

# **TOWARDS A COMMUNITY OF PRACTICE (COP) ON LOCAL-TO- LOCAL ACROSS BORDERS SCHEMES (LLABS)**

**JULY**  
**2026**

## **50TH SUSTAINABLE SHARED GROWTH SEMINAR (THRU THE UNTIRING FRIENDSHIP OF SGRA/AISF) 2026: 70TH ANNIVERSARY JAPAN-PHILIPPINE FRIENDSHIP**

To the wooded hills of Sekiguchi, overlooking a Shogun's stake  
by the banks of the River Edo, We have gathered from different lands  
In quest of the ways of the Rising Sun, From there we journey to the world,  
In search of harmony amidst diversity

A seminar by  
Sekiguchi Global Research Association of the Atsumi  
International Foundation (SGRA)  
in collaboration with  
Faculty of Management and Development Studies (FMDS)  
of the University of the Philippines Open University (UPOU)





# 2026: ON THE OCCASION OF THE 70<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY OF JAPAN- PHILIPPINE FRIENDSHIP



*in loving memory of Tsuko  
Atsumi and in celebration of  
the friendship shown by her  
wonderful family*





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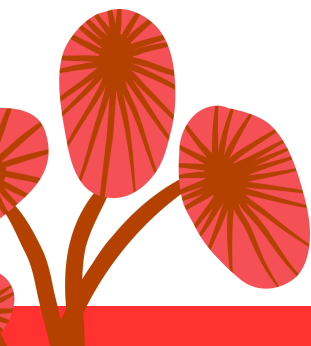
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# Moderator

## PROF. CESAR Z. LUNA (FMDS/UPOU, RTD.)



Cesar Z. Luna is a lecturer of the University of the Philippines Open University, where he teaches online courses in mass appraisal and real estate investment. He also served as the Assistant to the Vice Chancellor for Finance and Administration and as the Head of the Campus Development and Maintenance Office. He holds a Bachelor of Science Major in Marine Science degree from the University of the Philippines and a Master of Marine Affairs degree from the University of Washington. He is presently enrolled in the online program entitled "Appraisal, Institute of Canada, Accredited Appraiser Canadian Institute" of the AIC and the University of British Columbia. His research interests cover the areas of coastal management, decision analysis, real estate appraisal and investment, and sustainable shared growth.

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## 50th Sustainable Shared Growth Seminar

# TOWARDS A COMMUNITY OF PRACTICE (COP) ON LOCAL-TO-LOCAL ACROSS BORDER SCHEMES (LLABS)



Wed. 22nd July 2026



1200-1500 PHL TIME  
1300-1600 JPN TIME

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**Moderator**  
Ces Luna

### THE SPEAKER LINEUP



#### SPEAKER 1

### Koji Takahama

Director, NPO Class for  
Everyone



#### SPEAKER 2

### Noreen Alazada

FMDS/UPOU, Best Paper at  
the 8<sup>th</sup> Asia Future Conference

#### CO-AUTHORS

**Dr. Joane Serrano**  
UPOU Chancellor

**Dr. Max Maquito**  
FMDS/UPOU SGRA/AISF  
*Tertius iungens*



#### SPEAKER 3

### Ming Lopez

CNNC2025 Representative



#### SPEAKERS 4

### Christian Mark Flores, Kaitrizze Demain, Chynna Dimaandal, Carl De Castro

CNNC2026 Representatives



#### SPEAKERS 5

### Nathan Perez Felix, Marius Christian Pader

CNNC2026 Representatives



#### OPENING/CLOSING REMARKS

### Junko Imanishi

Chief Representative  
SGRA/AISF

### Dr. Fina Taylan

Dean FMDS/UPOU

# INTRODUCTION

JULY 22, 2026

## 50th Sustainable Shared Growth Seminar

KKK Seminar #50

TopIn 2023, Dr. Max Maquito came to know from Dr. Hitoshi Hirakawa (Professor Emeritus, Nagoya University) of the Eurasia Foundation (from Asia) grant that basically called for a review of the concept of communities in today's turbulent world. In collaboration with Dr. Joane Serrano applied for the grant with the proposal for a Community of Nations-Nation of Communities (CNNC) short course to be conducted by FMDS/UPOU. The basic concept is to have the two forces playing on the ASEAN+3 region, namely, regional integration and local decentralization to complement each other by having local government units or local communities connect with a counterpart in a different country, in what we have referred to as a Local-to-Local Across Border Scheme (LLABS). Fortunately, the proposal was awarded the grant from the Eurasia Foundation, and has just concluded its third year.

In this KKK seminar, we take the initial steps in forming a Community of Practice (COP) for LLABS to provide a regular venue for those engaged in creating LLABSs to come together and share experiences. Incidentally, the creation of COP is a component of the Sustainability in Action, Living Laboratory Campus (SiALLC) of FMDS/UPOU. SiALLC has actually provided a welcoming environment for collaboration with the KKK Seminars with regards to other KKK mechanisms such as community currency, land value taxation, and organic agriculture or gardening.

The first two presentations are related to the Fujino-Maahas LLABS, which FMDS/UPOU is trying to create. In the visits to Fujino, the FMDS/UPOU team had the opportunity to connect with Koji Takahama, who is involved in the energy-related projects of Fujino as a Transition Town. A paper (Alazada, Serrano, Maquito 2026) written about this LLABS was awarded a Best Paper Award in the upcoming 8th Asia Future Conference. The remaining presentations share the experiences of former CNNC fellows with regards to their LLABS proposals



# OPENING REMARKS: JUNKO IMANISHI

Chief Representative, SGRA/AISF

Konnichi wa

Good afternoon from Karuizawa

Welcome to the 50th Sustainable Shared Growth Seminar (or KKK seminar, in short)!

Today's topic takes the first step towards a milestone in our sustainable shared growth research and advocacy. The formation of a Community of Practice is a natural progression for the seminar series as it provides a regular venue for people involved in a common research and advocacy. In this particular case, it is Local-to-Local Across Border Schemes or LLABS (pronounced like LOVES). I remember the active participation of UPOU, headed by Chancellor Joane Serrano and Dean Fina Taylan at the SGRA Forum 75 held in Oberlin University's Shinjuku Campus, precisely on this topic of LLABS. It was nice to hear presentations from both Northeast and Southeast Asia, or what we have come to refer to as East Asia. At SGRA of Atsumi International Foundation, we really love to see



**"We would like to thank again Dean Fina Taylan and Chancellor Joane Serrano for their kind collaboration during this fiscal year."**

# OPENING REMARKS: JUNKO IMANISHI

Chief Representative, SGRA/AISF

uch efforts that lead to harmony amongst diversity based on the principle of good global citizenship.

In today's seminar, I would also like to welcome our new presenters, which I understand are alumni from the Community of Nations and Nation of Communities (CNNC) short course that FMDS/UPOU has been conducting. Although SGRA/AISF is not its main donor, we would like to think that we have contributed much to its materialization. The fact that a LLABS proposal is the main output of the CNNC course aligns very well with our vision. Congratulations to the representatives of CNNC 2025 and CNNC 2026 for being chosen as top LLABS proposals for their respective batches. And of course, I am delighted to note and congratulate Noreen Alazada, together with her co-authors Dr. Joane Serrano and Dr. Max Maquito for garnering a Best Paper Award for the upcoming 8th Asia Future Conference to be held in Sendai, J

apan this coming August. The paper is of course about LLABS and is part of a roundtable discussion on this topic.



**The fact that a LLABS proposal is the main output of the CNNC course aligns very well with our vision.**



# OPENING REMARKS:

## JUNKO IMANISHI

### Chief Representative, SGRA/AISF

#### Junko Imanishi (SGRA/AISF)



Junko Imanishi. The name of Kajima has for a long time been associated with more than the giant construction and engineering corporation that is one of the largest in the world. Kajima is known too for the significant contributions it makes toward benefiting different sectors of society. Junko Imanishi is a Kajima grand daughter who grew up knowing from the inside the processes of philanthropy. She has taken one little niche for her own, where she happily contributes her time, ideas and skills toward helping others. The Atsumi International Scholarship Foundation (AISF) set itself to provide financial assistance to foreign students who have superior academic skills to further their studies at graduate schools in Japan. As AISF Managing Director, Junko sees in AISF more than the donation of funds. She reported, "Through monthly social meetings, recreational trips and occasional counseling, AISF tries to keep close communication with the scholarship recipients. The students value human contact and the feeling of being in a world family. They appreciate essential financial help, but it means much more to them if they know friendly faces and warm hearts too." Junko describes herself as always having been academically inclined. A Gakushuin graduate in art history, she spent two summers at language courses in Europe, and secured her master's degree in art history and archaeology from Columbia University. "I lived in New York for five years," she said. "I have more experience in the US and Europe than in Asia." AISF has, in turn, bestowed benefits on her. Through it she has found affinity with other Asians.



