Mapúa Institute of Technology has successfully achieved its global status with an international accreditation for its academic programs.

After establishing itself as the leading technological school in the country, Mapúa Institute of Technology has successfully achieved its global status with an international accreditation for its academic programs.

Now, Mapúa responds to the challenge of globalization for the country’s sake, global status, as it entails establishment of a rigorous education system that will enable the school to produce graduates that are sure to meet international standards of the number of people who must be involved and profession to practice their profession in other countries.

"It shows that we can hang on to a grand vision and at the same time skoch through the quotient," was the reaction of Mapúa’s president and chief executive officer Dr. Reynaldo B. Yee to the school’s recent achievement. “I think that the Mapúa community can be justifiably proud of this singular achievement because it has come after years of unflagging hard work and superb teamwork. While it serves Mapúa well, it also improves the standing of Philippine engineering education before the international community of engineers and computing professionals."

ABET is the leading accrediting body for applied science, engineering, computing, and technology programs at universities and colleges worldwide. With this, the Institute believes that the accreditation of its programs will give mobility to Filipino engineers and IT professionals to practice their profession in other countries.

"We can safely say that our engineering and computing programs are equal in standards with those offered in prominent universities in the USA," said Eng. Conrado V. Navalta, director of Mapúa’s Continuous Quality Improvement Office.

Outcomes-Based Education

The ABET seal of quality education means a lot for a school that seeks global status, as it entails establishment of a rigorous education system that will enable the school to produce graduates that are sure to meet international standards – the Outcomes-Based Education system (OBE). "Mapúa is the first school in the country to adopt the OBE," said executive vice president for Academic Affairs Dr. Benfacio T. Doma Jr. "It is basically zones in on outcomes.

OBE focuses on two kinds of outcomes: the Student Outcomes and the Program Educational Objectives. Student Outcomes define the skills that students must have at the time of graduation, whereas the Program Educational Objectives pertain to what the school desires for its graduates to achieve so many years after graduation. This is followed by the assessment and evaluation process. For the assessment, tools are identified to determine if the outcomes are achieved and to what degree," continued Dr. Doma. "After all data are gathered, the evaluation process ensures using performance criteria and a set of rubrics. Based on the evaluation results, recommendations for the improvement of the program are made. The continuous quality improvement (CQI) loop is closed by implementing the recommendations made. CQI is one of the major criteria in ABET accreditation."

Commitment to excellent education

It has not been simple and easy for the Institute to have its programs accredited by ABET. Mapúa’s faculty has invested countless man-hours to have its curricula brought up to a higher level. For this, the Mapúa administration commends them.

"It’s definitely a collaborative achievement because it really takes a village to achieve this feat. It is not only intensive in terms of the financial aspect but more so in terms of the number of people who must be involved and who must believe in OBE," commented Dr. Doma.

Dr. Yee, furthermore, emphasized that the purpose behind the Institute’s shift to OBE is bigger than the ABET accreditation. "Before we embarked on the road to ABET accreditation, we had to ask ourselves whether this was going to be a mere “paper chase,” and our answer was, ‘Yes.’ We were not just going for the certificate; we believed enough in the effectiveness and robustness of an outcomes-based approach to education and its accompanying Continuous Quality Improvement system that we were going to do it regardless."

He continued: "Needless to say, our other programs are subject to the same belief and infused with the same enthusiasm for its realization. Even without a corresponding accreditation label, these programs are embodiments of the same philosophy and principles of quality education that apply to our engineering and computing programs."

Dr. Yee assures that this is not the end of Mapúa’s journey to excellence in education. "We are fine-tuning our CQI system especially in the area of deriving effective assessment tools. We are also strengthening our links with industry to refine our statements of program educational objectives and desired student outcomes."

In behalf of PTC, I congratulate Mapúa for the milestone-setting ABET accreditation of its 10 academic programs. This has set the bar as far as the quality and accreditation of the nation’s engineering programs is concerned. It is recognition that we can meet the stringent accreditation criteria and standards. Mapúa did it by reshaping and redirecting its programs toward orientation toward outcomes-oriented delivery.

It also lends a positive note to our aim to join the states of the world.

Congratulations for now we have 10 ABET-accredited programs to boast about!

This success could not be attributed to an individual’s efforts alone but to all men and women who tirelessly worked together as a team amid all challenges and difficulties to achieve a common goal – obtaining the international accreditation. My sincerest thanks to all the administrators, officers, faculty members, employees, and students who have worked countless days to comply with the ABET requirements. Off we go for more!

Bonifacio T. Doma Jr., Ph.D.
Executive Vice President for Academic Affairs

With all honor and pride, I would like to congratulate Mapúa Institute of Technology for the accreditation of 10 of its programs by ABET. It will surely give our graduates the edge when applying in prestigious companies not just in the Philippines but also abroad. This milestone is indeed another reason for every Mapuan to become proud.

