

06 November 2022, Sunday



**DENR**

# **NEWS ALERTS**

# **NEWS CLIPPINGS**

STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION AND INITIATIVES SERVICE



## DENR: Enhance PH's risk, disaster assessment

By **CORY MARTINEZ**

**STRENGTHENING** the assessment of natural hazards and their risks and impacts must be implemented to prevent the recurrence of the massive devastation brought by severe Tropical Storm "Paeng" in several regions in the country.

This was stressed by Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) Secretary Maria Antonia Yufo Loyzaga during her meeting with officials of the Office of the Civil Defense (OCD) at their headquarters in Camp Aguinaldo, Quezon City, last Oct. 30.

"Disaster risk and impact assessment, not just

hazard assessment, needs to be sharpened or enhanced," Loyzaga stressed.

The DENR is a member of the National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council (NDRRMC) along with other government, non-government, civil sector, and private sector organizations.

In the meeting, Loyzaga said the DENR may help in terms of how best to gather and analyze data that are crucial in the conduct of an effective disaster risk and impact assessment and to discuss ways to help the affected communities recover from the storm.

In its situation report on Oct. 31, the NDRRMC said Paeng had flooded a total of 554 areas across 17 regions and affected over 1.9

million Filipinos.

Loyzaga assured the DENR's commitment to help and collaborate with the OCD in devising an enhanced risk and impact assessment of climate and natural hazards.

Aside from these efforts, Loyzaga emphasized the need to prepare necessary measures ahead of another possible climate hazard or natural disaster.

She likewise recommended having a "periodic and not only event-based" Pre-Disaster Risk Assessment and establishing an "early warning, early action" system.

"We must have early warning for early action and make the last mile the first mile to avert loss and damage," Loyzaga pointed out.



## Phl pushes rich on COP pledges

The government vows to step on the gas, literally, in prodding developed countries to fulfill their climate change commitments as the Philippines continues to suffer the worst effects of weather disturbances that had become more destructive over the years.

The Philippine delegation will support host Egypt in its efforts to revitalize international consensus on the climate crisis during the 27th Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change which opens at Sharm el-Sheikh City today.

Environment Secretary Maria Antonia Yulo-Loyzaga leads the Philippine delegation at the conference slated from 6 to 18 November.

Loyzaga said the delegation would continue calling on developed countries to step up to obligations and "deliver without delay on their commitments on climate finance, technology transfer and capacity building."

The Philippines expects the conference to set the stage for "transparent, accessible, predictable and efficient climate finance."

### Climate action needed

"The Philippine delegation will assert the country's call for bolder climate action and demand the delivery of what is due for the developing countries, which hardly produce any greenhouse gas emissions, yet they suffer the most and continue to bear the brunt of the adverse impacts of climate change," Loyzaga said.

She stressed the increasing intensity and frequency of climate and weather-related hazards, as shown by the devastation brought about by tropical cyclone "Paeng" the previous week, have been severely impacting the lives of Filipinos and putting a strain on efforts toward economic growth.

"Against this backdrop and guided by the current administration's policies and priorities on climate change, the Philippine delegation stands ready to work with other nations and stakeholders," according to the climate delegation head.

She added that the country supports Egypt's efforts in galvanizing and revitalizing international consensus and political will in addressing the most urgent scourge.

"The problems threaten the very existence of humanity as we know it," she said.

### Bannering commitment

Loyzaga said the country intends to contribute most to the workstreams, dealing with Article 6 of the Paris Agreement, adaptation, climate finance, and loss and damage.

"The Philippines will not only safeguard its positions but also continue what it started," she said.

Article 6 of the pact allows nations to voluntarily cooperate with each other to achieve emission reduction targets.

Loss and damage, on the other hand, refers to climate change's negative impact that cannot be avoided by mitigation and adaptation, such as extreme weather events, sea level rise, and glacial retreat, among others.

She said the Philippines agrees with the operationalization and funding of the Santiago Network on Loss and Damage, which would provide developing countries with technical assistance.

"The Philippine delegation, in the following days, will continue to assert and safeguard the country's interest in climate change negotiation, ensuring that we receive the appropriate support and assistance as a country vulnerable to climate change," Loyzaga said.

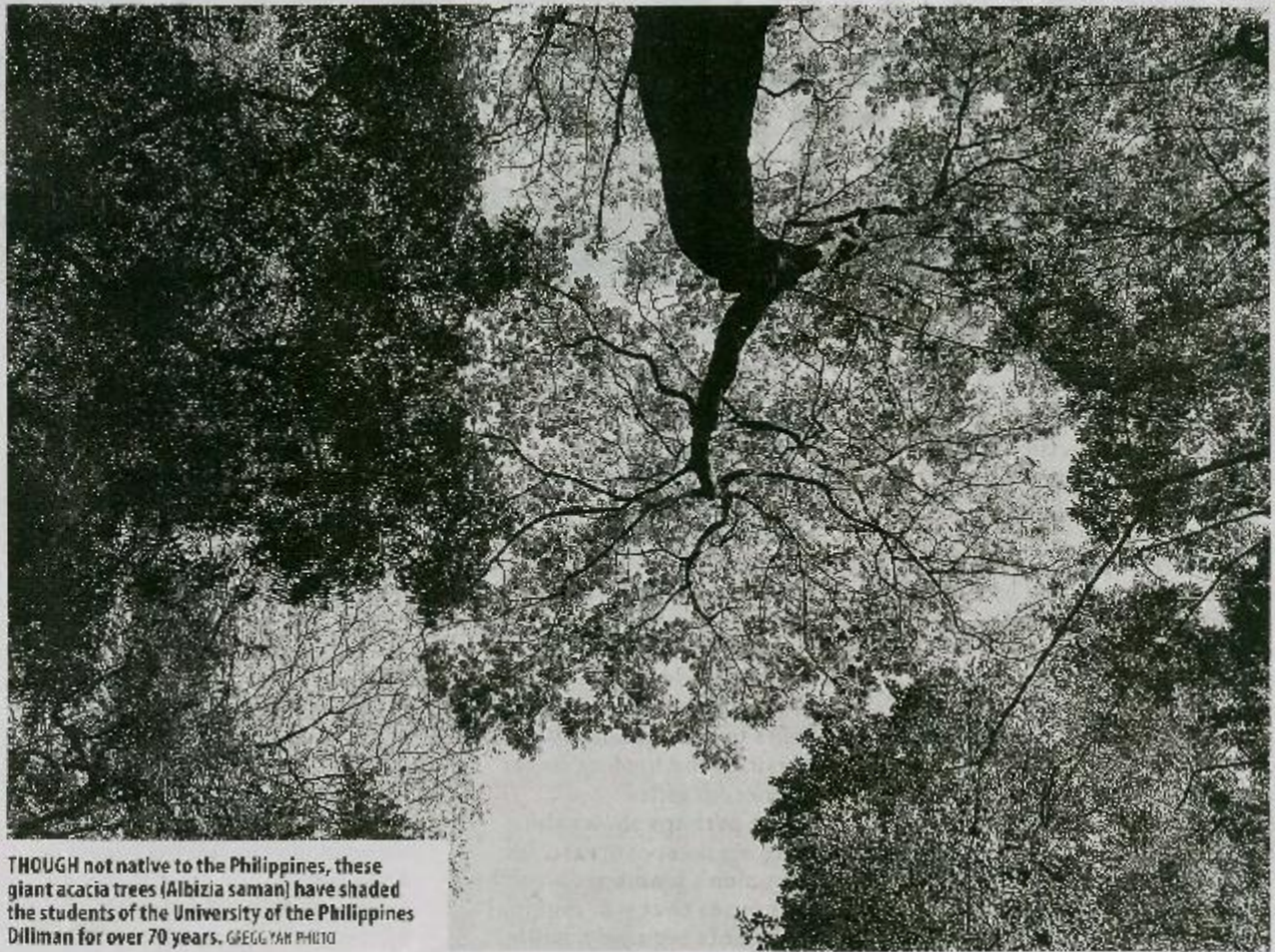
Egypt, as COP27 president, aims at making the conference an "implementation COP" by urging action across prior agreements through all areas of climate change.

Representatives and negotiators from the House of Representatives, Department of Environment and Natural Resources, Climate Change Commission, Department of Finance, Department of Foreign Affairs, Department of Agriculture and Department of Energy, as well as advisers from scientific and civil society organizations, comprise the Philippine delegation to Egypt.

"COP27 is the moment where global leaders can regain momentum on climate change, make the necessary pivot from negotiations to implementation, and get moving on the massive transformation that must take place throughout all sectors of society to address the climate emergency," Simon Stiell, executive secretary of UN Climate Change, said in a statement.



# Green spaces make urban areas livable



THOUGH not native to the Philippines, these giant acacia trees (*Albizia saman*) have shaded the students of the University of the Philippines Dilliman for over 70 years. GREGG YAN PHOTO

By JONATHAN L. MAYUGA

ON October 11, more than a hundred participants from 12 countries took part in a hybrid Research and Development Conference on Urban Parks and Green Cities: A Sustainable Future in Southeast Asia.

The attendees were from Bangladesh, Cambodia, India, Indonesia, Lao PDR, Malaysia, the Philippines, Singapore, Thailand, Timor-Leste, Vietnam and United Arab Emirates.

Organized by the Department of Environment and Natural Resources-Ecosystems Research and Development Bureau (DENR-ERDB), the event aims to improve the livability in cities and effectively adapt them against the impact of climate change, one of the biggest challenges the humanity is facing today.

