

26 November 2022, Saturday



DENR

NEWS ALERTS

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THE EXPONENT OF PHILIPPINE PROGRESS
SINCE 1900
MANILA BULLETIN
THE NATION'S LEADING NEWSPAPER

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DENR MULTI-STAKEHOLDER FORUM AT THE ANNUAL MINE SAFETY CONFERENCE – Department of Environment and Natural Resources Secretary Maria Antonia Yulo Lozaga met with mining industry players for another multi-stakeholder forum during the Philippine Minerals Industry Symposium of the just-concluded Annual Mine Safety and Environment Conference (ANMSEC) on November 24, 2022 in Baguio City. Secretary Lozaga emphasized that the DENR is set to define responsible mining in the context of the Philippine development plan. The discussion during the forum focused on the state of small-scale mining in the country. Secretary Lozaga called on the mining industry players to operate their mines beyond mere compliance, so that the sector will be a critical force for social, environmental and economic change in the country. In photo, seated behind Sec. Lozaga, are H.E. Bartinah Ntombizodwa Radebe-Netshitenzhe, the Ambassador of South Africa, and Luis R. Sarmiento, President of Philippine Mine Safety and Environment Association (PMSEA). In foreground is DENR Undersecretary Juan Miguel Cuna.



DENR to install trash traps at CDO creek

THE Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) will install trash traps along Bitan-ag Creek as part of its effort to address the growing solid waste problem in Cagayan de Oro City.

DENR Region 10 (Northern Mindanao) Executive Director Henry Adornado signed an agreement with Barangay Lapasan Chairman Julito Ogsimer and Barangay Puntod Chairman Rexie Tinampay for the implementation of the pilot project in the two areas.

Under the agreement, the DENR and the *barangay* (villages) will maintain two units of trash traps in Bitan-ag Creek to prevent garbage from flowing into rivers and seas.

"The project also aims to motivate coastal communities to innovate local solutions to address solid waste and to promote an income-generating, community-based enterprise," Adornado said.

Bitan-ag Creek is one of Cagayan de Oro's major drainage lines that cuts across the city's main business district at Limketkai Center.

Adornado said the project will help mitigate the flow of trash into Macajalar Bay.

He added that Bitan-ag Creek along Lapasan and Puntod contributes the biggest volume of

wastes to Macajalar Bay.

"We see the Trash Trap Project in Bitan-ag Creek as an innovative solution to this issue, in partnership with all of you. I am confident that with your strong commitment, manifested by the signing of the MoA today, we will be able to attain our objective in the name of public service," Adornado added.

He said that 57,000 pieces of PET bottles will be collected by the DENR through its Trash for Rice Campaign to construct the trash traps.

"The Trash Trap project is in support of DENR's Tayo ang Kalikasan advocacy campaign and the multi-stakeholder project 'Challenge for Change Program: CDO Limpyo Dagat Initiative,' which includes the DENR regional office," Adornado said.

He said that DENR Region 10 will provide funds for the honorarium of two trash trap caretakers of Barangay Lapasan and capacitate the local government units for the operation of the trash traps in coordination with the Environmental Management Bureau.

For 2022, Region 10 is projected to generate 604,952 kilograms of solid waste per day based on the 10-year Solid Waste Management Plan of Cagayan de Oro City.

BELLA CARIASO



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20 butanding naispatan sa Tayabas

KINUMPIRMA ng mga tauhan ng Bantay Dagat at ng environmentalist group na Tanggol Kalikasan ang pagkakakita sa mga whale shark o butanding sa karagatan

nakaiskor at naungusan ang katunggaling Partido na UMNO.

Nakapokus ito sa ekonomiya at target na labanan ang korapsyon. Bukod dito ay nanga-ko siyang hindi aniya niya tatanggapin ang kanyang sahod bilang prime minister.

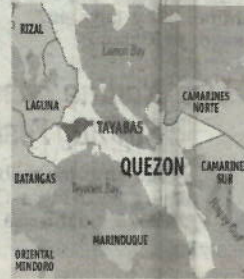
ng Tayabas Bay sa Quezon.

Ayon kay Edwin Frias, miyembro ng Bantay Dagat ng Sariaya, nasa 20 malalaking whale shark ang kanilang namataan habang sila ay nagpapatrolya sa territorial water ng bayan ng Sariaya.

May kasama aniya ang mga itong maraming iba't ibang klase ng isda na ikinatuwa ng mga lokal na mangingisda.

Ayon kay Frias, mula nang masawata ang illegal fishing sa lugar ay malimit na silang makakita ng paisa-isang mga butanding.

Noong 2016 pa pinaghigpit ng pamahalaang lokal na Sariaya ang kampanya laban sa illegal fishing.



Pero nitong nakaraang Huwebes, laking gulat at tuwa nila nang makita ang grupo ng mga naglalakihang butanding. Agad naman nila itong ipinagbigay alam sa mga awtoridad.

Ayon kay CENRO Cyril Coliflores ng DENR-CENRO Tayabas, magandang senyales ang pagpapakita ng butanding sa nasabing bay. **(Ronilo Dagos)**



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Climate summit in Egypt ends, 'not with a bang but a whimper'

First word

It is not
improper
or unfair



OBSERVER

**YEN
MAKABENTA**

to describe the bathos of COP27 in Egypt metaphorically, with T. S. Eliot's immortal line about the world ending "not with a bang but a whimper."

► MakabentaA5

The quotation is the final line of T.S. Eliot's 1925 poem, "The Hollow Men," which, according to one notable commentary, deals with "the emptiness of life without belief." The "hollow men" of the poem are those who have led empty and meaningless lives: they have been only "paralyzed force, gesture without motion." They have accomplished nothing; they are the product of the dry intellectuality of modern life. The "hollow men" are reminiscent of the vast throng that Dante saw on the dark plain, the souls of those who lived "without blame, and without praise."

