

2019 Annual Report

UNESCO National Commission of the Philippines (UNACOM)



Ground Floor, Department of Foreign Affairs, Roxas Boulevard, Pasay City 1300, Philippines



secretariat@unesco.gov.ph



+63 2 8834-3447

+63 2 8831-8873



<https://www.unesco.gov.ph>



UNESCO-Philippine National Commission



unesco_phnatcom



United Nations
Educational, Scientific and
Cultural Organization

Philippine
National Commission
for UNESCO

2019 Annual Report

UNESCO National Commission of the Philippines (UNACOM)

U

Malasakit

Patuloy na
Pag-unlad

N

A

Pagbabago



C

O

M

10 REDUCED
INEQUALITIES



7 AFFORDABLE AND
CLEAN ENERGY



11 SUSTAINABLE CITIES
AND COMMUNITIES



13 CLIMATE
ACTION



12 RESPONSIBLE
CONSUMPTION
AND PRODUCTION



2 ZERO
HUNGER



17 PARTNERSHIPS
FOR THE GOALS



9 INDUSTRY, INNOVATION
AND INFRASTRUCTURE



8 DECENT WORK AND
ECONOMIC GROWTH



5 GENDER
EQUALITY



16 PEACE, JUSTICE
AND STRONG
INSTITUTIONS



3 GOOD HEALTH
AND WELL-BEING



14 LIFE
BELOW WATER



4 QUALITY
EDUCATION



1 NO
POVERTY



6 CLEAN WATER
AND SANITATION



15 LIFE
ON LAND



UNESCO National Commission of the Philippines (UNACOM)
is sometimes referred to as the Philippine National Commission
for UNESCO (PH NatCom)

Ground Floor, Department of Foreign Affairs Building 2330 Roxas Boulevard,
Pasay City, Philippines

© 2020

No part of this publication may be reproduced in any form
or by any means without the written permission of UNACOM

TABLE OF CONTENTS

02 Message from the Officer-in-Charge

03 Introduction

04 Mandates and Functions

05 UNACOM Vision and Mission

06 UNACOM's Goals in Different Sectors



09 CHAPTER 1

Highlights of 2017-2018 Achievements

11 2017

In Education

In Natural Sciences

In Social and
Human Sciences

In Culture

In Communication
and Information

14 2018

In Education

In Natural Sciences

In Social and
Human Sciences

In Culture

In Communication
and Information



21 CHAPTER 2

Highlights of 2019 Achievements

23 2019

In Education

In Natural Sciences

In Social and

Human Sciences

In Culture

In Communication
and Information

Inter-sectoral
Commitments
and Institutional
Capacity
Development



77 CHAPTER 3

UNACOM **Moving** **Forward**

89 Acknowledgments



TEODORO LOCSIN, JR.
Secretary of the Department
of Foreign Affairs
and UNACOM Chairperson



MA. THERESA LAZARO
Philippines' Ambassador
Extraordinary and
Plenipotentiary to France
and Monaco and
Permanent Delegate
of the Philippines to UNESCO

UNACOM COMMISSIONERS



LEONOR MAGTOLIS BRIONES
Secretary of the Department of Education
and UNACOM Commissioner for Education



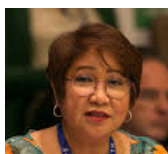
ARSENIO LIZASO
Incumbent Chairperson, National Commission
for Culture and the Arts and UNACOM
Commissioner for Culture



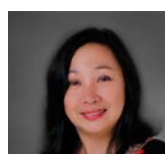
J. PROSPERO DE VERA III
Chairperson of the Commission on Higher Education
and UNACOM Commissioner for Education



VIRGILIO ALMARIO
Former Chairperson, National Commission
for Culture and the Arts and UNACOM
Commissioner for Culture



ROSEMARIE EDILLON
Undersecretary of the National Economic
and Development Authority and
UNACOM Commissioner for Education



VERNA ESMERALDA BUENSUCESO
Assistant Secretary of the Department of Tourism
and UNACOM Commissioner for Culture



SHERWIN GATCHALIAN
Senator (Chair of Senate Committee on Education
and Culture) and UNACOM Ex-Officio
Commissioner for Education



FORTUNATO DELA PEÑA
Secretary of the Department of Science
and Technology and UNACOM Commissioner
for Natural Sciences



MARK GO
Congressman (House Committee on Tertiary
Education and Technical Education) and UNACOM Ex-Officio
Commissioner on Education



RENATO SOLIDUM
Undersecretary of the Department of Science
and Technology and UNACOM Commissioner
for Natural Sciences



ROMAN ROMULO
Congressman (House Committee on Basic
Education and Culture) and UNACOM Ex-Officio
Commissioner on Education



JOSE RUPERTO MARTIN ANDANAR
Secretary of Presidential Communications
Operations Office and UNACOM Commissioner
for Communication and Information



JOSE DAVID LAPUZ
Presidential Consultant for Education
and International Organization and UNACOM
Commissioner for Social and Human Sciences



ELENA PERNIA
University of the Philippines Vice President
for Public Affairs and UNACOM Commissioner
for Communication and Information



FLORITA VILLAR
Undersecretary of the Department of Social Welfare
and Development and UNACOM Commissioner
for Social and Human Sciences



DENIS VILLORENTE
Undersecretary of the Department of Information
and Communications Technology and UNACOM
Commissioner for Communication and Information

MESSAGE FROM THE OFFICER-IN-CHARGE



We live in uncertain times. With political, economic, health, and security matters in flux, nations will have to come together, somehow, in order to make sense of global challenges and demands of the times.

UNESCO was founded on certain aspirations – to build peace, erase poverty, sustain equitable development, enrich lives through education, science, culture, communication, and information, especially for the disadvantaged – the poor, women, and children.

The breadth and depth of UNESCO's work and achievements at the global level would not be possible without its Member States working full force at the national level. This is where the National Commissions (NatCom) for UNESCO come in.

In the Philippines, UNACOM serves as the link between UNESCO and the government. It also connects concerned agencies at the local level on all matters pertaining to UNESCO.

“

For us to succeed, strong and sustained partnerships and cooperation at all levels—grassroots, national, regional, and international—are crucial. The UNACOM Annual Report recognizes, celebrates these, and therefore seeks to rekindle partnerships, and birth new ones.

”

We will overcome the challenges, we will transform and adapt, but we also need to do something magical – work together for a common vision of a peaceable human community where each one has a place, and while we will treasure our individual identities, we will also embrace our larger identity as humans living respectfully with one another, and all together with Nature itself.

UNDERSECRETARY ERNESTO ABELLA
OIC, UNACOM



Albay Biosphere Reserve is a 250,000-hectare habitat for three in every five floral species in the Philippines, and five of the seven known marine turtles in the world, among other terrestrial and marine floral and faunal species.



INTRODUCTION

Mandates and Functions

The United Nations Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) was established to promote collaboration among nations. As part of this mission, it has founded a global network of national cooperating bodies known as the National Commissions for UNESCO (NatComs). UNESCO is the only United Nations agency to have such a global network be part of its constitutional architecture.

NatComs are national organizations established permanently by Member States of UNESCO to honor their respective country's commitment of associating their governmental and non-governmental bodies in specific areas such as education, sciences, culture, and communication with the work of the Organization.

The NatComs ensure the presence of UNESCO in member states by acting as adviser, enabler, facilitator, promoter, connector, and monitor in partnership with multi-stakeholder collaborators, including the civil society. The NatComs make substantial contributions to the advancement of UNESCO's objectives in terms of the promotion and implementation of its programmes.

The UNESCO National Commission of the Philippines (UNACOM or also known as PH NatCom) was created

by virtue of Republic Act (RA) No. 621 dated May 26, 1951. Its precursor, the National Commission of Educational, Scientific and Cultural Matters, or what is otherwise known as NACESCUM, was created by the First Philippine Congress of the Philippines. RA No. 621 was implemented to fully endorse UNESCO's target for the educational, scientific, and cultural development of the country, in both the rural and urban sectors. The evolution of UNACOM from NACESCUM to UNCOP and later UNACOM was realized with the passage of the following legislation:

RA No. 892 – approved on June 20, 1953 and amended Sections 1, 2, 3 and 6 of RA No. 621, transferring supervision of the National Commission from the Office of the President to the Department of Foreign Affairs;

RA No. 3849 – approved on April 13, 1964, amending RA No. 621 and further expanding its activities and strengthening its work;

PD No. 221 – approved on June 20, 1973 and exempted the UNACOM from the requirement – transfer of functions to the Office of United Nations Affairs of the Integrated Reorganization Plan of the Government;

Executive Order No. 850 – approved on December 1, 1982 and reorganized the Ministry of Foreign Affairs assigning to it the task of exercising administrative supervision over the UNACOM. This was implemented by Minister Order No. 25-85 dated November 6, 1985 which directed the Office of the United Nations and International Organizations (UNIO) to provide staff support and guidance in the supervision of the National Commission.

UNACOM's main thrust is to provide invaluable service by strengthening both the local and global actions and ensuring the presence of UNESCO in the Philippines. Its commitment is to the preservation of the nation's heritage for future generations through the promotion of the nation's role in the advancement of human life. UNACOM has taken great efforts in ensuring success in fulfilling its multiple roles. Moreover, UNACOM fosters partnerships in hopes that the Commission's initiatives and programmes are promoted and implemented through the work of their close partners.

Overall, UNACOM aims not just to support the fulfillment of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), but to also contribute to the undertakings at the country level towards realizing the Philippine dream of a "comfortable life for all."

UNACOM Vision and Mission

Vision

To be the primary enabling agency in maximizing Philippine engagement in UNESCO and in advancing UNESCO programs in the country.



Mission

UNACOM of the Philippines is committed to contributing to peace, nation building, and sustainable development by promoting collaboration among nations or institutions through education, sciences, communication and information, and culture, in pursuit of quality education, lifelong learning, heritage and biodiversity protection and conservation, universal respect for social justice, human rights and fundamental freedom of all peoples.

UNACOM's Goals in Different Sectors

In Education

UNACOM has numerous goals, especially in the field of education. These have all been formulated to help countries, including the Philippines, provide quality and inclusive education from lower to higher education as well as to promote gender equality, global citizenship education, and lifelong learning education.

UNACOM brings together education stakeholders to ensure the conflux between the country's education agenda and the new global goals, the SDG 4, and the Education 2030 Framework for Action. UNACOM also aims to pursue the ratification and implementation of various normative instruments adopted by UNESCO. This will be done through participation in discussions on quality assurance of technical vocational education and training qualification processes, and support to lifelong learning initiatives. More importantly, the Commission seeks to maintain its close relationships with various organizations for the youth.





In Natural Sciences

In the field of natural sciences, UNESCO aims to instigate the generation and application of scientific knowledge and to foster scientific cooperation among Member-States to create a culture of peace and address sustainable development challenges. UNACOM helps local government units and Filipino scientists access UNESCO's ongoing international programmes in the sciences, such as the Man and the Biosphere (MAB) Programme, Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission (IOC), and International Geoscience and Geoparks Programme (IGGP).

In Social and Human Sciences

UNACOM aims to achieve the following for the social and human sciences sector: promote research and intellectual cooperation as well as develop international standards to embody social transformation with values resting on justice, freedom, and human dignity. With UNESCO's global priorities in mind, UNACOM supports projects that advocate the teaching of and adherence to ethics; raise the level of involvement and engagement of the youth; and promote the dissemination of social science research and intellectual exchanges.



Puerto Galera is home to Iraya Mangyans, one of the indigenous peoples of Mindoro.



In Culture

As the only UN agency directly responsible for cultural concerns, UNACOM has made it its mission to encourage countries to incorporate culture when it comes to developing strategies, nurturing people's creativity, and supporting creative industries; promoting cultural and linguistic diversity; and facilitating the preservation of culture and heritage.

To make this happen, UNACOM spearheads efforts to equip stakeholders and help them effectively preserve cultural heritage, manage World Heritage sites, and pursue global recognition and support for the Philippines' cultural sector. UNACOM, in partnership with key agencies in the Philippines, continues to honor State Party commitments to cultural conventions and aims to support other normative instruments that support and strengthen the culture sector.

In Communication and Information

Freedom of expression, access to knowledge and information, and media development – these are all considered the building blocks of a knowledge society and the main advocacies of UNESCO under the banner of communication and information. UNACOM continues to pursue local initiatives that are aligned with global advocacies, specifically the Memory of the World (MOW) Program and the Media and Information Literacy/Information for All Program (IFAP).



Philippine Paleographs, inscribed as part of the Memory of the World, is a testament to an evolved version of one of the earliest modes of communication symbols, creative graphics, and syllabaries.



Punnuk is an Intangible Cultural Heritage inscribed in 2015. The tugging ritual system and games of selected rice-farming communities in East Asia.



CHAPTER 1

Highlights of

2017-2018

Accomplishments

In 2017 and 2018, UNACOM created avenues for international-local collaboration and ensured the country's representation in key events abroad as well as the promotion of UNACOM Programmes at the local level. Its partners significantly benefitted from the training, networking, and pro-active coordination initiated in previous years. Through stronger and more meaningful partnerships, UNACOM implemented highly collaborative and relevant programs, projects, and activities.

In 2017, UNACOM focused on cascading to its partners the priority programs of UNESCO. Along with the UNACOM team, selected Philippine delegates actively participated in, and contributed to, local and international fora, meetings, and training related to the Commission's mandate. The main highlight was the participation of the Philippine delegation to the 39th General Conference of UNESCO in Paris, France, where the Philippines was elected as one of the 58 members of the Executive Board whose main functions are to examine the programme of work and budget of UNESCO, and guide the Organization's support to Member States in the implementation of relevant SDGs in education, culture, sciences, communication and information.

2017



The Tubbataha Reefs Natural Park is located 181 kilometers southeast of Puerto Princesa City in Palawan at the Central Sulu Sea. Its inscription as a World Heritage Site was granted in 1993 and extended until 2009.



The Regional Conference on Inclusive and Rights-Based Education brought together representatives from Ministries of Education from various countries, UNESCO NatComs, and the UNESCO Headquarters.

In Education

Inclusive Education. UNACOM's banner program for 2017 was the Regional Conference on Inclusive and Rights-Based Education, in cooperation with the Department of Education. From 4-6 October 2017, the conference brought together representatives from Ministries of Education in Brunei Darussalam, Cambodia, Malaysia, Singapore, Thailand, Vietnam, and the Philippines, representatives of UNESCO NatComs and UNESCO Headquarters, as well as specialist and experts, to share insights on ensuring inclusive education. Among the outcomes were recommendations to improve indicators for SDG target 4.5, as well as possible entry points for integrating human rights in education.

The Conference highlighted the importance of fostering dialogue on policies in the Asia-Pacific and its existing education programs to determine hindrances to sustainable development and what insights can be gained in expanding access to quality education, mainstreaming gender equality, designing a culturally-appropriate and responsive curriculum for indigenous peoples, mainstreaming human rights into educational content and teaching methods, and peace-building in conflict zones.

One of the key findings was the need to collect accurate data on all identified marginalized and at-risk populations regularly to prevent certain segments from falling through the cracks. This necessary step will enable the government to adequately assess the distinct needs of each vulnerable group, determine requirements for important resources, and make appropriate policy and program decisions.

In Natural Sciences

Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission (IOC). UNACOM revitalized the National Committee on Marine Sciences (NCMS) as the focal body that serves as the clearing house on all matters that pertain to UNESCO-IOC. The member-agencies of the NCMS include the Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources of the Department of Agriculture (BFAR-DA), Biodiversity Management Bureau of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (BMB-DENR), Marine Science Institute of the University of the Philippines (MSI-UP), Maritime and Ocean Affairs Office of the Department of Foreign Affairs (MOAO-DFA), National Mapping and Resource Information Authority of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (NAMRIA-DENR), National Museum (NM), Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical, and Astronomical Services Administration of the Department of Science and Technology (PAGASA-DOST), Philippine Coast Guard (PCG), Philippine Council for Agriculture, Aquatic, and Natural Resources Research and Development of the Department of Science and Technology (PCAARRD-DOST), Philippine Institute of Volcanology and Seismology of the Department of Science and Technology (PHIVOLCS-DOST), Philippine Navy (PN) and the UNESCO National Commission of the Philippines of the Department of Foreign Affairs (UNACOM-DFA). DOST, represented by Undersecretary and UNACOM Commissioner Renato Solidum, Jr. is the NCMS Chairperson with UP-MSI Director, represented by Dr. Fernando P. Siringan, as the Vice-Chair.



The Palawan Biosphere Reserve, inscribed in 1990, is a 1,150,800-hectare group of islands sheltering one in every five threatened species in the Philippines, and many other floral and faunal species in its varied ecosystems.



UNESCO's MOST Programme aims to emphasize the role of research in policy and decision-making.

In Social and Human Sciences

Management of Social Transformations (MOST). UNACOM facilitated the implementation of one of the projects under UNESCO's MOST Programme entitled Valorizing Research and Evidence on Inclusive Social Development to Achieve the SDGs in the Philippines, a welcome initiative that put greater emphasis on the role of research in policy and decision-making. This inter-agency project, led by the University of the Philippines - Center for Integrative Studies (UP-CIDS), has worked with a March 2018 target completion date.

In Culture

World Heritage Sites. UNACOM was part of the Philippine delegation to the 41st Session of the World Heritage Committee. It has facilitated the Experts Review of Nomination Dossiers and State of Conservation Reports to the World Heritage Session that was undertaken in Krakow, Poland from 2 to 12 July 2017. Moreover, UNACOM also acted as the supporting arm for the 12th session of the Intergovernmental Committee for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage in Jeju Island, Korea. This was carried out from 4 to 9 December 2017. For this session, UNACOM also tapped experts in respective fields to review nomination dossiers and provide professional insight on the implementation of the 2003 Convention in the Philippines.

Creative Cities. In support of the UNESCO Creative Cities Network (UCCN) and as a jump-off point for raising awareness on the importance of the 2005 Convention on the Protection and Promotion of the Diversity of Cultural Expressions, UNACOM assisted Philippine cities in their bids to be a part of the UCCN. Last 31 October 2017, Baguio City successfully became the first city in the Philippines to be designated as a UNESCO Creative City under the Crafts and Folk Arts category.



UNACOM was part of the Philippine delegation to the 41st Session of the World Heritage Committee.



In pursuit of the promotion of Freedom of Expression, UNACOM support the UN Plan of Action on the Safety of Journalists.

In Communication and Information

Media and Information Literacy. As part of UNESCO's commitment towards achieving Gender Equality, UNACOM, together with the Philippine Social Science Council, aided and facilitated in the completion of a project under the UNESCO's Participation Program (PP). The project which was entitled Mainstreaming Gender Equality and Gender Sensitivity in Philippine Media aimed to design training modules for continuing education of media professionals and a course pack for media practitioners.

UNACOM also supports the UN Plan of Action on the Safety of Journalists in the Curricula of Philippine Journalism Schools. In partnership with the Asian Institute of Journalism and Communication, UNACOM helped complete the "Integration of the Safety of Journalists in the Curricula of Philippine Journalism Schools", a project that developed tertiary-level modules that were presented to national agencies.

Despite institutional challenges, such as the lean staff complement for an Office with evolved and expanded functions, UNACOM took great bounds and leaps to ensure that it strictly adhered to its mission and vision. It also ensured to align its goals as a consultative and liaison body with UNESCO's work in education, the sciences, culture, and communication.

In 2018, UNACOM and its allies worked tirelessly to go above and beyond their calling. It was with hard work, determination, and love for the country that allowed them to make worthwhile achievements that not only encourage meaningful cooperation and expand support to their stakeholders but also inspire them to better understand and appreciate the need for collective efforts in pursuit of sustainable development.

