

## **ISU Reaffirms Internationalization Commitment Through Learning Express (LEx) Program 2026**

*By Imee G. Gumiran | Edited by Regina Blair S. Santiago*

Isabela State University (ISU) continues to strengthen its role in internationalization and community engagement through the implementation of the Learning Express (LeX) Program 2026, which formally opened on March 17 and concluded on March 25, 2026, in partnership with Singapore Polytechnic (SP). Guided by the theme “Connecting, Creating, and Caring: Unlocking Innovation, Creativity, and Cultural Intelligence,” the initiative serves as a dynamic platform that brings together SP and ISU students, faculty members, and partner communities.

During the opening program, University President Boyet L. Batang highlighted that the Learning Express Program reflects ISU’s commitment to education, innovation, and community engagement. He noted that meaningful learning arises from collaboration, where diverse perspectives transform community challenges into sustainable solutions.

Batang said the values strongly align with the vision of Isabela State University as a SMART Green University. “Our aspiration to become a SMART Green University reflects our commitment to building an institution that is Sustainable, Modern, Adaptive, Resilient, and Transformative—an institution that nurtures innovation while safeguarding the environment and empowering communities,” he said.

He emphasized that a SMART Green University is not defined solely by technology or infrastructure, but by its people.

“A SMART Green University is not only defined by technology or infrastructure; it is defined by people—people who think critically, act responsibly, and innovate with purpose,” he added.

Batang also highlighted that programs such as the Learning Express (LeX) Program help translate this vision into action by encouraging students to engage with communities, understand real-world challenges, and develop creative and sustainable solutions.

Meanwhile, Cyrine Joosa, Learning Express (LeX) Team Leader from Singapore Polytechnic, encouraged students to embrace differences in culture, language, and ways of thinking, stressing that genuine innovation stems from curiosity, openness, and mutual understanding. Joosa noted that connecting across cultures, creating shared solutions, and caring for communities are essential in developing sustainable and impactful innovations.

Representing the Municipal Mayor, Hon. Milet B. Albano-Mamauag of the Local Government Unit of Cabagan, Krystelle Joy T. Zipagan-Soriano, Administrative Officer V and designated Information Officer, warmly welcomed the participants in Cabagan and underscored the importance of collaboration, cultural exchange, and shared learning. She encouraged participants to embrace the journey despite its challenges, noting that fresh ideas often emerge from communities and young minds.

During the closing program, Dr. Ambrose Hans G. Aggabao, Program Lead, highlighted the success of the 2+1 international collaboration model, which fostered social innovation and strengthened community engagement. By working closely with local communities, participants were able to harness the “wisdom of communities” in developing meaningful and sustainable solutions.

Aggabao said that as the Learning Express Program approached a decade of impactful implementation, Isabela State University remained steadfast in its commitment to producing globally competitive graduates equipped with the knowledge, skills, and values necessary to lead in an increasingly interconnected world—continuing to connect, create, and care for communities through transformative education.

Meanwhile, the program was implemented through a series of strategic activities, including capacity-building sessions, community immersion across selected ISU campuses, and innovation workshops that guided student teams in developing project prototypes.

Beyond student development, the program made a significant contribution to ISU’s extension and research agenda. Expected outputs included community-based projects, technology innovation prototypes, strengthened partnerships with local government units and organizations, as well as research publications and potential intellectual property generation.

Related Story:

[ISU Expands Global Engagement Through Learning Express \(LeX\) Program 2026](#)