

CPST

Quarterly Newsletter



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Strengthening Quality Assurance in TVET: **APACC STRATEGIC PLAN 2025-2028**

What's Inside

Philippine Foreign Affairs Secretary Conveys Appreciation to CPSC •
CPSC's 119th GB Meeting • DG Pays Courtesy Visits to New CPSC GB Members from Bangladesh, Myanmar, and Pakistan •
Regional Program in Brunei, Malaysia, and Philippines •
Collaborative In-Country Programs with TESDA • Don Bosco Youth Center- Tondo Inc. APACC Accreditation



CPSTC
Since 1973

Brad Ker (Labtech)

In-Country Program for Myanmar on
"Training of Trainers on
Electrical Basics Using Virtual TVET"
February 18-21, 2025

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ASSESSMENT CO



Planning Prosperity Together

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TABLE OF CONTENTS

From the Director General's Desk

SPECIAL FEATURE

Philippine Foreign Affairs Secretary Concludes Tenure, Conveys Appreciation to CPSC	6
---	---

CPSC, SEAMEO VOCTECH Hold First Joint Regional Program in Brunei on Promoting Entrepreneurship in TVET	8
--	---

GOVERNING BOARD NEWS

CPSC Convenes Governing Board Members and Representatives for the 119th GB Meeting	10
--	----

CPSC DG Welcomes, Pays Courtesy Visits to New CPSC Governing Board Members	11
--	----

PROGRAMS

Regional Program CPSC-DPCCE Regional Program in Malaysia Strengthens Research Methodology Skills of 17 TVET Leaders and Practitioners	16
--	----

Regional Program in Philippines Convenes Senior TVET Leaders for the Development of APACC Strategic Plan 2025-2028, Highlights Quality Assurance Through Accreditation	18
--	----

In-Country Program

CPSC Conducts Online In-Country Program on TVET Branding for Nepal	20
--	----

CPSC, TESDA, Labtech International Partner for Training of Trainers on Automotive Technology for 20 Filipino TVET Instructors	21
---	----

In-Country Program in Sri Lanka Highlights TVET's Role in Sustainable Development	22
---	----

CPSC, TESDA, Promote Quality TVET Through Stronger Institutions and Industry Linkages in ICP Philippines	24
--	----

Webinar

CPSC Highlights Strategies for Effective TVET Teaching and Entrepreneurial Mindsets in the International Webinar	26
--	----

CPSC Hosts International Webinar on Integrating ESG in TVET for the Future Workforce	27
--	----

APACC

Don Bosco Youth Center - Tondo Inc. in Philippines Completes First On-Site Evaluation of APACC Accreditation	30
--	----

Politeknik Ibrahim Sultan in Malaysia Undergoes Third-Cycle Accreditation by APACC	31
--	----

APACC Conducts Board Meeting for the Deliberation of UMPSA's Accreditation Results	32
--	----

OTHER NEWS

CPSC Conducts its 44th Internal Quality Audit	33
---	----

CPSC Holds Quality Management Review for First Semester of FY 2024-2025	33
---	----

CPSC Outlines Yearly Plan of Operations for FY 2025-2026	34
--	----

CPSC DG Attends the Philippines Independence Day Vin d'Honneur	36
--	----

CPSC Attends DFA Virtual Information Session, Receives Commendations from TESDA for Regional TVET Impact	37
--	----

CPSC Director General Joins Celebration of 54th Bangladesh Independence Day	38
---	----

CPSC Receives Plaque of Appreciation for Partnership from TESDA Women's Center	39
--	----

CPSC Explores Potential Partnerships with Ginger SOFRECO	40
--	----

CPSC DG Pays Courtesy Visit to ILO Philippines Director	41
---	----

HR CORNER

CPSC Welcomes New RPID Officer and OJT	42
--	----

CPSC Staff Reconnects with Heritage and Camaraderie at Las Casas Filipinas de Acuzar	43
--	----

GREEN CORNER

Beat Plastic Pollution: A Global Call to Unite Against the Triple Planetary Crisis	44
--	----

FEEDBACK CORNER

	45
--	----



The CPSC Quarterly- the official newsletter of the
COLOMBO PLAN STAFF COLLEGE (CPSC)
Manila, Philippines

The CPSC Quarterly serves as a medium for convergence and exchange of Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET) ideas, information, events, and updates on national and regional efforts as well as innovating strategies for Human Resources Development (HRD) across Asia and the Pacific. It serves to strengthen collaborative relationships among professionals and developers, institutional partners, affiliates and networks, alumni, and future clients in the transnational community of CPSC.

The CPSC Quarterly - herald of the center of excellence for Human Resources Development in Asia and the Pacific Region.

The CPSC Quarterly - harbinger of TVET news, keeping member countries vitally connected to HRD development and unifying them to pursue excellence towards global progress.

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FROM THE DIRECTOR GENERAL'S DESK

Dear Readers,

The past few months have indeed been one of the most productive for the Colombo Plan Staff College (CPSC) as we skillfully maneuver our various initiatives that aim to uplift the practice of TVET in the region. Undoubtedly, the second quarter of 2025 can only be described as a season of dynamic engagements, strengthened partnerships, and significant milestones for the Staff College, reflecting a myriad of accomplishments within our midst. As we usher a new chapter in our quest to further advance TVET across borders, we will also unravel the different facets of our mission that we proudly showcase in this publication.

One of the highlights of this period is the CPSC's courtesy visits to the newly appointed ambassadors and governing board members from Bangladesh, Myanmar, and Pakistan, as well as our participation in the Philippines' 127th Independence Day Vin d'Honneur hosted by His Excellency President Ferdinand Marcos Jr. and First Lady Madame Louise Araneta-Marcos. Our attendance at these special events serves as clear manifestations of our firm bonds together with our ever-supportive partners and stakeholders as we explore fresh avenues for cooperation.

We also take pride in the robust program delivery that we were able to successfully conduct during the quarter. Regional efforts in Malaysia, the Philippines, and Brunei, along with in-country programs in Nepal, Sri Lanka, and the Philippines, brought together TVET leaders to sharpen their research skills, promote industry linkages, and integrate sustainability and quality assurance in training systems. Collaborative efforts with TESDA, SEAMEO VOTTECH, and Labtech International further empowered TVET instructors and practitioners through targeted capacity-building activities.

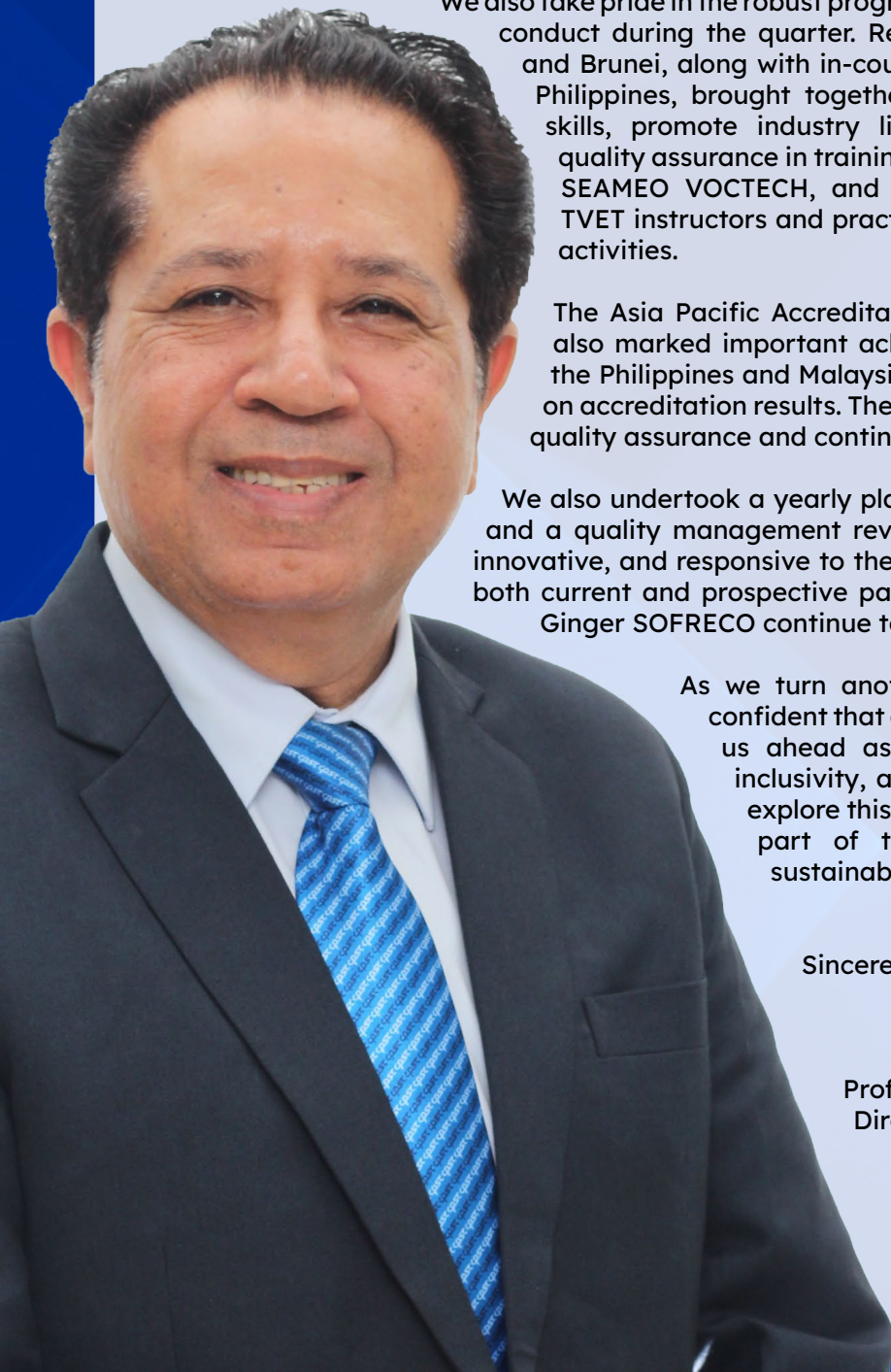
The Asia Pacific Accreditation and Certification Commission (APACC) also marked important achievements with institutional evaluations in the Philippines and Malaysia, along with a Board meeting to deliberate on accreditation results. These feats are a testament to our dedication to quality assurance and continuous improvement in the region.

