

12 February 2023, Sunday



DENR

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STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION AND INITIATIVES SERVICE



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PhilSA, DENR to use space data to create database, monitor national reforestation

TWO government agencies are set to implement a project that will create a geospatial database of the country's natural resources, and monitor the National Greening Program (NGP) through the use of spaceborne data.

The Philippine Space Agency (PhilSA) and the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) signed a memorandum of agreement (MOA) for the project at the DENR office in Quezon City on February 6, a PhilSA news release said.

PhilSA Director General Joel Joseph S. Marciano Jr. and Environment Secretary Ma. Antonia Yulo-Loyzaga signed the MOA for their respective agencies.

Titled, "Use of Satellite Imagery in the Creation of the National ENR Geospatial Database and other related Programs of the DENR,"

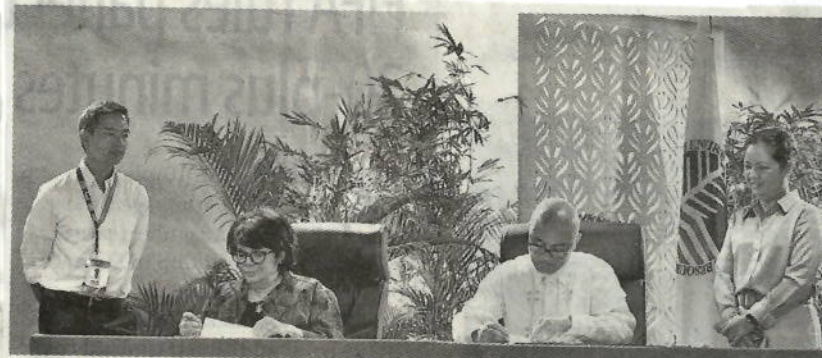
the DENR will fund the project.

The two agencies will collaborate on the NGP Progress Monitoring and the National Resource Accounting Program (NRAP), which are seen to strengthen science-based policy-making.

For the NGP Progress Monitoring, PhilSA will generate monthly indices or maps on vegetation trends and biophysical parameters, and develop ways to detect forest disturbance and forest cover classification.

PhilSA will also assist to enhance the capability of DENR in monitoring NGP areas and other forests using satellite remote sensing, machine learning, artificial intelligence, and geographic information systems.

The space agency will develop methodologies for NRAP to produce annual mangrove extent maps and air quality maps.



PHILSA Director General Joel Joseph Marciano Jr. (second from right) and Environment Secretary Ma. Antonia Yulo-Loyzaga (second from left) sign a MOA on February 6 to implement the "Use of Satellite Imagery in the Creation of the National ENR Geospatial Database and other related Programs of the DENR" project. With them are PhilSA Deputy Director General for Space Science and Technology Gay Jane Perez (right) and Undersecretary for Integrated Environmental Science Carlos Primo David. PHILSA PHOTO

In the following years, PhilSA will generate maps that cover other natural resources.

PhilSA will provide the technical capacity training for both activities to help DENR's personnel adopt applicable space technologies for the project, and develop

systems and tools to map, monitor and account the country's natural resources.

"PhilSA welcomes this outstanding collaboration with the DENR. This is a concrete step in further strengthening the domestic space value chain, specifically

the capacity to transform satellite imagery and spaceborne data into insights and actions for the conservation, protection, management, and restoration of our environment and natural resources," Marciano said.

The partnership "highlights the socio-economic benefits and value from our country's emerging space capabilities," he added.

Yulo-Loyzaga, in her message, underscored the importance of the space value chain.

"The space value chain... actually helps us identify valuable ecosystems, habitats and ecosystems services' potential that are critical to the country's development. And we look forward to this particular endeavor, for being a small initial step but growing in terms of impact, importance, and resources towards building a resilient and

inclusive Philippines," she said.

The cooperation agreement with the DENR is also aligned with PhilSA's Key Development Areas on Hazard Management and Climate Studies, where the country develops and utilizes space science and technology applications to enhance hazard management and mitigation strategy and ensure the nation's resilience to climate change.

It is also aligned with Space Research and Development to accelerate scientific growth in the areas of space science and technology and other allied fields, the news release said.

PhilSA is likewise mandated under Republic Act 11363 to assist other national government agencies and the private sector perform their functions and duties through the utilization of space science and technology applications.



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Using spaceborne data to track the environment

THE Philippine Space Agency would use spaceborne data in order to see a bigger picture of the country's natural resources and help policymakers restore and manage these, its top official said.

By accessing satellites and ground facilities, PhilSA would be able to

obtain data and process them into maps.

These would then be used to build and understand a bigger picture of the country's natural resources, environmental trends and characteristics to enable data-based and science-based policymaking and implementation,

PhilSA Director General Joel Marciano Jr. said.

