



NEWSLETTER



ISSUE NO. 1 | MAY 10-12, 2026

Empowered and united: A strong start to PDA 117

Dr. Kristine Magnolia Marcial

The Philippine dental community gathered in a spirit of unity and purpose as the 117th Philippine Dental Association Annual Convention & Scientific Sessions officially opened on May 11, 2026, at the SMX Convention Center in Pasay City.

The Opening Ceremonies set a meaningful and dynamic tone for the highly anticipated event, bringing together leaders, practitioners, educators, and partners from across the country. At the center stage was Dr. Mariusse Chars R. Esquillo,

Incoming PDA President for AY 2026–2027 and General Chair of the convention. He formally declared the convention open, marking a symbolic transition in leadership and signaling a renewed commitment to advancing the dental profession nationwide. His presence underscored a forward-looking vision focused on innovation, collaboration, and excellence in oral healthcare.

The program was led with precision by Dr. Kristine Magnolia G. Marcial, Chair of the

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This year's Opening Ceremonies theme, "Semi-Formal Streetwear Filipiniana," was vividly brought to life as delegates arrived in creative ensembles that blended contemporary fashion with traditional Filipino elements.

More than a fashion statement, the theme symbolized the spirit of Dentistry in the Philippines—deeply rooted in tradition and cultural pride, while continuously adapting to global innovations, modern practices, and emerging technologies. The event evolved into a celebration of Filipino excellence, creativity, and unity—capturing the essence of a profession that continues to honor its roots while confidently moving toward the future.



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MESSAGE FROM THE

PDA President-Elect & General Chairperson
117th Annual Convention & Scientific Sessions
DR. MARIUSSE CHARS R. ESQUILLO



Dear Colleagues, Partners, and Friends,

Warm greetings!

As we gather for the 117th Philippine Dental Association Annual Convention & Scientific Sessions, I am filled with immense pride and gratitude for the collective effort that has brought this milestone event to life. This newsletter stands as a testament to the dedication, collaboration, and shared vision of everyone who worked tirelessly behind the scenes to make this convention both meaningful and memorable.

Within these pages, you will find stories that reflect months of careful planning and unwavering commitment—from the meticulous coordination of our scientific program, to the logistics that ensure a seamless delegate experience, to the vibrant activities that celebrate our profession and strengthen our community. Each article captures not only what was done, but the spirit in which it was accomplished.

This convention is more than a gathering—it is a reflection of who we are as a profession: resilient, evolving, and united by a common purpose to advance oral health and serve our communities with excellence. The preparations highlighted in this newsletter embody the passion and dedication of our organizing committee, partners, and volunteers, all working together to bring our theme to life.

As you read through this publication, I invite you to appreciate the journey behind the event, the people who made it possible, and the moments that define this year's convention. May it inspire continued collaboration, innovation, and pride in being part of the Philippine Dental Association.

On behalf of the organizing committee, thank you for your support, your presence, and your commitment to our shared mission.

Welcome, and may you have a truly enriching and memorable convention experience.

With much gratitude, *Doc Em*

Continued from Page 1 (Empowered and united)

Opening Ceremonies, who delivered the Welcome Address and acknowledged the collective effort behind the event's success. Supporting her was a dedicated production team from the PDA Pasay City Dental Chapter, whose coordination ensured a seamless and engaging experience throughout the event.

“

**“Today marks
the powerful
start for an
empowered
PDA.”**

DR. KRISTINE MAGNOLIA MARCIAL
Chairperson
Opening Ceremonies Committee



A highlight of the program was the grand processional, which showcased the breadth of leadership within the association. Incoming Presidents of PDA chapters from NCR, Luzon, Visayas, and Mindanao, alongside presidents and presidents-elect of affiliate societies, members of the PRC Board of Dentistry and CPD Council, Deans of Dental Schools, and Outgoing and Incoming PDA Executive Board of Officers were recognized. This segment emphasized nationwide representation and the emergence of a new generation of leaders poised to guide the profession forward.

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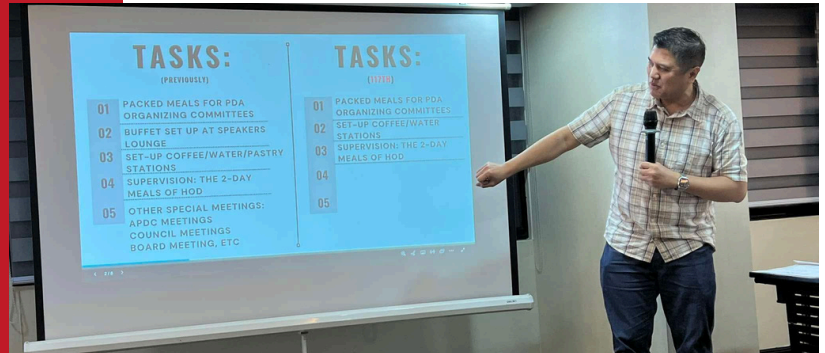


The Dream Team

The 117th PDA Convention stands as a proud achievement made possible by months of careful planning and strong collaboration by a group of several committees, aptly coined THE DREAM TEAM, under the leadership of General Chairperson & President-Elect Dr. Mariusse Chars Esquillo.

Behind-the-scenes photos show the extensive preparation that led to the convention's success. From organizational meetings and site visits to production work, each stage focused on aligning goals, refining logistics, and executing key details. Every aspect was assessed and refined to support the demands of a large-scale national event.

Together, these moments reflect the foundation of PDA 117—an event shaped by precision, teamwork, and dedication.



The ceremony also featured meaningful messages from key figures. PDA President Dr. Lucilo G. Niñal, Jr. reflected on the organization's milestones and reaffirmed its dedication to professional excellence. Industry partners Dr. Cecilio K. Pedro of Lamoian Corporation and Ms. Maimai Punzalan of Haleon Philippines shared their continued support, highlighting the importance of collaboration between practitioners and stakeholders in improving oral health outcomes.

Adding depth to the event was the Keynote Address delivered by Department of Health Secretary Teodoro Herbosa, alongside Guest of Honor Usec. Emmie Liza Perez-Chiong. Their messages emphasized the critical role of dental professionals in public health and national development, reinforcing the connection between Dentistry and broader healthcare systems.

The ceremonies were further



enriched by performances celebrating Filipino artistry. The Adamson University Chorale delivered the national anthem and musical interludes, while Sindaw Philippines, Tanghalang Sibol, Mr.

