

04 DECEMBER 2021, Saturday



DENR

NEWS ALERTS

STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION AND INITIATIVES SERVICE

ASEAN, Amazon bloc sign MoU for cooperation

Published on: December 03, 2021

By ACB



LAGUNA -- The Amazon Cooperation Treaty Organization (ACTO) and the ASEAN Centre for Biodiversity (ACB) have inked an agreement that will enable them to work together on key areas of cooperation and exchange experiences, knowledge, and technologies on biodiversity conservation across the Amazon and ASEAN regions.

ACB Executive Director Theresa Mundita S. Lim and ACTO Secretary-General María Alexandra Moreira López led the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) in a virtual ceremony broadcast on social media on 3 December 2021.

Under the MoU, the two parties, which are subregional organisations working with countries to conserve large and biologically-rich ecosystems, will carry out collaborative initiatives on areas of mutual interest, such as ecosystem restoration, biodiversity mainstreaming, and resource mobilization, as well as multi-country, transboundary biodiversity conservation governance.

The ACB and ACTO will also facilitate dialogues for the exchange of strategies, technologies, and experiences in developing policies, programmes, and projects to support the strengthening of biological diversity in the ASEAN and Amazon regions.

The Amazon is known as the world's largest reservoir of biodiversity while the ASEAN hosts ecologically-important habitats and megadiverse countries.

ACTO is a socio-economic bloc in Latin America formed by the eight Amazonian countries: Bolivia, Brazil, Colombia, Ecuador, Guyana, Peru, Suriname, and Venezuela. The ASEAN, on the other hand, is composed of Brunei, Cambodia, Indonesia, Lao PDR, Malaysia, Myanmar, the Philippines, Singapore, Thailand, and Vietnam.



ASEAN, Amazon bloc sign MoU for cooperation

“Partnership and cooperation are the backbone of our collective efforts, and are crucial, now and in the years to come,” Dr. Lim said in her remarks.

“This partnership brings together two subregional organisations that are mutually interested in multi-country approaches to conserve large and biologically rich ecosystems that are not only vital to their Member States, but are also considered globally important,” she added.

López said the rapprochement between ACTO and ASEAN will generate a series of shared and learned experiences, and produce technical and scientific information for decision-makers.

“(This cooperation will) develop greater capacities for the management of our biodiversity resources and joint undertakings of projects and programs,” she said.

She added that the first tasks to be undertaken by ACTO and ACB include efforts related to information systems on biodiversity.

“We, through the Amazon Regional Observatory, and you, through the ASEAN Clearing-House, hope to provide our systems with greater innovation and technology, with the generation of modern tools for public management, and with the valuable information that can be made available to the governments, of the countries and stakeholders for the conservation and better use of our biodiversity,” she said.

The livestream of the signing ceremony can be accessed here: <https://bit.ly/3zWLSBR> on the ACB’s Facebook page. (ACB)



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Masungi Georeserve

7 hrs · 🌐

Travelling all the way from Quezon City to Baras, Rizal by bicycle, our friends from the SSS Biking Club and Bike Scouts Philippines visited our team and reforestation site last Sunday, in celebration of National Bike Day. The group also visited the Bayog Ranger Station, where the shooting of two environmental defenders occurred last July. Apart from the annual event's objective to promote a clean and healthy environment, our guests also donated seedlings in support of our ongoing forest restoration activities in the Upper Marikina Watershed. 🚲🌱

A huge thanks to our partners for making this event a reality, as we continue to bring various sectors together in order to protect our forest lands!

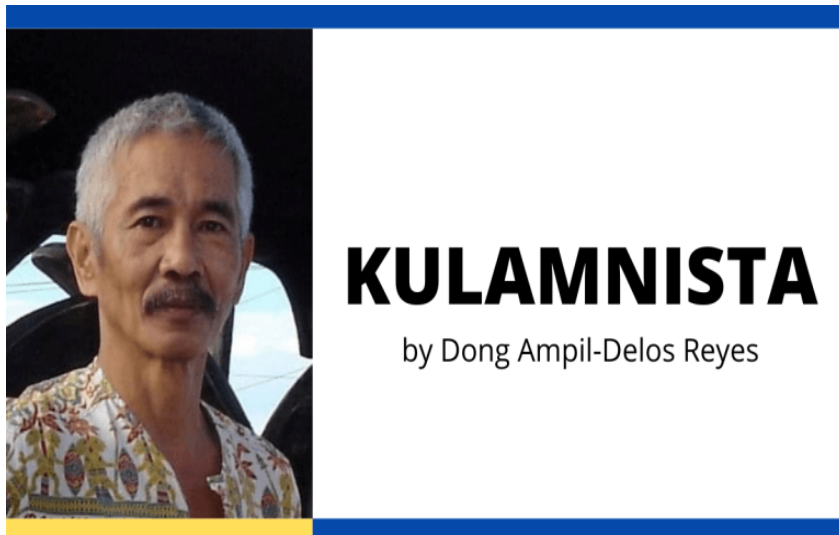
#RestoreTogether #SaveOurWatershed





MOBILIZING RESOURCES

[December 3, 2021](#) 3 min read



BAKAWAN, the vernacular term for mangrove literally translates as “haunt of nightjars (bakaw).” The tangle of branches that the slow-growing, sturdy tree locked in tight hugs over mudflats, marshes, shoals, and stretches of riparian parts looking over the sea also hold teeming wildlife—most are edible, some a delight to epicures... egrets, herons, arboreal snakes, sea serpents, migrating geese or ducks, even an endangered species or two.

The knot of roots that a mature mangrove jabs into a nether bed of mud and sand fan out every which way deep, ramifying into a network that sucks in and tames tide-borne throwaways, trash, toxins, even oil slicks. Indeed, mangrove stands render seawater fit for marine life.



MOBILIZING RESOURCES

Low tide unravels a mangrove stand's teeming hoard- octopi, crabs, clams, mussels, oysters, eels, lobsters, mantis shrimps, a barracuda, or two, the usual shrimps and the young of motley deep water-dwelling commercial fish species. Mangrove stands serve as nurseries or halfway shelters for the cache of catch that the seas can proffer profusely.

On an island off the western coast of Mindoro, all it took was the persistence and persevering spirit of one Adelardo Declito to bring back to life the depleted depths of the nearby arms of the sea. All he did was jab mangrove propagules throughout the coastal portions of the island. Alone he did it—no honors, not a cross-eyed centavo ever was tossed his way as he went about a not-too-tiresome task of riparian reforestation.

Indeed, a dozen tier-deep mangrove stand can take, tame the jarring impact of eight-meter high storm surges that a super-storm like Yolanda can muster.

Add several lines of halophytes—salt-tolerant tree species like sea grape, agojo, palomaria, talisay, guamachil and coconut palms—on the shoreline, and mammoth storm surges sieved through such lines of defense are likely to turn less lethal.

Some bright boys over at the Department of Environment and Natural Resources have warmed up to the idea of mounting such multiple lines of defense in areas wrecked by Yolanda. And they want P347 million to bankroll the so-called restoration of lush beach forests of the Visayas.

Such pecuniary thrust would seem peculiar to an Adelardo Declito of Mindoro Occidental.

Mobilizing natural resources entail gathering mangrove and halophyte seedlings, planting these in strategic parts of the country's eastern seaboard.

Mobilizing human resources need not cost P347 million. This task need not rip a hole in the Filipino taxpayer's pockets.

The man to turn to for the twin task of mobilizing both natural and human resources ought to be DepEd top honcho Bro. Armin A. Luistro. Gathering of mangrove propagules and halophyte seedlings, then, planting these can be hands-on learning sessions for school children in the areas that are likely targets for more Yolandas brewing in the Pacific.

Upkeep of the mangroves and halophyte stands can take more than five years— and that can provide some more learning sessions to schoolchildren in the finer points of conserving marine resources and coastal environments.

A wise man plants trees so that his grandchildren may enjoy fruits and shade. Bro. Luistro can harness the exuberance and energy of children.

And he can lead them to the timeless wisdom of hushing the wrath of super typhoons by mobilizing both human and natural resources.

