



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

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## UNIVERSITY FELLOW PARTICIPATES IN EDUCATION CONFERENCE

*University Fellow and Full Professor of the Counseling and Educational Psychology Department Dr. Rose Marie Salazar-Clemeña participated in the East-West Center (EWC) Senior Seminar on “Higher Education and Quality in an Emergent Knowledge Society” held last October 21-24 in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia.*

Co-sponsored by the Malaysian Qualifications Agency (MQA), the seminar was undertaken through the International Forum for Education 2020, “to address the need for new paradigms in higher education that will respond to transformational economic, social and cultural changes underway in the Asia Pacific region, the U.S. and throughout the world.”

The Seminar brought together 17 scholars from Australia, China, Hong Kong, India, Japan, Korea, Malaysia, Taiwan, Thailand, the Philippines, and the co-hosts EWC and MQA.

Clemeña was invited to present a paper on “Higher Education Counseling: Keeping Pace with Rapidly Changing Learning Environments.” The rest of the papers focused on the knowledge society, research in higher education, quality assurance, student engagement, gender issues, higher education reforms, curricular choices, and preparing students for a knowledge economy.

Earlier, Clemeña, in her

capacity as president of the Guidance Counselors Circle, Inc. (GCC), presented the preliminary findings of her sabbatical research project entitled “Developing National Standards for School Guidance and Counseling Programs in the Philippines” at the 9th Annual GCC Convention held last October 12-14 at the CSB Hotel International Conference Center.

In cooperation with the Asian Psychological Services and Assessment, Inc. and the Association of Psychological and Educational Counsellors of Asia-Pacific, the GCC Convention had the theme “On Becoming a 21st Century School Counselor.”

Present during the conference were Dr. Carlo Magno, assistant professor of the Counseling and Educational Psychology Department (CEPD), who read a

paper he co-wrote with Sr. Jacintha Joseph Muthana and Delma Robles, CEPD graduate student and alumna, respectively, entitled “Using Space Analysis to Uncover Similarities and Differences of Counseling Orientations.”

Dr. Susana Estanislao, counselor of the Office of Counseling and Career Services, also read a paper on “Documenting What has Transpired During the Therapeutic Hour: An Exploratory Study.”





## COLLEGE OF LAW TACKLES AUTOMATED POLLS IN LECTURE SERIES

*The College of Law (CoL) of De La Salle University conducted the first of a series of lectures titled, “A Forum in on Automated Elections: Learnings from Minnesota” last November 6 at the Nollado-Hernandez Function Rooms of The Peninsula Manila in Makati City.*

Aimed at dissecting relevant national issues, the forum was the first in a series organized by the College of Law. The subject was chosen for the May 2010 national elections, in which over 50 million Filipino voters will be introduced to the automated electoral system.

In his opening remarks, CoL Dean Atty. Jose Manuel Diokno said it is only fitting to discuss the automation of elections, as it remains to be an issue with utmost public concern.

“Our purpose is not merely to criticize but to critique, to find ways to safeguard the integrity of the 2010 elections so that we can—hopefully and finally—give real meaning to the right of suffrage,” he said.

The forum featured invited speakers Minnesota Secretary of State Mark Ritchie, Program Director of Excellence in Election Administration Center for the Study of Politics and Governance, University of Minnesota, Professor Rachel Smith, and COMELEC Commissioner Rene Sarmiento.

The two speakers from Minnesota shared their invaluable expertise and presented their first-hand experience with automated elections via videoconference.

Ritchie, in his talk, shared the issues faced by the State of Minnesota in its adoption of the automated election process 20 years before, using the same machine provided by Smartmatic for the upcoming Philippine elections, the Precinct Count Optical Scan (PCOS). He acknowledged that shifting to a new system had met criticism and resistance in the beginning, although current acceptance was built on years of experience with the system.

