



2020

ANNUAL REPORT



UNIVERSITY OF THE PHILIPPINES
ALUMNI ASSOCIATION - THE NETHERLANDS

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UPAA-NL Projects and Activities (2006–2020)

PROFILE AND MISSION

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

UPAA-NL provides organised alumni assistance to the University in the form of projects to help ensure that the future alumni can continue to benefit from the excellent education and training they receive from UP. The Association continues its efforts in being an active and positive contributor to the community.

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

When we greeted each other after the holidays and held our first quarterly meeting on 1 February in The Hague, little did we know that it would be the first and last time in 2020 that we would gather, get to hug each other, and closely interact with one another. Six weeks later, the Dutch government declared its first lockdown.

We have since then managed to learn our way to Zoom meetings and virtual events. Despite the COVID-19 measures, members were able to successfully raise funds to provide personal protective equipment (PPE), medical equipment, and financial assistance to the doctors and medical staff of the UP-Philippine General Hospital (PGH). Most importantly, we maintained good social relations, albeit online, among members. We greeted fellow members on their birthdays and important milestones, welcomed new members, and sympathised with those who suffered the loss of a loved one. Unable to go home to the Philippines and be with our families, we found in UPAA-NL a home away from home. We celebrated the holidays with a Christmas package, an online cooking workshop, and a virtual Christmas party with fun games and prizes.

Our activities were a success because of the **continued support of our donors and friends**, to whom **we are grateful**. We are also **thankful for the members' hard work and dedication to UPAA-NL**.

Together, we persevered and prevailed, and we shall carry on.

INTRODUCTION

The year 2020 started the world's battle against the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) crisis. Before the Netherlands declared a lockdown in March, UPAA-NL had held its last in-person quarterly meeting in February. The Association, with its new set of officers, has since adopted ways to perform its functions and thrive despite the pandemic-related restrictions.

UPAA-NL held online activities and events to continue raising funds for its projects that have benefitted various communities of the UP System. The UP Rural High School (UPRHS) Physics Department, which did not have a physics laboratory, has received support from UPAA-NL through its purchase of laboratory equipment since 2017. The Association has committed to continue supporting UPRHS for another instalment of physics laboratory equipment until the project's completion.

UPAA-NL raised funds for the COVID-19 frontline healthcare workers of the UP-Philippine General Hospital (PGH) since the onset of the global pandemic.



First and last in-person meeting in 2020 held on 1 Feb. in The Hague

PROJECTS AND ACTIVITIES

UPRHS physics laboratory project

From 2017 to 2020, UPAA-NL donated, in four instalments, equipment to the UPRHS Physics Department. When UPRHS opened its first physics laboratory in 2017, students at the high school were no longer dependent on the university laboratory to carry out their laboratory activities. UPRHS could finally hold its long-planned mobile physics exhibition, shared with local schools and its community.



Physics lab equipment donated by UPAA-NL to UPRHS (Photo credit: UPRHS Physics Department)

Participation in Filipino community events

In April, UPAA-NL was one of the first organisations to respond to the call to work together to help Filipinos in the Netherlands who were seriously affected by the pandemic.

This ad hoc group, which eventually called itself FilCom NL, together with 14 other Filipino organisations based in the Netherlands, raised funds and provided food aid packages, medicines and vitamins, and psychosocial counselling to Filipinos in need in Amsterdam and The Hague.

In June, UPAA-NL took part in the virtual celebration of the 122nd Philippine Independence Day organised by the Philippine Embassy in The Hague. The members prepared a video greeting, which the embassy presented at the online event.

The Association also sent a farewell message of thanks to former Philippine Ambassador to the Netherlands H.E. (Mr.) Jaime Victor B. Ledda on his last days at the embassy for his support to UPAA-NL's activities and projects.

***Baybayin* online workshop**

UPAA-NL organised a two-hour online workshop to introduce *Baybayin*, a pre-Hispanic script in the Philippines, to its members. The workshop served as this year's virtual team building. UPAA-NL held this activity in August in celebration of Philippine National Language Month.



Participants write their names in *Baybayin* at the online workshop held on 22 Aug.

FUNDRAISING

UPAA-NL face masks sale for UP-PGH

The global pandemic has reinvigorated *bayanihan* (a Filipino word, which loosely translates to cooperative endeavour) from within and outside the Philippines to help UP-PGH healthcare workers at the front line. In March, the Philippine government designated UP-PGH as a primary hospital to handle COVID-19 cases. UPAA-NL facilitated solicitations in response to UP's call for *bayanihan*. These donations, deposited to UP-PGH, went to its frontline healthcare workers' personal protective equipment (PPE).

