



25th Anniversary of UMAP

UMAP has been promoting mobility of university students and faculties in the Asia Pacific region since 1991. Starting from 2016, our commemorative 25th anniversary, UMAP would like to periodically inform the general public and our patrons about our activities through this newsletter. This issue of the newsletter covers January to August 2016.

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The first UMAP Discovery Camp (UDC) held in Manila, Philippines from July 30 to August 8, 2016 was a successful exchange of Asian arts, culture, cuisine and timely discussions on how students can build and prepare themselves in the light of environment and climate changes. The camp was hosted by the Commission on Higher Education in partnership with De La Salle University, Lyceum of the Philippines University-Batangas and Ateneo de Manila University.

Forty-two talented college students from six UMAP member countries (Hong Kong, Japan, Malaysia, Taiwan, Thailand and the Philippines) converged for ten days learning from each other ways and strategies to be relevant in society.

Workshops and Lectures

During the workshop on Environmental and Climate Resiliency held at De La Salle University, the delegates were provided information on mitigation and adaptation, climate change initiatives, and the mangrove ecosystem and its relationship with coastal environment. Delegates were given the opportunity to come up with solutions on how they can take part in protecting the environment starting in their respective communities. Representatives from Japan and Taiwan discussed adaptation strategies to climate change being done in their own countries. The workshop was followed by a mangrove planting activity in Lian, Batangas.

A workshop on Arts and Dance held at the Lyceum of the Philippines University-Batangas gave the delegates knowledge and understanding of art and its role in ASEAN integration, commonalities of movements dance and music of Asian dances, and diverse and colorful Philippine dances. Representatives from Thailand and Malaysia showcased their traditional dances. Filipino dances were also taught to the delegates including the Batangas Subli. Subli is the dance portion of a devotion performed in honor of the Mahal a Poong Santa Cruz, a large crucifix of anubing wood with the face of the sun in silver at the center.



Philippine cuisine, cultural sensitivity and Philippine history were discussed at the Ateneo de Manila University. The delegates were enlightened on the history of the Philippines and how its centuries-old indigenous food culture developed through the intricate weaving of important moments in its colonial history. A session on Palaspas making was conducted wherein the delegates enjoyed making flowers, birds, and shrimps out of coconut leaves. Palaspas or decorative palm leaf is part of the Catholic celebration of Palm Sunday in the Philippines, marking the start of Holy Week.



Heritage Tours

The delegates travelled to heritage spots in Manila, Quezon City, Batangas and Pampanga to learn about Philippine history and culture. Professor Charleston Xiao shared interesting details of the life and leadership journey of Philippine national hero Dr. Jose Rizal while retracing his steps at the Luneta Park and Fort Santiago in Intramuros.

In the small town of Taal Batangas, the delegates took turns climbing the historic belfry and taking selfies at the largest Catholic Church in Asia, the Minor Basilica of St. Martin of Tours. The adventurous delegates were able to get near the crater of Taal Volcano, the second most active volcano in the Philippines. In Pampanga, they visited the San Guillermo Catholic Church in Bacolor. Despite the 1991 eruption of Mount Pinatubo, which buried half of the building in volcanic lahar, the church still proudly stands as a place of worship for residents and tourists alike.

At the St. James the Apostle Catholic Church with its baroque-inspired building and original ceiling mural done by famous painter Simon Flores (1839-1904), the delegates enjoyed looking up at the biblical stories illustrated in the church ceilings.



In Pampanga, the delegates were introduced to the rich cultural heritage of the Philippines with a particular focus on indigenous Philippine cuisine through a sumptuous food tour of the "Culinary Capital of the Philippines." After feasting on sumptuous Filipino local cuisine cooked by Atching Lillian Borromeo, a renowned Pampanga native and keeper of Kapampangan recipes, she taught the students how to bake the famous San Nicolas cookies.



The UDC 2016 was a memorable journey for the delegates. The camp widened their perspective on various climate issues and exposed them to different cultures. They left with a will to spread the vision and objectives of UMAP and forged friendships that will surely last through the years.

Feedback from Delegates

Emily Cheung (The Chinese University of Hongkong, Hong Kong):

"My horizon has definitely been broadened and UMAP Discovery Camp actually exceeded my initial expectations. Meeting my first Muslim friend in my life and many other delegates from different countries in this camp, I fully understand even cultures, background may vary, all people can still be good friends, learn from each other, help each other, inspire each other as long as people keep their hearts open and be kind. Personal growth is something very important I gained from this camp."

Nitchakarn Khawsanit (Mae Fah Luang University, Thailand):

"The dance workshop at the Lyceum of the Philippines University was one of my most memorable events in UMAP Discovery 2016 as I demonstrated my Thai dance and also got a chance to dance 'Wow Philippines'. Despite a short period of time for practices, the participants managed to pull off an amazing performances."

Chao Wu (Kumamoto University, Japan):

"The dance lesson, was my first learned how to dance, and I enjoyed a lot, even I was surprised by myself, I could dance. This special class gave me a lesson, that you never know what you can do if you do not have try."

Yu-Han Wang (Wenzao Ursuline University of Languages, Taiwan):

"UMAP Discovery Camp 2016 is really successful to me. I learned a lot about environmental issue and cultural differences in Asia. I also tasted local cuisine and experienced Philippine culture."

