SGD 15: Indicator 15.2.4

FREE

1. University President Ponce Speaks at EMBC Summit 2025; DOrSU Strengthens Role as Project Partner



Davao Oriental State University (DOrSU) President Dr. Roy G. Ponce served as a plenary speaker at the Eastern Mindanao Biodiversity Corridor (EMBC) Summit 2025, held on October 6-8 at Caraga State University in Butuan City. Speaking in Plenary Session 2 themed "Biodiversity and Communities: Strengthening Conservation Connectivity (Science-Based)," Dr. Ponce presented the EMBC Biodiversity Profile of Davao de Oro and Davao Oriental.

Dr. Ponce's presentation directly advanced the Summit's goal of translating science into action under the Biodiversity Corridor (BD Corridor) Project of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR), supported by the Global Environment Facility (GEF) and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP). As one of the project partners, DOrSU is helping build the evidence base for integrated ecosystem management from ridge-to-reef monitoring and habitat connectivity analysis to local capacity building and policy support for biodiversity-friendly livelihoods.

The session also featured regional and international experts whose complementary work reinforced the corridor approach. From insect biodiversity baselines that flag sensitive habitats to province-

level biodiversity profiles, the shared datasets are informing priorities for restoration and protection, as well as the identification of Other Effective area-based Conservation Measures (OECMs) that contribute to national targets and the global 30×30 goal.

The program continues through October 8, with Ms. Amy G. Ponce, DOrSU Project Leader for EMBC Clusters 5 & 6, set to present the Eastern Mindanao Biodiversity Corridor Conservation Plan for Davao de Oro and Davao Oriental. The day's agenda will also tackle DHSUD XIII priority programs, eco-tourism opportunities in the Mindanao Corridor, LGU-led OECMs, and the Caraga Provinces Conservation Plan—tying technical planning to implementing agencies, specific sites, and community initiatives.

DOrSU faculty-researchers are also slated to present studies across four clusters: (1) Biodiversity Assessment, Species Movement and Conservation of Flora; (2) Biodiversity Assessment, Species Movement and Conservation of Fauna; (3) Socioeconomic Dimensions including GAD initiatives in biodiversity conservation; and (4) CLUP/Special Area Studies (Biodiversity). These papers expand the corridor's knowledge base, guide local development planning, and support community-based stewardship in critical habitats.

DOrSU's strong presence at the EMBC Summit advances the University's regenerative futures vision and GROWTH Agenda, underscoring its role as a reliable science partner for government, communities, and conservation networks in Eastern Mindanao. As sessions progress, DOrSU's team is coordinating with partners to share datasets, align conservation priorities with LGU plans, and scale training and monitoring programs across key landscapes.

Source:
https://dorsu.edu.ph/university-president-ponce-speaks-at-embc-summit-2025-dorsu-strengthens-role-as-project-partner

2. DOrSU Presents Biodiversity Assessment Results to Support Local Conservation Ordinance in Maco, Davao de Oro



#DOrSUBSES #rethinkingimpact

On May 21, 2025, Ms. Amy G. Ponce, Adviser of the BSES GreenPulse along with faculty and researchers from Davao Oriental State University (DOrSU) presented the summarized results of a biodiversity assessment during a Committee Hearing of the Sangguniang Bayan of Maco, Davao de Oro. The session focused on the proposed ordinance to declare the Bilawa Mainit Hot Waterfalls and Lake Leonard as Local Government Unit (LGU)-managed Conservation Areas in Barangays Mainit and New Leyte.

The presentation was made in response to an official invitation from the Sangguniang Bayan, acknowledging the essential role of science-based data in crafting effective and inclusive environmental legislation. The biodiversity assessment, conducted from October 28 to November 1, 2024, was led by Ms. Ponce, Project Leader for the Biodiversity Component of the BD Corridor Project – Eastern Mindanao Biodiversity Corridor Cluster 5, under the leadership of Dr. Misael B. Clapano. The research team comprised faculty and researchers from the BS Biology and BS

Environmental Science programs of DOrSU, in collaboration with personnel from MENRO Maco, CENRO Maco, the Davao de Oro Tourism Office, the Indigenous People Community and the barangay local government units of New Leyte and Mainit in Maco, Davao de Oro.