Marciano cited mangroves as an example of an environmental resource of interest. Mangroves are important in protecting coastal habitats from flooding, sea level rise and erosion.



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Altai Philippines Mining Corporation

ALTAI: WE ARE NOT THE ENEMY

Recent events have demonstrated that Sibuyan Island in Romblon requires national attention and inspection. Our company, **ALTAI PHILIPPINES MINING CORPORATION** is a holder of a valid and subsisting **Mineral Production Sharing Agreement (MPSA)**. On the basis thereof, ALTAI has been authorized by the DENR and other regulatory agencies to explore, transport and ship ore samples.

ALTAI is a legitimate private business entity that has quietly worked to uplift lives in Sibuyan. ALTAI is **not owned, controlled or ran by any political personalities**. Since it started operations in July 2022, ALTAI has been peacefully exercising its rights under the MPSA, faithfully implementing its provisions and meticulously complying with the requirements of the law. Regrettably, however, without due process, ALTAI has been maligned, unfairly judged, and prevented from performing its lawful activities. It has also been imposed sanctions pending actual fact-finding by competent authorities.

We, in ALTAI vehemently deny all malicious allegations hurled against us. **WE ARE NOT ILLEGAL MINING OPERATORS**. We will address each and every issue before the proper forum so we can focus on the real issues at hand.

ALTAI cares about Sibuyan Island in general and the Sibuyanons in particular. The entire Sibuyan island, all 44,500 hectares should be inspected objectively by competent authorities. ALTAI's approved MPSA area only comprises three (3.4%) percent of the entire island. ALTAI clarifies, as the DENR has also clarified, that it has been issued Notices of Violation. However, the administrative process of actually determining the factual bases for a possible penalty is ongoing. In fact, it was only last February 8 when the DENR informed ALTAI that its team will conduct an investigation in the coming days.

All stakeholders and affected communities have worked hard and utilized substantial resources to comply with regulatory requirements and even to secure ALTAI's **DENR-approved Exploration Work Program (EWP)**. ALTAI's EWP proactively counteracts and addresses the long-documented poor environmental state of Sibuyan. ALTAI is committed to help spur economic and social development in Sibuyan directly or indirectly. ALTAI employed more than one hundred fifty personnel, mostly from the local communities, to do mineral exploration and associated works. Now, all their welfare is at stake due to this misinformation. In its own way, ALTAI contributed additional revenues to the government in terms of taxes and other related fees, which can be used to build hospitals, schools, and other public facilities on the island.

ALTAI welcomes investigations from all concerned agencies and humbly requests that it be accorded the equal opportunity to be actually heard before it is condemned. Due process dictates that any investigation should be spearheaded by competent and impartial authorities. We trust that the DENR leadership will review all acts of its subordinates, documents, and processes.

Kami po sa ALTAI ay kaisa ninyo sa pagpapaunlad ng Sibuyan, ng kalikasan, at ng pamahalaan. Magtulungan po tayo.

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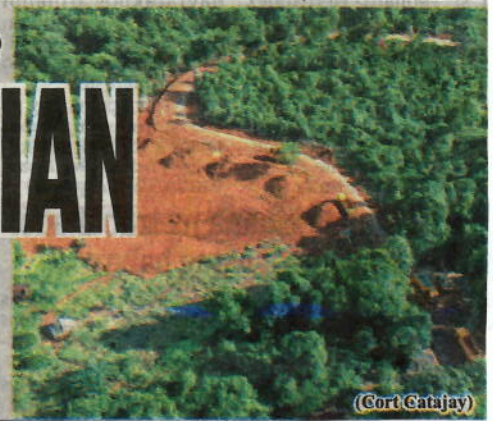


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Hontiveros tinulak Senate probe ALTAI MINING NI GATCHALIAN SIPAIN SA SIBUYAN



(Cort Catajay)

Nanawagan si Senador Risa Hontiveros sa madaliang pagpapalayas sa William Gatchalian-owned Altai Philippines Mining Corporation na patuloy pa rin ang operasyon sa Sibuyan Island sa Romblon sa kabila ng inilabas na cease and desist order laban sa kompanya.

"It may be about time to evict these illegal miners once and for all. Nakita ko mismo ang sinasabing ilegal na causeway. May cease and desist order na dapat sa operation pero nang pumunta ako doon, malinaw na may movement pa rin sa parte na sinabi na ngang bawal. Walang puwang sa Sibuyan ang mga hindi marunong sumunod sa batas," giit ni Hontiveros.