David Mercado, and NCCA artists showcased vibrant cultural presentations that aligned with the Filipiniana theme.

As the program concluded, attendees were left with a strong sense of pride and unity. The Opening Ceremonies not only marked the beginning of the convention but also celebrated the shared mission of the dental community, to advance oral health, strengthen collaboration, and uphold excellence. The future of Philippine Dentistry stands clear; with bold vision and unwavering commitment, the PDA surges forward, igniting innovation and championing excellence for its members and the organization.



Secured and Ready! Dr. Noel Tacorda

From May 11 to 15, 2026, the PDA Convention provided a well-organized environment for learning, connection, and collaboration. Alongside its strong scientific program, careful attention was given to ensuring the safety and security of all delegates throughout the duration of the convention.

Comprehensive measures were in place, including coordinated security personnel, controlled access points, and clear crowd management systems that maintained order across venues. Emergency response readiness, medical assistance stations, and well-marked safety protocols further supported a secure environment. In addition, logistical planning prioritized smooth movement, accessible facilities, and attendee convenience at every stage.

With these systems in place, participants were able to fully focus on the experience—engaging with peers, exploring new ideas, and contributing to a forward-looking professional community in a safe and supportive setting.



THE RETURN OF THE EXPERT

Dr. Stanley Malamed

The Professor Stanley Malamed Pre-Convention Lecture held on May 10, 2026 stands as one of the most anticipated highlights of the 117th Philippine Dental Association Annual Convention—a rare opportunity to once again learn from a global authority in Dental Anesthesiology and Emergency Management.

Prof. Malamed's return to the Philippines marks a meaningful and historic continuity. His first visit in 2005, during the presidency of Dr. Mario Esquillo, left a lasting imprint on Filipino Dentistry, elevating awareness and competence in pain control and patient safety. He returned in 2017, at a time when Dr. Mariusse Chars Esquillo was serving as President-Elect of the PDA Manila Chapter, once again sharing his invaluable expertise with a new generation of practitioners.



Now, in 2026, Prof. Malamed graces the Philippine dental community for the third time—still as dynamic, insightful, and inspiring as ever. His lecture entitled “Emergency Medicine: Back to Basics” come at a crucial time, reinforcing the responsibility of every dentist not only to deliver excellent care, but to be ever-prepared for life-threatening situations within the clinical setting.

With decades of experience, world-renowned publications, and an unmatched ability to

translate complex concepts into practical knowledge, Prof. Malamed continues to shape safer dental practices worldwide. His presence is more than just a lecture—it is a reaffirmation of the profession's commitment to excellence, preparedness, and patient-centered care.

As we gather for this year's convention, his return reminds us that learning is a lifelong pursuit—and that true mastery lies in being ready when it matters most.

Dr. Mario Esquillo

Quick FACTS

Dr. Malamed is the author of several widely used textbooks including:

- ◆ Handbook of Medical Emergencies in the Dental Office
- ◆ Handbook of Local Anesthesia
- ◆ Sedation — A Guide to Patient Management



EMPOWERED



The Presidents' Dialogue: Unifying Leadership

The Presidents' Dialogue during the 117th PDA Annual Convention and Scientific Sessions gathered the incoming presidents of the different chapters, affiliates, and integrated professional organizations for Administrative Year 2026–2027 in a meaningful exchange of ideas, leadership, and shared purpose. Carrying the banner of Batch Hiraya, the event became a symbol of unity, empowerment, and commitment to the advancement of the dental profession and service to the Filipino people.



One of the highlights of the event was the inspiring message delivered by President-Elect Mariusse Chars R. Esquillo as he warmly welcomed Batch Hiraya into a new chapter of leadership and service. His words resonated deeply among the attendees as he reminded everyone that leadership went

beyond titles and responsibilities. He encouraged the incoming presidents to become part of something greater than themselves and to embrace a shared mission that uplifted both the profession and the communities they served.

Dr. Esquillo emphasized the importance of dreaming boldly, living sincerely, and serving wholeheartedly. His

message reflected the spirit of Batch Hiraya — a generation of leaders driven by purpose, compassion, and unwavering dedication. He inspired the presidents to lead with courage and authenticity, recognizing that true leadership began with a sincere desire to create meaningful impact. His enthusiasm and confidence in Batch Hiraya energized the room, igniting a renewed sense of responsibility and commitment among the participants.

The dialogue reflected the enduring mission of the Philippine Dental Association to cultivate servant leadership and professional excellence. Each president carried not only the responsibility of leading an organization but also the privilege of becoming an instrument of positive change within the profession. The atmosphere of solidarity and inspiration throughout the event highlighted the collective determination of Batch Hiraya to uphold the ideals of service, ethical practice, and professional growth.

Dr. Josefina Viudez



Empowered by Faith

Dr. Karmela Ciceron



The Interreligious Services Committee of the 117th PDA Annual Convention is composed of dedicated dentists from the Batangas City Dental Chapter, which had faithfully spearheaded this meaningful initiative since 2017. The committee was first established under the leadership of Dr. Marla Magpantay as Chairperson and Dr. Lenlen Atienza as Co-Chairperson, both of whom laid the foundation for an inclusive and spiritually enriching opening for the annual convention. In keeping with BCDC's commitment, the leadership was later entrusted to Dr. Karmela Ciceron and Dr. Melvin Adel, who continued to uphold the committee's vision and mandate with dedication and reverence.

convention with this collective spiritual exercise, the committee hoped to embody the theme by setting a tone of harmony, goodwill, and purpose-driven leadership that carried through the scientific sessions, fellowship activities, and professional engagements throughout the event.

For this year's convention, the Interreligious Services were held on Sunday, May 10, 2026, at 8:00 AM at Function Room 3 of the SMX Convention Center Manila. The program was thoughtfully structured to honor each faith tradition with equal reverence and dignity. An Imam was invited to offer a prayer on behalf of the Muslim community, reflecting the values of peace and submission in Islam. This was followed by a Pastor who led the prayer for the Christian community, invoking guidance and blessings for all attendees. The service culminated

with the celebration of the Holy Mass for Catholic participants, which served as the highlight of the Interreligious Services. Lending solemnity and grace to the occasion, the Mass was enriched by the sacred hymns and liturgical music of the Batangas City Dental Chapter Choir, whose voices had become a cherished tradition of this annual service.