The Sekiguchi Global Research Association (SGRA), under the Atsumi International Scholarship Foundation, promotes global citizenship and harmony through international research and collaboration.

# PRESENTATION I

## Creating A Local Energy Supply Model Based on Charcoal

**Mr. Koji Takahama**

### Introduction and Context

- Mr. Koji Takahama, Director of the NPO Class for Everyone since 2012, traced the origins of his work to a first visit to the Philippines in 2006 and a return trip in 2012 to a village near Tagaytay City. There, he met a five-year-old girl named Mimi, who was studying outside her home because, she told him, there was no light inside. The encounter, he said, was a revelation: in Japan he had never known a classroom without light, chairs, or a table, yet for Mimi this was simply "natural." Six months later he established Class for Everyone with the mission of creating equal educational opportunities in developing countries, beginning with the Philippines.



### Early Programs

Mr. Takahama described how the organization built an ICT education center in Gawad Kalinga, funded through crowdfunding from Japanese supporters, and arranged for used laptops donated by Japanese companies to be shipped to Philippine schools and communities. A major typhoon later left him without electricity for an extended period, which led him to join a team teaching communities how to build their own solar panels and install small-scale solar systems, an approach he subsequently brought to off-grid areas of Tanzania as well.



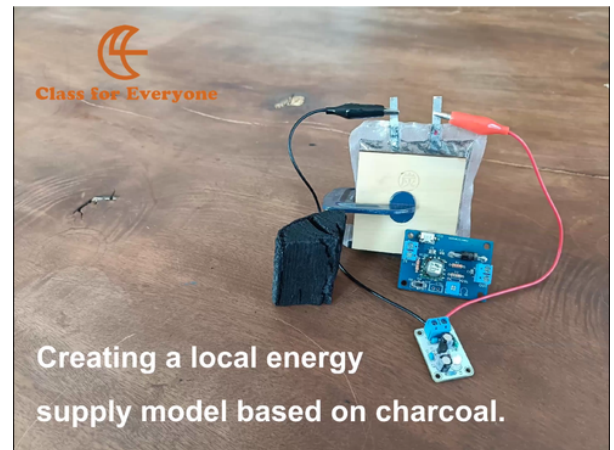
# PRESENTATION I

## Creating A Local Energy Supply Model Based on Charcoal

Mr. Koji Takahama

### Core project: Charcoal Energy

Back home in Fujino, a mountain town in Japan, Mr. Takahama turned to a local forestry problem — oak trees killed by a small boring insect — and saw an opportunity: the affected wood could be turned into charcoal, a freely available local resource. This became the basis for his current project, teaching Japanese children and communities how to make charcoal-based Electric Double-Layer Capacitors (EDLCs). He explained that cutting the trees is straightforward, but activating the charcoal so that it can function as a capacitor requires a specific technique that his group has now mastered and is prepared to teach in other regions, including the Philippines, where a range of local materials — coconut shell, coffee grounds, and rice husk — have already been tested as feedstock. He calls this approach "Charcoal Energy": the making of local energy from local, freely available materials.



# PRESENTATION I

## Creating A Local Energy Supply Model Based on Charcoal

Mr. Koji Takahama

### Closing reflection

"You will not be unhappy if you don't have a lot of money."

Reflecting on conversations with Filipinos about the meaning of happiness, Mr. Takahama recounted that the answer he heard most often, from children and adults alike, was family — a lesson he said he has tried to carry into his own life in Fujino, where he and his family aim for greater self-sufficiency, growing their own vegetables and reducing both their expenses and their dependence on income. He argued that this kind of life, with more time devoted to making and creating rather than to paid work, points toward an alternative to the present model of capitalism. He closed by expressing his hope to extend this approach beyond Japan, starting with the Philippines, combining Japanese culture and technology with local knowledge to build community-based, self-sufficient local energy systems, step by step.

UPOU is hoping Koji san could visit next year to hold one of his energy-related classes, on site.





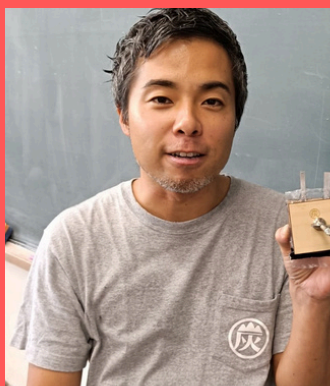
# PRESENTATION I

Creating A Local Energy Supply Model Based on Charcoal

Mr. Koji Takahama

## Mr. Koji Takahama

PRESENTER



Director, NPO Class for Everyone

Since 2012, he has been working to improve ICT educational environments for children in Asia and Africa.

He has also taught children living in off-grid areas how to generate electricity and has supplied solar power systems to schools. In recent years, he has been working on producing charcoal-based EDLCs (Electric Double-Layer Capacitors) locally, establishing a model for local energy production and consumption.

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# PRESENTATION 2

## Fujino-Maahas: A Living Prototype for a Community of Practice

**Ms. Noreen Dianne Alazada (FMDS/UPOU)**

### Introduction

Ms. Alazada presented joint work introducing LABs ("Local-to-Local Across Borders"), a framework for building direct, place-based partnerships between towns in different countries — in this case Fujino, Sagami-hara and Barangay Maahas, Los Baños. The core question was how a single local partnership can grow into a lasting community of practice. She tied the framework to the KKK goals of kahusayan, katarungan, and kalikasan (efficiency, equity, environment), arguing that communities don't lack ideas but a regular way to compare and exchange practice across borders. The partnership grew out of the KKK seminars via SGRA/Atsumi Foundation and UPOU's SiLLC and "Community of Nations" programs.



### Vision matching

Rather than copying solutions, the team used "vision matching" — comparing what each community already values, across five points (bond, initiative, core, vision, entry point), with permaculture as the shared starting point. This surfaced three strong matches: community currency (Fujino's yorozu inspired UPOU's own pilot), permaculture, and forest/greenway stewardship, with energy also flagged as promising. The two sites are comparable in scale (~9,000 in Fujino, ~10,000 in Maahas), making exchange easier to imagine.

#### Vision Matching Matrix

| Point of Comparison | Fujino                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          | Maahas                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |
|---------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Town                | Fujino (old name), Sagami-hara City, Kanagawa Prefecture, Japan<br>(Population: approximately 10,000)                                                                                                                                           | Brgy. Maahas, Los Baños, Laguna, Philippines<br>(Population: approximately 9,000)                                                                                                                                                                 |
| Initiative          | Transition Town                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 | Sustainability in Action: A Living Laboratory Campus (SiALLC)                                                                                                                                                                                     |
| Core                | Mr. Hide Enomoto et al.                                                                                                                                                                                                                         | Dr. Joane V. Serrano et al.                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |
| Vision              | Citizens living in the same area, connected by a relationship of "connections that benefit each other," stimulate each other's creativity and enhance the underlying strength of the area, thereby "transitioning" society to a sustainable one | Positioning UPOU as a center for sustainability studies. UPOU can offer a unique learning environment where students, faculty, and community members can collaboratively explore and implement innovative solutions to sustainability challenges. |
| Base Entry Point    | Permaculture Association of Japan                                                                                                                                                                                                               | FMDS Permaculture G.A.R.D.E.N.                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |

# PRESENTATION 2

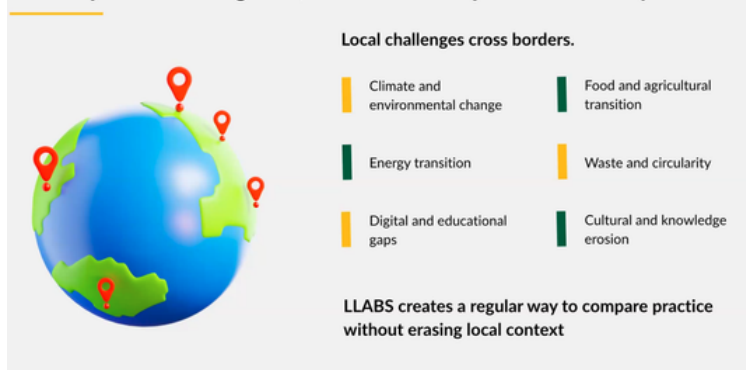
## Fujino-Maahas: A Living Prototype for a Community of Practice

Ms. Noreen Dianne Alazada (FMDS/UPOU)

### Cohesion, Equivalence, and The Greenway Walks

Using social network analysis concepts, she distinguished cohesion (direct ties from meeting, visiting, co-hosting) from equivalence (structural similarity, like matching currencies or gardens), arguing LLABs needs both. This was made tangible through "greenway" walking routes in each community – roughly 6 km in Maahas (UPOU to Mt. Makiling Forest Reserve) and 3+ km in Fujino (station to the Permaculture Center and Fujino Denryoku) – using an immersive, shinrin-yoku-inspired walking methodology, documented through geotagged photos, audio, and interactive maps to create a shared memory across distance.