"Hollow" fits snugly the Conference of the Parties (COP) this year of the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), coded as COP27, for its insistent forecast of doom and gloom for mankind and the planet, and its unapologetic assault on reason and common sense.

Success or cop-out?

The Associated Press did a summary report on COP27, in an article written by Frank Jordans, "Success or COP-out: How do this year's climate talks rate?" (Nov. 20, 2022):

"After two weeks of haggling, officials on Sunday, November 20, cheered the end of this year's UN climate talks in Egypt, which resulted in the creation of a fund to help poor countries suffering under disasters driven by global warming.

Expectations had been low for major agreements to come out of the meeting in Sharm el-Sheikh, but the recent floods in Pakistan and Nigeria boosted calls for urgent aid now.

The geopolitical fallout from Russia's war in Ukraine and simmering US-China tensions provided a difficult backdrop for the talks.

Here's a look at what was achieved, and what fell short, at the climate confab by the Red Sea:

Loss and damage fund

Countries around the world are already seeing the effects of climate change, from wilder weather to hotter summers and rising sea levels. Poor nations that have contributed least to the problem of greenhouse gas emissions are among the hardest hit. So there were cheers when the idea of a 'loss and damage' fund made it onto the

official agenda of the talks for the first time.

Rich countries are on the hook for billions of dollars for the decades of their pumping carbon into the atmosphere. An unexpected offer Thursday from the European Union got the ball rolling and within 48 hours a deal was done. Details still need to be hammered out, but the most vulnerable nations can expect to get cash to cope with climate catastrophes in future.

Donor countries have demanded that the money channeled to poor nations needs to be aligned with the goals of the Paris accord.

Some developing countries have resisted this, fearing it would distract from discussions over the money rich nations have pledged — but so far not delivered — to help them adapt to climate change and reduce their emissions. Negotiators in Sharm el-Sheikh were unable to reach an agreement on the issue and it will now be taken up again in Dubai, next year.

Keeping 1.5 alive

Scientists warn that chances are slipping away to cap global warming at 1.5 degrees Celsius (2.7 Fahrenheit) as laid out in the 2015 Paris agreement. Rather than declining, greenhouse gas emissions are still rising.

But there is some progress. Before Paris, the world was heading for 4.5 Celsius of warming by the end of the century compared to pre-industrial times. Recent forecasts have that down to about 2.6 C, thanks to measures taken or firm commitments governments have already made.

Campaigners had hoped countries at the meeting in Egypt would encourage countries to set out more ambitious targets. They were disappointed.

Negotiators agreed to confirm the pledges made at last year's climate summit in Glasgow, Scotland, but little else. There was no call for major developing world polluters like China and India to cut their emissions sooner.

Putting fossils on notice

Last year's talks ended with an agreement to 'phase down' the use of coal, the first time a fossil fuel has been explicitly named, shamed and given notice at the international level. India, which was unhappy about that move, this year made a surprise



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■ MAKABENTA FROM A1

Climate summit in Egypt ends,

'not with a bang but a whimper'

call for oil and gas to be phased down too, but the proposal didn't make the final cut.

Glasgow also saw a new alliance of countries, including the United States, come together and pledge to cut the amount of methane — a powerful greenhouse gas — released into the atmosphere by a third by 2030.

The list of countries supporting that pledge grew this year, to about 150. Even China said it would work to cut methane emissions.

Long-running discussions about emissions trading rules failed to make much headway.

Climate campaigners complained that existing loopholes in already weak rules for emissions trading markets could allow polluters to keep pumping carbon into the atmosphere while claiming they're meeting international targets — by simply paying others to offset their emissions."

UN settles for no cuts

AP also reported in an article by Seth Borenstein that the UN would settle for the summit's disappointing results. He wrote:

"The new climate chief for the United Nations said he'll settle for a lack of new emissions-cutting action coming out of the now-concluded climate talks in Egypt.

'It could have been worse, UN executive secretary for climate Simon Stiell said in an interview with AP. The talks did achieve the historic creation of a fund for poor nations that are victims of climate disasters, he said.

The progress made last year at the global climate meeting in Glasgow was maintained. 'There was no backtracking. Which as a result, one could say, is highly unambitious. And I would actually agree,' a tired Stiell said hours after the Egyptian climate talks finished with one last around-the-clock push.

'To say that ... we have, stood still. Yeah, that's not great,' Stiell said. But he still likes the overall outcome of the first set of climate talks he oversaw, in particular the long-sought compensation fund for nations that didn't cause warming.

Outside experts agree with Stiell that nothing was done on the central issue of reducing emissions that cause climate change and disasters like flooding in Pakistan.

'In the shadow of the energy crisis, there were no major new climate protection commitments at the conference,' said

climate scientist Niklas Hohne, founder of the NewClimate Institute in Germany.

Clashing hopes

That's despite the fact that more than 90 nations repeatedly asked — many of them publicly — for the agreement to include a phase-down of oil and gas use. The Glasgow agreement calls for a phasedown of 'unabated coal' — that is, coal burning where the carbon goes into the atmosphere rather than being captured somehow. Poor nations point out that they rely more on coal whereas oil and gas are used more in rich countries. These should also be required to phase down, they said. In closing remarks at the talks, Stiell himself called for a phase-down of oil and gas.

But the Egyptian presidency never put the proposal, which came from India, in any of the decision documents. The country that hosts and runs the climate talks has the power to make that choice.

Critics — including negotiators during the talks — blasted the Egyptian presidency and its agenda-setting. Environmental groups repeatedly pointed out Egypt's dependence on exports of natural gas, its role as operator of Suez Canal petroleum, traffic and income from neighboring oil states. Oil and natural gas are both principal contributors to climate change.

Next year's climate talks will be held in the United Arab Emirates, a major oil power. Environmental advocates and outside experts fear that oil and gas phase-down language won't get a fair shake next year either.