We also undertook a yearly plan of operations, 44th internal quality audit, and a quality management review to ensure that CPSC remains efficient, innovative, and responsive to the evolving needs of TVET. Engagements with both current and prospective partners such as ILO Philippines, TESDA, and Ginger SOFRECO continue to pave the way for impactful collaborations.

As we turn another leaf in our worthwhile journey, I am confident that our collective efforts will continue to catapult us ahead as the modern-day catalyst for innovation, inclusivity, and excellence in TVET. I enjoin everyone to explore this quarter's highlights, and become a valuable part of the TVET advancement gearing towards sustainable development in the Asia-Pacific region.

Sincerely,

Prof. (Dr.) Suresh K. Dhameja
Director General



Philippine Foreign Affairs Secretary Concludes Tenure, Conveys Appreciation to CPSC



In a letter narrating his appreciation and gratitude to the organization, former Department of Foreign Affairs (DFA) Secretary, Mr. Enrique A. Manalo formally bade the Colombo Plan Staff College (CPSC) farewell as he embarked on another milestone in his career as the new Philippine Permanent Representative to the United Nations in New York, USA.

Through the joint initiative of Secretary Manalo and the CPSC Director General, Prof. (Dr.) Suresh K. Dhameja, the synergy between CPSC and DFA became even stronger with the renewal of the Memorandum of Agreement (MOA)

between the two organizations last November 2024. Secretary Manalo was instrumental in making this MOA possible which later on allowed CPSC to focus fully on its mission to advance TVET in the region.

With his departure, Secretary Manalo assured CPSC that the Philippines will remain supportive of the goals and principles of the organization as we foster our shared commitment to international peace, sustainable development, and protecting human dignity. Mr. Manalo concluded his tenure as the DFA Secretary on June 30, 2025.



THE SECRETARY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS
REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES

17 June 2025

Dear Prof. Dr. Dhameja,

I will be concluding my tenure as Secretary for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of the Philippines on 30 June 2025. In this regard, I would like to express my deepest appreciation for your support and collaboration during the past three years.

I believe the cooperation between the Philippines and your organization has been strengthened these past years. I have the utmost confidence that our relationship has new opportunities to contribute to multilateralism and the international community in meaningful and impactful ways.

As I look forward to my new mandate as Permanent Representative of the Philippines to the United Nations in New York, I hope to be able to highlight the Philippine priorities, especially being a firm believer in international cooperation. In so doing, it is my hope that the Philippines' contributions to the multilateral arena will continue to support the goals and principles of your organization and advance our shared commitment to international peace and security, sustainable development, and protecting human dignity.

Please accept the renewed assurances of my highest consideration.


ENRIQUE A. MANALO

Prof. Dr. Suresh Kumar Dhameja
Director General
Colombo Plan Staff College (CPSC)



CPSC, SEAMEO VOCTECH Hold First Joint Regional Program in Brunei on Promoting Entrepreneurship in TVET

Recognizing the importance of creating an innovative and responsive TVET curriculum that is capable of addressing the demands of the global market, the Colombo Plan Staff College partnered with the SEAMEO Regional Centre for Vocational and Technical Education and Training (SEAMEO VOCTECH) in a hybrid training venture titled “Integrating Entrepreneurship and Technopreneurship into the TVET Curriculum.”

The program highlighted an interactive learning experience which utilized both the online and in-person training modalities. The virtual sessions were conducted on May 22 and 27-29, 2025, while the in-person sessions were held from June 2-6, 2025 at the SEAMEO VOCTECH Regional Center, Brunei Darussalam. The collaborative program marked the renewed ties with SEAMEO VOCTECH, Brunei.

The pool of participants was composed of 31 TVET policymakers, trainers, managers, and curriculum developers from Bangladesh, Bhutan, Fiji, India, Malaysia, Maldives, Mongolia, Myanmar, Nepal, Pakistan, Papua New Guinea, the Philippines, Singapore, Sri Lanka, and Thailand, including Brunei, Cambodia, Indonesia, Laos, Timor Leste, and Vietnam.

The training program began with online sessions featuring theme and country paper presentations, which covered the topics on technopreneurship policies, curriculum integration, market research, digital entrepreneurship, business planning, and financing.

Meanwhile, the program’s face-to-face phase commenced on June 2, 2025, at the SEAMEO VOCTECH Regional Centre in Brunei, marked by opening messages from Mr. Haji Norjemee Bin Haji Jenek, SEAMEO VOCTECH Centre Director, and Prof. (Dr.) Suresh K. Dhameja, CPSC Director General.

In-person sessions delved into global and regional perspectives, institutional support for technopreneurship, modular content creation, skill assessment, technology-driven business models, and emerging technologies like blockchain, AI, and IoT. The participants also worked on business and country-specific action plans, and engaged in discussions on startup risk management through incubators, accelerators, and investment strategies. Overall, the program was coordinated by Prof. Naeem Yaqoob, CPSC Faculty Specialist.





On June 5, a forum facilitated knowledge exchange between participants and industry experts, with presentations led by Prof. Dr. Dhameja on achieving UN-SDG 1 through TVET entrepreneurship, together with Adna Shatriremie bin Hj A. Abdul Rahman, Head of the Entrepreneurship Innovation Centre (EIC); Shafique Hussain, CEO and Founder of InnovAero Sdn. Bhd.; and Ahmad Fathi bin Dato Seri Setia Dr. Hj Norarfan, Founder of One Fish BN and Alya Playhouse. The program concluded on June 6 with a closing ceremony graced by Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Embassy of the Philippines, Her Excellency Marian Jocelyn R. Tirol-Ignacio.

The program reaffirmed CPSC's role in promoting relevant TVET skills like entrepreneurship and technopreneurship to continuously uplift human resource development in the region, and to equip educators and learners with the necessary tools that will shape them in an ever-evolving, innovative world.



CPSC Convenes Governing Board Members and Representatives for the 119th GB Meeting



The Colombo Plan Staff College (CPSC) conducted its 119th Governing Board (GB) Meeting on June 26, 2025, at its headquarters in Pasig City, Metro Manila, Philippines.

The Board deliberated and discussed key agenda items, including the presentation of the CPSC Annual Report for FY 2024–2025; the report of the Standing Committee on the Yearly Plan of Operations III (YPO) and the Operational Budget for FY 2025–2026; and updates on the recruitment of Faculty Specialists.

The CPSC Director General then facilitated the turnover ceremony of the CPSC GB Chairpersonship and Vice-Chairpersonship. A plaque of recognition was presented to TESDA Director General Hon. Francisco “Kiko” Benitez, as represented by TESDA Executive Director Mr. David Bungallon who delivered the valedictory address of the former GB Chair.

The new Governing Board Chairperson Ambassador of Singapore to the Philippines H.E. Constance See Sin Yuan,

and Vice-Chairperson H.E. Dr. Chanaka Talpahewa, Ambassador of Sri Lanka to the Philippines for FY 2025-2026 conveyed their acknowledgement and acceptance of their new roles in CPSC. The new Vice-Chairperson, in effect, was also appointed as Chairman of the CPSC Standing Committee. He will be joined by Thailand as one of the members of the Committee aside from the Director General.



CPSC DG Welcomes, Pays Courtesy Visits to New CPSC Governing Board Members

In a series of good will visits to the honorable representatives of the member countries in the Philippines, CPSC Director General Prof. (Dr.) Suresh K. Dhameja ably represented the organization as he rekindled diplomatic ties, fostered cooperation, and welcomed the new Governing Board members to the CPSC mission.