Kasabay nito, hiniling ni Hontiveros sa Senado na madaliin na ang pagsasagawa ng imbestigasyon kaugnay sa isyung bumabalot sa mining operation sa Sibuyan Island upang matukoy ang mga dapat na managot dito.

Ang panawagan ni Hontiveros sa kanyang mga kasamahan sa Senado ay matapos na magtungo ito sa Sibuyan at kinausap ang mga residente na nagsagawa ng barikada bilang protesta sa operasyon ng Altai.

"Panawagan ko sa aking mga colleague, buksan na natin sa Senado ang isyu na ito nang mapanagot na ang mga totoong responsible. Hindi dapat pinapaasa ang mga residente, lalo na at dalawa't kalahating linggo na silang nagbabarikada. Two have already been injured simply because of resisting the mining operations," ayon kay Hontiveros.

Naniniwala ang senador na kailangan din imbestigahan ang naging papel ng kapulisan at ng lokal na pamahalaan hindi lang sa nagaganap na mining operation sa Sibuyan kundi pati na sa nangyaring karahasan sa barikada ng mga residente.

Sa kanyang daya-

logo sa mga residente, nanawagan umano ang mga ito na patawan ng disciplinary action ang mga pulis na sangkot sa gulo.

"I join the residents in condemning the violence perpetrated against them during their peaceful protest. The mountains of Sibuyan and its residents should never be scarred again," giit pa ni Hontiveros.

Samantala, inihayag ng Altai na lehitimo ang kanilang negosyo at makakatulong para sa kabuhayan ng mga taga-Sibuyan.

Mariing itinanggi ng Altai ang mga malisyonong akusasyon umano laban sa kanila at sinabing hindi sangkot sa illegal mining ang kompanya.

Nagpahayag din ng kahandaan ang Altai na humarap sa imbestigasyon para mabigyan ng pagkakataon na marinig din ang kanilang panig. **(Eralyn Prado)**



No-mining zone for 'Galapagos of Asia' pushed

Sibuyanons claim mining threatens to destroy the flora and fauna of the island.

The nickel miner in Sibuyan Island have destroyed corals and endemic plant species, residents opposing the mining operations claim.

To stop further destruction of marine life, Sibuyan residents are calling for the island dubbed "Galapagos of Asia" to be declared a "no-go zone" for mining.

Galapagos is the archipelago of Ecuador in the Pacific Ocean famous for its rich flora and fauna.

A senator is supporting the call and has filed a resolution to investigate the alleged violations of environmental laws by the Altai Philippines Mining Corporation.

"The DENR and the Mines and Geosciences Bureau need to study this no-go zone proposal. Once my resolution is heard, the agencies will need to discuss and conclusively state whether or not extractive activities must be prohibited on Sibuyan," Sen. Risa Hontiveros said.

Residents had tried to barricade a pier and block quarry trucks of Altai but police prevented them from doing so. A scuffle reportedly injured two of the protesters.

A Senate investigation of the incident also hopes to hold police accountable for suppressing the Sibuyanons' peaceful protest. PNA



Mga nagmimina sa Zambales isunod!



JEANY LACORTE

Dapat magsilbing panggising sa mga taga-Zambales ang pagiging alerto ng mga taga-Sibuyan sa Romblon para labanan ang mga sumisira ng kanilang kalikasan.

Malayo-layo sa National Capital Region (NCR) ang Sibuyan kung saan naganap ang ilegal na pagmimina ng Altai Mining pero nagtagumpay ang mga mamamayan ng Sibuyan na awatin ang masamang plano ng naturang mining company.

Sa ngayon ay kinatigan ng Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) ang mga mamamayan ng Sibuyan at ipinatigil ang operasyon ng minahan.

Sa ginawang ito ng mga taga-Sibuyan ay naipakita nilang kayang manaig ng maliliit kahit maimpluwensya ang kinakalaban.

Sabagay kung nasa tama ka naman, bakit kailangan mong tumiklop sa laban.

Sana lang ay maging ganito ang kaisipan ng mga residenteng sinasamantala ng mga nagmimina ang kanilang lugar.

Kahit sinong padrino sa mundo ng politika ang gamitin ng mga nagmimina kung nagkakaisa naman ang mga mamamayan ay hindi sila magtatagumpay.

Kaya makita sana ng mga taga-Zambales ang tapang at pagmamahal sa bayan na ipinamalas ng mga taga-Sibuyan.

Alam nating sandamakmak ang minahan sa halos buong lalawigan ng Zambales at pruweba rito ang kalbong mga bundok pero nakakalungkot na iilan lamang ang lumalaban para pigilan ang paglapastangan sa inang kalikasan sa lalawigan.

Sana ay magising na ang mga mamamayan ng Zambales ay magsama-samang bantayan ang mga nagmimina sa lala-

wigan.

