

Regional Advisory No. 66, s. 2022
September 27, 2022

In compliance with DepEd Order (DO) No. 8, s. 2013,
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CALL FOR PAPERS FOR THE MINDANAO PEACE STUDIES CONFERENCE (MPSC 8)

Father Saturnino Urios University (FSUU) will be hosting the eighth installment of the Mindanao Peace Studies Conference (MPSC 8) with the theme Resilience and Harmonization for Peace and Development in Mindanao on November 22-23, 2022.

In line with this, the MPSC 8 is inviting paper presenters. Submission of Proposals for interested paper presenters is until September 30, 2022. Please see attached concept note for your reference.

For more details, please contact 085-3421-830 local 4102 or email at mpsc@urios.edu.ph.

CLM/emy
09/27/2022



2022-09-12658

DCC No. DepEdRO13-F-REC-008/R3/2-18-2020



MINDANAO PEACE STUDIES CONFERENCE

Theme:
Resilience and Harmonization for Peace
and Development in Mindanao

November 22-23, 2022 Father Saturnino Urios University
Butuan City



CALL FOR PAPERS

INDIGENOUS PEOPLES FORUM THEME: "SECURING PEACE AND DEVELOPMENT RESILIENCE AMONG Indigenous Cultural Communities /Indigenous Peoples (ICCs/IPS) IN AGUSAN DEL NORTE."

Mindanao culture, embodied in its peoples' identities, struggles, and collective aspirations, remains relevant. The inhabitants of Mindanao appeared to have been "othered," owing to the island's remoteness from the other islands of the country and the unfair advantage of culture being focused on Luzon. In many worst ways, Moros are cast in a negative light because of extremist elements marring their aspiration for self-determination. The same marginalization seems to hound the indigenous peoples with the experience of red-tagging of "Lumad" schools and killings perpetuated by certain elements, to even the lack of access to basic social services. To bridge the gap between what appears to be "strange" Mindanao, it is essential to comprehend its people's culture and recognize that they are as essential to us as we are to them.

According to the United Nations (UN) "Declaration and Programme of Action on a Culture of Peace," a culture of peace is defined as a collection of beliefs, attitudes, styles of behavior, and ways of living that promote peace among individuals, communities, and nations. Mindanao has never experienced long-term peace, and attempts and initiatives to achieve peace, particularly for Indigenous Cultural Communities (ICCs), have proven futile over the years. U.N. declared 2001-2010 the "International Decade for a Culture of Peace and Nonviolence for the Children of the World," establishing the foundation for a peaceful culture by supporting today's children, who represent Mindanao's future. Giving disadvantaged adolescents access to health care, education, and recreation allows them to choose peace over conflict.

Mindanao, located in the archipelago's southern part, is one of the Philippines' most beautiful islands inhabited by Christians, Muslims, and Indigenous Peoples (Lumads). According to the 2021 Census, Mindanao has a population of around 27,021,036 people. It is known as the Philippines' breadbasket, generating eight of the top ten Agri-commodities exported from the country and divided into 6 administrative areas: The Zamboanga Peninsula, Northern Mindanao, and the Caraga region, the Davao region, Socsargen, and the Bangsamoro autonomous territory. The region of Caraga is further divided into four (4) provinces: Surigao del Norte, Surigao del Sur, Agusan del Norte and Agusan del Sur.

Agusan del Norte (ADN) is a third-class province and the Caraga Region's second smallest. Agusan was initially referred to by its Malay immigrants as a dialect term meaning "where there is water." With the arrival of Spanish forces came the priests and scholars, who quickly began converting the natives / "Lumads". The most notable of the missionaries sent here was Rev. Father Saturnino Urios, a Jesuit who worked tirelessly for 28 years to convert around 23,000 indigenous. For his missionary enthusiasm, he is known as the "Apostle of Agusan," and his legacy is embodied in the home-grown institution of Father Saturnino Urios University (FSUU) the offshoot of the Butuan Parochial School that Fr. Urios established in 1901. The Agusan del Norte province is divided into nine (9) Municipalities and two (2) Cities: Buenavista, Butuan City, Cabadbaran City, Carmen, Jabonga, Kitcharao, Las Nieves, Magallanes, Nasipit, Remedios T. Romualdez, Santiago and Tubay. Cabadbaran City holds a big portion of the Certificate of Ancestral Domain Title (CADT) 092 with parts located in the municipalities of Santiago and Tubay. Within the CADT area live the 6,499 indigenous peoples. The main economic activity within CADT 092 was farming before the introduction of the extraction of minerals or mining.

