

Leyte Normal University (LNU) demonstrated its commitment to global climate action and sustainable development through the active involvement of Dr. Jonas P. Villas, Ph.D., at the COP28 conference in Dubai. Representing LNU, Dr. Villas engaged with international stakeholders, fostering partnerships aimed at advancing educational collaboration, youth engagement, and climate initiatives. His participation highlights LNU's proactive role in global climate discourse, contributing to vital dialogues and collaborations that align with the university's dedication to sustainability, academic excellence, and international cooperation.

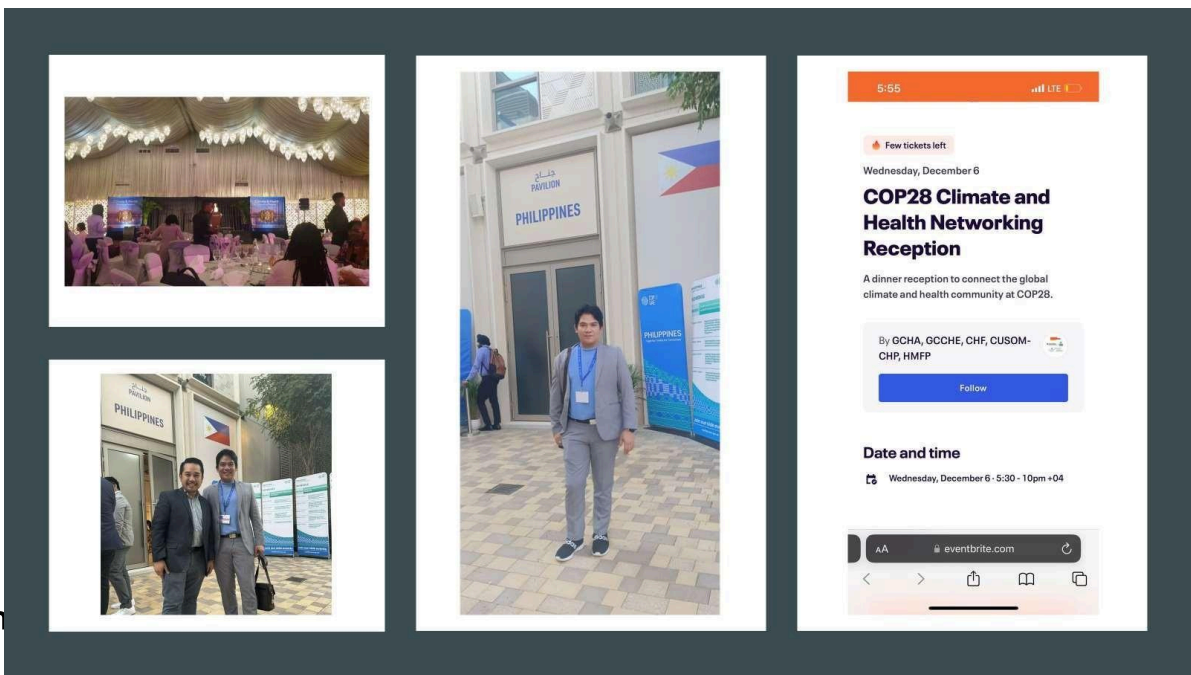
The Dubai COP28 Mission Report, authored by Dr. Jonas P. Villas, provides a comprehensive account of activities, interactions, and accomplishments achieved from December 5–15, 2023, during the United Nations Climate Change Conference in Dubai.

### Mission Objectives and Initial Activities

The mission aimed to foster partnerships with UN agencies and organizations to support university initiatives. Upon arrival, Dr. Villas was greeted by the High-Level Champions (HLC) and settled into Dubai with travel support, highlighting the logistical and financial planning involved. The conference venue, notable for its dispersed pavilion layout, posed challenges in networking due to extensive travel between event locations, impacting spontaneous interactions and collaborative opportunities.