The assessment documented a range of important species groups, including bats, birds, herpetofauna, coleoptera, trees, and shrubs, many of which are endemic and keystone species with high conservation values, offering strong ecological evidence in support of formal conservation efforts. These findings reinforce the scientific case for the protection and sustainable management of the area, emphasizing its ecological value and biodiversity significance.

The committee hearing served as a valuable platform for dialogue, shedding light on how the proposed ordinance can be strengthened to better align with the interests and capacities of key stakeholders. It also emphasized the importance of recognizing Indigenous Peoples' rights, as the area falls within a recognized Certificate of Ancestral Domain Title (CADT). Furthermore, the hearing opened the door to exploring additional perspectives and enhancements to ensure that the ordinance is both environmentally sound and socially equitable—supporting the coexistence of nature and the communities that depend on it.

DOrSU stands firm in its vision to science-based, data-driven research as a cornerstone for policy development and informed decision-making, particularly in advancing regenerative conservation. This ensures that research does not remain confined to academic spaces but actively shapes policy—empowering communities, protecting biodiversity, and paving the way for a more resilient and regenerative future.

Source:
https://web.facebook.com/share/p/1B4RYgtrgZ/

3. DOrSU researchers bag 3rd place for study on rare Rafflesia species



#AdvancingRegenerativeFutures |

Davao Oriental State University (DOrSU) made another mark in the field of research after earning 3rd Place in the Best Poster Presentation Award at the Eastern Mindanao Biodiversity Corridor (EMBC) Summit 2025 held from October 6 to 8 at Caraga State University in Butuan City, Agusan del Norte.

The winning study was presented by DOrSU alumna Desiree Joy D. Maxey, who explored the antifungal properties of Rafflesia mira, one of Mindanao's rarest and most fascinating flowers. Her research looked into how the plant's natural compounds could help combat *Fusarium oxysporum* f. sp. *cubense* Tropical Race 4, the fungus responsible for the destructive Banana Fusarium Wilt that has long plagued farmers.

Maxey collaborated with Dr. Analou D. Dedal, Dr. Bernadette J. Nanual, Dr. Wilanfranco C. Tayone, and Dr. Janeth C. Tayone, forming a multidisciplinary team that underscores DOrSU's commitment to bridging biodiversity conservation and agricultural innovation through science-driven solutions.

With the theme "Connecting Landscapes, Empowering Communities," this year's EMBC Summit brought together scientists, policymakers, and environmental advocates from across Eastern Mindanao to share insights on building resilient and sustainable ecosystems.

Beyond prestige, this recognition stands as a reflection of the power of local research in protecting both people and nature and a reminder that innovation can bloom even from the rarest flowers of Mindanao.

Source:
https://web.facebook.com/story.php?story_fbid=1149701340645375&id=100068165584427&rdid=QkmVeyBSmNUVonQO#

4. **REthinking Impact: IEC on Biodiversity Conservation and Regenerative Development Year** 2 **Highlights**



Davao Oriental State University (DOrSU) launched the second year of its initiative, “REthinking Impact: IEC on Biodiversity Conservation and Regenerative Development." This environmental forum, organized by DOrSU’s Green Pulse, the DOrSU's Office of Student Affairs (OSA), the DOrSU's Regional Integrated Coastal Resource Management Center (RIC XI), the Biology Teacher's Association (BIOTA) of the Philippines - Davao Chapter, the rethinking rebuilding regenerating (rrreefs), the DOrSU's Macro and Micro Plastic Pollution (M2P2) Program, and the DOrSU's Eastern Mindanao Biodiversity Corridor Research Program, gathered student leaders from various organizations of the university to address pressing biodiversity challenges and promote the principles of regenerative development and future thinking of DOrSU at the university Graduate School Library on November 6, 2024.

The discussions of the aforementioned forum highlighted the pivotal role of DOrSU's “Regenerative Future and Thinking” branding movement in shaping the university's identity, values, and transformative impact on the community.

SUC President III Roy G. Ponce, a prominent figure in the future thinking of the university, shed light on the importance of preserving coastal areas. His project, "HFK Plastic-Use Education for Children in Coastal Areas," aims to foster responsible plastic use through educational campaigns conducted specifically on coastal areas and seeks to expand further to encourage sustainable practices, including student leaders, to battle environmental consequences and regenerate biodiversity loss. This project has been actively implemented for years now showing the university’s earnest commitment towards a regenerative future.

