



BRAP at 10

By Dr. Miguel Martin N. Moreno II

The BioRisk Association of the Philippines 2015, Inc. (BRAP2015) reached a historic milestone on September 7, 2025, celebrating its 10th Founding Anniversary at the Ardenhill Suites Hotel, Quezon City. The week began with solemn thanksgiving masses at the Manila Cathedral and the Basilica Menor of the Black Nazarene in Quiapo on September 2, before culminating in an evening of unity, joy, and reflection that drew 47 distinguished members, partners, and collaborators together.

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BRAP Prexy Bags Top PRC Honors

A Historic Double Win for the Med Tech & Biosafety Communities

In a groundbreaking achievement for the medical technology and biosafety professions, Ronaldo E. Puno, former president of the Philippine Association of Medical Technologists (PAMET) and current president of the Biorisk Association of the Philippines (BRAP), was honored with both the Eric C. Nubla Excellence Award and the Outstanding Professional of the Year award in the field of Medical Technology by the Professional Regulation Commission

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A Decade of Service and Excellence in Biosafety and Biosecurity



BRAP and DOH Collaborate to Develop Standardized Biorisk Management Training Curriculum

By Mr. Ronaldo E. Puno



The BioRisk Association of the Philippines, Inc. (BRAP), represented by its National President, Mr. Ronaldo E. Puno, in partnership with the Department of Health (DOH), has embarked on a significant initiative to develop a standardized national training curriculum on biorisk management for laboratories across the country held on May 19-23, 2025 at Bay View Park Hotel in Manila

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president's message

RONALDO E. PUNO,
RMT, MBA-H, CBP, IFBA PC
BRAP President

Dear Colleagues and Partners in Biosafety,

As we turn the pages of this latest issue of our BRAP newsletter, I am filled with deep gratitude and renewed inspiration. Each article, initiative, and milestone captured here reflects not just the progress of our organization—but also the enduring spirit of our biosafety and biosecurity community across the Philippines and beyond.

Over the past months, BRAP has continued to champion a wide range of programs: capacity-building workshops, regional engagements, international partnerships, certification efforts, and the advancement of our biorisk management standards. We have faced significant challenges—from resource limitations to public health emergencies—but we've met them with professionalism, purpose, and unity.

The year 2025 is a milestone year for the organization as it celebrates its 10th year founding anniversary, in conjunction with the 8th Annual Convention and 5th International Forum.

The theme that resonates most strongly this year is resilience through collaboration. It is only through our collective expertise and shared commitment that we can truly elevate laboratory practices, enhance preparedness, and secure the environments in which science operates. In this light, we are strengthening ties not only with academic and healthcare institutions, but also with government agencies, international networks, and our invaluable frontliners in the field.

As we look ahead, and about to start a new term for 2026-2028, BRAP remains steadfast in its mission to:

- Advance professional excellence in biosafety, biosecurity, and biorisk management,
- Promote ethical standards and responsible conduct in science,
- Equip laboratories and professionals with the tools to address emerging biological threats, and
- Support a new generation of biosafety leaders through education, advocacy, and innovation.

Let this newsletter serve as a reminder: that every policy implemented, every seminar delivered, and every standard upheld brings us one step closer to a safer, more secure future—for our communities, for our country, and for the world.

On behalf of the BRAP Board of Trustees, I thank you for your trust, support, and active participation in our shared journey. Together, let us remain tenacious, collaborative, and future-focused.

Stay safe, stay engaged, and stay inspired.

BUILDING A NETWORK OF BIOSAFETY PROFESSIONALS: BRAP Achieves 100% IFBA Certification Success

By Dr. Jose M. Obedencio Jr.




IFBA

The BioRisk Association of the Philippines (BRAP) continues to set the standard for biosafety excellence in the country, guided by a clear purpose: to prepare Filipino professionals to meet international benchmarks in biorisk management. As the world faces growing biological risks from infectious disease outbreaks to laboratory safety concerns, the need for globally credentialed experts in biosafety has never been greater. For Filipino practitioners, the International Federation of Biosafety Associations (IFBA) Professional Certification in Biorisk Management (BRM) represents not only an internationally recognized credential but also a commitment to strengthening public health and laboratory safety.

Recognizing the importance of this certification, BRAP created a structured pathway to support members through its signature Review Course for the IFBA Professional Certification in Biorisk Management. Held online on May 17–18, 2025, the course combined in-depth lectures, case discussions, and mentoring sessions facilitated by seasoned biosafety experts. More than a review, it was a collaborative learning experience that built both competence and

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editorial board

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BioRisk Association of the Philippines 2015, Inc. (BRAP2015)



BIOnotes
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 Editor-in-Chief

UNITED FOR BIOSAFETY: Empowering Professionals across the Philippines

Biosafety and biosecurity stand at the forefront of protecting public health, animal health, and environmental integrity in the Philippines. In an era of emerging diseases and expanding laboratory capacities, the need for strong bio risk management has never been more urgent. This collective responsibility calls for unity among laboratories, veterinarians, researchers, and healthcare professionals nationwide. Through continuous education and capacity-building, professionals are empowered to manage biological risks effectively and ethically.

The nationwide seminars and workshops spearheaded by the BioRisk Association of the Philippines (BRAP) reflect a shared commitment to knowledge dissemination. These initiatives translate global standards into practical, locally relevant applications. By reaching diverse regions and sectors, BRAP strengthens preparedness at both institutional and community levels.

Collaboration remains a cornerstone in building a resilient biosafety culture. Equipping professionals with the right tools and understanding ensures safer workplaces and more reliable services. As science and technology advance, biosafety practices must evolve in parallel. Sustained training reinforces accountability and compliance across disciplines. Leadership development is equally vital in sustaining biosafety initiatives beyond individual programs.

The future of bio risk management lies in integration, innovation, and inclusivity. Empowered professionals serve as the first line of defense against biological threats. United in purpose, the Philippines moves forward toward a safer and more secure biosafety landscape.

COVER STORY...BRAP and DOH Collaborate...

The event titled “Workshop for the Development of National Laboratory Biorisk Management Training Curriculum in the Philippines, was organized by DOH Office for Health Laboratories led by Ms Nenita Marayag, supported by Integrated Quality Laboratory Services (IQLS).

This collaborative effort is aimed at strengthening the biosafety and biosecurity competencies of laboratory personnel in both public and private health facilities. Recognizing the critical need for a harmonized approach to biorisk education—especially in light of recent biological threats—BRAP and DOH are working closely to ensure that the curriculum aligns with international standards, while remaining practical, scalable, and responsive to the local context.

The curriculum will cover key areas such as:

- Risk assessment and mitigation strategies
- Laboratory biosafety levels and containment
- Biosecurity principles and regulatory compliance
- Incident response and emergency preparedness
- Ethical and responsible conduct of science

Subject matter experts from BRAP are contributing technical guidance and field experience, while the DOH provides institutional oversight to ensure integration into the national laboratory system. Once finalized, the curriculum will serve as a cornerstone for capacity building, accreditation, and policy development, equipping laboratory professionals with the tools to safely and securely handle biological materials.

This partnership underscores a shared commitment to raising the bar for public health preparedness and ensuring that biosafety and biosecurity become embedded in the operational culture of Philippine laboratories.

The workshop was facilitated by Dr. Abdoulaye Nikiema, from Africa. Other participants were representatives from different various government agencies such as RITM, University of the Philippines, DOH regulatory bureau, veterinary sector, and government hospitals across the county.

<< from page 2...BRAP Achieves 100% IFBA Certification Success



confidence among participants. The initiative was further strengthened by the LEAD Grant (Leadership Empowerment And Development), which provided a 50 percent discount to Component Society and Regional Council Officers. This support lowered financial barriers, empowering emerging leaders to pursue certification while reinforcing BRAP's broader goal of nurturing a strong national biosafety community.

All the preparation and dedication came to fruition during the 8th BRAP Annual Convention and 6th International Forum, held on July 3, 2025 at Crowne Plaza Manila Galleria. During the event, 10 BRAP candidates sat for the IFBA Professional Certification in Biorisk Management, and every single one of them passed. This 100 percent passing rate marked not only a personal triumph for the candidates but also a collective success for BRAP and the entire Philippine biosafety community. For the newly certified professionals, this milestone proved that Filipinos can meet and even exceed international standards in biosafety and biorisk management. For BRAP, it validated its mission of ensuring members are credentialed, competent, and globally recognized.

