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TSU-OIAL and TSU-CPath scholars attend 3rd National Complementary Pathways Gathering

■ Marco Polo M. Flores

Tarlac State University–Office of International Affairs and Linkages (TSU-OIAL) attended the 3rd National Complementary Pathways Gathering together with the TSU-CPath Scholars at the University of St. La Salle in Bacolod City on January 7–9, 2026.

The gathering officially opened on January 7, with Pathways Pilipinas—a consortium of eight higher education institutions (HEIs) in the country, including TSU as the first and only state university member—convening at the University of St. La Salle Bacolod to begin the three-day event.

The first day started with remarks from Atty. Arvin L. Chan, Chief Counsel and Department Head of the Department of Justice–Refugees and Stateless Persons Protection Unit, who emphasized the program’s mission: **“Our work ensures protection and opportunity for those who need it most.”**

Br. Joaquin Severino S. Martinez, President of the University of St. La Salle, welcomed the delegates, saying, “We are glad to host this gathering and strengthen our shared commitment to inclusivity.”

Ms. Lindsey Atienza, Head of the Protection Unit of UNHCR Philippines, delivered a brief message highlighting the value of education: “Education remains a lifeline and a pathway to hope.”

The first day concluded with a set of fun games participated in by member universities and CPath scholars—an activity aimed at fostering camaraderie and strengthening networks among Pathways Pilipinas members. A warm dinner prepared by the host university closed the evening.

The second day of the 3rd National Complementary Pathways Gathering opened with key updates and a program briefer on the CPath Programme delivered by member agencies of the

Inter-Agency on the Complementary Pathways Programme

(IACCP) and Pathways Pilipinas.

Guardians and CPath scholars attended a Financial Literacy and Stewardship session led by Dr. Jose Teody Cabantug of the Yu-An Log College of Business and Accountancy, emphasizing informed financial decision-making for their future.

The afternoon session featured a lecture by Dr. Rebecca Lanes of the University of St. La Salle, who shared her experiences working with refugees, followed by one-on-one assessments with CPath scholars. Day 2 ended with friendly pickleball and soccer matches involving scholars’ guardians from various schools.

Day 3 brought together TSU delegates and CPath scholars, opening with a session on resource mobilization led by Atty. Arvin L. Chan, alongside Ms. Norielyn Cullar-Tabag’s presentation on San Beda University’s best practices. Scholars also shared personal narratives about their experiences as Rohingya refugees.

The gathering concluded with a Bacolod–Silay tour showcasing local heritage, before all participants returned to their respective homes the next day.



TSU welcomes AIE delegation, prepares for int’l webinar in February

■ John Carlo Jimenez

Tarlac State University (TSU) welcomed the delegation of the Australian Institute of Engineering (AIE) ON January 21, 2026, at TSU Main AVR, marking a significant step in continuing international academic collaboration, with the College of Engineering (COE) serving as the primary beneficiary and partner college of the initiative.



The visit brought together TSU officials, faculty members, and representatives from AIE for a formal program and dialogue centered on the way forward activities of both institutions. The AIE delegation was composed of Mr. Sam Tyagi, Mr. Akshit Tyagi, Ms. Perla Espina, Ms. Lydia John, Ms. Gina Awa, and Ms. Juliana Awa.



In his message, TSU President Dr. Arnold E. Velasco emphasized the importance of the university’s partnership with AIE. “This goes beyond formal discussion, it is an opportunity to build lasting partnerships and open doors for our students to thrive in a global professional environment”, he said.



Meanwhile, Mr. Sam Tyagi, CEO of AIE, highlighted the institution’s mission to support students. Noting that the goal is to help and navigate TSU students in their career and give them the right skills and opportunities they need to succeed and compete globally.

Following the program, representatives from both institutions convened for an open discussion, exchanging insights and exploring other areas of collaboration. As a result of the meeting, TSU and AIE are set to conduct an international webinar in February, opening more opportunities for faculty and students, particularly from the College of Engineering.





TSU, KWF seal collaboration through MOU signing

■ John Carlo Jimenez

A Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) was formally signed between the Komisyon sa Wikang Filipino (KWF) and Tarlac State University (TSU) during a ceremony held on March 4, 2026, at Gusaling Watson, Bulwagang Romualdez in San Miguel, Manila.