Moreover, Ms. Vanessa Asaias-Yncierto, the founding director of DOrSU's Center for Futures Thinking and Regenerative Development (CFTRD), reinforced the importance of student engagement in realizing the university's vision of a sustainable and regenerative community. In her presentation titled "Becoming a Regenerative Futures University in the Asia-Pacific: Challenges, Opportunities, and Future Directions," Asaias-Yncierto inspired attendees to adopt the principles of regenerative thinking in their everyday lives.

Meanwhile, Ms. Amy G. Ponce, Project Leader for Cluster 5 of the Eastern Mindanao Biodiversity Corridor (EMBC) research program, shared her insights on coral reef restoration. Her presentation, "3D Clay Reef Systems: An Innovative Approach for Coral Regeneration in Pujada Bay," highlighted the urgency of restoring marine ecosystems and demonstrated how innovative reef systems can facilitate marine recovery.

DOrSU’s ongoing environmental projects have produced substantial results, contributing significantly to environmental welfare. In achieving to enhance our community's resilience, it is essential to move forward collectively, taking active roles as stewards of environmental sustainability and a regenerative future.

Source:
https://web.facebook.com/story.php?story_fbid=526003743608519&id=100085966947768&rdid=eiN3k2k12sXVtaZf#

5. **Beyond Awareness: DOrSU Student Leaders Challenged to Redefine Environmental Impact**



CITY OF MATI, Davao Oriental — Environmental awareness is no longer enough; the call of the hour is regenerative action. This was the resounding message echoed at the Davao Oriental State University (DOrSU) RIC XI on December 5, 2025, as student leaders gathered for the seminar titled "REthinking IMPACT: Strengthening Environmental Awareness Through IEC Innovation."

Spearheaded by the University's Office of Student Affairs (OSA), the event was a collaborative masterclass in environmental advocacy, made possible through partnerships with BSES GreenPulse, the Center for Futures Thinking and Regenerative Development (CFTRD), RIC XI, the M2P2 Program, rrreefs, Office of the Directorate for Student Affairs and Services (ODSAS) and the Eastern Mindanao Biodiversity Corridor (EMBC) project.

The afternoon sessions began with a sobering reality check delivered by Dr. Emily S. Antonio, Program Leader of the M2P2 Research Program. Moving beyond theoretical pollution, Dr. Antonio presented findings from DOrSU's own research that hit close to home: microplastics are now present in the seafood sold in local markets. She revealed that contaminants have been found in the Kitang (Rabbitfish) and local shells. Dr. Antonio used these findings to challenge the student leaders, urging them to integrate strict waste management into their Activity Planning (AP). She emphasized that the advocacy against pollution must live on through their organizational protocols, ensuring that student events do not contribute to the very problems the university seeks to solve.

Shifting the perspective from the present crisis to future possibilities, Dr. Ricksterlie Verzosa, Director for Futures Thinking and Regenerative Development, redefined the role of the audience. "Student leaders are not just officers—you are weak signals of the future you want to build," (Weak signal is introduced as "Indicator"). Dr. Verzosa stated. He introduced the concept of "Regenerative Student Leadership"—leadership that restores, uplifts, and creates lasting positive change. He emphasized that the university's dream of becoming a regenerative futures institution relies on the decisions these young leaders make today.

The seminar also showcased how DOrSU is moving from advocacy to tangible innovation. Ms. Rheacin A. Polestico of the rrreefs initiative shared the journey of the "Artificial Clay Reefs in Pujada Bay." She highlighted a major breakthrough: from simply the doanted clay bricks, DOrSU has evolved to fabricating them on campus. With the donation of 3D printers, the university has become the first institution in the Philippines to produce 3D-printed clay bricks for marine restoration—a tangible example of regeneration in action.

