



(Leftmost photo) Architect's perspective showing the facade of the University Library and Knowledge Center. The building will house executive offices and facilities like conference rooms (upper right photo) and library facilities (lower right), including a library theater. Construction of Phase I (PhP 200M) of the building will begin in 2020.

UPLB to build more infra projects in 2020

The PhP 67 million bridge across Molawin Creek from Victoria Ela Ave. (formerly Silangan St.) to the "new" Pili Drive and the new Institute of Plant Breeding (IPB)-FT San Luis access road were recently opened to the public in ceremonies led by Public Works Secretary Mark Villar, UP President Danilo L. Concepcion, and Chancellor Fernando C. Sanchez, Jr.

The 60-meter 2-lane bridge not only has pedestrian lanes but also has a bicycle lane.

From Ela Ave, the bridge takes motorists to two new roads parallel to Pili Drive – a 2-lane vehicular road and a bicycle lane. More improvements will ramp up driving and pedestrian convenience in this area soon with the concreting of pavements, as well as, improvement of the road from IRR1 area to where Maahas road begins.

Meanwhile, people going to Masaya and Tranca in Bay will find their travel time cut significantly with the new access road from IPB to FT San Luis in Masaya, Bay.

Thus, a motorist who needs to get to FT San Luis need not anymore pass through the Paciano Rizal and UP Rural High School areas.

Happening alongside this infrastructure development is the recent deployment by the Philippine National Railways of a UPLB-Tutuban train route.

POTENTIALS OF THE AREA

With these new developments, it is not farfetched to think that this area will become a major commuter hub and will provide easier access to UPLB.

This will help promote development and occupancy of UPLB's 60-ha agro-industrial and 10-ha IT parks, increase post graduate enrollment, and enhance instruction, industry-academe linkages, and research collaboration with scientists from other universities. It will also help generate employment and livelihood for Los Baños and nearby communities.

UPLB has prepared well for these eventualities.

It revised its undergraduate curricular programs to conform to K-to-12 and outcomes-based education and institutionalized innovative postgraduate programs.

It also implemented programs to increase research productivity and aggressively pursued internationalization.

Moreover, UPLB is now on a building spree with infrastructure projects that have begun to sprout all over the campus.

INFRA DEVELOPMENT IN UPLB

This infrastructure program aims to provide an enabling environment, which, according to Chancellor Sanchez "is borne out of a big dream, an ambitious one to regain UPLB's former glory," but which he is determined to make a reality.

"No enabling environment would be complete without a solid infrastructure program that will support all of UPLB's academic and research activities," Chancellor Sanchez emphasized.

The "former glory" he referred to is the UPLB of the 1970s when it was "leaps and bounds ahead of its time."

To capture this same success in UPLB in the 21st century, he aims to help transform the university into a globally competitive graduate and research university contributing to national development.

COMPLETED INFRA PROJECTS

UPLB has completed 32 infrastructure projects to date, amounting to PhP 539 million. Some of these projects were proposed or began construction during the administration of former Chancellors Rex Victor O. Cruz and Luis Rey I. Velasco.

Standing at the heart of the campus is the Rural Economic Development and Renewable Energy Center (REDREC) of the College of Economics and Management (CEM), whose Phases 2 and 3 were completed under the current administration.

The Molecular Biology and Biotechnology Building Wing and the extension of Malacology Building, both at the Institute

of Biological Sciences, are now finished.

CINTERLABS or the Computational Interdisciplinary Research Laboratories now occupies the roof deck of the College of Arts and Sciences (CAS) Annex 2, which was converted into offices (Phase 1).

CAS could also now boast of two new state-of-the-art facilities: the UPLB Animation Studio and the Makiling Film Lab.

Phase 1 of the three-storey Mathematics Building at CAS, the Philippine Center for Tropical Forest Science (PHILTROP) at the College of Forestry and Natural Resources (CFNR), and the Technology Hub and One-Stop Shop beside the Baker Hall were completed, as well.

Public service has been boosted by new buildings: the Families of Children with Exceptionalities Resource Center (FaCEs), a new extension program of the Department of Human and Family Development Studies of the College of Human Ecology; the Animal Probiotics Laboratory Annex Building; A Pilot Testing Plant for Protein Enriched Copra Meal Ingredient for Swine and Poultry (Phase 1) at BIOTECH; and the CFNR Mechanized Nursery.

ON-GOING INFRA PROJECTS

UPLB is administering 14 on-going projects, worth PhP 704 million.

Two are for the Graduate School (GS) reflecting UPLB's resolve to attain its vision of being a globally competitive graduate university. These are the GS International Student and Cultural Center Building and the GS Dormitory.