2018



The Culsion Leprosy Archives was inscribed as part of the Memory of the World Programme in 2018. It is a testament to the century-long worldwide struggle of finding cure for leprosy.



In Education

Education Policy and Planning. In cooperation with the UNESCO-International Institute of Educational Planning (IIEP), UNACOM and the Philippine Department of Education organized a Policy Forum on using Open School Data to Improve Transparency and Accountability in Education held in January 2018.

Global Citizenship Education. UNACOM with the Department of Education (DepEd) and the Philippine Normal University (PNU) organized a three-day seminar-workshop entitled: A Whole-School Approach to Global Citizenship Education in December 2018. It was attended by school heads and teachers from select schools from all over the Philippines to understand the basic concepts, principles, and competencies of GCED and to come up with recommendations on how to effectively integrate GCED in formal, informal, and non-formal curricula. Since GCED is part of SDG Target 4.7, UNACOM is set to organize a Technical Working Group in 2019, which will be tasked to create a national definition of GCED and consequently identify measurable indicators.

Lifelong Learning/Education for Sustainable Development. The German Commission for UNESCO, in cooperation with UNACOM, Leuphana University of Lüneberg and Badische Anilin and Soda Fabrik (BASF) Stiftung, launched the Student Training for Entrepreneurial Promotion (STEP) Programme in the Philippines, with Bicol University (BU) as the pioneering institution. Two hundred students, trainers/faculty members and several officials of BU, along with officials from the DepEd, the Commission on Higher Education (CHED), Technical Education and Skills Development Authority (TESDA), UNACOM, the German Commission for UNESCO and the Provincial Government of Albay were present in the launch. STEP seeks to equip university students from multi-disciplinary backgrounds with the relevant entrepreneurial and soft skills to effectively set up and manage businesses in their respective communities and increase their employability.

Information and Communication Technology (ICT) in Education. In partnership with the Southeast Asian Ministers of Education Organization - Regional Center for Educational Innovation and Technology (SEAMEO-INNOTECH), UNESCO Bangkok, Department of Education, and Philippine Normal University, two legs of the Competency-Based Teacher Training in ICT-Pedagogy were implemented in the Philippines (Manila and Cebu), benefitting 100 teachers/trainers.

In Natural Sciences

Support to the National Committee on Marine Science (NCMS). The NCMS, through UNACOM, established a dedicated website for the Committee. It also supported the proposal of UP-MSI for a Regional Training Research Center (RTRC) for submission to IOC-WESTPAC. The proposed RTRC mainly recognizes and spotlights the country's edge in fields such as coral reefs and marine protected areas. NCMS also explored the possibility of crafting a Philippine Ocean Science Report for inclusion in UNESCO Global Ocean Science Report.

Support to the Bid of Bohol Island as the Pioneer UNESCO Global Geopark in the Philippines. For the past years, UNACOM has been at the forefront when it comes to encouraging, supporting, and empowering bodies and government units to pursue the nomination of potential sites to become UNESCO Global Geoparks. Among these sites, the Bohol Province pro-actively worked on the nomination dossier of the proposed Bohol Island Geopark together with its partners; University of the Philippines-School of Urban and Regional Planning (UP-SURP), Philippine Institute of Volcanology of the Department of Science and Technology (PHIVOLCS-DOST) and the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR). UNACOM facilitated meetings, conducted coordination and field visits as well as a review of documents in 2018. Documents have already been submitted to UNESCO, which is expected to give feedback on the dossier in 2019.



12th Inter-Governmental Session of the IOC Sub-Commission for the Western Pacific (WESTPAC-XII). In line with UNESCO Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission (UNESCO-IOC), the Philippines aims to further develop ocean governance by strengthening the institutional capacity of Member States in marine scientific research and ocean management. The 12th Intergovernmental Session of the IOC Sub-Commission for the Western Pacific (WESTPAC-XII) will be hosted by the Philippine Government and funded by UNESCO and the UNACOM. The event will be co-organized by the DFA-MOAO, the Marine Science Institute of the University of the Philippines, and UNACOM, through the NCMS.

Action Planning for Biosphere Reserves. In line with the agreements during the Lima (Peru) Action Planning for Biosphere Reserves, UNACOM representatives served as resource speakers for the Sustainable Management Planning for the Albay Biosphere Reserve in May 2018. This was a joint initiative with the Provincial Government of Albay and the Department of Environment and Natural Resources. The updated management plan shall be the basis for the prioritization of programs and projects in the Albay Biosphere Reserves.

Philippine Biosphere Reserve Network. In support of the Man and Biosphere (MAB) Program, UNACOM established the Philippine Biosphere Reserves Network (PhilBRNet). The network serves as a platform for sharing BR's best practices and providing assistance to other existing Philippine BRs (or potential BRs) as needed. UNACOM also supported the development and updating of promotional materials of the existing biosphere reserves in the Philippines and more importantly, ensured coordination and cooperation with regional offices and the International Biosphere Reserves network. At the local level, the Philippine BR Network initiated the conceptual design for information and education and development of content for a dedicated website.

German Volunteers Programme. As part of UNACOM and the German Commission for UNESCO's mutual agreement for the Philippines to be among the pioneer countries for the German Volunteers Program (also known as "Kulturweit"), UNACOM and focal persons from the Philippine BRs participated in the "International conference on youth volunteering in and cooperation among UNESCO designated sites" in Berlin, Germany last December 2018. Starting in 2019, the German Volunteers Program will work with host countries to post around three to four German volunteers in selected BR sites for a duration of six months to a year.

International Day of Light. In celebration of the UNESCO International Day of Light last 16 May 2019, UNACOM joined the Liter of Light Foundation, G Diaries, and ABS-CBN Lingkod Kapamilya at the turnover programme of 100 solar lamp bottles to communities in Tawi-Tawi, Cotabato, Benguet, and Zamboanga with no access to electricity.

In Social and Human Sciences

Filipino Youth & Violent Extremism in the Digital Age. UNESCO pushed for the enhancement of the Organization's capacity to assist member states in developing guided blueprints to prevent violent extremism. To support this initiative, UNACOM organized a two-day forum in July 2018 entitled "Filipino Youth & Violent Extremism in the Digital Age." This was held to engage the youth in the ongoing discourse about how vulnerable they can be when exposed to radical or extremist ideas. During the event, participants raised questions, particularly on how existing national and global political and socio-economic configurations have intensified conflicts between class, religion, and ethnic groups and on how the internet and social media are used as platforms to spread harmful ideas and ideologies. As a response, the workshop provided innovative and localized approaches to equip the youth and combat extremism.





In Culture

World Heritage Nomination Support. UNACOM assisted the World Heritage nomination bids of Mount Mayon National Park (MMNP), formerly Mayon Volcano Natural Park (MVNP), and Mount Mantalingahan Protected Landscape (MMPL). Both sites have signified their intent to strengthen their nomination dossiers and submit them to the World Heritage Centre. UNACOM continues to guide both sites as part of its commitment to implementing the 1972 World Heritage Convention.

Participation to Regional World Heritage Cities Programme. UNACOM, together with a team from the Vigan City World Heritage Site (led by the local chief executive) and NCCA, went to Penang, Malaysia in October 1998 to participate in the pilot project on “Linking World Heritage Sites, Museums, Local Heritage and Creative Assets.” This effort was initiated by UNESCO Jakarta and funded by the Japanese Government. The selected target sites for the project are Melaka and George Town, Historic Cities of the Straits of Malacca (Malaysia), and Historic Town of Vigan (the Philippines).

New Intangible Cultural Heritage Inscription. UNACOM supported the National Commission for Culture and the Arts (NCCA) and its other partners to assist the Subanen community in the Zamboanga Peninsula as they submitted their nomination bid of the Buklog to the Intangible Cultural Heritage in Need of Urgent Safeguarding List of UNESCO in 2018. UNACOM continues to collaborate with NCCA in assisting communities who wish to do the same. As part of this commitment, UNACOM joined UP the Visayas in the International Conference on Intangible Cultural Heritage in Iloilo City in December 2018 to discuss a more localized approach in Safeguarding ICH in the Philippines.

In Communication and Information

Cinema Documentary Heritage. UNACOM supported the Asia-Pacific Cinema Documentary Heritage Conference organized by the Asia-Pacific Center for Cinema and held in Manila in October 2018. The event garnered around 100 attendees, from film conservationists, researchers, directors, lecturers, and to vintage film lovers from Asia and the Pacific region, the Conference helped raise greater awareness of film as a precious yet fragile documentary heritage of humanity. The event was made possible with the support of different partners including UNACOM, the Network for Promotion of Asian and Asia-Pacific Cinema (NETPAC), Asia Culture Center, and the Film Institute of the University of the Philippines.

Inscription of Culion Leprosy Archives. The Culion Leprosy Archives in Palawan was successfully inscribed in the UNESCO Memory of the World Asia-Pacific Register during its Eight General Meeting in Gwangju, the Republic of Korea on May 30, 2018. The Culion Museum and Archives boasts a wide collection of rare journals and reference materials on leprosy. It also documents clinical records and letters of the island’s residents since 2016. Because of its significance, it has earned a majority vote from the 28-member MOWCAP. It received a strong recommendation by the MOWCAP Register Sub-Committee for inscription. The nomination of the archives, support of the National Historical Commission of the Philippines (NHCP) and the facilitation of UNACOM was led by Dr. Arturo Cunanan, Chef of the Culion Sanitarium and General Hospital (CSGH).



MOW Documentary Heritage Writeshop. Following the Asia-Pacific Cinema Documentary Heritage Conference held last October 2018, UNACOM – through the National Memory of the World (MOW) Committee headed by Prof. Nick Deocampo – organized a Documentary Heritage Workshop at the University of the Philippines-Diliman, Quezon City.

Safety of Journalists. The Asian Institute of Journalism and Communication (AIJC), in collaboration with UNACOM and other partners, has provided an avenue for an exchange on the Safety of Journalists through the “Forum on Integrating Safety of Journalists in the Curricula of Journalism Schools” in February 2018. The first national multi-stakeholder consultation on the crafting of a Philippine plan of action on journalist safety was held on November 7 of the same year. It was attended by more than 80 representatives from a total of 48 civil society, research agencies, media organizations, and government institutions.

In Institutional Development and Strengthening

Network of National Commissions. Last June 19-21, 2018, UNACOM Secretary General represented the Philippines in the 5th Inter-Regional Meeting of National Commissions for UNESCO held in Diani, Kenya. The insights and lessons learned contributed to her presentation of the Practical Guidelines for Reforming UNESCO National Commissions during the Asia-Pacific Regional Meeting of National Commissions for UNESCO held in Gyeong-ju, Republic of Korea in September 2018.

UNESCO Clubs. UNACOM, together with the lead, National Association of UNESCO Clubs of the Philippines (NAUCP) and other partners, organized the 2018 International Assembly of Youth and Educators for UNESCO. To promote youth participation, the National Commission highlighted the youth sector’s potential when it comes to achieving peace. This was done by initiating and supporting projects that empower them. Projects and activities of NAUCP were discussed and included, and to help shape future partnerships and collaborations, UNACOM required NAUCP to submit an Impact Assessment Report and consolidated accomplishment reports.

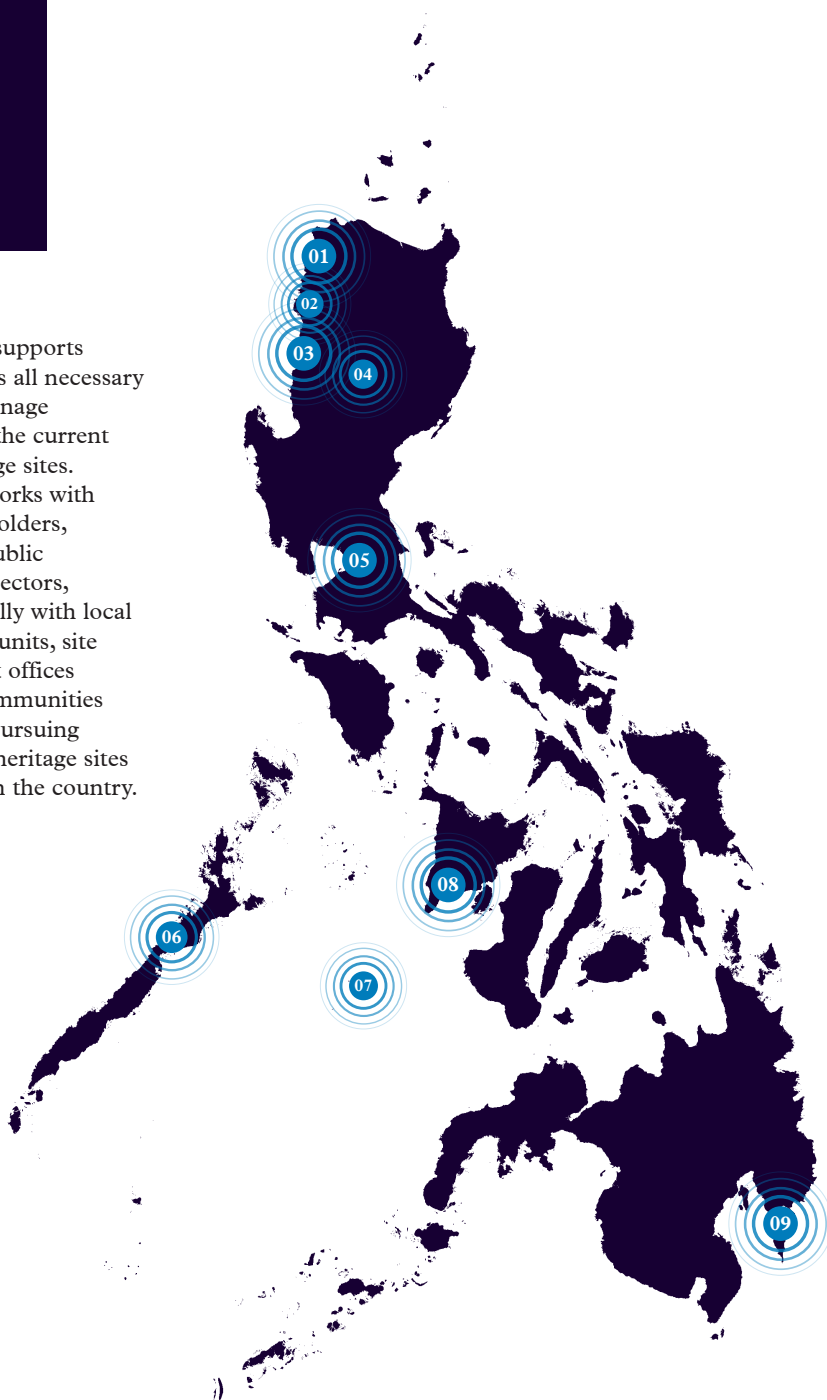
Associated Schools Network or ASPNet. UNACOM continued revisiting the updated UNESCO Guideline to strengthen the presence of Associated Schools Project Network (ASPNet) in the Member States. As part of this, continued work and effort are put out to validate the membership and interest of Philippine schools in ASPNet. The Commission has a continuing approach in recruiting or reviewing schools for accreditation and linking UNESCO with Philippine schools through ASPnet that give its stakeholders opportunities to connect and exchange experiences, knowledge, and good practices with schools, individuals, communities, policy-makers, and society as a whole.

Promotional Activities. A new website (<http://www.unesco.gov.ph>) was launched, strengthening PH NatCom’s web presence and vigorously promoting UNESCO programs and projects. A desk calendar with all the Philippine World Heritage Sites was also widely disseminated.

All throughout, UNACOM was very active not just in regional meetings of NatComs, but also in facilitating coordination between NatComs and the potential partners in the Philippines as well as collaborating with stakeholders for initiatives and activities that inspire inclusivity and youth empowerment while at the same time raising awareness on sustainable development and creating impact at the grassroots.



UNACOM supports and monitors all necessary efforts to manage and protect the current world heritage sites. For this, it works with multi-stakeholders, both from public and private sectors, most especially with local government units, site management offices and local communities and also in pursuing more world heritage sites inscription in the country.



03 The Church of our Lady of Assumption
Santa Maria, Ilocos Sur



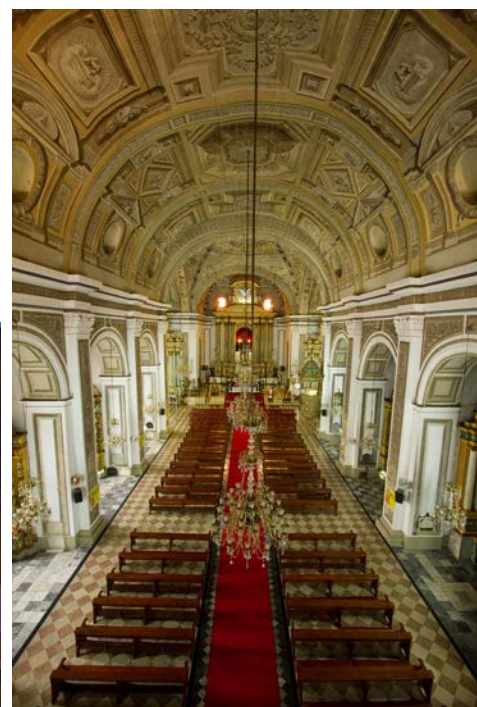
04 Rice Terraces of the Philippine Cordilleras
Ifugao, Cordillera Administrative Region



01 Saint Augustine Church of Paoay
Marcos Avenue, Paoay, Ilocos Norte



02 Historic City of Vigan
Vigan, Ilocos Sur



05 The Immaculate Conception Parish
General Luna Street, Manila



06 **Puerto Princesa Subterranean River National Park**
Puerto Princesa, Palawan



07 **Tubbataha Reefs Natural Park**
Cagayancillo, Palawan



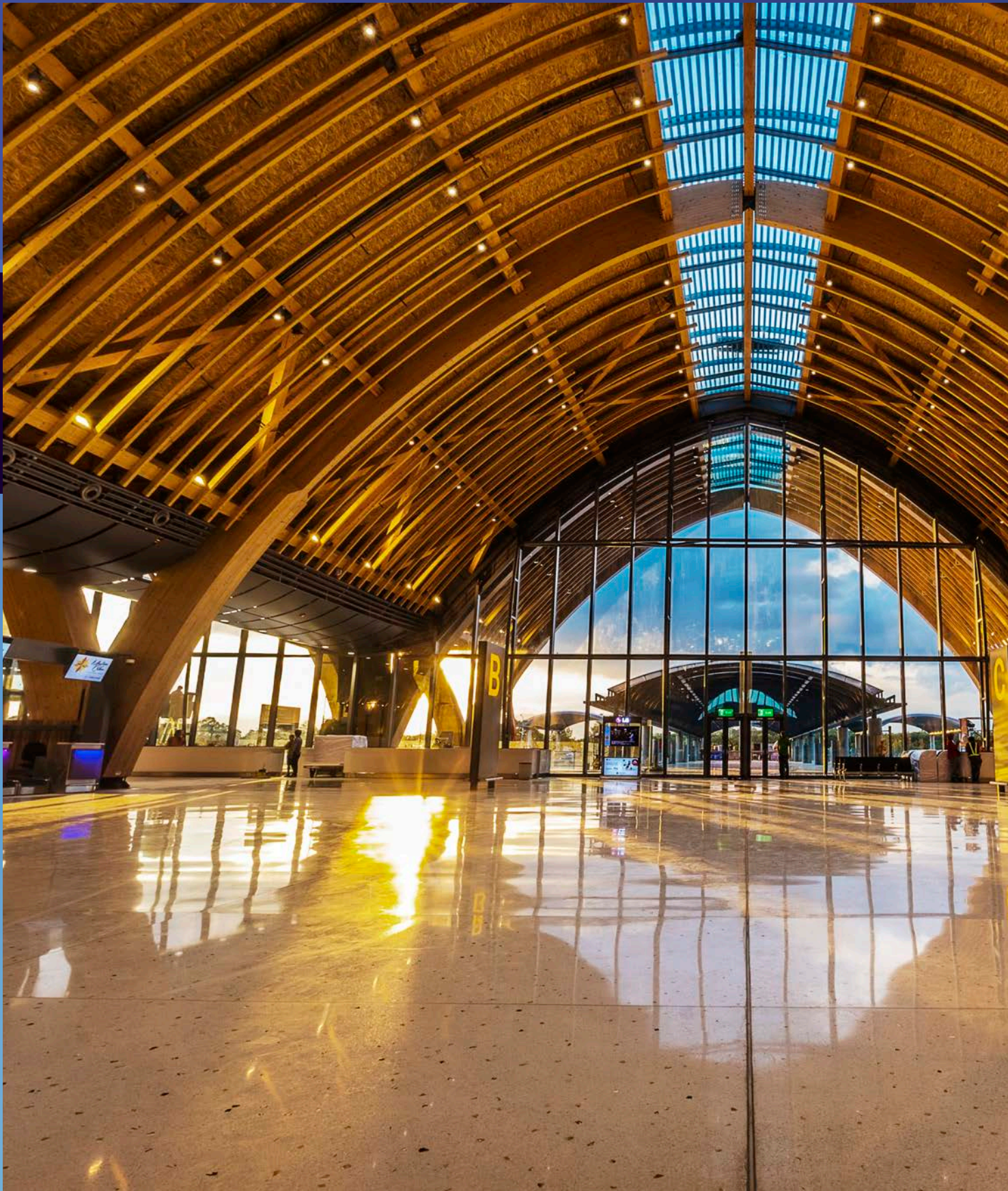
08 **Santo Tomás de Villanueva Parish Church**
Zulueta Avenue, Miag-ao, Iloilo



