

President's Message

The COVID-19 pandemic is truly novel, and continues to impact our lives, our communities, and our nation in ways none of us could have ever imagined. In the current situation, it is vital to stay digitally connected – connected to our students, our customers, our employees, and our members.



DR. PETER P. LAUREL, AUAP PRESIDENT

Despite the turbulent times we have experienced for more than a year now and with the continuing support of our fellow member institutions, we look forward to continuing the great work of AUAP.

We have successfully conducted the WORLDLEX 2021 in March participated by students from different AUAP member schools, the 1st zoom forum on Best practices, challenges and experiences during pandemic was also a huge success, research forum and other virtual events will also be scheduled in the coming months. As we work through this difficult situation, it is critical that we do not lose the sight of our

long-term vision and mission. We continue to organize our activities to promote a culture of quality, innovation and research in the higher education sectors in the Asia and the Pacific region, while we preserve and enhance the values and cultural diversity towards better understanding and cooperation for socio-economic development.

We continue to develop programs and activities which can be delivered virtually to ensure that we continue to serve our members for AUAP to be the main platform for interaction and collaboration, and to be the effective voice of universities in Asia and the Pacific region.

Once again, I wish you all the very best as we deal with the COVID-19 pandemic together. Through AUAP, let us stay connected through this challenging time.

Introducing AUAP

Introduction:

The Association of the Universities of Asia and the Pacific (AUAP) was established on July 28, 1995, by Suranaree University of Technology (SUT), the first autonomous university of Thailand based on the initiation and inspiration of UNESCO. Thus, as a non- government organization, AUAP holds the highest consultative status with UNESCO. Fifty-one (51) higher education institutions assembled in Nakhon Ratchasima, Thailand and signed the Founding Charter of AUAP. Its primary purpose is to be the main platform for interaction and collaboration between members, and to be an effective voice of universities in Asia and the Pacific region.

The leaders of AUAP have adopted a unified vision for the organization and that is the promotion of the general welfare and good image of their members. Through the cooperation of all these leaders, AUAP has the capability to shape and influence the outlook of higher education regionally and globally. The heads of these higher education institutions enjoy a global network of supportive colleagues and this enables AUAP to secure support for member institutions' interest and concerns.

AUAP acts as a platform for interaction and collaboration among its members and is the voice of universities in Asia and the Pacific. The following are the main objectives of AUAP:

- ✚ To promote a culture of quality and innovation in higher education, research and services to the community;
- ✚ To preserve and enhance the values and cultural diversity of Asia, the Pacific and other regions of the world towards better understanding and cooperation for socio-economic development and universal peace;
- ✚ To engage with stakeholders of the higher education and other organizations to further the objectives of AUAP;
- ✚ To cooperate, where appropriate, with other organizations whose objectives are similar to those of AUAP.
- ✚ To promote universal peace and international understanding through education.

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AUAP Research Fund 2021

The Association of Universities of Asia and Pacific is pleased to launch the AUAP Research Fund 2021 project. The purpose is to promote and enhance mutually beneficial co-operation among educational institutions in relevant areas, and is dedicated to render such services to its member institutions. The research funding initiative is a testimony to seriously implement the mission of the AUAP which is to promote a culture of quality, innovation and research in the higher education sectors in the Asia and the Pacific region. Valid Member universities/institutions of AUAP are invited to submit proposals as per prescribed application form for availing of the research grant offered by the AUAP following this Call for Proposals.

The objective of the AUAP Funding for 'Research Capacity Building' is to ensure research collaboration, networking facility, mobility etc. among the member institutions of the AUAP. The initiative has been taken to encourage and facilitate the building of a research culture in order to achieve implementable research projects for capacity building of the members. Please find a Call for Research Grant 2021 and the enclosed Application Form.

A maximum amount of US\$ 5,000 will be awarded to the best research project from the

chosen research project proposal. The deadline to submit the proposal is on *November 30, 2021 at 23.59 pm., Bangkok time, Thailand.*



For more information please contact:

Ms. Supaporn Chuangchid, AUAP Executive Secretary through email auapheadquarters@g.sut.ac.th or Phone, What'sAPP and Viber +66 85 768 7474

WORLDLEX PROGRAM

“No culture can live if it attempts to be exclusive.”

The first ever World Laurel Exchange (WorldLex) virtual exchange program hosted by the Lyceum of the Philippines University-Batangas in partnership with the Association of Universities of Asia and the Pacific was held on March 22-27, 2021. WorldLex endeavors to showcase the best features, traits, practices programs of the participants to cultivate an enriching environment that fosters mutual growth, camaraderie, and international understanding. More than one hundred registered participants from China, Bangladesh, India, Indonesia, and the Philippines attended the week-long program of the University.



There were five different topics delivered by various speakers who were all experts in their respective fields. A breakout session was provided every after talks for the delegates to share their insights about the topic which they presented to the rest of the participants.

The program started with the welcome remarks of Dr. Ricardo Pama, AUAP Secretary General. This was followed by the presentation of the history of the Philippines including tourism, cuisines, culture, and arts of the country and Batangas province. Participants were also asked to share something about their respective countries. Part of the program was the discussion and presentation about community service, environment and culture.

