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**DENR**

# **NEWS ALERTS**

**STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION AND INITIATIVES SERVICE**



## Villar bats for solid waste management

Solon asks LGUs to properly use composting facilities from DENR

ByBMPlus March 2, 2021



CITING the World Health Organization (WHO) warning that serious health risks will further demoralize communities already traumatized by Covid-19, Sen. Cynthia Villar urged Local Government Units (LGUs) to properly use the composting facilities from the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR).

She also mentioned the remark of the International Solid Waste Association that “Waste Management is one of the most important sanitary barriers to prevent transmission of diseases”.

Villar, chairperson of the Senate Committee on Environment and Natural Resources, sent her video message as a special guest during the ceremonial turn-over of solid waste management equipment to the cities and municipalities of Laguna province.

“To bring about a substantial reduction of the solid wastes, we generate, we should compose the biodegradable wastes, and we recycle those wastes that are suitable to organic fertilizer which farmers can use for free and help in improving the degradation of the soil in the Philippine which is at 38% at present level.

She also told the DENR about the importance of the essence of time when it comes to protecting the environment.



“To the DENR and the PITC (Philippine International Trading Corp.), I hope no more problem in the distribution of these equipment to the remaining 6 provinces and Metro Manila LGUs. Let us not tolerate delays, but should act swiftly,” said Villar, referring to the distribution of the remaining solid waste management equipment.

Based on DENR records, Villar said the LGUs in Pampanga received the first batch of equipment. She said, Laguna was lucky enough as it came next.

The 30 composting facilities given to Laguna LGUs were included in the procurement of 178 biodegradable waste shredders and composters that will be distributed to the LGUs comprising the Manila Bay watershed. They will be used for the further clean-up and rehabilitation of Manila Bay.



The Manila Bay watershed covers 16 cities and one municipality in Metro Manila and 8 provinces— Bulacan, Pampanga, Bataan, Nueva Ecija and Tarlac in Region 3, and the provinces of Cavite, Rizal and Laguna in Region 4-A.

Aside from being part of the Manila Bay clean-up strategy, Villar said these composting facilities will help LGUs to comply with the provisions of RA 9003 or the Ecological Solid Wastes Management Act.

“The law mandates the segregation, composting, and recycling of wastes,” said Villar as she thanked the DENR, represented by Usec. Benny Antiporda and DENR- Environmental Management Bureau (EMB) Director William Cuñado, and (Philippine International Trading) PITC President Dave Almarines, for distributing the equipment.

Villar, a long-time advocate of proper waste management, had established their own composting centers in her hometown in Las Pinas City. She said kitchen and garden wastes collected from households in the city were brought to the composting facility.

At present, Villar said Las Pinas have 80 composters utilized by over 80,000 households producing monthly 60 tons of organic fertilizer given for free to farmers and urban gardeners.

The senator disclosed that the biodegradable wastes processed in the composting facility make up around 50% of the total garbage generated by the city. As a congresswoman from 2001 to 2010, Villar embarked on saving the Las Piñas-Zapote River from wastes. Her efforts were recognized by the United Nations (UN) as “Water for Life Best Water Management Practices in 2011.”



## Proper disposal of waste urged

posted March 02, 2021 at 10:20 pm

by [Macon Ramos-Araneta](#)

Citing the World Health Organization warning that serious health risks will further demoralize the communities traumatized by Covid-19, Senator Cynthia Villar urged Laguna province officials and those from other Local Government Units to properly use the composting facilities from the Department of Environment and Natural Resources.

She also mentioned the remark of the International Solid Waste Association that “Waste Management is one of the most important sanitary barriers to prevent the transmission of diseases”.

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# Proper waste disposal

Tuesday, March 2, 2021 [People's Tonight21](#)



**BILLIONS** of pesos in hard-earned Filipino taxpayers money will have to be spent by the government to clean up the historic and sun-kissed but heavily-polluted Manila Bay.

Under the cleanup drive, the government is mandated to distribute free waste management equipment to local government units (LGUs) comprising the Manila Bay watershed.

The watershed covers 16 cities and one municipality in Metropolitan Manila and eight provinces – Bulacan, Pampanga, Bataan, Nueva Ecija, Tarlac, Cavite, Rizal and Laguna.

Needed in the elaborately-orchestrated drive are biodegradable waste shredders and composters, according to the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR).

Senator Cynthia A. Villar, chair of the Senate committee on environment and natural resources, called on recipient LGUs to properly use the waste management equipment.

Villar sent her video message as a special guest during the ceremonial turnover of the solid waste management equipment to the cities and municipalities of Laguna.

DENR said Pampanga received the first batch of waste shredders and composters.

Villar expressed hope there would be no problem in the distribution of these equipment to LGUs in the remaining six provinces and Metropolitan Manila.

Aside from being part of the Manila Bay clean-up and rehabilitation, the equipment will help LGUs comply with the provisions of RA No. 9003 or the Solid Waste Management Act.

The law mandates the segregation, composting and recycling of wastes, said Villar as she thanked the DENR for distributing the waste shredders and composters.

The turnover of the equipment in Laguna was graced by DENR Undersecretary Benny Antiporda, Environmental Management Bureau Director William Cunado and PITC President Dave Almarines.

The government, through the DENR, is on the right track in helping LGUs in the proper disposal of wastes as provided under the Solid Waste Management Act.

Source: <https://journal.com.ph/editorial/opinion/proper-waste-disposal/> 3



## CDC, DENR conduct tree planting activity in Clark

posted March 02, 2021 at 05:08 pm

The Clark Development Corporation (CDC) in cooperation with the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) recently conducted a tree planting activity at the Boy Scout Jamboree Site along the Creek Side road here.



*GREEN CITY, DREAM CITY. As part of the Clark Development Corporation's (CDC) efforts in making Clark a green and sustainable city, CDC President-CEO Manuel R. Gaerlan (right) together with the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) Asst. Sec. for Field Operations-Mindanao and Legislative Affairs Joan Lagunda (left) recently led a tree planting activity along with other gov't officials at the Boy Scout Jamboree Site along the CreekSide road here.*

*CDC-CD Photo*

As part of the "green initiative," some 75 seedlings of Narra and Molave were planted during the said event. CDC President and CEO Manuel R. Gaerlan led the occasion and shared the significance of planting more trees in the area.

"Clark is now becoming a green and sustainable city that is striving to balance ecological, economic, and social needs to ensure a clean, healthy, and safe environment now and for the generations to come," he said.

CDC Environmental Permits Division (EPD) headed by Engr. Rogelio Magat spearheaded the activity and partnered with DENR to ensure the successful conduct of the said event.

For her part, DENR Asst. Sec. for Field Operations-Mindanao and Legislative Affairs Joan Lagunda and DENR Provincial Environment and Natural Resources Officer (PENRO) Laudemir Salac thanked the state-owned firm for its support and efforts in making the tree planting activity possible.

Meanwhile, a total of 25 delegates comprised of officials from both government and private sectors also participated in the event.

Coincidentally, the said participants also attended the 1st Masters on National Security Administration (MNSA) organized by the National Defense College of the Philippines (NDCP).

Notable government officials who are also present during the activity are Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas (BSP) Managing Director Antonio Lambino II, Presidential Communications Operations Office (PCOO) Asst. Sec. Atty. Omar Alexander Romero, Office of the President (OP) Asst. Sec. Erwin Enad, and NDCP Chief Defense Research Officer Rostum Bautista, among others.

Over the years, CDC has been active in keeping Clark green by commemorating National Arbor Day, an annual activity dedicated for public-tree planting.

Last year, the state-owned firm was able to plant 1,350 endemic tree species in this Freeport – exceeding its initial goal of planting 1,000 trees.

Source: <https://manilastandard.net/mobile/article/348353>



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March 02, 2021

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Source: <https://www.sunstar.com.ph/article/1887545/Pampanga/Local-News/CDC-DENR-conduct-tree-planting-activity-in-Clark>



# Miss Eco Teen Int'l backs 1Bataan 1M trees challenge

Tuesday, March 2, 2021 Christian D. Supnad27

**GOVERNMENT CENTER, Bataan** — Miss Eco Teen International 2020 Ro-an Tamondong has vowed to support the “1Bataan- 1M trees challenge”, an environment program of Gov. Abet S Garcia to plant One million trees in the province.

During her courtesy call on the office of the governor Friday, Tamondong told Vics Gov. Cris Garcia and Raul Mamac, head of the DENR's provincial environment and natural resources office, that she was impressed with Garcia's program of preserving the environment via the planting trees.

*“I will go back to Bataan to personally lead a mangroove planting along the coastal areas here,”* said Tamondong.

In what appeared to be her role for an advocacy seen to help preserve what is left of our coastlines, the teenage beauty queen led a coastal cleanup Saturday in Morong and Limay.

The “1Million Trees for 1Bataan” program aims to encourage Bataeños to plant more trees. This program is being implemented by Garcia and in partnership with Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) and Sangguniang Kabataan.

Last June 26, 2016, Guinness World Record awarded Bataan the record for the “*Most Trees Planted in one Hour by a Team of Unlimited Size in a Single Location.*”

Swapnil, adjudicator of Guinness, announced that Bataan successfully planted 223,390 trees surpassing India's record of 208,751 during that time.

The more than 20,000 people that Garcia himself led were able to plant various seedlings of forest trees like eucalyptus, narra, and fruit trees like cashew, in more than 20 hectares of public lands at the mountain side of Bgy. General Lim below the giant War Memorial Cross in Mount Samat.