09 **Mount Hamiguitan Range Wildlife Sanctuary**
Davao Oriental (Mati, San Isidro, and Governor Generoso)

Tentative List:

- **Apo Reef Natural Park**
- **Baroque Churches of the Philippines (Extension)**
 - Church complex of Patrocinio de Maria
 - Boljo-on, Cebu
 - Church of La Inmaculada
 - Guiuan, Samar
 - Church complex of San Pedro Apostol
 - Loboc, Bohol
 - Church complex of San Isidro Labrador
 - Lazi, Siquijor
 - Church of San Mattias
 - Tumauini, Isabela
- **Batanes Protected landscapes and seascapes**
- **Butuan Archeological Sites**
- **Chocolate Hills Natural Monument - Bohol**
- **Coron Island Natural Biotic Area**
- **El Nido -Taytay Managed Resource Protected Area**
- **Kabayan Mummy Burial Caves**
- **Mayon Volcano Natural Park (MMVNP)**
- **Mt. Iglit-Baco National Park**
- **Mt. Malindang Range Natural Park**
- **Mt. Mantalingahan Protected Landscape**
- **Mt. Pulag National Park**
- **Neolithic Shell Midden Sites in Lal-lo and Gattaran Municipalities**
- **Northern Sierra Madre Natural Park and outlying areas inclusive of the buffer zone**
- **Paleolithic Archeological Sites in Cagayan Valley**
- **Petroglyphs and Petrographs of the Philippines**
- **The Tabon Cave Complex and all of Lipuun**
- **Turtle Islands Wildlife Sanctuary**



Cebu was inscribed as a Creative City of Design in 2019.



CHAPTER 2

Highlights of

2019

Accomplishments

In 2019, UNACOM continued to create avenues for international-local collaboration and ensured the country's representation in key events abroad as well as the promotion of UNACOM Programmes at the local level. It also continued bridging the Philippines with the 2030 SDGs through UNESCO initiatives and programs. UNACOM has expanded its networks to ensure inclusivity, equality and development will bring actual benefits to Filipinos, especially at the grassroots level.

In Education

“

We desire a truly
liberating education –
a liberation from the many
prohibitive and oppressive
circumstances and situations
of contemporary national
and international society.
And not only to be free,
but also to be free for; not
merely to be citizen of, but
also empowered citizen for.

Florentino H. Hornedo,
former UNACOM Commissioner

Balanga City is the very first Philippine city to be part of the UNESCO Global Network of Learning Cities. It nurtures a learning environment for its citizens of all ages in formal, non-formal, and informal sectors.







Education is a great equalizer of social classes, and has the capability to reduce poverty, eliminate gender inequality, create a sustainable planet, prevent needless deaths and illness, and foster peace. It is essential for the realization of individual potential, national economic growth, social development, and for fostering responsible citizenship (the Education Commission 2016). It is in this context that the Sustainable Development Goal No. 4 (Ensure Inclusive and Equitable Quality Education and

promote Lifelong Learning Opportunities for All) plays a crucial role in the achievement of the 2030 agenda. Apart from literacy and numeracy, the humanistic and social dimension of education empowers an individual not only of knowledge and skills, but also of values to live in dignity. Hence, since the adoption of the UN SDGs, UNACOM continues to engage in a number of collaborative education programmes and projects aligned with the realization of the SDG4 in the country.

How can education change the future?

420

million people
can be lifted
out of poverty

200,000

disaster-related
deaths can be
prevented

\$10

in earnings and
healthin benefits
in low-income
countries can be
generated

2%

increase in annual GDP
per capita growth per
one standard devaition
increase in student
scores on international
assessments



There will be 420 million people with a secondary education lifted out of poverty, thus reducing the number of poor worldwide by more than half (UNESCO 2017); universalizing upper secondary education by 2030 would prevent 200,000 disaster-related deaths in the 20 years that follow (ibid. 2016); a dollar invested in an additional year of schooling, particularly for girls, generates earnings and health benefits of \$10 in low-income countries and nearly \$4 in lower middle-income countries (Schäferhoff et al. 2016); and an increase of one standard deviation in student scores on international assessments of literacy and mathematics is associated with a two percent increase in annual GDP per capita growth (Hanushek and Wößmann 2007).

In a paper released by UNESCO Institute of Statistics (UIS) and the Global Education Monitoring (GEM) Report, some 263 million children and young people are out of school (UNESCO 2016). It suggests that continued disparities in education participation are closely related to gender, location and economic status. Further, armed conflict and disasters—both natural and man-made—are seen to have implications for education participation.

The Philippines however, made great strides in increasing access to basic education, with the net enrolment rates (NER) in kindergarten, elementary, junior, and senior high school continuing to rise. Primary and secondary NERs have increased to 94.2 percent and 76.0 percent, respectively (VNR 2019). Teacher-student ratio for school year 2017–2018 is 1:31 for the Elementary level, 1:36 for Junior High School level, and 1:31 for Senior High School level (Montemayor 2018). The literacy rate of Filipinos is 97.95%, the highest among Southeast Asian countries. Literacy among females is 98.9 percent and among males, 97 percent for aged 15–24 (Philstar 2019). While these statistics may seem favorable for the education sector in the Philippines, there is still a staggering number of children in the country who face literacy challenges. Gaps also remain in ensuring the quality of basic education, especially with the K to 12 curriculum.

Participation and support to Lifelong Learning Programmes, Projects, and Activities

UNACOM programmes on lifelong learning are guided both by UNESCO and the Philippine Development Plan (PDP) — AmBisyon Natin 2040. The PDP reiterates the importance of promoting Lifelong Learning or education and skills development as part of its strong commitment to accelerate human capital development and attain the SDG targets. Hence, UNACOM supports the institutionalization of learning cities in the country as a means to expand the various modes of learning delivery for people regardless of age, economic status, gender, and others. There is continuous coordination with the National Economic and Development Authority (NEDA) and the trifocal education agencies of the country — Department of Education (DepEd), Commission on Higher Education (CHED), and Technical Education and Skills Development Authority (TESDA) — to support initiatives on advancing the 2030 education agenda.



Capacity-building Workshop on Developing Education Systems from a Lifelong Learning Perspective

National Forum: No One Left Behind: Better Life for Out-of-School Girls to Fight Poverty and Injustice in the Philippines – Hindsight, Insights, and Foresights



In support of the project of UNESCO Office-Jakarta in the country, UNACOM, together with UNESCO Jakarta Office, DepEd, and the Korea International Cooperation Agency (KOICA), gathered 150 teachers, partners, and stakeholders for a National Forum on Alternative Learning System (ALS) entitled, “No One Left Behind: Better Life

for Out-of-School Girls to Fight Against Poverty and Injustice in the Philippines — Hindsight, Insights, and Foresights” on 28 February 2019. The national forum was a platform for a dialogue on the many issues surrounding the implementation of various ALS programmes in the Philippines. The highlight of the forum was the recommendations generated

from teachers, school heads, and relevant stakeholders on ALS. With the new learning modules and teachers’ guides on ALS, majority of the participants agreed that there is a need to undertake capacity building for ALS mobile teachers, district ALS coordinators and ALS girl-learners to ensure the quality of ALS delivery.

Student Entrepreneurship Promotion Programme



With support from the German Commission for UNESCO, Leuphana University, and BASF Foundation, UNACOM participated in a multi-year project called Student Training for Entrepreneurial Promotion (STEP). This project aims to equip university students from multi-disciplinary backgrounds with relevant entrepreneurial

skills to widen their career choices after graduation. More than 200 students were trained in 2019 using modules that were developed by the Leuphana University of Lüneburg, Germany and contextualized by participating educators/researchers of Bicol University. The training involved not only academics but also established entrepreneurs, who shared their personal

experiences in putting up their businesses. The second year of the STEP program training commenced in Bicol University in June 2019. UNACOM continues to advocate for the long-term implementation of STEP towards integration in local curriculum with the support of the trifocal education agencies.

Capacity-building Workshop on Developing Education Systems from a Lifelong Learning Perspective



Last 28 October to 8 November 2019, the Philippines participated in the Capacity Building Workshop on Developing Education System in a Lifelong Learning Perspective held in Shanghai, China organized by the UNESCO Institute for Lifelong Learning (UIL), the National Commission of the People's Republic of China for UNESCO, and Shanghai Open University. The workshop served as a platform for selected UNESCO

Member States to learn deeper about lifelong learning as an approach to addressing countries' education issues in a holistic manner.

Together with delegates from Cambodia, China, and Rwanda, the seven Philippine delegates worked with resource persons in the two-week workshop to: (a) analyze development contexts in the participating countries, including political, legal, social, economic, demographic, technological,

cultural and environmental contexts; (b) review existing education policies in the relevant countries regarding progress, impacts, opportunities, challenges, lessons learned, and so on; (c) identify national priorities for lifelong learning (which may include legal frameworks, surrounding policy infrastructure for an adaptable lifelong learning system including flexible learning pathways, national qualifications frameworks and the recognition, validation and accreditation of learning outcomes)

and opportunities for lifelong learning implementation at the local level, including learning cities; (d) form an action plan for the implementation of gender-responsive lifelong learning policies and strategies in the participating countries; and develop monitoring and evaluation strategies in the participating countries, focusing on how to monitor implementation, assess outcomes and measure impact.

At the end of the workshop, each national team delivered a draft proposal for a country-based policy and strategy/action plan to promote and implement lifelong learning. As a way forward, in the short

term, the Philippine team will pursue, among others: a) presentation of the Refined Action Plan/Outcome documents to the National Economic Development Authority Social Development Committee (NEDA-SDC), an interagency body that oversees implementation of the PDP and improvements in human development outcomes (including education); b) promotion or facilitation of mainstreaming lifelong learning principles in development plans and programs (including adult learning and non-formal learning) c) lobbying for the issuance of enabling document for the implementation of Lifelong Learning particularly on

adult education for the guidance of the operating units/stakeholders; and d) institutionalization of an advocacy program to encourage cities or municipalities to become “learning cities/communities.” At present, the Philippines has only one UNESCO-recognized learning city – Balanga in Bataan. To encourage local government units (LGUs) to support lifelong learning and the implementation of SDGs especially in the last mile areas, there is a need to promote such models, which would entail advocacy programs and incentive mechanisms.

Participation and Support to SDGs and Global Citizenship for Education (GCED)

Target 4.7 of the SDGs call on countries to “ensure that all learners are provided with the knowledge and skills to promote sustainable development, including, among others, through education for sustainable development and sustainable lifestyles, human rights, gender equality, promotion of a culture of peace and non-violence, global citizenship and appreciation of cultural diversity and of culture’s contribution to sustainable development”. Apart from the development of literacy and numeracy skills of students, SDG4 considers the social dimension of education as crucial in providing a holistic approach to education. Hence, UNACOM has supported and undertaken various initiatives promoting the principles of Education for Sustainable Development (ESD) and GCED.



National Launch of the 2019 Global Education Monitoring Report in the Philippines



UNACOM supported the launching of the 2019 Global Education Monitoring (GEM) Report, with the theme, “Building Bridges, Not Walls”, held last 1 August 2019 in Bonifacio Global City, Taguig. Key education stakeholders discussed trends and implications of migration and displacement to education, and vice versa. DepEd Secretary Leonor Briones said in her keynote address, the problem on displacement is an urgent concern because of its impact on education. It uproots children from their homes, schools and the environment that

they were used to. At present, there are thousands of children that are affected by illegal migration who do not have identities and no awareness of their own self and origin. Aside from this, evidence on gaps in educational systems in the global and national levels were also presented during the event.

The GEM Report is an editorially-independent, authoritative, and evidence-based annual report that monitors progress in education in the SDGs, with special focus on SDG 4 on education. The report

contains relevant statistics that countries, including the Philippines, can use in the education sector. It reports that the Philippines may be doing good in achieving certain SDGs standards, but there is still a need to ensure that the quality of education is the same from one place to another. Furthermore, there is a need for bigger and stronger investment in education to uplift the quality of education and that key Philippine education stakeholders need to reach out to people so that no one gets left behind.

4th International Conference on Global Citizenship Education



Last 3 to 4 September 2019, UNACOM participated in the 4th International Conference on Global Citizenship Education held in Seoul, South Korea. Co-organized by APCEIU, the Ministry of Education and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Korea, and

UNESCO, the conference’s theme, “Reconciliation, Peace and Global Citizenship Education”, highlighted GCED’s potential for building and maintaining long-lasting peace particularly in post-conflict societies. It promoted the use of transformative pedagogy while also

systematically mainstreaming GCED in terms of policy, curriculum and teacher training. Over 700 education policy-makers, teachers, experts from the academe and the private sector, representatives from international and civil society organizations and youth representatives from 77 countries

gathered to discuss the importance of GCED and its tangible contribution to the reconciliation process. The conference provided discussion platforms through wide range of sessions, from plenary sessions that provide an overall view of the conference, to various concurrent sessions

with panel discussions, case presentations and participatory workshops.

UNACOM's presence in the Conference is essential to their roles as part of the technical working group and advocacy groups that promote the mainstreaming

of GCED in curriculum and policies. It may be noted that UNACOM, together with partners in the education sector, is developing indicators for SDG 4.7 in line with attaining targets under the 2030 SDGs. Follow through meetings shall be held in the first quarter of 2020.

Asia Pacific Global Citizenship Education Network Meeting



Last 5 September 2019, a day after the 4th International Conference on GCED, the Asia Pacific Global Citizenship Education Network (APA-GCED Network) Partners Update Meeting was held at the APCEIU Building, Seoul, South Korea. Delegates from this cluster, including the Philippines, were invited to share the progress made in the four action areas: policy, capacity building, learning materials, research, and advocacy.

UNACOM reported its project implementation of "Promoting Global Citizenship Education (GCED) in Philippine Basic Education Schools". It recently completed two project components together with Philippine Normal University (PNU) and DepEd:

1) Workshops on the Development of Module Exemplars in GCED;

Two workshops were held for this component, one on 8-10 May and the other on 26-28 June. The workshops aimed to provide teachers with relevant, structured, and accessible teaching materials to integrate GCED concepts and principles in the classrooms across subjects. The modules represent the three learning dimensions of GCED: cognitive, socio-emotional, and behavioral. A total of nine modules with one to two lessons for each module applied in the local context were developed, which will be more appropriate for both Filipino students and teachers.

2) Seminar-Workshop for School Heads and Teachers on Whole School Approach to GCED (also known as GCED Roadshow)

Three GCED roadshows were held in three strategic provinces in the Philippines: in Clark, Pampanga (23-25 May); in Mindanao (6-8 June); and in Bacolod, Negros Occidental (13-15 June). The program involved almost a hundred educators that were able to develop a deeper understanding of GCED, guiding them to formulate programs that will transform their respective schools into GCED schools.

For UNACOM, this Network Meeting has been useful especially in exploring possible partnerships for GCED and also in determining how to align efforts and initiatives in the Philippines with the networks projects, activities and goals.

"In an increasingly interconnected world, global challenges cross national borders and concern us all. With issues like these threatening human and environmental well-being, we need to re-think the role and relevance of education. We need Global Citizenship Education. Global Citizenship Education is transformative. What are the barriers to this kind of education? What needs to change in education? What can you do?"

- UNESCO Clearinghouse on Global Citizenship Education

Regional Conference on Transforming Teacher Development



Last 15-17 October 2019, UNESCO Bangkok, with support from Korean Funds-in-Trust and Japan Funds-in-Trust, organized the Regional Conference on Transforming Teacher Development at Nuvali, Sta. Rosa, Laguna. Key education stakeholders from eight countries, Nepal, Maldives, Uzbekistan, Mongolia, Myanmar, Sri Lanka, Bhutan, and the Philippines, gathered together with representatives from local coordination bodies, advisory committee members, international and local experts, and other key participants

to explore ways to effectively implement and integrate ICT Competency Standards for Teachers (ICT-CST) within selected countries' overall teacher professional development (TPD) structures.

Resource persons discussed areas that were requested by the project countries such as the: a) creative and innovative ICT-supported pedagogical approach; b) improving the quality of teacher training; c) whole-school approach to ICT integration; and d) validation and monitoring of competency standards.

On the last day, the Philippine delegation, composed of representatives from UNACOM, CHED, PNU, and DepEd, presented the following key reflections: a) ICT-pedagogy integration is good if it transforms classroom practices and impacts positively on students' learning; b) ICT integration should lead to knowledge acquisition, deepening and creation; and c) ICT integration if modelled, recognized and incentivized could become part of the pedagogical habits of teachers.





Sustaining Collaboration through NAUCP and ASPNet

UNACOM is actively engaged and is in full support of the activities by UNESCO-accredited clubs and organizations, and the Associated Schools Network (ASPnet). Both promote the ideals of UNESCO to the minds of the women, men, and the youth by reinforcing the humanistic, ethical, cultural, and international dimensions of education and cooperation.

UNESCO Clubs bring into fore the role of civil society organizations (CSOs), especially those at the grassroots level. CSOs engage in advocating people's rights, including health, environment, and economic rights. They are composed of volunteer groups of different ages and backgrounds who become catalysts for change in the service of UNESCO's ideals. Beyond political leaders and policymakers, UNESCO Clubs exemplify how ordinary citizens can influence decision makers. These Clubs become empowered in building sustainable bridges within civil society and can contribute to dialogue between cultures and generations for sustainable development.

The UNESCO Associated Schools Network (ASPnet) links educational institutions across the world around a common goal: to work in support of international understanding, peace, intercultural dialogue, sustainable development and quality education in practice. ASPnet is a driver for innovation and quality in education. Its focus is on values and rights, the desire to develop and use innovative approaches, the international perspective, and the collaboration among like-minded schools at the national, regional, or international level.

