



4th AUN International Health Promotion Conference



DLSU receives a 5-star rating in the 2024 Healthy University Rating System (HURS).

DLSU HOSTS INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE, BAGS 5 STARS FOR HEALTH PROMOTION

DE LA SALLE UNIVERSITY HOSTED THE ASEAN UNIVERSITY NETWORK (AUN) HEALTH PROMOTION NETWORK 2025 AUN INTERNATIONAL HEALTH PROMOTION CONFERENCE AND INTERNATIONAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING held last November 27–28 at Hilton Manila Newport World Resorts, Pasay City.

During the event, AUN-HPN recognized DLSU for its efforts in advancing health promotion, giving it a 5-star rating for the second straight year. DLSU was the lone Philippine university among the 16 higher education institutions (HEIs) that were included in AUN-HPN's latest ratings—the 2024 Healthy University Rating System (HURS).

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With the theme “Advancing Health Promotion in the ASEAN Region: Championing University Innovations for Equity and Resilience,” the two-day event discussed various topics, innovations, and challenges in the area of health promotion in universities amidst the evolving educational landscape and natural and man-made calamities.

Ateneo De Manila University and the University of the Philippines co-hosted the event, which was attended by over 200 delegates from across the ASEAN region.

During the first day, UP Television Public Health Advisor and veteran health communication expert Dr. Susan Mercado gave the keynote speech followed by the opening lecture by Dr. Wiwat Rojanapithayakorn, advisor of the AUN-HPN secretariat office.

In the afternoon session, a panel discussion on best practices among healthy universities was held. Speakers were from Universitas Gadjah Mada Indonesia, DLSU, Naresuan University Thailand, and Vietnam National University.

Day One also featured the HURS awarding ceremonies. Of the 16 HEIs recognized, three HEIs received a 5-star plus rating, six got 5 stars, and seven received 4 stars.

HURS serves as a structured self-assessment and benchmarking tool for HEIs to measure their progress and share best practices in health promotion. The ratings system puts emphasis on digital tools, inclusivity, and overall well-being of academic community members. The second day of the conference included essential lectures on AI, mental health, and climate change by experts from UP, DLSU, and ADMU.

This was followed by elevator pitches on policy research linkages, menstrual health, app for early childhood health promotion, healthy university roadmap, and digital wellness drive. Researches by students and faculty from various ASEAN universities were presented afterwards.



Br. Bernard Oca FSC delivers a talk, “DLSU’s journey towards a healthy university,” wherein he shared about La Salle’s whole-of-university approach in health promotion, guided by its education philosophy of “Teaching Minds, Touching Hearts, and Transforming Lives.”



The panel discusses the best practices among healthy universities.

The conference concluded with a lecture by Dr. Marissa Alejandria, executive director of the National Institutes Health, UP Manila. Convened by Mahidol University, Thailand, the AUN-HPN promotes the role of higher education in health promotion. The network relies on the support of member universities to implement programs that benefit the ASEAN region.

Sponsors of the conference were mWell (Gold) and Power Mac Corp. (Silver), and media partner Manila Bulletin.

UN SDGs:



GROUNDBREAKING PHILOSOPHY AND AI PROGRAM NOW OFFERED

De La Salle University is now offering an innovative undergraduate program—the Bachelor of Arts in Philosophy and Artificial Intelligence (AB-PAI)—designed to help the young generation navigate the ethical, governance, and technical challenges of the AI-driven world.

A pioneering transdisciplinary degree, the program is a collaboration between the College of Liberal Arts, the College of Computer Studies, and the Ramon V. del Rosario College of Business. It is housed in the College of Liberal Arts’ Department of Philosophy.

Bridging the humanities and technology, the program provides students with both the technical knowledge of AI and the essential critical, ethical, and normative thinking skills from Philosophy.

“The rapid advancement of Artificial Intelligence demands professionals who can not only build new technologies but also critically assess their impact on society,” said Dr. Benito Teehankee, one of the course designers. “The AB-PAI is our commitment to developing human-centered AI leaders who can ensure these powerful tools are used for social good and global welfare.”

The curriculum places strong emphasis on ethics, governance, and regulatory considerations for AI development and deployment. It integrates transformative, inclusive teaching methods and aligns with the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), equipping students with crucial sustainability competencies.

Students will be able to learn and apply AI’s philosophical foundations, adapt to technological, organizational, and societal changes, actively engage in professional development, and effectively manage, lead, and collaborate with diverse communities to formulate strategic guidelines for the responsible use of AI technologies.

Career opportunities for AB-PAI graduates include: AI Ethicist, AI Regulator / Evaluator, AI Governance Expert, Compliance Officer, Auditor, AI Technology Manager, Chief Technology Officer, Project Manager, and Professor.

DLSU college application for AY 2026-2027 is until January 10. To apply, visit www.dlsu.edu.ph/apply

UN SDGs:



LA SALLE PROF RECEIVES ASEAN ENGINEER TITLE

Culaba

Dr. Alvin Culaba, Distinguished Professor and University Fellow at De La Salle University, has been officially conferred the title of ASEAN Engineer by the ASEAN Federation of Engineering Organizations (AFEO).