Indigenous people (IPs), who number 400 million worldwide, experience disproportionate prejudice and marginalization worldwide. They are frequently among the poorest and most vulnerable, uprooted by war and natural calamities, and deprived of ancestral lands and resources and the Indigenous Cultural Communities in Agusan del Norte and Mindanao are not exempted from these harsh realities. Commonly known as "Lumad" the Indigenous Peoples of Caraga are not a single ethnic group. The word "Lumad" is Cebuano for "native" or "indigenous," and it refers to all ethnic groups and peoples of Mindanao who are neither Muslims nor Christians. They were the original immigrants of Mindanao, from the Manobo tribes to the Subanen tribes, and they had a very diversified and colorful culture that continues to this day. There is no one Lumad culture; while many features are shared, each tribe has its unique customs, beliefs, knowledge systems, and practices.

The appreciation and development of culture are essential and can only be realized through cooperation. The Indigenous Peoples Rights Act of 1997 (Republic Act No. 8371 of 1997), also known as the IPRA Law, promotes and recognizes the rights of our Indigenous Cultural Communities/Indigenous Peoples (ICCs/IPs), to preserve their culture, traditions, and institutions, as well as ensure members' equal protection and nondiscrimination. Through this process of dialogues and conversations anchored on the provisions of this Act, the Indigenous Cultural Communities/Indigenous Peoples of Agusan del Norte can better develop themselves, achieve self-determination, and become empowered citizens. Fr. Saturnino Urios University (FSUU) advocates and collaborates with indigenous and tribal peoples to sustain as well as nourish traditional knowledge, develop, and sustain income generation capacity, and safeguard natural resources which open the path to a culture of peace. Furthermore, one of the challenges of the academe is to establish the relevance of peacebuilding, especially with the youth today that according to recent studies, changing the adult perspective is exceedingly difficult but very important. If given the right direction and opportunities, children and the youth have an extraordinary ability for learning and overcome hardship regardless of background and ethnicity. As the saying goes, "The future belongs to our children!" Thus, giving children access to education and health care through these peacebuilding initiatives, engagements, and interventions, especially for our ICCs/IPs would assist to lessen their susceptibility to violent extremism ideologies, establish community and leadership values, and comprehensive development entails giving pleasant and meaningful experiences in and with the community, school, recreation, arts, music, sports, and nutrition, where they may learn about many aspects of life and become aware of their value in society and increase their potential to become informed peace advocates in the generations to come.

With the aforementioned points in mind, paper proposals on these topics or topics relevant to and related to the following may be submitted:

1. Self-Determination and Indigenous Peoples' Rights (IPRA) Law;
2. Common Pool Resource-Based Conflicts;
3. IP Resilience and Development;
4. IP/Peace Education and Research post-pandemic;
5. Peacebuilding through Academia (truth-mediation in disputed communities);
6. Dissimilarities, Distinctions, and Commonalities in IP Cultures;
7. Non-violence and social candor for peace, resilience, and healing;
8. IP rights' respect, freedom, and trust;
9. ICCs/IPs' communal beliefs, faith, and spirituality;
10. Gender equality in sustaining ICCs/IPs
11. Environmental Responsibility in a Shared Space between IPs, Muslims, and Christians in Mindanao; and
12. Concurrent peace negotiations and dialogues in Mindanao

Furthermore, interested presenters are requested to send abstracts (250-300 words) to mpsc@urios.edu.ph on or before September 30, 2022. Applicants will be notified of their acceptance after their submission. Accepted proposals will be delivered in the breakout session on the 23rd of November, 2022. Speakers are allotted 20 minutes (approx. 2500 words) and an open forum follows.

For inquiries and clarifications please contact us at 085-3421830 loc. 4102 or the email mpsc@urios.edu.ph