Asked about the wisdom of having fossil fuel-exporting countries host and control climate talks, Stiell said: 'They are part of the problem, but they are also part of the solution.' To try to manage this process without their involvement, would give 'an incomplete picture,' he said.

'The global economy is still based certainly on oil and gas. And that is the challenge,' Stiell said.

There are always clashing hopes in every climate summit. Climate alarmists whip it up to foment climate anxiety. And climate skeptics and realists tamp it down so it will end in a whimper."



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Climate agency holds global warming confab

THE Climate Change Commission on Friday highlighted the important role of the youth in coming up with concrete actions to address global warming and climate change in celebration of the 15th Global Warming and Climate Change Consciousness Week.

The activity dubbed "Kalamang Klima: Climate Change Webinar Workshop for the Youth" was open to participants aged 18 to 30 yesterday at the Novotel Manila in Cubao, Quezon City.

It was designed to facilitate knowledge exchange among the youth to further deepen understanding on climate science, and encourage them to use their skills and energy to deliver effective climate action. **Rio N. Araja**



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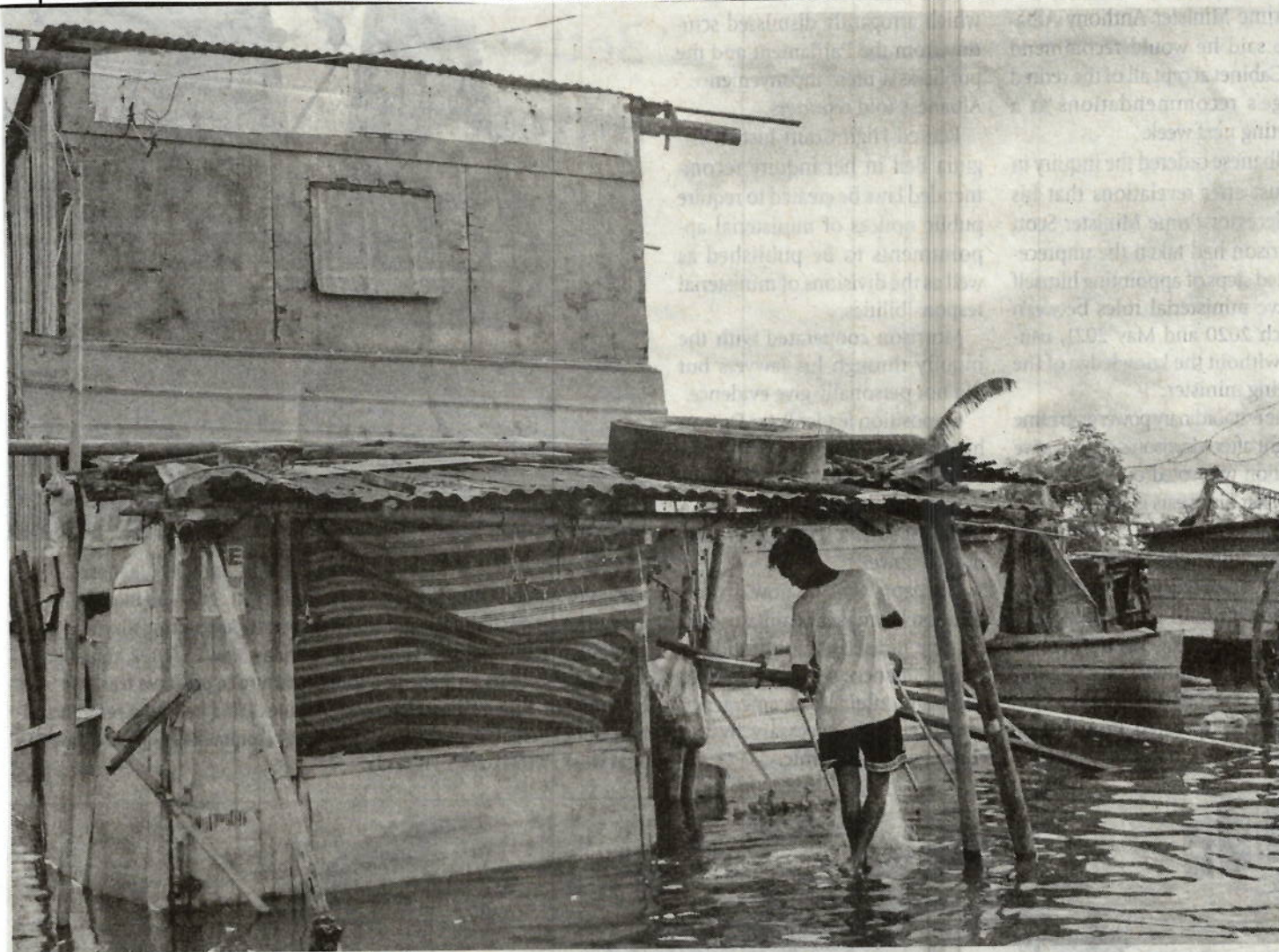
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VICTIMS OF CLIMATE CHANGE Some residents in Wawa Park, Barangay 1 in Ibaba del Sur in Paete, Laguna on Monday, Nov. 21, 2022, went back to their homes only to discover these remained flooded due to the recent typhoon and the rainy weather. PHOTO BY JOHN RYAN BALDEMOR



Coop pioneers climate change insurance

CLIMBS Life and General Insurance Cooperative said it has P230 million in funds for agriculture-related products affected by climate change.

CLIMBS President and Chief Operating Officer Noel Raboy said his company pioneered the weather protect insurance with an initial P230-million funding.

"At present, we have P230-million funding for agri-related products being insured through weather protect insurance. We are monitoring the claim proceeds to ensure farmers can benefit from it," Raboy said during the Coop Climate Summit 2022.

He added that CLIMBS is a federation of cooperatives around the country.

