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NEWS ALERTS

STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION AND INITIATIVES SERVICE



7th Ministerial Forum endorses Roadmap to 2030

11 PEMSEA Countries sign Preah Sihanouk Ministerial Declaration

by [Village Connect](#) about 13 hours ago



SIHANOUKVILLE, CAMBODIA— In a historic first, ministers and senior government officials from 11 countries in the East Asian Seas region gathered virtually during the **7th EAS Ministerial Forum of the 2021 East Asian Seas (EAS) Congress** to pledge their commitment in advancing the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) via the Partnerships in Environmental Management for the Seas of East Asia (PEMSEA) Roadmap to 2030.

With the signing of the **Preah Sihanouk Ministerial Declaration**, the PEMSEA member countries endorsed the **PEMSEA Roadmap to 2030** as the region’s decadal strategic guide anchored on the Sustainable Development Strategy for the Seas of East Asia (SDS-SEA) vision and commitment to Blue Economy, aligned with PEMSEA countries’ green recovery plans and programs, as well as with key international environmental commitments.

Themed “**Advancing our Sustainable Development Agenda: Road to 2030 for Healthy Ocean, People, and Economies**,” the 7th Ministerial Forum was hosted by the Royal Government of Cambodia through the Ministry of Environment, with support from the Province of Preah Sihanouk, Cambodia and co-organized with PEMSEA.



The 7th Ministerial Forum which is part of the culminating events of the East Asian Seas Congress 2021, aims to: highlight the progress made by the EAS region through the PEMSEA partnership on the implementation of the region’s common framework of action- the Sustainable Development Strategy for the Seas of East Asia (SDS-SEA); recognize the impacts as well as the opportunities to build back stronger and greener from the global pandemic, as well as other persistent and emerging concerns in the region; and launch the PEMSEA Roadmap to 2030.



Minister Say Samal of the Ministry of Environment, Cambodia served as the event's Chair. Senior government officials from PEMSEA's 11 Country Partners also delivered their respective Country Statements. In attendance were:

- E. Sao Sopheap, Secretary of State, Ministry of Environment, The Kingdom of Cambodia
- Zhang Zhanhai, Chief Engineer and Director General, Ministry of Natural Resources, People's Republic of China
- Ri Myong San, Vice Minister, Ministry of External Economic Relations, Democratic People's Republic of Korea
- Mme Luckmi Purwandari, Acting Director of Coastal and Marine Pollution and Degradation Control, Ministry of Environment and Forestry, Republic of Indonesia
- Masayuki Takada, Deputy Minister for Technical Affairs, Ministry of Land, Infrastructure, Transport and Tourism, Japan
- E. Chanthanet Boualapha, Vice Minister, Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment, Lao People's Democratic Republic
- Roy A. Cimatu, Secretary, Department of Environment and Natural Resources, Republic of the Philippines
- MOON, Seong-Hyeok, Minister, Ministry of Oceans and Fisheries, Republic of Korea
- Hazri Hassan, Director of International Policy Division, Ministry of Sustainability and the Environment, Republic of Singapore
- Acacio Guterres, Director General for Fisheries, Aquaculture and Marine Resources, Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries, Democratic Republic of Timor-Leste
- Le Minh Ngan, Deputy Minister, Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment, Socialist Republic of Viet Nam

Minister Samal opened the Forum by stating that "today's Ministerial Forum becomes even more crucial, as we lay down our roadmap to help the region sail through to a better tomorrow. Let us build on the lessons and gains that we have generated from PEMSEA for the last 28 years

and continue the work with our ocean as one of our best assets in maintaining human and planetary health."

Minister Samal also called on his fellow Ministers and the public to "take advantage of the opportunities arising from the pandemic and these global efforts. Cambodia, in particular, is committed to building a sustainable, equitable and resilient blue socio-economic base." He added that "we all have a role to play to achieve our sustainable development goals and the SDS-SEA vision."

From the countries:

Cambodia: "WITH REGARD TO GREEN DEVELOPMENT, THE ROYAL GOVERNMENT HAS BEEN CONDUCTING A COMPREHENSIVE STUDY TO FORMULATE A MASTERPLAN WITH A VISION TO TURN PRAEH SIHANOUK PROVINCE INTO A MODEL, MULTI-PURPOSE SPECIAL ECONOMIC ZONE (SEZ). INCORPORATING ALL ASPECTS: ECONOMIC, SOCIAL, CULTURAL AND ENVIRONMENTAL, THE MASTERPLAN WILL FOCUS ON ECONOMIC AND INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT AND INDUSTRIAL LAND

MANAGEMENT, LABOR MARKETS AND VOCATIONAL TRAINING, PUBLIC FACILITIES (SUCH AS WATER, ENERGY, GAS AND SOLID WASTE), INFRASTRUCTURE AND MEANS OF TRANSPORTATION, TOURISM AND ECOLOGICAL BIODIVERSITY, LIVEABILITY AND WELLBEING, DESIGN AND URBANIZATION, LAND USE MANAGEMENT, GREEN BELT MANAGEMENT, INSTITUTIONAL FRAMEWORKS AND A FIVE-YEAR ACTION PLAN."

CHINA: "China has made major arrangements of "promoting green development and seeking the harmonious coexistence of man and nature." We are willing to work hand in hand with countries in the region, upholding the concept of maritime community with a shared future. We would like to positively develop "blue partnerships" with other countries, thus contributing to the



marine sustainable development and welfare of the people in the region.”

DPR KOREA: “In order to protect the marine and coastal resources and environment and achieve their sustainable development, all countries in the East Asian Seas should constantly develop and enhance their capabilities to protect and manage their own marine and coastal environment. And PEMSEA Country Partners should continue to intensify exchange and cooperation between each other.”

INDONESIA: “Continuously regarded as a model for strong regional partnership in sustainable development, PEMSEA has continued to support the integrated coastal management (ICM) synergizing with the integrated river basin management (IRBM) solutions in Indonesia, including through the work of PEMSEA Network of Learning Centres (PNLC) and PEMSEA Network of Local Governments (PNLG). We are pleased to inform you that out of 34 provinces in Indonesia, 28 provinces have already declared their respective Coastal Area and Small Islands Zoning Plans, covering about 83 % (eighty three percent) or 90.000 (ninety thousand) km of Indonesia’s coastline under ICM.”