The event gathered officials from both institutions to strengthen collaboration in promoting the Filipino language and culture. It featured messages emphasizing the importance of institutional partnerships, with TSU affirming its commitment to advancing language education.

A key highlight was the signing of the MOU, formalizing joint efforts in language development, research, and cultural promotion, along with the presentation of the Aklat ng Bayan.

The ceremony concluded with a call to sustain collaborative initiatives in strengthening the Filipino language.



TSU, RU formalize partnership, hold Project ICSS seminar on environmental sustainability

■ Honey Grace Sanchez

On February 23, 2026, Tarlac State University (TSU) and Raiganj University (RU)

convened educators, alumni, and students for Project ICSS (International Collaboration and Seminar Series) under the theme “Sustaining Tomorrow: Science, Policy, and Action for the Environment.” Held at Priscilla Hall, TSU Hotel, Villa Lucinda Campus and streamed via Zoom, the event highlighted the integration of local ecological knowledge, Indigenous policy, and scientific research toward environmental action.

The engagement opened with a tree-planting activity at the San Isidro Campus, participated in by faculty, staff, and students from the College of Science, symbolizing a shared commitment to sustainability. This was followed by the ceremonial signing of a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between TSU and RU, marking a significant step in strengthening international academic collaboration.

The seminar sessions featured three key presentations. Dr. Tapas Pal of RU discussed the Delta Knowledge System, emphasizing community-based practices in climate resilience drawn from the Sundarbans and Majuli. Dr. Erwin C. Mina of TSU introduced ILK HEPA, highlighting the importance of integrating Indigenous and local knowledge into higher education, research, and environmental policy. Concluding the series, Dr. Alma M. Corpuz underscored the need to translate scientific research into evidence-based policies and community action, stressing the role of educators in developing environmentally responsible citizens.

Overall, the event underscored that sustaining the future requires a unified approach that bridges community knowledge, inclusive governance, and science-driven solutions.



TSU-CCJE holds forensic science workshop, expands global linkages with SIFS

■ John Carlo Jimenez

Tarlac State University (TSU), through its College of Criminal Justice Education (CCJE), successfully conducted a two-day training workshop on Forensic Sciences Examination anchored on the theme “Bridging Global and Local Practices” on March 11–12, 2026, at Priscilla Hall, TSU Hotel, Villa Lucinda Campus.

The workshop gathered faculty members, alumni, and aspiring professionals from various criminology schools across the city, aiming to strengthen their knowledge and competencies in forensic science while emphasizing the integration of legal principles and scientific methodologies.

The first day was filled with insightful lectures and discussions that highlighted the critical relationship between forensic examination and judicial processes. Atty. Theodore M. Timpac, Ph.D., CSP, Director of OGQM and faculty member of CCJE, discussed the *Rules on Admissibility of Forensic Evidence*, providing participants with a solid legal foundation on how forensic findings are evaluated in court.



Discussions on investigative accuracy and truth verification were emphasized through a session on Lie Detection Techniques delivered by Dr. Ramil M. Lasingan, Program Chair of MSCJ SC, who explored methods used in detecting deception during criminal investigations.

Shifting to technology-driven approaches, Digital Forensics was tackled by Dr. Lian Carla C. Luzong, Associate Dean of CCJE, who underscored the importance of proper identification, preservation, and analysis of digital evidence in contemporary cases.

The application of physical evidence analysis was further reinforced through a discussion on Fingerprint Analysis, where Dr. Jayson Felix, Unit Head of CSU and CCJE faculty member, highlighted the classification and identification of friction ridge patterns such as loops, whorls, and arches.

Providing an institutional perspective, Dr. Roel R. Alviar, Dean of CCJE, emphasized how forensic science has contributed to TSU’s strong performance in the Criminologist Licensure



Examination, noting its crucial role in equipping students to excel and ace the examinations.

Completing the roster of speakers, PMAJ Normy E. Capena, discussed Questioned Document Examination, introducing techniques used in verifying the authenticity of documents and detecting forgery.

The second day commenced with a ceremonial signing of a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU), marking a significant milestone in strengthening academic and professional collaboration in the field of forensic science.