#### Shared problems are global, but action is experienced locally



#### LLABS connects communities through people, place, and practice

A Local-to-Local Across Border Scheme (LLABS) is a direct learning relationship between communities in different countries.



#### LLABS works through two kinds of connection

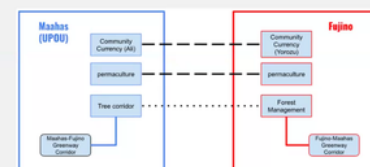
##### Cohesion

Direct ties through visits, seminars, walks, and joint activity



##### Equivalence

Indirect ties through similar roles, values, or sustainability practices





# Space and Distance

## PRESENTATION 2

### Fujino-Maahas: A Living Prototype for a Community of Practice

Ms. Noreen Dianne Alazada (FMDS/UPOU)

## Toward a Community of Practice

She outlined five repeatable LLABs moves: match visions, build ties, walk and learn, produce shared artifacts, and repeat/adapt. She argued a community of practice (CoP) is needed to turn this single pilot into durable, transferable capacity – noting the Fujino-Maahas partnership runs without a formal MOA, sustained purely by committed people on both sides. She proposed starting small, convening around existing CNNC fellow cohorts (2024–2026), and closed with three questions for the audience: what practice can you share, what counterpart could help it grow, and what small joint activity could begin next.

#### The first COP cycle can begin small

- 1 Convene around real cases
- 2 Share practices and needs
- 3 Match interested communities
- 4 Test one manageable exchange
- 5 Document learning and return



A small, reliable rhythm is more valuable than a large structure that cannot be sustained.

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#### Digital traces carry local experience across distance

Digital traces create a shared memory for the partnership.

Geotagged photos

Audio and narrative reflection

Interactive maps and 360-degree views



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#### Why a Community of Practice?

A Community of Practice turns one pilot into shared capacity

- Continuity
- Peer learning
- Community matching
- Shared documentation



50th Sustainable Shared Growth Seminar | 22 July 2026



# PRESENTATION 2

## Fujino-Maahas: A Living Prototype for a Community of Practice

Ms. Noreen Dianne Alazada (FMDS/UPOU)

### Ms. Noreen Dianne Alazada (FMDS/UPOU)

#### PRESENTER



Noreen Dianne S. Alazada is a development communication graduate from UP Los Banos and a researcher at the University of the Philippines Open University (UPOU). She has served as research assistant and facilitator for various interdisciplinary initiatives, including the Youth for Ifugao Rice Terraces, the EIDR bSMART Program (Blending of Multimedia Approach and Satoyama-Satoumi Principles for Building Climate Smart Communities), the Development of E-Learning Course on Mainstreaming Biodiversity with a Focus on Agriculture as part of the Institutional Strengthening of the Biodiversity Sector in the ASEAN Phase 2 and Project LAKBAY (Learning Actively through Knowledge-Based Appreciation for Youth). She has co-authored peer-reviewed publications, presented at international conferences, and contributed to both academic and public service planning at UPOU. She is also a member of the Professionals Uplifting the Neighborhood of Los Baños Alliance (PUNLA). Her work continues to focus on promoting knowledge exchange, intercultural dialogue, and sustainability through community-centered approaches.

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# PRESENTATION 3

## Taiwan-Philippines Learning Journey for Grassroots Governance

**Ms. Charmaine Lopez (CNNC 2025)**

### Introduction

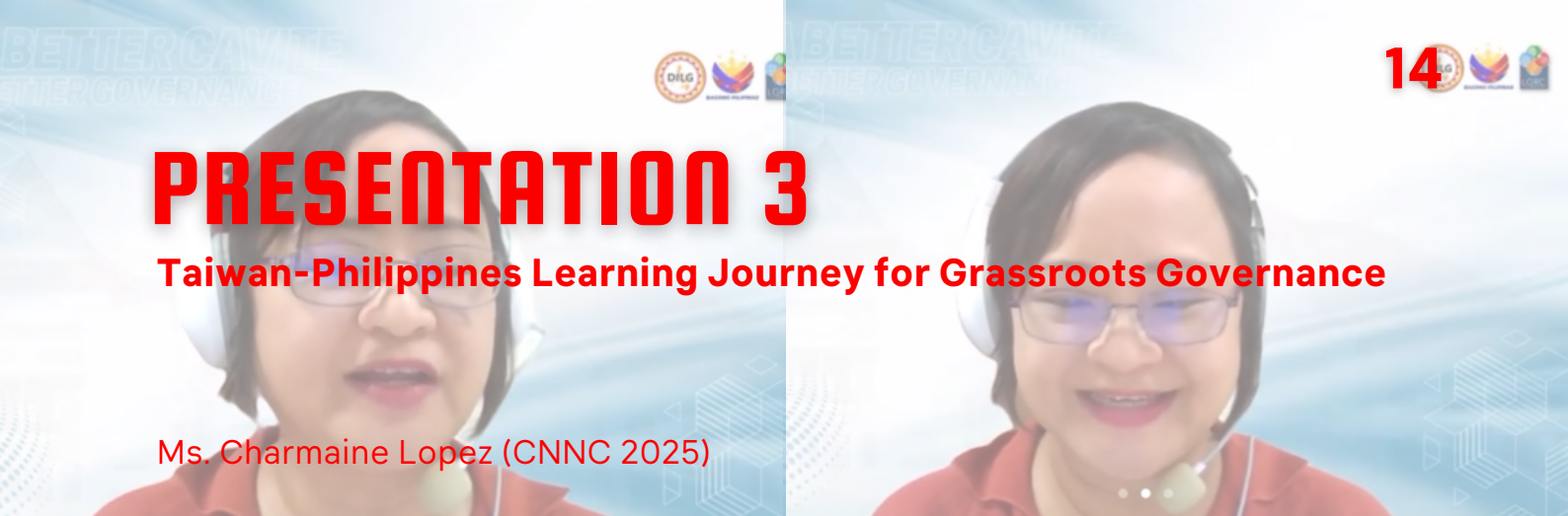
Ms. Lopez presented on behalf of the CNNC 2025 NGA group — herself (DILG Region 4A), alongside colleagues from the National Youth Commission, NAPC, Batangas City, and the National Center for Mental Health — whose proposal on a Taiwan-Philippines local-to-local learning exchange was among the best chosen from that year's cohort. Framed around the "Community of Nations, Nation of Communities" idea from the CNNC course, the presentation's core premise was that real progress grows from strong, empowered local communities rather than trickling down from national offices, and that Taiwan and the Philippines have complementary strengths worth exchanging.



### What each side brings

She characterized Taiwan's strengths as community-led development, digital feedback tools, disaster preparedness, environmental stewardship, and close coordination among government, schools, and neighborhoods — guided by the principle that technology should help people shine, not replace them. In turn, she highlighted Philippine strengths: the barangay system's proximity to residents, inclusive local services, the bayan/bayanihan spirit of collective effort, flexible local leadership, and the lupong tagapamayapa (peacekeeping) system — arguing that pairing Taiwan's "smart"





# PRESENTATION 3

## Taiwan-Philippines Learning Journey for Grassroots Governance

Ms. Charmaine Lopez (CNNC 2025)

### The Kaohsiung Study Tour

The Philippine delegation traveled to Kaohsiung City, Taiwan (July 24–29) under the banner "Taiwan Convergence: Understanding Community Resilience through Grassroots Governance," organized with Dr. Wu (President of EduConnect Southeast Asia University) and his network, including Bayanihan Love Network and De La Salle University Dasmariñas. Notably, the group expanded beyond officials to include barangay captains from Cavite's BALAG (barangay leadership executive course) pilot program, giving grassroots leaders direct exposure to governance abroad. The tour included visits to Kaohsiung's complaint/call-center operations (586 complaints logged in a day, 93% resolved), a public data dashboard for a district office, smart-city infrastructure (bike-share, night markets), senior citizen and PWD volunteer programs, and exchanges with "Li captains" (Taiwan's barangay-captain counterparts) and district department heads.