## Partnership, science-based information

DENR Undersecretary Atty. Jonas R. Leones for Policy, Planning, and International Affairs, who delivered the keynote speech on behalf of the Environment Secretary Antonia Yulo-Loyzaga, urged the participants to work quickly and smartly in creating more partnerships in formulating science-based policies and implementing strategic work on the ground.

He also urged the participants not to merely conduct and release research results in a timely manner but also to communicate the scientific information generated more effectively to the target stakeholders.

Marcial C. Amaro, DENR assistant secretary for Policy, Planning, and International Affairs, emphasized the overarching goal to make cities green, livable and sustainable, which is one of the conference's areas of discussion.

"Urban parks and green cities are integral to the health of people to build a sustainable future for all. Strategies must focus on rethinking the development of cities, its parks, and their contribution to the protection of ecosystems, infrastructure, economy, and communities," he said.

## Information exchange

A TOTAL of 39 papers and 35 poster



TITLE: Green spaces make urban areas livable

PAGE 2/3

DATE

presenters under four major themes namely Green and Resilient Urban Communities, Urban Biodiversity, Ecosystems and Economics; Management and Impact of Urban Parks and Urban Governance and Policies for Greener Cities were shared during the three-day event.

"The event was organized to provide a forum for the exchange of information on generated strategies," Dr. Lynlei L. Pintor, OIC chief at the Urban Ecosystem Research Division of the DENR-ERDB and overall conference coordinator.

"Actually for a very long time, urban parks are taken for granted. We only realized their importance during the pandemic. The conference was very timely because we can learn from the best practices from other countries. At the same time, researchers can learn from advanced methodologies that we can apply in our own research," Pintor told the BusinessMirror during an interview via Messenger.

"We are now moving forward to

have more green spaces [in the Philippines]," she said.

The DENR-ERDB urban Ecosystem Research Division has been conducting studies on urban parks.

Pintor has studied 16 researches on urban parks. Other DENR-ERDB researchers, she added, focused on urban parks in specific locations.

The conference aims to address research gaps on urban areas and green cities in the Philippines, namely the robust mechanisms on monitoring urban green space programs; mapping of urban green spaces; and ecosystems functioning and delivery of ecosystem services.

### Learning the science

RESEARCHERS, according to Pintor can learn a lot from various studies conducted in different countries.

This way, she said, highly urbanized cities, particularly in the Philippines, can learn and apply best practices in urban park development to make cities more sustainable.

"Before, LGUs [local government units] developed parks to beautify the surrounding. But there is more to urban park development," she explained in Filipino.

### Rapid development

ACCORDING to the DENR-ERDB, more than 60 percent of the world's population lives in urban areas where there are better opportunities than in rural areas.

By 2050, rapid urbanization would be considered a risk as it is estimated that 70 percent of the world's population will live in the cities, the ERDB said, citing a 2016 World Bank report.

Due to rapid development, urban dwellers need an inclusive, healthy, resilient, safe and sustainable living environment.

### Urban sustainability

ONE of the seven targets of Sustainable Development Goals 11 is to provide access to safe, inclusive, and accessible green and public spaces



TITLE: Green spaces make urban areas livable PAGE: 3/3

DATE

by 2030.

The United Nations Urban agenda proposes to work on smart cities and low carbon climate resilience with social inclusion.

According to the DENR-ERDB, to achieve urban sustainability, efforts are done focusing on man-made and built-up components of urban development.

### Urban parks and green spaces

ACCORDING to the DENR R&D arm, urban parks and green spaces play a pivotal role in combating the impending increasing "urban heat-island effect" and pollution.

It sifts pollutants and maintains air and aesthetic quality to make urban scenery livable.

Urban parks and green spaces provide a range of ecosystem services in terms of human health, environment, social and economic.

### Striking a balance

ASEAN Centre for Biodiversity (ACB) Executive Director Theresa Mundita S. Lim said the challenge for cities is how to strike the balance between land development and retaining and restoring green spaces and wetlands as corridors for biodiversity.

"Oftentimes, the temptation is great for city governments and developers to expand and use every inch of their land area for residential and commercial purposes because there is very little appreciation for the value of setting aside portions for well-connected nature parks in urban areas," Lim, a former DENR Biodiversity Management Bureau (BMB) director told the BUSINESSMIRROR via Messenger on November 3.

According to Lim, valuation studies that can help quantify the contribution of mainstreaming biodiversity into urban planning, in terms of disaster resilience, human well-being and food security, among others, will be useful in helping local decision-makers determine the thresholds for commercial expansion and land conversion in urban development.

"The Singapore Index on Cities' Biodiversity, or the City Biodiversity Index, should also be a useful tool for cities to measure

their progress in incorporating biodiversity in their master plans and improving the quality of life for our city dwellers," she added.

### Integral life systems

FOR her part, Maria Golda Hilario, Institute for Climate and Sustainable Cities (ICSC) associate for Program Development, said urban parks and green spaces are integral life systems that make cities livable, besides its ecosystems service value of being flood sinks, providing lung support for cities' residents and habitat of wildlife, among others.

"The Covid-19 pandemic has underscored the challenge of why it is important, especially for our well-being, and we see progress in the packets of green parks that have emerged, developed by local governments, including that in Marikina City," she said via Messenger on November 3.

"At the same time, we see the challenge to different government agencies. Hard-working commuting Filipinos will benefit more if build, build, build is directed along building an interconnected bike and pedestrian lanes along tree lanes; if rather than cutting remaining trees to fix city's drainage problem and expand roads, we find ways to preserve those trees knowing that they help address floods, and provide shades for motorists and commuters; if rather than build highways to traverse rivers, we work with communities that would create livelihood opportunities that reward them to save the river by attracting local tourism, just like in Iloilo City," she said.

According to Hilario, in Southeast Asia, Bogor in Indonesia is an example of a forest in the middle of the city or can be a city in the middle of the forest. She said it further shows that nature and the built environment can actually co-exist. "It takes coordination, collaboration among different agencies, and most important creative approaches to address urban development issues. Redesigning cities need not be a very costly process. Sometimes, it is a matter of looking at the challenge from a new perspective, a perspective that respects and understands nature's logic. Urban green parks and spaces serve as our daily reminders," she pointed out.



# MMDA vows to make Metro flood-resilient

By GHIO ONG

The Metropolitan Manila Development Authority (MMDA) vowed to continue enforcing flood control and management projects funded by international entities, an official said yesterday.

The agency is "committed to further intensify efforts and initiatives toward making Metro Manila more resilient to floods, especially since the effects of climate change are getting worse," MMDA acting chairman Romando Artes said.

"As we move forward, the MMDA has high hopes for project extensions for us to successfully alleviate flood management issues in Metro Manila through the MMFMP's structural and non-structural interventions, as well as the active participation and commitment of all stakeholders," he added, referring to the Metro Manila Flood Management Project.

The MMDA and the Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH) recently met with representatives from the World Bank (WB) and the Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB), which both fund projects under the MMFCMP.

They visited the solid waste granulator (SWG) and brick-making facility – which creates bricks, hollow blocks and concrete barriers made with shredded solid waste, as well as bio-waste compost materials – near the Vitas pumping station in Tondo, Manila.

WB and AIIB officials noted that the MMDA has increased the SWG's diversion rate to eight percent from five percent compared to the mid-term review conducted last March; achieved a wider reach of the mobile materials recovery facility from 10 to 42 barangays, collecting 97,000 kilos of waste from last March's 8,000 kilos; and distributed composting facilities to 32 barangays from three barangays last March.

The MMDA said it is constructing a water hyacinth processing plant in Rizal, installing pilot pyrolysis equipment at the Vitas pumping station and installing trash traps in selected waterways.



# Metro flood projects earn World Bank kudos

The recognition by WB and AIIB was made after their officials met with the MMDA and conducted an inspection of Metro Manila flood control projects over the weekend.

BY RAADEE SAUSA

The World Bank and the Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank have recognized the Metropolitan Manila Development Authority for its flood control projects, according to MMDA chairman Romando Artes.

Artes said the two banking institutions lauded the gains being made in controlling the perennial flooding in the National Capital Region primarily through projects being managed by the MMDA.

The recognition by WB and AIIB was made after their officials met with the

MMDA and conducted an inspection of Metro Manila flood control projects over the weekend.

The MMDA official said that among the projects recognized for significant progress was "the wider reach of the mobile materials recovery facility from 10 to 42 barangays in Metro Manila.

Likewise, the distribution of composting facilities to 32 barangays from only three barangays in March was also lauded by the banking officials, he added.

Other ongoing projects that received the nod of the financing organizations were the water hyacinth processing

plant in Rizal, the start of the pyrolysis equipment installation at the Vitas Pumping Station, and the installation of trash traps in selected waterways.

"The water hyacinth processing plant is almost complete and was initiated amid the fast growth of water hyacinth, especially along Pasig River which contributes to the flooding in some parts of Metro Manila," he added.

The two funding agencies also recognized the increased diversion rate of the solid waste granulator and brick-making facility located at the Vitas Pumping Station in Tondo.

"These facilities convert solid waste to by-products such as eco-bricks, eco-hollow blocks, eco-concrete barriers, and bio-waste compost materials," Artes said.

The MMDA has also completed the 25-year Solid Waste Management master plan that aims to reduce the vulnerability to and resilience against floods of Metro Manila.

