Excellor: Mapua at 90

With the distinction of being the first school in Southeast Asia and the Philippines to get the prestigious ABET accreditation for its academic programs and the first in the country to fully adopt the outcomes-based approach to education, Mapúa Institute of Technology has arguably become a trailblazer in the Philippine academic community in this respect.

After making impressive strides year after year for the past decade, Mapúa Institute of Technology has earned the reputation as the country’s leading technological institution. Despite this, however, it is far from resting on its laurels.

The changes to education and the tough competition in the global market have pushed Mapúa to further strengthen its program offerings, thereby raising the bar of engineering education in the country. Its groundbreaking achievements in local and international accreditations, broadening global alliances, and enviable licensure examination performances in various industries are paving the way for Mapúans to gain equal footing in the international arena.

“Mapúa endeavors to impart an education that is at par with international standards. We offer education that our students can take anywhere in the world and that will serve them in good stead throughout their life. We have always wanted to give education that will enable students to adapt easily to fast-changing times and fast-changing needs of employment in the 21st century. That, I believe, is the major driving force of Mapúa,” said Mapúa President and Chief Executive Officer Dr. Reynaldo B. Vea.

Trailblazer in education reforms

Realizing the value of equipping its students with world-class knowledge and technical skills, Mapúa blazed the trail and became the first school in Southeast Asia to receive ABET accreditation for eight of its engineering programs, a milestone in its computing program, and the first in the Philippines.

“One of the best things we have done for our students is to implement a system of accreditation, which is a formal recognition of their abilities, competitiveness, and qualifications,” explained Dr. Vea. “This is the best preparation we can give them so that they could be mobile as professionals and that they can confidently practice their profession in other countries because of the standards they acquired in Mapúa.”

Further elevating the quality of engineering education in the country, Mapúa Institute of Technology closed 2014 with back-to-back successes in two other accreditations - PTC and ISO accreditations.

PTC, the umbrella organization of all engineering professional groups in the country, awarded the highest level of accreditation to Mapúa’s industrial engineering, civil engineering, electrical engineering, and electronics engineering programs. The Council cited Mapúa’s demonstrated ability to produce quality engineers who can contribute to the country’s economic development as the reason for the accreditation.

The ISO 9001:2008 accreditation, on the other hand, validates Mapúa’s commitment to providing a learning environment that allows students to acquire knowledge that will make them globally competitive.

These accreditations are seen to be beneficial not just to Mapúa students and graduates but to Filipino engineering professionals as well.

“These accreditations are confirmation that Mapúa, as a pillar of engineering education in the country, meets the international academic requirements and standards. On a larger scope, these mean that the Institute is able to provide world-class professionals that can help Philippine-based companies become globally competitive. These will make it easier for Mapúans to adapt in the forthcoming AseAN Economic Integration, as well as attracting foreign companies to invest in our country,” added the Mapúa head.

Continuous quality improvement

This chain of achievements is partly due to the Institute’s shift to outcomes-based approach to education. Unlike the traditional approach, the outcomes-based education (OBE) is learner-centered, thus requiring students to validate their knowledge through measurable outputs.

The OBE system, which Mapúa formally implemented in 2006, serves as the organizing principle of the Institute’s academic and administrative endeavors - as only befits a school that envisions itself to become a global center of excellence.

“The very spirit of OBE is to continually increase the level of attainment of the student outcomes. This means that as years go by, the level of attainment of the outcomes will be higher than what it is today. In this way, we are able to measure in some ways the increase of the bar of engineering education in the country,” said Dr. Reynaldo B. Vea.

“We offer education that our students can take anywhere in the world and that will serve them in good steady throughout their life.1

Our attributes of our graduates and then get a feedback on how we can further improve the process for the learning environment in order for them to attain those attributes,” explained Dr. Vea.

To complement the OBE scheme, the Institute created the Continuous Quality Improvement Office (CQIO), which monitors, manages, and coordinates all activities relevant to the globalization efforts. It monitors and audits academic and non-academic processes and systems to continually improve Mapúa’s academic programs.

