



WESTERN PHILIPPINES UNIVERSITY  
**INTERNATIONALIZATION**  
& EXTERNAL AFFAIRS OFFICE

# Annual Report

**20  
25**



The **Western Philippines University (WPU) Internationalization and External Affairs Office (IEAO)** continued to strengthen the University's global engagement and strategic partnerships throughout 2025 by implementing various internationalization initiatives aligned with WPU's vision of becoming a globally competitive institution. These initiatives included fostering international academic collaborations, expanding faculty and student mobility opportunities, establishing and sustaining partnerships with foreign higher education institutions and organizations, promoting international research and extension activities, and enhancing the University's global visibility through participation in international conferences, training programs, and collaborative projects. Collectively, these efforts have contributed to advancing WPU's commitment to quality education, international cooperation, and sustainable development while creating meaningful opportunities for its academic community to engage in the global higher education landscape.

# Building Bridges

## *Advancing Global Engagement in 2025*

Internationalization at WPU has moved beyond symbolic linkages into meaningful engagement—where students, faculty, researchers, and communities become active participants in a shared global learning environment.

Throughout the year, the IEAO worked in close coordination with colleges, administrative units, and external partners to ensure that every initiative contributed to academic excellence, cultural understanding, and sustainable development.



## From Connections to Collaborations

The year opened with intercultural learning opportunities that brought WPU students into direct dialogue with their counterparts from Japan and Indonesia through virtual exchanges, joint colloquia, and thematic lectures on sustainability and education. These early engagements set the tone for a year defined by intellectual exchange and cross-cultural collaboration.

One of the most significant milestones was the visit of delegates from Universiti Teknologi PETRONAS (UTP), Malaysia. What began as a ceremonial welcome evolved into a multidimensional collaboration involving academic discussions, cultural immersion, and a community-centered engineering project. The joint development and pilot testing of a solar-powered reverse osmosis system in Green Island, Roxas, Palawan demonstrated how international partnerships can respond to local needs. By integrating research, instruction, and extension, the initiative delivered not only technical innovation but also access to potable water for an island community—an embodiment of global cooperation producing tangible social impact.



# SUSTAINABILITY

## ADVANCING THE SUSTAINABILITY AND SDG AGENDA

In 2025, the IEAO intensified its efforts to align internationalization with the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Through a series of orientations, workshops, and technical working group formations, the University strengthened its institutional capacity for sustainability reporting and SDG integration in instruction, research, and extension.

These initiatives played a crucial role in WPU's performance in global rankings. The University's remarkable progress in the **Times Higher Education Impact Rankings** – particularly in SDG 17

(Partnerships for the Goals), where it rose to the 301–400 bracket and secured the second spot among Philippine higher education institutions—reflects the depth and effectiveness of its collaborative engagements. The University also earned a place in the **UI GreenMetric World University Rankings** in its first year of participation, affirming its growing commitment to environmental stewardship and sustainable campus operations.



## MOBILITY AS A TRANSFORMATIVE EXPERIENCE

International mobility remained central to the University's global thrust. Students and faculty participated in summer courses, specialized trainings, research presentations, benchmarking activities, and international conferences across Asia, Europe, and the United States. These experiences enhanced academic competencies,

expanded research visibility, and cultivated intercultural sensitivity—qualities essential for graduates in an increasingly interconnected world.

For student participants, mobility programs were not merely travel opportunities but immersive academic experiences that strengthened disciplinary knowledge and global awareness. For faculty and researchers, they provided platforms for scholarly exchange and publication, contributing to the University's research productivity and international profile.



WPU

INTERNATIONALIZATION

# RECOGNITIONS

The outcomes of WPU IEAO's sustained efforts were affirmed through a series of national and international recognitions. The university's inclusion in the **Global Top 100** of the World University Rankings for Innovation signaled its capacity to translate knowledge into real-world solutions. The conferment of the **International Rankings Award** at the CHED ICONS 2025 further highlighted the University's contribution to elevating the global standing of Philippine higher education.



Institutional honors such as the **Gawad Internasyonal Gold** and the **Internationalization Champion of Nation-Building and Sustainability Award** underscored the leadership of the IEAO in steering these achievements. These recognitions are not endpoints but indicators of a steadily expanding global footprint.



