

Title: Strengthening the Research Culture of Higher Education Institutions
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Abstract:

The 2007 Research Forum, which aims, among other things, to: first, disseminate new knowledge and discoveries in various fields of discipline; and second, provide a venue for scientific and scholarly discourse among academics and researchers, reflects what we, in the higher education sector, have collectively accomplished in nurturing research among higher education institutions (HEIs).

For HEIs to be able to produce good researchers and produce creditable research outputs (through institutional research undertakings), it must have the following elements or inputs: 1) enough numbers of faculty with appropriate educational background and training in research, faculty with MS and Ph.D. degrees; 2) sufficient funding; 3) facilities and library resources; and 4) linkages, both local and international.

CHED has consistently supported the development of the elements of a research culture in colleges and universities through the following:

A. Research Expertise Building

1. The Faculty Development Program (FDP) is a six-year program aimed at upgrading the qualifications of tertiary faculty to master's degrees and doctorate levels. Under this program, CHED provides scholarship grants (including substitute assistance for full time scholars) to enable the faculty to pursue studies in priority fields, namely: English, Mathematics, Natural Sciences, Social Sciences, Engineering, Information Technology, and other Centers of Excellence and Centers of Development disciplines. The program has a Ph.D. sandwich sub-component for faculty who had finished their coursework and are ready to work on their dissertation. Ph.D. sandwich grantees are sent abroad for research primarily to promote exposure to recent developments and quality standards abroad and to enable students to make use of facilities not available locally. The FDP has a total allocation of P1.1 Billion for 3100 slots. To date, 1500 slots have been awarded.
2. CHED Dissertation/Thesis Grants are aimed at upgrading the research manpower capability of HEIs while supporting the conduct of research on identified priority areas. CHED also provides grants for faculty who are ready to do their dissertation or thesis

locally; and fellowships for researchers who are willing to share their expertise or work on a collaborative research project with colleagues in other institutions.

3. Visiting Research fellowships are available for full time faculty members or research of public or private HEIs. This grant aims to: serve as a mechanism for sharing/transferring research knowledge/expertise among institutions and between research experts and developing researchers; promote and facilitate collaborative research; and provide support for the conduct of research in priority areas. Two types of fellowship are readily available – the Senior Visiting Research Fellowship and the Junior Visiting Research Fellowship.
- B. Research Funding – Research funding may be classified into two categories:
1. Funding for Grants-in-Aid: a) target researches in aid of development and policy/plan formulation and implementation which may be applied for by both public and private higher education institutions; b) these are coursed through the nine CHED Zonal Research Centers; and 3) must meet the priorities of CHED, i.e., responsive to the development needs/concerns of the zone.
 2. Funding for Commissioned Research Grants: a) intended for research in aid of academic program development/enhancement, standards setting, and policy formulation for higher education; b) priority thrusts are usually identified with the help of the Technical Panels, Commissioners, CHED offices and education experts.
- C. Research Utilization Program
1. The University Network with Local Governments for Agricultural Development (UNLAD) program of CHED is aimed at strengthening the capability of Local Government Units (LGUs) in delivering extension services towards food security and sustainable development through collaborative efforts with state universities and colleges (SUCs). Projects eligible for incubators or centers; massive production of quality planting materials and breeder stocks; technical assistance; and information, education and communication (IEC) materials production.
 2. The Technology Commercialization for Poverty Alleviation, Food Production and Sustainable Development (TechComm) program of CHED provides funds to facilitate the transfer, utilization, and commercialization of technologies developed by SUCs for production and income generation purposes, as well as, for the conduct of extension activities. For example, the Biofuel project is aimed at establishing economically viable science and technology-based biofuel enterprise using *atrophs curcas* and other biofuel crops.
- D. Support for Facilities Upgrading – The CHED provides support for facilities upgrading in two forms:
1. The SUC Development Program provides funds for capacity building initiatives of SUCs such as library and laboratory facilities upgrading, staff development, and computerization of operations and services.
 2. The accreditation assistance provides funding given to HEIs to help them improve their facilities and performance indicators thereby meet the requirements for

Accreditaion. Requirements for Level III accreditation include Research and Extension performance.

E. Awards and Incentives

1. Twenty seven REPUBLICA (3 national and 24 regional) winners since 2004 have been identified. Each HEI can nominate for research publications – 2 for Natural Sciences and 2 for Social Sciences. The 2007 REPUBLICA winners have been selected.
2. CHED conducted a search for the BEST HEI Research Program and found a dozen, equally excellent programs. The 2006 National Awards were won by Silliman University and UP-Diliman.

F. Best HEI Extension Program/Project – This is intended to recognize the implementers and the HEI for their outstanding extension programs/projects. This is open to all HEIs in the country, both public and private. Criteria are development impact, institutional and policy environment for the program, and recognition given to the program.

G. Dissemination of Research Outputs – CHED supports paper presentations in International Conferences. This is to provide opportunities for disseminating research results and at the same time exposing researchers to the latest developments in their fields of specialization. The support includes: 1) financial assistance to enable local researchers to participate in international conferences/seminars/workshops/fora; 2) covers registration, airfare, per diem of US100 for the duration of the conference plus one day; and 3) paper to be presented should be in priority fields, accepted for presentation.

CHED sees that higher education research shall aim to: 1) push the frontiers of knowledge across all the identified higher education disciplines in the country; 2) enhance instruction through original contributions in specialized disciplines thereby encouraging students to become creative, innovative and productive individuals; 3) develop unifying theories or models which can be translated into mature technologies for the purpose of improving the quality of life of the Filipinos within the sphere of influence of the academic institutions in the country.