

Sustainable Development Goals 2024 REPORT



Your NFT Name

Introduction

The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), also known as Global Goals, are a set of 17 integrated and interrelated goals to end poverty, protect the planet and ensure that humanity enjoys peace and prosperity by 2030.



Davao Oriental State University's SDG Report 2024 presents how a young public university in a biodiversity-rich and climate-vulnerable province is contributing to the United Nations' 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. Grounded in its Regenerative Futures Vision 2035, DOrSU uses the SDGs as a common language to align teaching, research, operations, and community engagement with the urgent task of improving lives and restoring ecosystems in Davao Oriental and beyond.

This report brings together evidence from calendar year 2024, covering academic programs, research outputs, student and staff initiatives, partnerships, and community projects, and maps them against the 17 SDGs, with particular strength in areas such as health and well-being, quality education, climate action, and life below water and on land. It showcases how DOrSU's work in rural and coastal communities, its expanding research infrastructure, and its growing international linkages converge on a single ambition: to make higher education a driver of inclusive, regenerative development.

Organized by SDG, each section combines narrative highlights with quantitative indicators. More importantly, it offers a transparent account to students, staff, partners, and the wider public of how the University is turning global goals into local, measurable action, and how it intends to deepen this contribution in the years leading to 2030 and 2035.

Message from DOrSU President



When the United Nations adopted the 2030 Agenda, it challenged universities everywhere to rethink what it means to educate, to do research, and to serve communities. For Davao Oriental State University, this challenge is deeply personal. Our students come from farming and fishing families, from upland and coastal barangays that live with poverty, climate risks, and biodiversity loss every day. The Sustainable Development Goals are not abstract targets for them; they are lived realities.

This SDG Report 2024 shows how DOrSU is responding to that reality. Guided by our GROWTH 2029 Agenda and our Regenerative Futures Vision 2035, we are aligning our programs, laboratories, scholarships, and partnerships so that every gain we make in the classroom and in research also translates into better lives and healthier ecosystems in Davao Oriental and beyond. From expanding financial aid for low-income students, to building new research centers for food security and health, to restoring reefs and supporting farmers and fisherfolk, the stories and numbers in these pages document a university that is learning to act systemically and responsibly.

I am grateful to our faculty, staff, students, alumni, and partners in government, industry, and civil society who made these initiatives possible in 2024. This report is not a claim that we have arrived, but a marker of how far we have come and how much more we must do. As we look toward 2030 and 2035, I invite you to journey with DOrSU in making higher education a true engine of inclusive, regenerative development for our province, our country, and our shared planet.

ROY G. PONCE, Ed.D.
University President

SDG 1: NO POVERTY

Davao Oriental State University serves one of the poorest provinces in the Philippines, with many students coming from farming, fishing, and informal-sector households. In this context, poverty reduction is not just a development goal but a daily reality that shapes the university's priorities.

Through its Financial Aids and Scholarship Grants (FAaSG) Office, guidance and counseling services, and partnerships with national agencies and local governments, DOrSU works to ensure that financial hardship does not prevent capable students from entering, persisting in, and completing higher education. This agenda is closely tied to the university's regenerative futures vision, which links education, livelihoods, and community resilience.

Widening access through scholarships and tuition support

➤ Free Higher Education (FHE)

Under RA 10931 and CHED–UniFAST, 13,579 students across the main and extension campuses benefited from Free Higher Education grants in the second semester of AY 2023–2024, with an additional 1,983 grantees in the off-semester billing. This translated into more than ₱71.5 million in covered tuition and fees for that semester alone, easing the financial burden on low-income families.

➤ Institutionally funded support for disadvantaged learners

DOrSU maintains several in-house scholarships that give priority to academically qualified students from low-income and marginalized backgrounds. In 2024, 460 students received these institutional scholarships, on top of their FHE benefits.

➤ Targeted external scholarships for poor students

CHED-funded programs such as Tulong Dunong Program–Tertiary Education Subsidy (TDP-TES), TES–Listahanan, and DA-ACEF grants supported hundreds of students identified as coming from financially challenged households. Local government programs like the LGU Mati Asenso scholarship, as well as sector-specific schemes such as the Coconut Scholarship and DOST scholarships, further widened the safety net for poor and first-generation students.

Across internally and externally funded schemes, DOrSU recorded 15,050 scholars and grantees for the off-semester of AY 2023–2024 and 14,452 scholars for the second semester, demonstrating the breadth of financial aid available to its largely low-income student population. These programs ensure that most DOrSU students are covered by some form of tuition subsidy or allowance, significantly reducing the risk that poverty will interrupt their studies.

SDG 1: NO POVERTY

Direct financial assistance to students in crisis

DORSU STUDENTS RECEIVE ₱5,000 AID THROUGH AICS PROGRAM

On April 5, 2024, 1,848 DOrSU students received financial assistance under the Assistance to Individuals in Crisis Situations (AICS) program, implemented by the Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD) in partnership with Senator Imee R. Marcos' office, DOrSU's Financial Aids and Scholarship Grants (FAaSG) Office, and the City Government of Mati. Held at the DOrSU Gymnasium, the payout extended ₱5,000 to each beneficiary, helping students cover transportation, food, school supplies, and other education-related needs. University officials and local leaders encouraged students to use the aid responsibly to support their studies.



This initiative highlights the commitment of both the national government and DOrSU to support students in crisis and shield them from the immediate effects of poverty. By providing direct financial assistance, the AICS program helped at-risk students stay enrolled and focused on their coursework instead of dropping out to meet urgent household expenses.

Other financial assistance and employability measures

➤ Thesis and graduation assistance

Through the Thesis Assistance Program (TEAP), 40 students received financial support to cover research and thesis-related costs, ensuring that lack of funds does not derail degree completion.

➤ Cash-for-Work and livelihood support

DOrSU's FAaSG Office collaborated with the KALAHI-CIDSS program on a Cash-for-Work (CFW) scheme. A joint meeting in April 2024 clarified qualifications, salary, and requirements, followed by face-to-face interviews with 300 graduate applicants for paid community work. These activities link graduates to temporary employment and income while they transition to the labour market.

SDG 1: NO POVERTY

Enabling poor and rural youth to access higher education

DOrSU's admissions and guidance services are designed to reach learners from remote municipalities and low-income households in the province.

► **State University Aptitude and Scholarship Test (SUAST) in municipalities**

In 2024, the Office of Student Counseling and Development conducted the SUAST across the main campus and external sites in San Isidro, Banaybanay, Baganga, Cateel, and Tarragona. A total of 7,124 examinees sat for the test, with sessions held inside municipalities so that rural and low-income students did not need to travel far or incur additional costs. This arrangement removes geographic and financial barriers to state university admission.

► **Scholar and grantee orientations in extension campuses**

General assemblies and orientations for scholars were held in Banaybanay, San Isidro, Baganga, and Cateel in March and May 2024, ensuring that students in these areas fully understand scholarship guidelines, requirements, and benefits. These sessions prevent loss of grants due to non-compliance and equip students to manage their financial aid.

► **DOST scholarship promotion**

Through on-site orientations, online campaigns, and regional coordinators' meetings, DOrSU helped prospective and current students access national science and technology scholarships. These programs, which include substantial stipends, are particularly important for students from poor households pursuing STEM degrees.

Systems that monitor and support students at risk

► **Student counseling and case management**

The Office of Student Counseling and Development provided counseling to 62 students in 2024, covering academic, behavioural, personal, and health-related concerns. Many of these cases intersect with financial stress and family difficulties.

► **Digital scholarship monitoring tools**

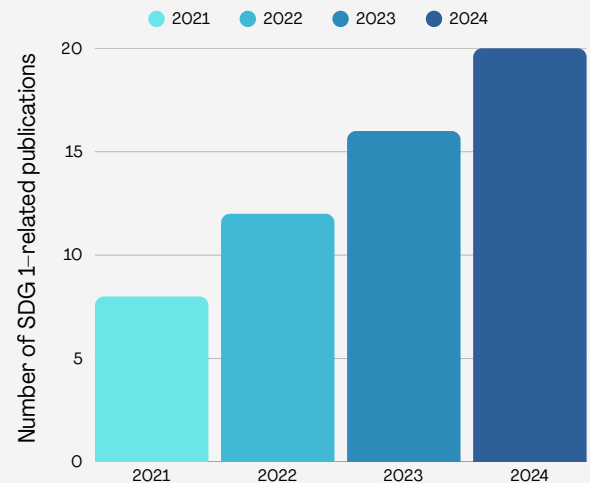
The Directorate for Information and Communication Technology developed and rolled out modules for scholarship profiling, FHE payment monitoring, and overstay tracking within the university's student information system. These tools help the FAaSG office monitor beneficiaries, avoid duplication, and quickly identify students who may lose their grants.

SDG 1: NO POVERTY

Research and publications related to poverty and livelihoods

DOrSU also contributes to SDG 1 through research on livelihoods, agriculture, and community resilience:

- Faculty members presented work on the socioeconomic dimensions of regenerative agriculture and the experiences of smallholder farmers in international conferences, linking climate-resilient farming to income stability and poverty reduction.
- Studies on fisheries, coastal resource management, and community-based tourism consider how environmental governance and sustainable use of natural resources can improve livelihoods in marginalized coastal communities.



DOrSU research outputs contributing to SDG 1.



15,050

students supported by
scholarships and grants



1,848

students given emergency
cash assistance



95.8 million

tuition subsidies and
direct financial assistance



20

SDG 1-themed research
publications in 2024

SDG 2: ZERO HUNGER

Davao Oriental is an agricultural and coastal province where many households depend on farming and fisheries for their food and income. DOrSU's academic profile reflects this reality: its programs in Agriculture, Agricultural Technology, and Agribusiness Management are explicitly framed around sustainable and regenerative food systems, preparing graduates to support local agriculture and rural development.

In line with its regenerative futures vision, DOrSU approaches SDG 2 not only as a question of food supply, but also of farmer income, ecological health, and community resilience.

Teaching and student learning for sustainable food systems

► Academic Programs

- The **Bachelor of Science in Agriculture** (BSA) equips students with competencies in crop and animal production, soil and water management, and farm systems planning. Graduates are trained to work as farm managers, agricultural extension workers, and technicians who can help increase yields, improve farm profitability, and promote sustainable land use in rural communities.
- The **Bachelor of Science in Agribusiness Management** (BSAM) develops “minds for a sustainable and regenerative agribusiness future,” focusing on value-chain analysis, farm and enterprise management, and market development for local producers. Students learn how to link farmers and fisherfolk to higher-value markets and design business models that keep food both profitable and affordable.

2,305

Students taking BS Agribusiness Management, preparing to manage value chains and markets in food and agriculture.

729

Students enrolled in BS in Agriculture (Animal Science, Crop Science, Horticulture) across all campuses in 1st Sem AY 2024–2025.

4

The total number of Baccalaureate programs focused specifically on agriculture and life sciences (BS Agribusiness Management, BS Agriculture, BS Biology, and BS Environmental Science) offered by the Faculty of Agriculture and Life Sciences.

SDG 2: ZERO HUNGER

Operations and community programs that improve food access and farmer income

► Flagship initiatives: campus food market linking farmers and consumers

Kadiwa sa Tate: Affordable Food for Students, Better Prices for Farmers

On May 8, 2024, Davao Oriental State University launched “Kadiwa sa Tate,” a campus-based food market modeled after the Department of Agriculture’s KADIWA program. The initiative aims to keep food prices affordable for consumers on campus while raising the income of local farmers, fisherfolk, and micro, small, and medium enterprises (MSMEs). Through regular pop-up stalls inside the university, producers sell rice, vegetables, fish, eggs, and other essentials directly to students and staff, shortening the supply chain and minimizing mark-ups.

“Kadiwa sa Tate” forms part of the Keeping Income-Target (KITA) Project under the Strategically Advanced Knowledge Towards Optimization (SAKTO) Program of the BS Business Administration program. The market is implemented in partnership with the Department of Agriculture – Region XI and the Provincial Agriculture Office of Davao Oriental, making it a practical laboratory where business students, local producers, and government agencies co-design solutions to rising food prices and unstable farmer incomes.



SDG 2: ZERO HUNGER

Research and Extension

DOrSU is an active research hub for aquaculture and agriculture, with projects in 2024 that tackle food security from “ridge to reef.”

➤ **Enhancing Food Security and Social Inclusion in Milkfish Aquaculture**

In 2023–2024, DOrSU implemented the project “Enhancing food security, social inclusion, and sustainability in the milkfish aquaculture through the use of indigenous raw materials as feed components.” Led by Dr. Edison Roi Macusi and funded by the DA–Philippine Rural Development Project and DOST Region XI, the study tested locally available agricultural by-products as alternatives to imported fishmeal in bangus feeds. By showing that indigenous feed ingredients can maintain growth performance while lowering costs, the project offers a pathway to more affordable and sustainable milkfish production, particularly for small-scale fish farmers who struggle with high feed prices. Peer-reviewed articles arising from this work highlight its contribution to food security and inclusive aquaculture in the region.

➤ **Coco-HULIP: Coconut Hybrid Utilization for Improved Productivity**

On 17 May 2024, DOrSU hosted the inception meeting for the project “Coconut Hybrid Utilization in the Locality for Improved Productivity (Coco-HULIP)” at the University Boardroom. The meeting marked the launch of a multi-year initiative to revitalize coconut farming in Davao Oriental by introducing high-yielding hybrid varieties.