“The accuracy, safety, and integrity of the system was put to the test,” he said. “I think that we’ve built up that trust over many years. In your country, trust will be built by having an absolute transparent approach to all aspect of (the elections) from beginning to end.”

For his talk, Sarmiento responded by outlining measures to be implemented by COMELEC to protect the integrity of votes, such as field testing and random manual audits, as mandated by Republic Act 9369 or the poll automation law.

Sarmiento alluded to the confidence of the Supreme Court in the automated electoral system by citing *Roque vs. Comelec*, where it was ruled that



preparations and procedural safeguards required by law “would make very nil the chances of failure of elections.” He also noted that the electoral setup in Minnesota and the Philippines are almost identical.

The DLSU College of Law was launched in August this year with the aim of producing a new breed of lawyers who will promote human rights and environmental laws.

# INTERNATIONAL STUDIES HOSTS FOURTH APISA CONGRESS

*The International Studies Department of De La Salle University hosted the Fourth Congress of the Asian Political and International Studies Association (APISA) titled “Asia in the Midst of Crises: Political, Economic, and Social Dimensions” at the Mandarin Oriental Hotel last November 12 and 13.*

Together with the Japan Foundation, Manila, and in partnership with the Yuchengco Center and the Philippine Political Science Association (PPSA), the primary objective of the congress was to bring together scholars and specialists to discuss Asia’s policy options in addressing the multifaceted global crises.

Specifically, the congress addressed the following themes: 1) Crisis of Security; 2) Crisis of Finance; 3) Crisis of Health; and, 4) Crisis of Legitimacy.

A total of 44 speakers presented academic papers during the congress. Former ASEAN Deputy Secretary General and DLSU Professor Emeritus Wilfrido Villacorta gave the keynote address. Chair of the International Studies Department Dr. Julio C. Teehankee, on the other hand, served as the chair of the congress.

Founded in 2003, APISA is currently Asia’s leading academic organization dealing with political and international studies. Modeled on academic institutions in North America and Western Europe, APISA serves as an academic community for scholars working in Asia.

The Association organizes the biannual congress and sponsors a range of academic and professional activities such as book awards, fellowships, regional and international conferences and workshops, and capacity building.





## WORLD ENGLISHES MEET FEATURES FACULTY, STUDENTS' RESEARCH

*Several faculty and students of DLSU presented papers at the 15th International Conference of the International Association for World Englishes (IAWE) hosted by the Linguistic Society of the Philippines (LSP).*

With the theme, "Connecting Cultures through World Englishes: Convergence and Diversity in Language, Literature, and Pedagogy," the conference was held at the Cebu Parklane International Hotel, Cebu City last October 22-24.

The conference was attended by over 200 participants from different countries. DLSU Department of English and Applied Linguistics (DEAL) Chair and LSP President Dr. Danilo Dayag was a keynote speaker, together with Dr. Eyamba G. Bokamba from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, USA, and Dr. Yasukata Yano of Waseda University, Tokyo, Japan.

Dayag, in his keynote speech, explored the link between the World Englishes paradigm and second language

pedagogy, while Bokamba and Yano examined the contexts in which African Englishes are produced and used and the cultural differences in English expressions, respectively. The three speakers emphasized the sociolinguistic and pedagogical implications of these English varieties in highly culture-bound academic endeavors and domains.

Also during the conference, DEAL faculty members presented their papers, namely Edwina Bensal, Ariane Borlongan, Dr. Shirley Dita, Dr. Paulina Gochecho, Dr. Leah Gustilo, Dr. Rochelle Lucas, Dr. Alen Muñoz, Dr. Eden Regala-Flores, Mylene Manalansan, and Jeanne Purpura, and students Youfei Tian, Mary Rose Dilay, Rose Francesca Cruz, Philip Adrianne Rentillo, Ingrid Alonsagay, Josephine Nolasco, and Rosarito

Suatengco. Dean Dr. Rachel Edita Roxas and Dino Flores of the College of Computer Studies likewise presented their papers.

