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Balangay 2024: PH's Inside Out

In reference to the attached letter from Risandra Lumangaya, Project Head, Vice President for Academics of University of the Philippines Association of Political Science Majors (UP APSM), the field is hereby informed of the above-captioned subject which shall be held at Cesar E. A.- Virata School of Business UP Diliman, on November 9, 2024.

For more information, please contact:

Ms. Risandra Lumangaya

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Diliman Quezon City

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**UNIVERSITY OF THE PHILIPPINES
ASSOCIATION OF POLITICAL SCIENCE MAJORS**

1/F Left Wing, Palma Hall
University of the Philippines Diliman
Quezon City



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14 October 2024

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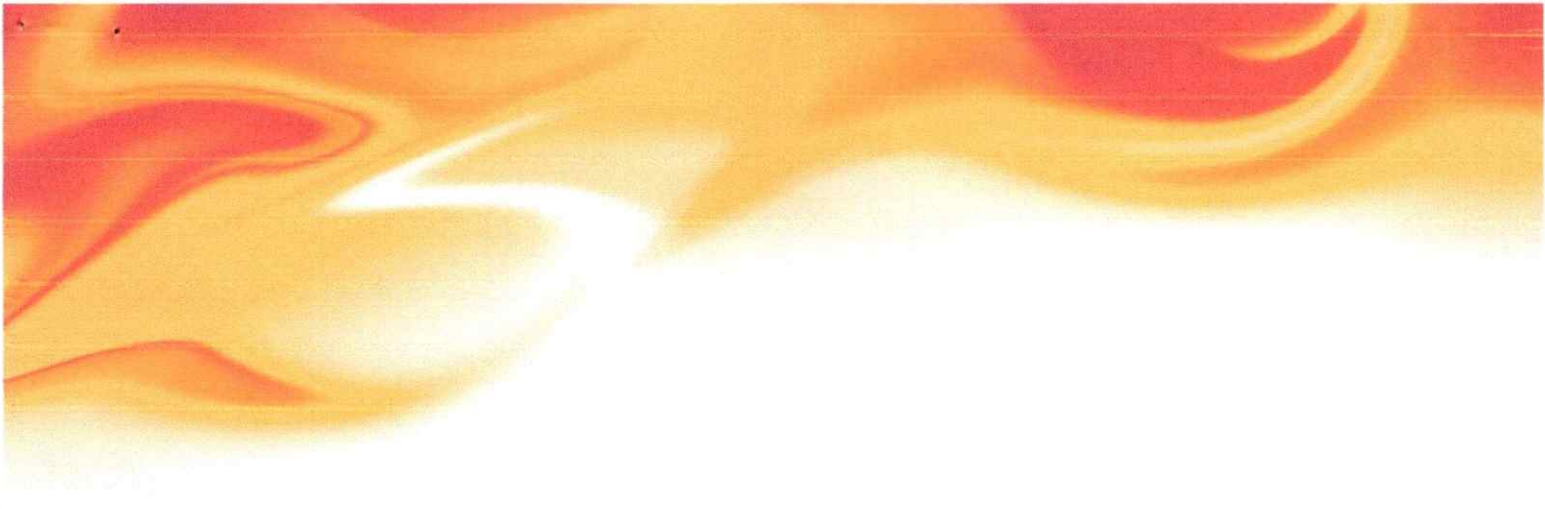
Regional Director
Office of the Regional Director of Department of Education, ORD
National Capital Region

Dear Mx. Andaya:

Greetings!

We are members of the **University of the Philippines Association of Political Science Majors (UPAPSM)**, an academic student organization that aims to promote social participation aided by the objective study of Political science. We are a non-profit, non-sectarian, non-partisan organization composed of UP Diliman Political Science Students and established in 1983. To actualize these goals, UPAPSM will be organizing a scholastic cup: **Balangay 2024**.