As the convention opened its doors to learning, innovation, and fellowship, the Interreligious Services served as a reminder that at the heart of Dentistry lay not only skill and knowledge, but also faith, humanity, and the quiet strength found in prayer.

Anchored on this year's theme, "Leadership and Service Empowered by Faith," the primary purpose of the Interreligious Services Committee was to foster unity in diversity by bringing together participants from different faith traditions—including Islam, Christianity, and Catholicism—for a shared moment of prayer, meditation, and reflection. This interfaith observance served as a cornerstone of the convention, aiming to cultivate peace, mutual respect, and deeper understanding among PDA members, delegates, and guests from across the country. By opening the



Presidents-Elect Leadership Training & Seminar

Presidents-Elect Leadership Training and Seminar (PELTS), is a cornerstone developmental program of the PDA, designed to provide a structured and comprehensive foundation. It equips future leaders with deeper insights and a clear strategic direction in advancing the organization's mission.

The Batch Hiraya Presidents, under the leadership of Dr. Mariusse Chars Esquillo, further elevated the program through active participation, purposeful learning, and meaningful engagement, as demonstrated in the various PELTS activities. Chapter, Affiliate, and IPO Presidents expressed strong appreciation for the experience as they prepare to embark on their leadership journey.



Empowering the Next Wave of Leaders

The PDA continues to evolve as the country's premier dental organization, demonstrating a steadfast commitment to developing future-ready leaders. For the coming administrative year, this commitment is realized through the Presidents-Elect Leadership Training and Seminar (PELTS), which commenced in September 2025 with three online sessions conducted via Zoom, followed by the Batch Hiraya "Meet and Greet" in October 6 & 7, 2025 at Luxent Hotel, Quezon City.

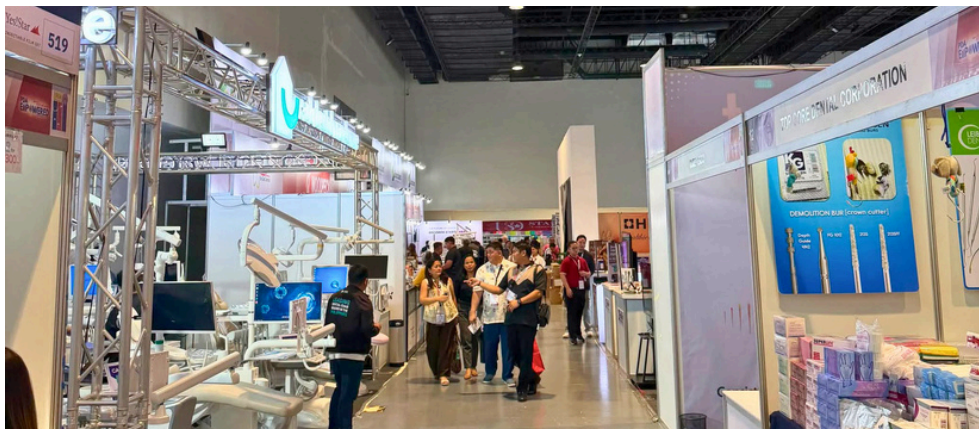
Key topics of significant relevance were delivered by esteemed and seasoned

resource speakers, including Ms. Sheila Marie Jocson, PhD; Dr. Artemio Licos Jr., Dr. Nelson Magnaye and PDA Past Presidents Dr. Leo Gerald De Castro, Dr. Stephen Almonte, and Dr. Cheryl Del Rosario. Their insightful presentations provided practical knowledge and valuable perspectives that will serve as essential tools for effective leadership in their respective chapters. Beyond the academic component, the training also fostered camaraderie and connection among participants. Moments of relaxation and fellowship were highlighted during the "Fellowship Night," chaired by Dr. Gio Batitis,

strengthening bonds within the group.

PELTS 2025 was successfully organized and implemented under the leadership of PDA President-Elect Dr. Mariusse Chars Esquillo, in collaboration with a dedicated working committee led by Chairperson Dr. Oppen Viudez and Co-Chair Dr. Jocelyn Manabat. They were ably supported by committee members Drs. Alejandro Donesa Jr., Rubilyn Oh-Pimentel, Francis Paraiso, Kathleen Juline Serato-Paraiso, Faye Marie Evaristo, Shiela Lunasco, Marianne Pamos, and Ms. Lou Ramirez.

Dr. Josefina Viudez



Trade Exhibition

The Powerhouse of Innovation & Industry



The trade exhibition at the 117th PDA Annual Convention shaped up to be one of the most dynamic and expansive showcases the organization had ever mounted. What began as a strong showing of interest quickly turned into something far bigger—nearly 200 companies signified their intent to participate, a clear sign that the dental industry continued to grow at an impressive pace. The surge in demand pushed the organizing team to rethink the entire layout of the exhibit area, eventually expanding into the second floor to make room for even more partners and innovators.

This year's exhibition featured 142 traders occupying a remarkable 555 booths, offering delegates an unmatched variety of products and services. From cutting-edge dental equipment and advanced hand instruments to modern clinic essentials and stylish

scrubs, the exhibit floor proved to be both comprehensive and engaging. It was not just about browsing products—it was also an opportunity to see where the profession was heading, with new technologies and trends on full display.

One of the most anticipated highlights is the introduction of “TRADERS’ NIGHT,” a fresh addition that brings a more relaxed, festive atmosphere to the convention. Organized in collaboration with NADTI, the evening will celebrate the strong partnership between dental professionals and industry suppliers. Set on May 12, with gates opening at 5 PM, the event invites delegates to experience the exhibit hall in a completely different light. A live band will set the tone, creating an energetic backdrop as attendees explore the booths at their own pace. For the first time, trading hours will be extended until 9 PM, giving everyone more time to connect, discover, and enjoy.

