F or 89 years, Mapúa Institute of Technology has always been acknowledged as one of the most exceptional schools in the country. And now that it has achieved international accreditation for 10 of its programs by ABET, the Institute has further elevated its rank to global status, transforming it into a leader of educational reform in the Philippines.

Having the distinction of being the first educational institution in East Asia to have engineering and computing programs accredited by ABET proves that Mapúa has formally come up to global standards. The accreditation is seen to be beneficial not just to Mapúans but to the entire country as well. "In having a number of its programs ABET-accredited, Mapúa is able to provide programs that prepare its students for a globalized environment. It is able to provide world-class professionals that help Philippine-based companies become globally competitive," explained Dr. Reynaldo B. Vea, Mapúa's president and chief executive officer.

Excellence and continuous improvement

The ABET accreditation and the Institute’s other achievements and efforts are what sets Mapúa apart from other educational institutions in the country, creating its own brand of excellence reflected on its graduates. "On the ground, excellence means having Mapúa’s successive batches of students achieve ever higher levels of competencies by the time they are graduated," added Dr. Vea. This has required the Institute to undergo major changes particularly adopting outcomes-based education (OBE) and establishing its continuous quality improvement (CQI) system. The OBE, CQI, and the ABET accreditation entailed significant amount of investments and further elevate the quality of Mapúa’s academic programs.

Having the distinction of being the first educational institution in East Asia to have engineering and computing programs worldwide, proves that Mapúa has increasingly become a major player in Southern Luzon with an enviable record in licensure exam passing rates. It currently provides topnotch professionals to the industrial parks of Laguna and beyond.

As Mapúa continues to move toward the full achievement of its vision of becoming a global center of excellence in higher education, it recognizes future challenges to take on to further contribute to its internationalization.

"We are moving forward on a research agenda that is responsive to global and national needs, and we are planning on scaling up linkages with schools abroad to make a success of this endeavor," shared Dr. Vea. "The main objective would be to make significant original contributions to the humanity’s fund of knowledge and to be able to develop new technologies and businesses out of these newfangled bits of knowledge."

He added: "In order to bring in more international students, we also want to develop the online mode of education. We plan to start small with a specific market, and we shall soon be putting this undertaking on the front burner."

89th Foundation Week

Dr. Lilibeth D. Sabino of the Department of Mathematics said the 89th Foundation Week celebration will launch new campaigns to further elevate the standard of Mapúan excellence.

"The people will have a sneak peek of what will happen in the near future. The management as well as the faculty are in fact very excited to launch those plans because we know that they will only sharpen our edge in the competitive global arena," Dr. Sabino, chair of the foundation week organizing committee, said.

She added that the Filipino fiesta-themed celebration also highlights the other aspects of Mapúan excellence. "This year, we want to let people know the many facets where the Institute achieved great heights as well as to express in the futuristic standpoint the new challenges the Institute will have to take on to maintain its place as one of the great schools in the nation today,” she said.

Mapúa’s 89th Foundation Week runs from January 19 to 25 featuring the Outcomes-Based Education (OBE) Conference 2014, Parada ng Lahi, The Cardinal Excellence Awards, Mr. and Ms. Cardinals, and other fun and learning activities.

For Dr. Reynaldo B. Vea, Mapúa’s president and chief executive officer, the achievements of the Institute over the years are the results of its efforts to respond to the challenge of globalization in the area of education. "The basic challenge that globalization presents to all Philippine higher education institutions is to have academic programs that are up to international standards," said the Mapúa head. "These standards are defined in terms of the required levels of student competencies at the time of graduation. These competencies are the measurable components of the desired learning outcomes for each academic program."

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we are giving sufficient attention to the knowledge inputs like facilities and equipment. While these inputs are important in teaching our students, with OBE, our assessment of the level of attainment of program outcomes and an analysis of how higher levels could be attained, we have instilled new changes into our schools’ curricula and the manner by which they are delivered. We did not have such refinement before.

explained Dr. Dodjie S. Maestrecampo, executive vice president for Academic Affairs. Dr. Doma further added that it is also crucial in OBE to measure the degree of achievement of these outcomes by the students through course assessment and evaluation. This allows for the further improvement of the academic programs.

Dr. Vea and Engr. Dodjie S. Maestrecampo, chief operating officer of MCL, believe that OBE has greatly refined Mapúa and MCL education.

OBE gives us a framework for our quality systems. It helps us design and implement a framework focusing not only on the operations and the management but also on the academic systems,” said Engr. Maestrecampo.

Dr. Vea added: “We have been through one continuous quality improvement system. Based on our assessment of the level of attainment of program outcomes and an analysis of how higher levels could be attained, we have instituted some changes into our schools’ curricula and the manner by which they are delivered. We did not have such refined systems before.

The OBE implementation had led the Institute and its subsidiary to more academic achievements. It had greatly contributed to Mapúa’s becoming the first institute in South East Asia to have programs accredited by ABET, which resulted in its graduates’ quick admission and its subsidiary to more academic achievements.

