

U N I V E R S I T Y   O F   N E W   B R U N S W I C K

# Univeristy of the Philippines Diliman – Joint Computer Science Master's Concept Presentation

Bruce Spencer  
UNB Adjunct Professor  
Feb 6, 2013



# The Philippines and Canada

- Tagalog is the fastest growing language in Canada.  
– *2011 Canadian Census*
- “Filipinos used to flock to America ... but have discovered there’s a better pasture north of the United States.”  
– *Philippines’ Ambassador Leslie Gatan*
- Joint commission for bilateral co-operation.  
– *MOU signed June 21 2012*
- Harper is the first G8 Leader to visit Aquino since he took office in 2010  
– *Nov 10, 2012*



# Introductions UPD

- UPD's is the premier CS program in the Philippines
  - 553 undergraduate, 89 graduate students, 27 faculty
  - Chair Adrian Roy Valdez
  - [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/UP\\_Diliman\\_Department\\_of\\_Computer\\_Science](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/UP_Diliman_Department_of_Computer_Science)
- Areas of research
  - Algorithms and Complexity Laboratory  
Henry Adorna and Jaime DL Caro
  - Computer Security  
Susan Pancho-Festin
  - Web Science  
Rommel Feria
  - Computer Vision and Machine Intelligence Group  
Prospero Naval Jr.
  - Networks and Distributed Systems Group  
Cedric Angelo Festin
  - Scientific Computing Laboratory,  
Vena Pearl Bongolan, and Adrian Roy Valdez

# Introductions: UNB

- MCS established 1968
- BCS established 1972
- First Faculty of CS in Canada 1990
- First CS COOP in Atlantic Canada
- Information Security Center of Excellence
- IBM Center for Advanced Studies Atlantic
- Often tops in Atlantic Canada programming competitions
- <http://www.unb.ca/fredericton/cs/about/research/>



Ali Ghorbani, Dean of CS

# Arrangement as discussed so far

- UPD program
  - Terms are June – Oct and Nov – March
  - Load is 4 courses per term in first year
  - Require 8 courses plus thesis
- Joint program proposal
  - UPD students 1.3 years in Manila (June-Aug) one year in Fredericton (Sept – Aug)
  - Three UPD course credits transferred to UNB
  - Two UNB course credits transferred to UPD
  - UNB courses delivered
    - In person in Manila (possibly via adjunct)
    - Through distance education
    - When students are in Fredericton
- Budget
  - For Students: ERDT offers \$14,000 for Canada (to be confirmed)
    - Additional support or Master's COOP
    - Obligated to return for about 3 years
  - For Professors visiting Manila
    - ERDT provides travel, insurance and expenses of about \$200 per day for 3 weeks
    - Accommodation estimated at \$200 per week
    - Restaurant prices about half of Canadian prices
    - This is available even without joint program
    - Nov-May is the best time to visit (*amihan*)

# Positive Impressions

- UNB is rated 4<sup>th</sup> comprehensive university
  - Part of the success: the proportion of graduate students from outside Canada up five per cent

<https://blogs.unb.ca/newsroom/2012/11/02/unb-moves-up-two-spots-to-fourth-in-macleans-university-rankings/>

- Dr. Valdez and Dr. Ghorbani – strong support
- My impressions
  - Highly sought graduates: independent confirmation
  - Filipino friendliness and resilience
  - <http://www.touristcenter.com.ph/>





# Life in Fredericton

- Fredericton often places high in the international “Smart City” competition
  - Free WIFI throughout the downtown core, 10<sup>th</sup> yr
  - Major IT employers: IBM/Q1 Labs, IBM/CAS Atlantic, Salesforce.com/Radian6, RIM, Siemens, CAE
  - Many IT SME’s
  - National Research Council Canada: Information Technology Lab
  - Among lowest cost of living, highest educated population, highest density of engineers in Canada
  - COOP employers
    - Fredericton: Caris, Professional Quality Assurance, NB Dept of Supply and Services, UNB FCS, NRC.
    - Elsewhere: RIM, Alcatel-Lucent, ExxonMobile