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STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION AND INITIATIVES SERVICE



DENR, Nestlé commit to a waste-free future for Filipinos

By **BUSINESSMIRROR**

APRIL 8, 2021



The Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) and Nestlé Philippines have pledged to work together toward a waste-free future for Filipinos as outlined in a memorandum of agreement (MOA) that includes building a Materials Recovery Facility (MRF) and educating communities on solid waste management in Caloocan City.

“As a country that prides itself in natural resources, it is imperative that we prioritize efforts that are centered on caring for our environment, not only for our families, but also for the benefit of generations to come. Our partnership with Nestlé Philippines strengthens the government’s resolve to implement programs that address proper solid waste management in order to reduce pollution for a cleaner, safer and healthier Philippines,” Secretary Roy Cimatu of the DENR stated.

Under the MOA, Nestlé Philippines will sponsor the construction of the MRF in Barangay 164 in Caloocan City. This is in line with Republic Act 9003 or the Ecological Solid Waste Management Act of 2000, which mandates the establishment of the MRF to sort, segregate, compost and recycle wastes at the barangay level. For its part, the DENR, through its Environmental Management Bureau in the National Capital Region (EMB-NCR), will provide technical assistance needed by local government officials in the operation of the MRF.

The MRF, according to Cimatu, will enable Barangay Captain Mila Uy and her constituents to comply with government regulations for the proper disposal of wastes in their locality. They will be also able to monitor and manage the inflow and outflow of wastes more efficiently that would help decrease pollution in the country.



GENDER AND DEVELOPMENT PLAN AT BUDGET NG NWRB, APRUBADO NA



April 8, 2021 @ 12:56 AM 5 hours ago

INAPRUBAHAN na ng Philippine Commission on Women kamakailan ang Gender and Development Plan and Budget ng National Water Resources Board (NWRB) ngayong taong 2021 na may kabuuang halagang Php 6.42 million na katumbas ng 5% ng taunang pondo nito.

Kabilang sa mga paglalaanan ng pondo ang sumusunod na GAD activities na may kinalaman sa client-focused activities:

- Pagpapakalat ng Information Educational Communication materials and documentation report na may kinalaman sa water management na target gawin sa dalawang barangay sa Luzon at sa Visayas.
- Pagsasagawa ng konsultasyon at pagsasanay sa mga kababaihan ukol sa water conservation at sa water demand management sa Baguio City, Bicol area, Masbate City, at sa Visayas at Mindanao.
- Pagsasagawa ng mga orientation-seminar sa kababaihan ukol sa use and importance of groundwater monitoring wells sa Luzon, Visayas at Mindanao.
- Pagsasagawa ng mga kasanayan sa mga babae at lalaki ukol sa water resources management at sa related technologies on rainwater harvesting sa Luzon, Visayas at Mindanao.
- Pagsasagawa ng kasanayan sa mga kababaihan ukol sa epekto ng climate change sa water supply and sanitation na may epekto sa kalusugan at kalinisan sa Luzon at Visayas.

Ipagpapatuloy rin ng NWRB ang regular organizational focused activities nito.

Ang NWRB ay pinamumunuan ni Dr. Seville David, Jr., bilang executive director, na nakapanayam na natin sa ating programa noong Pebrero 2021 at si Engr. Susan Abano ang siyang chairperson GAD Focal Point. Nasa ilalim ng Department of Environment and Natural Resources ang ahensya.

-ooOoo-

LIMAMPUNG LIBONG KAWAYAN PARA SA BICOL RIVER RESTORATION



Itinanim ni Department of Environment and Natural Resources Undersecretary for Attached Agencies Rodolfo Garcia (gitna, foreground) ang unang batch sa 50,000 bamboo seedlings na itanim sa pampang ng Bicol River bilang bahagi ng Bicol River Restoration Program ng Task Force Build Back Better.

Si Garcia ang kumatawan kay DENR Secretary at TF BBB chair Roy A. Cimatu sa pagpapasinaya ng BRRP na ginanap sa Camaligan Municipal Hall noong March 23.

