

**"Navigating the Waters of Change and Future-Proofing the University: Harnessing Innovation, Fostering Collaboration, and Embracing Technological Advancements in the Digital Age"**  
( A VISION FOR UP VISAYAS )

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*UP Visayas is niched for the development of the Fisheries sector of the entire country. It is mandated to efficiently deliver excellent education for free in the areas of Fisheries and Ocean Sciences, Arts and Culture, Business Administration, Management and Accountancy, and Food Science and other Technologies. It's presence in the Visayas region is to fulfill this mandate and to marshal the talents and resources of the country towards growth and development of the greater community in the Visayas and contribute to building a great nation alongside with the ASEAN community of nations and the global community.*

*The disruptions we have recently experienced forced us to embrace the transformative wave of changes and rapid advances in technology. Over the next five years, UP Visayas will experience a profound shift, adapting to innovation, digitalization, and changing societal needs. This Vision Paper looks into a future in which UP Visayas harness the power of technology to enhance education, foster global connectivity, promote lifelong learning, and redefine the traditional university experience.*

*Looking at this landscape and referencing on UPV's mandate, I bring forward the following Vision and agenda for our constituent university - UP Visayas, in the next 5 years.*

- I. Regional University Network and Linkage Through Collaborative Research and Extension*
- II. In Focus: UPV and The Fisheries Sector Towards Food Security*
- III. Technological Innovation Towards Digitization and Digital Transformation for Enhanced Teaching and Learning Experience*
- IV. Strengthen the Graduate School: New Curricular Programs and Extension Programs*
- V. Updating and Upgrading the Administrative Support Staff*
- VI. Preserving Indigenous Culture and Heritage at the University*
- VII. Establishing the Whole Wide World Alumni Network*

***Regional University Network and Linkage Through Collaborative Research and Extension***

In pursuit of its vision, UPV must prioritize research as the driving force behind innovation in fisheries and other academic disciplines within the university. By fostering collaborative research, UPV can nurture an environment of cross-disciplinary research that can generate partnership with local and international organizations and provide access to knowledge transfer, funding opportunities, and technological advancements. Such collaborations will not only enhance UPV's potential for groundbreaking research, but also bolster the university's status as a leading institution in fisheries education and research.

The concept of a Regional University Network and Linkage Through Collaborative Research and Extension involves the establishment of a collaboration among regional universities to strengthen research and extension activities within a particular geographical area – in this case, I am aiming at the Asia Pacific region.

UP Visayas has a Regional Research Center (RRC), which has not been fully utilized. The Center has to be re-evaluated as to its functionality vis a vis its capability and optimal use anchoring on the niche program of Fisheries, Aquatic Sciences and allied disciplines. It must be looked into as the vehicle through which networking and collaboration can be developed basing on a redefined perspective of which it was conceptualized. Its Organizational Structure must be reviewed to enable the Asia Pacific regional collaboration through Research and Extension to happen. This regional collaboration is expected to bring about the following benefits to UPV and the Asia Pacific region.

*Knowledge sharing and resource pooling:* UPV and other regional universities can collaborate to share knowledge, expertise, and resources. This will lead to more efficient utilization of resources and promote synergy among universities and other institutions. Also, joint research projects will be developed through collaboration among universities that will address regional issues and lead to impactful and practical research outcomes directed towards specific needs and challenges of the Asia Pacific region.

Intercultural Exchanges Through Collaborative Extension Programs. Together with the collaborative research agenda, UPV and regional universities can work together to extend the benefits of research findings to the local communities. This can include organizing workshops, training programs, and outreach activities to transfer knowledge and technology among collaborating universities of Asia

Pacific countries. The university also promotes indigenous culture and heritage and will institutionalize programs towards its preservation and intercultural exchange through research and extension.