### Where Taiwan and the Philippines Meet

| COMPLEMENTARY STRENGTHS      |                         |
|------------------------------|-------------------------|
| TAIWAN                       | The PHILIPPINES         |
| Digital Governance           | Barangay Leadership     |
| Community Planning           | Bayanihan               |
| Evidence-based Policy making | Community Participation |
| Innovation                   | Social Cohesion         |
| University Partnerships      | Local Participation     |

Smart Communities + Caring Communities= RESILIENT COMMUNITIES

### LLABS at Work in Taiwan

From Learning to Action



### LLABS at Work in Taiwan

From Learning to Action





# PRESENTATION 3

## Taiwan-Philippines Learning Journey for Grassroots Governance

Ms. Charmaine Lopez (CNNC 2025)

### Outcomes and Next Steps

Following the trip, Bayanihan Love Network and DILG Cavite signed an MOA, formalizing a multistakeholder advisory committee with De La Salle Dasmariñas and Cavite State University under the local governance resource center. The exchange also introduced the "ICUE" framework (Industry, Cities, Universities, Enterprise) for collaborative governance. Reciprocity followed: a Taiwanese delegation, including Dr. Wu and young leaders, visited De La Salle Dasmariñas, and the Philippine group was invited to join the 2026 U1 Awards Philippine Delegation on sustainable architecture and urban governance.

### Closing Remarks

Ms. Lopez closed by quoting a participating barangay official, who said the trip "changed how I see my work" and left her with the conviction that leadership means showing up, that governance matters most where people feel it in their daily lives, and that ordinary people helping each other is how nations are built. Ms. Lopez ended by noting the CNNC 2025 program has concluded but that the group continues working to connect communities across towns and borders.

**Shared Vision of East Asia**

*The future of East Asia depends not only on economic growth but on communities that learn from one another.*

*Imagine a region where Taiwan shares digital innovation.*

*The Philippines shares community leadership.*

*Universities exchange knowledge.*

*Youth become regional leaders.*

*Local governments become partners rather than isolated institutions.*

**What now?**

**Dr. Eing-ming Wu**  
President, Edu-Connect Southeast Asia Association, Taiwan  
(On a Bayanihan-led collaboration framework)

**Ms. Charmaine Lopez**  
LGUO 18, Department of Interior and Local Government (DILG)  
(On barriers to effective collaboration)

# PRESENTATION 3

## Taiwan-Philippines Learning Journey for Grassroots Governance

**Ms. Charmaine Lopez (CNNC 2025)**

### Ms. Charmaine Lopez (CNNC, FMDS/UPOU)



Charmaine R. Lopez, LGOO VI, RN, MMPA, MDM, CESE, is a public development manager, sustainability advocate, and lifelong learner with over 28 years of experience spanning the private and public sectors. She currently serves as a Local Government Operations Officer VI at the Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG) Region IV-A, where she champions good governance, local development, and multi-stakeholder collaboration. A proud alumna of the Community of Nations, Nation of Communities (CNNC) 2025 program, she is currently pursuing a Doctor in Sustainability at the University of the Philippines Open University. Her professional and academic journey reflects a deep commitment to advancing sustainable, inclusive, and resilient communities through regional cooperation, strategic partnerships, and servant leadership. Drawing from her experiences in governance, education, and community engagement, she shares practical insights on how regionalism and complementation can drive shared growth and collective progress.

#### **disclaimer**

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# PRESENTATION 4

LLABS Project Philippines-Indonesia

**Mr. Christian Mark Flores, Chynna Dimaandal, Kaitrizze Demain, and Carl De Castro (CNNC 2026)**



## Introduction

Presenting as "Group ABA" (a merger of Groups A and B), the team introduced one of two proposals chosen as best for CNNC 2026, focused on a Philippines-Indonesia local-to-local cross-border linkage. They argued that strong local communities, not top-down programs, build a stronger ASEAN region, and that differences between neighboring communities are a strength to learn from rather than a barrier. The study responds to a documented gap: limited knowledge-sharing and near-absent comparative research on rural enterprise diversification in Southeast Asia, compounded by the risk that practitioner knowledge is lost as experienced managers retire or move on.

## The two partner cooperatives

The partnership links Manatal Multipurpose Cooperative in Pandi, Bulacan — established in 1991, with 34 years of operation, over 6,000 member households, ₱1.52 billion in assets, and five business units, known for strong financial governance and member accountability — with Bumdes Jaya Janti in Klaten, Central Java, a much younger cooperative (founded 2018) that has achieved an 11-fold revenue increase, employs over 120 people, and runs six business units, known for enterprise scaling and innovation. The team framed these contrasting strengths — governance depth versus innovation speed — as the basis for genuine mutual learning rather than one-directional knowledge transfer.

## LITERATURE GAPS

### EVIDENCE OF GAP

1. Single-commodity focus dominates Philippine cooperative literature.
2. Indonesian BUMDes literature is concentrated on governance and establishment, not diversification.
3. Cross-national comparative studies of rural enterprise diversification within ASEAN are virtually absent.
4. Practitioner knowledge is uncaptured.
5. ASEAN's own rural development agenda acknowledges the gap.

### IMPORTANCE OF ADDRESSING THE GAP

The absence of documented, replicable models of how to make the transition from marginal viability to institutional diversification is one of the persistent barriers that CDA training programs have not fully addressed, because they can provide process guidance (how to manage a cooperative) but not institutional case studies of how organizations like the ones being trained actually made their diversification decisions.



# PRESENTATION 4

LLABS Project Philippines-Indonesia

**Mr. Christian Mark Flores, Chynna Dimaandal, Kaitrizze Demain, and Carl De Castro (CNNC 2026)**



## Vision, roadmap, and outputs

The project's vision is a sustainable partnership enabling continuous knowledge exchange, capacity building, and replication of successful diversification practices across ASEAN, pursued through five steps: forming partnerships, documenting experiences, exchanging knowledge, developing outputs, and evaluating for scaling. A five-year roadmap phases this from foundation-building (Year 1) through documentation (Years 2–3) to evaluation, sustainability, and replication (Years 4–5). Three concrete outputs were named: a comparative research study, a practical diversification-pathway guide, and a joint learning brief formalizing an LGU-to-LGU exchange framework.



## Sustainability and SDG alignment

The team built sustainability into the project across three dimensions: environmental (digital delivery over physical travel), economic (low-cost, scalable model), and social (freely replicable knowledge outputs). Both partner cooperatives were cited as proof of concept — Manatal's 34 years of subsidy-free growth, and Bumdes Jaya Janti's reinvestment of 15% of revenue into community groups and 25% into enterprise development. The project was mapped to SDGs 1 (no poverty), 2 (zero hunger), 4 and 10 (education and reduced inequalities), among others.

# PRESENTATION 4

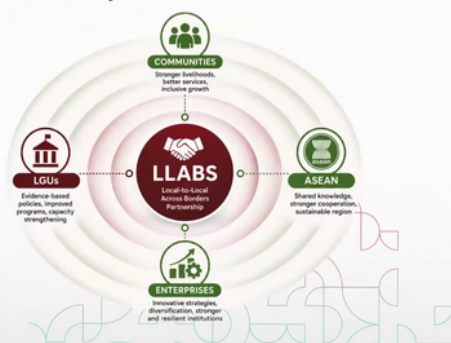
LLABS Project Philippines-Indonesia

Mr. Christian Mark Flores, Chynna Dimaandal, Kaitrizze Demain, and Carl De Castro (CNNC 2026)

## Current progress

The team reported the proposal has already moved beyond planning: it was presented at a mid-term strategic planning session of the Municipality of Pandi, Bulacan, gained support from the local Municipal Planning Office, and has been approved by the mayor, with municipal cooperative development officers now being looped in. The group has also made direct contact with both cooperatives and is pursuing a university partner in Indonesia to complement its existing link with UP Open University.

## PROJECT IMPACT



## CONCLUSION

- ✓ ADDRESSES LITERATURE GAP
- ✓ SUSTAINABLE LLABS
- ✓ ASEAN-READY
- ✓ REPLICABLE MODEL

## CURRENT PROGRESS

- ✓ PRESENTED TO MPDO
- ✓ STRATEGIC PLANNING
- ✓ LGU VISIBILITY

## ESTABLISHED CONNECTIONS



# PRESENTATION 4

LLABS Project Philippines-Indonesia

**Mr. Christian Mark Flores, Chynna Dimaandal, Kaitrizze Demain, and Carl De Castro (CNNC 2026)**

## Christian Mark Flores (CNNC 2026)



Christian Mark S. Flores is an incoming third-year BS Economics student majoring in Development Economics at the University of the Philippines Los Baños. He is a Fellow of the Community of Nations, Nation of Communities of Eurasia Foundation Short Course, conducted by the Faculty of Management and Development Studies of the University of the Philippines Open University. He has a growing interest in development economics, regional integration, and economic growth, particularly within the ASEAN context. .