### Key Interactions and Partnerships

On December 6th, Dr. Villas met with the Director of St. Luke's Global Health, Dr. Guinto, solidifying potential collaboration through site visits and academic exchanges. He attended a health networking event, reinforcing connections within the global health community. Throughout the conference, he engaged with various stakeholders, discussing future partnerships and securing opportunities for the Leyte Normal University (LNU).



Youth

Dr. Villas led initiatives for COP29, focusing on enhancing youth engagement strategies. He orchestrated a session at the Children and Youth Pavilion, emphasizing youth involvement in climate policy discussions. The "COP28 Pavilion Audit" analyzed youth engagement, revealing that 80.4% of pavilions hosted youth-focused activities, promoting inclusivity. This audit aimed to improve transparency and set standards for subsequent events, aligning with Dr. Villas's commitment to youth empowerment.

**Champions of Youth**  
with one to three youth activities/sessions

- Arizona State University (ASU)
- Asian Development Bank (ADB)
- China
- RENELUX EBP Pavilion
- European Investment Bank (EIB)
- Finland
- Greece
- Guatemala
- ICLE-Local Governments for Sustainability (ICLEI)
- International Chamber of Commerce (ICC)
- International Climate Dialogue
- IUCN
- International Institute for Sustainable Development (IISD)
- International Renewable Energy Agency (IRENA)
- International Trade Centre (ITC)
- Japan
- LDC Group
- Malaysia
- MDC Partnership
- OPEC Fund for International Development
- Reinforced Habitat Conservation Alliance (RHCA)
- Saudi Arabia
- Stockholm International Water Institute (SIWI) - Water Pavilion
- Stockholm University - Resilience Hub
- UN Global Centre for Climate Resilience
- UN Climate Change Pavilion (UNCCC)
- United Cities of Local Governments of Africa (UCLG-AFRICA)
- United Nations Commission on Central Oceans/UNCCOC
- Vietnam

**Methodology**

Youth champions are identified as pavilions hosting youth-centric sessions or activities during COP28 based on their publicly listed programs. The UNFCCC visited 225 registered pavilions. Assessments were carried out throughout COP28, focusing on those without a publicly disclosed program and verifying the accuracy of those with one. The audit excluded pavilions that refused to participate and did not have a published schedule of events.

**Mechanism for Voluntary Audit**

Pavilions interested in undergoing a voluntary post-COP28 audit are encouraged to express their interest by sending an email to [communications@youngclimate.org](mailto:communications@youngclimate.org).



**Champions of Youth**  
with one to three youth activities/sessions

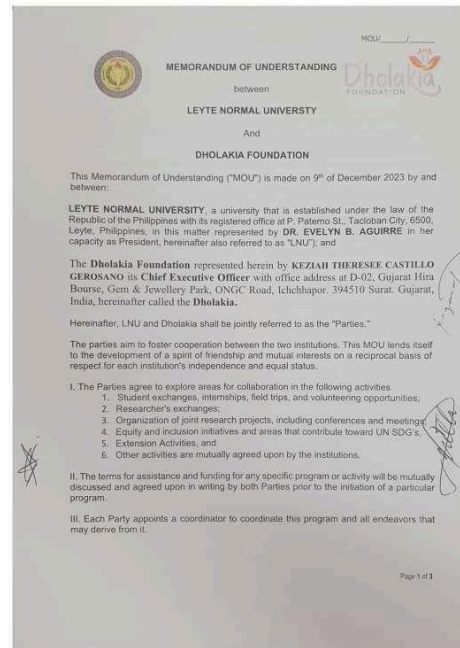
- Azerbaijan
- AI-Chat Environment Pavilion
- ITI Foundation
- Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPREP) (Morua Blue Pacific Pavilion)
- UNICEF
- World Wildlife Fund (WWF)
- U.S. Team
- Germany
- Indonesia
- International Association for the Advancement of Innovative Approaches to Global Challenges (IAAG)
- Michigan Technological University (Michigan Team)
- Norway U.V.
- Canada
- China
- Missouri University
- Colombia
- European Union
- Nordic Council of Ministers (NOCM)
- Organisation internationale de la Francophonie (OIF)
- Senegal
- South Korea
- Spain
- Sweden
- Switzerland
- Taiwan
- United Kingdom
- United States of America
- World Bank Group (WBG)
- World Health Organization (WHO)
- World Trade Organization (WTO)
- World Wildlife Fund (WWF)
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- World Trade Organization (WTO)
- World Wildlife Fund (WWF)

