SDG 17 Partnerships for the Goals

Isabela State University 2025 Consolidated Report

Isabela State University (ISU) advances the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) through partnerships that connect teaching, research, and community extension with public policy and local development. This report brings together ISU's 2025 evidence for SDG 17, covering partnerships that support the goals, reporting on SDG progress, and sustainability education for students and the wider community.

17.2 Relationships to Support the Goals. ISU worked with government agencies to identify water security and dam management challenges and to design programs for human rights education and cooperative development. It led a cross-sectoral dialogue on water security in the Cagayan de Oro River Basin and worked with Kyoto University to gather and analyze flood and water resource data. Through West Flanders Synergy Pilipinas, ISU and its Philippine and Belgian partners exchanged practices in climate-smart agriculture and sustainable entrepreneurship. ISU also worked with nongovernmental partners on climate justice and mentoring for student startups.

17.3 Publication of SDG Reports. This section brings together ISU's published reports on its contributions to the Sustainable Development Goals. These reports document the University's work across individual goals and make that information available to the public.

17.4 Education for the SDGs. ISU integrates sustainability into undergraduate and graduate education through institutional subjects and dedicated programs in environmental science, forestry, and disaster risk management. Its partnership with UP-CIFAL Philippines supports the integration of the SDGs into teaching, research, and extension. Beyond the classroom, ISU offers community education and training in areas such as health, climate action, and environmental management. The University also uses examinations in its institutional subjects to assess students' sustainability knowledge and refine its teaching.

SDG 17 | Indicator 17.2.1

ISU Engagements with Government on SDG Policy Development (2025)

In 2025, Isabela State University (ISU) worked with national government agencies, regional offices, and local government units to identify sustainable development challenges and contribute to policy and strategy discussions. The following reports document ISU's role in these engagements, including how it brought research and stakeholder perspectives into discussions on water security and worked with government partners to design programs for human rights education and cooperative development.

1 ISU and Kyoto University Facilitate Stakeholder Consultation on Water Resources and Dam Management

January 23, 2025 | ISU Echague





Isabela State University (ISU) and Kyoto University facilitated a stakeholders' consultative meeting on January 23, 2025, at Valmayor Hall in the Cagayan Valley Agricultural and Aquatic Resources Research and Development (CVAARRD) Building. The meeting brought together representatives from academe, the private sector, national government agencies, and provincial local government to help shape strategies for sustainable water resource management and dam operations.

The collaboration focuses in part on the Magat River Basin in the Cagayan Valley Region. It seeks to introduce new technologies and develop integrated water resources management (IWRM) practices. The work is intended to inform practical policies, improve dam operations, and strengthen water security under extreme climate conditions.

Representatives from the National Irrigation Administration, the Provincial Government of Quirino, SN Aboitiz Power Group, Cagayan State University, and the regional office of the Department of Public Works and Highways shared their perspectives during the meeting.

ISU and Kyoto University presented the project's expected outcomes and worked with participants to identify challenges and opportunities in water resource management and dam operations. The discussion also helped build stakeholders' capacity to adopt tools for climate adaptation and disaster risk reduction.

After the consultation, Prof. Sameh Ahmed Kantoush, Kyoto University's principal investigator, and Dr. Orlando F. Balderama, ISU Vice President for Research and Development, Extension and Training, led the Nexus Project inception meeting. The project team presented and reviewed its objectives, timeline, methods, and responsibilities.




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2 ISU and Japanese Partners Advance Water Security through the Japan–Philippines Nexus Program

March 12, 2025 | Kyoto University, Uji, Japan



ISU helped lead the Japan–Philippines Nexus Program on Water Security Inception Workshop and Ministerial Level Meeting on March 12, 2025, at Kyoto University's Disaster Prevention Research Institute (DPRI) in Gokasho, Uji City, Kyoto, Japan. The program is a collaboration between Kyoto University and ISU. Prof. Sameh Ahmed Kantoush, president of the International Organization on Climate Change Adaptation and Disaster Risk Reduction Management Inc. (IO-CCA-DRRM), serves as principal investigator. Prof. Jeoffrey Lloyd R. Bareng, ISU University Director for Research and Development, serves as project leader, with support from then ISU President Prof. Ricmar P. Aquino and Vice President for Research and Development, Extension and Training Prof. Orlando F. Balderama. The project aims to develop technologies for sustainable water resource management and reservoir dam operations under extreme climate variability.

The workshop and ministerial meeting brought together Philippine and Japanese government, industry, and academic partners. Participants included Philippine Ambassador to Japan Mylene J. Garcia-Albano, who represented the Governor of Isabela, chair of the Cagayan River Basin Management Council. Also present were Commission on Higher Education Commissioner Marita R. Canapi, Kaori Yamada of the Japan Science and Technology Agency, executives from the Japan Water Agency, Department of Agriculture directors, and National

Irrigation Administration officials. Industry partners included SN Aboitiz Power, IHI Construction Service Co., Ltd., and Pacific Consultants Co., Ltd.

University officials from ISU and Kyoto University joined institutional leaders from Ryukoku University, Romblon State University (RSU), Bulacan State University (BulSU), the University of Science and Technology of Southern Philippines (USTP), and Mountain Province State University (MPSU). Their participation broadened the academic network supporting Philippine–Japanese collaboration on integrated water resources management.

During an orientation with the International Lake Environment Committee Foundation (ILEC), delegates toured Lake Biwa, Japan's largest lake. Prof. Masahisa Nakamura, ILEC Vice President and former Director of the Lake Biwa Research Institute, discussed how the lake has been managed over time, including its approaches to flood management and water conservation. He also described ILEC's work on challenges facing lakes worldwide. Delegates visited the Biwa Lake Museum and the Seta River Weir at the lake's main outlet.

Following the exchange, ILEC expressed its commitment to work with ISU and its partner universities, including RSU, BulSU, USTP, and MPSU, on inland water conservation. The collaboration supports the Nexus Program's research on sustainable management of the Cagayan River Basin, with potential applications in other Philippine river basins.







Source River Basins for Sustainable Development

3 ISU and CHR Region II Establish Partnership for Human Rights Education

November 5, 2025 | ISU Echague



Isabela State University (ISU) and the Commission on Human Rights Region II (CHR Region II) signed a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) to establish the Center for Human Rights Education (CHRE) on November 5, 2025, at Alba Hall, ISU Echague Campus. ISU President Dr. Boyet L. Batang and CHR Region II Regional Director Atty. Jimmy P. Baliga led the signing, witnessed by university and campus officials and CHR representatives.

The center is intended to serve as a social laboratory for human rights education, where the university can develop approaches to teaching, advocacy, and capacity building that promote respect for human dignity and rights. Its programs will involve faculty, staff, and students in instruction, research, and community extension, with activities on campus and in partner communities.

In June 2025, CHR Region II conducted an orientation on the proposed center. The session brought together key stakeholders to help shape its vision and foundational goals ahead of the agreement.

Under the MOA, ISU, through its Gender and Development Office, will lead efforts to integrate human rights principles into curricula, training, and instructional materials. ISU will conduct education and advocacy activities for students, faculty, staff, and community partners and undertake research to strengthen human rights education. The university will also support

community capacity building, including the establishment of Barangay Human Rights Action Centers and programs addressing the needs of vulnerable sectors.

At the signing, Dr. Batang described education as a means to nurture respect for life, equality, and freedom. He said the center would provide a venue for dialogue, research, advocacy, and community empowerment.

> "As we formalize this partnership, let us be reminded that the work ahead calls for courage, compassion, and collaboration. We are hoping that this center inspires a generation of learners and leaders who will stand for truth, uphold justice, and build a society where every person's rights are recognized and therefore respected," Dr. Batang said.

Atty. Baliga commended ISU's support for the initiative. He noted that the partnership recognizes the role of education in preparing future leaders who are knowledgeable, skilled, and respectful of human dignity.

The agreement supports ISU's work in socially responsive education and CHR's mission to promote a human rights–based approach across sectors. Both institutions aim to strengthen human rights education and practice in academic and grassroots settings across the Cagayan Valley Region.




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ESTABLISHMENT OF CENTER FOR
ATTY. MARIE GRACE MARCOS
PROF. BAYET L. BATANG, PhD
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4 ISU and CDA Region II Partner to Train Cooperative Educators



Isabela State University (ISU) and the Cooperative Development Authority (CDA) Region II entered into a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) for a Training of Trainers (TOT) program. The program serves accredited cooperative training providers (CTPROs) and prospective applicants under the CDA Accreditation Program.

The agreement supports CDA's mandate to promote and strengthen cooperatives nationwide and recognizes the role of state universities and colleges in cooperative development under Republic Act No. 11364. It also supports ISU's work in regional development through extension services, capacity building, and applied research.

Through the agreement, ISU and CDA Region II aim to expand access to training and equip trainers with the skills and standards needed to improve cooperative governance, management, and enterprise performance. The partnership builds on the KooPerAtbp Extension Program of ISU's College of Business, Accountancy and Public Administration, which connects the training to the needs of cooperatives and their communities.

ISU and CDA Region II will jointly develop the standard curriculum and share responsibility for monitoring and evaluation. ISU will implement the standard course outline, build a pool of

resource speakers, facilitate training activities, prepare information and education materials, and issue certificates of completion to qualified trainers.

The initiative also provides for customized workshops on cooperative governance, mentoring, demonstration farms, and support for training hubs. These activities are intended to help cooperatives apply what they learn and strengthen their operations across the region.

CDA Region II Regional Director Atty. Nita Doreen L. Maestre-Tabbu expressed confidence in the partnership and emphasized the role of state universities and colleges in delivering quality cooperative education.

> "We need you, State Universities, and we chose Isabela State University to be our partner—and this would be our maiden voyage for the implementation of the TOT. We believe that if we want to implement education in its purest form, State Universities should be our partners," Atty. Tabbu stated.

ISU President Dr. Boyet L. Batang emphasized how the partnership could contribute to local livelihoods and help cooperatives develop their members and communities.

> "It takes collaboration, trust, and a united commitment to nurturing sustainable livelihood and resilient progress…With this partnership, we are investing not only in skills but in people, not only in programs but in futures," Dr. Batang affirmed.

