Sustainable Development Goals Report 2025



Sustainable Development Goals 2025 REPORT

TABLE OF CONTENTS

01 SDG 1: NO POVERTY

07 SDG 2: ZERO HUNGER

14 SDG 3: GOOD HEALTH AND WELL-BEING

20 SDG 4: QUALITY EDUCATION

26 SDG 5: GENDER EQUALITY

32 SDG 6: CLEAN WATER AND SANITATION

37 SDG 7: AFFORDABLE AND CLEAN ENERGY

41 SDG 8: DECENT WORK AND ECONOMIC GROWTH

47 SDG 9: INDUSTRY, INNOVATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE

50 SDG 10: REDUCED INEQUALITIES

53 SDG 11: SUSTAINABLE CITIES AND COMMUNITIES

56 SDG 12: RESPONSIBLE CONSUMPTION AND PRODUCTION

59 SDG 13: CLIMATE ACTION

62 SDG 14: LIFE BELOW WATER

64 SDG 15: LIFE ON LAND

67 SDG 16: PEACE, JUSTICE AND STRONG INSTITUTIONS

70 SDG 17: PARTNERSHIPS FOR THE GOALS

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 2025 highlights the University's continuing journey and contributions to the United Nations' 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. Guided by its Regenerative Futures Vision 2035, DOrSU aligns its instruction, research, institutional initiatives, and community engagements with the 17 SDGs, advancing inclusive development, improving lives, and promoting environmental sustainability in Davao Oriental and beyond.

This report highlights DOrSU's continuing journey and collective efforts in advancing the 17 United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), presenting evidence of the University's accomplishments and contributions for Calendar Year 2025. It brings together initiatives across academic programs, research and innovation, student and staff engagements, institutional partnerships, and community development projects, demonstrating how these efforts align with the global sustainability agenda. This year's report gives particular attention to No Poverty(SDG 1), Good Health and Well-Being (SDG 3), Quality Education (SDG 4), Gender Equality (SDG 5), Decent Work and Economic Growth (SDG 8), Climate Action (SDG 13), Life Below Water (SDG 14), Life on Land (SDG 15), and Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions (SDG 16), while recognizing the University's interconnected contributions to the other SDGs.

More than a documentation of accomplishments, this report reflects DOrSU's evolving role as a catalyst for sustainable transformation, demonstrating how its academic excellence, research endeavors, and community engagements converge toward one shared aspiration: to make higher education a powerful driver of inclusive, equitable, and regenerative development, leaving no community behind.

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 2025 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 2025. 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

1 NO POVERTY

The University's Initiatives

DOrSU's 2025 at a Glance

17,629 students supported through scholarships and grants	**P150.135 million** tuition subsidies and direct financial assistance	**2,657** extension participants and trainees recorded across 2025
31 extension rograms supported during the year	**12** active extension partnerships	**48** SDG 1-related publications

Davao Oriental State University advances poverty reduction by widening access to public higher education, strengthening the capacity of households and communities to earn sustainable livelihoods, and directing research and extension to address the conditions that make families economically vulnerable. Across its campuses and community partnerships, DOrSU links education with opportunity: scholarships and student assistance reduce barriers to university participation; research generates practical knowledge for farmers, fisherfolk, enterprises, and low-income households; and extension brings training, technology, and institutional expertise closer to communities.

This whole-of-university approach reflects DOrSU's identity as a University of Excellence, Innovation and Inclusion.

DOrSU's institutional goals explicitly call for broader scholarship support, equity of opportunity, need-based research, applied technologies, and sustainable income generation, placing social inclusion and economic resilience at the center of its mission.

DOrSU's 2025 reach combined growing enrollment with sustained community engagement. First-semester enrollment rose to 17,629 in AY 2025–2026, who are all supported through various scholarships and grants. In research, DOrSU produced approximately 48 SDG 1-related publications and 43 research presentations in different conferences and forums. Beyond the campus, extension activities reached 2,657 participants and trainees through 31 programs and 12 active partnerships, with beneficiary satisfaction increasing to 97.64% by the fourth quarter.







Opening Doors to Higher Education

For DOrSU, reducing poverty begins with expanding the opportunity to enter and complete higher education. In 2025, the University sustained academic offerings across Mati, Baganga, Banaybanay, Cateel, San Isidro, and Tarragona, bringing programs in education, agriculture, life sciences, business, health sciences, computing engineering, criminology, and technology closer to learners throughout Davao Oriental.

This multi-campus presence reduces the distance between students and a public university education while allowing programs to respond to the economic and workforce needs of different communities.

1 NO POVERTY

The University's Initiatives

Opening Doors to Higher Education

Financial access complements geographic access. DOrSU administers and facilitates a range of scholarship and assistance programs that include Free Higher Education, the Tertiary Education Subsidy, Tulong Dunong, DOST-SEI scholarships, local-government scholarships, institutional merit grants, support for persons with disabilities, and private-sector assistance. In FY 2025, the University's approved national budget included ₱149.135 million for Free Higher Education and ₱1 million for the Tulong Dunong Program, while institutional processing systems supported thousands of student enrollment and scholarship transactions.

The University also strengthened students' ability to navigate available assistance. A Scholars and Grantees General Assembly brought together students, parents, UniFAST XI, DOST, and DOrSU scholarship personnel to explain the benefits, eligibility requirements, and application pathways under national, local, and institutional programs. These information efforts help ensure that financial assistance reaches students who may otherwise struggle to identify or complete the requirements for available support.

Targeted Support for Rural Families

Educational assistance in 2025 also reached students from livelihood sectors that remain vulnerable to income shocks. Eleven DOrSU students were inducted under the Scholarship Program for Coconut Farmers and Their Families, with each scholar receiving ₱70,000 in assistance—₱30,000 for a laptop and ₱40,000 as a one-semester stipend. By supporting members of coconut-farming families, the program connects educational mobility with one of Davao Oriental's major rural industries.





Partner-led social protection complemented DOrSU's own student-support systems. A 50-day Cash-for-Work Program for Higher Education Institutions was completed by 368 DOrSU students and graduates, providing financial assistance while giving participants practical work experience.

At the Tarragona External Classes, local-government commitments to operational subsidy, new facilities, land, financial aid, and housing assistance for learners from far-flung barangays further strengthened the conditions for students to remain in higher education.

1 NO POVERTY

The University's Initiatives

Research Initiatives

Community or Sector	2025 Research Focus	Contribution to Economic Resilience
4Ps farmers	Valorization of agricultural wastes through biochar production	Low-cost production inputs, resource recovery, farmer empowerment
4Ps households	Financial literacy studies among program beneficiaries	Budgeting, savings, financial capability, economic self-reliance
Coconut farmers	COCO-HULIP; technical-efficiency and hybrid-adoption studies	Productivity, technology adoption, production efficiency
Coffee & pummelo growers	Gender roles and supply-chain studies	Inclusive value chains and livelihood participation
Fisherfolk communities	Climate resilience, closed-season, adaptation and profitability studies	Livelihood security and resilience to shocks
Oyster growers	OYSTER sustainable farming project	Diversified aquaculture livelihood and environmental resilience

Knowledge That Strengthens Livelihoods

DOrSU's research agenda connects poverty reduction with the realities of rural and coastal livelihoods. During 2025, the University maintained an active portfolio of 18 externally funded projects and 47 GAA-funded projects while producing approximately 48 publications and 43 research presentations. A substantial share of this work addressed agriculture, fisheries, climate vulnerability, biodiversity, enterprise development, gender, and household capability—fields that directly influence the security of farming and fishing families.

Among the most directly poverty-focused initiatives was the project on valorizing agricultural wastes through biochar production for the empowerment of 4Ps farmers in Mati City. Other studies examined the financial literacy of Pantawid Pamilyang Pilipino Program beneficiaries, the roles of women and other actors in agricultural value chains, the efficiency of farmer groups, and the pressures experienced by fisherfolk households. Together, these projects move beyond general economic development by focusing on populations whose income and livelihoods are especially exposed to market, environmental, and social shocks.

The portfolio also included work on traditional rice varieties, oil-palm farming efficiency, urban and peri-urban agriculture, reef fisheries, milkfish profitability, indigenous feed ingredients, and the adaptation of coastal communities to climate change. These studies strengthen the evidence base for improving productivity while reducing the risks that can push resource-dependent households deeper into poverty.

1 NO POVERTY

The University's Initiatives

From University Expertise to Community Income

Research gains meaning when knowledge reaches the people who can use it. DOrSU's Extension Office sustained that translation in 2025 through programs covering agriculture, hydroponics, cooperative development, livelihood, health, gender and development, coastal-resource management, tourism, environmental awareness, responsible parenting, language, and culture. Across the year, 2,657 participants and trainees engaged in extension activities supported by 31 programs and 12 active partnerships.

Several initiatives were directly oriented toward livelihood creation and productive capacity. Basic hydroponics crop-production training introduced practical options for intensive food production. Training of Trainers for Cooperatives strengthened organizational and enterprise capability. At the San Isidro Campus, agriculture-based livelihood activities under Paglambo sa Ekonomiya Pinaagi sa Agrikultura (PEPA) included swine dispersal and banana-chip processing, while collaboration involving women fisherfolk and the Negosyo Center supported food-processing skills and local enterprise development.

These interventions illustrate a recurring feature of DOrSU's community work: livelihood is treated not as a one-time distribution of assistance, but as a combination of skills, organization, technology, market readiness, and continuing technical support. The consistently high satisfaction reported by beneficiaries—rising to 97.64% by the fourth quarter—also reflects the value communities place on these services.



Regenerative Coffee Farming in Taocanga

In Sitio Matabang, Taocanga, Manay, DOrSU continued a community-based regenerative-agriculture initiative with Indigenous farmer-beneficiaries. The program established 30,000 coffee seedlings and paired planting with field monitoring, technical guidance, geo-tagging, and continuing assessment. The community farm was designed to support household income while encouraging practices that protect soil health, biodiversity, and the long-term productivity of the landscape.

The initiative also demonstrated the importance of continuity when livelihoods face disruption. Following the October 2025 doublet earthquake, DOrSU returned to the community to assess the project and extend support to affected farmer-beneficiaries, linking livelihood development with recovery and resilience.



1 NO POVERTY

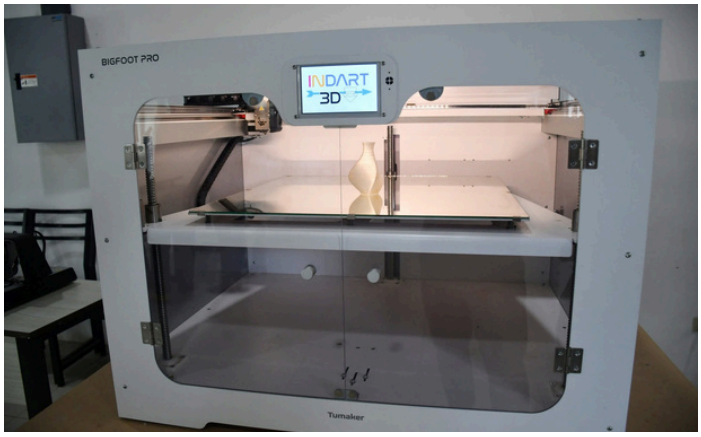
The University's Initiatives

Backing Local Enterprise and Community Innovation

DOrSU broadened its poverty-reduction contribution by helping local enterprises gain access to technical expertise, facilities, and innovation support. Through its partnership with DOST XI, the University committed institutional resources and expertise to assist micro, small and medium enterprises, people's organizations, and non-government organizations in areas such as marketing, operations, finance, human resources, risk management, program implementation, and monitoring.

This support was reinforced by the Materials Development and Innovation in Davao Oriental Fabrication Laboratory (MADE IN DAVLAB), a ₱10-million Shared Service Facility established with the Department of Trade and Industry. By opening university-linked technologies to local users, the initiative helps translate innovation into enterprise capability and new economic opportunities.

Cooperative-development training, food-processing activities, agricultural demonstrations, and community enterprise support further extend this ecosystem. Together, these initiatives help local organizations improve management, add value to products, adopt technologies, and strengthen their ability to participate in local markets.





Building Resilience Against Poverty-Creating Shocks

Poverty is intensified when households lose income to disasters, climate change, declining natural resources, or weak access to essential services. DOrSU's 2025 work therefore paired livelihood development with resilience. Research on coastal communities examined multidimensional climate vulnerability, fisheries adaptation, closed fishing seasons, women in fisheries, and the profitability of resource-dependent livelihoods. Agricultural studies explored climate-related risks to coconut production and approaches that can improve the sustainability of farming systems.

The University also worked through multi-agency platforms that strengthen the local systems communities rely on. SmarterDavOr brought DOrSU together with the City Government of Mati, DOST XI, DICT XI, and DepEd Mati around more reliable infrastructure, technology-enhanced learning, and stronger digital capability. Regional Dagyaw in Banaybanay combined civic participation with closer access to government services, while Project T.U.D.L.O. strengthened early-childhood educators' capacity in health, nutrition, safety, inclusion, and family-school-community engagement.

These efforts reinforce a broader principle in DOrSU's approach to SDG 1: sustainable pathways out of poverty require more than income alone. They depend on education, productive assets, capable organizations, resilient livelihoods, accessible services, and communities that are better prepared to withstand disruption.

1 NO POVERTY

The University's Initiatives

Creating Pathways Out of Poverty

DOrSU's 2025 contribution to SDG 1 is anchored on the primordial function of a public university. It can make tertiary education more attainable; generate knowledge that improves farming, fishing, and enterprise; equip communities with practical skills; connect local organizations to technology and partners; and strengthen resilience when livelihoods are threatened by environmental and economic shocks.

By linking student access, research, extension, enterprise support, and community resilience, Davao Oriental State University continues to turn its vision of excellence, innovation, and inclusion into pathways for greater economic security and social mobility across Davao Oriental.



The University's Initiatives

DOrSU's 2025 at a Glance

6 campuses offering agriculture, agribusiness or agricultural technology programs	**105** newly licensed agriculturists produced	**30,000** coffee seedlings planted in the Taocanga regenerative agriculture initiative
₱7.48M COCO-HULIP research grant supporting improved coconut productivity	**₱1.57M** modernized greenhouse, hydroponics and grow-out nursery project completed	**55** participants reached in hydroponics learning activities

For Davao Oriental State University, food security is inseparable from the future of the province. Davao Oriental's farms, coconut lands, coffee-growing communities, fisheries and coastal livelihoods make agriculture and aquatic food systems central to household well-being, local enterprise and community resilience. In 2025, DOrSU advanced Zero Hunger through a whole-of-university approach that combined agriculture education, applied research, technology transfer, extension, nutrition-focused community work, and partnerships with government agencies, producers and local communities.

The University's strongest contributions were anchored on building the knowledge and productive capacity behind food systems: educating future agriculturists and agribusiness professionals, improving access to soil and crop-production technologies, developing climate-resilient and lower-cost approaches for fisheries and aquaculture, supporting coconut and coffee communities, and carrying university expertise beyond the campus to farmers, cooperatives, fisherfolk and Indigenous communities.



DOrSU's food-security work also operated within a broader extension platform that engaged 2,657 participants and trainees across 31 extension programs and sustained 12 active partnerships during 2025. Agriculture, hydroponics and livelihood development formed part of this community agenda, reinforcing the University's role as a knowledge partner for local producers and communities.

The University's Initiatives

Cultivating the Next Generation of Food-System Professionals

DOrSU strengthened the human-resource base of agriculture by making agriculture-related programs available across its multi-campus system. At the Main Campus, the Faculty of Agriculture and Life Sciences offered Bachelor of Science in Agriculture majors in Animal Science and Crop Science, together with Bachelor of Science in Agribusiness Management. Agriculture and agribusiness offerings also extended to Baganga, Banaybanay, Cateel, San Isidro and Tarragona, while Cateel additionally offered the Bachelor in Agricultural Technology.

This geographic reach matters in a province where farming and fisheries remain closely tied to local livelihoods. Bringing agriculture education closer to communities gives students the opportunity to develop technical and entrepreneurial capabilities without separating higher education from the production landscapes they will eventually serve.