"Our head office is situated in Cagayan de Oro. It was organized by cooperatives way back in 1971, and part of the principle of the cooperative is concern for the community and concern for the community includes about how we can support our farmers," Raboy added.

He said CLIMBS also aims to create awareness on the effects of climate change.

"Our role is to create awareness for our cooperatives and to help the government, but we need protection on that," he added.

For his part, Manuel Corti-

na, Philippine Crop Insurance Corp. business development and marketing department officer in charge, said at least P900 million in insurance claim is expected to be given to farmers and fishers affected by Super Typhoon "Karding" and Severe Tropical Storm "Paeng," including 53,000 farmers and fishers whose crops and produce were affected by Karding.

Cortina added that the agency is still processing claims for Paeng.

"For now, we have yet to come up with total amount amid the various typhoon that affected us. So far, for Karding, we are estimating more than P600-million indemnity for 53,000 farmers and fishers. Now for Paeng, we have estimated damage of P300 million. The processing of claims is ongoing. We are encouraging those who are insured to file their claims," Cortina said.

He noted that the farmers and fisherfolk can receive from P9,000 to P20,000 in indemnity depending on the extent of the damage of their crops or produce.

"We have general assessment, randomly we conduct general assessment and the amount a farmer or fisher can get depends on our data ... If it's a total loss, it is possible he can get the full amount of P20,000 indemnity," Cortina explained.

BELLA CARIASO



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Hagedorn pushes areas of WPS as 'marine protected area'

By **RYAN PONCE
PACPACO**

PALAWAN 3rd District Representative Edward Hagedorn has filed a bill to declare all low-tide elevations and high-tide features and an area of three nautical miles around the Kalayaan Island Group and Scarborough Shoal as a "marine protected area."

House Bill (HB) No. 6373 is seen to strengthen

the protection and preservation of the atolls, coral reefs, and other vital marine resources in the said area.

Hagedorn said the protection of the environment and the natural resources in the West Philippine Sea (WPS) should also be prioritized by the Philippines.

"We must learn to cooperate as one region in the protection of our natural resources while we settle the territorial disputes in the West Philippine Sea.

The protection of the rich marine resources and environment of the West Philippine Sea is a shared interest and responsibility of all adjoining states around the South China Sea, which should be a guiding policy for all of us in the region," Hagedorn said.

Palawan First District Rep. Edgardo Salvame and Palawan Second District Rep. Jose Chavez Alvarez also co-authored HB 6373.

The bill cited Republic Act (RA) No. 11038 or the

Expanded National Integrated Protected Areas System Act of 2018 and the Arbitral Ruling in seeking to declare the said areas as a marine protected area.

The bill's explanatory note also mentioned how some activities by surrounding states borne out of territorial disputes—like overfishing, poaching, and large-scale ocean filling or reclamation, among others—led to significant environmental degradation in the area.



Baha, baha, paano ka mawawala?

BY REP. JUAN CARLOS C. ATAYDE

Last of 2 parts

KZAYANG tugunan ang problema na ito dahil alam naman natin kung bakit bumabaha, at may plano nang na-approve nung 2012 pa para tugunan ito: ang Metro Manila Flood Management Project.

Approved in 2012 and launched in 2017, the Metro Manila Flood Management Project is funded by the World Bank and the Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank and seeks to improve flood management in selected areas of Metro Manila.

According to the project abstract, this project is composed of four components. First, the modernization of drainage areas that will involve the construction of 20 new pumping stations and the upgrading of an estimated 36 existing pumping stations and complementary infrastructure. It also involves the improvement of associated waterways and drainage channels, and the development of new drains, when required.

The second component involves minimizing solid waste in waterways, while the third component involves participatory housing and resettlement. The fourth component — project management and coordination — will provide support for the operation of the project management offices in the Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH) and the Metropolitan Manila Development Authority (MMDA) with respect to the management and coordination of their respective parts of the project.

This project has been approved and already has funding, Mr. Speaker, but this representation believes that efforts must be made to fast-track its implementation, especially given the project status indicators as of Oct. 31, 2021. Allow me to cite a few examples:

- By Nov. 30, 2024, the target is 4,900 flood-prone areas that are free of water within 24 hours after a major rainfall event. As of Oct. 31, 2021, the number accomplished is 61.

- Out of the 2,500 targeted households that need to be resettled from areas that obstruct drainage systems, none has been resettled.

- Out of the 36 pumping stations that need to be rehabilitated, only one has been rehabilitated.

- Only three out of the 200 target barangay have improved solid waste management programs in place.

- The project targets the construction of 20 new pumping stations by the end of November 2024. None has been completed.

Mr. Speaker, friends and colleagues, this project was approved in 2012; the funding was approved by the World Bank and Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank in September 2017; it is scheduled for completion in 2024. However, given the status indicators I cited previously, interventions may be necessary so that the project can be completed on time so that relief from chronic

flooding in Metro Manila can come sooner, rather than later.

In this regard, this representation would like to put forward some recommendations in order to fast-track this project and other Metro Manila flood control projects.

Una sa lahat, mukhang napapanahon na para mag-designate ng isang opisyal mula sa ehekutibo na tututok sa flood control projects. By designating a "flooding czar" in the Cabinet, someone will be primarily responsible for ensuring proper coordination between the Department of Public Works and Highways, the Metropolitan Manila Development Authority, and the NCR's various local governments with regard to flood control projects.

This representation also urges the DPWH to allocate funds in order to conduct a study that will determine the feasibility of the following:

- The construction of retarding ponds in malls, basketball box culverts under our roads — measures that are implemented in other countries like Japan, Hong Kong and Singapore;

- The relocation of informal settlers where retarding ponds will be constructed;

- The construction of high rise walls and pumping stations at the San Juan River; and

- The assessment of the master plan for flood control of Metro Manila and surrounding areas.

