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.

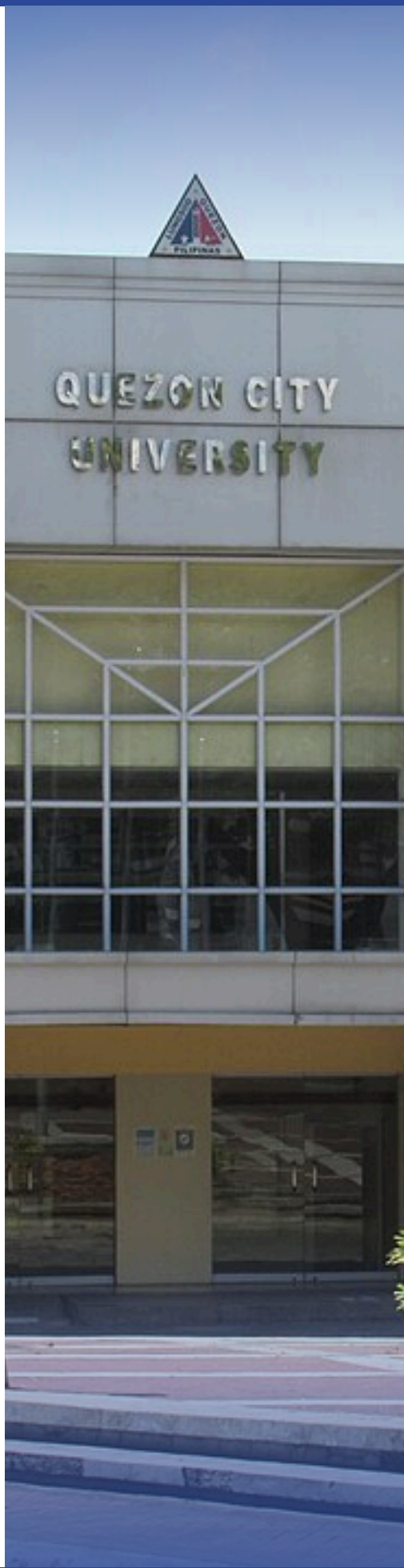
Second, **urban agriculture and community extension** emerged as one of QCU's strongest flagship narratives. Through the Center for Urban Agriculture and Innovation and initiatives such as Joy is a Farm, QCU connected food security, climate resilience, entrepreneurship, student learning, and city partnership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

