Special Coverage of the First Accreditation Visit of AACCUP to the Academic Programs of NLPSC

STATEMENT OF PURPOSE
by Dr. Leoncio M. Matibag
Coordinator, AACCUP Accreditation Team

To our very young, charming, accommodating, dynamic and energetic Officer-in-Charge of this young but promising institution of higher learning, Dr. Elizabeth M. Gacusana; to the Director for Academic Affairs, Prof. Estrella C. Gaerlan; to the Director for Administrative and Finance services, Dr. Andres T. Malimbag Jr.; to the Director for Research and Extension, Dr. Severino G. Alviento; the Dean of the Teacher Education and Humanities, Social Science and Communication, Dr. Jaime G. Rasas; the Dean of the Business Education Department, Prof. Nora H. Soliven; the Dean of the Information Technology Department, Prof. Gerald Victor M. Calamaan; other key officials, faculty, the non-teaching personnel, students, alumni, other stakeholders, believers and disciples of accreditation, ladies and gentlemen, good morning.

Accreditation is at present, popularly and widely known as a comprehensive approach and the trending password to quality and excellent assurance in education. It is an endless investment of time, energy, skills, talents, financial inputs, human relations and other resources in the pursuit of excellence in education.

Highlighting the OIC’s Message
Dr. Elizabeth M. Gacusana, Officer-in-Charge of the College, delivered her message in a socio-historical perspective during the Opening Program of the First Survey Visit of the Accrediting Agency of Chartered Colleges and Universities of the Philippines, Inc. early morning of September 23, 2014.

Dr. Gacusana reminisced the past. She recounted the ancestral roots of NLPSC as an educational institution, emphasizing that then-municipal mayor of Candon, Hon. Eric D. Singson, established the Candon Community College in 1975 that initially offered Liberal Arts. In 1982, the pioneering courses on Associate in Secretarial Science and the Certificate in Midwifery took quantum pace in the curricular area utilizing several classrooms beside the former civic center.

Welcoming AACCUP Accreditors
by: Dr. Estrella C. Gaerlan
Director for Academic Affairs

A pleasant morning po sa ating lahats!
To the respected and very able members of the Accrediting Agency for Chartered Colleges and Universities in the Philippines, the Education Program Evaluators from the centers of excellence of reputable state colleges and universities in the various regions of Luzon headed by their accreditiation coordinator, Dr. Leoncio M. Matibag, our very loving OIC, Dr. Elizabeth M. Gacusana, my co-directors in NLPSC, the Deans and heads of...
In thinking of the benefit that accreditation brings to the college, no one perhaps takes a second thought that accreditation speaks for itself as quality, excellence, superiority, fineness, best standard or any other related by-words.

I’ve been in this institution of higher learning for the past two decades. I am a witness of how this institution metamorphosed into North Luzon Philippines State College. In fact, I was once a chairperson of an accreditation task force and had rich and load-full experiences on how to deal with accreditors, how to work with documents, how to accomplish the Program Performance Profile, how to prepare a self survey, how to take bold actions in order to coerce the administration to source our funds for the improvement of school facilities and equipment, and how to stay awake night just to remedy the missing necessities or lacking papers.

With these experiences, I know for sure that hardships and sacrifices will reap good harvests.

Come 2015, the global village will be open for educational and employment opportunities, for international business, trade and industry, for economic collaborations, and for closer diplomatic relations. This is the ASEAN Integration which our country needs to prepare for.

In the education sector, especially those that are involved in the production of graduates from the tertiary level of education whether private or public, excellence in education is a significant academic custody for higher education institutions (HEIs) to possess. This may only come to fruition once the HEI has passed through the rigorous courses of program and institutional accreditation.

Responsive VMGO to meet national goals, empowered faculty through high educational profile, relevant curriculum and instruction to meet industry needs, holistically developed student programs, significant research outputs with impact on extension services for productivity, ideal library services, school plant and facilities following global standards, state-of-the-art laboratories and well-rounded administration are seen to have pleased the Accrediting Agency for Chartered Colleges and Universities in the Philippines as outlined in its evaluation instrument.