Visa Mapúa!

Engr. Leongico “Terry” J.S. Roves, MIE
President, National Association of Mapúa Alumni (NAMA)

No higher educational institutions in East Asia have ABET-accredited programs in any field, except Mapúa. You have it! Congratulations to your Board of Trustees, your President and the entire Mapúa staff for this monumental achievement! You have set a very high bar for quality engineering and computing education in the Philippines. It is an honor to be associated with you as your consultant.

Jose B. Cruz Jr.,
Professor Emeritus, Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering, and former Dean, College of Engineering, Ohio State University

Congratulations on the ABET accreditation of 10 of your programs! As the only school in East Asia to maintain this highly rigorous accreditation, you certainly should be proud. Mapúa of course has a storied history, but this accomplishment demonstrates that it is on the cutting edge of high-tech engineering and nanotechnology research. Also, Mapúa’s international collaborations with Taiwanese, Japanese and US universities show that its educational respect stretches far. I salute the professors, administrators and the students for this exceptional achievement.

With best wishes, I remain,

Henry K. Thomas, Jr.
United States Ambassador
Journey to academic excellence: Mapúa’s road to ABET

Even for an educational institution with over 85 years of producing some of the country’s top-notch engineers and architects, there are no shortcuts to excellence.

The Mapúa Institute of Technology had to make significant paradigm shifts, adopt education reform measures, and commit to continuous quality improvement (CQI) system to achieve world-class status. The goal of the initiatives was to enhance the quality of teaching and learning. A significant feature of this project was the transformation of computing programs obtained accreditation by the US-based ABET, the technology-based body for post-secondary education programs in applied science, computing, engineering, and technology.

The commitment to pursue ABET accreditation is at the Institute’s response to the growing clamor for a more global outlook on education—a viewpoint that was first espoused by the “Yuchengco Group of Companies” (YGC) when it took over the management of the school in 1999. To implement this goal, the conglomerate couldn’t have chosen a better man than Dr. Reynaldo B. Vea, currently Mapúa’s president and chief executive officer.

“Where we came in 1999, we stated its no uncertain terms that we will lead the Institute’s response to the challenge of globalization,” he said. “Our vision was for Mapúa to become an international center of excellence. We accelerated the further development of our graduate programs and, correspondingly, our research capabilities.”

Dr. Vea’s own outlook is enriched by his experiences working aboard as a naval engineer, and he has meticulously been applying his global knowledge and insights since his appointment at Mapúa. “We believe in the existence of a global, knowledge-based, technology-driven economy,” he said. “I could not have truly appreciated this fact had I not been exposed to its workings internationally and in the US.”

Having done research in US graduate schools and having worked for US companies, I know the importance of knowledge in gaining and maintaining competitive edge,” he continued. “What the Philippines and the region need to develop are strong research organizations that are the forerunners of new knowledge that lead to new products, systems, and processes. At Mapúa, we want to contribute to this effort by engaging in research with high socio-economic impact.”

Dr. Vea’s vision, combined with the resources of the YGC, brought Mapúa’s standard to the world class level.

With 10 internationally accredited programs, Mapúa just got sharper.

A Quick Guide to ABET

What is ABET?

ABET, or the Accrediting Board for Engineering and Technology, an international group reviews the academic programs of US-based institutions. The accreditation process may take anywhere from five to ten years to complete. After that, every three years, the programs are assessed by ABET.

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Mapúa subsidiaries in sync with its bid for world-class education

Espousing similar core values and offering the same world-class education as those of their parent school, the Malayan Colleges Laguna (MCL) in the town of Cabuyao, Laguna, and the Malayan High School of Science (MHSS) in Pandanu, Manila, both of which are wholly owned subsidiaries of Mapúa Institute of Technology, are ready to take on the world.

MCL and MHSS are aware setting a trend of educational excellence in tertiary and secondary levels, respectively, with their advanced facilities, academic programs, and generally high performance standards.

MCL, is among the first major institutions to branch out from the National Capital Region and set up campus in the burgeoning Southern Luzon, bringing along its best practices in education management and implementation. Intended to extend the quality of education Mapúa has been known for, MCL has since set its sights on being a center of excellence for science and technology education in the region, with its excellent facilities, technologically advanced and information technology-integrated curricula.

"Maintaining our high standards is intrinsic to our mission of producing the most sought-after graduates by various industries both here and abroad,” said MCL executive vice president and chief executive officer Dodjie S. Maestrecampo.

"Many of our systems are definitely advanced,” Maestrecampo added. “We want to make sure our students are exposed to all learning resources, and that our systems and our education programs are really current and relevant.”