"We are further intensifying our efforts and initiatives toward making Metro Manila more resilient to floods, especially since the effects of climate change are getting worse," Artes added.





## BREAKTHROUGH

ELFREN S. CRUZ

### Climate change: still the world's biggest crisis

The world today is facing several crises. There is raging inflation in all the economies of the world and it is becoming more apparent that next year, there will be a global recession. Beyond that, there is the threat of the deglobalization and a new period of stagflation. In terms of geopolitics, there is the ongoing Ukrainian invasion by Russia, the threat of an invasion of Taiwan by Xi Jinping, the reelection of an extremely rightist government in Israel which could re-ignite another violent confrontation in the Middle East. Recently, there has been increasing tension in the Korean Peninsula as North Korea increases the number of its missile tests.



These dramatic crises and conflicts have overshadowed what is actually the most critical problem confronting the world and its future. This is the worsening crisis brought about by global warming and climate change.

Today, Nov. 6, the annual United Nations Climate Change Conference, most commonly referred to as conference of the parties of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UN FCCC) or Conference of the Parties (COP27), will be held in Egypt. This will be the 27<sup>th</sup> United Nations Climate Change Conference. Last year, the 26<sup>th</sup> conference was held in Glasgow, Scotland, United Kingdom.

This climate summit comes at a critical moment as world leaders are divided on how to confront the terrifying prospect of global warming. In the past year, our planet has been hit by record-breaking heat waves and storms in practically all sections of the planet. Deadly floods have also wrought historic destruction caused by unusually numerous typhoons and hurricanes. The Philippines was recently hit by Typhoon Paeng which caused numerous deaths and destruction caused by heavy rains.

UN Secretary General Antonio Guterres has realized that the poorer countries need financing from richer nations if there is to be a transition to renewable energy in these poor countries. Guterres said, "If that pact does not take place, we will be doomed, because we need to reduce emissions both in the developed countries and emerging economies." Last year, there was some optimism during the COP26 in Glasgow that the target of limiting the increase in global warming would be held to the targeted 1.5 degrees Centigrade above pre-industrial temperatures. Since that summit, the result has been very disappointing. In the latest UN Emissions Gap Report, the finding is that a mere 0.5 tons have been shaved off last year's 17- to 20-billion-ton gap, where the annual rate of carbon dioxide emissions would need to be in 2030 in order to offer a decent chance of limiting global warming to 1.5 degrees Centigrade.

According to the same report, most of the shavings come from the new Australian government's more active climate policies. It states that if every national climate goal for the end of this decade was met, then the average global temperature would still rise by 2.4 degrees Centigrade by 2100. This is still way above the targeted 1.5 degrees Centigrade.

If the midcentury net zero pledges are met, it could mean an increase of just 1.8 degrees Centigrade of global warming. However, the UN report warns that this is "currently not credible." According to their studies, real climate change action and not just promises still equate to 2.8 degrees Centigrade of global warming by the year 2100.

In order to avoid the more than 1.5 degrees Centigrade of global warming, greenhouse gas emissions must peak before 2025 and then fall by 43 percent from 2019 levels by 2050.

Another report by an NGO - Systems Change Lab - is even more pessimistic. This organization is a conglomerate of environmental NGOs and think tanks

which translated these reductions into 40 indicators, each with a 2030 target. In its 2022 report, it finds that not one of the indicators is targeted for the 1.5 degrees Centigrade. In fact, the report claims that some of the indicators are going in the opposite direction.

For example, the share of electricity generated by fossil fuels like natural gas burned without capturing the resulting carbon dioxide has actually risen in current years. Also, the amount of carbon dioxide generated by steel production has increased and food production is emitting more than it did five years ago.

As far as I am concerned, the worst news is that aside from Australia, none of the developed countries has met their target. The developing countries have also not met their targets because of lack of financing from the rich countries. The

recent action of the Russians cutting off fuel supply to the rest of Europe and the OPEC decision to reduce oil production to keep prices high have led to countries going back to reopening of coal mines as an alternative.

The COP 27 climate summit in Egypt must confront these impending disasters in order to reverse the current global warming trends before these become irreversible.



# Editorial

## Impact of typhoons offers reminders of old problems

**T**HE death and damage caused by Tropical Storm "Paeng" bring attention to unresolved problems in the Philippines, particularly deforestation. In fact, reports of tragic losses from the storm seem seasonal for a country that sees a yearly average of 20 tropical cyclones. And from that figure, eight or nine cross land and do more damage.

As bad as Paeng was, many Filipinos might even brush off its impact, given that they have seen more destructive storms in the past. But the relatively lower death toll will not console the families of those who lost loved ones or those whose homes and crops were destroyed.

Worse, poor people tend to be the most vulnerable to bad weather. Their simple homes offer less safety than those in gated communities and high-rise condominiums.

Of course, the dwindling forest cover affects everyone, directly and indirectly. For instance, warnings about global warming are related to deforestation and increasingly intense weather events. Not even those in posh neighborhoods might be spared. Also, destruction of crops and livestock pushes up food prices for everyone at a time when costs are already high because of inflation.

Fortunately, the Marcos administration seems serious about mitigating climate change and crafting green policies. Plus, there also seems to be more public awareness about environmental issues.

National leaders should revisit the reasons why past and existing environmental initiatives have been inadequate. Take tree planting, for instance. Enterprises, socio-civic groups and even the government have been planting trees for decades, but the impact seems hard to appreciate. In the aftermath of storms like Paeng, benefits from that virtuous intervention is either negligible or perhaps even non-existent.

### Plant native trees

There are a few things that policymakers and concerned people should consider. First, many more trees should be planted. From 2002 to 2021, the country lost 12 percent of its primary forest, about 158,000 hectares. Just over 23 percent or 7 million hectares out of the country's 30 million hectares still have forests. While forests had been growing in recent years, the area covered pales in comparison to that a century ago. In 1934, the forest cover in the Philippines was estimated at 17.8 million hectares.

Second, people should plant the right kind of trees. The wrong ones are foreign species, which can contribute to deforestation by making the soil acidic or crowding out native trees because there are no natural predators that can contain them. Besides planting indigenous trees, people should avoid monocultures, which can be wiped out by a single plant disease. Effective tree-planting programs should be like rebuilding forests, which must have a variety of trees that would sustain local wildlife.

The foreign trees that some Filipinos love may have a place in urban landscapes, like city parks and backyards. But the government should clamp down on their importation and cultivation. Also, there should be a public information campaign about the benefits of native trees, most of which are unfamiliar to Filipinos.

Third, Congress should pass a land use law, partly to define boundaries between development and conservation. Much of the forest area lost has been blamed on urban development and farm expansion. There are local land use ordinances, but they do little for forest areas that border several local government jurisdictions.

Lastly, rebuilding forests should not be limited to mountains and inland areas. Filipinos should also rehabilitate coastal areas by reviving mangrove forests. Mangroves capture more carbon dioxide than other trees. They are also more effective than concrete seawalls in protecting seaside communities from storm surges. Plus, mangroves can help revive fish stocks in areas that have been damaged by destructive fishing methods.

The interventions mentioned should not end with planting trees. Saplings often need some care and other forms of human assistance. Of course, that adds to the costs, but that can be viewed as an opportunity to generate jobs in rural areas.

With the suggestions offered here, perhaps the passing of future storms will not be followed by a sense of regret that more could have been done to prevent potential tragedies from happening.



## REPORT: HALF OF ANCESTRAL DOMAINS UNDER ENVIRONMENTAL THREAT

By **Mariejo S. Ramos**  
@MariejoRamosINC

Despite the abundance of indigenous lands in the country and the ecosystem services they offer, about half of ancestral domains are under environmental threat, according to a report by a research organization.

At least 1.25 million hectares of ancestral domain are currently "embroiled in environmentally destructive projects," revealed the 2022 State of the Indigenous Peoples Address Report (Sipa) by the Legal Rights and Natural Resources Center (LRC).

Extractive industries such

as logging, mining and quarrying constitute at least 51 percent of all environmentally critical projects (ECPs).

The LRC defined ECPs as projects that create significant ecological risks, such as massive disturbance and pollution of land, waterways, air, climate and biodiversity.

Citing recent data from the Environmental Management Bureau, the LRC found that 83 out of 410 ECPs in the country were situated within or close to lands under registered certificates of ancestral domain titles (CADTs), the Indigenous Peoples (IPs) formal tenurial instrument for ancestral lands

under the 1987 Indigenous People's Rights Act (IPA).

The report found that 49 percent of mining projects were in conflict with CADTs, while 87 percent of forest areas covered by large-scale logging were in conflict with registered ancestral domains.

The LRC report also noted that while indigenous territories in the country cover almost 13 to 14 million hectares of landscapes, only 5.97 million hectares of land area were registered under CADTs, based on 2021 data from the National Commission on Indigenous Peoples.

Still, even without formal

land titles, 5.3 million hectares of ancestral territories are forests, making up 75 percent of our country's remaining forest cover and generating P1.1 trillion ecosystem value per year.

LRC, one of the groups that pushed for the passage of the Ipra, said the current state of affairs showed that the protective mechanisms of the law "are being undermined."

"Underpinning these tensions with and pressures on IPs and their ancestral domains is the weak implementation of the free, prior and informed consent (FPIC) process," the group noted in the report, adding that

the "fraudulent acquisition of FPIC has been reported numerous times."