Led by Project Leader Dr. Erna S. Macusi, Coco-HULIP is a collaborative effort involving DOrSU, the Provincial Agriculture Office, local government units, and other partners. Funded by DOST–PCAARRD CFITT with a total budget of ₱7,476,671.00 over three years, the project will develop and promote hybrid coconut technologies aimed at raising farm productivity, improving farmer incomes, and stabilizing the supply of coconut-based food and products in the province.



SDG 2: ZERO HUNGER

Linkages

➤ **Membership in the Philippine National Soil Laboratory Network (Phil NASOLAN)**

In November 2024, DOrSU was formally recognized as a member of the Philippine National Soil Laboratory Network (Phil NASOLAN), with university representatives joining the 5th General Assembly.

Membership in Phil NASOLAN links DOrSU's soil testing facilities and agronomy expertise to a national system that standardizes soil analysis, improves advisory services for farmers, and supports climate-smart nutrient management. Reliable soil information underpins better yields and more efficient fertilizer use, which in turn contributes to food security and sustainable agriculture.

➤ **Partnerships with national agencies on climate-resilient farming**

DOrSU is among the state universities and colleges recognized by DOST-PCAARRD as partners in programs that support climate-resilient farming systems and coconut production, all aligned with SDG 2's mandate to end hunger and promote sustainable agriculture.

Outreach, extension, and farmer–fisherfolk engagement

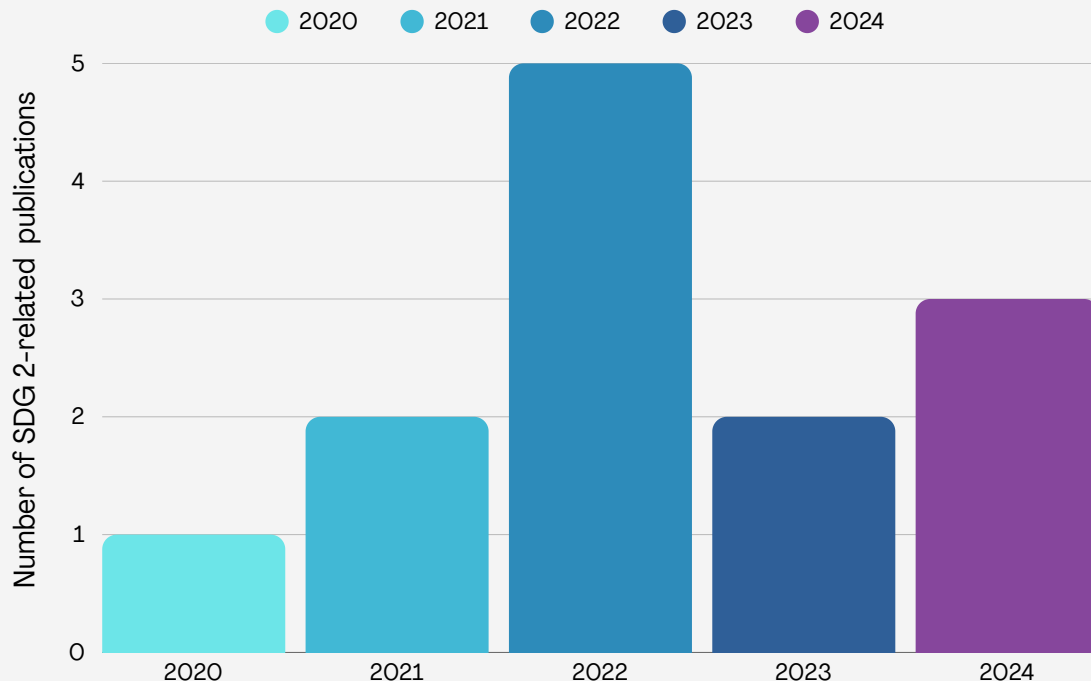
➤ **Farmers and Fisherfolk Forum alongside SMAARRDEC Regional Symposium**

DOrSU participated in the 2024 SMAARRDEC Regional Symposium on Research, Development, and Extension in Panabo City, which ran together with a Farmers and Fisherfolk Forum. The event shared best practices and technologies in agriculture and fisheries with grassroots producers, highlighting sustainable production, climate resilience, and livelihood opportunities (Annual Accomplishment Report).

➤ **Organic agriculture and community enterprises**

DOrSU faculty also contribute to regional dialogues on community-led organic agriculture and agri-enterprise development. For example, a DOrSU representative presented “Sustaining Community-Led Organic Agriculture: Academe’s Role in Strategizing Business...” at a regional gathering in 2024, emphasizing how universities can help farming communities design viable organic business models (as reported on the university’s social media pages).

SDG 2: ZERO HUNGER



DOrSU research outputs contributing to SDG 2.

2,158

The total number of trainees (weighted by length of training) reached through extension initiatives, showing significant uptake of livelihood training and resilience projects.

432%

The percentage of goal achieved for participation in extension initiatives, demonstrating high delivery of knowledge and services to communities, often focused on agriculture and livelihood.

20%

The amount by which the University exceeded its annual target for research uptake

6

The number of Research Outputs utilized by the industry or other beneficiaries in the last three years, meeting 120% of the annual target. This includes studies related to marine resources and food production.

2

The number of ongoing projects dedicated to agricultural technology and community empowerment, such as the establishment of a modern urban greenhouse with hydroponics and a SMART approach to empower communities through Science and Technology

SDG 3: GOOD HEALTH AND WELL BEING

Davao Oriental State University is the only state university in a geographically isolated and disadvantaged province where many communities face persistent health, poverty, and disaster risks. In this setting, health and well-being are central to DOrSU's mandate: the university trains future health professionals, operates campus-based clinics, and delivers health promotion and preventive programs for students, employees, and nearby communities.

Through the Faculty of Nursing and Allied Health Sciences (FNAHS), the Health Services Unit (University Clinic), and the Office of Student Counseling and Development (OSCD), DOrSU contributes directly to SDG 3 – Good Health and Well-Being by strengthening the local health workforce, improving access to basic health services, and promoting physical and mental wellness.

Training the health workforce

DOrSU's Bachelor of Science in Nursing (BSN) forms the core of its health-focused academic offerings under FNAHS.

- In 1st Semester AY 2024–2025, 517 students were enrolled in BS Nursing, reflecting strong demand for nursing education and DOrSU's role in supplying nurses to hospitals, municipal health offices, and community clinics across the province.
- In 2024, 74 students completed the BS Nursing program and graduated, joining the region's pool of health professionals.

Campus health services and preventive care

24,656 Medical Services and 408 Dental Procedures Delivered in 2024

- The Health Services Unit of Davao Oriental State University, housed in the University Clinic, provides primary health care to students and employees through an out-patient and referral system. Its services include medical consultation with medication, blood pressure monitoring, random blood sugar (RBS) testing, wound dressing, issuance of medical certificates, processing of laboratory request forms, and rapid antigen testing (RAT) for symptomatic patients.

The clinic also led several preventive and promotional activities in 2024:

- Free eye check-up
- Standard First Aid Training for students and employees
- Medical profiling of students
- BLS–CPR Training for students

SDG 3: GOOD HEALTH AND WELL BEING

Mental health and psychosocial support

The Office of Student Counseling and Development (OSCD) plays a central role in promoting mental health and psychosocial well-being.

In 2024, OSCD provided counseling services to 62 students across all faculties. Cases addressed included academic-related concerns, behavioral issues, personal matters, psychological case, substance-abuse-related cases, and health-related cases.

► Peer facilitator training and Mental Health Month

Building a Peer Support System and Normalising Mental Health Conversations

To strengthen its mental health support network, OSCD conducted a 2-day Basic Peer Facilitators Training on 13–14 September 2024 at the main campus. Thirty (30) members of the University Peer Facilitators (UPF)—formerly the CARE Group—underwent sessions on self-awareness, healthy boundaries, effective communication, facilitation skills, basic mental health first aid, and time management. The training also featured team-building activities to foster trust and cooperation among peer helpers.

Public health campaigns: Anti-drug, HIV/AIDS, and life-saving skills

► Raising Awareness on Drugs and HIV/AIDS Among Students and Staff

On 13 November 2024, DOrSU held a comprehensive Anti-Illegal Drugs and HIV/AIDS Awareness Symposium, organized in two sessions to reach both students and newly hired faculty and staff.

In total, the activity recorded 423 participants from various faculties and new personnel, and the broader anti-drug and HIV/AIDS program activities in 2024 reached 1,204 clients. This event was part of DOrSU's contribution to the national observance of World AIDS Day 2024 and its broader advocacy for safe, healthy lifestyles among young people.



SDG 3: GOOD HEALTH AND WELL BEING

Research and innovation for health and well-being

While many of DOrSU's research projects are framed under environment and agriculture, they have significant implications for human health (e.g., safer food systems, clean environments). In 2024, the university also made a notable investment in health-related science infrastructure:

► Launching the Region's First Natural Products Institute

On 13 December 2024, DOrSU officially launched the Institute for Natural Products Discovery and Development (iNatProd) at its newly opened University Research Complex (UResCom). Funded with ₱5 million from the DOST-PCIEERD Institution Development Program, iNatProd is the Davao Region's first natural products research laboratory.

The institute focuses on exploring bioactive compounds from the region's rich flora and fauna, with the goal of developing innovations for agriculture, industry—and, importantly, potential applications in pharmaceuticals, nutraceuticals, and wellness products. By strengthening capacity for natural products discovery, DOrSU lays the groundwork for future contributions to drug discovery, traditional medicine validation, and health-related product development, all of which align with SDG 3 targets on access to safe, effective medicines and vaccines.

517

students enrolled in BS Nursing (1st Sem AY 2024–2025)

74

BS Nursing graduates in 2024 joining the health workforce

24,656

medical consultations and procedures provided by the University Clinic in 2024

8,892

people reached by OSCD's Mental Health Month social media posts (629 engagements; total OSCD online reach 48,838 in 2024)

SDG 4: QUALITY EDUCATION

As the only state university in Davao Oriental, DOrSU carries a clear public mandate: to expand access to higher education and to ensure that this education is relevant, inclusive, and of high quality. The University's mission emphasizes research-based higher education, inclusive development, and the formation of graduates who are ICT-enabled, effective communicators, and professionally grounded.

In 2024, these aspirations translated into concrete gains: all accreditable programs held AACCUP recognition (most at Levels II or III), licensure performance exceeded national averages in key professions, and enrolment grew to over 17,000 students, officially designating DOrSU as a medium-sized university in the Philippine state university system.

Access to quality higher education

► State University Aptitude and Scholarship Test (SUAST)

In Academic Year 2024–2025, DOrSU's State University Aptitude and Scholarship Test (SUAST) remained the primary gateway for admission and scholarship qualification. A total of 7,124 SUAST takers sat the exam across Mati City and multiple municipalities in Davao Oriental. During the first quarter, 1,203 students took the test; this rose to 5,878 in the second quarter, with additional takers in the fourth quarter as the University extended testing to more schools.

While SDG 1 highlights the scale of financial aid, SDG 4 focuses on how this testing and admissions system underpins equal access to quality higher education for first-generation and rural learners.

Program quality, accreditation, and graduate outcomes

► In 2024, DOrSU's Higher Education pillar recorded several quality milestones:

- 100% of accreditable academic programs carried AACCUP accreditation, with the majority at Level II or Level III.
- The University conferred degrees on 1,434 graduates across its faculties.
- Enrolment in the first semester of AY 2024–2025 reached 17,257 students, marking a 13.65% increase from the previous year and reflecting growing trust in DOrSU's programs.
- The University produced 853 new licensed professionals in 2024, with overall passing rates above national averages in most board examinations, particularly in teaching and criminology.

SDG 4: QUALITY EDUCATION

► Consistently above national licensure averages, with LET topnotchers

DOrSU's graduates performed strongly in the Professional Licensure Examinations, with an aggregate of 853 successful examinees across teaching, criminology, civil engineering, agriculture, and other fields. Overall, the University's passing rates were higher than national passing rates in most examinations, particularly in Elementary LET, Secondary LET, and Criminology, confirming the robustness of its curricula and practicum training.



In March 2024, KHANE JEVIE ROSE S. CERVANTES ranked 1st nationwide in the Licensure Examination for Teachers – Elementary Level with a rating of 92.40%. In September 2024, LEAH JANE P. BALOTE placed 7th in the LET – Secondary Level with a rating of 93.20%. These achievements signal that a provincial state university can not only match but excel beyond national benchmarks in key professions.