Our 89th founding anniversary is not just a celebration of our achievements but a testament to our passion for excellence. Now, as we have successfully implemented outcomes-based education and our programs achieved ABET accreditation, we continue to strive to improve the quality of our education toward the fulfillment of our vision.

The annual OBE conference, which started in 2013, is a way for the two schools to keep on lapping on the way for the theory and practice of the learner-centered education system.

"The sharing of information and discussions will deepen the understanding of how schools’ administrations, faculty, and students of OBE, and will help them better appreciate their roles in the success of its implementation," said Dr. Reynaldo B. Vea, Mapúa and MCL president and chief executive officer.

Dubbed "OBERexperience Individual and Collectives," the conference featured presentations and discussions on the teaching practices of the two academic institutions that have been contributing to the success of OBE, the benefits the schools experience from its implementation, as well as the plans to further improve the quality of their education.

OBE and continuous quality improvement

The continuous evolution of nature’s jobs brought about by technological and other advancements in global industries has influenced the need for lifelong learning. This trend prompted the institutions’ shift to OBE. And OBE, will ensure that our graduates will succeed in such an ever-changing global environment because, as an expert on the academic programs, they should acquire competencies that will enable them not only to excel but also to continue to be experts in their chosen fields throughout life," said Dr. Vea.

Acquisition of these competencies is the main focus of OBE.

The previous system focuses mainly on the transmission of expert knowledge aided with proper input like facilities and equipment. While these inputs are important in teaching our students, OBE requires giving sufficient attention to the knowledge and skills that should be possessed by the student to be able to understand, appreciate, and utilize these knowledge and skills are what we call the desired outcomes of academic programs.

"We already have our first three batches of graduates, and we are receiving good feedback from the industry regarding their performance. We are also using our assessment to promote an outcomes-based education system," stated Dr. Vea.

However, the two schools are not resting on their laurels, as they continuously seek ways to further improve their teaching-learning system.

“This conference is only a small portion of what we are doing in terms of improving the quality of teaching and learning at MCL. We have to continue with this. When the system is already mature, we can already aim for external accreditations,” said Engr. Maestrecampo.

“We have to continue to strive for the excellence. We have to further deepen and refine our understanding and implementation of OBE and OBE. We cannot afford to stay in place,” concluded Dr. Vea.

A giant leap to becoming world class

Indeed, the OBE is a giant leap for Mapúa and MCL toward becoming world class, which immensely contributes to Philippine education reform. We did not have such refinement before. We have finally achieved this.

For 89 years, Mapúa Institute of Technology has been synonymous with technical superiority and high-standard education. With ardent passion for excellence, it has broken barriers to elevate itself to global status.

High School of Science have carved themselves a place in Philippine education and producing competitive graduates. After eighteen years of implementation, the school is now ready to continue to improve its craft, successfully passing on its skills to subsidiary schools, Malayan Colleges Laguna and Malayan High School of Science. With the long road of achievements and recognition, the school is now ready to continue to promote an outcomes-based education system in the Philippines.

Mapúa, MCL, and MHS: One DNA of excellence

Driven by their ardent passion for excellence, Mapúa Institute of Technology, Malayan Colleges Laguna (MCL), and Malayan High School of Science (MHS) together move forward in pursuit of becoming global centers of excellence in education.

Responding to the challenges of globalization, these three schools simultaneously and decisively move to further improve their teaching-learning systems to raise Philippine education to international standards and to give unparalleled advantage to the youth.

Now, Mapúa, MCL, and MHS celebrate another year of significant milestones, proving that excellence is in their DNA. Below are some of the schools’ recent achievements.

Mapúa

• Excellent Paper Award at the 2013 International Conference in Chemical Engineering and Applications
• Presidential Merit for Research Excellence
• One of 10 Outstanding Filipino Teachers, Award for Continuing Excellence and Service (ACES), Mabonex Foundation Inc.
• First runner-up in Sustainable Building (BI) 15 Conference Best Paper Competition
• Special Jury Prize in the NCR Student Short Films of the 2013 Manila Film Festival
• Champion in 2013 IIECUP National Quiz Bowl
• Top ten in 2013 Electronics Engineering Civil Engineer, and Sanitary Engineer License Examination
• First prize in 9th Meet the Best National Quiz Bowl
• First place in Student’s National Chemical Engineering Conference Research Awards
• Winner of Technical Innovation Award in Shell Eco- Marathon Asia 2013
• Best Truck Paper Award, 2014 Industrial Engineering and Operations Management Conference
• First Best Paper Award, 2013 Mathematical Society of the Philippine-Cubo Research Congress
• Second place, 2013 Cisco National Skills Competition, Cisco Certified Networking Technician (CCENT) Category
• First runner-up, Outstanding Creative Research- College Category, 2013 Regional Invention Contest and Exhibit

MCL

• 35% passing rate in the November 2013 Civil Engineer License Examination
• 35% passing rate in the November 2013 Electrical Engineer License Examination
• 35% passing rate in the October 2013 In-Off Duty-Officer (Navigational Watch) Licensure Examination
• 35% passing rate in the October 2013 Electrical Engineering License Examination
• 1st place in the 6th Ayala Engineering Competition
• Outstanding Certified Public Accountant in the CPA Variations Competition
• One of the Top 10 Outstanding Maritime-Studies Students in the Philippines

MHS

• Silver and bronze awardees in 4th Pick of Hotel and Catering Educators of the Philippines IV-A Skills Competition
• Silver and bronze awardees in the 4th Philippine Culinary Cup
• Second runner-up in the Best Business Implementation Model and Practice category of the Gawad ENEDA Awards

Another first for the Institute: the libraries of Mapúa Institute of Technology will be launching the University Radio Frequency identification (UHF RFID) library system, which is expected to significantly enhance their processes to better serve the faculty and students.