Campus	Agriculture-related programs offered in 2025
Main Campus	BS Agriculture - Animal Science; BS Agriculture - Crop Science; BS Agribusiness Management
Baganga Campus	BS Agriculture - Crop Science; BS Agribusiness Management
Banaybanay Campus	BS Agriculture - Crop Science
Cateel Campus	Bachelor in Agricultural Technology; BS Agriculture - Animal Science; BS Agribusiness Management
San Isidro Campus	BS Agriculture - Crop Science
Tarragona Campus	BS Agriculture - Animal Science; BS Agribusiness Management

Quality assurance accompanied program expansion. At the Main Campus, BS Agriculture and BS Agribusiness Management held Level II accreditation; San Isidro's BS Agriculture also held Level II status; Cateel's Bachelor in Agricultural Technology held Level II status and its BS Agribusiness Management held Level I status. The University's training outcomes were further reflected in professional licensure performance as 105 new licensed agriculturists were produced in 2025.



2 ZERO HUNGER

The University's Initiatives

Research Initiatives

Research / Project	Food-system contribution	2025 status / grant
COCO-HULIP: Coconut Hybrid Utilization in the Locality for Improved Productivity	Improved coconut productivity and hybrid utilization in Davao Oriental	₱7,476,671 | ongoing
Modernized Urban Greenhouse with Hydroponics, Grow-out Nursery and Capacity Building	Urban and peri-urban crop production, hydroponics and farmer capability-building	₱1,570,000 | completed
Multidimensional Assessment of Climate-Change Resilience in Coastal Communities	Resilience of coastal livelihoods and management responses to climate risk	₱2,000,000 | ongoing
Valorization of Agricultural Wastes through Biochar for 4Ps Farmers in Mati City	Agricultural-waste use, soil improvement and livelihood-oriented production support	₱50,000 | ongoing
OYSTER: Optimizing Yield and Sustainability through Environmental Resilience	Sustainable oyster-farming development and implementation in Mati City	₱50,000 | ongoing
Agro-biodiversity Accounting and Management of Traditional Rice Varieties	Conservation and management of traditional rice resources in District I	₱50,000 | ongoing

Researching Resilient and Productive Food Systems

DOrSU's research portfolio placed food production within the larger realities of climate change, biodiversity, household livelihoods and resource sustainability. Across the University, 18 externally funded research projects and 47 GAA-funded studies were under implementation during the year. Within that portfolio, a substantial cluster focused directly on agriculture, fisheries, aquaculture, crop value chains and producer resilience.

Other studies examined agribusiness challenges and opportunities, gender roles in the coffee supply chain, gender in the pummelo supply chain, and the links between agricultural production, resource use and community well-being. Together, these projects broaden the University's contribution from increasing production alone toward building food systems that are economically viable, environmentally resilient and socially inclusive.



2 ZERO HUNGER

The University's Initiatives

Turning Research into Practical Knowledge

The University's 2025 scholarly outputs translated local food-system challenges into evidence that producers, extension workers and decision-makers can use. DOrSU researchers examined how coconut farmers understand and respond to climate impacts on productivity; how small-scale fishers are affected by closed fishing seasons and extreme climate events; and how climate and non-climate hazards shape small pelagic fisheries and milkfish aquaculture.

Research also explored lower-cost and locally available feed alternatives for aquaculture. Studies assessed non-fishmeal and selected Indigenous raw materials as cost-effective feeds for milkfish, and evaluated mango and banana peelings as alternative and sustainable feeds for red tilapia. In crop and enterprise systems, DOrSU research addressed postharvest processing and enterprise viability of the MaCoMa coffee blend, sustainability in small-scale coffee farming, and the delivery strategies and challenges encountered by agricultural extension workers in Davao Oriental.

Bringing Science Closer to Farmers

Food security depends on whether scientific knowledge reaches the people who make daily production decisions. DOrSU strengthened this link through its University Research Complex - Institute for Soil and Water and its partnership with the Department of Agriculture - Bureau of Soils and Water Management and the DA Regional Soils Laboratory XI.

In February 2025, the University conducted hands-on soil-testing training using Soil Test Kits, bringing together faculty members and students from the Main and extension campuses, local government representatives, personnel of the Provincial Agriculture Office, farm owners and members of agricultural cooperatives. The activity strengthened practical skills in soil fertility assessment while advancing laboratory quality compliance - critical foundations for evidence-based fertilizer decisions, improved crop productivity and responsible soil management.

Hydroponics and production technologies

The University's extension work complemented laboratory-based support with practical production technologies. In the fourth quarter, the Provincial Institute of Agriculture conducted an educational and hydroponics visit for 40 Indigenous women from Macambol and a separate basic hydroponics crop-production training for 15 participants. These activities built familiarity with production systems that can diversify food-growing options where land, water or urban space may be constrained.

The completed modernized urban greenhouse project further expanded this capability through a hydroponics unit, grow-out nursery and capacity-building component designed for urban and peri-urban agriculture in Davao Oriental.





2 ZERO HUNGER

The University's Initiatives

Extending Food Production and Livelihood Skills to Communities

DOrSU's community engagement moved food-system knowledge beyond formal training rooms and into livelihood settings. San Isidro Campus extension activities in the fourth quarter included agricultural livelihood interventions such as swine dispersal and food-processing training. Twenty-four participants took part in banana-chip processing under an agriculture-based livelihood initiative, while another collaboration involving a women fisherfolk cooperative and a Negosyo Center engaged 30 participants in food processing, including banana-chip production.

These interventions connect primary production with value addition. By helping community members move from raw agricultural or fisheries resources toward processed products, DOrSU supports household enterprise, reduces dependence on a single income stream, and strengthens the capacity of producer groups to participate more fully in local markets.



Strengthening Coconut Communities from Farm to Future Professionals

Coconut remained a major focus of DOrSU's food-system and rural-development work. COCO-HULIP, a ₱7.48-million externally funded research project running from 2024 to 2027, supports improved coconut productivity and the utilization of coconut hybrids in Davao Oriental. Complementary research examined the technical efficiency of coconut farms, compared hybrid and traditional production systems, assessed prospects for hybrid adoption, and documented how climate change affects coconut productivity and farmers' practices.

The University also supported the human-capital side of the coconut sector. In December 2025, 11 DOrSU students from coconut-farming families were inducted into the Scholarship Program for Coconut Farmers and Their Families. Each received ₱70,000 in assistance - ₱30,000 for a laptop and ₱40,000 as a one-semester stipend - linking agricultural development with access to higher education and the preparation of future professionals who can contribute to the modernization and sustainability of the coconut industry.





2 ZERO HUNGER

The University's Initiatives

Food Security from Coastal and Aquatic Systems

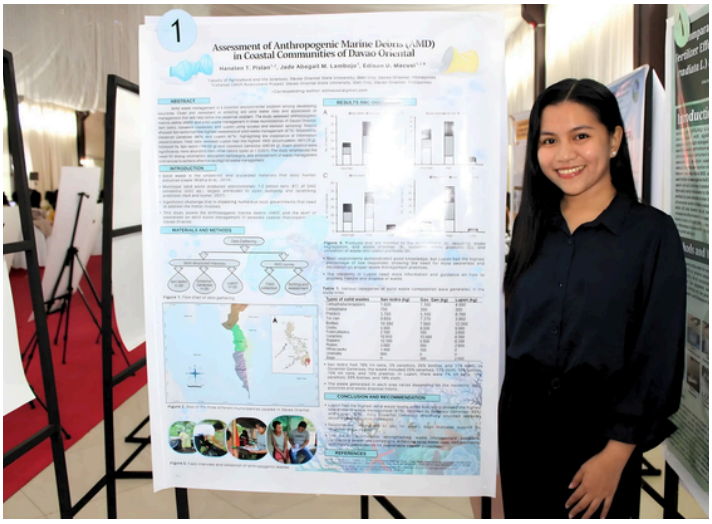
For a coastal province, Zero Hunger also depends on the resilience of fisheries and aquaculture. DOrSU sustained research that examined the productivity, affordability and climate resilience of aquatic food systems. A ₱2-million DENR XI-funded project assessed climate-change resilience in coastal communities, while the University's OYSTER project explored sustainable oyster-farming development in Mati City.

Published studies on small-scale fisheries, climate hazards, fisher adaptation and feed alternatives for milkfish and tilapia addressed both sides of the food-security equation: protecting the resource base that supports coastal households and improving production systems that can provide reliable, affordable aquatic food.

Building Nutrition Knowledge in the Community

DOrSU's contribution to Zero Hunger also extended to nutrition education. Through Project T.U.D.L.O., implemented with the City Social Welfare and Development Office of Mati, the University worked with child development workers and early childhood education students to strengthen competencies in health, nutrition, safety and family-school-community partnerships.

The initiative recognizes that food security is not only a question of agricultural supply. Good nutrition also depends on the capacity of families, educators and community institutions to understand children's nutritional needs and integrate health-promoting practices into early childhood development.





2 ZERO HUNGER

The University's Initiatives

Research Initiatives

Area of contribution	2025 institutional action
Agriculture education	Agriculture, agribusiness and agricultural technology programs delivered across all six instructional locations; 105 new licensed agriculturists were produced
Sustainable production research	COCO-HULIP, hydroponics, traditional rice, biochar, oyster farming, climate-resilient coastal livelihoods and value-chain studies.
Farmer access to knowledge	Soil-testing training with government agriculture partners, farm owners and cooperatives; hydroponics and crop-production capability-building.
Regenerative agriculture	30,000 coffee seedlings established with an Indigenous partner community in Taocanga, with continued technical monitoring and geo-tagging.
Food and livelihood extension	Hydroponics learning, swine dispersal, banana-chip processing and women fisherfolk/Negosyo Center collaboration.
Fisheries and aquaculture	Research on small-scale fisheries, climate adaptation, milkfish and tilapia feeds, coastal resilience and sustainable oyster farming.
Coconut-sector support	₱7.48-million COCO-HULIP research plus 11 new CoScho scholars receiving ₱70,000 each.
Nutrition capacity-building	Early-childhood health and nutrition training through Project T.U.D.L.O. with Mati child development workers.

Across instruction, research and extension, DOrSU's 2025 work demonstrates a food-security strategy rooted in place. The University develops professionals for agriculture, generates evidence for local production systems, opens university expertise to producers, and works with communities to strengthen the resilience of the farms, fisheries and households that sustain Davao Oriental. By connecting knowledge with production and production with people, DOrSU advances Zero Hunger as both a scientific challenge and a shared regional responsibility.

3 GOOD HEALTH AND WELL-BEING

The University's Initiatives

DOrSU's 2025 at a Glance

99 student-nurses completed clinical training in June 2025	**101** new registered nurses with passing rates consistently above the national record	**91.67%** May 2025 licensure examination **94.74%** November 2025 licensure examination
Level III accreditation status of the BS Nursing program	**2,657** participants and trainees reached by DOrSU extension programs, including health activities	**1** major MHPSS rollout for earthquake-affected healthcare workers launched

Health and well-being at Davao Oriental State University extend beyond the clinic. In 2025, the University strengthened a continuum of care that begins with the preparation of future health professionals, continues through accessible medical, dental and counseling services, and reaches outward through preventive-health initiatives, mental-health research, psychosocial support and community partnerships.

DOrSU's approach recognizes that well-being is physical, psychological and social. It combines professional nursing education with primary care and referral services, student counseling and prevention, employee wellness, women's health, early-childhood health and nutrition, and evidence-based mental-health interventions for people working and living under stress. This integrated model reflects the University's wider commitment to building healthier and more resilient communities in Davao Oriental.

Preparing Health Professionals for Service

DOrSU's Faculty of Nursing and Allied Health Sciences anchors the University's contribution to the health workforce through the Bachelor of Science in Nursing program. In 2025, the program held Level III accreditation, reflecting sustained attention to instructional quality, faculty capability, learning resources, research, extension and student services.

On June 17, the University honored 99 student-nurses during its 12th Clinical Graduation Ceremony. The milestone marked the completion of a demanding stage of professional formation and affirmed the University's emphasis on compassionate, technically competent and community-centered care.

Licensure results reinforced this trajectory. Nursing graduates from the Main Campus posted passing rates as high as 94.74% during 2025, while the May 2025 nursing licensure cycle recorded a 91.67% passing rate. These outcomes reflect the capacity of DOrSU's nursing program to prepare graduates for professional practice and to contribute new health professionals to the regional and national health system.



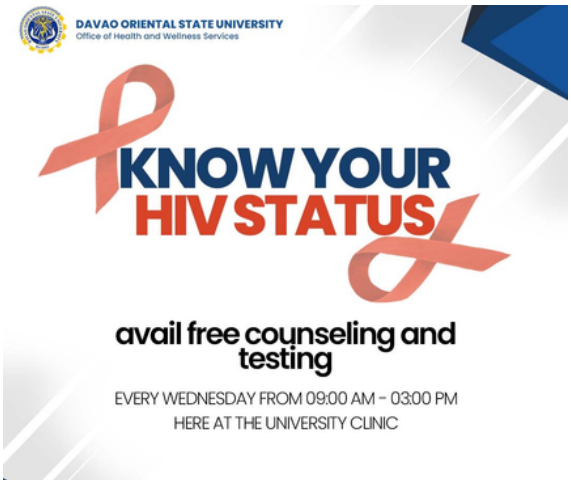
3 GOOD HEALTH AND WELL-BEING

The University's Initiatives

Making Primary Health Care Accessible on Campus

DOrSU maintains an institutional health service that provides outpatient medical and dental care, initial management of common illnesses, health assessment, referral, emergency response and health teaching for members of the University community. Standard clinic services are provided without service fees, helping ensure that basic care remains readily accessible to students and personnel.

The University's health service also supports student medical profiling and physical-examination records, including vital-sign assessment, review of laboratory results and follow-up when additional consultation is needed. In emergencies, health personnel provide first aid, reassessment, family notification and referral to emergency medical services or higher-level facilities when required.





Campus health pathway	Institutional service
Primary care	Consultation, vital-sign assessment, initial management of common illnesses and appropriate medication/health teaching.
Dental care	Dental consultation and procedures within the clinic and referral framework.
Medical profiling	Physical-examination records, review of laboratory results and follow-up of health concerns.
Emergency response	First aid, reassessment, family notification and coordination with EMS/CDRRMO when needed.
Referral	Linkage to physicians, dentists, specialists and higher-level health facilities.

3 GOOD HEALTH AND WELL-BEING

The University's Initiatives

Supporting Mental Health and Pyschosocial Well-being

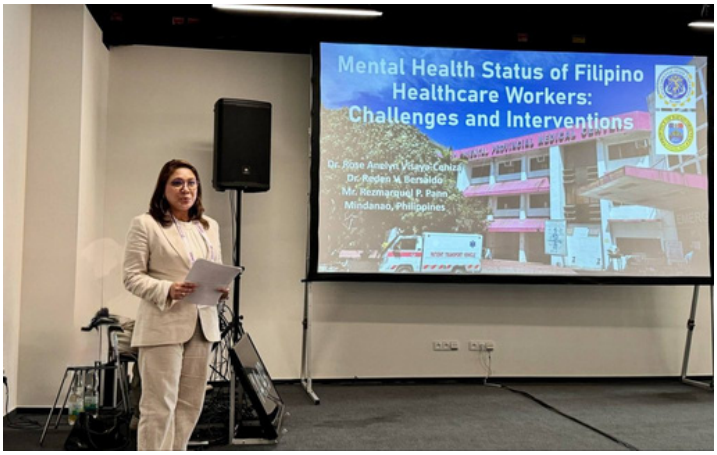
Mental health remained a central part of DOrSU's well-being agenda in 2025. Students had access to the Office of Student Counseling and Development, which provides individual and group counseling, psychological testing, orientation, follow-up services, information support, and prevention-and-wellness interventions aimed at helping students manage psychosocial, emotional and intellectual concerns.

Employee well-being was also integrated into human-resource services. During the year, DOrSU provided mental-health support and included stress management among its learning and development activities, alongside medical allowances and other employee welfare mechanisms.

Mental-health research with provincial partners

DOrSU brought local mental-health experience into national and international knowledge spaces. At the 22nd European Congress of Work and Organizational Psychology in Prague, Dr. Rose Anelyn B. Ceniza, a DOrSU faculty psychologist joined provincial health leaders in presenting collaborative research on the mental-health status of Filipino healthcare workers, highlighting the challenges faced by frontline professionals and evidence-based interventions used in Davao Oriental.

In August, DOrSU and the Provincial Government of Davao Oriental formalized a collaboration to deepen this work through a study on the mental health and professional quality of life of healthcare workers in the province. The initiative linked university research capacity with the operational realities of the public-health system, creating a pathway for locally grounded evidence to inform workforce well-being.