The partners expect the program to strengthen the cooperative sector in the province and serve as a model for future capacity building supported by state universities and colleges.


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SDG 17 | Indicator 17.2.2

ISU Cross-Sectoral Dialogue on the SDGs (2025)

Isabela State University (ISU) initiated and participated in cross-sectoral dialogue on water security through a stakeholders' forum on the Cagayan de Oro River Basin. The forum brought together local and regional government, the city water district, academic and research institutions, and nongovernmental organizations to discuss water resource planning and climate adaptation. The dialogue addressed issues relevant to SDG 6 (Clean Water and Sanitation), SDG 13 (Climate Action), and SDG 17 (Partnerships for the Goals).

ISU Leads Stakeholders' Forum on Water Security in the Cagayan de Oro River Basin

January 30–31, 2025 | USTP Cagayan de Oro Campus



Building on its water research in Northern Luzon, ISU convened the Stakeholders' Forum on the Development of a Water Security Framework in the Cagayan de Oro River Basin at the University of Science and Technology of Southern Philippines (USTP). The forum extended ISU's research collaboration to state universities and river basin management councils beyond its home region. The initiative was undertaken under the leadership of then ISU President Prof. Ricmar P. Aquino and Prof. Orlando F. Balderama, Vice President for Research and Development, Extension and Training.

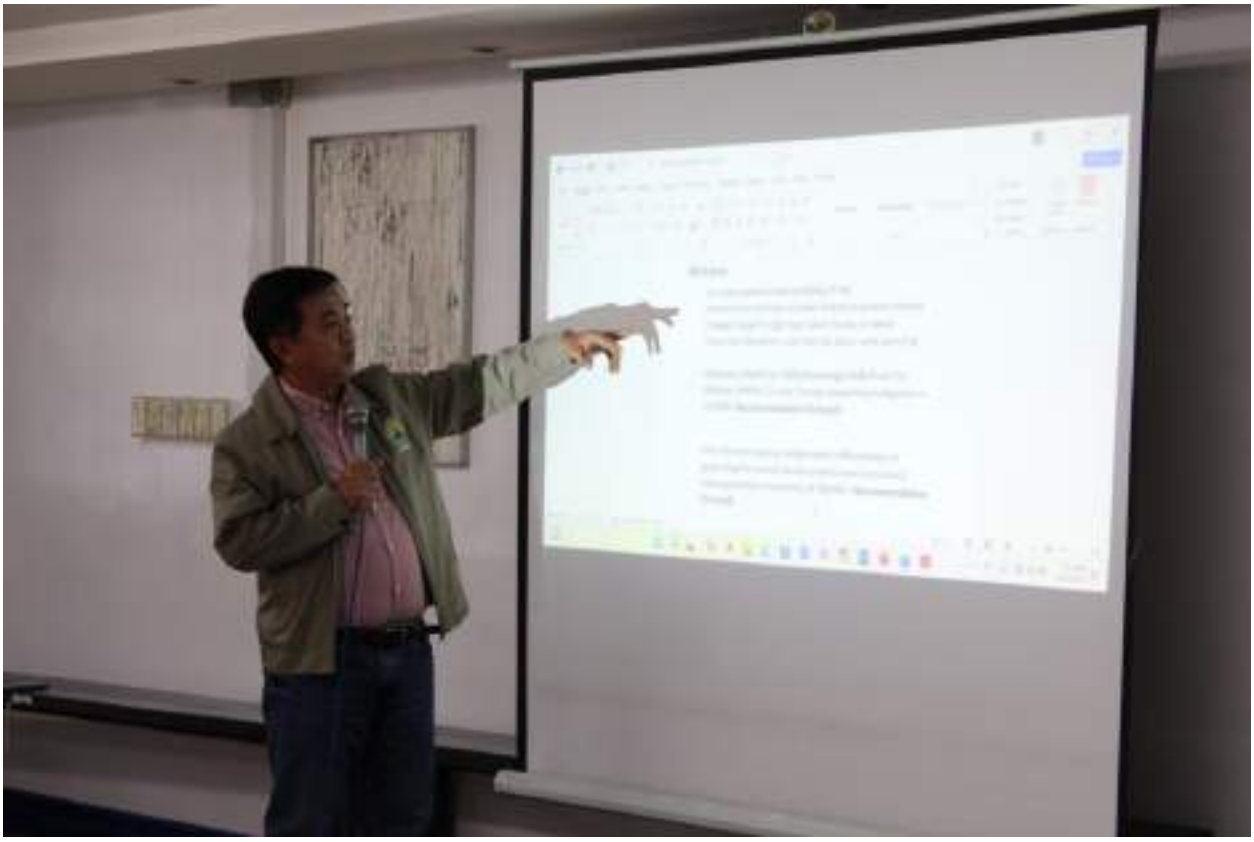
The forum gave participants a venue to discuss water security challenges and climate adaptation strategies, share potential solutions, and explore the Water Evaluation and Planning (WEAP) model as a decision-support tool. Representatives of the Cagayan de Oro City Government, regional government agencies, academic and research institutions, the city water district, and nongovernmental organizations opened the forum by sharing their respective roles in integrated water resources management for the basin.











Project and Technical Presentations

Prof. Apolinario B. Gonzaga Jr., USTP Vice President for Research and Innovation, welcomed the participants and emphasized the need to consider community health in planning amid social pressures and commercial development. Prof. Balderama then presented the project on developing a water security framework for the basin and using WEAP to assess how climate, land use, and socioeconomic changes could affect water resources. He discussed the ISU–USTP partnership, the purpose of the forum, and ISU's dam management research with Kyoto University. He also outlined the project's rationale, objectives, expected outputs, methods, timeline, and data requirements.

Prof. Balderama also briefed participants on the venue and arrangements for two upcoming events: the 2nd International Symposium on Integrated Flood and Sediment Management in River Basin for Sustainable Development (FSMART 2025) and the 3rd International Conference on Climate Change Adaptation and Disaster Risk Reduction Management.

Engr. Czarimah S. Valdez explained WEAP's functions, applications, and structure. She walked participants through a sample WEAP system, demonstrated how it could simulate future scenarios, and showed a recorded overview of the interface.

Forester Analie L. Uayan, Chief of PFMS and Permanent River Basin Focal Person for the Cagayan de Oro River Basin Management Council (CDORBMC), presented the basin's profile and the Council's milestones, challenges, interventions, and recommendations. She also discussed relevant provisions of the National Economic and Development Authority's Regional Development Plan for 2023–2028 and resolutions from the Northern Mindanao Integrated Water Security Summit to help align the Council's work with the project's objectives and expected outcomes.


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What is WEAP?

Stakeholder Workshop and Open Forum

Prof. Balderama facilitated a breakout session where participants shared their understanding of water-related disasters, assessed the research knowledge and skills needed for integrated water resources management, and discussed how well their institutions work together.

During the open forum, stakeholders raised concerns about water sources and projections, water quality, the water development plan, water losses, and policy implementation. Participants expressed interest in having the project's findings inform the CDORBMC Master Plan. Prof. Gonzaga thanked attendees for taking part in the discussions and encouraged them to join the intensive WEAP training planned by the ISU Research and Development, Extension and Training (ISU-RDET) team.

Follow-up Consultations and Data Gathering

On January 31, 2025, the ISU-RDET team gathered project data through focus group discussions with stakeholders at different research sites. Engr. Mark Alexis Sabines, Director of Masterson Food and Agricultural Development at Xavier University, shared accounts of Typhoon Sendong and drew on his experience in hydrologic and watershed modeling.

Forester Uayan, who also serves as focal person at the Department of Environment and Natural Resources Region 10 River Basin Management Office, discussed difficulties encountered during disaster pre-assessment. She also discussed issues and proposed arrangements for FSMART 2025 and conveyed her office's continued support for the symposium.

Mr. Virgilio M. Fuentes, Chief Science Research Specialist of the Technical Services Division at the Department of Science and Technology Region 10, discussed the symposium's relevance to the water resources master plan. He also addressed the intended audience and identified capacity development as a key project deliverable.

The forum and follow-up consultations enabled ISU to gather technical and institutional input for the proposed water security framework. They also identified issues for further study and gave government, academic, utility, and civil society participants an opportunity to discuss how the research could inform planning for the river basin.





SDG 17 | Indicator 17.2.3

ISU International Collaboration on Gathering and Measuring Data for the SDGs (2025)

In 2025, Isabela State University (ISU) took part in international collaboration to gather and measure data for the Sustainable Development Goals. Through the Japan–Philippines NEXUS Program on Water Security with the Disaster Prevention Research Institute (DPRI) of Kyoto University, Japan, funded by the Department of Science and Technology (DOST) and the Japan Science and Technology Agency (JST), ISU and its partners collected river basin, flood and rainfall data used to build hazard and risk maps, early warning systems and decision-support tools for dam operations. The following reports document this work and the agreements that formalized it, in support of SDG 6 (Clean Water and Sanitation), SDG 11 (Sustainable Cities and Communities), SDG 13 (Climate Action) and SDG 17 (Partnerships for the Goals).

1 ISU and Kyoto University Gather Data to Future-Proof Water Resources and Dam Management in the Cagayan Valley

January 22–24, 2025 | Cauayan City, Tuguegarao City and Isabela



A team of researchers from the Disaster Prevention Research Institute (DPRI), Kyoto University, Japan, worked with Isabela State University (ISU) in January 2025 to gather data on water resources and dam management in the Cagayan Valley Region. The work forms part of the Japan–Philippines NEXUS Program on Water Security, a research project funded by the Philippine

Department of Science and Technology (DOST) and the Japan Science and Technology Agency (JST). It aims to develop strategies for managing water and dams under extreme climate conditions.

Prof. Sameh Ahmed Kantoush of Kyoto University led the Japanese team, with Associate Professor Mohamed Saber and PhD student Engr. Jerome Gacu of Kyoto University, and Dr. Nguyen Quang Binh of The University of Danang – University of Science and Technology, Vietnam. Prof. Jeoffrey Lloyd R. Bareng led the Philippine team, with the support of then ISU President Prof. Ricmar P. Aquino and Vice President for Research and Development, Extension and Training Prof. Orlando F. Balderama.

