

UNIVERSITY OF THE PHILIPPINES  
ALUMNI ASSOCIATION –



# ANNUAL REPORT 2019

DIEZE 61, 5032 XG TILBURG  
THE NETHERLANDS

[www.upalumni.nl](http://www.upalumni.nl)



# ANNUAL REPORT 2019

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## ABOUT UPAA-NL

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The University of the Philippines Alumni Association – The Netherlands Chapter (UPAA-NL) is an independent association (*vereniging*) of UP alumni residing, working, or studying in the Netherlands. It was founded in 1992 and re-established in 2006. It is duly accredited by the UP Office of Alumni Relations in accordance with the constitution and bylaws of the University of the Philippines Alumni Association, Inc.

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## FOREWORD

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Since its re-establishment in 2006, the UPAA-NL has undertaken various activities and events in order to raise funds for projects beneficial to the various communities of the UP System. In 2019, the association continued its support for a project of UP Los Baños (UPLB) by funding the purchase of the third batch of equipment for the physics laboratory of the UP Rural High School. The project's goal is to give the high school its own laboratory and promote science to the general public. UPAA-NL plans to continue supporting UPLB for another instalment of the physics laboratory equipment in the coming years.

It was with great sadness that the organisation members paid their last respects to Wads Wijnberg-Tiongson, who passed away on 1 October 2019, just a few days shy of her 81<sup>st</sup> birthday. Her warm companionship will surely be missed and her very active involvement in all UPAA-NL meetings and activities. UPAA-NL members raise their glasses to Wads - proost!

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## PROJECTS AND ACTIVITIES IN 2019

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*UP Rural High School physics laboratory project.* During the past three years, from 2017 to 2019, UPAA-NL donated, in three instalments, equipment to the Physics Department of UP Rural High School. Since the physics laboratory was established in 2017, students of the high school have been able to carry out their laboratory activities within school premises and were no longer dependent on access to the university laboratory. Since the opening of the laboratory, UP Rural High School was able to hold its long-planned physics exhibit for the general public.

*Film showing “Sunday Beauty Queen”.* For the first time, UPAA-NL co-organised with the Philippine Embassy in the Netherlands a film showing. The film *Sunday Beauty Queen* is an award-winning Philippine documentary about a group of Filipinos working in Hong Kong. The film showing was held on 24 May 2019 at the Erasmus University Rotterdam International Institute of Social Studies (EUR-IISS) in The Hague. The film showing was attended by over a hundred guests. After the film showing, the audience were able to have an online conversation with the film director. The event provided a good opportunity to promote Philippine culture as well as explore vital issues affecting Filipinos working overseas.

*Participation in Filipino community events.* In 2019, UPAA-NL joined the Philippine Independence Day picnic held in The Hague. Along with other organisations, UPAA-NL had its own picnic tent and shared food with all visitors “fiesta” style.

As in the previous years, UPAA-NL joined the semi-annual Filipino community meetings organised by the Philippine Embassy. The meetings gave UPAA-NL the opportunity to inform the Philippine community leaders of the latest achievements of UPAA-NL, network with other



Philippine-related associations, and thank them for supporting UPAA-NL's activities and projects in the past year. Particular for this year is an invitation from the Philippine Embassy for a meeting with the Philippine Labour Attaché. A number of UPAA-NL members attended this meeting.

*Communication with the UP community.* In recognition of its decade-long contribution to the UP community, UPAA-NL was featured full-page in the July 2018-May 2019 issue of Carillon magazine, the official publication of the UP Alumni Association. The feature article presented to the wider UP alumni audience UPAA-NL's accomplishments and contributions since its re-establishment in 2006.

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## FUNDRAISING

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*"Halloween Boo-ling Strikes Again".* To provide funding for the third batch of equipment under the UP Rural High School physics laboratory project, UPAA-NL held, for the second time for this project, leisure sport event *Halloween Boo-ling Strikes Again*. With tickets sold out, over a hundred players and some non-playing guests joined the event in the afternoon of 9 November 2019 at the Bowling Scheveningen in The Hague. The event was opened by Ambassador Jaime Victor Ledda of the Philippine Embassy, who also gave the ceremonial first throw. Numerous prizes were given out, including those donated by friends of UPAA-NL. The event also featured a Halloween costume competition, various prize categories and a special "for kids only" bowling lane. UPAA-NL's profit goal was achieved.

*Auction for UP students affected by the Mindanao earthquake.* During the last month of 2019, a strong earthquake struck the island of Mindanao. The UP Foundation asked for assistance to help in the relief operations for students affected by the earthquake. UPAA-NL answered this request by raising funds through an auction it held during its annual Christmas party. Over 350 euros were raised through the donations and auction of items given by members and friends of UPAA-NL.