NLPS, our young but promising college, as quoted from Dr. Leoncio M. Matibag in the opening lines of his Statement of Purpose, accepts the challenge posed by accreditation. Slowly but surely, we are able to take a glimpse of our weaknesses and strengths in the 10 areas of accreditation. We will be able to take note of the areas we will be needing improvement and those areas we think we do excel for further enhancement.

With this momentous event in the history of our College, the North Luzon Philippines State College, the survey visit bespeaks that Level I is already in our reach.

to end but for the focal persons and the technical working committee, the exciting journey has just begun.

And so, let us all embrace this challenging endeavor with open minds and spirits for the achievement of our institution’s quest towards quality education. Lastly, we shall be all praying for the success and for the very rewarding result of this accreditation process. Once again, in behalf of the NLPS Family, to our visiting friends, our accreditors from the different regions of Luzon, our warmest welcome to all of you! Enjoy the Ilocano culture and hospitality anchored at NLPS community. Thank you very much. Naimbag nga bigat tayo.
The Painstaking Journey in Accreditation

The Preparation. Works in the accreditation room were not done initially just for fun. They were not, at a start, taken for granted. They were considered serious matters. Papers were everywhere. People were assigned tasks to accomplish. The Accreditation Task Force chaired by the Coordinator for Accreditation, Mrs. Maribel M. Gago, has been supported by regular faculty and staff members of the College, along with the succoring hands of job-order employees.

At the start, focal persons seemingly lived under murky and dim skies and ostensibly, they have nowhere to go. In fact, the most difficult thing to do is to start. But with the administration’s promising provision of needed budget for accreditation, it was started at a frail attempt. Slowly, the accreditation room became a very busy place in the College. And the College was then alarmed of the laborious task it has to face.

The Action. What more is so pressing than to look for documents to serve as explicit answers to the Accreditation Instrument used by AACCUP in evaluating the academic programs under survey? Focal persons needed to rape old files by placing them above the glimmering lights of the photocopying machines and reproduce them to a tremendous scale. They needed to browse folders, containing three-year-old data that bespeak the operation of the College, from one office to the other. They needed to fall in queue to wait their turn using the Xerox machine or the binding machine because beating deadlines almost occupied their wakeful days in school. They needed to ask everyone in the College as probable sources of pertinent documents and relevant materials for area exhibits. Actors and actresses they were in the school grounds – wearing faces of various motives, emotions and behaviors. At the end of the day, it would seem wondrous if they could still lift their legs up their beds and gently close their fatigue-stricken eyes with comfort and convenience.

The Drama. What appeared missing in the files, lacking inside the area boxes, misplaced documents on the working table and supplies that nowhere to find in the accreditation room are blocking elements that created the dramatic scenes in this true-to-life episode in the journey called “accreditation”. Focal persons cannot do anything but to keep quiet in teary eyes while all the documents they have prepared for so long a time could have been instantly drowned in the twilight. Every now and then, the accreditation room was a sought-after corner of the College when focal persons tip-toe the shelves and filing boxes in search for vital documents to fill in their folders with “show me” evidences of operation, manifestations and works done. They only happened to stretch out their hands and do the “wave” gesture when their folders came to take shape at last. Smiles were only evident in the faces of the focal persons when they saw their folders much thicker than the other day.

The Tension. Nature has played on the fate of the accreditation preparations in the afternoon of September 19, 2014 when the radio aired the coming of a typhoon, Mario they called it, at rear noon of the day. Works in the accreditation room were almost done then, but the typhoon kept on progressing by sending its swift winds and heavy rains. Tension was aggravated when the collected rainwater on the ceiling of the accreditation room started to cascade on the files of hardly-sought-and-produced documents stored on shelves. On the alert to cover the shelves with plastic and tarpaulins were the busy focal persons and their assistants who were already unmindful of the heavy rains and wild winds ravaging the structures and trees outside. And yes, the documents were saved at last.

The Nearing End. Ilocos Sur experienced the wrath of Typhoon Mario on the night of September 19. Believed to have raised itself to Typhoon Signal No. 1 as announced earlier over the radio, people in the province, especially the teaching and non-teaching personnel of NLPCS, were confident that the Typhoon Mario was not a devastating one compared to last typhoon Luis. To no avail, NLPCS was held stunned on the ruining effect of the typhoon – Super Mario has played on the people as people used to play on it over the game screen.