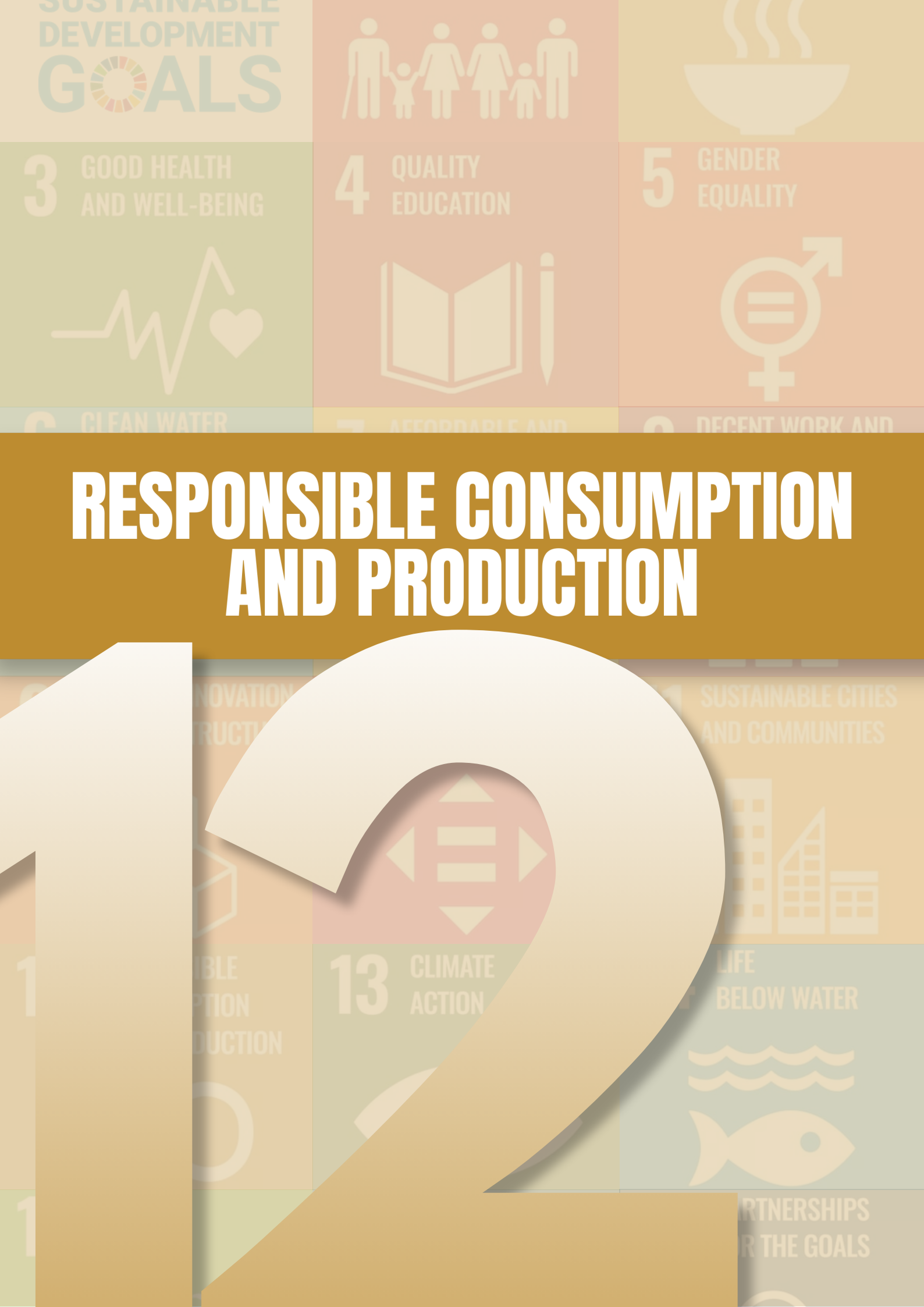
Our sustainability journey is rooted in people. It is seen in the opportunities we open for students, the communities we serve, the knowledge we create, and the partnerships we build for the public good. While we are encouraged by our growing presence in sustainability rankings and the recognitions received 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.

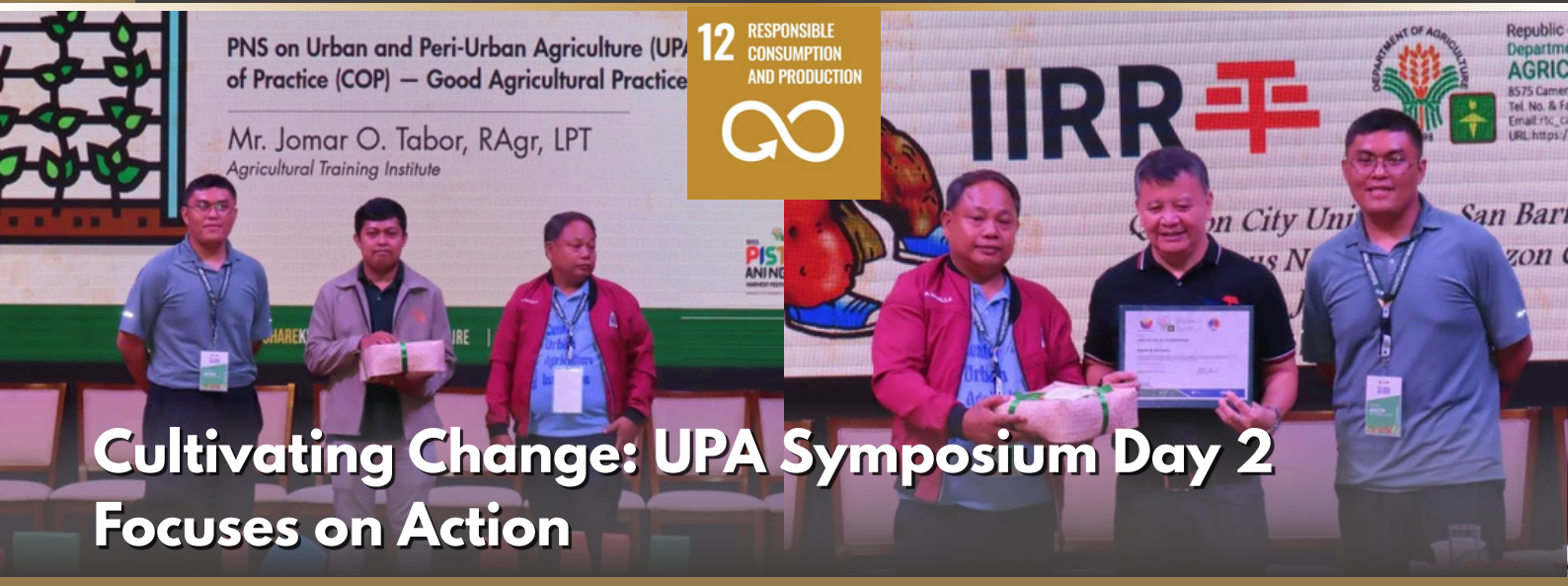
Dr. Theresita V. Atienza
University President
Quezon City University