These newly certified professionals now join an international community committed to responsible science and global health security. Their achievement strengthens the Philippines' capacity to safeguard laboratories and protect communities from biological risks. Through initiatives such as the Review Course and the LEAD Grant, BRAP ensures its members are not only exam-ready but also future-ready, equipped to face local challenges while contributing to international biosafety discourse.

This certification milestone is a testament to collaboration, preparation, and purpose. It reflects the collective efforts of BRAP, its dedicated members, and its international partners. BRAP extends its gratitude to the International Federation of Biosafety Associations (IFBA) for its continued partnership in raising the bar for biosafety standards worldwide. Together, BRAP and IFBA are helping ensure that Filipino biosafety professionals are not only recognized globally but also ready to lead in strengthening health security both at home and abroad.

COVER STORY...BRAP Prexy Bags Top PRC Honors...

(PRC), in a ceremony held on September 6, 2025, at the Manila Hotel. His recognition with the Eric C. Nubla Excellence Award is a historic first for a medical technologist and serves as a tribute to his exceptional leadership and impact on the medical and biosafety fields. Said award is the highest award being conferred by PRC to the most outstanding professional across all 46 professions.



These prestigious recognitions celebrate Puno's exceptional contributions to the advancement of medical technology, laboratory practice, and biosafety, both locally and globally. His leadership in expanding PAMET and BRAP networks, and his pioneering efforts in developing Career Progression and Specialization pathways for medical technologists, have set new benchmarks for the profession.

A standout moment in Puno's career was his instrumental role during the COVID-19 pandemic, where he spearheaded the Caring for the Carers campaign. This initiative, which focused on supporting and safeguarding the healthcare workers on the frontlines, provided critical resources and mental health support to those combating the pandemic. The campaign underscored Puno's unwavering commitment to the well-being of the healthcare workforce, highlighting the vital role of medical technologists in ensuring public health safety, especially in the face of unprecedented global challenges.

Puno's influence has been profound in driving global biosafety advocacy and expanding professional networks. His efforts in connecting medical technologists and advocating for specialized career paths in biosafety, microbiology, and other fields have elevated the profession to new heights.

In his acceptance message, he said: *"These recognitions are dedicated to the untiring efforts and countless sacrifices of all Filipino Medical Technologists worldwide who are working silently and tirelessly but are vital parts of healthcare system."*

This double recognition not only acknowledges Puno's monumental contributions but also celebrates the collective achievements of the medical technology profession, emphasizing the critical role of biosafety professionals in safeguarding public health and advancing the healthcare system.

COVER STORY... BRAP at 10: A Decade of Service...



The celebration, chaired by Founding President Dr. Miguel Martin Moreno with the 2025 Convention Organizing Committee, highlighted BRAP's legacy of service and its enduring impact nationwide. Guests were moved by the Keynote Address of Dr. Prasad Kuduvalli of Health Security Partners, a steadfast supporter of BRAP since its earliest years, whose words bridged the organization's humble beginnings in 2015 with its aspirations for the future.

The evening honored exemplary members whose dedication has helped shape BRAP's journey and witnessed the much-anticipated launch of the handbook *Introduction to Laboratory Biosafety and Biosecurity: A Handbook for the Newbie*, with the special participation of C&E Publishing, Inc. Enthusiasm rose higher with the announcement of the forthcoming BRAP Journal of Biosafety and Biosecurity Proceedings, a platform that will expand BRAP's reach in research and knowledge-sharing.

Broadcast live via BRAP's Facebook page, the celebration reached an audience of over 12,000 viewers worldwide, amplifying the jubilant spirit of the night. Attendees praised the smooth flow of the program, the excellent food, and the vibrant atmosphere, with many declaring: "Congratulations BRAP—way to go!"

More than an anniversary, the event was a renewal of promise—a pledge of resilience, collaboration, and leadership. As BRAP steps into its second decade, it continues to safeguard laboratories, strengthen health security, and inspire a future where biosafety and biosecurity remain at the heart of national progress.

BRAP joins IFBA "Global Voices" Conference

On January 22-24, 2025, the International Federation of Biosafety Associations (IFBA), hosted the Global Voices Conference: Celebrating Diversity in Biosafety & Biosecurity in Arusha, Tanzania. This three-day international forum brought together experts, practitioners, policymakers, and professional associations from dozens of countries to share insights, build partnerships, and address emerging challenges in biosafety and global health security. The IFBA is a global non-governmental network of regional and national biosafety associations dedicated to advancing standards, professionalization, and collaboration in biosafety and biosecurity around the world.

Representing the BioRisk Association of the Philippines (BRAP) at this prestigious event were its leaders including its founding president Dr. Miguel Martin N. Moreno II, who is also the incumbent chair of the IFBA Board and current national president Ronaldo E. Puno, underscoring BRAP's active engagement in the global biosafety community. During the event, Dr. Moreno presided the conference while Mr. Puno, gave a lecture on the "Emerging Biosecurity Landscape in Southeast Asia".

Their participation highlighted the Philippines' contributions to international biosafety discourse and facilitated knowledge exchange on best practices, professional certification, and inclusive approaches to managing biological risks.

Through involvement in global IFBA events such as this conference, BRAP continues to strengthen its network, elevate professional standards, and bring international perspectives back to local and regional initiatives in biorisk management.



BRAP's 10th Anniversary Awarding Ceremony

By Socorro P. Lupisan, MD
and Leila Lany M. Florento, PhD

The BioRisk Association of the Philippines (BRAP) commemorated its 10th Founding Anniversary with a heartfelt celebration at the elegant Ardenhills Suite, Quezon City on September 7, 2025 bringing together biosafety professionals, advocates, and partners from across the country. The event was a tribute to BRAP's decade-long journey of resilience, innovation, and unwavering commitment to biosafety and biosecurity.



A Decade of Dedication Recognized

A highlight of the evening was the Awarding Ceremony, where BRAP honored individuals that have demonstrated exceptional leadership, innovation, and service in the field of biosafety and biosecurity. These awards not only celebrated achievements but also inspired a new generation of advocates to continue the work of safeguarding laboratories and communities.

The Award Category was divided into:

- Recognition Award
- Special Citation Award

10th Founding Anniversary **RECOGNITION AWARD** includes the following:

Pillar of Strength Award

Awarded to **Mr. Ariel Angelo B. Aquino** for consistently being a reliable source of support for BRAP throughout its decade-long existence, with his foundational contributions significantly enhancing the association's prestige and operational capacity.

Organizational Excellence Award

Awarded to **Mr. Larry Jay B. Langaman** for his dedicated efforts in the creation BRAP's regional Biosafety Councils and Societies across the Philippines, demonstrating outstanding organizational excellence, significantly contributing to the association's expanded influence and national prestige.

Outstanding Performance in Academe Award

Awarded to **Dr. Jose M. Obedencio Jr.** for his leadership in biosafety education and research, consistently bringing significant prestige to BRAP through his active involvement and contributions to the field.

10th Founding Anniversary **SPECIAL CITATION AWARD** was awarded to the following:

Plebeian B. Medina, Biosafety Champion 2022

"The BioRisk Association of the Philippines 2015, Inc. (BRAP2015) consistently demonstrates its commitment to fostering excellence within the national biosafety community, a dedication exemplified by the recognition of Plebeian B. Medina as the inaugural **BRAP Biosafety Champion in 2022**. This prestigious award, bestowed by BRAP itself, celebrates Medina's significant contributions, including their pioneering work in establishing the RITM Biorisk Management Office and developing a national biosafety training program. Such internal commendations not only honor individual achievements but also profoundly elevate BRAP's prestige, showcasing the high caliber of expertise cultivated within the association and solidifying its leadership in advancing biosafety and biosecurity standards across the Philippines."

Oliver Shane R. Dumaoal, Biosafety Champion 2025

"The BioRisk Association of the Philippines 2015, Inc. (BRAP2015) consistently recognizes outstanding contributions to the field, and in **2025**, it honored Oliver Shane R. Dumaoal with the distinguished title of **BRAP Biosafety Champion**. As the association's Vice President, Dumaoal's profound expertise, particularly in developing and delivering essential biosafety training, has been pivotal in advancing national standards. This prestigious award, conferred directly by BRAP, not only celebrates his exemplary commitment but also significantly enhances the association's prestige, showcasing the caliber of leadership and dedication that defines BRAP's vital role in safeguarding public health and promoting robust biorisk management."