Before the coastal cleanup, Tamondong, attended a meeting with Vice-Governor Cris Garcia (representing Gov. Abet Garcia), Miss World Philippines top honcho Arnold Mercado and provincial environment and natural resource office chief Raul H. Mamac.

The first ever visit of a beauty queen here, Tamondong was warmly received by local folks led by Garcia, Helen Escudero, secretary to the office of the governor, Howell Icban and capitol employees and this writer.

In an exclusive interview, Tamondong said one of her advocacies is the preservation of the eco-system and that for her, it is imperative that she gets to “*walk her talk*” by way of hopping from one place to another and stressing the importance of a clean environment.

Source: <https://journal.com.ph/news/provincial/miss-eco-teen-intl-backs-1bataan-1m-trees-challenge/>





# Protecting our resources and endangered species

[INTROSPECTIVE](#) - [Tony Katigbak](#) (The Philippine Star) - March 3, 2021 - 12:00am

There has been a lot of news being churned out in every news cycle. It's almost impossible to keep up without drowning in how COVID-19 is progressing, how many new cases have been logged, if the vaccines have arrived, and when the vaccination program will be in full swing around the country. Naturally, all of this news is going to keep us glued to our newspapers and internet browsers.

These are strange times we live in and everyone is on edge because no one can predict how the next few months, let alone years, will look. As we creep into March and mark the anniversary of the lockdown, we're all wondering how and when life will start looking normal again. Granted in the past year many of us have grown accustomed to using masks, social distancing, and working from home whenever possible, it's still not something we are hoping to do for years on end. With the vaccine, there is the hope of a light at the end of the tunnel – even though the tunnel is still very long.

In either case, with everyone focused on the pandemic and the vaccine, a lot of other things are currently falling by the wayside. While that is understandable, it's also important to look at other aspects of life that should have our attention as well. After all, we don't exist in a vacuum. While COVID has taken over a huge chunk of our world, there is still a lot left that we need to be responsible for to ensure that we still have a world to go back to once the vaccines do their work.

One of these things is giving the environment the care that it deserves. Climate change hasn't stopped because of COVID and we are still seeing the impact of years of environmental degradation. Terrible typhoons and flooding remain a huge issue in the country and all over the world freak weather phenomenon happens so often it's sometimes no longer considered "freaky." The severe snowstorms that happened in Texas are just another example of weather gone awry.

This is something we have to continuously expect unless changes are made and soon. Another contributing factor to climate change, other than carbon emissions, is the continued destruction of natural resources. We know about that here in the country. We've seen huge chunks of forests mowed down and the loss of nature and natural habitats for so many ecosystems. We need to do better moving forward.

Protecting our natural resources and forests goes hand-in-hand with providing better protection for flora and fauna too. Just the other day, I read an article about Sarangani that was hopeful. Due to sightings of the endangered Philippine eagle in the rich biodiverse Dakeol Forest, conservationists and the local government declared the 3,000-hectare forest area as critical habitat and seeks to provide more protection for the area.

The eagle is thought to be the offspring of Sarangani Pride, a raptor released back into the wild in 2017. Seeing that it could potentially have offspring gives hope to rehabilitating the species in the protected area, and the town seeks to have the national government make a similar protection declaration. Having the Department of Environment and National Resources (DENR) issue an administrative order would allow and facilitate cooperation among relevant government agencies and local stakeholders in securing and managing the local ecosystem.



This would be a great step in saving a diverse and flourishing forest and providing a safe habitat for the many species of flowers and animals that call it home. Unregulated hunting, slash-and-burn farming, and other human activity have already threatened surrounding areas and we must put protections in place for what remains.

Knowing that there are potential Philippine eagle nesting sites in Dakeol is a huge bonus. We need to provide aid to our national bird for a long time and any move to give them more peace and protection will result in several environmental benefits. After all, not only does the majestic eagle represent the country, it also plays a hugely important role in maintaining the balance of the ecosystem.

The Philippine eagle has been listed as critically endangered since 1994, with the country only roughly having 400 pairs left. Providing sanctuary and protection to these birds is an important step in ensuring they don't die out and have a chance to boost their numbers in the wild.

Dakeol Forest is also the known home of another bird of prey, the Philippine serpent eagle, whose numbers are also decreasing. Securing better protection for the land will ensure they will remain safe and have a dedicated area in which to grow, hunt, and thrive.

I am glad the community is taking the necessary steps to care for their natural resources and the animals that call these forests home. These are, indeed, strange times we live in but that doesn't excuse us from caring for our environment and making sure that we are doing all we can to protect the world we live in.



## Reclaiming Manila Bay, reigniting the economy

By Joseph Araneta Gamboa March 3, 2021



**FINEX FREE  
ENTERPRISE**

**Joseph Araneta Gamboa**

A new master-planned city will soon rise on reclaimed land along the coastal area of Manila Bay. Known as Solar City Manila, it will be developed by the Manila Goldcoast Development Corp. (MGDC) in a consortium with the City of Manila.

Clearing the way for the 148-hectare reclamation project was an official communication from the Office of the President signed by Executive Secretary Salvador C. Medialdea last month. In his memorandum to the Philippine Reclamation Authority (PRA), Medialdea said the OP interposed no objection in granting a notice to mobilize (NTM) and a notice to commence actual reclamation works (NTCARW) for Solar City Manila, subject to compliance with applicable laws, rules and regulations.

Subsequently through Governing Board Resolution 5625 series of 2021, the PRA issued the two notices to the MGDC-led consortium last week after receiving Medialdea's assurance that the OP did not oppose the start of the Solar City project.

It may be recalled that in February 2019, Malacañang had already granted a clearance to proceed with the project pursuant to Executive Order (EO) 543 series of 2006 and EO No. 74 series of 2019 as well as succeeding representations made by the PRA on the completion of documentary requirements and concurrences of the relevant government agencies.

This mixed-use development was originally called the Manila-Cavite Coastal Road Reclamation (MCCR)-North Sector Project when it was proposed for bidding more than three decades ago. In 1991, MGDC was awarded the project by the Public Estate Authority (PEA), the predecessor agency of the PRA under the administration of President Corazon Aquino.

During the term of her son, President Benigno C. Aquino III, the PRA board affirmed the MCCR-North Sector Project's previous award to MGDC in 2011. That was the same year when the City Council of Manila passed an ordinance allowing the resumption of reclamation activities on Manila Bay.

By virtue of Presidential Decree 1084, President Ferdinand E. Marcos created the PEA in 1977 to serve primarily as the clearinghouse for all reclamation projects in the country. The agency was formerly attached to the Department of Public Works and Highways but in 2004, President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo transferred its oversight to the Department of Finance through EO 329 and thereafter renamed the PEA to the PRA via EO 380.

MGDC is part of the Solar Group owned by the Tieng family. This Philippine conglomerate has business interests in several industries such as entertainment, satellite communications, property landbanking, and real estate development. Way back 30 years ago, the Tiengs had already proposed the Solar City Manila project to the national and local governments as the Manila Goldcoast Reclamation Project. According to media reports, two other consortiums are waiting for Malacañang's go-signal to pursue their own reclamation projects.

"The PRA's request for NTMs and NTCARWs relative to the Horizon Manila Reclamation Project and the Manila Waterfront Reclamation shall be acted upon separately," Medialdea noted. Proponents of both projects are likewise the LGU of Manila and its private sector partners.



Kudos to Medialdea and the OP for their decisiveness in green-lighting these long overdue projects. The jobs and revenues to be generated by the reclamation of Manila Bay will give a much-needed boost to our economy that is still being battered by the pandemic.

*Joseph Gamboa is the co-chairman of the Finex Annual Conferences for 2020-2021, chairman of the Finex Business Columns Subcommittee and director of Noble Asia Industrial Corp. The views expressed herein do not necessarily reflect the opinion of these institutions and the BusinessMirror.*



- Headline
- Editorial
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- Opinion
- Feature Article



The Manila Times

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Workers from the Department of Public Works and Highways conduct dredging works at the Marikina River on Tuesday, March 2, 2021. The Marikina City government together with the DPWH and the Department of Natural Resources created a project aiming to restore the beauty of the river and install flood control measures in the river. PHOTOS BY JOHN ORVEN VERDOTE



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# National law banning single-use plastics needed to reduce carbon footprint, achieve '1.5°C world' -CCC

By Jerome Carlo R. Paunan Published on March 2, 2021



***An open dumpsite in Sta. Ana, Pampanga filled with single-use plastics. (Contributed photo)***

CALOOCAN CITY, March 2 (PIA) -- The Climate Change Commission (CCC) today emphasized the need for a Republic Act banning single-use plastics in the Philippines for the country to contribute to the global goal of 1.5°Celsius limit and prevent the worst of climate change impacts.

In response, a technical working group of the House of Representatives Committee on Ecology chaired by Representative Francisco "Kiko" Benitez moved to consolidate and finalize bills seeking to phase-out or regulate single-use plastics.

"A national law regulating single-use plastics will serve as an overarching framework and a unified policy to strengthen the impact of existing local ordinances that currently ban or regulate single-use plastics across an estimated 480 provinces, cities, and municipalities," the CCC said.

The CCC, led by its Chairperson-designate Finance Secretary Carlos G. Dominguez, has said that it is aligned with the aims of the bill "to advance realistic solutions to address the challenge of single-use plastics pollution and provide a clear pathway for the pursuit of sustainable consumption and production."

In its submission to the Ecology Committee, the CCC said, "a single-use plastics ban is a necessary key step towards achieving a '1.5°C world.' This is the global warming threshold at which vulnerable countries like the Philippines can survive climate impacts. The proposed measure will help create a fundamental shift in the way we deliver on socioeconomic needs, whereby we can promote a cleaner environment, reduce flooding as we are a typhoon-prone country, and mitigate carbon emissions from plastics production."