Members of these initiatives develop an understanding for UNESCO and its programmes, broaden cultural horizons, and provide invaluable support and service to UNACOM in conducting public information activities. It contributes to the Philippine Development Plan's (PDP) Patuloy na Pag-unlad and Pagbabago pillars, and to UNACOM's target outcomes: 1) Empowered women and youth engagement; 2) Multi-stakeholder partnership for the promotion of SDGs; and 3) Pro-active facilitation, coordination, and knowledge sharing.



Support to National Coordinating Body for UNESCO Clubs in the Philippines (NCBUCP) Programmes and Projects

The 2019 International Assembly of Youth for UNESCO gathered almost 300 delegates from across the country last 05-07 December 2019 in Pampanga. The activity was spearheaded by UNACOM and the National Coordinating Body of UNESCO Clubs in the Philippines (NCBUCP). Delegates were UNESCO-accredited clubs and organizations in good standing status, newly accredited UNESCO Clubs, local government units (LGUs), student leaders, teachers and supervisors of DepEd, Faculty and Staff of HEIs, and other community organizations.

The Assembly's theme was, "Protecting Cultural and Linguistic Diversity in the Context of Global Citizenship Education". It emphasized the need to strengthen the commitment of UN Member States to mainstream the promotion and protection of indigenous peoples' rights into development policies and programs. It is expected to be carried out at the national, regional, and international levels. UNESCO promotes indigenous languages in five key areas which corresponds to areas relevant for global citizenship: 1) Increasing understanding, reconciliation, and international cooperation; 2) Creation of favorable conditions for knowledge-sharing and

dissemination of good practices with regards to indigenous languages; 3) Integration of indigenous languages into standard setting; 4) Empowerment through capacity building; and 5) Growth and development through elaboration of new knowledge.

NCBUCP awarded commendations to 11 educators, eight young professionals, one LGU, one cultural worker, 47 outstanding UNESCO Clubs in various thrusts and ideals of UNESCO, 14 outstanding youth leaders in both high school and college categories, and eight Enikki National Winners and Academic competition winners.

Moreover, during the assembly, UNACOM officially recognized NCBUCP as the national coordinating body of UNESCO clubs in the Philippines. This enables NCBUCP to be more committed in contributing to the promotion of UNESCO's programmes at the grassroots level.

Support to Associated Schools Network (ASPnet) Programmes and Projects

Regional Meeting for Strengthening the Use of Intangible Cultural Heritage in Education

Last 28 to 30 August 2019, the International Information and Networking Centre for Intangible Cultural Heritage in the Asia-Pacific Region (ICHCAP) and the UNESCO Bangkok Office organized the Regional Meeting for Strengthening the Use of Intangible Cultural Heritage (ICH) in Education held in Jeonju, South Korea. The meeting discussed ways to integrate ICH in education and build a network for teachers and experts to share ideas for developing programs for teaching and learning with and about ICH.

UNACOM participated in the sessions that discussed the achievements and challenges in implementing the SDGs in East

and Southeast Asia, and the role of National Commissions and UNESCO networks with local governments. The overview of ICH and its implementation in formal and non-formal education were also tackled. The National Commission for Culture and the Arts (NCCA) gave a presentation on the dimensions of Schools of Living Traditions (SLT) project in the Philippines. UNACOM also participated in the action planning session that determined the different types of assistance needed from UNESCO. Some of the results of the discussion were the following: 1) revisit the policy on ICH; 2) curriculum mapping; 3) access to data/ information; 4) publication of reading materials regarding the importance of integrating ICH in education; 5) train the trainers; 6) train the teachers; 7) create teaching materials; 8) involve the policy makers and whole community in the program.



Associated Schools Network (ASPNet) and Global Citizenship Education in Higher Education Institutions Year-End Conference

References:

Hanushek, EA and Wößmann, L 2007, 'The Role of Education Quality in Economic Growth', World Bank policy research working paper, no. 4122, World Bank, viewed 3 March 2020, <<https://openknowledge.worldbank.org/bitstream/handle/10986/7154/wps4122.pdf?sequence=1>>.

Kling, A and Merrifield, J 2009, 'Goldin and Katz and Education Policy Failings in Historical Perspective', *Econ Journal Watch*, vol. 6, no. 1, pp. 2–20.

Mandela, N 1990, speech, Madison Park High School, Boston, 23 June 1990; reported in various forms, viewed 1 March 2020, <<https://www.oxfordreference.com/view/10.1093/acref/9780191843730.001.0001/q-oro-ed5-00007046>>.

Montemayor, MT 2018, 'Class-size affects students' learning: DepEd', Philippine News Agency, 19 March, viewed 2 March 2020, <<https://www.pna.gov.ph/articles/1029281>>.

Philstar 2019, 'National Literacy Month: UN ranks Filipinos as most literate in Southeast Asia', Philstar (online edition), 27 September, viewed 2 March 2020, <<https://www.philstar.com/lifestyle/on-the-radar/2019/09/27/1955462/national-literacy-month-un-ranks-filipinos-most-literate-southeast-asia>>.

Schäferhoff, M, Jamison, DT, Pradhan, E, Suzuki, EM & Martínez, S 2016, 'Estimating the economic returns of education from a health perspective', SEEK Development, viewed 4 March 2020, <<http://report.educationcommission.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/11/Estimating-the-Economic-Returns-of-Education-from-a-Health-Perspective.pdf>>.

the Education Commission 2016, 'The Learning Generation', The International Commission on Financing Global Education Opportunity, viewed 4 March 2020, <<https://report.educationcommission.org/report/>>.

UNESCO 2016, 'Education for people and planet: creating sustainable futures for all, Global education monitoring report, viewed 1 March 2020, <<https://unesdoc.unesco.org/ark:/48223/pf0000245752>>.

VNR 2019, 'The Voluntary National Review of the Philippines', viewed 4 March 2020, <<http://www.neda.gov.ph/voluntary-national-review-vnr-2019/>>.

World Bank 2017, 'Reducing global poverty through universal primary and secondary education', Policy paper 32, Fact sheet 44, Global education monitoring report, viewed 1 March 2020, <<http://uis.unesco.org/sites/default/files/documents/reducing-global-poverty-through-universal-primary-secondary-education.pdf>>.

— 2018, World Development Report, World Bank, viewed 3 March 2020, <<https://www.worldbank.org/en/publication/wdr2018>>.

— 2019, 'Learning Poverty', 15 October 2019, viewed 3 March 2020, <<https://www.worldbank.org/en/topic/education/brief/learning-poverty>>.

Associated Schools Network (ASPnet) and Global Citizenship Education in Higher Education Institutions (HEIs)

On 28 to 29 October 2019, UNACOM, together with CHED, City College of Calapan, UNESCO Associated Schools Network (UNESCO-ASPnet), and the Council of Deans MIMAROPA (COD) promoted the ASPnet and Global Citizenship Education in Higher Education Institutions (HEIs) during the COD MIMAROPA. Complementary with the GCED Roadshow goals, the event was attended by more than 200 competent tertiary teachers and students all over the region committed to the mission of GCED, of building a sense of belonging to a common humanity and helping learners become responsible and active global citizens.

Lectures elaborated on the basic elements of GCED — namely the global consciousness and the global competencies; how the GCED started — with the emergence of supranational institutions, presence of regional economic blocks, and development of information communication technology; and the positive and negative effects of globalization. Other concepts like, soft and hard GCED, dimensions of GCED, and digital citizenship were discussed. More than ever, all these put an emphasis on the pressing need for the integration of GCED in the Philippine education curriculum.

Furthermore, discussions on the integration of the GCED in the curriculum and its effective implementation in academic institutions were tackled. The participants were introduced to the modes of GCED integration such as information and communication technologies (ICT), social media, sports competition, art and music, and youth-led initiatives employing a wide variety of approaches. The pedagogical principles of GCED and the teaching strategies and approaches were also presented. The significant roles of the teachers as facilitators and deliverers of student learning were underscored. The UNESCO-ASPnet was also introduced during the meeting, with its structure, membership, and importance and advantages of being members elaborated.

Through the consistent evaluation and assessment of the needs of the HEIs, the COD MIMAROPA aims to carry on with the provision of such avenues for integration, innovation, and progress. Partners for the event, through the recommendation of UNACOM and UNESCO-ASPnet Philippines, could explore potential collaboration in the coming years that are anchored on the SDGs.



Lifelong Learning for All

‘Learning is a lifelong process and that all education should be organized around that principle’ (Schuetze 2006, p. 289). This is the principle where the term “lifelong learning” revolves around and that has been espoused by UNESCO and the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) since the early 1970s. Lifelong learning is now a global norm or “new master narrative” (Ioannidou, 2014, p. 208); a conceptual framework for education reforms in the twenty-first century. It promotes understanding of how education systems should be built to meet the challenges of the knowledge economy.

To step up to the challenge, UNESCO’s Institute for Lifelong Learning (UIL) puts emphasis on furthering educational equity for disadvantaged groups and in the countries most afflicted by poverty and conflict.

It particularly focuses on adult learning, continuing education, literacy and non-formal basic education. UIL’s mission is to see to it that all forms of education and learning – formal, non-formal and informal – are recognized, valued and available for meeting the demands of individuals and communities throughout the world.

UNACOM is unequivocal to support and implement lifelong learning programmes in the Philippines. Indeed, its vision of Towards Inclusive and Equitable Quality Education and Lifelong Learning for All is continuously attained through UNACOM’s on-going programmes and projects relevant to GCED, ASPNet, and the UNESCO Clubs.

References:

Schuetze, HG 2006, ‘International concepts and agendas of lifelong learning’, *Compare: A journal of comparative and international education*, vol. 36, no. 3, pp. 289-306.

Ioannidou, A 2014, ‘The Adoption of an International Education Policy Agenda at National Level: Conceptual and Governance Issues’, in GK Zarifis and MN Gravani (eds), *Challenging the European Area of Lifelong Learning*, Springer, pp. 203-215.

UNESCO 2016, ‘Conception and realities of lifelong learning’, UNESCO Institute of Lifelong Learning, viewed 5 March 2020, <<https://unesdoc.unesco.org/ark:/48223/pf0000245626>>.



Global Citizenship Education (GCED)

GCED is UNESCO's initiative to empower learners of all ages to understand issues such as human rights violations, inequality and poverty that threaten peace and sustainability are of global concern, and not just local issues. Learners are taught and encouraged to become active promoters of more peaceful, tolerant, inclusive, secure and sustainable societies.

Moreover, the GCED is UNESCO's strategic programme that builds on the work of Peace and Human Rights Education. 'It aims to instill in learners the values, attitudes and behaviors that support responsible global citizenship: creativity, innovation,

and commitment to peace, human rights and sustainable development.' (UNESCO 2019).

UNACOM's support to GCED was a roadshow that included almost 200 participants across Luzon, Visayas, and Mindanao. It was the impetus for long-term commitments between UNACOM, DepEd, and local/international partners, to develop modules for the national curriculum in the next three years. It will be based on GCED's competency framework that covers key learning outcomes, learner attributes and learning objectives

References:

UNESCO 2019, 'Global Citizenship Education', UNESCO, viewed 5 March 2020, <<https://en.unesco.org/themes/gced>>.

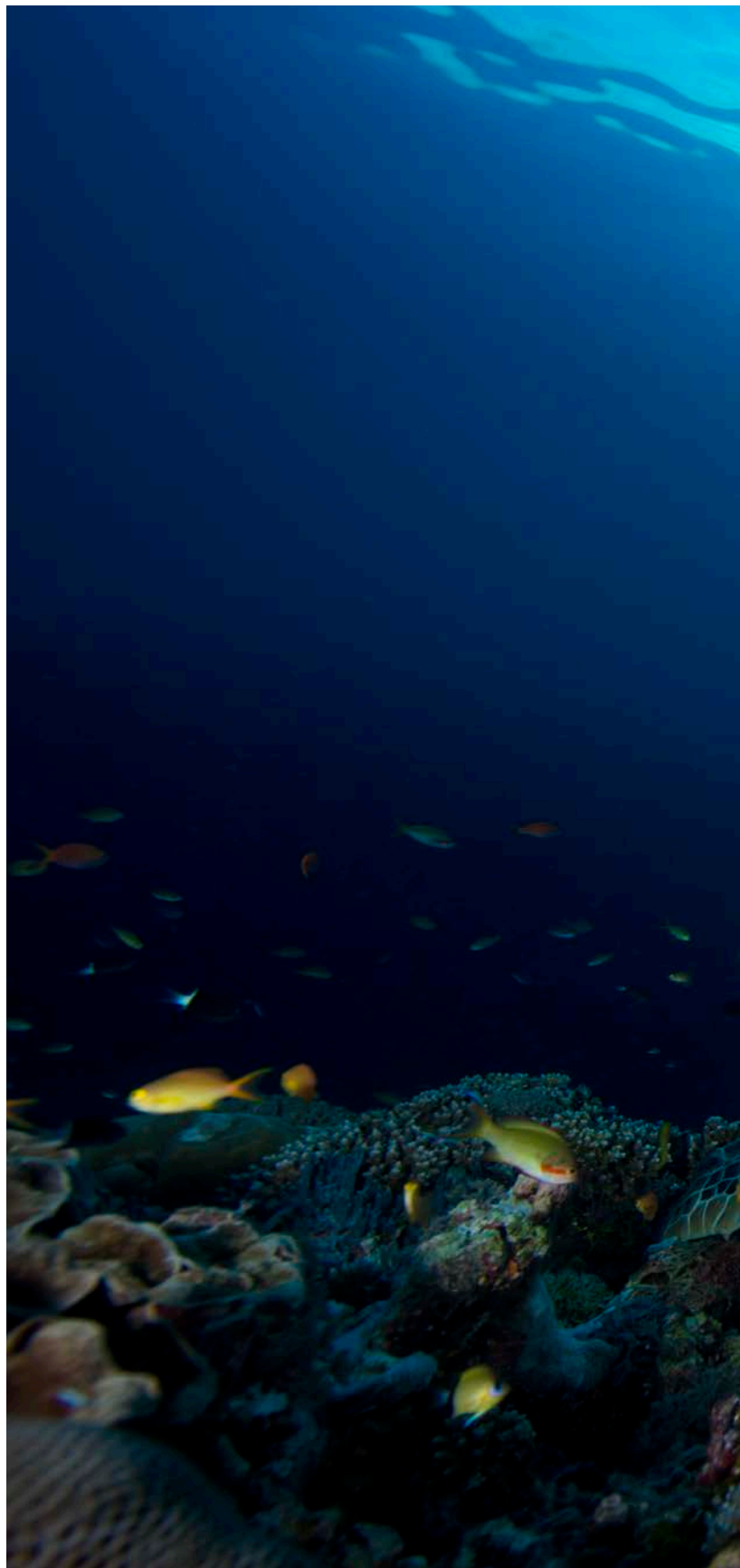
In Natural Sciences —

“

Children are born
and grow each day,
but the reef which will
sustain them in the future
is dying. When the reef
no longer protects
and nourishes the islands
and their people,
what will become
of tomorrow?

Ernesto Santa Cruz,
the Father of Tubbataha

The Tubbataha Reefs Natural Park is an atoll reef of almost 100,000 hectares of high-quality marine habitats.





Coral reefs are critical and vital to the survival of the human race. Why? Let us count the ways:

01

Coral reefs provide food to billions of people. The coral reef system is touted to be the rainforests of the sea that provide a ‘three-dimensional structure and substrate to house and feed fish and other marine animals that humans eat’ (Carilli 2013). According to the Philippine Statistics Authority (PSA), the total volume of fisheries production was 4.4 million metric tons in 2018 (2019, p. 12) spanning across 2.2 million square kms. of territorial water area.

02

Coral reefs protect shorelines. They reduce wave energy up to 97 percent, preventing erosion, property damage, and loss of life (Ferarrío et al. 2014). It can attenuate waves as well as or better than artificial structures designed for coastal defense such as breakwaters hence, protecting many small islands. The Philippine archipelago has ~7,107 islands and its coastline length measures 17,460 km (PSA 2019). Its coastlines are protected because of the coral reef system and if they get damaged, the country can lose its coastlines through erosion.

03

Coral reefs can be a source of medicine. Many drugs are now being developed from coral reef organisms as potential cures for cancer, arthritis, human bacterial infections, viruses, and other diseases. In the Philippines, notable women scientists search through coral ecosystems, also called the ‘medicine cabinets of the sea’. Dr. Lourdes “Luli” Cruz, a UNESCO laureate for Women in Science, studied the biochemistry of toxic peptides of the *Conus* marine snail’s venom that led to breakthroughs in neuroscience and medicine. Dr. Gisela Concepcion has devoted her life discovering cures obtained from the sea for cancer.

04

Coral reefs provide economic benefits to a country. Healthy reefs contribute to local economies through tourism. It is estimated that the world’s coral reefs’ total net benefit per year is at \$29.8 billion. In the Philippines, the potential sustainable economic net benefits per year from coral reefs was estimated at \$1.1 billion, arising from fisheries, shoreline protection, tourism, and aesthetic value (Burke et al. 2002).





Puerto Galera Biosphere Reserve

05

Coral reefs houses staggering biodiversity. Coral reefs are some of the most diverse and valuable ecosystems on Earth. The Tubbataha Reefs Natural Park in the Sulu Sea contains ~10,000 hectares of coral reef, lying at the heart of the Coral Triangle - the global centre of marine biodiversity (Tubbataha Reefs Natural Park 2018). It is home to >600 fish species; 360 coral species (about half of all coral species in the world); 13 dolphin and whale species; and also nesting Hawksbill & Green sea turtles (ibid.). In 1993, it was declared as a UNESCO World Heritage Site and in 1999, Ramsar listed Tubbataha as one of the Wetlands of International Importance.

UNESCO's Resilient Reefs climate adaptation initiative aims to protect the world's coral reefs by finding innovative local solutions in building the resilience of coral reefs and reef-dependent communities to climate change. It brings together local groups, reef managers, and resilience experts to give five World Heritage listed coral reef sites in Palau, France, Belize, and Australia, their best chance of survival. Additionally, UNESCO's international science programme on Man and the Biosphere (MAB) and the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission (IOC) initiatives complement the Resilient Reefs project by promoting international cooperation in marine research, sustainable use and conservation of biosphere resources, capacity development, and effective management of ocean and coastal areas.



The mission of UNESCO in the Natural Science Sector is to be the impetus for generating and exchanging scientific knowledge through international cooperation, capacity building and technical assistance to its Member States. It contributes to UNESCO's mission by using science to build peace, to eradicate poverty, and to promote sustainable development.

This year, UNACOM continues to support the IOC, MAB, and the International Geoscience and Geoparks Programme. Through

the initiatives under this Sector, UNACOM aims to contribute to the following SDGs: 11 (Sustainable Cities and Communities), 13 (Climate Action), 14 (Life Below Water) and 15 (Life on Land). To contribute to the Philippine Development Plan's (PDP) two of three pillars, Malasakit and Patuloy na Pag-unlad, respectively, UNACOM targets two outcomes: 1) Grassroots-inspired Cultural Heritage and Biodiversity Protection and Conservation; and 2) Multi-stakeholder partnership for the promotion SDG.

Hosting IOC-WESTPAC XII

The importance and value of coral reef systems to provide ecosystem services and products to humans and the planet is invaluable. The recent impacts of climate change on oceans and reefs are resulting in irreversible damage and imbalance to the ecosystem. The Intergovernmental Oceanographic Council (IOC) assists governments to address their individual and collective ocean and coastal management needs, through the sharing of knowledge, information and technology, as well as through the coordination of programs and building capacity in ocean and coastal research, observations and services. It is the only United Nations body that focuses in ocean science and services.