On January 22, 2025, the team presented the results of its joint research at the 241st Special Board Meeting of ISU at The Maximillian Hotel, Cauayan City, where the University's governing board approved the NEXUS program. The team also met with division managers of the National Irrigation Administration – Magat River Integrated Irrigation System (NIA-MARIIS) to secure NIA's long-term commitment as a partner. The discussions covered flood control, dam and reservoir operations, and reservoir sedimentation, and the team proposed an AI-powered flood hazard map. The data gathered will feed a decision support system for optimizing dam operations.

On January 23 and 24, 2025, the team paid courtesy calls on the Cagayan River Basin Management Council, the Office of Isabela Governor Rodito T. Albano III, and the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) Regional Office in Tuguegarao City, led by Regional Executive Director Gwendolyn Bambalan, to request relevant data, including data on damage from recent typhoons.

The researchers also conducted field surveys in Tuguegarao City, Cagayan Segment 1, the Ganano Sub-Watersheds, the Addalam Watershed, and the municipalities of Cauayan, Angadanan, Echague and Jones, as well as at Magat Dam in Ramon, Isabela. The surveys measured flood depths that will be used to build hazard and risk maps for early warning systems in the region.




Source Isabela State University News

Photo credit River Basins for Sustainable Development

2 ISU and Japanese Partners Launch the Japan–Philippines NEXUS Program on Water Security

March 12–13, 2025 | Kyoto University, Uji, Japan



ISU helped lead the Inception Workshop and Ministerial Level Meeting of the Japan–Philippines NEXUS Program on Water Security at Kyoto University's Disaster Prevention Research Institute (DPRI) in Gokasho, Uji City, Kyoto, Japan. The program builds on a partnership between ISU and Kyoto University that dates back to 2019 and focuses on integrated water resources management (IWRM) in river basins. Prof. Sameh Ahmed Kantoush, President of the International Organization on Climate Change Adaptation and Disaster Risk Reduction Management Inc. (IO-CCA-DRRM), serves as principal investigator, and Prof. Jeoffrey Lloyd R. Bareng, ISU University Director for Research and Development, serves as project leader.

The sessions focused on the data and tools the program uses to measure and manage water resources. The Japan Science and Technology Agency presented the NEXUS Program as an R&D platform for research collaboration between Japan and ASEAN. Prof. Kantoush presented the proposed methodology for the Magat Dam, including post-flood fieldwork by the NEXUS R&D team and the optimization of dam operations amid climate change and sedimentation, toward a decision support system for dam and reservoir operation. Mr. Kitani Kazuhiro of the Japan

Weather Association presented ensemble rainfall prediction for the Magat River Basin using data from the European Centre for Medium-Range Weather Forecasts (ECMWF). Dr. Mohamed Saber discussed hydrological and machine learning tools, and the Japan Water Agency (JWA) presented reservoir-scale IWRM.

Philippine Ambassador to Japan Mylene J. Garcia-Albano delivered the keynote on behalf of Isabela Governor Rodito T. Albano III, Chair of the Cagayan River Basin Management Council. Philippine participants included the Department of Science and Technology, represented by Ms. Ninaliza Escorial, Deputy Executive Director of PCIEERD; Commission on Higher Education Commissioner Dr. Marita R. Canapi; National Irrigation Administration Administrator Engr. Eduardo Eddie G. Guillen; Department of Agriculture – Bureau of Agricultural Research Director Dr. Junel Soriano; and Department of Agriculture – Bureau of Soils and Water Management Assistant Director Ms. Denise Solano. Japanese participants included DPRI Director Prof. Tomoharu Hori; Kyoto University Vice President for International Strategy Prof. Yasuyuki Kono; Prof. Tetsuya Sumi of Kyoto University, Vice President of the International Commission on Large Dams; JWA Director General for International Affairs Mr. Takaaki Kusakabe; and Ms. Kaori Yamada of the Japan Science and Technology Agency. Industry partners SN Aboitiz Power, IHI Construction Service Co., Ltd., and Pacific Consultants Co., Ltd. joined leaders from Ryukoku University, Romblon State University (RSU), Bulacan State University (BulSU), the University of Science and Technology of Southern Philippines (USTP), and Mountain Province State University (MPSU).

Three agreements were signed: a Letter of General Agreement among the Japan Water Agency, the National Irrigation Administration and SN Aboitiz Power; a Memorandum of Understanding between ISU and the Provincial Government of Isabela to establish a Disaster Prevention Center; and a Memorandum of Understanding among IO-CCA-DRRM, ISU, RSU, MPSU, USTP and BulSU to form a Disaster-Related Consortium. The meeting also positioned ISU as a planned Kyoto University–DPRI ASEAN Satellite Hub, alongside universities in Singapore, Vietnam, Malaysia and Cambodia, for interdisciplinary research, knowledge sharing and policy development on disaster prevention, response and recovery.

> “ISU will serve as a national and regional hub for water resources management,” then ISU President Prof. Ricmar P. Aquino said.

During an orientation with the International Lake Environment Committee (ILEC) Foundation, delegates toured Lake Biwa, Japan’s largest lake, the Biwa Lake Museum and the Seta River Weir. Prof. Masahisa Nakamura, ILEC Vice President and former Director of the Lake Biwa Research Institute, discussed the lake’s management, flood management and water conservation. ILEC committed to work with ISU and its partner universities RSU, BulSU, USTP and MPSU on inland water conservation, supporting the program’s research on the Cagayan River Basin and other Philippine river basins.







Source River Basins for Sustainable Development

Source ISU, Kyoto University Expand Partnerships for Japan–Philippines NEXUS Program

Source ISU Executives and Japanese Experts Pioneer Innovations in Water Security

Source ISU to Become Kyoto University–DPRI ASEAN Satellite Hub

3 ISU and DPRI Kyoto University Formalize Research Ties through a Collaboration Research Agreement

November 25, 2025



Isabela State University (ISU) and the Disaster Prevention Research Institute of Kyoto University (DPRI-KU) signed another Collaboration Research Agreement (CRA) under Project NEXUS, an initiative to improve Japan–Philippines cooperation in water security. ISU President Dr. Boyet L. Batang and DPRI Director Prof. Tomoharu Hori signed the agreement at the start of a two-day meeting that began on November 25, 2025.

The agreement continues the joint NEXUS research through which ISU and Kyoto University gather and analyze data on river basins, floods and dam operations in the Cagayan Valley. During the meeting, the partners discussed the proposed ASEAN DPRI Hub, a regional platform for research on disaster resilience and water-related challenges. They also presented ongoing and future initiatives under the WISER Program, a capacity-building effort, and held a dialogue among the participating institutions.

Source Isabela State University News

4 ISU and the Japan Water Agency Seal Partnership for Water Security and River Basin Management

November 27, 2025







Isabela State University (ISU) and the Japan Water Agency (JWA), a Japanese government institution, signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) on November 27, 2025, for international collaboration on water security and sustainable river basin management in the Philippines. ISU President Dr. Boyet L. Batang and JWA Director General for International Affairs Mr. Takaaki Kusakabe signed the agreement.

Under the MOU, the partners will jointly investigate flood and sediment management systems for the Magat Dam and the Cagayan River Basin, key waterways for agriculture, energy and communities in Northern Luzon, with possible application to other major river basins in the

country. ISU contributes local expertise through its Smart Water Infrastructure and Management (SWIM) R&D Center, which addresses low water productivity, climate-induced hazards, and gaps in water monitoring, planning and governance. JWA contributes its global technical experience in integrated water resources management, dam and canal operation, and flood mitigation.

The partnership will be carried out through joint projects, technical missions, capacity-building initiatives and knowledge-exchange programs that produce actionable, science-based knowledge for water resources management. The expected outcomes include stronger community resilience, a stable water supply and progress on the Sustainable Development Goals. ISU is also an active member of the Network of Asian River Basin Organizations (NARBO).

SDG 17 | Indicator 17.2.4

International Collaboration on Sustainability Practices (2025)

Isabela State University (ISU) participates in the South Intensive Program (SIP) through West Flanders Synergy Pilipinas. The partnership brings Philippine and Belgian students and faculty together to examine how approaches to sustainable agriculture, climate adaptation, and rural enterprise can be applied in different community settings. ISU participated in the Philippine exchange in 2023 and the Belgian exchange in 2024, then co-hosted SIP in February 2025.

The Province of West Flanders has supported the Synergy Programme since 2018. The June 2022 Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) provided for joint research, training, extension, and learning exchanges through December 2024. The 2025–2027 Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) continued the partnership, providing for community case studies in coordination with VIVES University of Applied Sciences and Howest University of Applied Sciences, as well as student placements in Belgium. ISU sent six students and one faculty member to the 2023 South Intensive Program in Camarines Sur. For the 2024 North Intensive Program at VIVES in Belgium, the participant roster lists five ISU students, and the project output report records one ISU faculty member. The report records 18 ISU student participations across the three exchanges from 2023 to 2025.

South Intensive Program 2025

February 10–21, 2025 | Isabela State University, Saint Mary's University, and Nueva Vizcaya State University



ISU co-hosted SIP 2025 with Saint Mary's University and Nueva Vizcaya State University, in partnership with VIVES, Howest, and other Philippine higher education institutions. Then ISU President Dr. Ricmar P. Aquino welcomed delegates on February 10 under the theme "Bridging Education, Innovation, and Sustainability through Global Collaboration."

The Synergy Pilipinas project output report records seven ISU students and two ISU faculty members. It separately records 50 visiting students and 14 visiting faculty members from participating Philippine and Belgian institutions. Dr. Teresita C. Molano contributed to program implementation and coordination among the partner institutions.

The exchange was designed around learning sessions, community visits, and joint case work. After studying local concerns in the field, Philippine and Belgian students were to work in mixed teams, compare perspectives from their disciplines and home settings, and use their observations to develop proposed solutions or prototypes for community partners.

Visiting faculty contributed through interdisciplinary instruction, research mentoring, and knowledge exchange on climate-smart agriculture, sustainable entrepreneurship, and development studies. The output report also identifies climate resilience, agri-enterprise development, and sustainable rural livelihoods as areas of applied learning and research dissemination during SIP 2025.