A Roadmap for Sustainability on Single-Use Plastics by the United Nations Environment Programme warned that the world's capacity to cope with plastic waste has already been overwhelmed. With only 9 percent of the world's plastic waste being recycled and the rest ending up in landfills, dumps, or in the environment, the report estimates that there will be 12 billion tons of plastic litter in landfills and the environment by 2050. Aside from the environmental impact, the UN also warns of the numerous health problems and vast economic damage caused by plastic waste.



On Monday, the House TWG on its fourth meeting completed a run-through of its draft bill with stakeholders from industry, environmental groups and experts, academia, government, and civil society. Among the provisions discussed during the meeting was the proposed provision on Extended Producers' Responsibility or EPR authored by Deputy Speaker Rufus Rodriguez, which will hold producers responsible for collecting and recycling the amount of plastic that they produce and introduce into the market.

"Mandatory EPR will be complementary to a ban on single use plastics as a long-term regulatory measure. It will reduce the amount of packaging lingering in the environment, foster business responsibility, and stimulate the recycling sector, as found in the UN report," the CCC said.

The fourth TWG meeting also touched on other solutions needed to solve the problem of plastic waste, including the need to improve solid waste management, invest in the country's recycling infrastructure, and intervene in e-commerce especially as the lockdowns due to the pandemic are seen to increase the use of unnecessary plastic.

"It requires more than a single type of solution. This is such a comprehensive and lifestyle issue that is a consequence of our own industrial processes for the last 200 years," said Rep. Benitez.

UN Environment's roadmap similarly notes a broad range of actions that must be taken by stakeholders beyond bans and levies on single-use plastics, including the need to improve waste management practices; provide financial incentives to change the habits of consumers, retailers, and manufacturers; accelerate a more circular model of plastics design and production; finance research and the development of alternative materials; and raise awareness. (PIA NCR)



## 'Recyclables' can now be traded for grocery items in QC

Published March 2, 2021, 9:21 PM

by [Joseph Pedrajas](#)

Plastic, paper, and metal wastes can now be exchanged for grocery items in Quezon City as the local government launched its “Trash to cashback” program Tuesday.



(Photo from QC LGU)

Under the program, “recyclables” can be traded for basic commodities, such as rice, eggs, vegetables, hygiene kits, among others, in the local government’s bid to promote the importance of recycling and waste segregation.

A “My Basurero Eco-Community” kiosk has been set up at the Quezon City Hall Risen Garden, where residents can convert their recyclable wastes into “environmental points” that can be used to buy groceries, the local government said.

It added, more kiosks will “soon be rolled out in barangays.”

Interested traders have to create and register their email through BeepXTRA Philippines to collect their environmental points.

Aside from groceries, the points can be used in food deliveries. A complete list of partner stores and establishments is accessible through [bXTRA.com.ph](https://bXTRA.com.ph) and [bXTRAoutlet.delivery](https://bXTRAoutlet.delivery) websites.

According to the city’s environment head, Andrea A. Villaroman, the city is currently in talks with its Small Business Cooperatives Development and Promotions Office (SBCDPO) for the registration of micro and small businesses as partner merchants of bXTRA.

“If we have more partner merchants where residents can exchange their EPs, mas mahihikayat natin silang ipalit ang kanilang (we can encourage more residents to trade their) recyclable waste,” she said.





# QC gov't launches program to exchange waste for basic commodities

Aileen Cerrudo • March 2, 2021



The Quezon City Government has launched a plastic waste trading project for residents to exchange their plastic waste with basic commodities.

The program entitled “Trash to Cashback” is launched with the help of the city’s Environmental Protection and Waste Management Department and the Basic Environmental Systems and Technologies, Inc. (BEST).

Under the said program, residents will convert their plastic waste to environmental points that can be exchanged for basic commodities such as rice, eggs, bread, fruits, vegetables and other essentials such as toiletries.

The QC government has yet to provide further details but they announced that caravans and rolling stores will be deployed to various barangays in the city.

Those interested may visit <https://www.facebook.com/bxtraphilippines>. -AAC



## 4 Customs officials kakasuhan sa basura ng Canada

By [Danilo Garcia](#)(Pilipino Star Ngayon) - March 2, 2021 - 12:00am



Unang nagkasa ng imbestigasyon ang National Bureau of Investigation (NBI) at nagreklamo laban sa mga akusado noong Enero 2020. Matatandaan na pinabalik na rin ng pamahalaan ang naturang mga basura sa Canada base sa kautusan ni Pangulong Rodrigo Duterte.

Bureau of Customs

MANILA, Philippines — Apat na opisyal ng Bureau of Customs (BOC) ang inirekomendang kasuhan ng Department of Justice (DOJ) dahil sa pagkakasangkot sa maanomalyang pagpasok sa bansa ng tone-toneladang basura buhat sa Canada noong 2013 at 2014.

Kabilang sa mga inutusang kasuhan sina Customs examiner Benjamin Perez Jr. at Eufrazio Ednaco at sina Customs appraisers Matilda Bacongan at Jose Saromo. Nakakita ang mga prosecutor na may matibay na basehan para sampahan sila ng kasong paglabag sa Toxic Substances and Hazardous and Nuclear Waste Control Act of 1990.

Ayon sa DOJ, alam o dapat ay alam ng mga opisyal na 'hazardous materials' at hindi mga plastic scrap materials ang laman ng shipment makaraang aminin na nagsagawa naman sila ng 'physical examination' dito.

"When they rerouted these shipments to 'green' [low risk], they effectively facilitated the importation of hazardous waste into the Philippines," ayon pa sa DOJ resolution.

Ibinasura naman ng DOJ ang parehong reklamo laban kay Environmental Management Bureau director Juan Miguel Cuna at tatlo pang empleyado dahil sa 'lack of probable cause'. Ligtas din sa asunto ang walo pang respondents dahil sa kakulangan sa ebidensya.

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Source: <https://www.philstar.com/pilipino-star-ngayon/metro/2021/03/02/2081307/4-customs-officials-kakasuhan-sa-basura-ng-canada/amp/>



# Australia invests P630-M in PH climate resilience program

Published March 2, 2021, 3:44 PM

by [Roy Mabasa](#)

The Australian government is investing P630 million (Au\$18 million) to help strengthen the disaster and climate resilience of at least 10 selected provinces in the Philippines, including Metro Manila and the Bangsamoro Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (BARMM).



(Photo By Zaldy Comanda / FILE PHOTO)

Dubbed as the SHIELD (Strengthening Institutions and Empowering Localities against Disasters and Climate Change) Program, the six-year initiative aims to work with local governments as the first responders to emergencies, by building their institutional and community resilience capacities against natural hazards and climate change.

The United Nations Development Program (UNDP), which signed a memorandum of agreement with Australia, will implement SHIELD, along with consortium partners UN-Habitat, Philippine Business for Social Progress, National Resilience Council, and the Consortium of Bangsamoro Civil Society.

Australian Ambassador to the Philippines Steven J. Robinson AO said this new investment affirms Australia's continued commitment to the Philippines as a dependable partner in building the long-term disaster and climate resilience of its institutions and its people.

He stressed that enhancing resilience remains a high priority for Australia, particularly in the Philippines, which is extremely vulnerable to disasters and the impacts of climate change.

“Through SHIELD, we will work with governments, private sector, civil society, and academic institutions to enhance and sustain community resilience,” Robinson added.

Under the SHIELD program, efforts will be made to accelerate resilience-building in the Philippines by collaborating with multiple stakeholders to unlock financing and implement risk-informed and inclusive resilience actions at the local level.

It will also support the Philippine government to establish the needed enabling environment and work with local scientific agencies to produce tailored and accessible information that will inform local resilience actions.

Source: <https://mb.com.ph/2021/03/02/australia-invests-p630-m-in-ph-climate-resilience-program/>



## P630 million to fund LGUs' climate resilience

By Cai Ordinario

March 3, 2021

THE Australian Government will be financing a P630-million worth project called Strengthening Institutions and Empowering Localities against Disasters and Climate Change (Shield), which seeks to improve disaster and climate resilience of targeted local governments in the Philippines.

In a statement, the Australian government and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) in the Philippines signed an agreement for the initiative set to be implemented in the next six years. The Shield program will be implemented with UN-Habitat, Philippine Business for Social Progress, National Resilience Council and the Consortium of Bangsamoro Civil Society, according to the UNDP.

"Enhancing resilience remains a high priority for Australia, particularly in the Philippines, which is extremely vulnerable to disasters and the impacts of climate change," Australian Ambassador to the Philippines Steven J. Robinson was quoted in the statement as saying. "Through Shield, we will work with governments, private sector, civil society and academic institutions to enhance and sustain community resilience."

The UNDP said the initiative will work with local governments, as the first responders to emergencies, by building their institutional and community resilience capacities against natural hazards and climate change.

The program will be implemented in ten of the country's most vulnerable provinces to disaster and climate change impacts, including Metro Manila due to its vulnerability to earthquakes and its economic significance.

The Shield program will also be implemented in the Bangsamoro Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (Barmm) with the increasing disaster and climate vulnerability of conflict-affected areas.

"Through Shield, our ultimate aim is for our target communities to be safer and more resilient to the impacts of natural hazards and climate change, taking also into account the lessons brought about by the Covid-19 pandemic," UNDP Philippines Resident Representative Selva Ramachandran was quoted in the statement as saying. "It bears noting that the program also puts importance on gender equality, disability, and social inclusion in the context of resilience-building."

