



The Biodiversity Center in Central Luzon and the Regional Integrated Coastal (RIC) Building established at the CLSU Institute for Climate Change and Environmental Management (ICCEM) were inaugurated at CLSU last June 25.

CLSU President Ruben C. Sevilleja and Department of Agriculture-Bureau of Agricultural Research (DA-BAR) Executive Assistant for Administration Jay Borromeo, representing of BAR Director Nicomedes Eleazar, led the unveiling of the marker.

The centers are now both open to all interested sectors such as students, teachers, researchers, farmers, and local government units, among others.

The Biodiversity Center houses the Agrobiodiversity Museum, Biodiversity Molecular Laboratory, Training Room and enhanced Arboretum, Conservation Park and Nursery. The construction of the center and appurtenant facilities was funded by the DA-BAR through its Institutional Development Grant Program.

The newly-constructed agrobiodiversity museum is packed with P500,000 worth of equipment such as display boards showcasing crops genetic diversity, biodiversity conservation efforts, climate change impact to agrobiodiversity and indigenous crops in the Philippines. It has also agroecosystem diorama that shows different 3D colorful crops and animals grown and raised in the country, eight aquaria with various freshwater fishes, and a 37" flat screen tv to show their genetic and species diversity.

The RIC building on the other hand, was constructed for CLSU being the chosen RIC Resource

Management Center by the Department of Environment and Natural Resources.

As CLSU counterpart, the RIC Learning Center, the Climate Change and Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Regional Learning Center (CDRLC), faculty room and the *Lanai* were established.

Dr. Annie Melinda Paz-Alberto, ICCEM Director, said that through the added buildings cum facilities, wider information dissemination and public awareness on the importance of conservation of biodiversity can be achieved. --*Gella Patria Abella*

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