

Institutional Partnerships



BACKGROUND

The value of Australia's postgraduate programs is widely recognised by HRODF's stakeholders. Some organisations, however, could not afford to send their staff away for long periods for lack of personnel to take over their tasks. Some staff keen on scholarships, on the other hand, could not study abroad for family reasons. PAHRODF explored innovative approaches suitable for these organisations. It brokered arrangements between Australian and Philippine universities, to provide tailor-made and contextually-relevant educational experiences to partner organisations. HRODF piloted institutional partnerships in 2010 with the collaboration of University of Newcastle (UoN) and University of Mindanao (UM). Following gains of the pilot programs, HRODF pursued more institutional partnerships to respond to learning needs of more Filipinos, in consideration of the full rollout of the Australian Qualifications Framework and while establishing a platform for the new Australian Colombo Plan.■



IMPLEMENTATION PROGRESS

a. UoN-UM: Research and Faculty Development in Mindanao

PAHRODF developed this program in 2010 to nurture a culture of research and development among educational institutions in Mindanao. Twelve teachers from Mindanao universities completed the Master of Educational Studies with specialisation in Educational Research (MEDStud) at the University of Newcastle (UoN) for two semesters and conducted fieldwork at the University of Mindanao (UM) for one semester (Table 13). The Australian government honoured them for completing the program and for producing 12 research projects last March 2014. The event followed a colloquium where top students presented their thesis (Annex G).

TABLE 13. Number of Program Participants

INSTITUTION	NUMBER OF PARTICIPANTS
Notre Dame of Marbel University	1
Holy Cross of Davao College	2
Holy Cross of Calinan	1
University of Mindanao (Davao)	2
University of Mindanao (Tagum)	2
Mindanao State University (Tawi Tawi)	1
Western Mindanao State University	2
Cor Jesu College	1
TOTAL	12

Participants also encountered some challenges while in the program. They found difficulty, for example, in having two mentors, one from UoN and another from UM. The different research orientations and approaches sometimes hindered their progress. To minimise advising differences in future research collaborations, they recommended that the role of mentors be defined and a strategic matching of research topic, scholar and mentor be conducted at the onset. They also recommended that mentors in local universities undergo an orientation of Australian research processes and standards so that they could relate and speak the same language with the scholars.

b. UoN-UM: Engineering Project Management (PME)¹

University of Newcastle (UoN) and University of Mindanao (UM) jointly delivered a two month course on Engineering Project Management (PME) for Department of Interior and Local Government (DILG) and selected local government units (LGUs) from January to February 2014 (Table 14). The program meant to upgrade competencies of LGUs to manage infrastructure projects. UoN used a combination of online and classroom learning sessions held in-country at the UM campus in Davao City. Thirty-nine participants composed of 29 project managers and engineers from DILG and LGUs, and ten faculty members from UM enrolled in the course. PAHRODF assessed the program in July 2014 and found it relevant. The majority of participants also reported an increase in their knowledge on project management. It also showed the viability of online learning.

Some participants cautioned, however, that online courses may not be suitable for all types of learners. Some students, for example, are unable to focus on the course because taking it while in the workplace made them accessible and prone to being given work related tasks. This distracted them from attending online sessions or finishing assignments. Another issue raised was the unreliability of internet connection. Some students were unable to submit their assignments on time because of this problem. Program participants from UM even had to request their office to limit internet access while they were attending online sessions to ensure uninterrupted learning. Despite these setbacks, however, the majority of participants still welcomed online learning. Participants from UM are even keen on making their courses accessible online. ■

TABLE 14. Number of Program Participants

INSTITUTION	NUMBER OF PARTICIPANTS
Department of Interior and Local Government	
Central Office	6
Regional Offices	9
Local Government Units	
Province of Guimaras	4
Province of Agusan del Sur	2
Province of Davao del Norte	5
Province of Lanao del Norte	3
University of Mindanao	10
TOTAL	39

¹ Drawn from the Facility's recently concluded assessment of the program.