## Katrizzze Demain (CNNC 2026)



Katrizzze R. Demain is a first-year Bachelor of Science in Real Estate Management student at the Polytechnic University of the Philippines. She is a Fellow of the Community of Nations, Nation of Communities of Eurasia Foundation Short Course, conducted by the Faculty of Management and Development Studies of the University of the Philippines Open University. She is interested in environmental sustainability, education, and research, particularly in how these can help address community and development issues. She hopes to further pursue these interests through future academic and research opportunities.

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# PRESENTATION 4

LLABS Project Philippines-Indonesia

**Mr. Christian Mark Flores, Chynna Dimaandal, Kaitrizze Demain, and Carl De Castro (CNNC 2026)**

## Chynna Dimaandal (CNNC 2026)



Chynna J. Dimaandal is a second-year Bachelor of Education Studies student at the University of the Philippines - Open University. She is a fellow of the Community of Nations, Nation of Community 2026 by Faculty of Management and Development Studies of UPOU under grant of Eurasia Foundation (by Asia). Her interest lies in humanities and social sciences which includes sustainability and shared growth of communities.

## Carl de Castro (CNNC 2026)



Carl De Castro is a certified paralegal and a graduate of Trece Martires City College, where he earned a Bachelor of Public Administration degree. He completed his internship at the City Legal Office of the City Government of Cavite, gaining practical experience in local governance and legal administration. He is a Fellow of the Community of Nations, Nation of Communities (CNNC) Short Course of the Eurasia Foundation, conducted by the Faculty of Management and Development Studies of the University of the Philippines Open University (UPOU). His research interests include public administration, local governance, community development, participatory governance and public policy, particularly in advancing collaborative and sustainable development initiatives.

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# PRESENTATION 5

LLABS on Permaculture and Environmental Justice Building a UPOU-CMU Synergy for Achieving Sustainable Shared Growth

**Nathan Perez Felix and Marius Cristan Pader (CNNC)**

## Introduction

Mr. Nathan Perez Felix, group leader, and Mr. Marius Christian Mad presented "Just Landscapes," a LABs proposal linking UP Open University and Chiang Mai University through their respective institutions. The project began after Mr. Felix was accepted into Chiang Mai University's "Revisiting Agrarian Transition and Environmental Justice" workshop in early June; the group pivoted from an earlier idea involving Okinawa pineapple commodities to pursue this Thailand-Philippines linkage instead. Mr. Felix traveled to Thailand June 15–21 for direct cross-border engagement, including academic workshops, field immersions, a border-area visit, and a stop at an agricultural station — an experience that grounded the group's premise that environmental sustainability cannot be separated from questions of justice, participation, and equitable access to resources, and that "farmers are humans, and humans are also capital."



## How CNNC shaped the proposal

Mr. Mad described how CNNC coursework directly shaped the proposal: sessions on regionalization (communities operating within interconnected regional systems), decentralization (local actors' capacity to drive development), community development (change emerging from local participation), community currency (alternative systems strengthening local resilience), and comparative governance (cross-context lessons) each fed into the group's design, alongside a last-minute pivot in scope after the Thailand opportunity arose.



# PRESENTATION 5

## LLABS on Permaculture and Environmental Justice Building a UPOU-CMU Synergy for Achieving Sustainable Shared Growth

Nathan Perez Felix and Marius Cristan Pader (CNNC 2026)

### What each institution brings

UPOU's contribution centers on its Sustainability in Action – Living Laboratory Campus (SiLLC) framework – treating the university itself as a living laboratory – anchored by the FMDS Perma Garden (a permaculture demonstration and learning site) and the Alitaptap community currency, alongside UPOU's standing as a pioneer of open and distance education in the Philippines. CMU RCSD contributes a strong regional research perspective on sustainability governance and social transformation in Southeast Asia, particularly its work on agrarian transition and ethnic borderland studies, with a specific opportunity identified around CMU's Sustainability Campus Management Center as UPOU works to institutionalize its own sustainability office.

#### What They Bring to the Table



#### Direct Cross-Border Engagement

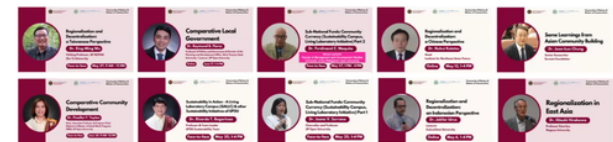
As part of the Research Capacity-Building Workshop on Revisiting Agrarian Transition and Environmental (In)Justice hosted by CMU-RCSD, our group leader participated in:

- Academic workshops
- Field immersions (pakikipamuhay)
- Community engagements
- Agricultural station visit
- Thai-Myanmar border fieldwork
- Environmental justice discussions
- Focus group discussion among Thai farmers



#### How CNNC Shaped Just Landscapes

CNNC challenged our group how to think beyond local boundaries. Throughout the course, we encountered the following key ideas that became the foundation for our group's attempt to operationalize these lessons for Just Landscapes. We are all grateful and thankful for all the lecturers. Domo arigatou gozaimasu!



#### UPOU's Sustainability Agenda

Under Chancellor Joane V. Serrano's Transformative University of the Future Agenda, sustainability is positioned as a core institutional priority.

Initiatives under the Sustainability in Action - Living Laboratory Campus (SiALLC) such as the FMDS Perma G.A.R.D.E.N., Alitaptap Community Currency, sustainability-oriented teaching, research, extension, and public service initiatives have already established a strong foundation.

Our group recognizes significant opportunities for international cooperation through strategic partnerships and collaborative programs that bring fresh perspectives and enhance the university's existing initiatives.

This LLABS proposal responds directly to that opportunity for UPOU's bid towards globalization.





# PRESENTATION 5

## LLABS on Permaculture and Environmental Justice Building a UPOU-CMU Synergy for Achieving Sustainable Shared Growth

Nathan Perez Felix  
Mary Grace Q. Campollo (Deputy Leader)  
Marius Cristan M. Pader

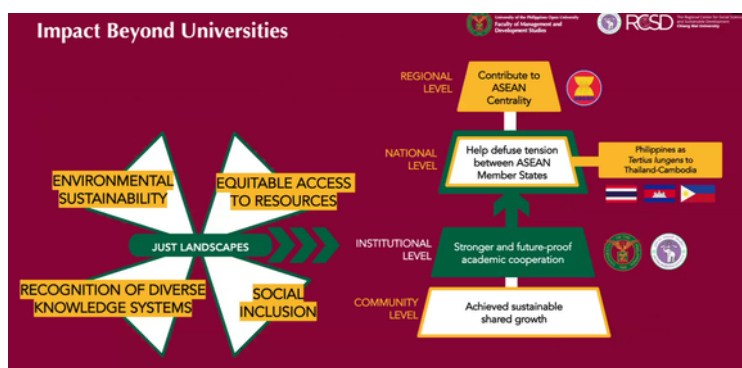
Dimale A. Catangay  
Nathan Perez Felix and Marius Cristan Pader (CNNC 2026)  
Maria Socorro B. Dela Cruz

### Progress and SDG alignment

The team reported active, positive coordination between group leader Nathan and Dean Joane Serrano (FMDS) on the UPOU side, and with CMU RCSD on the Thailand side, both parties expressing interest in moving the partnership forward. The proposal was mapped to SDGs 2, 3, 8, 11, 13, 15, and 17 (hunger, health, decent work, sustainable communities, climate action, life on land, and partnerships).

### Vision and regional framing

The group's long-term vision is an ASEAN knowledge corridor for sustainability and environmental justice — a lasting university-to-university partnership enabling faculty and researcher collaboration, student mobility, joint research, and community engagement, guided by an environmental justice (EJ) framework asking who benefits, who bears the costs, whose voices are heard, and whose knowledge is valued. The team situated the project across three levels: grassroots (community-level shared growth), institutional (formalizing cooperation via MOA/MOU/LOA between CMU and UPOU), and national/regional — noting feedback positioning the Philippines as a potential "third party" that could help ease tensions along the Thailand-Cambodia border and contribute to ASEAN centrality.



"We will not be built by nations working alone, but by communities continuing to learn, to unlearn, and to relearn with one another."