The American environmentalist Paul Hawken points out that "most floods are caused by man, not weather." In the case of our nation's capital, this is especially true, but we do not have time to rue over the environmental missteps of the past. It is up to us to find solutions so that our people and our cities are not paralyzed and immobilized after each and every heavy downpour.

We cannot go to our constituents and tell them to accept flooding as a reality they have to live with. 'Pag may baha, walang klase. 'Pag may baha, walang trabaho. 'Pag may baha, bilanggo tayo sa sarili nating tahanan. 'Pag may baha, bahala na si Batman.

Paano naman magiging kaakit-akit ang Pilipinas sa mga foreign investors kung ang sentro ng negosyo ay nagsasara tuwing umuulan ng malakas? How can we tout ourselves as "Asia's Fastest Rising Star" when all of us must worry when the sky dims?

Let us not wait for the next heavy downpour to wash away our dreams and hopes for a flood-free, progressive Metro Manila. With over five years left in his term, the President with our help can leave a lasting imprint in efforts to finally solve the flooding problems in Metro Manila. Magtulungan po tayo para tugunan ang baha at mabawasan ang problema na ikinakaharap ng ating mga kababayan.

This article is from the privilege speech that Rep. Juan Carlos C. Atayde of the first district of Quezon City delivered at the House of Representatives on Nov. 22, 2022.



HAMILO COAST: AN IDYLIC SANCTUARY FOR OLIVE RIDLEY

SEA TURTLES



Turtle hatchlings were released to the ocean in Pico de Loro Cove by the SM Leisure Resort Residences team headed by business unit head and EVP Shirley C. Ong (4th from left).

Flaunting breathtaking vistas, a plethora of recreational opportunities, and posh residential enclaves, Hamilo Coast is, without a doubt, an oasis for weary urbanites. But what makes the 40-ha prime leisure resort community truly a sanctuary is its commitment to nurture nature.

Since 2007, Hamilo Coast developer Costa Del Hamilo Inc. (CDHI) and World Wide Fund for Nature Philippines (WWF) have been working on key areas for sustainability—coastal resource management, ridge-to-reef management, solid waste management, mangrove reforestation, the use of renewable energy sources and environmental awareness.

Hamilo Coast has declared three of its coves—Pico de Loro, Etayo and Santelmo—as marine protected areas (MPA).

This act serves to safeguard ecosystems for marine life; protect threatened and endangered species and preserve their habitats; and cultivate marine resources, among others.

For instance, Hamilo Coast has manifested its readiness to take care of Olive Ridley Sea turtles that have made the development their nesting ground. Female Olive Ridley Sea turtles return to the same beach they hatched on to spawn or lay their own eggs, and bury them in sand nests to incubate for 45 to 72 days.

To keep these eggs safe and undisturbed, the Hamilo Coast estate personnel have installed nest cages, which protect the eggs from predators. In just a few weeks, these eggs will crack, and hatchlings will emerge within three to seven

days to reach the surface and race towards the ocean.

Franklin M. Bolalin, CDHI AVP for estate management and operations, said “protect-

ing the turtles is just one of several measures we take to make Hamilo Coast a safe haven, not just for its residents and guests but also for marine wildlife.”



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Recently, turtle hatchlings were released to the ocean by the SM Leisure Resort Residences team in Pico de Loro Cove. New nest cages were also installed in Santelmo Cove, awaiting the hatchlings' emergence in the weeks to come. A total of 56 Olive Ridley Sea Turtles have been released as of mid November in Hamilo Coast.

Protecting the Olive Ridley Sea turtles is just one of CDHI's ways of establishing sustainable practices. In partnership with WWF, CDHI has been expanding and enhancing the scope of its sustainability program as part of a long-term strategic framework in the Hamilo Coast development.

As a result, Hamilo Coast is a recipient of the Longest Sustainability Partner award from

the WWF. The recognition further inspires it to embrace sustainable tourism and develop its area without compromising the quality of water and wildlife in the vicinity.

"Our sustainability efforts, in partnership with WWF, have created a positive impact in the Philippine tourism industry," Bolalin said. "We hope to continue encouraging seaside developments in the country to prioritize the conservation and protection of our beautiful marine resources."

For more information, visit the Hamilo Coast official Facebook page (<https://www.facebook.com/hamilocoastph>), website (www.hamilocoast.com), and Instagram ([@hamilocoastph](https://www.instagram.com/hamilocoastph))



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Smoking ruinous to your health and to the health of planet Earth

Wing chun kung fu grandmaster Ip Man was a smoker; so was war strategist-statesman-writer Ho Chi Minh whose image is prominently displayed in the Vietnam currency, dong. So was Fidel Castro of Cuba and UK head of state Winston Churchill. So were Barack Obama, Fidel V. Ramos, and John F. Kennedy.

Would they have kicked the habit had they been told that tobacco, an herb sacred to the Aztecs, shamans, brujos, and curanderas, is murderous to their health and is woeful to the environment? Probably not.

However, tobacco cultivation also correlates to depletion of soil fertility that can touch off desertification, and the slow but sure poisoning of groundwater sources.

Rues Tanim Kalikasan executive director Jay Lim in an interview by Sentinel Times on Air broadcast nationwide via Facebook through Cool 101.5: "Kung patuloy na mamamatay ang ating mga lupa at malalason ang ating tubig, tayo ang kawawa."

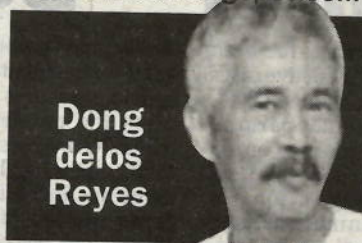
Lim notes that tobacco growing is pernicious to the health of the planet, and to standing forests. In the nation's tobacco-growing regions, as much as 2.1 million board feet of fuelwood/year are used to dry-cure harvested tobacco leaves.

Such need for huge volumes of fuelwood has also depleted the standing forests of the nation's tobacco country.