JAPAN: “It goes without saying that these ocean issues are global in nature, and that concerted efforts by the international community are important. In establishing the PEMSEA Roadmap 2030, we believe that the role of PEMSEA is important in integrating global efforts into feasible efforts tailored to the characteristics of each region along with the United Nations’ efforts toward sustainable development. WE believe that it is more meaningful for Japan, an island nation that connects to the world through the sea, to address these issues in cooperation with other countries.”

LAO PDR: “In the regional context, Lao PDR has cooperated with other regional and international organizations to jointly manage and develop water and related resources in the region, among other, implementing and upscaling the Mekong-Integrated Water Resources Management Program (M-IWRMP), the ten-year Strategic Framework of the Greater Mekong Sub-Regional Economic Cooperation Program, jointly.

formulate the IWRM-based Basin Development Strategy of the Lower Mekong River Basin 2021-2030, and the ASEAN Strategic Plan of Action for Water Resources Management. In addition, Lao PDR has been selected as the chair of the ASEAN Water Working Group for 2020-2022 and the Global Water Partnership for Southeast Asia (GWP-SEA) from 2019 to 2021. This is the great example of the Lao PDR in facilitating and enhancing the cooperation in the region with regard to integrated water resource management.”

PHILIPPINES: “IN THIS 7TH MINISTERIAL FORUM, THE PHILIPPINES NOT ONLY REITERATES ITS FIRM COMMITMENT TO THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE PEMSEA ROADMAP 2030, AND THE SDS-SEA IMPLEMENTATION PLAN 2022 TO 2027 BUT ALSO URGE ALL COUNTRY PARTNERS TO EMBRACE THE PREAH SIHANOUK MINISTERIAL DECLARATION ON BUILDING COASTAL RESILIENCE TO CLIMATE CHANGE IMPACTS IN EAST ASIA AND TO CONTRIBUTE IN ADVANCING THE GLOBAL SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT AGENDA.”

RO KOREA: “The Korean government has enhanced our solidarity with the international community for combating climate change, and achieving the SDGs via 2021 P4G Seoul Summit this year. The P4G summit in May succeeded in sounding the alarm for the entire world that marine litter issues must be resolved promptly and efficiently in order to ensure the sustainability of the ocean. In that Summit, Korea also signed an MOU with PEMSEA to launch the “East Asian Seas Initiative on Clean Oceans” aimed at seeking civil society-based solutions for marine litter in East Asia.”



SINGAPORE: "Singapore has adopted and will continue to promote the Integrated Urban Coastal Management (IUCM) framework: a proactive planning and management framework for sustainable development of the marine and coastal areas in an urban context. It is a dynamic and iterative process based on establishing continuous baselines and feedback loops to flexibly address and cope with the inherent complexity of coastal and marine environment issues in an urban setting."

TIMOR-LESTE: "For more than 15 years of being a PEMSEA Country Partner, we have demonstrated and benefited from the strategic, integrated, and vision-oriented approach of PEMSEA. The SDS-SEA and ICM programs demonstrated approaches for collaborative and strategic planning, and capacity and partnership building at the regional, national and local levels. Thus far, ICM programs have been initiated in the municipalities of Dili, Manatuto, and Liquica, which cover 30.34 percent of the country's coastline. These three municipalities have established multi-agency ICM Task Teams and developed their respective coastal strategies, which could serve as guide in local planning as administrative decentralization progresses."

VIET NAM: "Vietnam has successfully implemented the SDS-SEA, specifically: Replication of ICZM in coastal provinces; promulgate and implement the Strategy for Integrated Coastal Zone Management to 2020, with a vision to 2030; promulgate the Law on marine and island resources and environment; develop and publish the National Report on the State of Oceans and Coasts 2018: Blue Economy Growth; National Report on the State of Sea and Island for the period 2016-2020; Reports on the current state of coastal areas at the provincial level; establish national and local multi-sectoral coordination mechanisms in the implementation of coastal and marine economic development; integrating content on coastal and marine management, climate change, and risk assessment into undergraduate and graduate training programs."

Key elements of the Preah Sihanouk Ministerial Declaration

The 7th EAS Ministerial Declaration outlines the following commitments:

- Reaffirm and build on the region's previous Ministerial Declarations or commitments in support of the SDS-SEA implementation and key international agreements.
- Recognize the impact and opportunities of the global pandemic.
- Highlight the region's progress through PEMSEA partnership and collaborative platform and PEMSEA's key competencies (completion of Regional State of Oceans and Coasts and ten National SOC reports on Blue Economy; scaled up of integrated coastal management (ICM) covering an estimated 40 percent of the region's coastline and contiguous watershed areas; facilitated formulation, adoption, and implementation of policies, action plans and programs on coastal, rivers, associated watershed areas and ocean ecosystems).
- Recognize the persistent and emerging challenges in the region and need for continuing regional cooperation and action.
 - Endorse the development of the PEMSEA Roadmap to 2030 and SDS-SEA Implementation Plan 2023-2027, which are guided by key strategic objectives/priorities on Healthy Ocean, People, and Economies.
 - A regional call for action to build back better from the impacts of the global pandemic through strengthened partnership towards a responsible and strengthened ocean governance anchored on sustainable development and blue economy principles.

During the press conference following the Ministerial Forum, **PEMSEA Executive Director Ms. Aimee Gonzales**, said that the Preah Sihanouk Ministerial Declaration "supports the launching of the PEMSEA Roadmap to 2030 that is anchored on the SDS-SEA vision, the commitment to blue economy, and overall sustainable development agenda."



She added that the Declaration “provides an inflection point in addressing the many challenges, as well as opportunities, we all need to undertake towards a full recovery. We laud the commitments made by our Country Partners despite the pandemic, even as they are in the midst of their own economic recovery programs.”

Ms. Gonzales also called on the media’s support to help spur government officials, policymakers, private sector, financial institutions and ordinary citizens into collective action.

ABOUT THE MINISTERIAL FORUM

The 7th EAS Ministerial Forum is the high-level event of the triennial East Asian Seas Congress that serves as an opportunity for concerned government ministers of the region to meet and engage in policy dialogue. It provides direction pertaining to key concerns for regional cooperation and the fulfillment of their international commitments to sustainable development through the SDS-SEA.