Flooded classrooms, offices and the gymnasium, wet litters everywhere, broken trunks of trees and twigs, spoiled garbage, eerie mud and dirt, everything around were remnants of the devastating Typhoon Mario. These were grim pictures of what remained in NLPCS right before the eyes of officials and personnel who visited the place in the morning of September 20. They were heart-stricken with such ugly look, but they could not still move a finger or two to clean up what they saw since the Typhoon has never abated. Throughout the day, heavy rain still managed to pour out to its satisfaction. And what remained to people was just to wait until it was through.

Turn to page 6
Dr. Jaime G. Raras and Dr. Rodolfo C. Moreno, who are both recognized as member-accreditors of the Accrediting Agency of Chartered Colleges and Universities in the Philippines, took their rigid and strict assessment of the preparedness and readiness of NLPSC in terms of documents’ completion and facilities’ responsiveness to the ten areas of accreditation. They appraised the documents, equipment, facilities and relevant materials within a month-long slate.

Dr. Raras is currently the Dean of the Teacher Education and HuSoCom departments where three of his academic programs were scheduled for Accreditation Survey Visit on September 22-27, 2014. His Bachelor of Secondary Education and Bachelor of Elementary Education programs have been considered the finest curricular offerings of NLPSC since their graduates are very much saleable in the employment market and their passing performance in the Licensure Examination for Teachers is stupendous enough for tipping even the 100 percent mark.

Strict at that, since Dr. Raras wants his academic programs could impeccably get the best impressions from incoming evaluators from AACCUP whom he knew very well to have the discerning and look-on attitude towards quality and perfection, he rates the filed documents ideally and summons focal persons to produce more that could evidently show what we have and what we usually do in our college as any institution of higher learning typically does.

Dr. Moreno, on the other hand, is currently the Planning Officer of NLPSC. He is tasked to oversee the readiness of the documents and facilities for the Bachelor of Science in Business Administration and the Bachelor of Science in Computer Science programs. Unlike Dr. Raras, Dr. Moreno applied in NLPSC his best practices in his accreditation visit to Ifugao State University last July 2014. He is strict with packaging the documents and the role of the focal persons in their face-to-face encounter with AACCUP evaluators.

Dr. Raras and Dr. Moreno are pillars in the making the Accreditation Task Force to stand straight, get confident and accomplish the work till it is over.

OIC lauds the accreditation task force

In the message of Dr. Elizabeth M. Gacusana, OIC of the College, during the Opening Program of the 1st Survey Accreditation Visit of the AACCUP Accreditors, she greatly emphasized her endearing commendations on the strenuous efforts exerted by the members of NLPSC Accreditation Task Force in their thorough preparations for the accreditation visit.

Before the visiting evaluators from the Accrediting Agency of Chartered Colleges and Universities in the Philippines, Dr. Gacusana expressed her grateful appreciation to all the faculty members, non-teaching personnel, emergency and job-order employees, student leaders and all the students of NLPSC by helping the College Administration in its attempt to seek for an accreditation level of five of its academic programs.

The BSE, BEED, BBA, BSCS and AB-Political Science programs were served to the AACCUP evaluators during the preliminary visit in 2008 and they were awarded a candidate status for Level I in January 2009. But because of the transition from UNP-Candon to NLPSC, attempts to seek for Level I accreditation took a sudden end. In order to maintain the continuity in the well-started accreditation undertaking, Dr. Elizabeth M. Gacusana beseeched Dr. Manuel Corpus from AACCUP to allow the college to continue its candidate status for Level I survey visit. The latter conceded the request affirmatively.

Dr. Gacusana then designated Mrs. Maribel G. Gagto as Coordinator for Accreditation with the assistance of the former chairman of UNP-Candon Accreditation Task Force, Mr. Alex Q. Mendoza who is now the Coordinator for Quality Assurance. Mrs. Gagto’s main task is to prepare the college for the accreditation of five academic programs: BSE, BEED, BBA, BSCS and AB-Political Science.

