

VICTOR JOAQUIN PAZ
Professor 11, Archaeological Studies Program

Significant Qualifications and Achievements

Victor J. Paz' curriculum vitae is a testament to his scholastic achievements as well as his administrative and leadership capacity.

At present, Dr. Paz sits as the chairman of the University Hotel Board of Overseers. His innate compassion and magnanimity provides an environment wherein a balance was struck between the well-being of the employees vis-a-vis the business side of running a hotel.

He is instrumental in steering the hotel's survival through the pandemic, in effect ensuring the survival of its employees. As proof of the efficiency of the administration in The University Hotel, it was recognized by various labor organizations with the Best Practice Citation.

Dr. Paz has under his belt a long list of successful archaeology and heritage projects throughout the country. Some of these projects ran for more than a decade, with the ones in Palawan and Quezon Province only halted by the pandemic. That these undertakings ran as long as they did prove not only his ability to manage a crew even with the tightest of budgets while being pressed for time, but also his talent in connecting with the local communities.

He started his three-decade journey in the teaching profession at the Department of History in this university. Starting out as a lecturer in 1987, then through the usual route up to his present rank as Professor 11 at the UP School of Archaeology.

He became director of the then Archaeological Studies Program in 2002, holding that position for ten years. Before that, he was the program secretary and deputy director of the aforesaid institution.

After finishing his A.B. in History at the University of the Philippines-Diliman, in 1987, he took his master in this same university and finished it in 1994. Afterwards, he went to the University of Cambridge, U.K, for his MPhil and PhD in Archaeology.

This background formed the backbone of his academic and advocacy work. His curriculum vitae list down his numerous publications as well as conference papers delivered in various venues around the world.

Dr. Paz was also the founding editor of Hukay Journal: Journal of Southeast Asia and Pacific Archaeology. This journal provided a venue for local archaeologists to have their work published.

He is involved in numerous heritage advocacy work through various organizations that he headed in the past and currently heading in various capacities.

He is currently the chief executive officer of the Archaeology + Heritage Assessment and Consultancy Service, a firm that conducts archaeological impact assessment on proposed construction sites on heritage hotspots.

As founding member of the professional guild of Philippine Archaeologists (KAPI), and currently President of the WG Solheim II Foundation for Philippine Archaeological Research since 2019, and the Commission on Southeast Asian Human Evolution, Dispersal & Adaptation at the International Union of Prehistoric and Protohistoric Sciences (UISPP) since 2013, Dr. Paz has always been at the forefront in raising the profile of Philippine archaeology across the archipelago and in the ASEAN region. His membership in the executive committee of the Indo-Pacific Prehistory Association ensures the linkages between local academics and their international counterparts.

In all his archaeology and heritage project sites, he makes sure that the community is involved and knows what the team is doing. Each excavation culminates into a thanksgiving gathering for the community and an exhibition regarding the results. These activities aim to raise the consciousness of the community concerning their local heritage and work towards a heightened sense of ownership which would eventually translate into a better nation-building.

An Emanating Vision from the Diliman Campus

A Chancellor's vision must be aligned with the overall mission of the UP System. It is to make UP "A great university, taking a leadership role in the development of a globally competitive Philippines." As Chancellor, being the highest responsible administrator for the campus, my leadership will address how to enhance and innovate methodologies and policies within the Diliman university-place, directed towards the mission-vision of the UP system. As Chancellor, I would be responsible for creating the conditions needed to transform existing structures, systems, and, most importantly, mind-set and consciousness within the entire Diliman community.

The policies, approaches and projects of this chancellorship shall be implemented with this in mind. We begin by seriously improving our assessment and summing-up culture within Diliman. Cutting across sectoral concerns, we must ensure the immediate review, for instance, of the academic calendar, general education, admission policies, registration systems, housing policy, regularization systems of employees, and our approach and attitudes towards internationalization and league tables. Included in our review is how we institutionally approach 'quality assurance', and ensure that it compliments rather than hinders our pursuit of the ideal. Equally significant is the challenge of accessible Artificial Intelligence platforms to our community's ethics and how to suitably respond). We must effectively consult, assess, and quickly act accordingly. I have in mind to actively pursue the reviews, and will be determined to carry out the implementation of solutions if found wanting. The speed of the changes will depend on the complexity of the issue or solution.

The rights and welfare of students, faculty, and staff will always be a main-stream concern of my chancellorship. Serious attention shall be given to policies and projects aligned to this vision, such as access to affordable living needs, and decent accommodations for students, faculty, and staff members; leading to a better campus space. The travel and accessibility for individuals within the campus must also be enhanced, and this space must definitely be inclusive as a default. Within these concerns, pedestrian walkways, public transportation systems are central, as well as campus security and ingress and egress. I have a sense that past policies were designed following the needs of a school building rather than those of a sprawling community of transient and resident members of the community.

A key approach for the Chancellor is to consciously and deliberately support the heads of units towards effective governance and leadership. We must continue to improve our faculty's higher education profile. The approaching years are ripe to finally operationalize the concept of Research Faculty at par with that of the Teaching Faculty within Diliman. We must further build our confidence as a community of academics who produce data, information, and knowledge. A key element is to build a healthy sense of confidence that we are not only central to Philippine intellectual life, but that we are equally a relevant part, in whatever discipline or program that we pursue, of an international community of practitioners. We must improve the conditions that will attract the best scholars and students, in the Philippines and across the globe, who will choose to join us or study in our community. In line with this is a celebration for the growth of homegrown journals and publications that may harvest the fruits of our community's research endeavor, while continuing to encourage publishing in high impact publications abroad.

Diliman, being the icon of UP as a university in the eyes of the nation, needs to be more proactive in its ties with the *Bayan* outside its campus. We must be more proactive in improving our formal and informal links with communities and advocate groups who share our vision. Our constant attempts to improve our links with national and local government agencies will facilitate not only good consultations and application of expertise, but will also facilitate a more productive basic research and extension work output. Such links will also help in projecting our engagements outside the walls of our university, and make it easier to be noticed by league table metrics. Equally so, we must simplify excessive bureaucratic paperwork that hampers productivity in all sectors of our community. We must strike a balance between documentation and accountability on the one hand, and productivity coupled with wellbeing on the other. This also needs to be addressed having in mind the issues of employee regularization, tenure and promotion of faculty and staff within our campus.

I like to think that I am an institution builder, and that I approach my task by focusing on what is fundamental. By the end of my Chancellor's term, I envision a more dynamic academic culture, a more relevant university both in the Philippine and in world stages. Central to its success is appreciating the Diliman campus as a placemaking field for all. We must find better ways to safeguard its integrity while maximizing its potential to help create a progressive culture that we can truly call "Tatak UP". We are a UP of eight constituent universities, Diliman is part and parcel of this system, and my place is in the heart of the Diliman campus. It is now my life mission to try to make it a place safe for all sectors of our community. Let us all enhance a *bayanihan* ethos within the Diliman campus and within the *Bayan*. Let us all help shape a better culture and social landscape for a kind of University that fits our century.