Lawyer Mai Taqueban, executive director of LRC, said that in the face of the climate crisis, "protecting ancestral domains and their natural defenses to extreme climate impacts is urgently needed."

"The exploitation and commoditization of nature is sadly an enduring framework to managing our natural resources," Taqueban said.

She added that the situation had not only marginalized the IPs but "has also worsened their human rights situation, for many of them naturally op-

pose these projects."

According to the report, 45 IPs were killed from 2019 to 2021, with cases "linked to various land and resource grabbing issues."

Taqueban said the IPs "will pursue an IP agenda under the new government," including the "harmonization of the Ipra with natural resources and other laws affecting IPs."

The LRC launched the Sipa 2022 ahead of this year's United Nations Climate Change Conference, "with the intent of urging both local and world leaders to support indigenous actions to address the climate crisis." **INC**



# Legarda: Paris accord important to Phl, EU must scale up on NDCs

Senate President Pro Tempore Loren Legarda emphasized the importance of the Paris Agreement to the Philippines as a Philippine delegation of senators, led by Senate President Juan Miguel Zubiri, met with French legislators in Paris last 25 October.

"One of the many advocacies and issues that bond France and the Philippines is the Paris Agreement. Being number one in the world risk index, as the most vulnerable nation in the world, we value the ratification of the Paris Accord in 2015," Legarda said during their meeting with Guillaume Kasharian, President of France's Commission for Economic Affairs and Member of Parliament of the National Assembly (*Eure-et-Loir*).

The World Risk Index 2022 report released last September ranked the Philippines as the country with the highest natural disaster risk among 193 nations globally.

Legarda urged the European Union to increase its National Determined Contributions, the climate action plans submitted

by nations, to lessen the impact of climate change on vulnerable countries such as the Philippines.

"It's been seven years since the ratification of the accord and it is incumbent upon industrialized nations in the EU, including France, to perhaps scale up the National Determined Contributions so that vulnerable nations like the Philippines, which only emits 1/3 of 1 percent in terms of global greenhouse gas emissions, will not be as affected," Legarda said.

"That is one of the advocacies that I share with my colleagues, which we know the French government and the French people hold dearly as well, because this impacts our energy security, our food security," she added.

The European Commission has committed to decrease greenhouse gas emissions from the EU by 2030 and produce "net zero" emissions by 2050, according to the

World Bank.

The WB also said that 76 percent of global



PHOTOGRAPHS COURTESY OF THE OFFICE OF SEN LOREN LEGARDA

SENATE Pro Tempore Loren Legarda and Senate President Juan Miguel Zubiri with French Senator Daniel Gremillet, member of the Committee for Economic Affairs and President of the Study Group on Energy.



TITLE: Legarda: Paris accord important to Phil, EU  
must scale up on NDCs

PAGE 2/2

DATE



PHILIPPINE senators led by Senate President Juan Miguel Zubiri met with French Senator Daniel Gremillet, member of the Committee for Economic Affairs and President of the Study Group on Energy (fifth from left) and Gisele Jourda, President-delegate for the Philippines (fourth from right), during their official visit to the French Parliament.

greenhouse gas emissions come from China, the United States, and the EU.

Legarda and the rest of the Philippine delegation also met with the French-South East Asian Friendship Group led by Senator Mathieu Darnaud and Madame Gisele Jourda, Vice President of the Committee on European Affairs and President-designate for the Philippines.

During the meeting, Legarda, founder and president of the Philippines-France Parliamentary Friendship Association, conveyed the Philippines' commitment to the High Ambition Coalition for Nature and People. She also thanked France for its continued assistance to the Philippines.

"I'm glad that France does not stop in helping give technological, technical, and capacity-building and even financial assistance in so far as biodiversity conservation, sustainable development, and climate action (are concerned)," she said.

In support of the Philippines' actions against climate change, the Agence Française de Développement has committed EUR 482 million for the country. In 2021, a policy-based loan amounting to EUR 250 million was granted to the Philippines by France as funding support for disaster risk reduction, preparedness, and response at the local level.

"We are grateful for your continued support for the Philippines and other developing nations, and as the COP talks start in the first week of November in Egypt this year, we hope that France will be on the side of developing nations so that the \$100 billion commitment in the Paris Agreement would finally be realized, and so that the issues of loss and damage, which are important to vulnerable nations, could also be defended or even discussed," Legarda said.

As a legislator, Legarda has championed environmental protection and climate action in the Philippines. In recognition of her work, she was bestowed the title of Chevalier (Knight) in the Ordre national de la légion d'Honneur (National Order of the French Legion of Honor) on 18 February 2016 by then-French president Francois Holland through former French Ambassador Thierry Mathou.

The Philippine delegation, composed of Legarda, Zubiri, Senate Majority Leader Joel Villanueva, Senate Deputy Majority Leader Joseph Victor Ejercito, and Senators Manuel Lapid, Maria Lourdes Binay, Grace Poe, and Christopher Lawrence Go, also met with Senator Daniel Gremillet, member of the Committee for Economic Affairs and President of the Study Group on Energy; and Pascal Chaix, Deputy Director for International Relations Division of the Atomic Energy Commission.



TITLE

PAGE

DATE

By Erwin M. Mascariñas  
@InqNational

# Bagobo Klata tribe fights for land, culture, life

**D**AVAO CITY—For years, the small community of the indigenous Bagobo Klata tribe at the foot of Mt. Apo has been celebrating a festival of thanksgiving for life, rain and the bountiful harvest.

But this year, the elders have a special plea for the spirits to intervene to help preserve and protect their vanishing culture and forest.

Held every second Sunday of October, "Menum" is a feast honoring the earth, the sun and the rain which give life to plants, trees and all the living creatures within their ancestral domain.

It is also a celebration of their culture as the festivity showcases the tribe's traditional food, music, dances and fun games.

"Our customs and traditions are woven with nature and the environment, our forest which provides life. Our culture, language and arts remind us of our role as stewards [of nature]," said Pong-anguo Rosalito Anog, chieftain of Boi'loy Tappo Ngo Bagobo Klata (House of Gathering of the Bagobo Klata).

Like other tribes living around the country's highest peak, the Bagobo Klata people revere Apo Sandawa for being the king of the mountains and the Philippine eagle for being the queen of the skies and all birds.

**Reverence**  
Like other tribes living around the country's highest peak, the Bagobo Klata people revere Apo Sandawa for being the king of the mountains and the Philippine eagle for being the queen of the skies and all birds.

**OUTDOOR FUN** Children on wooden stilts known as "karang-karang" pass by each other during a two-team relay race, in the same way as their forefathers played outdoors and had fun in their younger years.

Mt. Apo is thought to be the burial ground of Apo Sandawa, hence, a sacred place for the tribes.

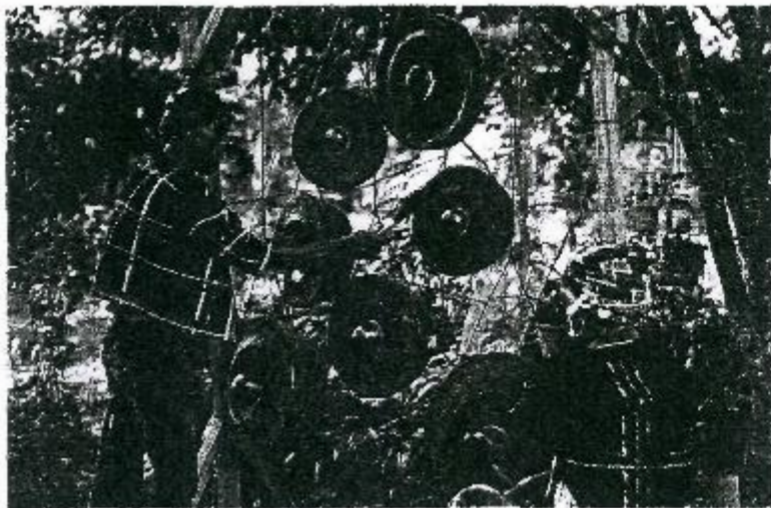
But Anog expressed alarm about the future of this role as many no longer practice the tribal norms and the youth grow up disconnected from their culture.

"We see the life of our children, the next generation, evolve away from this [cultural] path," Anog lamented.

Many of the tribe's children are uninitiated to cultural practices as elders died without passing the torch of knowledge to the next generation, Anog added.

"Many of the children cannot speak our language. This is sad. We fear that one day, our language will just be a recording in time," he added.

**Roots**  
During Menum, the tribe looked back to its roots and its direct relationship with the environment. And everyone was encouraged to speak the Bagobo Klata way.  
Anog said that they established a tribal school where parents bring their children every



**INDIGENOUS SOUND** Aging Bagobo Klata musicians hit the kuintang in different intensities to produce melodic beats that bring to life a glorious heritaga.

"Sunday to learn traditional songs, dance, playing musical instruments, food preparation and the tribe's dying language.

"We, the elders of the tribe, won't be here in the future. Our future is in the hands of our children," he pointed out.

Before the festivity started, Anog, joined by other tribal elders, offered a prayer to Mother Earth and Apo Sandawa, invoking their intervention against those who continue to cut the trees within their ancestral domain with wanton disregard for its dire consequences.

"We pray that those who continuously cut trees in the area will be stopped. We hope that the people will think and be enlightened to stop what they are doing as those living in the lowlands will suffer the wrath of Apo Sandawa if no trees will stop floodwaters brought by the rains and the heat from the sun," the elders said.