ABOUT THE MINISTERIAL DECLARATION

The Preah Sihanouk Ministerial Declaration signed on 02 December 2021 reaffirms commitments previously made in previous Ministerial Forums such as: (Putrajaya, Malaysia 2003) working towards sustainable development of the region’s coasts and oceans under the Sustainable Development Strategy for the Seas of East Asia (SDS-SEA); (Haikou, PR China, 2006) on establishing PEMSEA’s operating and coordinating mechanisms; (Manila, Philippines, 2009) strengthening the implementation of ICM for sustainable development and climate change adaptation; (Changwon, RO Korea, 2012) on moving towards an ocean-based blue economy; (Da Nang, Viet Nam, 2015) on aligning the region’s strategies in the SDS-SEA with global goals and targets; and (Iloilo, Philippines, 2018) on reaffirming commitments to 2021 targets.

For more information, visit: <https://eascongress2021.pemsea.org/>



Bamboo is good for house construction, not only for nipa huts and handicrafts

BY JONATHAN L. MAYUGA DECEMBER 5, 2021



Workers make use of bamboo as construction material.

The production of engineered bamboo as substitute for good lumber to help fight deforestation and climate change, among others, was envisioned by Environment Secretary Roy A. Cimatu.

“Bamboo reduces the need for timber resources, and helps greatly in carbon sequestration, in biodiversity conservation and in low-cost rehabilitation of degraded lands,” the Environment chief said in his speech at the first Asean Bamboo Congress in 2019.

Giant grass

Bamboos are not trees. They are “giant grass” belonging to the grass family.

They are among the fastest-growing plants in the world. Certain species of bamboos can be as tall as 30 feet.

Bamboos are an important economic resource as they can be used for building materials, as a source of food and as a versatile raw product.

Bamboos are also being used in making furnitures and handicrafts in the Philippines.

Its most common species in the country are the kawayan tinik, buho, giant bamboo and bulo.

Bamboo technology

Researches and innovations on the uses of bamboo are currently being done by different sectors, including the Department of Science and Technology’s Forest Products Research and Development Institute, and the private sector.

The Base Bahay Foundation Inc. is raising the profile of bamboo that is traditionally used in the country in building nipa huts, as a sustainable building material through research and innovation, and to reintroduce it in mainstream construction.

The foundation has established a “bamboo laboratory,” called the Base Innovation Center (BIC), which is focused on alternative building materials, especially for socialized housing sector.

BIC opened at the start of the year in Manila as the research and development arm of Base Bahay in order to ensure a continued testing and knowledge improvement on the overall application of the foundation’s Cement Bamboo Frame Technology.

Building sustainable communities

Partnering with like-minded organizations, such as Habitat for Humanity, to build sustainable communities with affordable housing across the Philippines, Base Bahay has so far established 12 communities and provided livelihood for around 1,000 families, or more than 5,000 individuals using the foundation’s unique technology.



“Establishing BIC has put us at an advantage in terms of research, and has opened up a flurry of partnerships,” said Pablo Jorillo, Base Bahay general manager.

“BIC allows our partners to see what we can offer them and lets us elaborate on the different construction methods and design elements that we can study for bamboos, such as wind and seismic designs,” Jorillo added.

Mainstreaming bamboo construction

One of Base Bahay’s main thrusts is the creation of a National Structural Code for Bamboo. It is currently working with the Association of Structural Engineers of the Philippines to promote its proposed Code.

This move was further encouraged by the publication in June of a new standard on a structural design using bamboo poles by the International Organization to Standardization 22156:2021

“This milestone is a significant step for the mainstreaming of bamboo [as] construction [material] around the world,” Jorillo said.

Base Bahay aims to establish bamboo as part of the building code not just in the Philippines, but in other countries as well, Jorillo said.

At the moment, BIC’s research touches on a variety of projects, including the characterization of five different bamboo species in the Philippines, which it is working on in close collaboration with the De La Salle University-Manila.

Interviewed by the BusinessMirror via Zoom on November 25, Jorillo said Base Bahay’s Cement Bamboo Frame Technology, which it has been promoting for socialized housing, has been scrutinized by various institutions.

It has received a certification from the Accreditation of Innovative Technologies for Housing, which includes the UP Building Research Service, National Housing Authority, Department of Trade and Industry (DTI), Construction Industry Authority of the Philippines and the Housing and Land Use Regulatory Board.

Durable, long lasting, economical

Jorillo said the technology can withstand strong typhoons and earthquakes, which commonly occur in the Philippines.

He added that with the treatment process developed by BIC, it can last for 25 years.

“Untreated and exposed to elements, bamboo can only last one year to two years,” he said, adding that anay (termite) and buk bok (wood borer) are natural enemies of bamboo.

“However, properly treated, there’s clear assurance that the minimum service life of bamboo is 25 years,” Jorillo told the BusinessMirror.

Using bamboo instead of steel also saves a lot of money in socialized housing, Jorillo pointed out.

“When we sought for accreditation, we came up with cost comparison between using concrete hollow blocks and bamboo. [Bamboo use] saved about 37 percent,” he said.

He said the savings in construction can be bigger if more bamboo materials are used, such as in socialized housing.

Communities can save more, he said, if they create a bamboo plantation, and use them for their projects applying the Cement Bamboo Frame Technology, which, he added, can be used for free.



He said Base Bahay is actually teaching communities how to process bamboo and use the technology as part of their advocacy.

Fighting climate change

Jorillo said promoting bamboo as a construction material alternative to wood is beneficial to the environment, and helps in the fight against climate change.

Planting bamboo alone, he said, means increasing the capacity for carbon sequestration.

Bamboo grows very fast and can regenerate after cutting, unlike trees, he said.

It can be harvested every two to three years, which means supply can be sustainable, he said.

China's bamboo forest can sequester carbon up to 1 billion tons by 2050 from the current estimate of 700 million tons in 2010.

Like wood, bamboo's carbon sequestration capacity is endless as long as it is preserved and used in construction.