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## ORGANISATION

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UPAA-NL's business address is Dieze 61, 5032 XG, Tilburg, The Netherlands. It has been registered with the Kamer van Koophandel since 2006. Since 1 January 2017, the Executive Committee has been composed of the following persons:

President: Joselito Baleva  
Secretary: Bituen Hidalgo  
Treasurer: Avelina Baxa

The annual General Assembly Meeting was held on 13 April 2019. In addition, two regular meetings were held in The Hague. Minutes are available for all these meetings. The Executive Committee also met in between the General Assembly and regular meetings.

During the 2019 General Assembly Meeting, officers for the term 2020 to 2022 were elected. Beginning 1 January 2020, the Executive Committee will be composed of:

President: Florisa Almodiel Luteijn  
Vice President: Manuelito Tomas  
Secretary: Arlene van Vegchel-Obmerga  
Treasurer: Maria Dolores Borja



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#### **CLOSING REMARKS**

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In 2019, UPAA-NL continued in its third year of supporting the science-oriented project of UP Rural High School. This is complimentary to the projects already done by the organisation. Activity-wise, UPAA-NL held its third bowling tournament, given the success of this kind of event in generating funds and promoting goodwill among UPAA-NL members and their network. This year saw the first event (film showing) organised by UPAA-NL with the Philippine Embassy. Moreover, members of UPAA-NL remained active in activities organised by the Philippine Embassy in The Hague.

With its new set of officers starting their three-year term in 2020, UPAA-NL looks forward to continuing its efforts in being a positive contributor to UP and the Filipino community in the Netherlands. The organisation recognises the generous support of its partners in businesses, academic institutions, and individuals in the success of its projects and activities. UPAA-NL also acknowledges the efforts of its members in soliciting donations, selling tickets for its activities, and doing the legwork in communicating with UP and the Filipino community.

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#### **DATE APPROVED**

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27 June 2020



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## ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

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### **UPAA-NL Activities and Projects from 2006 to 2019**

#### **Projects:**

- *UP Rural High School Physics Laboratory and Mobile Exhibition (2017 – present).* To support UP Rural High School in buying equipment for its own physics laboratory, UPAA-NL organised bowling competitions in 2018 and 2019 and a bingo event in 2017. The project has several phases involving the purchase of laboratory equipment. UPAA-NL has successfully funded the acquisition of the prioritised laboratory equipment. The purchased equipment has been delivered and is now being used by the students. For 2020, UPAA-NL continues to coordinate with UPLB on the purchase of additional laboratory equipment.
- *Fundraising for students affected by the Mindanao Earthquake (2019).* To give financial support to students in need due to the strong earthquake that hit Mindanao in late 2019, UPAA-NL held an auction during its Christmas Party. Friends of UPAA-NL were invited to join the party and auction. Over 350 euros were raised.
- *Donate A Book to UP Tacloban (2014 – 2015).* To help UP Visayas – Tacloban College (UPVTC) in rebuilding its library, UPAA-NL organised a book donation drive. Books were collected from various sources in the Netherlands. A total of 1,405 books were sent. UPVTC estimated the value of the books it received to be PHP1.3 million or approximately €25,000.
- *Support for students affected by Typhoon Haiyan (2013).* In November 2013, typhoon Haiyan (local name Yolanda) drastically affected the lives of many students enrolled in the different campuses of UPV. UPAA-NL decided without hesitation to assist the students. Through contacts in UP Diliman, UPAA-NL donated funds to address the immediate and basic needs of these students (i.e. cross-registrants in UP Diliman). The UPAA-NL donations were given to the “One Stop Shop” (€750) and to the “Meals” of the UP students affected by typhoon Haiyan (€190).
- *Digitisation of the UP Main Library (2007 – 2012).* UPAA-NL raised €20,000 for four server units and the structured cabling of the Main Library building to upgrade and enhance the capability of the UP Library Systems in providing students, faculty members, staff of all university constituents, and outside researchers the best possible access to information they need in support of instruction, research, and extension.

#### **Activities and Events:**

- *2019: Boo-ling Strikes Again.* To fund the third batch of equipment under the UP Rural High School physics laboratory project, UPAA-NL held a bowling competition on 9 November 2019, from 12:00 to 17:00, at the Bowling Scheveningen in The Hague. Tickets were sold out within a few weeks. Over 120 participants and guests joined the event.
- *2019: Independence Day Picnic in The Hague.* In 2019, UPAA-NL joined the Philippine Independence Day picnic held in The Hague. UPAA-NL set up its own picnic tent and shared food with all visitors “fiesta” style. 15 organisations joined the event and was attended by over 200 guests.
- *2019: Sunday Beauty Queen film showing and forum.* UPAA-NL, along with the Philippine Embassy in the Netherlands co-organised the film showing of *Sunday Beauty Queen*, an award-winning Philippine documentary about a group of Filipinos working in Hong



Kong. The film showing, attended by over a hundred guests, was held on 24 May 2019 at the Erasmus University Rotterdam International Institute of Social Studies (EUR-IISS) in The Hague. The event was capped with an online conversation with the film director Baby Ruth Villarama.