Strengthening teaching, research skills, and scholarly culture

► Capacity-building pipeline for research and supervision

- In February 2024, DOrSU hosted a Training on Journal and Publication System that equipped faculty and researchers with practical knowledge on manuscript preparation, journal guidelines, and ethical publishing. Participants learned how to structure articles, respond to reviewers, and choose appropriate outlets—skills that feed back into how they mentor students in research methods and thesis writing.
- On 22 April 2024, the University held the 2024 Research Colloquium with the theme “Unlocking Scholarly Insights: How AI Enhances Literature Reviews.” Organized by the Research, Innovation, and Extension Office, the event was conducted in HyFlex format via Zoom and brought together researchers and students to explore how artificial intelligence tools can support systematic searches, synthesis, and critical appraisal.
- On 4 June 2024, the Graduate School Office, in collaboration with the Office of the Vice President for Academic Affairs and the University Research Office, hosted a Research Publication Workshop at the Graduate School Library. Led by Dr. Edison Roi D. Macusi, the workshop covered writing impactful papers, data visualization, journal processes, and peer review.
- These events culminated in the 2024 University Annual Scientific Review, Innovation, and Extension Summit (1–2 August 2024), where faculty and students presented completed and ongoing studies, highlighting improved research outputs and more rigorous academic supervision.

SDG 4: QUALITY EDUCATION

International and intercultural learning opportunities

J-MCP Summer 2024 Program – Kansai University, Japan

- In July 2024, ten DOrSU students were selected for the Japan-Multilateral COIL–VE Project (J-MCP) Summer 2024 Program hosted by Kansai University in Japan. The intensive online program offered two courses—Skills for Society 5.0 and Entrepreneurship for Social Business—where students worked in international teams to tackle sustainability challenges, develop social business ideas, and use digital tools for collaborative problem-solving.

KU-EOL Spring 2024 – Kansai University Engaged/Exchange Online Learning

- Complementing the J-MCP program, DOrSU students also joined the Kansai University Engaged/Exchange Online Learning (KU-EOL) Program – Spring 2024, a seven-week online internationalization-at-home initiative. The program consisted of 90-minute weekly lectures featuring courses such as Japanese language and culture, society and technology, and other interdisciplinary topics.



These programs signal DOrSU's emerging role as a globally connected institution, giving its students access to international classrooms and cross-cultural competencies.

SDG 4: QUALITY EDUCATION

Learning resources and academic support

DOrSU's University Learning and Information Resource Center (ULIRC) plays a critical role in supporting teaching and learning, hosting research workshops, benchmarking visits, and orientations. Activities in 2024 included:

- Benchmarking of library services and digital resources (including exposure to DOST STARBOOKS at the eLibrary).
- Distribution of ASEAN-themed information materials and orientation on library sections and services for visiting students and faculty.
- Use of library spaces (especially the Graduate School Library) for the Research Publication Workshop and other training sessions.

These initiatives ensure that students and faculty have access to updated learning materials, digital databases, and spaces for scholarly collaboration, reinforcing the academic backbone of quality education.

17,257

students enrolled in 1st Semester AY 2024–2025

1,434

graduates in 2024 across all faculties and campuses

100%

of accreditable degree programs hold AACCUP accreditation (most at Levels II–III)

853

new licensed professionals produced in 2024 (teachers, nurses, criminologists, and other fields)

7,124

SUAST takers across Mati City and Davao Oriental municipalities, expanding access to state higher education

DOrSU is not only widening access to higher education; it is steadily upgrading program quality, nurturing a strong research culture, and opening international learning pathways that prepare its graduates for a regenerative, globally connected future.

SDG 5: GENDER EQUALITY

Davao Oriental State University embeds gender equality at the core of its Regenerative Futures Vision 2035 and GROWTH 2029 Agenda. Through its Center for Gender and Development (CGAD), DOrSU mainstreams gender across instruction, research, extension, and campus governance, aiming to create learning and working environments that are safe, inclusive, and empowering for women, men, and people of diverse SOGIESC.

In 2024, these commitments translated into concrete actions: targeted gender-sensitivity training for employees, gender-responsive extension and research programs, student support services, and institution-wide policies and partnerships that promote women's empowerment and gender equity.

Governance & Policy Framework for SDG 5

► Center for Gender and Development (CGAD)

DOrSU's CGAD serves as the institutional hub for SDG 5. It is mandated to:

- Uphold gender equality and women's empowerment "in all spheres of public and private life" through gender mainstreaming in instruction, research, and community extension.
- Implement GAD Banner Programs, including: Gender-Fair Education, Gender-Responsive Curriculum Development, Gender-Responsive Research and Resource Collection, Gender-Responsive Extension and Community Engagement, and Gender-Responsive Learning and Working Environments.
- Provide GAD Services: gender analysis for proposals, information and IEC services, expert technical assistance on GAD (e.g., GSTs, GAD Planning and Budgeting, gender-related laws, Harmonized GAD Guidelines), consultancy, and research support.



In 2024, DOrSU's CGAD was a technical partner of DepEd–City of Mati and the Sangguniang Kabataan for GAD capacity development, including gender analysis and training for GAD focal persons, teachers, and youth leaders. The center was recognized with the Partnership Award 2024 from the DepEd Schools Division of the City of Mati.

SDG 5: GENDER EQUALITY

2024 Key Initiatives for SDG 5

► Gender-Sensitivity Training for Newly Hired Employees

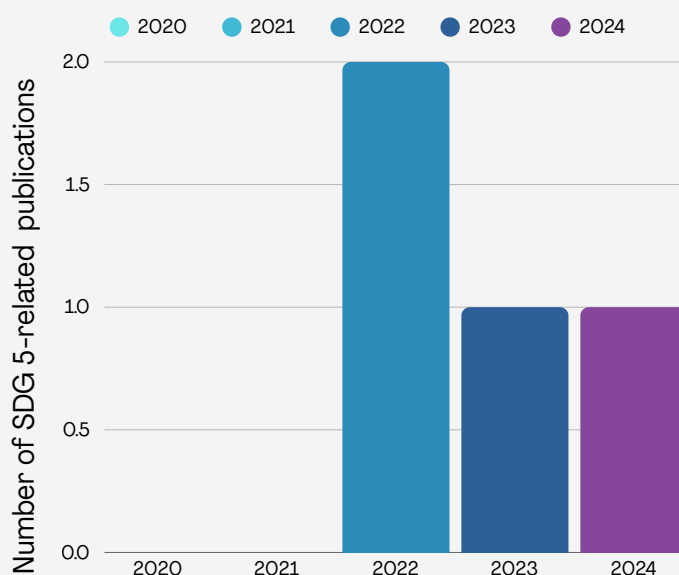
- On 13 November 2024, DOrSU's Human Resource Development Services (HRDS), in collaboration with the Gender Research and Resource Center, conducted a Gender Sensitivity Training (GST) for newly hired employees at the University Learning Information and Resource Center (ULIRC).



► Gender-Responsive Extension & Community Engagement

- Through its Gender-Responsive Extension and Community Engagement Program and GAD Learning Academy, DOrSU provided seminars, workshops, and technical assistance to schools, LGUs, and youth organizations on gender sensitivity, GAD planning and budgeting, and gender-based violence (GBV) prevention.

► Gender in Research: Women's Roles & Gendered Conservation



DOrSU research outputs contributing to SDG 5.

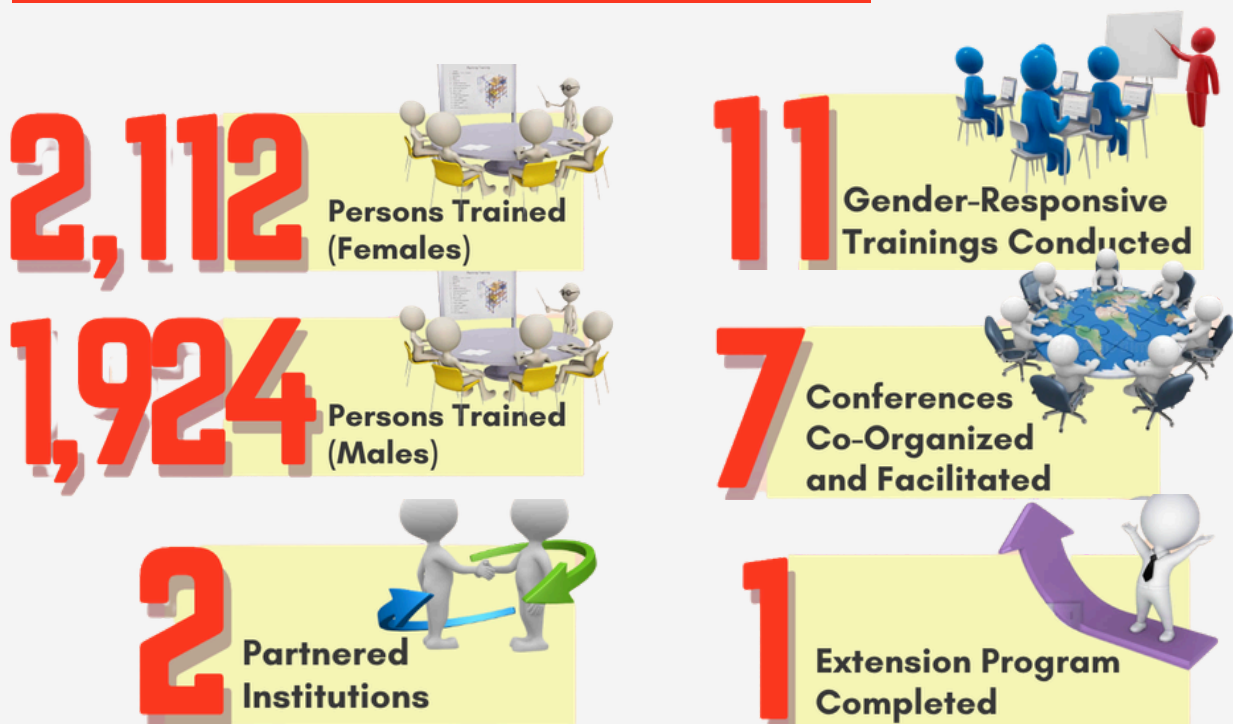
DOrSU also advances SDG 5 through gender-focused research. Among the 2024 research outputs is the article “Gender roles of Obu Manuvu women and leaders in the conservation of the Philippine Brown Deer”, authored by Mary Fil M. Bauyot, Jhonnell P. Villegas, and Vanessa E. Asaias.



SDG 5: GENDER EQUALITY



GAD IN NUMBERS



SDG 6: CLEAN WATER AND SANITATION

Davao Oriental State University sits between upland watersheds and globally significant coastal ecosystems such as Pujada Bay and Mayo Bay. As part of its Regenerative Futures Vision 2035 and GROWTH 2029 Agenda, DOrSU treats clean water and healthy aquatic ecosystems as foundational to local food security, climate resilience, and community well-being.

In 2024, the University advanced SDG 6 primarily through:

- Research and monitoring of water quality and marine ecosystems;
- Large-scale coastal restoration and nature-based solutions;
- Investments in water and soil laboratory infrastructure; and
- International and community partnerships to reduce plastic and other pollution in coastal waters.

Governance, centers, and programs for SDG 6

► Regional Integrated Coastal Resource Management Center (RIC-XI)

DOrSU's Regional Integrated Coastal Resource Management Center (RIC-XI) serves as a hub for SDG 6 and SDG 14 work in Southeastern Mindanao. Among its flagship research programs is "Macro- and Micro Plastic Pollution (M2P2) in Marine Ecosystems and Fisheries in South Eastern Mindanao", a CHED-funded program that investigates plastic pollution in coastal waters, fisheries, and benthic habitats and develops monitoring and management tools.



RIC-XI laboratories host field sampling, water and sediment analyses, and fish gut microplastic studies, and train students and local partners in coastal water monitoring techniques.

SDG 6: CLEAN WATER AND SANITATION

► 3D-printed reefs and mangroves in Pujada Bay



In February 2024, DOrSU served as a scientific partner in what rrreefs describes as its “biggest reef project yet” in Pujada Bay, Philippines.

Key features of the project:

- Approximately 100 m² of degraded coral reef rebuilt
- 820 3D-printed terracotta clay reef modules installed
- Around 9,000 mangrove seedlings planted along the coastline in the project area as part of a coupled coral–mangrove restoration approach
- *Partners:* DOrSU (scientific partner), rrreefs (Swiss social impact startup), DENR, Coastal Conservation and Education Foundation (CCEF), and other funders

DOrSU’s roles include:

- Providing scientific monitoring through its marine and coastal scientists and students
- Hosting laboratory analysis through RIC-XI and other university labs
- Supporting community engagement and local knowledge integration in reef and mangrove restoration

This project contributes to SDG 6.6 (protect and restore water-related ecosystems) and SDG 6.3 (improve water quality by reducing pollution) by rehabilitating damaged marine habitats and integrating community-based stewardship.

► Monitoring water quality and pollution in river–marine systems

DOrSU initiated policy-oriented research on water and sediment quality in heavily impacted river and coastal systems in Davao Oriental, “Evaluation of sediment and water quality of silted river–marine systems in Banaybanay, Davao Oriental: Initial step towards regenerative mining”

- Developed under a DOrSU-led research project with outputs for the Regional Research, Development and Innovation Committee (RRDIC XI).
- Provides baseline data and recommendations linking mine rehabilitation, river health, and marine water quality, particularly for downstream coastal communities.

SDG 6: CLEAN WATER AND SANITATION

Katigaman Policy Brief
No. 3 series 2024 ISSN 3116-2061 (Online)

Banaybanay Orange River: Why mining companies should be environmentally accountable?