Interdisciplinary collaboration, Capacity building, and Funding opportunities. The collaboration shall take interdisciplinary approaches leading to innovative solutions and comprehensive approaches to address complex regional challenges. This will provide opportunities for professional development, skill enhancement, and capacity building among researchers, faculty members, and extension professionals from different universities and through the regional network, UPV and other universities can leverage its collective strength to attract funding from government agencies, industry partners, and other sources thereby enhancing its funding potential to support the expansion of research and extension activities.

### *In Focus: UPV and The Fisheries Sector Towards Food Security*

In a world grappling with interrelated challenges such as climate change, food security, and environmental degradation, the importance of sustainable practices in the field of fisheries has never been greater. Recognizing this, the University of the Philippines Visayas (UPV), is primed to take the lead in nurturing a vision of excellence and innovation as part of the National Fisheries Program of the country. Being so, we are rooted to provide support to the Food Security Agenda of the government and will serve as catalyst for innovation and entrepreneurship by nurturing creativity and empowering students to become innovators and entrepreneurs. UPV shall provide resources, mentorship, and networking opportunities to transform ideas into impactful enterprises that provide solutions and novel products and services.

Towards this end, we will Institutionalize the UPV Center for Entrepreneurial Development (UPV-CED). The Center will serve as an entrepreneurial development avenue through which innovative product ideas graduating from the laboratories by students will be turned into business ideas, incubated, and commercialized and mainstreamed in the industries. The center will be operated with three modular segments/sections representing the stages in business development.

1. The Idea Inception Stage which will provide Technical Assistance on perfecting the product idea and to market test the product developed.
2. The Business Incubation Stage which will incubate the market ready product for a maximum period of 3 years until it is ready for business engagement and commercialization.
3. The Enterprise Acceleration Stage which will launch the successfully incubated business enterprise into Industry mainstreaming.

This Center will also be considered as an entrepreneurial clinic/laboratory to be anchored by our business college – the College of Management through its Business Support Program (BSP). In this regard, we will have a closer look at and review of the operations of the SEEDS TBI and also the Fisheries TBI to eliminate redundancy and duplication of functions thereby improving efficiency of operations.

Moreover, I will reassess our options on the non-performing assets (NPAs) of the university related to fisheries. The following NPAs in particular will be looked into to examine their probable economic use and to harness their income generation capability:

- Batan, Aklan Fishponds/Properties
- Leyte, Leyte Fishponds/ Properties
- Leased Property in Leganes

There is also a need to review the functioning of the different Institutes in the College of Fisheries and Ocean Sciences in order to keep them abreast with the current trends and area differentiation and specialization. This is to align our Institutes and be responsive to the needs of the times that goes with the changes in the Fisheries sector.

One of the many things that CFOS has been doing is policy advocacy and partnership building. It has played an active role in advocating for policies and regulations that prioritize the needs and rights of marginalized groups in fishing communities. This involves collaborating with local government agencies, non-governmental organizations, and other stakeholders to advocate for inclusive policies and practices. Such collaborations shall be further strengthened through institutionalized partnerships with the government and private sectors

We will also encourage collaborations and partnerships with entrepreneurs, start-ups, and industry players to adopt and adapt technological advancements into the fisheries sector, bridging the gap between academia and industry. Moreover, we will explore emerging fields such as aquaponics, mariculture, and the development of alternative protein sources that can open new doors for sustainable fisheries practices. Such collaborations shall also work towards recognizing gender issues and empowerment of women and preserving and promoting the cultural heritage of marginalized groups in fishing communities.

### ***Technological Innovation Towards Digitization and Digital Transformation for Enhanced Teaching and Learning Experience***

Technological innovation plays a crucial role in enhancing the teaching and learning environment. UP Visayas is already geared for Digital Transformation. Online learning platforms provided a flexible and accessible way for all our students to access educational resources, lectures, and assignments. Even Virtual Reality (VR) and Augmented Reality (AR) created immersive and interactive learning experiences.