- *2018: Halloween Boo-ling.* This bowling competition was held to generate funds for the second batch of equipment under the UP Rural High School physics laboratory project. The bowling event-costume party was held on 10 November, from 12:00 to 17:00, at the Bowling Scheveningen in The Hague. More than 120 participants and guests attended the event.
- *2018: Climate Justice Forum.* In observance of the Global Day of Action on Climate Change and the UN Declaration on the Rights of the Indigenous Peoples, a forum on climate justice was held on 24 September 2018 at the International Institute of Social Studies in The Hague. The forum had an audience of over 50 students and professionals. Speakers were Ms. Abigail Anongos of the Cordillera Peoples Alliance and Ms. Andrea Malaya Ragrario of UP Mindanao.
- *2017: Bingohan at Bonggahan para sa Siyensya.* In the spirit of supporting its latest project and, at the same time, organising a totally different fundraising event, UPAA-NL held a bingo afternoon accompanied with a small market for selling Filipino goods and food. This was held in the afternoon of 16 September 2017 in a community centre in Rijswijk.
- *2016: UPAA-NL 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration.* UPAA-NL celebrated its 10th year since its re-establishment in 2006. The anniversary was celebrated with an outdoor event in Oostende, Belgium on 24 August 2016.
- *2015: English Only Please: A Movie Gala on Board the ss Rotterdam.* One of UPAA-NL's goal is to promote Philippine culture and arts. This fundraising event was attended by more than 150 guests. The movie gala was held in the afternoon of 28 September 2015 in Rotterdam. The film *English Only Please* is a Philippine award-winning romantic comedy film produced by Atty. Joji Alonso, a fellow UP alumna. After the film showing at the ss Rotterdam Theatre, a concert and raffle prize draw were held at the Queen's Lounge. Nine sales booths were present. Raffle prizes were given away, including an overnight stay at the ss Rotterdam as the grand prize.
- *2014: Strike for a Scholar, an Open Bowling Tournament.* UPAA-NL held a sports event in August to benefit the UP students affected by typhoon Haiyan. More than 100 participants were present at the Bowling Scheveningen in The Hague.
- *2013: Harana't Piyesta.* With more than 150 guests and 20 stalls (*marktcramen*), UPAA-NL celebrated *Harana't Piyesta*, a Filipino feast with music, food, and drinks. In the afternoon of 28 September at the Church of Our Saviour in The Hague, guests were treated to a *harana*, a concert of Philippine and Western classical, pop, and hip-hop music and dance. In the church atrium, the *piyesta* went on. Philippine specialties and goods were sold in an indoor market.
- *2012: A Uniquely Pleasurable Afternoon of Music: Volunteers for Volunteers.* With the help of amateur musicians who volunteered to perform and with the support from generous sponsors and friends, a successful concert was staged at the Hogeschool Helicon in The Hague on 16 September. The matinee concert of light classical music was enjoyed by a hundred guests in a fully packed concert hall.
- *2011: Umindak sa Pier!* On 28 August, UPAA-NL held a successful fundraising summer party in De Pier Restaurant in Scheveningen, The Hague. More than a hundred guests enjoyed the buffet dinner, unlimited drinks, dancing, and raffle draw. The dinner guests were treated to song and dance performances.





- 2010: *Jonathan Badon – Concert in The Hague*. On 18 June, UPAA-NL proudly presented the Philippines's "Prince of Operatic Pop," Jonathan Badon, in concert. An audience of more than 100 gathered in the Rode Zaal auditorium of the Hogeschool Helicon in The Hague. Funds raised during this event were used for the fulfilment of the organisation's pledge to UP Main Library.
- 2007: *Patikim: A Dinner to Remember*. In September, UPAA-NL held *Patikim*, a fundraising event which featured Philippine culture. The event, held in the residence of Philippine Ambassador to the Netherlands Romeo Arguelles, started with a piano concert by Adolovni Acosta. This was followed by a dinner featuring Philippine cuisine. Restaurateurs Romy Dorotan and Amy Besa took charge of the dinner. More than 50 guests were present.

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## PHOTOS

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UPAA-NL members at the 2019 General Assembly Meeting in Het Klokhuis, The Hague.