Ronaldo E. Puno, Distinguished Biosafety Champion 2024-2025

"Under the distinguished leadership of Ronaldo E. Puno, the BioRisk Association of the Philippines 2015, Inc. (BRAP2015) continues to solidify its reputation as a cornerstone of biosafety and biosecurity in the nation. His profound dedication and impactful contributions to the field were formally recognized when he was honored as **BRAP's Biosafety Champion for 2024-2025**. This prestigious

award, conferred by BRAP itself, not only celebrates Puno's exemplary commitment to advancing biosafety standards but also significantly enhances the association's prestige, highlighting the caliber of leadership and expertise that drives its vital work in safeguarding public health."

Dr. Miguel Martin N. Moreno II IFBA Biosafety Hero 2016

"Under the visionary leadership of Dr. Miguel Martin N. Moreno II, the BioRisk Association of the Philippines 2015, Inc (BRAP2015) has steadily grown in prominence. As a testament to his tireless efforts and leadership in the field, Dr. Moreno was honored with the prestigious **IFBA Biosafety Hero Award in 2016** by the International Federation of Biosafety Associations. This notable achievement not only celebrated his personal dedication to biosafety but also served to significantly enhance BRAP's prestige, drawing international attention to its critical work and solidifying its position as a key player in global biorisk management efforts."

"Ten years ago, we planted a seed of hope and responsibility. Today, we celebrate a forest of resilience, collaboration, and progress."

Award recipients expressed heartfelt gratitude, many sharing personal stories of challenges overcome and lives changed through biosafety advocacy. The ceremony was not only a moment of recognition but also a reaffirmation of BRAP's values: excellence, integrity, and service.

The awarding ceremony served as a powerful reminder that biosafety is not just a technical discipline—it is a shared responsibility that touches lives and protects futures.

As BRAP enters its second decade, the organization remains committed to expanding its reach, deepening its impact, and nurturing the next wave of biosafety champions.



BRAP's Impact to Members after 10 Years MY JOURNEY FROM INSPIRATION TO ADVOCACY

By Mr. Louie Berlin Cadao

As BRAP marks its tenth year, I look back on how its advocacy profoundly shaped my professional and personal journey. More than an organization, BRAP has been a community that awakened my sense of responsibility for biosafety and biosecurity — transforming not just my career, but the way I lead, work, and serve others. I still remember the year 2015, sitting in the audience during a PAMET convention, listening to Dr. Martin Moreno, the founding president of BRAP. I had no background in biosafety and biosecurity then, yet his passion struck a chord. Something in his words made me want to follow that same path — to be part of something meaningful.

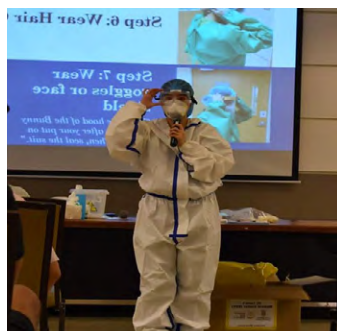


A year later, in 2016, I found myself in Cebu attending my first BRAP workshop, the Personnel Reliability Program for Biorisk Management under the BEP and CRDF Global. I was surrounded by mentors and colleagues who shared the same sense of purpose — to make laboratories safer, not just for science, but for people. That experience became my gateway into the world of biosafety. From there, my journey with BRAP kept unfolding, one milestone at a time. In 2017, I took my IFBA certification exam in Malaysia, a challenge that pushed me beyond my comfort zone. Through BRAP's guidance and network, I earned international recognition as a biosafety professional.

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In the years that followed, I joined the Train-the-Trainers Program, helping build capacity among fellow professionals. Then came 2019, when I became an



NSF-accredited Biosafety Cabinet Field Certifier after training at Temasek Lifesciences Laboratory in Singapore, another dream I owe to the opportunities BRAP helped open for me. That same year, I was honored to be elected as a National Officer and Board of Trustee, serving for two terms and helping advance BRAP's mission across the country. I witnessed firsthand how this organization grew — from a small circle of advocates to a national community of leaders changing the biosafety landscape in the Philippines.

But nothing tested everything I had learned quite like the COVID-19 pandemic. It was during this time that my years of preparation found their purpose. I served as Chairman of the Biosafety Committee at St. Luke's Medical Center, helping our institution navigate one of the most challenging periods in modern history. All the lessons I gained from BRAP from risk assessment to biosafety management, became my tools to protect healthcare workers, ensure safe testing, and build systems that kept our laboratories operational. It was the most defining and pivotal stage of my career. the moment I truly understood what it meant to serve a higher purpose.

In 2023, I achieved one of my proudest milestones — becoming a Certified Biosafety Professional (CBP). It's a distinction every biosafety advocate aspires to, and I'm grateful to BRAP for helping make it possible. That moment affirmed that all the years of learning, mentorship, and commitment were truly worth it. Now in 2025, as I conclude my tenure as a Board of Trustee of BRAP, I carry with me not just gratitude but a renewed sense of purpose — to keep the advocacy alive, to strengthen biosafety culture in my institution, and to inspire others to walk the same path.

Because looking back now, I realize it led me exactly where I was meant to be where passion met purpose, where advocacy became a lifelong calling, and where the journey that began with BRAP continues to inspire everything I do. As Steve Jobs once said, "You can't connect the dots looking forward; you can only connect them looking backward." Now, looking back, I see how every training, every seminar, and every decision led to this one mission, to protect lives through biosafety and biosecurity.



DTRA-SNL-BRAP-DOST-ITDI-VIP Management & Leadership Training-Workshop

By Dr. Miguel Martin N. Moreno II

A four-month training-workshop has prepared the future administrators, managers, and staff of the Virology and Vaccine Institute of the Philippines (VIP) with the knowledge and leadership skills needed to run a world-class high-containment facility. Drawing on ten modules from the Global Biorisk Management Curriculum (GBRMC), the program integrated global standards with hands-on applications in biosafety, biosecurity, and risk-based management. The sessions focused on strengthening communication, policy development, audits, facility management, and leadership, enabling participants to turn theory into practical strategies for safer laboratory operations.

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BRAP-LORMA COLLEGE BIOSAFETY SEMINAR-WORKSHOP HELD

By Mr. Lito G. Atienza

Lorma College in La Union, through its Medical Technology Department, in collaboration with the BioRisk Association of the Philippines (BRAP), successfully hosted a one-day biosafety seminar-workshop on August 28, 2025, focused on strengthening safe and secure practices in academic laboratory settings. The event brought together students, faculty and laboratory staff to gain essential knowledge and practical skills in key areas of biosafety, including effective biorisk management, proper use of personal protective equipment (PPE), spill response and waste management. Participants engaged in both interactive discussions and hands-on demonstrations, enhancing their understanding of how to maintain safety and responsibility in laboratory environments. The workshop underscored the importance of equipping future health professionals with the competencies needed to uphold laboratory safety standards and promote a culture of biosafety in their academic and future professional work.

Present on said event and gave lectures were Dr. Miguel Martin Moreno II, founding President of BRAP, Mr. Ronaldo E. Puno, National BRAP President, Ms. Michaela B. Sayo, National BRAP Treasurer, Mr. Diego L. Ofiaza Chairman BRAP Northern Luzon Council, Mr. Wilson Laranang, President Component Society for Ilocos Region (Ilocos Norte, Ilocos Sur, Abra, La Union and Pangasinan) and Mr. Lito G. Atienza, National Asst. Treasurer, who facilitated the workshop. Lorma College was represented by its Vice President Dr. Edwin D. Cancino and Ms. Josephine Milan, Medical Technology Program Chair.



