QUEZON CITY UNIVERSITY

SUSTAINABILITY REPORT 2025

From Commitment to Impact: QCU's Sustainability Journey 2025



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SUSTAINABILITY REPORT 2025

Quezon City University
Research, Extension, Planning, and Linkages

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY



Quezon City University's sustainability journey in 2025 reflects a clear institutional direction: a local university advancing access, innovation, inclusion, and measurable social impact in service of Quezon City and the global Sustainable Development Goals.

At the center of QCU's sustainability story is its mandate to provide accessible and transformative higher education. In Academic Year 2024–2025, the University served 10,915 students in the first semester and 10,691 in the second. Demand for QCU education remained strong, with 16,699 applicants for QCUCAT 2025 and 2,305 passers qualifying for admission under the free tuition program. These figures underscore QCU's continuing role as a pathway of opportunity for students and families, particularly those who rely on public higher education as a means of upward mobility.

QCU strengthened its sustainability-driven curriculum, research agenda, urban agriculture initiatives, and local-to-global partnerships. Sustainability was not treated as a separate institutional concern, but as a unifying framework across teaching, research, extension, student development, governance, and community engagement.

The University's 2025 sustainability performance may be understood through four defining strengths.

First, **access and inclusion** remained QCU's most direct contribution to poverty reduction and social equity. Through free tuition, scholarship support, inclusive admissions, and sustained enrolment, QCU continued to make quality education reachable for thousands of learners.

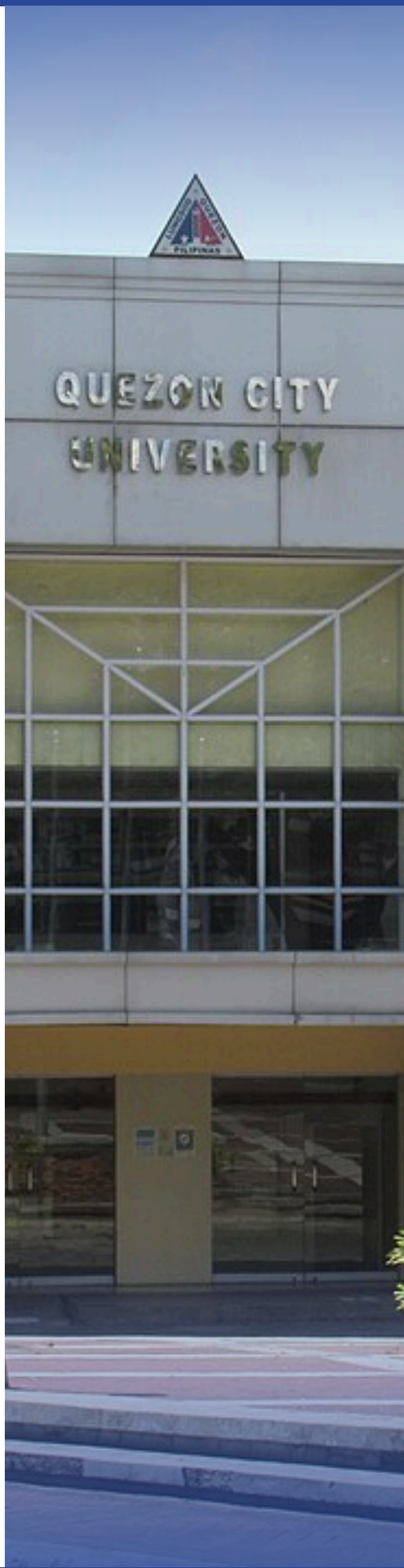
Second, **urban agriculture and community extension** emerged as one of QCU's strongest flagship narratives. Through the Center for Urban Agriculture and Innovation and initiatives such as Joy is a Farm, QCU connected food security, climate resilience, entrepreneurship, student learning, and city partnership in a visible and practical way.

Third, **innovation and partnership** capacity continued to expand. Intellectual property training, patent-search workshops, student innovation showcases, out-of-school youth development programs, international memoranda of understanding, and participation in global sustainability forums demonstrated QCU's growing role as a knowledge partner and innovation platform.

Fourth, **external recognition** reinforced the credibility of QCU's sustainability work. In 2025, the University received the Water Warrior Award for Water Education, student organizations earned recognition at the QC Green Awards, and QCU was recognized in the Sustainability Category for Local Universities and Colleges at CHED ICONS 2025. These recognitions show that QCU's initiatives are gaining visibility beyond the campus and are increasingly valued by external stakeholders.