“The purpose of getting accreditations is not solely to get certified, but to ensure that our programs meet world-class standards. We take these steps to continually improve the quality of our education and further develop the capabilities of our faculty. These are also done to ensure that our students gain sufficient knowledge and desired skills,” said CQIO director Engr. Cesar Coronado.

Broadening students’ view of the world through global alliance

Apart from international and local accreditations, Mapúa has also doubled its efforts to scale up linkages with schools and organizations abroad.

“Internationalization has been one of our benchmarking strategies in advancing the quality of education we offer. Forging international partnerships is an excellent step towards the attainment of our mission to be a world-class organization,” shared Engr. Rosaete Eira E. Camus, Mapúa’s Dean of Admissions and International Programs. Through these efforts, we hope to contribute to the fund of knowledge, and at the same time provide our students relevant working experiences.”

Internationalization is part of Mapúa’s long-term initiatives to ensure the students’ professional readiness and competitiveness. In 2010, it started to focus on international on-the-job trainings and has since sent over 50 students to various companies in the different parts of the world, such as Singapore, Japan, Vietnam, South Korea, Malaysia, Spain, and the United States.

The partnerships that the Institute has cemented are generally focused on research and development, which are intended to help create a community that is responsive to national and global needs.

“We want to pass on to our students the legacy of excellence that Mapúa is known for, producing globally competitive professionals that will contribute in shaping the future. Our internationalization efforts allow us to train our students in diverse working environments, which will further sharpen their edge as future members of the workforce. We believe that these will make them invaluable part of the industry,” added Engr. Camus.

Home of topnotchers

“One of the best things we have done for our students and graduates is the ABET accreditation, which is a formal recognition of their abilities, competitiveness, and qualifications.”

Validating these efforts are the impressive licensure examination results of Mapúa graduates. Maintaining its engineering supremacy, Mapúa has produced over 200 topnotchers in various licensure examinations since 2002. In 2014 alone, it has produced 24 engineering and 3 geology board exam topnotchers.

The continuous pursuit of excellence in Mapúa’s board exams has led the Philippine Regulatory Commission to recognize the Institute as one of the top 3 performing engineering schools and as the top performing school in the January 2014 architecture licensure exam and in the March 2014 electronics technician licensure exam.

90th Anniversary

On its foundation week celebration, Mapúa will highlight its 90th Foundation Anniversary. With the theme eXCellor: Mapúa at 90 - Celebrating eXcelsior, eXceedance, and eXceptionalism, a series of events showcasing the Institute’s responsiveness to the emerging technological and social trends will be held. “Excelsior” is a Latin word that literally means still higher.”

One of the highlights of the week-long celebration is an OBE conference featuring Dr. William Spady, author of Outcomes-Based Education: Critical Issues and Answers published by Macer. He will discuss the modern-day history of OBE and how its fundamental principles opened the door for greater levels of student learning success than most schools had been able to generate.

Operating with the intersection of social sciences and technology, Mapúa will also launch the first ever MEIT Gawad Kamalayan Awards, a recognition ceremony for television personalities with great contributions in raising awareness in the areas of current affairs, tourism, entertainment, lifestyle, and culture.

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References:

- Dr. Reynaldo B. Vea, President and Chief Executive Officer of Mapúa Institute of Technology, Kalayaan High School of Science, and Metro Manila Colleges Laguna.
- Dr. Jonathan E. Bescaya, Dean of Mapúa Institute of Technology, School of Concurrent Learning, and Hofstra University.
- Dr. William Spady, internationally recognized pioneer of Outcomes-Based Education.
New research building to house ‘internet of things’

As part of its strategic initiatives to further its research capabilities, Mapúa Institute of Technology has included the construction of its two-story research center in its campus redevelopment plans for 2013-2014. The construction of the research building began early 2014 and will be inaugurated in February 2015.