Adaptive learning platforms with the use of artificial intelligence (AI) are now the in thing and makes the learning experience for students more interesting, faster and easier. Our Teaching faculty also have adapted to the Online assessment tools which streamline the grading process and provide immediate feedback to students. These tools promote efficient evaluation and timely intervention and makes their work easier.

These technological advancement and digital transformation must be supported. And so we will set up and reorganize a bigger and more responsive IT Support Unit (ITSU) which will cater to the needs of the two campuses of UP Visayas. The ITSU will see to it that the Digital Transformation of all academic and non-academic support units will be total and well supported by the right and well-maintained technological infrastructure.

We will also re-evaluate our Student Centers/CUB and take an inventory of the facilities and upgrade them to make these hubs functional for students to socialize, relax, and engage in various activities outside of the classroom. The CUB must have the following facilities at the minimum:

1. *Lounge areas*: Comfortable seating arrangements, sofas, and bean bags where students can relax and interact with each other in a casual setting.
2. *Study spaces*: Quiet areas with desks, chairs, and adequate lighting for students to study individually or in groups. Equipped with desktop computers and printing facilities to support students' technological needs and academic work.
3. *Cafeteria or food court*: A dining area that offers a variety of food options and beverages, creating a social space for students to eat, chat, and relax.
4. *Fitness center*: A fitness facility that includes exercise equipment, a gymnasium, or fitness classes to promote physical well-being and encourage a healthy lifestyle.
5. *Multi-purpose rooms*: Flexible spaces that can be used for club meetings, workshops, seminars, presentations, or events.
6. *Counseling and wellness center*: A dedicated space where students can access counseling services, mental health support, or wellness programs.
7. *Student organization offices*: Spaces allocated for student clubs, organizations, or student government where they can meet, plan activities, and collaborate.

### ***Strengthen the Graduate School: New Curricular Programs and Extension Programs***

There are two Curricular Programs which were worked out years ago in the College of Management, namely, Doctor of Public Administration and Master of Urban and Regional Planning. I would like to pursue the adoption/institution of these programs in the College of Management because of the expressed market need. The newly established Graduate School will be our vehicle for advancing collaborative interdisciplinary research through the Graduate Curricular Programs and by initiating research forums and catalyzing research partnerships with other universities. It is with a strong resolve that we will strengthen our newly established Graduate School so we can leap frog the research agenda of the university and positively respond to the call for knowledge creation and public service delivery.

The Extension Classes which were previously initiated in Roxas City, Capiz by the College of Management will be revived. This is to strengthen the UPV presence in the countryside and to respond to the market demand in that part of the region. The UPV project in Antique has to be re-

studied and re-evaluated and planned to fix the programs that must be offered and delivered. It is also projected to be operational as planned during its conception.

### ***Updating and Upgrading the Administrative Support Staff***

I recognize the administrative support staff as the strong backbone of university operations and yet they are the forgotten ones most of the time. Without them the university would not be able to operate or operations would not be very efficient and delivery of university services will be stunted. Logically, it is necessary that our administrative support staff must also be fueled and oiled with adequate training and professional development so that they can be proficient and be at par with the current trends in their work. I would like to review the Administrative Staff Development Agenda and express support for the professional development and training of the Administrative staff towards proficiency.

### ***Preserving Indigenous Culture and Heritage in the University***

Indigenous cultures are rich in history, wisdom, and traditions, representing a significant aspect of human diversity. However, the erosion of Indigenous cultures and loss of their heritage are critical issues faced globally. To address this matter, UPV will take an active role in preserving and promoting Indigenous culture and heritage.

A Center for Indigenous Culture and Heritage will be established under the Office of the Chancellor. This office will be engaging in various programs and activities affecting Indigenous Culture and Heritage conceptualized as follows:

First and foremost, UPV will establish Indigenous cultural centers which will serve as physical spaces for Indigenous communities to gather, share traditions, and engage with academic resources. These centers will organize cultural events, facilitate language revitalization programs, and display Indigenous artwork and artifacts.