(ai/mtvn)



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[ABS-CBN News - Roosting site ng mga paniki, nadiskubre sa Cotabato |...](#)

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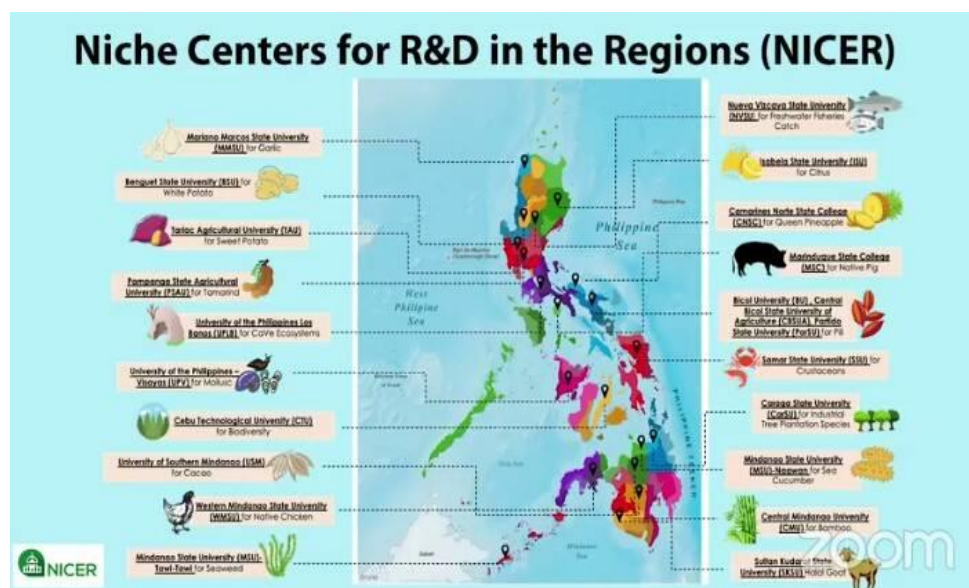


20 R&D Centers seeking to boost agri, aquatic, natural resources sector featured in NICER summit

Published December 3, 2021, 3:02 PM

by [Charissa Luci-Atienza](#)

The Philippine Council for Agriculture, Aquatic and Natural Resources Research and Development of the Department of Science and Technology (DOST-PCAARRD) is committed to support the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) of Zero Hunger, Life below Water, and Life on Land through facilitating the establishment of 20 Research and Development (R&D) Centers or Niche Centers in the Regions or NICER.



(Screengrab from DOST-Science for Change Facebook page)

During the first NICER Summit held on Friday, Dec. 3, the DOST-PCAARRD showcased 20 NICERs which seek to boost the agriculture, aquatic, natural resources (AANR) sector. The virtual event is anchored on the theme, “Accelerating STI in the Country through a Regionally Inclusive R&D.”

The setting up of the R&D centers was made possible through the NICER sub-program of DOST’s Science for Change program.

DOST-PCAARRD Executive Director Dr. Reynaldo V. Eborá said as of 2021, they have established 20 NICERs in 16 regions covering 18 commodities.

Of the 20 NICERs, eight stand to benefit the crops subsector, three in livestock, five in marine and aquatic resources, two each in forestry and in biodiversity, he said.

“The NICERs in the AANR sector are expected to further strengthen partnerships and collaboration between and among the R&D institutions across the country working on common commodities through complementation of efforts and sharing of information and expertise,” Eborá said in his message during the summit.

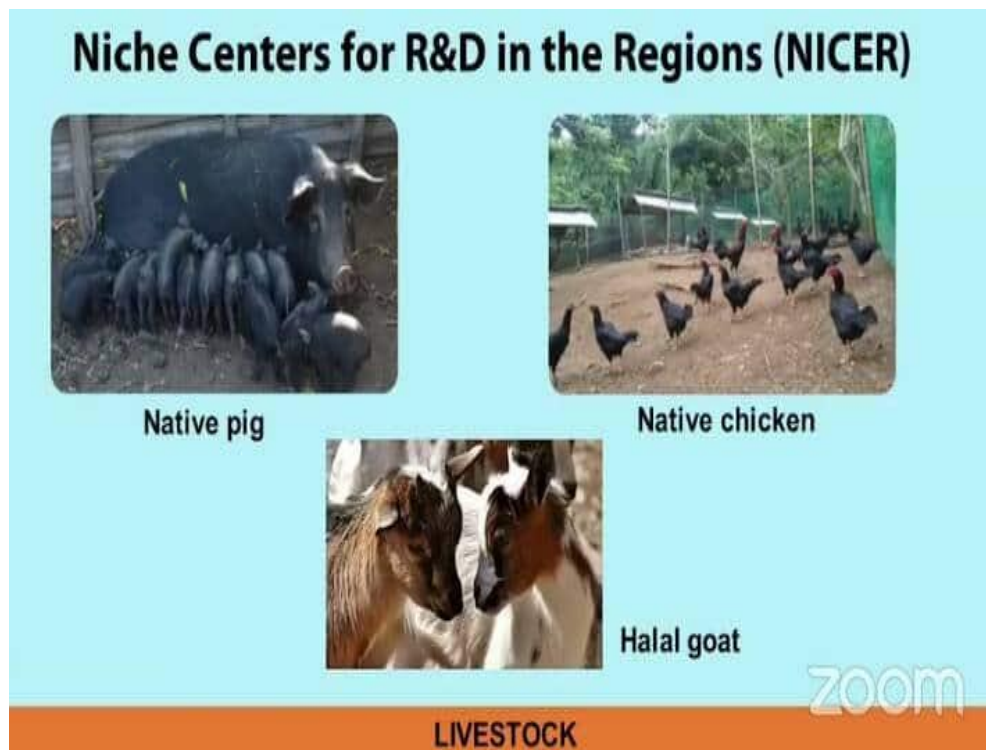


20 R&D Centers seeking to boost agri, aquatic, natural resources sector featured in NICER summit

NICER seeks to capacitate higher education institutions (HEI) in all 17 regions to make significant strides in regional research by integrating its development need with the existing R&D research capabilities and resources. It provides institutional grant for R&D capacity building to improve their S&T infrastructure.

The DOST-PCAARRD said the establishment of the NICERs will assist the country in achieving UN's SDGs 2, 14, and 15.

"To help us achieve the SDGs, we are pursuing: to further strengthen technology transfer; develop inclusive value chains; promote science-informed policies for accelerated AANR development and digital inclusion support. These initiatives complement the NICER," Ehora said.



(Screengrab from DOST-Science for Change Facebook page)

The 11 NICERs that seek to address Zero Hunger are focused on potato, sweet potato, pili, citrus, halal goat, native pig, native chicken, garlic and other condiments, queen pineapple, cacao, and tamarind.



20 R&D Centers seeking to boost agri, aquatic, natural resources sector featured in NICER summit

These are the following:

- Potato R&D Center led by Director Cynthia Kiswa of the Benguet State University;
- Sweetpotato R&D Center led by Dr. Lilibeth Laranang of Tarlac Agricultural University;
- Pili R&D Center led by Dr. Marissa Estrella of Bicol University;
- Citrus R&D Center led by Dr. Dumale, Wilfredo Arellano of Nueva Vizcaya State University;
- Halal Goat Science and Innovation Center led by Dr. Ruby Hechanova of Sultan Kudarat State University;
- Native Pig R&D Center led by Dr. Arnold Monleon of Marinduque State College;
- Native Chicken R&D led by Dr. Elderico Tabal of Western Mindanao State University;
- Garlic and Other Condiments R&D Center led by Dr. Dionisio S. Bucao of Mariano Marcos State University;
- Queen Pineapple R&D Center led by Dr. Arlene Alegre of Camarines Norte State College;
- Cacao R&D Center led by Dr. Edward C. Barlaan of University of Southern Mindanao; and
- Tamarind R&D Center led by Dr. Virgilio Gonzales of Pampanga State Agricultural University.



(Screengrab from DOST-Science for Change Facebook page)

The five R&D centers that address Life below Water zero in on seaweeds, mollusk, crustaceans, and sea cucumber.