142
COMPANIES

555
BOOTHS



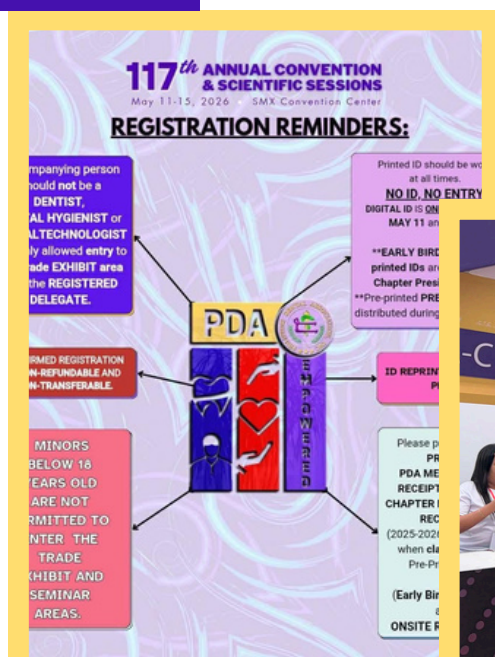
List of Traders

SCAN HERE



A Refined Approach to REGISTRATION

Dr. Ruth Bautista



The Digital Shift

A major milestone for this year's 117th Philippine Dental Association Annual Convention was the shift to a fully online and cashless registration system. To prepare for this transition, the team began meeting as early as August 2025, carefully planning and fine-tuning every detail. With the technical support of our system provider, Boundless Ideas, delegates were able to sign up, submit requirements, validate memberships, and settle payments conveniently in advance. This effectively minimized long lines and waiting times at the venue.

To further streamline the process, Early Bird printed IDs were distributed to the Chapter Presidents-Elect ahead of time, ensuring that these could be conveniently issued directly to their respective members. Of course, technology works best with people behind it, and the team was always ready to assist—whether it was helping with accounts, passwords, or payment concerns. Their active presence in the group chat ensured that questions were answered immediately, making everyone feel supported and empowered with the right information.

The System Behind

Leading the charge with passion and excellence is the Chairperson, Dr. Ruth Ruiz-Bautista. Her dedication, clear direction, and organizational skills were instrumental in guiding the team to deliver top-notch service. She was ably supported by a group of equally committed Co-Chairs: Dr. Daisy Mendoza, Dr. Dionelle Casimiro, Dr. Merlin Ordinanza, Dr. Jocelyn Dizon, Dr. Jennilyn Casimiro, Dr. Conale Naguit, and Dr. Maria Gemma Galang-Caraos. Serving as the vital foundation of the event, this team worked tirelessly to ensure that every attendee, guest, and exhibitor was welcomed warmly and attended to efficiently.

Composed of dentists from various fields, the team was bonded by one common goal: to serve their colleagues to the best of their abilities. They are a perfect mix of experienced yet innovative, detailed yet helpful professionals. Providing strong support were the members of the Registration Reception Team and 25 dedicated non-dentist personnel who helped manage the flow, control crowds, and distribute materials. Everyone worked hand-in-hand, ensuring the area remained organized even during the busiest hours.

Truly, the Registration Committee embodied the values of service, efficiency, and hospitality that the PDA stands for. Through their combined efforts and unwavering commitment, they played a huge part in the overall success of the convention, proving that great teamwork makes everything possible.



A Warm Welcome at PDA 117

The Reception for Registration Committee served as the first point of contact for delegates during the 117th PDA Annual Convention, playing an important role in shaping the overall convention experience. The committee's primary responsibility was to ensure a smooth, organized, and welcoming registration process while providing delegates with essential information and directions throughout the event.

The reception team worked to facilitate an efficient and orderly registration process by assisting in the verification of registrants' information, guiding delegates in claiming their convention IDs and kits, and directing them to seminar venues and trade exhibit areas. Through their professional and approachable service, the team helped create a positive first impression for attendees.

The committee closely coordinated with the Registration Committee and convention events such as the Opening Ceremony and Presidents' Night, where additional reception support was

required at registration tables. This collaboration ensured proper alignment and efficient delegation of responsibilities.

During the convention proper, the reception process followed a structured workflow. Delegates were greeted upon arrival and directed to the appropriate registration lines, where their information was verified before receiving IDs and event materials. The team also provided basic instructions regarding program schedules and venue locations. Separate procedures were implemented for walk-in participants and delegates with incomplete registration details to prevent disruptions in the overall flow of operations.

Queue management strategies were consistently applied to minimize congestion and maintain order, especially during peak registration periods. Through teamwork, adaptability, and coordination with the Registration Committee, the Reception Committee successfully accommodated delegates in an organized and efficient manner.

Dr. Maribi Abad

From preparing beautifully crafted placards and elegant leis for VIP guests to assisting and guiding participants during processions, the Reception for Socials Committee ensured that every detail was handled with grace and efficiency. Their efforts helped maintain the smooth flow of major convention events while creating a welcoming and refined atmosphere throughout the program.

Through a combination of creativity, professionalism, and teamwork, the committee helped elevate important PDA gatherings into experiences that were both organized and visually memorable. Their dedication to excellence added a special touch to the convention, allowing delegates and guests to fully appreciate the warmth, sophistication, and camaraderie that defined PDA 117.

Dr. Haidee Domingo

Empowering Dentists for Evidence-based Interdisciplinary Care

Dr. Maria Liza Centeno

This year, the Scientific Sessions revolve around synergistic collaboration among the different disciplines in Dentistry. Thus, the focus was on “Empowering Dentists” for evidence-based, comprehensive, interdisciplinary care.

As science continued to evolve, previous norms were challenged, and published papers either debunked or reinforced existing practices. The members of the

committee worked tirelessly over the past eight months to assemble diverse topics relevant to current dental practice. Speakers were invited to deliver sessions that provided avenues for exchange—highlighting best practices and global recommendations that could be culturally adapted to the Philippine setting.

This year, a prominent author and well-respected authority in Dentistry,



Professor Stanley Malamed, was once again invited to lead the roster of speakers. Joining him were other global experts who had made their mark in the international community and shared their expertise with the Philippine dental community.

In addition, skill-enhancement programs were conducted to reinforce clinical abilities and introduce new technologies, including the integration of AI-driven dental equipment for improved diagnostic solutions.

Several sessions also featured discussions and analyses of complex cases involving both dental and medical conditions, emphasizing the importance of integrating oral health with other physiological systems.

Through fruitful synergy across all specialties, the Scientific Committee was proud to present a program that celebrated the unity and progress of the profession.



