional knowledge systems embody an inherent understanding of sustainable practices – practices that celebrate the interconnectedness of the needs of human beings and the needs of the environment. *WWF's vision is a future where people live in harmony with nature* and we recognize that this relationship is something that needs to be revisited, honored, and woven not only in our solutions, but also in our ways of work, and in the principles we uphold.

The interconnected issues of climate change and biodiversity loss require systematic responses that challenge us to also confront the structures and power dynamics that prevent inclusive and equitable outcomes. All forms of innovation and collaboration must be explored to be able to respond effectively, meaningfully, and justly. Respecting and protecting indigenous rights is not just a moral imperative but a practical necessity in the pursuit of global environmental sustainability.

As we journey through this conference, may we all be able to reflect on how we can build bridges between science and tradition, between policy and indigenous governance, and how we can ensure that our efforts for environmental protection also ensure that those who live closest to nature, whose homes and livelihoods are at stake, are at the discussions on decisions that impact their lives.

Together Possible,

Katherine Custodio
WWF-Philippines



SAINT MARY'S UNIVERSITY

BAYOMBONG, NUEVA VIZCAYA, PHILIPPINES

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Co-convenors:

NCIP NUEVA VIZCAYA
Provincial Office
Dambao Stadium, Don Domingo Maddela, Bayombong, Nueva Vizcaya
(078) 382-2073
http://ncip.gov.ph



MESSAGE

The National Commission on Indigenous Peoples (NCIP) expresses its deep appreciation to Saint Mary's University, The University of the Philippines Los Baños, and WWF-Philippines for organizing the Fourth International Conference on Cultural Studies (FICCS). With the theme *"From Tradition to Innovation: Indigenous Solutions for Global Challenges,"* this conference underscores the crucial role of Indigenous Cultural Communities/Indigenous peoples (ICCs/IPs) in shaping sustainable solutions for biodiversity conservation and cultural preservation.

Since time immemorial, ICCs/IPs have been the rightful stewards of their domains, possessing deep knowledge and time-honored practices that promote environmental sustainability and community resilience. The NCIP remains steadfast in protecting and advancing the rights of ICCs/IPs, as enshrined in the Indigenous Peoples Rights Act (IPRA) of 1997 (RA 8371). These include their rights to ancestral domains, self-governance, cultural integrity, and social justice – rights that must be recognized and upheld to ensure their active participation in nation-building and global sustainability efforts.

This conference, particularly through its workshop and stakeholders' consultation, presents an important opportunity for knowledge-sharing and collaborative action. The discussion will not only highlight the invaluable contributions of ICCs/IPs but also pave the way for future research and policy initiatives that respect indigenous traditions and promote sustainable development.

The NCIP stands in solidarity with all stakeholders in fostering genuine partnerships with ICCs/IPs. We call on academic institutions, researchers, policymakers, and civil society to work hand in hand with indigenous cultural communities, ensuring that their voices are heard, their rights are protected, and their contributions are valued in shaping a just, sustainable, and culturally rich future.

Engr. Shelley Joy Ruth S. Calata
Provincial Officer



SAINT MARY'S UNIVERSITY

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Co-convenors:

Republic of the Philippines
Department of Environment and Natural Resources
PROVINCIAL ENVIRONMENT AND NATURAL RESOURCES OFFICE
Capitol Compound, Bayombong, Nueva Vizcaya



MESSAGE

From Tradition to Innovation: Indigenous Solutions to Global Challenges

The intersection of **International Studies and Cultural Studies** provides a powerful lens to understand how indigenous traditions can address contemporary global challenges. The theme **"From Tradition to Innovation: Indigenous Solutions to Global Challenges"** highlights the transformative potential of indigenous knowledge systems in tackling pressing issues such as climate change, sustainable development, and social equity.

For centuries, indigenous communities have developed sustainable ways of living, deeply rooted in ecological balance, communal governance, and holistic worldviews. These traditional practices offer valuable insights into today's crises. For example, indigenous environmental stewardship, such as **permaculture farming, water conservation techniques, and forest management**, aligns with modern sustainability goals. By integrating these age-old practices with contemporary science and technology, we can foster innovative, culturally inclusive solutions.

Furthermore, indigenous conflict-resolution mechanisms, based on consensus-building and restorative justice, provide alternative approaches to peacebuilding and governance. Their wisdom in community-based healthcare, natural medicine, and educational systems also presents new models for social well-being.

However, despite their contributions, indigenous voices are often marginalized. Decolonizing knowledge production and ensuring indigenous participation in policymaking is essential for fostering equitable innovation. Through collaborative research, intercultural dialogue, and policy integration, the global community can benefit from indigenous wisdom while respecting the sovereignty and rights of these communities.

As we move forward, recognizing indigenous solutions as vital contributions rather than historical artifacts is crucial. By **bridging tradition and innovation**, we can create a more sustainable and just world—one that values the depth of ancestral knowledge while embracing the possibilities of modern advancements.

Giovannie M. Magat
PENR Officer, Nueva Vizcaya



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4th INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON CULTURAL STUDIES

Indigenous Peoples and Biodiversity Conservation

"From Tradition to Innovation: Indigenous Solutions for Global Challenges"

February 26-28, 2025

Meet the FICCS Speakers



DR. MING KAI TAN
Curator, Lee Kong Chian Natural History Museum
National University of Singapore



DR. ARVIN C. DIESMOS
Director, Biodiversity Information Management
ASEAN Center for Biodiversity, Philippines



DR. SHAUN AWATERE
Senior Kairangahau
Manaaki Whenua Landcare Research, New Zealand



MS. ANABELLE PLANTILLA
Project Manager, BIOFIN
United Nations Development Program
Dept. of Envr. and Natural Resources, Philippines



DR. ZENAIDA BAOANAN
Professor, College of Science
University of the Philippines Baguio



DR. PASANG DOLMA SHERPA
Executive Director
Center for Indigenous Research and Development, Nepal



FOR. ROGER HABOC
Environmental Management Specialist II
Provincial Environment and Natural Resources Nueva Vizcaya, Philippines



FOR. ASAMI B. SEGUNDO
Indigenous Youth Leader, Ikalahan-Kalanguya
Nueva Vizcaya, Philippines



DR. JAMEL KAUR SINGH
Founder of Corporate Cultural Change Consultancy, Australia

Co-conveners

Visit ICCS Website
Please Scan:

