

Name: Milton Norman D. Medina, Ph.D.

Age: 35

Gender: Male

Sending higher education institution and its country: University of Mindanao, Philippines

Receiving higher education institution and its country: Daugavpils University, Latvia

Study subject: Biology and graduate studies

Length of mobility period: 15-27 July 2019 (12 days)

### **My ERASMUS Mobility+ story**

I decided to take part of the 2019 ERASMUS+ because I believed that we share the same vision with our cooperating institution, the Daugavpils University in Latvia. Our institutions (UM & DU) shared the same passion in biodiversity research and conservation particularly in Coleoptera. We might live in different parts of the world but we are citizens of this world. Hence whatever happens in the ecosystem in the Philippines will always have an impact in Latvia and other parts of the world. With this, we need to work together, learn together, and act together. I believed this is one of the ideals of the ERASMUS+. This is the reason why I joined to this program, to learn from others and share my experiences, and together work as a team in doing something better for our society.

For the past 2 years, I have not encountered major problems with both of my sending and receiving institutions. Everything is well provided and organized as planned. My personal gain in this program includes establishment of new connections specially amongst coleopterists in Europe i.e. Herr Jurgen Wiesner (renowned Cicindilidae expert in the world) and new access to museums and other research facilities, including personal scientific collections. My academic gain is more on establishing new cooperation with Maseno University in Kenya and additional cooperation with Daugavpils University Medical College and renewed cooperation with Daugavpils University as a whole. The MOUs were signed in Daugavpils Latvia. The MOUs acquired by our institution will be used for accreditation and advancement of our research and extension programs worldwide. Through ERASMUS+ we were able to established the Philippine COleopterological Network (PhilColNet) and its first journal, the Journal of Tropical COleopterology see [www.jtcoleop.com](http://www.jtcoleop.com)

My advice to incoming ERASMUS+ participants would be savour this opportunity, make the most of it, and create innovations to make the cooperation work and sustainable. It is very important to consider what is best for both cooperations. Rather than thinking of this is a "one-time-opportunity", think of this as a single step forward for more cooperation and meaningful projects for the betterment of humanity.

Photos



Figure 1. At Herr Jurgen Wiesner Cicindilinae collections



Figure 2. MOU signing between UM and Mesono University



Figure 3. MOU signing between UM and DU Medical College



Figure 4. New connections and friends through ERASMUS+