The Shield program aims to accelerate resilience-building efforts in the Philippines by collaborating with multiple stakeholders to unlock financing and implement risk-informed and inclusive resilience actions at the local level.

The initiative will also support the national government by supporting Philippine scientific agencies to produce tailored and accessible information that will inform local resilience actions.



# Angat watershed rehab tops targets despite pandemic

Published March 2, 2021, 6:30 AM

by [Madelaine B. Miraflor](#)

The on-going state-led massive watershed rehabilitation in the Metropolis' seven critical watersheds, including Angat, has surpassed targets despite the COVID-19 pandemic.

A project report released over the weekend showed that over four million seedlings were already planted in some of the region's critical watersheds and 9,509 hectares reforested through the Metropolitan Waterworks Sewerage System's (MWSS) Annual Million Trees Challenge (AMTC).



MWSS Logo

According to the report, a total of 4.02 million seedlings were planted from 2017 to 2020 in Ipo-Angat (2.26 million), La Mesa (777,505), Laguna de Bay (222,096), Kaliwa-Umiray (60,473), Upper Marikina watershed (552,165), and Manila Bay (143,904).

For three consecutive years since its launch in February 2017, AMTC targets were surpassed.

AMTC is a five-year watershed rehabilitation program spearheaded by the MWSS–Corporate Office, in partnership with various organizations that include national government agencies, local government units, civil society groups, and the private sector.

It aims to rehabilitate the seven critical watersheds, namely La Mesa, Ipo, Angat, Umiray, Laguna Lake, Upper Marikina, and Kaliwa, which are supplying water to Metro Manila and parts of Rizal, Cavite, and Bulacan.

The program was formally launched by then MWSS Administrator Reynaldo V. Velasco (Ret), who now serves as MWSS Chairman of the Board.

In 2017, the number of seedlings planted totaled 1.33 million. This was followed by 1.02 million in 2018 and 1.02 million in 2019.

In 2020, only 633,442 trees were planted due to COVID-19 lockdown restrictions.

Meanwhile, a total of 9,509.375 hectares from 2017 to 2020 were already reforested through the AMTC.

At the Ipo-Angat watershed, reforested area was 5,035.19 hectares; La Mesa, 1,723.39; Laguna de Bay, 347.83; Kaliwa–Umiray, 150.84; Upper Marikina, 1,928.99; and Manila Bay, 323.135.

MWSS and its partners agreed on maintaining the health of the beneficiary watersheds by planting and nurturing at least one million trees annually.



“MWSS saw the need to reforest these watersheds that have been denuded because of illegal activities such as timber poaching, kaingin, and land conversion. Wanton destruction of forest areas has adversely affected water quality in the watersheds,” MWSS said in a statement over the weekend.

Since its launch, the program has attracted 20 partner organizations, including ABS-CBN Lingkod Kapamilya Foundation, Inc.–Bantay Kalikasan; Bambuhay Social Enterprise; Boy Scouts of the Philippines; Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) National Capital Region; DENR Region 3; DENR Region 4A; Gen. Nakar, Quezon LGU; JCI Senate Philippines; Laguna Lake Development Authority; and Luzon Clean Water Development Corporation-San Miguel Corporation.

Manila Water Company, Inc.; Maynilad Water Services, Inc.; Mga Anak ni Inang Daigdig; MWSS Regulatory Office; National Power Corporation; Phil. Waterworks Association (PWWA); Rotary Club District 3780; UP Beta Sigma; UP Mountaineers; and World Wide Fund for Nature–Philippines are also part of the project.

The AMTC supports the government’s National Greening Program and is aligned with the UN Sustainable Development Goals.

The National Greening Program is a government priority program that provided for the planting of some 1.5 billion trees in about 1.5 billion hectares for a period of six years from 2011 to 2016.

Its coverage was expanded in 2015 and its implementation extended from 2016 to 2028. It also harmonized the greening efforts of the private sector and civil society.



# Quarry revenues in Pampanga reach PhP1-billion mark

By Marie Joy S. CarbungcoPublished on March 2, 2021

CITY OF SAN FERNANDO, Pampanga, March 2 (PIA) -- Revenues from quarry operations in the province reached PhP1.36 billion as of February 2021.

According to reports, the PhP1,036,607,994.00 revenue from quarry taxes, and sand and gravel fees, was collected from July 2019 until February 2021.

This consists of PhP150 sand tax; PhP250 administrative fee; PhP30 weighing scale fee; sand and gravel permit; and motor vehicle and heavy equipment accreditation, including fines and penalties.

By month, the highest collection was made in February 2021, which grossed PhP72.8 million.

With this, Governor Dennis Pineda thanked the quarry associations and the provincial treasurer's office for the surge in collection and proper regulation of the industry.

"The amount we collected proved that the monitoring and collecting system we put in place is efficient. Taxing according to actual volume hauled is right. This also showed that quarry operators and haulers are also cooperating with our policies," Pineda said.



The provincial government of Pampanga reports that revenues from quarry operations reached PhP1.36 billion as of February 2021. (Pampanga PIO/ Marvin Tolentino and Vibro and Quarry Sand)

He said high collections bring benefits to the communities, adding more funds to Pampanga's local income for dealing with the COVID-19 pandemic.

Among the province's initiatives to respond to COVID-19 include setting up of quarantine facilities, establishing the Balik Pilipinas, Balik Pampanga program for returning Kapampangans, putting up of mobile and fixed swabbing centers, converting permanent evacuation centers as isolation areas, improving transportation fleet and supporting public transport, and monitoring of testing laboratories.

Also, enforcing safety protocols, financing the medical treatment of indigent patients, passing local ordinances in support of Inter-Agency Task Force rules, purchasing of vaccines, and preparing for the vaccination of medical and security frontliners.

Meanwhile, Porac Sand and Gravel Quarry Operators Association Inc. donated two ambulances to the provincial government to boost the provincial healthcare program.

Republic Act 7160, otherwise known as the Local Government Code of 1991 distributes the sand tax at a 40-30-30 percent sharing to barangays, towns or cities and province, respectively. (CLJD/MJSC-PIA 3)

Source: <https://pia.gov.ph/news/articles/1068306>



## NEWS BRIEFS



### Quarry posts P1B taxes, fees

CITY OF SAN FERNANDO, Pampanga – A total of P1.036 billion was collected as quarry taxes and fees during governor Dennis Pineda's 19-month term as the head honcho of the province of Pampanga. According to the provincial government, the taxes and fees earned from quarrying of Mt. Pinatubo's lahar has proved profitable for Pampanga, citing that the collected P1,036,607,994 amount came from collection starting July 2019 up to February 2021. Pineda cited that the amount can be used in the fight against the Covid-19 pandemic. He added that before the said months, the quarry industry was in a slump from 20 March to 17 May, during the Enhanced Community Quarantine that was imposed in the whole of Luzon. According to the quarry monitoring unit Kalam, quarry fees come from sand tax, administrative fees, weighing scale fees, sand and gravel permit, motor vehicle and heavy equipment accreditation including fines and penalties. Pineda lauded the quarry association for the compliance to the quarrying regulations of Pampanga, citing that their honesty has made the collection more efficient. He also expressed his gratitude to Kalam for safeguarding the collection of taxes and fees of the quarrying industry.

JONAS REYES





Sisters Ann and Billie Dumaliang  
Masungi Georeserve, Facebook

## Conservationists behind Masungi win Vanity Fair's travel awards

[Gaea Katreena Cabico](#) (Philstar.com) - March 2, 2021 - 7:14pm

MANILA, Philippines — Two conservationists have been recognized by American magazine Vanity Fair for their efforts to protect Masungi Georeserve in Rizal and their approach to sustainable tourism.

Sisters Ann and Billie Dumaliang were listed among the winners of the magazine's [Changing Your Mind Awards 2021](#), which honored individuals who have “plugged on, undaunted” even as the coronavirus pandemic rages on and freedom is restrained.

The Dumaliang sisters were dubbed as “conservation starters” for helping rewild a degraded patch of land in Baras town, establishing monitoring trails and opening Masungi Georeserve to sustainable tourism.

Ann is the project manager of Masungi, while Billie serves as the trustee and advocacy officer.

“Instead of simply erecting signposts and training some guides, they dreamt up spectacular ways of exploring the region, long difficult to access because of the fragile terrain,” Michelle Jana Chan, Vanity Fair travel editor, wrote of the Dumaliang sisters.

“They connected rock formations with hanging rope bridges and eco-trails, offering aerial views of the karsts below and panoramic of the Sierra Madre,” she added.

The 430-hectare Masungi Georeserve is a conservation area known for its lush rainforest and rugged limestone peaks. It is also home to more than 400 species of flora and fauna.

But before it became an ecotourism site, it was once a patch of land degraded by real estate speculation, quarrying and illegal logging.

It took 20 years to restore the area using the assisted natural regeneration strategy or helping nature run its course. In 2016, it opened its doors to the public as a “low-volume” ecotourism site.

In 2017, Masungi entered into an agreement with the government to restore some 2,700 hectares of land around the limestone foundations.

### Work continues amid pandemic

The works of the people behind Masungi during the pandemic were also featured such as their campaigns and petitions to protect the nature reserve after a quarrying company fenced off 500 hectares of the reforestation site. In October last year, they faced the same threat.



Vanity Fair also noted that the pair launched Visita—“an app designed to empower fellow ecotourist managers across the Philippines—under lockdown.

After it was shut for months due to the pandemic, Masungi is gradually reopening by entertaining limited number of visitors.