Culaba was recognized for his outstanding professional achievements, leadership, and contributions to the advancement of engineering in the Philippines and the Southeast Asian region.

The conferment ceremony, held under the auspices of the Philippine Technological Council (PTC) as the national member organization of AFEO, celebrated Engr. Culaba's decades of excellence in engineering research, education, and policy leadership.

His work spans energy systems, life cycle assessment, sustainable manufacturing, and science and technology policy, where he has made significant contributions toward the country's clean energy transition, environmental innovation, and capacity development for engineers and scientists.

The ASEAN Engineer Register (AER) was established to promote the mobility and recognition of professional engineers across the ten ASEAN member states. It certifies qualified engineers who have demonstrated professional competence, integrity, and regional impact. The title of "ASEAN Engineer" is a mark of distinction that enhances professional collaboration and facilitates mutual recognition of engineering services within the ASEAN Economic Community.

Engr. Culaba's conferment affirms his pivotal role in advancing sustainable engineering solutions and mentoring future generations of Filipino engineers. It also strengthens the Philippines' representation in ASEAN's collective efforts to harness science, technology, and innovation for regional growth and sustainable development.



UN SDGs:



Photos: Ang Pahayagang Plaridel



LASALLIAN COMMUNITY USHERS IN THE CHRISTMAS SEASON WITH ANIMO CHRISTMAS!

DE LA SALLE UNIVERSITY FORMALLY OPENED THE MUCH ANTICIPATED LASALLIAN YULETIDE SEASON with Animo Christmas! 2025 with a series of activities centered on the theme "Lasallian Jubilee Christmas: Celebrating Hearts of Gratitude & Hope" last November 26.

The celebrations kicked off with a Holy Mass at the Henry Sy, Sr. Hall Grounds, followed by the lighting of the 16-meter Animo Christmas! Tree adorned with traditional Filipino decorations and campus lights at sundown. Adjacent to the giant tree is a Christmas chapel where visitors are treated to an audio-visual projection mapping presentation.

In his message, DLSU President Br. Bernard Oca FSC said Bilang mga Lasalyano at Pilipino, isinasapuso natin ang tunay na diwa ng

Pasko. Maging kaisa tayo ng ating mga kababayan, lalo na ang mga nangangailangan, sa pamamagitan ng pagbabahagi ng ating oras, talento, at pagmamahal. Magingning tayo tulad ng pag-asa, pananampalataya, at pag-ibig na dala ng bagong silang na batang Hesus sa sabsaban."

DLSU Culture and Arts groups as well as different university sectors performed during the opening program. Featured performers of the "Evergreen: Animo Christmas Concert" were The Itchyworms, Earl Agustin, Viñas Deluxe, and Autotelic.

A Christmas bazaar was also held on campus where proceeds will be given to the University's various beneficiaries.

Manila Bulletin served as the media partner of the Animo Christmas! Opening program.

UN SDGs:



NEW FELLOWS OF THE ASIAN COUNCIL ON ERGONOMICS AND DESIGN

Two professors from the Gokongwei College of Engineering were conferred the title Fellows of the Asian Council on Ergonomics and Design (ACED) during the 2025 International Conference on Human Factors Engineering and Interaction with AI Systems held in Beijing, China recently.

University Fellow Dr. Rosemary Seva and Full Professor Dr. Alma Maria Jennifer Gutierrez, both faculty members of the Department of Industrial and Systems Engineering, received the highest recognition given by ACED for their exemplary contributions to the advancement of ergonomics in Asia and to the Council's mission of promoting collaboration, innovation, and global visibility for Asian scholars and practitioners.

Composed of members from 10 countries, ACED strives to shape the future of ergonomics and design in the region by championing Asian standards and highlighting the region's growing influence in the international community.



Gutierrez



Seva

UN SDGs:



SDRC SHARES STUDY ON MANILA STUDENTS' SMOKING HABITS

THE DLSU SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT RESEARCH CENTER (SDRC) presented the results of the initial run of the ASSIST Project – A Stop Smoking In Schools Trial conducted at 11 high schools in Manila last November 24 at the Philippe Jones Lhuillier Conference Room.

This peer-led, school-based smoking prevention intervention was developed and tested in the United Kingdom in 2010. It has since been utilized by countries with a more diverse culture and from a different socio-economic background. In 2019, the team from DLSU introduced the program with support from the Department of Education - Schools Division Office of Manila.

Of the 11 schools that participated in the trial run, one was a pilot school, four were control schools that worked with the general guidelines with no particular training, and six were intervention schools that underwent a 2-day training for student-peer supporters.

Through peer selection, Grade 8 students, aged 13-14, who were nominated to be peer supporters (PS) took the challenge to create a safe space and open conversations about smoking habits.

From the UK-based guidelines, Dr. Maria Guadalupe Salanga, country lead in the Philippines, said that they adapted various localized practices in order to conduct a project feasibility trial.