Figure 1. "Orange" Mapaga River after an overflow incident of mining catchment ponds in Banaybanay, Davao Oriental. Photo courtesy Nicer Escaped (January 2022)

Background
The Province of Davao Oriental is home to diverse and rich ecosystems, from the ridge-to-reefs, Mindanao's lone UNESCO World Heritage Site – the Mt. Hamiguitan Range Wildlife Sanctuary (MHRWS) is located in the province, along with the Most Beautiful Bays in the World (MBBW) like the Pujada, Balete, and Mayo Bays. The province's fertile landscapes and seascapes make it a crucial conservation priority in the Eastern Mindanao Biodiversity Corridor (EMBC). Interestingly, these biological sanctuaries overlap with rich mineral deposits. Davao Oriental holds impressive nickel ore resources, sparking the interests of local and global investors. The Riverbend Consolidated Mining Corporation (RCMC) was granted over 6,000 ha of mining tenement with almost 30,000 wet metric tons (WMT) extraction capacity. However, induced by heavy rains, river discoloration incidents were recorded due to overflowing catchment ponds in Banaybanay, Davao Oriental. The most controversial occurred in Mapaga, Maputi, and Pintatagan rivers in January 2022, turning the crystal-clear waters into orange. This significantly impacted upstream and coastal communities, including livelihood, tourism, and biodiversity. This project titled "Evaluation of Sediment and Water Quality of Silted River-Marine Systems in Banaybanay, Davao Oriental: Initial Steps towards Regenerative Mining" is an attempt to safeguard the natural treasures and at the same time optimize the socio-economic benefits of mining. Policy recommendations are based on empirical evidence and social perceptions obtained immediately after the river discoloration incidents.

Research Findings
The three river systems in Banaybanay, Davao Oriental were impacted by the situation due to overflowing catchment ponds of the mining industries upstream. To investigate this issue, surveys were carried out in the Mapaga, Maputi, and Pintatagan rivers, and the results were alarming. The river beds were filled with orange fine-grained sediments called laterite, the origin of the distinctive orange hue of the water. River sediment samples revealed high levels of Chromium (Cr) (939 to 12,401 ppm) and Nickel (Ni) (739 to 4,037 ppm), which were far above the baseline levels of 0.01 ppm for Cr and 4.00 ppm for Ni, detected at the headwaters of the rivers (without mining). The contamination is mainly caused by mining activities. As the water flowed downstream, the levels of contamination decreased but showed high concentrations at the river mouth and coastal area, posing high ecological risks to the riverine and coastal ecosystems. The Ecological Risk Index (ERI) further confirmed these risks, indicating moderate to very high ecological threats at various sampling stations, particularly in the midstream and downstream areas (shown in Figure 2). The biodiversity of the area, including the nursery grounds of economically important fish and invertebrates is now at risk of heavy metal pollution and immediate action is required to prevent further damage to the environment. The team also conducted perception surveys with the locals to investigate the social, economic, and environmental impacts of mining. Interestingly, the locals perceive no direct social benefits with the mining activities in their domain. Some were provided with economic benefits, such as livelihood opportunities, but a larger piece of the pie goes to the government. Those who are not directly employed by the mining company claimed their livelihoods were disrupted (i.e., river resorts and aquaculture) due to the orange river incident. They believe that funds were provided to local government units (LGUs) at the barangay, municipal, and provincial levels but this seldom benefits the commons. The majority raised concerns about the environmental impacts of mining, especially deforestation and habitat destruction, degradation of land and vegetation, biodiversity loss, and water pollution. Overall, the respondents revealed a negative attitude towards mining, and they are willing to participate in regenerative mining advocacies.

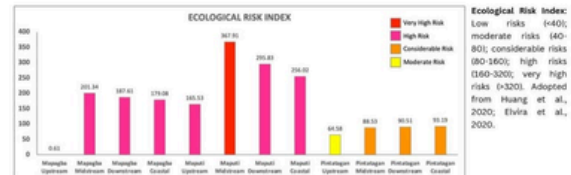


Figure 2. Concentration of heavy metals (ppm) per sampling station in Mapaga (MPB), Maputi (MPT) and Pintatagan (PTG) in Banaybanay, Davao Oriental.

Policy Recommendations

- The academe must be involved as a third-party member of the periodic review of existing mineral reservations.
- Davao Oriental's protected landscapes and seascapes must be clear from the direct and indirect impacts of mining.
- Socio-economic benefits need to be optimized for the local and indigenous communities. Public education and awareness of the pros and cons of mining need to be intensified within and outside formal school institutions.
- Local government units and indigenous governance systems must be actively involved in the issuance of mining permits.
- Mining companies must bear the responsibility of rehabilitating, regenerating, revegetating, and reforesting mined-out areas.
- Permanent cancellation of mining permits must be issued against companies proven to have caused irreparable environmental damage.

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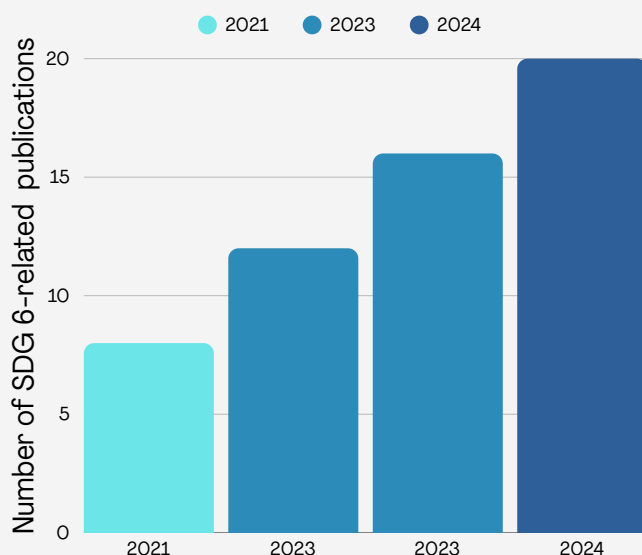


DAVAO ORIENTAL STATE UNIVERSITY

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Scientific evidence on coastal water quality and biodiversity



DORSU research outputs contributing to SDG 6.

DORSU faculty-researchers produced several peer-reviewed scientific outputs in 2024 that deepen understanding of water quality and marine ecological health.

SDG 6: CLEAN WATER AND SANITATION

► International research internships on climate resilience and mesoplastic pollution

Several foreign research interns from Ghent University in Belgium were hosted by DOrSU, under the supervision of DOrSU scientists, notably for the following projects:

- “Climate Change Resilience to Food Security of Small-Scale Fishing Communities near Marine Protected Areas (MPAs) in the Philippines” – examining how climate and marine ecosystem changes affect coastal livelihoods and food security
- “The Mesoplastic in seagrasses and shorelines in Davao Oriental” – focusing on mesoplastic accumulation along seagrass beds and coastal shorelines

► Community engagement on plastic pollution and clean coasts

Through the M2P2 Research Program, DOrSU advances local action on marine litter and plastic pollution. The program also supports schools and coastal barangays with information, education, and communication (IEC) materials, and engages local stakeholders in monitoring marine litter and microplastics (e.g., through fish gut studies and shoreline sampling).

SDG 6 metrics at a glance

~ ₱16
million

external funding in 2024 for water, soil, and marine pollution research

~9,000

mangrove seedlings planted along the project coastline as part of the coral–mangrove restoration approach

100 m²

degraded coral reef in Pujada Bay rebuilt using 3D-printed clay modules in 2024

820

3D-printed modules installed as part of the reef restoration system

SDG 7: AFFORDABLE AND CLEAN ENERGY

Davao Oriental State University (DOrSU), located in the City of Mati and strategically situated near Pujada Bay and Mayo Bay, advances its Regenerative Futures Vision 2035 by strengthening work at the nexus of energy, climate, and biodiversity. In 2024, the University's contributions to SDG 7 focused on (1) clean energy research, particularly marine renewables; (2) resilient, "green technology" campus infrastructure; and (3) acting as a convenor of regional and international dialogues on energy and environmental sustainability.

Governance and Strategic Framing for Energy Transition

DOrSU's overarching Regenerative Futures agenda—articulated in the 2024 paper "Regenerative futures: Why and how to move forward as a Philippine State University?" by Villegas and Ponce—calls for a shift from basic "sustainability" toward regenerative development, embedding environmental and climate concerns into the University's vision, mission, and values.

Within this framework, energy is approached not only as an operational concern (keeping campuses powered and resilient), but as a research and innovation frontier linked to coastal systems, marine resources, and climate action. This framing underpins DOrSU's investments and partnerships in 2024.



Campus Infrastructure: Reliable and "Green Technology" Power Systems

► Green Technology Earthquake-Proof Building

In 2024, DOrSU continued its shift toward resilient and sustainability-oriented campus infrastructure through the Construction of the Three-Storey Green Technology Earthquake-Proof Teacher Education Technology Building, Phase II at the Main Campus (Dahican), funded through the General Appropriations Act.

► Upgrading of Electrical System for the University Research Complex

To support high-level research—including work on coastal and energy systems—DOrSU invested in a significant power systems upgrade in 2024. This project improves the reliability, safety, and capacity of the University's electrical network, allowing the Research Complex to:

- Support energy-intensive laboratories (e.g., computing, modelling, and instrumentation labs)
- Prepare for future integration of advanced monitoring equipment and potential renewable energy technologies;
- Reduce risks from electrical failures that can lead to wastage and unsafe operations.

SDG 7: AFFORDABLE AND CLEAN ENERGY

Research and Innovation in Clean and Renewable Energy

► High-Impact International Journal Article on Tidal Power

In 2024, DOrSU's Institute of Computing and Engineering, through Assoc. Prof. Jonathan Salar Cabrera, co-authored a major article in *Applied Energy* (Vol. 372, 2024), titled "Optimal site selection and potential power assessment for tidal power generation in the Seto Inland Sea, Japan, based on high-resolution ocean modelling and multicriteria analysis."

For DOrSU, this work:

- Positions the University as an active contributor to global clean energy research, particularly in marine renewable energy;
- Demonstrates strong capability in spatial data analysis, energy resource assessment, and climate-related modelling;
- Strengthens the University's profile under THE Impact Rankings for SDG 7, especially in the research metrics related to energy.

► Coastal and Energy System Science in the 3rd International Biodiversity Conference (IBC 2024)

DOrSU hosted the International Biodiversity Conference (IBC) 2024 on 24–26 October 2024 in Mati City, bringing together scientists, academics, and stakeholders to tackle issues ranging from ecosystem damage and water pollution to global warming.



Within this conference, the Coastal Hazards and Energy System Science (CHESS) Lab of Hiroshima University—DOrSU's partner—delivered six presentations at DOrSU, several of which intersect with renewable energy and water-energy optimization, including:

1. Optimal tidal array positioning and orientation in Obatake Strait, focusing on maximizing tidal power extraction through advanced numerical simulation;
2. Optimization of multi-reservoir water dispatch considering biodiversity conservation, linking water systems, energy, and ecological outcomes;
3. Design and development of a low-cost autonomous device for seawater quality monitoring and particle tracking, which supports sustainable marine resource management.

These energy- and systems-related presentations, hosted at DOrSU, demonstrate the University's role as a regional hub for cutting-edge discussions on renewable energy, marine systems, and climate resilience.

SDG 7: AFFORDABLE AND CLEAN ENERGY

Outreach, Partnerships, and Knowledge Exchange

► International and Transdisciplinary Partnerships

DOrSU's collaboration with global partners—most notably the CHES Lab of Hiroshima University—anchors its SDG 7 contributions in internationally recognized research streams: marine renewables, water-energy systems, and coastal climate resilience.



► Integrating Energy Discourse into Regenerative Futures Events

Alongside IBC 2024, DOrSU's University Annual Scientific Review (UASR) and other research platforms increasingly frame climate, energy systems, and coastal resilience as core themes under the Regenerative Futures agenda. While not all sessions are strictly energy-focused, they ensure that clean and resilient energy systems remain part of the University's long-term academic conversation and planning.

SDG 7 metrics at a glance

₱27
million

invested in energy- and sustainability-related campus projects in 2024

2

major infrastructure projects explicitly aligned with green technology, power reliability, and climate-resilient campus operations

1

high-impact international journal article on tidal power in Applied Energy (Q1, Elsevier) co-authored by a DOrSU faculty member

1

major international conference hosted

SDG 8: DECENT WORK AND ECONOMIC GROWTH

As the only state university in the province, Davao Oriental State University (DOrSU) is a major engine of human capital formation and local economic development. Through the GROWTH 2029 Agenda, DOrSU commits to Sustainable Higher Income and Savings and the promotion of an organizational entrepreneurial culture, including the establishment of more income-generating projects that support the university and surrounding communities.

In 2024, the University strengthened systems that link education to decent work: graduate employability tracking, job-readiness programs, job fairs, and extensive training and extension services for local government units (LGUs), industry partners, and community groups. These initiatives directly support SDG 8 by improving graduate outcomes, expanding access to productive employment, and fostering inclusive local economic growth.

Graduate Employability and Tracking

► Graduate employment outcomes

DOrSU systematically monitors the employment outcomes of its graduates. For 2024, the University reports that 67% of graduates from two years prior were employed, exceeding its target of 66.03% and reflecting a 101.47% accomplishment rate against plan. This data is aligned with DOrSU's commitment to ensure that its programs lead to concrete job opportunities and career progression for its graduates, in line with SDG 8's emphasis on productive employment and decent work.