Bangladesh

On June 11, 2025, Prof. Dr. Dhameja paid a courtesy visit to H.E. Mohammad Sarwar Mahmood, ndc, the newly appointed Ambassador for Bangladesh in the Philippines, after the latter succeeded H.E. F.M. Borhan Uddin.

During the meeting, the Director General formally introduced himself and CPSC to the good ambassador and his team.

Moreover, the two gentlemen discussed the programs, projects, and services that the Staff College is currently undertaking as they explore more avenues for mutual goals and objectives.

Bangladesh is one of the active member countries of CPSC that is highly focused on championing TVET in the region.



Myanmar

Prof. Dr. Dhameja also rendered an official call to the Embassy of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar last June 13, 2025. He was warmly welcomed by Mr. Soe Ko Ko, Chargé d’Affaires (CDA), and Ms. Darli Nwe, Deputy Chief of Mission/Counsellor, respectively. During the visit, the Director General requested for the CDA’s assistance in facilitating the program proposals that will make the face to face in-country programs in Myanmar possible. Likewise, the Director General also talked about

the CPSC’s Professional Internship Program (PIPIE) as he encouraged young professionals in Myanmar to join CPSC for a period of time to gain international experience.

On this note, the meeting ended with Mr. Soe Ko Ko’s pledge of continued support to CPSC as he promised to work with the Staff College closely for the advancement of the member countries and the Asia Pacific region in general.





Pakistan

On his third leg of courtesy visit to the newly installed emissaries, Prof. Dr. Dhameja was accompanied by Prof. Naeem Yaqoob, CPSC Faculty Specialist, in formally meeting H.E. Dr. Asima Rabbani, Ambassador, Embassy of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan, last June 16, 2025.

The Director General apprised the newly installed Pakistan Ambassador about the CPSC's mandate, programs, services, and its various ongoing activities. Among the activities at the time of the visit was the In-Country Program (ICP) for the Philippines

on "Enhancing TVET Institutions and Industry Linkages for Quality TVET". Upon invitation by the DG during the visit, the Ambassador graced the closing ceremony as the Chief Guest of the program.

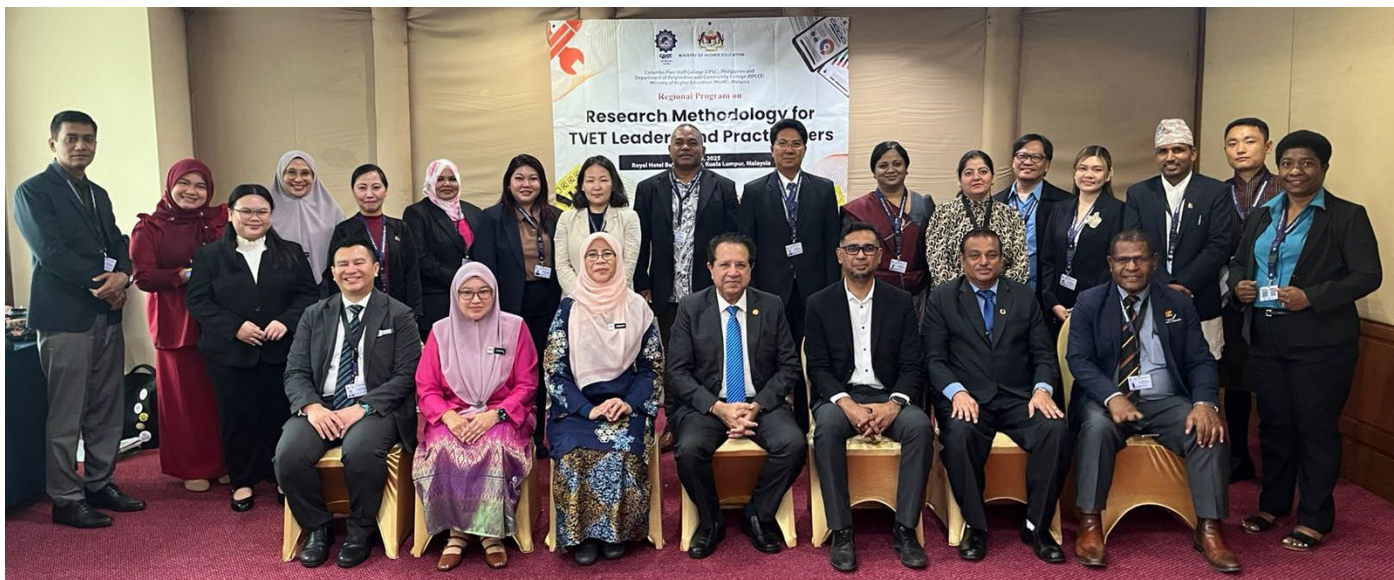
Moreover, both leaders professed their commitment to work together for the betterment of TVET in the region. This will pave the way for more innovative programs for CPSC in collaboration with the member countries and partner institutions.





Training Programs

CPSC-DPCCE Regional Program in Malaysia Strengthens Research Methodology Skills of 17 TVET Leaders and Practitioners



In collaboration with the Department of Polytechnic and College Community Education (DPCCE), Ministry of Higher Education (MoHE), Malaysia, the Colombo Plan Staff College successfully conducted the Regional Program on “Research Methodology for TVET Leaders and Practitioners”, held from May 5 to 9, 2025 at the Hotel Royal in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia. The training program was joined by 17 TVET practitioners from Bangladesh, Bhutan, Fiji, India, Malaysia, Maldives, Mongolia, Myanmar, Nepal, Papua New Guinea, Philippines, Sri Lanka, and Thailand.

Designed to build research capacity among Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET) professionals, the program focused on strengthening participants’ skills in applying research methods for evidence-based decision-making and innovation. It also aimed to deepen their understanding of research methodologies relevant to the TVET context and promote regional collaboration in advancing TVET systems.

The overall program was supervised by Prof. (Dr.) Suresh K. Dhameja, CPSC Director General; and YBrS Dato Dr. Hj. Mohd Zahari Bin Ismail, DPCCE Director General. Meanwhile, Dr. Kesavan Ulaganathen, CPSC Faculty Consultant, served as Program Coordinator, with support from local coordinators Ms. Nawwar Adibah Binti Wahid, Dr. Syafizwan Nizam bin Mohd Faroque, and Ms. Hazira Binti Saleh of DPCCE.

During the opening ceremony, Prof. Dr. Dhameja highlighted the critical role of research in strengthening the TVET sector in the member countries and beyond. The program’s Chief Guest Ms. Zainah Rujihan, DPCCE Director of the Industry Liaison & Employability Division, emphasized the importance of research in enhancing the quality and impact of TVET across the region. Both dignitaries extended their best wishes for a successful and productive program.

The five-day training proceeded with lectures, group discussions, and theme paper presentations. These sessions were facilitated by Dr. Kesavan; Dr. Thevaneyan David, Senior Lecturer at Universiti Teknologi MARA (UiTM), Malaysia; Dr. Shathees Baskaran, Associate Professor at Azman Hashim International Business School; and Dr. Parameswari A/P Shunmugam, Lecturer at Polytechnic Sultan Salahuddin Abdul Aziz Shah.

Moreover, an international conference titled “Transforming TVET for a Sustainable Future: Research, Policy, and Innovation” was conducted on May 8, 2025, which was inaugurated by Prof. Dr. Dhameja with his keynote session on sustainability, research and innovation. The conference also featured the sessions that discussed the topics on TVET policy, governance,

research-driven strategies, innovation, and sustainable development as integrated in TVET and research. An open forum ensued after the keynote sessions delivered by the resource persons.

Aside from the sessions, the participants had a study visit to TESLA, where they observed the best practices and industry-aligned innovation initiatives of the company, as an extension of the learning experience from the training program.

The five-day training officially concluded with a closing ceremony held on May 9, 2025. The participants expressed their appreciation for the opportunity to expand their research knowledge, build networks, and gain practical tools to elevate the quality and impact of TVET in their respective countries.



Regional Program in Philippines Convenes Senior TVET Leaders for the Development of APACC Strategic Plan 2025-2028, Highlights Quality Assurance Through Accreditation



The Colombo Plan Staff College (CPSC), in collaboration with the Asia Pacific Accreditation and Certification Commission (APACC), successfully conducted the Special Regional Program on “Quality Assurance of TVET Institutions through Accreditation” from May 19 to 23, 2025, at the CPSC headquarters in Pasig City, Philippines. In conjunction with the training, the APACC Strategic Planning for 2025–2028 was also held during the same period.

The program brought together 17 participants, composed of TVET directors, institutional managers, heads of quality assurance bodies, policymakers, and high officials from CPSC member countries.

Playing a vital role in ensuring that the TVET institutions in the Asia-Pacific region are competitive enough in addressing the perpetually growing demands of the local and global arena, CPSC and APACC put premium on Quality Assurance as a key

indicator in monitoring the performance and in ensuring the achievement of quality outputs from their partner institutions.

The program formally commenced with an opening ceremony, wherein Prof. (Dr.) Suresh K. Dhameja, CPSC Director General and APACC President, extended his welcome greetings to everyone during his opening remarks. In his speech, he also emphasized the importance of accreditation in building trust, ensuring accountability, and fostering a culture of improvement within the TVET institutions.