SCIENTIFIC SESSIONS MATRIX

DOWNLOAD HERE



The POWERHOUSE

- 47 Local Speakers
- 21 International Speakers
- 34 Table Clinics
- 4 Workshops
- 17 Case Presentations
- 29 Research Studies

Turning Feedback Into Progress

Capturing Delegate Insights

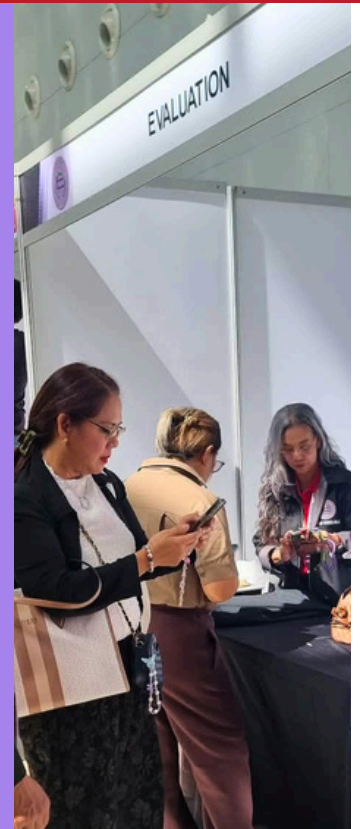
Dr. Marjorie Abrera-Nava

The Evaluation Committee of the 117th PDA Annual Convention played an essential role in developing a reliable and responsive system for gathering delegate feedback throughout the event. Focused on improving the overall convention experience, the committee designed evaluation tools that assessed key areas such as scientific sessions, registration efficiency, logistical arrangements, and participant satisfaction.

To encourage greater participation, the committee implemented both printed and digital evaluation forms that were carefully structured to gather meaningful quantitative and qualitative insights. Coordination with the Registration, Scientific, and Logistics Committees also ensured the smooth integration of evaluation activities into the convention program.

Committee members were assigned specific responsibilities, including form distribution, response monitoring, data encoding, and report preparation, allowing for efficient operations throughout the event. Regular planning sessions further helped the team anticipate challenges and develop strategies to maximize delegate engagement.

Following the convention, collected responses will be systematically analyzed to identify strengths and areas for improvement. These findings will help guide future planning and contribute to the continued enhancement of future PDA conventions.



Elevating Dentistry Through CPD

Dr. Jean Arevalo



The Continuing Professional Development Committee of the 117th PDA Annual Convention successfully organized a comprehensive educational program designed to enhance the professional growth of Filipino dentists. Guided by the Professional Regulation Commission's CPD Act of 2016 (RA 10912) and the PDA's commitment to lifelong learning, this year's program focused on emerging technologies, patient safety, evidence-based practice, and modern practice management.

The committee worked diligently to curate a scientific program that fulfilled the required CPD credit units necessary for the renewal of professional licenses. At the same time, the program addressed current gaps in clinical knowledge and skills among both general practitioners and specialists while providing opportunities for the presentation of research findings and innovative dental techniques.

Delegates participated in a diverse scientific program featuring plenary lectures on emerging topics in modern Dentistry, including Digital Dentistry, Artificial Intelligence, biomaterials, and clinical innovations. Hands-on workshops provided practical training in key procedures, while table clinics, research presentations, and specialist track sessions offered deeper insights across various dental disciplines, supporting both clinical advancement and continuing professional development.

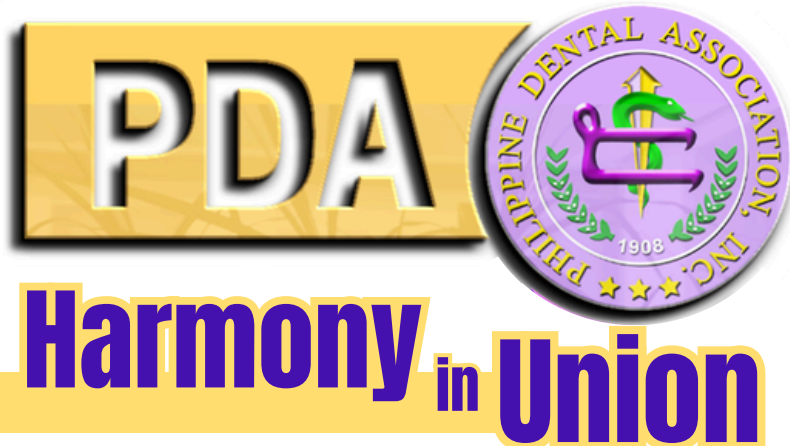
To ensure compliance with PRC regulations, the committee implemented a structured CPD credit allocation system and utilized a digital QR code scanning process to efficiently monitor attendance and validate participation in accredited sessions.



A Unified Path: ISANG DIREKSYON

The Fellowship Night was anchored by its own evocative theme: Isang Direksiyon (One Direction). While the overall convention focused on the broader goal of being Empowered, this evening was dedicated to the specific, unwavering path of the new administration. The theme symbolizes a straight and transparent trajectory toward the betterment of the association, ensuring that every member is moving in sync toward a shared future.

This vision is spearheaded by the incoming class of leaders, known by their batch name: Hiraya. Derived from an ancient Filipino word meaning "the fruit of one's dreams" or "imagination," the Hiraya presidents represent a collective hope for the association. Their leadership signifies the transition from vision to reality, guiding the PDA with a steady hand and a clear, singular focus.



A Night of Music and Vision at the PDA 117

As the clinical rigor of the day's lectures drew to a close, the PDA 117th Annual Convention transitioned from the classroom to the heart of the community. The Fellowship Night, a cornerstone of the annual gathering, transformed the venue into a vibrant hub of camaraderie and culture. With 1,500 delegates—comprising dentists from across the archipelago, industry sponsors, and dedicated partners—the evening was a soulful testament to the enduring strength of the profession in the Philippines.

The Rhythm of the Profession: OPM Takes Center Stage

The true spirit of the evening lay in its celebration of local identity. In a tribute to the country's rich musical heritage, the night was dedicated entirely to Original Pilipino Music (OPM). In a unique twist, the spotlight did not fall on professional entertainers, but on the dentists themselves.

Representing various PDA chapters from Luzon, Visayas, and Mindanao, these "singing dentists" proved that their precision extends far beyond the dental chair. The setlist was a nostalgic and upbeat journey through the landscape of Pinoy music:

- **Classic Anthems:** Soulful renditions of Manila Sound icons brought a sense of warmth and shared history to the hall.

Continued on Page 15





Continued from Page 14 (Harmony in Union)

- **Modern Hits:** High-energy performances of contemporary P-Pop and alternative rock tracks kept the energy high and the crowd engaged.
- **Regional Flair:** Several chapters infused their sets with local pride, highlighting the diverse cultures that make up the national association.

Seeing a colleague trade a handpiece for a microphone provided a refreshing reminder of the multifaceted talents within the community, bridging the gap between seasoned practitioners and the new generation.