20 R&D Centers seeking to boost agri, aquatic, natural resources sector featured in NICER summit

These include:

Seaweeds R&D Center led by Dr. Sitti Zayda B. Halun of Mindanao State University Tawi-Tawi College of Technology and Oceanography;

Mollusk R&D Center led by Dr. Karen Villarta of University of the Philippines Visayas;

Crustaceans R&D Center led by Dr. Jesus Racuyal of Samar State University;

Sea Cucumber R&D Center led by Dr. Wilfredo Uy of Mindanao State University-Naawan; and

Freshwater Fisheries Center led by Dr. Isagani Angeles of Isabela State University.



(Screengrab from DOST-Science for Change Facebook page)

The NICERs that aim to address SDG of Life on Land are focused on biodiversity, caves, and bamboo. These are Biodiversity R&D Center led by Dr. Archiebald Malaki of Cebu Technological University; Caves R&D Center led by Dr. Juan Carlos T. Gonzalez of the University of the Philippines Los Baños; and Bamboo R&D Center led by Lowell G. Aribal of Central Mindanao University.

Source: <https://mb.com.ph/2021/12/03/20-rd-centers-seeking-to-boost-agri-aquatic-natural-resources-sector-featured-in-nicer-summit/>



House panel calls for unity in addressing climate change crises

Published December 3, 2021, 8:33 PM

by [Melvin Sarangay](#)

The House of Representatives Committee on Climate Change, headed by its chairman Bohol Rep. Edgar Chatto, called on the government and concerned groups to work together to address the effects of climate change in the country.

During a committee hearing on Friday, Dec. 3, the panel reviewed the outcome of the 26th Session of the Conference of the Parties (COP26) to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) held in Glasgow, United Kingdom last October 31 to November 12.

The House committee and Climate Change Commission along with other government agencies and concerned groups were one in the need to address the effects of climate change and to mitigate the climate crises the country and other nations of the world are facing.

Resource speakers from civil societies and other organizations concerned with climate change also called for climate justice, mitigation and adaptation during the hearing.

During their respective privilege speeches last Nov. 8, Deputy Speaker and Antique Rep. Loren Legarda urged her fellow legislators to closely monitor the ongoing 26th Session of the COP26 of the UNFCCC in Glasgow while Bayan Muna partylist Rep. Eufemia Cullamat called for a global climate strike to protest against the climate crisis during the ongoing COP26.

Chatto in his privilege speech talked about the history of COP26 which aims to accelerate action towards the goal of the Paris Agreement and UNFCCC to limit global warming while Kabataan partylist Rep. Sarah Jane Elago called for urgent climate action and the need for deeper and far-reaching cooperation of national elected representatives around the globe for a fossil fuel free future.

Legarda also expressed her disappointment at the outcome of COP26 citing the failure of world leaders to address the global climate crisis and the failure of developed countries to give support in jointly preparing 100 billion US dollars of climate finance annually from 2020 until 2025.



CCC panel of experts brief media on climate hazards, action in PHL

Published on: December 02, 2021

Updated as of December 2, 2021 7:33 pm

By DOF



MANILA -- The Department of Finance (DOF) and the Climate Change Commission (CCC) will be holding a media briefing with the National Panel of Technical Experts (NPTE) this week to inform the press about climate hazards in the Philippines and actions that the government has been doing to address these risks.

The media briefing will be held virtually on December 3 from 2:00 PM onwards.

The media briefing will be participated by the 16 new NPTE members, namely: Dr. Jihan Adil, Dr. Nathaniel Alibuyog, Dr. Zenaida Andrade, Dr. Wilfredo Campos, Dr. Gay Defiesta, Dr. Ramon Lorenzo Luis Guinto, Dr. Eduardo Mangaoang, Dr. Jimmy Masagca, Dr. Susan Mercado, Dr. Richard Muallil, Dr. Emma Porio, Dr. Patricia Ann Sanchez, Engineer Merriam Santillan, Dr. Encarnacion Emilia Yap, Dr. Maria Angela Zafra, and Dr. Doracie Zoleta-Nantes.

The members will be addressing climate-related questions sectioned into 11 sub-topics: a.) Salt Intrusion in Rice Fields, b.) Climate Change Effect on Fisheries, c.) Pampanga Flooding, d.) Natural Resource Damage Assessment in Agriculture, e.) Climate Induced Health Risks, f.) Disaster Resilient Livelihoods in Rural Areas, g.) Humanitarian Action, Gender and Food Security in Climate Change, h.) Coral Reef and Marine Life Conservation, i.) Coastal Area Sea Level Rise. j.) Sustainable Finance and Circular Economy, and k.) Hydrology and Water Scarcity in Metro Manila.



CCC panel of experts brief media on climate hazards, action in PHL

The session will be moderated by DOF Assistant Secretary and Spokesperson Paola Alvarez, and will be livestreamed from Zoom via the RTVM, DOF, and the CCC's Official Facebook Pages or by going to bit.ly/CCNPTEbriefing. For more information, visit www.dof.gov.ph.

According to data gathered by the DOF, the Philippines' total estimated losses and damages from 2010 to 2020 from climate hazards have already reached a staggering P515.51 billion (around US\$10.6 billion).

Despite being an insignificant contributor to Greenhouse Gas (GHG) Emissions globally—as the country accounts for only 0.3 percent of the global pollution—the numbers reaffirm the CCC's need to come up with more climate resilient action plans for a high risk developing economy like the Philippines.

Last October 13, the Department launched the newly reconstituted NPTE under the CCC.

In the following months, NPTE identified the Top 10 climate-induced risks in the Philippines and then presented action plans and strategies to the DOF.

Finance Secretary Dominguez adopted the actions and further instructed the CCC to integrate the NPTE's presentations with the National Climate Change Action Plan.

Dominguez is chairman-designate of the CCC and headed the Philippine delegation at the 26th United Nations Climate Change Conference of the Parties (COP26) in Glasgow, Scotland.

At the COP26 summit, Dominguez said "We realize that we are one of the most vulnerable countries to climate change and we have decided to take action on our own and we will not wait for international agreements on climate change. However, we hope that this COP26 will result in positive action and will start the flow of funds to help countries."

As its Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC) to the Paris Agreement, the Philippines has committed to a projected greenhouse gas emission reduction and avoidance of 75 percent from 2020 to 2030 for agriculture, wastes, industry, transport, and energy sectors. (DOF)



World can't recycle its way out of plastic crisis —experts

By [Joe Brock and Kanupriya Kapoor via Reuters](#)

- December 3, 2021 - 6:40 PM



A woman collects plastic bottles for recycling at the garbage dump on the outskirts of Agartala, capital of India's northeastern state of Tripura December 6, 2009. (Reuters/Jayanta Dey/File Photo)

SINGAPORE — Recycling will not be able to contain a runaway global plastic waste crisis, experts said on Friday as they called on companies to reduce plastic production and shift more products into reusable and refillable packaging.

Moving away from single-use plastics and towards systems that allow for it to be reused are among the solutions that experts believe could ease the problem, but radical changes to the production system are also needed.

“We won’t be able to just recycle or reduce our way out of it,” said Rob Kaplan, CEO of Circulate Capital, which invests in emerging markets initiatives to solve the plastic waste crisis.

“It’s a systems problem and needs to combine upstream and downstream solutions,” he said, speaking on a panel at the Reuters Next conference.

The world produces around 300 million tonnes of plastic waste every year, according to the United Nations Environment Program.

But [less than 10% of all the plastic](#) ever made has been recycled, in large part because it is too costly to collect and sort. The rest ends up dumped or buried in landfills or burned.

As recycling schemes falter, big consumer goods companies, including Unilever, Coca-Cola and Nestle, have started investing in projects to burn plastic waste as fuel in cement kilns, [Reuters revealed](#) in October.



World can't recycle its way out of plastic crisis —experts

Meanwhile, plastic production is projected to double by 2040 — something many critics of the industry believe is excessive and the biggest driver of the huge waste problem facing the planet.

“Recycling can't compete with overproduction,” said Von Hernandez of the Break Free from Plastic campaign, a global alliance calling for an end to plastic pollution.

“So what we need is limits on virgin plastic production,” he said, speaking alongside Kaplan on the panel.