#### Save Upper Marikina Watershed

In an interview with **Philstar.com**, Billie said it is an honor to be picked by Vanity Fair.

“It reaffirms us and pushes us to continue fulfilling our purpose: changing hearts, changing minds, and inspiring action among stakeholders and leaders to protect an entire landscape against harmful and short-sighted activities,” the younger Dumaliang sister said.

“This recognition really goes out to everyone in our team, from supervisors, park rangers, volunteers, collaborators and community partners, who have stayed courageous and passionate throughout the pandemic and despite our challenges on the ground,” she added.

Billie also said it is their hope the award will help put spotlight on the work of people who protect the 26,000-hectare Upper Marikina River Basin Protected Landscape.

“We hope this award will help shine light on an entire movement of citizens that seeks to protect the Upper Marikina Watershed from quarrying, land grabbing, and other environmental injustices, in order to have a healthier, safer, and more sustainable future for Filipinos,” she said.



# WWF-Philippines Taps Filipino Youth Gamers for its Environmental Advocacy

BY [VILLAGE CONNECT](#) ON MARCH 2, 2021 [ENTERTAINMENT](#), [SPORTS](#)

## *WWF-Philippines Taps Filipino Youth Gamers for its Environmental Advocacy*



The World Wide Fund-Philippines is tapping the Filipino youth gamer to increase awareness on environmental issues such as wildlife decimation, climate change that brings extreme weather and devastating forest fires. The youth being technologically savvy and innovative can provide fresh ideas, approaches and strong commitment in cultivating empathy and encouraging collective actions across the world.



By partnering with MPL-PH (or the Mobile Legends: Bang Bang Professional League), WWF-Philippines makes history for the first time to raise awareness on wildlife conservation through advocacy-driven Season 7 tournaments—from January to June 2021—featuring this year’s competing teams with relatively huge following in the digital space. The tournaments seek to drive positive behavioral change not only among the gamers but also among the vast audiences that watch and support them.

Tagged as the most prestigious mobile games competition in Southeast Asia developed by [Moonton](#), the MPL was established in the Philippines in 2018. Since its inception, MPL-PH has consistently initiated charity works and fundraising events for various non-profit organizations especially during the COVID-19 pandemic.





In its seventh iteration, MPL-PH shifts its focus to an advocacy that WWF-Philippines has long pledged to undertake: reverse the accelerating degradation of the Philippine environment. This marks the first ever participation of MPL-PH in an environmental conservation initiative.

10 squads are all geared for the season grind. But unlike the previous seasons where they were known by no other representation aside from their respective team names, this year's tournament will also get them recalled by wildlife icons of some of the world's threatened species—the promotion of which began making rounds on social media since early February via the official [MPL-PH Facebook page](#)

The teams will be divided into two separate groups during the group stage. Group A will be headlined by defending champions and M2 world champions Bren Esports while Group B has Season 6 runner-up Smart Omega Esports, eventually leading to the best-of-seven grand finals on June 5 and 6.



The integration of environmental awareness in the conduct of electronic sports could be rare—but possible. With the unprecedented emergence of COVID-19, the humanity now lives in the “new normal,” part of which is to stay at home to prevent the spread of the viral disease. With less time spent outdoors, more and more people with access to mobile devices are introduced to online games.

This partnership between WWF-Philippines and MPL-PH takes advantage of the fastest growing media platform to utilize the virtual realm as an avenue to make new collaborations for environmental campaigns with real-world, transformative impact.

As a leading Esports and gaming force unifying millions of fans in the Philippines, MPL-PH is thrilled to partner with WWF-Philippines to embark on a sustainable journey by leveraging their extensive reaches and impacts. MPL-PH commits to providing the desired joy, creating unforgettable moments, and take on social good to inspire new generations of audience through partnerships with prestigious brands and organizations that share the same advocacy, especially those within the country.

With partnerships and collaborations such as this, online games are proven to be not for entertainment only, as gamers are undeniably becoming global agents of change—including the 10 teams vying for this season's coveted championship.

**By Rose de la Cruz**



Artist's rendition of the coronavirus disease.

Image by Pete Linforth from Pixabay

## Palace assures public safety intensified as South African COVID-19 variant detected

[Alexis Romero](#) (Philstar.com) - March 2, 2021 - 5:32pm

MANILA, Philippines — Malacañang vowed to intensify health and safety protocols following the detection of the more transmissible South African variant of COVID-19 in the Philippines.

Presidential spokesman Harry Roque said quarantine measures on travelers from other countries are still in place.

"We continue to intensify the implementation of health protocols and we continue our protocols for those who will enter the country," Roque said at a press briefing yesterday.

Roque reminded the public to continue wearing face masks, washing hands frequently, and observing physical distancing and to avail of COVID-19 vaccines once they are available. He said it does not make sense to wait for a vaccine that is not yet in the country.

"Now that the vaccine is here, why say no especially now that there are new variants, especially if you are a medical frontliner?" the Palace spokesman said.

Asked whether the presence of a new variant would lead to a tightening of quarantine classifications, Roque said it would depend on indicators like the two-week attack rate and the health care utilization rate.

"We are really monitoring this. We cannot deny that as long as COVID is there, more people will be infected. What is important is we are in a position to provide medical attention and help to those who are in need," Roque said.

Rontgene Solante, chief of the Adult Infectious Disease and Tropical Medicine Unit of San Lazaro Hospital, said contact tracing would be very crucial especially for those who have been exposed to the South African variant.

"I think one of the reasons why they are now increasing the presence of vaccines in Pasay, because once you have this risk of increased transmissibility then you always have a lot of cases that will be reported in the next few days," he added.



The timeline for the delivery of doses, made by AstraZeneca and by India's Serum Institute, will be split into separate two-month schedules, COVAX said in a statement, with the first in February-March and the second in April-May.

## COVAX vaccine program to deliver 237M doses to 142 nations by end of May

**Published** March 2, 2021 11:08pm

By EMMA FARGE, STEPHANIE NEBEHAY AND KATE KELLAND Reuters

GENEVA/LONDON - The COVAX vaccine-sharing program said on Tuesday it will deliver 237 million doses of AstraZeneca's COVID-19 shot to 142 countries by the end of May as it steps up the global roll-out of its vaccine supplies.

The timeline for the delivery of doses, made by AstraZeneca and by India's Serum Institute, will be split into separate two-month schedules, COVAX said in a statement, with the first in February-March and the second in April-May.

"These timelines are dependent on a variety of factors including national regulatory requirements, availability of supply, and fulfillment of other criteria such as validated national deployment and vaccination plans," the statement said.

COVAX is the program backed by the World Health Organization and GAVI vaccine alliance to provide vaccines for poor and middle-income countries. It began its roll-out last week with the first deliveries of shots to Ghana and Ivory Coast.

"It can't be overemphasized enough that we are undertaking the largest and most complex vaccine rollout in history," Seth Berkley, GAVI chief executive officer, told a news conference.

"We are just starting, but we should see more and more countries being served in coming weeks and months including those at all income levels and across the world," he said.

Hailing the campaign as an "unprecedented partnership", WHO Director-General Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus said Angola, Cambodia, Democratic Republic of Congo and Nigeria could also expect deliveries of COVAX-supplied vaccines on Tuesday.

"This is an unprecedented partnership that will not only change the course of the pandemic but also change the way the world responds to future health emergencies," Tedros said.

Ghanaian President Nana Akufo-Addo told the same briefing that his West African country, which this week began its inoculation campaign with COVAX doses, aimed to vaccinate 20 million people by the end of 2021.



The COVAX statement said that as well as the first round of allocations of the AstraZeneca vaccine, some 1.2 million doses of the Pfizer-BioNTech shot were also anticipated for delivery in the first quarter of 2021.

COVAX hoped to finalize a deal with Novavax for 1.1 billion doses in coming weeks, Berkley said. –  
**Reuters**



## AYAW MAGPABAKUNA? LAGOT SA ISRAEL, INDIA AT VATICAN CITY! SA PINAS KAYA?



March 3, 2021 @ 12:40 AM 5 hours ago

AYAW mo ba talagang magpabakuna laban sa coronavirus disease o COVID-19 nang walang dahilan o katanggap-tanggap na dahilan?

Kung ganito ka, tingnan natin ang nagaganap sa ilang bansa.

### SA VATICAN CITY

Naiulat na natin ang istriktong patakaran ukol sa pagpapabakuna sa nasasakupan ng Vatican City na pinamumunuan ni Pope Francis.

Noong una, literal na inihayag ni Vatican City Governor Cardinal Giuseppe Bertello na masisibak sa trabaho ang hindi magpapabakuna batay sa batas na pinalabas noong 2011 ukol sa nakahahawa at nakamamatay na sakit.

Ayon sa batas na ito, sapilitan ang pagpapabakuna, laban sa COVID-19 sa panahong ito, at masisibak ang isang empleyado na ayaw magpabakuna nang walang medikal na dahilan.

Paliwanag mismo ni Pope Francis, katumbas ng suicide ang hindi pagpapabakuna.

Magkagayunman, makaraang kwestiyunin ito ng iba, ipinaliwanag ng opisina ni Bertello na kagagaling lang din sa tama ng COVID-19 na meron talagang posisyon o trabahong sapilitan ang pagpapabakuna.

Kasama rito ang paninilbihan sa publiko, kinakailangan ang pakikisalamuha sa iba at posibleng mahawaan ang iba.

Dahil nirerespeto ang kalayaan sa hindi pagpapabakuna, maaaring mahanapan ang obrero ng ibang trabaho o posisyon na hindi kinakailangan ang hindi pakikisalamuha masyado sa iba bagama't may posibilidad ng demosyon o pagbaba ng posisyon ngunit walang kabawasan sa sahod.