QCU's 2025 sustainability profile is strongest where public education, city development, innovation, and community partnership intersect. Its story is not only about institutional participation in the SDGs; it is about making sustainability concrete through students served, communities engaged, food systems strengthened, policies advanced, and partnerships formed.

As QCU moves forward, its sustainability agenda enters a new phase: from visibility to deeper measurement, from program documentation to stronger impact tracking, and from individual initiatives to an integrated sustainability culture. The 2025 Sustainability Report therefore captures a university that is already active, credible, and distinct in its sustainability work—one that continues to grow as a city-facing, socially responsive, and globally engaged local university.



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

At Quezon City University, sustainability is not separate from our mission. It is how we fulfill our responsibility as a local university in the service of Quezon City, its people, and the larger community.

Guided by our vision to be an internationally recognized local university committed to innovation and sustainability to achieve positive social impact, QCU continues to advance accessible, inclusive, and transformative education. In 2024 and 2025, this commitment was reflected in our support for economically disadvantaged learners, strengthened urban agriculture and food security initiatives, expanded research and innovation efforts, and growing local and international partnerships.

Our sustainability journey is rooted in people. It is seen in the opportunities we open for students, the communities we serve, the knowledge we create, and the partnerships we build for the public good. While we are encouraged by our growing presence in sustainability rankings and the recognitions received by our students, faculty, and programs, we believe our true measure of impact lies in the everyday relevance of our work.



This Sustainability Report presents QCU as a university steadily widening its contribution to the Sustainable Development Goals. It tells the story of an institution growing not only in visibility but in purpose, responsibility, and social impact.

As we move forward, we remain committed to strengthening our programs, improving our systems, and expanding our partnerships so that QCU may continue to serve as a university of access, innovation, sustainability, and meaningful service for Quezon City and beyond.

Dr. Theresita V. Atienza
University President
Quezon City University


SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS
3 GOOD HEALTH AND WELL-BEING
4 QUALITY EDUCATION
5 GENDER EQUALITY
6 CLEAN WATER AND SANITATION
7 AFFORDABLE AND CLEAN ENERGY
8 DECENT WORK AND ECONOMIC GROWTH
REDUCED INEQUALITIES
10
9 INDUSTRY, INNOVATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE
12 RESPONSIBLE CONSUMPTION AND PRODUCTION
13 CLIM ACT
W WATER
15 LIFE ON LAND
16 PEA AND INST

10 REDUCED INEQUALITIES



INCLUSION AS A MEASURE OF UNIVERSITY IMPACT

Disability and Filipino Sign Language Training

As part of its commitment to inclusivity and accessible education, Quezon City University (QCU) participated in the **Disability Awareness and Sensitivity Training (DAST),** which was held on March 21, 2025 (Friday), followed by a Basic Filipino Sign Language (FSL) Training from March 24 to 26, 2025 (Monday to Wednesday), with selected representatives from various administrative and academic departments in attendance with essential knowledge and skills to better understand, support, and communicate with persons with disabilities.

Through these training initiatives, **QCU continues to strengthen its efforts in creating a more inclusive and accessible campus environment**. By promoting awareness, empathy, and effective communication, the university reaffirms its commitment to ensuring equal access to education and services for all members of the community.