These activities drew on themes from the wider Synergy Pilipinas partnership, which reports work on climate risk assessment and vulnerability mapping, climate-smart agricultural models, enterprise planning, cooperative development, and recommendations for local governments. The partnership's work connects sustainable agriculture to SDG 2 (Zero Hunger), enterprise development and livelihoods to SDG 8 (Decent Work and Economic Growth), community resilience to SDG 11 (Sustainable Cities and Communities), and climate risk and adaptation to SDG 13 (Climate Action).




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ISU Collaboration with Non-Government Organizations to Tackle the SDGs (2025)

In 2025, Isabela State University (ISU) worked with non-government organizations (NGOs) on climate action, education and inclusive economic development. With the Philippine Movement for Climate Justice (PMCJ) and Synergy Pilipinas, an institutional partner of the University, ISU took part in a provincial climate justice planning forum. With the Upskill Development Foundation, Wadhwani Foundation Philippines, a non-profit foundation, ISU launched a program to build a student startup ecosystem and to train faculty as internationally certified entrepreneurship coaches. The following reports document these collaborations, which support SDG 4 (Quality Education), SDG 8 (Decent Work and Economic Growth), SDG 9 (Industry, Innovation and Infrastructure), SDG 13 (Climate Action) and SDG 17 (Partnerships for the Goals).

1 ISU Hosts and Attends Workshop Forum on Climate Justice Framework

September 9–10, 2025 | ISU Climate Change Center



Isabela State University (ISU) hosted and attended a Workshop Forum on Climate Justice Framework on September 9–10, 2025, at the ISU Climate Change Center. The forum was organized by the Philippine Movement for Climate Justice (PMCJ) and Synergy Pilipinas, an institutional partner of the University. ISU took part through a six-member delegation from its Echague and Cabagan campuses.

The forum sought systemic solutions to the climate crisis and aimed to amplify community voices calling for a declaration of climate emergency, a transition to clean and renewable energy,

the mobilization of national resources for adaptation and resilience, and the protection of livelihoods and the rights of marginalized sectors. It treated climate change as both an environmental and a justice issue.

The discussions were grounded in the region's recent experience. In 2024, Isabela lost PHP 1.5 billion in agricultural output to the El Niño drought, while Typhoon Pepito devastated Nueva Vizcaya, which was placed under a state of calamity with nearly PHP 1.4 billion in damages.

The program had three sessions. The first, a PMCJ orientation, introduced the Climate Justice Framework and PMCJ campaigns. The second, Climate Emergency 101, covered the goals and objectives of the Climate Emergency Campaign along with proposed strategies and activities. The third, Renewable Energy 101, explained the definition, classifications, sources and technologies of renewable energy. The forum worked toward the preparation and presentation of a Provincial Plan Synthesis for Climate Justice.

ISU President Dr. Boyet L. Batang said the framework can protect both the planet and human dignity. He hoped the forum would inspire participants to confront inequities, lead with empathy and act boldly for future generations.

"We can turn the urgency of climate change into the power of collective justice," Dr. Batang said.





Source Isabela State University News

2 Global Meets Local: ISU and Wadhwani Foundation Philippines Launch an Outcomes-Based Startup Ecosystem for Students

September 9, 2025



Isabela State University (ISU) and the Upskill Development Foundation, Wadhwani Foundation Philippines, signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) on September 9, 2025, to launch ISUPORTSS (Innovation Support for University Projects, Outcomes and Resources to Thriving Student Startups). The partnership aims to develop student startups, advance research commercialization and embed entrepreneurial skills in learning.

Under the program, ISU will train a pool of faculty coaches. Coaches and students will receive intensive mentoring, followed by international certification and credit courses from Wadhwani Foundation, Inc., based in New York, USA. The program also aims to create inclusive opportunities so that women, Indigenous Peoples and persons with disabilities can thrive as innovators.

Mr. Matt Ronnie T. Matias, Senior Consultant of Wadhwani Foundation Philippines, described the Wadhwani Ignite Program, through which ISU faculty and students will earn internationally recognized certifications and credit courses that open global doors while addressing local needs. Mr. Christian Lloyd D. Taguba, project proponent, presented ISUPORTSS as ISU's parallel program. Dr. Marinel P. Dayawon, Dean of the College of Education and co-project implementer, said the partnership gives students the chance to turn ideas into practical innovations rather than academic outputs alone.

Vice President for Academic Affairs Dr. Precila C. Delima affirmed that innovation and entrepreneurship will be built into ISU's instruction, research and extension functions. Dr. Ferdinand Bulusan, University Director for Extension and Training Services and co-project implementer, described the initiative as a blend of innovation, entrepreneurship and the curriculum that helps the University's academic work contribute to real-world development. Echague Campus Cluster Executive Officer Dr. Artemio A. Martin, Jr. sent a message of support, delivered by Campus Director for Academic Affairs Dr. Helena B. Florendo.

ISU President Dr. Boyet L. Batang said the MOU supports the University's goal of producing graduates who are academically strong and socially responsible, in line with his vision of making ISU "the SMARTEST University."

> "When we empower our faculty and students to innovate, we bring our SMARTEST vision to life," Dr. Batang said.

Mr. Lucrecio Delgado, Jr., Regional Director for Southeast Asia of Wadhwani Foundation, said a shared advocacy for young people drives the partnership.

"The youth are the drivers of future economies," Mr. Delgado said.

The partners expect the collaboration to help establish a startup ecosystem in Northern Luzon that produces globally competent innovators with local impact, supporting SDG 4 through

entrepreneurial learning, SDG 8 by preparing students to create jobs, and SDG 9 by speeding the path from research to market.



Source Isabela State University News

3 ISU Launches ISUPORTSS Academy for Mentors with Wadhwani Foundation

October 16–17, 2025





Isabela State University (ISU) launched the ISUPORTSS Academy for Mentors on October 16–17, 2025, with Wadhwani Foundation Philippines as its learning solutions provider. The academy is a capacity-building initiative under ISUPORTSS, the University's program for thriving student startups, and supports ISU's goals of strengthening entrepreneurship education and faculty development. The launch was followed by onsite monitoring.

ISU faculty and Entrepreneurship Education Mentors took part in a two-day hybrid training that combined face-to-face sessions, online coursework and virtual coaching. The training covered ten core modules: problem identification; customer identification and needs; solution and idea generation; opportunity and competition mapping; prototype development and minimum viable product (MVP); opportunity assessment; business modelling; market and sales strategy; financial development for profitability; and team and talent requirements. It also included venture idea and pitch readiness sessions and venture idea feasibility presentations, and it linked entrepreneurship teaching with research and extension services.

Dr. Lucrecio Delgado, Jr., Regional Director for Southeast Asia of Wadhwani Foundation, spoke about how innovation and entrepreneurship affect individuals and communities. He said true entrepreneurship builds dedication and dignity in serving one's family and fellow Filipinos, and he urged the mentors to inspire students to "dream for the big dream, to push for it" and eventually launch startups that create jobs.

Through the academy, participants turn theoretical concepts into actionable startup plans. Certified faculty will serve as on-call startup coaches across the ISU system, mentoring student-led startups in both curricular and co-curricular settings and strengthening a culture of innovation and enterprise at the University.≈



continuous improvement, enabling comparative learning, multi-sector collaboration, and benchmarking with global best practices.

The SDG report (SDGs 1–17) presents ISU's contributions to each goal, showcasing measurable outcomes and best practices that align higher education with the global pursuit of a more inclusive, resilient, and sustainable future.

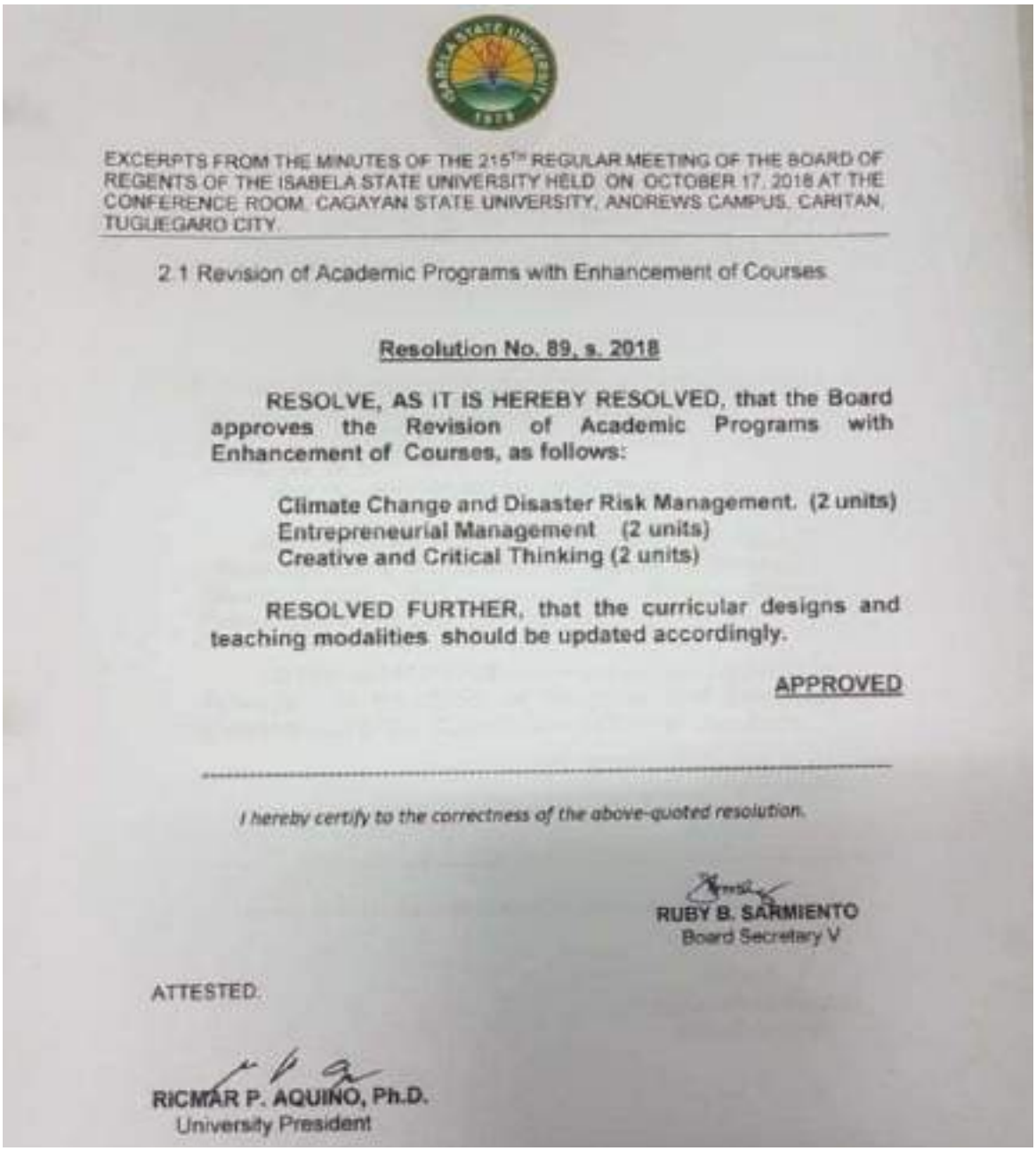
SDG 17 | Indicator 17.4.1

ISU Commitment to Meaningful SDG Education for All Students (2025)