Further unwitting harm is done in tobacco cultivation: each hectare planted to the herb is layered over with 644.74 kilograms of fossil-based inor-

MANGKOKOLUM

Kulamnista.blogspot.com



Dong
delos
Reyes

ganic fertilizers.

Inflicting more damage to soil and environmental health are costly chemical additives.

Pocketful of woes

A hectare grown to tobacco is veritably a pocketful of woes to the farmer- the land spread is sprayed with 2.65 liters of herbicides to kill off weeds, 2.65 liters of pesticides plus 5.51 liters of insecticides to kill off both insect fiends and friends.

The pricier bright leaf or Virginia tobacco whose grounds go into premium cigarette and top of the line cigars are lavished with 309 grams of fossil-based chemical fertilizers for every kilo of the prized leaf.

Cured tobacco leaves command lucrative returns, but no tobacco farmer, Lim notes, would 'fess up to getting rich from raising and selling tobacco to cigar and cigarette manufacturing firms or their buyers that have remained unflinching despite the brunt of heavy "sin" taxation.

However, the environment bears the heaviest burden of such mode of

raising crops for the most profit.

Too, farmers can be exposed to health risks from handling of agrochemicals that are quite hazardous to human health.

Lim points out that the main tobacco-growing areas of the country employs 30,000 farmers, most of whom are not keen on precautions and preventive measures to lessen risks on handling of chemicals "na may nakatak na pulang bungo."

In view of such lethal risks, Lim stresses that Tanggol Tanim is pushing for a comprehensive education program for farmers on the handling, storage, and use of chemicals.

"They do not even wear protective gear when they spray these chemicals on their crops," Lim laments.

Health concerns

Reports as early as 2016 indicate that nitrogen fertilizer applied to farmers' fields has been contaminating rivers and lakes and leaching into drinking water wells for more than 80 years. The study, published in a special issue of the journal Environmental Research Letters, reveals that elevated nitrate concentrations in rivers and lakes will remain high for decades, even if farmers stop applying nitrogen fertilizers today.

"The researchers have discovered that nitrogen is building up in soils, creating a long-term source of nitrate pollution in ground and surface waters."

The average lifespan in the Philippines is 76 years. Which is something to cry about as water contamination lasts longer.



Local clothing brand adopts sustainability

HOMEGROWN fashion brand Bayo Philippines is adopting sustainability, admitting they were throwing away too much fabric waste before starting their zero-waste campaign.

Speaking at *The Manila Times* forum "Tech Leveraging: The Future of Retailing" on Wednesday, Bayo Chief Executive Officer Leo Lagon said they have recently adopted sustainability in their way of business.

"We discovered that the fabric waste that we produce amounted to 35 percent of all the fabrics," he said. "Imagine one-third of our raw materials being thrown out in the landfills."

Bayo's "Journey to Zero," was started in 2007 and launched in 2019, is the fashion brand's battle cry to attain sustainability, aiming for zero-carbon emissions, zero waste and zero for the circular economy.

"After three years, because of the new software that we installed in our pattern department, we were able to bring down our wastage from a high of 35 percent to as low as 5 to 10 percent, which optimized the use of our fabric materials," Lagon added.

Also, Bayo sent out the remaining fabric to communities the brand supports, in support of the hand-weaving industry.

"As we move forward and accelerate the efforts of our Journey to Zero programs, we later discovered that community development works," Lagon said. "This is closely intertwined with sustainability in order to attain a circularity of

purpose."

The clothing brand was immediately exposed to the plight of the weaving industry after visiting their first weaving community.

"The weaving industry is already considered a sunset industry because of exuberant prices and low customer demand," Lagon said.

As a result, Bayo decided to assist these weaving communities, which consisted of unemployed women. They started by visiting a community in Angat, Bulacan.

"We purposely targeted these communities, mostly composed of unemployed women, in order to empower them to earn a decent livelihood without having to leave or sacrifice their roles in the family," Lagon added. "We firmly believe that if we empower women and they gain financial independence, the direct beneficiary as a whole, and weaving is a perfect fit for the SDGs (Sustainable Development Goals) since housewives can weave anywhere, even outside their households. It is very important that we have to intervene in the community work processes every step of the way in order for efficiency to be improved."

He narrated on how Bayo immersed by studying the step-by-step process and trying to figure out on why weaving was expensive.

"When we try to change and to choose innovations that increase efficiency, production would increase, and would, in turn, increase the take-home pay of weavers," he said. "It is our contention that if we want to save the weaving industry, we must first provide a

decent living wage to the weavers. In order to provide sustainability and stability, we are learning the process. Our brands provided a ready market for them so that they can continue on weaving without even worrying about the marketing."

The Bayo chief said just by improving the work process, they were able to bring down costs by as much as 20 percent, without reducing the take-home pay of the weavers.

As a result, Bulacan weavers are now receiving salaries higher than the prescribed minimum wage in the area.

Lagon said these activities form part of an ecosystem that results in a "more sustainable fashion industry."

However, despite all this, Lagon admitted said their task is not yet complete.

"We have several initiatives to use regenerative materials. There are still about 5 to 10 percent of our fabrics that we throw in the landfill," he said. "We will leave no stone unturned as we fully close the loop by zeroing on our remaining textile waste."



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Actionable change

Lagon said Bayo has called for "actionable change" under the United Nation's SDGs, as Bayo is a member of the UN's Global Compact (UNGC).

"We strongly call for an actionable change under the Sustainable Development Goals that were prescribed by the UNGC, in which Bayo is a member," he said.

Lagon also said a lot of companies are still not aware of the SDGs.

"We need to do more, that is why we have been doing this for the past five years," he said, adding the UNGC asked him and his team to go out and tell their story.