A highlight of the conference was the presentation of the Br. Andrew Gonzalez FSC Lifetime Achievement Award in Linguistics to Professor Emerita Dr. Ma. Lourdes Bautista. The award was established by the LSP Board to honor the late Br. Andrew, one of the pillars of the LSP, and to recognize the outstanding contributions of Bautista to Philippine linguistics. Bautista is the first recipient of the award.

Aside from Dayag, the other DLSU faculty who serve on the LSP Executive Board are Lucas, Flores, and Dita.



*Delegates from DLSU presented their papers in the conference, which was attended by over 200 participants from different countries.*

# Sa Loob at Labas ng Berdeng Bakod:

## *Isang Pagtingin sa Espasyo't Negosyo sa Agno*

ni Genaro Gojo Cruz

Ang lumang bahay na pag-aari ni Eduardo Cojuangco Jr. na makikita sa Fidel Reyes St. ay ilan na lamang sa natitirang lumang bahay sa palibot ng Pamantasang De La Salle. Ang lumang bahay na ito ng mga Cojuangco ay nagpapatunay na karamihan sa mga nakapalibot na bahay sa Pamantasang De La Salle noon ay pag-aari ng mga kilala't mayayamang pamilya. Ngunit sa pagtakbo ng panahon, dahil sa pagiging abala, maingay at mausok ng lugar, marami sa mga lumang bahay na ito ay ipinagbili o kaya ay giniba upang pagtayuan ng mga bagong gusali. Di na kasi mainam ang lugar para sa mga kabahayan.

Matao sa Fidel Reyes St. o mas kilala ng mga istudyante ng DLSU sa tawag na "Agno". Kung titingnan, ito ay labas na ng DLSU, lahat ay maaaring dumaan dito kahit di taga-DLSU, kahit na nga mga pedikab, basurero o pulubi. Ngunit dahil nga sa di ito maiiwasang daanan ng mga istudyante patungo sa dalawang malalaking gusali ng DLSU—ang Don Enrique T. Yuchengco at Br. Andrew Gonzalez, tila nagiging bahagi na ito ng DLSU sa unang tingin. Kaya nga puwede sabihing nasa loob at labas ng DLSU ang Agno.

Bawal ang manigarilyo sa loob ng DLSU ngunit ilang hakbang lamang paglabas ng pader o bakod, sa Agno puwedeng-puwede na. Lahat ng brand ng sigarilyo, mabibili rito. Dahil sa kaluwagan sa Agno at kamurahan ng mga pagkain, higit itong naging patok na tambayan sa mga istudyante. Walang bawal o maninita sa kanila sa Agno. Malaya ang kapaligiran sa Agno—kahit ano ay puwedeng pag-usapan, ang mag-tsikahan, magbeso-beso, maghuntinghan, magtsimisan, magbiruan, magtawanan, at ang mag-usap nang malalakas kahit kaharap lang ang kausap.

Naabutan ko ang lumang itsura ng Agno noong 2004. Dati, halos kainin na mga itinayong maliliit na tindahan ang daanan ng Fidel Reyes St. Kalimitang tinda rito ay sigarilyo, kendi, tapsilog, shawarma, taho, iba't ibang uri ng inumin, at kung anu-ano pa. Dahil dito, madalas na nahihirapang dumaan ang mga pribadong sasakyan na nanggagaling o papunta ng EGI Taft Tower. May isang upuan din o lugar para sa mga nagsisigarilyo.

Dahil sa pagiging patok ng Agno sa mga istudyante, nagreklamo ang mga tindahan sa EGI Taft Tower noong Hulyo 31, 2008. Malaking kabawasan sa kanilang kita ang paglakas ng Agno.

Naghain pa sila ng reklamo sa Manila City Hall upang mapaalis ang mga tindahan ngunit nabigo sila.