Isabela State University (ISU) is committed to meaningful education on the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) that is relevant and applicable to all of its students. Every undergraduate and graduate program of the University includes four SDG-oriented institutional subjects approved by the Board of Regents: Climate Change and Disaster Risk Management, Creative and Critical Thinking Skills, Entrepreneurial Management, and Data Science Analytics. In 2025, ISU strengthened this commitment through a partnership with UP-CIFAL Philippines to integrate the 17 SDGs into teaching, research and extension across the ISU System. The following reports document this university-wide commitment.

1 Best Practice: Sustainability Literacy of ISU Students through SDG-Oriented Institutional Subjects

University-wide | All ISU campuses and programs



EXCERPTS FROM THE MINUTES OF THE 215TH REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF REGENTS OF THE ISABELA STATE UNIVERSITY HELD ON OCTOBER 17, 2018 AT THE CONFERENCE ROOM, CAGAYAN STATE UNIVERSITY, ANDREWS CAMPUS, CARITAN, TUGUEGARO CITY.

2.1 Revision of Academic Programs with Enhancement of Courses

Resolution No. 89, s. 2018

RESOLVE, AS IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED, that the Board approves the Revision of Academic Programs with Enhancement of Courses, as follows:

Climate Change and Disaster Risk Management. (2 units)
Entrepreneurial Management (2 units)
Creative and Critical Thinking (2 units)

RESOLVED FURTHER, that the curricular designs and teaching modalities should be updated accordingly.

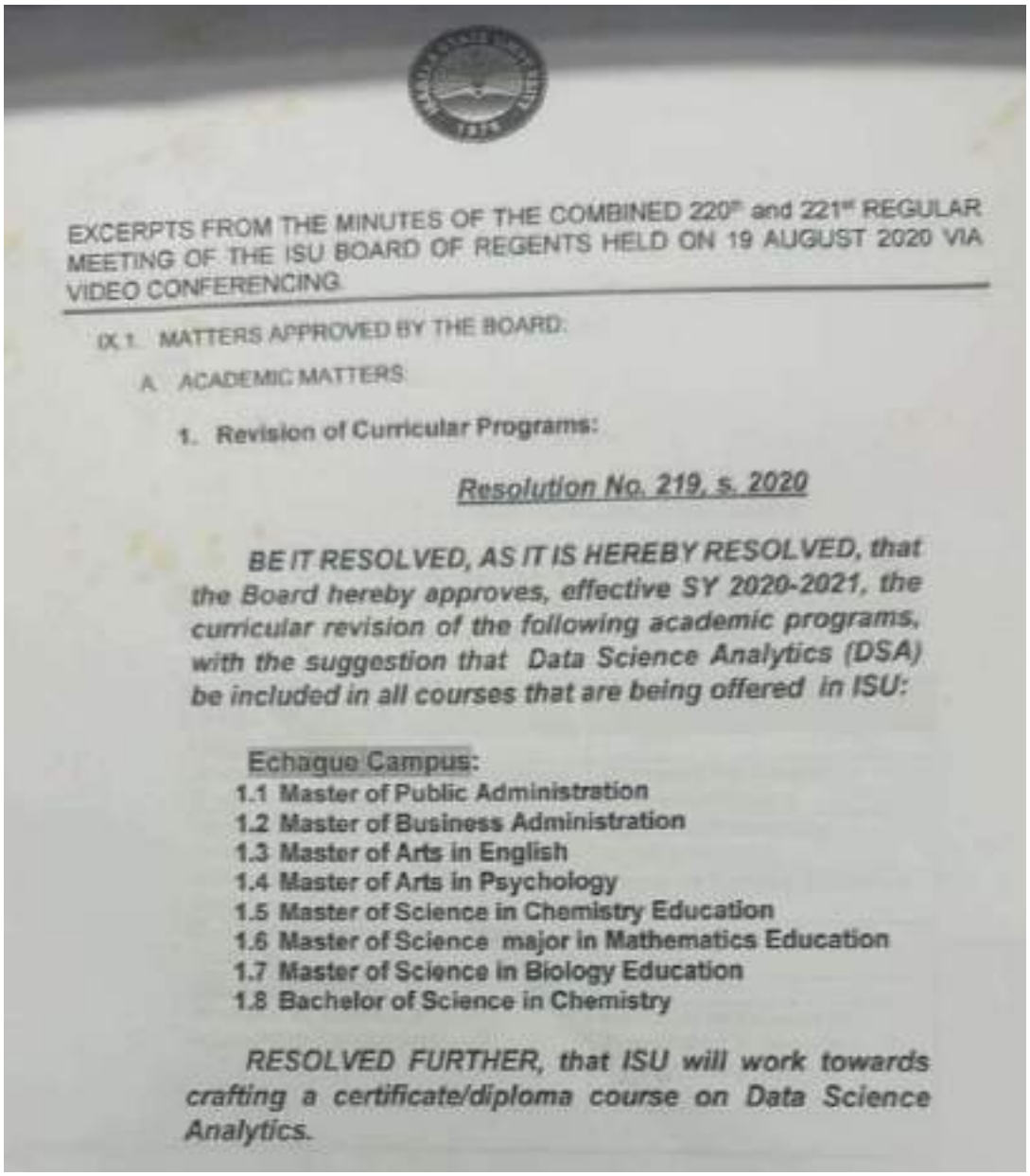
APPROVED

I hereby certify to the correctness of the above-quoted resolution.

RUBY B. SARMIENTO
Board Secretary V

ATTESTED.

RICMAR P. AQUINO, Ph.D.
University President



EXCERPTS FROM THE MINUTES OF THE COMBINED 220th and 221st REGULAR MEETING OF THE ISU BOARD OF REGENTS HELD ON 19 AUGUST 2020 VIA VIDEO CONFERENCING

IX.1. MATTERS APPROVED BY THE BOARD:

A. ACADEMIC MATTERS

1. **Revision of Curricular Programs:**

Resolution No. 219, s. 2020

BE IT RESOLVED, AS IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED, that the Board hereby approves, effective SY 2020-2021, the curricular revision of the following academic programs, with the suggestion that Data Science Analytics (DSA) be included in all courses that are being offered in ISU:

Echague Campus:

1.1 Master of Public Administration
1.2 Master of Business Administration
1.3 Master of Arts in English
1.4 Master of Arts in Psychology
1.5 Master of Science in Chemistry Education
1.6 Master of Science major in Mathematics Education
1.7 Master of Science in Biology Education
1.8 Bachelor of Science in Chemistry

RESOLVED FURTHER, that ISU will work towards crafting a certificate/diploma course on Data Science Analytics.

Isabela State University (ISU) has adopted a forward-looking curriculum that builds the sustainability literacy of its students. Four institutional subjects are offered across all programs of the University, from the undergraduate to the graduate level, so that every ISU student learns about sustainability regardless of field of study.

The four institutional subjects are Climate Change and Disaster Risk Management, Creative and Critical Thinking Skills, Entrepreneurial Management, and Data Science Analytics. They were approved by the ISU Board of Regents through Board Resolution No. 89, series of 2019, and Board Resolution No. 219, series of 2020.

The subjects prepare students and graduates to apply sustainability in practice. Through Climate Change and Disaster Risk Management, they are equipped to educate communities on climate change mitigation through outreach and research. Through Entrepreneurial Management and Creative and Critical Thinking Skills, they are prepared to launch startups and work as technopreneurs and entrepreneurs. Through Data Science Analytics, they learn to use data to predict trends, identify gaps and recommend policy improvements.

Students in the institutional subjects take three major examinations. The University uses the results of departmentalized examinations to assess student knowledge and to refine its strategies for advancing the Sustainable Development Goals. Through these subjects, ISU aims to produce graduates who are better prepared to address sustainability challenges at both the local and global levels.



Republic of the Philippines
ISABELA STATE UNIVERSITY
Cabagan Campus

COLLEGE OF EDUCATION

Course Syllabus
First Semester, School Year 2023- 2024

Course Number	Course Title	Credit Units	Hours per week
SED INST 4	Data Science Analytics	2	1 (Lec), 3 (lab)

VISION

The Isabela State University envisions to be a leading research university in the ASEAN region.

MISSION

The Isabela State University is committed to develop globally competitive human, technological resources and services through quality instruction, innovative research, responsive community engagement and viable resource management programs for inclusive growth and sustainable development.

QUALITY POLICY

The Isabela State University is determined to be a lead university in instruction, research, extension and resource generation through continual improvement of services and commits to comply with the standards set by statutory, regulatory and accreditation bodies.

To uphold this commitment, ISU shall attain the following quality objectives:

1. Sustain academic excellence and quality in instruction;
2. Generate research breakthroughs;
3. Engage in sectoral activities for community development;
4. Develop products for glocalization;
5. Support students' participation to local and international fora to enhance their potentialities; and
6. Review on periodic basis, the Quality Management System (QMS) and gather feedback on the level of client satisfaction as basis for continual improvement.