CSU taps BRAP2015 for Laboratory Risk Management



Caraga State University and BRAP 2015, Inc. teamed up in holding a very successful workshop on November 26, 2025, at the CSU Hiraya Auditorium, Ampayon, Butuan City, Agusan del Norte. Mr. Kenneth Duhaylungsod, the BRAP Component Society President, led the event, along with society officers Ms. Elma Won and Dr. Delwin Capuyo. CSU faculty, researchers, students, and laboratory personnel all joined in! They listened to lectures from Mr. Ronaldo E. Puno, Dr. Leocris Batucan Jr., Ms. Michaela Sayo, and Mr. Larry Langaman. Dr. Franco Teves facilitated the workshop and guided the participants on how to do risk assessment. After the lectures, everyone got hands-on with workshops on Donning, Doffing, Risk Assessment, and Spill Response Drill.

The training reinforced CSU's commitment to fostering a culture of safety and preparedness in all laboratory settings. Through this partnership with BRAP2015, the university continues to strengthen its capacity to maintain safe, compliant, and resilient research and teaching laboratories.



Philippine Delegates Join REGIONAL WORKSHOP on BIOTECHNOLOGY SECURITY and OVERSIGHT By Dr. Mark Anthony G. Fran

A regional workshop on Strengthening Biotechnology Security and Oversight was successfully conducted in Putrajaya, Malaysia on Dec. 3-5, 2025, organized by Health Security Partners (HSP) with support from the Biosecurity Engagement Program of the United States Department of State. The event brought together representatives from Malaysia, Indonesia, and the Philippines, who were selected based on their roles in advancing biosafety, biosecurity, and responsible biotechnology stewardship in their respective countries.

From the Philippines, six delegates, all active members of the Biorisk Association of the Philippines (BRAP), were selected to participate in the training. The delegation consisted of:

- Mr. John Paul M. Banzon, Davao Medical School Foundation, Inc.
- Dr. Franco G. Teves, Mindanao State University – Iligan Institute of Technology



- Mr. Saul Roxas, Research Institute for Tropical Medicine
- Dr. Ediberto P. Manahan, University of Santo Tomas, General Santos Campus
- Ms. Ma. Celeste A. Abad, Philippine Genome Center
- Dr. Mark Anthony G. Fran, Virology and Vaccine Institute of the Philippines, ITDI-DOST

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Training-Workshop on IATA-based Packaging, Handling, and Transport of Specimens

By Dr. Miguel Martin N. Moreno II

A Project of the Department of Health – Office for Health Laboratories, funding administered by the Philippine Business for Social Progress and implemented by the BioRisk Association of the Philippines 2015, Inc.

The BioRisk Association of the Philippines 2015, Inc. (BRAP2015) successfully conducted IATA-based training-workshops on the Packaging, Handling, and Transport of Specimens in three regions of the country—Baguio City for Luzon, Boracay for the Visayas, and Davao City for Mindanao—strengthening national capacity for safe and compliant specimen transport. This project was funded by the Philippine

Business for Social Progress, administered by the Department of Health—Office for Health Laboratories, and facilitated by BRAP2015. The modules were delivered by subject matter experts Prof. Oliver Shane Dumaoal, Dr. Jose Obedencio Jr., Mr. Larry Jay Langaman, Mr. Ronaldo Puno, and Dr. Miguel Martin Moreno, with logistical support provided by Mr. Ariel Angelo Aquino in coordination with the DOH—Office for Health Laboratories.

Grounded in IATA Dangerous Goods Regulations, WHO standards, and DOH guidelines, the sessions trained laboratorians, managers, and logistics staff in every step of specimen transport—from hazard recognition and specimen classification to packaging, labeling, documentation, airway bills, Shipper's Declarations, and authorization processes. Participants enhanced their accuracy in documentation, deepened their knowledge of regulations, and embraced greater accountability through real-world applications. More than ensuring compliance, the training built a strong foundation for a certified workforce capable of supporting outbreak response, advancing biosafety and biosecurity, and safeguarding public health in the Philippines.





BRAP's First Regional Summit A LANDMARK IN ADVANCING BIOSAFETY AND BIORISK LEADERSHIP

By Mr. Diego Ofiaza & Ms. Noreen Gonzales



The first-ever Regional Summit of the Biosafety and Biosecurity Association of the Philippines (BRAP) last August 29-30, 2025 at La Casa Blanca in the Heritage City of Vigan, Ilocos Sur, marks a significant milestone in advancing biorisk management, leadership, and professional excellence across the Northern and Central Luzon regions. This pioneering

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The three-day workshop combined lectures and hands-on sessions to strengthen national and regional capacities for biotechnology governance. Key discussions focused on developing and refining Biotechnology Security Oversight Lists (BSOL) and the associated policy and institutional frameworks for responsibly managing emerging biological technologies. BioRisk Association of the Philippines President Ronaldo E. Puno, delivered a virtual lecture on the "Philippine Regulatory Framework on Emerging Biotechnologies". Participants explored national frameworks, risk assessment, governance models, and the roles of research institutions, while addressing emerging technologies such as genome editing and synthetic biology, high-consequence or dual-use research, and considerations for international collaboration, technology transfer, intellectual property, and data management. The program aimed to enhance regional cooperation and equip participants with the knowledge and tools to advance ethical, secure, and responsible biotechnology innovation.

gathering brought together distinguished leaders, experts, and practitioners committed to strengthening the culture of biosafety and biosecurity in laboratories, industries, academic institutions, and public health systems.

The program opened with the introduction of esteemed keynote and plenary speakers, setting the tone for a day dedicated to regional leadership in biorisk management. Dr. Miguel Martin Moreno II delivered an insightful keynote on "Regional Leadership in BioRisk Management: A Path to Sustainable Health and Safety," highlighting the critical role of shared responsibility, evidence-based strategies, and empowered local leaders in sustaining safe environments. Throughout the summit, the Diagnostic Scientific Forums facilitated by BD Scientia Inc., Allied Hospital Supply International Corporation, and Biosite Medical Instruments enriched the delegates' knowledge of emerging innovations, technologies, and scientific advancements. The summit further showcased impactful plenary discussions on enhancing biosafety through local initiatives, fostering regional cooperation, and strengthening community-driven risk management. BRAP leaders such as Ronaldo E. Puno, Robert I. Sayo, Zarlyn R. Banaña, Rommel Verganio, Diego L. Ofiaza, Oliver Shane Dumaoal, Alfredo Corpuz, Ralliegh Vizcarra, Leila Lany Florento, Wilson Larangan and Larry Jay Langaman emphasized the value of collaborative leadership, capacity building, and continuous learning in driving biosafety innovations. Key sessions also addressed legal considerations in biorisk management, ensuring that practitioners remain grounded in regulatory compliance and ethical responsibility.

The open forum provided a dynamic space for dialogue, reflection, and shared best practices, enriching the collective understanding of biosafety challenges in diverse settings. The closing ceremonies featured the Regional Council Summit Synthesis and thoughtful closing remarks, reflecting the day's achievements and reinforcing BRAP's mission to cultivate safe, secure, and resilient biosafety ecosystems. With organized moderation and program flow led by Ms. Noreen Gonzales and Mr. Ace Danielle Averro, the summit demonstrated professional excellence and seamless coordination. This inaugural BRAP Regional Summit stands as a landmark achievement of BRAP Council of North Luzon—an inspiring testament to unity, expertise, and leadership. It not only celebrated the progress of biosafety and biosecurity in the region but also ignited stronger commitment among professionals to uphold safety, empower communities, and champion a future where responsible practices protect public health and the environment.



2nd BRAP Mindanao Summit

with a theme “STRENGTH IN SYNERGY:
ADVANCING BIORISK MANAGEMENT
THROUGH UNIFIED ACTION”

By Mr. Kenneth Duhaylungsod

**CARAGA STATE UNIVERSITY-MAIN CAMPUS AMPAYON
AUDITORIUM on November 27-28, 2025**



With VP of CSU - Dr. Pitogo and BRAP Officers and Committees



LabSolution Technologies Inc. - Gold Sponsor



November 27th marked the first day of the summit, with registration in the morning followed by a procession of BRAP Component Societies in Mindanao and national officers. Opening ceremonies included welcome remarks from Kenneth B. Duhaylungsod, opening remarks from Ronaldo E. Puno, and an inspirational message from Miguel Martin N. Moreno II. Dr. Leocris Batucan Jr. delivered the keynote address, followed by a call to action from Dr. Rolyn C.