SPEAKERS

PROGRAM OF ACTIVITIES

DAY 1 — February 26

MORNING (Attire: Casual Business Attire)		
7:30-8:30	Registration	Sacred Heart Center, Saint Mary's University
8:31-8:45	Ecumenical Prayer	**MISS LAURICE KAYE P. LAGUINDAY** Indigenous Peoples Studies Coordinator Saint Mary's University, Philippines
	Philippine National Anthem Nueva Vizcaya Hymn Welcome Song	SMU Chorale Society
8:46-9:00	Welcome Messages	**ATTY. JOSE "JING" V. GAMBITO** Governor Province of Nueva Vizcaya
9:01-9:10		**DR. JOHN OCTAVIOUS S. PALINA** President Saint Mary's University, Philippines
9:11-9:20	Opening Message	**DR. JOMAN J. BALITON** Steering Committee Chair Fourth International Conference on Cultural Studies
9:21-9:50	Plenary Speaker 1	The Role of IPs in Biodiversity Conservation (IKSPs) **DR. ZENAIDA BAOANAN** Professor, College of Science University of the Philippines Baguio

10:31-11:15	Plenary Speaker 2	*Climate Change Adaptation and the Role of Indigenous Communities and Knowledge* **DR. SHAUN AWATERE** Senior Kairangahau Manaaki Whenua Landcare Research New Zealand
10:26-10:35	Health Break	
10:36-11:05	Plenary Speaker 3	*Philippine Biodiversity and the UN Sustainable Development Goals* **MS ANABELLE PLANTILLA, MSc, EnP** Project Manager, BIOFIN United Nations Development Program Department of Environment and Natural Resources
11:06-11:35	Plenary Speaker 4	*Indigenous Wisdom and Innovation: Harnessing Traditions for Biodiversity Conservation* **DR. JAMEL KAUR SINGH** Founder of Consultsingh Pty Ltd Australia
11:36-12:00	Interactive Discussion	
Master of Ceremonies/Moderator: **Prof. Rogelio Andrada II**		
Rapporteur: **Ms. Maye Padilla**		

AFTERNOON	
Parallel Session 1 Sacred Heart Center	
1:30-1:45	**Sharlette Carl M. Castillo, Marvhelle Agatha A. Lagrio, Jennifer D. Lorenzo, Brenda Mae P. Noto, Shalee C. Del Rosario and Samuel B. Damayon** Saint Mary's University, Bayombong, Nueva Vizcaya, Philippines *Preserving Cultural Traditions Among Ifugao Migrants: A Path to Sustainable Local Tourism in Nueva Vizcaya, Philippines*
1:46-2:00	**Christine S. Estioco and Winona Elaine C. Soriano** Saint Louis College, San Fernando City, La Union, Philippines *Bridging Educational Gap: Establishing Transitional Learning Hubs for Students Residing in the Mountainous Areas of Naguilian, La Union*

2:01-2:15	**Niño Randy C. Flores** Saint Louis College, San Fernando City, La Union, Philippines *Integral Ecology as a Transformative Pedagogy for Meaningful Ecological Education*
2:16-2:30	Christian Bosch Taylan, **Athena Franxia Calata, Jireh Grace Dumalanta and Isaan Palattao** University of Saint Louis, Tuguegarao City, Cagayan, Philippines *Beyond The Margins: An Intersectional Analysis on the Participation of Mainstreamed Cultural Communities of Cagayan in Electoral Politics*
2:31-2:45	**Michael T. Tabao** University of Saint Louis, Tuguegarao City, Cagayan, Philippines *Reviving Heritage: Itawet Building Rituals and Sustainable Architecture*
2:46-3:00	**Joefrey M. Almazan** Saint Louis University, Baguio City, Philippines *"Daga mi kataguan mi": Discoursing Laudato Si Towards a More Meaningful Indigenous Theology of Land in the Cordilleras*
3:01-3:15	**Tristan Salagan Baliuag** Central Saint Martins, University of the Arts London, United Kingdom *Developing a Regenerative Design Framework Addressing Techno-Cultural Plastic Use in the Philippines*
3:16-3:30	Interactive Discussion
3:31-3:40	Health Break
3:41-3:55	**Chrystel Mariz R. Gementiza-Dumaluan** Holy Name University, Tagbilaran City, Bohol, Philippines *Dinagjang: An Ethnic Fusion Composition Based on Ati Tribe Practices and Cultural Roots*
3:56-4:10	**Mary Grace A. Jagmis** Western Philippines University, Aborlan, Palawan, Philippines *Paglilikom at Pagdalumat sa mga Katutubong Katawagan ng mga Tagbanua sa Pagsasaka: Batayan sa Paglikha ng Glosaryo*
4:11-4:25	**Fe R. Janiola** Holy Name University, Tagbilaran City, Bohol, Philippines *The Sociocultural Context of the Eskaya Tribe: Preserving Heritage Amid Modern Challenges*

4:26-4:40	**Angelica Marie O. Laqui, Maria Grethel Joy C. Bajarias, Florymae S. Bonior, Nicole G. Lagrido, Desiree Jane A. Anunciado and** Fe N. Conui Carmel Academy, Bohol Association of Catholic Schools, Tagbilaran City Bohol, Philippines Commission on Election, Duuis, Bohol, Philippines Local Government Unit of Loay, Bohol, Philippines IBEX Global Solutions, Inc., Tagbilaran City, Bohol, Philippines Bohol Island State University-Balilihan Campus, Bohol, Philippines Holy Name University, Tagbilaran City, Bohol, Philippines *Traditional Christmas Practices in Antequera, Bohol and Cultural Preservation Mechanisms*
4:41-4:55	**Ernesto Miguel G. Bangayan, Cythe Allysa P. Cordon, Azfirah Keyne B. Guillermo, Vernadette C. Pacquing, Angel Joyce M. Respicio, Sheena Kristina Santos and** Jonalyn P. Santos University of Saint Louis, Tuguegarao City, Cagayan, Philippines *Nutritional Values of Indigenous Food Plants (IFPs) Among Agtas in Gattaran, Cagayan*
4:56-5:10	**Ross Pabinguit Heruela** Divine Word College of Calapan, Calapan City, Oriental Mindoro, Philippines *Research, Community Service, and Positionality: From a Catholic Perspective*
5:11-5:30	Interactive Discussion
Moderator: **Mr. Genuine Joe Abnasan**	

Parallel Session 2
Saint Pedro Calungsod Hall

1:30-1:45	**Romnick Ollero Acena** Saint Louis College, San Fernando City, La Union, Philippines *Understanding the Self Through Kierkegaard's Subjectivity and the Ilocano Concept of Nakem: A Counter-Argument to Hyper-Anthropocentrism*
1:46-2:00	**Romana P. Dulnuan,** Nathaniel A. Aliguyon**, Merlie N. Binay-an, Fermila D. Caullan, Lhea T. Castro, Jenny Grace E. Gumurot** Nueva Vizcaya State University, Bayombong, Nueva Vizcaya, Philippines *Gaddang Rituals and Struggle for Cultural Continuity in Christianized Contemporary Society*