While there is no global regulator or treaty for the plastics industry, the panel speakers said individual consumers can help drive the changes needed in corporate behavior and hold companies accountable through the life cycle of their plastic products and where they end up.

“Citizens and consumers can compel these companies... to reveal their global plastic and carbon footprint, reduce the amount of plastic they are producing and deploying to the market, and really reinvent their delivery systems,” Hernandez said. — **Editing by Ana Nicolaci da Costa**



Delhi pollution: What's causing poor air quality?

By Reality Check team
BBC News
Published
1 day ago



IMAGE SOURCE,GETTY IMAGES
Image caption,
Delhi's iconic India Gate shrouded in smog

India's capital Delhi has experienced some of its worst levels of pollution in many years this winter.

It's been blamed on various factors including the burning of farm stubble, on factory emissions, on traffic fumes, on general weather patterns, as well as the fireworks that light up the night sky during the Diwali festival.

But how much do each of these factors contribute to the problem?

How bad is air pollution in Delhi?

At the start of December, air pollution levels have once again been categorised as 'severe'.

Data for the month of November shows [air quality has been at its worst](#) since India introduced its air quality index in 2015.

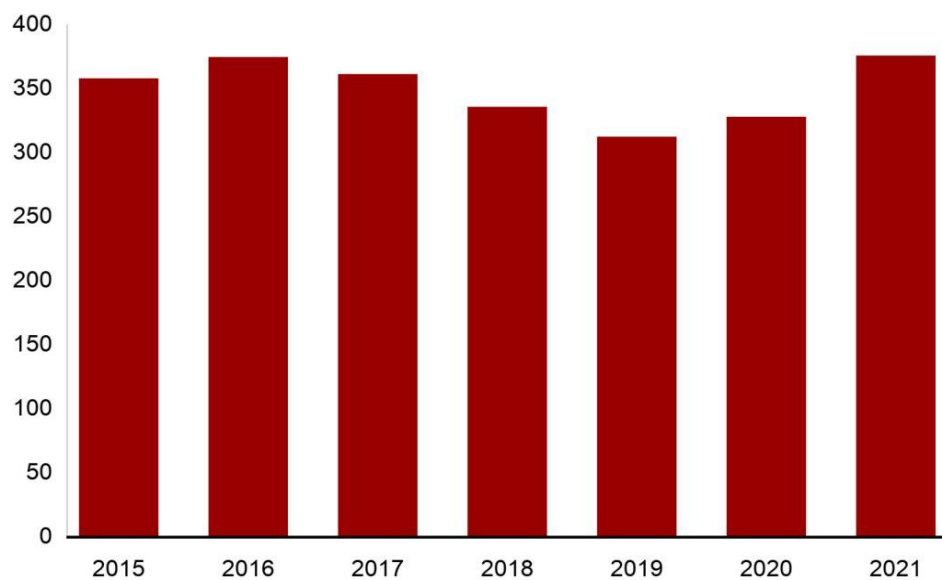
Atmospheric levels of harmful small particles which can be inhaled - known as PM_{2.5} - are currently far above international guidelines set by the World Health Organization (WHO).



Delhi pollution: What's causing poor air quality?

Delhi's 'very poor' air quality in November

Monthly average over seven years



Source: Central Pollution Control Board



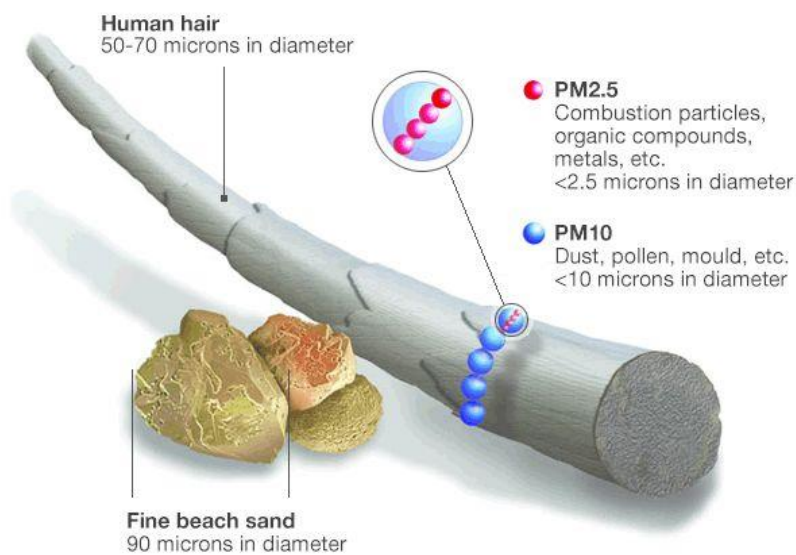
In response to the latest severe conditions, the Delhi authorities have announced the closure of schools indefinitely after they had reopened briefly.

Most construction activity continues to be banned in the city.

India's top court has directed state and federal governments to take further emergency measures.



Delhi pollution: What's causing poor air quality?



Source: US EPA

Last year, around [57,000 people died prematurely in Delhi](#) as a result of exposure to air pollution according to Greenpeace, despite the Covid lockdown.

What are the factors causing air pollution?

The federal government says the seasonal burning of farm stubble is responsible for only a small proportion of the pollution and no more than 10% of the total.

At the start of every winter, farmers in the states near Delhi burn the residue from rice and other crops to make way for growing wheat.

The practice was banned in 2015 - but enforcement is weak.

[The government's own monitoring data](#) shows that the contribution stubble burning plays in overall pollution levels fluctuates on a daily basis.

On 15 November, farm fires contributed to 10% of the PM_{2.5} particle pollution according to these figures, but a week earlier that amount was 48%.



Delhi pollution: What's causing poor air quality?



IMAGE SOURCE,AFP

Image caption,

Smog is a regular issue around this time of the year in Delhi

Satellites that detect active fires show [large parts of Punjab and Haryana states affected](#), with the worst peaks significantly higher than in previous years.

In the first two weeks of November, these two states recorded 57,000 farm fires, the highest number since 2012.

Do Diwali fireworks affect the air quality?

Several states have banned the sale and use of fireworks during Diwali celebrations, but [the implementation of the ban has been weak in many states](#).

A 2018 study that has attempted to answer this question says there is a "[small but statistically significant](#)" effect from Diwali fireworks.

The study focused on five locations across Delhi, and looked at data gathered between 2013 and 2016.

Diwali is set according to the Hindu lunar calendar and usually happens in late October or early November.



Delhi pollution: What's causing poor air quality?



IMAGE SOURCE,GETTY IMAGES

Image caption,

The sale and use of firecrackers is banned in many states

The different dates are important because they enable the authors to take into account crop burning as a factor, because that starts at the same time each year.

"We used Nasa satellite data to establish when crop burning was happening in northern India," Dhananjay Ghei, one of the authors of the report told the BBC.

- [The explosive science behind fireworks](#)

In two out of the four years, crop burning did not coincide directly with Diwali celebrations.

And they also point out that industrial activity in one location stopped because of the holiday, and factored the weather conditions into their calculations.

They found increases in concentrations of PM_{2.5} of almost 40% by the second day of the festival.

This then falls back to existing background levels soon after the end of Diwali.

And when looked at on an hourly basis, there was a rise of 100% for the five hours after 18:00 local time - the evening darkness period when most celebrations take place.

A report by Centre for Science and Environment, a non-profit based in Delhi, showed that the [concentration of PM_{2.5} rose during Diwali in 2018, 2019 and 2020 in the capital.](#)

It should also be pointed out that not all fireworks produce a lot of PM_{2.5} particles, although the bigger ones tend to have larger concentrations.



Delhi pollution: What's causing poor air quality?



IMAGE SOURCE,GETTY IMAGES

Image caption,

A huge layer of smoke covers Delhi and north India post Diwali

But fireworks contain other toxic substances, including heavy metals.

A separate study [done in the Indian city of Jamshedpur](#) found significantly increased levels of the following substances during the Diwali period:

- PM₁₀ particles
- sulphur dioxide
- nitrogen dioxide
- ozone
- iron
- lead
- manganese
- copper
- beryllium
- nickel

The government's own Central Pollution Control Board [lists 15 substances](#) in fireworks which it says are "hazardous and toxic".