Economic opportunity

Jorillo said Base Bahay's various partners are into processing bamboo, and could actually plant and process bamboo for construction materials for socialized housing using its technology.

Jorillo said the DTI and the Philippine Bamboo Industry Development Council are working to increase the number or the area coverage of bamboo plantations in the Philippines to help reduce the country's dependence on steel as a construction material.

As of 2021, the areas planted to bamboo in the country is 84,000 hectares, but it is still not enough to promote its use in socialized housing or for the country to become an exporter, Jorillo said.

According to Jorillo, bamboo can also be used in building interiors as a substitute to concrete stud, as panel interior, in ceiling as an insulator, or even as tiles.

Processed bamboo, like plyboard, can also be used in construction, he added.

Under Environment Chief Cimatu helm, bamboo is a priority planting material for the National Greening Program, which will give it a boost.

Image courtesy of Hilti Foundation/Base Bahay photo



DENR urged: Stop cutting trees in Davao City mountains

Published December 4, 2021, 1:39 PM

by [Joseph Pedrajas](#)

Thousands of people are calling on the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) to stop cutting trees in the mountains of Davao City in a bid to secure the community's lifeblood, save a Philippine eagle nesting territory and save water, air and biocultural sanctuary in the area.

In [an online petition](#) entitled "Stop the Cutting of Trees in Mts. Makabol-Alikoson Conservation Area (MMACA)" that has so far been signed by 2,089 individuals, the regional office of DENR in Region 11 is being urged to cancel the Private Land Timber Permit No. RXI-PLTP-001 2021, which was issued for the cutting of 121 old-growth trees within the MMACA.

The agency is also urged to affirm MMACA's designation as an environmentally critical area in Davao City as well as improve its protection as a conservation area.

Stop the Cutting of Trees in Mts Makabol-Alikoson Conservation Area (MMACA)



Sustainable Davao Movement started this petition to DENR XI

2,089 have signed. Let's get to 2,500!



At 2,500 signatures, this petition is more likely to get picked up by **local news!**

Christoffer John Estrada signed this petition

Pamela Jarvis signed 2 minutes ago

Deane Paler signed 2 minutes ago

First name

Last name

Email

According to the petition initiated by Sustainable Davao Movement, MMACA is an 8,819-hectare conservation area, which supports the lives and livelihoods of over 6,000 residents of Barangay Salaysay in the uplands of Davao City.

"The natural resources of the MMACA have also sustained the Indigenous Obu Manuvu ways of life and culture since time immemorial," it added.

That was the reason why the petition stated that stopping DENR's cutting activities would secure the community's lifeblood in the area.

On the other hand, the petitioners also said they want to save the Philippine eagles' nesting territory in the conservation area, so they want to halt DENR's operations.

"The MMACA is an ancient nesting site of a Philippine Eagle pair. The eagle couple's first nest was recorded by the Philippine Eagle Foundation (PEF) in 1986. The eagle pair hatched and raised at least twelve (12) young eagles in five (5) nesting trees within MMACA since then. However, based on Obu Manuvu oral history in Salaysay, the mighty Banog (or Philippine Eagle) has always existed in the area," the petition said.



“Eagle nesting sites are crucial areas for reproduction and for the perpetuation of the species. Maintaining MMACA’s ecological integrity is therefore critical to the survival of our national symbol,” it added.

For the petitioners, the natural forests of MMACA also replenish the aquifers of Davao City’s Suawan-Kulafu-Sub-Watershed.

According to them, the sub-watershed is within the Davao City River Basin. while the area’s old-growth forest also feeds the Masawang River that runs for over 10 kilometers and joins the Davao River downstream.

“The same forest is also a carbon sink that mitigates global climate changes,” it said.

The petitioners further stressed that apart from the critically endangered Philippine eagle, the conservation area is also home to a few more threatened wildlife species.

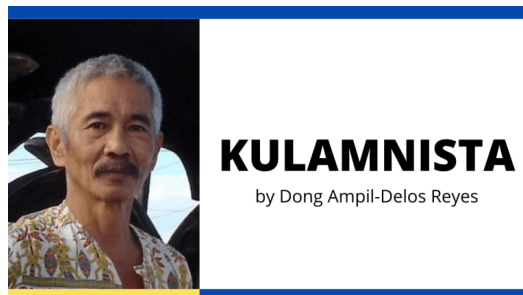
“For instance, at least 40 species of birds were recorded there, and three are close to extinction, including the IUCN ‘vulnerable’ Southern Rufous Hornbill and ‘near-threatened’ Yellow-crowned flowerpecker. The Philippine Deer, and the Philippine Warty Pig, both IUCN ‘vulnerable’ also inhabit MMACA.”

As such, the petitioners are not only calling on the DENR but also on Davao City Mayor Sara Duterte to take action on their demand.



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.

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)



ABS-CBN News

12h

TINGNAN: Isang patay na green sea turtle ang natagpuan sa baybayin ng Barangay Baybay, Roxas, Capiz Martes.

Ang babaeng pawikan ay ang may habang 68.58 sentimetro at 54.102 sentimetro naman ang lapad.

May natagpuang sugat sa likuran ng pawikan at may nakapulupot na lubid sa ulo nito, na nakikitang dahilan ng kamatayan nito. Agad namang inilibing ito matapos masuri ng mga awtoridad. (📍: Provincial Environment and Natural Resources Office) | via Rolan Escaniel

BASA HIN ang kaugnay na ulat: <https://news.abs-cbn.com/.../endangered-species-pawikan...>



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‘PHL needs green, sustainable recovery’

BY RIZAL RAOUL REYES DECEMBER 5, 2021

Although it is a Third World country, the Philippines can still play an important role in the global effort in the fight against climate change.

It can choose a different approach, which underscores its relevance to the long-suffering working Filipino families that would also hasten, as a co-benefit, the low carbon development of the country in the short and medium term.

“Climate change may be bigger than everything else, but it is not necessarily more important than addressing poverty, livelihood, biodiversity, education, jobs and securing the good health of our citizens. Air quality alone is costing us P4.5 trillion a year, or 23 percent of our GDP annually,” said Renato Redentor Constantino, executive director of Institute for Climate and Sustainable Cities (ICSC), at the recent Pilipinas Conference 2021 titled, “Strengthening Cooperation for a Green and Sustainable Recovery: A Part of EU-PH Trade and Sustainability Discussions 2021.” It was organized by Stratbase ADR Institute.

