

Dear Olympians,

I am honored to join the Geographic Society of the University of the Philippines, the UP Department of Geography, and our event sponsors in welcoming you to the tenth Philippine Geography Olympiad! Congratulations on your initiative, hard work, and preparation: I know the depth of commitment that brings you here.

As you challenge your knowledge and explore more of the world, I hope you'll think about the bigger picture. The questions you're answering today were developed through the collaboration of teams on both sides of the Pacific, verified by people and sources across the world – they've traveled thousands of miles to get to you today. Two of the Olympiad's financial sponsors are multinational companies, whose services know not regional or national boundaries. Once the competition is over, our advisers in the United States and selected other countries will help train the iGeo-bound team, which will then head off to Istanbul. And the exciting host location, UP Diliman, is home to students from across Asia and visitors from all around the world. We truly live in a global era.

In a global era, we need geographers. That's why we're here. Our geographic perspective is needed to understand where we are and tackle global challenges – from conflicts in distant lands to rising seas at home. And most importantly, it moves our societies forward and enables collaboration on big issues – the kind that made this extraordinary event possible. I encourage you all to be part of this international story, too, by registering as a member of the International Association of Young Geographers at younggeographers.org/philippines!

Thanks for stepping up to start your geographic journey. We hope you enjoy this splendid event. While the Philippine Geography Olympiad only crowns a few champions every year, we are all champions because you are passionate about geography.

Good luck!



Phillip Meng

President of the International Association of Young Geographers (IAYG)