Key sessions throughout the week focused on global concepts and challenges in TVET quality assurance, 21st century TVET practices, sustainability and social equity in accreditation standards, and framework development for TVET quality assurance.

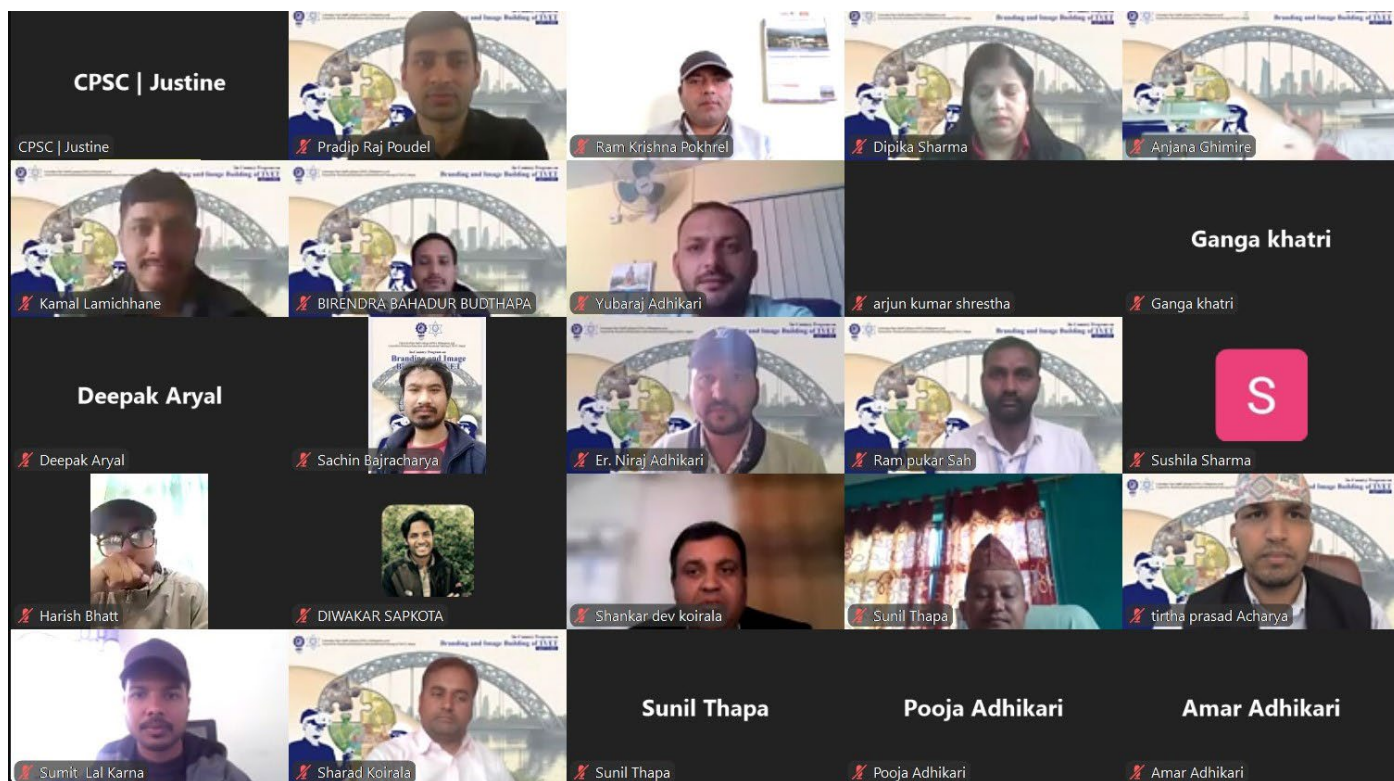
Furthermore, the review of APACC Strategic Plan 2020-2025 and the new APACC Strategic Plan 2025-2028 were integrated into the program's workshop sessions. The discussions were moderated and facilitated by Dr. Kesavan Ulaganathen and Prof. Naeem Yaqoob, CPSC faculty members. Following a series of insightful discussions and constructive deliberations, the APACC Strategic Plan 2025-2028 was officially finalized and will be endorsed to the Governing Board.



Prof. Naeem Yaqoob (top) presents his theme paper and facilitates some task exercises during his session

The program concluded with the closing remarks from Prof. Dr. Dhameja who encouraged the participants to step up, and bring their best foot forward in transforming their respective organizations into globally competitive and highly sustainable TVET institutions.

CPSC Conducts Online In-Country Program on TVET Branding for Nepal



With the prevalence of unemployment and underemployment in developing countries like Nepal, there is an urgent need for the empowerment of individuals by equipping them with the necessary workplace skills that are aligned with the market needs. Unfortunately, Nepal has not yet fully discovered and embraced the possibilities of exploring other fields like TVET as their career of choice. TVET remains to be a secondary alternative to conventional academic options due to its low popularity and lesser mass appeal.

To address this concern, the Colombo Plan Staff College (CPSC) together with the Council for Technical Education and Vocational Training (CTEVT) organized an online In-Country Program for Nepal on Branding and Image Building of TVET from April 1 to 4, 2025 via Zoom platform. A total of 35 Nepalese principals, vice principals, technical officers, and TVET practitioners participated in the training program.

The training program consisted of workshops and presentations of theme papers which were facilitated by Dr. Kesavan, along with Prof. Naeem Yaqoob, CPSC Faculty Specialist; Mr. Ek Raj Adhikari, CTEVT Deputy Director; and Dr. Harsh Vardhan Samalia, Associate Professor and Head of Department of Entrepreneurship Development and Industrial Coordination at the National Institute of Technical Teachers Training & Research (NITTTR), Chandigarh, India. Furthermore, the workshops allowed the participants to craft a branding strategic plan and marketing plans as an output from the training program.

The four-day training program concluded with a closing ceremony where selected participants shared their appreciation for the learning experience and the program's relevance to enhancing the branding of TVET in Nepal.

CPSC, TESDA, Labtech International Partner for Training of Trainers on Automotive Technology for 20 Filipino TVET Instructors

The Colombo Plan Staff College, in collaboration with the Technical Education and Skills Development Authority (TESDA) and Labtech International, once again conducted another successful leg of its Training of Trainers on Automotive Technology from April 22 to 25, 2025 via Zoom.

During the opening ceremony, CPSC Director General Prof. (Dr.) Suresh K. Dhameja and Mr. Brad Ker, Director for Digital Learning of Labtech International, officially welcomed all the participants. This was followed by the address of the Chief Guest, Ms. Rosanna A. Urdaneta, CESO II, the Deputy Director General for Policies and Planning, TESDA and the Head of Delegation wherein she highlighted the importance of keeping our teachers and instructors updated on the latest trend in educational technology.

The online In-Country Program for the Philippines discussed how virtual TVET can improve the training delivery on Automotive Technology training 20 Filipino

TVET instructors, assistant professors, and specialists across technical education centers in the Philippines.

The four-day training consisted of lectures and workshops, covering the overview of digital TVET framework, different approaches of blended learning, utilization of videos to deliver 21st Century training, and integration of lesson plan using virtual TVET.

As the program finally reached its end, the participants shared their valuable learnings and insights upon completing the training program. Mr. Ker also delivered a program summary and narrated the journey of the attendees from start to finish. CPSC Faculty Consultant Dr. Kesavan Ulaganathen, and Mr. Ker both gave their closing remarks to formally conclude the training session. Director Juliet Omaliza-Orozco, Director IV, Administrative Service, TESDA then capped off the program with her special remarks commending both the organizing committee and the participants for a job well done.



In-Country Program in Sri Lanka Highlights TVET's Role in Sustainable Development



The Colombo Plan Staff College (CPSC) has long supported the development of TVET in Sri Lanka through training programs, policy discussions, and collaborative research focused on sustainable development. In line with this mission, CPSC, in partnership with the Ministry of Education, Higher Education, and Vocational Education, Sri Lanka, organized an online In-Country Program on “TVET for Sustainable Development” from June 16 to 20, 2025.

A total of 20 directors, deputy directors, high officials, and instructors from TVET institutions in Sri Lanka participated in the five-day program. The participants explored TVET's contribution to achieving the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), particularly SDG 4 (Quality Education) and SDG 8 (Decent Work and Economic Growth). The training also emphasized the practical application of green skills and enabled

participants to introduce eco-friendly and sustainable practices within their respective fields. In addition, the program promoted the integration of sustainability-focused curricula and competency-based training in institutions, as well as stronger collaboration between TVET providers, industries, and policymakers.

The program was supervised by Prof. (Dr.) Suresh K. Dhameja, CPSC Director General, and Ms. Samanthi Senanayake, Additional Secretary (Vocational Training) of the Ministry of Education - Skills Development. Meanwhile, Dr. Kesavan Ulaganath, CPSC Faculty Consultant, and Prof. Naeem Yaqoob, CPSC Faculty Specialist, served as Program Coordinators.