INSTITUTIONAL OUTCOMES

Communicator (Cm)
- Recognizes and values communication as a tool for conveying and interacting with others and fostering their own learning.

Inquiry-focused and Knowledgeable (IFK)
- Creates new knowledge and understanding through the process of research and inquiry.
- Demonstrate comprehensive theoretical and technical concepts related to their field of specialization with relevant connections to industry, professional and regional knowledge.

Competent (Cp)
- Initiates and innovates better ways of doing things
- Promotes quality and productivity

Collaborative and Effective Leader (CEL)
- Works in collaboration with others and manages group functioning to meet common goal

Lifelong Learner (LL)
- Acquires new skills and adapts to rapid changes in professional and personal environments

GOALS OF THE COLLEGE OF EDUCATION

In line with the Isabela State University's vision and mission, the College of Education is tasked to develop professional educators and train future teachers who are competent, caring, confident and would contribute to the development of the community through education by:

1. enhancing the qualification of educators for academic and professional development equipped with advanced training and educational innovations as well as research and extension capabilities; and
2. preparing and developing highly qualified basic education teachers and skilled technologists through quality and well-rounded pre-service training in both academic and vocational for diverse communities of learners.

PROGRAM OUTCOMES

The graduates of the **Bachelor of Secondary Education** program must be able to:

1. Articulate the rootedness of education in philosophical, socio-cultural, historical, psychological, and political contexts;
2. Demonstrate mastery of subject matter/discipline;
3. Facilitate learning using a wide range of teaching methodologies and delivery of modes appropriate to specific learners and their environments;
4. Develop innovative curricula, instructional plans, teaching approaches, and resources for diverse learners;
5. Apply skills in the development and utilization of ICT to promote quality, relevant, and sustainable educational practices;
6. Demonstrate a variety of thinking skills in planning, monitoring, assessing, and reporting learning processes and outcomes;
7. Practice professional and ethical teaching standards sensitive to the local, national, and global realities; and
8. Pursue lifelong learning for personal and professional growth through varied experiential and field-based opportunities.

Course Description

This course is designed for students with little to no technical background who want to understand the fundamental principles of data science analytics and how it impacts various aspects of their personal and professional lives. Particularly, it covers the basics of data collection, cleaning, analysis, and visualization techniques, enabling them to make data-driven decisions.

Prerequisite/s: None

Course Learning Outcomes	Program Outcomes								Institutional Outcomes				
	LO1	LO2	LO3	LO4	LO5	LO6	LO7	LO8	Cm	IFK	Cp	CEL	LL
1. Describe key concepts of data science analytics	I	D	I	I	DA	DA	D	DA	D	DA	DA	D	D
2. Perform essential analytics techniques using Microsoft Excel	I	D	I	I	D	DA	DA	DA	D	DA	DA	D	D
3. Create compelling data visualizations using Microsoft Excel	I	D	DA	DA	DA	DA	DA	DA	DA	DA	DA	DA	DA
4. Demonstrate an increased sense of confidence and motivation in the ability to work with data	I	DA	DA	I	DA	D	D	DA	DA	DA	DA	D	D
5. Develop a positive attitude towards tackling real-world data challenges using the data analytics tool selected	I	DA	DA	I	DA	D	D	DA	DA	DA	DA	D	D

ISU/Cab-CSd/Syl-014
Revision: 1 September 1, 2020

Republic of the Philippines
ISABELA STATE UNIVERSITY
San Mateo Campus

BACHELOR OF SECONDARY EDUCATION

Course Syllabus
First Semester, School Year 2023 – 2024

SEd Inst 1	Climate Change and Risk Reduction Management	3 units	3 hours/week
Course Number	Course Title	Credit Unit/s	Lecture Hours Per Week

VISION

A leading research university in the ASEAN region.

MISSION

The Isabela State University is committed to develop globally competitive human, technological resources and services through quality instruction, innovative research, responsive community engagement and viable resource management programs for inclusive growth and sustainable development.

QUALITY POLICY

The Isabela State University is determined to be a lead university in instruction, research, extension and resource generation through continuous improvement of services and commits to comply with the standards set by statutory, regulatory and accrediting bodies.
To uphold this commitment, ISU shall attain the following quality objectives:

1. Sustain academic excellence and quality instructions;
2. Generate research work breakthroughs;
3. Engage in sectoral activities for community development;
4. Develop products of glocalization;
5. Support students' participation to local and international fora to enhance their potentialities; and,
6. Review on periodic basis, the quality management system (QMS) and gather feedback on the level of client satisfaction as basis for continual improvement.

INSTITUTIONAL OUTCOMES

ISU Expected Graduate Attributes

Communicator (Cm)
- Recognizes and values communication as a tool for conveying and interacting with others, and fostering their own learning.

Inquiry-focused and Knowledgeable (IFK)
- Creates new knowledge and understanding through the process of research and inquiry.
- Demonstrates comprehensive theoretical and technical concepts related to their field of specialization with relevant connections to industry, professional and regional knowledge.

Competitive (Cp)
- Initiates and innovates better ways of doing things
- Promotes quality and productivity

Collaborative and Effective Leader (CEL)
- Works in collaboration with others and manages group functioning to meet common goal

Lifelong Learner (LL)
- Acquires new skills and adapts to rapid changes in professional and personal environments

ISU/Cab-CSd/Syl-014
Revision: 1
Effectivity: September 1, 2020

GOALS OF THE BACHELOR OF SECONDARY EDUCATION	PROGRAM LEARNING OUTCOMES
In line with the Isabela State University's vision and mission, the BSEd is tasked to: 1. enhancing the qualification of educators for academic and professional development equipped with advanced training and educational innovations as well as research and extension capabilities; and 2. preparing and developing highly qualified basic education teachers and skilled technologists through quality and well-rounded pre-service training in both academic and vocational for diverse communities of learners.	1. Possess wide range of theoretical and practical skills of an effective delivery instruction; 2. Perform the necessary competencies needed in the different learning areas in the secondary school; 3. Conduct research of instruction; 4. Undertake actual training in community development through extension activities; 5. Apply appropriate innovative and alternative teaching approaches; 6. Practice the professional and ethical requirements of the teaching profession; and 7. Demonstrate desirable Filipino value as a foundation for social citizenship participation.

Course Description

Climate change is known to increase disaster intensities and frequency by aggravating hazards and the factors determining vulnerability of environment, inhabiting communities and their resources. There has been a paradigm shift in approach to disaster management from response and relief centric to risk management centric, and thus, calling integration of climate change adaptation and sustainability concerns along DRR into developmental process.

This course introduces the concepts, tools, methods for disaster risk management, specifically for climate and weather-related disasters; role of policies and frameworks at international, national and sub-national contexts, with focus on emerging issues and recent developments. Students are expected to attend the class after going through the reference reading materials, and participate in the guided exercises (tutorials) and undertake assignments in order to enable relevant knowledge base on the subject.

Course Mapping

Course Learning Outcomes	Program Learning Outcomes								Institutional Outcomes			
	LO1	LO2	LO3	LO4	LO5	LO6	LO7	Cm	IFK	Cp	CEL	LL
1. To provide a systematic knowledge base on disaster typology, risk, vulnerability, their impacts and concerns to growing hydro-met disasters.	I	I	D	D	D	I	DA	D	D	D	D	DA
2. To apply approaches and measures of disaster management: preparedness and response, and related policies, law and methods.	D	D	DA	I	D	I	DA	D	D	D	D	DA
3. To enumerate on possible pathways, tools and options for CCA-DRR and sustainability mainstreaming through developmental planning at sectors, department or local levels, and activities.	D	D	D	I	D	I	D	D	D	D	D	I
4. Observe 3 Rs (Makadiyos-Makatao at Makakalikasan.	I	I	D	D	DA	DA	I	D	D	I	D	I
5. Perform glocal risk reduction best practices anywhere.	D	DA	D	D	DA	DA	DA	D	D	I	D	D

ISUSenWel-BEd-Syl-014
Revision: 1
Effectivity: September 1, 2020

Source Isabela State University News

2 ISU and UP-CIFAL Philippines Forge Partnership to Advance Sustainability in Higher Education

February 11–12, 2025 | ISU Cauayan



Isabela State University (ISU) and the University of the Philippines Centre International de Formation des Autorités et Leaders (UP-CIFAL Philippines) held the Sustainable Development Goals for Higher Education (SDGs4HE) orientation program on February 11–12, 2025, at ISU Cauayan. Organized by the School of Arts and Sciences of ISU Cauayan, with the support of the University's offices for Research and Development, Extension and Training Services, Planning and Development/GAD, Academic Affairs and the Executive Officer, the program gave university administrators, faculty, students and research professionals the knowledge and tools to integrate the 17 UN SDGs into their work in teaching, research and community extension.

A highlight of the program was the signing of a Memorandum of Agreement between ISU, represented by then University President Dr. Ricmar P. Aquino, and UP-CIFAL Philippines, represented by its Director, Dr. Michelle R. Palumbarit. Then Vice President for Academic Affairs Dr. Boyet L. Batang, Cauayan Campus Cluster Executive Officer Dr. Precila C. Delima and other university officials witnessed the signing. The agreement aims to institutionalize SDG-aligned teaching, research and extension initiatives at ISU and to continue their development and implementation.

Over the two days, experts shared perspectives on sustainability in higher education. Dr. Ronald Allan S. Mabunga of Marikina Polytechnic College spoke on peace and partnerships in sustainability during a polycrisis. Dr. Parsons N. Hail of Central Luzon State University discussed grassroots sustainability efforts. Dr. Jowima Ang-Reyes of UP Diliman's Ugnayan ng Pahinungod presented people-centered social innovation and community co-creation, and Dr. Karen Ann B. Jago-on of the UP Diliman School of Urban and Regional Planning discussed the role of the academe in city planning and sustainable campus development. On the second day, Dr. Arlene L. Gonzales of Mariano Marcos State University spoke on accountability and transparent, holistic evaluation, and Ms. Anna Floresca F. Firmalino of the UP Los Baños Office of International Linkages discussed internationalization and global networks.