The University's psychosocial scholarship also reached vulnerable populations beyond the workplace. At the 2025 joint congress of the Pacific Rim College of Psychiatrists and the World Association of Cultural Psychiatry in Tokyo, DOrSU presented indigenized and evidence-based approaches to helping sexually abused children, including culturally resonant interventions grounded in Filipino Psychology and community support.



3 GOOD HEALTH AND WELL-BEING

The University's Initiatives

Pyschosocial Recovery after the 2025 Doublet Earthquake

When the doublet earthquake placed additional strain on health workers and affected communities, DOrSU translated its mental-health expertise into direct response. On November 28, the University began implementing Kalig-On: MHPSS Debriefing, Self-Care Support, and Capacity-Building for Healthcare Workers in Davao Oriental.





The program provided structured debriefing, culturally grounded self-care practices and capacity-building for frontline medical personnel who experienced emotional and physical stress during the disaster. Supported by the ABS-CBN Foundation and implemented in partnership with the Diocese of Mati - Commission on Health, the initiative enabled DOrSU to mobilize trained facilitators and extend evidence-based Mental Health and Psychosocial Support across affected communities.

The rollout built on DOrSU's continuing community-based MHPSS partnership with the Diocese of Mati, demonstrating how an academic institution can contribute not only to disaster preparedness but also to the emotional recovery and long-term resilience of the people who keep local health systems functioning.



Advancing Preventive Women's Health



Preventive care formed part of DOrSU's 2025 health agenda through Serbisyo Para Kay Juana. On March 26, female employees aged 30 to 65 were offered free cervical-cancer screening on campus through the City Health Office of Mati's Mobile Surgical Unit.

The screening used Visual Inspection with Acetic Acid, an accessible method for early detection of cervical abnormalities. By bringing screening directly to the workplace through collaboration among the Center for Gender and Development, City Health Office of Mati, DOrSU health services and the University cooperative, the initiative reduced barriers to preventive care and placed women's health within the University's broader gender-responsive support system.

3 GOOD HEALTH AND WELL-BEING

The University's Initiatives

Strengthening Health and Nutrition in Early Childhood

DOrSU also advanced health literacy through early-childhood education. Project T.U.D.L.O., implemented with the City Social Welfare and Development Office of Mati, brought together child development workers, Bachelor of Early Childhood Education students and faculty members in a seminar-workshop on strengthening health, nutrition, safety and family-school-community partnerships.

By equipping early-childhood educators with strategies that integrate health and safety into learning environments, the initiative recognizes that children's well-being is shaped by the daily practices of families, teachers and community institutions. It extends DOrSU's health contribution from clinical care toward prevention and health-promoting environments during the earliest years of development.

Building a Healthier University Workplace

DOrSU's workforce systems incorporated well-being alongside professional development. Employee services in 2025 included medical allowances, mental-health support and learning activities on stress management. These measures acknowledge that the quality of education and public service depends in part on the physical and psychological health of the people who deliver them.

The University's institutional structure also reinforces this commitment through dedicated offices for Health and Wellness Services, Student Counseling and Development, and Student Sports and Wellness. Together, these services create multiple access points for prevention, care, counseling, physical activity and referral across the university community.



CSWDO representatives during the launching of Project T.U.D.L.O.

Extending Health Knowledge through Community Partnerships

Health formed part of DOrSU's wider community-extension agenda in 2025. Across the year, the University reached 2,657 participants and trainees through 31 extension programs and maintained 12 active partnerships. Activities covered health, responsible parenting, livelihood, environmental awareness and other community priorities, with beneficiary satisfaction rising from 94% in the first quarter to 97.64% in the fourth quarter.

These partnerships strengthen the University's capacity to work across institutional boundaries. Collaboration with local government health offices, the Provincial Government of Davao Oriental, the Diocese of Mati, health facilities and civil-society partners allowed DOrSU to combine education, research, preventive care and psychosocial support in ways that respond to real community needs.

The University's Initiatives

Good Health and Well-Being in Action: DOrSU's 2025 Contribution

Area of contribution	2025 institutional action
Health-professional formation	BS Nursing with Level III accreditation; 99 student-nurses completed clinical training; nursing licensure performance reached 94.74%.
Primary health care	Campus-based medical and dental consultation, common-illness management, health profiling, emergency response and referral.
Student mental health	Individual and group counseling, testing, follow-up, information, prevention and wellness support.
Employee well-being	Medical allowances, mental-health support and stress-management learning activities.
Women's preventive health	Free cervical-cancer screening for female employees aged 30-65 through an on-campus mobile health service.
Mental-health research	Healthcare-worker mental-health research presented internationally and expanded through a provincial research partnership.
Disaster psychosocial support	Kalig-On MHPSS debriefing, self-care and capacity-building for healthcare workers affected by the 2025 earthquake.
Community health and nutrition	Early-childhood health, nutrition and safety capacity-building through Project T.U.D.L.O. and health-oriented extension partnerships.

4 QUALITY EDUCATION

The University's Initiatives

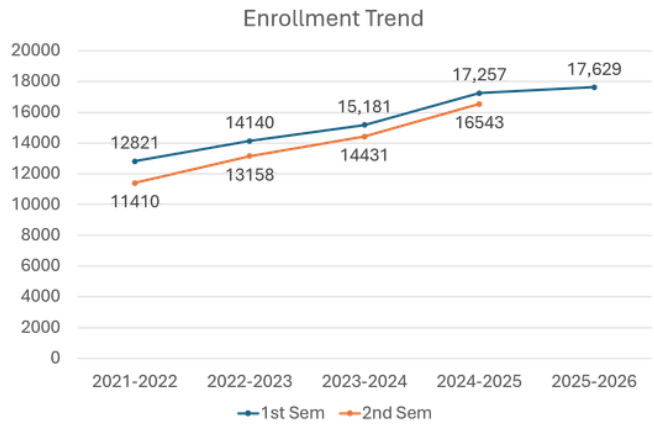
DOrSU's 2025 at a Glance

17,629 first-semester enrollment in AY 2025-2026, the highest in the five-year trend	**2,864** graduates produced in AY 2024-2025, the highest in five years	**36** baccalaureate programs classified from Candidate Status to Level IV
Top 10% national recognition among Teacher Education Institutions through CHED EQUATE	**1,075** licensure examination passers consistently performing above national passing rate	**4** national topnotchers in the September 2025 teacher licensure examination

Expanding Access to Higher Education

DOrSU's enrollment trajectory reflects growing public demand for accessible higher education in Davao Oriental. First-semester enrollment increased from 12,821 students in AY 2021-2022 to 17,629 in AY 2025-2026, a rise of about 37.5%. Second-semester enrollment grew from 11,410 to 16,779 over the same period, an increase of about 47.1%.

Access is sustained through a geographically distributed academic system. Students can pursue degree programs not only at the Main Campus in the City of Mati but also in Baganga, Banaybanay, Cateel, San Isidro and Tarragona. This distribution brings higher education closer to communities across the province and reduces the distance between learners and university opportunities.



Strengthening the Tarragona learning hub



The Tarragona External Classes entered its second year in 2025 with renewed support from the Local Government Unit of Tarragona. The LGU committed to continue its annual operating subsidy, allocated ₱200 million for new school facilities, pledged 10 hectares of agricultural land for academic use, and committed financial aid and housing assistance for students from far-flung barangays. The partnership strengthens a model of local access in which the University provides academic leadership while the local government helps remove geographic and infrastructure barriers.

4 QUALITY EDUCATION

The University's Initiatives

Opening another pathway in Lupon

DOrSU also began formal groundwork for a possible external class in Lupon. A public consultation in July 2025 brought together university officials, local government leaders, DepEd representatives, school principals, parents, students and barangay leaders to assess local demand and community needs. The initiative reflected the University's continuing effort to bring tertiary education closer to students in the western part of the province.



Embedding Quality through Accreditation and Continuous Improvement

Quality assurance remained central to DOrSU's academic development. In 2025, all 36 baccalaureate programs carried accreditation classifications: five programs were at Level IV, nine at Level III, 14 at Level II, seven at Level I, and one held Candidate Status. The distribution reflects a broad institutional commitment to continuous improvement rather than quality assurance being confined to a small group of flagship programs.

DOrSU continued to engage external quality-assurance mechanisms during the year. Academic leaders participated in the 38th AACCUP National Conference and General Assembly, while the University underwent an AACCUP survey visit for the BS Environmental Science and BS Nursing programs. These processes reinforce a culture in which accreditation is used not only for external validation but also to identify areas for instructional, faculty, research and student-service improvement.

Accreditation status	Number of programs	Share of 36 baccalaureate programs
Level IV	5 programs	13.9%
Level III	9 programs	25.0%
Level II	14 programs	38.9%
Level I	7 programs	19.4%
Candidate Status	1 programs	2.8%

4 QUALITY EDUCATION

The University's Initiatives

Teacher Education Recognized among the Country's Strongest

Teacher education emerged as one of DOrSU's defining academic strengths in 2025. The Commission on Higher Education named the University among the Top 10% of Teacher Education Institutions in the Philippines through the Excellence in Quality Assurance in Teacher Education Awards. DOrSU received dual EQUATE recognition in both Elementary and Secondary Education, underscoring the combined strength of its accreditation record and performance in the professional licensure examination for teachers.

The University also produced four national topnotchers in the September 2025 Licensure Examination for Professional Teachers - Secondary Level. Max Artem C. Donaire placed fourth with a rating of 94.20%, while Josh Eric G. Jaljis, Adrian Alex M. Laurito and Jeric C. Galbo each ranked ninth with ratings of 93.20%. Across professional licensure examinations in 2025, DOrSU recorded 1,075 passers out of 1,394 examinees, for an overall average passing rate of 75.70%.

Education quality is increasingly being supported by data and research. DOrSU's research on Licensure Examination Performance Prediction using explainable artificial intelligence explored how machine learning can identify students who may need additional academic support and provide evidence for curriculum enhancement. The work was selected for presentation at the UNESCO Global Forum on the Ethics of Artificial Intelligence in Bangkok.



Turning Access into Completion and Advanced Learning

DOrSU produced 2,864 graduates in AY 2024-2025, the highest output recorded in the University's five-year graduate trend and nearly double the previous year's total. Most baccalaureate graduates came from municipalities within Davao Oriental, demonstrating how the University's campus network translates access into completed degrees and locally rooted human-resource development.

The 2025 commencement season also marked a new stage in DOrSU's graduate education. At the Main Campus, 2,149 graduates were recognized, including the University's first graduates in the Doctor of Philosophy in Environmental Science and Doctor of Education in Educational Leadership and Management programs. The milestone expands DOrSU's role from undergraduate access toward advanced professional, research and leadership formation.

Academic achievement was reinforced through institutional recognition. Fifty-nine Cum Laude graduates at the Main Campus received ₱20,000 cash incentives from the University, recognizing sustained academic excellence while supporting graduates as they transition to professional life or further study.



4 QUALITY EDUCATION

The University's Initiatives

Keeping Education Within Reach

DOrSU supports educational access through a combination of universal, merit-based and targeted financial assistance. The University's scholarship portfolio includes Free Higher Education, Tertiary Education Subsidy, Tulong Dunong, DOST-SEI scholarships, LGU Mati's Asenso sa Edukasyon, State Scholarship Program, institutional Bagani and Mangalayan academic scholarships, support for persons with disabilities, and private scholarship partnerships.



CSWDO representatives during the launching of Project T.U.D.L.O.

In April 2025, DOrSU convened scholars and grantees for a University-wide assembly on Republic Act No. 10931 and available financial-aid pathways. The activity brought students closer to the information needed to understand eligibility, benefits and continuing requirements under UniFAST, DOST, institutional and other government scholarship programs.

Targeted assistance also reached students from agricultural households. In December, 11 DOrSU students from coconut-farming families were inducted into the Scholarship Program for Coconut Farmers and Their Families, each receiving ₱70,000 in assistance - ₱30,000 for a laptop and ₱40,000 as a one-semester stipend.

Strengthening Learning Resources and a Culture of Reading

Quality education depends on access to current knowledge. In March 2025, DOrSU's University Learning and Information Resource Center organized a three-day book fair at the Main Campus, bringing together 17 exhibitors from Luzon, Visayas, and Mindanao. The event made textbooks, research references, and general literature available to students, faculty, and the public, giving participants an opportunity to browse and access materials that support teaching, learning, and research.

The book fair strengthened the University's effort to keep library collections responsive to changing academic needs while sustaining a culture of reading. By opening the event to the wider public, DOrSU also extended access to educational resources beyond enrolled students and faculty, reinforcing the idea that learning opportunities should reach the broader community. The fair thus served not only as a venue for discovering new books and references but also as a practical expression of the University's commitment to lifelong learning and inclusive access to knowledge.

Investing in the People Who Teach

DOrSU's faculty profile reflects continuing investment in advanced qualifications. Among 350 full-time faculty members in 2025, 71 or 20.3% held doctoral degrees and 68 or 19.4% held master's degrees. Another 42 or 12% were pursuing doctorates, while 169 or 48.3% were pursuing master's degrees. These figures show an academic workforce in sustained professional development.

Leadership development accompanied academic upgrading. Four DOrSU deans were selected to participate in the Higher Education Leadership Mentoring Fellowship Program at the University of the Philippines Los Baños, gaining exposure to academic governance, student services, curriculum development, faculty mentoring and institutional reforms.

Research capability was also strengthened through the 2025 Research Colloquium, where 15 faculty research proposals from programs including Special Needs Education, Early Childhood Education and General Education were reviewed alongside proposals from other disciplines. International experts contributed sessions on artificial intelligence in research and AI ethics in higher education, broadening the University's conversation on responsible innovation in teaching and scholarship.

4 QUALITY EDUCATION

The University's Initiatives

Taking Learning Beyond the University

DOrSU's contribution to quality education extends into schools and communities. Program L.E.A.R.N. - Literacy Enhancement on Analysis (Reading), Research, and N.E.W.S. - entered full implementation through a 2025 partnership with Badas National High School. Led by the Bachelor of Secondary Education - English Program, the initiative develops reading analysis, research capability, campus journalism, writing and storytelling among students and educators.

Early-childhood education received similar attention through Project T.U.D.L.O. (Teaching Upgrades and Development for Learning Optimization), launched with the City Social Welfare and Development Office of Mati. The initiative brought together Bachelor of Early Childhood Education students, faculty members and Child Development Workers in capacity-building on health, nutrition, safety and family-school-community partnerships, strengthening the learning environments of young children beyond the University.

these initiatives demonstrate DOrSU's role as a provider of lifelong and community learning: university expertise is translated into practical training for teachers, child-development workers, school paper advisers, student journalists and other learners who may never be enrolled in a DOrSU degree program.



Opening Global and Experiential Learning Pathways

DOrSU strengthened experiential education by expanding international learning opportunities. In 2025, the University deployed 66 Bachelor of Science in Hospitality Management students to Malaysia in three batches for internship and immersion programs. The students gained hands-on experience in customer service, food and beverage management, front-office operations and housekeeping within international hospitality environments.

The University's graduate and research communities also gained new avenues for advanced learning. The Faculty of Advanced and International Studies held its first Research Colloquium and Best Research Competition for graduate students, while DOrSU welcomed graduate students from another state college for teacher-education benchmarking. These activities positioned the University as both a learner and a learning hub within a wider academic network.





4 QUALITY EDUCATION

The University's Initiatives

Quality Education in Action: DOrSU's 2025 Contribution

Area of contribution	2025 institutional action
Access, completion and advanced study	17,629 first-semester students; 2,864 graduates; first PhD in Environmental Science and EdD in Educational Leadership and Management graduates.
Program quality and teacher education	36 baccalaureate programs from Candidate Status to Level IV; Top 10% EQUATE recognition with dual awards; four 2025 teacher-licensure topnotchers.
Faculty capability	350 full-time faculty; 71 doctorate holders, 68 master's degree holders, 42 pursuing doctorates and 169 pursuing master's degrees.
Learning resources and financial access	Three-day book fair with 17 exhibitors; Free Higher Education and multiple scholarship pathways; 11 new CoScho grantees receiving ₱70,000 each.
Community and lifelong learning	Program L.E.A.R.N. and Project T.U.D.L.O. extend literacy, research, early-childhood and teacher-development learning beyond campus.