Tinanggal ang parusang sibakan sa trabaho pero nariryan naman ang katulad ng demosyon.

Ngunit nananatili ang sapilitang pagpapabakuna para sa proteksyon ng lahat at mismong si Pope Francis ay nagpabakuna rin.





## SA PUNJAB, INDIA

Mga health worker naman ang inuunang gustong bakunahan ng pamahalaang lokal ng Punjab sa India para maging malusog ang mga ito at maging malakas na pwersa ng pamahalaan laban sa pandemya.

Pangalawa ang India sa United States na may pinakamaraming biktima ng pandemya sa bilang na 11,124,527, kabilang na ang 157,275 patay.

Sa kabila ng pagbaba ng nahahawaan dahil sa milyon-milyon nang nababakunahan sa nasabing bansa, may biktima ang Punjab na halos 400 araw-araw at nakaipon na ito ng halos 6,000 nang patay o kulang-kulang sa kabuuang patay sa mahal kong Pinas na mahigit nang 12,000.

Ayon sa pamahalaang Odisha kung tawagin, nasa 85 porsyento na umano ng health workers ang nagpabakuna at ang mga ayaw magpabakuna ay tatanggalan ng mga pribilehiyo.

Kabilang sa mga pribilehiyo ang libreng pagpapagamot kapag tinamaan sila, pagturing na naka-duty sila kahit naka-quarantine leave, pinansyal na tulong at tulong kung sila'y namatay.

## SA ISRAEL

Ang bansang Israel ang pinakamabilis na magbakuna at mahigit kalahati na ng siyam milyong mamamayan nito ang nabakunahan ng kahit papaano'y isang dose.

Kaya naman, pinag-uusapan na ang pagbubukas ng ekonomiya nito o kalayaan ng mga mamamayan na pumunta kung saan nila gusto, kahit sa abroad, magtrabaho, magnegosyo, maghappy-happy at mag-aral nang mga walang lockdown o restriction na kagaya ng pinairal sa Pinas na mga community quarantine.

Habang nagtatagal, aba, lumiliit ang nagpapabakuna at may umaayaw mabakunahan kaya naman mula sa katamtamang 200,000 kada araw, bumabagsak na ang bilang ng nagpapabakuna sa mahigit 100,000 na lamang.

Heto ngayon ang mga naiisip ng mga awtoridad.

Hindi papasukin sa mga gym, restoran, sports activity at iba pa ang mga walang bakuna.

May remedyo naman umano gaya ng pagpapa-test para magkaroon ng certificate ng kawalan ng virus ang isang tao.

Subalit, bago sila makapasok sa nasabing mga lugar, kailangan nilang magpa-test at ang resultang negatibo sa nakalipas na 72 oras ang ipiprisinta nila.

Ang mga guro naman, kailangan nilang magpa-test kada 48 oras para tuloy-tuloy silang makapagturo.

Medyo mahirap umano ang pagpilit sa mga tao na magpabakuna sa pamamagitan ng batas dahil nga sa garantiya sa kalayaan.

Ngunit paiiralin nila ang mga patakarang ito para mapilit ang lahat o higit na nakararami na magpabakuna.



Ang Israel ang isa sa mga bansang pinaniniwalaang bumili ng mga bakuna kahit mahal upang mabakunahan ang lahat ng mamamayan nito, lalo't nalalapit na ang halalan at ang tagumpay ng pagbabakuna ang isang pambili ng boto ng mga Israelita na nakaupo sa gobyerno.

## BRAND NG BAKUNA

Sa Israel at Vatican City, pangunahing Pfizer/BioNTech ang gamit na bakuna at ipinamamahagi pa nga ng Israel sa ibang bansa ang bakunang Moderna na nabili nito bilang pagpapatatag ng pandayuhang relasyon nila.

Sa India, gamit nila ang sariling mga bakuna na Covishield o AstraZeneca mismo at Covaxin din lalo't ang bansang ito ang pinakamalaking gumagawa ng bakuna sa buong mundo.

Lumalabas na kahit anong bakuna ang gamit, kahit pa sinasabing magaganda, marami talaga ang ayaw magpabakuna o takot na magpabakuna.

At dahil sa pag-ayaw at takot sa bakuna ng milyon-milyong mamamayan ng mga bansang ito, malaki lagi ang posibilidad na magpatuloy ang pandemya at kahit kailan hindi sila makalalaya rito.

Sakit sa ulo ng mga pamahalaan ang mga ayaw magpabakuna dahil idinadamay nila ang iba na nagpapabakuna sa pag-asang lalaya na sila, maging ang kanilang mga bansa, sa krisis na dulot ng pandemya.

Sa atin sa Pinas, mga Bro, naghahalo ang balat sa tinalupan sa pag-ayaw ng iba na magpabakuna sa available ngayon na bakuna, ang Sinovac na gawang China.

Pero maaaring marami rin ang aatras mismo sa darating na AstraZeneca gaya ng pag-atras ng mga mamamayan sa walong bansa sa Europa, South Africa at mismong mga health worker sa India na gamitin ito dahil umano sa kawalan o 10 porsyento lang na epekto nito sa South African variant at Brazil variant, bukod pa sa bawal pa ito sa mga matatanda na may edad 65 pataas.

May 10 bansa na umano sa European Union at United Kingdom ang pinasok ng South African variant.

Ayon sa mga pag-aaral, paborito ng mga variant na ito na atakehin ang baga ng tao at lumikha ng mga pag-ubo, pagbahing at pagtalsik ng mga laway na mabilis na magpakalat ng COVID-19.

Ang masakit pa, napasok na rin tayo ng South African variant.

Tatlo ang may taglay nito sa mga mamamayan na hindi pa sinasabi kung saan matatagpuan, dalawang kauwing overseas Filipino worker at isang pinag-aaralan pa.

## MAGPABAKUNA NA, WALANG ATRASAN

Walang sinoman ang naghahangad na magpatuloy ang krisis sa ating bansa dahil higit na nakararami ang hirap na hirap nang itawid ang kanilang buhay sa gutom at kahirapan.

Maging ang pamahalaan, hirap na rin kaya naman ginagawa nito ang lahat ng paraan na magkaroon ng bakuna sa anomang paraan.



Heto nga't hindi na nito hinintay ang padala ng Covax Facility sa pamumuno ng World Health Organization at direktang nakipag-ugnayan na sa bansang China para sa suplay ng bakuna.

Napospon nang napospon ang mga bakunang Pfizer at AstraZeneca na nais ipadala ng WHO dahil kinokopo ang mga ito ng mayayamang bansa.

Reklamo mismo ng United Nations din, 10 bansa lang ang may hawak ng 75% ng suplay hanggang sa nasa 15-20% na lang ang nabibili o nakukuha ng WHO na ipamamahagi, lalo na sa 92 bansang mahihirap na kinabibilangan natin.

Ang totoo, pasado sa pamantayan ng WHO ang Sinovac na available ngayon sa pagkakaroon ng bisa na 91% sa Turkey, 65% sa Indonesia at katapat ng AstraZeneca sa bisa at 50.4% sa Brazil.

Ayon mismo sa WHO, basta nakaabot ang bakuna na 50% pataas, oks nang gamitin at katumbas na ito ng flue vaccine na 50% lang ang bisa ngunit nasasagip na sa kamatayan ang milyong-milyong tinatamaan ng trangkaso.

Isa pa, hindi pupwedeng maliitin ito sa dahilang ginagamit na ito sa iba't ibang bansa hindi lang sa Turkey, Indonosia at Brazil kundi mismo sa Singapore, Malaysia, Thailand, maraming bansa sa Latin America at Europa.

Ang kung mga eksperto ang tatanungin kung ligtas at mabisa nga talaga ang Sinovac, tanungin na lang sa Food and Drugs Administration, Department of Health, National Immunization Technical Advisory Group at daan-daan nang doktor, nurse at iba pang medical professional na nabakunahan na nito sa nagdaang dalawang araw.

Ayon naman mismo kay Dr. Gap Legaspi, kauna-unahang naturukan ng Sinovac, "There is no such best vaccine dahil ang pinaka-best vaccine ay 'yung effective at efficient na dumarating nang mas maaga."

Sinabi naman ni Dr. John Victor De Gracia, deputy chief ng clinical service sa Pasay City General Hospital, "The best vaccine is the available vaccine."

Para sa iba na naghihintay ng ibang brand, mismo si Pangulong Rodrigo Duterte ang nagsasabi na okey lang at heto nga, sasalubungin din niya, gaya ng ginawa niya sa Sinovac, ang susunod na darating na bakuna na maaaring AstraZeneca.

O magpalista na nang mabakunahan at walang atrasan kapag nalista na tayo!



The Bureau of the Treasury reported yesterday that the national debt level during the month was 5.4 percent higher from the end-December 2020 level largely due to the reavailment of the P540-billion short-term loan facility from the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas (BSP).

Bureau of the Treasury FB page

## Government debt hits new high of P10.3 trillion in January

[Czeriza Valencia](#) (The Philippine Star) - March 3, 2021 - 12:00am

MANILA, Philippines — Total outstanding debt of the national government rose to a fresh high of P10.327 trillion in January as the state ramped up local borrowings to fund its pandemic responses.

The Bureau of the Treasury reported yesterday that the national debt level during the month was 5.4 percent higher from the end-December 2020 level largely due to the reavailment of the P540-billion short-term loan facility from the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas (BSP).