Daguil, Caraga State University President. The morning concluded with the opening of exhibits. In the afternoon, attendees participated in Plenary Session 1, "From Risk Assessment to Mitigation: A Practical Guide for Labs and Research" with Maria Bea C. Lao, and Plenary Session 2, "Synergistic Strategies: Integrating Biorisk Management and Infection Control" with Franco G. Teves.

>> read more on the next page



BRAP Strengthens Partnerships with Philippine Universities to Advance Biosafety and Biorisk Education

By Dr. Jose M. Obedencio Jr.

The BioRisk Association of the Philippines (BRAP) continues to expand its engagement with higher education institutions across the country, fostering collaboration and capacity-building to strengthen biosafety and biorisk management education in the natural sciences.

In its ongoing commitment to enhance biosafety awareness and best practices beyond clinical and diagnostic settings, BRAP has formally entered into Memoranda of Understanding (MOUs) with several universities, including Caraga State University, West Visayas State University, and Central Mindanao University, marking a significant step toward integrating biosafety and biorisk principles into academic instruction, research, and institutional governance.

These partnerships aim to provide universities with technical expertise, training opportunities, and educational support to advance responsible research and safe laboratory practices in diverse fields. Through these collaborations, BRAP seeks to help higher education institutions build sustainable biosafety programs and promote a culture of safety and responsibility among faculty, researchers, and students.

Engagements with other universities throughout the country are also in their final stages of formalization, reflecting the growing recognition of BRAP's role as a trusted national partner in biosafety and biorisk management.

With these developments, BRAP continues to solidify its position as a professional organization for biosafety practitioners and a leading source of expertise and capacity development that supports the improvement of biosafety and biorisk management practices in educational and research institutions nationwide.

By bridging the gap between professional standards and academic practice, BRAP reinforces its vision of a biosafe and secure Philippine scientific community that is empowered, responsible, and globally aligned.

<< from previous page...2nd BRAP Mindanao Summit...



Biosite Medical Instruments - Bronze Sponsor

November 28th featured a series of plenary sessions. These included "Building a National Biorisk Management Framework" with Ronaldo E. Puno, "Strengthening Laboratory Biosafety and Biosecurity" with Oliver Shane R. Dumaoal, "The Role of Public Health in Biorisk Management" with John Paul Banzon, and "Community Engagement and Risk Communication in Biorisk Management" with Larry Jay B. Langaman. The afternoon sessions covered topics such as "Advancing Biorisk Management Through Data Sharing and Surveillance Systems" with Ampie Magdalene S. Llido, "Global Biorisk Governance" with Miguel Martin M. Moreno II, "Emerging Biological Threats" with Jose M. Obedencio, Jr., and "The Ethics of Biorisk Management" with Prof. Gertrude M. Garcia. The summit concluded with a synthesis, closing remarks from Kenneth Duhaylungsod, and a post-test and evaluation.



Caraga State University (CSU) is collaborating with **BRAP2015** to enhance biosafety and biosecurity measures. This partnership seeks to fortify and broaden joint efforts in education, instruction, training, outreach, research, and development, with a particular focus on biosafety, biosecurity, and biological risk management. The collaboration will provide support to professionals in the fields of medicine, agriculture, technology, and biological sciences.

BRAP 8th Annual Convention & 6th International Forum

BUILDING SAFER, SMARTER, AND MORE SUSTAINABLE LABORATORIES

By Mr. Oliver Shane R. Dumaoal

The BioRisk Association Philippines 2015, Inc. (BRAP) successfully concluded its 8th Annual Convention and 6th International Forum, a three-day gathering that brought together local and international biosafety and biosecurity professionals, educators, and advocates. This milestone event carried the theme "Tenacity in Laboratory Biosafety and Biosecurity: Strengthening Resilience, Safeguarding the Future," reflecting BRAP's unwavering commitment to advancing biosafety and biosecurity practices across the nation. The said major event also coincides with the 10th anniversary of BRAP celebrating a decade of service and excellence in laboratory biosafety and biosecurity.

Workshops and Technical Training

The event opened on July 2, 2025, with two concurrent capacity-building workshops. The IATA Training Workshop on the Transport of Infectious Substances and Biological Specimens was facilitated by Dr. Jose Obedencio Jr. (Central Mindanao University), Dir. Oliver Shane Dumaoal (UST General Santos), and Dr. Rodel Jonathan Vitor II (UP Manila). The said workshop spanned until the morning session of the following day. Simultaneously, participants attended the Workshop on Laboratory Biosafety Risk Assessment using the DOH Framework for Licensing Clinical Laboratories, led by Ms. Michaela Sayo (Bulacan Medical Center), Mr. Larry Jay Langgaman (Brokenshire College), and Mr. Louie Berlin Cadoo (St. Luke's Medical Center-BGC).

The day culminated in the 2nd BRAP Councils and Component Societies General Assembly, which served

as a platform for BRAP officers, council members, and component society presidents to review initiatives and strengthen partnerships across regions.

Opening Ceremonies & Keynote Highlights

The official opening ceremony on July 3 began with a processional and invocation, followed by the national anthem. Mr. Ariel Angelo Aquino, BRAP Secretary, delivered the Welcome Address, while Dir. Oliver Shane R. Dumaoal, BRAP Vice President, gave the Opening Message.

In his President's Address, Mr. Ronaldo E. Puno reaffirmed BRAP's mission of empowering biosafety professionals and advancing responsible laboratory practices. The Keynote Address was delivered by Dr. Stefan Wagener, CEO of Biorisk Management International, who emphasized the global importance of ISO 35001 implementation in ensuring safer and more secure laboratory operations.

The ceremony also featured the Awarding of BRAP Biosafety Champions and the Presentation of Candidates for organizational leadership roles, acknowledging individuals who have made significant contributions to the biosafety community. The 2025 BRAP Biosafety Champion was conferred to Dir. Oliver Shane R. Dumaoal for his outstanding contribution to the field of laboratory biosafety and biosecurity. Sharing the stage with him as the 2024-2025 Biosafety Champion was no other than the BRAP President Mr. Ronaldo E. Puno. Both awardees delivered heartwarming acceptance speeches reflecting on their journeys as biorisk advocates.

>> read more on the next page



<< from previous page...BRAP 8th Annual Convention & 6th International Forum...

Plenary Lectures and Fellowship Night

The afternoon sessions featured a series of insightful plenary lectures by esteemed speakers. Ms. Mitsy Canto-Jacobs of Werken PLLC, Washington DC, discussed Strategic Laboratory Design for High-Level Containment: Ensuring Safety, Security, and Sustainability. Asst. Scientist Lorelei U. Agbagala from the National Committee on Biosafety of the Philippines revisited the Philippine Biosafety Guidelines and their relevance in modern laboratory practice. Dr. Viji Vijayan of Praxis Biorisk Systems, Pte Ltd, shared expert perspectives on Biorisk Management Considerations for High-Containment Laboratories.

The evening concluded with a festive Networking Dinner and Fellowship Night, providing participants the opportunity to exchange ideas, celebrate achievements, and strengthen professional relationships. It was an interesting night featuring a pop of colors – red, blue, and yellow – all BRAP colors representing the diverse perspectives in the field of biorisk management. Innovative games were held much to the delight of the audience.

Day 3: Innovation, Research, and Integration

The final day on July 4 focused on innovation and knowledge exchange. Mr. Mark Raymund Nava (University of Santo Tomas) opened with a talk on The Role of Artificial Intelligence in Mitigating Biorisks, followed by Mr. Louie Berlin C. Cadao (St. Luke's Medical Center–Global City) on Compliance and Operational Excellence in Biorisk Management, and Dr. Fedelyn Estrella (Lyceum of the Philippines University–Cavite) on Biosafety and Biosecurity in Academic Laboratories.

The 3rd BRAP Annual Research Cup showcased original research studies that contributed to advancing biosafety and biosecurity in various laboratory settings. The session was moderated by Dr. Jose Obedencio Jr., with participants demonstrating the dynamic intersection between science, education, and safety. The research cup was bagged by the delegation from Central Mindanao University based in Bukidnon.

Afternoon discussions continued with Engr. Fe Corazon Tungol (St. Luke's Medical Center–QC) presenting Biological Waste Management Best Practices, and Dr. Sebastian Jose David (SingHealth, Singapore) sharing Best Practices in the Biorisk Management of Animal Laboratories.