5 GENDER EQUALITY

The University's Initiatives

DOrSU's 2025 at a Glance

56.6% female share of the AY 2025-2026 student population	**9,349** female students across DOrSU campuses	**5** institutional GAD banner programs spanning education, research, extension and learning/work environments
775 participants in first-quarter Gender Research and Resource Center activities	**610** participants reached through the VOTE Program in the second quarter	**70** women reached through targeted Indigenous-women and women-fisherfolk livelihood/learning activities

At Davao Oriental State University, gender equality is treated as an institutional responsibility that cuts across education, research, extension, student support, employee welfare and community engagement. In 2025, DOrSU strengthened this commitment through an established Center for Gender and Development, sustained gender-responsive programs, women-centered health and empowerment initiatives, gender-focused research, and regional leadership in advancing Gender and Development across higher education institutions.

The University's approach goes beyond commemorative activities. Gender perspectives are integrated into the way programs are designed, research questions are framed, communities are engaged, and support services are delivered. This allows DOrSU to advance equality both within the campus and in the wider social and economic settings where women and gender-diverse people encounter barriers to participation, safety and opportunity.



Women as a Visible Majority in the Learning Community

Women formed the majority of DOrSU's student population in AY 2025-2026. Of 16,514 students reflected in the University's system-wide statistics, 9,349 were female and 7,165 were male, placing women at 56.6% of the total. Female students outnumbered male students in every instructional location listed by the University - the Main Campus, Baganga, Banaybanay, Cateel, San Isidro and Tarragona.

This pattern reflects an academic environment in which women participate strongly across a broad range of programs, from education and social sciences to nursing, agriculture, business, computing and other professional fields. The University's inclusive mandate is reinforced by scholarship and financial-aid pathways, student-support services and its multi-campus presence, all of which help widen access to tertiary education across Davao Oriental.

5 GENDER EQUALITY

The University's Initiatives

Institutionalizing Gender Mainstreaming

DOrSU's Center for Gender and Development provides the institutional backbone for gender mainstreaming. Its mandate covers instruction, research, community engagement and policy development, with the goal of creating gender-responsive systems and advancing women's empowerment throughout the University.

The Center carries this mandate through five banner programs: 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. These programs allow gender equality to be treated as a cross-cutting institutional lens rather than a stand-alone advocacy activity.

The Center also provides gender analysis, information and expert services, technical assistance, consultancy, research support and counseling for women, children and other victims of abuse in school and in the workplace. This mix of prevention, capacity-building and responsive support helps translate gender policy into services available to students, personnel and partner communities.



Fairness and inclusion in the workplace



DOrSU applies the Equal Opportunity Principle in employee recruitment and publicly states that selection does not discriminate on the basis of disability, ethnicity, sexual orientation, gender identity and expression, civil status, religion or political affiliation. Gender sensitivity is also embedded in personnel development and onboarding, reinforcing expectations of respect, inclusion and professional conduct in the workplace.

From Awareness to Action: 2025 GAD Programs

The scale of DOrSU's 2025 GAD engagement was evident in the programs implemented by the Gender Research and Resource Center. In the first quarter alone, 775 participants and beneficiaries joined three major activities: Gender Sensitivity Training for Students, Serbisyo Para Kay Juana and the Women's Month Treat for DOrSU Employees, and a Symposium on Gender-Based Violence.

The second quarter extended this engagement through the Voices for Transformation and Emancipation (VOTE) Program, which reached 610 participants. Together, these initiatives demonstrate DOrSU's ability to move from one-off awareness events toward sustained gender learning and advocacy across the year.





5 GENDER EQUALITY

The University's Initiatives

2025 GAD activity	Participants / beneficialries	Institutional contribution
Gender Sensitivity Training for Students	96	Strengthening understanding of gender concepts, equality and respectful learning environments.
Serbisyo Para Kay Juana and Women's Month Treat	596	Women's empowerment, appreciation, self-care and access to preventive health services.
Symposium on Gender-Based Violence	83	Awareness of gender-based violence and the need for safe, responsive institutions.
Voices for Transformation and Emancipation (VOTE) Program	610	Second-quarter gender capacity-building and empowerment initiative

Women's Month as a University-Wide Platform for Empowerment

DOrSU used the 2025 National Women's Month Celebration as a platform for education, health, solidarity and institutional advocacy. Activities included symposia and seminars on gender awareness and women's rights, the university-wide observance of Purple Wednesdays, and the signature Serbisyo Para Kay Juana program held across campuses.

Serbisyo Para Kay Juana combined recognition of women's contribution with practical well-being support. On March 26, female employees aged 30 to 65 were offered free cervical-cancer screening through the City Health Office of Mati's Mobile Surgical Unit. The initiative brought preventive health care directly to the workplace and linked gender equality with women's right to accessible health services.



Free pedicure for all female DOrSU employees

Building Knowledge for Gender-Responsive Institutions

Gender-responsive research remained an important part of DOrSU's 2025 research agenda. Ongoing and completed projects examined gender roles in agricultural value chains, gender disparities in farming efficiency, gender and development in tertiary education, gender-responsive basic education, LGBTQ2S+ experiences within the University, and the well-being of men and women in the health workforce.

This work also reached peer-reviewed publication. A 2025 study on the effects of closed fishing seasons and COVID-19 restrictions on women in fisheries examined how policy and crisis conditions affect women in Davao Gulf fishing communities. By placing women's lived economic and social experiences at the center of research, DOrSU contributes evidence that can support more gender-responsive fisheries and livelihood policy.

5 GENDER EQUALITY

The University's Initiatives

Research focus	2025 status	Contribution to gender equality
Analyzing Gender Roles of the Key Players in the Coffee Supply Chain in Davao Oriental during the Time of Pandemic	Ongoing	Gender roles and participation in an agricultural value chain.
Mainstreaming Gender in Pummelo Supply Chain at the Time of Pandemic: A Case in Davao Oriental	Ongoing	Gender-responsive analysis of agricultural production and value chains.
Tinjak ng Bahaghari: The Untold Narratives of LGBTQ2S+ in DOrSU	Ongoing	Visibility and lived experiences of gender-diverse members of the University community.
Mental Health Status and Professional Quality of Life of the Men and Women in the Healthcare	Ongoing	Gender dimensions of health-workforce well-being.
From Hooks to Books: Fisherfolk Women-Parent Perception in their Role in Balancing Between Children's Fishing and Education	Ongoing	Women's roles in coastal households, livelihoods and education.
Towards a Gender-Responsive Basic Education: The Plight of DepEd City of Mati	Completed	Gender mainstreaming in basic-education settings.
Gender Disparity in Farming Efficiency of Baganga Oil Palm Growers Association in Davao Oriental at the Time of Pandemic	Completed	Gender differences in agricultural productivity and participation.
Gender and Development in Tertiary Education: Disparity, Challenges and Triumphs in DOSCST, City of Mati, Davao Oriental	Completed	Institutional gender equality in higher education.

Research influencing education practice

In November, three DOrSU researchers presented their study on gender mainstreaming in the basic education system of the City of Mati during the DepEd XI Interdivision Research Congress. The study examined how GAD principles are integrated into school operations, policies and learning environments, extending DOrSU's gender scholarship into the basic-education policy and practice space.



DOrSU GAD Team Showcases Gender Mainstreaming Study at DepEd XI Research Congress

5 GENDER EQUALITY

The University's Initiatives

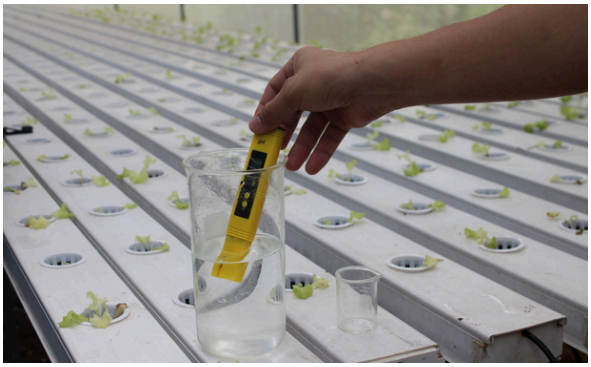
Empowering Women through Livelihood and Community Learning

Gender equality was also advanced through livelihood and skills-oriented extension. In the fourth quarter, the Provincial Institute of Agriculture hosted an educational tour and hydroponics visit for 40 Indigenous women from Macambol, exposing participants to alternative crop-production technologies and practical approaches that can support household food production and livelihood diversification.

At the San Isidro Campus, DOrSU collaborated with a women fisherfolk cooperative and a Negosyo Center in a food-processing activity that engaged 30 participants in banana-chip processing. The intervention linked women's community organization with enterprise skills and value addition, strengthening their capacity to participate in local economic activity.

These community initiatives complement DOrSU's gender-focused research on agricultural supply chains, women in fisheries and household livelihoods. Together, they connect knowledge generation with practical pathways for women to gain skills, improve income opportunities and participate more fully in community development.





Leading Gender Advocacy Beyond the Campus

DOrSU's gender work extends into regional networks and policy conversations. In 2025, DOrSU GAD focal person Dr. Mary Fil M. Bauyot served as president of the Regional Gender and Development Advocates Network XI, placing the University in a leadership role in coordinating higher-education GAD advocacy across the Davao Region.

At the 2025 Regional GAD Summit, DOrSU helped shape conversations on Gender Justice and the Digital Age, contributing to discussions on gender bias, ethical artificial intelligence, research and policy. The University also exhibited community-based GAD extension programs on gender sensitivity, women's empowerment and safe-spaces advocacy. The summit coincided with the opening of the 18-Day Campaign to End Violence Against Women, reinforcing DOrSU's role in regional efforts to address abuse and harassment in physical and online environments.



Women also continued to take visible roles in University organizations. In April, University Registrar Grace Antipolo was elected president of the Administrative and Support Staff Services Organization, leading an officer group in which women occupied several key posts in administration, finance, audit, communication and grievance functions.

5 GENDER EQUALITY

The University's Initiatives

Gender Equality in Action: DOrSU's 2025 Contribution

Area of Contribution	2025 institutional action
Women's health	Free cervical-cancer screening for female employees aged 30-65 through Serbisyo Para Kay Juana.
Gender-responsive research	Research on coffee and pummelo value chains, oil-palm farming efficiency, basic and tertiary education, women in fisheries, health-workforce well-being and LGBTQ2S+ narratives.
Community empowerment	Targeted learning and livelihood activities reached 40 Indigenous women from Macambol and 30 participants through a women fisherfolk/Negosyo Center collaboration.
Safe and inclusive environments	Equal-opportunity recruitment, gender sensitivity initiatives, counseling support for women, children and victims of abuse, and safe-spaces advocacy.
Regional leadership	DOrSU leadership in RGAN XI and active participation in the 2025 Regional GAD Summit and 18-Day Campaign to End Violence Against Women.

DOrSU GAD Team Showcases Gender Mainstreaming Study at DepEd XI Research Congress



DOrSU researchers from the Center for Gender and Development presented their study, "Gender Mainstreaming in Basic Education of the City of Mati, Southern Mindanao, Philippines," at the 2025 Interdivision Research Congress of DepEd Region XI on November 12, 2025. The study examines how GAD principles are integrated into Mati public schools and forms part of DOrSU's MOA-based partnership with DepEd Mati through the GAD Learning Academy, which has trained over 200 education personnel. DepEd officials said the findings will inform the Division's next training and policy cycle.

6 CLEAN WATER AND SANITATION

The University's Initiatives

DOrSU's 2025 at a Glance

₱10M CHED-funded Macro & Micro Plastic Pollution research program completed	**39** rivers included in Davao Gulf plastic-drift modeling	**4** new laboratory equipment units delivered for soil and water analysis
₱786,535 2025 SMART-CEST procurement envelope for rainwater-harvesting components	**₱8M** water-supply project for San Isidro Campus placed under 2025 competitive bidding	**1** dedicated Institute for Soil and Water within the University Research Complex

For Davao Oriental State University, water security is both a campus responsibility and a regional development concern. In a province shaped by rivers, bays, coastal communities, farms and rapidly changing landscapes, protecting water quality requires reliable infrastructure, scientific capability, pollution prevention, ecosystem-based planning and sustained public engagement. In 2025, DOrSU strengthened each of these dimensions through its research laboratories, externally funded projects, community extension, institutional investments and partnerships with government and development organizations.

The University's contribution to Clean Water and Sanitation is anchored on a regenerative approach: understand water systems, prevent contamination, improve access and infrastructure, and help communities manage the land-to-sea connections that determine water quality. This approach connects campus operations with research on water chemistry, river and marine pollution, watershed-to-coast dynamics and climate resilience.







Strengthening the Science of Water Quality

DOrSU expanded its capacity to generate reliable water-quality evidence through the University Research Complex – Institute for Soil and Water (iSaW). As a member of the Philippine National Soil Laboratory Network, the University worked with the Department of Agriculture – Bureau of Soils and Water Management and the Regional Soils Laboratory XI to strengthen laboratory standards, staff capability and analytical accuracy.

In February 2025, the iSaW laboratory underwent an on-site evaluation for compliance with national standards governing soil and water testing laboratories. The same partnership delivered hands-on training on rapid soil testing to DOrSU faculty, students, local government representatives, Provincial Agriculture Office personnel, farm owners and cooperative members. Although focused on soil fertility, the laboratory quality system strengthens the University's broader ability to produce consistent environmental data for land and water management.

The University's Initiatives

Laboratory capability advanced further in March when DA-BSWM delivered an incubator, oven, nitrogen distiller and hot plate for soil and water analysis. These additions improved the laboratory's capacity for accurate, efficient and standardized testing. The commissioning of a Gas Chromatography-Mass Spectrometry system in April likewise expanded DOrSU's ability to analyze complex environmental samples and support research on contamination, environmental quality and ecosystem health.





Hands-on training on soil testing using Soil Test Kit (STK) at the University Research Complex in Marfori, Don Enrique Lopez, City of Mati, Davao Oriental.

Researching Water Pollution from Rivers to the Sea

One of DOrSU's major 2025 environmental research achievements was the completion of the ₱10-million CHED-funded Macro & Micro Plastic Pollution (M2P2) in Marine Ecosystems and Fisheries in South Eastern Mindanao program. The initiative strengthened the evidence base on how plastic waste moves through aquatic systems and affects marine environments and fisheries.

A complementary 2025 project used data-driven OpenDrift modeling to visualize seasonal movement of marine macroplastics in Davao Gulf. The study examined plastic inputs from 39 rivers and identified seasonal drift pathways and accumulation zones, providing a scientific basis for targeting waste-management and pollution-prevention interventions. The work earned the Best Paper Award at InvENT 2025, demonstrating how geospatial and computational tools can translate water-pollution data into actionable environmental intelligence.

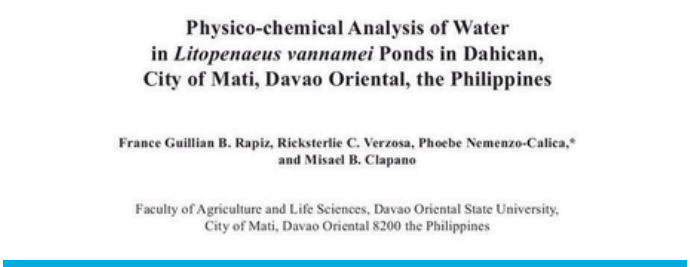
DOrSU researchers also published a 2025 physico-chemical analysis of water in Litopenaeus vannamei shrimp ponds in Dahican, City of Mati. By examining water conditions in an aquaculture setting, the study contributes to the management of water quality where environmental health, food production and coastal livelihoods intersect.



During InvENT 2025 where the paper about marine macroplastics in Davao Gulf earned Best Paper Award, which was presented by Dr. Jonathan Cabrera.



M2P2 Program Training and Orientation on How to gather samples from Corals, Sea Grasses and Mangroves.



Physico-chemical Analysis of Water in *Litopenaeus vannamei* Ponds in Dahican, City of Mati, Davao Oriental, the Philippines

France Guillian B. Rapiz, Ricksterlie C. Verzosa, Phoebe Nemenzo-Calica,* and Misael B. Clapano

Faculty of Agriculture and Life Sciences, Davao Oriental State University, City of Mati, Davao Oriental 8200 the Philippines

Published article about Physico-Chemical Analysis of Water in Litopenaeus vannamei Ponds in Dahican, City of Mati.