The delegates shared the best practices of their institutions in terms of environmental protection, community service and their country's famous tourist destinations.



A group discussion on how to make a place livable and sustainable by protecting their environment also took place during the week-long program. The closing ceremony was conducted with a very nationalistic appeal. Participants were asked to attend the virtual closing program wearing their national costumes which expressed the identity and diverse cultural backgrounds of the participants.

The Lyceum of the Philippines University-Batangas is looking forward to more interactive international programs like this that will connect students from different parts of the world.

AUAP Webinar Series: 1st AUAP Zoom Forum, April 30, 2021



“Managing Covid-19 Pandemic: Experiences, Challenges and Best Practices” on April 30, 2021 at 2.30 pm., Manila time, Philippines.

The Association of Universities of Asia and the Pacific (AUAP) in conjunction with Lyceum of the Philippines University – Batangas (LPU-B), organized the First Series of AUAP Zoom Forum entitled “Managing Covid-19 Pandemic: Experience, Challenges, and Best Practices” on 30 April 2021, at 14:30, Manila time, Philippines.

Almost three hundred (300) participants from one hundred and twenty-three (123) universities/institutions and twenty-two (22) countries joined the event to share their best practices, experiences, and challenges amidst this ongoing crisis. The 16th President of AUAP, Dr. Peter P. Laurel welcomed the global participants in the event, while the AUAP Secretary General, Prof. Dr. Ricardo Pama facilitated the open forum and delivered the closing message as well.



The event featured four (4) distinguished speakers, Mr. Jay Jethwa, Vice Chair Committee WFUNA (World Federation of United Nations Associations) and Lawyer, Supreme Court, Victoria, Australia and AUAP Advisory Council member, Dr. Pornchai Mongkhonvanit, President, Siam University and AUAP Advisory Council member, Thailand, Prof. Dr. Ni Nyoman Tri Puspaningsih, Vice Rector, Airlangga University, Indonesia and AUAP Board Council Member, and Mr. Rex Wallen Tan, Chief Technology Officer, Southville Global Education Network.

The participants were delighted with the outcome of the forum. They commended the speakers for being able to share their best practices during this pandemic. Attendees are looking forward to the next forum.

For members who could not join the 1st AUAP Zoom Forum can view it via **AUAP Facebook**:

<https://www.facebook.com/100008200937479/videos/2908067042809965/>

AUAP New Members

1. United International University (UIU), Bangladesh

Website: <http://www.uiu.ac.bd/>

Introduction:

United International University (UIU) established in 2003, is a private university approved by the Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh and University Grants Commission (UGC).

UIU is one of the top-ranked private universities in Bangladesh, and has been ranked among the top 350 universities in Asia, according to the list of QS Asia University Ranking 2020.

At present, more than 5000 students are studying at UIU and there are more than one hundred and fifty faculty (150) members, including 44 regular teachers with Ph.D. degrees, to teach different subjects in UIU, and the indefatigable effort of faculty members to enhance the quality of education is the pillar of UIU.



The goal of UIU is to become the center of excellence in teaching, learning, and research in the South Asian region, and its mission is to create excellent human resources with intellectual, creative, technical, moral, and practical skills to serve the community, industry, and region.

2. University of Liberal Arts Bangladesh (ULAB), Bangladesh

Website: <https://ulab.edu.bd/>

Introduction:

University of Liberal Arts Bangladesh (ULAB) is a private liberal arts-based University in Dhanmondi, Dhaka, Bangladesh. Founded in February 2002, ULAB received the permission to open from the University Grants Commission (UGC) of Bangladesh in November 2003, pursuant to the Private University Act 1992.



ULAB is an institution devoted to developing young minds to their fullest potential through the free and creative pursuit of knowledge. Alongside such intellectual growth, it is also firmly committed to helping the young men and women in our charge to become responsible and caring citizens of their nations, and indeed of the world.

From a single campus in Mohakhali with only 52 students, ULAB has grown to

be one of the best private universities in the country, with over 4,500 students, permanent Campus in Mohammadpur, exclusive programs of study, renowned research centers, and active co-curricular programs. In order to fulfill its aims, ULAB adopts an array of traditional and innovative academic and extra-curricular programs, and brings to its students paramount lessons and accomplishments in the arts and sciences from around the world.

3. SRM Institute of Science and Technology (SRMIST), India

Website: <https://www.srmist.edu.in/>

Introduction:

SRM Institute of Science and Technology, is a private deemed university located in Kattankulathur, Chengalpattu, Tamil Nadu, India, near Chennai, and it was founded in 1985 as SRM Engineering College in Kattankulathur. SRMIST has six (6) campuses, three (3) in Tamil Nadu — Kattankulathur, Ramapuram and Vadapalani, one (1) in NCR Delhi, one (1) in Sikkim and one (1) in Amaravati.



Presently, about 50,000 students are studying in SRM College, and was ranked 2nd private institute in India for Atal Ranking of Institutions on Innovation Achievements, and with the QS World University Rankings of 301–350 in Asia in 2020.

