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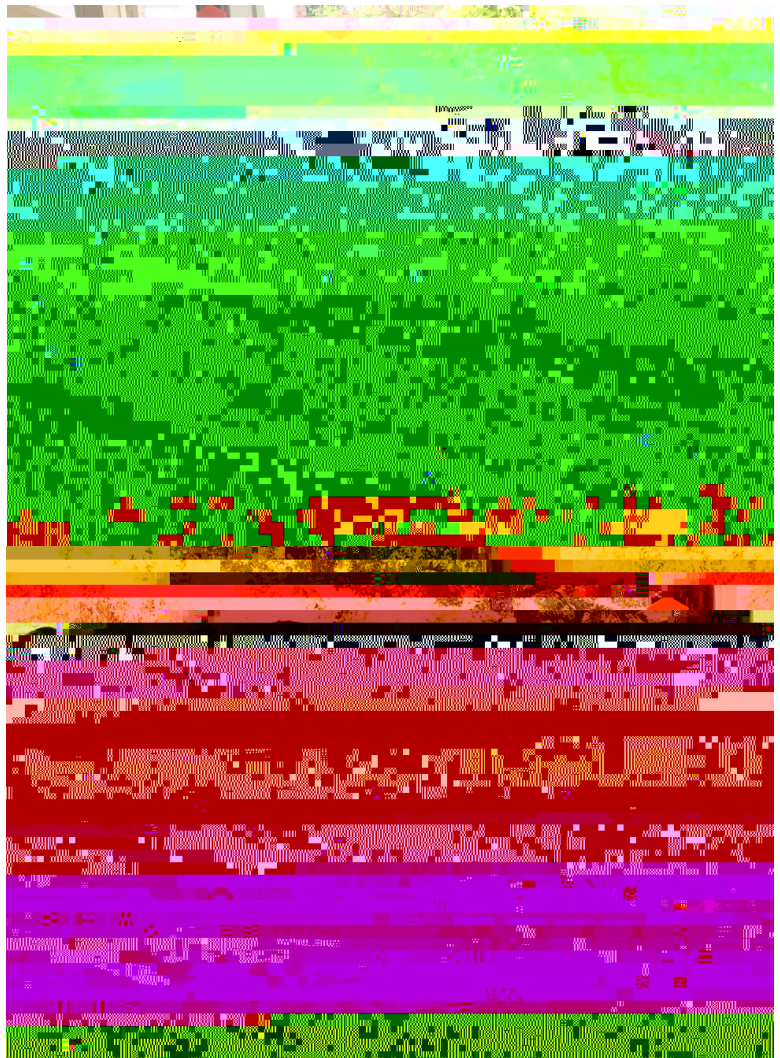
There is more in a technology than just the machine itself. There is a story behind. There is a purpose after. This is why the Manila Water Foundation (MWF) launched its Prize for Engineering Excellence aiming to recognize research products and technologies that have made a big impact in the communities.

This year, Bravura Coffee Roasting Machine developed by Dr. Ruel M. Mojica, an agricultural engineer and currently the Vice President for Research and Extension, made it to MWF Prize and was awarded last February 3 in a ceremony held at Seda Vertis North Hotel in Quezon City.

Bravura is known to be the cheapest vertical coffee roaster that fits the needs of the local farmers. It allows them to generate more profit as they can roast their own coffee and process their products to be sold at a better price. The said machine can be sold directly to the farmers or through cooperatives making it accessible to more local farmers.

Three other engineers were given recognition as their innovations proved to have helped solve problems in their communities: Engr. Alexis Belonio for the Rice Husk Gassifier Technology, Dr. Michael Gragasin for the





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development and awards, recognitions received (15%); and (4) professional and moral integrity (10%).

Talactac's sterling academic records and overwhelming research publications and citations continue to inspire other veterinarians and researchers in the University. Thirty-one (31) of his notable research papers have been published in ISI journals, having 223 citations in Google Scholar (as of March 2020) with an H-index of 8. He likewise owns two (2) registered patents in South Korea and Japan, and one (1) gene sequence submitted/recorded in Genbank. He also has presented numerous papers in international and national forums, in which he won awards as Best in Oral Presentation and Young Researcher Encouragement Awardee in the 160th Meeting of the Japanese Society of Veterinary Sciences, Kagoshima, Japan. As a faculty and a researcher at the same time, he has initiated and facilitated several MOUs with international and national institutions such as Kagoshima University, UP Visayas, Cebu Technological University, and the Carabao Center, among others.

At present, he leads one institutional research project (CRG) and another research project funded by the National Research Council of the Philippines (NRCP).

I believe that teaching and learning are all about shared responsibility, mutual trust and friendship between teachers and students. In my classroom, I see to it that my students learn by motivation and not by intimidation and fear. After all, learning (and teaching) should be fun and enjoyable. I am a fulfilled learning experience not by producing failing students but by mentoring individuals who are willing to be better not only academically but in life as well. This is my goal.

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