Delhi pollution: What's causing poor air quality?

Again, it needs to be added that some of these substances can also be produced by vehicle emissions.

Vehicle traffic does increase during Diwali when people go out to buy gifts and visit family and friends.

However, there's very little research that quantifies its exact contribution to poor air quality in this period.

This piece was first published in November 2018 and has been updated to reflect recent studies and pollution data.



Why we should worry when it rains in Greenland

December 3, 2021

FOR several hours last August, rain fell on the highest point of Greenland's ice sheet. It was the first time in recorded history that it rained instead of snowed in the island, which climatologists consider as a barometer for detecting changes in the Arctic icecap.

One climate expert describes the event as an "unprecedented shock to the system" and worries that "something is going on in the atmosphere that's taking us into uncharted territory."

The temperature must be just above or below zero degrees Celsius for rain to form as precipitation. That indicates that the Greenland ice sheet experienced a warming episode during that time.

Scientists were blindsided by the rain in Greenland. "So what else is out there?" one asked. "That's the real concern here. There could be some surprises that we're not anticipating at all."

Geophysicist John Moore took a bold leap by connecting the Greenland event to severe weather changes this year that triggered wildfires, droughts and searing temperatures in other parts of the world.

"Like a pan of water boiling on the stove, you turn the heat up and all sorts of chaotic circulations take place," according to Moore. "What happened in Greenland is evidence of this chaos."

Environment experts point to the Greenland rain event as unassailable evidence of the impact of climate change, in particular the effect of burning fossil fuels on global temperatures.

They believe that the buildup in the atmosphere of carbon dioxide and methane emissions from factories and vehicles is eating away at the world's ice sheets, and slowly turning them into meltwater. The frightening thing is that the pace of melting has been accelerating.

In the last decade, Greenland has lost more ice than it did in the previous century. If the melting continues at its present rate, tens of millions of people could face annual floods and displacement by 2030.

If the thawing trend continues until the end of the century, and Antarctica also starts to defrost, the number of affected people could rise to about half a billion, the experts predict.

Rising sea levels has long been on the list of the catastrophes that global warming could spawn.

Climate experts say sea levels have risen 8 to 9 inches since 1880. The biggest rise was recorded last year: 3.6 inches above 1993 levels.

That puts coastal communities around the world at risk. That also means more destructive storms as bigger surges drive seawater further inland.



Why we should worry when it rains in Greenland

Because of its long coastline, the Philippines is especially vulnerable to sea-level rise. In the Manila Bay area, for example, the increase is three to four times faster than the global average rate of 0.13 inches, opening the gates to massive flooding and coastal erosion.

There are, however, encouraging signs of a growing initiative to draw up strategies for sea-level rise awareness, mitigation and adaptation.

During a virtual meeting of the United Nations Open-ended Informal Consultative Process on Oceans and the Law of the Sea last June, the Philippine delegation highlighted the urgent need to address sea-level rise.

In October, a government panel of Filipino scientists included rising sea levels as among the top 10 hazards confronting the Philippines. The list was presented by the Philippine delegation to the climate summit in Glasgow.

The panel's action plan includes conducting climate and health impact assessments for provinces and cities, building a network of state colleges and universities to provide support to local governments and communities in facing climate-induced risks, and giving local governments more access to climate financing.

Our government can also find inspiration from several cities around the world that have adopted basic tactics in fighting sea-level rise, aside from reducing their carbon footprint. One is by putting up surge barriers and installing pumps and overflow chambers to keep the water out. Another is by restoring or expanding mangroves and wetlands to help reduce flooding.

Because these solutions are community-based, they can have a higher rate of success. What's needed is for everyone to be on the same page and be properly motivated.

04 DECEMBER 2021, Saturday



DENR

NEWS ALERTS

COVID-19 NEWS

STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION AND INITIATIVES SERVICE



WHO urges vaccination to prevent Omicron case surge

By Ma. Teresa Montemayor

Published on December 3, 2021, 2:04 pm



(File photo)

MANILA – An official of the World Health Organization (WHO) on Friday urged countries to prepare for a possible surge of cases due to the Omicron variant by getting vaccinated against coronavirus disease 2019 (Covid-19) and observing health protocols.

In an online media forum, WHO Western Pacific Region director, Dr. Takeshi Kasai said “things are trending in the right direction in the region” as Covid-19 cases and deaths have decreased.

However, Kasai said countries - including those that have successfully suppressed the virus - cannot be complacent.

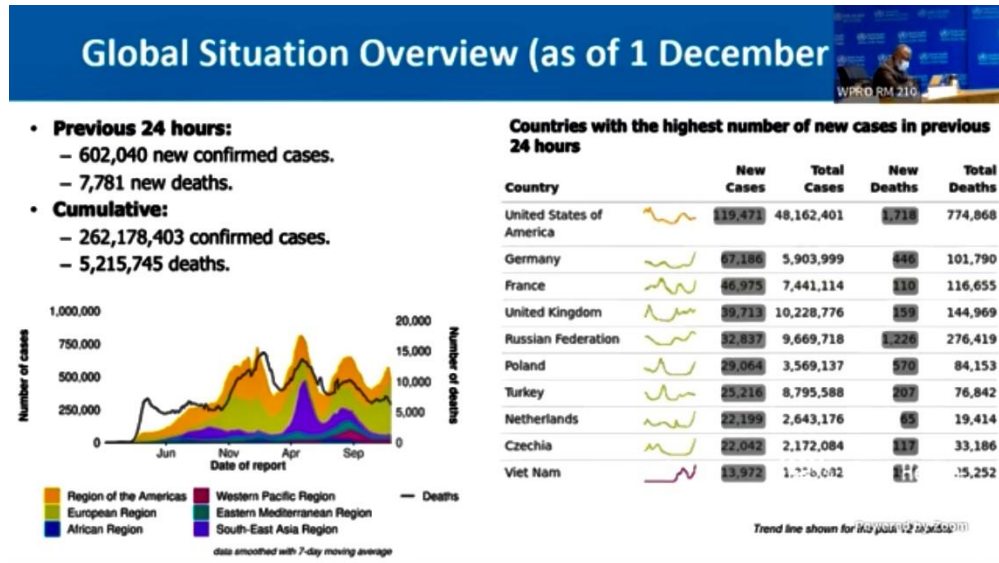
“Globally, cases have been increasing for seven consecutive weeks,” he added.

Omicron, new variant of concern

Kasai warned countries against possible surges of infections in the future as long as the transmission continues, causing the coronavirus to mutate.

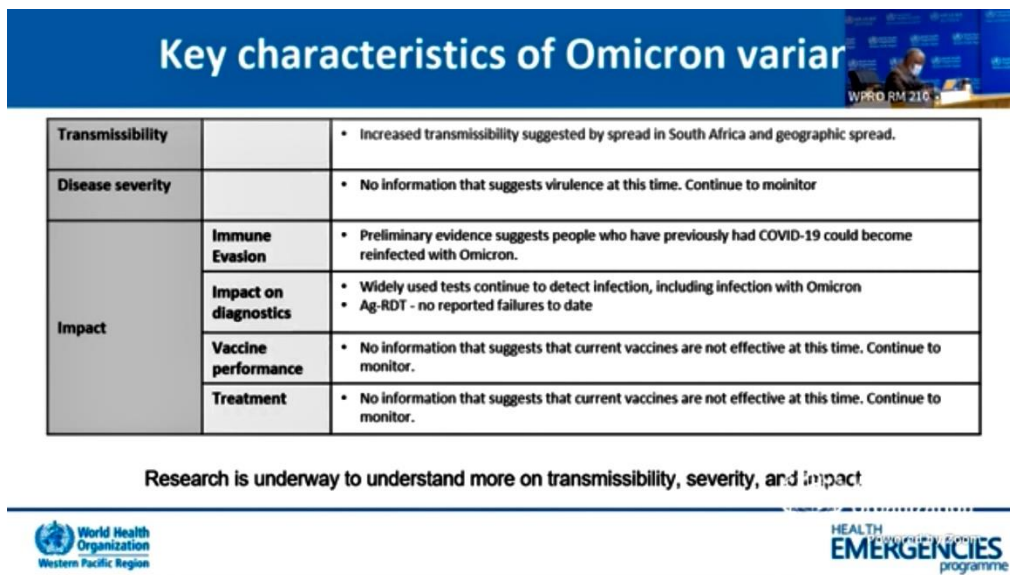


WHO urges vaccination to prevent Omicron case surge



Screengrab from Zoom Meeting

WHO Regional Emergency director Dr. Babatunde Olowokure said the number of countries reporting detection of Omicron is increasing daily.