Participants also joined interactive workshops, including a World Café discussion, in which they aligned academic programs and institutional strategies with the SDGs. Dr. Palumbarit stressed the key role of higher education in driving sustainability and closed the workshop by emphasizing collaboration for inclusive and sustainable growth.

Dr. Aquino said the partnership would strengthen ISU's advocacy for the SDGs, while Dr. Batang said the commitment would extend beyond the Cauayan Campus to the wider Isabela State University System, making SDG education part of the whole University.



Source Isabela State University News

Source UP-CIFAL Philippines

SDG 17 | Indicator 17.4.2

Sustainability-Focused Degree Programs and Courses at Isabela State University

Isabela State University (ISU) provides dedicated sustainability education through undergraduate and graduate degree programs in environmental science, forestry, and disaster risk management. A two-unit institutional course in Climate Change and Disaster Risk Management also brings climate and disaster risk education into the curricula of other disciplines.

Sustainability-Focused Degree Programs

The programs below are identified for ISU's 2025 reporting period, which covers portions of academic years 2024–2025 and 2025–2026. ISU's Program Offerings listing identifies the undergraduate degrees in Environmental Science and Forestry.

Degree program	Level	Sustainability focus
Bachelor of Science in Environmental Science	Undergraduate	Environmental stewardship and natural resource management
Bachelor of Science in Forestry	Undergraduate	Forest conservation and sustainable use of forest resources (SDG 15)
Master of Science in Environmental Science	Graduate	Environmental research and policy
Master of Science in Forestry	Graduate	Advanced forest management and conservation
Master of Science in Disaster Risk Management – Climate Change Adaptation	Graduate	Disaster resilience and climate change adaptation (SDGs 11 and 13)

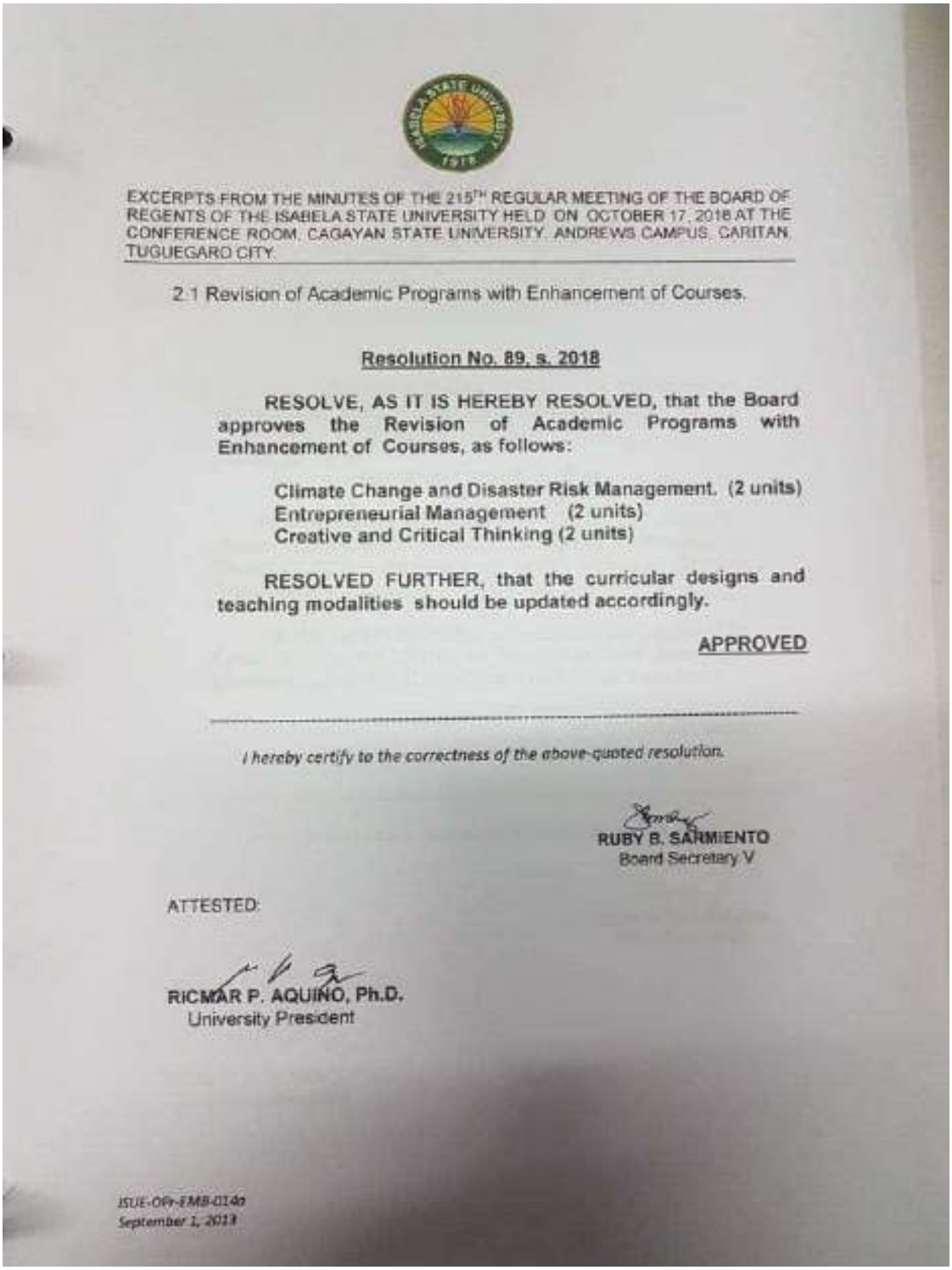
At ISU Cabagan Campus, the Bachelor of Science in Environmental Science and the Master of Science in Disaster Risk Management – Climate Change Adaptation provide pathways for undergraduate study in environmental stewardship and graduate study in climate adaptation and disaster resilience.

Institutional Course on Climate Change and Disaster Risk Management

At its October 17, 2018 meeting, the ISU Board of Regents approved Climate Change and Disaster Risk Management as a two-unit institutional subject under Resolution No. 89, s. 2018. The resolution directed ISU to update its curricula and teaching methods accordingly.

In its published account, "Sustainability Literacy of ISU Students through SDG-Oriented Institutional Subjects," ISU describes the course as part of the institutional curriculum across

undergraduate and graduate programs. The university also describes using examinations to assess students' understanding and applying climate change mitigation concepts through research and community outreach.



EXCERPTS FROM THE MINUTES OF THE 215TH REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF REGENTS OF THE ISABELA STATE UNIVERSITY HELD ON OCTOBER 17, 2018 AT THE CONFERENCE ROOM, CAGAYAN STATE UNIVERSITY, ANDREWS CAMPUS, CARITAN, TUGUEGARO CITY.

2.1 Revision of Academic Programs with Enhancement of Courses.

Resolution No. 89, s. 2018

RESOLVE, AS IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED, that the Board approves the Revision of Academic Programs with Enhancement of Courses, as follows:

Climate Change and Disaster Risk Management. (2 units)
Entrepreneurial Management (2 units)
Creative and Critical Thinking (2 units)

RESOLVED FURTHER, that the curricular designs and teaching modalities should be updated accordingly.

APPROVED

I hereby certify to the correctness of the above-quoted resolution.

RUBY B. SARMIENTO
Board Secretary V

ATTESTED:

RICMAR P. AQUINO, Ph.D.
University President

ISUE-OR-EMB-014a
September 1, 2013

SDG 17 | Indicator 17.4.3

ISU Outreach Education for the Wider Community (2025)

Isabela State University (ISU) brings education beyond its campuses to local residents, farmers, cooperatives, local government personnel, marginalized sectors and the wider public. Guided by the University Extension Agenda, ISU's campuses deliver training, seminars, forums and capacity-building programs that are open to people who are not enrolled at the University. The following reports document ISU's extension framework and its outreach educational activities in 2025, in support of SDG 4 (Quality Education) and SDG 17 (Partnerships for the Goals).

1 The ISU Extension Agenda: A Framework for Educating the Wider Community

University-wide | Office of Extension and Training Services

Extension programs articulate the social relevance and conscience of the Isabela State University as a facilitator of countryside development. The extension team thereby anchors its effort on the communities to uplift their living conditions through the realization of the full potential of every person it works with and in harnessing rural folks capabilities in effectively and efficiently utilizing the gamut of community resources. To be more functional and more relevant, extension services primarily aimed at reaching out to the poorest local government units and rural communities and help them build up their capabilities to become self-reliant and empowered. Moreover, the University is envisioned to develop effective extension modalities and strategies with great focus on social mobilization and development of viable S & T and rural-based enterprises.

The University extension program thrust has been implemented in consonance with DA-AFMA of 1997, DA-ATI guidelines for the National Extension System for Agriculture and Fisheries (NESAF), CHED's NHERA, PCARRD's Technology Management Promotion and Commercialization Enhancement Program and NEDA Regional Extension Agenda. Guided by the abovementioned programs, ISU has pursued four-pronged umbrella programs as follows: a) Adopt A Barangay Volunteerism Program; b) LGU Extension Capability Strengthening Program; and c) Gender and Development; d) Community Outreach and Support Services.

The ISU Extension Agenda expresses the University's social mission and its support for rural development. Its main beneficiaries are communities outside the University: residents of rural barangays, the poorest local government units (LGUs), and marginalized groups who need capacity building. The agenda aims to improve living conditions by developing each participant's potential and helping rural residents make good use of local resources, so that communities become self-reliant and empowered.

The agenda is carried out through umbrella programs that include the Adopt-A-Barangay Volunteerism Program, the Adopt-A-School Program, the LGU Extension Capability Strengthening Program, Gender and Development, and Community Outreach and Support Services. Under these programs, ISU offers the wider community literacy training; remedial teaching; values formation; reproductive health, nutrition and sanitation education; livelihood and rural enterprise development; climate change policy advocacy and training; disaster risk reduction and management; environmental management, including waste management; and S&T-based demonstration farms.

For local governments, ISU provides non-degree training, technical assistance, capacity-building courses, information, education and communication (IEC) materials, multimedia campaigns, impact evaluation and the School-On-The-Air. The agenda is aligned with the Agriculture and Fisheries Modernization Act (RA 8435), the guidelines of the National Extension System for Agriculture and Fisheries, CHED's National Higher Education Research Agenda and the NEDA Regional Extension Agenda.