Within two years of Bayo's membership with Global Compact Network Philippines, the brand was awarded the Most Outstanding Implementer of the SDGs among micro, small and medium enterprises. **ARIC JOHN SY CUA**



CCC, Aboitiz to enhance LGU resiliency

BY BELLA CARIASO

THE Climate Change Commission (CCC) has signed a memorandum of agreement (MoA) with Aboitiz Equity Ventures (AEV) and Aboitiz Foundation Inc. (AFI) to enhance the grassroots resiliency of local government units (LGUs).

The MoA aims to ensure the implementation of CCC's capacity building program on the formulation of the Enhanced Lo-

cal Climate Change Action Plan.

Robert Borje, CCC vice chairman and executive director; David Jude Sta. Ana, AEV senior vice president and chief external affairs officer; and Maribeth Marasigan, AFI president and chief operating officer, signed the agreement.

Under the MoA, the CCC, AEV and AFI will collaborate in

climate-related research in the creation of policies and local climate change action, adaptation and mitigation.

The agreement pushes for systematic knowledge sharing and prompt provision of technical assistance to LGUs, communities, the private business sector and other entities in key vulnerable areas.

"We recognize the Climate Change Commission as a responsible policymaking institution that advocates environmental preservation, protection and climate change resilience across the country," said Christopher Camba, Aboitiz Group of Companies first vice president for corporate external relations.

The three signatories also vowed to push for coordinated implementation with other key national government agencies to support the creation of climate smart resilient communities.

To recall, the CCC and AEV started in 2019 with the Communities for Resilience Initiative, the commission's flagship capacity building program.

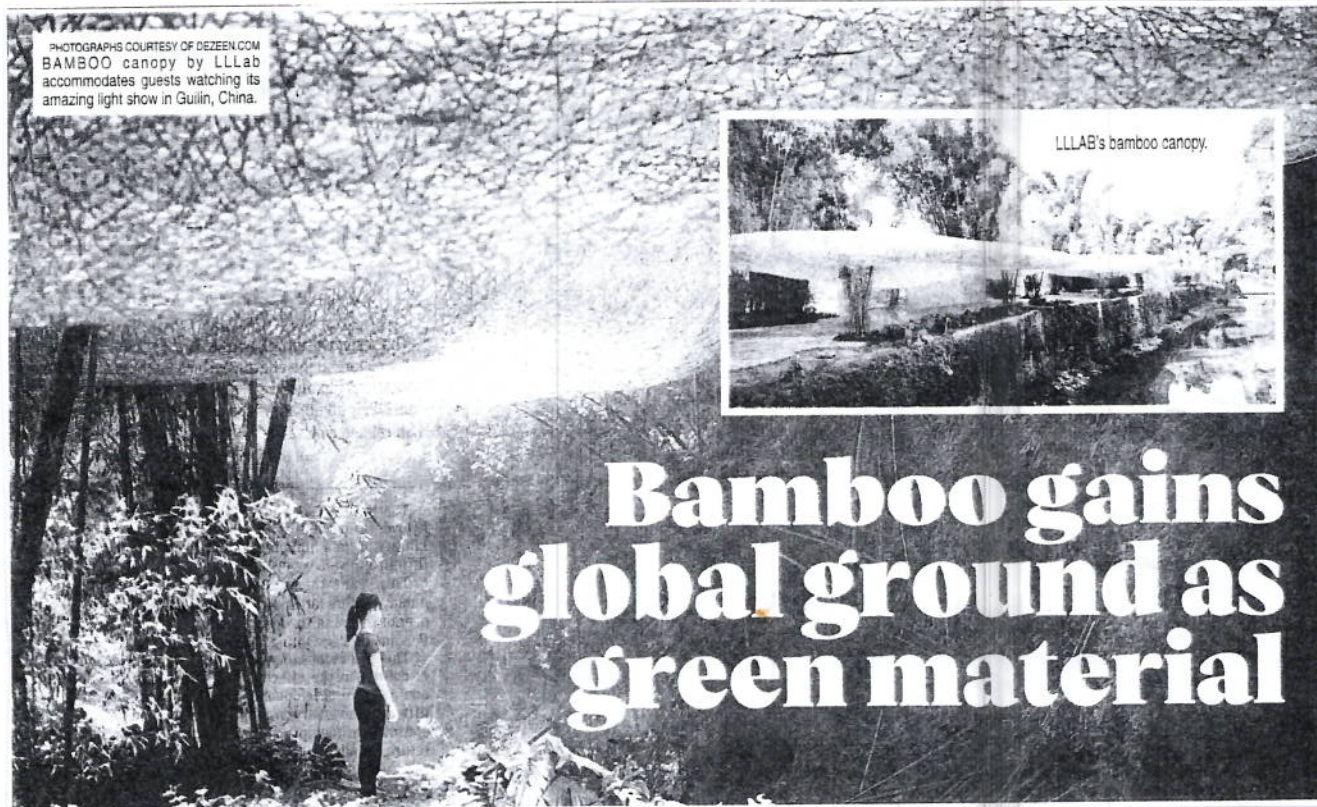


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Bamboo gains global ground as green material

Contractors will benefit from Base's accreditation program which, when completed, provides access to a series of training programs, research, and more information on the latest technology in bamboo housing and other alternative construction materials. Accredited contractors are also able to engage in construction projects with other Base partner organizations.

In the quest for sustainable construction materials that help mitigate climate change, bamboo stands out as among the best materials to fit the bill. More than just a beautiful and graceful tree for tropical gardens, bamboo is seeing new light for its industrial purposes as well.

Internationally renowned architects like Renzo Piano, Buckminster Fuller and Frei Otto all have incorporated bamboo in the designs and as materials in their iconic structures. For Renzo Piano, it's the Jean-Mrie Tjibaou Cultural Center on the island of New Caledonia that caught the public's attention. Named after the New Caledonian leader, the sturdy building built in the late 1990s is an homage to the conciliation between the people of New Caledonia and France.