INCLUSION IN ACTION

- DISABILITY AWARENESS
- FILIPINO SIGN LANGUAGE
- COMMUNICATION ACTION
- EQUAL PARTICIPATION

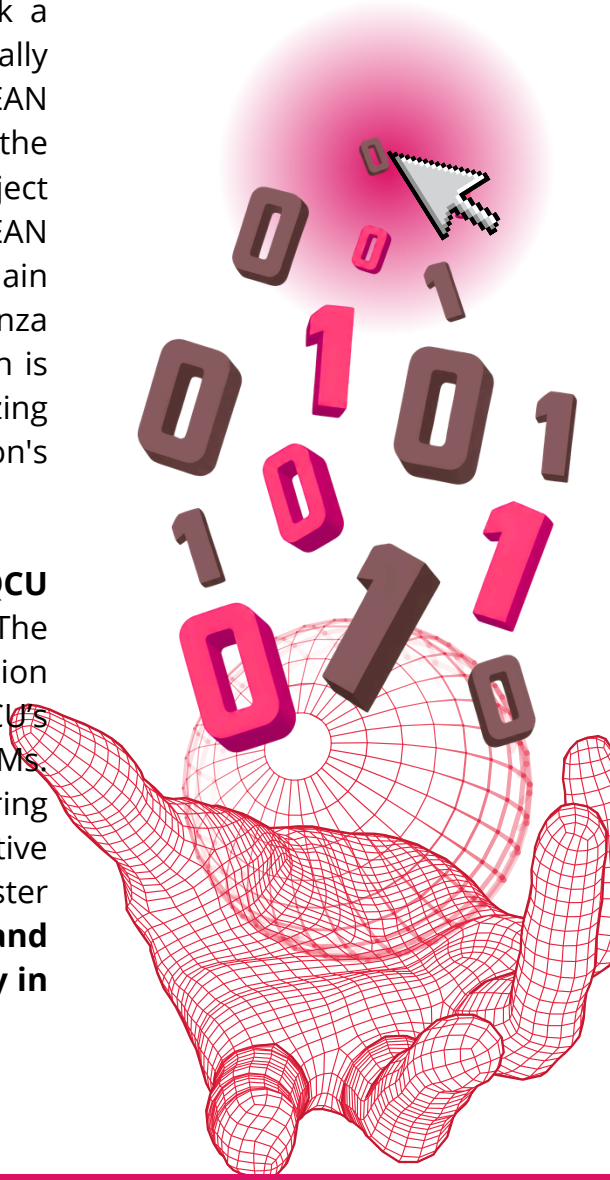






QCU Joins ASEAN Youth AI Literacy Champions Project Through Partnership with ASEAN Youth Organization

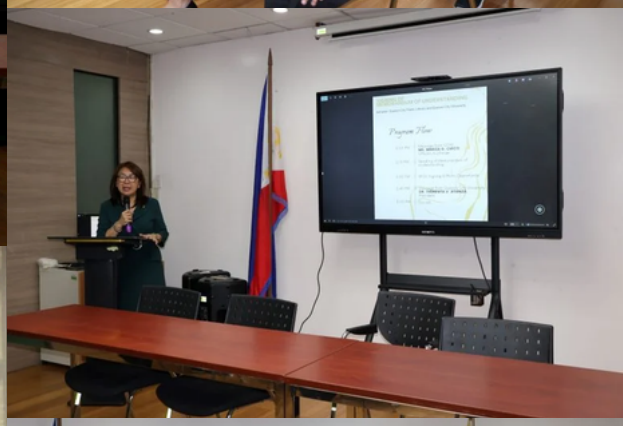
On July 21, 2025, Quezon City University (QCU) took a monumental step toward technological equity by formally signing a Memorandum of Understanding with the ASEAN Youth Organization (AYO). The partnership brings the **ASEAN Youth AI Literacy Champions (AYALC)** project part of the AI Ready ASEAN initiative backed by the ASEAN Foundation and Google.org directly to the QCU Main Campus. Led by QCU President Dr. Theresita V. Atienza and AYO Founder Mr. Senjaya Mulia, this collaboration is dedicated to advancing AI literacy and democratizing access to cutting-edge digital education for the region's youth.



By integrating the AYALC project into its curriculum, **QCU is actively breaking down the digital divide.** The program goes beyond basic coding to champion responsible and ethical digital practices, guided by QCU's own Master Trainers, Ms. Paula Joy Dela Cruz and Ms. Angela Arago. This milestone reflects QCU's unwavering commitment to providing globally competitive, innovative learning opportunities. By ensuring its students master essential AI skills, **QCU is leveling the playing field and empowering the next generation to lead inclusively in a rapidly evolving, tech-driven world.**











QCU and QC Public Library Unite to Promote Education, Research, and Lifelong Learning

On February 11, 2025, Quezon City University (QCU) and the Quezon City Public Library (QCPL) officially signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to bridge the gap in educational access. The historic signing, led by QCU President Dr. Theresita V. Atienza and QCPL OIC Ms. Mariza G. Chico alongside key library and academic officials, establishes a powerful framework for shared resources and community service. By breaking down institutional barriers, this partnership ensures that the extensive research materials, digital services, and academic support once reserved for enrolled students are now accessible to the wider public.



This collaboration strikes at the heart of SDG 10 by actively reducing educational inequalities through community-centered action. Beyond granting QCU students and faculty access to QCPL's vast collections, the agreement paves the way for joint literacy programs, specialized training opportunities, and grassroots community engagement initiatives. By uniting their strengths, QCU and QCPL are championing inclusive education and proving that quality learning and intellectual growth belong to everyone in Quezon City.



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