Mapúa will be the first educational institution in the Philippines to implement the UHF RFID solution, which consists of UHF RFID tags, portable RFID reader, self-service station, self-return station or book drop, and security gate,” said Emeraldo L. Lansangan, Mapúa’s chief knowledge officer.

Among the library processes that will benefit from the UHF RFID solution are the circulation services, inventory, and security system. The solution will also be able to provide real-time statistics of both circulations and Malayan libraries’ patron visits.

For Lansangan, the UHF RFID solution will streamline library workflow, the patterns can expect a significant improvement in customer service. Faculty members and students can expect faster and shorter queues in borrowing and returning library materials. They can also expect more personalized library services with which the UHF RFID system, librarians are free to focus on assisting students with their research queries,” she said.

The Mapúa Library’s newly installed UHF RFID solution will be launched in the first week of February 2014.

"UHF RFID technology is the key solution that will allow our library to provide the highest level of services and efficiency for our students," said Dr. Vea.

"Together, we will be able to provide our students and faculty with a digital environment that will greatly help them in making the most out of their library experience. This technology will also help us in our goal of having a sustainable library."
Bridging dreams and realities through excellence and virtue

Carrying on Mapúa Institute of Technology’s tradition of excellence, Malayan Colleges Laguna (MCL) and Malayan High School of Science (MHSS) have successfully gained their respective niches in the field of education.

After the adoption of the outcomes-based education (OBE), or the learner-centered approach to education, MCL and MHSS are now reaping back-to-back successes both in academic and non-academic competitions.

“We have adopted the OBE approach to enable our students to adapt easily to fast-changing times and fast-changing needs of employment in the 21st century. MCL and MHSS endeavor to impart an education that is at par with international standards. It is an education that students can take anywhere in the world and that will serve them in good stead throughout their lives,” said Dr. Reynaldo B. Vea, president and chief executive officer of the three schools.

Global center of excellence in the South

After emerging as a premier higher education institution for tertiary level in the South, MCL reaffirmed its unrelenting commitment to creating competitive graduates after making impressive performances in various licensure examinations and regional contests.

“The achievements of our alpha and beta batches, not just in licensure examinations but also in industry reception, are affirmations that we are doing things right. Here at MCL, we engage our students to learn. We see to it that the activities would engage their minds, their souls, and their being,” said Engr. Dennis H. Talabante, MCL vice president for academic affairs.

MCL has also become more active in paying it forward to the community. It launched Light Up! Life Up!, a solar street light project, which aims to build and install 80 eco-friendly solar bottle bulbs and 50 solar-powered street lights at a resettlement community in Laguna.

“We want our students to be holistic. We encourage them to be responsible citizens. They should know how to take care of the environment, how to deal with people, and how to become useful and good citizens of their community,” said Engr. Dodjie S. Maestrecampo, executive vice president and chief operating officer of MCL.

Creating infinite possibilities

MHSS, meanwhile, continues to gain momentum in establishing itself as one of the best science high schools in Metro Manila after putting together another string of outstanding achievements.

It ranked first in the National Achievement Test for high school in the Division of Manila with 55-99 students, and two of its students recorded major feats in the field of sports.

The MHSS robotics team, who clinched in 2012 the Best Rookie Award, also continued its impressive start in Tagisang Robotics after placing fifth in 2013, besting 30 other high schools.

MHSS principal Dr. Efren B. Mateo said that they are determined to maintain the successful streak this year by further strengthening and improving the school’s faculty and learning environment.

“We will focus this year on honing further our pedagogical skills. We will continue to engage our teachers to be abreast with the latest trends in pedagogy. At the same time, we will also strengthen our commitment to creating a learning environment more conducive to students’ productivity through our Safe School Program,” Dr. Mateo said.

Continuous improvement

MCL and MHSS see this year as another opportunity for them to spread their wings.

MHSS will focus on strengthening its curriculum and further improving its facilities and resources. Likewise, its faculty and personnel are incessantly being developed to be capable of rendering premium services to the academic clientele.

Meanwhile, MCL will strive to forge more partnerships with international, local, industry and government institutions. MCL is currently working for accreditation by the Philippine Technological Council, the Philippine representative to the Washington Accord, which is a standards-setting international agreement.

For both institutions, the Foundation Week celebrations are a commemoration of their eight fruitful years as well as the start of another year of reaping success. The celebrations are packed with exciting, fun, and learning activities.