New and improved research and extension (R&E) facilities at CAFS have also started to take shape. These are the Landscape Horticulture Knowledge Center Building and the Orchids Laboratory. The list also includes the UPLB Controlled Environment Research Facility and the Tissue Culture Facility for Sustained Production of Disease-Free Planting

Materials of Garlic, both at the Institute of Plant Breeding (IPB).

Also in the works are the Animal Probiotics Laboratory Annex Building; A Pilot Testing Plant for Enriched Copra Meal Ingredient for Swine and Poultry (Phase 2) at BIOTECH and a new shed for the Agricultural Machinery Testing and Evaluation Center (AMTEC) at CEAT.

In CFNR, three canopy towers are being constructed at the Makiling Center for Mountain Ecosystems and seven at the Mt. Makiling Forest Reserve.

Meanwhile, the construction of the two-storey Senior High School Building Academic Wing (Phase 1) of the UP Rural High School and the Crop Protection Wing of the Agronomy, Soils, and Horticulture Building, CAFS, is also underway.

Completing the line-up of on-going infrastructure projects are the rehabilitation of UPLB's road network with asphalt overlaying and installation of more CCTVs for safety and security.

INFRA PROJECTS IN THE BIDDING STAGE

Meanwhile, it is only a matter of time before the university begins constructing 13 new infrastructure projects collectively amounting to PhP 256 million.

These are the Nanoscience and Technology Facility at the Physical Sciences Building of CAS; the Agricultural Bioprocess Division Building of CEAT; and the University Health Service (UHS) Building Extension (Phase 1).

The second phases of both the Center for Agri-Fisheries and Biosystems Mechanization of CEAT and PHILTROP of CFNR, as well as the partial completion of the three-storey Mathematics Building of CAS are also in the bidding stage.

Other public works that are up for bidding are the Green Latrine Project, a state-of-the-art toilet that will use advanced technology; and the construction of overhead 13.8KV power distribution line

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The future home of the IWEPC-CAFS, the construction of which is now ongoing (PhP 100M)



The soon-to-be-completed Graduate School International Student and Cultural Center (PhP71.8M)



Architect's perspective of the Extension, Rehabilitation and Renovation of Agricultural Bio-Process Division (ABPROD) Building, CEAT (PhP 56M)



Architect's perspective of the Economics and Management Studies Center of the College of Economics and Management (PhP 90M)

OTHER COMPLETED INFRA PROJECTS

- 2 LED wall display monitors at the UPLB gate
- Acrylic markers of buildings & offices
- Rehabilitated IPB Road with two bridges
- Mt. Makiling Eco-tourism Road (>5 km MCME-Agila Base)

UTILITIES IMPROVEMENT

- Rehabilitation & upgrading of 13.8KV overhead distribution lines (Phase 2)
- Testing & commissioning, new pad-mounted transformers at IBS, PhySci, Agronomy, Humanities bldgs.
- Installation and commissioning of electromagnetic flow meter, air release valve, kWhr meters, and non-fusible load break switch in NEMA 3R enclosure
- Fiber optic network FOC laying/upgrading from 2.25 to 2.7 Gbps (Phase 1)



Architect's perspective of the Microbial Bank at BIOTECH



A fisheye view of the recently inaugurated bridge connecting Ela St. to Pili Drive (PhP 67M)



Architect's perspective of the UPLB Nanoscience and Technology Facility (PhP 52M)



The Graduate School Dormitory which is now being constructed (PhP 100M)

(Phase 4) from IPB in Los Baños to the UPRHS campus.

INFRA PROJECTS IN THE PIPELINE

Thirteen buildings that will add grandeur to the scenic campus already have their draft architectural and engineering designs (DAED).

First on the list is the UPLB Library and Knowledge Center to house library facilities, executive offices, the Interactive Learning Center, and the Information Technology Center. There will also be a new building for the Office of the University Registrar that will have communal classrooms.

Also in the works are the new headquarters of the School of Environmental Science and

Management, which shall be built adjacent to the College of Public Affairs and Development; and two buildings for CEM, the Economics and Management Studies Center and the Agricultural and Economic Development Studies Center.

The alumni will not be left behind in the UPLB administration's plans because a site has been identified for their future home. This will be near the IRR side of Pili Drive.

Meanwhile, four R&E edifices will soon rise at the CAFS and BIOTECH compounds: the Food Processing Research and Development Center in IFST; the Dairy Production Building in the Dairy Training and Research Institute; the Philippine Genome Center for Agriculture and the new National Plant Genetic Resources Laboratory (NPGRL) Building

in IPB; and the Microbial Bank in BIOTECH.

