## RALLS HIGHTS



VIP CORALS team with guest speaker, Vince Cinches, Oceans and Political Campaigner for Greenpeace Philippines

## Month of the Ocean Campaign

On May 30, BatStateU successfully launched the Month of the Ocean event and campaign through a seminar themed, "Stand Up, Save our Reefs" held at CIRTC, BatStateU Main I.

Participants of the activity were BatStateU students, faculty and officials from different institutions and organizations including the Archdiocesan Ministry on Environment-AMEn, Ilijan Community Development Foundation (ICDF) and the Batangas City Ecumenical Council (BCEC) on Environment.

Speakers during the seminar were

VIP CORALS Center Head, Dr. Jayvee A. Saco who updated the attendees on BatStateU's marine research center, the VIP CORALS, followed by Joshua Vacarizas who discussed the impacts of human intervention on the ocean's health. Guest speaker, Vince Cinches, Oceans and Political Campaigner for Greenpeace Philippines, shared his experiences and valuable campaigns on sustaining the marine ecosystem.

Shortly after, an open forum was held with the group together with the promotion of an ocean pledge among the students through campaign.



VIP CORALS welcomes New Affiliate, Vacarizas

In April, BatStateU's Verde Island Passage Center for Oceanographic Research and Aquatic Life Sciences (VIP CORALS), welcomes its new affiliate, Mr. Joshua M. Vacarizas, who holds a master's degree in Marine Science, major in Marine Biology, from the Marine Science Institute of UP Diliman. His expertise is on phytoplankton, a type of marine microorganism which plays an essential part in the oceanic food web and is a major part of many marine animals' diet.

The University takes pride of the marine center as its team continues to grow and strives to achieve its purpose in discovering ground-breaking possibilities through technology and innovation in order to protect, and sustain the Verde Island Passage, the country's very own celebrated "center of the center of the marine biodiversity of the world."