

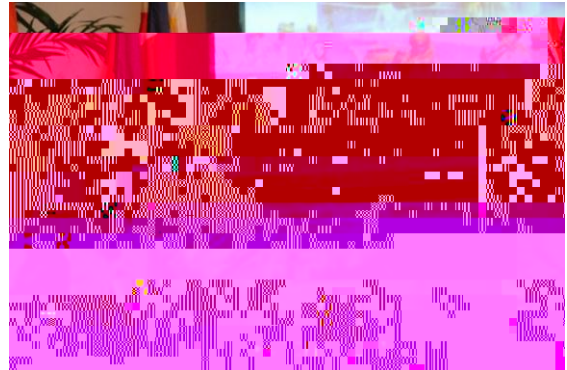
Students'

By Dr. Jeremy Godofredo Morales

St. Paul University Philippines' International Relations Office conducted a grand International Students' Integration Activity (#ISIA) on September 13-14, 201, with varied activities to foster deeper ties between and among the University's foreign and Filipino students, as well as to deepen understanding about the various cultures now

collaboration activities with SPUP as well as participation in SPUP organized international activities.

Dr. Maribbay, moreover, discussed the importance of sharing varied cultures and practices in the University to foster deeper and stronger bonds between and among the members of the academic community without compromising academic excellence and Paulinian values. Cultural integration will, thus, become an essential part in the life of every Paulinian (of Tuguegarao) where unity amidst diversity is at its best.

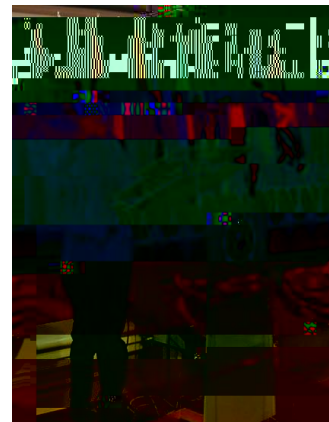


Meanwhile, Dr. Capili of CHED RO2 presented salient government policies in terms of acceptance of foreign nationals into Philippine universities, as she affirmed that SPUP is compliant to these government promulgations. She also reminded the foreign students of their duties and responsibilities while studying in the Philippines such as immigration procedures, safety and security matters, and completion of all academic and discipline requirements as basis for promotion

and graduation among others.

On the other hand, Onam Festival Dance was performed by Indian students while the Indonesian students presented a traditional inspirational chorus.

The convocation was concluded by a testimony of Mr. Mathanjuki Mayna Muhoro, BS Pharmacy student from Kenya, about his experiences at SPUP where he emphasized the caring attitude that he felt from the people in the University and the assistance that each person can readily give. #



SPUP's International Students

Sreyas Manoharan Punjavi, a senior BS Biology student from Kerala, India, took his oath as Secretary-General of the newly organized SPUP International Students Organization on September 13, 2016, during the International Students Integration Activity, with SPUP President Sister Merceditas Ang, SPC, as Inducting Officer.

In his Inaugural Speech, Mr. Punjavi humbly accepted the responsibility as he presented his plans for a better collaboration and integration between and among foreign and Filipino students, as well as partaking in the promotion and marketing activities of SPUP in other countries. He also urged his fellow officers and the foreign students to abide by the policies of the University and the laws of the Philippines at all times while protecting their rights as non-citizens of the Philippines.

The complete list of the International Students Integration Activity Officers is as follows:

Secretary-General

International Students

Dr. Pilar Acorda, Arts and Sciences Dean,

delicacies prepared by the students concluded the Pacific-ASEAN-African leg of the interactive tour exiting through Air Terjun Sri Gethuk Gate.

The interactive museum tour was conducted as part of the integration activity to provide opportunities to the other foreign students, as well as to Filipinos, for them to get to know one another's culture and traditions. This activity was graced by the University officials, faculty members and students led by President Sister Merceditas Ang, SPC, as well as Hon. Claire Imogene Callangan, Tuguegarao City Councilor, and Atty. Mark Anthony Articulo of the RTC Public Attorney's Office, among other guests. #

The International Relations Office, in collaboration with the Office of Student Affairs & Paulinian Student Government, St. Paul Home-Student Center, Promotions and Marketing Office and Sports Office, engaged the foreign students in showcasing their talents and cultures through the 1st International Students Integration Activity held on September 13-14, 2016.

In the opening program, Dr. Florida Capili (CHED RO2 Education Supervisor

As it is to foster stronger bonds between and among the foreign students, a team building activity was facilitated by Mrs. Melissa Tuddao, with the PE major students, with festive and creative games to bring out decision-making and teamwork among the participants.

Inaugural Address of International Students'

Respected Sister President, Sister Merceditas Ang, SPC, beloved guests from the Commission on Higher Education, Dr. Florida Capili, and from the Bureau of Immigration Tuguegarao City Office, Ms. Analyn Garcia, Reverend Sisters, dear administrators, faculty members, visitors, fellow students, good morning to one and all.

It is a great honor to stand before you as the Secretary General of the International Students' Organization of St. Paul Almighty for showering his blessings upon me, and I would like to thank you, Sr. Merceditas, Sr. Mary Ann, Sr. University, and Dr. Jeremy Morales, who is like a father to us, for entrusting me with this great responsibility. I would also

like to thank my parents and my friends for believing in me, and also for being with me through thick and thin.

Our journey as foreign students in this University, which we proudly like to say as OUR University, has been a wonderful experience and was clearly a turning point in our life. Sr. Jeremy has always been considerate about our safety and well being from day one, and also, have made sure that we feel at home. All the Sisters from the Convent, especially Sr. Merceditas, have been very kind to us and have paid heed to all our needs and requests.

I give my word to all present here that I will try my level best to fulfill all the responsibilities given to me, and I will make sure that I am available for your concerns and open to all your suggestions. On this occasion, I would like to introduce the Deputy Minister of International Students Organization, Sister Maria de A

I am glad that, as a first step of international integration, we are being given the chance to conduct Onam Celebrations in the University. Most of you present here must be wondering what Onam is. Onam is the harvest festival of our State, Kerala, and it is also celebrated in remembrance of a great King Mahabali, who once ruled our land. Our land saw prosperity and peace throughout his reign. We hope that our first step in integrating cultures of the world will set a new tradition in the history of SPUP. Given your support and prayers, we believe the upcoming events will be grand successes.

As we, thus, hold office for this academic year, we, your officers, will see to it that our welfare and rights are guarded as we ensure the entire Philippine community that we abide by the policies of this country, as well as the rules and regulations of our dear University. Let us participate, in our nice gestures, in promoting our University to our brothers and sisters back home, as well as to other countries, so that, like us, they will also experience academic studies, as we are experiencing now. As our main purpose in coming to the Philippines is to study and earn a degree, we will make our journey and activities light, yet fun-filled and educational. Let us remember that we belong to a bigger Paulinian community, that is why, we have to integrate ourselves as well with our fellow Paulinians in our schools or departments. We integrate with them, as you allow me, your Secretary-General, to represent you to the Paulinian Student Government – University Council for activities directly pertaining to us. Feel free, dear fellow foreign students, to approach me or anyone of us for your concerns that need to be given immediate attention.