

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Filipino professor in education wins prestigious SEAMEO- JASPER Award

A joint award-giving body composed of the Government of Canada and the Southeast Asian Ministers of Education Organization (SEAMEO) recognized a college professor for his study on the impact of changing education landscape to sustainable development.

The SEAMEO-Jasper Research Award is an annual grant for outstanding research conducted by SEAMEO Member Country nationals that explore concepts, ideas and practical experience. Topics include managing social change, good governance, civic consciousness, advocacy for health, environmentally responsible lifestyles and innovative approaches to teaching and learning.

The award-winning paper, "Creating Space for Legitimate Participation of Youth in Education for Sustainability (ES) through Service Learning: Toward a '*liberatory praxis*' for Pedagogy of Sustainability (PS)," is authored by Dr. Allan B. de Guzman, a professor of the University of Santo Tomas (UST) College of Education. He received recognition during the 43rd SEAMEO Council Conference in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia.

Also in the event was Education Secretary Jesli Lapus who lead the Philippine delegation. He is a member of the SEAMEO Council along with other Ministers of Education from SEAMEO member-countries.

"We are investing heavily in teacher training and there are world-class teachers in our midst," Lapus said. "Those in the business of education can learn from internationally renowned tutors like Dr. de Guzman. I am proud to witness another achievement of a Filipino academic."

De Guzman's paper "views the complementary role of sustainable development and service learning as means in pedagogizing today's pedagogy for sustainability."

"The 20 million students in our classrooms this year are the future leaders of this country," Lapus said. "The impact of our changing policies will be felt in the next fifty years."

Two hundred twenty-three (223) students from Western Visayas participated in the study. As an "agent of change," the student is viewed as an "active player in sustainable development through service learning." Also explored by the study is how a student and his education is "rooted on and connected to" the community. This implies that "learning is not detached in understanding and addressing" the concerns of community life.

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The author is also a professor in the College of Nursing, Institute of Tourism and Hospitality Management, the Graduate School. He is also a Faculty of Sacred Theology.

He is a three-time recipient of the Dangal ng UST Award for Most Outstanding Teaching Performance in 1998 (Instructor Level) and 2000 (Assistant Professor Level). He also received the Hall of Fame Award of the Dangal ng UST (2007).

SEAMEO is a regional organization composed of Brunei Darussalam, Cambodia, Indonesia, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Malaysia, Myanmar, Philippines, Singapore, Thailand, Timor-Leste, and the Socialist Republic of Vietnam.

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