

KAHALAGAAN AT KAALAMAN SA KALIKASAN
Training Seminar on Environmental Laws and Environmental Enforcers Refresher & Deputation
 In partnership with Ateneo de Naga College of Law
 City ENRO Socio-Cultural Division & Naga River Maintenance Unit
 Naga City Peoples Council



ATENEO DE NAGA UNIVERSITY: EXTENDING EXPERTISE FOR LOCAL DEVELOPMENT AND GOVERNANCE



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The initiative, themed “*Promoting Legal Literacy and Sustainable Practices in Coastal Communities,*” brought the University’s legal expertise to the grassroots level by engaging residents in discussions on environmental rights and responsibilities, organizing free legal consultations, and working with local leaders to identify community-specific policy gaps. The activity demonstrated ADNU’s capacity to link academic learning with environmental governance and community decision-making.

At the research level, the **Ateneo Social Science Research Center (ASSRC)** contributes to evidence-based policymaking by conducting studies that analyze the **socioeconomic and political landscape of Naga City**. Its research on voter behavior and public opinion provides valuable data for understanding local governance dynamics, helping both civic organizations and policymakers craft more responsive and participatory programs. These studies have served as a factual basis for refining local policies and strengthening citizen engagement mechanisms.

Ateneo de Naga University (ADNU) continues to play an active role in providing expert advice and applied knowledge that support local and regional governance, policy development, and community empowerment in the Bicol region.

Through its colleges, research centers, and social involvement units, the University contributes evidence, technical guidance, and public service grounded in its Jesuit mission of forming “men and women for and with others.”

The **College of Law**, through its **Clinical Legal Education Program (CLEP II)**, translates academic knowledge into tangible service for local communities. On **24 August 2025**, law students conducted a **capacity-building program on environmental law awareness** in **Brgy. Tagas, San Jose, Camarines Sur**, in collaboration with **ClientEarth**, the **Foundation for the Philippine Environment (FILE)**, and local barangay officials.

Meanwhile, the **University Social Involvement Council (USIC)** ensures that ADNU’s institutional expertise is mobilized for social development. As a policy-making body, USIC reviews and coordinates all university-wide outreach and extension programs and aligns them with community priorities. Guided by its vision of being “a potent force in shaping the direction and achieving the goals of development in the Bicol Region,” USIC channels the University’s technical, research, and pedagogical resources into eight development agenda: **health and nutrition, environment, governance, religious education, livelihood and entrepreneurship, teacher training, disaster response management, and housing.**

These areas correspond directly with pressing local development needs and reflect ADNU’s long-standing partnerships with government and civil society organizations.

Through these initiatives, ADNU demonstrates that academic institutions can function as active partners in governance, not only by educating students, but also by generating policy-relevant research, empowering communities, and providing expert guidance that informs local and regional decision-making across Bicol.