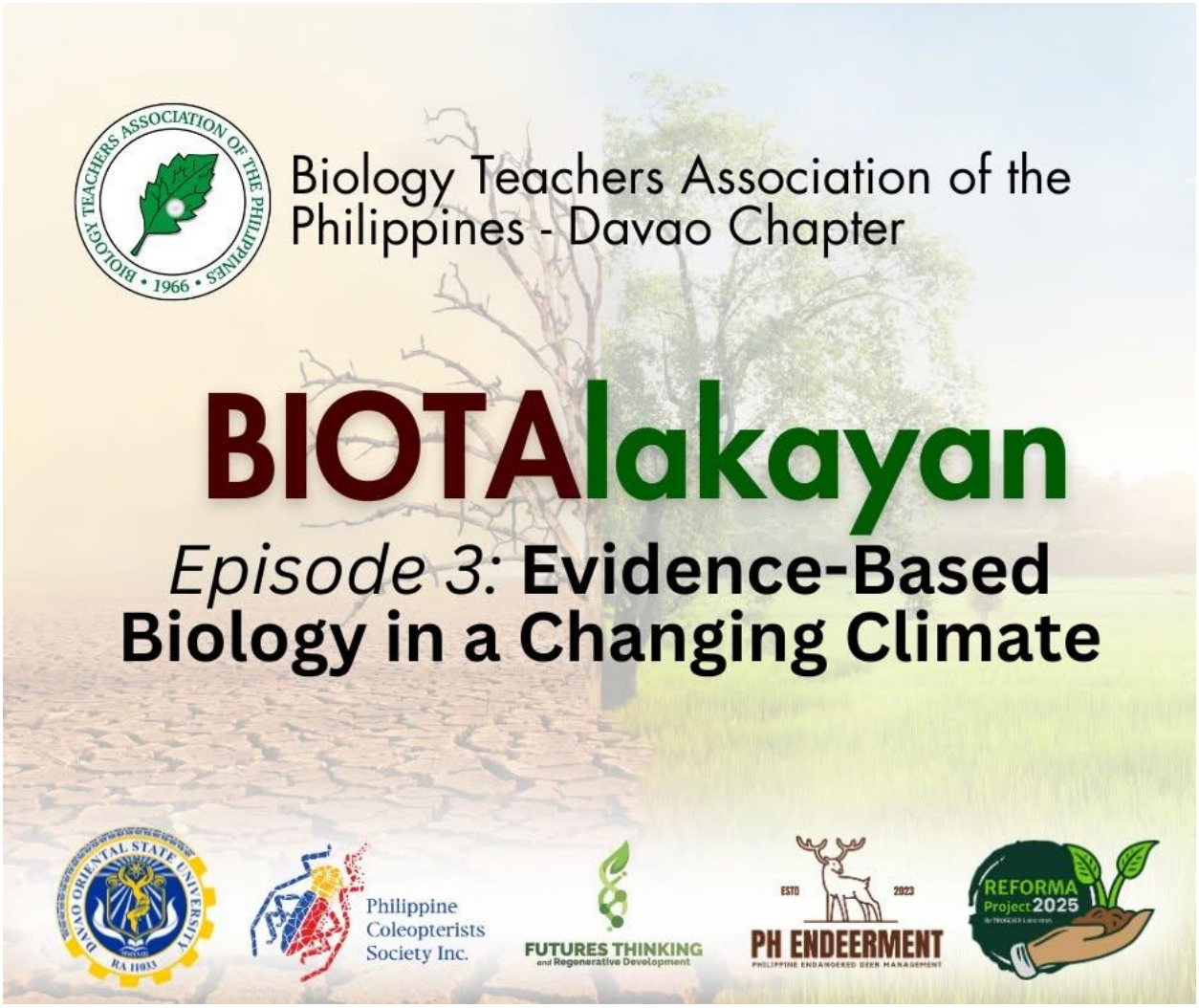
Connecting the reef back to the ridge, Lorjie Bation, former President of BSES GreenPulse, now a research assistant of the EMBC project, illustrated the vital importance of the Eastern Mindanao Biodiversity Corridor. He explained how this continuous forest strand serves as a critical watershed supplying water to Indigenous Peoples (IP) and coastal communities alike. Sir Bation called for multidisciplinary collaboration, stressing that student leaders from all programs—not just the sciences—have a meaningful role to play in these initiatives.

The event was bookended by powerful reminders of personal responsibility. In her opening remarks, Dr. Evangeline Rivera highlighted the seminar as a strategic opportunity for leaders to align their future projects with the University’s mission and vision. However, it was the closing sentiment from Ms. Nikka Owano of the OSA Staff that grounded the day's lessons in personal character. Sharing a childhood anecdote, Ms. Owano recalled being scolded by her mother for keeping trash in her bag during school days rather than littering—a habit she carried into adulthood. "Becoming a good leader really starts with yourself," Owano reminded the participants.

As the student leaders left the hall, they carried more than just certificates; they carried the challenge to be the "weak signals" that will eventually amplify into a regenerative future for Davao Oriental.