“Thank you for your valuable support to the college and for working so hard for this accreditation. This is a manifestation of your commitment, dedication and love you are constantly giving to NLPSC”, were the last resounding words from the OIC of NLPSC which were addressed to the members of the Accreditation Task Force.
Aloha, Accreditors’ Haven

The surreptitious arrival of “Super Super Mario” firstly tagged in the least storm signal bewildered the entire NLPS community. The absence of electricity and water supply could undeniably cause massive inconvenience to the visiting accreditors coming from prestigious state colleges and universities in Luzon. For God is Good, Aloha Hotel is just a fitting haven for the accreditors who could comfortably work with their local counterparts in browsing, checking and validating files of documents.

Family-sized as well as single-bed air-conditioned rooms in Aloha Hotel were rented to fully serve the convenience of the accreditors. After the Opening Program in September 23 as the sun emitted its scorching radiance, accreditors were ferried by the school coaster going to the hotel to take fresher air and change their outfit ready for a day-long work. Local counterparts accompanied them and one-on-one interview with focal persons was done. The hotel rooms and lobby were transformed as working areas in accreditation; hence, Aloha Hotel appeared as an extension function hall of NLPS.

As expected, focal persons needed to stay behind to accompany their counterpart accreditors and to attend to their needs even if they would go through working until the wee hours of the morning.

STATEMENT OF..... from page 1

We, in the state universities and colleges of the Philippines have a common goal and advocacy, that is, to improve the quality of services that we deliver to our clientele and stakeholders. This is the very reason why we have come to your prestigious institution. We are mandated by AACCUP to assess and evaluate your five academic curricular programs for First Survey Visit for four or three days starting today until Thursday.

What do you expect to happen within the next 3 days? Immediately after this Opening Program, we shall have a brief meeting with our local counterparts on the conduct of evaluation and validation of instrument and exhibits. We shall discuss to them our target visit to the extension project, agree on the procedures and schedule of activities like ocular inspection of the laboratories, physical plant and facilities, medical and dental clinic, student center and other administrative offices. The whole day today and tomorrow, we shall browse all your documents and exhibits in your accreditation center so that at the end of each day, we could have our initial findings. We shall also conduct an ambush interview with some administrative officials, the faculty, staff, students, invited alumni and other stakeholders. We shall also observe classes on the 2nd or 3rd day if it will be made possible by the respective dean of the program under survey, so that in the evening, we shall try our best to come up with an emerging team report and that by Thursday morning or afternoon, we can have our Exit Conference and Closing Program. With your sincere cooperation our dear local counterparts, we hope to accomplish all these activities and attain the real purpose of this Survey Visit.

Rest assured that we will be very objective, fair, considerate and even kind enough in our evaluation and assessment of your documents, so let us mutually make the most of our being here.

BS Crim students performed the pinoyan dance of the tribal communities of the Upland Municipalities of Ilocos Sur during the opening program of the Accreditation of programs of NLPS.

Highlighting the OIC’s... from page 1

Located at the heart of Candon.

In her speech, she remarked that the University of Northern Philippines has provided the best avenue for the later birth of NLPS. “I am too grateful for UNP for what we have today. We have been nurtured under the wings of a university, and that we feel, until today, that we are a university because the culture that we have here is a university culture”, the words she expressed in a light-hearted way.

In 1989, Congressman Eric D. Singson filed a bill to integrate Candon Community College into the University of Northern Philippines and this was made into law by virtue of Republic Act No. 6444; hence, UNP Candon thrived as the biggest Satellite Campus of the University of Northern Philippines.

But in 2009, another bill has been authored by Congressman and Deputy Speaker Eric D Singson of the Second District of Ilocos Sur. Through his authorship of Republic Act. No. 10085, NLPS was officially recognized on May 5, 2010 as a new college situated in the City of Candon, Province of Ilocos Sur, taking its separation from the University of Northern Philippines.

“We still recognize that we were once UNPians. And that we will never forget that UNP was then our mother unit, our mother university. We have embarked on Accreditation of our five academic programs sometime in 2008 and results of which were positive. We are hoping that we will get the same ratings for this accreditation 1st survey visit.” - the words she addressed to the visiting AACCUP Accreditors.
NLPSC Accreditation Task Force

Mrs. Maribel M. Gagto, the chairperson of the NLPSC Accreditation Task Force, spent sleepless nights, profuse sweats and fastidious manual works in leading the other faculty and staff members of the college to fully complete the documents for evaluation by the members of the AACCUP Accreditation Team on September 22-27, 2014.