The Bagobo Klata tribe owns over 6,378 hectares of forests within the Taicmo-Lipadas watersheds of Davao City. Spanning over 25,000 ha, the watersheds host the aquifers from which the water needs of over 1.7 million people in the city are sourced.

The tribe's ancestral do-

main also hosts a pair of Philippine eagles.

In 2018, the Philippine Eagle Foundation (PEF) helped the Bagobo Klata come up with their ancestral domain sustainable development and protection plan that embodies their aspirations as a community. During the pandemic, the plan was updated to allow the tribe to cope with the new challenges due to the new coronavirus disease.

To prevent them from becoming dependent on forest exploitation to compensate for lost income due to the lockdowns, PEF provided alternative income sources to women-led enterprises.

indigenous forest guards

were also trained and supported to protect the forests from timber poaching, said Dr. Jaysua Ibañez, PEF director for research and conservation.

Ibañez reiterated the importance of the festival in promoting environmental conservation together with the conservation of culture and tradition.

"We are reminded of the bounty of natural resources within the ancestral domain and its importance to culture. Without nature and biodiversity, there won't be indigenous culture, and without culture, human life would be miserable," Ibañez said.

### Symbol

"By using the Philippine eagle as a symbol, the PEF and the Bagobo Klata [tribe] are working together to keep bio-cultural diversity thriving and alive into the future," added Ibañez.

"The life of the indigenous community is connected with the environment. If you neglect the indigenous peoples, you destroy the environment, and with the environment destroyed, you destroy the life of the people," said Bishop Valentin Dimoc, national director of the Catholic Bishops' Conference of the Philippines-Episcopal Commission on Indigenous Peoples, who participated in the Menum.

Dimoc explained that the suffering was brought about by developmental aggressions in the past and that the Church should be there to support and stand steadfast in helping correct the problem.

"The development aggression in the 1960s to 1970s cut through our vast forest, even the home of the Philippine eagle. The sacrifices of everyone should not be overlooked; there should be dialogues to have syndicality in caring for each other, let's restore proper relationship with our environment," Dimoc said. *mc*



# 404 people nabbed over environmental violations

**Ordinance 0753 prohibits garbage disposal in public areas and imposes fines and possible imprisonment of up to 60 days.**

BY CHERK BALAGTAS

The city government of Caloocan is aiming to reinforce its programs on ecological conservation through its city environmental police composed of employees of the City Environmental Management Department.

According to CEMD officer-in-charge Ryan Castillo, the group is composed of 120 employees both from North and South Caloocan, all assigned to enforce ordinances and laws on environmental protection.

These include Ordinance 0753, which prohibits garbage disposal in public areas and imposes fines and possible imprisonment of up to 60 days.

Castillo said that the environmental police have already apprehended a total of 404 violators. He said offenders face penalties ranging from P500 to P5,000.

Recently, the environmental police officers were tasked to clean Caloocan's public cemeteries and to lead clean-up operations post-typhoon.

In addition, they also led the cleaning and hauling operations, and in monitoring the city's waterways.

The local government also called on the public to cooperate and to observe the proper storage and disposal of their waste.



# Wealthier countries should lead

Our world faces great trials and tests. Geopolitical divides are growing. Inequalities and injustices are deepening. Cooperation is the only way forward.

Regional organizations like the League of Arab States have a vital role to play in today's world. We must work together to advance the values based on which the United Nations was born. Peace, sustainable development, and human rights.

Allow me to begin with the ongoing suffering in Palestine. The United Nations position is clear: Peace must advance – the occupation must end. Our shared goal remains two States – Israel and Palestine – living side by side in peace and security, with Al-Quds/Jerusalem as the capital of both States.

At the same time, the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East's financial crisis is undermining the rights and well-being of Palestine refugees. I urge you to generously support UNRWA, a vital pillar of regional stability. And I look forward to continuing our work together to address challenges across the region – from Syria, Lebanon and Yemen... to Libya, Somalia and Sudan.

Instability or conflicts persist and humanitarian needs are growing. Let us keep up our common efforts towards multilateral solutions that meet people's legitimate aspirations for peace, freedom, and justice. As we scan the global landscape,



SECRETARY  
GENERAL  
UNITED NATIONS  
ANTONIO GUTERRES

injustices and inequalities run rampant – especially for the countries of the global South.

Across the Arab world, Africa, and beyond, they are being hit from all sides: weakened by conflicts, battered by the Covid-19 pandemic, and pummeled by the climate crisis. Now they face the fallout of the war in Ukraine, soaring food and energy prices, spiraling inflation and crushing debt burdens.

Developing countries everywhere need justice, which means greater support. Governments in roughly half the world – including across the Arab region and Africa – are not getting the financing they need.

I am pushing for a Sustainable Development Goals stimulus – led by the G20 – to boost investment in sustainable development for emerging economies. To increase liquidity. And to speed up debt relief and restructure debt comprehensively, effectively and fairly.

We are also working non-stop with all relevant stakeholders on ending the suspension and on extending the Black Sea Grain Initiative and removing all remaining obstacles to the export of Russian food and fertilizers. This Initiative has been vital to your region and our world. Ships have sailed. Food has flowed. Prices have dropped. This is crucial. It must not stop. After all, every fraction of a food price increase pushes more people and communities further towards poverty, hunger and, in many circumstances, instability.

We must do all we can to ensure the continued success of the Black Sea Grain Initiative to provide relief to those in need, including countries in the Middle East and North Africa relying on accessible and affordable food and fertilizers – both from Ukraine and the Russian Federation.

The 27th Conference of the Parties in Sharm el-Sheikh is another vital opportunity for restoring trust between developed and developing countries.

Wealthier countries must lead. They must reduce their emissions this decade – in line with keeping global warming to 1.5°C – and fully pivot to renewable energy. They must finally mobilize \$100 billion annually to support developing countries (in building) resilience.

Half of all climate finance must flow to adaptation.

I just came from Pakistan, and it broke my heart to see a flooded area that is three times the size of my own country, Portugal.

And we must urgently address the climate impacts that are beyond countries' abilities to adapt. Action on loss and damage is a moral imperative that must be front and center at the 27th Conference of the Parties.

It is immoral and unreasonable to expect communities that did nothing to cause global heating to pay the price for climate impacts.





STRATEGIC  
COMMUNICATION  
AND  
INITIATIVES  
SERVICE

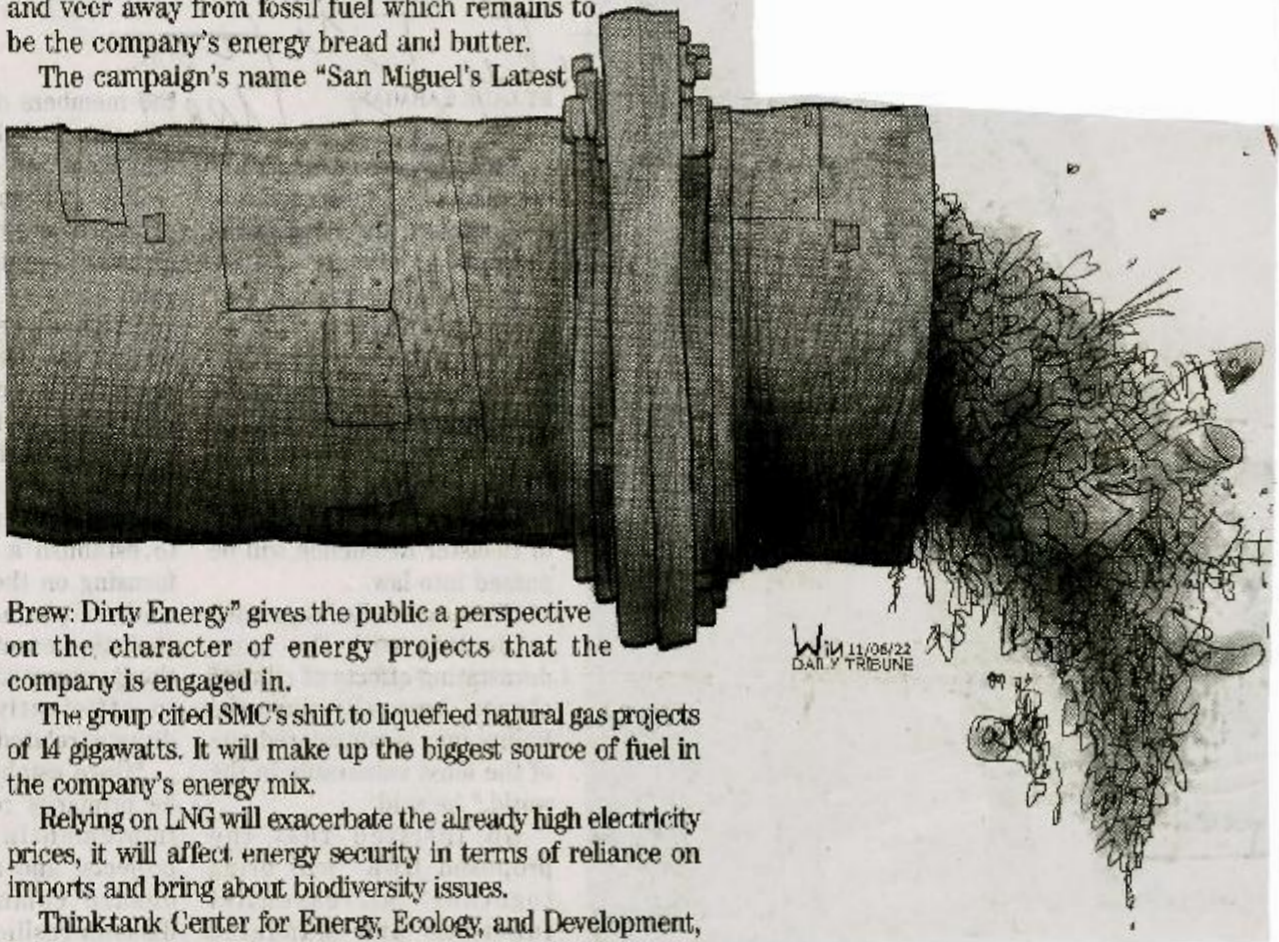
# Beyond profit motive

“  
*Recently, cause-oriented groups protested against SMC's LNG projects in Batangas as they fear it will affect major livelihood sources, including the fishing and tourism sectors in the province.*

Various local groups have banded to urge regional giant San Miguel Corp. to lead in the global sustainability drive by using its international network and contributing to saving the country from the ravages of weather disturbances that grow stronger each year.