Source:
https://www.facebook.com/share/p/14vFAkStJgM/

6. **BIOTAgumpay**



BIOTALAKAYAN Episode 3 Marks Another Milestone in Promoting Evidence-Based Biology

Our heartfelt gratitude to everyone who joined us for **BIOTALAKAYAN Episode 3**: "**Evidence-Based Biology in a Changing Climate**" held last November 8, 2025. The insightful lectures by **Dr. Krizler C. Tanalgo** and **Dr. Roel F. Ceballos** truly deepened our understanding of how research and statistics can strengthen biology education in the face of climate change.

This event's success reflects our shared commitment to fostering a community of educators and researchers grounded in evidence-based practice and scientific excellence.

Thank you to our resource speakers, participants, and the entire BIOTA Davao Chapter team for making this learning exchange meaningful and inspiring.

Until our next BIOTALAKAYAN!

Source:
https://web.facebook.com/share/p/1E7i9caaV7/

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1. IBC 2024 Highlights Regenerative Technology for Ecosystem Restoration



The International Biodiversity Conference (IBC) 2024 hosted by Davao Oriental State University (DOrSU) was successfully held from October 24 to 26 in the City of Mati, Davao Oriental. This year's conference marked its third installment since its launch in 2019 and attracted a diverse assembly of scientists, academics, community leaders, environmental advocates and students from across the globe.

With the theme "Sustainable Management in Agriculture, Regenerative Technology, and Ecosystem Restoration (SMARTER)," the 3rd IBC featured plenary sessions, paper and policy brief presentations, and extensive networking opportunities.

During the opening ceremony, Dr. Misael B. Clapano, DOrSU's Vice President for Research, Innovation, and Extension, underscored how the conference opens doors for collaboration . "The IBC is a gathering of shared purpose," he said, emphasizing that collective efforts drive effective solutions for biodiversity challenges.

Mati City Mayor Michelle N. Rabat, represented by City Administrator Allan E. Andrada, spoke of Mati's natural treasures, from Mt. Hamiguitan Range Wildlife Sanctuary to its renowned Pujada, Mayo, and Balete Bays. Andrada also shared Mati's new "Highlands to Ocean" (H2O) initiative, underscoring how the SMARTER approach aligns with the city's commitment to environmental

stewardship: “This approach speaks to innovation and responsibility—ensuring that today’s actions contribute to a sustainable planet for future generations.”

Moreover, Provincial Governor Niño Sotero L. Uy, represented by his Chief of Staff Everendo Esver, highlighted the conference’s role in uniting global voices for the shared mission of safeguarding biodiversity. “This gathering allows us to learn from each other and create partnerships that foster resilience and sustainability,” Esver said.

In his message, DOrSU President Dr. Roy G. Ponce shared how the IBC has shaped the university’s vision of regenerative futures, grounded in the philosophy that human well-being, economic stability, and natural ecosystems can thrive in harmony. “Our commitment is not just to sustain but to strengthen the balance between humanity and nature,” he remarked.

A highlight of the opening ceremony was the keynote address by Hanna Kuhfuss, Co-founder and Head of Field Operations at rrreefs, a Zürich-based organization. Kuhfuss presented the successful deployment of a 3D-Printed Eco-Engineered Reef System in Pujada Bay. This groundbreaking project utilizes typhoon-resistant, clay reef structures, designed to revitalize coral habitats and support mangrove rehabilitation. With plans to establish a production facility in Mati, this initiative stands as a model of sustainable marine conservation.

Following the opening ceremony, plenary sessions covered various facets of conservation and sustainability. On the first day, For. Formida P. Andres from DENR-BMB presented on the Philippines’ updated biodiversity commitments, and For. Norma Malinyawe of the USAID-INSPIRE Project discussed the importance of partnerships for ecosystem restoration. International perspectives included Dr. Hasnah Darunan from Universitas Andalas in Indonesia, who explored the socio-economic benefits of sustainable agriculture.

The second day’s sessions featured Dr. Tan Yen Yi of the National Museum of Singapore who talked on integrating avian research into regenerative practices, followed by Dr. Jayson C. Ibañez from the Philippine Eagle Foundation, who shared insights from the Philippine Eagle Conservation Program. The plenary session also included presentations by Dr. Gina P. Nilo from DA-BSWM on soil and water resource management and Mr. Elden Karl L. Requilme from DA-PRDP on sustainable agriculture initiatives.