2:01-2:15	**Joseph Bubod and Rosanna G. Sioco** Nueva Vizcaya State University, Bayombong, Nueva Vizcaya *Documenting the Gaddang Courtship Dance and Its Cultural Significance*
2:16-2:30	**Anneke Clauvinia Patriajaya, Iwan Sudradjat, Yohanes Karyadi Kusliansjah** Universitas Katolik Parahyangan, Bandung, Indonesia *Exploring Indigenous Wisdom: Architecture of the Catholic Pilgrimage Marian Grotto at Sendangsono, Kulan Progo*
2:31-2:45	**Jolina May T. Viloria** Saint Louis College, San Fernando City, La Union, Philippines *Ensuring Excellence: Instructional Supervision Practices of Private Sectarian Secondary School Supervisors*
2:46-3:00	**Wilfred F. Cahauatan, Ligaya N. Caranay and Sonio S. Isip** Saint Louis College, San Fernando, La Union, Philippines *Serving the Underserved: Library Resource Assessment Needs of Reading Centers of Adopted barangays of Saint Louis College*
3:01-3:15	**Margie V. Leandro and Maribel L. Tomilas** King's College of the Philippines, Bambang, Nueva Vizcaya, Philippines *Academic and Licensure Examination Performances of Teacher Education Graduates Across Academic Areas*
3:16-3:30	Interactive Discussion
3:31-3:40	Health Break
3:41-3:55	**Benedict Zulueta, Patrick Dayag and Stephanie Lou Paa** University of Saint Louis, Tuguegarao City, Cagayan, Philippines *The Concept of Mental Well-Being Among an Indigenous Community*
3:56-4:10	**Ethel Doria, Rafunzel Bulilawa, Bernarose Cadigal, Fe Conui and Jocelyn Gimal** Holy Name University, Tagbilaran City, Bohol, Philippines *Sta. Cruz Iconography and Focal Points in Prayer*
4:11-4:25	**Ma. Angelica V. Gatchalian, Teresa N. Basatan, Venice Joy M. Ayson, John Carlo S. Buada, Nathalie D. Cuison, Kyla Nicole C. Duran, Maria Irene M. Lansangan, Janine Grace L. Mapalo, Danielle Francheska B. Oroy, Vi-ann Gwyneth L. Ragasa, Eric Angelo B. Subido and Von Daniel B. Wayan** Saint Louis University, Baguio City, Philippines *Lived Experiences of Hospitalized Persons with Visual Disability*

4:26-4:40	**Ethel Soliva-Doria and Maria Luisa L. Arbasto** Holy Name University, Tagbilaran City, Bohol, Philippines University of Bohol, Tagbilaran City, Bohol, Philippines *A Phenomenology of the Learning Journey of Graduates of the Master of Arts in Teaching Filipino in the Province of Bohol*
4:41-4:55	**Julie Anne O. Balagan, Hannah R. Manaligod, Christian Josh F. Panopio, Tobit Justine A. Tumamao, Nieva Portia B. Duria and Jennifer Bangi** University of Saint Louis, Tuguegarao City, Cagayan, Philippines *Prenatal Care Practices of Agta Women in Selected Towns in Cagayan*
4:56-5:10	**Elizabeth H. Bautista, Catalina T. Waking, Jan Michael R. Aquino, Julliene Maxene D. Boadilla, Hojin Choi, Kristelle Camille G. De Jesus, Angelene Zyra P. Gamboa, Keziah C. Lagrosa, Tatiana Gabrielle D. Malsi, Althea Joyce I. Ong, Joana Marie S. Quinto, Christian Johann C. Torres, Dunstein Avery G. Tumapang** Saint Louis University, Baguio City, Philippines *The Effectiveness of Vestibular Stimulation in Reducing Academic Stress Among Student Nurses in School X*
5:11-5:30	*Interactive Discussion*
Moderator: **Dr. Sherylou A. Benig**	
6:00-7:30	Socialization (Dinner) — Sacred Heart Center

DAY 2 — February 27

MORNING
(Attire: Conference Shirt)
Sacred Heart Center

8:00-8:10	Opening Remarks	**MR. DINO LEONCARLO CALDERON** Conference General Co-Chair WWF-Philippines
8:11-8:55	Keynote Speaker	*Current State of Fauna and Flora in ICCs* **DR. ARVIN C. DIESMOS** Director, Biodiversity Information Management ASEAN Center for Biodiversity

8:56-9:25	Plenary Speaker 1	*Cultural Heritage, Biodiversity Conservation: Synergies for Resilient Communities* **DR. PASANG DOLMA SHERPA** Executive Director Center for Indigenous Research and Development Nepal
9:26-9:55	Plenary Speaker 2	*Biodiversity Conservation: The Case of the Lower Magat Eco-Tourism Park* **FOR. ROGER HABOC** Environmental Management Specialist II Provincial Environment and Natural Resources Nueva Vizcaya, Philippines
9:56-10:25	Plenary Speaker 3	*Biodiversity Conservation: The Case of Kalanguya-Ikalahan Ancestral Domain* **FOR. ASAMI B. SEGUNDO** Indigenous Youth Leader, Ikalahan-Kalanguya Nueva Vizcaya, Philippines
10:26-10:35	Health Break	
10:36-10:50	Interactive Discussion	
10:51-11:05	**Pius Sugeng Prasetyo and Theresia Gunawan** Parahyangan Catholic University, Bandung, Indonesia	*"Buruan SAE" (Urban Farming) in Bandung as a Local Indigenous Initiative Rooted in Sudanese Culture to Support Urban Food Systems and Business Sectors*
11:06-11:20	**Clarice Colting-Pulumbarit, Justine Marasigan, Nel Angela Orenciana, Carlos Mico Villanueva, Karla Jane Gonzalvo, Jesus Dacillo, Juan M. Pulhin** University of the Philippines Los Baños, Laguna, Philippines Miriam College, Quezon City, Philippines	*Sustaining Forests and the People: Learning from Indigenous Forest Management as Social Forestry in the Philippines*
11:21-11:35	**Rico Casta Jacoba** Saint Louis University, Baguio City, Philippines	*Reclaiming Indigenous Beliefs and Practices in the Environmental Stewardships and Sustainability in the Cordillera*

11:36-11:50	**Dilber Yunus** IISD Experimental Lakes Area, Winnipeg, Manitoba, Canada *Anchoring the Modern Approach of the World's Freshwater Laboratory in the Traditional Anishinaabe Worldview*
11:51-12:00	Interactive Discussion
Master of Ceremonies/Moderator: **Dr. Philip A. Alviola** Rapporteur: **Asst. Prof. Kathleen T. Dizon-Solpico, MSc**	