Screengrab from Zoom Meeting

To date, there are three states and an island in the region with Omicron cases -- Australia, Hong Kong, Japan and South Korea.

Citing that Omicron is more transmissible than other variants, Olowokure said the WHO is currently working with research institutions to better understand the variant as more information is needed.



WHO urges vaccination to prevent Omicron case surge

“We know that Omicron will eventually come to most of the countries in the region. We need to start preparing now,” he added.

Travel restrictions

Kasai said making adjustments in the management of the Omicron variant could help countries “better cope with the future surges and reduce health and economic impact”.

He said the government cannot simply rely on border controls.

Meantime, Olowokure said travel bans can delay entry of the Omicron variant to countries “but they will not prevent its entry”.

Vaccination

The two best tools in suppressing the transmission of any variant of the coronavirus and are the strict adherence to public health and social measures and inoculation, Kasai noted.

“Where there is high vaccine coverage, we can reduce severe illness and deaths,” he said.

WHO Coordinator for Essential Medicines and Health Technologies Dr. Socorro Escalante said the Western Pacific Region is “in good position” in terms of the availability of vaccines against Covid-19.

Apart from encouraging everyone to be inoculated, Escalante noted it is equally important to look after the more vulnerable members of the population like the senior citizens and individuals with comorbidities.

“We need to ensure to continue to protect those most at risk and vulnerable by giving them booster doses,” she said. *(PNA)*



Entire Philippines now under Alert Level 2

(Philstar.com)

- December 3, 2021 - 12:47pm



MANILA, Philippines — The whole country is under Alert Level 2 beginning Friday, December 3, as the government deescalated the province of Apayao from Alert Level 3.

“This latest development means as of today, no province or city is under Alert Level 3,” acting presidential spokesperson Karlo Nograles said in a press briefing. “This means that the entire country is under Alert Level 2.”

The deescalation of Apayao from Alert Level 3 came after the government’s pandemic task force tweaked the metrics determining alert level classifications of provinces, highly urbanized cities and independent component cities.

Under the new criteria, the one-week growth rate of COVID-19 cases is no longer a metric for escalation from Alert Level 1 to Alert Level 2, instead areas will be placed under the stricter alert level if either case classification or total COVID-19 bed utilization increases to moderate risk or higher.

Areas under Alert Level 2, meanwhile, will escalate to Alert Level 3 if both case classification and total COVID-19 bed utilization are at moderate risk, or if case classification is at high to critical risk.

The continued easing of coronavirus curbs comes at a delicate time when new COVID-19 cases are declining and the Omicron coronavirus variant spreads globally, threatening the reopening of the country’s economy which is just gaining steam.

The Philippines’ pandemic task force tightened border controls by suspending laxer testing requirements for travelers in the face of the threat of Omicron, which is suspected to be more infectious due to its multiple mutations. — **Xave Gregorio**

Source: <https://www.philstar.com/headlines/2021/12/03/2145483/entire-philippines-now-under-alert-level-2/amp/>



DOH asks employers to hold virtual Christmas parties this year

By JOAHNA LEI CASILAO, GMA News

Published December 3, 2021 4:23pm

The Department of Health (DOH) on Friday advised employers to hold virtual parties this Christmas, saying that the pandemic is still here even as the country saw a decline in new COVID-19 cases.

“Sa ating mga employers, kung saka-sakali best pa rin to hold virtual parties for this Christmas,” Health Undersecretary Maria Rosario Vergeire told a media briefing.

(To the employers, it may be best to hold virtual parties this Christmas.)

“Alam ko pangalawang Pasko na ito na nagkakaroon ng difference ang ating pagsi-celebrate ng ating Pasko pero sana po we can do these kinds of sacrifices so we can prevent further infections in the community, in our population,” she said.

(I know this is the second Christmas that we are celebrating in a different way, but I hope we can make these kinds of sacrifices to further prevent infections in the community and in our population.)

Earlier, the Department of the Interior and Local Government announced that [in-person parties are allowed in areas under Alert Level 2](#) as long as health protocols and the 50% venue capacity limit are observed.

Should companies push through with parties, Vergeire urged them to only allow fully vaccinated individuals to attend and to ensure compliance with the minimum health protocols.

“I advise our employers to require that only fully vaccinated will attend the parties, that you will be holding this in an open space, and everybody will be wearing their face masks, and practice physical distancing,” she said.

“And please, do not serve buffet dishes. We can have plated dishes so there won’t be a congregation when you get food from the buffet table and also for sharing of food,” she added.

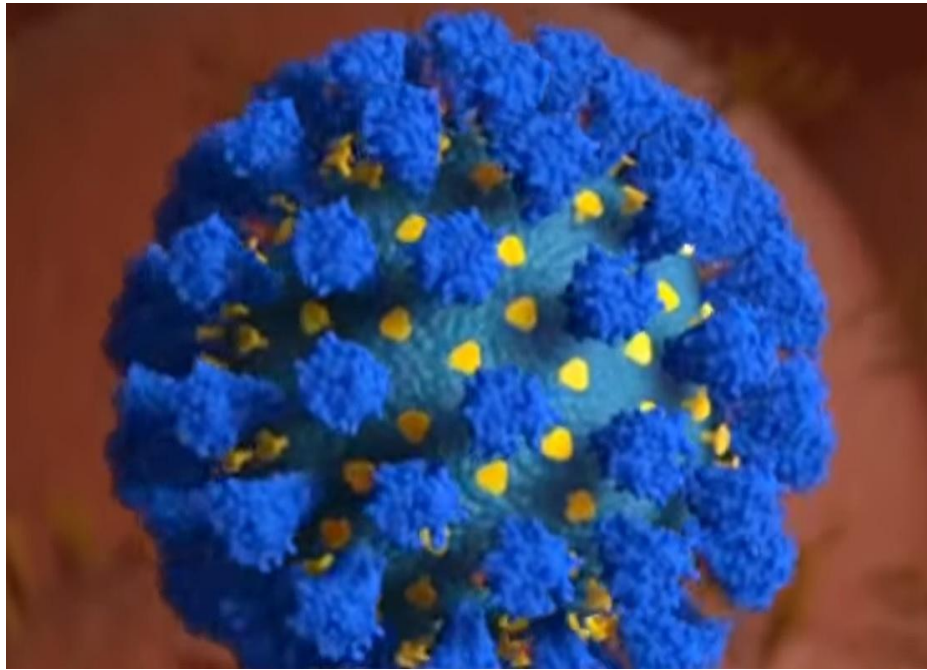
Meanwhile, Vergeire reminded returning overseas Filipinos to [get tested for COVID-19](#) before leaving for the Philippines.

This was after the Inter-Agency Task Force for the Management of Emerging Infectious Diseases imposed new testing and quarantine protocols for travelers arriving from countries that are not on the red list. — VBL, GMA News

Countries with suspected local transmission of the Omicron variant

By JOAHNA LEI CASILAO, GMA News

Published December 3, 2021 1:58pm



Months after COVID-19 cases in various countries surged due to the highly contagious Delta variant, a new variant has been detected in South Africa that is feared to be more transmissible due to its 50 mutations.

Months after COVID-19 cases in various countries surged due to the highly contagious Delta variant, a new variant has been detected in South Africa that is feared to be more transmissible due to its 50 mutations.

The B.1.1.529 or the Omicron variant was detected in South Africa on November 24 and was blamed for the increase in cases in the country. It was also detected in Hong Kong and Botswana.

Two days later, on November 26, the World Health Organization classified the Omicron variant as a variant of concern.