The research building, being Mapúa’s engagement in sustainable water, energy, development, and resilience. It is located in front of the administration building, will house four laboratories for industrial design, and engineering programs, dry and wet laboratories, microprocessor instrumentation, and communication laboratories, among others, utilizing top-of-the-line equipment. The center will also have an Innovation and Technology Support Office, which will be responsible for providing program/project directives to the Institute’s research and development (R&D). It will also be tasked to convert Mapúa’s research outputs into patents, designs, utility models, and even spin-off companies.

Dr. Vea said that the Institute wishes to concentrate outward, and in the process, produce technologies that are ultimately useful to people and beneficial to the Institute. “I do see during the groundbreaking of this last September 2013.

Dr. Vea said that the Institute wishes to concentrate its research in two themes that currently draw most attention and funding: sustainable development and innovation. “What’s interesting is that these two issues have always been interconnected. We have forums that go on over the Internet. Both themes involve a host of areas laden with intellectual property acquisition possibilities and both cut across disciplines.

The awards will be dependent on the votes of more than 12,000 students, 900 faculty members, and 1,000 staff. Several forums were held that guided the Mapúa community for intelligent voting of winning entries. The awarding ceremony will be on January 29th, 1:00 pm, exactly one week after the inauguration of the Institute of Technology in Laguna (MITL) student Karl Meesha Vea, who was named ‘third placer’ in the search for ‘the best teacher’ in the National Teachers’ Organization (NTO) 2014.

Three schools, afire with excellence.

Mapúa Institute of Technology celebrates 90 years lighting up the youth’s path to make their visions clearer and fully realized. This fire of excellence spread and continued to burn through the ages, blazing a trail for the rest to follow. The sanitary and health sciences, humanities and social sciences, and technology and engineering discovered a fire of excellence, together...

SLHS launches Gawad Kamalayan for Mapúa 90th foundation anniversary

The School of Languages, Humanities, and Social Sciences (SLHS) of the Mapúa Institute of Technology launched its first TV award giving body dubbed as Gawad Kamalayan as part of the Institute’s 90th Foundation Anniversary of Mapúa.

The SLHS thought it is timely that the Mapúa Institute of Technology participate and let its voice be heard in a forum that honors media, environmental, historical, and cultural identities by recognizing the different television programs that, and TV personalities who, promote consciousness among the viewers,” said Prof. Ryan Leonardo, one of the proponents of Gawad Kamalayan.

Kamalayan is a Filipino word that refers to awareness, understanding, or knowledge of and about realities around a person. Mapúa wants to recognize television personalities and programs that, in one way or another, have contributed to raising awareness or consciousness among Filipinos.

Even though Mapúa is more on the technical and scientific side of the spectrum, Gawad Kamalayan shows Mapuans’ emerging strength in the field of liberal arts. According to Leonardo, TV networks were given invitations to send in their nominees for the 25 categories, winning programs and personalities will receive trophies. Each Gawad Kamalayan category will be divided into two – one awarded for a program and one award for an individual. These are as follows: (1) News and Public Affairs; (2) Documentary Program; (3) Feature; and Lifestyle Show, and Sports; (4) Entertainment; (5) Comedy, Drama, Variety, Information Shows; (6) Corporate Social Responsibility; and (7) TV Station.

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Education at par with international standards

For nine years, MCL has remained on track in realizing its goal of creating globally competitive community.

Caring on the impressive performance of its alpha and beta batches, MCL has again recorded back-to-back successes in licensure examinations and industry reception. Its latest batch of engineering, maritime studies, and accountancy graduates obtained high passing rates in their respective fields.

Moreover, a number of students also enrolled in various programs in other regional extracurricular competitions, which demonstrated the holistic approach MCL practices.

To produce competitive graduates, MCL ensures that the curriculum it offers is up-to-date and relevant to the needs of the different industries. To test the students’ aptitude, they are also encouraged to join exhibits, presentations, and competitions outside MCL.

Engr. Dodjie S. Maestrecampo, Executive Vice President and Chief Operating Officer of MCL, credits this impressive chain of achievements to the implementation of the outcomes-based scheme and continuous quality management system.