To do this, however, it must redirect its energy business and veer away from fossil fuel which remains to be the company's energy bread and butter.

The campaign's name "San Miguel's Latest



Brew: Dirty Energy" gives the public a perspective on the character of energy projects that the company is engaged in.

The group cited SMC's shift to liquefied natural gas projects of 14 gigawatts. It will make up the biggest source of fuel in the company's energy mix.

Relying on LNG will exacerbate the already high electricity prices, it will affect energy security in terms of reliance on imports and bring about biodiversity issues.

Thinktank Center for Energy, Ecology, and Development, led the campaign while getting the support of the environment and sustainable energy advocates, youths, and religious organizations.

WIN 11/06/22  
DAILY TRIBUNE



“SMC must realize that not only are they exposing Filipino consumers to steep electricity prices, but they are also at risk of being weighed down with stranded assets,” CEED said.

The conglomerate’s energy unit SMC Global Power has shifted from Malampaya to imported LNG to provide fuel for the Ilijan high-capacity power plants.

Ilijan is one of two power plants for which SMC Global Power had sought power rate increases that the Energy Regulatory Board dismissed since the power supply agreement uses a straight pricing scheme that does not allow expenses to be passed on to consumers.

SMC Global Power said the operations of Ilijan and the Sual coal plants resulted in its incurring P15 billion in losses due to what it claimed was a change in circumstances after the PSAs were signed in 2010.

Recently, cause-oriented groups protested against SMC’s LNG projects in Batangas as they fear it will affect major livelihood sources, including the fishing and tourism sectors in the province.

SMC’s 1.7-gigawatt gas-to-power project also threatens the Verde Island Passage, known to marine scientists as the “Amazon of the Oceans” and “Center of Marine Shore Fish Biodiversity.”

“Endangering the health of Verde Island Passage is equivalent to putting at risk the livelihoods of those who rely on its bounty, and the communities who deserve clean waters and clean air, electricity consumers who plea for affordable, clean, and renewable sources of energy, and our common home that is longing for respite from destruction,” said Father Edwin Gariguez, lead convenor of Protect VIP and one of the heads of the campaign for SMC’s ecological responsibility.

SMC Global Power and its subsidiaries have seven proposed natural gas projects, comprising nearly half of the country’s 29.9-GW LNG expansion plans, according to data from the Department of Energy. The conglomerate is, thus, the biggest fossil gas plant developer in Southeast Asia.

SMC must heed the call to abandon its fossil gas projects in the pipeline and instead exert its resources to advance renewable energy, which the group said: It is very much capable of.”

As a leader in the Philippine energy industry, it has the responsibility to take the lead in safeguarding the environment.

“  
The  
campaign’s  
name ‘San  
Miguel’s  
Latest  
Brew: Dirty  
Energy’  
gives the  
public a  
perspective  
on the  
character  
of energy  
projects that  
the company  
is engaged  
in.



06 NOV 2022

TITLE: \_\_\_\_\_

PAGE: \_\_\_\_\_

DATE: \_\_\_\_\_

## Extreme heat is stressing cows, imperiling global dairy supply

By ELIZABETH ELKIN  
& PRATHI PARJIA

**H**EAT and drought are inflicting perilous strain on dairy cows across the globe, drying up their milk production and threatening the long-term global supply of everything from butter to baby formula.

Volumes of dairy are forecast to sink by nearly half a million metric tons this year in

major exporter Australia as farmers exit the industry after years of pressure from heat waves. In India, small-scale farmers are contemplating investing in cooling equipment they'd have to stretch to afford. And producers in France had to pause making one type of high-quality cheese when parched fields left grass-fed cows with nowhere to graze.

Some of the world's biggest milk-making regions are becoming less hospitable to these

animals due to extreme weather brought on by climate change: Cows don't yield as much milk under the stress of scorching temperatures, and arid conditions and storms compound the problem by withering or destroying the grass and other crops they eat.

In the US alone, some scientists estimate climate change will cost the dairy industry \$2.2 billion per year by the end of the century—a financial hit not easily shouldered by a sector that already struggles to make money. If greenhouse gas emissions remain high, one study estimates that the dairy and meat industries will lose \$39.94 billion per year to heat stress by that same date.

At the same time, a swelling middle

class in many developing nations is adding to demand for dairy items, while policies aimed at helping the environment are discouraging farmers in some areas from expanding their production. That collision portends higher prices and potential shortages of grocery-list staples such as cream cheese or yogurt.

"Climate change adds to the volatility or the variation in your supply, and the knock-on effect to that can be increased food insecurity," said Mary Ledman, global dairy strategist at Rabobank.

### Cows under stress

DESPITE expensive efforts to keep their cattle cool, dairy farmers can't escape the

impact heat has on their herds.

Tom Barcellos, who has been raising and milking the animals for 45 years in Tipton, California, has a complex cooling system at his farm. Complete with fans and misting machines, it even plans around the direction of the wind. But he finds warm nights can sap production.

"If you have higher temperatures in the evening, and it's a little more stressful on the cows, there's a potential to lose 15 percent, or maybe even 20 percent, in the most extreme cases," said Barcellos, who has 1,800 cows.

It's a similar story on the other side of the world, where Sharad Bhai Harendra Bhai Pandya and his brother have more than 40 cows in the western Indian state of Gujarat.

Pandya houses his cattle in a shed with

a fogger system, which pumps in water and converts it to mist. But he still sees milk production at his farm decline more than 30 percent during the sweltering heat of summer.

Rising temperatures are likely to make such conditions a reality for more farmers, for longer stretches of time. That makes for difficult investment decisions.

Ranu Bhai Bharvad, a dairy farmer in India, doesn't even own a shelter for his herd of 35 animals. His cattle only have the shade of a neem tree to fend off heat stress.

*With assistance from Sybilla Gross, Diego Lasarte, Andrea Bossi, Vivian Iroanya and Megan Durisin/Bloomberg.*



## DBM eyes collab with UK envoy for PH sustainable dev't

**BUDGET** Secretary Ameh Pangandaman on Saturday expressed intent to foster collaboration with United Kingdom (UK) Ambassador to the Philippines Laure Beaufils to attain the country's sustainable development goals.

This was after Pangandaman shared in a Facebook post the courtesy call made by Beaufils at the Department of Budget and

Management (DBM) office in San Miguel, Manila.

Pangandaman said she is also "optimistic" about her next meeting with the UK ambassador to discuss ways to improve access to climate finance and bring progress to the Bangsamoro Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (BARMM).

"Thank you Ambassador Laure Beaufils, for visiting DBM. I look forward to our collaborations for sus-

tainable development, continuing our conversation on access to climate finance, and to forging pathways, as Mindanao develops, to uplift the lives of the people in BARMM," she said.

In September this year, Beaufils announced that the British International Investment will pour in 500 million British pounds in Southeast Asia for the next five years, with the Philippines as "one of the three

focus countries."

Beaufils said economic development, maritime cooperation, climate change adaptation, and technology would serve as pillars of the Philippine-UK relationship under the Marcos administration.

She added that the UK will continue to work with the Philippines on maintaining peace and stability in the region, including on maritime law and maritime

domain awareness.

**'Meet with New Zealand envoy'**  
Meanwhile, Pangandaman also met with New Zealand Ambassador Peter Kell on Thursday to explore possible cooperation in various areas.

"I am specifically interested in how to forge collaboration with New Zealand's G2G (government-to-government) facility to move forward with

our public sector and governance reforms," Pangandaman said in another Facebook post.

Pangandaman also shared with Kell the Marcos administration's eight-point socioeconomic agenda and priorities, including the implementation of full devolution of basic services and facilities from the national government to local government units, the DBM said in a statement

posted on its official Facebook page.

Kell, the DBM said, also relayed New Zealand's keen interest in supporting the ongoing peace process in BARMM by providing livelihood and helping the indigenous communities.

"We look forward to more years of friendship and diplomatic relations with New Zealand," said Pangandaman, as quoted by the DBM. PNA



## Yes, it's about farts



Several planet-killing gasbags are fattened up for market, on a farm in Isabela Province. MANILA TIMES PHOTO

SATURDAY'S editorial discussed a recent study by Cambridge University that determined that greenhouse gas emissions could be reduced if Catholics around the world went back to the old practice of not eating meat on Fridays. Given Pope Francis' oft-stated concern for the environment, the researchers expressed the hope that he would reinstitute the practice, because if even a minority of the world's 1.36 billion Catholic adherents would follow it, greenhouse gas emissions could be reduced by an amount substantial enough to actually make a difference in slowing global warming.