On the same day, the Philippines enforced temporary travel restrictions on South Africa, Botswana, and five other southern African countries with local cases or with the likelihood of occurrences of the Omicron variant.

On November 28, seven more countries, all in Europe, were added to the list.

The Inter-Agency Task Force, meanwhile, recently imposed new testing and quarantine protocols for travelers arriving from countries that are not on the red list.

As of December 3, with at least 35 countries or jurisdictions having detected the variant, here is the list of countries that are suspected to have local transmission of the variant.

Countries with suspected local transmission of the Omicron variant

South Africa

Based on the Strategic Advisory Group of Experts submissions, South Africa reported 183 Omicron variant cases so far.

Since its detection, Health Undersecretary Maria Rosario Vergeire said the variant has comprised 75% to 100% of sequenced cases in the Gauteng Region of South Africa.

“Reports state that this is 75% of the total sequenced in the country for the month of November,” Vergeire said in a media briefing.

Botswana

At present, Botswana has confirmed 19 cases of the Omicron variant.

Of this, 16 are asymptomatic while 14 are foreign nationals.

Belgium

Two individuals have tested positive for the variant in Belgium.

One confirmed case is an unvaccinated individual with a travel history to Egypt while the second case is still under investigation.

“Early reports state that it is not linked to the first case,” Vergeire said.

Italy

According to Vergeire, the first Omicron case in Italy is a fully-vaccinated individual with a travel history to Mozambique.

Five family members of the Omicron case have also tested positive for COVID-19, but it is unclear if they have been infected with the new variant.

“However, five additional cases of the Omicron variant, all with links to the son of the first case have been confirmed as well,” Vergeire said.

Netherlands

Meanwhile, the Netherlands has found that 14 out of 61 individuals in a flight from South Africa were positive for the Omicron variant while other cases are still under review.

“Additionally, they report two additional samples taken between November 19 to 23 before South Africa announced its presence. It is still unclear whether these two individuals have traveled to South Africa,” she said.

United Kingdom

In the United Kingdom, 13 individuals have tested positive for the Omicron variant in England, one of which has already left the UK upon detection.

Countries with suspected local transmission of the Omicron variant

Two doctors in Israel also who had returned from London tested positive while nine cases were reported in Scotland, but not all had travel history to South Africa.

“Community transmission is suspected by their health officials and the UK met the yellow risk metrics,” she said.

Portugal

Portugal, meanwhile, reported 13 confirmed cases of the variant related to a soccer game over the weekend with one player recently having returned from South Africa

At present, 44 players and staff members are in isolation while waiting for their repeat tests.

Portugal is included in the country’s yellow list.

Canada

Ten cases have been confirmed in Canada, five of which had travel history to Nigeria while the remaining two are still under investigation.

A case detected in Hong Kong is a fully-vaccinated traveler with travel history from Vancouver, Canada on November 10.

After initially testing negative on November 12 and November 14, the traveler experienced symptoms on November 17 and tested positive the next day.

Canada is included in the country’s yellow list.

South Korea

South Korea reported five cases of the variant, all of which have mild symptoms.

The first two were a fully-vaccinated couple that arrived from Nigeria. They were exempted from quarantine due to being fully vaccinated.

According to Vergeire, the individual who drove the couple home had also tested positive for Omicron while the couple’s son is currently being sequenced.

Another unvaccinated couple with travel history to Nigeria also tested positive for the variant.

South Korea is included in the country’s yellow list

Nigeria

At present, Nigeria has reported only three confirmed cases from individuals who arrived from South Africa.

However, confirmed cases in Canada, South Korea, and Ghana have reported travel history to Nigeria.

Nigeria is under the country’s green list.



Countries with suspected local transmission of the Omicron variant

Norway

In Norway, an individual who attended a Christmas party had tested positive for the variant.

Since then, 41 others attendees and nine other guests living in neighboring municipalities had tested positive for COVID-19.

United States of America

The United States has, meanwhile, reported three confirmed cases of the variant.

One of the cases is a fully-vaccinated individual who had attended a convention in New York and tested positive upon returning to Minnesota

The two others are individuals with travel history to South Africa.

“These two cases are unrelated,” Vergeire said.

Iceland

Similarly, Iceland reported three confirmed cases of the variant, of which one is a fully vaccinated individual with no recent travel history.

“The individual is currently in the hospital and is presenting with moderate symptoms. Four more cases are currently under investigation,” she said.

Switzerland

Three individuals in Switzerland have also tested positive for the Omicron variant.

One of these is a fully-vaccinated student that has no reported travel activity while two cases had returned from South Africa.

A total of 340 individuals across the globe have tested positive for the Omicron variant, according to Vergeire. — DVM, GMA News



TAPYAS-PRESYO SA BILIHIN; KASONG COVID-19 LALALA



December 3, 2021 @ 8:35 PM 9 hours ago

MULA Enero hanggang sa unang linggo ng Nobyembre 2021, may P21 na katamtamang halaga ang naidagdag sa maraming pagtataas ng presyo ng mga produktong petrolyo, kabilang na ang gasolina, diesel at gaas o kerosene.

Mula naman sa ikalawang linggo ng Nobyembre hanggang sa darating na Martes, aabot naman sa nasa P5 ang katamtamang halaga ng pagbaba ng presyo ng nasabing mga produkto.

Dahil sa matinding oil price hike sa mga naunang buwan, mga Bro, nagsitaasan ang presyo ng halos lahat ng bilihin at serbisyo gaya ng pagkain, materyales sa bahay, tubig, kuryente, pamasahe, service sa mga delivery at iba pa.

TAPYAS-PRESYO SA BILIHIN, SERBISYO

Ngayong may tapyas-presyo naman sa petrolyo kahit kapat lang sa kabuuang itinaas ng presyo, hindi ba nararapat lang na magkaroon din ng tapyas-presyo sa mga bilihin at serbisyo na nabanggit natin?

Sana ito ang isa sa mga silipin at igiit ng mga awtoridad para sa mga mamamayan na kauna-unahang biktima lagi ng pangyayari.

Alalahaning may halong pagsasamantala ang mga oil price hike at pagmamahal din ng presyo ng mga produkto at serbisyo lalo't alam ng mga mapagsamantala na walang mamamayang may kakayahang magreklamo.

Kabilang sa panahon ng pagsasamantala ang mismong Kapaskuhan na ikinatataas ng lahat ng presyo sa pangangailangan ng tao para sa okasyon.



TAPYAS-PRESYO SA BILIHIN; KASONG COVID-19 LALALA

Dapat gawing responsibilidad ng mga awtoridad ang pagtatanggol sa mga mamamayan sa ganitong pamamayani ng pagsasamantala.

COVID-19 LALALA; BAKUNA, GAMOT MAHIHINA

Lahat ng pamahalaan umaamin na hindi mapipigilan ang pagkalat ng Omicron variant ng coronavirus disease-19 at isa sa mga pinakahuling bansa na umaming may kaso nang Omicron variant ang United States.

Nauna rito ang mga bansang South Africa, Botswana, Zimbabwe, Namibia, Lesotho, Eswatini, Mozambique at Malawi at sumunod ang The Netherlands, Sweden, Germany, Spain, Canada, Brazil, Australia, Hong Kong, Japan, Israel, Belgium, Czech Republic, Denmark, France, Portugal, United Kingdom, Nigeria

Ngayong lumitaw ang Omicron variant, ngayon pa lang ay nagsasabi na ang may gawa ng gamot na Regeneron na maaaring hihina ang bisa nito dahil ibang-iba ang variant na ito sa target na virus ng gamot.

Maging ang mga gumagawa ng bakuna, kabilang na ang Pfizer at Moderna, umaming gumagawa na sila ng mga paraan na mapalakas at tutugma ang mga bakunang ito sa Omicron.

Ang Merck at Regeneron ay gamot sa mga tinatamaan ng nagkakasakit habang bakuna na Pfizer, Moderna, Sinovac, AstraZeneca, Sputnik V, Janssen at iba pa ay pamigil sa pagkakasakit.

MAGPABAKUNA

Dapat lahat ay sumali sa programa ng pamahalaan na pagbabakuna laban sa COVID-19 na pinalala at pinalawak pa ng Omicron variant.