Malay n'yo kapag nagkaisa kayong lahat diyan sa Zambales ay pakinggan kayo ng mga nasa poder at patigilin ang operasyon ng mga minahan na pakana ng mga namamayagpag na politiko.

Huwag na ninyong hintaying malubog uli sa baha ang lalawigan bago ninyo tuligsain ang walang pakundangang pagmimina sa lalawigan ng Zambales.

Isa pang napansin natin sa Zambales ay ang tila normal nang tanawin sa karagatan ng Zambales na mga Chinese vessel.

Ano 'yan wapakels na talaga sa mga ganyang senaryo ang mga residente ng Zambales? Sino ang hinihintay ninyong kumondena sa mga Chinese vessel dyan na alam nyo naman ang kanilang pakay dahil nakatimbres sila sa mga nasa poder sa nasabing lalawigan?

Hindi naman siguro ito gagawin ng mga taga-Sibuyan para sa inyong kapakanan, kaya kilos na kayo para may matinong kalikasan pang abutan ang inyong mga anak o apo!



2 FEB 2015

Vigorous work with stakeholders needed to protect, conserve PHL eagle, other species

BY JONATHAN L. MAYUGA

Philippine Eagle Foundation (PEF) Executive Director Dennis Salvador narrated stories of conservation experiences in protecting and conserving the Philippine eagle, the country's national bird, and its habitats before some 300 participants of a multi-stakeholder forum in Cagayan de Oro City on February 2.

Salvador talked about enabling policies and interventions, programs and projects that can be considered successful models of conservation, the bad or the gaps and challenges they faced, and the ugly part, which is happening and still threatening the existence of the iconic bird.

The PEF, a nonstock, nonprofit organization dedicated to saving the Philippine eagle and its habitats, is the conservation partner of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR), which organized the Multi-Stakeholders' Forum in Mindanao after holding the same in Luzon and the Visayas recently.

The forum aims to gather insights on environmental governance, as well as other issues, such as ecotourism, agriculture and food security, forest and land management, climate and disaster resilience, and mining.

In his talk, Salvador said that as the country's top forest predator, the Philippine eagle, is a perfect surrogate for biodiversity status.

Cinchona Reserve

THE Cinchona Reserve on Mount Kitanglad is a perfect example of how national protected areas secure a very critical life stage of a threatened species, such as the Philippine eagle, Salvador said.

"At Cinchona, protected area management and a low-key incentive-based nest-monitoring scheme resulted in the successful breeding and independence of 10 eaglets," he said.

Salvador said working together, the DENR, Indigenous communities, nongovernment organizations (NGOs), local government units

(LGUs) and the private sector are delivering many good biodiversity stories.

Through joint field expeditions, eagle rescues, releases and monitoring, he added, also improved their knowledge about the status and needs of the Philippine eagle.

Centers of biological evolution, endemism

ACCORDING to Salvador, Philippine eagle nesting territories, such as Cinchona Reserve, are centers of biological evolution and endemism.

He cited that expeditions within eastern Mindanao with the Field Museum of Natural History in Chicago yielded at least four organisms new to science.

A new species of *Rafflesia* (*Rafflesia verucossa*); cloud rat (*Batomys hamiguitan*); gymnure or moon rat, the Eastern Mindanao Gymnure; and a new genus and species of forest mouse, the Kampalili Shrew-Mouse, were all recently discovered in the region.

"These are site endemics within the Eastern Mindanao Biodiversity Corridor, which is a metaphorical 'Garden of Eden' for biological evolution and might also be home to 47 wild eagle pairs," he added.

Grassroots participation

SALVADOR credited the DENR for making the Philippines one of the countries that are very compliant with inclusivity and grassroots participation to conservation.

He cited the creation of Indigenous communities' conservation areas (ICCA) and local conservation areas (LCA) among the good policies.

"At some ICCAs, the Philippine Eagle Foundation contributed a



PHILIPPINE eagle on Mount Apo. PEF PHOTO

PHILIPPINE EAGLE at the Malagos Philippine Eagle Breeding Facility in the outskirts of Davao. GREGG YAN PHOTO



meaningful model of Indigenous people's [IPs] engagement in conservation, through our 'culture-based conservation' framework," he noted.

The approach documents and supports Indigenous conservation philosophies and values, and puts scientific techniques and tools in the hands of the IPs.

The PEF has 14 Indigenous partners, protecting at least 140,000 hectares of forests within 20 Philippine eagle territories across the country. It also joined the DENR in supporting LCAs.

Inadequate PA coverage

In the latest spatial gap analyses on eagle protection, PEF's protected area network covered only 32.4 percent, or 9,274 km², of the projected suitable eagle habitats.