Constantino noted majority of the data and information he shared was based on a paper released in August and authored by Dr Toby Monsod of the UP School of Economics, Sara Ahmed of the Financial Futures Center and Golda Hilario of ICSC.

In the recently concluded 26th United Nations Climate Change Conference of the Parties held in Glasgow, Scotland, Constantino said the Philippines called for a different pathway to decarbonization.

The pathway is anchored on resetting the country’s nationally determined contributions, or non-binding national plans highlighting climate actions, so that national imperatives for climate risk resilience and climate-smart development and global mitigation requirements are better served.

He explained the rationale was to to strengthen the Philippines’s contribution to the Paris Agreement, where adaptation and resilience are considered the country’s anchor and sustainable development in its context, instead of the incredibly narrow greenhouse gases inventory-centric approach.

He urged the government to tackle climate change with a broad approach.

For instance, if it pursues an emissions-reduction strategy, the government must integrate into a larger transition strategy focused on achieving sustainable, inclusive and resilient economic development.

Constantino pointed out that the government must develop the right messaging so the people will know and realize the importance of the programs in saving the environment.

“If the public cannot identify with the developmental goals arising from their government’s climate strategies, the political consensus required to make increasingly difficult decisions further down the road will simply be too hard to achieve or, if realized, it will be hard to sustain,” Constantino said.

“We need to get our acts together urgently,” he added.

Although it presents a colossal challenge, Constantino pointed out that climate change gives the country an opportunity to pump-prime the economy.

He explained that climate change compels the country to upgrade everything, from urban services to logistics, food supply, and supply chains, including transport infrastructure that should be designed to move people instead of cars.



Citing the UP study, he said 88 percent of Greater Metro Manila families—with the same number probably for the entire country—do not own cars.

“We have been prioritizing the needs of the minority through private car-centric infrastructure. Even if we electrify cars, we will again be serving only the needs of a few. It doesn’t make sense,” Constantino argued.

He said the growing number of people in Metro Manila alone are pursuing active mobility through cycling, which is a good sign that people are responding to the call for transport sustainability.

“Thankfully there is a revolution underway in the form of active mobility. With an estimated at least 500,000 commuters in Metro Manila alone on the road daily, [many] pedalled because they have long been frustrated at the neglect of their needs,” he noted.

“Protected, interconnected bicycle lanes and facilities continue to develop rapidly, supported by more and more national agencies, local governments and businesses. Not because of [the] Paris [agreement] or climate [change], but because it makes practical development sense to move people instead of cars,” Constantino explained.



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.



Globe Business supports sea turtle egg protection and reforestation

BY BUSINESSMIRROR DECEMBER 5, 2021



Globe Business supported initiatives to combat sea turtle egg poaching and reforestation efforts in Zambales.

It contributed P500,000 to The Mead Foundation drive to combat sea turtle egg poaching and reforestation.

“It is important for companies to think beyond profit as a sole metric of success and a sole purpose,” said Peter Maquera, senior vice president for Globe Business, Enterprise Group, in a news release.

“Instead, let us measure our performance based on our efforts to improve the world we live in and uplift the lives of the people—from the policies we enact, the investments we make, and the technology we use,” Maquera added.

The donation was made during Globe Business’ 12th Leadership Innovation Forum attended by over 900 guests, including C-Level executives and leaders from various industries.

With the theme, “Bigger Picture, Greater Future: Redefining Success Beyond Business,” the online event underscores the power that environmental, social and governance integration has on the future of enterprises.

“The Mead Foundation thanks Globe for their recognition of and support for our non-profit initiatives focused on conservation of the environment and community development. While the pandemic has presented unique challenges, we have worked diligently to continue our programs as the need remains as great as ever,” said Ben Mead, founder of The Mead Foundation.

The foundation is preparing for the pawikan (sea turtle) season, the time when these endangered species start nesting. The conservation project aims to protect the sea turtles and prevent poachers from smuggling the eggs to areas where they are eaten as a delicacy.

In addition, The Mead Foundation will use the funds for the ongoing reforestation program in Iba, Zambales, which Globe has supported since 2018.

The foundation also works closely with indigenous communities, the Aetas of Zambales, to provide them with livelihood opportunities.

Engaging local communities yields positive environmental, ecological, and social benefits. It makes people aware of their significant role and participation in taking care of the area, the importance of environmental protection, and the benefits of a natural forest area, Globe said.



Both Globe Business and The Mead Foundation believe that partnership and collaboration help achieve impactful outcomes by enabling corporations and individuals with three key components: reforestation, food security, and sustainable livelihood development.

Globe strongly supports the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals, particularly UN SDG 15, which promotes the protection, restoration, and sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems.

Globe is committed to upholding the UN Global Compact principles and contributing to 10 UN SDGs.



S&T-based climate-smart soil, water management project to be implemented in Maguindanao

Published December 4, 2021, 10:28 AM

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) and Mindanao State University (MSU)-Maguindanao have teamed up to implement a project that will address the lack of water resources and strengthen the resiliency of upland farming systems in the highlands of Maguindanao



A memorandum of agreement (MOA) was signed between the DOST-PCAARRD and MSU-Maguindanao on Oct. 25 for the project entitled, "Implementation of S&T-based Climate-smart Soil and Water Management in the Highlands of Maguindanao" which also seeks to address low adoption of soil conservation practices in the area.

The DOST-PCAARRD said the project is expected to introduce S&T-based climate-smart soil and water technological interventions to ensure profitability and reduce risk from adverse weather events, such as drought, rainfall variability; and address problems in water scarcity and poor soil fertility in the crop production system in Maguindanao.

The project is led by Dr. Raquel D. Santiago-Arenas.

"The project aims to build and strengthen the resiliency of upland farming systems in Maguindanao to adapt to climate change through developing strategies in mainstreaming soil and water technologies; enhancing awareness and understanding of readily available and proven climate-smart technologies; increasing nutrients and water-use efficiency, and decreasing vulnerability to the negative effects of decreasing water resources and increasing soil degradation."