RESPONSIBLE CONSUMPTION AND PRODUCTION

12

Everyday Sustainability in Campus and Community Practice



Cultivating Change: UPA Symposium Day 2 Focuses on Action

National Urban and Peri-urban Agriculture Program (NUPAP)
Aims to transform idle urban spaces into productive gardens and farms — a centerpiece initiative highlighted at the symposium.

Experts, students, and community leaders gathered at Quezon City University (QCU) for a symposium promoting sustainable urban farming as a key solution to food security and greener cities.

Participants explored modern farming technologies, sustainable practices, and successful community projects that have turned vacant lots into thriving food sources.

> *"This is about empowering cities to feed themselves sustainably."*
> *— ATI Representative*

Modern Farming Technologies

Composting & Rainwater Harvesting

Community Farm Projects



QC's "Joy is a Farm" Earns Global Recognition at the 2025 CityNet SDG Awards

Quezon City proudly celebrates another international milestone as its flagship sustainability initiative, "**Joy is a Farm**" was recognized at the 2025 CityNet SDG Awards held in Denpasar, Indonesia on October 27, 2025.

The city's pioneering urban farming program achieved 2nd Place Overall – Top 3 Winner and won the coveted Breakthrough Innovation of the Year Award, showcasing Quezon City's leadership in advancing the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) through education and innovation.

Receiving the award on behalf of Quezon City Government was Dr. Theresita V. Atienza, President of Quezon City University (QCU), whose leadership has been instrumental in driving the university's sustainability initiatives and community-centered programs.

With QCU Center for Urban Agriculture and Innovation (QCU-CUAI) as its main platform, Joy is a Farm was designed to align closely with Quezon City's vision of inclusive growth, environmental stewardship, and resilient communities.

The SDGs were embedded into the program's concept and monitoring framework, ensuring measurable impact in poverty reduction, food

security, environmental sustainability, inclusive education, and community resilience.

