



# PRESIDENT'S CORNER

August 15, 2021

## Of SYNERGY through internal CLUSTERS and external ACCORDS

Dear PAASE Colleagues and Friends,

PAASE is in spirit a volunteer organization. The 'wealth' we offer is a rich array of Filipino talent spanning the full range of the sciences and engineering. We are >470-strong with members growing at >10% each year.

The growing pool of talent attracts and begets more talent ... and grows the collective expertise that we direly need.

Within PAASE we foster synergistic, interdisciplinary interactions. We've clustered ourselves into 14 RECs (Research Expertise Clusters), each one belonging to 2 or more RECs based on our specialization and interests.

We just completed the first round robin of 14 REC-hosted Webinars in the last few months. Speakers shared their research and we exchanged ideas. Friendships are growing stronger based on shared interests.

But what good are all these CLUSTERS of talent if not to benefit the rest of our fellowmen?

For this, we've signed a record number of ACCORDs in the last 8 months - MOUs and MOAs - with government, academe and the private sector.

PAASE would like to make a real positive impact ON THE GROUND and for this we sought external PARTNERS to synergize with. PAASE is now an active participant in creating VALUE CHAINS.

Here's a rundown of our ACCORDS - 7 so far and counting, two more in a month. Each accord is focused on implementing specific projects.

1. USAID STRIDE RTI, to offer Skills in Technical and Advanced Research Training (START) to SUCs and HEIs - c/o Eiza Yu and Richard Abendan
2. PSHSF, Inc., for donations to "PI-SCI" teacher training and other projects - c/o Liza Virata and Rey Vea
3. T.I.P., to offer online lectures as T.I.P. Visiting Professors and provide technical advice to T.I.P. projects as Research Fellows - c/o Joe Cruz, Giselle Concepcion and Beth Lahoz
4. DOST, to serve as Balik Scientists, RDLeads, lab training hosts, proposal and project reviewers, research collaborators - c/o Giselle Concepcion and Leah Buendia
5. Dep-ED, Unilab Foundation CISTEM, Emerson, Shell and Microsoft Incs., to organize and host the National STEM Quiz Bee for Gr. 7 students - c/o CP David, Al Serafica and Sheryl Monterola
6. Rizal Dep-Ed, University of Rizal System, Tomas Claudio Colleges, UP College of Education, Unilab Foundation CISTEM, to develop a learner-oriented, multi-stakeholder, integrated STEAM program for senior high school students in Rizal province - c/o Mario Sto. Domingo, Al Serafica and Sheryl Monterola
7. Synnovate Pharma Corp., to develop and offer MicroMasters short courses for various industries - c/o Gani Padolina, Vic Ilag, Giselle Concepcion and Joey Ochave

"PAASERs" are coming down from their ivory towers. We want to engage with others of complementary skills and expertise, with other non-academic stakeholders in the value chain. We are humbled knowing we can't solve complex problems all by ourselves. We need to cooperate and synergize with others.

If you are a "PAASER" or a PAASE friend in search of a worthwhile project, an advocacy, walk through our ACCORDS, and see where you would like to fit in and make a difference, and have fun too making friends. Sign up, let us know!

Cheers,

  
Gisela "Giselle" P. Concepcion, PhD  
PAASE President, 2020-2021