After the signing of the soil and water management pact, MSU-Maguindanao Chancellor Baj Hajira Nefertiti S.M. Limbona, Director Noel A. Catibog of the Technology Transfer and Promotion Division, and Dr. Avishek Datta of Thailand's Asian Institute Technology (AIT) expressed their commitment to support the implementation of the project.

The project grant was made possible through the partnership between the DOST-PCAARRD and AIT.

Source: <https://mb.com.ph/2021/12/04/st-based-climate-smart-soil-water-management-project-to-be-implemented-in-maguindanao/>



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TINGNAN: Namataan ang isang Philippine eagle na si Rajah Cabungsuan na tila hari sa kanyang trono sa sanga ng isang puno ilang araw matapos itong pakawalan sa natural nitong tahanan.

Ayon sa Philippine Eagle Foundation, nasa mabuting kalagayan ang agila dahil nakabantay ang forest guards na nagsisigurong ligtas ito mula sa kapahamakan.

Noong Nobyembre 17, pinakawalan ng PEF ang 5-taong-gulang na agila sa kagubatan ng Surigao del Sur.

Nasagip ito sa bayan ng Lingig noong Marso 23 at ibinatay ang kaniyang pangalan mula sa isang barangay sa lugar. (📷: PEF) | via Hernel Tocmo

BASAHIIN ang kaugnay na ulat: <https://news.abs-cbn.com/.../rescued-philippine-eagle...>



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US is world's biggest plastic polluter

DEC 4, 2021, 2:11 PM

Rose De La Cruz
Columnist

What was believed before as plastic pollution of the oceans coming mainly from vessels has been disputed by a study that showed that residential plastic wastes find their way to the seas and oceans through the rivers. And the US is the biggest plastic polluter of the world with China coming in closely next.

THE United States is by far the biggest contributor to global plastic waste in the world, according to a new report compiled by a committee on experts that was submitted to the federal government Wednesday that called for a national strategy to tackle the growing crisis.

Overall, the US contributed around 42 million metric tons (MMT) of plastic waste in 2016 -- more than twice as much as China and more than the countries of the European Union combined, according to the analysis.

On average, every American generates 130 kilograms (286 pounds) of plastic waste per year, with Britain next on the list at 99 kilos per person per year, followed by South Korea at 88 kilos per year.

Entitled "Reckoning with the US Role in Global Ocean Plastic Waste," the report was mandated by Congress as part of the Save Our Seas 2.0 Act, which became law in December 2020.

"The success of the 20th century miracle invention of plastics has also produced a global scale deluge of plastic waste seemingly everywhere we look," wrote Margaret Spring, chief science officer of Monterey Bay Aquarium, who chaired the committee of experts that compiled the report.

'Environmental, social crisis'

She added global plastic waste was an "environmental and social crisis" that impacted inland and coastal communities, polluted rivers, lakes and beaches, placed economic burdens on communities, endangered wildlife and contaminated waters that humans depend on for food.

Global plastic production rose from 20 million metric tons in 1966 to 381 MMT in 2015, a 20-fold increase over half a century, the report said.

Initially, attention to ocean waste focused solely on ship and marine-based sources, but it is now known that almost any plastic on land has the potential to reach the oceans via rivers and streams, the report added.



Plastic entanglement

Research has shown nearly a thousand species of marine life are susceptible to plastic entanglement or to ingesting microplastics, which then make their way through the food web back to humans.

The report said an estimated 8 MMT of plastic waste enters the world annually, "the equivalent of dumping a garbage truck of plastic waste into the ocean every minute."

At the current rate, the amount of plastics discharged into the ocean could reach up to 53 MMT per year by 2030, roughly half of the total weight of fish caught from the ocean annually, it said.

Recycling did not catch up

Part of the reason is that while the generation of plastic waste in municipal solid waste has exploded, particularly since 1980, the scale of recycling has not kept up, resulting in more and more plastic finding its way into landfills.

The report offered several steps to address the crisis -- first among them, reducing virgin plastic production, for example by establishing a national cap.

Reduce single-use plastics

Other suggested actions include using materials that degrade more quickly and are more easily recycled, the reduction of certain single-use plastics, and improved waste management, such as techniques to remove microplastics from wastewater.

Improving waste capture technology would stop plastics in waterways, while stemming plastic disposal directly into the ocean itself also remains a priority.

Data collection is also a critical priority, the report added, calling for the US to establish tracking and monitoring systems to identify waste sources and hotspots.

Develop national strategy in 2022

The authors called for the country to develop its national strategy no later than the end of 2022.

"This is the most comprehensive and damning report on plastic pollution ever published," said Judith Enk, president of the Beyond Plastics nonprofit.

"It is a code red for plastics in the ocean and documents how litter cleanups are not going to save the ocean," she continued, adding it was urgent that policy makers and business leaders read the report and take action.

"The finger-pointing stops now. We can no longer ignore the United States' role in the plastic pollution crisis, one of the biggest environmental threats facing our oceans and our planet today," added Christy Leavitt, Oceana's plastics campaign director.



Australian opposition sets emission reduction target

By [Xinhua News Agency](#) December 5, 2021

CANBERRA: [Australia's](#) opposition [Labor Party](#) has promised to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by 43 percent from the 2005 levels by 2030 if it wins the next election.

Labor leader [Anthony Albanese](#) announced on Friday the party's emissions reduction target, setting climate change as one of the most important policy issues for the next election, which was due to be held by May 2022.

It was slightly lower than its 45-percent target in the 2019 election, significantly higher than the governing coalition's 26- to 28-percent target.

The coalition estimated that Australia's emissions would fall by as much as 35 percent by 2030 but had not formally committed to that target.

Albanese, who had criticized the government's 2050 net-zero plan for lacking detail, said his medium-term target came with the "most comprehensive modeling" ever undertaken by an opposition party for any policy.

"Our plan will create 604,000 extra jobs by 2030. Five out of every six of these will be in regional Australia," Albanese said.

"Australian business is leading. It is time that the Australian government caught up. That is why our plan to create jobs, cut power bills, boost renewables and reduce emissions is the right plan for Australia," Albanese added.

If elected in 2022, Albanese promised that Labor would achieve its goal by upgrading the electricity grid, developing a national electric vehicle strategy and rolling out 85 solar banks across the country.