Following the signing, the workshop transitioned into an international session led by Dr. Ranjeetkumar Singh of the Sherlock Institute of Forensic Science, who delivered a specialized talk on global perspectives, advanced methodologies, and best practices in forensic science, enriching participants’ learning experience.

The two-day training workshop concluded by highlighting the vital role of forensic science in delivering reliable, evidence-based support to the justice system, reflecting its theme of bridging global and local practices.

Through this initiative, TSU-CCJE reaffirmed its commitment to developing competent, globally aware, and practice-ready professionals in criminal justice and forensic science.

From Local Roots to Global Routes:

TSU's Four-Year Internationalization Journey under Dr. Arnold E. Velasco

Over the span of four transformative years, Tarlac State University (TSU) steadily strengthened its internationalization (IZN) agenda under the leadership of Dr. Arnold E. Velasco. From sustaining global partnerships to expanding student opportunities and modernizing international operations, TSU's Office of International Affairs and Linkages (OIAL) evolved into a more dynamic, structured, and globally responsive unit. The journey from 2022 to 2026 reflects continuity, innovation, and a deepening commitment to global academic engagement.

TSU's IZN JOURNEY

2023-2024

During Dr. Velasco's administration, TSU strengthened its IZN through key reforms and milestones. Under Dr. Arador, the office was renamed OIAL and placed under the Office of the University President (OUP), improving strategic oversight.

A landmark achievement was TSU becoming the first and only state university in the Philippines to grant scholarships to refugee students in partnership with the UNHCR, advancing inclusive international education.

The administration introduced policies on international travel and partner accreditation to ensure transparency, while OIAL was reorganized into specialized units to improve efficiency and global engagement.

2022-2023

2024-2026

In the early phase of Dr. Velasco's administration, TSU's IZN efforts focused on continuity and active global engagement. Under Dr. Mendoza's leadership, the International Affairs and Linkages Office (IALO) sustained the university's international presence.

During this period, TSU joined overseas delegations to promote its academic programs and capabilities, including participation in the Philippine Partnership Mission in Canada to strengthen global linkages.

The university also maintained its memberships in various international organizations, ensuring continued access to global academic networks and collaborative opportunities, further reinforcing its presence in the international arena.

In the latter part of Dr. Velasco's administration, leadership of OIAL transitioned to Dr. Grace N. Rosete, who continued his IZN agenda while introducing new initiatives and internal improvements.

A key structural change during this phase was the merger of the Strategic Communications and International Marketing (SCIM) Units, streamlining global messaging, while the Linkages and Special Programs & Services (SPS) Units were retained to maintain core functions.

A major milestone during this period was the launch of the OIAL website and IALLA dashboard system, improving data management, monitoring, and reporting, and supporting accreditation processes across the university.

Under Dr. Velasco's leadership, TSU's global engagement evolved into inclusive education, institutional reforms, and digital modernization, making the University more connected and globally prepared.



TSU hosts special lecture on Friedrich Froebel's approach to Early Childhood Education

■ John Carlo Jimenez



To deepen their understanding of foundational theories in early childhood teaching, students from the Early Childhood Education (ECE) program of the Tarlac State University (TSU) - College of Education participated in a special lecture centered on the educational philosophy of Friedrich Froebel held on March 13, 2026, at the Amphitheater, Villa Lucinda Campus.

Organized by the Office of International Affairs and Linkages (OIAL) in collaboration with the College of Education (COEd), the seminar was designed specifically to enrich the academic training of ECE students by introducing them to foundational theories that shape modern early learning practices.

The session featured a lecture from Sang-uk Lee of Baekseok University, South Korea, who discussed the core principles of Froebel's approach to education. The discussion emphasized the role of play, creativity, and guided exploration in supporting children's natural development—key concepts that remain highly influential in early childhood pedagogy today.

Through the lecture, students gained deeper insight into how Froebel's philosophy can be applied in contemporary classroom settings, particularly in creating learning environments that nurture curiosity, independence, and holistic development among young learners.



The activity forms part of TSU's continued efforts to strengthen the academic preparation of future educators while integrating global perspectives into the ECE program. It also provided an avenue for meaningful academic exchange, supporting the university's broader initiatives in international collaboration and educational development.