"This is 12.6 percent less than the target protected area representation of 45 percent," Salvador

pointed out.

"We identified priority eagle habitats that are currently classified as key biodiversity areas [KBAs] but without protected area coverage," he added.

He cited that in Mindanao, the priorities for protected areas, or other effective area-based conservation measures (OECMs) include Mount Hilong-hilong and Mount Kampalili-Puting Bato, where the three-site endemic rodents were discovered.

He said the Mount Latian complex and Mount Busa-Kiamba KBAs should also be prioritized.

Meanwhile, he said the priority in Leyte is the Anonang-Lobi Range, which contains the largest suitable eagle habitats on the island.

Hunting and trapping

"HUNTING of apex predators, such as the Philippine eagle, and critical link species and ecological engineers, such as the hornbill, Philip-

pine deer and Philippine warty pig, are still rampant," Salvador said.

This can result in "empty forests," or forests without large predators and herbivores because of high hunting pressures.

He noted that a total of 94 Philippine eagles were rescued over the PEF's five decades of conservation work.

Data showed that human persecution accounted for 71 percent of these cases, or seven birds persecuted out of every 10 birds.

"The situation is even worst during the pandemic. A record high of 14 Philippine eagles was rescued and retrieved from the wild, and 11 of them were either shot or trapped. This is the highest rescue rate so far in the history of Philippine eagle conservation," he noted.

Mass die-off

ACCORDING to Salvador, hunters roaming the forest and bringing contaminated meat or materials may have also introduced the African swine flu (ASF) in the mountains.

He said the first case of a mass die-off of wild pigs happened at a privately managed forest patch in Tagum City in Mindanao in 2021.

"All of the 141 wild warty pigs died inside the 325-hectare reserve. Across the country, there are reported cases of wild pigs suspected to have died due to ASF," he said.

According to Salvador, regulating, if not altogether banning, wildlife hunting can also prevent spillover of zoonotic diseases, or infections spread between people and animals.

Recommendations

SALVADOR said nature-based solutions to cross-cutting issues of poverty, biodiversity losses, climate change and disasters are popular.

In addition, he said the integration of culture-based solutions that open up genuine opportunities for IPs and other nonstate actors would be helpful.

As an umbrella approach to conserve biodiversity, he recommended the designation of all Philippine eagle nesting sites as protected areas or other effective area-based conservation measures.

Meanwhile, to address the threats of wildlife shooting, the use of airguns, jolen guns and other improvised firearms must be banned along with the regulation of the use and number of native traps.

Social issues

ENVIRONMENT Secretary Maria Antonia Yulo-Loyzaga lauded the efforts of PEF in conserving and protecting the Philippine eagle.

Sought for reaction, she noted that the PEF successfully engaged the IPs, communities, local governments and other stakeholders, making their conservation model a success.

She said it can be a basis or a strategy for other endangered species to put them off from the endangered list.

She said science-based targets will have to be determined to effectively address the problem the country's biodiversity is experiencing.

"Unless we can address the social issues, I firmly believe we will not be able to address the environmental ones," she said.

According to Loyzaga, the DENR will start in addressing problems confronting communities, the way they are growing, their needs and their visions.

"Those investments need to be made. If we will not make these investments, we will not be able to address the problem," she said, adding that the focus of the multi-stakeholders forum is to listen to everyone across sectors.

Meanwhile, she said the DENR is relying on stronger collaboration with various stakeholders, particularly with the LGUs, in enforcing environmental laws to protect and conserve the Philippine eagle and other threatened species and their habitats.



UPBEAT

PRESIDENT Ferdinand R. Marcos Jr. on Friday said the effects of the series of business meetings in Japan will be felt "very rapidly" after his five-day working visit in Tokyo.

Marcos said his trip is "very productive" considering the signing of 35 key investment deals between the Philippines and Japan.

"And I think that we will be able to feel the effects of these discussions, of these agreements, very, very soon, very rapidly back home in the Philippines," Marcos said in an interview.

Marcos said his official visit to Japan is "particularly important" because it is "setting down the blueprint" for the two nations' relations as they lay out their recovery plans from the coronavirus disease 2019 (Covid-19) pandemic.

He said the 35 business deals signed also "cut across the whole gamut."

"They have supported our agriculture, they have supported our attempts at making the digitalization of the Philippines a more widespread phenomenon," Marcos said.

"We're talking about [agriculture], we are talking about digitalization, we are talking about industry, we are talking about automotive development, we are talking about energy, even education [and] tourism," he added.

Marcos also expressed gratitude to the Japanese government and business leaders he met for being "very open" to help "increase the development of our country."