The second phase of the project focused on selling non-medical, reusable face masks to friends, family, and supporters of UPAA-NL. Proceeds from the sales, deposited to UP-PGH, were used to purchase exhaust fans, air purifiers, and ultraviolet lamps.



UPAA-NL's poster for its face mask project



Supporters of #BayanihanNa project don their face masks.

***Diwa ng Pasko* fundraising activity for UP-PGH and UPRHS physics laboratory**

In place of a bowling tournament, which UPAA-NL organised three times in the past years, and given the COVID-19 measures, the members had to pivot to an online fundraising activity for UP-PGH and UPRHS. UPAA-NL launched a two-part activity promoting the Filipino culture of Christmas spirit (*Diwa ng Pasko*).

First of which was the *Pinoy kerstpakket* or Filipino Christmas package, launched in October. The boxes, filled primarily with non-perishable Philippine food items, were offered and sold to the network of contacts, supporters, family, and friends of UPAA-NL members. The second activity was an online cooking workshop featuring Chef Maite Ditke and hosted by UPAA-NL in December. The participants from within and outside the Netherlands were delighted to cook along with Chef Maite and learn some helpful food preparation tips.

UPAA-NL donated half of the proceeds to UP-PGH, while the other half went to the fourth batch of equipment for the UPRHS physics laboratory project.



Chef Maite Ditke gives some food preparation tips at the online *Noche Buena* cooking workshop held on 12 Dec.



(Above) Contents of the *Pinoy kerstpakket*

(Left) Chicken *galantina*, food for the gods, and other dishes prepared by some participants at the cooking workshop

ORGANISATION

UPAA-NL's business address is Dieze 61, 5032 XG, Tilburg, The Netherlands. It has been registered with the Kamer van Koophandel since 2006. The year 2020 was the start of the three-year term of the Executive Committee, which was composed of the following:

President: Florisa Almodiel Luteijn

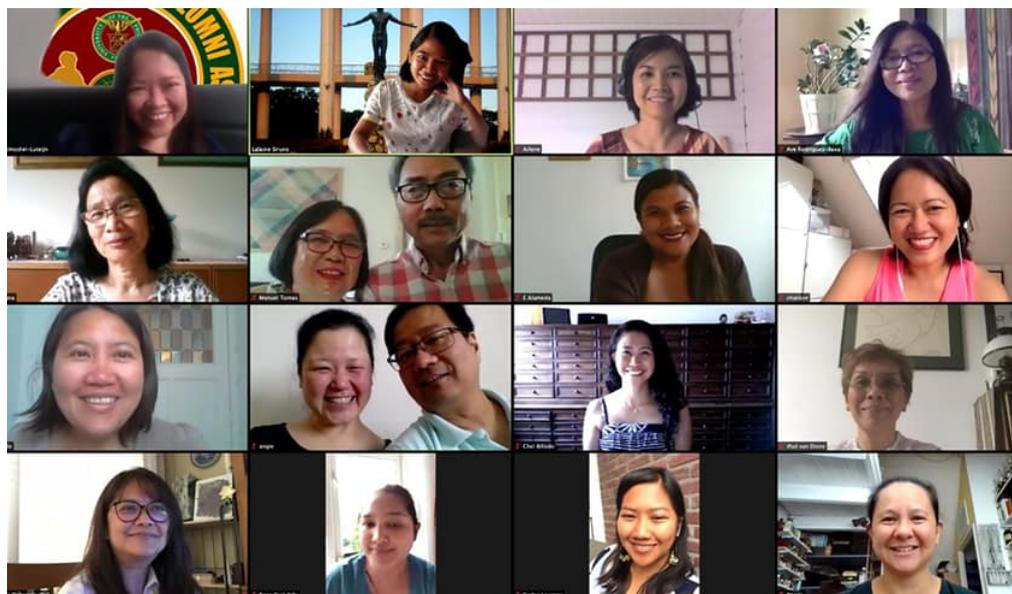
Vice-President: Manuel Tomas

Secretary: Arlene van Vegchel-Obmerga

Treasurer: Maria Dolores Borja

The General Assembly Meeting (GAM) was held online via Zoom on 27 June. The last in-person meeting was on 1 February in The Hague. In addition, two regular meetings were also held online. Minutes are available for all these meetings. The Executive Committee also had virtual meetings in between the General Assembly and regular meetings.