Ngunit bago pa man maganap ang nakaambang pagpapaalis sa mga tindahan sa Agno, nakipag-usap na sila sa pamilya Cojuangco upang buksan at paupahan sa kanila ang loteng nasa tapat ng lumang bahay. Di sila nabigo. Pinatayuan nga ng stalls ang dating bakanteng lote at pinaupahan sa kanila sa halagang 12,000-25,000 kada buwan. Bukod pa ang 1,000 na dagdag kada buwan para sa kuryente at maintenance ng nasabing lugar. At sa bandang likod naman ay itatayo ang limang palapag na gusali na gagawing dormitoryo. Ngayon, higit na naging maayos ang kalagayan ng mga tindahan. Wala na sila sa kalsada. Sinong makapag-iisip na ang maliliit na tindahang ito ay makakabayad ng mahal na upa? Malaki rin ang kanilang pag-asa para sa dagdag pang kita kapag natapos na ang mga dormitoryo at condominium na itinatayo sa palibot ng DLSU.

Tiyak na malaki ang epekto ng mga tindahan sa Agno sa mga kainan sa loob ng DLSU. At dahil nasa labas ng DLSU ang Agno at ang mga tindahan naman ay nasa pribadong lupa, di ito maaaring kontrolin ng pamunuan ng DLSU. Di maaaring ipataw sa kanila ang anumang panuntunan o kautusang mayroon at mahigpit na ipinatutupad sa loob ng DLSU.

Ang mga tila kabuteng pasusulputan ng condominium sa paligid ng DLSU ay nagpapatunay lamang na tumaas na ng ilang ulit ang halaga ng lupa sa palibot nito. Malaking potensyal ang anumang bakanteng lupa sa palibot ng DLSU upang pagtayan ng negosyo. Patok ang mga condominium, mga computer shop, parlor, laundry shop, convenient store, fastfood, parking lot, at iba pang mga serbisyong kailangan ng mga istudyante.

Ngunit sa kabila nito, naniniwala akong mananatili ang Agno sa matagal na panahon hangga't gusto itong paupahan ng pamilya Cojuangco. Ipinapaalala ng Agno na di kailangang maging mahal ang mga bilihin. Kahit kilala ang DLSU bilang pamantasan ng mayayaman, marami pa rin sa mga istudyante nito ang gustong makatipid.

Subersibo ang kinalalagyan ng Agno dahil kung titingnan namang mabuti tila nasa loob na ito ng DLSU. Iginiit ng kapisasong espasyong ito ang limitasyon ng kontrol o kapangyarihang ng DLSU bilang isang pamantasang may mahigpit na seguridad. Makikita ang tunggaliang ito ng espasyo—ang limitasyon o nasasaklaw ng kapangyarihan ng isang institusyon at ng espasyong kinatatayuan ng maliliit na tindahan na pinatatakbo ng mga pangkaraniwang mamamayan.

Pero maaari rin naman itong tingnan na patuloy na pamamayani ng kapangyarihan ng pamilya Cojuangco. Bakit sa matagal na panahon, di nagawang ipagbili na lang ng pamilya ang kanilang kakapisasong lupa gayong ito na lamang ang pribadong lupa nakapagitan sa mga gusali ng DLSU? Ano ang pakinabang ng kapisasong lupang ito sa isang pamilyang kilala sa kasaysayan bilang nagmamay-ari ng malalawak na lupain at malalaking negosyo sa bansa? Marahil, may sentimental na halaga ang pag-aaring ito ng pamilya Cojuangco. Sinasabing dito rin tumira sa Corazon Cojuangco Aquino noong kabataan niya.

Di mapasusubaliang nagkakaloob ng hanapbuhay sa ilang mahihirap na tindero't tindera ang Agno. Walang mali sa paghahanapbuhay nilang ito. Sabi nga, tila natagpuan raw nila ang “ginto” sa isang bakante at dating di pinapansing lote noon. Nakatagpo sila ng permanenteng hanapbuhay.