During the opening ceremony, Ms. Dimuthu Prabha Chandrasiri, Director (Vocational Training) of the Ministry of Education - Skills Development, Vocational Education, Research and Innovation,

delivered a welcome remarks wherein she underscored the need to create a workforce that is capable of leading the green transition, embracing the digital future, and contributing to inclusive and sustainable growth. She emphasized the importance of sustainability across all levels of the TVET ecosystem, particularly from curriculum and policy frameworks to entrepreneurship development.

Ms. Samanthi echoed these sentiments and encouraged participants to fully engage in the learning experience. She noted that “As trainers and educators, continuous knowledge upgrading is essential. Online training such as this offers a cost-effective opportunity to gain global insights and remain future-ready.”



Ms. Samanthi Senanayake, Additional Secretary (Vocational Training) of the Ministry of Education - Skills Development, extends her greetings to all participants and program organizers in her welcome message

Prof. Dr. Dhameja also highlighted the role of TVET in addressing global challenges such as climate change, inequality, and technological disruption. “TVET is not only a tool for skills development but also a key driver for economic, social, and environmental sustainability,” he said. He also urged participants to embrace innovation, green practices, and collaboration to transform their institutions and communities.



CPSC DG, Prof. (Dr.) Suresh K. Dhameja, welcomes the participants during the opening ceremony

Over the five days, participants attended the sessions on topics of green skills, innovation and technology in TVET, circular economy, entrepreneurship, policy, and funding strategies. In addition to lectures, participants joined interactive workshops and task exercises, including curriculum development, green business planning, and creating action plans for sustainability. These hands-on activities helped participants apply what they learned to real-world TVET settings.

The program ended with a closing ceremony where participants shared their insights and experiences from the training program. The participants described the training as “transformative, practical, and inspiring.”

Likewise, Dr. Kesavan congratulated the participants for their active engagement. He also encouraged them to bring their learnings from the program and for their organizations to adapt sustainable practices. Furthermore, Ms. Samanthi applauded the participants’ enthusiasm and emphasized the Ministry’s ongoing support for capacity development to shape a greener and more inclusive TVET system in Sri Lanka.

As the program concluded, CPSC and Sri Lanka reaffirmed the shared mission of advancing sustainability through education and the continued partnership.

CPSC, TESDA, Promote Quality TVET Through Stronger Institutions and Industry Linkages in ICP Philippines



The Colombo Plan Staff College (CPSC) and the Technical Education and Skills Development Authority (TESDA) jointly conducted an In-Country Program on “Enhancing TVET Institutions and Industry Linkages for Quality TVET” from June 23 to 27, 2025, at TESDA Women’s Center, TESDA Complex, Taguig City, Metro Manila, Philippines.

A total of 30 TVET instructors, trainers, and administrators from various TESDA offices across the Philippines participated in the program. The training was designed to strengthen curriculum development through industry involvement, promote dual training systems and workplace immersion programs, upgrade training tools and facilities to meet evolving industry standards, and enhance the capacity of trainers to deliver relevant, future-oriented instruction.

The five-day training program was steered under the supervision of Prof. (Dr.) Suresh

K. Dhameja, CPSC Director General, together with Dr. Kesavan Ulaganathen, CPSC Faculty Consultant, and Prof. Naeem Yaqoob, CPSC Faculty Specialist, as Program Coordinators.

The opening ceremony was inaugurated by Prof. Dr. Dhameja, and Ms. Rosanna Urdaneta, TESDA Deputy Director General for Policies and Planning, together with Dr. Kesavan Ulaganathen, CPSC Faculty Consultant; Prof. Naeem Yaqoob, CPSC Faculty Specialist; Mr. El Cid Castillo, Executive Director of TESDA’s Qualifications and Standards Office (QSO); Ms. Floramel Joy C. Songsong, Executive Director of TESDA’s Partnership and Linkages Office (PLO); and Ms. Mylene Somera, Chief of the TESDA Women’s Center (TWC). Shortly after the opening ceremony, a special lecture was delivered by Prof. Dr. Dhameja, in which he discussed the topic, “TVET Industry Synergies for Enhanced Employability.”

Throughout the program, the participants engaged in theme paper presentations, group activities, workshops, and a panel discussion. Sessions led by Prof. Naeem and Dr. Kesavan focused on building sustainable partnerships between TVET institutions and industry, aligning TVET with Industry 4.0 and 5.0, and promoting entrepreneurship and innovation in industry-academic collaboration.

An online session was conducted by Ms. Nur Liyana Binti Khalid Khan, Deputy Director of Division of Instructional and Digital Learning at the Department of Polytechnic and Community College Education (DPCCE), Ministry of Higher Education, Malaysia. In her lecture, Ms. Khan shared comprehensive insights on innovative models of dual training systems and work-based learning.

Dir. Lorrienne Judith Marie G. Juanani, TESDA NCR Director III, delivered a lecture on the current concepts and challenges in TVET industry linkages. Participants also engaged in a simulation workshop led by Ms. Gerrylyn D. Ped, Supervising TESDA Specialist at the Provincial Training Center in Urdaneta, Pangasinan.

As part of the training component, a panel discussion was held on June 26, 2025, focusing on the various sectors of industry on versatile institute-industry linkage approaches. The panelists were Ms. Ma. Christina G. Aquino, former President of the Tourism Industry Board Foundation Inc. (TIBFI); and Ms. Marlyn Montano, President of the Animation Council of the Philippines, Inc.

Both panelists recognized the challenges and gaps in the industry, urging TESDA leaders to proactively engage with the industries to see the relevance of the skills

being taught in the institutes with the current practices of the industry. They also emphasized the need to improve training accessibility for the learners and to enhance the curriculum based on emerging demands. On the final note, Ms. Aquino and Ms. Montano highlighted the importance of expanding linkages among the industries to build meaningful partnerships with them.

Finally, the closing ceremony honored H.E. Dr. Asima Rabbani, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan to the Republic of the Philippines, who delivered special remarks as the Chief Guest. In her message, Dr. Asima congratulated CPSC and TESDA and commended their longstanding partnership over the years. She put emphasis on the importance of building strong industry linkages. “Stay engaged. Stay collaborative,” she said.

Overall, this joint program reaffirmed the commitment of CPSC and TESDA to enhancing TVET institutions and industry linkages for quality TVET in the Philippines.



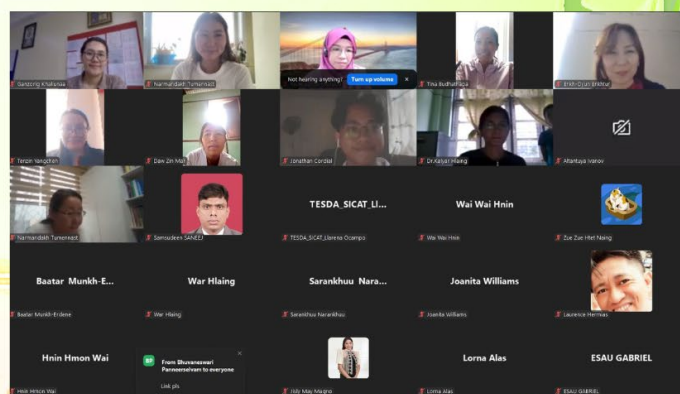
Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Embassy of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan, H.E. Dr. Asima Rabbani congratulates both CPSC and TESDA in her special remarks

CPSC Highlights Strategies for Effective TVET Teaching and Entrepreneurial Mindsets in the International Webinar



International Webinar on Bridging Skills and Success: Building Effective Teaching-Learning Strategies and Entrepreneurial Mindsets in TVET

April 11, 2025 | 2:00–4:00 PM Philippine Standard Time



The Colombo Plan Staff College (CPSC) organized the international webinar titled “Bridging Skills and Success: Building Effective Teaching-Learning Strategies and Entrepreneurial Mindsets in TVET” on April 11, 2025, via the Zoom platform. A total of 82 participants from the Asia-Pacific region joined the webinar.

The sessions focused on two key topics: “Effective Learning and Training Methods in TVET Institutions” and “Building Entrepreneurial Skills and Mindsets in TVET.” These were delivered by Prof. Chuluuntsetseg Dagvadorj, an Education Evaluator at the Certification Committee of MonCertf Group, Mongolia and former CPSC Faculty Specialist, and by Ms. Kimberly G. Bautista, Acting Supervising TESD Specialist at the TESDA Women’s Center (TWC), Philippines.

During their sessions, Prof. Dagvadorj and Ms. Bautista emphasized the importance of learner-centered approaches, modern instructional strategies, and outcome-based education in enhancing the quality of TVET. They also underscored the need to integrate entrepreneurship education within TVET curricula to develop proactive and opportunity-seeking mindsets among learners, which will allow them to create and manage their own enterprises.

The webinar was concluded with a question-and-answer (Q&A) session, which was moderated by Dr. Kesavan Ulaganathen, CPSC Faculty Consultant, who guided the exchange of insights from both speakers and participants.

