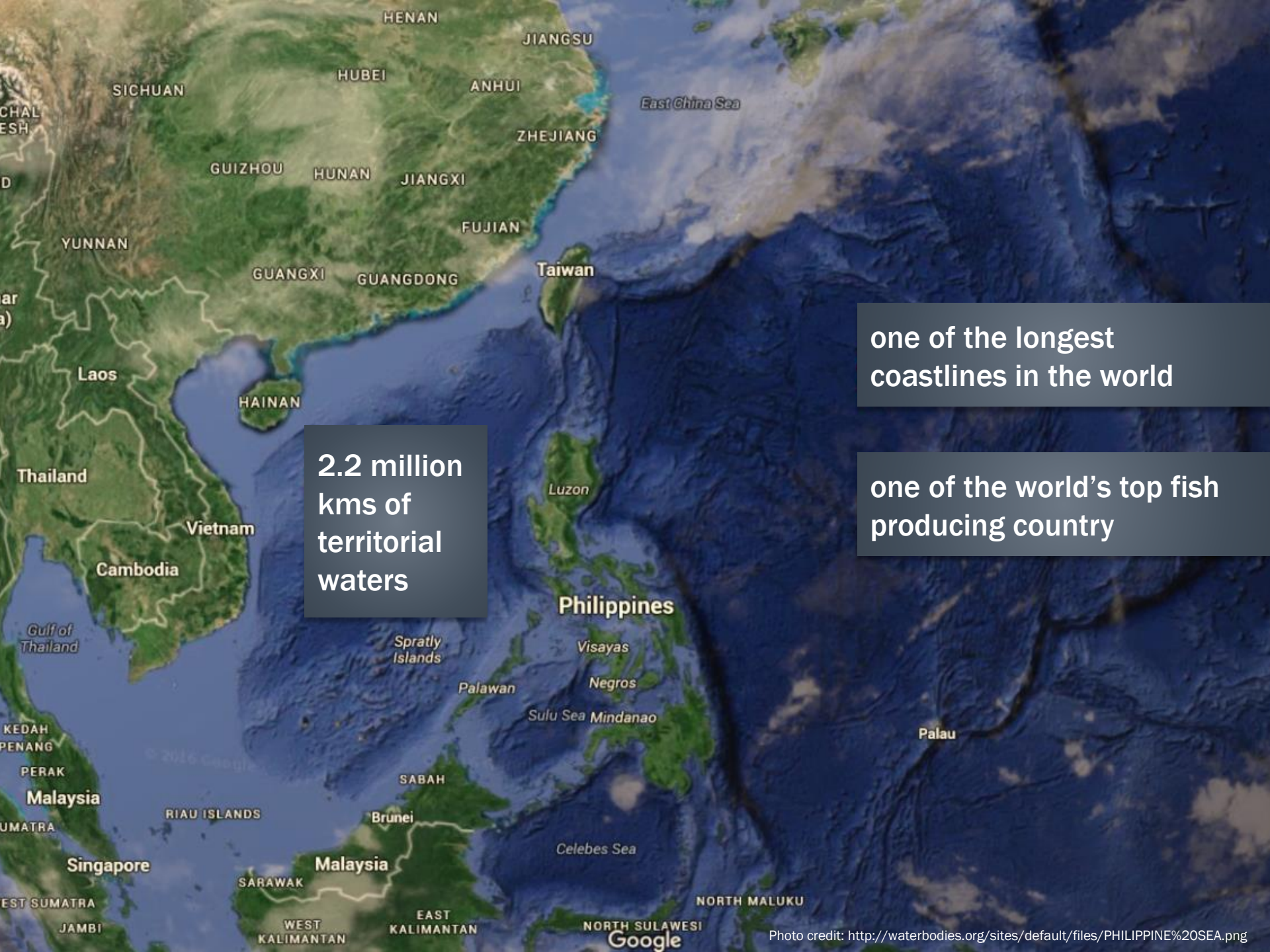# Current Initiatives in Implementing SDG 14: The Role of Learning Centers and the Academe