Out of the total debt stock, 71 percent came from domestic borrowings and 29 percent from foreign sources.

Domestic debt amounted to P7.325 billion, 9.4 percent higher compared to the end-December 2020 level, due to increased domestic financing and the provisional advances from the BSP.

External debt, on the other hand, stood at P3.001 billion or 3.2 percent lower from the previous month due to the net repayment of foreign loans amounting to P93.49 billion and a weaker peso against the dollar.

Total government-guaranteed obligations, meanwhile, fell slightly by 0.4 percent month-on-month to P456.39 billion in January after net repayments worth P320 million and P180 million were made to local and foreign guarantees, respectively.

In a research note, Rizal Commercial Banking Corp. chief economist Michael Ricafort said the national government could still borrow more locally in part to reduce foreign exchange risks arising from external borrowings.

Source: <https://www.philstar.com/business/2021/03/03/2081489/government-debt-hits-new-high-p103-trillion-january>



Photo from Pixabay shows a coal-fired power plant.

Pexels via Pixabay

## Nature not healing as pollution returns with economic activity

[Marlowe Hood](#) (Philstar.com) - March 2, 2021 - 2:36pm

PARIS, France — Nature apparently is not healing and carbon emissions that declined during lockdowns are increasing, threatening to put climate treaty targets for capping global warming out of reach, the International Energy Agency said Tuesday.

Energy-related emissions were 2% higher in December 2020 than in the same month a year earlier, driven by economic recovery and a lack of clean energy policies, the IEA said in a report.

“The rebound in global carbon emissions toward the end of last year is a stark warning that not enough is being done to accelerate clean energy transitions worldwide,” IEA executive director Fatih Birol said in a statement.

“If governments don’t move quickly with the right energy policies, this could put at risk the world’s historic opportunity to make 2019 the definitive peak in global emissions,” Birol said.

A year ago, the intergovernmental agency called on governments to put clean energy at the heart of economic stimulus plans, but the appeal appears to have fallen on deaf ears for the most part.

“Our numbers show we are returning to carbon-intensive business-as-usual,” he said.

In China, carbon pollution last year exceeded 2019 levels by more than half a percent despite a draconian, though brief, lockdown to halt the virus’ spread. China, which accounts for more than a quarter of global CO2 output, was the only major economy to grow in 2020.

Other countries are also now seeing emissions climb above pre-pandemic crisis levels, the report found. In India, they rose above 2019 levels from September as economic activity increased and movement restrictions relaxed.

The rebound of road transport in Brazil from May drove a recovery in oil demand, while increases in gas demand toward the end of 2020 pushed emissions above 2019 levels in the final quarter.

In the US, emissions fell by a tenth on-year in 2020, but by December were approaching levels from the year before.



## Decoupling growth and emissions

“If current expectations for a global economic rebound this year are confirmed, and in the absence of major policy changes in the world’s largest economies, global emissions are likely to increase in 2021,” Birol said.

A sharp surge in economic activity, and the pollution that comes with it, is more the norm than the exception after an economic downturn. Annual GDP growth and carbon emissions, for example, both spiked after the global financial crisis of 2008.

But as pressure builds to tackle the climate crisis, there are encouraging signs that major emitters are taking steps to decouple economic growth from planet-warming carbon emissions, Birol noted.

China’s surprise commitment to become carbon neutral by 2060, the Biden administration’s ambitious climate agenda along with the US reentry into the Paris Agreement, and the European Union’s Green New Deal all point in the right direction. “India’s stunning success with renewables could transform its energy future,” he added.

In the Philippines, the government is reportedly eyeing imposing a carbon tax on its power sector as a greenhouse-curbing and revenue generating measure. Last October, the Philippines also stopped accepting proposals to build new coal plants, and shifted policy toward a preference to renewables given their declining costs. Foreign investors, for instance, may now invest in geothermal power plants.

Global emissions plunged by almost two billion tons in 2020, the largest absolute decline in history. More than half of that decline was due to lower use of fuel for road transport and aviation.

The 2015 Paris Agreement enjoins nations to cap the rise in global temperatures “well below” two degrees Celsius compared with preindustrial levels, and to strive for a ceiling of 1.5 Celsius if possible.

Earth’s surface is already 1.1 Celsius warmer on average, enough to increase the frequency and intensity of deadly heatwaves, droughts and superstorms made more destructive by rising seas.

In May, the IEA is to publish its first global road map on how the energy sector can reach net-zero by 2050. — **with Philstar.com**



# The slowing down of ocean currents could have a devastating effect on our climate

By Jackson Dill and Brandon Miller, CNN Published Mar 2, 2021 11:00:55 PM

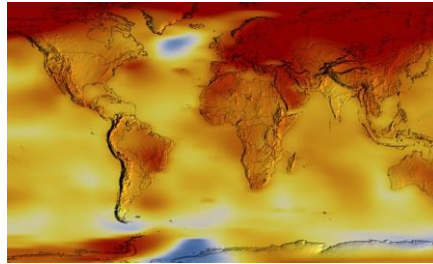


Photo courtesy: NASA

(CNN) -- Remember the movie, "The Day After Tomorrow," in which a catastrophic series of global disasters strike after climate change causes the world's ocean currents to stop?

Well, new research reveals Earth's major ocean currents are slowing down, and though the consequences will not be as immediate or dramatic as in the Hollywood fiction, there are real-world impacts for global weather patterns and sea levels.

The slowdown of ocean circulation is directly caused by warming global temperatures and has been predicted by climate scientists.

"This has been predicted, basically, for decades that this circulation would weaken in response to global warming. And now we have the strongest evidence that this is already happening," said Stefan Rahmstorf of Potsdam University who contributed to this research.

The Atlantic Meridional Overturning Circulation (AMOC) transports water across the planet's oceans, including the Atlantic, Pacific and Indian. The region contributing to the slowdown is the North Atlantic, according to the research.

"The idea (of this film), which is actually correct, is that if this Atlantic overturning circulation breaks down all together, this will lead to a strong cooling around the northern Atlantic, especially into Europe, into the kind of coastal areas (of) Britain and Scandinavia. But that's only true if the overturning breaks down all together," Rahmstorf said.

In this part of the ocean, the Greenland ice sheets are melting, contributing to both a rise in sea levels and serving to reduce the speed of the circulation.

"This indicates that the slowdown is likely not a natural change but the result of human influence. The AMOC has a profound influence on global climate, and particularly in North America and Europe, so this evidence of an ongoing weakening of the circulation is critical new evidence for the interpretation of future projections of regional and global climate," said Andrew Meijers, deputy science leader of polar oceans at British Antarctic Survey.

Ice melting in Greenland and the heavy rainfall over the North Atlantic induced by climate change has affected the salinity and density of the waters, Rahmstorf explained.

"Both surface warming and the increased water cycle, increased rainfall and the ice melt are all a consequence of global warming" across parts of the North Atlantic Ocean, he said.

As warm water currents move north, they typically turn back south as it gets cooler and heavier. Added freshwater from the melting ice is causing this turn to be slower because of reduced salinity.

"This weakening also leads to cold in the northern Atlantic, but it's confined to the ocean. This cold blob, as we call it, is over the ocean, and it doesn't touch on land areas," said Rahmstorf. Current estimates show this weakening is moderate, at about 15% weaker compared to normal and based on data analyzed up from to 1,600 years ago.



## US East Coast to see higher sea levels

One of the main impacts of the slowing ocean circulation is on sea levels, especially those of the US East Coast.

"The northward surface flow of the AMOC leads to a deflection of water masses to the right, away from the US East Coast. This is due to Earth's rotation that diverts moving objects such as currents to the right in the Northern Hemisphere and to the left in the Southern Hemisphere. As the current slows down, this effect weakens and more water can pile up at the US East Coast, leading to an enhanced sea-level rise," said Levke Caesar, one of the authors of the report.

Sea-level rise is already happening due to factors like melting ice sheets and warming oceans. According to the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), water levels have risen by 8 to 9 inches on average within the past 140 years.

The rate at which these waters are rising has also increased in recent years.

"The pace of global sea-level rise more than doubled from 1.4 mm per year throughout most of the twentieth century to 3.6 mm per year from 2006-2015," said NOAA.

A further slowdown of global ocean circulation, especially along the crucial Gulf Stream current off the eastern coastline of the US, could combine with the already accelerating sea-level rise to make major Northeastern cities even more vulnerable to flooding.

## Hotter heat waves, stronger hurricanes

Global weather patterns are critically linked with the ocean circulations and their transport of heat and nutrients around the planet.

An increase in heat waves across Europe and stronger hurricanes closer to the US coastline because of warmer water drifting closer to the coast can be linked to the ocean circulation, Rahmstorf said.

"The world's seven warmest years have all occurred since 2014, with 10 of the warmest years occurring since 2005," said NOAA. Heat waves are becoming more frequent already.

The ocean and the currents also play a role in absorbing carbon dioxide, the most dominant greenhouse gas, from the atmosphere. The changing currents could decrease the amount of carbon being taken out of the atmosphere, according to NASA.

In addition to people being affected, the marine biology population is also at risk.

Marine organisms "very strongly depend on these ocean currents, which basically set the conditions for the whole ecosystem in terms of nutrient supply, temperature, and salinity conditions," Rahmstorf said.

When asked whether the AMOC could slow down further or even stop, Rahmstorf said climate models suggest currents will slow down to between 34% and 45% by 2100.

"Despite a lot of research over the last decade on this, it's very hard to pin down quantitatively, how far away is this tipping point. But the kind of model simulations that I know suggest that if you weaken this circulation by roughly half, you're getting into a critical state. And so this could well ... happen by the end of the century," Rahmstorf said.