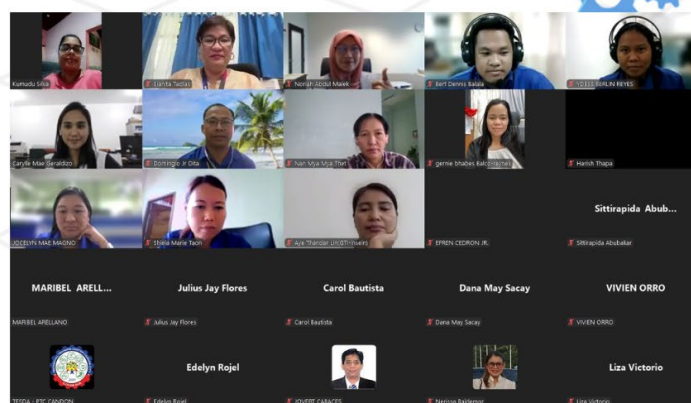
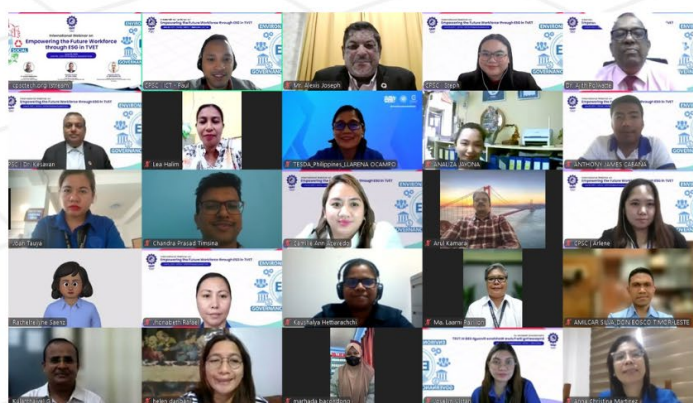
CPSC Hosts International Webinar on Integrating ESG in TVET for the Future Workforce



International Webinar on Empowering the Future Workforce through ESG in TVET

June 30, 2025 | 3:00 PM - 5:00 PM Philippine Standard Time

ENVIRON



The Colombo Plan Staff College (CPSC) conducted the international webinar titled “Empowering the Future Workforce through ESG in TVET” on June 30, 2025, via the Zoom platform. A total of 110 participants from the Asia-Pacific region joined the webinar.

The webinar aimed to promote awareness and strengthen the integration of Environmental, Social, and Governance (ESG) principles in TVET systems. ESG is increasingly recognized as a vital component of workforce development, which helps in shaping professionals to be technically competent, socially responsible, and environmentally conscious.

The webinar consisted of two sessions, which were presented by Mr. Alexis Joseph, Operations Manager of AJ Consultancy and Sustainability Services, Malaysia, and

Dr. Ajith Polwatte, PhD, Deputy Director General of the Tertiary and Vocational Education Commission (TVEC), Sri Lanka.

The speakers discussed the importance of integrating ESG into TVET to prepare learners for green and responsible industries. Mr. Joseph focused on practical strategies for applying ESG in workplace training and improving employability, while Dr. Polwatte highlighted Sri Lanka’s national efforts and the role of governance, inclusivity, and sustainability in building a future-ready workforce.

The webinar concluded with a question-and-answer (Q&A) session moderated by Dr. Kesavan Ulaganathan, CPSC Faculty Consultant, who guided the exchange of insights from both speakers and participants.



Don Bosco Youth Center - Tondo Inc. in Philippines Completes First On-Site Evaluation of APACC Accreditation



The Don Bosco Youth Center - Tondo, Inc. (DBYC) underwent its first cycle of accreditation by the Asia Pacific Accreditation and Certification Commission (APACC) from April 28 to 30, 2025 at its campus in Tondo district, Manila City, Philippines.

The APACC delegation was composed of Dr. Luisita S. I. Dela Cruz (Lead Accreditor), Prof. Naeem Yaqoob (Member Accreditor), and Ms. Julifer Madeja (Documentation Officer). Ms. Danilyn Amaro and Ms. Charina Lansangan also joined the on-site evaluation as observers.

The accreditation team was warmly welcomed by DBYC Director Fr. Dennis Sylvester Casaclang, SDB, who emphasized the importance of conducting accreditation activities to help institutions fulfill their mandates better in serving the TVET system in the Philippines. CPSC Director General and APACC President Prof. (Dr.) Suresh K. Dhameja also noted how the accreditation process is meant to guide institutions toward service excellence.

The accreditation activities included a tour of DBYC's facilities such as automotive, electromechanical, and air-conditioning and refrigeration workshops, as well as classrooms, the innovation room, auditorium, and student support offices. The team also conducted interviews with students and staff, and observed ongoing lectures and workshops.

The evaluation concluded with an exit meeting where Dr. Dela Cruz presented the initial commendations, affirmations, and recommendations. In the exit meeting, Fr. Casaclang expressed his hopes for DBYC to serve as a model institution and motivate other technical schools under Don Bosco – One TVET Philippines, Inc. to seek APACC accreditation.



The Lead Accreditor interviews the DBYC's faculty members during the evaluation

Politeknik Ibrahim Sultan in Malaysia Undergoes Third-Cycle Accreditation by APACC

The Politeknik Ibrahim Sultan (PIS) successfully completed its third cycle of accreditation under the Asia Pacific Accreditation and Certification Commission (APACC) from May 6 to 8, 2025 at the PIS campus, in Pasir Gudang, Johor, Malaysia.

The APACC accreditation team was composed of Engr. Marjorie Mendenilla (Lead Accreditor), Prof. Naeem Yaqoob (Member Accreditor), and Ms. Stephanie Rimas (Documentation Officer). APACC President Prof. (Dr.) Suresh K. Dhameja supervised the accreditation process.

The three-day evaluation commenced with a warm welcome from the PIS community accompanied by a marching band. During the opening ceremony, PIS Director Hj. Ulaimi bin Yahya delivered his welcome remarks and provided an overview of the institution, including its academic programs, accreditations and certifications received, institutional collaborations and linkages, as well as its

recent accomplishments.

The National Coordinator for Accreditation in Malaysia and Senior Lecturer at the Politeknik Sultan Salahuddin Abdul Aziz Shah (PSA), Pn. Noaryanti binti Mohd Noor, also showed her support to PIS through her esteemed presence during the accreditation.

A tour of facilities ensued after the opening ceremony to showcase PIS' infrastructure and learning resources. This was followed by the interviews conducted by the APACC team and reviewed evidentiary documents to assess its compliance with the APACC indicators.

The visit concluded with an exit meeting where the lead accreditor presented the initial commendations, affirmations, and recommendations. The team also expressed their appreciation for PIS' hospitality and cooperation throughout the process.



APACC Conducts Board Meeting for the Deliberation of UMPSA's Accreditation Results



The Asia Pacific Accreditation and Certification Commission (APACC) held its 4th Board Meeting on May 2, 2025, to review and deliberate on the accreditation results of Universiti Malaysia Pahang Al-Sultan Abdullah (UMPSA). The meeting was presided over by APACC President Prof. (Dr.) Suresh K. Dhameja, joined by APACC Co-Coordinator Prof. Naeem Yaqoob, APACC Officer Ms. Julifer Madeja, and Professional Intern Mr. Azam Khalid.

The accreditation results were presented by the designated APACC accreditation team, which was composed of Prof. Dr. Rama Krishna Challa (Lead Accreditor), Dr. Kesavan Ulaganathan (Member Accreditor and APACC Coordinator), and Ms. Chyna T. Loriania (Documentation Officer).

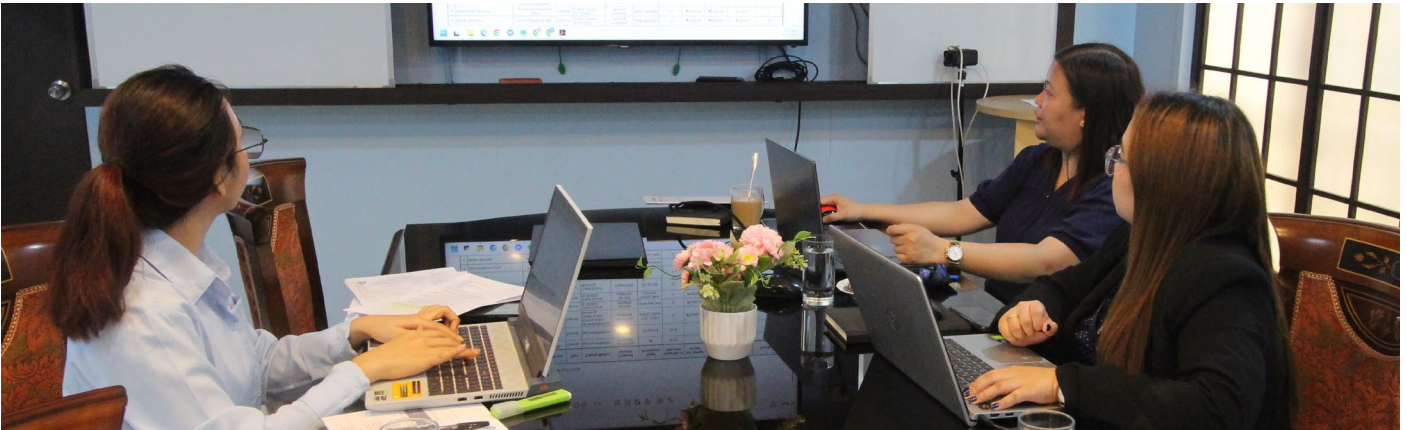
Following the review, APACC officially awarded UMPSA with Gold-Level Accreditation, becoming the first public university in Malaysia and the first

institution within the Malaysian Technical University Network (MTUN) to attain this highest level of recognition. The three-day accreditation visit was conducted from March 19 to 21, 2025.



