

October 18, 2023

Dr. Edgardo E. Tulin
President
Visayas State University
Visca, Baybay City, Leyte

Thru: **Dr. Beatriz S. Belonias**
Vice-President for Academic Affairs

Dear *Dr. Tulin*:

We would like to recommend the appointment of **Dr. Marlito M. Bande as local supporting advisor Engr. Jimmy O. Pogosa** at VSU. This appointment is in accordance with the memorandum of understanding (MOU) that Nagoya University, Japan and Visayas State University signed in September 2022 (please see the attached MOU) and the study leave of Engr. Pogosa to pursue his Ph.D. degree. The MOU aims to strengthen the collaboration, interaction, and the promotion of mutual understanding in teaching, research, and extension activities between NU and VSU. The parties acknowledged the need for students and teachers to network internationally for exchange, cooperation, and discussion.

Engr. Pogosa is a faculty member at ITEEM, has been officially accepted as a Ph.D. student at NU (please see the attached notification letter) to pursue his **Doctor of Agricultural Science** degree in the field of **Forest and Environmental Resources Sciences** at the Graduate School of Bioagricultural Sciences, NU, Japan. The program is under the NU's **Transnational Doctoral Programs for Leading Professionals in Asian Countries**. As part of the program, Engr. Pogosa will conduct his study in Leyte on "Population Dynamics, Phenological Characteristics, and Clonal Propagation of the Philippine *Aquilaria* to Support Local Conservation and Livelihood Initiatives in Leyte, Philippines." Likewise, the study is congruent to the "Ecological Assessment and Conservation of Philippine *Aquilaria* for Sustainable Agarwood Production in Leyte Island" (**ECo-SAP**) project, funded under the VSU's **Internationalization Program**.

As stipulated in the MOU, NU and VSU agreed to supervise and advise NU Ph.D. students jointly. Hence, at NU, Prof. Dr. Michiko Nakagawa, Prof. Nobuhiro Tomaru and Prof. Hisashi Kajimura are Engr. Pogosa's main and supporting advisors, respectively. While at VSU, Dr. Marlito M. Bande is his local supporting advisor.

In this connection, we recommend the appointment of Dr. Bande as local supporting advisor of Engr. Pogosa, representing the Institute of Tropical Ecology and Environmental Management (ITEEM) at VSU, effective October 16, 2023, until October 15, 2026, with appropriate workload unit equivalent.

As supporting advisor, Dr. Bande will perform the following responsibilities:

1. Mentors, supervises and works closely with Engr. Pogosa, as he pursues his Ph.D. degree, especially in conducting his research at VSU and at the study sites in Abuyog, Leyte;

2. Provides consistent and constructive feedback on the student's performance on data collection, field, and laboratory activities;
3. Coordinate with the student's primary and supporting advisors at NU on any updates and progress of the student's research activities according to the study plan;
4. Advises and helps the student in any problems, issues or concerns encountered during the conduct of the research;
5. Guides in data management, presentation, analysis, and thesis manuscript writing;
6. Assists on timely publication of the research topics and encourages student presentations in local, national, and international conferences; and
7. Constantly guides and encourages the student to complete his Ph.D. degree on time.

Thank you very much for your favorable action.

Very truly yours,

ITEEM Personnel Committee:

KLEER JEANN G. LONGATANG
Member

MARLITO M. BANDE
Member

TEOFANES A. PATINDOL
Chairman, *and*
Director, ITEEM

Conformé:

MARLITO M. BANDE
Associate Professor, ITEEM

Endorsed by:

DENNIS P. PEQUE
Dean, CFES

Recommending Approval:

BEATRIZ S. BELONIAS
VP for Academic Affairs

Approved:

EDGARDO E. TULIN
President

cc: MMBande
VP, Academic Affairs
Dean, CFES
ITEEM-file