



ASCENDENS ASIA INTERNATIONAL RESEARCH INSTITUTE

287 Tanglin Road, Singapore 247940

Singapore ACRA No. 201833167D

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DepEd Regional Office No. 02



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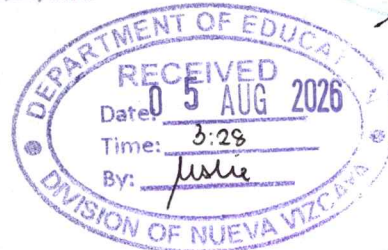
30 July 2026

HON. BENJAMIN D. PARAGAS

Regional Director, Region II

Department of Education

region2@deped.gov.ph



Dear Hon. Paragas:

Subject: Invitation to Participate in the Research Masterclass: Leveraging Research for Institutional and Professional Internationalization

Warm greetings from the Ascendens Asia International Research Institute (AAIRI).

On behalf of AAIRI, we are pleased to invite the officials, teaching and non-teaching personnel, researchers, graduate students, and other interested education professionals under your esteemed Region to participate in the **Research Masterclass: Leveraging Research for Institutional and Professional Internationalization**, to be held on **10 October 2026** via **Zoom Conference**.

The **Research Masterclass** is AAIRI's international professional development initiative that explores how research can serve as a strategic driver of institutional internationalization, academic excellence, and organizational development. Through expert-led sessions, participants will gain practical insights into global benchmarking, quality assurance, international partnerships, academic leadership, research productivity, institutional visibility, and evidence-informed strategies that enable educational institutions to strengthen their global engagement while advancing research excellence.

This year's masterclass will bring together distinguished international experts from **Portugal, the United States, Vietnam, India, Malawi, Samoa, and New Zealand**, representing higher education institutions, international organizations, and research networks with extensive expertise in internationalization, accreditation, academic leadership, research management, quality assurance, and global partnerships. Through complementary presentations, participants will examine institutional internationalization from multiple perspectives, including strategic partnerships, student mobility, global benchmarking, accreditation, indigenous knowledge integration, research leadership, and professional capacity development.

Among the confirmed speakers are:

- **Athena Georgene U. Ang, DBA**, Director of the Singapore Institute of Multidisciplinary Professions and President of the Royal Institution Singapore.
- **Ali M. A. Kamali, Ph.D.**, Dean of the Faculty of Management at the American University of Science, Vietnam; Lecturer at Van Lang University, Vietnam, and at Kirirom Institute of Technology, Cambodia.
- **Avinash W. Kolhatkar, Ph.D.**, Principal and Professor at Sanmanti College of Engineering, India, and Accreditation Assessor at the National Assessment and Accreditation Council (NAAC), Government of India.



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- **Benjamin Levy, Ph.D.**, Fellow in Educational Leadership and Research at the Institute of Education, University of the South Pacific, Samoa, and Founding Director of the Global Indigenous Network, USA.
- **Steve L. Sharra, Ph.D.**, Director of Academic Affairs at the Malawi School of Government.
- **Magda Resende Ferro, MiM, MBA**, Independent Consultant for Internationalisation and Digital Transformation in Higher Education and former Head of the International Relations Office at Universidade Católica Portuguesa, Portugal.
- **Sripriya Sarathy, MBA**, Chairperson of the International Professors Project (USA) and Co-founder of Let's Learn Africa.

We believe that this masterclass will provide valuable professional learning opportunities for educators, academic leaders, researchers, and institutional administrators by equipping them with internationally recognized strategies and best practices that support institutional development, research excellence, innovation, and global engagement.

In this regard, we would be honored by the participation of your officials and personnel in this international learning initiative. We likewise hope that this invitation may be shared with education institutions and other interested education professionals under your jurisdiction so that more members of the academic community may benefit from this unique opportunity for professional growth and international collaboration.

Attached herewith is the event information for your reference.

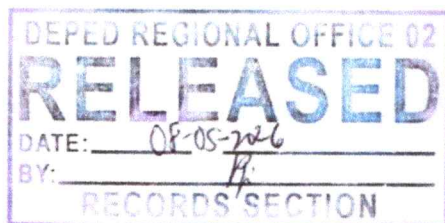
Should you require additional information or assistance, please feel free to contact us through partnerships@aairi.org or +65 8413 7706.

We sincerely appreciate your continued support of initiatives that promote research excellence, academic leadership, innovation, and international collaboration. We look forward to welcoming participants from institutions under your jurisdiction to this meaningful learning experience.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Prof. Gilbert C. Magulod Jr., Ph.D., CESE
Research Masterclass Committee Head



August 3, 2025

To: Schools Division Superintendents
Regional Office Functional Division Chiefs

For your information and appropriate action.

BENJAMIN D. PARAGAS, PhD, CESO III
Director IV/Regional Director

MEMORANDUM		Date: 08/11/26	Released/Records: [Signature]
To:	() BSDS/DICs	() Elem/Sec School Heads	
	() Private Schools	() Others:	
For:	() Information	() Dissemination	
	() Guidance	() Strict Compliance	
ORLANDO E. MANUEL PhD., CESO V Schools Division Superintendent			
By:	ASDS	CID Chief	SGOD Chief
	AO	Atty	Signature: [Signature]



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Research Masterclass

LEVERAGING RESEARCH FOR INSTITUTIONAL AND PROFESSIONAL INTERNATIONALIZATION



10 October 2026
9:00 AM | Singapore
Standard Time



Zoom Conference



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ABOUT THE RESEARCH MASTERCLASS



Research is more than an academic requirement—it is a powerful driver of institutional growth, professional excellence, innovation, and global engagement.