UPLB's planners are also preparing the DAED for UPLB's Sports Complex Facility, Sewage Treatment Plant, and renovated Operating Rooms at UHS.

RENOVATION PROJECTS

Aside from new edifices, facilities, and roads, the administration has also embarked on major renovation projects in the campus to rehabilitate and improve existing structures.

Twenty-nine of these renovation projects have been completed, worth PhP 136 million; five, valued at more than PhP 55 million, are on-going; 10 (PhP 108 million) are currently in the bidding stage; and one is in the pipeline.

Among the completed renovation and rehabilitation of structures are those of the Central Experiment Station, the NPGRL Building (Phase 1), and the National Crop Protection Center's (NCPC) Plant Health Clinic, including repainting of its facilities; the Department of Agricultural and Applied Economics building at CEM; and the CFNR Canteen.

Two former buildings of NCPC have also been improved to house the units under CEAT's Institute of Agricultural and Biosystems Engineering: the former NCPC Laboratory Building for the Director's Office and the former NCPC Old Building for the Land and Water Resources Division and Agrometeorology and Farm Structures Division.

The International House Guest House and the Central Store Room of the Supply



Architect's perspective of the Office of the University Registrar/Communal Classroom Building, to be built beside the Math Building



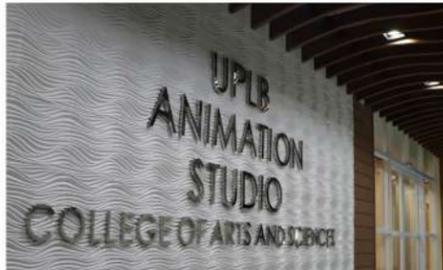
Architect's perspective of the new National Plant Genetic Resources Laboratory Building, IPB



Architect's perspective of the New School of Environmental Science and Management Building



Architect's perspective of the Food Processing Research and Development Center of the Institute of Food Science and Technology (PhP 440M)



The UPLB Animation Studio located at the basement of the College of Arts and Sciences Building



Architect's perspective of the Dairy Production Building of the Dairy Training and Research Institute



The 5.54-km Mount Makiling Eco-tourism Road from MCME/TREES headquarters extends up to Aguila Base (PhP 99M)



The now two-lane Pili Drive (PhP 57M)



Rehabilitated IPB Road (55 meters) with two bridges (PhP 55M)



One of the two LED wall display monitors at the UPLB gate (PhP 8.6M)



Architectural perspective of the Agricultural and Economic Development Studies Center of the College of Economics and Management (PhP 100M)

NEW INFRASTRUCTURES (buildings, roads, bridges, other facilities)

Status	Number	Amount (PhP)
Completed	32	539 million
On-going	14	704 million
Bidding stage	13	256 million
In the pipeline (with design)	13	To be determined

RENOVATION PROJECTS (buildings and other facilities)

Status	Number	Amount (PhP)
Completed	29	136 million
On-going	5	55 million
Bidding stage	10	108 million
In the pipeline (with design)	1	To be determined

COMPLETED SMALL CLASSROOMS AND COMFORT ROOMS RENOVATION PROJECTS

Type	Number	Amount (PhP)
Small classrooms	344	43 million
Comfort rooms	179	44 million

and Property Management Office were renovated; the DL Umali Hall rehabilitated and its seats replaced; and three offices at the AG Samonte Hall – Legal Office, Cashier's Office, and Human Resources Development Office – have been improved.

Meanwhile, among those that are undergoing renovation and rehabilitation are three R&E facilities at CAFS, namely:

NPGRL Quarantine Greenhouse at IPB; Food Science Pilot Plant; and Fruit Crops Nursery Office and Laboratory.

Now in the bidding stage are the rehabilitation of AMTEC in CEAT and the various research laboratories and training facilities