Partner schools represented by their school administrators and PS were also present during the event. Some students shared their experiences as peer supporters, highlighting that giving a helping hand did not equate to just giving out solutions but also understanding and empathizing with their classmates on their eye-opening conversations without judgements.

A panel discussion highlighted the roles of the school in tobacco education and control while promoting the overall well-being of students. Among the discussants were Dr. Sixtus Dane Ramos, a clinical psychologist and international certified addiction professional from the DLSU Department of Psychology, Dr. Donnabel Tubera-Panes from the Baguio City City Health Services Office, and Judy Delos Reyes from the Parents Against Vape.

Some other stakeholders from the Department of Health, Department of Education, the Department of Science and Technology - National Research Development Council, and other policymakers from the House of Representatives were also present during the event.

UN SDGs:



GCOE FACULTY RECEIVES AWARD FOR HAPTIC SENSOR RESEARCH

DLSU GOKONGWEI COLLEGE OF ENGINEERING FACULTY

MEMBER DR. ALEX ABAD has been selected as the awardee of the 2nd Filemon D. Tanchoco, Sr. Scientific Discoverer Award (FDT-SDA) of Manila Central University (MCU).

The award is named in honor of Atty. Tanchoco, an advocate of research and knowledge advancement. His vision was to recognize individuals whose works contribute to the welfare of the Filipino people and humanity at large.

Abad, faculty member of the Department of Electronics and Computer Engineering, was recognized for his pioneering work, "HAPLOS: Biomimetic Skin-like Haptic Sensor for Robot-assisted Palpation and Lump Detection with VR-Haptic Training Platform," which previously earned the second place in the Queen Mary UK Best PhD in Robotics Award, an international recognition.

Seeking to advance haptic sensing, robotics, and human-like tactile perception in intelligent systems, the HAPLOS project is a multimodal sensor that can detect force, vibration, and temperature of the core elements of touch.



Abad

"Your achievement embodies the MCU spirit of Scientia et Solidaritas where knowledge (Scientia) transforms into innovations that uplift the well-being of people (Solidaritas). It serves as an inspiration for future Filipino scientists and engineers to dream big and create technologies that benefit humanity," the FDT-SDA citation read.

UN SDGs:



GCASH RECOGNIZES DEPARTMENT OF MANAGEMENT AND ORGANIZATION PROF



FOR HIS ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE ETHICS ADVOCACY, DLSU RAMON V. DEL ROSARIO COLLEGE OF BUSINESS FULL PROFESSOR DR. BENITO TEEHANKEE was presented the Ethics Champion of the Year award by fintech company GCash at the AI-LLUMINATE 2025 ceremony held last November 21.

"This honors your significant role in our advocacy, particularly for raising awareness, opening discussions on difficult ethics topics, and championing Responsible AI through your work with AAP RAIC," GCash said in the citation.

For his part, Teehankee expressed gratitude to GCash for the award, sharing that "it has been a challenging journey to continuously advocate institutional reforms to safeguard the welfare of Filipinos against the harms of badly designed AI while promoting better AI."

He added, "I am encouraged by this recognition to persevere even more and to build wider coalitions to ensure that AI will truly help us Filipinos in achieving our country's vision of a rising standard of living and quality of life for all."

UN SDGs:



“ Say to Jesus as the apostles did:
‘Lord, teach us to pray’. ”

De la Torre



DLSU PERFORMANCE IN BOARD EXAMS

CHEMICAL ENGINEERS BOARD EXAM NOVEMBER 2025

DLSU passing rate 100%

- 6th consecutive time with 100% passing rate
- 4th time as one of the top-performing schools (with 10 or more board passers)

National passing rate 79.01%

- **RANKED 2** Engr. Joseph Ronald S. Roque
- **RANKED 9** Engr. Jasper Izak D. Samson
- **RANKED 10** Engr. Stephen S. Correa

ELECTRONICS ENGINEERS BOARD EXAM OCTOBER 2025

DLSU passing rate 75.76%

National passing rate 44.85%

- **RANKED 2** Engr. Mark Lawrence Velasco (91.60%)

CIVIL ENGINEERS BOARD EXAM NOVEMBER 2025

DLSU passing rate 65.33%

National passing rate 30.39%

- **RANKED 6** Engr. John Kristoffer Rapacon (90.35%)

GUIDANCE COUNSELORS BOARD EXAM AUGUST 2025

DLSU passing rate 100 %

National passing rate 66.67 %

- **RANKED 9** Sean Nicole Yap (88 %)

PROFESSIONAL TEACHERS SPECIAL PROFESSIONAL LICENSURE EXAM AUGUST 2025

DLSU passing rate 100%

National passing rate 66.83%

- **RANKED 2** Simon Medina Ogbac 89.20%

Source: Republic of the Philippines Professional Regulation Commission



2401 (twen'te fôr'o, wun) is a landmark number along Taft Avenue. It is the location ID of De La Salle University, home to outstanding faculty and students, and birthplace of luminaries in business, public service, education, the arts, and science. And 2401 is the name of the official newsletter of DLSU, featuring developments and stories of interest about the University.

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2401 may be accessed online through the URL: <http://www.dlsu.edu.ph>.