Food, Fellowship, and the Future

No Filipino gathering is complete without a feast, and the event delivered a "chill" atmosphere that encouraged meaningful connection over a shared meal. The relaxed environment allowed sponsors and partners to engage with the dental community as peers, fostering relationships built on mutual respect and common goals.

As the 1,500 attendees shared stories and laughter, the spirit of unity was palpable. The transition from the day's theme of being Empowered to the evening's focus on Isang Direksiyon felt seamless. It served as a reminder that empowerment is most effective when it is harnessed and directed toward a common purpose.

Moving Forward Together

As the final OPM chords faded, the message of the Fellowship Night remained clear: the PDA is moving forward with clarity and heart. Under the guidance of the Hiraya batch of presidents and the commitment to Isang Direksiyon, the association is not just growing—it is evolving. The night proved that while the path to professional excellence requires discipline, the journey is far more rewarding when traveled in harmony with 1,500 colleagues, all moving toward the same bright horizon.

Dr. Annrose Villaruel



Serving Beyond the Plate

Dr. Alex Acosta

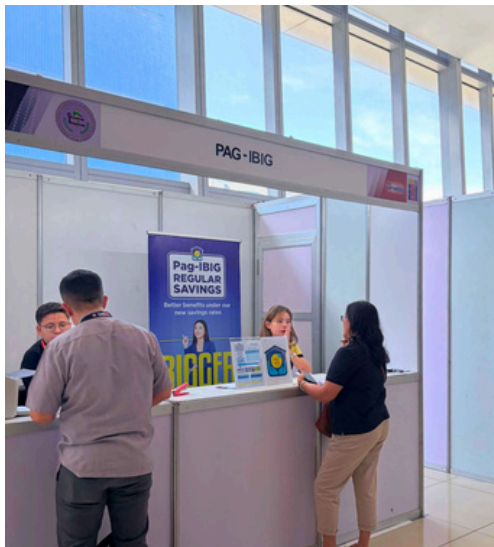
The Food Committee has remained a steadfast and dedicated presence at the National Annual Convention through the years—from 2017 to 2024, continuing into 2025–2026, and now under the leadership of Dr. Mariusse Esquillo for 2026–2027.

Throughout this time, the group has generously offered its service to the PDA not for recognition or political gain, but out of genuine camaraderie and a shared commitment to uplifting the profession. Their contributions may often go unnoticed, yet they are deeply felt—especially when it matters most.

Behind their service lies a significant personal sacrifice. Closing one's clinic for an entire week is no small decision, yet the team does so willingly, driven by the joy of working alongside colleagues and the fulfillment that comes from serving others.

This enduring spirit is perhaps best captured in a familiar line often shared by Dr. Joseph Dandan, whose years of service helped shape the heart of the committee:

"Walang gutom sa FoodComm!"



ONE-STOP SHOP

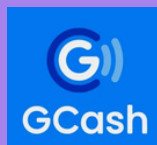
The Delegate Service Hub

Dr. Maria Cristina Carvajal

The PDA proudly presents the One-Stop Shop Committee at the 117th PDA Annual Convention, designed to provide delegates with seamless access to government services and membership updates. This initiative underscored PDA's commitment to empowering dental professionals by connecting them directly with agencies that supported their practice and professional growth.

Several key government agencies were on hand to assist delegates in updating, maximizing, and utilizing their PDA membership benefits. Their participation ensured that dentists could conveniently address regulatory, administrative, and professional requirements during the convention.

PARTNER AGENCIES



SERVICES:

SCAN HERE



- Membership record updates & clarifications
- Licensing support for professional renewal
- On-site consultations to ensure compliance with national health standards & policies
- Information on continuing education programs & government-backed initiatives



By bringing these agencies together under one roof, the One-Stop Shop Committee eliminated the need for multiple visits to different offices. Delegates were able to save time, reduce administrative burdens, and focus on what truly mattered—enhancing their skills and serving their patients.

This initiative reflected PDA's vision of a streamlined, supportive, and future-ready dental community, where government and professional organizations worked hand in hand to uplift the profession.

PDA 117 Powers Up Wellness

Dr. Edith Valenzuela

A refreshed wave of wellness awaited delegates at this year's convention, as the Health and Wellness Committee proudly brought back one of its most anticipated highlights—reimagined, recharged, and more exciting than ever. After a year's pause, this much-loved experience returned with even more ways for delegates to relax, refresh, and reconnect with their well-being.

Held on May 11 at Function Hall 3 and from May 13 to 15 at Meeting Rooms 7, 8, and 9, the vibrant lineup transformed convention

days into something truly energizing. It offered a space where care went beyond lectures and learning, allowing participants to check in on their health through medical laboratory services by **PROLAB**, free eye refraction and discounted eyewear from **Better Eyes Optical**, and free bone scanning by **Haleon**—each designed to support overall wellness both in and out of practice.

Delegates enjoyed relaxing massage sessions from **Gintell Philippines**, explored innovative wellness technologies such as digital antioxidant scanning from **Prysm iO**, and experienced unique devices from **MS iTeracare**, many trying them for the first time.



“
RECHARGE.
REFRESH.
REIGNITE.
Your wellness break
starts now!

DR. EDITH VALENZUELA
Chairperson, Health & Wellness Committee



Meanwhile, **Anytime Fitness MOA** encouraged proper exercise and healthy living through engaging activities prepared especially for attendees. Healthy drink samples from **Miracle Barley** and free probiotic drinks from **Yakult** added a refreshing boost, nourishing participants throughout the event. The excitement extended further with generous raffle prizes from **Gintell Philippines**, including massage chairs, stationary bikes, and more. **Anytime Fitness MOA** also gave away complimentary memberships and gym passes to lucky dentists, making the wellness experience even more rewarding.

It became a moment for delegates to pause from the busy pace, recharge their energy, and celebrate self-care in an enjoyable and meaningful way—leaving many not only revitalized, but also inspired to carry wellness beyond the convention.

CHECK
YOUR
perks
HERE!





“

“Your comfort is our priority.”

DR. SHEILA LUNASCO
Chairperson
Accommodations Committee

Comfort Beyond the Convention Hall

Dr. Sheila Lunasco

Providing a comfortable and hassle-free stay for all delegates remained the top priority of the Accommodations Committee during the 117th PDA Annual Convention.