Balangay is an annual event of the organization that exposes its participants to a competitive yet professional environment and promotes the field of Political Science and social involvement through a series of lectures and competitions. With the current social and political challenges faced by the nation, the UP Association of Political Science Majors proudly presents its 2024 iteration of the flagship event, **BALANGAY 2024: PH's Inside Out**. The event will gather high school students from across the country to participate in lectures delivered by experts in the field, alongside academic competitions that will test their knowledge and hone their skills in critical thinking, public speaking, writing and researching. The event is scheduled to take place on **9 November 2024, from 9 AM - 5 PM, at BA 301, Cesar E.A Virata School of Business UP Diliman**.



With this, we humbly request that your kind office may **recommend and promote the aforementioned event** to the heads of public and private junior and senior high schools in the region through an **endorsement letter**. Alongside this, we would also like to **request an updated master list of the schools** in the region as we believe that our mission to promote social and political involvement in academic avenues will be best served if we will be able to reach more schools and students.

Should you want to acquaint yourself with our event and our organization, feel free to refer to our attached event primer and concept note.

If you have any concerns, please do not hesitate to contact us through apsm.upd@gmail.com or 09124200783 and look for Ms. Risandra Lumangaya.

We hope for your favorable response on the above matter. Thank you so much!

Warm regards,



Risandra Lumangaya

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Project Head, Vice President for Academics

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BALANGAY 2024: PH's Inside Out

Security is one of the core responsibilities of the government of the Philippines to ensure sovereignty and maintain the monopoly of the legitimate use of force within our territory. We have always been confronted with a series of issues that test the capability of our country to protect what is ours, may it be from internal or external forces. Now, both within the national and international forces are testing this limitation.

For months, millions of people have been fixated on watching the senate hearings of how the lawmakers are grilling the former mayor of Bamban Tarlac, Guo Hua Ping ("Alice Guo"), about her origin. Formal inquiry that started in May and is still ongoing. She was known for her enthusiastic personality and beaming smile in their town. She constantly posed her provincial and ordinary life that may have caught the interest and trust of the people during the campaign period and even made her win. Multiple alarming revelations unfold upon this inquiry about the truth of her identity and citizenship, alleged ties with China and criminal syndicates, enabling illegal gambling and organized crimes by Philippine Offshore Gaming Operators (POGO), and most recently being a fugitive in Indonesia. Her case highlighted the potential flaws of the Philippines's Electoral system, as she was elected in a position for public office even with her questionable background. Whether the government knowingly approved her candidacy and actions without this knowledge or certain political actors in position are backing up her saga. But as we all know, this high-profile case boils down to the question of how protected our national security is and the seemingly internal rot of our system.



Another issue circling our security radar is our international dispute with China on the territory of the West Philippine Sea. According to the 2016 arbitral tribunal decision of the Permanent Court of Arbitration (PCA), the claims of territory are rightfully awarded to the Philippines as it is part of our exclusive economic zone, but eight years later, China still refuses to acknowledge it. The recent excessive display of escalating attacks of the Chinese Coast Guard towards the PH Coast Guard and Filipino fishermen is extremely alarming. In May 2024, the issue of the former President Rodrigo Duterte entering a ‘gentleman’s agreement’ about the waters with China surfaced that supposedly maintained the status quo of the Ayungin Shoal. His former presidential spokesperson confirmed this and said that the escalating attacks of China are because the Philippines is no longer abiding by this agreement since it was a non-binding deal that cannot apply to the current term of President Ferdinand Marcos Jr. This is a serious blow to our assertion of sovereignty. Months later, we are still grappling to enforce the ruling to assert our rights, and the tension is continuously aggravating despite the constant effort of diplomatic protest.

With these security threats inside and outside our country, the role of the youth to be vigilant and well-informed is crucial. The UP Association of Political Science Majors launches its 2024 iteration of its flagship event, **BALANGAY 2024: PH’s Inside Out**. The event is comprised of a lecture series and scholastic cup to be held inside UP Diliman on **November 9, 2024**. The event will gather high school students from all around the country to participate in lectures and discussions spearheaded by experts on politics and national and international security. The students will also participate in various academic competitions that will test and nurture their essential skills, such as speaking, writing, critical thinking, and researching. Through Balangay, UP APSM has been continuously bringing the study of political science to the youth in a more absorbable manner and igniting their participation in our nation’s politics and societal issues.