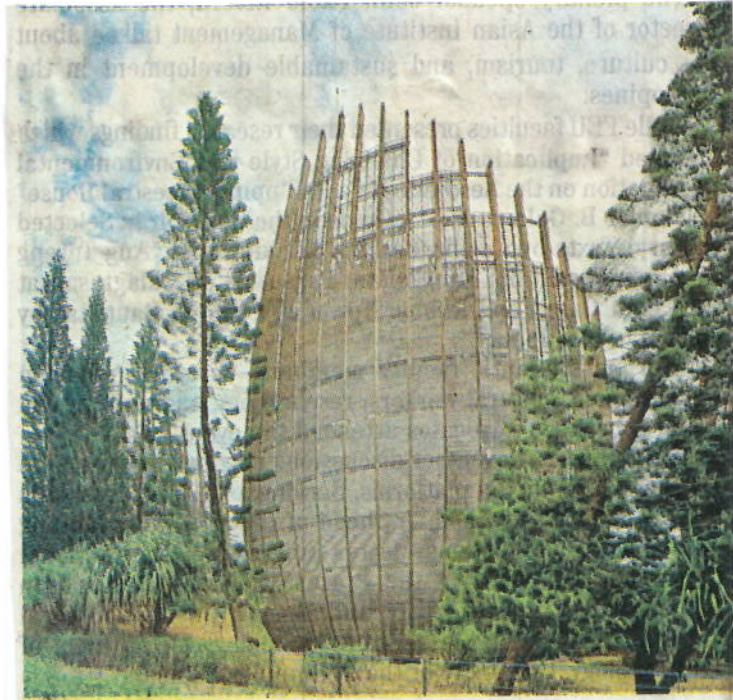


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PHOTOGRAPH COURTESY
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Construction marvel The Renzo Piano-designed Jean-Marie Tjibaou Cultural Center in New Caledonia.

A more recent work is by architecture studio Ibuku, which completed the magnificent The Arc gymnasium for the Green School in Bali. The unique building features a complex double-curved roof made entirely from bamboo. The Arc is the latest structure of the school, which is essentially an agricultural school founded by John and Cynthia Hardy. Their daughter Elora Hardy designed the trailblazing building that wonderfully stands out in the middle of a Bali forest.

Said to be a lightweight structure, the 14-meter high roof covers a spacious, undistracted column-free floor area of 760 meters.

"The concepted

IBUKU Building in the Balinese jungle.



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structure for The Arc is totally unprecedented," Ibuku project architect Rowland Sauls was quoted in *Denzeen.com*. "Embarking on a design never before executed required some bravery and optimism. We were creative and stubborn enough to research and develop the answers needed for the success of the project."

Another hulking creation built on bamboo and inspired from its lush mountain environment is from the Chinese architecture studio LLLab. The modern architectural wonder features bamboo woven into a canopy with a collective of pod-like pavilions. The structure itself is used to house guests as they view an amazing Sanjie Liu light show set in the evening and with the dramatic limestone mountain of Guilin as backdrop.

Strips of bamboo were soaked in water to make them pliable. Then skilled artisans wove them loosely in the shape of massive lanterns. An inner layer of protective clear polythene sheeting was added to guard the edifice from rain or falling debris on

the bamboo roof.

An article on *Dezeen.com* cited LLLab: "As a means to coincide with what is already there, the new architecture looked at borrowing the materiality of the bamboo, reconfiguring it to form new space."

"In doing so, this new space means not to contest. Instead it aims to augment, albeit very gently, the surrounding bamboo groves and hills."

Bamboo builder's workshop

Meanwhile, Base Bahay Foundation, Inc., a pioneering foundation that provides alternative building technologies for comfortable, affordable, resilient, eco-friendly houses, has announced its continued efforts to provide free online and in-person workshops as part of its continuing professional development Programs under the Base Bamboo Academy.

The Foundation is a global leader in bamboo-based research and technology and its workshops are key to driving its advocacy.



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The Base Bahay Academy is accredited by the Professional Regulation Commission to conduct CPD programs for industry professionals and conducts free learning modules for workers and professional builders such as architects and civil engineers since 2021.

In September, the Academy held online and in-person workshops on Bamboo Standards for architects, contractors, civil engineers, and professional builders. Entitled "Bamboo Standards: Guiding Principles and Codes behind the Cement-Bamboo Frame Technology," sessions covered discussions on "PNS ISO 22157: Physical and Mechanical Properties of Bamboo;" "PNS ISO 19624: Grading of Bamboo Culms;" and "PNS ISO 22156: Bamboo Structures."

housing and other alternative construction materials. Accredited contractors are also able to engage in construction projects with other Base partner organizations.

For industry workers, the Academy offers TESDA-accredited programs on masonry and carpentry and also covers the basics of employing Base Bahay's signature Cement-Bamboo Frame Technology. Base's skills training programs allow workers to earn their TESDA NC II Certifications which they can use for other projects.

Under its fold, the Academy has trained over 500 civil engineers and architects in its CPD program, and certified more than 100 workers through its TESDA-accredited programs.

Base Bahay continues

Contractors will benefit from Base's accreditation program which, when completed, provides access to a series of training programs, research, and more information on the latest technology in bamboo

to work with different organizations engaged in building affordable yet high-quality housing solutions with Base's Cement-Bamboo Frame Technology. To date, over 1,200 have been built with another 500 in the pipeline through ongoing builds.

Currently, Base is working on the inclusion of bamboo in the National Structural Code of the Philippines and is on its way to being published next year, which also makes the topics very timely.

For more information on Base Bahay Foundation and Learning Programs available through the Base Bamboo Academy, visit www.base-builds.com.

FRANCINE M. MARQUEZ

PHOTOGRAPHS COURTESY OF BASE BAHAY
BASE Bahay continues to work with different organizations engaged in building affordable yet high-quality housing solutions with its Cement-Bamboo Frame Technology.