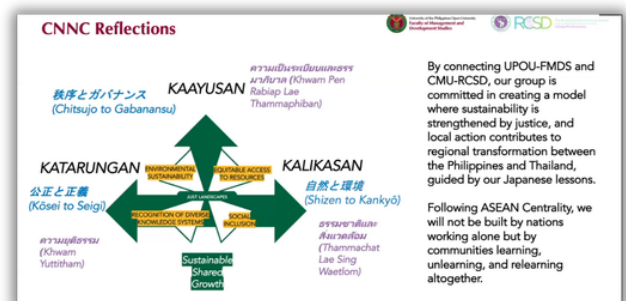
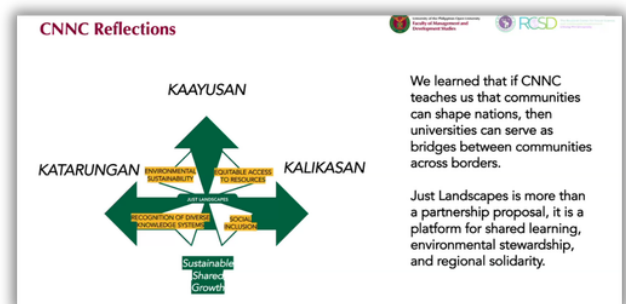
# PRESENTATION 5

## LLABS on Permaculture and Environmental Justice Building a UPOU-CMU Synergy for Achieving Sustainable Shared Growth

Nathan Perez Felix and Marius Cristan Pader (CNNC 2026)

### Closing Reflection

The group closed by describing Just Landscapes as more than a proposal — a platform for shared learning, environmental stewardship, and regional solidarity. Connecting the two institutions, they argued, builds a model where sustainability is strengthened by justice and local action, guided by the CNNC principle that regional centrality is built not by nations working alone, but by communities that continue to learn, unlearn, and relearn with one another. The group extended thanks to the Domingo Guevara Memorial / Euraser Foundation, UP Open University, and Chiang Mai University.



### Expression of Gratitude

Domo arigatou gozaimasu, Eurasia Foundation (From Asia)!

Maraming salamat po, UP Open University!

Khop khun krab, Chiang Mai University!

# PRESENTATION 5

LLABS on Permaculture and Environmental Justice Building a UPOU-CMU Synergy for Achieving Sustainable Shared Growth

**Nathan Perez Felix and Marius Cristan Pader (CNNC 2026)**

## Nate Felix (CNNC 2026)



Nathan Perez Felix is the Executive Assistant to the Vice President for External Affairs of the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA)-Philippine Alumni Association, following his work as a Communications Consultant for Start Network and as Senior Public Relations Associate at the Southeast Asian Regional Center for Graduate Study and Research in Agriculture (SEARCA). He is a candidate for MSc Development Communication at the University of the Philippines Los Baños (UPLB), where his academic and professional work intersects science communication, knowledge management, environmental diplomacy, climate resilience, and agricultural and rural development.

## Marius Pader (CNNC 2026)



Marius Cristan M. Pader graduated with a Bachelor of Science in Development Communication from the University of the Philippines Los Baños (UPLB) Magna Cum Laude. A member of the Pi Gamma Mu International Honor Society, he recently served as a Youth Board Member of GoodGovPH (2025–2026). Throughout his university years, he held key leadership positions in student organizations and communication initiatives, including serving as Chief Anchor (President) of the UP Community Broadcasters' Society, host and executive producer of Leader Ka K! on Radyo DZLB, President of Ahon Batang CALABARZON-UPLB, and Founding Associate Managing Editor for External Affairs of Tanglaw. He also contributed to youth civic organizations, including Kaya Natin! Youth-Los Baños, where he served as Founding Public Information Officer. His work and advocacies focus on development communication, youth leadership, civic engagement, and good governance.

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# OPEN FORUM

## Zoom Chat with Presenters

### **Has the LABs partnership explored building digital communities so elderly members who can no longer join community walks can still take part?**

- The team has documented the walks using 360-degree cameras with the aim of eventually offering virtual tours, allowing elderly or less mobile members to participate remotely. This is an area they hope to explore further, especially given that Japan also has significant elderly populations in its partner communities.

### **Is the technique for converting rice husk into activated charcoal for capacitors new, and is it available to learn?**

- The technique is not entirely new — rice husk charcoal has been explored before, including by a large company, but typically at large scale. Making it at small scale is newer; he tested a small-scale version about a week prior and is now checking its quality and performance. He confirmed the method is known and that he is willing to teach it and help adapt it to other locations, including the Philippines.

### **How can a Local Government Unit (LGU) collaborate with LABs?**

- Collaboration doesn't need to start as a formal partnership — it can begin with a simple meeting between the LGU and UPOU, using a vision-matching approach to identify shared interests (for example, a permaculture garden or other sustainability initiatives the LGU wants to develop). Dr. Max Maquito added that this is meant to grow into a broader community of practice that any LGU is free to join, and FMDS could start with an exploratory meeting.

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# OPEN FORUM

**Zoom Chat with Presenters**

## How did you discover your experiment with rice husk and charcoal specifically, and aside from happiness, what else drives you to continue this work?

- Mr Koji Takahama explained that his focus is on using local assets — Japan imports over 90% of its energy (e.g., oil) from other countries, so he wanted to find ways to generate energy locally. Since trees and rice (and thus rice husks) are abundant local resources, he chose to work with them. As for motivation, he noted that no one else in Japan had pursued this kind of local charcoal-energy project before, and that his goal is not to build a business from it but to freely share the knowledge so that anyone can make and use it themselves.

## Are Philippine barangays a genuine comparative advantage?

Ms. Charmaine Lopez agreed that Filipinos tend to be overly self-critical and should recognize the brighter side. While many barangay officials still treat their role largely as a political post, a growing number are learning good governance, and barangay-level project monitoring units are already functioning. In Cavite, graduates of the BALAG executive course on barangay leadership are incorporating capstone-style monitoring projects that involve stakeholders directly, which helps grassroots governance gain traction and public trust. She noted the Philippines is also strong in social capital.

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# OPEN FORUM

**Zoom Chat with Presenters**

## **Are there plans to expand to Pacific Island nations and Oceania, given shared environmental threats, or is collaboration currently limited to East Asian neighbors?**

Dr. Ferdinand Maquito acknowledged the Pacific is currently outside the group's focus, since LABs is concentrating on ASEAN+3 — Taiwan being one direction pursued partly because of geopolitical tensions with mainland China. He described LABs as an attempt to work around that broader stalemate at the local/community level, expressing hope that Taiwan-focused work could eventually also find a way to connect with mainland China (invoking the social-network-analysis idea of a "tertius," a third party bridging two conflicting sides). He admitted Pacific/Oceania expansion, despite shared Austronesian/"Polynesian" roots, has not really been discussed given the more immediate ASEAN+3 challenges, but welcomed the suggestion.

## **Next steps for the Group ABA (Manatal-Bumdes) proposal?**

- The group is in talks with Prof. Maria Teresa Castro of UPLB's Institute of Cooperative and Bioenterprise Development, with a meeting planned from August 3 onward to make the project more practical and to gain connections to additional cooperatives and rural enterprises. They are also considering adding three more partner institutions in order to qualify for ASEAN funding, per feedback from a UPLB ASEAN Studies faculty member. The immediate next step is coordinating with institutional partners — UPLB, UPOU, and Ecoped — for guidance on concrete next actions.

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## OPEN FORUM

### Zoom Chat with Presenters

### Next steps for the Just Landscapes (UPOU-CMU) proposal?

- Chiang Mai University's RCSD will hold another workshop for their cohort, and he plans to visit again around October or November. The group is targeting a solidified agreement between UPOU/FMDS and CMU RCSD to define how the two institutions will work in synergy to promote environmental justice, after which technical working groups would take on the specific activities outlined in the presentation. He framed Just Landscapes as an entry point toward helping ease regional tensions — particularly around the Thailand-Cambodia border issues — hoping the project will have a lasting impact on larger discussions in the coming months and quarters.

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# Gallery



**SGRA**  
Sekiguchi Global Research Association  
ATSUMI INTERNATIONAL FOUNDATION

**University of the Philippines Open University**  
Faculty of Management and  
Development Studies

Jointly organized by  
Sekiguchi Global Research Association (SGRA) of the Atsumi International Foundation (AIFS)  
Faculty of Management and Development Studies of the University of the Philippines Open University

## 50th Sustainable Shared Growth Seminar Towards a Community of Practice on Local-to-Local Across Border Schemes (LLABS)