A photo posted by UMPSA Malaysia via its official Facebook page in recognition of its Gold Level Accreditation

CPSC Conducts its 44th Internal Quality Audit



The Colombo Plan Staff College conducted the 44th Internal Quality Audit (IQA) from April 22 to 23, 2025, which covered the period of July to December 2024.

The audit successfully resulted in Zero Non-Conformity, while observations cited in 2 areas and some opportunities

for improvement were provided to all the areas. The results were based on the interviews conducted by the auditors, presented documents and evidence, actions taken from the previous audits, and improvements initiated by the auditees in their processes, procedures and/or systems.

CPSC Holds Quality Management Review for First Semester of FY 2024-2025



The Colombo Plan Staff College (CPSC) conducted its Quality Management Review (QMR) meeting on May 28, 2025, following the conduct of its 44th Internal Quality Audit (IQA).

The meeting reviewed CPSC's performance and quality processes for the first semester of fiscal year 2024-2025, covering key agenda items such as the

status of actions from the previous QMR meeting on August 19, 2024; the summary of the 44th IQA results and effectiveness of the IQA; reporting on divisional key performance indicators (KPIs) for July to December 2024; the review of stakeholder analysis and divisional risk assessment; and the review of internal and external issues encountered.

Other divisional concerns and identified specific action plans were also discussed to address existing issues and ensure that all targets for the period are met. These measures aim to strengthen CPSC's quality management systems and enhance operational efficiency for the following fiscal year.

CPSC Outlines Yearly Plan of Operations for FY 2025-2026

From April 24 to 30, 2025, the Colombo Plan Staff College (CPSC), led by CPSC Director General Prof. (Dr.) Suresh K. Dhameja, conducted its yearly planning meeting for its operations for the fiscal year 2025-2025.

On the first day of the operational planning, the CPSC Faculty members provided an orientation about the process and the related information necessary in drawing up a plan of operations. CPSC Faculty Consultant Dr. Kesavan Ulaganathen delivered presentations on Formulating the Yearly Plan of Operations (YPO) using Risk-Based Thinking Approach; Orientation on Strategic Plan 2023-2028 and on Risk Operation Management.

On the other hand, CPSC Faculty Specialist Prof. Naeem Yaqoob shared the SWOT Analysis of CPSC. Days 2 and 3 were spent by each division on planning their teams targets for the next fiscal year.

The five-day mapping exercise culminated with a presentation and discussions of each division's target accomplishments for the following year.

The operational plan of all the divisions were consolidated for submission to the Standing Committee Meeting for review and deliberation prior to the further review and final approval of the CPSC Governing Board in its 119th GB meeting.





Partnerships and Recognition



CPSC DG Attends the Philippines Independence Day Vin d'Honneur



In a hallmark of goodwill, camaraderie, and the celebration of the 127th National Independence, Prof. (Dr.) Suresh K. Dhameja participated in the traditional Vin d'Honneur that was hosted by no less than His Excellency, Ferdinand “Bongbong” Marcos Jr., President of the Republic of the Philippines, and First Lady, Madame Louise Araneta-Marcos, at the Malacañán Palace in Manila City on June 12, 2025.

The Independence Vin d'Honneur or Wine of Honor is one of the two official receptions that the Philippine President regularly organizes, the other being the New Year celebration, in which the Director General also graced this year as part of the diplomatic community. This brings together foreign envoys and government leaders as the Philippine Chief Executive conveys his gratitude to the country's international partners.

During the occasion, President Marcos conveyed before his international audience the current administration's foreign policy

which is anchored on peace, collaboration, and shared prosperity. He also stressed the importance of building bridges not walls as the government forges alliances based on mutual respect, reciprocity and shared goals.



President Ferdinand Marcos Jr. officiates the ceremonial toast during the Vin D' Honneur for government officials and diplomatic corps (Photo by Yummie Dingding)

The Philippine government has been hosting CPSC since its transfer from Singapore in 1987 and has been very supportive of its TVET programs and services for its member countries.

CPSC Attends DFA Virtual Information Session, Receives Commendations from TESDA for Regional TVET Impact



CPSC Director General Prof. (Dr.) Suresh K. Dhameja, and Executive Secretary Ms. Arlene Cruz attend the Virtual Information Session via Zoom

The Colombo Plan Staff College (CPSC) attended the Virtual Information Session on Philippine-hosted International Organizations organized by the Office of United Nations and International Organizations, Department of Foreign Affairs, Philippines, held on April 2, 2025 via Zoom. The Information Session aimed at providing a platform to explore new areas of possible collaboration and strengthened partnership among the international agencies hosted by the Philippines and their focal agencies in the country.

The CPSC Director General, apart from introducing CPSC as a key player in enhancing the TVET systems in the Asia Pacific region, highlighted its major achievements and the impact of its services to its stakeholders for more than 10 years. He also emphasized CPSC's efforts in expanding its visibility and programs throughout the Pacific and wider global community. In his presentation he also discussed strengthening cooperation with the government of the Philippines and

other international organizations through potential collaborative endeavors in the near future.

During the virtual session, CPSC's focal agency the Technical Education and Skills Development Authority (TESDA), Philippines represented by the TESDA Deputy Director General for Policy and Planning Ms. Rossana Urdaneta shared her positive insights and reactions to the presentation of Prof. Dr. Dhameja. She commended the College for a "job well done" and said that "... CPSC has consistently worked with TESDA through impactful training and development initiatives, strategic projects and expert consultancy services." She also emphasized that CPSC's programs, projects and services are clear illustration of the fruitful collaboration and a testament of the hard work and cooperation efforts between CPSC and TESDA, benefitting Filipino TVET professionals, in fulfillment of the advancement and enhancement of the TVET systems in the Philippines and the Asia Pacific region.



TESDA Deputy Director General for Policy and Planning Ms. Rossana Urdaneta shares her positive insights on the accomplishments of CPSC during the Virtual Information Session

CPSC Director General Joins Celebration of 54th Bangladesh Independence Day

CPSC DG Prof. (Dr.) Suresh K. Dhameja attended the celebration of the 54th Independence Day of Bangladesh held on April 29, 2025, in Makati City, Metro Manila, Philippines. The event was hosted by the Embassy of the People's Republic of Bangladesh in the Philippines, in which Prof. Dr. Dhameja met the Ambassador of Bangladesh, H.E. Mohammad Sarwar Mahmood, ndc.

The celebration paid tribute to Bangladesh's resilience and progress since its independence on March 26, 1971. By joining the commemoration, Prof. Dr. Dhameja reaffirmed CPSC's commitment to fostering strong diplomatic relations with Bangladesh, in line with the organization's mission of promoting regional cooperation in technical and vocational education and training (TVET).



CPSC Receives Plaque of Appreciation for Partnership from TESDA Women's Center



The Colombo Plan Staff College (CPSC) received the Outstanding Partnership Award from the TESDA Women's Center (TWC) during the TWC Partnership Appreciation Day held on June 19, 2025 at the TWC office in Taguig City, Metro Manila, Philippines. The award was received by the CPSC Director General, Prof. (Dr.) Suresh K. Dhameja, who was accompanied by Ms. Arlene Cruz, Executive Secretary.

During the event, the CPSC DG also introduced himself and the CPSC to representatives from other agencies and

institutions such as Samsung Philippines, University of the Philippines Institute for Small-Scale Industries (UP ISSI), Bo's Coffee, etc.

The TESDA Women's Center has been a very strong partner of CPSC in various collaborative activities such as CPSC's conduct of regional, in-country and customized programs. TWC is the first APACC Platinum-awardee in the Philippines and the first institution to be accredited by APACC in 2008.

CPSC Explores Potential Partnerships with Ginger SOFRECO



The Colombo Plan Staff College (CPSC) welcomed representatives from Ginger SOFRECO for a visit and meeting held on April 28, 2025 at the CPSC office in Pasig City, Metro Manila, Philippines.

The meeting opened with welcome remarks from Prof. (Dr.) Suresh K. Dhameja, CPSC Director General, and Mr. Hugues Temple-Boyer, Director of the Education, TVET, and Employment Department of Ginger SOFRECO.