Two engaging panel discussions wrapped up the technical sessions: "Curriculum Integration of Laboratory Biosafety and Biosecurity Concepts," moderated by Dir. Oliver Shane Dumaoal and Ms. Maria Bea Lao, featured educators from Our Lady of Fatima University, Adamson University, Xavier

University–Ateneo de Cagayan, and Central Mindanao University. "Community-Based Projects (CBPs) a Year Hence – Experience Sharing," moderated by Mr. Larry Jay Langgaman and Ms. Angelie Camille Silverio, gathered insights and life experiences from the pioneering batch of Certified Biosafety Professionals after their graduation and re-integration to their respective institutions.

Closing Ceremonies and Commitment to the Future

The event concluded with the Closing Ceremonies, hosted by Ms. Loren Deduyo, featuring an Oath-taking Ceremony officiated by Dr. Viji Vijayan and a final message from BRAP President Ronaldo E. Puno. Announced also during the closing ceremonies were the passers of the IFBA certification examination on biorisk management garnering a 100% passing rate. The ceremony reaffirmed BRAP's mission to build a robust and unified biosafety community committed to global standards of excellence.

The COMELEC chaired by Mr. Ricky D. Martinez Jr. announced the incoming set of officers who will assume into office in January 2026. Its composition is as follows:

President	Mr. Ronaldo E. Puno
Vice President	Dir. Oliver Shane R. Dumaoal
Secretary	Mr. Ariel Angelo B. Aquino
Assistant Secretary	Hon. Dr. Leila Lany M. Florento
Treasurer	Ms. Michaela B. Sayo
Assistant Treasurer	Mr. Lito G. Atienza
Auditor	Prof. Larry Jay B. Langgaman
Assistant Auditor	Ms. Angelie Camille C. Silverio
PRO	Dr. Jose M. Obedencio Jr.
Immediate Past President	Dr. Miguel Martin N. Moreno II

As the curtains fell on another successful convention, BRAP strengthened its vision of advancing biosafety, biosecurity, and biorisk management excellence—empowering professionals to uphold safety and responsibility in every laboratory across the Philippines and beyond.



"Net on Board" is a year-long webinar series launched by the BioRisk Association of the Philippines (BRAP) as part of its continuing education and professional development efforts for the year 2025 and beyond. It brings together BRAP's national and regional component societies to deliver regular online educational events focused on biosafety, biosecurity and biorisk management topics.

Central Luzon Leads with "NET on Board" HyFlex Seminar

January 31, 2025 | La Maja Rica Hotel, Tarlac City | Participants: 629

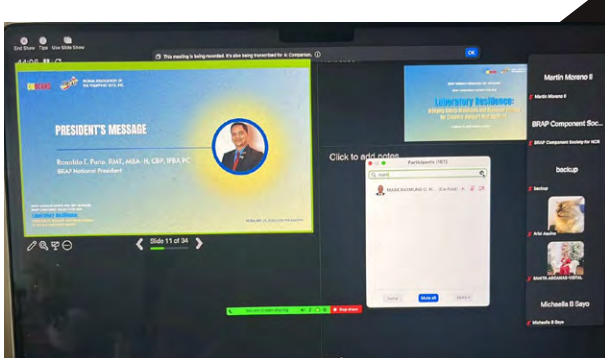


The year opened with a strong start as the Central Luzon Cluster 1-NEBT (Nueva Ecija, Bulacan, and Tarlac) held its first HyFlex NET on Board Seminar Series 2025. Discussions centered on the integration of national and international biosafety frameworks, ethical and legal standards, and emergency preparedness. The session, accredited by the CPD Councils for Medical Technology and Veterinary Medicine, highlighted BRAP's commitment to capacity building and regional empowerment.

NCR Webinar: Strengthening Laboratory Resilience

February 25, 2025 | Zoom | Participants: 247

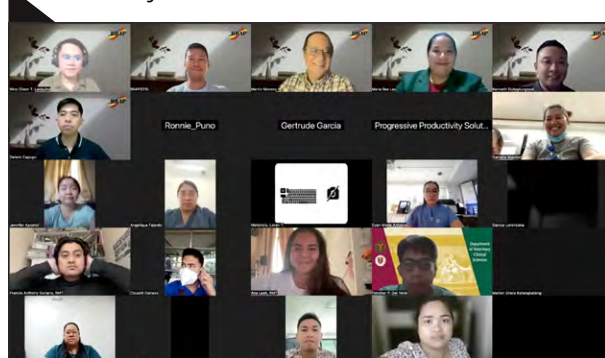
The NCR Component Society convened experts and participants for the topic "Laboratory Resilience: Bridging Safety Standards and Biopreparedness for Effective Incident Management." Speakers emphasized the alignment of DOH, WHO, and ISO 35001 standards, risk communication, and emergency preparedness. An open panel discussion allowed professionals to share real-world challenges and best practices toward safer, more resilient laboratories.



Agusan del Norte: Building Robust Biorisk Programs

March 22, 2025 | Zoom | Participants: 337

The Agusan del Norte Component Society hosted "Developing a Robust Biorisk Management Program," focusing on committee formation and sustainability. Speakers highlighted the structure and functions of Institutional Biorisk Management Committees (IBRMCs), monitoring systems, and technology integration. Interactive Q&As and e-raffles boosted engagement, showcasing the energy of Mindanao's biosafety advocates.



>> read more on the next page

BRAP

By Michaela B. Sayo

"NET ON BOARD"

Strengthening BRAP's Commitment to CONTINUING EDUCATION

BRAP WEBINAR SERIES 2025: NET ON BOARD
BRAP COMPONENT SOCIETY FOR CENTRAL LUZON CLUSTER 1

The Perceived Need for Biorisk Management in Healthcare

January 31, 2025 | 1:00-6:00 PM
La Maja Rica Hotel, Mactan Highway
corner Ligason Street, Tarlac City

TOPICS	
Integrating National and International Biosafety and Biosecurity Standards	Integrating National and International Biosafety and Biosecurity Standards
Aligning Safety Standards and Frameworks with International Standards	Aligning Safety Standards and Frameworks with International Standards
Integrating the Role of Biorisk Management in Healthcare Facilities	Integrating the Role of Biorisk Management in Healthcare Facilities

REGISTRATION FEES	
BRAP member: P400.00	Non-member: P400.00
Associate member: P300.00	Undergraduate students: P200.00

REGISTER NOW

BRAP WEBINAR SERIES 2025: NET ON BOARD
BRAP COMPONENT SOCIETY FOR NCR

Laboratory Resilience: Bridging Safety Standards and Biopreparedness for Effective Incident Management

February 25, 2025 | 1:00 PM-4:00 PM
via BRAP ONLINE

TOPICS	
How to Align DOH Biosafety and Biosecurity Standards and Frameworks with International Standards	How to Align DOH Biosafety and Biosecurity Standards and Frameworks with International Standards
Integrating the Role of Biorisk Management in Healthcare Facilities	Integrating the Role of Biorisk Management in Healthcare Facilities

REGISTRATION FEES	
BRAP member: P400.00	Non-member: P400.00
Associate member: P300.00	Undergraduate students: P200.00

REGISTER NOW

BRAP WEBINAR SERIES 2025: NET ON BOARD
BRAP COMPONENT SOCIETY FOR AGUSAN DEL NORTE

Developing a Robust Biorisk Management Program

March 22, 2025 (Saturday)
12:00 NN-4:00 PM

APPROVED CPD UNITS	
RMT	DVM
5.5	2.0

TOPICS	
Understanding the Framework of Biorisk Management and Implementing Best Practices	Understanding the Framework of Biorisk Management and Implementing Best Practices
Establishing a Functional Biorisk Management Committee	Establishing a Functional Biorisk Management Committee
Continuous Improvement and Monitoring of the Biorisk Management Program	Continuous Improvement and Monitoring of the Biorisk Management Program

REGISTRATION FEES	
BRAP member: P400.00	Non-member: P400.00
Associate member: P300.00	Undergraduate students: P200.00