"We should (strive to) stay well clear of that tipping point because the consequences if the circulation would break down all together would be really dramatic."

Hollywood has shown us this potential worst-case scenario from climate change. And while the consequences shown in "The Day After Tomorrow" are very unlikely, they do illustrate how runaway impacts from climate change could result if we do not listen to the warnings coming from climate scientists.

Source: <https://cnnphilippines.com/world/2021/3/2/slowdown-ocean-currents-climate-change.html>



# Greening ODA: 50% of development aid should support environment and climate action

Poor people have many competing priorities, but the claim that 'hungry people don't care about the environment' should not be used to ignore the environment and climate action in international development cooperation.



GGGI's pilot project to install solar-powered freezers in rural areas of Vanuatu. Image: GGGI

By [Frank Rijsberman](#)

March 2, 2021

“People living in the world’s poorest nations do not concern themselves with the environment, or the latest figures on carbon emissions; rather, they wake up each day wondering if they will be able to feed their children,” said [Hazrat Mirza Masroor Ahmad](#), head of the Ahmadiyya Muslims Community.

Over the past 40 years that I have worked on environment and development issues, I have often heard statements like the quote above. Hungry people don’t care about the environment.

While this claim may be true, in the sense that poor people have many competing priorities, it should not be used as an excuse to ignore the environment and climate action in international development cooperation ([Official Development Assistance](#), or ODA).

During that same period, the climate has evolved from an issue of primarily academic interest that might affect future generations, to the defining crisis of our time, particularly for poor people in developing countries.

Poor people in developing countries are most affected by pollution and climate change

While poor people may have many competing priorities, it has been demonstrated beyond doubt that poor people are also the most affected by air pollution, floods, droughts, cyclones, and climate change impacts generally.

Over [2 billion people](#) do not have access to clean, sustainable energy for cooking, for example, and suffer from indoor air pollution as a result. The [World Health Organisation estimates](#) that air pollution causes seven million deaths each year, 1.6 million as a result of indoor air pollution – over half of those children under five years of age.

Of the 25 million climate refugees in 2019, the overwhelming majority were poor people in developing countries. Poor people in developing countries are aware of the climate crisis. A survey of farmers in South Africa in 2017 [found that](#) over 90 per cent was aware of climate change, more than two-thirds had experienced major climate events, and at least half had implemented response strategies themselves.

Poor people in developing countries are the least responsible for causing the climate crisis

They don't own a car, don't take flights, don't use air-conditioning – in fact, [two out of every three Africans](#) do not even have access to electricity.

It is only fair that developed countries—that continue to emit the greenhouse gases that have caused the climate crisis—have committed to support developing countries to adapt to climate change. Rich countries have promised poor countries to transfer [US\\$100 billion per year](#) in climate finance.

Half of this money should focus on reducing emissions. The other half should focus on supporting poor people in developing countries to adapt to climate change, and avoid the worst impacts of floods, droughts, and cyclones, avoiding many millions more joining the ranks of the climate refugees.

Adaptation focused climate finance is lagging behind  
While the total climate finance provided to developing countries [rose to US\\$78.9 billion](#) as estimated by the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD), 70 per cent of that went to reducing emissions (mitigation), and only 21 per cent to adaptation (with the remainder going to [cross-cutting issues](#)).

That US\$16.8 billion focused on climate change adaptation is just peanuts compared with the US\$10-12 trillion mobilised by governments to deal with the fall-out of the pandemic.

Some governments, like those in [Europe](#) and in the Republic of [Korea](#), are using the opportunity to recover from the [Covid-19 pandemic to “Build Back Better”](#).

This approach is to not just recreate what was there before the pandemic, but instead to use the opportunity to accelerate the transition to a greener economy and step up climate action. ‘Building back better’ is embodied in both the Green New Deal that the [EU](#) and [Korea have announced](#), and the pledges to de-carbonise the economy and reach net-zero emissions by 2050, or earlier.

The pledge for net-zero is the best chance remaining for the world population to escape the worst climate change impacts.

Green growth opportunities to build back better  
GGGI was established to support its member governments in this transition to a green growth development model. We are demonstrating to our members that [a green recovery is in their best interests](#).

We have shown that [implementing power sector pathways](#) that are compatible with the nationally determined contributions (NDCs) to the Paris Agreement for emerging economies like Mexico and Indonesia can create millions of green jobs.

In other words, recovering from the pandemic can go hand-in-hand with stepping up the pace to net-zero by 2050.

Not only for the EU and Korea, but also for emerging economies such as Indonesia, Mexico, Philippines, Vietnam and Thailand—all key contributors of greenhouse gas emissions that have not yet bought into net-zero and are heavily relying on fossil fuels to power their economy.

For the least developed countries in Africa, or for the small island developing states in the Pacific and Caribbean, creating green jobs and becoming more resilient to climate change is a higher priority than reducing emissions.

But renewable energy is also a great technology to increase energy access for those two out of three Africans that still cook on open charcoal fires.

[Renewable](#) energy can bring solar-powered light and appliances such as fridges and freezers to off-grid hotels in small island hotels to grow their tourism business.

Escaping from poverty, reducing their indoor air pollution, and doing so in a low-carbon manner. For these countries, there are many other priorities that combine a green recovery with climate action – from solar-powered irrigation and climate-smart agriculture to rehabilitation of degraded ecosystems such as forests or peatlands.

GGGI is supporting twelve of its [member countries this year](#) with their plans and projects to green the recovery and, where possible, develop their own Green New Deal. We have developed recommendations for a model Green New Deal that is similar to those for the EU and Korea but has a much stronger focus on [green jobs](#) created through climate-smart agriculture and nature-based solutions.

Is ODA green?

The OECD tracks whether ODA is focused on the environment and climate change. It [tracks 5 issues that overlap to a large extent](#): (1) environment; (2) climate mitigation; (3) climate adaptation; (4) biodiversity; and (5) desertification.

The total amount of bilateral development aid (not counting multilateral flows through the UN and similar) that focuses on the environment is US\$35 billion of US\$113 billion, or 31 per cent. The total supporting climate is US\$29 billion, or 26 per cent (and remember that these two figures mostly overlap, they cannot be added up).

As noted above, only about 20 per cent of total climate finance (US\$78 billion), or US\$16.8 billion, focuses on adaptation, but as the private sector climate finance is almost exclusively focused on mitigation, it does follow that roughly half of all climate ODA is linked to adaptation.

Will ODA become greener as a result of Green New Deals?



Leading providers provide 40 per cent of their aid as green ODA, but Korea falls behind at only 9 per cent. Image: GGGI

Leading providers of green ODA are [mostly European countries](#) (France, 67 per cent; Germany 42 per cent; Sweden, 47 per cent; UK, 42 per cent), with Canada (42 per cent) and Japan (48 per cent).

The European Union institutions green ODA share was slightly above average, at 34 per cent, in 2018, but with the EU Green New Deal becoming the backbone of the green recovery for Europe and the “green growth strategy” across all EU policies, this is expected to increase.

The formal target for the green share of the EU’s ODA has not been set yet, but European development partners are arguing that it should be at least 50 per cent green, for both environment and climate finance combined.

*How Green is Korea’s ODA? Not very green yet!*

The environmental bilateral ODA provided by [Korea stood at 10 per cent in 2018](#), against an OECD average of 33 per cent; and the climate finance amounted to 7 per cent, against an average of 26 per cent. The [Korean ODA](#), in short, is far less green than the average, and lags even further behind the leading providers of green ODA, by a factor of over 4 times.

In the Conference on the [Status and Prospects of the Green ODA](#) of the Republic of Korea held on February 19, Vice President of KOICA Jae-Shin Park, did recognise that the green ODA of Korea should increase, and he indicated that it may double in years to come.

As can be seen from the numbers above, doubling the green ODA from Korea would be a good step, but it would keep Korea well below the average of other ODA providers, even in 2018, let alone the leading providers at that time—or the increased green share that we may expect to see out of the EU institutions.

*Recommendations to Green Korea’s ODA*

To green Korea’s ODA in line with its leadership on a Green New Deal and its net-zero 2050 pledge, this author recommends the following:

1. **Increase the green ODA target to 50 per cent.** The green ODA (environment and climate finance combined) of the Republic of Korea, counting all sources, KOICA, KDB, Exim Bank and Ministries should at a minimum be increased to the average of other OECD ODA providers (i.e. 31 per cent in 2018), and as Korea aims to be a leader in Green New Deal and net-zero related policies that percentage should increase to well over 40 per cent, as other leading providers already achieved in 2018. True leadership from Korea would be reflected in a target of 50 per cent green ODA by 2050, or about five times the current share.
2. **Prevent harmful spending.** Korean ODA programming instructions should include an obligation that 100 per cent of programs are climate/environment-proof and resilient. That implies that Korea should no longer finance any fossil fuel projects internationally, for example.
3. **Apply standards.** Korean ODA should apply standards for Environmental Impact Assessments and Climate Risk Assessments for all ODA projects.

Implementing these three recommendations offers the Republic of Korea the opportunity to transform its position from a green ODA laggard to a Green ODA leader.

*Frank Rijsberman is Director-General at Global Green Growth Institute (GGGI).*

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 MARAMING SALAMAT SA SUPORTA SA AKING CHANNEL AT SA MGA SUSUPORTA PA MARAMING SALAMAT PO.  
 SALAMAT PO AMING AMA  
 MY FACEBOOK ACCOUNT///JUNECILA JUNECILA  
 SHOW LESS