In the Teacher Education Programs composed of the Bachelor of Secondary Education (BSE) major in English, Filipino, Social Science, Mathematics and MAPEH and the Bachelor of Elementary Education (BEED) major in General Education, the following focal persons are tasked to man their respective assignment in the 10 areas of accreditation:

Area I - Mrs. Luz V. Jimenez
Area II - Mrs. Elizabeth M. Velasco
Area III - Dr. Jaime G. Raras
Area IV - Mr. Samson C. Nisperos
Area V & VI - Dr. Andres T. Malinnag Jr.
Area VII - Mrs. Aileen Joven
Area VIII - Mr. Rico G. Gagto
Area IX - Mrs. Alejandra D. Gironella
Area X - Mrs. Filipinas M. Gasalao

In the Bachelor of Arts in Political Science (AB-Pol Sci)

Area I - Dr. Lanie B. Tu
Area II - Mr. Ian Norvic Buccat
Area III - Dr. Severino G. Alviento
Area IV - Mrs. Honeylyn G. Pacquing
Area V - Mr. Joey Abella
Area VI - Mrs. Maribel C. Ibanez
Area VII - Mr. Rico G. Gagto
Area VIII - Mr. Gerardo G. Garmace
Area IX - Mrs. Alejandra D. Gironella
Area X - Mrs. Filipinas M. Gasalao

In the Bachelor of Science in Business Administration (BSBA) major in Human Resource Development Management (HRDM) major in Financial Management (FM)

Area I - Mrs. Nora H. Soliven
Area II - Mrs. Nelie V. Manzano
Area III - Miss Vicky C. Albayalde
Area IV - Mrs. Honeylyn G. Pacquing
Area V & VI - Dr. Rodolfo C. Moreno
Area VII - Mrs. Aileen Joven
Area VIII - Ms. Nena P. Astrero
Area IX - Mrs. Alejandra D. Gironella
Area X - Mrs. Maribel M. Gagto

In the Bachelor of Science in Computer Science (BSCS)

Area I & II - Mr. Gerald Victor M. Calamaan
Area III - Mrs. Rosemarie R. Lee
Area IV - Mr. Samson C. Nisperos
Area V & VI - Mr. Ramil T. Batin
Area VII - Mrs. Aileen Joven
Area VIII - Ms. Helen Evelyn U. Valdez
Area IX - Mrs. Alejandra D. Gironella
Area X - Mrs. Jane V. Moreno

With the many shortcomings of NLPSC and the intervening typhoon it sadly faced while preparing this momentous accreditation visit, the NLPSC community has gratefully hoped that both local counterparts and visiting accreditors get what they have desired to achieve in the week-long endeavor in assuring quality and excellent service in public higher education.

The Painstaking Journey in... from page 3

Sunday came, and the skies were nearly clear. Dr. Elizabeth M. Gacusanana took her early visit again to NLPSC grounds, expecting to have better picture of the college as Typhoon Mario took off for its final leave. Other employees came to see for themselves the damages done by the leaving typhoon. Horrified for such a look, they got reader their hands to clean up the mess.

The following day, Monday, September 22, was full of tension. Wet documents were fixed, flooded floors were washed off from dirt and mud, grounds were cleared off from scattered leaves and twigs, programs, kits and IDs were rushed. And all works were done as they must be.

Classes were definitely suspended since Ilocos Sur was declared under the state of calamity. But the accreditors have arrived. The accreditors have been housed. And the following day was a day to prepare with.

The Verdict. Early enough, the members the NLPSC community set their foot on the college grounds on September 23 to welcome the AACCUP Accreditors. The gymnasia, by God’s graces it was fixed for a fitting program, was decorated early to accommodate everyone for the Opening Program. Sadly as it was prognosticated for the past few days, the gymnasium could not afford to hold a large mass of listening public because there was no electricity to power on a sound system—a sound system that can fill in a big space like the gymnasium. It was decided later on that the central space of the administration building be utilized as the assembly ground for the Opening Program instead. At an instance, the place was set.

