DE LA SALLE-
COLLEGE
OF SAINT
BENILDE

Sustainable Development Goal #17

PARTNERSHIPS FOR THE GOALS



BENILDE
LIKE NO OTHER

QUESTION 2. Does your university as a body initiate and participate in cross-sectoral dialogue about the SDGs? E.g. conferences involving government/NGOs?

TITLE OF ACTIVITY: 2nd China-ASEAN Defense Think Tank Exchanges
DATE AND TIME: 24 – 26 June 2024
LOCATION: Guangzhou, China
SHORT DESCRIPTION:

Representing the College's commitment to regional stability and track-record of multilateral collaboration, The Benilde School of Diplomacy and Governance (SDG) participated in the 2nd China-ASEAN Defense Think Tank Exchanges in Guangzhou, China. This critical cross-sectoral forum gathered over 70 government defense policy officers, military researchers, and academic scholars from China and ASEAN nations to engage in Track 1.5 discussions aimed at identifying and attaining common regional goals. By participating in these specialized policy dialogues, the College serves as an active academic stakeholder alongside government and defense sectors, contributing institutional research and dialogue channels necessary to co-create sustainable solutions for global and regional security.

SDG Assistant Professor Edwin S. Estrada represented the College and presented a paper on regional partnership between China and ASEAN.







[SEE MORE]

TITLE OF ACTIVITY: SDG Ambassadors' Lecture Series: PH-South Korea Relations: Celebrating its Diamond Jubilee and Trailblazing the Path to Deeper Ties
DATE AND TIME: 5 June 2024
LOCATION: The Ideation Room (2/F, The Atrium@Benilde Campus)
SHORT DESCRIPTION:

To facilitate high-level policy and diplomatic discourse, the university launched the inaugural SDG Ambassadors' Lecture Series. As part of this institutional initiative, the university hosted H.E. Lee Sang-hwa, the South Korean Ambassador to the Philippines, to mark the 75th anniversary of formal bilateral ties between the two nations. The cross-sectoral dialogue brought together representatives from the academia and the government to address mutual geopolitical and sustainable development challenges. Ultimately, the event served to bridge the gap between international policy and student action, inspiring the next generation of global professionals to proactively champion the SDGs in the workforce.

Speaker: H.E. Lee Sang-hwa, *Ambassador of South Korea to the Philippines*

Participants: South Korean embassy officials*, representatives from* various De La Salle-College of Saint Benilde offices, Benilde Senior High School students







[MORE]

TITLE OF ACTIVITY: Inaugural SDG Diplomacy x Governance Lecture Series
DATE AND TIME: 7 August 2024
LOCATION: The Ideation Room (2/F, The Atrium@Benilde Campus)
SHORT DESCRIPTION:

Through the university-launched SDG Diplomacy x Governance Lecture Series, the institution brings together distinct sectors to address complex global and local governance issues. The cross-sectoral nature of this dialogue is highlighted by its key speakers, which included H.E. David Hartman (the Canadian Ambassador to the Philippines) representing international diplomacy, and Dir. Maria Lourdes Agustin, CESO III (DILG-NCR Regional Director) representing the national government and local public administration. By evaluating the bilateral relations between the Philippines and Canada alongside firsthand public service frameworks, the series directly fosters multi-sectoral engagement to confront contemporary sustainable development and public policy challenges.

Speaker: H.E. David Hartman, *Ambassador of Canada to the Philippines*

Moderator: Dir. Maria Lourdes Agustin, CESO III (DILG-NCR Regional Director)

Participants: Representatives from the government sector and the academe







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TITLE OF ACTIVITY: Demystifying the Dragon: China's views on the SCS and its implications for the Philippines: National Security Series Brainstorming Session

DATE AND TIME: 22 August 2024
LOCATION: Hotel Benilde
SHORT DESCRIPTION:

By organizing this iteration of the National Security Council (NSC) Brainstorming Session, the De La Salle-College of Saint Benilde School of Diplomacy and Governance created a formal conference for deep cross-sectoral dialogue between the academe and the public sector. The session facilitated an intentional exchange of ideas and evidence-based academic presentations regarding geopolitical tensions and maritime challenges. Because these critical marine and security issues directly intersect with sustainable development frameworks, this dialogue served as a vital mechanism for translating academic insights into actionable national public policy.