► Graduate Tracking and Employability Management System

To institutionalize evidence-based employability planning, DOrSU developed and deployed a Graduate Tracking and Employability Management System. This system collects and analyzes data on graduate destinations and employment trends, and feeds back into curriculum review, career services, and industry engagement.

Complementing this, the University has digital portals and systems that streamline student records, enrolment, and academic transactions, including a Student Portal and integrated information systems. These platforms make it easier to track student progress from admission to graduation and into employment, supporting long-term planning for decent work and lifelong learning.

Career Guidance, Job Readiness, and Placement Services

► State University Admission and Scholarship Test (SUAST)

To support equitable access to higher education and early career pathway planning, DOrSU administers the State University Admission and Scholarship Test (SUAST) across its main and external campuses. In 2024, the University served 5,878 SUAST examinees for the first semester, with an additional 43 examinees for the second semester, for a total of 5,921 SUAST takers. SUAST results inform admission, scholarship allocation, and guidance, ensuring that students are matched with suitable programs and are better prepared for successful academic and career trajectories.

SDG 8: DECENT WORK AND ECONOMIC GROWTH

► Pre-employment seminars and job-readiness interventions

In 2024, the Office of Student Affairs (OSA) conducted Pre-Employment Seminars for graduating students. These seminars covered resume writing, interview skills, labor standards, workplace expectations, and employment processes, supporting smoother school-to-work transitions. These activities are part of a broader portfolio of student services that includes guidance and counseling, career coaching, and student welfare programs.

► Job fair for alumni and graduating students

In partnership with employers and external agencies, DOrSU organized a Job Fair on 7 June 2024 at the DOrSU Gymnasium, targeting alumni and graduating students and providing them direct access to recruiters and employment opportunities.

The job fair complemented the pre-employment seminars and employability tracking system, creating a coherent support pipeline from training to placement, aligned with SDG 8's call for inclusive and sustainable economic growth and full, productive employment.

► Mental health and psychosocial support for decent work readiness

Recognizing that decent work also requires psychological readiness and well-being, DOrSU's Office of Student Counseling and Development (OSCD) provided guidance and counseling services and organized mental health programs for students in 2024. OSCD delivered a range of virtual and face-to-face counseling sessions, and contributed to the University's Mental Health Awareness Week, which engaged 781 participants in activities promoting mental health literacy, stress management, and help-seeking behavior.

Such services improve students' resilience and preparedness for the pressures of the workplace, reinforcing DOrSU's contribution to SDG 8 by supporting humane and sustainable work transitions.

Training, Extension, and Local Economic Development

► Scale of training for workers, entrepreneurs, and communities

In 2024, DOrSU recorded 2,158 trainees, measured and weighted by length of training, against a target of 500 trainees—a 431.60% accomplishment rate. These trainees benefitted from technical and professional development programs delivered by the university, including: (1) Capacity-building for local government personnel; (2) Skills upgrades for industry workers and SMEs; and (3) Technical advisory services tailored to community and sectoral needs

► Partnerships with industry, LGUs, and organizations

DOrSU's training and extension work is anchored on 15 active partnerships with LGUs, industries, SMEs, and NGOs, achieving 100% of its 2024 target.

SDG 8: DECENT WORK AND ECONOMIC GROWTH

Institutional Systems and Financial Sustainability for Decent Work

DOrSU's SDG 8 efforts are supported by broader institutional reforms and systems improvements:

- Under its financial sustainability goals, the University is committed to expanding income-generating projects and promoting an entrepreneurial culture among its employees and stakeholders, which helps sustain operations and create additional local employment opportunities.
- Information systems, including the Student Portal and digitized university systems, streamline administrative processes, reduce transaction costs, and allow staff to focus more on value-adding teaching, research, and extension work.

These institutional measures indirectly reinforce SDG 8 by ensuring that DOrSU operates efficiently, sustains decent work conditions for employees, and maintains the financial and organizational capacity needed to serve students and communities.

EVENTS AND PROGRAMS

DOrSU Hosts First Startup Founders Forum

Davao Oriental State University (DOrSU) recently hosted its first Start-Up Founders Forum as part of the inaugural Innovation and Extension (IE) Summit, coordinated by the Office of the Director for Innovation. This event, conducted on August 1, celebrated innovation, entrepreneurship, and community collaboration, drawing a diverse crowd of MSMEs, food vendors, students, faculty members, and innovators.

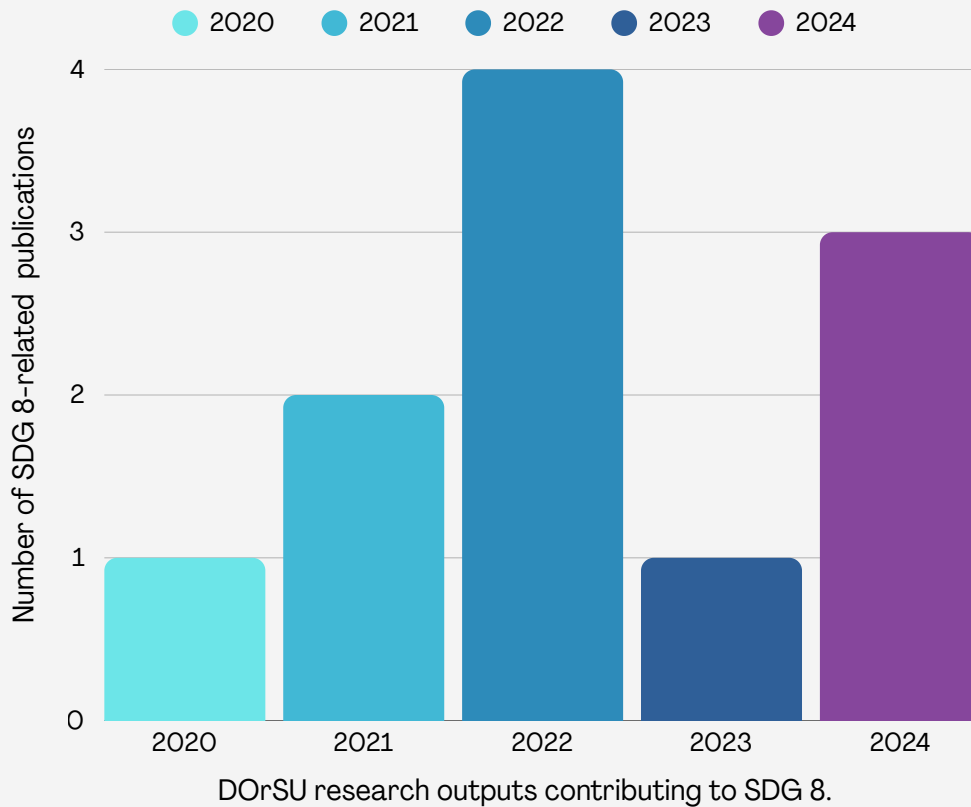


IDEAS Davao, DOrSU Host Provincial Startup Community Networking Event

The Innovation and Development Accelerators Consortium for Startups in Davao Region (IDEAS Davao), in partnership with Davao Oriental State University (DOrSU), hosted the first-ever “Plugin: Connecting Provincial Startup Ecosystem” on May 20-21 at the Davao Oriental State University Graduate School Library.



SDG 8: DECENT WORK AND ECONOMIC GROWTH



SDG 8 metrics at a glance

67%

Employment rate of DOrSU graduates (two years after graduation), exceeding the 66.03% target

2,158

Total trainees served in DOrSU training and extension programs (weighted by training duration), 431.60% of the 500-target

15

Active partnerships with LGUs, industry, SMEs, and organizations supporting training and extension, achieving 100% of the 2024 target

5,921

SUAST examinees served in 2024 (5,878 first semester + 43 second semester), helping guide admissions and scholarships

781

Participants engaged in Mental Health Awareness Week activities that support well-being and readiness for work

SDG 9: INDUSTRY, INNOVATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE

Davao Oriental State University leverages its coastal and biodiversity-rich location as a living laboratory for sustainable infrastructure, marine innovation, and place-based research.

In 2024, DOrSU intensified investments in research facilities, digital systems, and community-oriented innovation programs aligned with the GROWTH 2029 Agenda and the Regenerative Futures Vision 2035. These developments underpin SDG 9 through:

- New and upgraded physical infrastructure for research, engineering, agriculture, and community engagement;
- Robust digital and information systems that modernize university operations;
- A growing research and innovation ecosystem, including international conferences, coastal infrastructure research, and eco-engineered reef technologies;
- Capacity-building and enterprise support for cooperatives and local industries.



SDG 9: INDUSTRY, INNOVATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE

Strengthening Research, Learning, and Community Infrastructure

The 2024 Annual Accomplishment Report documents at least nine major infrastructure projects completed in 2024, many of them directly related to research, laboratories, and learning spaces:

- Biodiversity Research and Development Center (Marfori Campus) with an approved budget of ₱32.922 million, providing dedicated spaces for biodiversity research and conservation-oriented R&D
- Completion of the Institute of Computing and Engineering Building (Dahican): ₱10 million investment to expand laboratories and learning spaces for engineering, ICT, and data sciences
- Rehabilitation of the Main Campus Student Center (Dahican): ₱5 million rehabilitation completed October 18, 2024 to serve as a multi-purpose hub for student services, events, and innovation activities
- Retrofitting of the Engineering Laboratory (Dahican) – ₱615,000 retrofitting completed January 12, 2024 to upgrade safety and functionality for engineering experiments and practical work
- Greenhouse Monitoring Type with NFT Gutter System and Tunnel Greenhouse with Fogger System (Marfori) – ₱1.25 million externally funded project completed February 21, 2024, supporting climate-smart agriculture, precision cultivation, and agritech training
- Wet Laboratory Tanks and Fixtures (Dahican): ₱884,266.77 for concrete culture/nursery tanks and fixtures, completed August 11, 2024, strengthening capacity for aquaculture and marine sciences research
- Additional civil works for the Institute of Computing and Engineering Building (Dahican) – ₱784,691.38 to finalize specialized spaces and utilities (completed July 25, 2024)
- Two apartment-type units for Faculty Exchange at the University Dormitory (Dahican) – ₱500,000 for residential units completed August 28, 2024, supporting inbound visiting scholars and exchange faculty
- Refurbishing of the Admin Building and two academic buildings at San Isidro Campus with ₱2 million to improve learning environments in the satellite campus



SDG 9: INDUSTRY, INNOVATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE

Biocultural Field Station and place-based innovation

On 27 September 2024, DOrSU inaugurated a Biocultural Field Station in Sitio Matabang, Barangay Taocanga, Manay, Davao Oriental. The facility is designed as a hub for:

- Community development and sustainable agriculture;
- Biodiversity conservation and ecological monitoring;
- The preservation of Mandaya indigenous culture.

This field station extends DOrSU's physical presence beyond the main campus, embedding research and innovation infrastructure in upland and coastal communities and strengthening SDG 9's focus on resilient, inclusive regional infrastructure.



Digital Infrastructure and Smart Systems

DOrSU's Directorate for Information and Communication Technology (DICT) rolled out a comprehensive set of digital systems and modules in 2024 that modernize operations, improve data-driven planning, and create a backbone for research and industry partnerships.

In 2024, over twenty key ICT modules and systems were recorded as completed or being rolled out, signaling a substantial digital transformation that supports SDG 9's emphasis on sustainable, resilient infrastructure and inclusive industrialization.

The Information Systems Strategic Plan (ISSP) was also approved by the Board of Regents in 2024, formalizing ICT as a strategic lever for growth, innovation, and operational excellence.



SDG 9: INDUSTRY, INNOVATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE

Digital Infrastructure and Smart Systems

In 2024, DOrSU produced at least 13 research-based papers or articles published in journals across marine sciences, education, agriculture, and environmental research. The Davao Research Journal (DRJ), the university's flagship open-access multidisciplinary journal, also continued to publish peer-reviewed works. Volume 15, Issue 4 features, among others, "Predicting the unseen: A shoreline shift analysis and prediction along Mayo Bay, Davao Oriental" – a GIS and remote-sensing based study modeling shoreline change and informing coastal management and infrastructure planning.

These outputs underscore DOrSU's role in generating knowledge critical for sustainable infrastructure, coastal protection, and climate resilience.

University Annual Scientific Review, Innovation & Extension Summit

In 2024, DOrSU organized a suite of research capacity-building activities:

- Training on Journal and Publication System (5–6 February 2024) – Equipping researchers with skills on manuscript preparation, formatting, and ethical standards.
- Research Colloquium (22 April 2024) on "Unlocking Scholarly Insights: How AI Enhances Literature Reviews" – Introducing AI-enabled tools for more robust, efficient literature analyses.
- Research Publication Workshop (4 June 2024) – Focusing on writing impactful research and navigating the peer-review process.
- 2nd University Annual Scientific Review and 1st Innovation and Extension Summit (1–2 August 2024) – A flagship event showcasing faculty and student research, innovations, and community extension projects and highlighting DOrSU's regenerative solutions and innovation culture.

Collectively, these activities strengthen the university's research pipeline, improve publication quality, and foster innovation aligned with SDG 9.