Working diligently behind the scenes, the committee managed lodging arrangements and hospitality services to ensure that attendees had access to accommodation options suited to their varying needs and preferences.

The committee carefully coordinated with partner hotels to provide quality

accommodations that offered accessibility, convenience, and excellent value. Through these partnerships, special convention rates and exclusive accommodation packages were successfully arranged for the delegates.

Whether attendees preferred luxury stays, centrally located hotels, or budget-friendly options, the committee worked to secure arrangements that made every delegate's visit more pleasant and convenient. Attention was given to every detail to ensure a smooth and welcoming experience throughout the convention week.

SPECIAL HOTEL RATES
for the PDA 117 Delegates

SCAN HERE



The Convention's Moving Force

Dr. Flintwalter Bacoy

The 117th PDA Transportation Committee played a vital role in ensuring the smooth and efficient movement of all organizational committee members. In preparation for the event, the committee coordinated closely with the organizing committees, the partner hotel TRYP by Wyndham Mall of Asia Manila, SMX Convention Center Manila, and local van transport providers. Routes and shuttle service schedules were carefully planned and developed based on the estimated workflow of committee members, ensuring that transportation services were aligned with major convention activities.

During the convention proper, designated shuttle services operated on a regular schedule to transport committee members between the hotel and the venue. Transportation committee members were stationed at strategic points to guide the organizing committee, assist with inquiries, and ensure proper crowd management.

Special transportation arrangements were also provided for the Taiwan Dental Association dignitaries, headed by their President, Dr. Shih-Yueh Chen. These services were prioritized to ensure comfort and punctuality. Delegates of the convention were also granted free rides on the Manila Metro Rail Transit System Line 3 from May 11 to 15, upon presentation of their convention ID and PRC ID.

Communication was a key component of the committee's operations. Transportation schedules, route maps, and important updates were disseminated through digital platforms and on-site help desks. This ensured that committee members remained informed and were able to navigate the transportation system with ease.



Treats and Smiles

Dr. Ruby Agustin



The 117th PDA Annual Convention opened its doors to an exciting and rewarding week filled with surprises, treats, and delightful experiences specially prepared by the Special Amenities Committee for all delegates.

Delegates were provided special offers and promos from partner retail stores such as SM Store and participating restaurants in the area. Whether shopping, dining, or taking a quick break between sessions, attendees found plenty of enjoyable surprises waiting for them.

One of the highlights of Day 1 was the distribution of free ice cream to the first 1,000 registrants who lined up at the booth. The smiles and excitement from delegates set a cheerful tone for the rest of the convention, making the opening day especially memorable.

The fun continued throughout the week as early bird attendees enjoyed complimentary drinks and snacks daily. These simple yet thoughtful treats helped energize participants as they engaged in the convention's learning sessions and activities.

The booth located on the 2nd floor were visited by delegates each day, where more surprises, freebies, and exciting perks were made available at unexpected moments. These thoughtful gestures reflected the spirit of appreciation for the delegates' hard work and enthusiasm. Their presence, participation, and positive energy played a vital role in making the convention truly meaningful and unforgettable.



More Than Just Giveaways

Dr. Nelson Angeles

During the PDA Convention, the Kits and Samples Committee play a key role in ensuring the smooth distribution of dental kits and product samples to participants. Their efforts support hands-on learning and allow attendees to explore the latest dental materials and innovations.

Behind every successful PDA Convention is the dedicated work of the Kits and Samples Committee. Long before the event began, the team had already been coordinating with sponsors, sourcing materials and organizing thousands of items needed for participants. From careful inventory and quality checking to assembling each kit with precision, every detail was thoughtfully managed. The committee ensured that all freebies given by the sponsors were packed with care.

Beyond preparation, the committee managed the systematic distribution of kits, ensuring efficiency, fairness, and readiness throughout the event.



The Art and Heart of PDA Merch

Dr. Maria Leah Imperio

The 117th PDA Merch Committee proudly showcased a meaningful and creative initiative that brought together innovation, sustainability, and unity across all chapters through the BEST BAG DESIGN CONTEST. The project highlighted uniquely crafted tote bags designed by the Batch Hiraya Presidents, reflecting the creativity and identity of participating chapters and affiliates.

The initiative began in August 2025 when the committee sourced tote bags that later became canvases for artistic expression. These bags were officially distributed during the Presidents-Elect Leadership and Training Seminar (PELTS) in October 2025, giving incoming leaders the opportunity to represent their chapters through thoughtful and creative designs.

Collection of the completed tote bags took place during major PDA events, including the Luzon Convention in November 2025, the Mindanao Convention in January 2026, and both the National Dental Health Month Opening Ceremony and Visayas Convention in February 2026. This nationwide effort encouraged broad participation and showcased the diverse artistic styles from different regions.

After collection, the Merch Committee carefully organized and sorted nearly 500 handcrafted tote bags.

The final judging was held on April 13, 2026, where three qualified judges evaluated the entries based on Creativity, Craftsmanship, Durability and Sustainability, and Aesthetic Appeal. From the entries, six outstanding winners were selected across the Luzon, Mindanao & NCR, and Visayas, Affiliates & IPO categories. Winners received complimentary passes to the pre-congress seminar in recognition of their creativity and contribution to the initiative.

Beyond the competition, the project also carried a meaningful social purpose. The tote bags were made available for sale, with proceeds allocated to support the PDA's adopted community, Elsie Gaches Village, and the indigency clinic. Through this initiative, creativity became a vehicle not only for artistic expression but also for compassion and community support.

Convention attendees also visited the PDA Merch booth on the 2nd floor of the SMX Convention Center, where regional "abubots," water tumblers, souvenir items, and other merchandise were showcased.

Through the Best Bag Design Contest and its related activities, the 117th PDA Merch Committee successfully promoted creativity, camaraderie, sustainability, and social responsibility—proving that even a simple tote bag could carry the story, culture, and heart of the dental community.



Setting the Stage for Success

Every great event begins with a strong foundation, and for the 117th PDA Annual Convention, that foundation was established by the Physical Arrangement Committee. The committee's primary mission is to facilitate and streamline the logistical requirements of all other committees. Serving as the central hub for the convention's physical setup, the team played a vital role in bringing the event space to life. From the moment delegates entered the venue, the committee's work was evident in the structured flow and efficient organization of the entire area.