“We believe in the notion that the marriage of OBE and our quality management systems is what sets MCL apart from other higher educational institutions in the country,” he said. “This assures that everyone meets the standard that we set.”

Curriculum synchronized with 21st century needs

MHS, meanwhile, reaffirmed its unswerving commitment to create technology-ready and globally competitive students after synchronizing its curriculum with the current trend in education.

Realizing that a robust science and technology education is necessary to unlock the students’ productivity, creativity, and competitiveness, MHS modified its math, science, and technology syllabus to accommodate the integration of robotics principles and concepts in the previous curricula.

The program teaches the students early engineering, basic programming, and innovative technology allowing them to learn practical applications of science, technology, engineering and math. Likewise, this teaches them the competencies necessary in the ever-changing fields of science and engineering.

“We deemed this as very timely, as we are living in a highly technological world, and robotics is one avenue through which students can develop their technological skills. It is the first step in building 21st century skills like innovation and information fluency,” said MHS Principal Dr. Efren B. Mateo.

More robust curricula, physical expansion

To prepare its students in facing the growing challenges in education as well as the impending ASEAN Economic Integration, MCL and MHSS are directed towards strengthening their curricula and providing more conducive classrooms.

“Our past achievements are affirmations that we are doing things right. To complement these and to keep up with the challenges, we will continue to step up our efforts, not only to elevate our status in the field, but to also provide our students and faculty with globally competitive skills,” said MCL Vice President for Academic Affairs Engr. Dennis H. Tablante.

On its ninth year, MCL eyes PTC-ACTEB and PACCOCO accreditations. PTC-ACTEB is the local counterpart of ABET which accredits engineering programs, while the PACCOCO accreditation formally recognizes academic programs that maintain excellent standards.

According to Engr. Tablante, securing these accreditations will further solidify MCL’s position in the field of education and will entitle the graduates’ mobility and opportunity to practice in other countries.

MCL will also open its doors to senior high school students starting next school year. A new building will be unveiled soon, which will house the engineering and architecture departments, as well as the new main library.

MHSS, on the other hand, will continue to ensure that all its students benefit from the opportunity that digital learning offers by intensifying its science, technology engineering, and mathematics education.

MHSS will also intensify the school’s pedagogical practices as part of the preparations for the full implementation of the K to 12 program.

“To aid the pace of this development, we will gear our teachers for the smooth implementation of the program. We will continue to engage them to be abreast with the latest trends in pedagogy. Moreover, we will also be working on the school’s facilities to complement the program,” concluded Dr. Mateo.

It is a great source of pride for Philippine education that a general institution like Mapúa continues to achieve its commitment to produce world-class graduates. On its 50th year of tradition, Mapúa is well poised to be upheld by everyone who passes through its halls. I am confident that, together with its subsidiary Malayan Colleges Laguna and Malayan High School of Science, Mapúa will let its educational ideals pave the way to the future generations to come.

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Mapúa’s pioneering moves towards international accreditation and outcomes-based education (OBE) have arguably been game-changers. Young as it is, MCL, with its similar board exams performance, has palpably excelled the youth in the region. MHSMM’s commitment to starting them young in science—and in its interaction with the arts—has produced notable winners. Missing on, Mapúa hopes to push the envelope in other areas, specifically research and development. Mapúa hopes to strengthen its track- Alfonso T. Yuchengco

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The great leaps that Mapúa Institute of Technology has made in recent years, its 50th year, such as the Outcome- Based Education and the international ABET accreditation, are said to be the high points of its institution as the country’s premier technological school. But even with these significant achievements, the Institute continues to move forward in providing the best-quality education by creating opportunities for world-class development for its students through international internships, academic exchange programs, and research programs. All this to produce professionals that the world wants to see.

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Malayan Colleges Laguna

The Philippine Star Special Supplement

January 14, 2015

One of the most celebrated milestones for Mapúa Institute of Technology is the successful establishment of its subsidiaries Malayan Colleges Laguna (MCL) and Malayan High School of Science (MHSS).

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