

09 April 2023 Sunday



**DENR**

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## Aid supplies from South Korea for oil slick cleanup arrive

Aid supplies from South Korea for the ongoing efforts to clean up the oil slick from a tanker that sank in the sea off Mindoro Oriental in February arrived in Manila last Wednesday.

According to the Korean Embassy in the Philippines, about 20 tons of sorbent pads and snares, 1,000 meters of solid flotation curtain boom, and 2,000 sets of Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) were unloaded from a Korean ship at the Port Area in Manila.

The supplies, which were received by the Philippine Coast Guard (PCG), will be sent to affected provinces across the country.

Four Korean experts from the Korea Coast Guard (KCG) as well as consul members of the embassy have joined hands in providing technical support for operating the response equipment. They are coordinating with their counterparts from the Philippines and the US.

The coordinated efforts began

on March 28 while the aid supplies were still en route to the Philippines.

Korea is the third country to help the Philippines in its oil spill cleanup effort caused by the sunken MV Princess Empress off Oriental Mindoro.

"The Republic of Korea would continue to stand together with the Philippines based on decades-long partnership with the Philippines in various areas of cooperation. The two countries will observe the 75th anniversary of their diplomatic ties in 2024," the embassy said. (Joseph Pedrajas)



# Climate agency to tourists: Maintain cleanliness

By HELEN FLORES

With millions of local and foreign tourists coming to the country's renowned beaches this summer, a climate change official is calling for stricter monitoring and implementation of waste management protocols in tourist destinations.

"While we are pleased that our tourist destinations continue to attract foreign and local visitors, we in the commission appeal to our tourists and residents alike to maintain cleanliness and only leave trash in designated locations," Climate Change Commission (CCC) Commissioner Albert dela Cruz said.

"As embodied in our mandate of formulating policies for climate action through the protection of our environment, creating a culture of sustainable tourism begins with engaging others on responsible travel and involving more people to act for the conservation of our natural wonders," he said.

Data from the Department of Tourism (DOT) showed that at least 1.75 million people visited Boracay last year, almost five times more than the 330,622 total visitors in 2021.

In February, foreign diving enthusiasts in Malaysia awarded the Philippines as the best diving destination, beating out Malaysia, Indonesia, Japan and Maldives during the Diving, Resort and Travel Show, considered as the largest diving expo in Asia.

The DOT is targeting 4.8 million international arrivals and pre-pandemic domestic tourism levels this year under the National Tourism Development Plan 2023-2028 unveiled last month.

Tourism Secretary Christina Garcia-Frasco earlier described 2022 as a fruitful year for the Philippine tourism industry, underscoring that last year's international arrivals reached 2.65 million, exceeding the initial target of 1.7 million foreign visitors.