

The Office of International Cooperation (OIC) was approved by the Board of Trustees on March 22, 2014 with a Director at the helm. It was the initiative of Rector-President, Very Rev. Fr. Aloysius Ma. A. Maranan, O.S.B. with the global movements of educational institutions, ASEAN Regional Integration, and the national mandate through the Commission on Higher Education to fast track internationalization. With expanded responsibilities and mandates, OIC was renamed as Linkages and International Affairs (LIA) Office in July 23, 2016 headed by a Vice-President. OIC-LIA then this year turned three years old.

San Beda's LIA Office is one of SBC's recent strategic responses to the fast-paced international and global developments, trends, challenges and opportunities in the field of education. Notably, other educational institutions in the country and abroad have set up within their own organizational structure an office to take charge of their thrusts and priorities for internationalization as a response to globalization. Well-recognized is the fact that internationalization is a must and not a mere option. In the past, efforts were generally done through a decentralized structure based on each institutional context and set-up.

As San Beda turns 116 years old this year, with its tradition of excellence in educational apostolate, the institution then likewise marks the third year of the creation of an office taking the lead in assisting the Rector-President, that is, "... in providing the Bedan Community with

strategic institutionalized integrative national and international opportunities..." These are in the areas of academics, research, and community service/engagement, aligned with SBC's vision "...to be globally competitive," and institutional objective to "harness value-adding linkages in local and global educational cooperation."

Currently, San Beda is an active member of six international networks with over 500 member universities and institutions. ASEAN Learning Network (ALN), Association of Universities in Asia and the Pacific (AUAP), Association of Institutions of Higher Learning (ASAIHL), Association of South East and East Asian Catholic Colleges and Universities (ASEACCU), Regional Network for Poverty Eradication (RENPER), and the Swiss-ASEAN Learning and Teaching (SALT) Association. Of the six networks San Beda's Rector-President holds top posts in the Executive Councils of ALN, RENPER and the Boards of ASAIHL-NCP, and SALT. LIA

Vice-President, Dr. Tita Evasco-Branzuela is an active member of Working Committees of ALN, ASAIHL-NCP, Board Director of SALT, and country representative of RENPER.

Active engagements through LIA's programs for administrators, faculty members, staff and students are well-directed and anchored on these memberships and bilateral partnership provisions. The Commission on Higher Education's Memorandum Order No.55, s.2016 stipulated the framework for internationalization, citing both home or campus-based vis-a-vis cross border-based programs and activities. Aligning then with the global, international and national directions, San Beda's LIA continues to link colleges, departments and offices to maximize and implementation of the MOA/MOU provisions of partnerships in academic, research and service functions.



Tita Evasco-Branzuela

# OIC - LIA Turns 3

## Institutionalizing Integrative Internationalization