AFTERNOON

1:00-7:00	Environmental-Cultural Encounter	Imugan, Sta. Fe, Nueva Vizcaya
Master of Ceremonies/Moderator: **Mrs. Essel T. Cañaberal**		

DAY 3 — February 28

MORNING
(Attire: Smart Casual)

8:00-8:10	Opening Remarks	**DR. SHERYL A. YAP** Conference General Co-Chair University of the Philippines Los Baños
8:11-10:40	Workshop on Biodiversity Conservation	*Indigenous Peoples and Biodiversity Conservation: Integrating Indigenous Knowledge Systems and Sciences to Address Biodiversity Loss* **DR. MING KAI TAN** *Curator, Lee Kong Chian Natural History Museum* *National University of Singapore*
10:40-11:40	Stakeholders' Consultation	Discussion on the Collaborative Project on BaNTAY-Kalanguya-Ikalahan
11:40-11:50	Awarding of Tokens of Appreciation and Certificates	
11:51-12:00	Words of Gratitude	**DR. CHRISTOPHER ALLEN S. MARQUEZ** Conference General Chair Saint Mary's University, Philippines
Master of Ceremonies: **Miss Laurice Kaye P. Laguinday**		
HOME SWEET HOME		



Day

February 26,
2025

Prof. Zenaida Baoanan was a recipient of the Fulbright-Philippine Agriculture Advanced Research Grant and Fulbright Occasional Lecturer Fund by the Council for International Exchange of Scholars at University of Utah, Salt Lake City, Utah, USA. She is a Professor at the University of the Philippines Baguio. She has served the institution in various capacities. She was Head of the Biodiversity Resources and Management Program, Graduate Programs Coordinator of the MS Conservation and Restoration Ecology Program, and Member of the Biological and Chemical Waste Management, among many others. Currently, she is the Chair of the Native Plant Committee and Member of the PhD in Indigenous Studies Program. She has been involved in many research projects and patents with UP CIDS, DENR Foreign Assisted and Special Projects Service, DENR CAR, and CHED GIA, DARE TO Program. She finished her pos-doctorate degree at the University of Hawaii at Manoa, Honolulu, Hawaii, USA, PhD and MS in Biology at the University of the Philippines, Diliman, and BS Biology at the University of the Philippines College Baguio.



Dr. Zenaida Baoanan



Of Ngāti Porou and Ngāti Uepohatu Indigenous descent – Dr Shaun Awatere is a researcher with Aotearoa's Crown Research Institute - Manaaki Whenua Landcare Research and has actively supported Māori to manage collective assets more sustainably. He is currently engaged in research and policy to help prepare Māori tribal groups for climate change mitigation and adaptation planning. Shaun and a team of Nga Pae o Te Māramatanga (Aotearoa's Māori Centre of Research Excellence) researchers have recently summarised the latest research and guidance surrounding observed and projected climate change impacts on Māori in Aotearoa-New Zealand. This research examines the impact of these changes on various interests and investments. It also provides insights on risk, uncertainty, knowledge gaps, and strategies for addressing climate change.

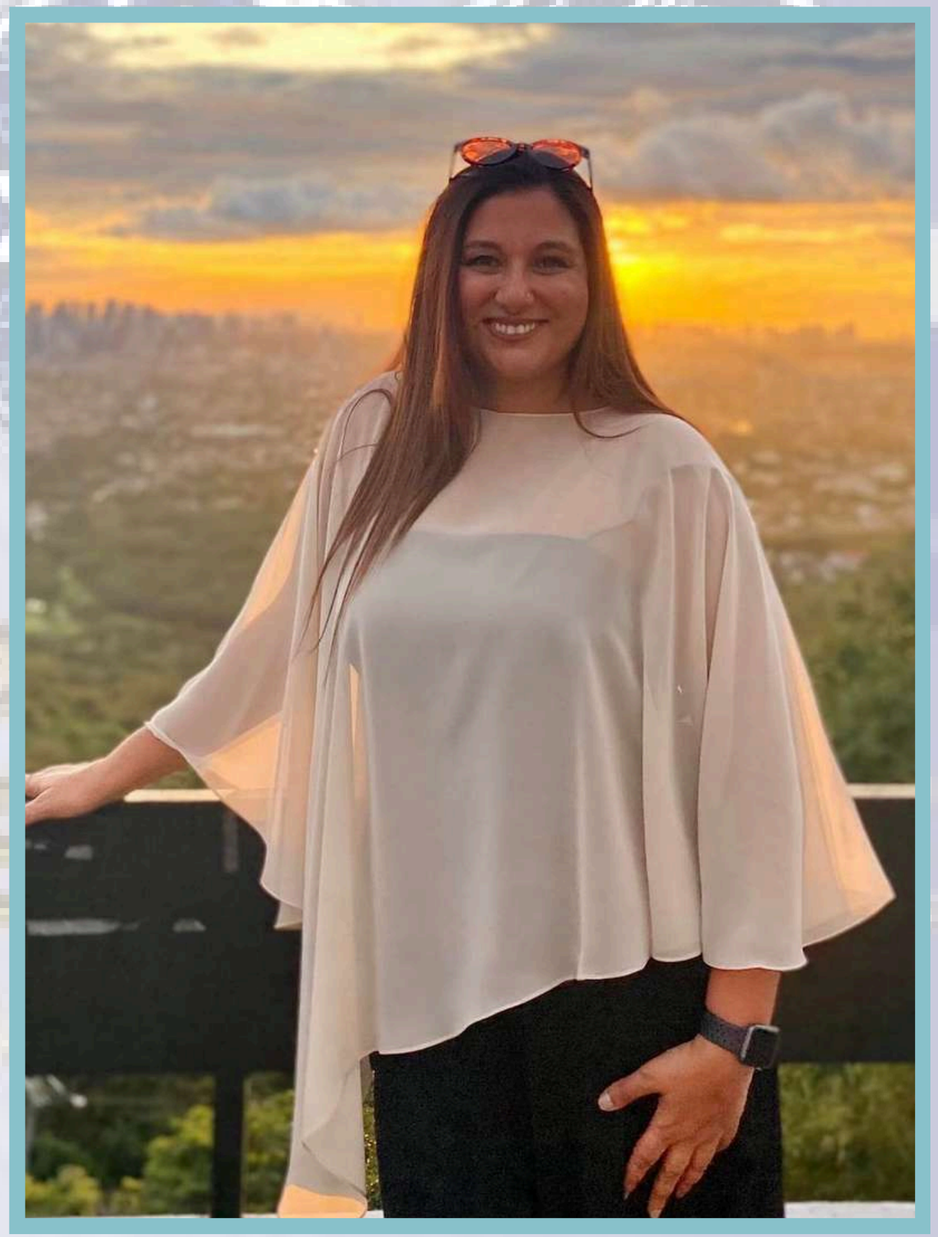
Dr. Shaun Awatere

She served as the Project Manager of the Biodiversity Finance Initiative (BIOFIN), a project of the United Nations Development Programme in partnership with the Department of Environment and Natural Resources, since 2014. As a licensed environmental planner, she holds a Master's Degree in Urban and Regional Planning from the University of the Philippines and a Bachelor's Degree in Environmental Planning from Maryknoll College (now Miriam College). Her extensive career encompasses a wide range of roles across government, the private sector, and academia, in addition to a long-standing association with the Haribon Foundation, where she formerly held the position of Chief Operating Officer.