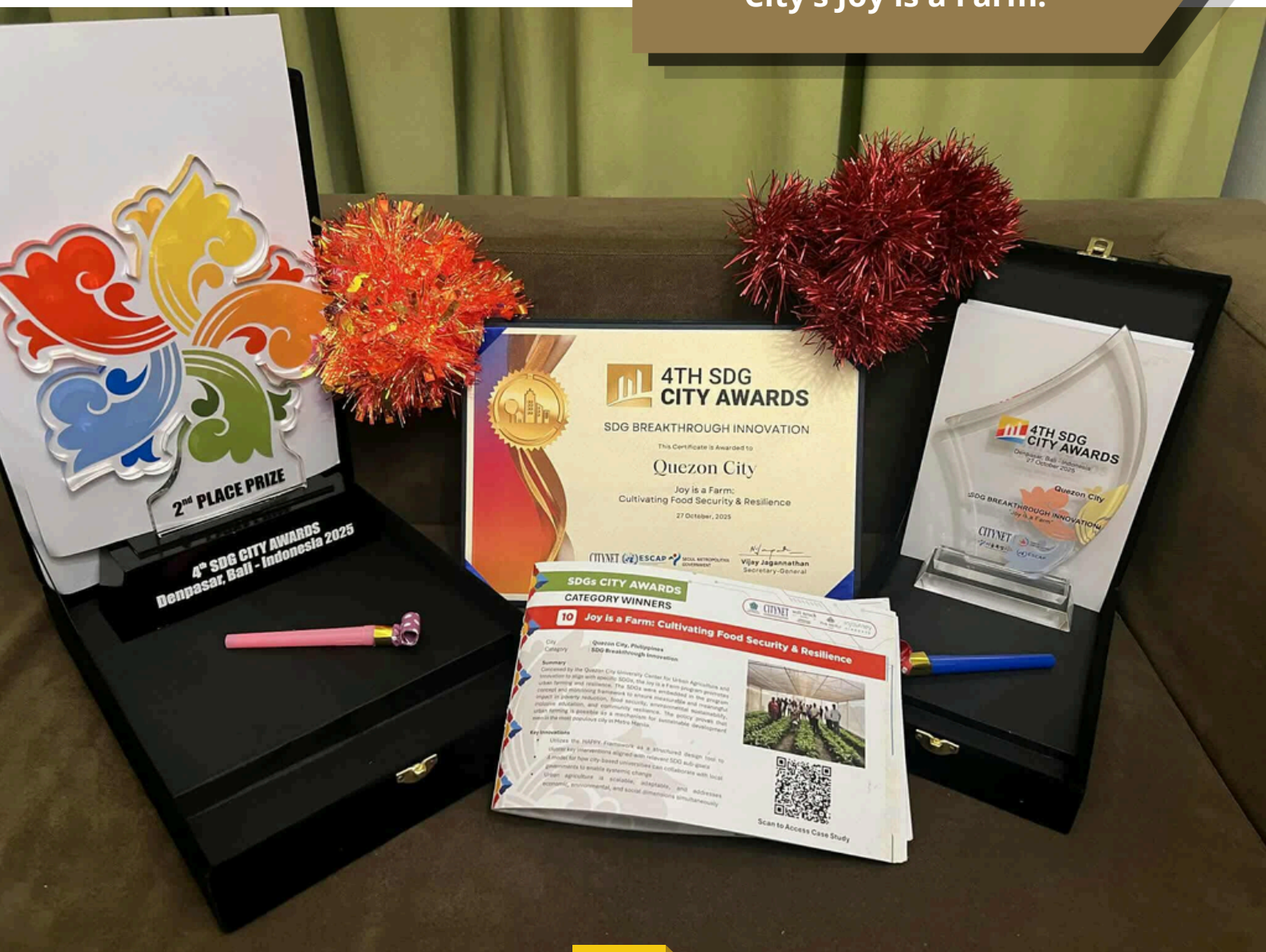
Through this initiative, Quezon City demonstrates that urban farming can thrive even within highly urbanized environments, serving as a tangible model of sustainable development in the most populous city in Metro Manila. It stands as proof that innovation, guided by strong local governance and academic collaboration, can yield transformative solutions for both people and the planet.

The recognition from CityNet reaffirms Quezon City's commitment under Mayor Joy Belmonte's leadership to pursue forward-thinking, community-driven policies that promote sustainability and resilience.

Meanwhile, QCU's continued involvement underscores the vital role of education in equipping citizens to become active stewards of their environment.

This global recognition is a triumph for both Quezon City and Quezon City University — a testament to the power of partnership, purpose, and progress.

A proud moment of innovation, sustainability, and education — truly, **Quezon City's Joy is a Farm!**



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