International conferences and collaborations

DOrSU played a prominent role in convening international scientific communities in 2024.

- 3rd International Biodiversity Conference (IBC) 2024 and 56th FIMFS Annual Convention – Hosted by DOrSU in the City of Mati from 22–26 October 2024, these back-to-back events gathered marine and freshwater scientists, environmental managers, and students to address ecosystem damage, water pollution, and global warming through research and

Such events position DOrSU as a regional hub for biodiversity and marine research, reinforcing SDG 9 targets on research capacity and sustainable industrialization.

SDG 9: INDUSTRY, INNOVATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE

Eco-engineered Infrastructure and Coastal Innovation

In March 2024, DOrSU publicized the milestone “Artificial Clay Bricks Installed in Pujada Bay Now Inhabited by Fish, Other Marine Organisms”, documenting how 3D-printed clay bricks used as artificial reef modules are now hosting diverse marine life.



These innovations are part of a broader 3D Printing Clay Production Facility and artificial coral reef program, supported by DOrSU's University Research Complex and specialized laboratories in materials innovation, natural products, and biodiversity.

SDG 9 metrics at a glance

**~₱54
million**

invested in research, learning, and support infrastructure across main and satellite campuses

9

major infrastructure projects completed

13

research-based papers published in local and international journals

4

major research capacity-building events

2

international scientific events hosted and co-organized

SDG 10: REDUCED INEQUALITIES

Davao Oriental State University is a state-funded, multi-campus university in the City of Mati that serves geographically isolated and economically disadvantaged municipalities through its main campus and five extension campuses in Baganga, Banaybanay, Cateel, San Isidro, and Tarragona. In 2024, DOrSU reached 17,257 enrolled students across these campuses, marking its transition to a medium-sized university and underscoring its mandate to provide accessible, quality higher education while sustaining inclusivity and regional development.

The University's equity agenda is carried out through (1) a widened geographic reach, (2) needs-based and merit-based scholarships, (3) special programs for persons with disabilities (PWDs), crisis-affected, and low-income learners, (4) mental health and wellness services, and (5) research and extension focusing on marginalized groups, including indigenous peoples and former rebels.

Widening Participation and Geographic Access

Multi-Campus Network in Underserved Areas

DOrSU operates extension campuses in Baganga, Banaybanay, Cateel, San Isidro, and Tarragona, bringing degree programs in agriculture, business, teacher education, criminology, IT, hospitality management, and related fields closer to students who would otherwise have to relocate or drop out because of distance and cost.

This multi-campus setup reduces geographic inequality in access to higher education between urban centers and upland/coastal municipalities of Davao Oriental.



SDG 10: REDUCED INEQUALITIES

State University Aptitude and Scholarship Test (SUAST)

The State University Aptitude and Scholarship Test (SUAST) is DOrSU's main mechanism for fair and transparent admission and scholarship screening, conducted both at the main campus and all extension campuses:

- SUAST for AY 2024–2025 (1st semester) was administered in Baganga (April 6–7), Cateel (April 12–13), Tarragona (April 19–20), and the Main Campus on multiple dates in May.
- A total of 5,878 examinees were served in the first semester and 43 examinees in the second semester (November 19–December 5), for an overall 5,921 SUAST takers in 2024.

By bringing SUAST to extension campuses, DOrSU ensures that students from remote municipalities, low-income families, and public high schools have local access to entry and scholarship testing, reducing financial and logistical barriers.



Scholarships and Financial Aid for Disadvantaged Students

DOrSU's financial assistance system reflects a strong “no student left behind” orientation. DOrSU supported about 15,050 scholarship and grant beneficiaries (501 internally + 14,549 externally funded) in the second semester alone—a number comparable to almost the entire enrolled student population. This indicates very high scholarship penetration and shows that financial support is a core equality mechanism.

Inclusion of Persons with Disabilities and At-Risk Groups

- DOrSU maintains an internally funded PWD Scholarship program. The University's official Financial Aids and Scholarship Grants page likewise identifies “Person with Disabilities (PWD)” as a distinct category of internally funded scholarship, alongside the Bagani and Mangalayan academic scholarships.
- The Office of Student Counseling and Development (OSCD) offers year-round counseling and guidance services through referrals and walk-ins. These services particularly benefit at-risk and marginalized students (e.g., those with mental health concerns, substance use issues, or complex family situations), supporting retention and reducing inequalities in completion.

SDG 10: REDUCED INEQUALITIES

Research and Extension for Marginalized and Vulnerable Groups

Mental Health Interventions for Former Rebels

DOrSU's research agenda includes populations that experience political and social marginalization. In March 2024, Dr. Rose Anelyn V. Ceniza, Director for the Tourism Information and Education Center, presented the paper "Healing Within: Mental Health for Communist Rebel-Returnees in Eastern Mindanao" at the Network of Education and Research on Peace and Sustainability (NERPS) Conference in Hiroshima University, Japan.

The study focuses on former combatants and explores mental health support as a key strategy in reintegration and social inclusion—a direct contribution to reducing inequalities for highly stigmatized groups and aligning with SDG 10.2 (social, economic, and political inclusion of all).



Indigenous Peoples and Human–Wildlife Co-existence

In 2024, DOrSU hosted research interns from the Czech University of Life Sciences Prague working on human–wildlife conflict and co-existence involving the Philippine Brown Deer and Philippine Warty Pig, with specific attention to interactions with the Mandaya Indigenous people in Davao Oriental.

This project, under joint supervision with a DOrSU faculty member, brings attention to the livelihood and cultural realities of Mandaya communities, contributing to more equitable and culturally grounded conservation and development policies.

DOrSU is also involved in the Panaggubuk 2024 Indigenous Peoples' Month activities in partnership with Mandaya organizations, affirming its commitment to IP inclusion and cultural equity.



SDG 10: REDUCED INEQUALITIES

Internationalization and Cross-Cultural Learning as Equality Levers

Visiting Professors and Language Access

In 2024, DOrSU hosted visiting professors and lecturers including:

- Dr. Georg Bastian (Rhine-Waal University of Applied Sciences, Germany), who taught physics to BS Environmental Science students;
- Laoshi Yi Jie (Huaqiao University, China), who taught Mandarin language to DOrSU students and extended language classes to government employees on weekends.



By giving students in Davao Oriental access to foreign language and STEM experts, DOrSU helps level the playing field between learners in the region and those in metropolitan universities.



Collaborative Online International Learning (COIL)

DOrSU implemented several COIL programs in 2024. These COIL activities allow DOrSU students—many of whom are first-generation and from low-income families—to gain global exposure without the cost of travel, reducing inequalities in access to international learning experiences.

Faculty and Staff Mobility

DOrSU faculty participated in international conferences and training programs in Japan, Taiwan, Thailand, China, Singapore, Cambodia, and South Korea in 2024.

These engagements strengthen the University's capacity to design context-sensitive, globally informed programs that respond to local inequalities in Mindanao.



SDG 11: SUSTAINABLE CITIES AND COMMUNITIES

Inclusive and Safe Campus Communities

Health, Wellness, and Safety Services

DOrSU treats the campus as a micro-city whose residents need safe, accessible essential services. In 2024, the Health Services Unit delivered 24,656 medical services and procedures, including consultations with medication, blood pressure and blood sugar monitoring, wound dressing, laboratory requests, medical certificates, and RAT testing. Dental services added 408 procedures (consultations, extractions, oral scaling).

Mental health support is embedded in campus life. OSCD held a week-long Mental Health Week (October 7–10, 2024) with talks on mental hygiene, emotional expression booths, and resource corners, attended by 781 participants.

To reinforce physical security and smart monitoring, the Directorate for ICT began deploying a Gate Entry System as a secure, automated access control system for the university, alongside a 1 Gbps PLDT connection and integrated student portal. These investments create safer, more efficient, and more connected campus spaces.



SDG 11: SUSTAINABLE CITIES AND COMMUNITIES

Sustainable Tourism, Biocultural Heritage, and Indigenous Communities

Biocultural Field Station in Manay

In September 2024, DOrSU inaugurated the Biocultural Field Station in Sitio Matabang, Barangay Taocanga, Manay, Davao Oriental. The station focuses on:

- Community development and agriculture – supporting local farmers through soil and crop studies and market linkage
- Biodiversity conservation – documenting and identifying local species in partnership with DENR
- Cultural preservation – helping safeguard Mandaya weaving traditions and other cultural practices

The station is the product of three years of participatory work and is closely linked to the university's Indigenous Peoples Engagement Center, which is dedicated to preserving the culture, language, and traditions of indigenous communities. It serves as a living laboratory for students and faculty while directly supporting the sustainability of an upland indigenous community—strongly aligned with SDG 11 targets on inclusive, safe, resilient, and sustainable human settlements.

Community-Based Tourism and Urban–Coastal Development

During the 2024 University Annual Scientific Review (UASR), DOrSU showcased research that feeds directly into sustainable tourism planning and community livelihoods, including:

- “Development of Community-Based Tourism (CBT) in the City of Mati – Phase 1” – an applied study that maps out participatory, community-owned tourism development around Mati.
- “Living Behind the Walls: Encounters, Settings and Subsistence of Inhabitants in the Margins of Tourism Structures in Governor Generoso” – exploring equity and inclusion issues in tourism landscapes.

These studies support the City of Mati and neighboring municipalities in designing tourism strategies that are inclusive, culturally sensitive, and environmentally sustainable—central concerns of SDG 11.

Coastal Cities, Marine Communities, and Resilient Urbanization

Community-Based Management and Coastal Livelihoods

At UASR 2024, DOrSU researchers presented studies that provide LGUs with evidence to improve coastal zoning, waste management, and public space design in a rapidly growing coastal city. Other impact and KAP (knowledge–attitudes–practices) studies targeted coastal solid waste management, microplastics, and urban coastal parks, including:

- Impact Assessment on the Community-based Management for Conservation and Sustainability of Marine Resources in Mayo Bay and Adjacent Coastal Ecosystems
- SWM Awareness and Practices of Coastal Communities in the City of Mati
- Community KAP towards Microplastics and Plastic Pollution in Matiao Coastal Communities, City of Mati
- Face Mask Littering and Solid Waste Management in Mayor FGR Park and Baywalk, City of Mati

EVENTS AND PROGRAMS

A group of officials are seated around a large, dark, curved conference table in a meeting room. On the wall behind them are three framed portraits of men in military or official uniforms. The room has a modern design with recessed ceiling lights and a large black door in the background.

The University of the Philippines Los Baños (UPLB) and Davao Oriental State University (DOrSU) signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) to create the Network for Circular Economy and Regenerative Agriculture. This network focuses on promoting a circular economy and regenerative agriculture, crucial pillars in addressing environmental challenges and promoting long-term sustainability.

SDG 12: RESPONSIBLE CONSUMPTION AND PRODUCTION

EVENTS AND PROGRAMS

DOrSU Inaugurates Biocultural Field Station in Manay

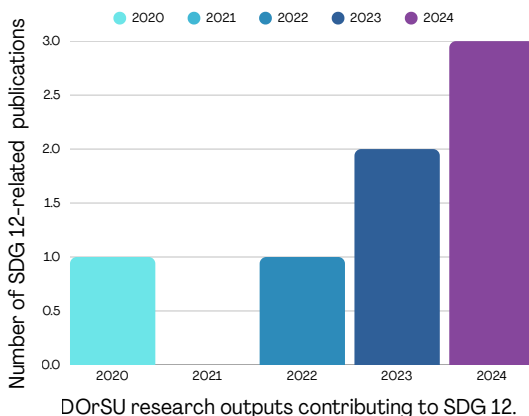
Davao Oriental State University (DOrSU) has inaugurated its Biocultural Field Station in Sitio Matabang, Barangay Taocanga, Manay, Davao Oriental. The facility focuses on community development, agricultural advancement, biodiversity conservation, and preserving the indigenous Mandaya culture.



DOrSU Faculty Researcher Joins Global Discussion on Deep-Sea Mining



A faculty researcher from Davao Oriental State University (DOrSU), recently joined a global panel discussion following the screening of *Deep Rising*, a documentary directed by Mathieu Rytz. The event, held on September 25 in Makati, was organized by the Embassy of Switzerland and focused on the critical issues surrounding deep-sea mining. *Deep Rising* examines the controversial practice of deep-sea mining, a burgeoning industry that has garnered increasing attention from corporations seeking to extract valuable minerals such as cobalt, nickel, and rare earth metals—essential components for modern technologies.



4 flagship SDG 12-related research and extension projects active in 2024

- M2P2 (macro- and micro-plastic pollution)
- Modernized Urban Greenhouse with Hydroponics
- SMART CEST community empowerment project
- BD Corridor cluster management planning

SDG 12: RESPONSIBLE CONSUMPTION AND PRODUCTION

Teaching, Research, and Knowledge Production

Research on Waste, Plastics, and Regenerative Production

- DOrSU researchers published a 2024 article in the Davao Research Journal on “Solid waste management awareness and practices in coastal communities” in Mati City. The study surveyed 399 households to assess awareness levels and day-to-day waste practices, providing evidence for improved local policies and educational campaigns. The study supports LGUs and coastal barangays in designing targeted waste segregation, collection, and information drives, directly contributing to SDG 12.5 (substantially reduce waste generation).
- Through the “Evaluation of Sediment and Water Quality of Silted River-Marine Systems in Banaybanay, Davao Oriental: Initial Step towards Regenerative Mining,” DOrSU produced a policy brief adopted by the Regional Research Development and Innovation Committee (RRDIC) XI. The study provides regulators and local governments with data on pollution loads from mining-affected river-marine systems, guiding more responsible resource extraction and rehabilitation.