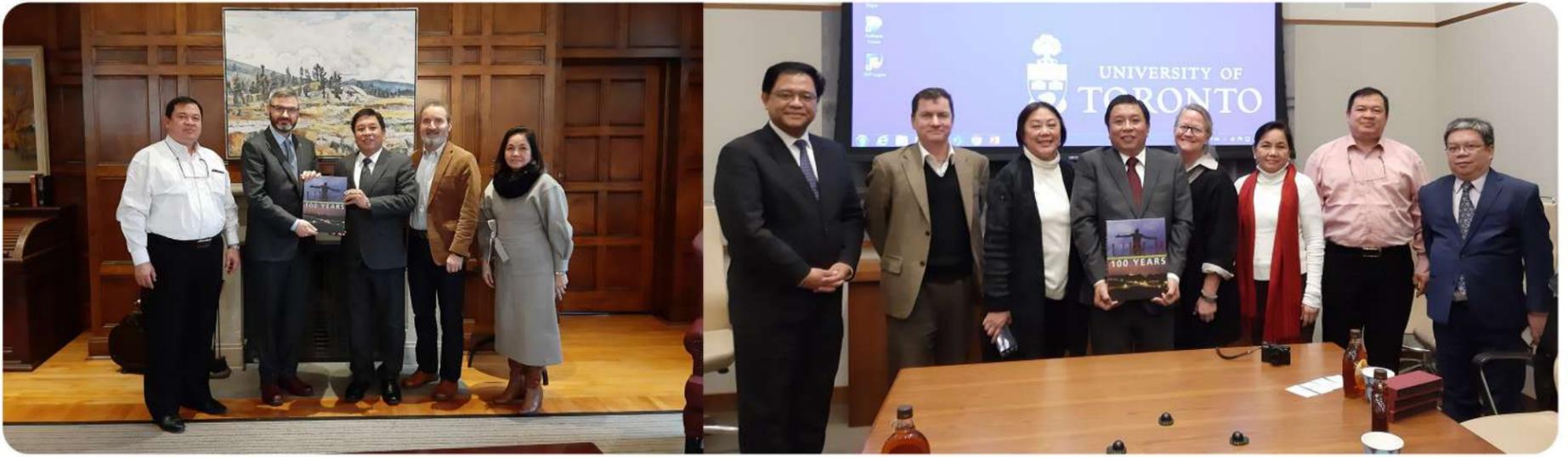
at the College of Veterinary Medicine.

On top of these major infrastructure projects, UPLB has also completed the renovation of 344 small classrooms, worth more than PhP 43 million, and 179

comfort rooms, which cost more than PhP 44 million.

Big and small, these new and improved infrastructure and facilities are certain to provide the needed enabling environment for creativity and productivity among its constituents. (Mark Jayson E. Gloria)





The UPLB delegation led by Chancellor Fernando C. Sanchez, Jr. presents a token to University of Guelph officials (left photo) and to University of Toronto officials led by Dr. Cynthia Goh, academic director and full professor (3rd from left). With them are Philippine Consul General Orontes V. Castro and Consul Edwin Gil Mendoza (right photo) (extreme left and right, respectively).

US, Canada linkaging trip to expand UPLB capability in food security

A visit to Canada and the United States by Chancellor Fernando C. Sanchez, Jr. and Vice Chancellors Portia G. Lapitan (academic affairs) and Rex B. Demafelis (research and extension) from Nov. 25 to Dec. 16, 2019 is going to help build UPLB's capacity in responding to transnational threats to food production such as African Swine Fever (ASF) and fall armyworm (FAW).

ASF is a fatal disease in pigs and wild boars that began to affect parts of the country in July 2019, resulting in the depopulation of close to 150,000 pigs in the latter part of the year. (FAO ASF Asia update)

FAW is a lepidopteran pest that feeds in large numbers on plant leaves, stems, and reproductive parts of more than 350 plant species, including economically important crops such as maize, rice, sorghum, sugarcane, and wheat, as well as vegetables. (Invasive Species Compendium at cabi.org)

FAW has spread quickly from Central and Western Africa in 2016, India and Yemen in 2018, and to many parts of Asia, including China, Thailand, Myanmar, Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia, and Vietnam in 2019.

Plant and animal diseases such as ASF and FAW are threats to food security that UPLB is focusing on in order to contribute to national development.

It will be recalled that at UPLB's strategic planning workshop in 2018, Chancellor Sanchez identified food security as a bigger challenge, thus he implored for UPLB units to embrace interdisciplinary collaborations and interactions and focus on the "one thing that will [enable UPLB to] contribute directly to national development – food security."

In particular, the visit aimed to capacitate UPLB in anticipating, detecting and

controlling, and preventing these plant and animal diseases from affecting the country.

COLLABORATIVE MEETINGS IN CANADA

At their first stop on Nov. 28, the UPLB delegation held discussions with a University of Toronto team led by Dr. Cynthia Goh, academic director and full professor.

Joining the UPLB delegation were Philippine Consul General Orontes V. Castro and Consul Edwin Gil Mendoza who arranged an audience with Filipino postgraduate students in chemistry and molecular biology.

At the University of Guelph on Nov. 29, the UPLB delegation held a meeting with faculty members and officials, namely: Dr. Stuart McCook, professor at the Department of History, College of Arts; Dr. Rene Van Acker, dean of the Ontario Agricultural College and professor at the Department of Plant Agriculture; Dr. Lynne Mitchell, director of the Centre for International Programs; Dr. Beverly Hale, associate vice president for research; and Dr. Cate Dewey, associate vice president (Academic).