This Research Masterclass brings together educators, researchers, academic leaders, and professionals to explore how research can be strategically used to strengthen evidence-based practice, improve institutional systems, advance quality education, and build meaningful international linkages.

Through expert-led discussions and knowledge-sharing sessions, participants will gain insights on research productivity, interdisciplinary collaboration, knowledge translation, publication, international dissemination, and the development of globally responsive research initiatives aligned with emerging educational, institutional, community, and sustainable development priorities.

Join us in advancing a stronger culture of research, collaboration, innovation, and internationalization—where knowledge creates impact, institutions become globally connected, and professionals become leaders in shaping meaningful change.

REGISTRATION TYPE	REGULAR RATE	EARLY BIRD RATE
Conference Observer	USD 25	USD 17
Conference Observer & Membership	USD 40	USD 25

Enjoy a **FREE** digital certificate—secure, verifiable, and easily accessible online!

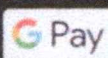
DISCOUNT COUPONS	CODE	DESCRIPTION
10% Discount	RM10	First 100 until August 5, 2026.
20% Discount	RM20	First 100 until July 25, 2026.

BENEFITS

Please refer to the attachment below for details on the benefits available to institutions and individual participants.

PAYMENT METHOD

All payments must be made online through payment.aairi.org, where applicable discount coupons may also be used. Payments are processed in US dollars (USD). When paying through Mastercard, Visa, or Google Pay, the amount will be automatically converted to your local currency based on the prevailing exchange rate.



INSTITUTIONAL PARTICIPATION

Please contact:
JARED CARLOS
Director for Growth & Partnerships
partnerships@aairi.org / jaredcarlos@aairi.org



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ABOUT THE RESEARCH MASTERCLASS CONFERENCE SPEAKERS

The Research Masterclass brings together a distinguished group of senior leaders, accomplished academics, researchers, and internationalization practitioners with extensive experience in basic and higher education, institutional development, global engagement, and research collaboration.

The conference speakers hold key leadership, executive, advisory, and decision-making roles within their respective organizations. Their professional backgrounds encompass academic administration, policy development, curriculum enhancement, quality assurance, international partnerships, faculty and student mobility, research management, innovation, and cross-border collaboration.

With years of experience leading institutional initiatives and working with diverse academic and professional communities, the speakers offer both strategic perspectives and practical insights. They have contributed to the development of programs, policies, partnerships, and research-driven solutions that strengthen institutional performance, expand global linkages, and enhance the international dimensions of teaching, learning, research, and professional practice.

Through their presentations, participants will gain valuable knowledge from experienced professionals who understand the opportunities and challenges of internationalization across different institutional and national contexts. Their collective expertise will provide actionable strategies, good practices, and innovative approaches that participants may adapt to their own professional and organizational settings.



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BENEFITS FOR THE COLLABORATING INSTITUTION

Collaborating institutions may benefit from the masterclass through the following:

- **Strengthening of institutional internationalization** initiatives through exposure to global perspectives, good practices, and collaborative opportunities.
- **Enhancement of institutional visibility** through recognition as a Collaborating Institution in the masterclass.
- **Support for faculty and staff development** through structured learning aligned with internationalization, professional growth, and institutional advancement.
- **Promotion of curriculum enhancement** by introducing ideas that may improve teaching approaches, program design, learning experiences, and global competencies.
- **Indirect improvement of student experience** through participants who can apply internationalization strategies in instruction, student services, research, extension, and institutional programs.
- **Encouragement of evidence-based institutional planning** by using research as an enabler for decision-making, benchmarking, innovation, and quality improvement.
- **Expansion of professional and academic networks** through interaction with speakers, educators, researchers, administrators, and institutional representatives.
- **Provision of documentation for institutional quality assurance**, including certificates, participation records, and recognition of collaboration.
- **Support for institutional branding and reputation-building** as an academic institution committed to internationalization, professional development, and academic excellence.
- **Creation of opportunities for future collaboration** in international programs, training, research, linkages, and capacity-building initiatives.





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BENEFITS FOR INDIVIDUAL PARTICIPANTS

Participants may benefit from the masterclass through the following:

- **Development of a stronger understanding of internationalization** across curriculum, student experience, research, community engagement, leadership, and institutional development.
- **Enhancement of professional competencies** in applying internationalization strategies within their academic, administrative, or professional roles.
- **Exposure to good practices from institutions and experts** involved in internationalization and global collaboration.
- **Strengthening of capacity for innovation and improvement** in teaching, learning, research, governance, student support, and institutional services.
- **Expansion of personal and professional networks** with educators, researchers, administrators, professionals, and institutional representatives.
- **Encouragement of research-informed practice** to support policy development, program enhancement, and institutional decision-making.
- **Receipt of certification and recognition** that may support professional portfolios, faculty development records, promotion, accreditation, or institutional documentation.
- **Development of confidence** in contributing to institutional internationalization efforts within their departments, colleges, offices, or organizations.
- **Promotion of interdisciplinary and cross-sectoral perspectives** that may help participants design more globally responsive academic and professional initiatives.
- **Inspiration to develop practical action points** that may be brought back to their institution for possible adoption, improvement, or further development.



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