6 CLEAN WATER AND SANITATION

The University's Initiatives

Research / Platform	Water-security contribution
M2P2 in Marine Ecosystems and Fisheries in South Eastern Mindanao	Macro- and microplastic pollution, marine ecosystems and fisheries
Seasonal Visualization of Marine Macro Plastic in Davao Gulf	Plastic drift from 39 rivers using OpenDrift modeling and ocean-buoy development
Physico-chemical Analysis of Water in Shrimp Ponds	Water conditions in Litopenaeus vannamei ponds in Dahican, Mati
Ridge-to-Reefs Modelling and Monitoring Decision Support System	Integrated ridge-to-coast evidence for Pujada and Mayo Bays
Comprehensive Coastal Ecosystem Modelling, Mapping and Monitoring System	Coastal ecosystem monitoring for Pujada and Mayo Bays

Managing Water as a Ridge-to-Reef System

Water quality is shaped long before water reaches a bay. DOrSU's environmental research and partnerships therefore work across connected landscapes – from terrestrial ecosystems and biodiversity corridors to rivers, coastal zones and marine habitats. Earlier ridge-to-reef decision-support and coastal ecosystem-monitoring systems for Pujada and Mayo Bays continue to provide an institutional foundation for integrated environmental management.



In 2025, DOrSU remained an active partner in the Eastern Mindanao Biodiversity Corridor initiative, supporting integrated ecosystem management, ridge-to-reef monitoring, habitat-connectivity analysis, local capacity-building and policy support. This landscape-scale work strengthens the protection of water-related ecosystems by linking upland land use and biodiversity management with downstream river and coastal conditions.

The University also sustained community-facing coastal resource management through its Regional Integrated Coastal Resource Management Center XI and extension programs. Across the year, DOrSU's broader extension platform reached 2,657 participants and trainees through 31 programs and 12 active partnerships, with coastal resource management and environmental awareness among its recurring areas of engagement.



6 CLEAN WATER AND SANITATION

The University's Initiatives

Capturing Rain and Strengthening Water Infrastructure

DOrSU advanced practical water-conservation infrastructure through the Smart and Sustainable Communities through Science and Technology initiative. The University's 2025 procurement program provided ₱286,535 for rainwater-harvesting civil works and a further ₱500,000 supplemental component for the facility. Procurement for construction materials was pursued again in October, keeping rainwater capture within the program's community-resilience agenda.



Rainwater-Harvesting Facility at City of Mati, Davao Oriental.

Campus water infrastructure also received attention. An ₱8-million water-supply project for the San Isidro Campus was placed under competitive bidding in 2025, while contiguous works for the University Research Complex included upgrading of its water system and related civil works. These investments support the basic infrastructure required for safe learning environments, laboratory operations and campus services.

Sanitation and routine water-system maintenance were also embedded in University operations through procurement for septic-tank siphoning services, faucets and plumbing materials. These measures support the less visible but essential work of maintaining sanitary facilities and preventing water and wastewater infrastructure from becoming sources of environmental or public-health risk.

Using Water More Responsibly in Agriculture and Communities

DOrSU's water work extends into agriculture, where efficient use and water quality directly influence food production and livelihoods. The completed modernized urban greenhouse project combined hydroponics, a grow-out nursery and capacity-building for urban and peri-urban agriculture. Hydroponics can reduce dependence on conventional soil-based cultivation while enabling more controlled use of water and nutrients.

In the fourth quarter of 2025, the Provincial Institute of Agriculture brought hydroponics into community learning through an educational visit for 40 Indigenous women from Macambol and a separate basic hydroponics crop-production training for 15 participants. These activities translate water-efficient production concepts into practical skills for communities and local learners.

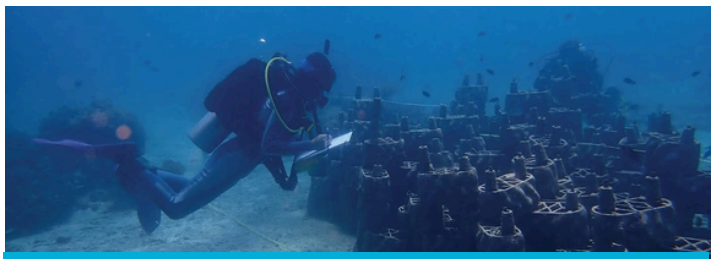
DOrSU's collaboration with agricultural agencies further linked water stewardship to evidence-based crop management. Soil fertility mapping, laboratory analysis and producer training help farmers match inputs and production practices to actual field conditions, reducing inefficient use of water and other resources while supporting regenerative agriculture.



During the visit on hydroponics greenhouse and grow-out nursery facilitites at the DOrSU Demonstration Farm.

The University's Initiatives

Protecting Aquatic Ecosystems through Partnerships



Artificial coral reef monitoring at Pujada Bay, City of Mati, Davao Oriental.

DOrSU's water-security work is reinforced by collaboration with national agencies, local governments, development partners and communities. The University's environmental programs engage the Department of Agriculture – Bureau of Soils and Water Management, Department of Environment and Natural Resources, United Nations Development Programme, Commission on Higher Education, DOST, local government units, coastal communities and other partners in research, monitoring, infrastructure and capacity-building.

The Pujada Bay artificial reef initiative, although primarily a marine-biodiversity project, illustrates the University's wider commitment to healthy aquatic systems. By July 2025, monitoring showed substantial coral recruitment and increased fish abundance and biomass around the restored reef. The project complements DOrSU's water-pollution and coastal-management work by demonstrating how cleaner, better-managed aquatic environments can support ecological recovery and community livelihoods.

Taken together, these partnerships enable DOrSU to connect laboratory science with public action: monitoring pollutants, improving analytical capacity, strengthening community infrastructure, supporting integrated ecosystem management and creating practical pathways for more secure and resilient water systems.

Clean Water and Sanitation in Action: DOrSU's 2025 Contribution

Area of Contribution	2025 institutional action
Rainwater conservation	SMART-CEST advanced rainwater harvesting through 2025 civil-works and supplemental procurement totaling ₱786,535.
Water infrastructure	₱8-million San Isidro Campus water-supply project entered competitive bidding; UResCom water-system improvements continued.
Sanitation maintenance	Septic-tank servicing and plumbing-related procurements supported sanitary campus operations and water-system upkeep.
Water-efficient production	Hydroponics infrastructure and community training promoted controlled, resource-efficient crop production.
Partnerships for water security	DOrSU worked with government, development partners and communities on water analysis, pollution prevention, environmental monitoring and ecosystem management.

7 AFFORDABLE AND CLEAN ENERGY

The University's Initiatives

DOrSU's 2025 at a Glance

₱15M Green Technology Teacher Education Building Phase II investment	**92.33%** Phase II physical progress reported at year-end	**₱47.5M** approved budget for Phase III of the Green Technology Building
1 multi-agency SmarterDavOr partnership advancing reliable community power	**66.64%** share of Mati City land identified as suitable for solar-energy development in a 2025 DRJ study	**5.242** kWh/m²/day maximum annual solar irradiation reported for Mati City

Davao Oriental State University approaches energy sustainability through infrastructure, community innovation, research dissemination, and long-term planning. In 2025, the University's most visible contributions centered on advancing green building infrastructure, strengthening energy reliability through multi-agency community partnerships, and supporting knowledge that can guide the transition toward cleaner and more resilient energy systems in Mati City and Davao Oriental.

Rather than treating energy as an isolated utility concern, DOrSU places it within a broader regenerative-futures agenda. The University's infrastructure program, smart-community partnerships, research and innovation platforms, and public knowledge systems together create pathways for more efficient facilities, more reliable power, and better-informed decisions about renewable energy development.



Current development of the Green Tech Building

Building Green into University Infrastructure

DOrSU continued to invest in a campus environment designed around sustainability and resilience. At year-end 2025, Phase II of the three-storey Green Technology Teacher Education Building at the Main Campus was reported at 92.33% completion, supported by a ₱15-million allocation. The building is part of a larger green-technology academic infrastructure initiative conceived with Green Architecture principles. Its development reflects DOrSU's effort to make sustainability visible in the physical spaces where teaching, research and academic collaboration take place. The University's 2025 infrastructure program also moved forward with Phase III of the Green Technology Building. Competitive bidding for the phase was opened with an approved budget of ₱47.5 million, extending the University's investment in a facility intended to support future-ready teaching and learning while embodying environmentally responsive design.

The University's Initiatives

Planning campus growth with sustainability in view



DOrSU's physical expansion is guided by its Land-Use Development and Infrastructure Plan through 2033. The plan provides a long-term framework for the orderly development of the Main, Marfori, San Isidro, Banaybanay, Baganga and Cateel campuses, helping ensure that new construction and site improvements are coordinated with institutional priorities, environmental considerations and the welfare of the University community.

Strengthening Energy Reliability through SmarterDavOr

Energy access also formed part of DOrSU's community-development agenda in 2025. Through the SmarterDavOr initiative, the University joined the City Government of Mati, the Department of Science and Technology XI, the Department of Information and Communications Technology XI, and DepEd Mati in applying science, technology and innovation to build smarter and more sustainable communities.



MOU Signing for the implementation of the project "SmarterDavOr".

A central objective of the initiative is to help provide an efficient, stable and reliable power supply while improving digital learning environments and community capability in the use of modern technologies. DOrSU contributes academic and research expertise, coordinates project activities, supports documentation and knowledge generation, and helps connect technology-based interventions with community needs. The partnership builds on DOrSU's continuing SMART-CEST engagement in Davao Oriental. By linking energy reliability with education, digital inclusion and local innovation, the initiative recognizes that dependable power is a foundation for learning, public services, communication and economic participation.

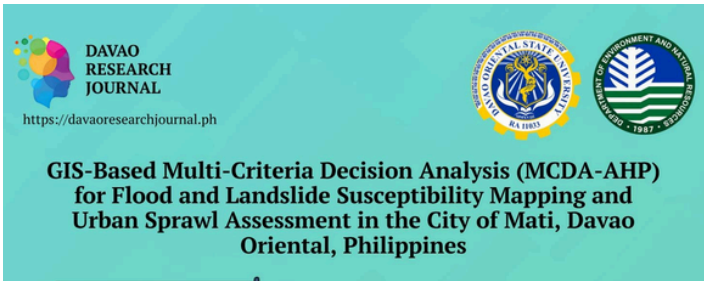


Deployment of STARBOOKS, a digital library developed to provide access to scientific and technical information, in San Isidro, Davao Oriental.

The University's Initiatives

Putting Solar Potential on the Map

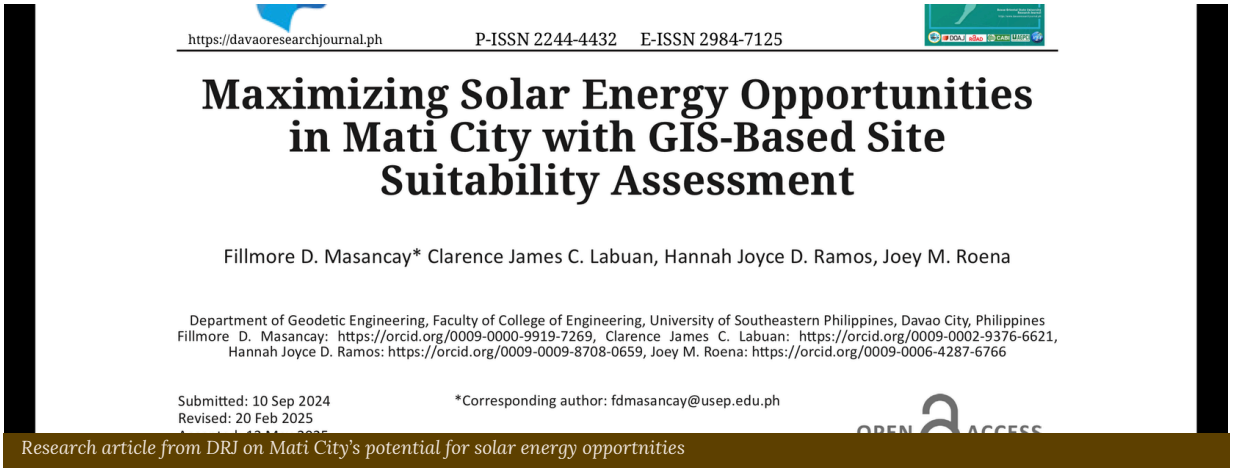
DOrSU's knowledge platforms also contributed to the conversation on renewable-energy transition. In June 2025, the Davao Research Journal published a GIS-based assessment of solar-energy suitability in Mati City, providing a detailed spatial picture of where solar development could be technically, environmentally and economically viable.



The study found a maximum annual solar irradiation of 5.242 kWh per square meter per day. Across Mati City, 66.64% or 60,859.76 hectares of land was classified as suitable for solar-energy system development. Of the suitable area, 92.41% or 56,240.27 hectares was categorized as highly suitable, while 7.59% or 4,619.49 hectares was moderately suitable.

By disseminating locally relevant renewable-energy research through its scholarly publishing platform, DOrSU helps make scientific evidence available to planners, researchers and decision-makers considering future energy investments. The work is especially relevant to Mati City's need for greater energy security and to broader efforts toward low-carbon development.

Solar-energy indicator for Mati City	2025 study finding
Maximum annual solar irradiation	5.242 kWh/m²/day
Land suitable for solar-energy development	60,859.76 ha | 66.64% of Mati City
Highly suitable area	56,240.27 ha | 92.41% of suitable land
Moderately suitable area	4,619.49 ha | 7.59% of suitable land


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Maximizing Solar Energy Opportunities in Mati City with GIS-Based Site Suitability Assessment

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Submitted: 10 Sep 2024
Revised: 20 Feb 2025

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OPEN ACCESS

Research article from DRJ on Mati City's potential for solar energy opportnities

7 AFFORDABLE AND CLEAN ENERGY

The University's Initiatives

Energy, Innovation, and Regenerative Futures

DOrSU's broader research and innovation ecosystem supports the institutional capacity needed for an energy transition. The University Research Complex, innovation units, technology-transfer activities, data-driven research and multidisciplinary sustainability programs provide platforms where engineering, environmental science, spatial analysis and community innovation can converge.

This orientation is reinforced by DOrSU's regenerative-futures framework, which treats infrastructure, resource use and community development as interconnected systems. Energy efficiency and clean-energy transition are therefore part of a wider institutional direction that seeks to reduce environmental pressure while improving resilience and access.



Affordable and Clean Energy in Action: DOrSU's 2025 Contribution

Area of contribution	2025 institutional action
Green academic infrastructure	Phase II of the Green Technology Teacher Education Building reached 92.33% completion with a ₱15-million allocation.
Continued green-building investment	Phase III of the Green Technology Building entered competitive bidding with an approved budget of ₱47.5 million.
Sustainable campus planning	The LUDIP through 2033 provides a long-term framework for coordinated and sustainable physical development across DOrSU campuses.
Community energy reliability	SmarterDavOr brings DOrSU together with DOST XI, DICT XI, DepEd Mati and the City Government of Mati to support efficient, stable and reliable power alongside smart-community technologies.
Renewable-energy knowledge	DOrSU's Davao Research Journal published a 2025 solar-suitability assessment identifying 66.64% of Mati City as suitable for solar-energy system development.
Innovation ecosystem	Research, innovation and technology-transfer platforms strengthen the University's capacity to support sustainability-oriented solutions and future energy transitions.

8 DECENT WORK AND ECONOMIC GROWTH

The University's Initiatives

DOrSU's 2025 at a Glance

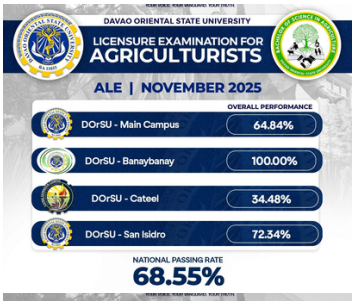
2,864 graduates produced in AY 2024–2025	**58.12%** employment rate among graduates tracked from two years prior	**66** BSHM students deployed to Malaysia for internship and immersion
558 teaching personnel in the 2025 workforce profile	**21** new plantilla personnel hired in 2025	**₱667.591 M** FY 2025 University budget

Davao Oriental State University advances decent work and inclusive economic growth by preparing graduates for professional practice, creating meaningful work-based learning opportunities, investing in its people, protecting employee voice and fair employment, and extending university knowledge and facilities to enterprises and productive sectors.

As one of Davao Oriental's major public institutions, DOrSU also functions as an economic actor in its own right. Its expanding workforce, public investment, procurement, research and extension activity generate demand, develop human capital and strengthen the networks that connect education, employment, enterprise and regional growth.