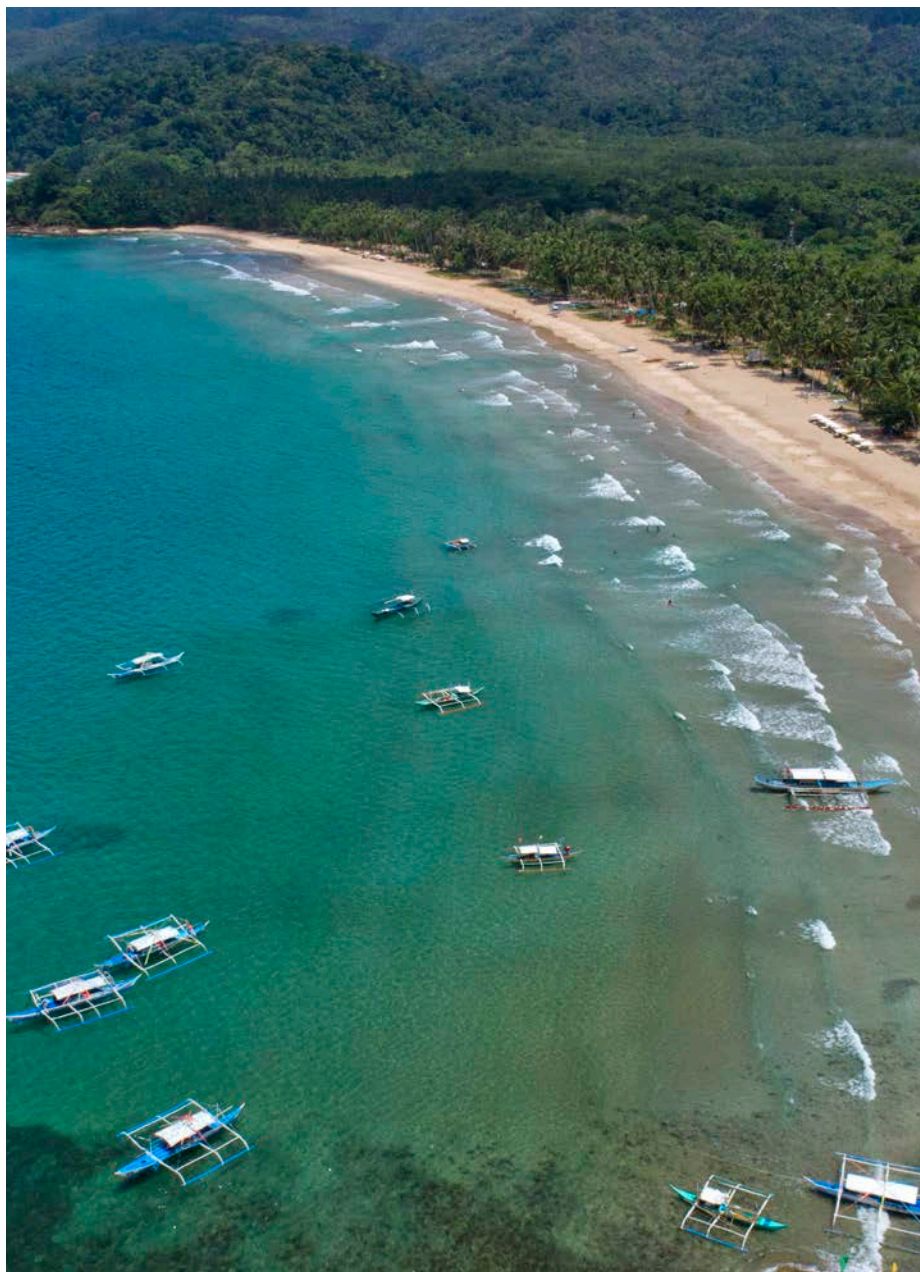
In line with the goals of the UNESCO-IOC, the Philippines is continuously strengthening its institutional capacity for ocean governance with Member States in marine scientific research and ocean management. On 02-05 April 2019,

UNACOM, together with the Department of Foreign Affairs — Maritime and Ocean Affairs Office (DFA-MOAO), University of the Philippines — Marine Science Institute (UP-MSI), and the National Committee on Marine Science (NCMS), hosted the 12th Intergovernmental Session of the IOC for the Western Pacific (WESTPAC XII) at the Philippine International Convention Center. More than a hundred participants (80 foreign and 30 local delegates) from 16 Member States and five international partners discussed enhancing institutional frameworks and capacities in the Western

Pacific and its adjacent regions as commitment to conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas, and marine resources for sustainable development. It defined strategic directions, ways of advancing international cooperation on marine science, and recommended the programme and budget over the next inter-sessional period for the approval of UNESCO-IOC governing bodies.

A milestone activity during the session is the signing of Letters of Intent, respectively between IOC and UP-

MSI for the establishment of a Regional Training and Research Center (RTRC) on Reef Management and Restoration; and between IOC and the Institute of Oceanography, Vietnam Academy of Science and Technology for the establishment of RTRC on Marine Toxins and Seafood Safety. The event culminated in a collective agreement and commitment of all countries and partners in the region to actively contribute to and engage in the action plan implementation for the UN Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development (2021-2030).



The Puerto Princesa Subterranean River National Park in Palawan is an impressive cave system containing a full mountain-to-sea ecosystem.

Participation and support to Man and the Biosphere (MAB)



Albay was designated as a Biosphere Reserve in 2016.

“UNESCO’s MAB Programme have been and continue to be implemented in the Philippines in support of the sustainable management of natural resources through UNESCO designated sites, in order to promote innovative approaches to economic development that are socially and culturally appropriate, and environmentally sustainable”.

– UNESCO Jakarta



Sabang beach is part of Puerto Galera, a Biosphere Reserve that has several ecosystems.

UNESCO’s Man and the Biosphere Programme (MAB) is an intergovernmental scientific programme that provides a platform for cooperation on research and development, capacity-building, and networking to share information, knowledge and experience,

on three interlinked issues: biodiversity loss, climate change, and sustainable development. It contributes not only to better understanding of the environment, but also promotes greater involvement of science and scientists in policy development concerning the wise use of biological

diversity. The MAB Programme identifies biosphere reserves as special places for testing interdisciplinary approaches to understanding and managing changes and interactions between social and ecological systems, including conflict prevention and management of biodiversity.

12th Southeast Asian Biosphere Reserves Network (SEABRNet) Meeting: “Strengthening Networks for Sustainable Management of Biosphere Reserve”



On 26-28 March 2019, UNACOM, together with the Provincial Government of Albay, hosted the 12th Southeast Asian Biosphere Reserves Network (SEABRNet) Meeting with the theme, “Strengthening Networks for Sustainable Management of Biosphere Reserve”. The event gathered 120 local and foreign participants to discuss action plans and the strategic contributions of MAB and its networks in Asia and the Pacific to

achieve the SDGs. UNACOM introduced to the international network the Philippine Biosphere Reserve Network (PhilBRNet), spearheaded by the three inscribed biosphere reserves (BRs) in the country: Albay, Puerto Galera, and Palawan. The meeting also provided a venue for knowledge sharing among members of the Asia and the Pacific Biosphere Reserves Network (APBRN), and representatives from the region’s four sub-regional MAB

networks: SEABRNet, South and Central Asia MAB Network (SACAM), East Asian Biosphere Reserve Network (EABRN), and Pacific Man and the Biosphere Network (PacMAB). Three guidelines related to the management of BRs were launched at the session: Sustainability Science; Eco-labelling and Certification; and Legal Aspects of Biosphere Reserve Zonation.

Strengthening linkages for sustainability and biodiversity of biospheres



Through UNACOM, UNESCO’s MAB Programme was further mainstreamed and resulted to partnerships with multi-stakeholders, including the Palawan Council for Sustainable Development and the Davao Oriental State College of Science and Technology.

On 24-26 July 2019, the International Conference on Biosphere and Sustainability was held in Puerto Princesa City, Palawan. The conference gathered local and foreign experts, researchers, practitioners, and stakeholders to exchange researches under various themes encompassing the issues and challenges in the BRs and sustainable development, and highlight the policy implications of scientific findings on the attainment of the SDGs.

On 11-15 November 2019, the International Biodiversity Conference (IBC) held in Mati, Davao Oriental convened local government officials, researchers, environmental managers, innovators, policymakers, and other stakeholders who are implementing strategic actions in mainstreaming opportunities to capitalize on ridge to reef biodiversity as tool in safeguarding sustainable development for the people. Four sessions were featured, namely: Interconnecting Ecosystems; Sustainable Management of Biodiversity; Biodiversity and Food Security; and Innovations for Biodiversity Conservation. Moreover, the PhilBRNet, a platform for collaboration and cooperation among existing and aspiring BRs in the Philippines, was also promoted during the conference. PhilBRNet is as an active advocate of sustainable development

through the collective initiatives and actions of the BRs in the country,

In addition, UNACOM promotes the establishment of more biosphere reserves in the country and has extended support to Apayao in their bid as biosphere reserve that involved consultative meetings and field visits in Apayao. These activities were made possible by the pro-active Provincial Government of Apayao and its partners, together with the other UNACOM partners such as the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) and the PhilBRNet composed of the existing Biosphere Reserves in the country namely Puerto Galera BR, Palawan BR and Albay BR.

Bohol bid for first UNESCO Global Geopark in PH



The UNESCO Global Geoparks (UGGp), within the UNESCO's International Geoscience and Geoparks Programme (IGGP), recognizes outstanding geological sites and landscapes worldwide to protect and conserve earth's geological heritage and promote sustainable research and development by concerned communities.

UNACOM, together with the University of the Philippines - School of Urban and Regional Planning (UP-SURP), Department of Science and Technology

— Philippine Institute of Volcanology (DOST-PHIVOLCS) and the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR), assisted Bohol Province in its bid to become the pioneer Philippine Global Geopark through a consultative meeting on 05 June to prepare for the UGGp Evaluation. On 30 June to 04 July, UGGp evaluators Ms. Kristine Rangnes (Norway) and Ms. Alessia Amorfini (Italy), visited the ten proposed geosites included for the Bohol Island Aspiring UGGp. These sites are the Alicia Schist in Lamanoc Island in Anda, Philippine Tarsier (Carlito syrichta) and

Wildlife Sanctuary in Corella, Chocolate Hills in Carmen, Uplifted Marine Terraces in Maribojoc and Loon, Hinagdanan Cave in Dauis, Balicasag Marine Sanctuary, Baclayon Church, Loboc Church Ruins, and the newly-restored Dauis Church (PNA 2018). UNACOM continues to assist the Provincial Government of Bohol and its partners and explore collaborative mechanisms with appropriate national/ expert bodies to comply with the recommendations of the UGGp Council.

Kulturweit Programme: Volunteers for Albay Biosphere Reserve



Kulturweit is the international youth voluntary service programme of the German Commission for UNESCO-funded by its Federal Foreign Office. This programme enables young adults to get a better sense of their global responsibility through intensive educational experiences

in culture, education, and nature. As a partner host country to German Commission for UNESCO's Kulturweit Programme, UNACOM welcomed young volunteers from Germany for six months at the Albay Biosphere Reserve (BR). The volunteers helped Albay BR on the

sustainable management and promotion of the BR and participated in programs for the conservation of the biosphere reserve. They were immersed from March to August 2019.

International Day of Light



In celebration of the UNESCO International Day of Light on 16 May 2019, UNACOM joined the Liter of Light Foundation, G Diaries, and ABS-CBN Lingkod Kapamilya at the turnover programme of the 100 solar lamp bottles to

the communities in Tawi-Tawi, Cotabato, Benguet, and Zamboanga with no access to electricity.

DECLARATION OF COMMITMENT AND SUPPORT TO THE PHILIPPINE BIOSPHERE RESERVES NETWORK

We, the representatives from the Biosphere Reserves in the Philippines, namely Puerto Galera Biosphere Reserve, Palawan Biosphere Reserve and Albay Biosphere Reserve, do hereby affirm our commitment and active participation to the Philippine Biosphere Reserve Network (PhilBRNet) initiated by the UNESCO National Commission of the Philippines (PH NatCom/UNACOM). PhilBRNet Members agree to:

COMMIT to the goals and vision of the Biosphere Reserve under the UNESCO's Man and the Biosphere (MAB) Programme;

MAINTAIN open channels for communication, consultation, dialogue and exchange of information, experiences, innovations and best practices between and among the Biosphere Reserves in the country;

RECOGNIZE the similarities and differences among Biosphere Reserves and consider using these similarities and differences to identify possible areas of collaboration;

ENSURE regular and substantive participation to the annual meeting of the network and to BR-related activities (national, regional, international) when deemed necessary;

ALLOCATE funding in its annual budget programme for the BR plans and programs and co-organize/co-fund meetings and activities relative to the sustainable management of the BR;

PROVIDE technical assistance and advice to any of the Biosphere Reserve in the Network as needed, and to other sites in the country aspiring to become Biosphere Reserves in the future;

COMMIT to provide UNESCO MAB and UNACOM with the required periodic reports, responses to queries and surveys, and requested inputs as deemed applicable;

Adopted on the 20th day of June 2018, in Puerto Princesa City, Palawan.

The Philippine Biosphere Reserves Network serves as a platform for collaboration and cooperation among existing and aspiring biosphere reserves in the Philippines and their partners. (<http://philbrnet.unesco.gov.ph>)

References:

Burke, L, Selig, E and Spalding, M 2002, 'Reefs at Risk in Southeast Asia', World Resources Institute (WRI), viewed 12 March 2020, <<https://www.wri.org/publication/reefs-risk-southeast-asia>>.

Carilli J 2013, 'Why are coral reefs important?', Saltwater Science by Nature Education, viewed 10 March 2020, <https://www.nature.com/scitable/blog/saltwater-science/why_are_coral_reefs_important/>.

Ferrario, F, Beck, MW, Storlazzi, CD, Micheli, F, Shepard, CC & Aioldi, L 2014, 'The effectiveness of coral reefs for coastal hazard risk reduction and adaptation', Nature Communications, viewed 10 March 2020, <<https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC4354160/>>.

Philippine Statistics Authority 2019, 'Fisheries Statistics of the Philippines 2016-2018', Philippine Statistics Authority, vol. 27, viewed 10 March 2020, <<https://psa.gov.ph/sites/default/files/Fisheries%20Statistics%20of%20the%20Philippines%2C%202016-2018.pdf>>.

PNA 2018, 'UNESCO to evaluate Bohol for Global Geopark title', Philippine News Agency, 2 July 2018, viewed 15 March 2020, <<https://www.pna.gov.ph/articles/1040055>>.

Tubbataha Reefs Natural Park 2018, 'Biodiversity', Tubbataha Reefs Natural Park, viewed 12 March 2020, <<http://www.tubbatahareef.org/wp/biodiversity>>

In Social and Human Sciences

“

If human progress is to make sense, it would have to mean not merely faster and more efficient technologies but a kinder and gentler world wherein people can become more secure of their lives along with their loved ones in relation to their environments.

Rainier Ibana,

former SHS Commissioner and former UNESCO Chair of the Environmental Ethics Working Group and Rapporteur of the World Commission on the Ethics of Scientific Knowledge and Technology (COMEST)







Hudhud is an Ifugao oral tradition with 40 episodes, tackling rice cultivation in its 200 chants. Mainly narrated by elderly women. Believed to have been practiced since the 7th century. It was inscribed as an Intangible Cultural Heritage in 2008.

The world today is changing at a rapid pace unlike anything before. The growing influence of science and technology holds the promise of progress in many fields. However, these breakthroughs also raise questions and augment ethical and social concerns.

Nowadays, global and social challenges are becoming worse. There is an increase in new types of poverty and inequalities, new kinds of exclusion that are urban, cultural, and technological. New threats to peace, security, and human rights are emerging. New forms of violence and conflicts are going beyond what the country can tolerate. Inter-communal conflicts are also rising, along with the resurgence of nationalism, racism, and religious intolerance, and also terrorism and organized crime. All these can become a grave threat to the rule of law, institutions, democracy, and development.

These challenges can only be taken up at the cost of extensive and long-term political, scientific, technological, social, economic and industrial commitment and mobilization. UNESCO's Social and Human Sciences Sector (SHS) addresses all of these issues. Its mission is to strengthen the institutional and human capacities in the Philippines to generate, manage, and apply knowledge to better deliver on specific targets of the 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda related to social inclusion, reduction of inequalities, health, inclusive policies, and participatory decision-making. Also, this mission cuts across all facets of the PDP 2017-2022.

Vital to addressing these challenges is engaging and empowering the Filipino Youth. They are essential actors and partners in contributing innovative initiatives to peaceful and inclusive

societies that help achieve SDG 16 (Peace, Justice, and Strong Institutions). UNACOM vigorously supports the Philippine government in its efforts to create and implement policies and programmes that promote enabling conditions for the youth, including the most vulnerable and marginalized, and especially young women, to prosper, exercise rights, and engage as responsible citizens and social actors.

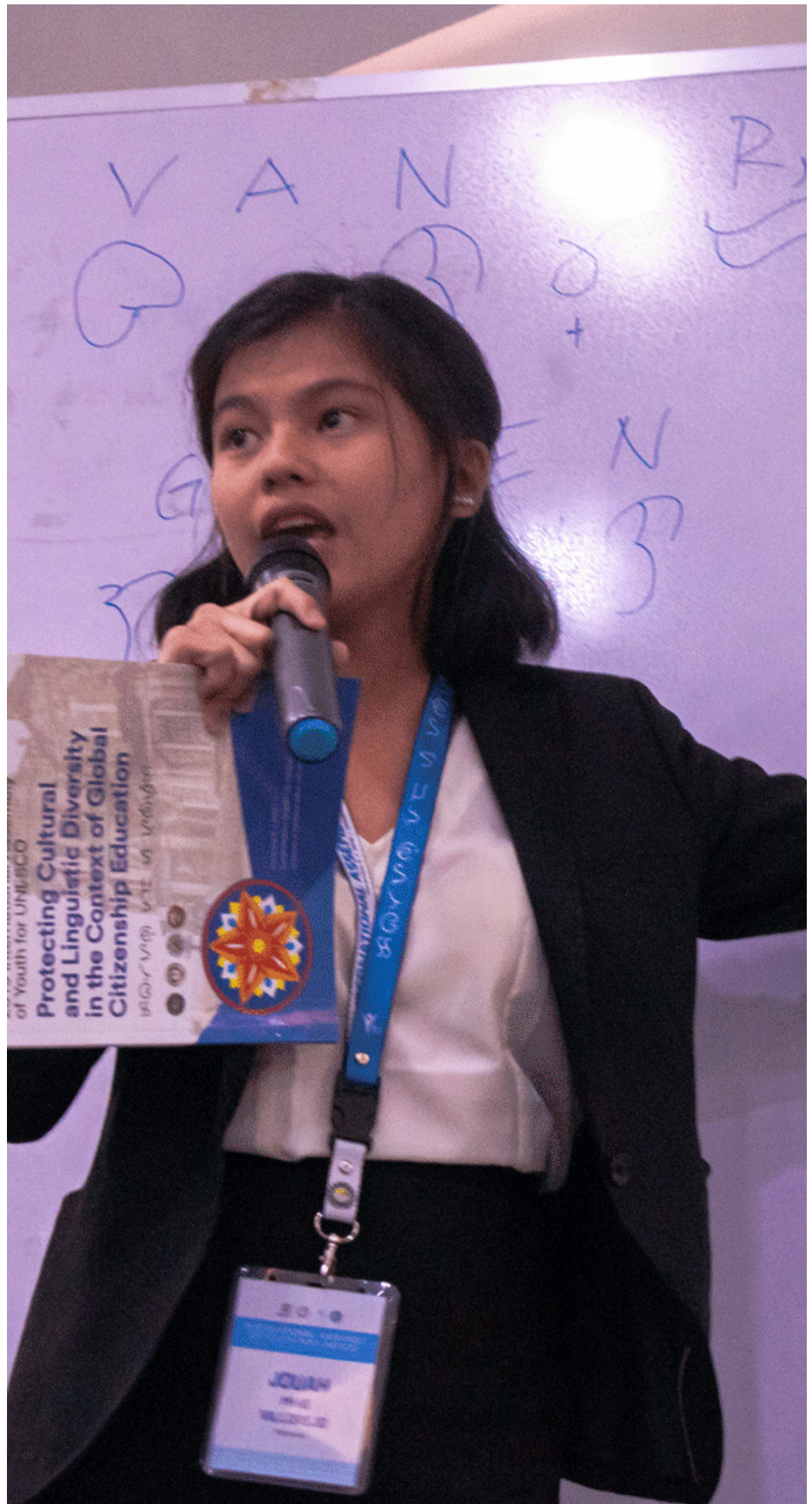
The Operational Strategy on Youth (2014-2021) is UNESCO's framework to harness the young generation's potential for constructive change, sustainable development, and peace. Its operational activities stem from three complementary nexuses: 1) policy formulation and review with the youth's participation; 2) capacity development for adulthood transition; and 3) civic engagement, social innovation, and democratic participation. Efforts into this can address core causes of vulnerability among the youth, and support young women and men build peace and counter violent extremism, in line with the United Nations Security Council Resolution 2250 on Youth, Peace, and Security (2015).

