

Title: **University of Cebu conducts FRIENDS REUNION: Making Connections, Establishing FRIENDShips**

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One of the objectives of Erasmus+ CBHE FRIENDS Project is to organize the FRIENDS Reunion. FRIENDS stands for Furthering International Relations Capacities and Intercultural Engagement to Nurture Campus Diversity and to Support Internationalization at Home.

The FRIENDS Reunion is inline with the project's objective in promoting FRIENDS results, encouraging ongoing application for Intercultural Passport and raising awareness of the FRIENDS Teahouse initiative. It also paved the way for the university to revisit the issues on internationalization, questioning old assumptions about it, and make the necessary suggestions to keep University of Cebu strong despite overwhelming odds through Erasmus+ projects, especially FRIENDS.

The UC FRIENDS Reunion with the theme, "Making Connections, Establishing FRIENDShips," was held last March 23, 2022 from 2:00 PM - 3:00 PM via zoom. More than 150 participants from various stakeholders participated in the online event. Academics, leaders of the University of Cebu community, student leaders, and various stakeholders graced the event. The welcome message was delivered by the University of Cebu's Vice Chancellor for Business Development and Innovation, Dean Ofelia G. Mana, while the presentation of FRIENDS project benefits, encourage ongoing applications for Intercultural Passports, raise awareness of FRIENDS Teahouse initiative, and the promotion of Erasmus+ CBHE projects were delivered by the University of Cebu - Banilad's Student Affairs Director, Mr. Francis Jose Lean L.Abayata.

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The cultural dialogue was facilitated by the moderator. Testimonials from students, faculty, and members of the ATI Tribe community (indigenous community) were presented. The closing remarks were delivered by the University of Cebu's International Linkages Coordinator, Ms. Teena Hernaez - Gomos.

No one or nothing can stunt the inevitable push of the University of Cebu in making its way toward fulfilling the goal to be the first choice of the minds of the world.