The meetings yielded positive results, Marcos said, noting several pledges will also help the Philippines in improving security and defense, and climate change mitigation and adaptation, among others.

Marcos said the commitments from the Japanese government and business sector is an indication of "deeper" ties between Manila and Tokyo.

"Those relations have grown and have become deeper as time has gone on and we owe Japan a debt of gratitude for the support that they have given us in those years, even in the '60s, in the '70s and all the way up to now, where they have supported our infrastructure development," he added.

"[This is] in terms of again, those areas: infrastructure, digitalization, agriculture, some of the traditional areas with which we had always dealt with Japan, but some new areas, areas such as security and defense and also mitigation and adaptation to the effects of climate change," Marcos said. *PNA*



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PBBM Japan visit 'very productive'

By ARGYLL GEDUCOS

TOKYO, Japan – President Ferdinand “Bongbong” Marcos Jr. said on Friday he was honored to meet Emperor Naruhito and Empress Masako of Japan, during his “very productive” working visit here.

In a video uploaded to his Instagram, the President said his meeting with Their Majesties reestablished their connection with the Philippines.

“It has been a productive visit and also, one of the highlights of course was my and the First Lady’s audience with Their Majesties, the Emperor and Empress, and it was a very great honor for us to be able to meet

him and to again reestablish that connection between the Philippines and Japan,” he said.

President Marcos said his working visit to Tokyo is a “particularly important visit” because it is “really a setting down the blueprint for our relations as we slowly emerge from the pandemic economy.”

“And I think that we will be able to feel the effects of these discussions, of these agreements, very, very soon, very rapidly back home in the Philippines,” he claimed.

The President cited the Philippines continuously developing relationships with Japan that started when the

two countries established diplomatic relations in 1956.

“Those relations have grown and have become deeper as time has gone on and we owe Japan a debt of gratitude for the support that they have given us in those years,” Marcos said.

“They have supported our agriculture, they have supported our attempts at making the digitalization of the Philippines a more widespread phenomenon,” he added.

According to Marcos, the 35 key agreements signed between the Philippines and Japan on Friday “cut across the whole gamut.”

“We’re talking about agri, we are talking about digitalization,

we are talking about industry, we are talking about automotive development, we are talking about energy, even education, tourism,” he said.

President Marcos also lauded the Japanese government and business leaders he met for being very open to discussions for the plans to help accelerate Philippine development.

“[This is] in terms of again, those areas: infrastructure, digitalization, agriculture, some of the traditional areas with which we had always dealt with Japan, but some new areas, areas such as security and defense and also mitigation and adaptation to the effects of climate change,” Marcos said.



AboitizPower targets cleaner air

BY KATHRYN JOSE

We are going to share the Realization of a Low-Carbon Society as a Global Leader Laying the Foundation for the Future of Energy.

AboitizPower hopes to achieve 50 percent less carbon emission under its agreement with Japan's largest energy firm, JERA.

Using JERA's technology and expertise, AboitizPower will develop infrastructures to produce energy using hydrogen and ammonia as renewable fuels, which do not emit carbon dioxide and contribute to global warming.

"Ammonia offers a compelling solution for decarbonizing the power sector, and by looking into it, we are taking a step towards developing the infrastructure needed to support the ammonia and hydrogen value chains," JERA president Satoshi Onoda said in the signing of a memorandum of understanding with AboitizPower chairperson Sabin Aboitiz.

"If the technology is applied to existing coal-fired

power plants, where appropriate, carbon dioxide emissions may be reduced by up to 50 percent," AboitizPower said in its press statement released Friday.

With a 27-percent stake in AboitizPower, JERA will help expand its renewable energy capacity by 3,700 megawatts by 2030.

Ultimately, AboitizPower said the green project would help boost the Philippine economy from low-cost power generation, but wide energy distribution and services for constructing import terminals, storage facilities and power station retrofits.

"Its impact will be felt beyond energy stability and emission reduction, as the collaboration brings about the potential of developing the Philippines as a hub and leader in the region for greener fuels," AboitizPower said.

"We are going to share the Realization of a Low-Carbon Society as a Global Leader Laying the

Foundation for the Future of Energy," Onoda said.

In 2019, the Philippines ranked eighth, a relatively low carbon-dioxide emitter compared to nine other Asian countries studied by the International Institute for Management Development. They were India, Vietnam, China, Malaysia, Indonesia, Thailand, Taiwan, South Korea and Bangladesh.

On a global scale, Japan was the fifth biggest emitter after China, the United States, India, and Russia, according to the International Energy Agency Global Carbon Atlas.

The signing of the MoU was also attended by Philippine President Ferdinand Marcos Jr., Department of Trade and Industry Secretary Alfredo Pascual, Special Assistant to the President Antonio Lagdameo Jr., Senator Mark Villar, House Speaker Martin Romualdez and Senior Deputy Speaker and former president Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo.