In response, Prime Minister [Scott Morrison](#) said he expected Labor's target to be higher.

"And if they have to get into that option with the [Greens](#) to form [a] government, it won't be 43. That will be the opening bid, and it's going to end a lot higher than that," Morrison said, adding that "there's nothing safe" about a Labor-Greens government.



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.

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**

05 DECEMBER 2021, SUNDAY



DENR

NEWS ALERTS

COVID-19 NEWS

STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION AND INITIATIVES SERVICE



PH logs 517 new Covid infections

By Joyce Ann L. Rocamora

Published on December 4, 2021, 6:49 pm



Swabbing booths for COVID-19 testing (File photo)

MANILA – The country's active coronavirus cases went further down to 14,338, with the Department of Health (DOH) recording 1,139 recoveries and only 517 new infections on Saturday.

The agency, on the other hand, logged 243 new fatalities, pushing the death toll to 49,230.

Overall, the country's confirmed cases since the outbreak began had reached 2,834,294, of which 97.8 percent or 2,770,726 recuperated.

Of the total active cases, the DOH reported that at least 911 are asymptomatic, 6,350 are mild, 3,837 are moderate, 2,425 are severe, and 815 are critical.

The country's positivity rate is still pegged at 1.8 percent based on the 35,238 individuals who had been tested for Covid-19 last December 2.

Two laboratories were not operational on Dec. 2 while one was unable to submit to the Covid-19 Document Repository System.

The DOH said the three concerned laboratories had zero contribution to all the samples tested and positive individuals over the past 14 days.

According to the department, at least 25 percent of the 3,600 intensive care unit (ICU) beds for Covid-19 patients across the country are occupied, including 25 percent of the 19,800 isolation beds and 15 percent of the 12,800 ward beds.

In the National Capital Region, 24 percent of the 1,300 ICU beds are in use, including 22 percent of the 4,700 isolation beds, and 20 percent of the 3,800 ward beds. **(PNA)**



Border higgitan, quarantine pahabain vs Omicron - OCTA

By [Angie dela Cruz](#) (Pilipino Star Ngayon) - December 5, 2021 - 12:00am



Sa ngayon ay may travel ban ang Pilipinas sa 14 bansa dahil sa banta ng Omicron variant, kabilang na ang South Africa na sinasabing pinagmulan ng virus.

The STAR / Edd Gumban

MANILA, Philippines — Hinikayat ng OCTA Research Team ang pamahalaan na ipatupad ang matinding paghihigpit sa mga border ng Pilipinas at pagpapatupad ng mas mahabang quarantine bilang hakbangin sa banta ng Omicron variant.

Ayon kay OCTA Research fellow Guido David, bagama't hindi pa natitiyak ang posibleng pagpasok ng naturang virus sa bansa ay mas mainam na maagap ang pamahalaan upang makaiwas sa bagong variant.

Sa ngayon ay may travel ban ang Pilipinas sa 14 bansa dahil sa banta ng Omicron variant, kabilang na ang South Africa na sinasabing pinagmulan ng virus.

“Naiintindihan natin ang pangamba ng mga kababayan natin kasi ngayon ang ganda na ng kalagayan ng Pilipinas, ito na ang pinakamaganda since June pa last year nung nagsisimula pa lang ‘yung first surge natin,” sabi pa ni David.

Bagama't patuloy anya ang pagbaba ng kaso ng COVID-19 sa bansa kabilang ang positivity rate, sa gitna ng paglawak ng pagbabakuna pero nababahala si David dahil maraming mag-uuwiang OFW mula sa ibang bansa.

“Kung 'di natin magagawa ang travel ban, baka pwedeng mas mahigpit na lang ang quarantine natin especially sa mga unvaccinated. Dapat talaga buo ‘yung 10 to 14 days pag unvaccinated,” dagdag ni David.

Sa ngayon ay may 38 bansa ang may kaso ng Omicron.



Omicron 'ultimate evidence' of danger from vaccine inequity — Red Cross

[Michael Mainville](#) - Agence France-Presse December 4, 2021 | 9:28am



Individuals line up for Astrazeneca vaccine at Batasan National Highschool in Brgy. Batasan Hills in Quezon City during the last day of the government's three-day vaccine campaign on Dec. 11, 2021.

The STAR / Michael Varcas

MOSCOW, Russia — The emergence of the Omicron variant of the coronavirus is the "ultimate evidence" of the danger of unequal vaccination rates around the world, the head of the Red Cross said on Friday.

In an interview with AFP during a visit to Moscow, Francesco Rocca, the president of the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies, also raised concerns about the politicization of migrants and for the plight of civilians in Afghanistan as winter approaches.

Asked about the global approach to vaccinations, the head of one of the world's largest humanitarian groups said more needed to be done to fight rampant vaccine inequality.

"The scientific community has warned... on several occasions about the risks of very new variants in places where there is a very low rate of vaccinations," he said.

About 65 percent of people in high-income countries have had at least one dose of vaccine against the coronavirus, but just over seven percent in low-income countries, UN numbers show.

Western countries have been accused of hoarding vaccines and the WHO has urged them to avoid a rush to give out booster shots when millions worldwide have yet to receive a single dose.

"This is a selfish approach coming from the Western community, this is really a blind approach," said Rocca, an Italian lawyer and longtime Red Cross volunteer who was elected to head the IFRC in 2017.

"It's unbelievable that we are still not realising how much we are interconnected. This is why I call the Omicron variant the ultimate evidence."

Migrants as 'weapons'

Omicron, a heavily mutated version of the coronavirus, was first reported in South Africa on November 24 and is now present in more than three dozen countries.

It has sparked a wave of travel bans, cast the global economic recovery into doubt and led to warnings that it could cause more than half of Europe's Covid cases in the next few months.



"The only way is to vaccinate, so access for everyone, everywhere," Rocca said, saying it was a "moral imperative" to look at suspending intellectual property rights for Covid-19 vaccines in order to boost production.

After a trip last month to Belarus where thousands of migrants trying to enter the European Union have been blocked on the Polish border, Rocca said he was concerned about people fleeing their countries being used for political purposes.