Second, UPV will establish collaborative projects that involve Indigenous elders, knowledge keepers, and leaders, allowing their wisdom and traditions to be shared with the wider university community. Academic courses co-taught by Indigenous experts can offer students a firsthand opportunity to learn about Indigenous cultures and heritage, while respecting Indigenous perspectives and methodologies.

Third, UPV could initiate Inclusion of Indigenous knowledge in academic programs by recognizing Indigenous knowledge as a legitimate form of intellectual contribution and integrating it into various fields of study. UPV in the long run should actively seek ways to incorporate Indigenous knowledge into the curriculum which will empower Indigenous students and provide all students with a deeper understanding of Indigenous cultures and worldviews.

Fourth, UPV shall work towards ensuring Indigenous representation in decision-making processes by establishing advisory committees, composed of Indigenous voices, to guide policies and initiatives related to Indigenous culture and heritage preservation.

Fifth, UPV shall support Indigenous Student Organizations by Providing funds, resources, and administrative support to indigenous student organizations on campus. Indigenous Scholarship and Research can be set up to support the study of indigenous culture and heritage and encourage faculty and students to engage in research, art, and performance projects that contribute to the preservation and promotion of indigenous culture

### ***Establishing the Whole Wide World Alumni Network***

The power of the alumni cannot be underestimated when it comes to the success of programs and activities in the university. They provide networking opportunities, guidance, mentorship, and potential funding partnerships. They also provide success inspiration in their professional journeys and they serve as role models that motivates and encourages others to pursue their goals and overcome challenges.

Years ago I have initiated touching base with the Alumni residing in the USA. From that short encounter, we were able to form an Alumni Group called "One UPV Alumni Foundation, Inc, (USA)" – a duly registered non-stock non-profit organization providing Financial Assistance to the financially challenged but deserving students of UP Visayas. In one year, the group was able to raise sufficient funds through donations and fund-raising activities in the USA and from the whole wide world and

now the scholars that they are supporting numbers more than a hundred in 5 years or so from its inception.

On my term as Chancellor, I plan to expand and establish a wider alumni network in every continent of the world in order to engage them to look back to the Alma Mater. They are a rich source of resources, linkages, and talents that can provide valuable feedback and input to enhance the programs and services offered by the university. Their firsthand experience can help identify areas for improvement and suggest new initiatives or resources that would benefit future graduates. By harnessing the power of the alumni, the university can create a vibrant and interconnected community that supports and fosters success in the university.

Overall, these are the major items in my agenda when I become Chancellor by November, 2023. There are however some housekeeping concerns that I would like to commit myself into when I assume office as Chancellor:

One, the Water Problem inside the UPV Miagao Campus. I commit to look for sustainable long term solutions that would assure undisrupted flow of water within the campus;

Two, the electric power cost of UPV runs to approximately more than 1/3 of its budget. I commit to study alternative ways to reduce this cost without disrupting the university operations, plans and programs;

Three, the Cleanliness and Maintenance of the 2 campuses. I have observed that the two campuses have expanded the facilities, dormitories and buildings but the maintenance men are still the same since about 5 years ago. I commit to look at how the disparity can be bridged;

Fourth, Transportation for Students within Miagao Campus. I will look into the point-to-point transportation problem of students. Tricycles which are the common transport vehicle inside the campus are not always safe because of the terrain and the driving behavior of tricycle drivers. I am looking at and I commit myself to look for funds for the acquisition of electronic mini buses which could be used to service the students from point-to-point inside the campus; and lastly,

Fourth, I commit to maintain an Open-Door Policy with regards to issues and concerns of Students, Faculty and Staff. And I would like to reestablish Open Dialogues with sectors on a regular basis so that we can arrest these issues and concerns and address them accordingly.

Thank you for your attention.

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Nominated for UPV Chancellor 2023

