



VIP CORALS Team goes to Taiwan *for Workshop in Research Advancement for Marine Biology*

July 22–August 5, Kaohsiung, Taiwan – Four members of the BatStateU VIP CORALS (Verde Island Passage Center for Oceanographic Research and Aquatic Life Sciences) Team, Dr. Jayvee Saco, Mr. Joshua Vacarizas, Ms. Rubylyn Infante and Ms. Emilia Sabban attended the “Workshop in Research Advancement for Marine Biology” at National Sun Yat-Sen University in Kaohsiung, Taiwan.



New VIP CORALS member takes part in Training on Coastal Erosion Management in Albay



September 10–13, Albay – A training on Coastal Erosion Management led by DOST–Philippine Council for Agriculture, Aquatic, and Natural Resources Research and Development (PCAARRD) was held in Tabaco City, Albay. New VIP CORALS Staff and Project Leader Ms. Najeen Arabelle Rula attended the said training. Ms. Rula specializes in seaweed culture and management and is currently involved in seaweed and seagrass biodiversity studies. A graduate of the UP Marine Science Institute with a Masters Degree in Marine Science major in Marine Biology, she became part of the VIP CORALS on August 13.

The training is said to be one of the activities of the PCAARRD-funded project entitled, CEPA (Communication, Education and Public Awareness) and Policy Review Towards Improving Coastal Erosion Management in the Philippines.

Beneath the Blue: Marvels of the Deep *Verde Island Passage Awareness Week 2018*

September 18, BatStateU Pablo Borbon Main I – VIP CORALS held a Seminar Series for Biology students of the University dubbed as “Beneath the Blue: Marvels of the Deep”.

The seminar series is a collaborative effort between VIP CORALS, the Batangas Scuba Academy (BSA), Biology Major Student Society (BioMASS), and students of Biology 446: Seminar in Biology (BIO 446), as part of the celebration of Innovation Month in September and the Verde Island Passage Awareness Week.

The seminar focused on various topics that tackled subjects including the functions of the VIP CORALS, BSA, and the university as a whole in light of protecting, saving and conserving the diverse marine life in the Verde Island Passage.

Following the seminar was the launching of the month-long exhibit of underwater photos, initiated the by BioMaSS and BSA, which is another segment of the VIP Awareness celebration.