Anabelle E. Plantilla



Dr Jamel Kaur Singh is a globally respected leader in Cultural Education and Indigenous collaboration with over 30 years of experience. Born in England to Malaysian-born Sikh parents, Dr Singh has lived in Australia for 45 years. Her academic journey reflects a lifelong commitment to Indigenous knowledge systems, including a BA in Aboriginal Administration Management and Community Engagement, which laid the foundation for her strong connections with First Nations communities across Australia and beyond. Her groundbreaking doctoral research—Cultural Education as a Framework for Policy Formation: Building Inclusive Societies with Sensitivities, Awareness, and Responsiveness—offers practical strategies for integrating cultural awareness into policies addressing domestic violence, workplace inequities, and community resilience. She has worked alongside First Nations communities to integrate traditional wisdom into innovative solutions for pressing global challenges. Her visits to the Philippines—three times in the past two years—reflect her commitment to cultural exchange and amplifying the voices of Indigenous leaders in shaping sustainable futures. As the founder of Consultsingh Pty Ltd, she has dedicated her career to bridging cultural understanding and creating transformative solutions for societal and global challenges. Dr. Singh is the author of The World is Our Playground, a celebrated children's book series introducing young readers to multiculturalism.



Dr. Jamel Kaur Singh

REGISTRATION







Registration for the first day commenced at 7:30-8:00 a.m., spearheaded by the School of Health and Natural Sciences faculty and staff.

PARTICIPANTS



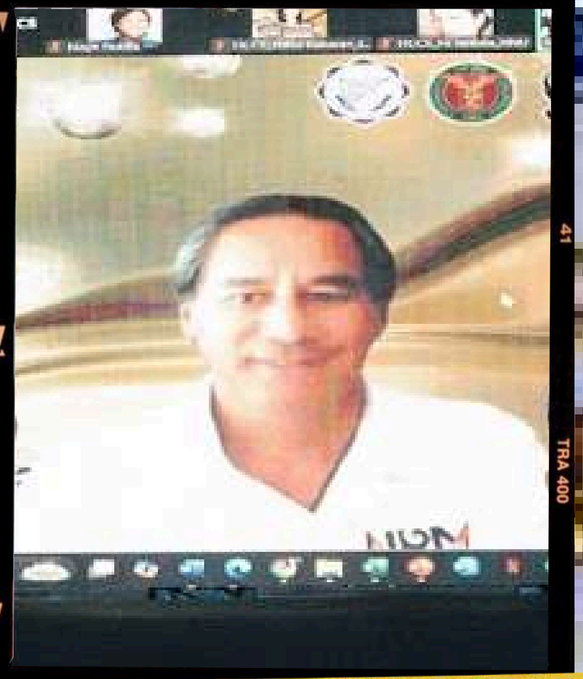


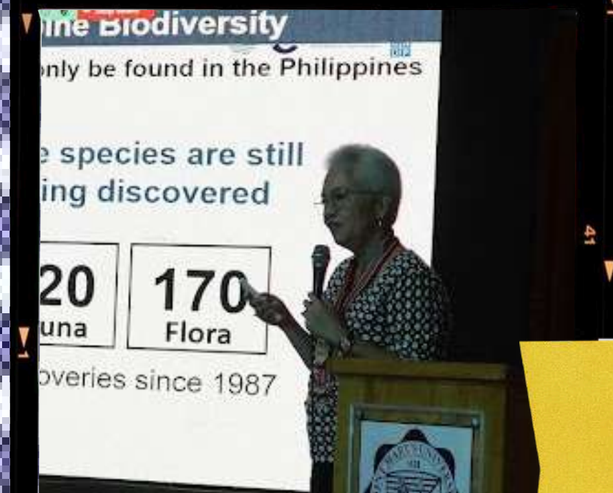


Participants convened at the Sacred Heart Center for the opening of a three-day international conference.













First Day Speakers

Paper Presentations



Participants were divided into groups based on the topics for their paper presentations. One group of presenters stayed at the Sacred Heart Center, while the other participants moved to San Pedro Calungsod Hall.











Sacred Heart Center















San Pedro Calungsod Hall







Cultural Night
February 26, 2025
Spearheaded by the Cultural Affairs Office, the SMU Band, Chorale, BIBAK, and Senior High School dancers graced the socialization night with cultural performances.



Day

February 27,
2025



Arvin C. Diesmos is a herpetologist and has co-authored over 180 scientific papers and is the co-discoverer of around 80 species of frogs, lizards, snakes, insect arthropods, and a bird species from Southeast Asia. He received his Ph.D. in Biology from the National University of Singapore. He is an Alternate Member of the Animals Committee of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Flora and Fauna, a member of the Amphibian Specialist Group, Tortoise and Turtles Specialist Group, Crocodile Specialist Group, and the Amphibian Red List Authority of the International Union for the Conservation of Nature. He is a Senior Director at the ASEAN Center for Biodiversity.

Dr. Arvin C. Diesmos



Pasang Dolma Sherpa, Executive Director of Center for Indigenous Peoples' Research & Development (CIPRED) has been working with Indigenous Peoples, Women and Local Communities for the recognition of the indigenous peoples’ knowledge, cultural values and customary institutions that contributed for sustainable management of forest, ecosystem, biodiversity and climate resilience for more than a decade. Ms. Sherpa has obtained her PhD at Kathmandu University in 2018 on Climate Change Education and its Interfaces with Indigenous Knowledge. She has already served as Co-Chair of International Indigenous Peoples’ Forum on Climate Change (IIPFCC), Co-Chair of Facilitative Working Group (FWG) of Local Communities and Indigenous Peoples’ Platform (LCIP) of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), to the board of UN-REDD, Participant Committee of FCPF, World Bank. Presently, she is the Chair of IUCN CEESP Specialist Group on Indigenous Peoples' Customary and Environmental Laws and Human Rights (SPICEH), visiting faculty at Kathmandu University as well as representing in the different forums, networks and institutions both at national and international levels.