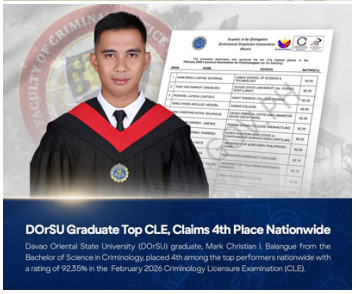


From Degree to Decent Work









DOrSU's contribution to economic growth begins with the quality and scale of the human capital it develops. Academic Year 2024–2025 produced 2,864 graduates, the University's highest output within the five-year period, with graduates coming from education, agriculture, agribusiness, business, hospitality, engineering, computing, health sciences, criminology and other fields tied to regional workforce needs.

Of 1,717 graduates tracked from two years prior, 998 were employed, translating to a 58.12% employment rate against a 66.99% target. The result provides a clear institutional challenge: strengthen the transition from university to work through work-based learning, employer linkage, career preparation and programs that respond to changing labor-market demand.

The University's Initiatives

Learning at Work: Industry-Based and International Placements

In 2025, DOrSU expanded experiential learning beyond the classroom. Three batches of Bachelor of Science in Hospitality Management students were deployed to Malaysia for international internship and immersion programs, involving 66 students. The placements exposed students to professional standards, multicultural workplaces and the operational demands of the hospitality industry.

Industry linkage also deepened locally. DOrSU and J.V. Angeles Construction Corporation formalized a partnership for supervised, competency-based internship training for Bachelor of Science in Civil Engineering students, strengthening the link between academic preparation and real-world professional practice.



DOrSU HM students bound for Malaysia for their internship and immersion

Decent Work Begins Inside the University

DOrSU's SDG 8 contribution also depends on how the University treats and develops its own people. The 2025 teaching-workforce profile covered 558 personnel: 350, or 62.7%, served full-time and 208 served part-time. Human Resource Development Services facilitated the hiring of 21 plantilla personnel, composed of 12 administrative and nine academic staff, while also processing promotions, appointment renewals, onboarding and other personnel actions.



DOrSU President Roy Ponce signs MOA with JVACC President Justin Victor Angeles for BS Civil Engineer students internship



DOrSU President Roy Ponce and Vice President for Global Affairs Lilibeth Galvez during the send-off ceremony for HM students

Learning and development activities covered artificial intelligence, customer service, stress management, records management, financial literacy and public-sector human-resource policies. Employee contributions were also recognized through Civil Service Anniversary activities, reinforcing a workplace culture that values performance, professionalism and service.

8 DECENT WORK AND ECONOMIC GROWTH

The University's Initiatives

Employee Voice, Fair Employment and Welfare

In March 2025, the Civil Service Commission certified the Collective Negotiation Agreements of DOrSU's Faculty Union and Administrative Services and Support Staff Organization. Valid until October 21, 2028, the agreements provide a formal framework for employee voice and negotiated workplace concerns.

The University's recruitment framework follows the Equal Opportunity Principle, opening qualified positions to persons with disabilities, members of Indigenous Cultural Communities/Indigenous Peoples and applicants of diverse sexual orientation and gender identity, among others. Year-end financial reports also recorded ₱4.562 million in Collective Negotiation Agreement incentives and ₱2.265 million in Productivity Enhancement Incentives, complementing regular compensation, benefits and staff-development support.

Investing in People and Institutional Capacity

₱319.513 M Personnel Services	**₱193.341 M** Maintenance and Other Operating Expenses	**₱154.737 M** Capital Outlay
62.7% full-time share of teaching personnel	**21** plantilla hires during 2025	**2** employee organizations with CSC-certified CNAs



DOrSU's total budget reached ₱667.591 million in 2025, an increase of about 84% from 2024. Personnel Services accounted for ₱319.513 million, Maintenance and Other Operating Expenses for ₱193.341 million, and Capital Outlay for ₱154.737 million. These investments sustained staffing, operations, equipment and infrastructure required for teaching, research, innovation and public service.

8 DECENT WORK AND ECONOMIC GROWTH

The University's Initiatives

Growing Opportunity Beyond the Campus

DOrSU extends its economic-development role to local enterprises. Through cooperation with DOST XI, the University committed expertise and institutional resources to assist MSMEs, people's organizations and non-government organizations in areas such as marketing, operations, finance, human resources, risk management, program implementation and monitoring.

MADE IN DAVLAB, established with the Department of Trade and Industry through a ₱10-million Shared Service Facility project, provides another enterprise platform by giving MSMEs, students, researchers and innovators access to fabrication technologies, training and collaborative product development. Extension activities in cooperative development, hydroponics, food processing, swine dispersal and women-led fisherfolk enterprise further strengthen practical skills and local productive capacity.



Partnership between DOrSU and DOST XI to assist MSMEs, People's Organization, and NGOs in the province of Davao Oriental.



Launching of MADE IN DAVLAB by DOrSU and DTI, at the University Research Complex, Marfori, Don Enrique Lopez, City of Mati.

Research for Employment, Productivity and Enterprise



Research Project "Coconut Hybrid Utilization in the Locality for Improved Productivity in Davao Region (COCO-HULIP)", implemented by Provincial Institute of Agriculture (PIA) Center.

In the left, the research project "Coconut Hybrid Utilization in the Locality for Improved Productivity in Davao Region (COCO-HULIP)," implemented by the Provincial Institute of Agriculture Center, examines how hybrid coconut technology can raise productivity and support coconut-dependent livelihoods. On the right, the inception meeting for the aquaculture project between DOrSU and UP Mindanao marks a collaborative effort to strengthen aquaculture profitability, knowledge exchange, and livelihood opportunities through inter-institutional partnership. Together, these initiatives show how DOrSU's SDG 8-oriented research moves from inquiry to practical collaboration—improving productivity in key livelihood sectors while building resilient, partnership-driven local economies.

DOrSU's research portfolio reinforces SDG 8 by examining how people find work, how enterprises become more productive, and how livelihood sectors respond to economic and environmental pressures. In 2025, this agenda included studies on graduate employment outcomes, coconut-farm technical efficiency, hybrid-coconut productivity, agribusiness challenges and opportunities, enterprise viability of post-harvest products, aquaculture profitability, and agricultural extension delivery—connecting decent work and inclusive growth to the practical realities of Davao Region's communities.



Inception Meeting for aquaculture project between DOrSU and UP Mindanao.

8 DECENT WORK AND ECONOMIC GROWTH

The University's Initiatives

Selected 2025 research	SDG 8 Contribution
Employment Outcomes: Examining the Job Placement and Career Paths of Criminology Graduates	Graduate employability and career pathways
Technical Efficiency of Coconut Farmers in Davao Oriental: Influencing Factors and Policy Insights	Farm productivity and economic efficiency
Benchmarking Production and Technical Efficiency of Hybrid and Traditional Coconut Farms in the Davao Region	Technology adoption and farm productivity
Agribusiness at its Finest: Stories of Challenges, Trends, and Opportunities at the Time of Pandemic	Enterprise resilience and agribusiness conditions
Transforming Tropical Crops: Postharvest Processing and Enterprise Viability of MaCoMa Coffee Blend in Davao Oriental	Value addition and enterprise viability
Enhancing Milkfish Profitability Through Optimized Feeding Practices and Integrated Resource Management in the Davao Region	Aquaculture productivity and profitability
Extension Delivery Strategies, Challenges, and Best Practices of Agricultural Extension Workers in Davao Oriental	Effectiveness of knowledge transfer to productive sectors
Gender Disparity in Farming Efficiency of Baganga Oil Palm Growers Association	Inclusive productivity and gender dimensions of agricultural work

The University's Initiatives

Decent Work and Economic Growth in Action: DOrSU's 2025 Contribution

Area of Contribution	2025 Institutional Action
Graduate employability	2,864 graduates produced; employment outcomes tracked and work-transition gaps used to strengthen career and industry linkages.
Work-based learning	66 BSHM students deployed to Malaysia; engineering internship partnership expanded industry-based learning.
Fair employment	21 plantilla hires; equal-opportunity recruitment; two employee organizations with CSC-certified CNAs.
Employee development	Training covered AI, customer service, stress management, records, finance and HR policy.
Institutional investment	₱667.591-million budget sustained personnel, operations and capital development.
Local enterprise growth	MSME technical support, MADE IN DAVLAB, cooperative training and livelihood extension expanded productive capacity.
Economic research	Studies addressed employment outcomes, productivity, enterprise viability, agribusiness and sector profitability.

9 INDUSTRY, INNOVATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE

The University's Initiatives

DOrSU's 2025 at a Glance

22 intellectual-property applications filed	**10** IP applications granted	**4** innovation units established
29 trademark licensing agreements drafted	**>₱90,000** royalty fees generated	**11** infrastructure projects completed





Davao Oriental State University advances industry, innovation and infrastructure by connecting research, intellectual property, technology transfer, digital capability and physical development. In 2025, the University strengthened the systems that allow ideas to move from laboratories and classrooms into protected technologies, enterprise support, data-driven solutions and infrastructure that expands the capacity of its campuses.

DOrSU's innovation agenda is closely tied to its role in regional development. Investment in research spaces, fabrication facilities, communications systems, laboratories and academic buildings was matched by stronger intellectual-property management and partnerships that open university technologies to communities, MSMEs and public institutions.

Turning Ideas into Protected Innovation

The Innovation Office expanded DOrSU's intellectual-property pipeline in 2025 with 22 applications: seven invention patents, five industrial designs and ten copyright registrations. Ten applications were granted during the year. Patent-search activities and innovation training were paired with the establishment of four innovation units, 29 drafted trademark licensing agreements and more than ₱90,000 in royalty fees, strengthening the University's ability to protect, manage and move knowledge toward utilization.

DOrSU also earned its second consecutive Platinum Award from the Intellectual Property Office of the Philippines, together with a Special Citation for filing more than 10 patent applications. The recognition placed the University among higher education institutions demonstrating sustained performance in intellectual-property management and commercialization-oriented innovation.







9 INDUSTRY, INNOVATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE

The University's Initiatives

Building the Spaces Innovation Needs





Physical development kept pace with research and innovation. The Directorate for University Planning and Development completed 11 infrastructure projects in 2025, including upgrades to the campus radio station and University Research Complex, completion of the Main Campus Student Center and Cateel Activity Center, roofing works on the five-storey academic building, classroom construction and refurbishment, the BSBA Computer Laboratory, and facilities at the Marfori Demo Farm and San Isidro Campus.

Major projects continued toward completion at year-end. The ₱36.937-million Cateel Administration Building reached 40.26% physical progress, while Phase II of the ₱15-million Green Technology Teacher Education Building reached 92.33%. These investments expand the physical platform for instruction, research, communication and student services across the University.

Opening Technology to Enterprise and Environmental Problem-Solving

Innovation was also made accessible beyond the campus. MADE IN DAVLAB, established with the Department of Trade and Industry through the Shared Service Facility program, provides MSMEs, researchers, students and innovators with access to fabrication technologies and product-development support. In parallel, an emerging Spatial Data Laboratory demonstrated the value of university-based digital innovation when its OpenDrift study on marine plastic from 39 rivers around Davao Gulf earned Best Paper at InvENT 2025.

These initiatives show DOrSU's infrastructure agenda as more than construction: laboratories, data platforms, fabrication facilities and protected intellectual property are being developed as a connected innovation ecosystem capable of supporting research, local enterprise and evidence-based public action.



The University's Initiatives

Industry, Innovation and Infrastructure in Action: DOrSU's 2025 Contribution

Area of Contribution	2025 Institutional Action
Innovation pipeline	22 IP applications filed, 10 granted, four innovation units established and 29 trademark licensing agreements drafted.
Technology transfer	More than ₱90,000 in royalty fees generated; second consecutive IPOPHL Platinum Award received.
Campus infrastructure	11 projects completed, including research, student, communications and academic facilities.
Major capital projects	Cateel Administration Building at 40.26%; Green Technology Teacher Education Building Phase II at 92.33%
Innovation infrastructure	MADE IN DAVLAB and OpenDrift/Spatial Data Laboratory work expand access to fabrication and data-driven problem-solving

10 REDUCED INEQUALITIES

The University's Initiatives

DOrSU's 2025 at a Glance

6 campus locations serving Davao Orienta	**17,629** first-semester enrollment, AY 2025–2026	**12,079** students supported through enrollment and scholarship processing
11 new CoScho scholars from coconut-farming families	**368** students and graduates in Cash-for-Work	**30,000** coffee seedlings for an Indigenous-community livelihood initiative

DOrSU reduces inequalities by widening who can reach a public university education, who can benefit from scholarships and mobility opportunities, and whose communities are included in research, extension and institutional partnerships. Its multi-campus system brings higher education closer to municipalities across Davao Oriental, while financial aid, inclusive employment policies and community programs respond to barriers associated with income, disability, geography, gender and cultural identity.

The University's approach to inclusion is therefore both academic and social: it expands access to programs, strengthens support for disadvantaged learners, gives space to underrepresented voices, and works with Indigenous, rural and livelihood communities so that opportunity is not concentrated only at the Main Campus or among already advantaged groups.

Taking Higher Education Closer to Communities

DOrSU sustained academic offerings across Mati, Baganga, Banaybanay, Cateel, San Isidro and Tarragona, allowing students to pursue public higher education closer to home. Enrollment reached 17,629 in the first semester of AY 2025–2026, the highest level in the University's five-year trend. In Tarragona, the local government committed continuing operational subsidy, ₱200 million for new school facilities, 10 hectares of land, student financial aid and housing assistance for learners from far-flung barangays.

The University also began formal groundwork for a possible external class in Lupon. A public consultation in July 2025 brought together local officials, educators, barangay leaders, parents and prospective students to examine how a local DOrSU presence could reduce long travel, transport costs and other barriers faced by learners in the western part of the province.



The University's Initiatives

Reduced Inequalities in Action: DOrSU's 2025 Contribution

Area of contribution	2025 institutional action
Geographic access	Six campus locations and continuing expansion of external-class pathways bring higher education closer to rural communities.
Financial inclusion	Scholarships, subsidies and Cash-for-Work widen access for students facing financial constraints.
Rural learners	Tarragona partnership includes housing and financial-aid commitments for students from far-flung barangays.
Equal opportunity	University employment policy explicitly promotes nondiscrimination and encourages participation of PWDs, ICCs/IPs and diverse SOGIE.
Inclusive communities	Regional GAD leadership and the Mandaya coffee initiative strengthen gender-responsive and culturally inclusive development.

Financial Assistance and Equal Opportunity

Financial access is a central part of inclusion. DOrSU administered Free Higher Education, Tertiary Education Subsidy, Tulong Dunong, local-government and institutional scholarships, DOST support and other assistance programs, while its Accounting Office supported enrollment and scholarship processing for 12,079 students. Eleven new scholars from coconut-farming families received ₱70,000 each under CoScho, while 368 students and graduates completed a 50-day Cash-for-Work program implemented with DSWD XI.

The University's employment framework also articulates an Equal Opportunity Principle. Recruitment materials state that applicants are not to be discriminated against on the basis of disability, ethnicity, sexual orientation, gender identity and expression, civil status, religion or political affiliation, and they encourage applications from persons with disabilities, Indigenous Cultural Communities/Indigenous Peoples and persons with diverse SOGIE.

The University's Initiatives

Gender Justice and Inclusive Participation

DOrSU continued to strengthen gender mainstreaming through research, extension and regional advocacy. University representatives played leading roles in the RGAN XI 2025 Gender and Development Summit on "Gender Justice and the Digital Age," while DOrSU researchers presented work on gender mainstreaming in basic education. These engagements reinforce institutional efforts to embed gender perspectives in policies, programs and services beyond commemorative activities.

In Taocanga, Manay, DOrSU's regenerative coffee initiative worked with a Mandaya community to combine livelihood development with cultural and ecological stewardship. The 30,000-seedling initiative was supported by field monitoring, technical guidance and follow-through after the October earthquake, illustrating how inclusion can be built into long-term community partnerships rather than one-time assistance.

11 SUSTAINABLE CITIES AND COMMUNITIES

The University's Initiatives

DOrSU's 2025 at a Glance

11 infrastructure projects completed	**₱36.937M** Cateel Administration Building project	**40.26%** Cateel Administration Building progress
₱15M Green Technology Teacher Education Building Phase II	**92.33%** Green Technology Building Phase II progress	**₱150,000** alumni donation for climate-adaptation canopies

DOrSU contributes to sustainable communities through long-term campus planning, climate-responsive infrastructure, community technology, local-government partnerships and research that connects land use, ecosystems and human settlements. Its campuses function not only as education sites but as public infrastructure distributed across the province, creating places for learning, research, services, culture and community engagement.