Both introduced their respective organizations, and highlighted their mandates, key programs, and ongoing initiatives in the field of technical and vocational education and training (TVET). They also expressed a shared interest in exploring potential areas of collaboration in TVET and skills development.

This was followed by a presentation from CPSC Faculty Consultant Dr. Kesavan Ulaganathen, who provided an overview of CPSC's regular programs implemented through regional and in-country

training initiatives and conferences. He also discussed the role of the Asia Pacific Accreditation and Certification Commission (APACC) in promoting quality assurance within TVET institutions across the Asia-Pacific region.

In another presentation, CPSC Executive Secretary Ms. Arlene Cruz highlighted CPSC's extra-budgetary programs under Projects and Consultancy, which include customized programs, open-registration programs, study visits, and consultancy projects.

The meeting concluded with an open forum and presentation of tokens. The event served as a platform for knowledge exchange and laid the groundwork for potential collaborations between CPSC and Ginger SOFRECO.

Ginger SOFRECO is an engineering and consulting firm based in France, specializing in international cooperation for the development and implementation of industrial projects.

CPSC DG Pays Courtesy Visit to ILO Philippines Director

On May 22, 2025, the Colombo Plan Staff College (CPSC) delegation headed by the Director General, Prof. (Dr.) Suresh K. Dhameja and Executive Secretary, Mrs. Arlene Cruz, paid an official visit to the International Labour Organization (ILO) office in Makati City, Metro Manila, Philippines.

The CPSC Director General and ILO Country Director had a meaningful discussion about their current undertakings. Among these are ILO's STEM Program, the Global Accelerator Technical Working Group (GA-TWG), the Trade for Decent Work Project (Trade4DW), Industry Skills for Inclusive Growth (InSIGHT Phase 2), Digital-PINAS

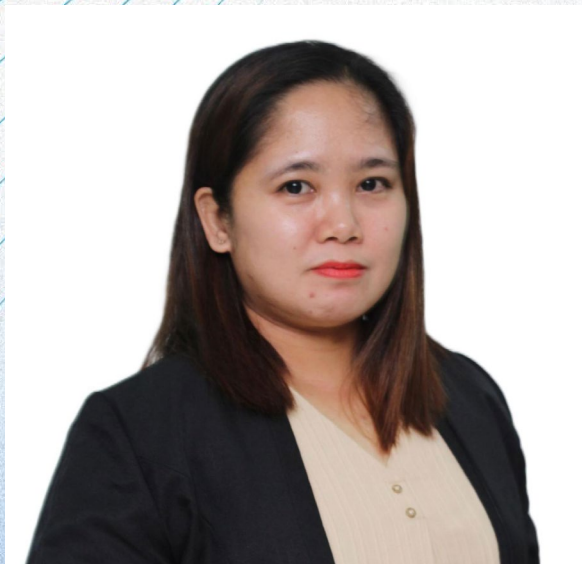
(Inclusive, Competitive and Responsible Digital Philippines, Occupational Safety in Construction, and Global Coalition for Social Justice, among others.

Both leaders agreed to explore the possibility of collaboration specifically on the GA-TWG initiative in which CPSC can take part as an international partner agency.

The ILO's presence in the Philippines signifies its strong focus in promoting decent work, inclusive growth, labor market governance, and equitable social protection which is congruent to the CPSC's mission.



CPSC Welcomes New RPID Officer and OJT



Arlene Raymundo-Monge

Ms. Arlene Raymundo-Monge is the new Research, Publications, and Information Division (RPID) Officer of CPSC. She previously served as Executive Director of the Philippine Institute of Cyber Security Professionals and held key training and leadership positions with the Philippine Navy. Ms. Monge earned her Master of Arts in Education, major in Educational Management, in 2018, and graduated with a Bachelor in Secondary Education, major in English, in 2012. Currently, she is pursuing her Doctor of Philosophy in Educational Leadership and Management. She

is also a licensed professional teacher and Six Sigma-certified professional. In addition, she received multiple awards for excellence in human resource development and contributions to national security.



Mehak Sharma

Ms. Mehak Sharma, an Indian national residing in the Philippines, joined CPSC as an on-the-job training (OJT) trainee on June 2, 2025. She was assigned to the Projects and Consultancy Division. Ms. Sharma is currently a fourth-year student at Miriam College, pursuing a Bachelor of Science in Business Administration (BSBA) major in Marketing Management.

CPSC Staff Reconnects with Heritage and Camaraderie at Las Casas Filipinas de Acuzar



To promote cultural heritage and strengthen camaraderie among the staff, the Colombo Plan Staff College (CPSC) held its annual team building activities from May 14 to 16, 2025, at Las Casas Filipinas de Acuzar in Bataan, Philippines.



The three-day activity served as a refreshing break for CPSC staff as they reconnected with history and nature. The CPSC staff were welcomed with a heritage tour around Las Casas which showcased Spanish-Filipino heritage houses and took them back into the Philippines' history.



One of the highlights of the trip was the team activities that showcased the value of teamwork, communication, and unity in achieving organizational goals. The team also visited Mount Samat in Pilar, Bataan, where they explored the historical site dedicated to the bravery and sacrifice of Filipino and American soldiers during World War II.

The activity aimed to reenergize and motivate the CPSC team as they prepare for Fiscal Year 2025-2026.



BEAT PLASTIC POLLUTION:

A GLOBAL CALL TO UNITE AGAINST THE TRIPLE PLANETARY CRISIS

On June 5, 2025, the international community marked this year's celebration of World Environment Day with a new coalition that aims to come together to finally put an end to the perennial issue of plastic pollution. Centuries have passed, yet this pressing environmental challenge remains one of the top issues plaguing countries across regions and transcending even to generations. With the theme **"Beat Plastic Pollution"**, nations are now heeding the unanimous call to take progressive action and eradicate the wrong practices involving the irresponsible consumption and use of plastic products.

Amid the triple planetary crisis lies the plastic menace intersecting all three - climate change, biodiversity loss, and pollution. Now considered a global crisis, plastic pollution has long been causing serious damage to the environment. With our existing battle against global warming and its effects, the impact of unmanaged plastic waste is evident in cases of extreme flooding, clogged waterways, and the presence of harmful microplastics in our food and water. Sadly, the world remains its largest producer with over 430 million tons of plastic that we are bringing not only to our households and offices, but also to the landfills, oceans, and even to the air we breathe.

And so, the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee (INC) is leading the initiatives in conducting global commitments, country-led events, and strong policy advocacy to help eradicate the plastic plague once and for all. INC is an international body that is working towards establishing a legally binding agreement by 2027 to address the full lifecycle of plastics from production to disposal. With this undertaking, countries across the globe are now introducing innovative waste management systems, developing plastic alternatives, and employing circular economy models to governments, industries, and civil societies to make a collective effort to act against plastic pollution. Public engagement and behavioral change remain key levers in shifting the trajectory. Communities, especially youth, are being empowered to take part in solutions through clean-up drives, education campaigns, and sustainable entrepreneurship.

The 2025 World Environment Day reminds us to examine our ways as we rethink our current systems, redesign materials, and reduce our dependence on single-use plastics. We must learn to produce, consume, and live responsibly as we transform into proactive global citizens. Moreover, it underscores that we cannot solve the climate crisis and restore our biodiversity without addressing plastic pollution. And the quest to eradicate this global environmental issue encapsulates the overall sphere of humanity, and therefore requires a united front to make a better world and a brighter Earth for the generations to come.

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“

Thought-provoking sessions with a diverse group of experts, including excellent program coordination from Dr. Kesavan Ulaganathen and Prof. Naeem Yaqoob. The CPSC staff were outstanding, very hospitable, and attentive. Special thanks to Prof. Dr. Suresh Dhameja for his thoughtful deliberations and his kind engagement. The garden party is also a wonderful idea. Thank you all!

”

Ms. Samanthi Senanayake

Participant

Regional Program on Quality Assurance
of TVET Institutions through Accreditation
May 19-23, 2025, Philippines

“

The program was well-organized and flowed smoothly from one session to another. The online and onsite sessions were conducive to learning, with good technical support and accessibility. The program was also immensely beneficial and aligned well with its stated objectives. Thank you for this program!

”

Channa Prasad Subasinghe

Participant

Regional Program on Integrating Entrepreneurship and
Technopreneurship in the TVET Curriculum
May 27-29 & June 2-6, 2025, Brunei Darussalam

“

The program was highly relevant and timely in addressing the growing need to strengthen industry partnerships and improve institutional systems for delivering quality TVET. With the knowledge imparted by the facilitators and resource persons, the sessions were well-prepared, practical, and useful for application. Overall, The program has broadened my perspective on how institutional reforms and strategic partnerships can elevate TVET quality.

”

Mario Labisig

Participant

In-Country Program on Enhancing TVET Institutions
and Industry Linkages for Quality TVET
June 23-26, 2025, Philippines

Shared Vision 2028
Globally-renowned center for the transformation of TVET

Mission

Transform TVET towards inclusive and sustainable societies through outcome-based programs and services, research & innovation, international cooperation, and quality assurance for the member countries



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