Pasang Dolma Sherpa



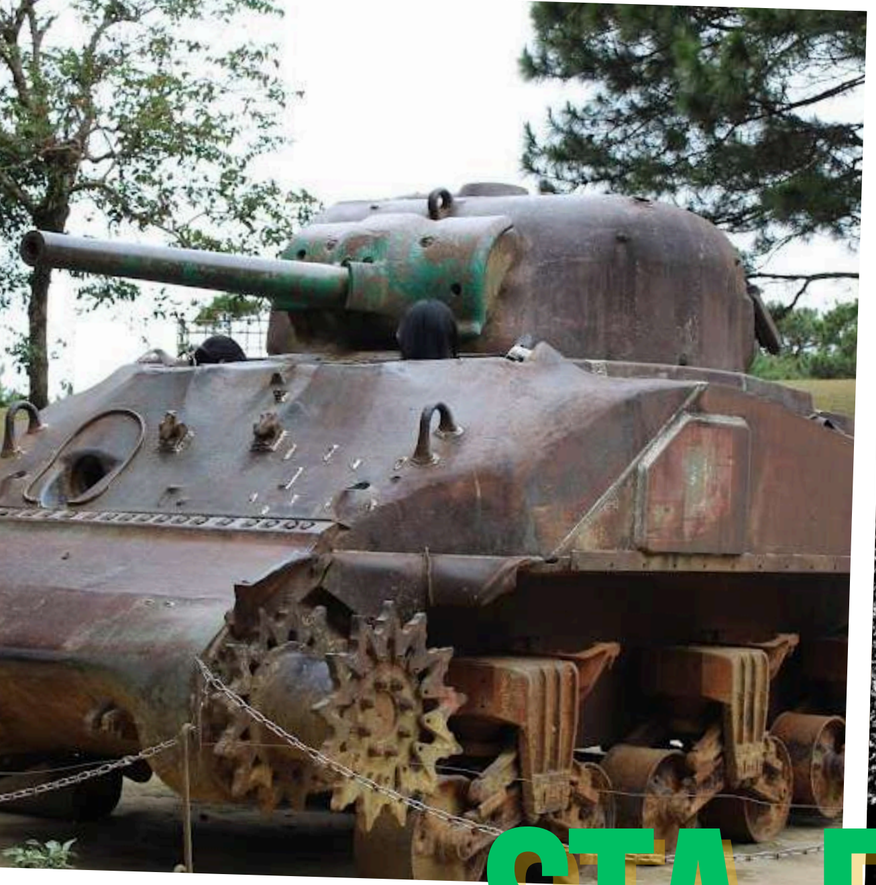
Forester Roger Haboc has been specializing in forestland management and vegetation assessments. He was affiliated with DENR-Forest Management Bureau, and consultant for vegetation assessment in Zambales, Cebu, Lanao del Norte, Davae del Sur, Bukidnon and Rizal, Philippines. Currently, he is an Environmental Management Specialist at the Provincial Environment and Natural Resources Office of the Local Government of Nueva Vizcaya, and is designated as Officer-in-Charge of the Forest Conservation and Development Division. He finished his bachelor's degree in Forestry (Cum laude) and has obtained academic units in MS Forestry at the Nueva Vizcaya State University, Bayombong. He was National Topnotcher (Top 8) during the July 2013 Forester Licensure Examination.

