



April 1, 2024

Dr. PROSE IVY G. YEPES

President

Visayas State University

Baybay City, Leyte

Dear Dr. Yepes,

Greetings from the Institute of Tropical Ecology and Environmental Management!

On October 25, 2023, a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) was signed between the Visayas State University (VSU) and the Local Government Unit (LGU) Quinapondan, Eastern Samar. It was signed in the presence of Dr. Edgardo E. Tulin, former President of VSU, and the Honorable Rafael S. Asebias, Local Chief Executive of LGU Quinapondan.

The partnership focused on the development and implementation of Rainforestation technology to the Municipal Integrated Watershed Management and Sagkaray Eco-Park Development under the Environmental Management Program and Tourism Development Program. Moreover, LGU Quinapondan adheres to protect, conserve and manage their mangrove, seagrass and coral reef ecosystems. The LGU is known for its rich marine biodiversity, which plays a crucial role in the local economy and sustains the livelihoods of many locals.

The degree Bachelor of Science in Environmental Science offers this 2nd semester, SY 2023-2024 to junior BSES students the courses Watershed Management (Envi 116n) and Coastal and Marine Resource Management (Envi 114n). Field exercise should be performed in fulfillment of the prerequisites for passing both courses. The partnership between VSU and LGU Quinapondan is timely because LGU Quinapondan have good, accessible and safe area for the students to conduct field exercises in watershed and in coastal and marine areas. The field exercise for both Envi 114n and Envi 116n is reflected in the course syllabus and is indeed relevant for the students in applying their learnings as well as acquiring first-hand knowledge from the exercise and exposure. In pursuit of this objective, the BSES-3 students who have been enrolled for Envi 114n and Envi 116n will participate into the back-to-back field exercise. Envi 114n will be conducting field exercise in Brgy. Palactad, Quinapondan beginning May 6-8, 2024 and May 9-11, 2024, the field exercise for Envi 116n will take place in the Watershed area of Brgy. 07, Poblacion, Quinapondan, Eastern Samar. The dates May 5 and May 12 will correspond to travel to the area and return to VSU, respectively.

The activities for Envi 116n includes biophysical assessment of the watershed area; determination of the water supply and volume in the identified tributaries, and conduct of interview to the watershed stakeholders. While, the activities for Envi 114n involves demonstrating field techniques in mangrove and seagrass ecosystems and conducting interviews in the coastal communities. The final output of these activities will supplement and facilitate a more meaningful learning experience. Also, the output of these activities can be informative data for LGU Quinapondan in the respective ecosystems.

As future environmental scientists, BSES students must acquire in-depth training in the necessary field sampling techniques, including forest and marine ecosystems. Studying various ecosystems as part of their curriculum must involve actual immersion in the field. Otherwise, they will surely be incompetent as they proceed further in their career.