



**PRESIDENT'S CONSOLIDATED FOREIGN TRAVEL REPORT**  
**July – December 2017**

<b>Date of Travel</b>	<b>Institution/ Country Visited</b>	<b>Nature of Visit</b>	<b>Highlights of Visit</b>	<b>Value Added/Outputs/Agreements/ Potential Collaboration</b>
July 18-20, 2017	Kasetsart University (KU) and Khon Kaen University (KKU), Thailand	To formalize linkages with two universities namely; Kasetsart University (KU) and Khon Kaen University (KKU) in Bangkok and Khon Kaen, Thailand, respectively.	<p>In KU, it was agreed by both Presidents that there will be student and faculty exchange between Kasetsart University and Visayas State University. Scholarships for Master's and Doctor of Philosophy Degrees in the field of Agriculture (Precision Agriculture) and Food Science (Processing and Packaging) will be available to VSU faculty.</p> <p>In KKU, an invitation for VSU's entomology students to come to the university for a 3-month research work as part of the Student Exchange Program was expressed by the Head of the Dept. of Entomology. This is our counterpart of the 2 students from KKU who came to VSU for one semester last school year. KKU administrators particularly from the College of Agriculture were very satisfied on the research output of their students, in fact, the students won in their undergraduate research competition.</p>	<p>The university is encouraging faculty members to apply for this scholarship for their graduate studies. VSU needs to strengthen these two disciplines.</p> <p>The Department of Pest Management of VSU will select possibly two entomology students next school year to conduct part of their undergraduate thesis in KKU.</p>



<p>August 14 – 28, 2017</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Water Management Center and Deltares, Rotterdam, Netherlands</li> </ul>	<p>Cross country learning visit to gain best practices in R &amp; D, and benchmark for climate change adaptation and disaster risk management, resource management and engineering and technology management programs</p>	<p>The visit to the Netherlands particularly in Rotterdam was relevant in sectors of water management and water technologies, infrastructure development, smart cities and smart transportation, renewable energy and power and skills development. As part of the group of EVCIEERD, the visit to STC Group Holding, B.V. opened exchange of knowledge and the opportunity to know the output of the research project entitled “Development of a Coastal Protection Strategy for Tacloban and Palo. Red-Cross Netherlands implemented this project as a response to rebuilding efforts in the City of Tacloban and neighboring areas after Yolanda.</p> <p>The water management center of Rijks water Staat (RWS) in Lelystad, Netherlands has offered in-depth knowledge on water management. This center, the biggest water center in the Netherlands, is responsible for flood defenses, drinking water, and resources for industries and agriculture. The center ensures that the government authorities responsible are alerted in case of floods or storms.</p> <p>EVCIEERD visit to Deltares exposed the team to development of Netherlands dikes, dams, weirs and storm surge barriers. A giant water wave simulation model showed an impressive demonstration of innovative engineering technology to study waves. The group was also able to listen to paper presentations regarding safe and disaster/climate change-resilient infrastructure and communities empowered from studies on hydrological and geological information.</p>	<p>EVCIEERD as a consortium was able to connect to the Water Management Center and Deltares for potential collaboration in the field of water technologies, infrastructure development, smart cities and smart transportation, renewable energy, water resources for industry and agriculture. As a vulnerable region to the effects of climate change, the visit provided possible RDE agenda for the region in the area of disaster/climate change-resilient infrastructure and communities empowerment, and hydrological and geological studies.</p>
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• University of Goettingen, Germany</li> </ul>	<p>Strengthening Partnership with UG</p>	<p>VSU and UG have long been partners in instruction and research and faculty and staff exchange in the field of Agriculture, Forestry and Natural Resources. In fact, there are 6 PhD graduates, 5 MSc graduates; 5 faculty and staff trained; 4 exchange students for short term training who have been beneficiaries of these opportunities from VSU. Likewise, three (3) students from UG came to VSU for one-semester to one year studying in the field of Agribusiness, Tropical Ecology and International Forestry.</p> <p>The visit was also highlighted by paper presentations of selected UG experts in the fields of Agriculture, Forestry and Economics and likewise selected Region 8 Presidents also presented papers on internationalization, outcomes-based education and others. I presented a paper on "Climate Change Issues in the Philippines" during the plenary session attended by some UG faculty and researchers.</p> <p>We also had the opportunity to visit to Village of Juhnde, which is a model of a Bioenergy Village in Germany. The village is powered by electricity generated using animal manure.</p>	<p>The visit to UG was a form of renewing our ties and mutual commitment to the long standing Faculty Development Program of VSU which was continuously supported by UG. In fact, the university's strength on Forestry and Natural Resources was sustained because of UG's support in instruction, research and extension programs of the university in these areas.</p> <p>The Bioenergy Village in Juhnde which was operating for sometime already was a demonstration that a large commercial venture of this kind can be sustained in a community setting. We were informed that the technology is also set up in other villages of Germany.</p> <p>On a lighter note, my visit to UG was to personally thank Dr. Uwe Muss, Director of International Affairs, who helped VSU students by giving 1,041,067.70M Php to support them in their studies after Typhoon Yolanda.</p>
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<p>October 25-26, 2017</p>	<p>Bali, Indonesia</p>	<p>Participate in the meeting on the Advisory Committee on the Human Resources Development Project in Food-related Areas Through Partnership Program with Universities in the ASEAN region.</p>	<p>This is the 1<sup>st</sup> Advisory Committee meeting of the Human Resource Development Project in Food Related Areas through Partnership with Universities in ASEAN Countries sponsored by the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries (MAFF) of Japan. The meeting was attended by delegates from 10 ASEAN countries and from MAFF, Japan as well as experts from Japanese industry.</p> <p>The meeting presented the accomplishment of the HRD project-Phase I which included the implementation of 19 programs in 10 ASEAN universities with the Visayas State University as partner institution in the Philippines. These programs included conduct of training courses, factory visits and internship.</p> <p>The meeting also highlighted the possible areas for cooperation in relation to food value chain (FVC) which include capacity building for agricultural cooperatives in FVC focusing on the youth and women, promotion of ecommerce for agricultural cooperatives, development of standards on agricultural products, development of early warning systems on pests and diseases, promotion of technology and practices to reduce postharvest losses, and various training courses on agricultural best practices and food quality and safety. This will be addressed in the HRD Project Phase 2.</p>	<p>As the sole partner of this project in the Philippines, VSU benefited from the partnership by sending our graduate students of Food Science and Technology to trainings, lectures and factory visits twice to Thailand and two times also to Japan. They gained experience in food handling and food safety procedures.</p> <p>The implementation of the HRD Project-Phase 2 will expand to the conduct of thematic seminars, academic conferences, investigative research, publication of academic achievements and trainings and internships. VSU as partner will surely benefit from this engagement.</p> <p>A research project for policy recommendation to ASEAN countries on realization of higher value added of agricultural products was also requested by the Economic Research Institute for ASEAN and East Asia to be conducted by VSU as partner to identify specific obstacles of, and economic effects by, the development of FVCs for higher value added of agricultural products, and to provide useful information to the ASEAN Secretariat and government staffs of respective countries.</p>
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