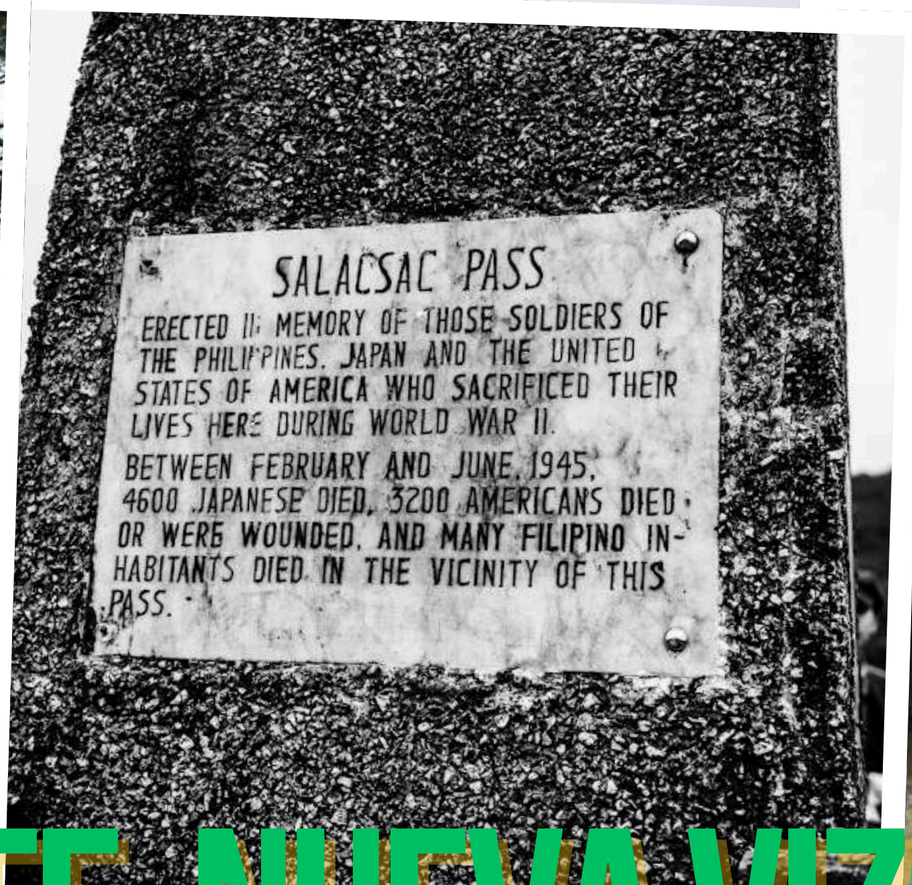
Forester Roger Haboc

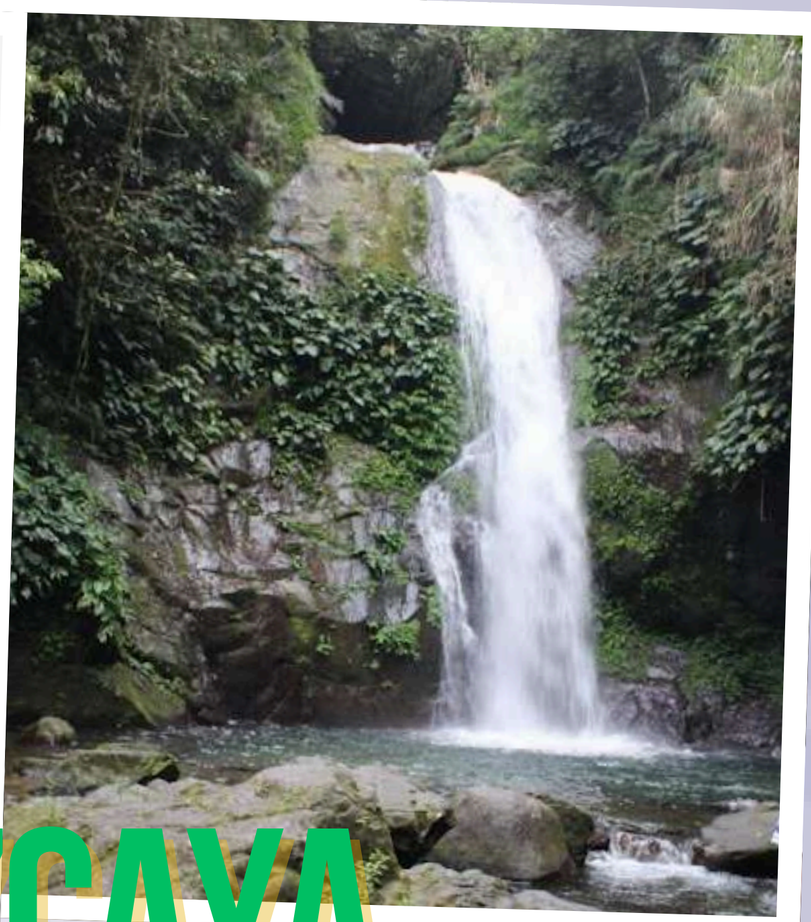
Forester Asami is an Indigenous leader with five years of professional experience as a forester. She has contextualized training modules and materials, facilitated training and meetings, and developed a sensitivity and respect for local culture. She has been a founding member and interim Focal point for Asia for the International Indigenous Youth Forum on Climate Change under the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change and founder of Ikalahan Youth Organization for Sustainable Development focused on cultural continuity and sustainable development. She has represented the Philippines in international conventions on climate change and other UN-organized conventions and forums. She obtained her Master of Arts in Ministry at the Philippines Baptist Theological Seminary in 2022, with academic units in Master of Science in Conservation and Restoration Ecology at the University of the Philippines Baguio and BS in Forestry with specialization in Social Forestry in 2024.



Forester Asami B. Segundo







STA. FE, NUEVA VIZCAYA

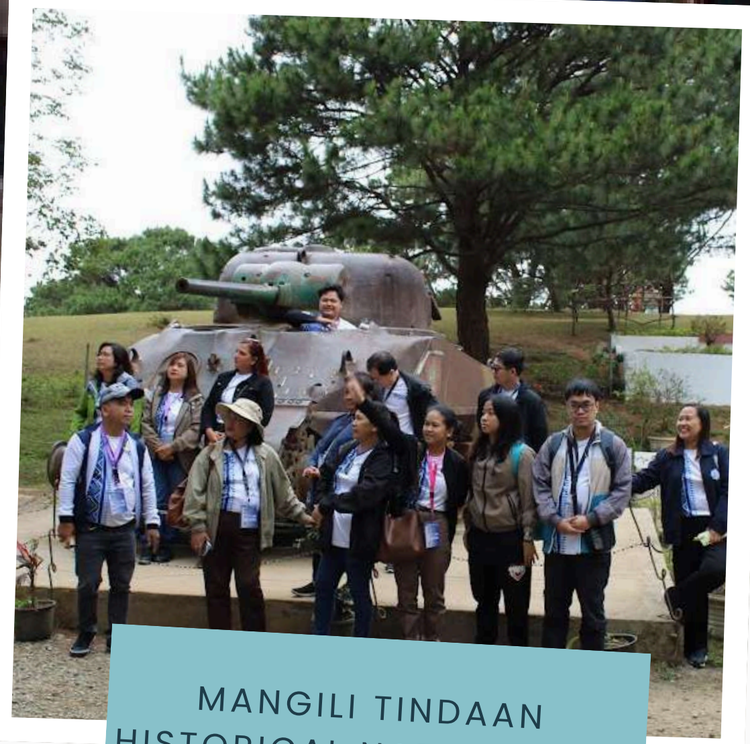
On the second day, the participants embarked on an excursion to explore one of the biodiversity sites in the province of Nueva Vizcaya, Philippines. The itinerary includes several notable sites: the Mangili Tindaan Historical Nature Park, Salacsac Pass Monument, and Imugan Falls in Sta. Fe, Nueva Vizcaya, which are all within the Ikalahan Ancestral Domain.

ENVIRONMENTAL-CULTURAL ENCOUNTER





IMUGAN FALLS



MANGILI TINDAAN
HISTORICAL NATURE PARK



ALANG SALACSAC



The cultural-environmental immersion cocluded with a warm reception from the Kalanguya-Ikalahan community at the Kalahan Academy, with a night filled with cultural experiences including traditional songs, dances, and delicacies.

KALANGUYA-IKALAHAN COMMUNITY



The community dance event provided an exciting opportunity for participants to engage with and appreciate the rich culture of the Kalanguya-Ikalahan community. It was a night filled with learning, connection, and celebration of traditions.