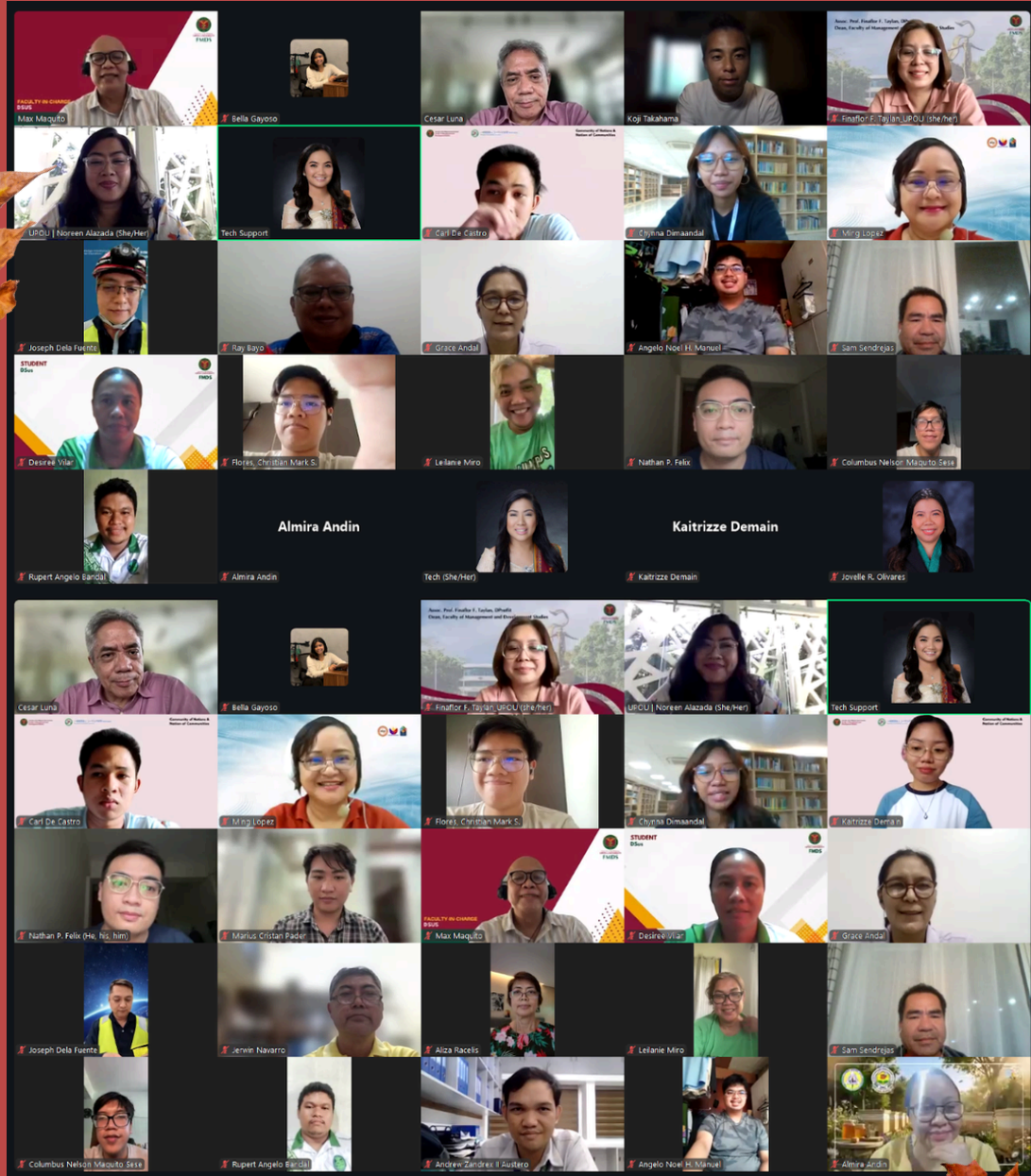
22 July 2026, 12:00 NN - 3:00 PM (PHT)  
UPOU Pook Ugnayan & via Zoom

**CONGRATULATIONS SGRA!**



**SGRA CHIEF REPRESENTATIVE JUNKO IMANISHI**  
**@TOKYO**

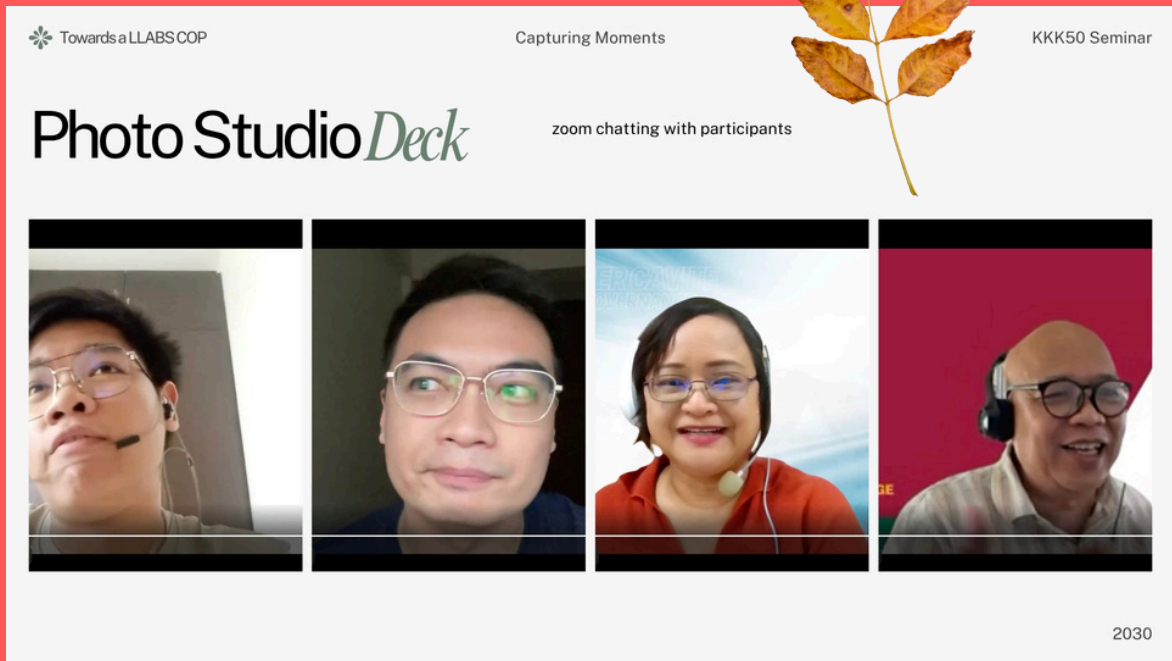
# Gallery



# CONGRATULATIONS!



# Gallery



# CONGRATULATIONS!

# CLOSING REMARKS

**Dr. Finaflor F. Taylan (Dean, UPOU)**



As we conclude today's KKK50 Seminar, I would like to express my sincere appreciation to our resource speakers, participants, organizers, and partners for making this gathering a meaningful and enriching exchange of ideas.

Today's discussions remind us that the most transformative innovations often emerge not from isolated efforts but from communities that learn, share, and grow together. The theme, "Towards a Community of Practice on Local-to-Local Across-Border Schemes," challenges us to rethink collaboration—not merely as institutional partnerships, but as relationships built on mutual learning, trust, and shared commitment to addressing common development challenges.

For the Faculty of Management and Development Studies, this resonates strongly with our mission. As an institution dedicated to sustainability, governance, and development, we recognize that local communities are not merely recipients of knowledge—they are producers of knowledge. Their experiences, innovations, and practices provide valuable lessons that can be exchanged across borders, enriching both policy and practice while remaining grounded in local realities.

As we leave this seminar, I hope we carry forward not only new insights but also new connections. Let this gathering be the beginning of stronger collaborations among researchers, educators, practitioners, communities, and institutions. A true community of practice is sustained not by a single event but by our continued willingness to learn from one another, to share what we know, and to work collectively toward solutions that transcend boundaries while remaining responsive to local contexts.

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# CLOSING REMARKS

**Dr. Finaflor F. Taylan (Dean, UPOU)**



On behalf of FMDS, thank you for your active participation and your commitment to advancing knowledge and practice. May the conversations we have started today continue to inspire partnerships that foster more inclusive, resilient, and sustainable communities—locally, across borders, and beyond.

Maraming salamat, and I wish everyone safe travels and continued success in your important work.

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# CLOSING REMARKS

**Dr. Finaflor F. Taylan (Dean, UPOU)**

## Dr. Finaflor F. Taylan (Dean, FMDS/UPOU)



Finaflor F. Taylan, DProfSt, is a distinguished academic and social work professional who brings extensive experience in teaching, research, and leadership to the role.

Dr. Taylan has been a faculty member at UPOU since 2012, serving as the Program Chair for the Diploma in/Master of Social Work program and Director of the Office of Gender Concerns. Her leadership in national and international organizations, such as the National Association for Social Work Education, Inc. (NASWEI) and the Asian Association of Women's Studies (AAWS), highlights her commitment to academic excellence and social advocacy.

With a strong background in research and public service, Dr. Taylan has led various projects focusing on gender, sustainability, and social work education. Currently, she serves as the Dean of the Faculty of Management and Development Studies at UPOU.