They also conducted a tour of the modern Elora Research Station-Dairy Facility of the said university.

A side visit to Ontario, Canada enabled the group to see a 2-ha breeding farm for sweet potato for bioethanol production and its advanced facilities in wastewater treatment.

SIGNING OF MOUs AND COLLABORATIVE MEETINGS IN THE US

On Dec. 4, the UPLB delegation signed an MOU with the University of Maryland (UMD) in the United States aiming to

collaborate in research and instruction in agriculture, food and nutrition security agriculture, and in OneHealth.

Signing for and on behalf of the UMD was Dr. Craig Beyroudy, dean and director of the Agricultural Experiment Station.

This was witnessed by Philippine Embassy officials, Consul General Rene Villa and Philippine Agriculture Attache, Dr. Joy Javelosa.

The Philippine Embassy facilitated a meeting with the US Department of Agriculture (USDA) on Dec. 5, which resulted in what Dr. Demafelis said is a "high probability for UPLB to undertake capacity building in training and control, provision of materials, and research collaboration in ASF."

On Dec. 6, the UPLB delegation also made a courtesy call to Philippine Embassy officials in Washington DC headed by Philippine Ambassador Jose Manuel Romualdez.

On Dec. 10-12, the UPLB delegation visited Michigan State University (MSU) in East Lansing in the US for collaborative meetings and renewal of an MOU for academic and research cooperation.

The UPLB delegation met with MSU officials and faculty members led by Steven D. Hanson, associate provost and dean of its International Studies Program to discuss collaborations on bioenergy, OneHealth, biosensors, natural products, smart agriculture, forestry, ASF detection, and vaccine development.

At the meeting, MSU committed to help UPLB in capacitating and expanding its Interdisciplinary Studies

Center (IDSC) on Biosensor for OneHealth Program into the IDSC on Biosensor for Food Production Systems.

Dr. Vangie Alcocilja, a professor at MSU who had been doing research and innovation development on biosensors, will work closely with UPLB in this regard.

NEW APPROACH IN ESTABLISHING PARTNERSHIPS

In this mission, UPLB took on a new tack by involving the Philippine Embassy and the consular offices in North America in facilitation and arrangement.

Thus, officials from these Philippine government agencies were visible and participated in many of the meetings.

According to Dr. Demafelis, this resulted in discussions and commitments that expanded on and delved deeper into the areas of collaboration.

For instance, it helped secure and enhance the resources that the university is going to be able to tap from the USDA capacity building program.

Dr. Demafelis disclosed that what was originally focused on swine production in a 2018 visit to the USDA had been expanded to include ASF and FAW detection and control at this visit (in 2019).

With this, UPLB will conduct future linkaging visit and collaborative talks with Philippine Embassy officials' involvement and assistance, Dr. Demafelis said. (*Josephine M. Bo*)

New Appointments



JEZIE A. ACORDA, Ph.D.

Dean of the College of Veterinary Medicine (CVM) effective Nov. 28, 2019-Nov. 27, 2022. Dr. Acorda has held the following administrative positions: Academic Assessment and Development Unit director in 2019; assistant to the chancellor in 2015-2017; vice chancellor for research and extension in 2001-2003; CVM associate dean in 1998-2001; and assistant to the dean in 2004-2006. He earned his PhD from Gifu University, Japan.



EDITHA C. JOSE, Ph.D.

Director of the Institute of Mathematical Sciences and Physics (IMSP)-College of Arts and Sciences effective Aug. 26, 2019-Aug. 25, 2022. Dr. Jose was the former deputy director (Aug. 26, 2013-Aug. 25, 2019) and head of IMSP's Mathematics Division (Aug. 1, 2012-Aug. 25, 2013). She holds a PhD in Mathematics from UP Diliman.



GREGORIO Y. ARDALES, JR., Ph.D.

Principal of the UP Rural High School effective Oct. 1, 2019-Sept. 30, 2022. Dr. Ardales first held the same position from 2007 to 2010. He finished all his degrees from UPLB: BS Forestry, BS Agriculture, Master of Agriculture, and PhD Environmental Science.



JOAN E. MENDOZA, CPA

Chief of the Internal Control Office effective Nov. 11, 2019. Mendoza served as UPLB's chief accountant from Sept. 30, 1999 to Nov. 10, 2019. She finished BS Commerce at the Colegio de San Juan de Letran and Master of Management at UPLB. She teaches accounting at the College of Economics and Management as an affiliate faculty member.