Shyama Sundari Devi (Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia, Malaysia):

"From the environmental, cultural and heritage level, I have really gained a lot of information. The UMAP Committee of the Philippines has really done a great job in conducting the events throughout the 10 days. There is never a point or never a moment that I've regretted of joining this camp. We received a first-class hospitality from the host. Everybody played their role well."

James Chai Wei Ren (Taylors University, Malaysia):

"The camp truly changed a lot of us. It brought out the best in us, something that we may have been lacking for a long time."

Jonalyn Thomas, St. Louis University, Philippines:

"Overall, UMAP Discovery Camp helped me grow into someone better and with all the good things I have acquired from the camp, it's time to pay it forward. I would willingly share to others all that I learned and make every effort to touch their hearts and minds with it. I would give my best to apply the principles that I learned in my course of study and in the organizations and community I belong in pursuit of good goals. UMAP will always have a place in my heart and it would be an honor to support other activities of UMAP."



1 1st UMAP Committee & Board Meeting 2016

The 1st UMAP Committee & Board Meeting 2016 was convened on May 4 and 5 at Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia (UKM) and Taylor's University, Selangor, Malaysia. This was the first meeting since Toyo University took over the role as the International Secretariat (IS) from Fu Jen Catholic University in Taiwan, which served as IS over the past 5 years (2011-2015).



In the meeting, various matters such as an update on Programs A/B/C, the budget for 2016, program goals and plans for the next five years proposed by IS, plans for the 25th anniversary event, and the UMAP Discovery Camp proposed by the Philippines, were discussed and approved. In addition, a half-day international forum was organized at Taylor's University, entitled "The Impact of Globalization on Student Mobility: Role of UMAP."

2 Meeting of UCTS Committee

We are currently in the process of revising the UMAP Credit Transfer Scheme (UCTS) Guide. UMAP has developed a UCTS in order to facilitate greater student mobility in the region. The original UCTS model adopted the European Credit Transfer and Accumulation System (ECTS). In May 2013, the UMAP International Board officially adopted a new concept for UCTS in order to simplify the process of credit transfer among Asian higher education Institutions. Based on this new concept of UCTS, we are collaborating with advisors from UMAP member countries. The following advisors joined the working group meeting on July 28 and 29 to finalize the draft of the UCTS Users' Guide. The new guide will be released during the 2016 second board meeting.



● Advisors for UMAP User's Guide

- **Taiji Hotta** (Vice-Executive of International Affairs, Associate Professor, International Center, Hiroshima University)
- **Angela Yung-chi Hou** (Professor, Fu Jen Catholic University, Taiwan)
- **Glenn F. de Leon** (Director, Office of International Relations, Ateneo de Manila University)
- **Koji Kobata** (Deputy Director, International Center, Fukui University)
- **Shingo Ashizawa** (Professor, Faculty of Regional Development Studies, Toyo University, Deputy Secretary General, UMAP International Secretariat)

3 New UMAP official Website and Official Facebook Page

The new UMAP official website has been launched. (<http://umap.org>) It contains a lot of information about our programs and activities. UMAP and its member countries will be distributing news to the general public. We are also posting our activities on our official Facebook page, so please visit and "like" us. (<https://www.facebook.com/University-Mobility-in-Asia-and-Pacific-UMAP-191706187554264/>)



4 2nd UMAP Board Meeting 2016 and UMAP 25th Anniversary Symposium

The 2nd UMAP Board Meeting 2016 and UMAP 25th Anniversary Symposium will be held at Toyo University, Tokyo, Japan, on September 22 and 23. The symposium will be a great opportunity to reflect on UMAP history and enhance its role and status in the region. There will be a seminar, panel discussions, and presentations given by students who studied under the UMAP program. For details, please see <http://umap.org/is/3480/#more-3480>.



Who we are

UMAP is the acronym for the "University Mobility in Asia and the Pacific". We are a voluntary association of government and non-government representatives of the higher education (university) sector in the Asia-Pacific region. We were founded in 1991 and comprise 35 countries/territories with over 570 participating universities. Our aim is for university students and staff to achieve better understanding of the cultural, economic and social systems of other countries by promoting mobility of university students and staff.



What we do

We have been administering the following student exchange programs and providing research funds to selected research projects by UMAP members.

● UMAP Multilateral (UME) / Bilateral Student Exchange Program (UBE)

UME is a student exchange program in which UMAP universities can send and receive two students per year. Exchanges are made on a tuition-waiver basis. Bilateral student exchange arrangements can also be made between two universities wishing to exchange more than two students.

● Super Short-Term Programs (SSTP)

SSTP are short-term (one- to eight-week) programs offered by UMAP affiliated universities. Programs are generally offered between July and September. It is available in a wide range of disciplines such as cultural studies, language, and entrepreneurship, depending on the host university.

UMAP has its own credit transfer scheme called the "UMAP Credit Transfer Scheme (UCTS)" which was developed to simplify the process of transferring credits earned in UMAP programs.

● UMAP Research Net

UMAP Research Net (URN) is a project that aims to promote research networks in the region by groups of two or more researchers from different UMAP affiliated universities who share common research interests. UMAP is providing research funds to selected research projects that are relevant to the goals of UMAP.

For further details about UMAP, please contact :
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