

Professional Science Master's Scholar

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**PSM Degree**

Master of Business and Science in Biotechnology and Genomics

US University

Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey

Date of Completion

May 2016

GPA

3.89

Master of Business and Science in Biotechnology and Genomics

The PSM program combined MS and MBA level courses in professionally focused science and engineering fields with a curriculum in business and policy. The first key goal of the program was to obtain mastery in a professionally relevant scientific field. The second key goal was to apply thinking and integrate concepts with techniques mastered in marketing, finance, accounting and business development. Personally, I think that the emerging technologies driven by Genomics and Biotechnology will call for interdisciplinary thinking and integrate both quantitative and qualitative techniques to make strategic decisions as the industry continues to take shape in the next decade.

As a PSM student, what was the highlight of your study?

The highlight of my PSM study was the opportunity to be exposed to top-notch facilities and the mentorship stemming from both academia and industry. The program fueled interdisciplinary discussions amongst students and teachers and thrived on peer-to-peer learning through project based outputs. Along the way, I made many friends from all over the world, and combined with the living abroad in the US, I gained a new sense of independence and a confidence in the expertise of young scientists.

In what way has the USAID scholarship changed you?

I grew both professionally and personally. I am so thankful for the opportunity to have had the support of the USAID scholarship to help me fuel my dreams. From a technical and professional point of view, I have gained a heightened exposure to cutting-edge technology and grew a network with experienced experts in my field. In a very personal way as well, my worldview has also expanded and my thinking has changed to accommodate new ideas, cultures and a desire to push for innovative changes.

How would you use your degree to contribute or influence economic growth in the country?

I think that the knowledge gained and the strong networks and partnerships built between academe and industry can be greatly maximized to cascade new ideas and inspire young scientists. I currently work at the interface of science and business, working in a Product Development Role and handling R&D Brand franchise work as well. I think that continuing to impart the business impact of scientific thinking through communication is something that I can continue to drive to help growth in the country.

As a young scientist, what do you envision for the Philippine science, technology and innovation ecosystem in the next 10 years?

I see the Philippines becoming a hub for young, visionary scientists that can pave the way for an innovation ecosystem in South East Asia. The next decade will be driven by these digital savvy, entrepreneurial minds. I think that the information trade globally will also be a key driver for young startups looking to make socially relevant innovations for the country, and at the helm will be technology driven, scientific based technologies cultivated by both universities and innovative industries.

Mika is currently working as a Scientist in a product development and formulation role for Johnson & Johnson Asia Pacific (APAC), handling Regional R&D for Beauty and Skincare.

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