The afternoon plenary series continued with Dr. Aileen H. Orbecido from De La Salle University, who discussed “The Bio+Mine Project”, a multidisciplinary approach to rehabilitating mines, and Dr. Han Soo Lee from Hiroshima University, who presented the state-of-the-art CHESS Lab, an advanced coastal conservation technology. The day concluded with Atty. Vicente Paolo B. Yu from the United Nations, emphasizing biodiversity’s role in sustainable agriculture and development.

In addition to the insightful plenary talks, the conference showcased 88 research papers presented across four thematic clusters: Sustainable Management in Agriculture; Regenerative Technology; Ecosystem Restoration and Biodiversity; and Gender, Policy, and Governance in Sustainable Agriculture and Ecosystem Restoration. Participants included international delegates from Switzerland, Japan, Cuba, Jamaica, Syria, South Korea, Singapore, and Indonesia, alongside representatives from various Philippine academic and research institutions.

To immerse participants in the local culture, a Cultural Night was held, celebrating the heritage of Davao Oriental's Mandaya and Kagan tribes. The conference also included a tour of Mati City's iconic attractions, allowing delegates to experience the city's natural beauty firsthand.

As the 3rd IBC concluded, it reaffirmed its position as a pivotal platform for sharing knowledge, fostering collaboration, and inspiring action. By highlighting innovative solutions through regenerative technology, the conference has ignited a global movement towards ecosystem restoration. The event further underscored DOrSU's commitment to its regenerative futures vision, demonstrating the university's dedication to balancing socio-economic development with environmental stewardship. (DOrSU PIO)

Source:
https://dorsu.edu.ph/ibc-2024-highlights-efforts-in-biodiversity-restoration

2. DSFC 2025 Conference in Davao City, Philippines



DSFC 2025 Conference in Davao City, Philippines

The Philippine Association of State Universities and Colleges XI (PASUC XI), in collaboration with Davao del Norte State College (DNSC), Davao del Sur State College (DdSSC), Davao Oriental State University (DOrSU), Davao de Oro State College (DdOSC), University of Southeastern Philippines (USeP), and Southern Philippines Agri-Business and Marine and Aquatic School of Technology (SPAMAST), invites researchers, faculty, graduate, and undergraduate students from academic and research institutions to submit poster and research abstracts for the 1st Davao Sustainable Futures Conference (DSFC 2025). The event will take place on October 29-30, 2025, in Grand Regal Hotel, Davao City, Philippines, fostering knowledge exchange and promoting Futures Thinking and Foresight for sustainable development.

Source:
https://dnsc.edu.ph/rep/dsfc2025/

3. **PHILCOLRESCON 2025 Day 2 Celebrates Success for Philippine Coleoptera Conservation**



Day 2 of the 1st Philippine Coleoptera Research and Conservation Conference (PHILCOLRESCON 2025) concluded with a success, featuring an engaging lineup of plenary speakers, insightful discussions, and recognition of outstanding contributions to Philippine biodiversity research.

The day's plenary speakers included Dr. Perry Archival C. Buenavente, Dr. Jayson C. Ibañez, Mr. Mark John Pepito, MSc, Dr. Reagan Joseph T. Villanueva, and Mr. Jhonnel P. Villegas, MSc. Throughout the day, participants revisited the importance of natural history collections, the power of citizen science, and integrating social and cultural perspectives into conservation work.

Delegates were recognized through a formal awarding ceremony, honoring their participation and the outstanding poster exhibitors, including the Best Poster Awardees. The Philippine Coleopterists Society, Inc. (PCSI) also welcomed its newest members in an oath-taking affirming their hand to serve in advancing coleopterology and biodiversity conservation in the Philippines.

In a deeply inspiring closing message, Dean Rvin John R. Servillon, RMT, MSMT, expressed heartfelt gratitude to plenary speakers, organizers, and participants for shaping a nationally significant conference. He emphasized the importance of capacity building and inter-institutional collaboration, and that it is built on these relationships that continues the legacy and path of science as Dr. Cabras.

Day 2 reminded participants that protecting our biodiversity is a collective effort, one strengthened by collaboration, shared knowledge, and a unified vision among researchers, conservationists, and students. The success of the 1st PHILCOLRESCON 2025 is a is a foundation to what can be achieved when passion and purpose come together for the protection of Philippine biodiversity, a vision continually advancing from the roots of Dr. Cabras.

Source:
https://web.facebook.com/share/p/1A8p4YWZar/