Sa huli'y mga estudyante pa rin naman lagi ang nagpapasya kung ano ang gusto nila. Kung saan higit nilang makakamit ang kanilang kalayaan. May kakayahan na silang magpasya para sa kanilang sarili at sa aking palagay, ito ang higit na mahalaga. Walang tao sa palagay ko ang magpapasya para sa kanyang kapahamakan.

Tulad ng agos ng tubig, walang sinuman ang makakapigil sa kanila kung ano ang dapat nilang gawin, kung saan o ano ang kanilang dapat kainin, lalo na kung nasa labas na sila ng berdeng bakod ng DLSU. Nasa mga estudyante ang huling pagpapasya.

De La Salle University

# *Institutional Christmas Celebration 2009*

## *Lantern-making Contest*

A Lasallian Christmas

### Guidelines:

1. Lanterns may be of any shape, design, or figure; not limited to a star pattern. The size of the lantern shall be at least three feet (36 inches).
2. Lanterns shall be made of recycled materials like plastic bottles, used paper, or other indigenous material. The lanterns must be sturdy.
3. Lanterns shall be colorful and well-illuminated, with the use of CFL lighting and/or LED Christmas lights.
4. All members of the Lasallian community are invited to join the contest. Entries may be submitted by individuals or groups.
5. Submission of entries shall be on December 3 (Thursday) until 5:00 pm, at the Central Plaza. Judging of entries will be conducted on December 4.
6. Criteria for judging is as follows:

Creativity/relevance to theme	30%
Use of recycled & indigenous materials	30%
Use of Color and Lighting	30%
Overall Impact	10%
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>100%</b>

Winners shall be announced during the Institutional Christmas Celebration on December 22, 2009.

There will be cash prizes awarded to the top three lanterns:

First prize	P 10,000.00
Second prize	P 7,000.00
Third prize	P 5,000.00

Students, Student Organizations  
Faculty, ASF/ASP, Co-academic Personnel,  
Administrators  
Brothers/Alumni  
PUSO  
In-house and Maintenance Contractors /  
Contracted Services  
DLSU Affiliates

Entry forms are available at the Campus  
Development Office - LS mezzanine room 160 (c/o  
Arch. Cely Gonzales).

**LASALLIANS**

**ON  
THE  
D.O.T.**

DEFINITELY ON TIME

### Time management tip:

How much time do you spend reading or answering email? Remind yourself of your daily agenda, and stick to the time limit that you have set for each of your activities.

*Lasallians on the DOT (Definitely on Time) is a De La Salle University campaign to strengthen a culture of punctuality and honesty. The program is being undertaken in response to a memorandum issued in September 2008 by the Commission on Higher Education, which urges higher education institutions in the country to support its Project W.A.T.C.H. (We Advocate Time Consciousness and Honesty).*



## CHEMICAL ENGINEERING HOLDS 2ND REGIONAL CONFAB IN VIETNAM

*The Chemical Engineering (ChE) Department of DLSU, in cooperation with the Chemical Engineering Department of Ho Chi Minh University of Technology, organized the 2nd Regional Conference in Chemical Engineering held last October 23-24 at the Rex Hotel of Ho Chi Minh City in Vietnam.*

Supported by the ASEAN Foundation and the AUN/SEED-Net JICA, the conference had the theme "Chemical Engineering for Sustainable Development and Collaboration in the ASEAN Region." Six representatives from DLSU attended the conference, namely Vice Chancellor for Academics and Research Dr. Julius Maridable, ChE Department Chair Dr. Josephine Borja, College of Engineering Graduate Studies Director Dr. Leonila Abella, and ChE Department faculty members Dr. Joseph Auresenia, Dr. Luis Razon, and Gladys Cruz.

Three keynote addresses from professors of supporting Japanese universities consortium covering the topics on Catalysis, Biomass, and

Chemical Processes were delivered on the morning of the first day of the conference. Three parallel sessions with 10 technical papers per session were simultaneously held in the afternoon. Posters of on-going researches from different member institutions were likewise presented.