**E-mail: [finaflor.taylan@upou.edu.ph](mailto:finaflor.taylan@upou.edu.ph)**

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# NEXT STEPS



The 8th Asia Future Conference  
第8回アジア未来会議

**Space and Distance** **空間と距離**

- Crossing, Closing, Creating - ~ こえる、縮める、つくる ~

**Date**  
August 25 (Tue) – August 29 (Sat), 2026  
2026年8月25日(火)～29日(土)

**Venue**  
Tohoku Gakuin University, Sendai, Japan  
東北学院大学(日本、仙台市)

**Host** : Atsumi International Foundation  
Sekiguchi Global Research Association  
渥美国際交流財団関口グローバル研究会 (SGRA)

**Co-host** : Tohoku Gakuin University  
東北学院大学

**Call for Papers**  
<https://www.aisf.or.jp/AFC/2026>  
(Open on May 1, 2025)

The Asia Future Conference aims to provide a platform for researchers and scholars who have studied in Japan or who are interested in Japan to meet and discuss the future of Asia. The AFC is interdisciplinary at its core and encourages diverse approaches to global issues. The AFC is not a conference for a specific field of study, so please try to make your presentation comprehensible to a general public.



# NEXT STEPS

## “Space and Distance – Crossing, Closing, Creating”

### 空間と距離 -こえる、縮める、つくる-

“Social distance” became a familiar phrase to all during COVID, and despite the distance it invokes, a phrase that crossed cultural and geographical divides to create a rare universal experience. In this way, distance can serve to divide as well as unite us. Space and distance can be physical or intangible, and in many cases, both. It can be examined in the physical and categorical barriers that serve to draw distinctions between groups of people, the geographical distance that leads to different concentrations of power as well as maintains different hierarchies (urban/rural, wealthy/poor), the creation and dissolution of categorical differences in the sciences, and literal discussions of space/distance in different fields. Through this theme, we encourage diverse perspectives and seek to explore how space and distance function in and across various fields – what relationships do they foster, how are they used to maintain or break down specific power dynamics, how may they be desirable, necessary, or even harmful?

コロナ禍により「ソーシャルディスタンス」は馴染み深いフレーズとなったが、ディスタンス（距離）を謳ったスローガンとは裏腹にこの言葉は文化的・地理的な隔たりを軽々と越えた。距離は物理的にも心理的にも存在し、私たちを分かっただけでなく“結びつける何か”を示す役割も果たす。社会の中で人々を区別しカテゴライズする境界線が生み出す距離感、都市と地方という地理的な条件がそのまま権力との距離となり様々な階層（都市と農村、富裕層と貧困層等）を社会に生む現象、科学技術における様々な創造や再編が織りなす異分野・多分野間の距離の伸縮など、あらゆる分野においてそこに存在する空間／距離を考察することができる。このテーマを通じ、私たちは多様な視点から空間と距離の分野横断的な役割や機能を見つめ直し、特定のパワー・ダイナミクスの維持や打破にどのように利用されているのか、どのように利用されることが望ましく必要なのかを一緒に考えたい。

#### ■ Screening Procedure

If your proposal (abstract) submitted by September 20, 2025 is accepted, you will be asked to submit a full paper and present it at the 8th Asia Future Conference to be held in Sendai in August 2026. You can also apply for AFC Scholarships. The Best Papers will be selected from the full papers submitted by March 31, 2026. We look forward to your active participation.

#### ■ Schedule A: Eligible for AFC Scholarships and Best Paper Award

|                  |                                                                      |
|------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------|
| May 1, 2025      | Call for abstracts, online user-registrations and submissions        |
| October 31, 2025 | Announcement of screening results of abstracts                       |
| February 1, 2026 | Registration as participant (Early Bird 20% discount until April 10) |
| June 10, 2026    | Announcement of screening results for Best Papers                    |
| June 20, 2026    | Deadline for registration                                            |
| July 31, 2026    | Announcement of session schedule                                     |

#### ■ Schedule B: General Participants (Not eligible for AFC Scholarships and Best Paper Award)

|                   |                                                                  |
|-------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------|
| May 1, 2025       | Call for abstracts, online user-registrations and submissions    |
| February 28, 2026 | Deadline for abstract submissions                                |
| May 31, 2026      | Deadline for online submissions (PDF file upload) of full papers |
| June 20, 2026     | Deadline for registration                                        |
| July 31, 2026     | Announcement of session schedule                                 |

#### Session Themes & Topics for Parallel sessions

|                         |                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |
|-------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Natural Sciences</b> | Innovation / Automation Robotics / Climate Change and Disaster Management / Environment and Energy / Bioengineering Food and Water / Health / and other topics related to the Natural Sciences                  |
| <b>Social Sciences</b>  | Globalization / Peace / Area Studies / Social Development and Human Security Management / Human Resource Development Income and/or Wealth Gap / Aging Society / and other topics related to the Social Sciences |
| <b>Humanities</b>       | Philosophy / Religion / History / Ethics / Literature / Linguistics / Language Education / Arts / Media / Culture / and other topics related to the Humanities                                                  |

■ Languages of presentations/papers Japanese or English

■ Contact **Asia Future Conference Organization Committee**(Atsumi International Foundation Sekiguchi Global Research Association)  
3-5-8 Sekiguchi Bunkyo Tokyo 112-0014 Japan TEL: +81-(0)3-3943-7612/FAX: +81-(0)3-3943-1512 Email: afc2026@aisf.or.jp



# NEXT STEPS

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|                                                                              | Submission Type / Conference Track · Uploaded                                                                                                                                     | Submitting Author                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |
| 343                                                                          | <a href="#">A Voluntary Alitaptap</a><br>Full Paper (5-10 pages) · English                                                                                                        | <a href="#">Dayson, Reinald</a> ; <a href="#">Cruz, Larry</a> ; <a href="#">Ordanes, Jurell</a> ; <a href="#">Cometa, Jezreel Ann</a> ; <a href="#">Unlayao, Naomi Jean</a> ; <a href="#">Capiro, Zia Bernadette</a><br><a href="#">Dayson, Reinald</a> ✉ |
| 346                                                                          | <a href="#">A Sociable Alitaptap for Community Building</a><br>Full Paper (5-10 pages) · English                                                                                  | <a href="#">Taylan, Finaflor</a> ; <a href="#">Maquito, Ferdinand</a> ; <a href="#">Autor, Vanessa</a> ; <a href="#">Catbagan, Tiffany</a><br><a href="#">Taylan, Dr. Finaflor</a> ✉                                                                      |
| 348                                                                          | <a href="#">A Playful Alitaptap</a><br>Full Paper (5-10 pages) · English                                                                                                          | <a href="#">Serrano, Joane Vermudo</a> ; <a href="#">Maquito, Ferdinand</a><br><a href="#">Serrano, Prof. Joane Vermudo</a> ✉                                                                                                                             |
| 349                                                                          | <a href="#">A Learning Alitaptap</a><br>Full Paper (5-10 pages) · English                                                                                                         | <a href="#">Serrano, Joane Vermudo</a><br><a href="#">Serrano, Prof. Joane Vermudo</a> ✉                                                                                                                                                                  |
| 394                                                                          | <a href="#">A Resilient Alitaptap for Micro Enterprises: What OUnayan Wednesdays Merchants Need to Successfully Adopt Community Currency</a><br>Full Paper (5-10 pages) · English | <a href="#">Ascan, Tricia</a> ; <a href="#">Climaco, Emilio</a><br><a href="#">Ascan, Prof. Tricia</a> ✉                                                                                                                                                  |
| 5 contributions submitted and 0 contributions withdrawn on this list.        |                                                                                                                                                                                   |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |

Papers to be presented at a special panel session the AFC8 on the  
Alitaptap Community Currency Pilot Study of UPOU

# Learning, Social, and Playful Ali will be presented @ AFC8

BY DRS JOANE SERRANO, FINA  
TAYLAN, AND MAX MAQUITO

# NEXT STEPS

| Seminar Date (tentative) | Seminar | Venue     | Topic                                       | Notes                                                                                                      |
|--------------------------|---------|-----------|---------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| June 2026                | 50th    | UPOU/ZOOM | Local to Local Accross Border Scheme        | Towards a Community of Practice, getting RPs from CNNC                                                     |
| September 2026           | 51st    | UPOU/ZOOM | Land Value Taxation or Other KKK Mechanisms | Now exploring pilot study potential at Muntinlupa; can also tap those joining the FMDS' KKK Research Group |
| November 2026            | 52nd    | UPOU/ZOOM | Organic Agriculture/ Permaculture           | FMDS' perma project can present                                                                            |
| January 2027             | 53rd    | UPOU/ZOOM | CC's potential in the Philippines           | Update on Alitaptap Community Currency Pilot Study                                                         |

**Upcoming KKK Seminars jointly organized with FMDS UPOU.**

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*TravelswithCharie*

## Behind-the-Scene Assistance

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  - SGRA PH



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- Isabella O. Gayoso
  - SGRA PH



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**Sustainable Shared  
Growth Seminar  
#50 Report**