REGISTER NOW

BRAP WEBINAR SERIES 2025: NET ON BOARD
BRAP COMPONENT SOCIETY FOR DAVAO

Biosafety in the Academic and Beyond

Securing Safe Science Today and in the Future For All

APPROVED CPD UNITS	
RMT	DVM
5.0	1.5

TOPICS	
Understanding the Framework of Biorisk Management and Implementing Best Practices	Understanding the Framework of Biorisk Management and Implementing Best Practices
Establishing a Functional Biorisk Management Committee	Establishing a Functional Biorisk Management Committee
Continuous Improvement and Monitoring of the Biorisk Management Program	Continuous Improvement and Monitoring of the Biorisk Management Program

REGISTRATION FEES	
BRAP member: P400.00	Non-member: P400.00
Associate member: P300.00	Undergraduate students: P200.00

REGISTER NOW

BRAP WEBINAR SERIES 2025: NET ON BOARD
BRAP COMPONENT SOCIETY FOR ILOCOS REGION

ONE ILOCOS

Oversight, Networking and Empowering Local Actors in Promoting Biosafety and Engagement for Health Security

May 24, 2025 | 12:00 NN-7:00 PM
via BRAP ONLINE

TOPICS	
Understanding the Framework of Biorisk Management and Implementing Best Practices	Understanding the Framework of Biorisk Management and Implementing Best Practices
Establishing a Functional Biorisk Management Committee	Establishing a Functional Biorisk Management Committee
Continuous Improvement and Monitoring of the Biorisk Management Program	Continuous Improvement and Monitoring of the Biorisk Management Program

APPROVED CPD UNITS	
RMT	DVM
6.0	2.0

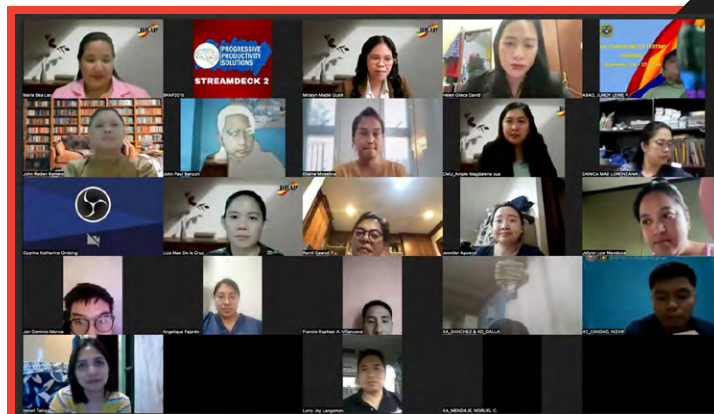
REGISTRATION FEES	
BRAP member: P400.00	Non-member: P400.00
Associate member: P300.00	Undergraduate students: P200.00

REGISTER NOW

<< from previous page...BRAP "Net on Board"...

Davao Webinar: Promoting Safe Science in the Academe
April 26, 2025 | Zoom | Participants: 360

The Davao Component Society gathered educators, researchers, and students for "Biorisk Management in the Academe: Securing Safe Science Today and in the Future." Sessions focused on biosafety education, ethical research, and leadership-driven safety culture. Speakers called for biosafety integration into curricula and institutional policies—ensuring that safety becomes a foundation of innovation and scientific growth.

**Sustainable Practices and Emerging Threats**

July 26, 2025 | Zoom | Participants: 242

Moderated by Ms. Michaela B. Sayo, the 6th NET on Board Webinar addressed "Joint Approaches to Waste Management, Understanding Biosafety, and Leading Responses to Emerging Biosecurity Threats." Experts discussed sustainable waste handling, non-burn treatment systems, and biosecurity leadership. The event underscored BRAP's advocacy for environmental responsibility and innovation in biosafety management.

A Year of Growth and Regional Empowerment

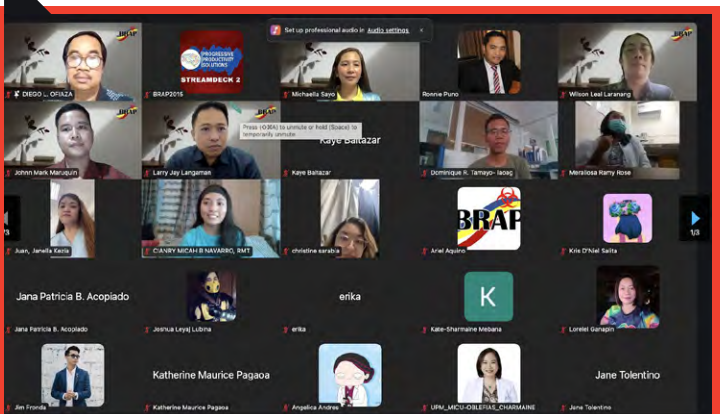
From Luzon to Mindanao, BRAP's CPD, Training, and Research Committee delivered seven impactful seminars, engaging over 2,100 participants across the country. Each event strengthened the organization's mission to advance biosafety, promote collaboration, and empower professionals through continuing education.

As 2025 progresses, BRAP remains steadfast in its commitment to shaping safer laboratories, ethical practices, and a resilient biosafety culture nationwide.

Ilocos Region: ONE Ilocos for Health Security

May 24, 2025 | Zoom | Participants: 97

Through "ONE ILOCOS: Oversight, Networking, and Empowering Local Actors in Promoting Biosafety and Engagement for Health Security," the Ilocos Region Component Society strengthened partnerships for local and regional health security. The event aligned with the DOH 8-Point Action Agenda and UN SDGs 3 & 17, emphasizing collaboration, community-based biosafety, and multi-sectoral capacity building.

**Cagayan Valley: Building Risk-Resilient Laboratories**

September 27, 2025 | Zoom | Participants: 191

The Cagayan Valley Component Society (Region 02) concluded the series with "Risk-Resilient Laboratory: Practical Tools for Safe and Sustainable Operations." Speakers presented tools for risk assessment, hazard identification, and strategic safety planning. The event highlighted professional integrity, teamwork, and resilience as cornerstones of biosafety excellence.



BRAP COMPONENT SOCIETIES

Expanding the Biorisk Frontier in the Localities

By Larry Jay B. Langaman

The Biorisk Association of the Philippines 2015, Inc. (BRAP) is thrilled to announce a significant stride in its national advocacy with the formal establishment of three new component societies: the BRAP Component Society for SOCCSKSARGEN, the BRAP Component Society for Antique, and the BRAP Component Society for Iloilo. This expansion is a testament to the success of the BRAP National Committee on Expansion Program, which is dedicated to its mission to "Advocate biosafety and biosecurity culture throughout the country by establishing and capacitating regional councils and component societies in the islands of Luzon, Visayas, and Mindanao."

Totalling 15 BRAP component societies nationwide, these new component societies will serve as vital local anchors, empowering biosafety professionals and enthusiasts to champion BRAP's cause in their respective regions and contribute to a safer, more secure scientific landscape nationwide.

VISAYAS STRENGTHENS LOCAL BIORISK GOVERNANCE

The Visayas islands saw a significant boost in local biosafety professional empowerment with the formation of two new component societies in late 2025, listing a total of 3 BRAP component societies in Visayas in addition to BRAP Component Society for Cebu organized in 2024. This expansion reinforces the regional commitment to high standards of biorisk management.

Iloilo: A New Hub for Western Visayas Biorisk Professionals



Officers of BRAP component society for Iloilo pose with BRAP national officers immediately after induction.



Newly elected officers of BRAP Component Society for Antique pose with the BRAP National Officers



Mr. Puno, the BRAP National president, facilitates the oath-taking of newly elected officers of the newly organized component society for Iloilo



The BRAP National president, Mr. Puno, pins the BRAP label to the component society president Mr. Saturnino Luke A. Sobrevega

The BRAP Component Society for Iloilo was officially established on November 14, 2025, marking a key expansion milestone in Western Visayas. The society is led by its founding President, Mr. Saturnino Luke Sobrevega, a dedicated biosafety professional affiliated with Western Visayas State University.

The formation of the Iloilo component society is pivotal for consolidating biorisk management practices among institutions in Iloilo province and its surrounding areas, fostering a community of practice that is locally resonant and nationally aligned with BRAP's core mission.

Antique: Cultivating Biosafety Culture as Second Component Society in the Visayas

The BRAP Component Society of Antique was officially inaugurated on September 19, 2025. This society becomes the 14th BRAP Component Society nationwide and the 2nd Component Society under the BRAP Council for Visayas.

