



OUR LADY OF FATIMA UNIVERSITY

OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

September 23, 2022

THE SECRETARIAT

Asia-Pacific Quality Network
South ShaanXi Road, Shanghai, P.R. China

Dear Secretariat:

Warm greetings from Our Lady of Fatima University (OLFU), Philippines!

This is to formally inform you that OLFU is applying as a member of the Asia-Pacific Quality Network to take part in enhancing the quality of higher education in the Asia-Pacific Region and in dissolving boundaries for a quality region.

Tracing its humble beginnings in 1967, our institution started as a small hospital in Valenzuela to provide medical and healthcare services to the residents. This was later transformed into a medical complex which would serve as a training ground for nurses and midwives. Thus, in 1973, the Our Lady of Fatima College of Nursing was established, and its first batch of graduates garnered a 100% passing average in the Nursing Board Examinations.

Because of the growth in enrollment in the middle of 1970s, the College expanded its facilities and instituted more curricular programs such as Doctor of Medicine. A more progressive and responsive perspective was embodied by the institution in the 1990s as it engaged in additional academic programs particularly in technology, maritime education, and business among the others while fortifying its performance in paramedical programs.

In 2002, the college became a university after fulfilling the requirements of the Commission on Higher Education (CHED) and in recognition of the quality of education in its program offerings. Since then, it further propelled OLFU's men and women to move from its humble beginnings to its special niche as today's premier educational institution.



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Presently, the University has six campuses and extended its esteemed services in various regions: Valenzuela City, Quezon City, Antipolo City, San Fernando City in Pampanga, Cabanatuan City in Nueva Ecija, and Santa Rosa City in Laguna and its expansion is in response to the educational needs of the fast-growing population of those localities. Seventy-six (76) programs across all its campuses are accredited by the Federation of Accrediting Agencies of the Philippines (FAAP). Through the years, these programs had been accredited and re-accredited for their quality and excellence.

The College of Nursing was designated by CHED as a Center of Development (COD) in 2008. With the prestige and recognition it has accumulated through voluntary accreditation of its programs, OLFU also subjected itself to CHED's Institutional Quality Assurance through Monitoring and Evaluation (IQuAME) resulting to being placed in Category A(t) as a mature teaching university in early 2009. In 2015, the BS in Hotel and Restaurant Management (HRM) was designated by CHED as a Center of Excellence while the BS in Pharmacy was declared as a COD.

In recognition of the accomplishments of the University and its adherence to quality assurance as a higher education provider, CHED granted the Autonomous Status to the Valenzuela City Campus from 2009 to 2014, and in 2016, OLFU once again proved and maintained its valuable contribution and commitment in providing quality tertiary education in the country as it received the Autonomous Status for a period of three years up to 2019. Reaffirming its commitment to valuable education, the Valenzuela City Campus was granted again an Autonomous Status along with the Quezon City Campus from June 2019 up to the present. Currently, it is among the 24 other higher education institutions (HEIs) in the National Capital Region and 42 HEIs in the entire country which have the same status.

In 2010, the Quality Management System of four colleges, namely, Maritime Education, Dental Medicine, Medical Laboratory Science, and Hospitality and Institutional Management were certified to the ISO 9001:2008 standard, and in June 2012, OLFU became ISO 9001:2008-certified for its Quality Management Systems by the AJA Registrars (now SOCOTEC Certification International). The ISO certification, due to having expanded its scope, was also applied in the other campuses. In 2018, it successfully completed the transition from ISO 9001:2008 to 9001:2015. This is again an affirmation that the quality of the University's processes and standards is at par with international management systems.



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Furthermore, in 2019, the Philippine Quality Award (PQA), the highest level of national recognition given to organizations in the private and public sectors that excel in quality, productivity, and business performance, was granted to OLFU Valenzuela City, Quezon City, and Antipolo City Campuses in recognition of the University's Proficiency in Quality Management. The University's PQA journey which started in 2018 is not only for prestige and recognition but also to achieve quality standards in our performance which may be as excellent as those of leading institutions here and abroad. More than being recognized for excelling in quality management and performance, this award poses a challenge to our institution to continuously become a benchmark and a model to be emulated by others especially in the field of academe and to uphold at all times, excellence towards a better world.

Currently, along with the continuous development of its physical facilities, online resources, curricular offerings, and manpower, OLFU is actively pursuing the path towards internationalization, and is now a member of the University Mobility in Asia Pacific (UMAP), the Association of Universities in Asia and the Pacific (AUAP), and SEAMEO School Network. It is in the process of applying in ASEAN University Network (AUN) and submitted its application to the Association of Southeast Asian Institutions of Higher Learning (ASAIHL). Just recently, CHED recognized the University for being included in the 2022 World's Universities with Real Impact (WURI) and became a finalist for the Internationalization (IZN) Awards (Global Citizenship Award) of the Commission. Likewise, OLFU is included in this year's British Educational Training and Technology (BETT) Asia Awards 2022 in its two categories: Wellbeing Award and Trailblazer in Inclusion Award. The winners will be announced on October 11, 2022 in Bangkok.

Moreover, the health programs in Medicine and Dentistry received international accreditation from reputable bodies such as the New York State Education Department, the Medical Board of California, the Illinois State Board of Regulation, the Medical and Dental Council of Maldives, and the Southeast Asia Association for Dental Education. The University is an accredited Training Center of the American Heart Association and an institutional partner in Nursing and Research of the Sigma Theta Tau International Honor Society. It has existing partnerships with 48 academic organizations in 14 countries worldwide where it conducts joint activities on student and faculty exchange, research collaboration, joint programs, and international events.



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It will be a great honor and privilege for Our Lady of Fatima University to be part of the Asia-Pacific Quality Network, and we are hoping that you will consider our membership application. Dr. Ignacio C. Cordova, Jr., our Dean of the College of Hospitality and Institutional Management and College of Business and Accountancy, will coordinate with you regarding this matter. His email is iccordova@fatima.edu.ph.

Thank you very much for your time in attending to this application. Please continue keeping safe and healthy.

Very sincerely yours,

CAROLINE MARIAN SANTOS ENRIQUEZ, MD, PedD, DBE
University President