TSU-OIAL benchmarks CLSU's Transnational Higher Education program

■ Marco Polo M. Flores

The Tarlac State University Office of International Affairs and Linkages (OIAL) visited Central Luzon State University (CLSU) to benchmark the university's Transnational Higher Education (TNHE) program on February 24, 2026, in Science City of Muñoz, Nueva Ecija.

The OIAL delegation, headed by Director Dr. Grace N. Rosete, was received by CLSU Vice President for Academic Affairs Dr. Ravelina R. Velasco and International Affairs Office Director Prof. Parsons N. Hail. During the meeting, CLSU officials shared their experiences in establishing and sustaining their TNHE initiatives, including institutional processes, policy considerations, and implementation strategies.

CLSU is among the state universities and colleges in the Philippines recognized for maintaining a strong and consistent TNHE program, serving as a reference for institutions exploring similar internationalization initiatives.

The benchmarking visit comes as TSU prepares to revive its own transnational education initiative, which was discontinued in 2017. With the enactment of the new TNHE law, the university is exploring ways to reestablish the program and strengthen its internationalization efforts.

“We came here to learn from CLSU’s experience in implementing its transnational higher education program. Their insights are valuable as TSU explores the possibility of reestablishing our own TNHE initiatives,” said Dr. Rosete.

Dr. Rosete added that TSU is hopeful that its TNHE program could eventually be offered to both local and international students in the coming years.

The benchmarking activity provided TSU with insights into the operational and policy frameworks of CLSU's TNHE program, which may help guide the university in shaping its own future transnational education initiatives.



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TSU, DCT renew partnership through MOA signing

John Carlo Jimenez

Tarlac State University (TSU) and Dominican College of Tarlac (DCT) formally renewed their institutional partnership through a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) signing held on February 11, 2026, at the Main AVR.

The renewed agreement reaffirms the commitment of both institutions to strengthen academic and institutional ties, particularly benefiting the Office of Library Management and Services (OLMS).

Representing TSU during the ceremony were Dr. Arnold E. Velasco, TSU President; Dr. Grace N. Rosete, Director of the Office of International Affairs and Linkages (OIAL); and Engr. Miriam S. Galvez, Dean of the College of Engineering, who signed on behalf



of Dr. Jasper Jay N. Mendoza, Vice President for Academic Affairs.

Meanwhile, the DCT delegation was led by Sr. Lorna I. Ablod, OP, DCT School Administrator, together with Sr. Gina D. Salas; Ms. Joan M. Manguera, Chief Librarian;

Mr. Arryl C. Capitulo, Head of the Office of Linkages and External Affairs; and Mr. Jamark C. Turqueza, HRDMO staff.

The renewed MOA covers key areas of collaboration, including interlibrary cooperation and resource sharing, allowing both institutions to grant mutual access to library facilities, academic materials, and research resources. It also strengthens research collaboration through the joint conduct of research conferences, peer review sessions, and scholarly publications. In addition, the partnership extends to extension programs where both institutions will work hand in hand in organizing community engagements and collaborating with local and international partners to implement outreach activities.



TSU-OIAL launches Project ICSS, conducts pilot webinar on engineering futures

John Carlo Jimenez

In partnership with the Australian Institute of Engineering (AIE), Tarlac State University - Office of International Affairs and Linkages (TSU-OIAL) officially launched its pilot activity for the Project ICSS: International Collaboration and Seminar Series through a webinar on February 18, 2026, via Zoom.

The webinar, with a theme Engineering Futures: Global Trends, Skills, and Career Pathways, featured five renowned and notable speakers from both TSU and AIE. The webinar was filled with insightful discussions that mainly centered on career building, Artificial Intelligence (AI), trends and skills development, and conversations on how to prepare students for future workforce.

The first half of the webinar commenced with a compelling presentation from Mr. Sam Tyagi, Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of AIE. In his talk, he traced the evolution of industry and highlighted the rapid transformation of the technological landscape, highlighting how emerging innovations and technologies

reshape the global engineering practices.

Subsequently, Engr. Miriam S. Galvez, the Dean of the College of Engineering (COE) served as the second resource where she emphasized the importance of our values and cultures, not just competence, in becoming globally competitive future engineers.