Danilo L. Concepcion
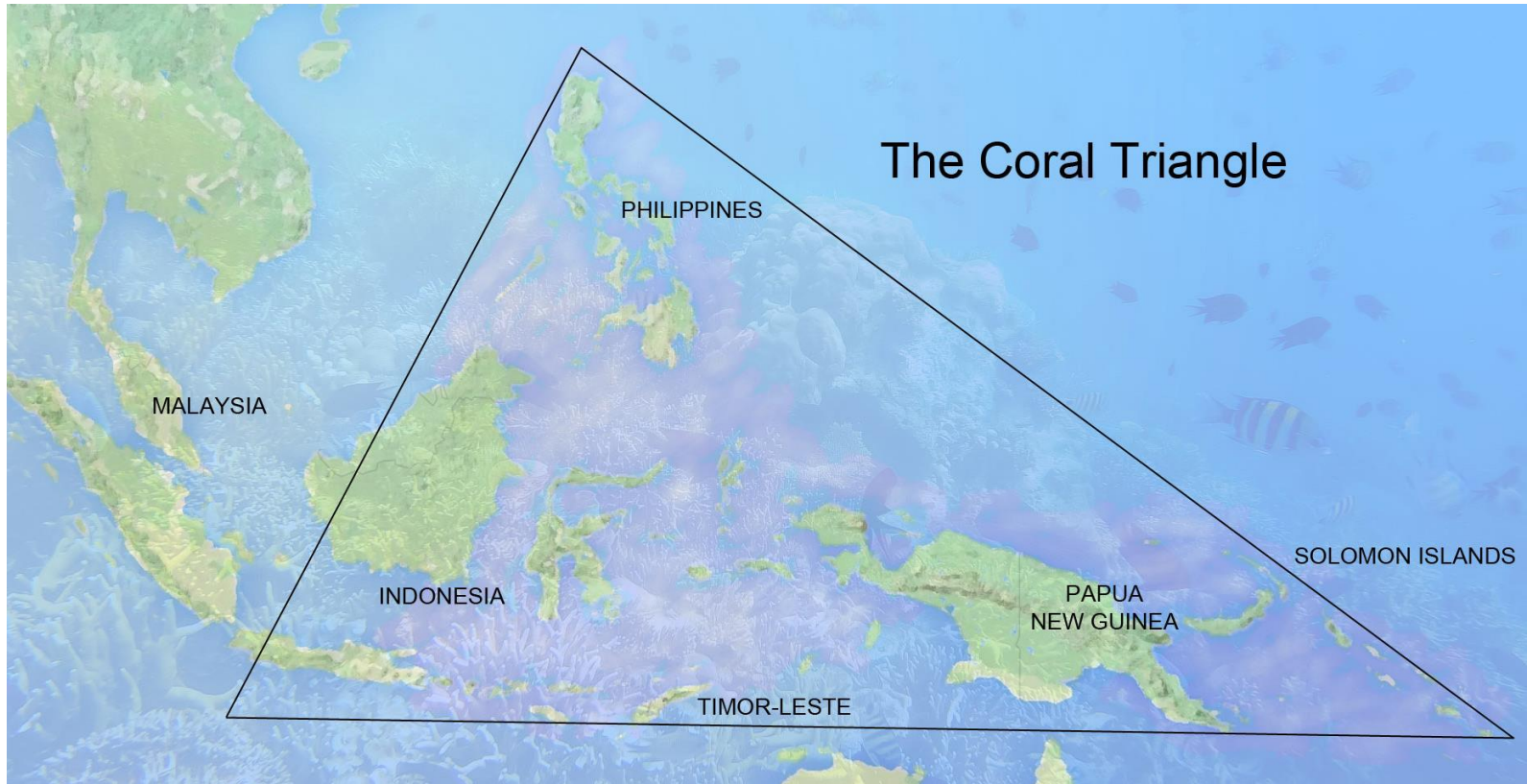
President, University of the Philippines

one of the longest coastlines in the world

2.2 million kms of territorial waters

one of the world's top fish producing country

The Coral Triangle

PHILIPPINES

MALAYSIA

INDONESIA

TIMOR-LESTE

PAPUA
NEW GUINEA

SOLOMON ISLANDS

Verde Island Passage has been declared the Center of the Center of Marine Shorefish Biodiversity and the Center of the Center of the Marine Biodiversity of the World

Our marine environments are under serious threat, resulting in a decline in Philippine fishery production since 2010

Information drive and training on sediment quality monitoring in fish farms in the provinces of Guimaras and Capiz

UP Diliman's Marine Science Institute

UP Visayas' College of Fisheries &Ocean Sciences (CFOS) and College of Arts & Sciences (CAS)

UP MSI is looking at the effects of nutrient input on Manila Bay by modeling the potential effects of reducing nutrient inputs from certain human activities.

UP MSI has started studying plastic pollution and the role of microbial organisms in the sinking, degradation and remineralization of different plastics