For the second day following the three keynote addresses, updates of AUN/SEED-Net activities were presented by the AUN/SEED-Net officers. A Summary of the first regional conference hosted by DLSU in January 2009 in Manila as well as the achievements of Phase II of the AUN/SEED-Net in Chemical Engineering was presented by Borja.

Moreover, Borja facilitated the discussion on the future plans of the

Chemical Engineering field.

During the discussion, member institutions (MIs) agreed to share their research topics and facilities.

DLSU, as the host institution of the Chemical Engineering field for the AUN/SEED-Net Project, will coordinate with all MIs for an updated list of researches and facilities to be disseminated to all MIs. Each MI was also encouraged to create a database of scholars with complete information not only for the AUN/SEED-Net Secretariat but also for members to share their resources.

The third regional conference, tentatively scheduled in the 2nd week of November 2010, will be hosted by DLSU.





## DLSU LINKAGE PROMOTES LANGUAGE TECHNOLOGIES RESEARCH

*De La Salle University and the Hong Kong Polytechnic University (HKPU) conducted a joint research symposium on Linguistics, Natural Language Processing, and Computing last October 26 at the Br. Andrew Gonzalez Hall.*

Research interests for possible collaborative projects were presented by professors from both universities, specifically, from the faculty of Humanities and Department of Computing of HKPU and from the Center for Language Technologies of the College of Computer Studies (CCS) and the Department of English and Applied Linguistics (DEAL) of the College of Education (CED) of DLSU.

Interesting common areas between the two universities are in the area of documentary linguistics, second language teaching/learning, Austronesian linguistics, corpus linguistics, discourse analysis specifically for call centers, and application of computer graphics in the fashion industry.

The delegation from HKPU was headed by Dean Huang Chu-Ren, who also presented opportunities for undergraduate

exchange students, Masters and PhD Fellowships, and PhD sandwich research immersions.

CCS Dean Dr. Rachel Edita Roxas has already been involved in other scholarly events with Huang such as serving together in the Steering Committee of PACLIC (the Pacific Asia Conference on Language, Information, and Computation) since 2007. Now, Roxas is also looking forward to more collaborative projects with DEAL, which is headed by Dr. Danilo Dayag.

Students and faculty members who are interested in undertaking their studies at the Hong Kong Polytechnic University may view more details at <http://www.polyu.edu.hk/fh>. Brochures and posters are also available at the Office of the Associate Vice Chancellor for External Relations.



**Lasallian Guiding Principles.** To answer our questions and successfully pursue our quests, we must return to the beginning. In order to find real answers and to see our way clearly, we must go back to our real source. This means going back to our core Lasallian values: the spirit of faith, zeal for service, and communion in mission.

# Living the Lasallian faith

Spreading the teachings and values of our founder St. John Baptist de La Salle for the formation of Lasallian communities has always been a challenge for the Lasallian Brothers. Recognizing the need to get the support of lay members for their formation program, the Christian Brothers in the Philippines thus established the local chapter of the Signum Fidei Association more than 28 years ago.

Dr. Susana Estanislao, president of the Signum Fidei Foundation that oversees all the chapters in the country, relates that the group started in La Salle Greenhills with Br. Victor Franco FSC as the Founding Brother Animator.

“Signum Fidei is the lay counterpart of the Lasallian Brothers in carrying out their vision-mission of Christian education and evangelization of the children and youth, especially the poor and those at risk,” she explains.

In 1996, De La Salle University established a Signum Fidei Chapter under the leadership of Dr. Josefina Albuero AFSC with the support of the late Br. Andrew Gonzalez FSC. Estanislao enthuses that for the last four years, the apostolate has been donating scholarship funds for bright but financially challenged students from accredited schools and institutions.