Policy Briefs and Environmental Outputs Used by Target Beneficiaries

In total, DOrSU produced six (6) research outputs/policy briefs in 2024 used by external institutions, including:

- Artificial reef replication in Pujada Bay (policy brief adopted by RRDIC XI); and
- Biodiversity conservation and environmental quality studies relevant to ecosystem-based, low-impact development.

These outputs strengthen decision-making across sectors where consumption and production strongly affect ecosystems.

Campus Operations and Supply Chain

Recycling and Circular Use of Materials

In 2024, the University sold 815 kg of old newspapers for recycling, generating ₱45,072.44. This formalized recovery and sale of recyclables shows that DOrSU is preventing reusable paper waste from going to landfill while creating modest income that can be reinvested in operations.

ICT Systems to Reduce Paper Use

The deployment of integrated student information systems (DOrSU IESMS), online student portals, digital pre-registration and schedule applications, and scholarship modules significantly reduces reliance on printed forms and manual processing. Progressive digitization cuts paper consumption, reduces administrative waste, and supports more efficient resource management.

Climate-Smart Greenhouse Infrastructure

In 2024, DOrSU completed the Construction of Green House Monitoring Type with NFT Gutter System and Tunnel Green House with Fogger System (₱1.25 million), a facility that promotes controlled, resource-efficient agriculture with optimized water and nutrient use. The project demonstrates responsible production in agriculture by minimizing inputs, reducing waste, and serving as a teaching/research hub for sustainable farming practices.

SDG 13: CLIMATE ACTION

Davao Oriental State University advances SDG 13 (Climate Action) by combining ridge-to-reef research, community-based restoration, and climate education under the GROWTH 2029 Agenda and the Regenerative Futures Vision 2035.

Through its research centers, faculties, and external partners, DOrSU helped communities respond to droughts, floods, landslides, coastal erosion, and ocean warming—especially in upland farming areas and coastal barangays around Pujada Bay. Key actions included:

- Climate-resilience research on upland farmers and small-scale fishers
- Large-scale mangrove restoration in Pujada Bay in partnership with Malizia Mangrove Park and Mama Earth Foundation
- Campus- and community-based clean-up, tree planting, and mangrove planting activities
- Climate-focused lectures, policy briefs, and science-based recommendations for regional decision-makers

Climate-Resilient Ecosystems & Coastal Communities

Policy Briefs on Regenerative Blue and Green Economies

- DOrSU researchers produced a policy brief, “Evaluation of Sediment and Water Quality of Silted River-Marine Systems in Banaybanay, Davao Oriental: Initial Step towards Regenerative Mining” for the Regional Research, Development and Innovation Committee (RRDIC) XI, addressing climate-related siltation and water quality issues.
- Another policy brief, “Supporting the Replication of Artificial Reef Installation in Pujada Bay in All Applicable Areas in Davao Region,” was also submitted to RRDIC XI, promoting nature-based solutions that enhance marine resilience to climate stressors.

Mangrove-Based Climate Mitigation and Adaptation in Pujada Bay

- The Malizia Mangrove Park in Pujada Bay, where DOrSU’s Integrated Coastal Resource Management Center XI (RIC XI) is recognized as a partner in promoting community engagement and environmental awareness, documented massive mangrove rehabilitation from 2021–2024.
- As of early 2024, the project had already planted over one million mangrove seedlings in Pujada Bay.
- Cumulatively, the project projected ~954,800 mangroves planted by 2024, expanding rehabilitated area from 7.33 ha (2021) to 47.18 ha (2024) and engaging hundreds of local planters, with strong participation from women’s associations.



These mangrove forests serve as carbon sinks, coastal protection against storm surges, and vital nursery habitats, directly contributing to climate mitigation and adaptation.

SDG 13: CLIMATE ACTION

Campus & Alumni Mangrove and Clean-Up Drives



- For DOrSU's 3rd Founding Anniversary, a Clean-Up Drive and Mangrove Planting was held on 1 June 2024 at Guang-guang Mangrove Park and Nursery, in partnership with alumni and stakeholders.
- The activity combined coastal clean-up, mangrove planting, and awareness-raising on the role of mangroves in buffering storm surges, reducing erosion, and sequestering carbon.

Program-level initiatives (e.g., BS Agribusiness Management activities) also included tree planting and clean-up drives integrated into academic and extension events (e.g., BSAM Day 2024), reinforcing climate-conscious land stewardship.



DOrSU, LGU Governor Generoso Partner for Marine Biodiversity Assessment in Barangay Tagabebe



The Davao Oriental State University (DOrSU) has officially partnered with the Local Government Unit (LGU) of Governor Generoso through the signing of a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA). This collaboration aims to conduct a baseline marine biodiversity assessment in Barangay Tagabebe, led by Project Leader Amy G. Ponce. This biodiversity assessment is crucial for addressing climate change, promoting sustainable fishing practices, and protecting the marine ecosystem.

>1 million

mangrove seedlings planted in Pujada Bay as of early 2024 under the Malizia Mangrove Park project, with DOrSU-RIC XI as a key institutional partner

47.18 ha

rehabilitated mangrove area in Pujada Bay, enhancing coastal protection, biodiversity, and carbon sequestration

3

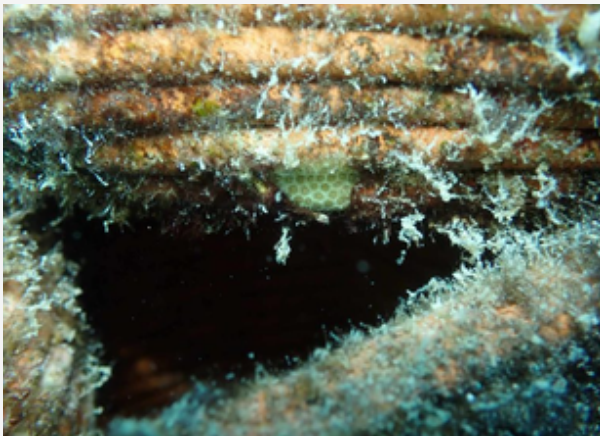
research-based papers published in local and international journals

SDG 14: LIFE BELOW WATER

EVENTS AND PROGRAMS

DOrSU Hosts FIMFS Convention in Mati to Advance Fisheries and Integrated Marine Studies

Davao Oriental State University (DOrSU) through Regional Integrated Coastal Resource Management Center XI hosted the 56th Annual Convention of the Fisheries and Integrated Marine and Fisheries Studies (FIMFS) from October 22 to 24, 2024, in Mati. The convention gathered experts, local stakeholders, and advocates to advance sustainable fisheries and marine conservation practices in the region. Throughout the three-day event, attendees explored critical issues and proposed new ideas in marine biodiversity conservation, sustainable fishing practices, and community involvement in coastal management. These discussions highlighted the need for collective action to protect marine ecosystems and support coastal communities.



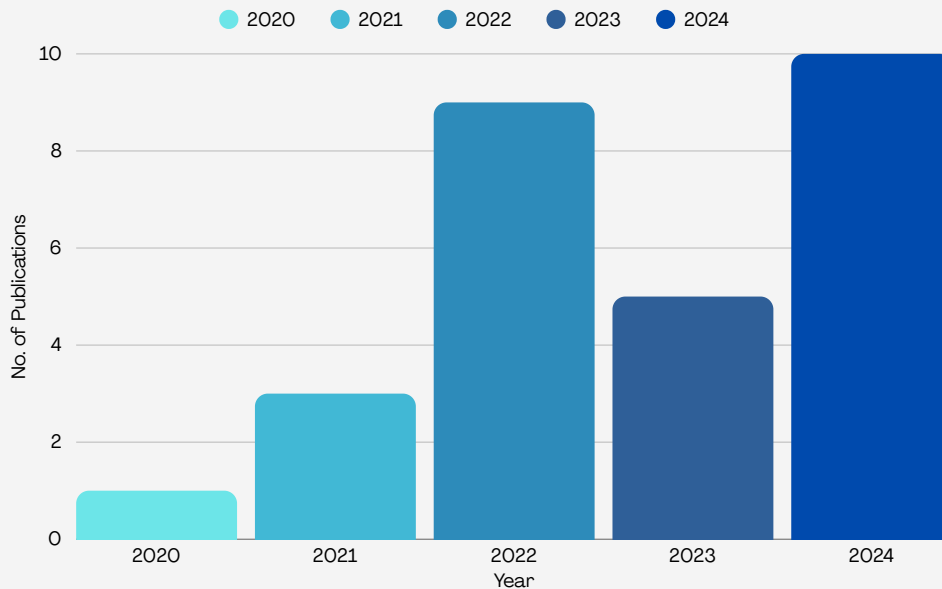
The first coral recruit was observed colonizing the artificial reefs only three months after installation, signalling faster-than-expected recolonization of corals in the site.

Launch of Pujada Bay 3D-Printed Reef Project

- In partnership with Swiss social enterprise rreefs, DOrSU and local/national agencies helped launch the largest reef regeneration project of rreefs in Pujada Bay, a long-established Marine Protected Area.
- 820 3D-printed terracotta reef modules were deployed, covering over 100 m² of reef area in 2024, with expansion plans to 250 m² in 2025 and a hectare by 2027.
- DOrSU serves as the scientific partner for monitoring reef health and coral recruitment, conducting biophysical surveys every six months.

SDG 14: LIFE BELOW WATER

DOrSU's research outputs contributing to SDG 14.



SDG 14 metrics at a glance

820

eco-engineered 3D-printed terracotta reef modules deployed in Pujada Bay in 2024, covering >100 m² of reef area

3

major coastal and fisheries modelling projects active in 2024

1

Artificial Coral Reef Production Facility on campus – first of its kind in the Philippines – producing 3D-printed clay reef bricks locally with DOrSU students and researchers

2

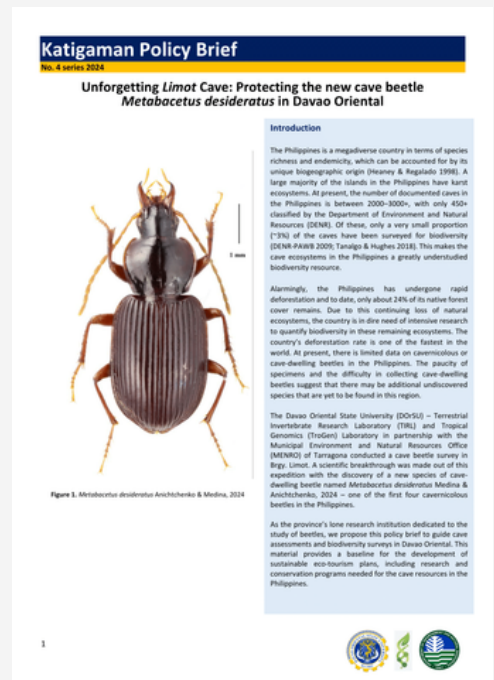
international scientific events hosted and co-organized

SDG 15: LIFE ON LAND

New Species Discoveries in Mt. Hamiguitan and Eastern Mindanao

DOrSU scientists continued to expand global knowledge on Mindanao's endemic terrestrial biodiversity:

- A new species of the genus *Paraskeletodes* (long-horned beetle) was described from the Mt. Hamiguitan Range Wildlife Sanctuary, a UNESCO World Heritage Site in Davao Oriental
- Several new insect species (e.g., *Metapocyrtus* weevils and *Doliops* beetles) from Mindanao's forested mountain ranges were documented in peer-reviewed journals, reinforcing the island's status as a terrestrial biodiversity hotspot
- A landmark study titled "Uncovering what lies within: The First scientific account of cave-dwelling ground beetles (Coleoptera:Carabidae) in the Philippines with the Description of a new genus, new subgenus, and four new species from Mindanao" was completed under DOrSU, highlighting the conservation value of karst and cave ecosystems.



Indigenous Knowledge and Gender in Wildlife Conservation

DOrSU research in 2024 placed Indigenous Peoples and gender at the center of wildlife conservation:

- The article "Gender roles of Obu Manuvu women and leaders in the conservation of the Philippine Brown Deer (*Desmarest, 1822*)" examined how Indigenous women and community leaders in the Obu Manuvu Ancestral Domain contribute to safeguarding the endangered Philippine Brown Deer.
- The study documents division of labor, decision-making roles, and cultural practices that support deer protection, and frames these as essential to long-term ecosystem stewardship, aligning SDG 5 (Gender Equality) with SDG 15 (Life on Land).

This line of research offers concrete, evidence-based pathways for community-based and culturally rooted conservation in upland ancestral domains.

Wildlife Health and Biorisk Management in Protected Areas

DOrSU also advanced wildlife health and protected area management in Mindanao's mountain ranges.

- The paper "Unusual Mortality of the Philippine Warty Pig (*Sus philippensis*) in Mt. Kitanglad Range Natural Park: A Call for Enhanced Biorisk Management for Protected Areas" analyzed mortality events affecting an endemic, threatened mammal and recommended stronger disease surveillance and biosecurity protocols in protected area governance.