In terms of reducing marine pollution

UP has instituted the Professional Masters in Tropical Marine Ecosystems focusing on Marine Protected Areas as its area of specialization
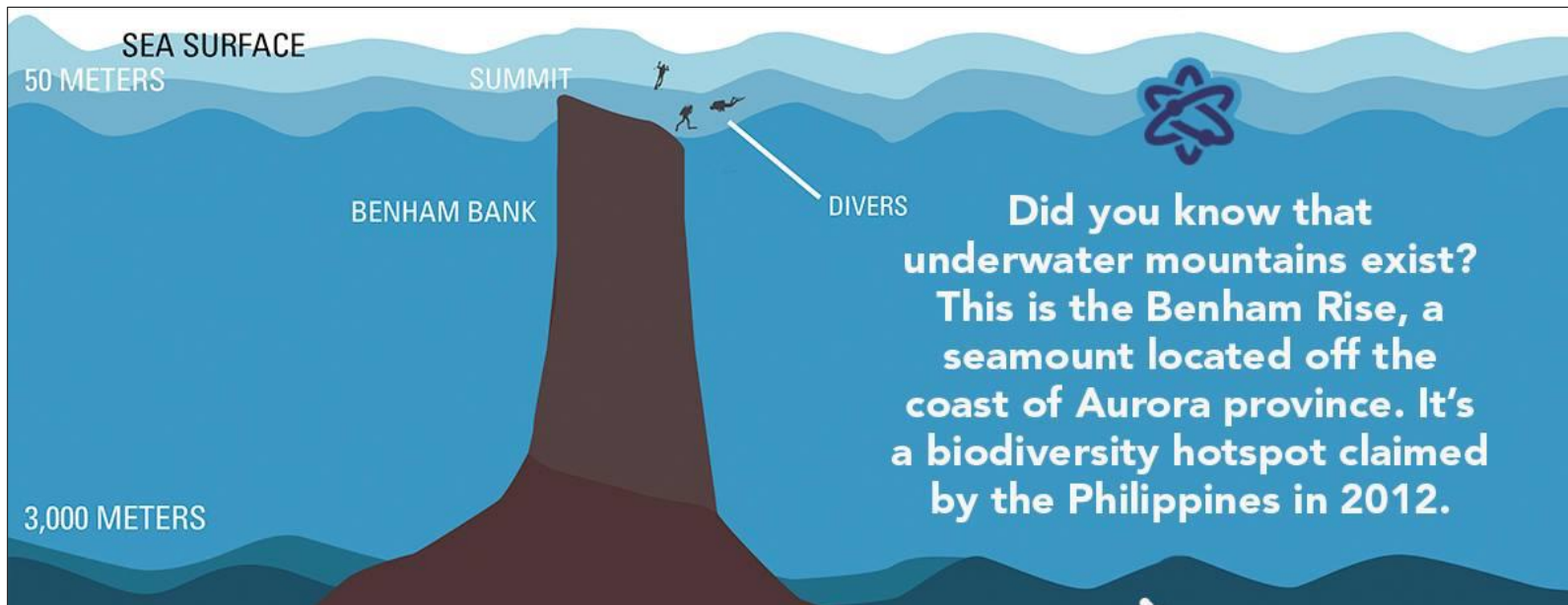
In terms of protecting and restoring marine and coastal ecosystems

MSI is engaged in identifying the types of habitats and their locations that are critical to the reproductive and nursery stages of fish, which will lead to identification of areas that need protection

UP MSI and UPV with collaborators were critical in promoting a strategy to protect the sardine fisheries in the country; as well as, establishing harvest control reference points for sustainability of other highly marketable species.

In terms of sustainable fishing

SEA SURFACE
50 METERS
SUMMIT
BENHAM BANK
DIVERS
3,000 METERS

Did you know that underwater mountains exist? This is the Benham Rise, a seamount located off the coast of Aurora province. It's a biodiversity hotspot claimed by the Philippines in 2012.
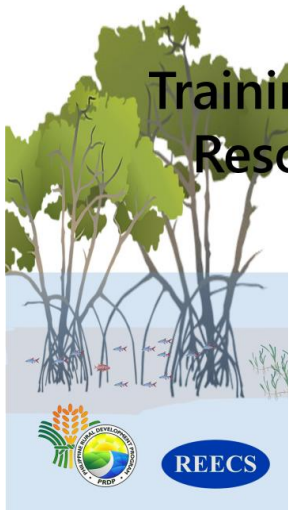
Aside from its work with coral reefs, the UP MSI, in collaboration with the UP Visayas, UP Los Baños, UP Mindanao and UP Baguio, as well as some partner-NGOs, is undertaking massive biodiversity studies, including exploratory and discovery work, on deeper parts of the sea floor such as in the Benham Bank of the Philippine Rise

In terms of conserving coastal and marine areas

Photo credit: University of the Philippines Los Baños Facebook Page

UP MSI is part of the consortium undertaking the Capturing Coral Reef and Related Ecosystem Services (CCRES) Project for East Asia and Pacific

In terms of increasing the economic benefits from sustainable use of marine resources, and supporting small-scale fishers

Establishment/assessment & monitoring of MPAs
Participatory Coastal Resource Assessment Training
for stakeholders
Training on fisheries monitoring
Networking of MPAs

Areas/Sites (# of towns):
Guimaras (4)
Bohol (7)
Antique (7)
Iloilo (3)
Surigao del Sur (3)
Coron/Busuanga (3)
Tawi-Tawi (1)

- **Supporting small-scale fishers and LGUs with their locally established and managed MPAs**

Photo credit: Dr. WL Campos, College of Arts & Sciences, UPVISAYAS

A preserved giant shipworm, a bivalve as indicated by the two valves before its mouth.

Dr. Gisela Concepcion and her laboratory are currently working on Philippine Mollusk Symbiont – International Cooperative Biodiversity Group (PMS-ICBG), Discovery and Development of Health Products (DDHP) Project 2 and the Conus – Turrid Project. Dr. Lilibeth A. Salvador-Reyes' laboratory, Marine Pharmacognosy Lab also studies biomedical applications of natural products like anti-infective and anticancer drug candidates from sponges and microorganisms, among others.

In terms of increasing scientific knowledge, research and technology for ocean health

Thank you.