



PRESS RELEASE

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UNIVERSITY OF THE PHILIPPINES LAUNCHES RESILIENCE INSTITUTE (UP RI) *UP Nationwide Operational Assessment of Hazards (NOAH) Center to propel UP RI*

The revitalized University of the Philippines Resilience Institute (UP RI), with the integration of the UP Nationwide Operational Assessment of Hazards (NOAH) Center as its core component, was formally launched on 20 June 2017 at *Ang Bahay ng Alumni* as a proactive hub providing benchmark innovative information vital in lifesaving climate change actions and disaster risk reduction efforts.

Highlighting the momentous event led by UP President Danilo Concepcion were Sen. Loren Legarda, United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction Global Champion for Resilience; Albay 2D Albay Rep. Joey Sarte Salceda, United Nations Senior Global Champion on Climate Change Adaptation and Disaster Risk Reduction; and champion on local autonomy and governance, League of Municipalities of the Philippines National President and Oriental Mindoro's Municipality of Socorro Mayor Bubut Brondial.

Each received an Artwork rendered by former UP College of Fine Arts (UP CFA) Dean and University Artist Neil Doloricon which fully embodies the UP RI's firm commitment to be a proactive hub providing benchmark innovative information vital in lifesaving climate change actions and disaster risk reduction efforts.

A special recognition too was accorded to UP CFA Professor Joey Tañedo for creating the UP RI Logo which represents the academe, government, and people in cooperation, unity and solidarity that completes the character of human resilience.

Music, at the same time, played an important support to the UP RI's relevant undertaking through an environmental song entitled *Nasa Atin Ang Panahon* by *Layag* and an original composition on resilience especially made for the UP RI entitled *Muling Pagbangon* and personally sung by Professor Ferdie Jarin from the UP College of Arts and Letters.

With the theme *Empowering local communities through multi-disciplinary actions toward resilience*, the UP RI vowed to present a sustainable solution to our country's disaster problems through collaborative competent contributions of not only Science and Technology, but Arts and Humanities as well.

According to UP RI Executive Director Mahar Lagmay, progressive scientific research, with the full utilization of state-of-the-art equipment and technology coupled with the invaluable collaboration by other scholastic disciplines through the UP RI, will ensure reliable, understandable and timely data that is open and free to the public at all times.

"This will produce effective and efficient capacity building programs which are essential in forming sustainable development plans that will definitely benefit all Filipinos, especially the poor and other marginalized sectors," said Lagmay adding that empowered communities, which constantly remained as the fundamental and uncompromised goal of NOAH, also proved to be instrumental in averting more than 15 potentially fatal calamities since 2012 through the use of its probabilistic multi-scenario-based multi hazard maps.

He likewise underscored the UP NOAH Center's determination, which is strengthened under the UP RI, to intensify its functions vigorously making available and offering comprehensible reports necessary for the country's 144 cities and 1,490 municipalities in accordingly responding to various calamities and facilitate proper vulnerability management in their respective areas of jurisdiction.

Furthermore, he stressed the UP RI's crucial role to lead in mapping out blueprints for local government units on implementing genuine progress as they address and overcome the challenges of future catastrophes. (30)