In 2025, the University combined major physical development with initiatives that improve access, shelter, digital capability and resilience. These investments reflect a planning approach in which infrastructure is expected to support both institutional growth and the wider communities DOrSU serves.







Public spaces and monuments in DOrSU

Planning Campuses for Long-Term Growth

DOrSU's physical expansion is guided by a Land Use Development and Infrastructure Plan extending through 2033. The framework provides a long-term basis for organizing academic, research, student and support facilities as enrollment and program offerings grow across the University's sites. In 2025, 11 infrastructure projects were completed, ranging from student and activity centers to laboratories, classrooms, communications facilities and demonstration-farm improvements.

The University also continued major capital works at Cateel and the Main Campus. The ₱36.937-million Cateel Administration Building reached 40.26% physical completion, while the ₱15-million Green Technology Teacher Education Building Phase II reached 92.33%. Procurement for Phase III of the Green Technology Building also advanced, further embedding sustainability-oriented academic infrastructure in DOrSU's development program.

The University's Initiatives

Making Campuses More Climate-Responsive

Climate adaptation also entered the physical campus environment. In December 2025, the DOrSU Alumni Association donated ₱150,000 for canopy tents, covered walkways and shaded outdoor learning areas. The intervention was designed to protect students and employees from harsher weather while creating more usable outdoor spaces for learning and campus life.

Combined with green-building investments, campus upgrades and community-based planning, these improvements position DOrSU's infrastructure program as part of a wider effort to create safer, more accessible and more resilient places for education and public service.

Sustainable Cities and Communities in Action: DOrSU's 2025 Contribution

Area of contribution	2025 institutional action
Long-term planning	Land Use Development and Infrastructure Plan guides campus growth through 2033.
Completed infrastructure	11 projects expanded research, student, communications and academic spaces.
Green infrastructure	Green Technology Teacher Education Building Phase II reached 92.33% completion.
Provincial access	Tarragona and planned Lupon pathways integrate higher education with local community development.
Smart communitie	SmarterDavOr links university expertise with reliable power, digitalization and community services.
Climate adaptation	₱150,000 alumni support for canopy tents and shaded/covered learning areas strengthens campus resilience.

The University's Initiatives

Smarter Communities through Technology and Partnership

DOrSU joined the City Government of Mati, DOST XI, DICT XI and DepEd Mati in SmarterDavOr, a multi-agency initiative for smart and sustainable communities. The partnership brings together university research and extension capacity with public-sector technology programs to improve reliable power, digital capability, learning environments and community services.

In Tarragona, local-government support for external classes included an annual operating subsidy, ₱200 million for new school facilities, 10 hectares of land, student financial aid and housing assistance. The partnership demonstrates how higher-education infrastructure can be integrated into municipal development while reducing the distance between learners and essential educational services.

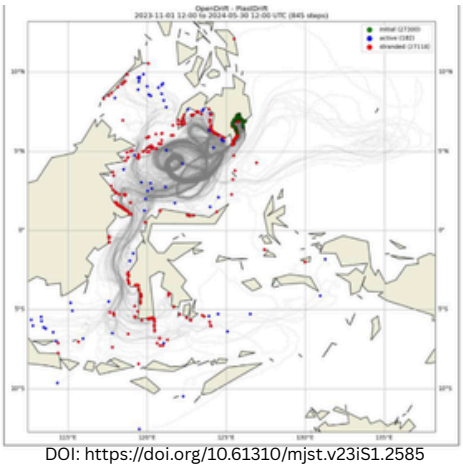
12 RESPONSIBLE CONSUMPTION AND PRODUCTION

The University's Initiatives

DOrSU's 2025 at a Glance

39 rivers modeled as sources of marine plastic to Davao Gulf	**₱10M** CHED-supported Macro & Micro Plastic Pollution program	**1** biochar project converting agricultural wastes for 4Ps farmers
2 fruit-peel waste streams tested as tilapia feed inputs	**All campuses** covered by comprehensive physical inventory	**1** university-wide single-use-plastic regulation enforced in operations

DOrSU advances responsible consumption and production by treating waste, materials, procurement and natural resources as connected research and operational concerns. In 2025, University initiatives ranged from marine-plastic modeling and agricultural-waste valorization to alternative aquaculture feeds, property management, single-use-plastic controls and regenerative-futures work on circularity. The common direction is to use fewer resources wastefully, understand where waste accumulates, recover value from by-products, and strengthen the institutional systems that govern materials and assets. This connects laboratory research with campus operations and community-level production systems.



DOI: https://doi.org/10.61310/mjst.v23iS1.2585

Macro-plastics drift pattern with wind and wave external forcing during dry season



Bivalves tested for microplastics



Microplastic seen under microscope

Tracing Waste from Rivers to the Sea

DOrSU's marine-plastic research strengthened the evidence base for responsible waste management. A data-driven OpenDrift study modeled how plastic from 39 rivers around Davao Gulf moves and accumulates across seasons, identifying drift patterns and high-risk zones that can guide interventions. The work earned Best Paper at InvENT 2025 and demonstrated how geospatial modeling can translate waste data into decision support.

The University's broader Macro and Micro Plastic Pollution program examined plastic movement and characteristics across terrestrial and marine systems, complementing research on seagrass areas, commercially important fish and edible bivalves. Together, these studies support a more complete understanding of how consumption and disposal practices move through watersheds and affect coastal ecosystems.

Responsible Consumption and Production in Action: DOrSU's 2025 Contribution

Area of contribution	2025 institutional action
Waste intelligence	OpenDrift modeling traced marine-plastic pathways from 39 rivers around Davao Gulf.
Plastic-pollution research	Macro- and microplastic studies connect rivers, bays, seagrass, fish and bivalves.
Agricultural circularity	Biochar research valorizes farm wastes while supporting 4Ps farmers.
Alternative feeds	Fruit peelings and indigenous raw materials were studied as lower-waste aquaculture inputs.
Asset stewardship	Comprehensive physical inventory and COA-aligned disposal training strengthen responsible public-asset management.
Campus practices	Single-use-plastic controls and regenerative-futures planning support more responsible institutional consumption.

Turning Waste into Productive Inputs

Circularity is also visible in DOrSU's agricultural and aquaculture research. A GAA-funded project on biochar converts agricultural wastes into a soil-enhancing input for 4Ps farmers in Mati City, linking waste valorization with lower-income agricultural households. Another 2025 study examined mango and banana peelings as alternative and sustainable feed ingredients for red tilapia, exploring how food-processing residues can be redirected into productive use.

Related studies on indigenous feed ingredients, non-fishmeal feeds and postharvest processing extend the same principle: production systems can become more efficient when locally available materials are used strategically and waste streams are treated as resources rather than disposal problems.

The University's Initiatives

Responsible Operations and Public Assets

Responsible resource use was reinforced by administrative systems. DOrSU completed a comprehensive physical inventory of government properties across its Main and extension campuses and strengthened compliance with appraisal and disposal requirements through specialized Commission on Audit training. The University also enforced single-use-plastic regulations as part of campus safety and security operations.

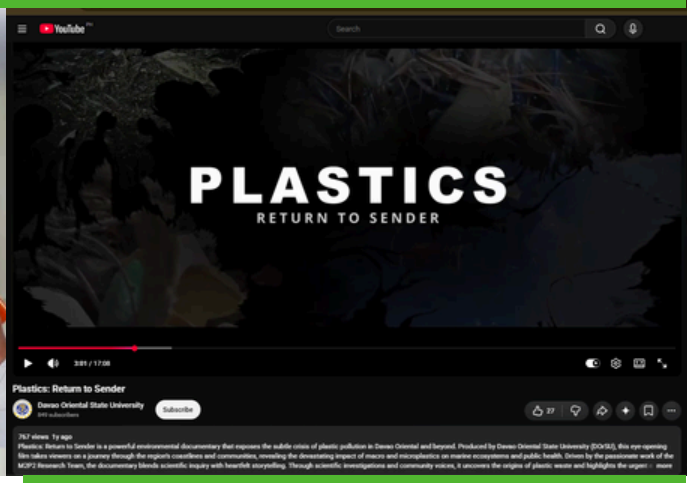
At the strategic level, DOrSU's regenerative-futures direction increasingly frames circular economy, green innovation and restoration as institutional priorities, providing a basis for linking research, procurement, infrastructure and community programs around more responsible patterns of production and consumption.



Commission on Audit (COA) team led by Ms. Arleen S. Betonio, Supervising Auditor along with DOrSU key officials held an entrance conference to formally commence the Calendar Year (CY) 2025 audit engagement



Dr. Janeth Tayone and Mr. Sam Villarubia guide PNP personnel during the inspection of the UResCom laboratory.



DOrSU strenghtens no single-use-plastic campaign through informative video

13 CLIMATE ACTION

The University's Initiatives

DOrSU's 2025 at a Glance

₱2M DENR XI-funded coastal-community climate-resilience project	**66.64%** of Mati City land identified as suitable for solar development	**60,859.76 ha** land identified as suitable for solar development
5.242 kWh/m²/day maximum annual solar irradiation	**30,000** coffee seedlings in a regenerative livelihood initiative	**₱150,000** alumni support for climate-adaptation canopies

DOrSU's climate action is rooted in the realities of a province whose livelihoods, coastlines, farms and communities are exposed to extreme weather, changing marine conditions and long-term climate risk. In 2025, the University combined climate research, renewable-energy mapping, resilient livelihood programs and climate-responsive infrastructure to help translate adaptation and mitigation into locally usable knowledge.

This work ranges from studying the vulnerability of fishers and coastal communities to mapping solar potential, strengthening coffee-based livelihoods, developing green academic buildings and creating shaded campus spaces for harsher weather. The result is a climate agenda that links research, infrastructure and community resilience.



Climate Science for Coastal and Farming Communities

A ₱2-million DENR XI-funded project on multidimensional climate-change resilience in coastal communities examines how environmental and socioeconomic factors shape the capacity of coastal households to withstand shocks. Complementary studies in 2025 documented the impacts of extreme climate events on small-scale fishers in Baganga, climate and non-climate hazards in fisheries and aquaculture, and the adaptation practices of resource-dependent communities.

On land, DOrSU research examined climate impacts on coconut productivity and sustainability as well as climate adaptation in small-scale coffee farming along the buffer zone of Mt. Hamiguitan. These studies connect climate risk with crops, household income and ecosystem condition rather than treating climate change as an abstract environmental issue.

The University's Initiatives

Climate Action in Action: DOrSU's 2025 Contribution

Area of contribution	2025 institutional action
Climate vulnerability research	Coastal-community, fisheries and agriculture studies identify locally specific risks and adaptation pathways.
Renewable-energy planning	Solar-suitability mapping identified 60,859.76 hectares of suitable land in Mati City.
Livelihood resilience	Regenerative coffee and fisheries research connect household income with adaptation and ecosystem health.
Green infrastructure	Green Technology Teacher Education Building advances sustainability-oriented academic infrastructure.
Campus adaptation	₱150,000 canopy initiative provides shade, shelter and climate-responsive outdoor learning areas.
Regenerative direction	Climate resilience, green innovation and circularity are integrated into DOrSU's strategic futures agenda.

Putting Renewable-Energy Potential on the Map

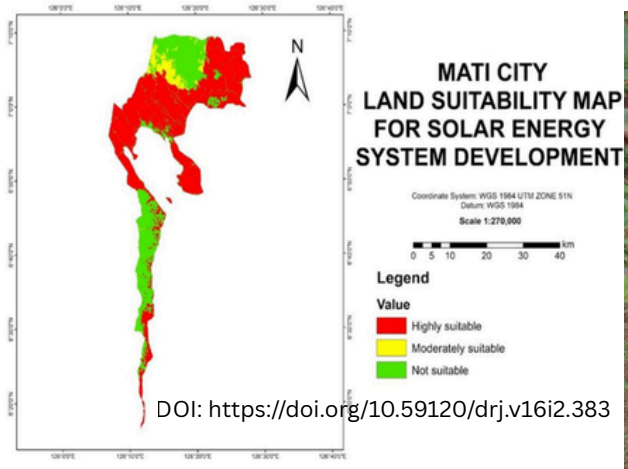
A locally focused solar-suitability study provided evidence for the renewable-energy transition in Mati City. The research identified a maximum annual solar irradiation of 5.242 kWh per square meter per day and found that 66.64% of the city, or 60,859.76 hectares, was suitable for solar development. Most of the suitable land was classified as highly suitable, giving planners and investors a clearer spatial basis for future renewable-energy decisions.

The University's Initiatives

Adaptation through Livelihoods and Infrastructure

The 30,000-seedling coffee initiative in Taocanga links livelihood development with soil health, biodiversity and longer-term resilience. DOrSU continued technical monitoring after the October doublet earthquake, reinforcing the idea that resilient livelihoods require sustained support when communities are exposed to multiple environmental shocks.

Climate adaptation was also visible on campus. The Alumni Association's ₱150,000 donation for canopy tents, covered walkways and shaded learning areas was explicitly directed toward helping faculty, staff and students cope with harsher weather. Green-building investments further integrate resource efficiency and climate-responsive design into the University's physical development.



DOI: https://doi.org/10.59120/drj.v16i2.383

Solar energy development suitability map of Mati City.







The University's Initiatives

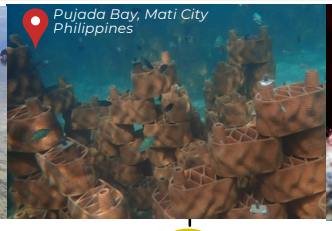
DOrSU's 2025 at a Glance

100 m² artificial clay reef structure in Pujada Bay	**4,000** estimated coral recruits after one year	**34/m²** coral recruits recorded after five months, up from 13/m²
39 rivers modeled for marine-plastic transport	**₱10M** Macro & Micro Plastic Pollution research program	**1** Artificial Clay Reef Production Facility established

DOrSU's marine work is anchored in one of Davao Oriental's greatest assets: its bays, reefs, fisheries and coastal communities. In 2025, the University combined habitat restoration, marine-plastic science, fisheries research, aquaculture studies and ridge-to-reef partnerships to protect aquatic ecosystems while recognizing the livelihoods and food systems that depend on them.

The University's marine research is increasingly moving from description to regeneration. The artificial clay reef in Pujada Bay offers a visible example of ecosystem recovery, while plastic modeling, fisheries studies and coastal monitoring provide the data needed to protect marine resources over the long term.











Regenerating Pujada Bay

The artificial clay reef installed in Pujada Bay demonstrated measurable ecological recovery in 2025. Within five months, coral recruits increased from 13 to 34 per square meter. After one year, an estimated 4,000 coral recruits had colonized the 100-square-meter reef structure, with young corals surviving and growing on the eco-engineered modules.

The initiative, developed with Switzerland-based environmental group rrreefs, represents a shift from conserving what remains to actively rebuilding habitat. DOrSU also established an Artificial Clay Reef Production Facility, strengthening local capacity to produce restoration modules and support longer-term reef-regeneration work.

Following Plastic from Watersheds into the Sea

DOrSU's marine-plastic research connects river systems with coastal pollution. The OpenDrift study modeled the movement of plastic from 39 rivers around Davao Gulf and identified seasonal accumulation patterns and high-risk zones. The broader Macro and Micro Plastic Pollution program investigated plastics in coastal habitats and organisms, helping build a ridge-to-reef understanding of pollution pathways.

This evidence supports waste-management decisions upstream while also informing conservation in seagrass areas, bays and fisheries. By treating plastic pollution as a system that crosses administrative and ecosystem boundaries, the research helps link terrestrial waste management with marine protection.

14 LIFE BELOW WATER

The University's Initiatives

Science for Sustainable Fisheries and Aquaculture

The University's 2025 research portfolio included small-scale fisheries in Davao Gulf, impacts of closed fishing seasons, climate hazards in pelagic fisheries and milkfish aquaculture, catch trends near marine protected areas, alternative feeds for milkfish and tilapia, oyster farming, and the socioeconomic experiences of women and families in fishing communities. These studies supp support both biodiversity conservation and the long-term productivity of coastal livelihoods. Ridge-to-reef monitoring in Pujada and Mayo Bays, coastal ecosystem modeling, and bio-economic assessment of reef fisheries further strengthen the science base for managing marine resources at ecosystem scale.

