

Professional Science Master's Scholar

Yusoph Manalundong II

Mindanao State University – Iligan Institute of Technology

**PSM Degree**

Master of Business and Science in Biotechnology and Genomics

US University

Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey

Date of Completion

January 2017

GPA

3.44

Master of Business and Science in Biotechnology and Genomics

Rutgers is one of the pioneering universities that offered Professional Science Master's Program (PSM). The Master of Business and Science (MBS) degree at Rutgers prepares students to be adept both in business and science. Specifically, the MBS Biotechnology and Genomics degree equips students with management skills that can handle technical development and commercial applications in industries where molecular biological sciences and principles are applied.

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

To have experienced and finished a degree where business and science converge was the most memorable experience I had as a USAID scholar. Every course I took bridged the gap between science and business. Through my internship, I worked as a volunteer and helped conceptualize the commercialization of an important cellular activity by mapping the neurodegenerative diseases that are related to it.

In what way has the USAID scholarship changed you?

The USAID scholarship made me realize the importance of diversity not only in class but also at work. That in order to attain a common goal, it is essential to get additional ideas from others regardless of culture and expertise.

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

As a teaching professional, I have a critical role to influence my students to help uplift the economy of the Philippines. It is in this earliest stage where I can instill knowledge to young minds how they can maximize the use of their education through collaboration with other fields.

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

With the efforts from foreign agencies such as the USAID, I see an exponential growth of skillful professionals (both in the industry and academe) with deep understanding of science and its implications in the business world. There will be more collaborative efforts to apply such knowledge in innovative ways that may answer global problems in economy and environment. This is evident in the recent adaptation of the PSM program in some universities in the Philippines, which would eventually produce highly competitive professionals who can communicate their respective fields of expertise to the society. Therefore, unlike in the past, the Philippines will have a clear direction towards economic growth by using its resources from various intellectual properties.

Yusoph is currently holding a teaching position at the Department of Chemistry, Mindanao State University – Main Campus.

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