Signum Fidei Manila Chapter Coordinator Aleta Tabalba shares that the group has supported the high school education of 10 students of St. Joseph’s High

School in Roxas City.

“When the students graduated, we shifted our donation to the sponsorship of two ladies for a training program at the Asilio de San Vicente de Paul,” she says. “We also did hospital visits to the patients at the charity ward of the San Juan de Dios Hospital.”

Moreover, the group also donated funds for the Jaime Hilario Integrated School in Bagac, Bataan, also shouldering some gasoline expenses of the Jeep ni Kuya. Tabalba says that for this year, the apostolate intends to contribute to the One La Salle Scholarship Fund for the upcoming centennial celebration.

The scholarships, donations, and continued support for the Lasallian mission are a testament to the Signum Fidei’s zeal for service. And it is this commitment to serve others that enlivens the Lasallian spirit of faith.

“We commit ourselves in living and sharing the Lasallian spirituality and charism in our everyday work with our students and colleagues,” Estanislao ends.



## What is a Lasallian Association?

A Lasallian Association is a Lasallian Partner Group that has asked to be formally associated with the Lasallian Mission. Becoming a Lasallian Association is not an award or recognition given by the District. It is first and foremost a free choice of the Lasallian Partner Group members to deepen their commitment to the Mission and to express this commitment in a more formal way. The District merely accepts the commitment.



# BR. ARMIN HEADS DISASTER-RESPONSE TEAM

*Representatives from 15 different national and international organizations, including De La Salle University, recently formed a group called “OurLighthouse” to initiate disaster preparedness and management programs in the face of natural calamities that threaten communities, especially in typhoon-prone areas.*

Their first meeting was held last October 15 at the Ayala Museum. Members of the core group include the Ayala Foundation Inc., Corporate Network for Disaster Response, DLSU, Habitat for Humanity, League of Corporate Foundations, and PLDT-Smart Foundation.

DLSU President and Chancellor Br. Armin Luistro FSC was designated chair of the group while Ayala Foundation’s Mario Deriquito agreed to organize a team that would provide secretariat support.

All the represented organizations are involved in a wide range of disaster-related programs and activities, such as disaster preparedness and relief, psycho-social counseling, and rehabilitation.

In the meeting, there was consensus about the need for coordinated efforts initially on the following: 1) sharing of information such as weather forecast (as regularly provided by WWF) and list of areas for relief efforts; and 2) sharing of contacts in government, international agencies, and other institutions involved in

disaster response and preparedness.

OurLighthouse members also raised several topics for future discussions, including the need to coordinate with government agencies such as the National Disaster Coordinating Council (NDCC) and the Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD).

Likewise, the attendees acknowledged the need to establish frontline presence or to touch base with organizations with frontline presence such as diocesan social action centers and community-based NGOs. They also cited the need to bring in other players such as the Caucus of Development or CODE-NGO network, Philippine National Red Cross, and Convergence, among others, to maintain a group with a manageable size. The group also recognized the need for the country’s major TV networks to provide more real-time information on their websites.

Other ideas put forward included the possible clustering of roles, e.g. in terms of assignments to health care, logistics, shelter, and food.

The division of labor could either be according to the nature of intervention or to geographical location.

The attendees agreed to develop certain standards on rehabilitation or rebuilding work, citing the need to identify and establish “Noah’s Arks” or safe places in a community where people can go in case of calamity.



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Johannes Leo Badillo, Director for Operations; Anne Alina (anne.alina@dlsu.edu.ph), Editor; Ruby Carlos, AARichela dela Cruz, Magsy Magbanua, Mark Pitoc, Ameurfina Koc, Marco Mañalac, Writers; Peter Varona, Art Director; Ave Gaile Peraz, Ricky Binoya, Luis De Vera, Graphic Artists; Virginia Umacob-Gases, Secretary; Raymond Menor, Office Assistant; Aaron Mamiit, Student Writer. **2401** may be accessed online through the URL: <http://www.dlsu.edu.ph>