>> read more on the next page



BRAP National President Ronaldo Puno pins the BRAP label to the newly elected President of the component society in recognition of authority and trust.



BRAP National President Ronaldo Puno led the official oath-taking of newly elected officers of BRAP Component Society for Antique.

<< from previous page...BRAP Component Societies...

Leading the charge in Antique is President Neo Antoni V. Ausan. His dedication will be instrumental in cultivating a strong culture of biorisk awareness within the province, connecting local stakeholders to BRAP's national network and resources. The establishment of the Antique society reinforces the commitment to robust biorisk management practices across the entire Visayas Council, fostering collaboration and standardization in the region.

Mindanao Welcomes its Newest Biorisk Hub

The BRAP Component Society of SOCCSKSARGEN was established, and the officers officially took oath on April 30, 2025. This milestone marks the 13th Component Society nationwide and is the 4th Component Society to be placed under the BRAP Council for Mindanao. The new society is led by its founding President, Dr. Mary Mae M. Cheung. Under her leadership, the SOCCSKSARGEN Component Society is poised to become a dynamic center for biorisk management training, research dissemination, and local policy advocacy, covering the provinces of South Cotabato, Cotabato City, Sultan Kudarat, Sarangani, and General Santos City.

Their formation significantly strengthens BRAP's presence in the southern Philippines, ensuring that regional institutions and laboratories are equipped with the necessary knowledge and tools to uphold the highest standards of biorisk management.

A Vision for National Reach and Impact

BRAP National President Ronaldo E. Puno and the BRAP founding President Dr. Miguel Martin N. Moreno II extend heartfelt congratulations to the founding officers and members of these new component societies. Component societies are foundational to BRAP's strategic framework, ensuring that the principles and practices of biorisk management are localized and accessible to every corner of the country. They are directly supported by and accountable to their respective regional councils, the BRAP Council for Mindanao and the BRAP Council for Visayas, creating an efficient and responsive decentralized structure.



BRAP Component Society for SOCCSKSARGEN Officers and Board of Trustees pose with BRAP National Officers.



BRAP National President Ronaldo Puno (Center, behind podium) led the oath-taking of pioneering officers and Board of Trustees of BRAP Component Society for SOCCSKSARGEN. Component Society President Dr. Mary Mae Cheung (far left) is being pinned by Mr. Puno with the official BRAP lapel.

The successful launch of the SOCCSKSARGEN, Antique, and Iloilo component societies represent a forward-looking step toward achieving a truly national footprint for BRAP. By continually strengthening these local organizations, BRAP moves closer to its vision of a Philippines where biosafety and biosecurity are ingrained values, thereby protecting the health of its people and the integrity of its scientific endeavors.

We look forward to the innovative programs and contributions from the BRAP Component Societies as they lead the way in securing safe science for their communities.

<< from page 22...BRAP Charts 2026-2030 Strategic Plan

Reports also came from **Louie Berlin Cadao** (Ways & Means, Welfare & Benefits), **Ricky Martinez** (Election), **Dr. Fidel Malbas** (Ethics), and **Lito Atienza** (Community Outreach), ensuring comprehensive planning coverage.

Regional Voices for Safety and Biosecurity

The inclusion of regional Council Chairs reinforced BRAP's inclusive ethos:

- **Diego Ofiaza** (North Luzon) focused on capacity-building and advocacy.
- **Rexy Alvarez** (South Luzon) emphasized regional laboratory collaborations.
- **Gamaliel Fulgueras** (NCR) shared innovative NCR-based programs.
- **Bea Cua** (Mindanao) spotlighted professional development in underserved communities.

A Day of Collaboration

Presiding over the session, Larry Langgaman cultivated a dynamic, inclusive environment that encouraged transparent dialogue, cross-functional alignment, and creative thinking. Mr. Langgaman is



also in-charge of consolidating the inputs gathered during the sessions.

A Renewed Mandate

More than a strategic meeting, BRAP's 2025 Strategic Planning Session solidified its role as a cornerstone of biosafety and biosecurity advocacy in the Philippines—agile, future-oriented, and deeply committed to national well-being.

Priorities for the next five years will be presented in detail once completed.

<< from page 9...Management & Leadership Training-Workshop...

The lectures were delivered by distinguished experts who completed the 2024 Sandia National Laboratories–BRAP Advanced GBRMC Training of Trainers program: Dr. Miguel Martin Moreno, Mr. Ronaldo Puno, Prof. Freida Hapan, Dr. Leila Lany Florento, Ms. Michaela Sayo, Prof. Oliver Shane Dumaoal, Dr. Jose Obedencio Jr., and Ms. Jocelyn Sysing-Aquisay. Logistical support was ably coordinated by Mr. Ariel Angelo Aquino.

Participants reported stronger awareness of biosafety and biosecurity systems, gained practical tools for monitoring performance through KPIs, and committed to updating institutional protocols and cascading their learning through peer training. The training also enhanced their ability to draft policies, establish institutional biosafety committees, and integrate legal obligations into laboratory practice.

The impact of the program is clear: VIP's future leaders are now better equipped to embed a culture of accountability, resilience, and continuous improvement in their institutions. With sharpened skills in teamwork, oversight, and risk-based management, they are prepared to guide VIP toward becoming a premier hub of virology and vaccine research—strengthening national health security while contributing to global preparedness.





As Biorisk Association of the Philippines (BRAP) enters its second decade following its 10th Founding Anniversary in 2025, the association has signaled a renewed strategic direction focused on expanding its impact nationwide and strengthening capacities for biosafety, biosecurity, and biorisk management.

To achieve this goal, the association convened its key officials on January 18, 2025 at Crowne Plaza Galleria Hotel in Quezon City to set the long-term direction for the next five years (2026-2030).

BRAP President **Ronaldo Puno** opened the session with a powerful address, framing the association's 2025 agenda around eight core aspects of strategic planning:

1. **Vision-Mission** – He reaffirmed BRAP's founding purpose: to elevate biosafety and biosecurity standards across the Philippines while serving as a unifying platform for professionals in the field.
2. **Performance Measurement / Success Indicators** – Puno emphasized the need to track tangible outcomes for all programs, calling for metrics that reflect not only output but long-term impact.
3. **Goal Setting** – With clarity and resolve, he outlined organizational goals centered on capacity-building, international collaboration, and community-driven initiatives.
4. **Environmental Analysis (SWOT)** – He led a discussion that highlighted BRAP's strengths—its passionate membership, growing partnerships, and financial stability—while also acknowledging the threats of rapid technological change and limited access in underserved regions.
5. **Long-term Sustainability** – Stressing continuity over one-off success, Puno called for robust systems and diversified funding sources to ensure BRAP's relevance for generations to come.
6. **Stakeholder Engagement** – He encouraged stronger dialogue with government agencies, academic institutions, and the private sector, positioning BRAP as a trusted advisor in national biosafety matters.
7. **Risk Assessment** – Identifying emerging biological threats and operational uncertainties, Puno advocated for proactive preparedness and scenario planning.
8. **Resource Allocation** – Lastly, he underscored the importance of strategically investing BRAP's human and financial capital in areas that yield the greatest societal and scientific value.

Reflections and Milestones

The session celebrated a hallmark year for BRAP, with achievements including fully funded projects, twin talk seminars, participation in the Asia Pacific Biosafety Association (APBA) Conference, CPD accreditation, financial growth, society formation, international partnerships, and a surge in member engagement.

Charting Committee Directions

Committee reports echoed the President's themes:

- **Dr. Martin Moreno** (Special Projects & Awards) introduced new recognition platforms and engagement proposals.
- **Larry Langgaman** (Advocacy & Expansion) mapped out strategic outreach campaigns.
- **Ariel Aquino** (Membership & IT) unveiled plans for digital integration and member support.
- **Gamaliel Fulgueras** (Publications) previewed upcoming editorial initiatives.
- **Dr. Jose Obedencio, Jr.** (Professional Relations) underscored sustaining and expanding industry ties.
- **Michaela Sayo** (CPD) outlined innovation in training design and delivery.
- **Oliver Dumaol** provided a preview of the 2025 Annual Convention.
- **Leila Florento** led discussions on governance reforms and organizational values.