Speakers: Dr. Gary Ador Dionisio *and* Prof. Edwin Estrada, Benilde School of Diplomacy and Governance Faculty

Participants: Representatives from the government and the academe



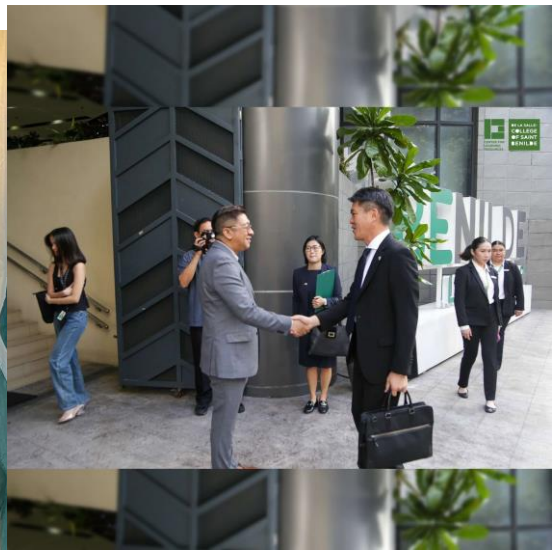


TITLE OF ACTIVITY: SDG Ambassador's Lecture Series: The Philippines and Japan: An Enduring Partnership for Regional and Domestic Peace and Security

DATE AND TIME: 4 December 2024
LOCATION: The Ideation Room (2/F, The Atrium@Benilde Campus)
SHORT DESCRIPTION:

The School of Diplomacy and Governance initiated a conference with **H.E. Endo Kazuya**, Ambassador of Japan to the Philippines on 4 December 2024 to deliver a special lecture on the long-standing partnership between the two nations. The cross-sectoral dialogue between the academe and government officials highlighted the importance of further strengthening Philippine-Japan bilateral relations on multiple dimensions to maintain lasting peace, prosperity, and stability.







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TITLE OF ACTIVITY: 60 Years of Malaysia-Philippines Relations: Deepening Cooperation in a Dynamic World
DATE AND TIME: 5 December 2024
LOCATION: UP Asian Center
SHORT DESCRIPTION:

This conference participated by government officials and the academe sought to highlight the deep-rooted ties between Malaysia and the Philippines, shaped by a shared history and mutual aspirations aligned with the SDGs. As founding members of ASEAN, both nations recognize that collaboration is essential in tackling common challenges and driving economic growth.

Against the backdrop of today's evolving geopolitical and geoeconomic landscape—marked by rising tensions in the Indo-Pacific, the socio-economic realities of a post-pandemic world, and regional security complexities—this cross-sectoral forum explored opportunities to strengthen partnerships among neighboring nations.

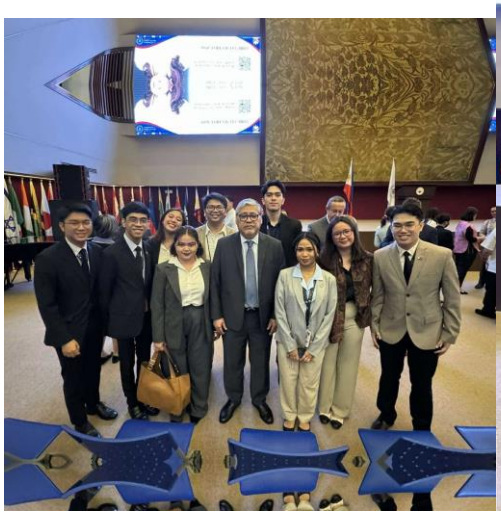




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TITLE OF ACTIVITY: Soft Power for a Planet at Risk: Advancing Philippine Foreign Policy Through Cultural Diplomacy and Climate Action
DATE AND TIME: 10 December 2024
LOCATION: Department of Foreign Affairs
SHORT DESCRIPTION:

Benilde students participated in this forum featuring Sen. Loren Legarda. This cross-sectoral dialogue focused on how foreign policy advances cultural diplomacy and climate action central to the promotion of the UN SDGs. Participants included government, the academe, and environmental NGOs. Off-campus activities, such as attendance at conferences, special lectures, and workshops play a critical role in shaping our students' understanding of the world and introducing them to varying perspectives.