Old and new members participate in the virtual GAM held on 27 June.



FINANCE REPORT

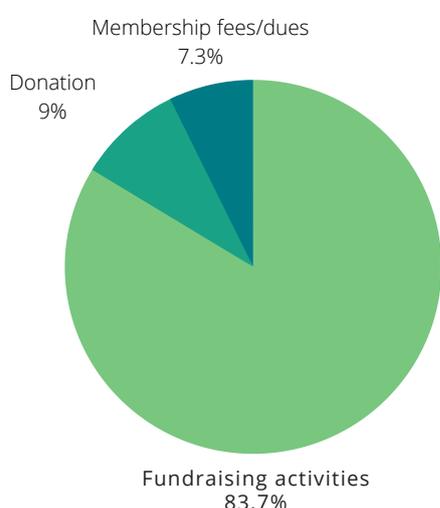
As of 31 December 2019, the UPAA-NL bank account balance was €5,842.20.

The amount of €11,058.82 was received in 2020, of which €803.32 were membership fees/dues, €9,255.50 income from various fundraising activities, and €1,000 donation from ING. UPAA-NL disbursed the following amounts: €4,816.74 for the UP-PGH project, €4,093.80 for the UPLB-UPRHS physics laboratory project, and €352.39 for the Mindanao earthquake victims.

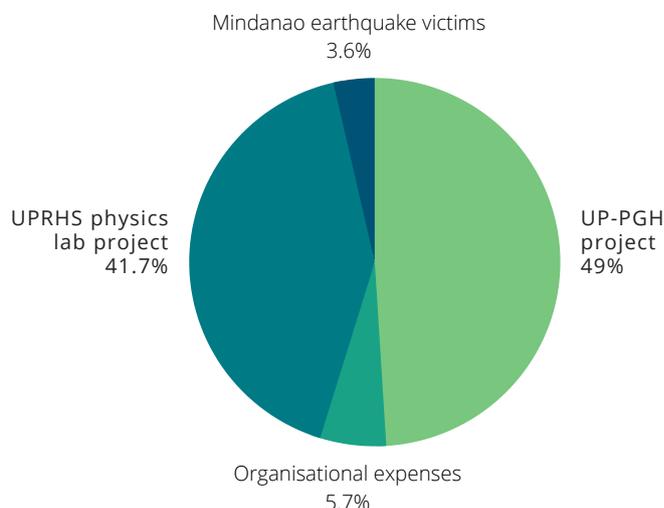
Organisational expenditures totalled €565.06, of which €349.26 were running costs (website and other subscriptions, printing services and supplies, postage/courier costs, GAM and other organisational meetings), €175.80 banking fees, and €40.00 miscellaneous (visibility and welfare).

As of 31 December 2020, the end balance of the UPAA-NL bank account was €4,494.74.