4. IQRA University (IU), Pakistan

Website: <https://iqra.edu.pk/>

Introduction:

Iqra University is a government-chartered University in Pakistan. It was chartered by the Government of Sindh vide Sindh Government Ordinance No. VI of 2000, and it is recognized by the Higher Education Commission of Pakistan. IU operates through a network of campuses spread across Pakistan, with its main campus in Karachi.



It offers a different range of graduate and post-graduate courses as well as Ph.D programmes of International level in Management Sciences, Computer Sciences and Engineering, Education and Learning.

Iqra University was ranked by the Higher Education Commission of Pakistan in 2016 as the number one (1) University in Business School Category i.e. "The Best Business School of Pakistan".

5. Palompon Institute of Technology (PIT), Philippines

Website: <https://pit.edu.ph/pitsuc/>

Introduction:

The Palompon Institute of Technology (PIT) is a state college in the [Philippines](#), and it was established on 18 June 1961. Formerly known as the Palompon School of Arts and Trades, it was changed into a chartered state college by virtue of RA 1501 authored by Congressman Marcelino R. Veloso, and renamed Palompon Institute of Technology on 17 June, 1967.



PIT provides higher vocational, professional, technical instruction and training in trade, industrial education, and other vocational and professional courses. PIT specializes in the field of Maritime Sciences.

PIT is composed of many colleges such as: the College of Education, College of Technology and Engineering, College of Arts and Science, College of Maritime Education and College of Advance Education.

6. Southville International School and Colleges (SISC), Philippines

Website: <https://www.southville.edu.ph/>

Introduction:

Southville International School and Colleges (SISC) is one of the top schools in the Philippines, and it is a community of learners, achievers and movers of society. SISC is bound by its commitment to develop and equip learners with the five (5) Cs: Competence, Character, Collaboration, Creativity, and Commitment to achieve through relevant innovative, challenging and effective curriculum, and practical research orientation within an enriched learning and caring environment.

It offers different programs from preschool to Graduate Studies, and as one of the top international schools in Manila. SISC is recognized for its academic excellence and delivery of standard education to develop lifelong learners.



SISC adopts innovative and internationally benchmarked curricular aids in college education, taking into consideration the fundamental elements in the job market, to prepare all categories of learners of various nationalities and cultures for global competitiveness.

7. University of the Visual and Performing Arts (UVPA), Sri Lanka

Website: <https://vpa.ac.lk/>

Introduction:

The University of the Visual and Performing Arts (UVPA) is a [public university](#) located primarily in [Colombo, Sri Lanka](#). Established on July 1, 2005 by the former President of the Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka. (Government Gazette notification issued on 9 November 2005). The University replaces the former Institute of Aesthetic Studies affiliated to the University of Kelaniya, and it has three faculties, namely Faculty of Dance & Drama, Faculty of Music and Faculty of Visual Arts.

UVPA specializes in [art](#), [design](#), fashion and the [performing arts](#), and it is the only university in Sri Lanka to offer special degree programmes in the visual & performing arts.



Its primary purpose is to promote and develop the [Visual](#) and [Creative Arts](#) as well as to offer recognized higher educational qualifications in these spheres of study.

8. ChungYuan Christian University (CYCU), Taiwan

Website: <https://www.cycu.edu.tw/eng/>

Introduction:

Chung Yuan Christian University (CYCU) is a [private university](#) in [Zhongli District, Taoyuan City, Taiwan](#). It was established as Chung Yuan Christian College of Science and Engineering (CYCC) in October 1955, by a group of Christian educators and local nobility, to train science and engineering talents in the Christian spirit. On 1 August 1980, CYCC was elevated to a full university and renamed Chung Yuan Christian University (CYCU).

CYCC's mission is to promote higher education for the benefit of the Chinese people, aiming at the pursuit and advancement of genuine knowledge in order to maintain cultural heritage and serve humankind.



Ministry of Education (Taiwan), has evaluated and rated CYCU on several occasions as the best private comprehensive university in Taiwan.

9. Industrial University of Ho Chi Minh City (IUH), Vietnam

Website: <http://www.iuh.edu.vn/>

Introduction:

Industrial University of Ho Chi Minh City (IUH) formerly known as Ho Chi Minh University of Industry (HUI), was upgraded to become Industrial University of Ho Chi Minh City in December 2004, by the Prime Minister according to the Decision of 214/2004/QĐ – TTg, and it operates under the management of the [Ministry of Industry and Trade](#). Currently, IUH is one of the big educational and training institutions in Vietnam, and ranked in the top 650 of Asian universities of the [QS World University Rankings](#) in 2020.



Besides enhancing professional quality of the administrative and teaching staff, investing in the best teaching facilities, learning and action research, the university also pays much attention to providing high quality training services for thousands of students from almost all areas nationwide.

Being close to various industries, students always have opportunities to practice at businesses and service companies, especially working at international companies where they can explore new technologies in manufacturing, develop practical skills and familiarize with the modern working environment.



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