THE PRIMER
ACUP PRIMER

OFFICIAL NAME
Association of Catholic Universities of the Philippines

ACRONYM
ACUP

ESTABLISHED
APRIL 25, 1973

HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

ITS BEGINNINGS
Inspired by a number of ecclesiastical documents on education such as the Vatican II’s Declaration on Christian Education (Gravissimum Educationis), the creation of an association that would coordinate the efforts of Catholic universities toward their shared mission and vision was realized.

In 1969, the first inspiration came from Msgr. Carmine Rocco, then Apostolic Nuncio to the Philippines. During the meeting held on February 27, 1973 among university administrators, Msgr. Rocco reiterated the formation of a coordinating body for Catholic universities in the Philippines. Then, in October 1972, during the visit of Msgr. Leonardo Legaspi, O.P. (as Rector of the University of Santo Tomas) to Misereor, Germany, the matter on the formation of a coordinating body for Catholic universities was brought out by Mr. Gunther Linden and Mr. Pils themselves in the presence of Msgr. Julio Xavier Labayen and Msgr. Carmelo Morelos.

At a meeting held on April 25, 1973 among the heads of Catholic universities, the Association of Catholic Universities of the Philippines (ACUP) was formed to respond to a felt need for mutual cooperation among leading Catholic universities to make education an active instrument in promoting social justice and development in the country.

It was realized that only by binding these universities into a strong association would education be utilized as a potent force in building a just and humane society through effectively synchronized educational programs that would bring about maximum benefits to the greater number of students in particular, and society in general.

Today, the Association of Catholic Universities of the Philippines continues in its commitment “to promote the quality of education in general and to advance the cause of Catholic education in particular.”

ITS MISSION AND PURPOSE
MISSION AND VISION STATEMENT
The Association of Catholic Universities of the Philippines, Inc. (ACUP), an organization of Catholic universities, envisions to promote and to enhance the Christian identity of its member institutions as leading centers of teaching, research and service.

It is committed to truth and the advancement of the dignity of human persons and their culture especially that of the Filipino people. As a community dedicated to higher learning, it seeks to foster and ensure quality Catholic education in the Philippines.
PURPOSES
1. To promote the quality of education in general and to advance the cause of Catholic education in particular;
2. To promote better coordination and cooperation among its members through mutual consultation on common programs, problems, and concerns and to find workable solution;
3. To strengthen the moral influence and role of Catholic universities in the light of government actions which may affect the educational system in any way;
4. To assist in every way not contrary to law, all agencies concerned with the growth and development of Philippine Education; and
5. To seek financial assistance for the support of the development programs and projects of member institutions.

GOALS
1. To provide venues for consultation on common educational concerns;
2. To organize Training Programs for teachers, catechists and others who share in the Church’s mission;
3. To articulate the position of Catholic universities on issues and policies involving the educational system in our country;
4. To contribute to social transformation by helping to seek and discover the root cause of contemporary problems having to do with:
   - The dignity of human life;
   - The promotion of justice for all;
   - The protection of nature;
   - A more just sharing of world resources;
   - A special concern for their ethical and religious implications;
5. To establish linkage and networking with the Catholic Bishops’ Conference of the Philippines and other agencies; and
6. To coordinate with funding institutions for assistance.

MEMBERSHIP
1. The members of the Association shall be existing Catholic universities who have signed the Articles of Incorporation and those who may thereafter be admitted as members.
2. The Catholic institution of learning which has attained the full status of a university in accordance with the law and requirements of appropriate government agencies may become a member of the Association upon written application filed with the Secretariat.
3. The Board shall decide on the application for membership of the University.
4. The Chairman of the Catholic Bishops’ Conference of the Philippines shall be an honorary member who shall enjoy all the rights of regular members except the right to vote.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS
The government, management and direction of the Association shall be vested in a Board of Directors, consisting of nine members. They will be elected every two years by the members of the Association from among the member Universities at a General Meeting called for the purpose provided further that those member Universities nominated are in good standing and must be represented.

OFFICERS OF THE ASSOCIATION
1. The officers of the Association shall be a President, Vice President, Treasurer, Secretary General, Corporate Secretary and such other officers that it may deem proper and necessary to appoint.
2. The officers shall be elected by a majority vote of the Directors from among the member institutions with the exception of the Secretary General and the Corporate Secretary who need not be a Director and may not necessarily come from any member institution.

COMMITTEES AND COMMISSIONS
The President shall, with the approval of the Board of Directors, create such standing and special committees and commissions as may be necessary to carry out the goals and purposes of the Association.

FINANCE
The General Fund of the Association shall consist of an annual membership fee as determined by the Board of Directors, interest on bank deposits, earnings from investments of the General Fund and other income received by gift, bequest, devise, donation, fund raising activities and others.
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## Presidents of ACUP Member Institutions

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