UNACOM seeks out the youth stakeholders in the country, those from youth civil society organizations, youth networks, youth-led grassroots organizations, youths in national or municipal councils, and individual youth leaders. They are supported through targeted interventions that empower them to lead and promote sustainable livelihoods and mutual understanding and dialogue, prevent violent extremism, and build peace. Such works contribute to the youth's effective participation in implementing the 2030 Agenda and the PDP.

Participation and support to Management and Social Transformations (MOST) Programme

Applying social science research to the social, economic, and institutional problems of modern societies is the main task of SHS's work on social transformations. Action in this area strengthens the links between social science research, and broad policy-making groups in government, the private sector, and civil society. It builds capacity and competency through advisory services, information sharing, disseminating best practices, and develops studies and strategies on social transformations.

UNESCO'S Programme on Management of Social Transformations (MOST) does exactly this. It supports Member States in improving policymaking processes through a strengthened research-policy interface that uses knowledge centered on human needs from the social and human sciences to promote a culture of evidence-informed decision-making. UNACOM has been continuously supporting this programme through mainstreaming of gender and development (GAD) initiatives at the local level. Consultation meetings and information dissemination activities were conducted with emphasis on the role of the grassroots, the women and youth, especially in indigenous communities. These resulted to an initial consolidation of reflections and experiences of stakeholders as well as the identification of gaps and challenges in the inclusion of women and youth in indigenous communities. This is aligned with UNACOM's core tasks to promote GAD and mainstream initiatives on priority areas/sectors.





Hosting of The Filipino Youth and Violent Extremism Forum

In different parts of the globe, young women and men are facing acute challenges that are impacting the important aspects of their lives. More than ever, it is now time to boost investment in research, policies, and programmes to create an enabling and rights-based environment where the youth will be recognized as responsible social actors and innovators.

Last 6-8 November 2019, UNACOM held a forum on the Filipino Youth and

Violent Extremism in Mindanao that gathered more than 40 young Filipinos from ZamBaSuTa (Zamboanga, Basilan, Sulu, and Tawi-tawi) in a seminar-workshop that developed strategies on preventing and countering violent extremism in Mindanao. The event provided a dynamic avenue for the youth to help build peace in their communities, and translate their learning to policy and actionable recommendations to engage more youth in the prevention of violent extremism.



Support to Sports and Anti-doping

UNESCO, as United Nations' lead agency for Physical Education and Sport (PES), supports policy and decision-making in sport given its important role in building an individual's character as well as in promoting peace and social development. Throughout the years, UNACOM relentlessly communicates UNESCO's efforts and initiatives in the development and practice of sporting activities as well as the fight against doping to the government agencies, non-government agencies, civil societies and experts. Moreover, UNACOM has been linking government institutions to the UNESCO's Fund for the Elimination of Doping in Sport that aims to provide technical, practical and financial assistance to State Parties to undertake and develop anti-doping projects in accordance with the International Convention Against Doping in Sport.

#PLAYCLEAN
#PLAYTRUE
#PLAY FAIR
#NOPE2DOPE

References:

UNESCO Office Jakarta and Regional Bureau for Science in Asia and the Pacific 2018, 'Philippines: UNESCO country strategy, 2018-2021, viewed 15 March 2020, <<https://unesdoc.unesco.org/ark:/48223/pf0000263495>>.

In Culture

“

Let us teach our people
again to be proud that
they are Filipinos.
Let us teach them to realise
anew that being a Filipino
means having as rich
and noble heritage
of language, culture,
patriotism, and heroic
deeds as any nation
on Earth.

Carlos P. Romulo,
former President of UN General Assembly

The Darangen Epic of the Maranao People of Lake Lanao is a historic epic song that celebrates episodes of rich Maranao history and literature. It is a gateway to learning about the history of the Philippines since pre-Islamic times.







Vigan, Ilocos Sur is the most intact example in Asia of a planned Spanish colonial town with cultural influences from Philippines, China, Europe and Mexico.

Today's rapidly changing world places cultural heritage at great risk. War, political, ethnic and religious conflicts, looting and theft, illegal export and import, destruction of or alteration to heritage, illicit trafficking of cultural property, neglect, deterioration, disappearance, and pollution are just a few of the many existing threats worldwide. Such threats to cultural heritage are also present in the Philippines. Climate change and human-induced risks to the environment threaten cultural and historical structures. Frameworks for cultural development seem inadequate to address these pressing concerns. Constraints in documenting both tangible and intangible cultures are pervasive due to a lack of cultural experts to conduct research and gather data. Also, conflicting provisions in certain laws compromise the implementation of certain cultural initiatives. Apart from this, agencies and civil societies have limited resources (i.e. financial and human resources) to implement cultural development programs.

Culture — in its diverse manifestations — can transform societies through building better relations for social cohesion among people. It gives people a connection to certain social values, beliefs, religions, morals, ideas and customs. It also allows for better interactions among community members. Cultural heritage provides a sense of unity and belonging within a group, supports self-esteem and pride, and allows people to understand history and previous generations. The inclusion of culture in policy formulation and in the design of development interventions enhances the effectiveness of programs and projects. When cultural

contexts are recognized, policymakers have a more robust dataset to examine policies through another lens. The PDP incorporates culture as one of its pillar in achieving an inclusive, sustainable, and human-centered development in the Philippines.

Indeed, only a human-centered approach to development based on mutual respect and open dialogue among cultures can lead to lasting, inclusive and equitable results of protecting and preserving cultural heritage (UNESCO 2019). UNESCO adopts a three-pronged approach to ensure that culture is included in the national development frameworks and policies. It spearheads worldwide advocacy for culture and development, while engaging with the international community to set clear standards and normative structures, and working on the ground to support governments and local stakeholders to safeguard heritage, strengthen creative industries and encourage cultural pluralism (ibid.).

UNACOM works closely with local partners to implement this approach. They are mainstreamed in projects and programmes under the World Heritage, Intangible Cultural Heritage, Creative Cities Network, and the International Year of Indigenous Languages. These initiatives contribute to SDG 11 (Sustainable Cities and Communities) and SDG 16 (Peace, Justice, and Strong Institutions), and to the Philippine Development Plan pillar of Malasakit. It also targets UNACOM's outcome for Grassroots-inspired Cultural Heritage and Biodiversity Protection and Conservation.

Support to Sites on the UNESCO World Heritage Tentative List

In October 2019, UNACOM organized the International Capacity-Building Series for World Heritage Sites and Tentative List that gathered and trained over 80 local government officials, site managers and their staff, and representatives from national agencies. The series was the first of many initiatives focused on strengthening site management, enhancing various levels of coordination between and among sites and national agencies, and exploring available opportunities within the wider UNESCO system. The said training was the outcome of month-long field visits to World Heritage-inscribed sites and those that are part of the Philippine Tentative List. In partnership with the World Heritage Institute for Training and Research for the Asia and the Pacific Region (WHITRAP) – Shanghai, these field visits helped assess the state of selected World Heritage-related sites in the Philippines. An expert from WHITRAP-Shanghai, Dr. Simone Ricca, determined that particular attention must be given to the two UNESCO World Heritage Sites, namely: Puerto Princesa Subterranean River National Park and Mt. Hamiguitan Range Wildlife Sanctuary. These sites have exhibited best practices that the two sites in the Tentative List, the Mt. Mantalingahan Protected Landscape and Mt. Mayon Natural Park, can learn from to improve their respective bid.

The International Capacity-Building Series for World Heritage Sites and Tentative List kicked off with a lecture on the 1972 World Heritage Convention, wherein the importance of harmonizing the Convention with national legislation was emphasized. It was followed by a presentation on the general framework of UNESCO, international trends in heritage preservation, case studies of implementing the Convention in other countries,



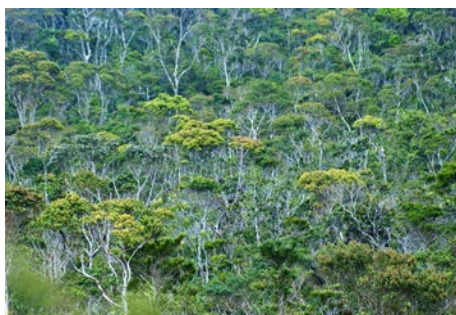
The Rice Terraces of the Philippine Cordilleras is an outstanding example of an evolved, living cultural landscape handed down from one generation to the next.



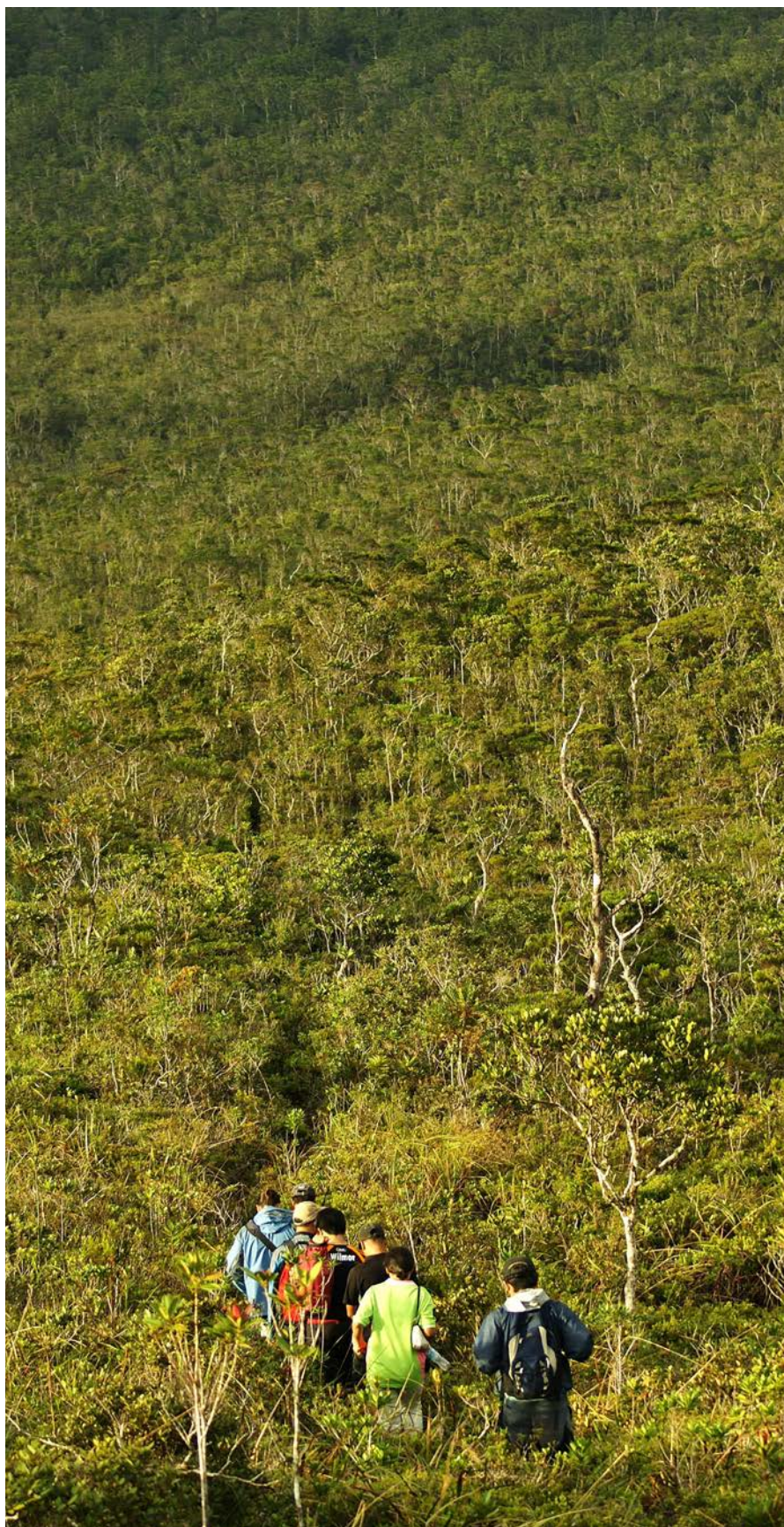
The Santo Tomas de Villanueva Church in Miag-ao Iloilo is one of the Baroque churches of the Philippines that feature a localized interpretation of the Baroque style.

and various platforms for exchanging knowledge and expertise in World Heritage site management. The training served as a venue for site managers to revitalize commitments of key national agencies such as the National Commission for Culture and the Arts (NCCA) and the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR), and form a stronger inter-agency collaboration with them. Site managers and technical staff from the national agencies engaged in discussions surrounding legislation, coordination, and allocation of resources, as well as the implementation of national initiatives within their properties. The three agencies also revisited the 1972 World Heritage Convention that emphasized the importance of their respective roles in bringing the sites closer to the international community.

The main ways forward include further discussions with cultural agencies and relevant national agencies such as the Department of Tourism (DOT) and the Department of Interior and Local Government (DILG) to further enhance inter-agency collaboration for cultural heritage. UNACOM and the WHITRAP – Shanghai also intend to invite other World Heritage inscribed and aspiring sites in the country and those that are part of the Philippine tentative list to enhance and establish the holistic and sustainable protection of the country's rich cultural and natural heritage.



The Mount Hamiguitan Range Wildlife Sanctuary is a habitat for terrestrial and marine species (including Philippine Eagle and Cockatoo) that have adapted to mountain's highly diverse soil and climate conditions.





Cebu is a dynamic city considered to be the Philippines' design capital as the home of internationally-recognized talents in a variety of disciplines

Participation and Support to UNESCO Creative Cities Network

In June 2019, UNACOM facilitated the endorsement of Cebu City to the UNESCO Creative Cities Network. The bid was a success. UNESCO has officially designated the said city as a UNESCO Creative City of Design. It became the second city in the country to be included in the said Network after Baguio City in 2017. Cebu joins 65 other Member-cities in this UNESCO initiative that aims to promote cooperation between and among metropolitan areas that have identified creativity (i.e. music, arts and folk crafts, design, cinema, literature, digital arts, and gastronomy) as a strategic factor for sustainable urban development.

Continuing its efforts to support Baguio City as a UNESCO Creative City of Crafts and Folk Art, UNACOM partnered with the University of the Philippines - Baguio in organizing the First International Conference on Southeast Asian Crafts and Folk Art at the Teachers' Camp, Baguio City last 21-22 November 2019. The conference brought together artisans, artists, academics and representatives from higher education institutions, government, civil society and cultural organizations engaged in knowledge-exchange about the roles of different sectors and stakeholders in leveraging culture and creativity for sustainable urban development.

Participation and Support to UNESCO Intangible Cultural Heritage Programme

In December 2019, the Philippines celebrated the inclusion of another element in its list of UNESCO inscriptions. The Buklog – the elaborate thanksgiving ritual system of the Subanen people of Zamboanga peninsula in the Philippines – was inscribed into UNESCO’S List of Intangible Cultural Heritage (ICH) in need of Urgent Safeguarding. UNACOM has provided assistance to NCCA and its partners in nominating this element to the List. Its inscription marks another milestone in safeguarding intangible cultural heritage in the Philippines as it is the first element to be inscribed in the List, after the inscription of three other elements (the Darangen epic of the Maranao People of Lake Lanao; the Hudhud chants of the Ifugao; and the Punuk, tugging rituals and games) in the Representative List. Preparations involved were: immersion with the Subanen Tribe in January, and sending a representative to the Regional Meeting for Strengthening the Use of ICH in Education in August. Inscription in the Urgent Safeguarding List means that the national government is committed to undertaking swift measures to ensure that the ICH is alive. It also mobilizes international cooperation and assistance for stakeholders to undertake appropriate safeguarding measures. The Commission continues to perform its facilitative and supporting roles in endeavors that involve multi-stakeholder contributions and initiatives.



Hudhud chants of the Ifugao, mainly narrated by elderly women, is believed to have been practiced since the 7th century.



Buklog is the elaborate, but highly vulnerable thanksgiving ritual system of the Subanen.

This intangible cultural heritage highlights a dance ritual on an elevated wooden structure – a sacred and social space – to produce a sound believed to please and appease the natural spirits.

Participation and Support to International Year of Indigenous Language (IYIL)

As part of the celebration of the International Year of Indigenous Languages, UNACOM accommodated proposals from stakeholders during the first semester to celebrate the said event. The celebration's primary aim was to identify the risks and consequences confronting indigenous languages worldwide, especially those significant for development, peace, reconciliation, and good governance. Its goals also include improving the quality of life, wider international cooperation, and visibility and strengthened inter-cultural dialogue to reaffirm the continuity of indigenous languages and cultures.



Four Sets of Philippine Paleographs are being used up to this day: Hanunoo Mangyan, Buid, Tagbanua, and Palaw'an.

References:

UNESCO 2019, 'Protecting our heritage and fostering creativity' UNESCO, viewed 25 March 2020 <<https://en.unesco.org/themes/protecting-our-heritage-and-fostering-creativity>>.

In Communication and Information

“

The grand ambition
of journalism is to
help explain the world.

Luis Teodoro,
former Dean, UP College of Mass Communication

A living collection of 44 audiocassette tapes and
1 mini-disc that records the power of radio
communication in peacefully mobilizing millions
of Filipinos to assert their democratic rights and
freedoms is currently maintained as part of the
Memory of the World Programme.







The Culion Leprosy Archives is an assemblage of numerous rare books and patient records detailing the significance and history of one of the most important Asia-Pacific leprosaria.

The gathering, recording, and disseminating of information has been practiced as early as the 16th century in Europe. The documents produced from such exchanges leave traces, pieces of evidence, catalogues that reflect the diversity of peoples, cultures, and languages, that become part of humanity's heritage. They have been recorded in any format, from papyrus scrolls and clay tablets to film, sound recording, and digital files.

As the UN agency with the specific mandate to promote the "free flow of ideas by word and image", the Communication and Information Sector of UNESCO strives to foster freedom of expression, media development, and access to information to build knowledgeable and inclusive societies.