Accreditors understood the situation - the inconvenience of having no ventilation, the absence of a royal banquet, the messy grounds and the distance from their lodging house to the College. The opening program has been accomplished at last. And the local counterparts started their face-to-face work with the AACCUP Accreditors.

The Sweet Slumber. Will there be a sweet slumber for the local counterparts for the next few days? Confidently, yes. This accreditation visit has been long anticipated. The week-long assessment of the five academic programs of NLPSC has been considered short enough compared to the preparation phases of the big event – the 1st survey visit.
At this juncture, may I have the honor and privilege to introduce the members of the AACCUP Team.

First, the team leader in evaluating the Bachelor of Elementary Education is Dr. Shiela M. Manzanilla. She is the Chairperson of the Department of Languages, Literature and Humanities in Southern Luzon State University; and a holder of the degrees Ph.D. in English, MA in English Language Teaching and BSED major in English.

Team Leader in the evaluation of Bachelor of Arts in Political Science is Dr. Mercy Grace I. Saliendra. She is the CTE Gender and Development Coordinator of Laguna State Polytechnic University, Siniloan Campus; and a holder of the degrees Doctor of Philosophy (Educ. Mgt.), Master of Arts in Teaching Social Science, and Bachelor of Arts in Economics.

Team Leader in the evaluation of Bachelor of Science in Business Administration is Dr. Viola L. Amano. She is In-Charge of AACCUP Accreditation in Bicol University; and holder of the degrees Ph.D. in Management, Master in Management, and BS Agribusiness Management.

And, Team Leader in the evaluation of Bachelor of Science in Computer Science is Prof. Allen M. Paz. She is the Former Program Chairperson of ICT in Isabela State University, Cabagan Campus; and holder of the degrees Doctor in Information Technology (Candidate), MS in Information Technology, and BS in Computer Engineering.

Helping the team leaders in carrying out the laborious task of evaluating the academic programs under survey and harmoniously working together with counterpart focal persons in the NLPSC Accreditation Task Force are the equally competent and indefatigable members of the AACCUP accreditation team, namely:

Dr. Glenard T. Madriaga, the Director of the University Extension Services Office of Tarlac State University; and holder of the degrees Ph.D. in Community Development, Master in Public Administration, and BS Agricultural Extension Education.

Dr. Oscar G. Bangayan, the Campus Administrator of Isabela State University, Angadaran Campus; and holder of the degrees Ph.D. in Educational Management, and BS in Industrial Education.

Dr. Portia R. Marasigan, the Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences in Laguna State Polytechnic University, San Pablo City Campus; and holder of the degrees Ph.D. in Psychology, MA in Teaching Psychology, and BS Psychology.

Dr. Gloria C. Banganan, the Director for Extension and Training Services of Abra State Institute of Science and Technology, Main campus, Lagangilang, Abra; and holder of the degrees Ph.D. in Community Development, MS in Rural Development, and BS in Agricultural Education Major in Agronomy.

Dr. Viola L. Amano, a Technical Staff of the Research and Development Center in Bicol University; and holder of the degrees Ph.D. in Plant Science, MS in Agronomy (Crop Production and Management), and BS Agriculture (Plant Breeding).

Prof. Juanita L. Juanillas, the Director for Curriculum, Instruction Development and Quality Assurance of Laguna State Polytechnic University, Los Baños Campus; and holder of the degrees Ed.D. in Educational Management (candidate), MAT English and BSED English.

Prof. Nora D. Ramos, the Program Head of Marketing at the University of Rizal System; and holder of the degrees DBA (Candidate), Master in Management, and BA Advertising & PR.

and the wonder woman of the team, Prof. Neria E. Gomez, the Former University Librarian of Bicol University; and holder of the degrees MS in Library Science and BSEED – Specialization Course in Library Science.

So, ladies and gentlemen, these are the seasoned and highly professional accreditors who will evaluate your five academic curricular programs. Thank you, good morning and good luck to everyone.
GALLERY OF ACCREDITORS

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AACCUP Accreditation Team
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