The committee carefully organized strategic layouts of tables and chairs for seminars, meetings, and dining areas to maximize comfort and functionality. It also oversaw the professional arrangement of panel boards, counters, and booths for partners and exhibitors, contributing to an organized and visually appealing exhibition space. To enhance the atmosphere and branding of the event, the committee prepared high-quality photo walls and backdrops that reflected the spirit of the 117th convention. In addition, clear and strategically placed directional signages were installed throughout the venue to ensure ease of movement and convenient navigation for all attendees. Their work ensured that the 117th PDA Annual Convention was not only well-organized, but seamlessly and flawlessly executed from start to finish.

Dr. Christopher Malahat

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Editorial

EMPOWERED AND EVOLVING: A New Era for PDA 117

Dr. Kathleen Cinco-Cueto
Chairperson, Newsletter Committee

The 117th Philippine Dental Association Annual Convention and Scientific Sessions ushered in a fresh and upgraded convention experience that reflected the organization's continuing growth and transformation. From improved digitalization to expanded activities to the return of well-loved programs, this year's convention demonstrated the PDA's commitment to innovation while honoring traditions that continue to strengthen the profession.

More than ever, PDA 117 highlighted the importance of collaboration and inclusivity. The convention brought together not only dental professionals, but also various government agencies, academic institutions, and international dental associations, creating a more dynamic and globally connected learning environment for delegates.

Behind the success of the convention was the dedicated and hands-on leadership of the General Chairperson & President-Elect Dr. Mariusse Chars Esquillo, whose active involvement and guidance across all committees helped ensure smooth operations and meaningful execution of every activity. This spirit of teamwork, leadership, and service became evident throughout the entire event.

Indeed, PDA 117 reflected an empowered organization—one that continues to evolve, embrace change, and move forward with unity, innovation, and purpose for the coming administrative year.



Strengthening Partnerships Through Interagency Collaboration

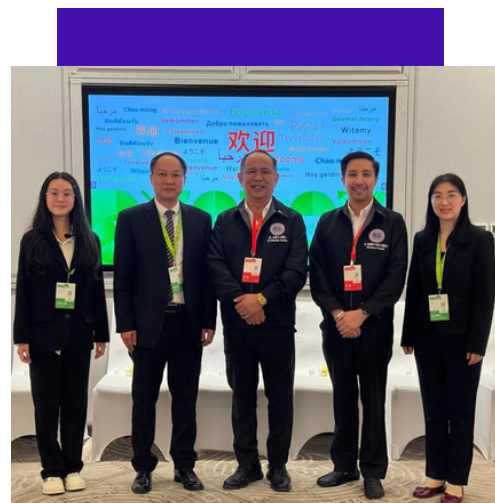
In line with its commitment to elevate the standards and future of the dental profession, the Philippine Dental Association, under the leadership of incoming President for 2026-2027, Dr. Mariusse Chars R. Esquillo, has actively pursued a series of strategic inter-agency collaborations with key stakeholders both locally and internationally.

Recognizing the vital role of education in shaping future dental professionals, the PDA engaged with the **Deans of Dental Schools and Colleges** during the oath-taking ceremonies of the new passers of the Dentistry Licensure Examination. This initiative reinforced the Association's partnership with academic institutions in ensuring excellence, ethical practice, and professional readiness among new dentists.

On the international front, the PDA conducted a face-to-face meeting with the organizers of the **Dental South China Exhibition**, opening avenues for global exchange, innovation, and professional exposure for Filipino dentists. Strengthening international ties further, the Association also held a virtual meeting with the **American Dental Association (ADA)**, led by its President, Dr. Richard Rosato, together with their administrative team, fostering collaboration and alignment with global standards in Dentistry.

Locally, the PDA strengthened its engagement with government institutions through a series of face-to-face meetings. With the **Department of Health (DOH)**, discussions were held with USec Emmie Liza Chiong, Dr. Manuel Vallesteros, and Dr. Rochelle Pambid, focusing on public health initiatives and the role of Dentistry

Dr. Kathleen Juline Serato-Paraiso



Continued on Page 23

in national healthcare. The Association also met with the **Department of Education (DepEd)**, represented by ASec Roger B. Masapol, Dr. Miguel Angelo S. Mantaring, and Dr. Cynthia D. Coronado, to explore collaborative efforts in oral health education and preventive programs among students.

Further strengthening regulatory and professional development ties, the PDA engaged with the **Professional Regulation Commission (PRC)**, particularly

with the CPD Division Chief Dr. Clarissa DC. Guia and the previous chairman of the Board of Dentistry Dr. Merlin A. Go, to align on continuing professional development and regulatory standards. The Association also connected with the **Department of Tourism (DOT)** through OIC Assistant Regional Director NCR Ivannovich Agote, exploring opportunities to integrate dental services within the country's growing medical and wellness tourism sector.

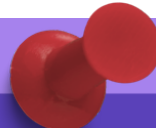
Looking ahead, the PDA is set to expand its global network with upcoming engagements involving the **Seoul Dental Association**, **Korea Dental Association**, and **Taiwan Dental Association**, further positioning the



organization within the international dental community.

These collaborative efforts reflect the PDA's proactive stance in building meaningful partnerships that will benefit its members and the communities they serve. Updates and key outcomes from these engagements will be shared with the PDA membership in the coming months, ensuring transparency and continued alignment toward the Association's goals of excellence, innovation, and service.





117th ANNUAL CONVENTION & SCIENTIFIC SESSIONS
May 11-15, 2026 • SMX Convention Center

Everything you need to know about PDA 117

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Stay updated, **DELEGATES!**



As the term of Batch Madasigon came to a close, the PDA expressed its gratitude for the dedicated leadership and service of its officers headed by President Dr. Lucilo Niñal, Jr. Throughout their term, Batch Madasigon exemplified commitment, unity, and perseverance in advancing the goals of the organization and strengthening the dental community. Through challenges and milestones, Batch Madasigon remained steadfast, leaving behind a meaningful legacy that will continue to inspire future leaders of the PDA.



From Madasigon to Hiraya: Continuing the Legacy of Leadership



As one meaningful chapter concludes, a new era commences with Batch Hiraya under the leadership of Dr. Mariusse Chars Esquillo. Carrying a name that symbolizes dreams, aspirations, and vision, the new batch now steps forward ready to continue the PDA's mission with renewed passion, innovation, and service. The transition marked not only a celebration of accomplishments but also a hopeful beginning for the future of PDA.

HIRAYA



Welcome, Batch Hiraya!