UNACOM has actively espoused a multi-stakeholder approach to operationalize UNESCO's goals and implement local and

international programmes that are aligned to the Philippine Development Plan (PDP) on malasakit and patuloy na pag-unlad which aims to enhance the social fabric and increase our growth potential through proactive knowledge-sharing. The initiatives undertaken by UNACOM also contribute to the realization of the Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 16 on ensuring public access to information and protect fundamental freedoms of Filipinos.

In 2019, UNACOM collaborated closely with the Philippine Government, academe, international organizations, and local communities to strengthen national efforts in safeguarding Philippine cultural assets and documentary heritage, ensuring the safety of journalists, and providing public access to information.

Participation and support to the Memory of the World (MOW) Programme

Documentary heritage is a fundamental inheritance of humanity's culture and historical memory that must be transmitted to future generations in the best possible condition. In this regard, UNESCO launched an international initiative called the MOW Programme to ensure the safeguarding of humanity's documentary heritage against neglect, the devastating effects of time, climatic conditions, and willful and deliberate destruction. The programme lists some of humanity's most historically- and culturally-significant documents. It aims to guard against what UNESCO calls 'collective amnesia' and helps raise recognition of the world's intellectual treasures such as films, manuscripts, music, scientific discoveries, and exploratory voyages that are considered milestones in history.

UNESCO collects and lists all these documents, manuscripts, oral traditions, audio-visual materials, library, and archival resources possessing universal value at the national, regional, and global levels through the MOW Register. The Philippines currently has inscribed four holdings in the International MOW Register (i.e. Philippine Paleographs of the Hanunoo, Buid, Tagbanua, and Pala'wan; Radio Broadcast of the Philippine People Power Revolution; José Maceda Collection; and the Presidential Papers of Manuel L. Quezon), one in the MOW Asia-Pacific Register (i.e. the Culion Leprosy Archives) and one in the MOW National Register (i.e. the film *Ganito Kami Noon, Paano Kayo Ngayon?*).

UNACOM actively promotes the programme in the Philippines by holding awareness-raising seminars on documentary heritage preservation and encouraging nominations to the national, regional, and international registers. In 2019, UNACOM organized two MOW Documentary Heritage Workshops where government agencies, NGOs, private



The Culion Leprosy Archives was inscribed in the year 2018.



The Jose Maceda Collection was collected from 1953 to 2003.

archives and museums, members of the academe, and heritage workers, attended to finalize and review pending nominations for the MOW National Register. These workshops also provided the platform to solicit new nominations for all the MOW registers (national, regional, international) and raised public awareness on the urgent call for documentary heritage preservation.

Opportunities for training and capacity building workshops and access to grants were also facilitated by UNACOM throughout the year. UNACOM endorsed the application of Metro Dagupan Colleges (MDC) in Pangasinan to the Memory of the Committee for Asia and the Pacific (MOWCAP)-Asia Culture Center Small Grants Programme for their “Pangasinan Archive and Online Index to its Literature (PAOIL) Website” Project. Successfully, the grant was issued to the proponent and was used to develop MDC’s PAOIL website and their online indexing and archiving portal. The grant was also used to conduct basic archiving orientations to their librarians. In November, UNACOM also endorsed the participation of the

National Library and the National Museum to the First Capacity-Building Workshop on “Registration, Preservation and Utilization of UNESCO’s World Documentary Heritage” in South Korea.

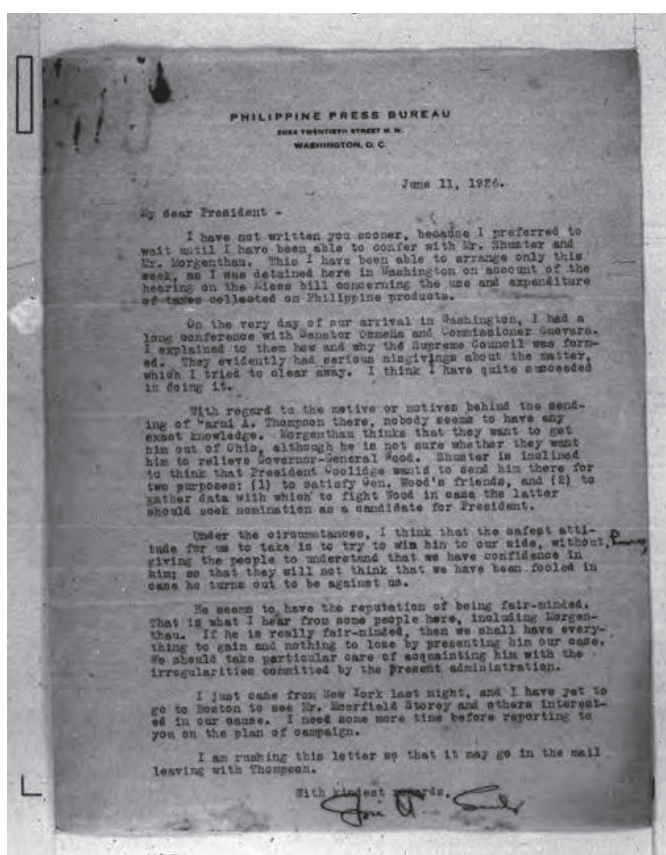
In the same year, UNACOM also ramped up its support to the Culion Leprosy Archives as a newly-inscribed MOW register in the country. UNACOM has officially turned over the MOW Regional Inscription Certificate to the Culion Sanitarium and General Hospital (CSGH) during the commemoration of World Leprosy Day held on 27 January 2019 in Culion, Palawan. The event highlighted the role of CSGH as an exemplar for leprosy treatment in the Philippines and abroad. Culion represents the medical and colonial history of the Philippines through its many landmarks, recently restored through a collective effort with the National Historical Commission of the Philippines. In November, UNACOM also participated in the reopening of the Culion Museum and Archives located in a two-storey building adjacent to the hospital and contains historical relics on

the medical history of leprosy control. The Museum houses the Culion Leprosy Archives, which include books, public documents of the then Culion Leper Colony, patient records, photographs, and memorabilia, among others.

Strengthening the efforts to promote Culion Museum and Archives, UNACOM also hosted a block screening of Culion during the 2019 Metro Manila Film Fest. Culion Movie is inspired by the lives of people afflicted with leprosy who were sent for isolation to Culion, Palawan in the 1930s. The film depicts the history of leprosy in the Philippines, once a much-dreaded disease but now fully eradicated on the island. The block screening was attended by 150 participants and was organized to support the mainstreaming of senior citizens and persons with disabilities (PWDs). Many of those who were born in Culion during the isolation period are now senior citizens and serve as guides for the Culion Museum and Archives.

Promotion and support to Freedom of Expression, Safety of Journalists, Media and Information Literacy (MIL) and Freedom of Information (FOI)

The growth of mass media over the years has expanded its reach to engage more communities through online telecommunications and information technology. This prompts UNESCO to employ a holistic approach to foster free, independent, and pluralistic media in print, broadcast, and online to enrich media diversity and pluralism. The Organization also supports universal access to information and develops programmes to strengthen media and information literacy to combat the emergence of



The Presidential Papers of Manuel Quezon are compiled to document the traces of Philippines’ strive for independence.

misinformation, disinformation, and hate speech to create inclusive and knowledgeable societies. UNESCO views these programmes as crucial foundations of democracy, development, dialogue, and as preconditions for protecting and promoting all other human rights founded in the values of peace, sustainability, poverty eradication, and gender equality.

In the recent years, UNACOM actively promoted these UNESCO programmes through awareness-raising initiatives, continuous monitoring, and capacity-building activities to improve the overall enabling environment for freedom of expression and safety of journalists. Along with the Asian Institute for Journalism

and Communication (AIJC) and the Philippine Social Science Council (PSSC), several meetings and trainings were held to develop a mass media programme in the Philippines to cultivate social and cultural diversity and advanced gender equality and youth empowerment in and by media. UNACOM also coordinates with government agencies and experts who are active in the formulation of MIL policies and framework in the Philippines that will eventually provide the Filipinos the competencies to participate effectively in dialogue and to engage safely with the Internet.

For nearly two decades, Filipinos have been calling for a freedom of information

law in the country. While the passage of the law on FOI is yet to be pursued, the government has already set up a mechanism through the issuance of Executive Order No. 2 operationalizing the Filipino's right to information. In 2019, UNACOM linked with the FOI-Project Management Office to discuss potential collaborations to strengthen the programme in the Philippines. In December, UNACOM participated in the FOI Summit organized by the Presidential Communications Operations Office where UNACOM facilitated a session on Access to Information as a Sustainable Development Goal.



Policies related to Media Information Literacy (MIL) in the Philippines are concerned with freedom of information, data privacy, cybercrime, media coverage and portrayal of children, and the teaching of MIL in Senior High School. On July 23, 2016, the government issued Executive Order No. 02¹, which operationalizes in the executive branch the citizens' constitutional right to information and the state policies of full public disclosure and transparency in the public service. Another recent law provides localized MIL indicators. The Data Privacy Act of 2012 or Republic Act No. 10173² defines the rights of data subjects and the requirements and procedures for the collection, processing and handling of personal information by government agencies and private companies. It protects

personal information of individuals in information and communications systems.

Another law relevant to MIL is the Cybercrime Prevention Act of 2012 or Republic Act No. 10175³, which defines several punishable cybercrime offenses. These include illegal access, illegal interception, data and system interference, misuse of devices, and cybersquatting, described as "offenses against confidentiality, integrity and availability of computer data and systems"; computer-related offenses of forgery, fraud and identity theft; content-related offenses of cybersex, child pornography, unsolicited commercial communications, and libel; and other types of offenses including aiding or abetting in the commission of cybercrime and attempt

in the commission of cybercrime.

Currently, the Presidential Communications Operations Office (PCOO) promotes media literacy while the Department of Education and the Department of Information and Communications Technology (DICT) promote digital literacy. Several private and non-government initiatives have also been launched by the mainstream and alternative media, academia, and various organizations.

Concepts relevant to MIL such as access to information, free expression and education, open education resources (OER), and digital heritage, among others, are priority mandates of several government agencies.

¹ <https://www.officialgazette.gov.ph/2016/07/23/executive-order-no-02-s-2016/>

² <https://www.privacy.gov.ph/data-privacy-act/>

³ <https://www.officialgazette.gov.ph/2012/09/12/republic-actno-10175>

In Institutional Development and Strengthening



East and Southeast Asia Meeting of National Commissions for UNESCO

아 유네스코 국가위원회 회의

Annual Meeting for Strengthening the Use of ICH Education in the Asia-Pacific

아태지역 아태지역 회의

28-30 August 2019
Jeonju, Republic of Korea

ichcap



Philippine Participation in International Activities for

2019

Legend:

Culture
 Education
 Communication
and Information

Sciences
 ASPNet Activities

28-21 March Bertinoro, Italy

Name of Delegate/Participants

Ms. Lila R. Shahani
Secretary-General
PH National Commission
for UNESCO

Organizer

University of Washington
and co-organized
by University of Bologna

Event

Conference focusing
on the issues of translation, culture and
history in the modern world

25-26 April Paris, France

Name of Delegate/Participants

Dr. Bert Tuga Jr.
Vice President for Finance
Philippine Normal University

Organizer

UNESCO HQ

Event

UNESCO Associated Schools Network
(ASPNet) Brainstorming Session
on a Global Aspnet Teacher Training
Institutions Meeting

9-10 April Brunei, Darussalam

Name of Delegate/Participants

Ms. Estela Carino
Regional Director – Region II
Department of Education

Ms. May Eclar
Regional Director –
Region CAR
Department of Education

Organizer

UNESCO Jakarta

Event

2019 Education for Sustainable
Development (ESD)
Country Reports Meeting

16-18 May Beijing, China

Name of Delegate/Participants

Mr. Alain Pascua
Undersecretary for Administration
Department of Education

Mr. Malcolm Garma
Regional Director – Region I
Department of Education

Organizer

UNESCO

Event

International Conference
on Artificial Intelligence
and Education

27-28 May Paris, France

Name of Delegate/Participants

Dr. Melinda Bandalaria Chancellor
University of the Philippines –
Open University

Organizer

UNESCO

Event

Intergovernmental Special
Committee Meeting related to a Draft
Recommendation concerning OER
(Open Educational Resources)

26 June - 04 July Paris, France

Name of Delegate/Participants

Dr. Gil S. Jacinto
Professor,
Marine Science Institute
University of the Philippines-Diliman

Organizer

UNESCO HQ

Event

52nd Session of the Intergovernmental
Oceanographic Commission
30th Session of the Intergovernmental
Oceanographic Commission
General Assembly

20-28 June Seoul, Inje and
Gangwon Province,
the Republic of Korea

Name of Delegate/Participants

Ms. Ludivina Dekit
Assistant Professor
Western Mindanao State University

Organizer

UNESCO - Asia-Pacific Centre
for Education and International
Understanding (APCEIU)

Event

19th Asia-Pacific Training Workshop on
Education
for International Understanding

28-30 August Jeonju, Republic of Korea

Name of Delegate/Participants

Ms. Lila R. Shahani
Secretary-General
PH National Commission for UNESCO

Ms. Josefina V. Escueta
Administrative Assistant/UNESCO-ASPnet
National Coordinator
PH National Commission for UNESCO

Organizer

Korean National Commission for
UNESCO and the City of Jeonju,

Event

Meeting of East and Southeast Asia
National Commissions for UNESCO

28-30 August Jeonju, Republic of Korea

Name of Delegate/Participants

Ms. Michelle A. Dulay
Development Management Officer II
PH National Commission for UNESCO

Organizer

International Information and Networking
Centre for Intangible Heritage in the Asia-
Pacific Region under the Auspices
of UNESCO and UNESCO Bangkok

Event

Regional Meeting for Strengthening the Use
of Intangible Cultural Heritage in Education

03-04 September Seoul, Republic of Korea

Name of Delegate/Participants

Ms. Lindsay A. Barrientos
Deputy Executive Director II
PH National Commission for UNESCO
Mr. Rex A. Ubac, Jr.
Development Management Officer III
PH National Commission for UNESCO

Organizer

Asia-Pacific Centre for Education and
International Understanding (APCEIU)

Event

4th International Conference
on Global Citizenship Education

11-13 September Bali, Indonesia

Name of Delegate/Participants

Mr. Celestino Millar
Chief, TESD Specialist
Technical Education and
Skills Development Authority

Organizer

UNESCO Jakarta

Event

Sub-Regional Dialogue on the
National Institutional Changes
for Education 2030 in Southeast Asia

15-18 September Jilin, China

Name of Delegate/Participants

Ms. Katherine Jane A. Sapungen
Information and Planning Officer
PH National Commission
for UNESCO

Organizer

UNESCO Beijing

Event

2019 MAB (Man and Biosphere)
Youth Forum

17-19 September Bangkok, Thailand

Name of Delegate/Participants

Ms. Ma. Wilma Gabrillo
Senior Education Program Specialist
Commission on Higher Education

Organizer

UNESCO Bangkok

Event

Second Asia-Pacific Regional Meeting
on Teacher Education
for ESD: Towards Achieving
the Sustainable Development Goals
through Education

01-04 October Bangkok, Thailand

Name of Delegate/Participants

Ms. Merzi Florencia Chan
Advocacy Officer
Civil Society Network
for Education Reforms

Organizer

UNESCO Bangkok

Event

5th Asia-Pacific Meeting
on Education 2030 (APMED2030)

**28 October -
08 November** Shanghai, China

Name of Delegate/Participants

Ms. Lindsay A. Barrientos
Deputy Executive Director
PH National Commission for UNESCO

Ms. G.H. Ambat
Assistant Secretary
Department of Education

Ms. Liza Libertine Magana
OIC Chief Education Program Specialist
Commission on Higher Education

Ms. Ayessa Velasquez
Director
Ateneo de Davao Academy of Lifelong
Learning

Mr. Oscar E. Perey, Jr.
Supervising TESD Specialist,
Provincial Training Center (PTC)
Technical Education and Skills
Development Authority

Ms. Felicidad A. Badajos
Administrative Officer V, Provincial Office
Technical Education and Skills
Development Authority

Ms. Xarina Dominique David
Senior Economic Development Specialist
National Economic and Development
Authority

Organizer

Shanghai Open University

Event

2nd Capacity Building Workshop
on Developing Education System
from a Lifelong Learning Perspective

09-11 November Bangkok, Thailand

Name of Delegate/Participants

Mr. Rowel Padernal
Education Specialist
Department of Education

Organizer

UNESCO Bangkok

Event

UNESCO Sub-Regional Training
of Teacher Educators for the
Shared Histories of Southeast Asia

19-22 November Daejeon, Republic of Korea

Name of Delegate/Participants

Ms. Anne Rosette Crelencia
Head, Filipiniana Division
National Library

Ms. Leonida Radam
Curator
National Museum

Organizer

Korean National Commission
for UNESCO

Event

First Capacity-Building Workshop
on Registration, Preservation
and Utilization of UNESCO's
World Documentary Heritage





Inter-sectoral Commitments and Institutional Capacity Development

UNACOM aligns its organizational systems and procedures with that of the National Government. To do this efficiently and effectively, UNACOM undergoes trainings and capacity-building activities to equip its employees with the appropriate skills and knowledge. This is in addition to their international trainings and workshops. The local activities for this year involve the following:



January 22-23 and October 17

Annual Procurement Planning (APP) Sessions and Validation Activities for FY 2019 and Procurement Training

The Annual Procurement Plan is a requisite document that an agency must prepare to reflect the entire procurement activities for goods, services, and infrastructure to be acquired within the calendar year.

This activity of UNACOM coordinates and streamlines the office's procurement requirements for priority programs and projects to be executed for the fiscal year.

In addition, a procurement training was given to 14 UNACOM staff to aid them in knowing the details and nuances of the procurement process.



February 18-19

Workshop on the review and finalisation of the Quality Management System (QMS) Manual

The QMS is a compendium of business processes focused on delivering quality service to consistently meet stakeholder requirements and satisfaction. It is expressed as the organisational goals and aspirations, policies, processes, documented information and resources needed to implement and maintain it.

This is an annual major undertaking of UNACOM to aid in the organisation's delivery of efficient and quality service to the public.



February 20

Refresher training/seminar on the Freedom of Information (FOI) Manual

The FOI is an Executive Order (EO) of the President that requires all executive departments, agencies, bureaus, and offices to disclose public records, contracts, transactions, and any information requested by a member of the public, except for matters affecting national security exceptions.

Aside from these capacity-building activities, UNACOM also supports and participates in its inter-sectoral commitments, including gender and development (GAD), for Indigenous Peoples, Senior Citizens and Differently-Abled, youth organisations aligned with the UNESCO thrust, and other government agencies.

UNACOM is enjoined to adhere to this EO hence, it is important for the organisation's frontliners and other employees to revisit the FOI manual and relearn its content. This year, UNACOM has responded to hundreds of inquiries and requests (online, face-to-face and through mails) related to the organisation's networks, programmes, and areas for collaboration.



“

#WomenMakeChange

My goal in the field of culture is to celebrate and preserve existing UNESCO World Heritage Sites, Intangible Cultural Heritage, and Creative Cities all over the country. In the field of education, I work with educational agencies to promote global citizenship, lifelong learning and education for sustainable development. For the social and human sciences, I focus on the nexus between research, policy and practice. For the natural sciences, I encourage international scientific cooperation for resource management and the preservation of biodiversity. For communication and information, I work on freedom of information and what UNESCO calls the Memory of the World.