**1501+**  
WESTERN PHILIPPINES UNIVERSITY  
OVERALL RANK  
(out of 2318 global institutions)

**Times Higher Education  
IMPACT RANKINGS 2025**

**CONGRATULATIONS, WPU COMMUNITY!**



WPU

INTERNATIONALIZATION

# FORGING STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIPS



The signing of multiple memoranda of understanding with universities in Indonesia, and Taiwan marked another defining feature of the year. These agreements formalized long-term cooperation in instruction, research, innovation, and cultural exchange, ensuring that internationalization efforts are sustained, programmatic, and mutually beneficial.

Participation in global education conclaves and high-level institutional visits allowed WPU to present its expertise on international platforms while learning from best practices abroad. These engagements strengthened the University's credibility as a partner in global knowledge production.

# MOVING FORWARD

*Toward a globally-ready university*

Behind every activity and recognition is a coherent strategy: to embed internationalization in the academic life of the University. The IEAO's initiatives have expanded opportunities for students and faculty, improved research collaboration, supported quality assurance mechanisms, and enhanced institutional visibility in global rankings.

More importantly, these efforts have cultivated a culture of openness, where global perspectives inform local action, and local innovations contribute to global conversations.

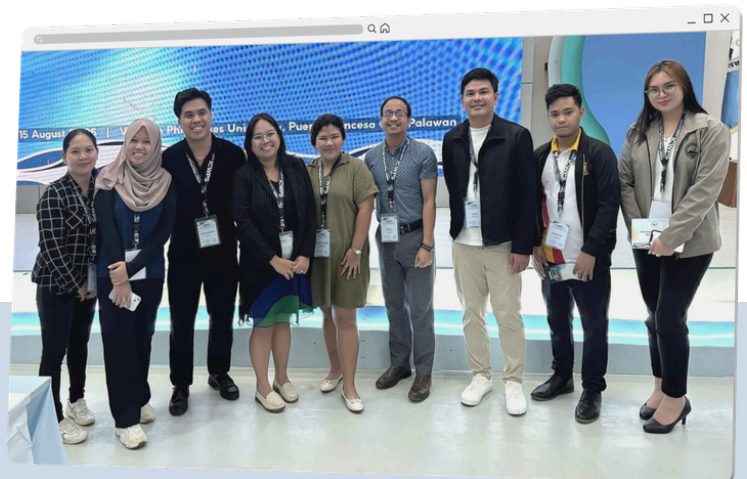


As WPU continues its journey toward becoming an internationally recognized university, the work of the Internationalization and External Affairs Office (IEAO) stands as a testament to what purposeful partnerships can achieve. In connecting people, institutions, and communities across borders, the Office not only advances the University's strategic directions but also helps shape graduates who are prepared to lead and serve in a rapidly changing world.

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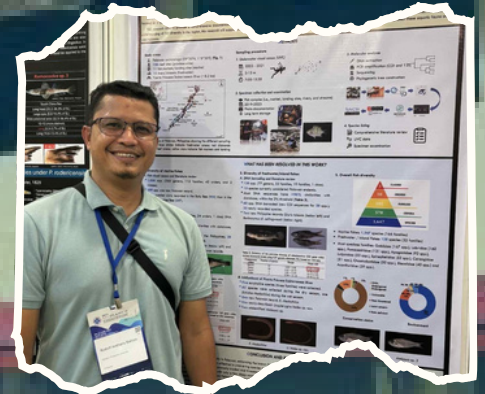


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# IEAO

2025



# WPU Sustainability Center

Learn more about  
our SDG Initiatives



UTP x WPU STEER  
Collaboration



[UTP Green Island](#)



[UTP STEER](#)

UMM, Indonesia  
Summer Course  
2025



[Vince Alwen as Best Participant Summer Course](#)



[Emmanuel Betita on Summer Course Impressions](#)

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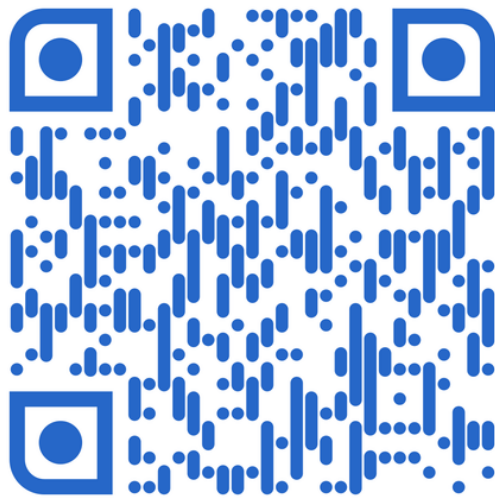
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