17.2.3 International collaboration data gathering for SDG

UPHSL Strengthens ASEAN Partnerships through International Collaboration on Data Gathering at AEF 2025



The University of Perpetual Help System Laguna (UPHSL) reinforced its commitment to internationalization and global academic cooperation through its active participation in the ASEAN University Exhibition and Forum 2025 (AEF 2025) held in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia. The event provided a strategic platform for strengthening regional academic linkages, promoting cross-border knowledge exchange, and advancing international collaboration in higher education, particularly in support of Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 17: Partnerships for the Goals.

Through its participation, UPHSL established connections with more than a hundred universities across the ASEAN region, creating opportunities for institutional networking, international research collaboration, student and faculty mobility, and joint academic initiatives. Beyond expanding its international visibility, these engagements contributed to the university's efforts to gather relevant institutional information, benchmark internationalization practices, and identify potential partners for collaborative data gathering and research activities.

In particular, these initiatives support SDG 17.2.3 – International Collaboration in Data Gathering, highlighting the importance of international partnerships in generating, sharing, and utilizing information to support evidence-based institutional development and sustainable academic cooperation. Through its engagement with ASEAN higher education institutions, UPHSL gained valuable insights into international academic practices, research priorities, student mobility initiatives, and emerging approaches to institutional development. These exchanges provide opportunities to strengthen comparative research, facilitate the sharing of institutional data and knowledge, and develop collaborative mechanisms for addressing common educational and societal challenges.

The outcomes of UPHSL's participation extended beyond institutional networking. Following AEF 2025, the university recorded an increase in foreign student enrollment and expanded its international academic engagements. A significant milestone was the successful hosting of the 1st International Conference on Multidisciplinary Research for Sustainable Development Goals (ICMRSDG) in August 2025, which brought together local and international scholars and researchers. The conference provided another avenue for exchanging research findings, sharing relevant data, and

fostering international academic cooperation, further reinforcing UPHSL's role as an emerging contributor to the ASEAN research and higher education community.



Moreover, the knowledge and insights acquired during AEF 2025 have informed the university's continuing internationalization strategies. These include formalizing partnerships with ASEAN institutions, exploring collaborative research and data-gathering arrangements, developing student and faculty exchange opportunities, and integrating international perspectives into academic programs and institutional initiatives. Such efforts demonstrate UPHSL's recognition that meaningful internationalization requires not only the establishment of institutional linkages but also sustained cooperation in knowledge generation, research, and information sharing.

Despite challenges involving resource availability, logistical coordination, differences in institutional systems, and cultural integration, UPHSL continues to pursue measures that promote sustainable international collaboration. These include strengthening the capacity of its International Affairs Office, utilizing digital technologies for international communication and information exchange, enhancing faculty and staff competencies, and developing more structured partnership frameworks to ensure continuity and measurable outcomes.



Through these initiatives, UPHSL demonstrates that international collaboration is an essential mechanism for advancing institutional excellence and contributing to the broader sustainable development agenda. Its participation in AEF 2025 reflects a commitment to building partnerships that go beyond ceremonial agreements toward meaningful cooperation in research, data gathering, academic mobility, and knowledge sharing.

Ultimately, UPHSL's engagement in AEF 2025 represents a significant step in strengthening its contribution to SDG 17.2.3 – International Collaboration in Data Gathering. By connecting with ASEAN universities, expanding research networks, and creating opportunities for the exchange and utilization of academic information, the university continues to establish a foundation for sustainable regional partnerships. AEF 2025 was therefore more than an international academic gathering; it was a strategic opportunity for UPHSL to advance its global engagement, strengthen evidence-based institutional development, and contribute to a more interconnected and collaborative ASEAN higher education community.

Link to data gathered during the event: Link for Respondents who were Surveyed

Website link: https://old.uphsl.edu.ph/sdg-post?slug=uphsl-strengthens-asean-partnerships-through-international-collaboration-on-data-gathering-at-aef-2025