Critics have accused Belarus's strongman leader Alexander Lukashenko of luring the migrants to his country to send across the border in revenge for sanctions.

"Of course this is not new, now maybe it is only more evident that they are used as a political tool, weapons," Rocca said.

Poland has refused to allow the migrants, mainly from the Middle East, to cross. Some have returned to their home countries but many remain along the border in difficult conditions.

'Humanitarian tragedy' for Afghans

Western governments, Rocca said, should do more "not in terms of receiving or not receiving" migrants but to address the reasons they want to leave their countries.

"You cannot stop the desperation... they will find a solution to save their own lives," he said.

"Those who have more power have the responsibility to fix the crises... not only to allocate some resources from time to time without a political strategy."

And with winter approaching in Afghanistan, he said aid groups like the Red Cross are deeply worried about a "potential humanitarian tragedy".

"We are talking about children, we are talking about the elderly. So it's not politics, this is about the lives of millions," he said.

The United Nations has warned that around 22 million Afghans will face food shortages in the winter months as the country faces an economic crisis aggravated by the Taliban takeover in August.

Washington has frozen about \$10 billion of assets held in its reserve for Kabul and international financial organisations have halted Afghanistan's access to funding.

Rocca said it was not the place of the Red Cross to discuss the merits of sanctions against the Taliban but insisted they should not "punish civilians".

"We have to deal with human beings, and the lack of political dialogue is making their lives even more unbearable," he said.

The IFRC, based in Geneva, supports local Red Cross and Red Crescent activities in 192 countries.



No deaths related to Omicron variant seen so far: WHO

Published on December 4, 2021, 1:38 pm



GENEVA – A World Health Organization (WHO) spokesman said Friday the health body has not seen reports of deaths related to the new Omicron variant of the coronavirus and stressed that Delta remains the focus of the fight against the pandemic.

At a United Nations (UN) news conference, WHO spokesman Christian Lindmeier told journalists that the health organization is still collecting evidence on the new variant that was tracked down in southern Africa on November 11 and named Omicron about a week ago.

"We have not seen reports of Omicron-related deaths yet," Lindmeier said. "Let's also not forget that the predominant variant right now remains the Delta variant. Omicron may be on the rise, and we may come to a point where it takes over as the dominant variant."

The WHO spokesman said the world needs to protect itself against the Delta variant.

Since the coronavirus disease 2019 (Covid-19) was first discovered nearly two years ago, the WHO has confirmed nearly 263 million cases and more than 5.22 million fatalities globally.

"The more countries keep looking into and keep testing people and looking into specifically the Omicron variant, we will also find more cases and more information, and hopefully not, but also possibly, deaths," Lindmeier said.

After the Omicron variant was tracked down in Botswana and South Africa, some countries in Europe and North America last week put severe travel restrictions on counties in the southern African region and even banned flights.

These measures drew top officials' condemnation at the UN, WHO, international travel bodies, and workers' associations.

"Instead of looking at closing borders, restrictions, and so on, it is much more preferable to prepare your country, your health system for possible incoming cases," Lindmeier said.

"We can be pretty sure that this Omicron variant will spread. Delta also started somewhere. And now we have it as a predominant variant in over 90 percent of the world."

He said due to the behavior of the Omicron variant, "we will not be able, most likely, to keep it out of individual countries." (**Anadolu**)

Source: <https://www.pna.gov.ph/articles/1161786>



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**Covid-19
Situation and Response**



DOH COVID-19 CASE BULLETIN # 630

DISYEMBRE 4, 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
14,338

PORSYENTO NG GUMALING

97.8%

TOTAL NG GUMALING
2,770,726

PORSYENTO NG NAMATAY

1.74%

TOTAL NG NAMATAY
49,230

MGA BAGONG KASO **517**

MGA BAGONG GUMALING **1,139**

MGA BAGONG NAMATAY **243**

KABUANG BILANG NG KASO **2,834,294**

MGA NAGPOSITIBO HULING DISYEMBRE 2

DATOS NGAYONG DISYEMBRE 4
AYON SA REPORTS NOONG DISYEMBRE 2

1.8%

PORSYENTO NG MGA
NAGPOSITIBO

35,238

BILANG NG
TINEST

HALOS
50.6%
ANG MILD AT
ASYMPTOMATIC
NA KASO!

ALAMIN
ANG TAMANG
IMPORMASYON

KABUANG PILIPINAS

PUNO NA BA ANG ATING MGA OSPITAL?

ICU BEDS (3.6K TOTAL BEDS)

25% Utilized

ISOLATION BEDS (19.8K TOTAL BEDS)

25% Utilized

WARD BEDS (12.8K TOTAL BEDS)

15% Utilized

VENTILATORS (3.4K TOTAL VENTILATORS)

12% Utilized

NATIONAL CAPITAL REGION

PUNO NA BA ANG ATING MGA OSPITAL?

ICU BEDS (1.3K TOTAL BEDS)

24% Utilized

ISOLATION BEDS (4.7K TOTAL BEDS)

22% Utilized

WARD BEDS (3.8K TOTAL BEDS)

20% Utilized

VENTILATORS (1.4K TOTAL VENTILATORS)

12% Utilized

KALAGAYAN NG MGA AKTIBONG KASO

911 Asymptomatic

6,350 Mild

3,837 Moderate

2,425 Severe

815 Critical



UPDATE AND MESSAGE OF THE DAY

Ang mababang bilang ng mga nagpositibo sa COVID-19 nitong mga nakaraang araw ay hindi dahilan para tayo ay maging kampante. Alalahanin na ang COVID-19 ay nasa paligid lang natin, at ibayong pag-iingat, pagsunod sa **Minimum Public Health Standards** pagtanggap ng bakuna ang ating kailangan upang mailigtas natin ang bawat isa mula sa sakit na ito. 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

MAYROON PANG KATANUNGAN? SUMANGGUNI LAMANG SA SUMUSUNOD:

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05 DECEMBER 2021, SUNDAY



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NEWS ALERTS

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Please click this link:

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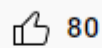
Please click this link:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SHsrLYd-GOA>

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MANILA BAY UPDATE DECEMBER 04,2021,GRAY SAND ILALATAG NA!
BINAGSAK NA LAHAT! Miz July

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