I dream of putting the Philippines on several international maps, potentially generating creative economies that propel cultural tourism, development and livelihood for our people. In this way, I hope to contribute to the "soft power" already being wielded by the DFA.

Three things motivate me: the first is my love for this breathtaking country, which is an efflorescence of heritage and culture. The second is the realization that the status of women in the Philippines is impressive only for the elite and middle-class. Unfortunately, the fertility rate is much higher for poor women, who are constrained professionally, educationally and personally on so many levels, and for whom we are all therefore responsible. Finally, my mother, the late Leticia Ramos Shahani, remains my deepest source of inspiration."

HON. LILA RAMOS SHAHANI

Assistant Secretary and Secretary General of the UNESCO National Commission of the Philippines



All year-round

Support to the Gender and Development, Indigenous Peoples, Senior Citizens and Differently-Abled sector

UNACOM ensures that inclusivity and equality are at the heart of the organisation's activities. Programs and initiatives related to this form part of its contribution to the 2030 SDGs. Activities include, among others, the mainstreaming of GAD in the Inclusive Policy Lab under the UNESCO Management of Social Transformation Programme; and awareness promotion of the Culion Sanitarium as an exemplar for leprosy treatment, internationally and locally, through a film showing that catered to more than 120 viewers.



All year-round
March 13 – August 19

(Kulturweit)

Support to youth organisations that promote the UNESCO thrust

UNACOM was able to mobilise a total of 500 youths from different youth organisations that are partners of the National Association of UNESCO Clubs in the Philippines and the Associated School Network. These clubs help promote and cascade UNESCO programmes, projects and advocacies. In addition, two German youth volunteers were deployed in the Albay Biosphere Reserve as part of the Kulturweit programme, which enables young adults get a better sense of their global responsibility through intensive educational experiences in culture, education, and nature.



**28-29 August (South Korea)
12-13 September (Turkey)**

Participation and support to capacity-building activities and programmes of National Commissions

UNACOM, being an active contributor of UNESCO, participated in the 2019 East and Southeast Asia Meeting of the National Commissions for UNESCO with the theme “Strengthening Cooperation among National Commissions” in Jeonju, South Korea. The meeting was a platform among National Commission delegates to share their milestones, challenges, insights, and good practices in implementing the SDGs and their role in advancing the mission and goals of UNESCO in their respective countries and regions.

Moreover, UNACOM participated in the Consultative Meeting of National Commissions (NatComs) that are Member States of the UNESCO Executive Board in Istanbul, Turkey. The meeting focused on the exchange of experiences and sharing of ideas in increasing the visibility of UNESCO at the national level and strengthening regional and international cooperation between and among these NatComs.



**May 6 (Hosting of Executive Huddle)
October 7 (GCHOP)**

Participation and support to other Philippine Government Agency activities

Every year, the Civil Service Commission hosts a fun run to foster solidarity and enjoyment among various members and partners of the government. UNACOM participated in the 2019 fun run through sending 16 number of staff.

Also, UNACOM supports and participates in the programmes and projects of the Department of Foreign Affairs. UNACOM hosted one executive huddle and participated in the Global Conference of Heads-Of-Posts.

UNACOM, under the UNESCO Florence Agreement, also endorsed approximately 700 tax exemption requests to the Department of Finance for imported educational, scientific, and cultural materials.

Moreover, UNACOM also prepared, produced, and distributed promotional materials and publications related to the organization’s programmes and projects that benefitted hundreds of partners, educators, and students. UNACOM also printed and distributed its Annual Report to its Field Offices, UNESCO National Commissions, Senate, Congress, UNACOM Commissioners, partner agencies/ individuals and others.





CHAPTER 3

2020

UNACOM Moving Forward



Baguio City was inscribed as a Creative City of Crafts in 2017. It is lauded for being a sustainable city that cultivates its artistic identity.

Unprecedented change in the modern world makes everything volatile, uncertain, complex, and ambiguous. The world and its trends and issues are harder to predict; it has become more challenging to analyze because of its complexity; and as lines are blurred, it is also harder to interpret. This situation results in a number of challenges we face today, felt at the personal and political levels, that influence the quality of life. Among these challenges are the loss of biodiversity, declining ocean health, environmental degradation, high rates of learning poverty, inaccessibility of education for the marginalized members of society, gender inequality, wars and political/ethnic/religious conflicts, misinformation, digital divide, collective amnesia, willful and deliberate destruction of documentary heritage.

In the Philippines, the World Bank's (2018) estimate for the country's GINI coefficient is at 44.4, the highest among other Southeast Asian countries. Clearly, high income inequality still persists between the rich and the poor. Perceived distrust toward fellow Filipinos and cultural fragmentation exist and prevent social cohesion. Raising the quality of education remains a challenge due to lack of teacher competencies, high student-teacher ratios, and absence of basic educational facilities. Efforts made in disaster risk reduction and climate change adaptation are inadequate hence, the impacts of climate extremes are more damaging to the vulnerable sectors of society. Also, the poorest communities mostly experience armed conflict, making it more difficult for them to build assets and livelihood.



With these challenges, the thrust and priority programmes of UNESCO have also evolved to better suit the contemporary trends. This evolution is evidently shown in a number of concerns being tackled in its five areas of expertise—education, natural sciences, culture, social and human sciences, and communication and information.

In line with addressing the global challenges, the UN organized a series of consultations involving its Member States to identify the most pressing challenges that the world currently face that could affect the succeeding generations. With the conclusion of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) was the adoption of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (or simply called The

2030 Agenda) in 2015. The said historic Agenda consists of 17 SDGs with 169 targets that help monitor the progress of achieving sustainable development by 2030. These goals are set to ensure that prosperity among Member States are holistic. This means that the well-being of all women and men are safeguarded, the environment conserved and the foundations of peace strengthened. This global paradigm shift features comprehensive approaches, partnerships, and linking policies and action on national, regional, and global levels. The 2030 Agenda also espouses the core virtues of inclusivity, integration, and universality. It harnesses collective action and participation from the governments, the private sector, civil society, and even individual citizens, towards achieving these global goals. The 2030 Agenda represents the most universal, ambitious, and comprehensive agenda ever crafted, to leave no one behind.

As one of the UN's specialized agencies, UNESCO is actively engaged and contributing to achieve this Agenda, drawing on its humanist mandate, and mobilizing all of its partners and stakeholders. It is designed as an agenda of the people, by the people, and for the people. The organization highlights the vital importance of human capacities, skills and knowledge, to adapt and respond to the challenges and opportunities of the present and the future. UNESCO is strategically positioned to achieve the 2030 Agenda in areas on which its expertise and key leadership roles are internationally recognized: global or shared leadership and coordination; monitoring and benchmarking; global advocacy to sustain political commitment; leading or co-leading global multi-stakeholder coalitions; normative mandate and provider of upstream policy support; and capacity development. These roles are executed in close collaboration with UN entities and partners from the public and private sector.

At the country level, the National Commissions are regarded as invaluable assets for UNESCO in achieving its mandate, particularly in the implementation of the SDGs. UNACOM, in particular, endeavors to ensure that it maximizes the Philippines' engagement with UNESCO and advances UNESCO Programmes in the country. Thus, it seeks to further increase networks and partnerships to bridge UNESCO with governmental and non-governmental organizations, including youth movements and community-based organizations.

To optimize UNACOM's contribution to UNESCO's SDG targets, it is vital to weave the Commission's programmes with the PDP. UNACOM ensured that for 2019, its programmes, projects, and activities have been contributing and aligning to the 2030 Agenda and the PDP. UNACOM as an agency committed to contribute to peace, nation-building and sustainable development by promoting collaboration among nations or institutions through education, sciences, communication and information, and culture, in pursuit of quality education, lifelong learning, heritage and biodiversity protection and conservation, universal respect for social justice, human rights and fundamental freedom of all peoples.

MALASAKIT

(Enhancing the social fabric)

Need-based capacity development

- Media and Information Literacy
- Information and Communications Technology
- Systems Improvement for Procurement
- Quality Management System
- Freedom of Information Programme
- Capacity Building programmes for UNACOM Personnel and project partner through joint undertakings and collaboration with other government agencies, National Commissions and UNESCO Offices
- Publication of relevant materials (online and offline)



Grassroots-inspired cultural heritage and biodiversity protection and conservation

- Support to Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission (IOC)
- Joint projects with and support to Sites on the UNESCO World Heritage and Tentative List
- Support to UNESCO Intangible Cultural Heritage Programme
- Support to UNESCO Creative Cities Network
- Implementation of projects and review/facilitation of nominations under the the Man and the Biosphere (MAB) Programme, Global Geoparks Programme, Memory of the World (MOW) Programme, Creative Cities, World Heritage Sites, Intangible Cultural Heritage, Learning Cities
- Support to Youth participation through UNESCO Clubs and other institutional partnerships



**UNACOM
Framework
based on
PDP and
the SDGs**

PATULOY NA PAG-UNLAD

(Increasing growth potential)

a. Multi-stakeholder promotion of SDGs

b. Pro-active facilitation, coordination, and knowledge sharing

- Support for programmes and projects for IPs, senior citizens, and differently-abled
- Promotion and Support to SDG 4, especially on Global Citizenship for Education (GCED) and Lifelong Learning
- Support to Associated Schools Network (ASPNet) Programmes and Projects
- Promotion of UNESCO-inscribed sites as learning laboratories/spaces and driver of socio-economic activities



PAGBABAGO

(Inequality-reducing transformation)

a. Empowered women and youth engagement

- Mainstreaming of Gender and Development
- Support to organizations including youth in the promotion of programmes and projects aligned with UNESCO thrust
- Support to National Association Clubs of the Philippines (NAUCP) and Associated Schools Project Network (ASPNet) Programmes and Project as well as youth movements that advocate SDGs
- Implementation of projects and activities aligned with the Management and Social Transformations (MOST) Programme and the Inclusive Policy Lab
- Implementation of the project entitled “The Filipino Youth and Violent Extremism”





However, just like with any organization, UNACOM is not bereft of any challenges. A general pressing concern would be the current system for data monitoring and existing programme indicators, in relation to the UNESCO inscribed sites in the Philippines. Baseline data is outdated and datasets are not harmonized, and are largely inaccessible to stakeholders. There is a need to update the data, improve access, and create an effective feedback system. Providing adequate resources for Research and Development (R&D) and institutionalizing offices or bodies dedicated to handle R&D are also crucial. These form part of the challenges experienced at the national level as well as at the local level - by the different inscribed sites and other project partners. Addressing these challenges will greatly help in the strategic allocation of resources and building partnerships for the protection, conservation and sustainable management of inscribed and designated sites.

There is also a need to maximize digital platforms for high visibility of UNESCO and its programmes in the country, thereby connecting more stakeholders in the future. But this would require capacity building and upgrading of skills of those who will access and use those platforms.

Nevertheless, there exist opportunities such as the increasing partnerships with other National Commissions and collaborators from other UNESCO Networks. As mentioned, the successful implementation of the SDGs banks on partnerships on the national, regional, and global levels to link policies and action to come up with new, innovative and integrated approaches to reach the goals.

UNACOM has established good partnerships with the academe and teacher training institutions that could provide support in the areas of research and capacity building.

Another opportunity is the engagement of more youth through UNESCO Clubs and the Associated School Network of UNESCO.

There is room to involve more young people especially in initiatives that utilize digital platforms to advance inclusive quality education as well as lifelong learning, promoting gender equality, preventing violent extremism among the youth, protection and sustainable use of biodiversity and management of natural resources, and deepening social inclusion, among others.

With these challenges and opportunities, UNACOM will move forward, stronger and better.

For 2020, UNACOM will continue inter-weaving its programmes and priorities with the PDP and contribute to nation building through need-based capacity development; grassroots-inspired cultural heritage and biodiversity conservation and protection; multi-stakeholder partnership for the promotion of the SDGs and UNESCO Programmes in the education, culture, science and technology, social and human science, and communication and information sectors; empowered women and youth engagement; and proactive facilitation, coordination and knowledge sharing. Projects include, among others, supporting the operationalization of lifelong learning from policy development to programme implementation at the grassroots level; promoting and cascading UNESCO's commitment to biodiversity; supporting the Decade of Ocean initiatives; supporting the nomination of more sites, historically-significant documents, and cities for UNESCO inscription; strengthening media and information literacy across all levels; and revisiting the engagement with and support to marginalized sectors. UNACOM intends to harness its networks in addressing cross-cutting issues such as climate change and disaster risk management experienced in different contexts.

UNACOM will vigorously pursue promotion and collaboration with stakeholders for the following targets and activities in the five sectors (education, science, social and human sciences, culture, and communication and information) to contribute to the realization of the SDGs and PDP targets.

Coordinating Philippine Initiatives on the Implementation of SDG4

Continue to coordinate and facilitate the collaborative implementation of programmes and initiatives on SDG4 of the three Philippine education agencies and UNESCO

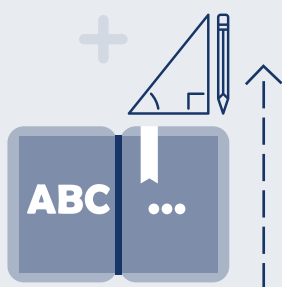
Advancing Lifelong Learning

Support the institutionalization of learning cities in the country as a means to provide various modes of learning activities for people regardless of age, economic status, gender, etc.

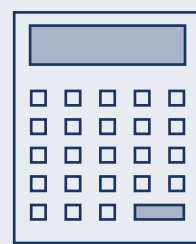
Support policy initiatives on operationalizing lifelong learning (inclusion in PH Development Plan)

Provide access to quality and relevant Technical-Vocational Education and Training (TVET) opportunities

Enhance community-based training for special groups



EDUCATION



Promoting and Supporting Inclusive Quality Education and Lifelong Learning for All

Collaborating with Higher Education Institutions

Support initiatives to improve the quality of higher and technical education and research for equity and global competitiveness

Support the improvement of research, innovation, and extension services

Participate in Government-Academe-Industry collaboration

Promote excellence among higher education institutions

Encouraging and Supporting PH Participation in Key Global Events and Initiatives

SDG4-Education 2030
Steering Committee-Global Level

Asia Pacific Meeting on Education 2030
(APMED 2030)- Regional Level

International Conferences on Adult Education

World Conference on Education
for Sustainable Development (ESD)

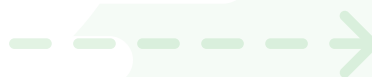
Protecting biodiversity

Engage multi-stakeholders for the conservation of biodiversity and the sustainable use of its components based on related Philippine framework as well as the guidelines of UNESCO on designated sites including world heritage, biosphere reserves, and global geoparks



NATURAL SCIENCES

Harnessing science, technology, innovation and knowledge and Protecting and sustainably managing the Ocean with emphasis on the climate change and disaster risk reduction framework



Collaborating/Engaging with UNESCO IOC

Continue active engagement with Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission (IOC) of UNESCO in the promotion of the United Nations Decade of Ocean for Sustainable Development (2021-2030)

Ensuring healthy ocean ecosystems and sustaining ecosystem services

Effective early warning for ocean hazards including tsunami

Enhancing research and policy interface to support inclusive social development

Forge strategic partnerships to strengthen the link between research and policy-making to foster a culture of evidence-informed decision making

Promote the Inclusive Policy Lab of UNESCO/ Management of Social Transformation programme for crowdsourcing knowledge and expertise and translating policy, practice and advocacy on inclusive development

Promote and synergize Gender and Development (GAD) initiatives to benefit the marginalized sectors especially indigenous peoples, youth, women



SOCIAL AND HUMAN SCIENCES

Understanding social transformations for peaceful, inclusive and right-based societies



Promoting a culture of peace and non-violence through Intercultural dialogue

Promote youth participation or engagement of young women and men in initiatives that pay attention to prevention of violent extremism and radicalization towards a culture of peace

Supporting UNESCO's Culture 2030 Indicators

Make culture more visible especially national & local policies and actions

Initiate the dissemination of relevant messages and advocacies

Support capacity building to understand trends and build knowledge

Support the monitoring of global progress of culture in the SDGs



CULTURE



Embracing Culture as a Driver and Enabler for Sustainable Development

Safeguarding our heritage, Building resilience of sustainable Filipino communities

Pursue capacity-building at all levels for the development of a dynamic cultural and creative sector, in particular, by encouraging creativity, innovation, and entrepreneurship, supporting the development of cultural institutions and cultural industries

Fostering creativity and the diversity of cultural expressions

Revisit the legal, policy and institutional environments in the Philippines that support the safeguarding of Filipino cultural heritage and the diversity of cultural expressions

Preserving significant collections of archives and documentary heritage of the Philippines

Collaborate with multi-stakeholders for awareness raising on UNESCO's Memory of the World (MOW) Programme and support the preservation of historical archives and documents of the country

COMMUNICATION AND INFORMATION

Promoting freedom of expression and universal access to information and knowledge

Promoting freedom of expression, media development, and access to information and knowledge

Raise awareness of, and build a campaign to support and promote freedom of expression and access to information online and offline by working closely with government, media, civil society and other stakeholders

Reinforce capacities of journalists, journalism educators, and their institutions based on the national framework/agenda

Support initiatives and partnerships on increasing access of information and communication technologies (ICTs) towards the development of freely accessible educational materials and information via open access programmes

UNACOM will continue helping in building a peaceful, equitable, and prosperous Philippines. All these can come into fruition if all sectors will work together. The collective commitment to align UNACOM programmes with the Sustainable Agenda 2030 and the PDP is an important contribution to ensure that despite the rapid changes our planet and society is experiencing, no one is left behind. The SDGs were intended to serve the interest

of every human being on the planet and achieving these goals will be all up to every one of us. There is a need for a concerted effort of each partner and stakeholder to rally around a common cause on a country-wide scale. We need not rest on our laurels but rather, make some more. UNACOM is very well positioned to support partners and stakeholders towards a transformative change to make the SDGs a reality for all.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

- ABS-CBN Sports (Sport and the SDGs Youth Funshop photos)
- Andrei Lim (Baybayin photo)
- Bo Mancao (Tubbataha photos)
- City Government of Baguio (Creative City photo)
- City Government of Balanga (Learning City photo)
- EA Sembrano (Buklog photo)
- George Tapan (Albay BR photo)
- Gil Carungay (Cebu photo)
- IAEA Image Bank (DOST Secretary photo)
- Inquirer.net (EDSA People Power Revolution photo)
- Ivan Jaluag for Ten Photos to Shake the World
- Jacob Maentz (Ambahan)
- Puerto Galera Biosphere Reserve (PG BR photos)
- Ronnel Loreno for Ten Photos to Shake the World
- Royce Lyssah Malabonga (SHS photo)
- Spike and Serve Philippines (Sport and the SDGs Youth Funshop photos)
- Tubbataha Management Office (Tubbataha photos)
- Kathereen Jane Sapungen (In-house photos)
- Leticia Clemente (Baguio Creative City photo)
- Mary Grace Mendez (Baybayin photo)
- Municipal Tourism Office of Pio Duran (Kulturweit photo)
- National Commission for Culture and the Arts (ICH photos)
- Raymundo C. Agaton Jr. for Ten Photos to Shake the World
- Romado Javillonar for Ten Photos to Shake the World
- Roy Ponce (Hamiguitan photo)
- UNESCO Photo Gallery (For the Infographic on UNESCO's Fund for the Elimination of Doping in Sport and for the publication covers on Sports and Anti-Doping)
- Wang Regalado (Albay BR photos)

Production Team:	ASSIST Creativelab
Project Manager:	Cidee Despi
Creative Director:	Jorge Mata
Lead Writer:	Edna Mendoza
Writer:	Bianca Miciano
Sr. Multimedia Designer:	Jessica Malicdem