I read the study, and apart from the interesting tie-in of climate change mitigation to dogmatically determined dietary practices, I found the researchers' effort to keep the language used mature and respectful.

They're talking about farts, people. Specifically, cow and pig and goat and sheep farts. And poop. Let's just all have our adolescent giggle about it and get it out of our systems.

The problem is that livestock and poultry produce what we will hereafter refer to as "digestive waste products," because we're all adults and this is a serious topic, in prodigious quantities, and the biggest by-product of all of that waste is methane. Methane, or CH<sub>4</sub>, is produced by bacteria decomposing organic material. Emissions of CH<sub>4</sub> are not as great as those of carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>), but are compara-



### ROUGH TRADE

**BEN KRITZ**

tively more dangerous; over a 20-year time period, CH<sub>4</sub> has about 85 times the atmospheric warming potential of the same amount of CO<sub>2</sub>. CH<sub>4</sub> breaks down faster than CO<sub>2</sub> does, but not fast enough; over a 100-year time span, it is still 23 times more effective than CO<sub>2</sub> in trapping atmospheric heat.

Meat production is the biggest source of methane on Earth, and also produces significant quantities of nitrous oxide (NO<sub>2</sub>); altogether, it is responsible for about 18 percent of the world's annual greenhouse gas emissions. To perhaps visualize just how much greenhouse gas is produced, in CO<sub>2</sub> equivalents (CO<sub>2</sub>e), one beef or dairy cattle produces about 60

➤ **KritzA6**

kg CO<sub>2</sub>e per kilogram of processed meat; and lamb, poultry and pork produce 20 kg, 6 kg and 7 kg CO<sub>2</sub>e/kg, respectively. Worldwide meat production this year is estimated to reach 345.17 million metric tons, or 345.17 billion kilograms, and produce about 9.9 billion metric tons of greenhouse gas emissions.

That works out to an average of 23.14 kg of meat per person annually for the world's 7.98 billion people. If just 1 in 10 of the world's estimated 1.36 billion Catholics adopted "meatless Fridays," that would reduce meat consumption by about 3.3 kg/year per person, or a total of about 448,800 metric tons annually, reducing greenhouse gas emissions by approximately 12.9 million metric tons. To put that in perspective, that is just a bit less than 10 percent of the entire annual emissions of the Philippines.

The researchers did point out that many other religions have their own dietary proscriptions. The halal food of Muslims is probably the most familiar to people here in the Philippines; I grew up learning to appreciate my Jewish neighbors' kosher food in the US. The practice of not eating certain kinds of meat or not eating meat at all among adherents of these different faiths, however, is more widespread and consistent, and thus already factored in to the world's meat production and consumption. Catholics are, at least to my knowledge, the only significant religious group to have observed a certain meatless practice for a period of time (about 1,200 years, actually), and then officially dropped it (in 1966, as one outcome of the 2nd Vatican Council).

As yesterday's editorial pointed out, regardless of your religious affiliation or lack thereof, picking one day a week to eat a salad instead of a steak — or, if you're on a more realistic budget, beans instead of a burger — is not only a completely painless way to responsibly contribute to environmental sustainability, it's also good for your health. Plus with inflation at its highest level in 14 years — 7.7 percent in October, with dim prospects for any easing this month from widespread damage caused by last week's Tropical Storm "Paeng" — cutting a day's worth of meat from your weekly grocery list can be substantial savings on food costs.

It is an inescapable fact that the effects of climate change are going to impose significant lifestyle changes on us all, whether we like it. Choosing to make small, easy changes when the opportunity presents itself is not going to prevent the bigger, more painful changes later on; but it will certainly make them easier to manage, and may delay them for a time. Once you get in the habit, having a "no meat day" every week seems normal, and it by no means has to be dull; as the Philippines is a crossroads of many different Asian cultures, we are fortunate to be able to sample a wide variety of meatless cuisine. Give it a try; you'll feel better, your wallet will feel better, and so will the planet.



06 NOV 2022

TITLE: \_\_\_\_\_

PAGE \_\_\_\_\_

DATE \_\_\_\_\_



Department of Environment and Natural Resources  
**COMMUNITY ENVIRONMENT AND NATURAL RESOURCES**  
Argao, Cebu

**ABANG SA YUTANG PUBLIKO**

GIPADANGAT KINING PAHIBALO, nga ang buhatan sa Department sa KAE IKOPANHONG UG KINATAYANHONG KAHINGGILAHAN (DENR), CENRO, Argao, Cebu molawat ug alubangay (binaba) o sinulat nga tanyag prasyohanay sa dili molapas sa alas dyos (10:00 ) ang takna sa buntag petsa 5 sa Enero, 2023 para sa ibang sa luna sa yutang publiko nga gahulayway dinhi sa ubos:

- Numero sa Aplikasyon : MLA No. 072241 - 37
- Nahimutangon sa yuta : South Poblacion & Panadtaran, San Fernando, Cebu
- Nabulagway sa luna : Foreshore Land
- Gikantidad sa a) yuta : -P= 6,000 per square meters or P 8,472,000.00 for the whole tract (1,412 square meters) South Poblacion, San Fernando, Cebu  
-P= 4,500 per square meter or P 128,646,000.00 for the whole tract (28,588 square meters) Panadtaran, San Fernando, Cebu
- Kinastibuk-ang kantidad : -P= 137,118,000.00
- b) mihurus : -P= 380,295,592.00
- Gi- eplayna a) para : Port Expansion Purposes
- b) ni : Solid Earth Development Corporation  
Represented by Mitzie Almira I. Carrin

Ang malunposon nga mitanyag ning maong presyo kon lam sa mag- apply sa itaus mo- uli o molahip sa balor gikantidad sa mihurus ug sa gasto sa pagpa subasta sa pagsukod sa maong luna sa yuta.

Ang katungod sa pag- ABANG ning maong yuta ilatag sa lawong pagtanyag sa labing taas nga ABANG tanyag, diin kinii dili gayud mamimaa sa tulo (3%) ka porosmo sa gikantidad nga labar sa yuta ug dugang nga usa (1%) ka porosmo sa balor sa gimagna o nagplaster nga mihurus. Aron nga ang usa ka kwalipikadong aplikante sa yutang publiko, ug nga sa dihi pa magsugod kini, moldeposito ug balor ug tulo (3) ka bulan nga abangan. Deposito nga gawas sa kwarta lamang sama sa "CASH", "MONEY ORDER", "TREASURY WARRANT", CERTIPIKADONG "ISEKE", "CASHIER O MANAGER TSEKE" ang dawaton. Ang pagtanyag-prasyohanay sa usa ka tawo agri representasyon sa laing tawo nga kinuhaaglan ug pinalihok nga "SPECIAL POWER OF ATTORNEY", panahon nga mopataas siya sa iyang tanyag - presyo aron pagkompleto sa tulo (3) ka bulan nga abangan, kon dili ang among gipataas-ang tanyag presyo dili pagdawaton.

Greresba ang katungod sa pagdawot o sa pagsalikway sa usa ka magtanyag- presyo o tanan nini.

Argao, Sugbo, Pilipinas, Setyembre 30, 2022.

**NOLITO A. LAPINIG**  
OIC, CENR Office



Department of Environment and Natural Resources  
**COMMUNITY ENVIRONMENT AND NATURAL RESOURCES**  
Argao, Cebu

**LEASE OF PUBLIC LAND**

Notice is hereby gives that DENR - CENRO, Argao, Cebu will accept oral or written bids not later than 10:00 o'clock in the morning on January 5, 2023 for the lease of the tract of land herein below described:

- Location of Land : South Poblacion & Panadtaran, San Fernando, Cebu
- Description : Foreshore Land
- Boundaries : NW along line 1-2 by FLC - 072241- 12 (Solid Earth); On the NE, SE, and SW, along lines 2-3-4-5 by Bohol Strait; on the NW, along line 5-6 by Foreshore land; and on the NW, along line 6-1 by FLC - 072241 - 12.
- Area : 30,000 square meters
- Appraised Value of Land : -P= 6,000 per square meters or P 8,472,000.00 for the whole tract (1,412 square meters) South Poblacion, San Fernando, Cebu  
-P= 4,500 per square meter or P 128,646,000.00 for the whole tract (28,588 square meters) Panadtaran, San Fernando, Cebu
- Total Appraised Value of the land : -P= 137,118,000.00
- Existing Improvements : -P= 380,295,592.00
- Applied for : Port Expansion Purposes
- Applicant : Solid Earth Development Corporation  
Represented by Mitzie Almira I. Carrin

The successful bidder if other than the applicant must reimburse the latter of the value of the improvements and the expenses for the public of the Notice of Auction and the survey of the land.

The right to lease the land will be awarded to the person offering the highest annual rental, which shall not be less than three per centum (3%) of the value of the land plus one per centum (1%) of the value of the proposed and/ or existing improvements. In order that a person may be entitled to participate in the bidding, he must be a qualified public land applicant, and must, before the commencement of the same, make a deposit equivalent to at least three (3) months' rental. Only deposit in cash, money order, treasury, warrant, certified checks, cashier's check or manager's check can be accepted. A person bidding in representation of another may do so under duly executed power of attorney. During the bidding, the bidder as to make an additional deposit every time his bid is raised, to complete the three (3) months' rental, otherwise, such bid as raised shall not be accepted, the right is reserved to reject any or all bids.