Milkfish aquaculture laboratory



Life Below Water in Action: DOrSU's 2025 Contribution

Area of contribution	2025 institutional action
Reef restoration	Artificial clay reef supported rapid coral recruitment and visible habitat recovery in Pujada Bay.
Local restoration capacity	Artificial Clay Reef Production Facility strengthens the ability to scale eco-engineered reef work.
Marine-plastic science	OpenDrift modeling traced waste pathways from 39 rivers into Davao Gulf.
Fisheries sustainability	Research addressed closed seasons, catch trends, climate hazards and reef-fishery management.
Sustainable aquaculture	Oyster, milkfish and tilapia research explored resilience, alternative feeds and profitability.
Ridge-to-reef management	Modeling and monitoring in Pujada and Mayo Bays link watershed, habitat and fisheries management.

15 LIFE ON LAND

The University's Initiatives

DOrSU's 2025 at a Glance

2 Provinces covered by the EMBC biodiversity profile presented by DOrSU	**4** research clusters represented by DOrSU at EMBC Summit 2025	**1** new Amphisternus beetle species documented from Eastern Mindanao
2 new Begonia species highlighted from Eastern Mindanao research	**30,000** coffee seedlings supporting an Indigenous-community livelihood	**1** corridor conservation plan presented for Davao de Oro and Davao Oriental

DOrSU's biodiversity work is shaped by Eastern Mindanao's exceptional biological richness. In 2025, the University strengthened its role as a science partner for the Eastern Mindanao Biodiversity Corridor, documented species new to science, supported biodiversity-friendly livelihoods and connected taxonomy, habitat research and community stewardship with conservation planning.

The University's land-based conservation work reflects a regenerative approach: understand biodiversity in detail, protect ecological connectivity, strengthen local capacity and create livelihoods that are compatible with healthy landscapes.

Building the Science of the Eastern Mindanao Biodiversity Corridor

At the Eastern Mindanao Biodiversity Corridor Summit 2025, DOrSU presented the biodiversity profile of Davao de Oro and Davao Oriental and contributed to the corridor conservation plan for the two provinces. As a project partner in the DENR-led, GEF- and UNDP-supported Biodiversity Corridor Project, the University helps connect ridge-to-reef monitoring, habitat connectivity, local capacity building and policy support for biodiversity-friendly livelihoods.

DOrSU researchers contributed studies across biodiversity assessment and species movement of flora and fauna, socioeconomic dimensions including gender, and land-use and special-area studies. The corridor approach positions biodiversity not as isolated species protection but as a connected landscape in which forests, farms, rivers, communities and coastal ecosystems interact.



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

Ms. Stephanie Cadayona presenting her winning paper during DSFC 2025

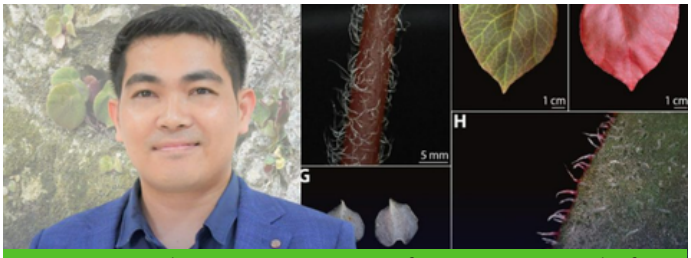


Life on Land in Action: DOrSU's 2025 Contribution

Area of contribution	2025 institutional action
Biodiversity corridor science	DOrSU contributed provincial biodiversity profiling, research and conservation planning for the EMBC.
Species discovery	Taxonomic work documented species new to science and strengthened evidence of Eastern Mindanao endemism.
Landscape connectivity	Ridge-to-reef and habitat-connectivity approaches support integrated ecosystem management.
Community stewardship	Regenerative coffee initiative links biodiversity conservation with Indigenous livelihood and culture.
Buffer-zone management	Research explores livelihood and conservation pathways around protected-area landscapes.
Science-to-policy support	Biodiversity data and conservation plans help guide LGU and protected-area planning priorities.

Discovering Species, Strengthening the Case for Protection

Taxonomy remained one of DOrSU's distinctive scientific contributions. Researchers from the Tropical Genomics and Invertebrate Research Laboratory won Best Paper at the Davao Sustainable Futures Conference for describing a new Amphisternus beetle species from the Eastern Mindanao Biodiversity Corridor. Other 2025 work highlighted newly documented Begonia species, including ***Begonia medinae***, named in honor of DOrSU coleopterist **Dr. Milton Norman Medina**. In total, DOrSU researchers principally described or co-authored at least 13 new insect species, the new weevil genus ***Filipinorhynchus*** Cabras, Agbas & Obrial, and the new subspecies ***Pachyrhynchus mandaya maragusanensis*** Agbas, Obrial & Cabras—vital evidence of endemism that directly informs corridor planning and protected-area management.



Begonia medinae, new species of Begonia named after DOrSU Professor Medina



(A) *Filipinorhynchus Cabras, Agbas & Obrial, gen. nov. (dorsal view; Davao de Oro);* (B) *Pachyrhynchus mandaya maragusanensis Agbas, Obrial & Cabras*

15 LIFE ON LAND

The University's Initiatives

Livelihoods that Keep Landscapes Productive

Conservation also entered livelihood practice. In Sitio Matabang, Taocanga, DOrSU's community-based coffee initiative combined 30,000 seedlings with regenerative agriculture, biodiversity protection and Mandaya participation. The project supports household income while encouraging soil stewardship and farming practices compatible with the ecological setting around Mt. Hamiguitan.

Research on buffer-zone sustainability, traditional ecological knowledge, agro-biodiversity and climate adaptation further supports land-use approaches in which conservation and human well-being are treated as complementary goals.



Participants hold coffee seedlings during the ceremonial planting activity, symbolizing their collective commitment to regenerative coffee farming, and sustainable community development.



Biodiversity Research Complex, DOrSU Marfori Campus, *Don Martin Marundan, City of Mati, Davao Oriental.*

DOrSU Launches First-Ever Biodiversity Research Center in Region XI

Davao Oriental State University (DOrSU) has launched the first Biodiversity Research Center in Region XI, housing Vertebrate, Invertebrate, and Tropical Genomics laboratories. The center will advance research on Mindanao's rich ecology while addressing biodiversity loss and habitat degradation.

Speaking at the inauguration, DOrSU President Dr. Roy G. Ponce said the center positions the university "***to lead the charge in preserving Mindanao's natural heritage for future generations***." The launch was attended by DENR, provincial, and municipal partners, alongside faculty, staff, and students.



Mandaya community member plants coffee seedling



TROGENIR Microscope



TROGENIR lab specimen collection

Through multidisciplinary research and community engagement, the center supports DOrSU's commitment to environmental stewardship, scientific inquiry, and sustainable impact in Mindanao and beyond.

16 PEACE, JUSTICE AND STRONG INSTITUTIONS

The University's Initiatives

DOrSU's 2025 at a Glance

1 COA Unmodified Opinion on the 2024 financial statements	**3 days** Internal Quality Audit and 7S evaluation across campuses	**All campuses** covered by the July IQA and 7S evaluation
900+ participants at Regional Dagyaw 2025	**1** new University Student Council sworn in	**1** voter-literacy and anti-disinformation initiative ahead of the 2025 elections

DOrSU strengthens institutions through transparent financial management, quality-assurance systems, participatory governance, public accountability and civic education. In 2025, the University combined formal controls such as audits and disclosure with activities that encourage student voice, gender justice, voter literacy and open dialogue between government and communities.

The result is an institutional approach in which integrity is both procedural and participatory: funds and assets are accounted for, systems are audited, information is publicly disclosed, stakeholders are represented and members of the University community are equipped to engage responsibly in public life.



COA held an exit conference with DOrSU to present and discuss the results of COA's audit findings



DOrSU's Quality Management Systems (QMS) conducts three-day Internal Quality Audit (IQA) and 7S Evaluation



Ms. Dionese Cescil L. Catubig with QMS team conducts IQA and 7s Evaluation at DOrSU San Isidro Campus

Quality Systems that Make Institutions Work

From July 15 to 17, 2025, DOrSU conducted a University-wide Internal Quality Audit and 7S Evaluation covering all campuses. The audit examined compliance with documented processes, the effectiveness of the Quality Management System and opportunities for improvement, while the 7S evaluation assessed workplace order, safety, efficiency and organizational discipline.

These mechanisms complement the University's ISO 9001:2015 quality-management system and embed continuous improvement into day-to-day operations rather than treating compliance as a one-time exercise.

Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions in Action: DOrSU's 2025 Contribution

Area of contribution	2025 institutional action
Financial accountability	COA Unmodified Opinion and strengthened project/accounting controls support public trust.
Transparency	Public disclosure of procurement, financial, FOI, Citizen's Charter and accountability documents through the Transparency Seal.
Quality management	University-wide Internal Quality Audit and 7S evaluation reinforce process integrity and service quality.
Student participation	University Student Council provides a formal platform for student representation and voice.
Civic education	Voter-literacy initiative strengthened resilience against disinformation ahead of the 2025 elections.
Inclusive governance	Regional Dagyaw and GAD engagements expand public dialogue, participation and justice-oriented advocacy.

Financial Integrity and Public Accountability

DOrSU received an Unmodified Opinion from the Commission on Audit for its 2024 financial statements, affirming that the statements were presented fairly in accordance with applicable standards. The University also maintained public disclosure through its Transparency Seal, where procurement plans, financial accountability reports, financial statements, Citizens Charter, Freedom of Information materials and other accountability documents are made accessible.

Internal controls were reinforced through timely financial reporting, liquidation of major projects, improved document monitoring and a comprehensive physical inventory of government properties. Specialized training on the appraisal and disposal of public assets strengthened alignment with Commission on Audit requirements.

The University's Initiatives

Student Voice, Voter Literacy and Inclusive Governance

Participatory governance was visible in the formal oath-taking of the newly elected University Student Council in July 2025, with the incoming officers articulating a vision of stronger student voice. Student representation also sits within the broader governance structure of the University, alongside faculty, alumni and external stakeholders.

Ahead of the May 2025 elections, DOrSU organized a voter-literacy and anti-disinformation activity with civil-society and media-education partners. The program addressed misinformation, political polarization and the psychological effects of false information while emphasizing critical thinking and responsible participation in democratic processes.

The University also remained active in regional gender-justice work through the RGAN XI 2025 GAD Summit and in open-governance platforms such as Regional Dagyaw in Banaybanay, which brought more than 900 participants into dialogue on transparency, participation and inclusive development.



The newly elected officers of the University Student Council (USC) of Davao Oriental State University (DOrSU) formally took their oath of office



Naxes Jee T. Cablinda was sworn in as USC President in the presence of DOrSU President, Roy G. Ponce.



Asst. Prof. Djhoanna S. Mama discussed "Right to Suffrage and the History of Elections" during DOrSU's Citizen Voters' Education initiative



DOrSU GAD director, focal persons, researchers, and faculty members attend RGAN XI



Ms. Vanessa E. Asaias-Yncierto discussed the "Voting Behavior and Elections" during DOrSU's Citizen Voters' Education initiative



Assistant Professor Jhonnel Villegas served as a plenary speaker during RGAN XI



Dr. Jeralyn N. Hemillan discussed "Guided Vision and Action Points for Citizen Voters" during DOrSU's Citizen Voters' Education initiative

17 PARTNERSHIPS FOR THE GOALS

The University's Initiatives

DOrSU's 2025 at a Glance

17 internationalization partnerships forged	**37** student mobility participants	**25** faculty mobility activities
70 students supported through the Student Internship Abroad Program	**5 / 200** COIL initiatives / students involved	**44** other internationalization accomplishments

DOrSU's 2025 sustainability work was made possible by a widening network of local, national and international partnerships. The University used collaboration to extend research, student mobility, faculty exchange, innovation, conservation, community development and knowledge-sharing beyond the limits of any single office or campus.

Internationalization accelerated during the year, while domestic consortia and government partnerships connected DOrSU to wider development systems. These relationships support the University's regenerative-futures direction by combining academic knowledge with public-sector resources, community experience, industry expertise and international networks.



The formal recognition took place during the 13th ATU-Net Board Meeting held on October 31, 2025, in Hanoi, Vietnam.

DOrSU President Dr. Roy G. Ponce also signed separate Memoranda of Understanding (MOUs) with two distinguished universities—Phenikaa University (Vietnam) and Universitas Multi Data Palembang (Indonesia).





These partnerships aim to strengthen joint research, faculty and student exchanges, and capacity-building initiatives, aligned with DOrSU's Regenerative Futures Vision 2035 and GROWTH 2029 Agenda.

Expanding DOrSU's Global Academic Network

The Global Affairs and International Relations Office recorded 17 internationalization partnerships in 2025, alongside 37 student mobility participants, 25 faculty mobility activities and 70 students supported through the Student Internship Abroad Program. Five Collaborative Online International Learning initiatives connected 200 students with international learning experiences, while 44 other internationalization accomplishments extended the University's cross-border engagement.

Partnerships were formalized with institutions across Asia and Europe. DOrSU signed agreements with the Czech University of Life Sciences Prague and Silpakorn University in Thailand, while its admission to the Asia Technological Universities Network connected the University to an alliance of more than 50 institutions. During the ATU-Net Board Meeting in Vietnam, DOrSU also signed new agreements with Phenikaa University and Universitas Multi Data Palembang.

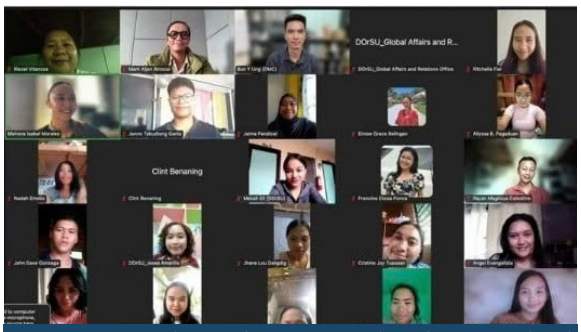
Partnerships for the Goals in Action: DOrSU's 2025 Contribution

Area of contribution	2025 institutional action
International partnerships	17 new internationalization partnerships expanded DOrSU's global academic network.
Student and faculty mobility	37 student mobility participants, 25 faculty mobility activities and 70 SIAP students extended international exposure.
COIL	Five virtual international learning initiatives involved 200 students.
Higher-education networks	ATU-Net membership and the 22-institution ACHIEVE Consortium broadened collaborative capacity.
Regional and cross-sector collaboration	DOrSU co-hosted DSFC 2025 with Region XI SUCs while government, LGU, industry, civil-society and international partners supported innovation, livelihoods, biodiversity and community resilience.

Mobility, Exchange and Collaborative Learning

International partnerships translated into direct student and faculty opportunities. Hospitality students undertook six-month industry immersion in Malaysia, while faculty and students joined exchanges, summer schools, conferences and training across Asia and Europe. DOrSU also hosted Malaysian delegates from Universiti Malaysia Terengganu for a week-long academic and cultural exchange, bringing international collaboration onto the Mati campus.

COIL expanded internationalization without requiring physical travel. Five initiatives involving 200 students used online collaborative learning to connect classrooms across borders, broadening intercultural experience and academic exchange while making international engagement accessible to more learners.



70 BS DevCom and BS Biology participated in the Cross-Cultural Scriptwriting Workshop



DOrSU BS Business Administration and BS Agribusiness Management, with Universitas Andalas during the Summer School Course on Minangkabau Entrepreneurship 2025

The University's Initiatives

Consortia and Regional Knowledge Networks

DOrSU joined the 22-institution ACHIEVE Consortium in January 2025, linking the University with higher-education partners around academic excellence, research and innovation, transformative extension, resource generation, external linkages and efficient management. At the regional level, DOrSU co-hosted the Davao Sustainable Futures Conference 2025 with other state universities and colleges in Region XI, creating a platform for researchers, leaders and development partners to shape sustainability directions for Mindanao.

Research partnerships also connected DOrSU with government agencies and international development actors. Work with DENR, GEF and UNDP supported the Eastern Mindanao Biodiversity Corridor; collaboration with Switzerland-based rrreefs advanced artificial-reef regeneration; partnerships with DOST, DTI, DA and local governments supported enterprise, agriculture, technology and community development; and SmarterDavOr brought together DOrSU, LGU Mati, DOST XI, DICT XI and DepEd Mati around smart and sustainable communities.



Key officials from different HEIs joining the ACHIEVE Consortium under Commissioner Shirley Agrupis



Dr. Galvez delivered the message of support