Program Flow

Time	Activity
9:00 AM - 10:00 AM	Ingress and Registration
10:00 AM - 10: 05 AM	Opening Remarks
10: 05 AM - 10:15 AM	Intro
10:15 AM - 10:45 AM	Speaker 1: National Security Implications of Guo Hua Ping's Case
10:45 AM - 11:15 AM	Speaker 2: Sovereignty at Stake in the West Philippine Sea Dispute
11:15 - 11:45 AM	Speaker 3: Mangingisda Naman, Atin ang West Philippine Sea
11:45 AM - 12:00 PM	Awarding of Certificates for the Speakers + Introduction of Judges
12:00 PM - 1:00 PM	LUNCH BREAK
1:00 PM - 3:00 PM	Competitions Proper
3:00 PM - 3:30 PM	Judges Deliberation and Intermission
3:30 PM - 4:30 PM	Awarding Ceremony and Culmination
4:30 PM - 5:00 PM	Sign Outs and Egress



Subtopics for the Lectures:

1. National Security Implications of Guo Hua Ping's Case

- With the ongoing investigation of Guo Hua Ping's case, we seek to analyze the implications of the questionable involvement of the Philippine Electoral System in her political saga. How does it pose a threat to the national security of our country and our political processes? What does it reveal about the state of our internal electoral system?

2. Sovereignty at Stake in the West Philippine Sea Dispute

- The escalating tensions and confrontations of China and the Philippine Coast Guard, as well as the fishermen, are alarming. We seek to compare and contrast the current and past administration's approach to asserting our territorial rights. How did the 'gentleman's agreement' or the non-binding agreement between former President Duterte affect our stance on approaching the dispute today? How can we manage the tensions in the West Philippine Sea?

3. Mangingisda Naman, Atin ang West Philippine Sea

- The attacks of the Chinese Coast Guard hinders the primary livelihood of our Filipino fishermen. What are their real life experiences in asserting their right to fish in our own territory? How would they compare the assertion of our territorial rights between the Duterte and Marcos' administration? What are your calls for support to our government in relation to this issue?



Competitions

1. Quiz Bowl

- An objective competition that seeks to test the students' grasp of general knowledge of Philippine Politics and History, International Relations, and current events.
- Participants will engage in a quiz bee format competition with questions in the multiple choice, identification, and true or false formats. The competition will be divided into easy, medium, and difficult rounds. A clincher is also prepared in case of a tie. The winner will be the participant with the most points at the end of the rounds.

2. Argumentative Essay

- A subjective competition that seeks to test the students' command of language, critical thinking, argumentation, and writing.
- Participants will be asked to take a stance from a certain prompt from topics relating to Philippine Politics and History, International Relations, and current events. The topic may also be in line with the theme of the event. They will be given time to write their essays and defend their stances. Their submissions will be deliberated by a judge based on criteria.

3. Extemporaneous Speech

- A subjective competition that seeks to test the students' command of language, on-the-spot thinking, and public speaking.
- Participants will be given a prompt to deliver a speech from topics relating to Philippine Politics and History, International Relations, and current events. The topic may also be related to the theme of the event. They will be given a short preparation time to compose their thoughts and a time to deliver their speeches. They will be assessed by a judge based on criteria.

4. Political Research Proposal and Defense

- A subjective research competition that seeks to test the students' critical thinking skills, originality, and research skills, especially since research is an important part of political science.
- Participants will be grouped by their school and will submit a research proposal ahead of the event. The proposal can be about Philippine Politics and Governance, International Relations, current events, and other political research topics. They will be asked to submit a manuscript containing the Introduction, the Literature Review, and their Methodologies ahead of the event. They will also be asked to defend their topics among a panel of political science professors. The judge-professors will select the best proposal based on their criteria.