Argao, Cebu, Philippines, September 30, 2022.

**NOLITO A. LAPINIG**  
OIC, CENR Office



STRATEGIC  
COMMUNICATION  
AND  
INITIATIVES  
SERVICE



5  
PAGE

UPPER  
 LOWER

PAGE 1  
STORY

BANNER  
STORY

EDITORIAL

CARTOON

06 NOV 2022

TITLE: \_\_\_\_\_

PAGE \_\_\_\_\_

DATE \_\_\_\_\_



Newspaper vendor Renaldo Magquilat, 69, crafts Christmas lanterns out of neon plastic bottles along Scout Chuatoco street in Quezon City yesterday. JESSE BUSTOS



San Juan Mayor Francis Zamora leads the launch of 'Kuha sa Tingi,' a project that establishes refilling stations in existing sari-sari stores, at the city hall on Nov. 4. The project, meant to address the plastic pollution crisis, is the first ever to be implemented by a local government unit with Greenpeace Philippines and Impact Hub Manila. With Zamora are Vice Mayor Warren Villa, Greenpeace Philippines country director Lea Guerrero and Impact Hub Manila CEO and founder Ces Rondario.

JESSE BUSTOS





STRATEGIC  
COMMUNICATION  
AND  
INITIATIVES  
SERVICE

Founded Since 1946

# The Manila Times

A3  
PAGE

UPPER  
 LOWER

PAGE 1  
STORY

BANNER  
STORY

EDITORIAL

CARTOON

06 NOV 2022

TITLE: \_\_\_\_\_

PAGE: \_\_\_\_\_

DATE



## ENVIRONMENT-FRIENDLY LANTERNS

Renaldo Magquilat, 69, a newspaper vendor, recycles plastic bottles into lanterns and hangs them along Scout Chuatoco in Quezon City on Saturday, Nov. 5, 2022.

PHOTO BY JOHN ORVEN VERDOTE



## DOT cites environmental protection to sustain tourism

**BAGUIO CITY** - The Department of Tourism (DOT) in the Cordillera Administrative Region (CAR) on Friday reiterated the call for residents to protect the environment as the region expects more visits in the coming weeks.

"It is important that we also include in our programs the protection of our environment and the natural habitat that we still have around us," said Sylvia Chinayog, operations officer of DOT Cordillera, adding that this is the only way to sustain the country's tourism.

She urged the public that while they are allowed to enjoy the many tourist destinations in the region, they should take on the challenge of protecting the environment by practicing sustainable tourism.

"In enjoying the places we visit, let us also take the responsibility of taking care of the environment so that we can continue to reap the benefits of fun and relaxation and for others to also enjoy the place," Chinayog said.

On Oct. 29, Sagada opened two new offerings - the Southern Sagada tour and adventure trek at the Blue Soil and Blue Lagoon and the Obwa Canyon.

Sagada Councilor Jaime Dugao, the Indigenous Peoples Mandatory Representative (IPMR), has also asked the town residents to always remind the visitors not to leave any garbage behind.

"We will continue to receive the benefits that the tourism industry is giving us if we also continue to



**TRANQUIL ENVIRONMENT.** Sagada's cold temperature is one of the reasons why tourism in the Cordillera region is booming. The Department of Tourism has reiterated calls for the public to protect the environment to sustain tourism in the region. PNA photo

protect our place. We have been endowed with a good town, a good environment, beautiful natural attractions that allow us to have livelihood so let us take care of our treasure," Dugao said in Ilocano. PNA



# More scientists in new China leadership: A model for 4th Industrial Revolution?

WHILE the world focused on the re-election of President Xi Jinping to the unprecedented third term as Party secretary general and the lineup of senior leaders, the significance of more scientists elected to the senior leadership position is mostly missed.

One of the most watched political events in the world in 2022 is the October 20 Party Congress of the Chinese Communist Party (CCP). The focus reflects the country's importance to the global economy, which accounted for more than 30 percent of global growth in the past decade. In addition, the world is watching how the country reacts to the increasingly bifurcated world dominated by geopolitical rivalries between the US and China. International observers are keen to know whether the new leadership lineup represents a new ruling philosophy for the next five years.

## Increasing number of scientists in the Politburo, central committee

Out of the 24 members of the Politburo, at least six boast academic or senior professional qualifications in science and technology, including lunar science, nuclear power and environmental protection. This is a significant increase from only one in the 2017 Congress.

For the central committee, 29 members from the Chinese Academy of Science and Chinese Academy of Engineering were in the cohort of 376. These two academies have 1,831 members and represent the cream of the Chinese sciences. The number almost doubled the 15 members in the 2012 Congress and 25 in the 2017 Congress. One hundred eighty-six members, or 49.5 percent of the Central Committee, hold an advanced professional degree or post-collegiate education. The trend resonates with the drive to get more high intellectuals, particularly scientists, to participate in governance, a version of historic Chinese meritocracy.



NEW WORLDS (The IDSI Corner)

HENRY CHAN

## China power structure

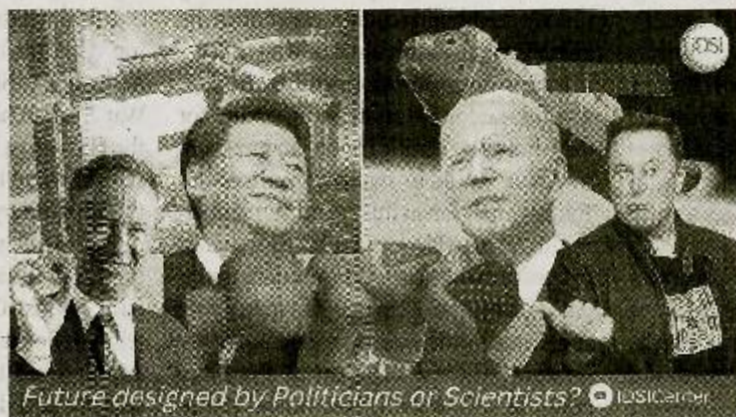
The CCP is enshrined in the Chinese Constitution as the ruling party. The Communist Party has 96.7 million members as of September 2022. It is the second largest political party in the world, with a membership next to the ruling Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) of India, which claimed 190 million members in 2019. CCP holds Congress once every five years to elect new leadership.

In this year's 20th Congress, 2,296 national delegates elected 205 central committee members and 171 alternate members. These 376 central committee members elected 24 political bureau members (Politburo) among themselves, which in turn selected seven members of the standing committee of the Politburo.

The seven politburo standing committee members are headed by Secretary General Xi, who also serves as the President of the Republic. The rest became prime ministers, heads of the legislature and other critical organs of the State. Other politburo members become leaders of important local governments such as Beijing, Shanghai and Guangdong, and vice premiers in the central government. The rest of the Central Committee members are assigned as heads across different government ministries and provinces; one can say that the central committee represents the pinnacle of power in China.

## Challenges of the time

Today, some of China's main challenges are country-specific, and some are part of a global trend facing all countries. Foremost in the country-specific challenges is the decoupling drive of the United States when it decided that China is the "peer competitor" and instituted a technological embargo



Hungarian-American businessman and engineer Andy Grove, Chinese President Xi Jinping, US President Joe Biden, and business magnate Elon Musk

on the flow of technologies to China. There is also the reorientation of growth drivers away from more volatile sectors, such as real estate and export, to more sustainable innovation-led domestic consumption.

And, of course, the geopolitical tension over the containment policy is also high on people's minds. President Xi aptly describes the next five years as an "unparalleled complexity" time.

Other pressing challenges common to other countries are climate change and the necessary but costly mitigation measures needed. For example, China has committed to peak carbon emission in 2030 and zero carbon by 2060; moving away from fossil fuel that has dominated the industrial era since the 18th century is neither easy nor straightforward.

Globalization has driven global growth in the past 40 years, and the attempt to modify the supply chain on national security grounds will hurt economic efficiency worldwide. The sum of world export and import as a percentage of GDP has increased from 37.1 percent in 1980 to 60.1 percent in 2012. The number dropped to 57.2 percent in 2021.

The diffusion of knowledge and technologies across countries makes complete deglobalization an impossibility, but partial deglobalization or globalization slowdown likely gets more losers than winners among countries.

## A model for the new era? Scientists govern!

In this threshold era of the 4th Industrial Revolution, many

problems, such as climate change and improving domestic productivity to drive growth, require new innovative, scientific approaches for their resolutions. Yet, in most countries, senior state leaders reflect the political choice of the people or the political parties with little scientific community participation.

China announced that it aims to grow in a high quality, sustainable way to become a leading country in the middle of the century. The new CCP leadership now counts one of the highest ratios of scientists in the world.

Their participation in the high echelon of government sends not only a signal that the country intends to develop resilience even from a tech squeeze. It could also mean an attempt to emphasize hard science-driven decisions making processes more than politically motivated state actions in the future.

There is a popular saying in China: "Science is universal, but scientists have countries." The statement emphasizes the universality of science and still, the patriotism of the scientist are not incompatible. The high percentage of scientists in the senior leadership is a guarantee that the country will stay open to the world as these people know the country's strengths and weaknesses more than any other group of people in the country.

Will the Chinese experiment bring a new model to the world with more scientists involved in public policymaking and bring better governance? We can probably know better when the next Party Congress is held in 2027.