NEXT STEPS

PAHRODF expanded institutional partnerships in 2014. The Facility brokered academic collaboration between new partnerships, as shown in Table 17, in areas of mining and metallurgical engineering, human resource management, and peace and conflict studies. These collaborations provide for different models of partnerships, particularly in terms of program structures for joint delivery of graduate degrees. PAHRODF will review the current partnerships it brokered and similar local and regional models as reference for future partnerships. Beyond joint delivery of graduate programs, the Facility also emphasises collaboration on research activities and projects further strengthening the research capacities of local universities. For previous and existing partnerships, the Facility shall exercise closer coordination and follow-through to ease and ensure implementation of agreed activities. The Facility will also establish linkages with organisations, associations, and institutions such as the National Educators Academy of the Philippines, associations of private and public universities, industry-based associations and professional groups, among others. ■

TABLE 15. List of New Institutional Partnerships and their Status

PARTNERSHIP	PROGRAM OFFER AND FIELD OF STUDY	STATUS
University of Newcastle - De La Salle University	Masters in Human Resource Management with Faculty Exchange	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • DLSU and UON are collaborating for a dual program delivery in Masters in Human Resource Management. The program will be delivered in two parts – first at DLSU for two terms, and at UON for one year. DLSU will grant a Graduate Diploma in Industrial Relations after successful completion of five courses at DLSU and two credited courses at UON. UON on the other hand will award Masters in HRM, after successful completion of eight courses at UON, including the 2 courses credited by DLSU and 4 of the 5 courses taken at DLSU. • At least 20 students bound for June 2015 intake will go through this track. To date, the partnership with the assistance of the Facility is completing/complying with some regulatory requirements by the Commission of Higher Education. List of students will be finalised by 2nd week of September. • Important dates (still tentative) are the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • October – DLSU entrance exam • January, 2nd-3rd week – 1st intensive class • February, 1st to 2nd week - 2nd intensive class • March, 1st to 2nd week – 3rd intensive class

PARTNERSHIP	PROGRAM OFFER AND FIELD OF STUDY	STATUS
University of Sydney – Notre Dame University	Masters in Peace and Development	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> This scheme will allow students to be at University of Sydney for 12 months (1 year), and complete both core and elective courses. They would then take two units at Notre Dame University and cross-list them into their degree in Australia. At the same time, they would undertake a two-stage Internship or Advocacy and Activism project, also in the Philippines, which is another two units. This would sum up to 12 units. These latter units are so-called ‘capstone experiences’, which are stipulated in the Australian Qualifications Framework. The MOU/ MOA is still in the process of development. Implementation of this partnership is expected to be operational for the 2015 Intake.
Curtin University – University of Santo Tomas	Research and teaching collaboration in the areas of Mining and Metallurgical Engineering	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> MoU signing was held last 10 July 2014 at the University of Santo Thomas. His Excellency Bill Tweddell graced the occasion. The MOU will allow research and teaching collaboration, faculty and students exchange, among others. They are also putting together an MoA for a joint delivery of a program on mining and metallurgical engineering.
Australian National University – University of the Philippines	Masters in Public Administration	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> MoU has already been signed from both ends. The new Dean of NCPAG, Dr. Fe Mendoza met with representatives from ANU (Billie Headon, Ngan Le) to discuss the articulations for the program on Public Administration/Public Policy. The meeting in 5 August was fruitful – some important matters have already been agreed on, including course-crediting. NU also met with the Dean and Program Directors and Faculty Members of UP SURP on 5 Aug. This was a preliminary meeting for a possible dual program delivery for a Masters related to DRRM/CCA. Currently, ANU is actively corresponding with UP-SURP to operationalise this plan.
Griffith University – Civil Service Institute	Short courses in Human Resource Management and Training and Development	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Currently being brokered but still in the preliminary negotiation stages Further discussion was diverted to having De La Salle – College of Saint Benilde as a partner through their School for Professional and Continuing Education (SPACE) and later on include the Civil Service Institute and the Philippine Society for Development (PSTD) as part of the consortium.

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