Kahit sinasabing mahihina ang mga bakuna at gamot laban dito, pinakamainam pa rin na magpabakuna tayo lahat para mapigilan ang pagkalat ng pandemya at kung available ang mga nasabing gamot, uminom o magpaturok tayo at tigilan na ang pagiging pasaway sa pagsunod sa health protocols.



#OneDENR

**Covid-19
Situation and Response**



DOH COVID-19 CASE BULLETIN # 629

DISYEMBRE 3, 2021

Para sa kumpletong detalye at impormasyon,
bisitahin lamang ang aming pampublikong site:
<https://ncovtracker.doh.gov.ph/>

PORSYENTO NG AKTIBONG KASO

0.5%

TOTAL NG AKTIBONG KASO
14,977

PORSYENTO NG GUMALING

97.7%

TOTAL NG GUMALING
2,769,914

PORSYENTO NG NAMATAY

1.73%

TOTAL NG NAMATAY
48,987

MGA BAGONG KASO **544**

MGA BAGONG GUMALING **734**

MGA BAGONG NAMATAY **235**

KABUANG BILANG NG KASO **2,833,878**

MGA NAGPOSITIBO HULING DISYEMBRE 1

DATOS NGAYONG DISYEMBRE 3
AYON SA REPORTS NOONG DISYEMBRE 1

1.8%

PORSYENTO NG MGA
NAGPOSITIBO

32,908

BILANG NG
TINEST

HALOS

52.4%

ANG MILD AT
ASYMPTOMATIC
NA KASO!

D UMISTANSYA NG
ISANG METRO AT LIMITAHAN
ANG PISIKAL NA
INTERAKSYON SA IBA

KABUANG PILIPINAS

PUNO NA BA ANG ATING MGA OSPITAL?

ICU BEDS (3.6K TOTAL BEDS)
27% Utilized

ISOLATION BEDS (19.6K TOTAL BEDS)
25% Utilized

WARD BEDS (13.0K TOTAL BEDS)
14% Utilized

VENTILATORS (3.1K TOTAL VENTILATORS)
15% Utilized

NATIONAL CAPITAL REGION

PUNO NA BA ANG ATING MGA OSPITAL?

ICU BEDS (1.3K TOTAL BEDS)
28% Utilized

ISOLATION BEDS (4.7K TOTAL BEDS)
22% Utilized

WARD BEDS (3.9K TOTAL BEDS)
19% Utilized

VENTILATORS (1.0K TOTAL VENTILATORS)
17% Utilized

KALAGAYAN NG MGA
AKTIBONG KASO

688 Asymptomatic

7,166 Mild

3,801 Moderate

2,433 Severe

889 Critical



UPDATE AND MESSAGE OF THE DAY

Sa kabila ng patuloy na pagbaba ng kaso ng COVID-19 ay ang patuloy din na pagpapaalala sa publiko na sumunod ng husto sa **Minimum Public Health Standards**, at makiisa sa pambansang pagbabakuna upang maproteksyonan ang ating sarili laban sa sakit. Kasabay nito ang ating pagiging alisto sa mga sintomas. Sa oras na makaramdam ay agad makipag-ugnayan sa **BHERTS** o sa **One COVID Referral Center** na maabot sa **1555, (02)886-505-00, 0915-777-7777, o sa 0919-977-3333**, para sa karampatang gabay.

Para sa iba pang pangangailangang medikal, puntahan ang <http://bit.ly/DOHTelemedicine> upang malaman kung papaano maabot ang serbisyo ng ating **Telemedicine Service Providers**, at ang <http://bit.ly/DOHHospitalHotlines> para maabot ang ating mga ospital sa lalong mabilis na panahon.



Ihahanap ka namin ng lugar para mag-isolate o magpagamot, tumawag lang sa sumusunod:

SMART: 0919 977 3333
GLOBE: 0915 777 7777
TEL NO: (02) 886 505 00



May tanong ukol sa COVID-19?

I-chat na si KIRA!

VIBER: Kira Kontra COVID by DOH

MESSANGER: Department of Health PH

KONTRACOVID PH: kontracovid.ph



Manatiling ligtas!

I-download ang StaySafe App

O Gamiting ang WEBAPP
at pumunta sa [Staysafe.ph](https://staysafe.ph)

MAYROON PANG KATANUNGAN? SUMANGGUNI LAMANG SA SUMUSUNOD:

OfficialDOHgov

@DOHgovph

doh.gov.ph

(02) 894-COVID / 1555

04 DECEMBER 2021, Saturday



DENR

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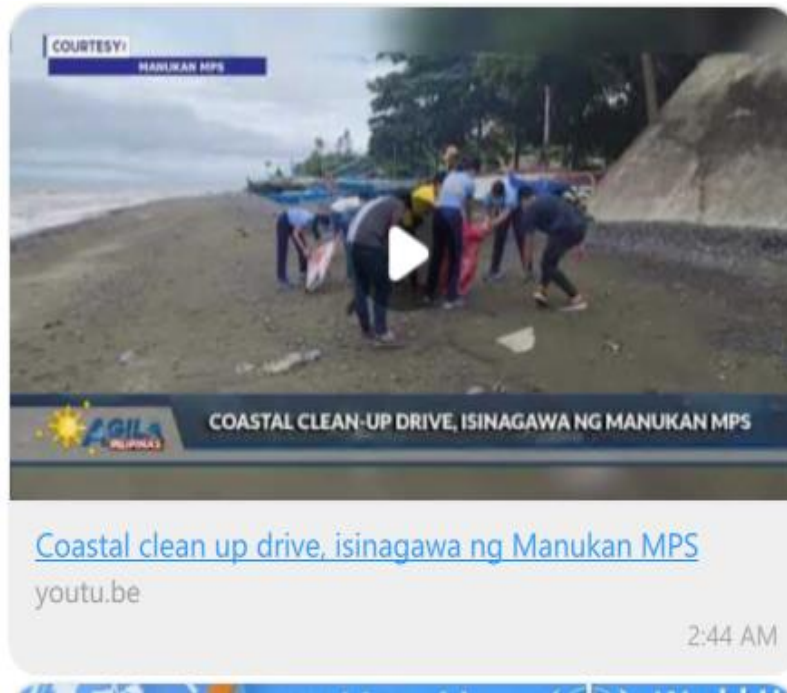
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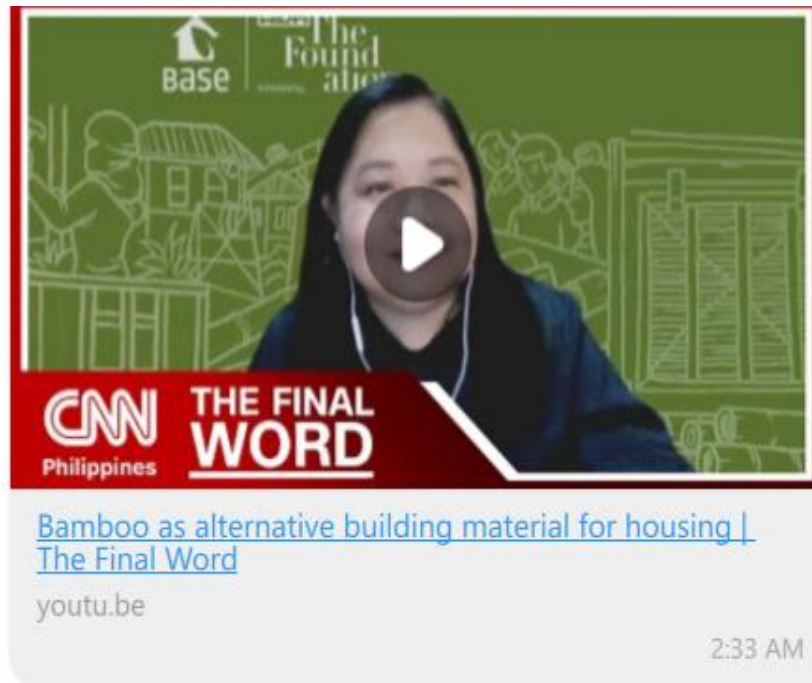
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