**Champions of Youth**  
with one to three youth activities/sessions

- Algeria
- European Nuclear Society (ENS)
- Global Legislators Organisation for a Balanced Environment (GLOBE)
- Global Wind Energy Council (GWEC)
- International Organization of Employers (IOE)
- Mexico
- Pakistan
- Portugal
- Rwanda
- Secretariat to the Venice Commission and its Historical Predecessor (UNEP)
- Singapore
- South
- Sri Lanka
- UN Business Pavilion
- United Kingdom
- United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)
- World Bank Group (WBG)
- World Health Organization (WHO)
- World Trade Organization (WTO)
- World Wildlife Fund (WWF)
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## Memorandum of Understanding with the Dholakia Foundation

A significant outcome of the mission was the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between LNU and the Dholakia Foundation. This partnership aims to enhance Philippine-Indian educational ties, including student exchanges, joint research, and community engagement, fostering academic collaboration between the nations.



# Session | 10<sup>th</sup> December 2023



**Drying Wells, Rising Voices:  
Youth, Water and Climate Crisis**

 **Jonas P Villas, Ph.D.**  
*Executive Director, Office of Research and Innovation  
Leyte Normal University, Philippines*

 **Peshang Hama Karim**  
*YOUNGO Water and Climate Working Group Contact Point  
University of Warsaw, Poland*

 **Zainab Zahid**  
*Climate Environmental Researcher  
Pakistan*

 **Malek Romdhane**  
*Young Negotiator, Action for Climate Empowerment,  
Tunisia*

 **Angenette Bantiles**  
*Moderator | Academic Advisor, Professional Education  
Global Alumni, Spain*

 Children and Youth Pavilion  
Expo City, Dubai

 December 10, 2023  
13:40 - 14:30

 Refreshments will be served.  
Seats are limited.  
Pre-register now.



Dr. Villas discussed the development of the Youth Dynamic Policy Agenda (YDPA) from its conception in COY 16 in Glasgow to its ongoing development. He recounted his initial involvement through an invitation to be a research consultant and his collaboration with a team of interns. He emphasized the weekly meetings, method finalization, consultations, and the presentation of their work at the Dushanbe Conference. He noted the unique dynamic of the team, which was more familial than hierarchical, allowing open communication and fostering friendship.

Dr. Villas highlighted the distinction between the inner workings of the team and the broader organizational dynamics marked by personal interests and doubts but also by excitement and passion. He argued for the importance of individual actions in realizing collective goals, suggesting that personal desires and interests can vary, and thus collective efforts often involve compromise. Lastly, he reflected on his

## **Future Initiatives and Strategic Collaborations**

The exit conference outlined future collaboration areas with key entities like the HLC, Sustainable Development Solutions Network (SDSN), and UNFCCC. Proposed initiatives include internships, joint research projects, and alignment with the UN's Sustainable Development Goals. These partnerships are expected to provide valuable experiences for LNU students and faculty, advancing sustainable development education.

Overall, Dr. Villas's report underscores a proactive engagement with global stakeholders at COP28, highlighting youth empowerment, educational collaboration, and sustainable development, strengthening LNU's role in international climate discourse and partnerships.

## Week 2: Events Briefing

7<sup>th</sup> December 2023

# Preparation for Session and MOU Signing with Dholakia Foundation



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Moderator / Academic Advisor, Professional Education  
Global Alliance, Spain

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 Registration will be closed  
Please use the link  
https://bit.ly/3m9gk8w