2020 Sources of Funds



2020 Disbursements

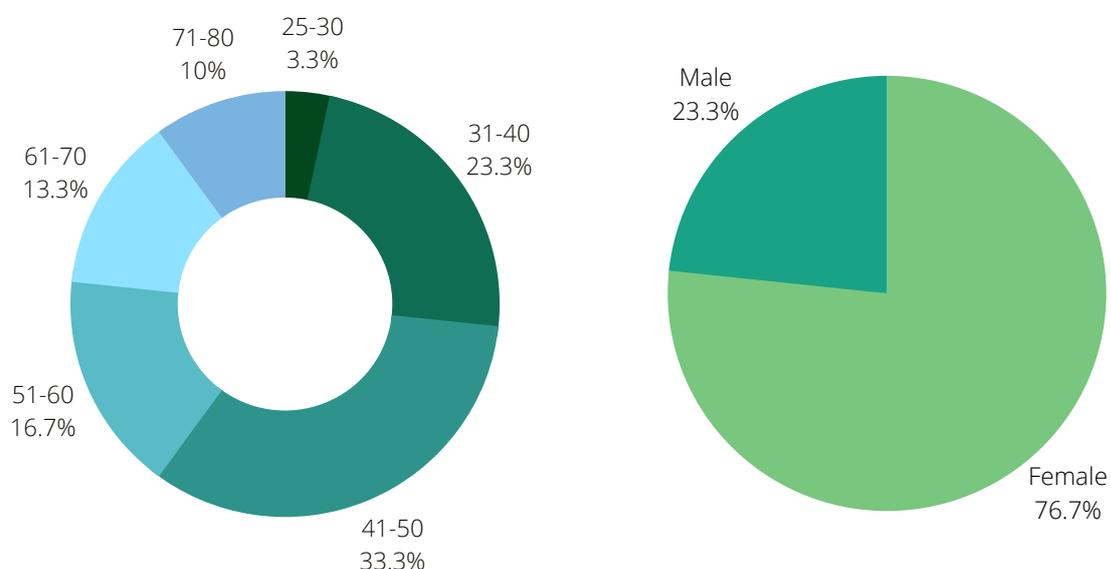


MEMBERSHIP REPORT

The year 2020 was unlike any year experienced by the members. Because of the COVID-19 restrictions, UPAA-NL did not hold face-to-face meetings, fundraising activities, nor informal gatherings. This situation, however, did not discourage the members from supporting the Membership Committee (MemCom) in pursuing its goals in the recruitment of new members and maintaining members' interest in the Association's activities.

By the end of 2020, 30 members registered, an increase from 28 in 2019. During the first quarter, four members resigned or were considered inactive. Later in 2020, however, six alumni joined and became new members, resulting in 30 members.

Demographics by Age and Gender



This year's fundraising activities for UP-PGH and UPRHS physics laboratory drew interest from non-member alumni to apply for membership to UPAA-NL, thanks to the members' active promotion of the said activities. MemCom initiated a virtual orientation programme for new members to give them a background of UPAA-NL, its projects and activities, and details about membership.

MemCom also continued to spotlight the milestones achieved by the members, such as a royal honor, Member of the Order of the House of Orange (*Lid van Oranje Nassau*), received by Avelina Rodriguez-Baxa from the Dutch monarch. She was recognised for her volunteer works in counselling and practical support and training to Filipino migrant workers in the Netherlands, among her other contributions to the Dutch and Filipino communities.

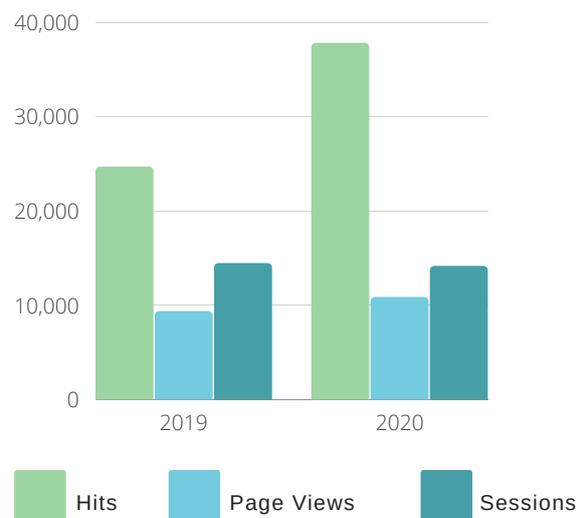
MemCom also initiated greeting the members on their birthdays, congratulating them for the degrees they received, births in the family, and commiserated in their times of grief through electronic messaging and sending greeting cards.

Members make a toast to a successful, yet difficult, year during UPAA-NL's online Christmas party held on 19 Dec.



WEBSITE/PUBLICITY REPORT

The UPAA-NL website, www.upalumni.nl, is maintained by the Website/Publicity Committee. In 2020, the website received 37,800 hits (24,684 in 2019), with 10,882 page views (9,386 in 2019) and 14,178 sessions (14,468 in 2019). The number of hits and page views were higher than in 2019.



With the website and a Facebook page, UPAA-NL continued its publicity efforts during the year. The two fundraising activities, *#BayanihanNa* in April and *Diwa ng Pasko* in the fourth quarter, were done solely online and extensively used the website, Facebook page, and the online network of the members. Both fundraising activities were also reported and featured in May and in December on ABS-CBN's TFC News, a news programme for Filipinos in Europe and the Middle East.

An improved online capacity using Zoom, an online conferencing platform, enabled the organisation to hold online workshops on Philippine cooking and *Baybayin*.

UPAA-NL's established online presence helped significantly in the continuity of its activities and improving communication with its network. Giving the website a new look was among its initiatives in the offing.