Boo-lingan Strikes Again, 9 November 2019, Bowling Scheveningen, The Hague.



Christmas Party and Auction Fundraising for UP Mindanao, 8 December 2019, The Hague.





## UPAA-NL IN THE NEWS

### Featured Location-Based Alumni Chapter Abroad

# UP ALUMNI ASSOCIATION- THE NETHERLANDS

BY BITUEN P. HIDALGO

The University of the Philippines - The Netherlands Chapter, (UPAA-NL) is an independent association of UP alumni who are residing, working or studying in The Netherlands. It was founded in 1992 and re-established in 2006. It is duly accredited by the UP Office of Alumni, and is a registered foundation in the Netherlands.

Since its founding, UPAA-NL has been engaged in projects related to the University of the Philippines. To support these projects, foster a sense of community among Filipinos in the Netherlands, and promote Philippine culture, the organization has held various fundraising events.

Over the last decade UPAA-NL mandated itself to provide financial support to various projects of the University. Its first main project was funding the digitizing of the UP Main Library. For this project from 2007 to 2012, UPAA-NL provided €20,000 for the purchase of four server units and hardware to provide students, faculty members, staff of all constituent universities and outside researchers the best possible access to information.

In November 2013, typhoon Yolanda drastically affected the lives of the many students enrolled in the different campuses of UP Visayas. Without hesitation, UPAA-NL donated funds to address the immediate and basic needs of these students. In the years after, to help UP Tacloban rebuild its library, UPAA-NL organized a book donation drive resulting in a donation of 1,405 books worth P1.3 million.

Since 2017, UPAA-NL has been funding the purchase of equipment to provide UP Los Baños

Rural High School its own brand new physics laboratory and to support the creation of the university's hands-on, interactive and mobile Physics exhibit, which will be open to the students and the public. The UPAA-NL is proud to say that it has supported diverse projects for the different units of the university since 2006.

To sponsor the various projects, UPAA-NL has organized many events of diverse nature for its network of friends and supporters.

Aside from projects and fundraising activities, UPAA-NL has continued to join Philippine community events led by the Philippine Embassy as well as getting in touch with UP alumni visiting the Netherlands. In 2018, for the first time the organization held a forum open to the public. The forum "Philippine Indigenous People's Voices for Climate Justice" was held at the Erasmus University Rotterdam in The Hague. The forum provided a good venue for informing the public of the developments in the Philippines as well as interacting with members of the academe in the Netherlands.

To remain connected with the university, UPAA-NL continues its close coordination with various UP units. It has also held informal meetings with other UP alumni associations. To promote cooperation among its members, UPAA-NL holds annually a general assembly meeting as well as regular quarterly meetings.

At present, UPAA-NL has 28 members and continues to be active in recruiting more members. UPAA-NL looks forward to continuing its efforts in being a positive contributor to UP and the Filipino community in The Netherlands.



Officers and Members of UPAA-NL during the General Assembly on April 13, 2019.

University Alumni Magazine 11

Published in UP Carillon, Issue No. 3 (July 2018 - May 2019).

UP Carillon is the official alumni magazine of the University of the Philippines.



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## IN MEMORIAM

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### **Zenaida 'Wads' Tionson-Wijnberg 12 October 1938 – 01 October 2019**

Wads was a pillar of UPAA-NL. She helped found the association in 1992 with some friends and became one of the first officers. Since then, Wads had been instrumental in making it grow and known to the Filipino Community. She was present in almost every UPAA-NL meeting and activity and meticulously shared her views on every matter regarding the affairs of the association.

For more than 40 years, Wads was active in various Filipino-Dutch organizations. Helping fellow Filipinos and others who are in need was second nature to her.

She founded the Samahan ng Manggagawang Pilipino, the first Filipino organization in the Netherlands that sought to protect migrants and their rights. She was also a founder of BISIG-Netherlands, a political organization that bridged awareness of Philippine issues to the Dutch public after the 1986 EDSA Revolution. She also co-founded the Kapatiran Foundation that helps send schoolchildren of poor families, including indigenous peoples in the Philippines.

In 2009, Wads was bestowed the Ridder Van de Orde van Oranje Nassau (Knight of the Order of Oranje Nassau), the highest recognition in the yearly Koninklijke onderscheidingen (Royal Honors) for private citizens in the Netherlands who have served the society in their voluntary capacity.

While Wads' passing leaves us all with a heavy heart, it is celebrating her life that will remain with us forever. She would always be remembered as the woman who laughed hard, lived long, and was loved by many.

Thank you Wads for your kindness and for the happiness you brought to many of us. We are painfully missing you.