Source ISU Extension Agenda

2 ISU Ilagan and Local Health Partners Run a Six-Month Community Health Education Program

October 21, 2024 – April 2025 | ISU City of Ilagan Campus





The College of Nursing of ISU City of Ilagan Campus launched a six-month community extension program on health with the Governor Faustino N. Dy Sr. Memorial Hospital, the Integrated Provincial Health Office of Isabela and City Health Office I of Ilagan. The partners signed a Memorandum of Agreement at the launch on October 21, 2024, and the program held weekly Monday sessions until April 2025.

The program educates community members on healthy living. The launch featured lectures on hypertension prevention and management by Ms. Eleanor R. Atienza, RN, MAN, and on mental health awareness by licensed psychologist Mr. Dominic B. Agoot, a Zumba session led by student nurses and nursing faculty, and free vital sign checks for community members. Healthcare professionals, local officials and community advocates attended. Mr. Ryan M. Amigo, RN, served as ISU project leader, and the program supports SDG 3 (Good Health and Well-Being).

Source ISU City of Ilagan Campus

3 ISU Launches RISE-C to Empower Communities in Santiago City

May 24, 2025 | ISU Santiago Extension Campus














ISU officially launched the Research, Innovation, Sustainability, and Empowerment Center (RISE-C) at its Santiago Extension Campus on May 24, 2025, with the Local Government Unit of Santiago City, the 4th Congressional District of Isabela and the Department of Science and Technology (DOST). The center serves as a hub for interdisciplinary research, technology and innovation that empowers faculty, students and partner agencies to address real-world challenges in smart agriculture, climate action, public health, education and disaster resilience, in support of the goal of making Santiago City and the Cagayan Valley Region sustainable, innovative and smart communities.

ISU President Dr. Boyet L. Batang called for research that is purpose-driven, inclusive and focused on real-world impact. DOST Secretary Dr. Renato U. Solidum Jr. stressed partnerships among DOST, LGUs and the academe. Campus Coordinator Dr. Melito D. Mayormente presented the RISE-C project overview.

Source Isabela State University News

4 ISU and SRA Partner to Bring High-Yielding Sugarcane Varieties to Smallholder Farmers

July 1, 2025









ISU and the Sugar Regulatory Administration (SRA) signed a Memorandum of Agreement on July 1, 2025, to implement the project “Rapid Propagation and Distribution of SRA Sugarcane High-Yielding Varieties in the Mill District” under the SRA Varietal Improvement Program, funded through the Sugar Industry Development Act (SIDA) Fund. The project aims to increase sugarcane production in Northern Luzon by propagating high-yielding varieties and distributing them to smallholder farmers, modernizing sugarcane farming and improving farmer productivity through research-based practices.

ISU President Dr. Boyet L. Batang took part in the signing. SRA Administrator Pablo Luis S. Azcona was represented by Dr. Orlando F. Balderama, ISU Vice President for Research and Development, Extension and Training. Dr. Jeoffrey Lloyd R. Bareng, University Director for Research and Development, and Ms. Rose Mandac, Science Research Specialist I, served as institutional and project representatives.

Source Isabela State University News

5 ISU Hosts Community Forum on Climate Justice

September 9–10, 2025 | ISU Climate Change Center

ISU hosted the Workshop Forum on Climate Justice Framework on September 9–10, 2025, at the ISU Climate Change Center, organized by the Philippine Movement for Climate Justice (PMCJ) and Synergy Pilipinas. The forum amplified the voices of communities and marginalized sectors calling for a declaration of climate emergency, a transition to clean and renewable energy, national resources for adaptation and resilience, and the protection of livelihoods. It drew on recent local experience: in 2024, Isabela lost PHP 1.5 billion in agricultural output to the El Niño drought, and Typhoon Pepito caused nearly PHP 1.4 billion in damages in Nueva Vizcaya.

Participants learned through three sessions: an orientation on the Climate Justice Framework and PMCJ campaigns, Climate Emergency 101 and Renewable Energy 101. The forum worked toward a Provincial Plan Synthesis for Climate Justice. A six-member ISU delegation from the Echague and Cabagan campuses took part. ISU President Dr. Boyet L. Batang said, “We can turn the urgency of climate change into the power of collective justice.”

Source Isabela State University News

6 ISU and Tanggol Kalikasan Train Local Government and Agency Personnel on Maritime Domain Awareness

September 9–11, 2025 | Alabang, Muntinlupa City



The participants from Isabela photo-opportunity with the dignitaries and resource speakers



ISU, through its Institute of Environmental Governance (IEG), joined Tanggol Kalikasan, Inc. and other institutes of environmental governance in a Maritime Domain Awareness Training on September 9–11, 2025, supported by the United States Department of the Interior – International Technical Assistance Program. The training reached 94 participants: LGU department heads and technical staff from Cagayan, Isabela, Aurora, Quezon and Camarines Norte, and representatives of DENR, BFAR, DILG, DOTr, the Philippine Coast Guard and DOT.

ISU Vice President for Research and Development, Extension and Training Dr. Orlando F. Balderama presented the training's background and objectives, and ISU-IEG Coordinator Dr. Bondee L. Peñaflor moderated. Through lectures, group activities, workshops and consultation hours, participants learned about maritime domain awareness, mapping of marine areas and human uses, legal frameworks for marine conservation, benthic ecosystem mapping, data management and analysis, maritime emergency response and stakeholder engagement, with a focus on protecting the resources of the Philippine Rise. Experts from the US Bureau of Ocean Energy Management, the US Geological Survey and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration shared technical insights.

> "Let this training be a catalyst for strong intergovernmental partnerships," DILG Assistant Secretary for International Relations Lilian De Leon said.



ASec. Lilian De Leon, Assistant Secretary for International Relations of DILG delivering a Keynote Message



Mr. Nick Bruscato from the Office of International Affairs, US Department of Interior delivering his Solidarity Message



Dr. Orlando F. Balderama, VP for Research and Development, Extension and Training, during his presentation of the background and objective of the training



Dr. Bondee L. Peñaflor, ISU-IEG Coordinator, serving as moderator



Mr. Brian R. Hooker from the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management during his lecture



Dr. Guy Cochrane from the U.S. Geological Survey during his lecture



Mr. Grant Demesillo of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration during his lecture



Captain Jason Lehto of the U.S. Coast Guard (Attaché) during his lecture

Source ISU Cabagan Campus

7 ISU and CHR Region II Establish a Center for Human Rights Education for Communities

November 5, 2025 | ISU Echague

ISU and the Commission on Human Rights Region II signed a Memorandum of Agreement on November 5, 2025, at Alba Hall, ISU Echague, to establish the Center for Human Rights Education (CHRE). ISU President Dr. Boyet L. Batang and CHR Region II Regional Director Atty. Jimmy P. Baliga led the signing. Through its Gender and Development Office, ISU will run education and advocacy activities for students, faculty, staff and community partners, and extend capacity building to communities, including the establishment of Barangay Human Rights Action Centers (BHRACs) and programs for vulnerable sectors across the Cagayan Valley Region.

> "Education is the most powerful tool to nurture respect for life, equality, and freedom," Dr. Batang said.

Source Isabela State University News

8 ISU and CDA Region II Partner to Train Cooperative Trainers

December 5, 2025

ISU and the Cooperative Development Authority (CDA) Region II signed a Memorandum of Agreement on December 5, 2025, for a Training of Trainers (TOT) program for Accredited Cooperative Training Providers and applicants under the CDA Accreditation Program. Built on the KooPerAtbp Extension Program of ISU's College of Business, Accountancy and Public Administration, the program strengthens trainers' skills in cooperative governance, management and enterprise performance so that they can educate cooperatives and their members across the region.

ISU will implement the standard course outline, build a pool of resource speakers, facilitate the training, prepare information and education materials, and award certificates to qualified trainers, while ISU and CDA jointly develop the curriculum and monitor the program. The partnership also provides for workshops on cooperative governance and mentoring, demonstration farms and training hubs. CDA Regional Director Atty. Nita Doreen L. Maestre-Tabbu called the partnership CDA's "maiden voyage" for the TOT, and ISU President Dr. Boyet L. Batang said it invests "not only in skills but in people."

Source Isabela State University News

SDG 17 | Indicator 17.4.4

Measuring Student Sustainability Literacy at Isabela State University

Isabela State University (ISU) assesses students' sustainability knowledge through examinations in its institutional subjects. ISU describes these subjects as part of its undergraduate and graduate curricula. They include Climate Change and Disaster Risk Management, a two-unit subject approved under Board of Regents Resolution No. 89, s. 2018.

Student Assessment and Use of Results

In its published account, "Sustainability Literacy of ISU Students through SDG-Oriented Institutional Subjects," ISU reports that students take three major examinations as part of this curriculum. ISU uses the results of departmentalized examinations to assess student knowledge and refine teaching strategies for sustainability and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

Read the ISU article on sustainability literacy: https://isu.edu.ph/best-practice-sustainability-literacy-of-isu-students-through-sdg-oriented-institutional-subjects/

Board of Regents Resolution

Resolution No. 89, s. 2018, approved on October 17, 2018

EXCERPTS FROM THE MINUTES OF THE 215TH REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF REGENTS OF THE ISABELA STATE UNIVERSITY HELD ON OCTOBER 17, 2018 AT THE CONFERENCE ROOM, CAGAYAN STATE UNIVERSITY, ANDREWS CAMPUS, CARITAN, TUGUEGARO CITY.

2.1 Revision of Academic Programs with Enhancement of Courses.

Resolution No. 89, s. 2018

RESOLVE, AS IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED, that the Board approves the Revision of Academic Programs with Enhancement of Courses, as follows:

Climate Change and Disaster Risk Management. (2 units)
Entrepreneurial Management (2 units)
Creative and Critical Thinking (2 units)

RESOLVED FURTHER, that the curricular designs and teaching modalities should be updated accordingly.

APPROVED

I hereby certify to the correctness of the above-quoted resolution.

RUBY B. SARMIENTO
Board Secretary V

ATTESTED:

RICMAR P. AQUINO, Ph.D.
University President