STRATEGIC
COMMUNICATION
AND
INITIATIVES
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‘Tapon to Ipon’: Collecting and recycling plastic bottles during fiestas

Coca-Cola Beverages Philippines, Inc. – the bottling arm of the company in the country – recently activated “*Tapon to Ipon: Basta Klaro, Panalo!*” pop-up booths in Cebu and Iloilo and collected over 400 kg of post-consumer clear PET plastic bottles, in a bid to help hold waste-free festival celebrations.

“Tapon to Ipon” is CCBPI’s nationwide collection program for post-consumer PET plastic bottles, with bottles from any brand accepted as long as they are clear. The company deployed pop-up booths at the Sinulog and Dinagyang Festivals, kicking off the nation’s fiesta circuit along with a new phase of the campaign to raise awareness about the value of recycling used clear PET plastic bottles.

“We maximize every opportunity to bring ‘Tapon to Ipon’ to

more communities across the Philippines,” said Gareth McGeown, CEO and president of CCBPI. “We bring our ‘Tapon to Ipon’ program where we can and integrate them with our selling activities. As our consumers enjoy our refreshing beverages and celebrate with their family and friends, we make it possible for them to return their used plastic bottles for recycling.”

“The support of festival-goers, community members, and our partners are at the core of this program as we continue to strengthen a fully circular economy for our packaging and work toward our World Without Waste goal,” McGeown added.

“Tapon to Ipon” is anchored on Coca-Cola’s global World Without Waste commitment – to collect and recycle the equivalent of every single bottle and can that the company sells by 2030.

CCBPI forges partnerships with government and private partners such as local government units and agencies, private organizations, and MSMEs to collect clear PET plastic bottles across the country and divert them for recycling at PETValue Philippines.

PETValue Philippines – CCBPI’s pioneering recycling bottle-to-bottle recycling facility – is now 100-percent operational in General Trias, Cavite. With the capacity to process approximately 2 billion pieces of clear plastic bottles made from PET (polyethylene terephthalate) material, Coca-Cola aims to create a truly circular economy for recyclable plastic bottles.

PETValue Philippines is a joint venture between CCBPI and Indorama Ventures, a global sustainable chemicals company. The recycling facility employs the safest and most advanced bottle-to-bottle recycling technology that gives new life to clear PET bottles. Through programs like ‘Tapon to Ipon,’ Coca-Cola aims to establish a robust collection network for recyclable plastic bottles across the country by working closely with partners in government and the private sector.



PHOTOGRAPH COURTESY OF COCA-COLA

THROUGH ‘Tapon to Ipon,’ consumers can drop off (*tapon*) their used clear PET plastic bottles of any brand and get incentives in return (*ipon*). At recent fiestas, participants also received Coca-Cola products for every 15 clear used PET bottles returned.





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CARING FOR THE ENVIRONMENT

The Manila Times College of Subic, represented by its Student Council president Floreta Cana (third from left), joins the Mangrove Propagation and Cleanup Drive organized by the Central Luzon Media Association (CLMA) Zambales-Olongapo Chapter and Samahang Mamamahayag ng Subic Freeport (SMSF) headed by its president Vic Vizcocho (second from left) at Binictican, Subic Bay Freeport on Friday, Feb. 10, 2023. PHOTO BY FREDERICK SILVERIO

Cleanup drive held in Subic Bay

MEDIA groups based in Zambales, Olongapo and Bulacan and various stakeholders joined hands in planting mangrove propagules and cleaning up the Binictican Mangrove area at the Subic Bay Freeport on Friday.

Vic Vizcocho, president of the Central Luzon Media Association (CLMA) Zambales-Olongapo chapter, said a total of 200 mangrove propagules were planted during the activity.

The activity was spearheaded by the CLMA and the Samahang Mamamahayag ng Subic Freeport and was joined by officials from the Subic Bay Metropolitan Authority (SBMA), Bases Conversion and Development Authority (BCDA), the Subic Clark Railway Project, New Clark City, and Bureau of Customs-Port of Subic.

The event was also attended by Amethya de la Llana-Koval, OIC SBMA senior deputy administrator for regulatory and manager of the Ecology Center; Carmela Reyes-Estrope, regional president of CLMA; Leilani Macasaet,

BCDA vice president for public affairs; Armie Lamas, OIC SBMA Corporate Communications; and Floreta Cana, Student Council president of The Manila Times College of Subic.

The local government of Subic, Office of the First District Representative of Zambales, and Philippine Navy also sent support to the program.