The morning session capped off with the discussions of Ms. Lorraine Wilson, General Manager of Keyba Careers, who shared helpful tips and information on how to be market ready engineers in the future. Wilson highlighted a range of in-demand skills sought by employers across various industries. She also provided practical guidance on crafting a professional and compelling resume. In addition, she shared valuable insights on how applicants can confidently navigate and excel in job interviews, offering techniques to effectively communicate their strengths and experiences.

Discussions continued in the afternoon session with Mr. Jeith Ruelson Parazo, Program Chairperson of the Bachelor of

Technology and Livelihood Education (BTLED) program, who brought thought-provoking insights and fresh perspectives to the table. He shared the vital role that education plays in the field of engineering, emphasizing that while engineers are responsible for building structures, it is educators who help build the engineers themselves.

Wrapping up the discussions, Engr. Larry A. Suboc, Dean of the College of Industrial Technology (CIT), emphasized the urgent need to align education with the rapidly evolving demands of Industry 4.0, while also highlighting workforce trends and the growing reskilling requirements among Filipino workers.

The successful conduct of the webinar marked a strong and promising beginning for the Project ICSS, reinforcing TSU's commitment to international collaboration and future-ready education. With its partnership with AIE, the University continues to forge meaningful platforms that equip learners with knowledge and skills needed to thrive in the ever-evolving global engineering landscape.



TSU, KNU strengthen global ties through taekwondo and cultural exchange

■ John Carlo Jimenez

Tarlac State University (TSU), in collaboration with the Korea Nazarene University (KNU), successfully conducted the second edition of its international engagement program, “Round 2: Fighting! Breaking Down Barriers and Linking Cultures,” on March 23, 2026, at Priscilla Hall, TSU Hotel, Villa Lucinda Campus, with simultaneous participation via Zoom.

Building on the momentum of its initial run, the event brought together educators and Bachelor of Physical Education (BPE) students in a shared space that highlighted the role of sports—particularly Taekwondo—as a platform for cultural exchange, collaboration, and mutual understanding.

The program opened with a welcome message from Dr. Jasper Jay N. Mendoza, Vice President for

Academic Affairs, who underscored the university’s commitment to fostering global linkages through meaningful academic and cultural initiatives.

A message from Professor Lee Chung Young, Chairperson of the KNU Taekwondo Department, emphasized the unifying power of Taekwondo beyond competition, highlighting its values of discipline, respect, and international camaraderie.

One of the highlights of the program was the Poomsae Exhibition, featuring selected delegates from the CLRAA, who showcased precision, discipline, and mastery of forms, earning admiration from both onsite and virtual audiences.

The second part of the event highlighted Mr. Nestor Bautista, Head Coach of the TSU

Taekwondo Team, who delivered a talk, “Kickstart Taekwondo: Your First Step to Black Belt.” He focused on foundational techniques, basic movements, and the tenets of taekwondo.

The event concluded with closing remarks from Dr. Zuriel Ross C. Tabian, Chairperson of the BPE Program, who expressed gratitude to the speakers, organizers, and participants for contributing to the success of the initiative. Emphasizing the impact of the program, he stated, “*Barriers were broken, cultures were linked—we are now ready for Round 3.*”

Through Round 2: Fighting! Breaking Down Barriers and Linking Cultures, TSU continues to strengthen its commitment to internationalization—creating platforms where sports, education, and culture intersect to build lasting global connections.

TSU bolsters global engagement at Migration Kamustahan hosted by Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada

■ Marco Polo M. Flores

Tarlac State University (TSU), through the Office of International Affairs and Linkages (OIAL), joined the Migration Kamustahan organized by Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada, alongside selected Philippine higher education institutions and international partners at Diamond Residences, Makati City.

The gathering provided a platform for networking and strengthening partnerships in migration and education initiatives. Dr. Grace N. Rosete shared TSU’s experience with the UNHCR CPath Program, which supported refugee scholars from Malaysia in pursuing higher education at the university.

The event highlighted Canada’s continued support for refugee

education initiatives across Asia and reinforced collaborative efforts toward refugee protection, welfare, and inclusive education. TSU was represented by OIAL officials, including Prof. Maria Fatima F. Galang and Mr. Marco Polo M. Flores.