One indicator of success that he takes pride in is the fact that many of the students that do on-the-job trainings in companies in nearby science and industrial parks get positive feedback from their employers. “The companies are very pleased with the performance of our students. Since our programs are really in demand by various industries, and companies are already taking note of the quality of our students, they have high chances of getting hired after they graduate.”

With 14 programs, MCL has five degree-offering colleges. Mapúa Institute of Technology, the Mapúa-FTIC College of Maritime Education and Training, the E.T. Yuchengco College of Business, the College of Information Technology and the College of Arts and Sciences. Currently, 45 percent of its students are enrolled in engineering programs, 40 percent in non-engineering programs, and 15 percent in pre-engineering programs.

"We graduated the first batch of IT students and so far, based on the initial data, it has been very encouraging. They are now employed in good companies with good starting salaries,” Maestrecampo said. “The same goes even with those who are part of our two-year programs and Digital Arts Design.”

"The acid test,” however, will come next year when MCL’s first batch of engineering and accountancy graduates take their respective licensure examinations.

"They will graduate in March or April next year. The first batch of licensure examinees will be in October or November. So by that time, we’ll have the results,” he said. “That’s the time we will start to feel the fruits of our efforts. Everyone is waiting for our graduates.”

Being a subsidiary of Mapúa, MCL is already one step ahead of other schools in the region. “It’s always the brand, the Mapúa brand... Mapúa is known for the quality of its education, as one of the best educational systems in the Philippines,” said Maestrecampo, a Mapúa alumnus.

“Maintaining our high standards is intrinsic to our mission of producing the most sought-after graduates by various industries both here and abroad.”

"The intention of the school is to provide quality education to the youth to the students of the south,” he said. “You don’t need to go to Manila and spend so much money just to get the same quality of education. It’s already here, right here complete with facilities, with teachers, plus the environment for learning is really excellent, even better than schools in Manila.”

He foresees MCL further expanding by 2014, with other programs being highlighted as well.

Quality Secondary Education

On the other hand, MHSS was built to succeed Mapúa’s pre-engineering high school to complement the expansions of the Institute’s academic offerings in science and technology and other fields.

It has a top-notch faculty, state-of-the-art facilities, and a curriculum that will allow students to “fully express not only their scientific inclinations but also their artistic bent.”

"We established this high school to give an opportunity to Filipino families to have their children, to be inclined towards the sciences or the arts (using various technology-based media), undergo an education that’s truly focused on their future needs. We hope it opens many doors for them upon graduation,” said Dr. Reynaldo B. Vea, current chief of Mapúa and its subsidiaries.

"One of these doors opens to MHSS’ mother school, the Mapúa Institute of Technology. For students inclined towards engineering and computing, an MHSS diploma gives them a straight path towards Mapúa programs accredited by the US-based ABET. This will make it easier for them to land jobs, get admitted to graduate school and directly take licensure examinations in the US and elsewhere. Those inclined towards multimedia arts also have a direct path to Mapúa’s top-notch program in this area,” Dr. Vea added.

MHSS graduates have the privilege to be automatically eligible for entrance to Mapúa, the country’s largest engineering school.

Since its foundation, MHSS has already gained recognitions from numerous academic and non-academic events. One major feat was its remarkable performance in the 2010 National Achievement Test (NAT). MHSS was recognized as one of the top-performing schools during the 2010 NAT, ranking 9th, two notches higher than 2009 results, among Manila private high schools.

Recently, MHSS was given free exclusive access to SAS Curriculum Pathways, the web-based, interactive, and standards-based resources in core subjects such as English, Math, Science and History, following the partnership between Mapúa and leading business analytics firm SAS.

“[SAS Curriculum Pathways] offers an alternative process of engaging the students in the teaching-learning process. On the part of the teachers, it will add to their repertoire of teaching strategies to make teaching-learning more effective. The SAS Curriculum is web-based and interactive, thus, we anticipate that it will generate greater interest among the students in focal subjects. By nature, students love to tinker with the computer and browse the web. In pedagogy, we know that interest in a subject leads to achievement,” said MHSS principal Dr. Efren B. Mateo.

In line with the school’s goal to provide varied fields of interests in its curriculum, MHSS is also one of the few schools in the country that offers Robotics as a subject. Added Dr. Vea: “We wish, too, that our students will grow not only intellectually but also emotionally, socially, morally, spiritually and physically so that they can live in balance and to the fullest in all respects. Indeed, we realize that high school is a very sensitive and important phase in young lives, and we therefore strive to make our students the center of our small universe.”

Mapúa: All leveled up to a global state of play

Dr. Reynaldo B. Vea, President and Chief Executive Officer

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www.Mapua.edu.ph