SDG 15: LIFE ON LAND

International Biodiversity Conference 2024

In October 2024, DOrSU hosted the 3rd International Biodiversity Conference (IBC 2024) in the City of Mati, held alongside the 56th FIMFS Annual Convention at Honey's Hotel.

Key features:

- Gathered a diverse assembly of scientists, academics, policy actors, and community leaders to discuss biodiversity issues “from ridge to reefs,” with strong attention to land ecosystems, forests, and wildlife.
- Featured plenary speakers on biodiversity policy, forest and landscape governance, and regenerative futures, with sessions on upland forests, agroforestry, wildlife conservation, and land use planning.
- Positioned DOrSU as host university and provincial knowledge hub, building on Mati's long-standing role as venue for biodiversity conferences linked to Mount Hamiguitan and Pujada Bay.



Corridor-Level Conservation and Policy Engagement

DOrSU's SDG 15 work in 2024 extended beyond site-based projects into landscape and corridor-level planning.

- DOrSU is recognized as a partner university of the Mount Hamiguitan Range Wildlife Sanctuary, with President Dr. Roy G. Ponce serving on the Protected Area Management Board (PAMB).
- Under DENR–UNDP Eastern Mindanao Biodiversity Corridor initiatives, technical documents and project reports in 2024 reference DOrSU's role in integrated corridor management, IP-tenurial and biodiversity mapping, and research on indicator species within the corridor.

SDG 16: PEACE, JUSTICE AND STRONG INSTITUTIONS

In 2024, Davao Oriental State University strengthened its role as a hub for transparent governance, evidence-based policymaking, and community peace and security, directly contributing to SDG 16: Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions.

Through updated freedom-of-information policies, robust digital governance systems, peace-and-justice-oriented research, and national knowledge networks, DOrSU advanced its GROWTH 2029 Agenda and Regenerative Futures Vision 2035 by making institutions more open, data-driven, and people-centered.

Governance, Transparency, and Access to Information

Updated Freedom of Information (FOI) Manual (Revision 1, 2024)

- In January 2024, DOrSU issued Freedom of Information (FOI) Manual – Revision 1, updating procedures for handling information requests in line with Executive Order No. 02 (FOI) and the Data Privacy Act (RA 10173). This ensures predictable, rules-based access to public information, upholding citizens' right to know and strengthening institutional accountability.

Digital Governance and Stronger Institutional Systems

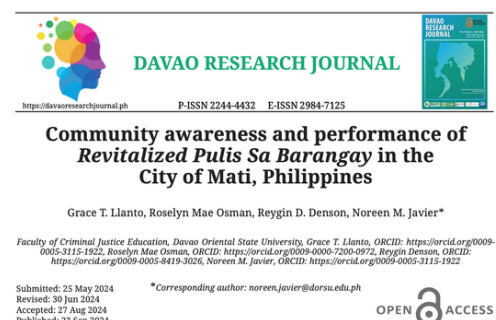
DOrSU invested heavily in information systems and data governance in 2024, making its core academic and administrative processes more transparent, efficient, and secure.

- The Information Systems Strategic Plan (ISSP) was formulated and subsequently approved by the Board of Regents, signaling a governance-level commitment to aligning ICT investments with institutional priorities.

Research for Peace, Justice, and Effective Institutions

DOrSU's research and publications in 2024 contributed directly to community safety, democratic participation, and institutional transformation.

- In 2024, the Faculty of Criminal Justice Education published a peer-reviewed article in the Davao Research Journal titled "Community awareness and performance of Revitalized Pulis Sa Barangay in the City of Mati, Philippines."



The research underscores the vital role of community-based policing in safeguarding peace and security at the grassroots level, providing local law enforcement and LGUs with evidence to improve their strategies—contributing to SDG 16.1 (reduction of violence) and 16.3 (rule of law and access to justice).

SDG 16: PEACE, JUSTICE AND STRONG INSTITUTIONS

Research for Peace, Justice, and Effective Institutions

DORSU Center for Futures Thinking and Regenerative Development
August 2, 2024

LOOK | Ms. Melrene Isabel D. Morales, a BS in Development Communication graduate, presented the results of her study titled *'Social Media Use and Voting Behavior of University Students'* in the University Annual Scientific Review 2024 at the Honey's Hotel, City of Mati.

The study was one of the components of the Voices for Transformation and Emancipation (VoTE) Program, an extension program conducted last Barangay and Sangguniang Kabataan Elections (BSKE) 2023, led by Dr. Mary Fil M. Bauyot, Director for Extension, with Gender Research and Resource Center, and BS in Development Communication Program, which the Center for Futures Thinking and Regenerative Development supported and funded.



Civic Participation and Voting Behavior

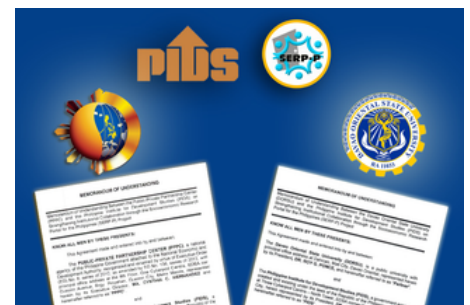
The study titled *'Social Media Use and Voting Behavior of University Students'* was showcased in the in the University Annual Scientific Review 2024.

By unpacking how young people form opinions and vote in the social media era, this research supports SDG 16.7 (inclusive, participatory and representative decision-making) and can inform voter education programs, campus-based electoral engagement, and democratic reforms.

Knowledge Sharing and National Governance Networks

In May 2024, DORSU became one of the newest members of the Philippine Institute for Development Studies' (PIDS) Socioeconomic Research Portal for the Philippines (SERP-P), alongside the PPP Center.

This partnership supports transparency, inclusivity, and knowledge sharing in national development discourse, resonating strongly with SDG 16.10 (public access to information) and 16.A (strengthening institutions).



SDG 16 metrics at a glance

20+

digital governance systems and modules developed, enhanced, or deployed in 2024

3+

policy briefs in 2024 used by RRDIC XI, DENR, and LGUs, supporting evidence-based decisions in mining governance, artificial reef deployment, and biodiversity protection

1

national knowledge-network membership

1

updated FOI Manual (Revision 1, January 2024) covering all DORSU campuses and extension campuses

SDG 16: PEACE, JUSTICE AND STRONG INSTITUTIONS

EVENTS AND PROGRAMS

Hon. Hussein Muñoz Visits DOrSU, Discusses Establishment of Islamic Studies Center



Minister Muñoz engaged in a productive meeting with the Muslim Student Organization (MSO) at DOrSU, highlighting the university's commitment to fostering inclusive and diverse educational opportunities. A key topic of discussion was the potential establishment of a DORSU Islamic Studies Center. This proposed center aims to offer comprehensive programs in Islamic Studies, Arabic, and Shariah Law.

DOrSU–BS DevCom interns to take part in the forumZFD-led MHS Project

Selected students from Davao Oriental State University's (DOrSU) Bachelor of Science in Development Communication (BS DevCom) are gearing up for an exciting internship opportunity with the Mindanao Histories and Studies (MHS) Project. This initiative, led by the Forum Civil Peace Service/forumZFD – Philippines Program in conjunction with the Mindanao Histories and Studies Advocacy Group (MHS AG), aims to highlight Mindanao's diverse narratives and rich cultural heritage.



SDG 17: PARTNERSHIP FOR THE GOALS

Newly Forged Global Academic Partnerships

1. **National University of Singapore (NUS), Singapore:** Research Collaboration Agreement on montane biodiversity (Philippine montane birds), with NUS Enterprise–Technology Transfer and Innovation.
2. **University of Mary Hardin–Baylor (UMHB), USA:** Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) signed on 23 April 2024 in Davao City, expanding collaboration in global speakership programs and international academic exposure.
3. **Mandarin Language Training Program MOA: Province of Davao Oriental – Ateneo de Davao University – DOrSU:** Partnership through a Memorandum of Agreement for a Mandarin Language Training Program, signed 14 June 2024 at DOrSU Hotel, involving the Provincial Government of Davao Oriental (PGO), Ateneo de Davao University's Confucius Institute, and DOrSU.
4. **California State University, Chico (CSU Chico), USA:** Partnership forged through an agreement finalized by email on 6 August 2024, opening pathways for future mobility, joint programs, and co-teaching arrangements.
5. **Institute for Innovative Global Education (IIGE), Kansai University, Japan:** Participation in Kansai University's global engagement ecosystem, particularly for COIL and online/exchange learning.

These partnerships operationalize SDG 17 by sharing expertise, co-developing programs, and co-producing knowledge with institutions across Asia, North America, and Europe.

Student Mobility and Collaborative Learning

The Student Mobility 2024 report documents DOrSU's growing participation in international mobility schemes, especially with Kansai University, Japan:

- Spring 2024 – Kansai University Exchange Online Learning (KU-EOL): 8 students from programs such as BS Information Technology, BS Biology, BTLE, BPEd, and BS Nursing completed the virtual KU-EOL Spring 2024 program from 13 May to 27 June 2024.
- Summer 2024 – J-MCP Program (Japan–Multicultural Coexistence & Peace): 9 students from Criminology, IT, Mathematics, Development Communication, BEd, and BSBA (various campuses) completed the J-MCP Summer 2024 Program from 2 August to 18 September 2024, focusing on entrepreneurship, sustainability, and innovative problem-solving.
- Fall 2024 – Kansai University Engaged/Exchange Online Learning (KU-EOL) – Fall Cohort: At least 5 students completed KU-EOL Fall 2024, enrolling in modules on Japanese popular culture, DEIB (Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Belonging), and organizational culture, with classes running from 30 September to 18 December 2024.

At least 22 DOrSU students participated in structured online mobility programs with Kansai University in 2024, in addition to other engagements such as youth dialogue forums, CommTECH Nusantara, and international webinars on education and multiculturalism.

SDG 17: PARTNERSHIP FOR THE GOALS

Faculty and Leadership Engagement in Global Conferences & Networks

DOrSU faculty and administrators took part in at least nine (9) international mobility missions in 2024, representing the University in conferences, trainings, and leadership fora in Japan, Taiwan, Malaysia, Thailand, China, Singapore, Cambodia, and South Korea.

Key engagements include:

- Network of Educators and Researchers for Peace and Sustainability (NERPS) – Hiroshima University, Japan (3–13 March 2024), where Dr. Rose Anelyn V. Ceniza presented work on mental health for former rebel-returnees.
- Taiwan Experience Education Program (TEEP) – Haptic-Enhanced Assistive Devices training at Southern Taiwan University of Science and Technology, with Mr. Wilkin F. Simo participating from March–September 2024.
- Asia-Pacific Futures Network Conference (Thailand), APSSA International Conference (Singapore), CE SAIN–SEARCA Joint International Conference (Cambodia), and an international research conference in South Korea, all attended by DOrSU faculty and directors.



SDG 17 metrics at a glance

4

newly forged international university partnerships

3

visiting international professors/lecturers teaching Physics, Japanese, and Mandarin at DOrSU in 2024

≥ 9

international faculty and leadership mobility missions in Japan, Taiwan, Malaysia, Thailand, China, Singapore, Cambodia, and South Korea

20+

internationalization and partnership-related activities (webinars, guest lectures, visits, exploratory meetings, and roadshows)

SDG 17: PARTNERSHIP FOR THE GOALS

EVENTS AND PROGRAMS

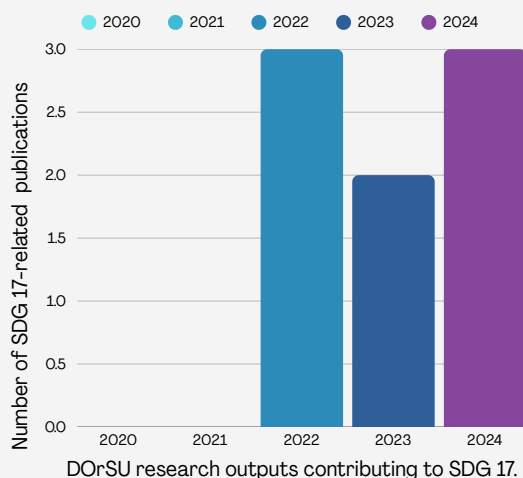
DOrSU Launches Trainer's Module, Policy Brief Series at Inaugural Regenerative Futures Conference

Davao Oriental State University (DOrSU) recently held the first-ever Regenerative Futures (RgF) Conference on November 22 at the Adelina Hotel and Suites in the City of Mati. The conference marked the launch of the RgF Trainer's Module and the RgF Policy Brief Series, underscoring DOrSU's commitment

to embedding regenerative futures principles into its teaching, research, and community engagement efforts.



PUBLICATION



DOST XI turns over ₱1.8M check to DOrSU for SMART CEST Program

The Department of Science and Technology (DOST) Region XI, as part of the Smart and Sustainable Communities through Science and Technology (SMART CEST) program. The SMART CEST program is one of DOST XI's main projects, aimed at empowering local communities through science and technology solutions. Working through the Provincial Science and Technology Office (PSTO), DOST XI collaborates with educational institutions like DOrSU to promote sustainable development in the region.



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