



PHILSUTECH

NEWSLETTER

PHILSUTECH Bldg., Magsaysay Avenue, Bacolod City, Philippines

January 2021

67th Philsutech Annual National Convention

The 67th Philsutech Annual National Convention will be held in August 2021 at Bacolod City. More details on the venue and actual dates will be announced later.

The Board is considering reformatting the convention in hybrid digital format to adapt to the present new normal situation. Past President Linley A. Retirado, presently the Chief Operating Officer of Victorias Milling Company, is this year's Overall Convention Chairman.



Mid-Year Short Technical Courses

The Applied Technology in Sugar Process (ATSP), Applied Technology on Energy Utilization and Management (ATEMU) and Applied Technology on Bioenergy and Environmental Management (ATBEM) continuing courses will resume this April and will be conducted online thru webinar format.

The Committee on Academe chaired by Mrs. Jinah Cuenca, working in collaboration with the Vice-Presidents and Directors of the concerned technical divisions, is finalizing the course modules and the lecturers. Topics for each course will be finalized in due time.

Nominations for Don Carlos Locsin Award and Directorship for FY 2021-22

The Philsutech Secretariat is now accepting nominations for Don Carlos Locsin Award. For additional details and criteria for the award, link will be provided in the text below.

The Secretariat is also accepting nominations for candidates for Directors (FY 2021-22). Deadline for accepting nomination is on before March 1, 2021.



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Happy New Year to all our partners in the Philippine Sugar Cane Industry! As we continue to adapt to this present situation, your PHILSUTECH has been hard at work in figuring out how we can best support you in this time.

As has been announced during last year's general assembly, we are presently developing programs that would work within an online format. In particular, we are hoping to offer online webinars for our mid-year activities. We hope that you will find our topics relevant and would take full advantage of our offerings. We may start this off less than perfect but we are dedicated to preparing well, learning deeply, and make meaningful improvements in our webinar offerings.

I would also like to officially inform the Association that the Board is intent on organizing a National Convention for 2021. As of this writing, we have started talking to potential locations and are exploring the possibilities of a hybrid physical-digital Convention. We had also consulted with our exhibitors who were candid in both their interests and concerns related to the Convention. We will be distributing a survey on our members' willingness and preferences for attending such an event. While this year's Convention may not look the same as past conventions, we are driven by the same steadfast desire to support the Philippine sugar cane industry.

Allow me to also encourage everyone to stay connected with PHILSUTECH digitally by making sure we have your updated contact information and by following us on Facebook. In order to minimize physical contact and use of paper, we will be moving most of our communications onto digital media. Please reach out to us, we want to know how we can better serve you!

Finally, as I have expressed last August, allow me to encourage you all once more to give yourselves the space to take care of yourselves. Even as we are slowly getting used to life with Covid, the situation continues to be fluid and we are never accorded the luxury to completely relax and rest. Our resilience is built not by being stretched out for so long, but by moments of pressure and rest. Please know that your PHILSUTECH leadership's commitment to you and to our industry continues to be unwavering. May we all have a great 2021 ahead.

Sincerely,

Dr. Neil Andrew C. Cortez

Jinah T. Cuenca Conferred Honorary Membership

Mrs. Jinah T. Cuenca has been declared as an honorary member of Philsutech Under the Association's Constitution and By-Laws, the distinction of honorary membership shall be conferred on any individual who has distinguished himself / herself in the sugar industry.

It may also be conferred to a deserving member who has rendered meritorious service thru fifteen (15) years membership in the Association and ten (10) years of meritorious service as duly elected or appointed officer or as Chairman of any of its regular committees.

Mrs. Cuenca has been duly elected as Director (FY 2005-2006) and Vice-President & Director (FY 2006-2007) of the Process Division. She has served as Convention Organizer under various committees during the 50th, 61st, 62nd, 63rd, 65th and 66th Annual Conventions.

She has also rendered selfless service to the Association as Chairperson of the Committee on Proceedings for ten (10) years (2010-2020) and Chairperson of the Committee on Academe for eight (8) years (2012-2020).

Moreover, as Chairman of the Committee on Academe, she has formulated the course modules for Applied Technology on Sugar Processing (ATSP) and Applied Technology on Energy Management and Utilization (ATEMU) technical courses for numerous years in collaboration with the Members of the Committee and Divisional VPs & Directors.

Mrs. Cuenca's biggest singular contribution to the Association was in spearheading the crafting of the course on Sugar Processing for Agricultural Engineering designed for senior high school students.

This a big leap for the Association, because it paves the way for the introduction of sugar technology courses in senior high school. The course is expected to spur the students' interest in the sugar industry, the major driver of Negros Island's economy.



Prepared in collaboration with DepEd and TESDA officials, the two-year course will be piloted at Tara Provincial Community High School in Mabinay, Negros Oriental and is expected to be introduced later in other parts of the country.

Upon completion, students will be credited with Level II National Competency Certificate in Technical-Vocational Livelihood Tract in Sugar Processing.

The Association's Constitution and By-Laws mandates that a nominee for honorary membership shall be proposed by at least two (2) members of the governing body and favorably endorsed by at least five (5) members of the Council of Past Presidents. The nomination should also be approved unanimously by the Board of Directors.

An honorary member is exempted from the payment of dues or assessment, but is not entitled to vote nor hold office.

For her exemplary contributions and consistent service to the Association, Mrs. Jinah T. Cuenca was conferred the distinction of honorary membership of Philsutech during the meeting of the Board of Directors last November 27, 2020.