Also present were Micah Aquino from the NLEX Corp. Corporate Communication Team; Justine Jay Navarro of Subic Enerzone; Benjamin Antonio, president and general manager of Subic Water and Sewerage Co. Inc., and representatives from RP Energy, Fuel East Energy Corp., Subic Bay I, Meglio Marine Services, Aman Sinaya Water Refilling Station, and GNPowder Dinginin of Mariveles, Bataan.

Vizcocho said the SBMA Ecology Department provided the propagules needed for the mangrove planting under the supervision of environmental management specialist Cenevix Maniago, who

guided the volunteers on how to properly plant the mangroves.

After the cleanup drive, the group of over 130 delegates went to the Pamulaklakin Nature Park where they learned from 80-year-old Aeta elder "Tatay Kasoy" the basics of jungle survival.

The renowned Aeta has been an instructor of jungle survival for American soldiers stationed inside the then American Naval Base in Subic.

Llana-Koval lauded the volunteerism displayed by the group and hopes more volunteers would take the same initiative to help protect the ecosystem of the Subic Bay Freeport Zone.

She said that both the government and the private sector have a stake in the protection of the environment, and what better way to do so than by providing a platform that would unite the two sectors in a tree-planting program.

The official expressed her gratitude to the CLMA for spearheading the program.

FREDERICK SILVERIO




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Republic of the Philippines
Department of Environment and Natural Resources
NATIONAL WATER RESOURCES BOARD
25th Floor NIA Bldg., EDSA, Quezon City, Philippines 1106

PRIMEWATER INFRASTRUCTURE CORP.,
Applicant. Case No. 22-3498

NOTICE OF HEARING

This is an application for Certificate of Public Convenience to operate and maintain a waterworks system within Laureano Di Trevi 1, 2 and 3 Subdivision, Barangay Pio Del Pilar, Makati City, Metro Manila, with the following proposed rates:

PROPOSED TARIFF

Residential and Institutional

Pipe Size	0-5 m3 (min)	6-10 m3	11-20 m3	21-30 m3	31-40 m3	Over 40 m3
1/2"	P 353.50	71.40	72.20	78.00	84.20	91.00
3/4"	P 568.00	114.20	115.50	124.90	134.70	145.70
1"	P 1,131.50	228.40	230.90	249.80	269.40	291.30

Residential and Commercial

Pipe Size	0-5 m3 (min)	6-10 m3	11-20 m3	21-30 m3	31-40 m3	Over 40m3
1/2"	P 353.50	71.40	72.20	78.00	84.20	91.00
3/4"	P 568.00	114.20	115.50	124.90	134.70	145.70
1"	P 1,131.50	228.40	230.90	249.80	269.40	291.30

Commercial and Industrial

Pipe Size	0-15 m3 (min.)	16-30 m3	31-500 m3	501-1000 m3	Over 1000 m3
1/2"	P 1,557.00	110.50	132.20	157.20	157.20
3/4"	P 2,491.50	176.70	211.60	251.50	251.50
1"	P 4,983.00	353.50	423.10	503.00	503.00

This application will be initially heard by the Board on **27 February 2023**. The hearing will start at 9:00 o'clock in the morning at the NWRB-WUD Conference Room, 8th Floor, NIA Building, EDSA, Quezon City, at which time applicant shall present its evidence.


At least fifteen (15) days prior to the scheduled hearing, applicant shall publish this notice once in a daily newspaper of general circulation in Metro Manila and serve by personal delivery or registered mail a copy of the (i) application and its attachments, and (ii) this notice, to all affected parties appearing on page 2 hereof.

Parties opposed to the granting of the application must file their written opposition supported by documentary evidence on or before the above scheduled date of hearing, furnishing a copy of the same to the applicant.

Failure on the part of any person affected to file its opposition on time and to appear at the hearing will be construed as a waiver of their right to be heard. The Board will proceed to hear and decide the application based on the evidence submitted.

Likewise, failure by the applicant to appear at the hearing shall amount to lack of interest on its part and the instant application shall be dismissed accordingly.

Witness the Honorable Executive Director of the National Water Resources Board this 25th day of November 2022.

By Authority of the Board:

Dr. SEVILLO D. DAVID, Jr., CESO III
Executive Director

Affected Parties:

- The Secretary
Sangguniang Panlungsod
Makati City, Metro Manila
- The Barangay Chairman
Barangay Pio Del Pilar
Makati City, Metro Manila
- The Homeowners Assn. President
Laureano Di Trevi 1, 2 & 3
Barangay Pio Del Pilar
Makati City, Metro Manila
- The Administrator
Metropolitan Waterworks & Sewerage System
MWSS Compound, Katipunan Road
Balara, Quezon City

MT - Feb. 12, 2023