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TITLE OF ACTIVITY: Exploratory Meeting with the Climate Change Commission
DATE AND TIME: 20 January 2025
LOCATION: Vatel Restaurant, Benilde Atrium
SHORT DESCRIPTION:

The Benilde School of Diplomacy and Governance initiated a dialogue with government officials from the Climate Change Commission to strengthen partnerships and enhance awareness of existing SDG-aligned climate change adaptation policies among the academe, particularly faculty and students of the School of Diplomacy and Governance taking up Diplomacy and International Affairs (DIA) and Governance and Public Affairs (GPA) programs. Representing the CCC was Atty. Rommell Antonio Cuenco, Deputy Executive Director, while the discussion was facilitated by Prof. Shiela Sabalburo, Senior Faculty Member of the GPA Program.



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TITLE OF ACTIVITY: Benilde SDG as a Prime Mover in the Promotion of the 2030 Agenda: The Benilde SDG for SDGs Campaign Launch
DATE AND TIME: 30 January 2025
LOCATION: The Ideation Room (2/F, The Atrium@Benilde Campus)
SHORT DESCRIPTION:

In an effort to spark fresh energy and commitment toward the UN Sustainable Development Goals, the Benilde School of Diplomacy and Governance (SDG) initiated the launch of the SDG for SDGs campaign—bringing together a cross-sectoral group of academe, government, NGOs and experts passionate about global change.

The event featured insights from gamechangers in policy, economics, and youth activism, including:

- Mr. John Alikpala –UN RCO Philippines
- Atty. Raeyan Reposar – NEDA
- Dr. Kris Berse – UP-NCPAG
- Mr. Ranze Aaron Calderon – 2030 Youth Force in the Philippines
- Dr. Ederson Tapia & Dr. Sonia Pimentel (University of Makati)
- Dr. Robin Michael Garcia (WR Numero Advisory Group)
- Ms. Abigail Hapal & Ms. Angeline Faustino (SDG Youth for Action)
- Dr. Michville Rivera (PLV)
- Prof. Aman Melad III (DLSU's Carlos L. Tiu School of Economics)

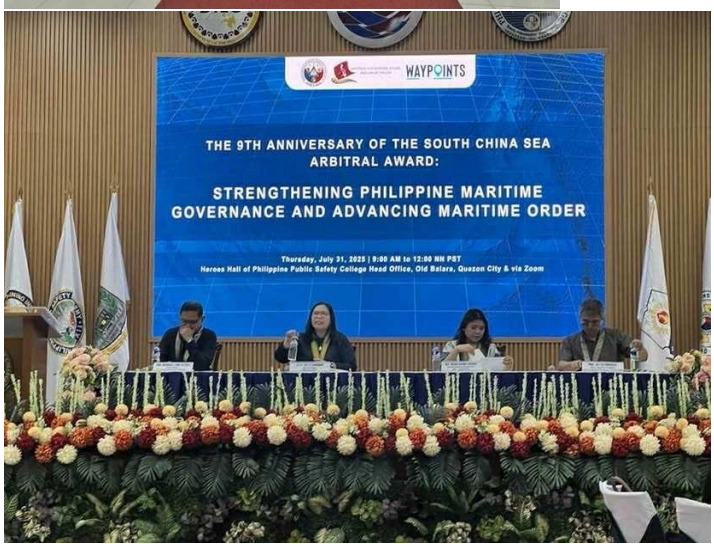


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TITLE OF ACTIVITY: The 9th Anniversary of the South China Sea Arbitral Award: Strengthening Philippine Maritime Governance and Advancing Maritime Order
DATE AND TIME: 31 July 2025
LOCATION: Heroes Hall of Philippine Public Safety College Head Office
SHORT DESCRIPTION:

Students and faculty from the Benilde School of Diplomacy and Governance participated in the 9th Anniversary of the South China Sea Arbitral Award conference, organized by Waypoints in partnership with UP-IMLOS and the Philippine Public Safety College. With the theme *"Strengthening Philippine Maritime Governance and Advancing Maritime Order,"* the cross-sectoral meeting revisited the landmark ruling's impact on the Philippines, its role in upholding the rules-based order, and opportunities to enhance the country's maritime security framework and promote regional goals on peace, justice, marine conservation, and regional stability, which directly relate to the UN SDGs. Speakers included DFA Asst. Sec. Marshall Alferez, DOJ Atty. Fretti Ganchoon, Rep. Maria Rachel Arenas, and Prof. Jay Batongbacal, who highlighted the award's regional significance, its key provisions, related legislations, and the Maritime Zones Law as a step toward full implementation.







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