



**VISAYAS**  
STATE UNIVERSITY

INSTITUTE FOR  
**STRATEGIC RESEARCH AND  
DEVELOPMENT STUDIES**

23 August 2023

**Dr. MARIA JULIET C. CENIZA**

Vice President for  
Research, Extension, and Innovation  
Visayas State University  
Baybay City, Leyte

Dear **Dr. Ceniza**,

Greetings!

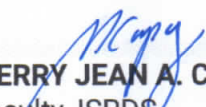
I am Merry Jean A. Caparas, faculty of the Institute for Strategic Research and Development Studies (ISRDS). Recently my paper on Monitoring Social Change in Mining Areas Using Remote Sensing was accepted for presentation at the XVIII World Water Congress in Beijing, China, on 11-15 September 2023. This congress is hosted by the International Water Resources Association (IWRA) and participated by 54 countries, including the Philippines, which I and professors from the University of the Philippines will represent. As a young water professional, participating in this event is immensely important to learn from other countries' water research and foster collaboration.

In this regard, I requested a fund from the University Faculty Development and was eventually awarded financial support of Php50,000. The Php20,000 was allocated for the registration fee, and the remaining Php30,000 was enough to finance my international plane tickets and half of the accommodation costs in Beijing. The given amount did not cover other expenses such as visa, local transportation, and a part of my accommodation.

My study on Monitoring Social Change Using Remote Sensing was the foundation of my research on "Colonial Urban Planning: The Retreat and Return Cycle of Coastal Slums Dwellers in the Philippines," funded by VSU, under your office. Half of the Php100,000.00 fund for the project was already utilized to purchase a laptop for remote sensing and GIS mapping and the initial data collection. Collectively, I would like your consideration in allowing me to use a part of my project fund of the above-mentioned project to cover the remaining cost of my participation in the XVIII World Water Congress.

Thank you very much for your continuous support of VSU young researchers.

Respectfully yours,

  
**MERRY JEAN A. CAPARAS**  
Faculty, ISRDS