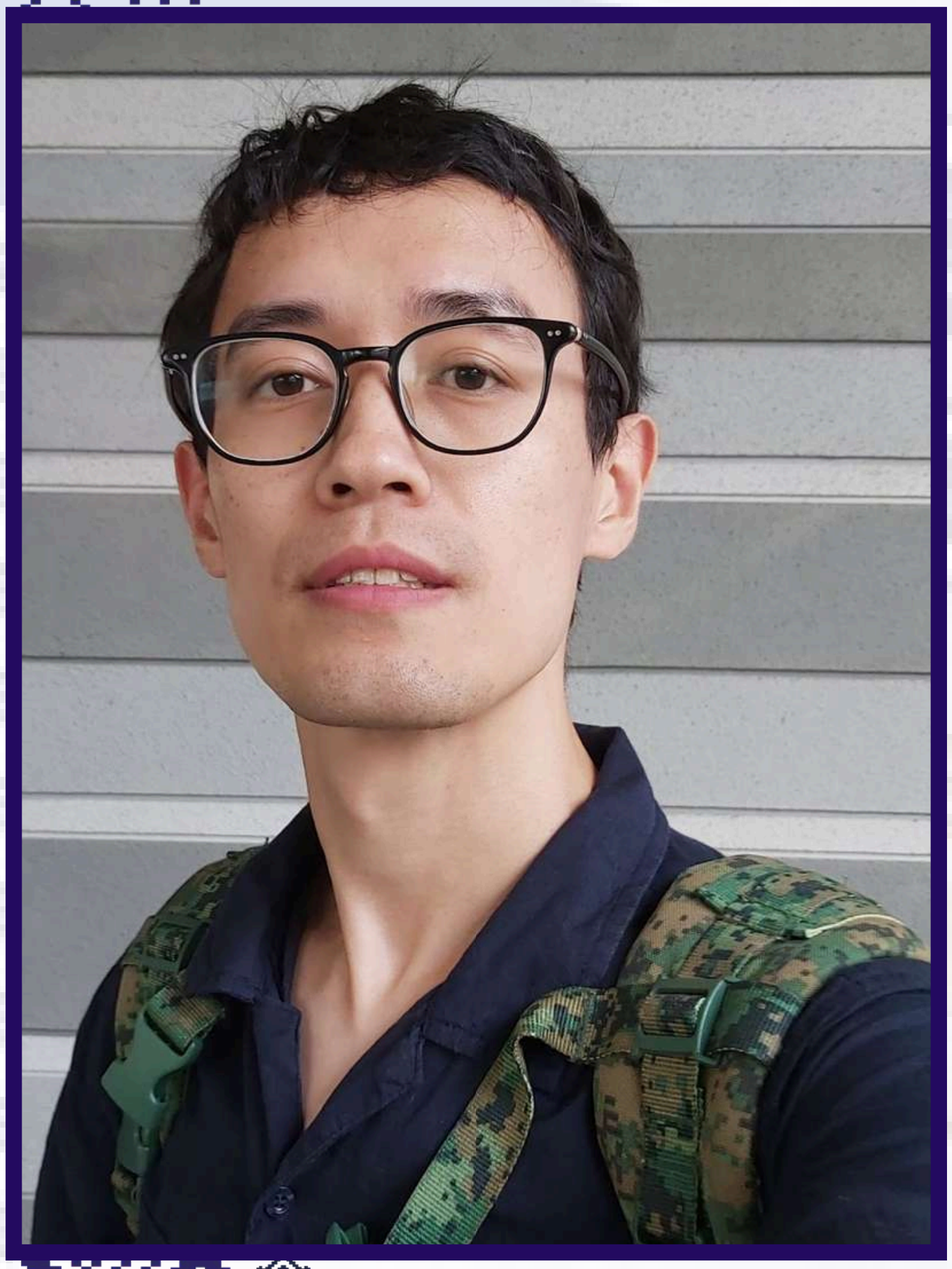






Day

February 28, 2025



Dr. Ming Kai Tan is an Associate Scientific Manager and Curator of Etomology at the Lee Kong Chian Natural History Museum, National University of Singapore. He was a visiting researcher and a Fyssen Foundation Postdoctoral Fellow at the Institut de Systematique, Evolution et Biodiversite (ISYEB) Museum national d'Histoire Naturelle in Paris, France. He has been into numerous research expeditions in Malaysia, Thailand, Brunei, Vietnam and the Philippines. Since 2010, he has published over 100 peer-reviewed papers and four eBooks. He has been a reviewer in more than 20 international science journals, specifically on Taxonomy and Ecology. Dr. Tan also received awards like the Best Biodiversity Research Award in Sabah, Tony Whitten Conservation Prize, International Society for Plant Molecular Biology Medal and the Malayan Nature Society Silver Medal. He finished his BS in Life Science with specialization in Environmental Biology and his Doctor of Philosophy at the National University of Singapore

Dr. Ming Kai Tan





The final day involved a discussion on strategies to combat biodiversity loss and the planning of a collaborative initiative on the BaNTAY-Kalanguya-Ikalahan project.







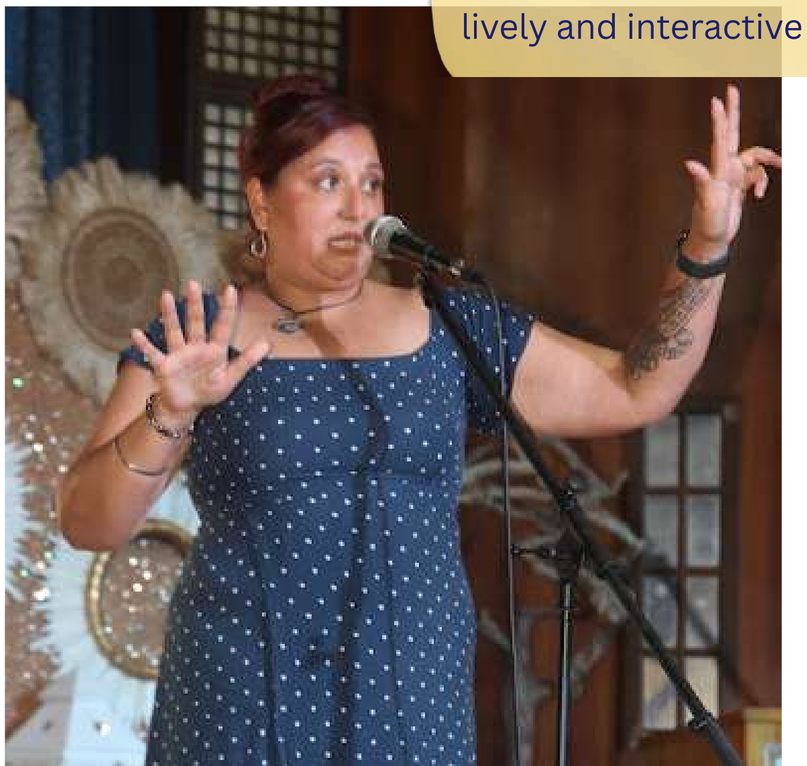






Dr. Jamel Kaur Singh led a fun session teaching traditional Indian dance steps to the participants. This activity served as both an icebreaker and a way to share her culture through dance after a discussion with stakeholders. It was a great opportunity for everyone to engage and learn about Indian traditions in a lively and interactive way.







AWARDING











FICCS

4th INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON CULTURAL STUDIES



"From Tradition to Innovation:
Indigenous Solutions for Global Challenges"

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FOURTH INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON CULTURAL STUDIES


HALAMMAT!
Thank You!

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

Saint Mary’s University thanks everyone who contributed to the success of the Fourth International Conference on Cultural Studies (FICCS 2025) held from February 26 to 28, 2025. The event featured speakers and participants from the Philippines, Indonesia, Singapore, New Zealand, Canada, Australia, and Nepal, focusing on indigenous solutions to global challenges. We appreciate our partners—UPLB, WWF-Philippines, and the ASEAN Center for Biodiversity—as well as our co-conveners—SLU Baguio, Holy Name University, SLC La Union, and USLT—for their support. We also thank all our sponsors, scholars, students, and guests for enriching the discussions on culture, biodiversity conservation, and indigenous practices. Together, we honor cultural heritage and seek sustainable solutions for the future.