Naroon din sa nasabing okasyon sina Camarines Sur Governor Miguel Luis 'Migz' Reyes Villafuerte and Camarines Sur, 2nd District Representative Luis Raymund 'LRay' Villafuerte, Jr.



NV DENR preps bamboo propagules for Build Back Better Program

By Benjamin Moses M. EbreoPublished on April 7, 2021

BAYOMBONG, Nueva Vizcaya, April 7(PIA) - Workers of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) here are preparing bamboo propagules for the government's National Greening (NGP) and Build Back Better Program (BBBP).

Provincial Environment and Natural Resources officer Edgar Martin said their recent potting and sowing of bamboo propagules conducted at their Clonal Nursery in Diadi town resulted to the production of 2,500 planting materials

"This is part of our Individual Employees Commitment to the NGP which was participated by 52 workers," he said.

Martin said they are planning to produce 250 seedlings per personnel every semester which will be used for the replanting and enrichment of graduated NGP areas with low survival rate and rehabilitation of riverbanks in the province.

For replanting and enrichment, the environment office has recorded a total NGP area of 2,155 hectares. (MDCT/BME/PIA 2-Nueva Vizcaya)



BGCI Extends Partnership With EDC To Assess, Save 670 More Tree Species

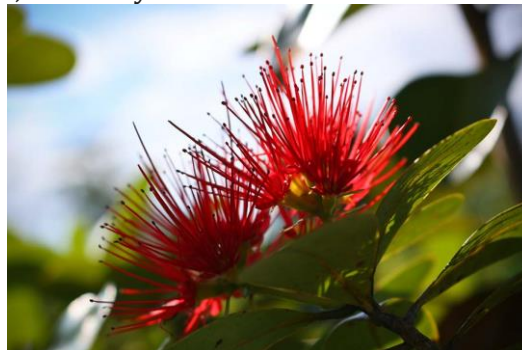


By [Featuresdesk \(MD\)](#) April 7, 2021

Europe-based Botanic Gardens Conservation International (BGCI) has extended its partnership grant with Lopez-led geothermal leader Energy Development Corporation (EDC) for two more years to assess and conserve additional 200 Philippine endemic tree species and 470 near-endemic species.

Near-endemic species are those that can be found not only in the Philippines but also in two or three more countries, while endemic species are those that can only be found in the Philippines.

Under the company's flagship BINHI greening program, EDC was tapped in May 2019 as the first and sole partner of BGCI for its Global Tree Assessment (GTA) program for the conduct of conservation status assessments of 800 Philippine endemic tree species for two years. BGCI is the secretariat of the IUCN for GTA, an organization that formulates measures for the protection of the environment through data gathering, research, field projects, advocacy and education.



Through the partnership, EDC received a grant of £16,160 or more than P1 million. BGCI also trained the BINHI team, its partner organizations, and representatives of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) on the IUCN Red List methodology, a vigorous and globally respected procedure following strict guidelines and data requirements on extinction risk assessments.

According to Megan Barstow, Conservation Officer of BGCI, before 2019 only 248 assessments for trees native to the Philippines were published on the IUCN Red List. To date, there are now 1,225 assessments, 42 percent of which were contributed by EDC in collaboration with Pro-Seeds Development Association Inc., an organization based in the University of the Philippines–Los Banos (UPLB) composed of young professionals engaged primarily in various environmental research as well as the promotion and development of environmentally sound management strategies.

“There’s not just tree assessments that we need to be doing to help save the world’s tree species, we also need to be taking conservation actions. BINHI is already a great example of this, working with its community farmers and leading on protection and propagation of the 96 priority threatened tree species,” said Barstow. “I think that the National List of Threatened Species for the Philippines is also going to be taking on the Philippine assessments for trees that have been produced by EDC, which hopefully means there will be more national attention to the tree assessment program already established.”



EDC President and Chief Operating Officer Richard B. Tantoco, likewise, believed that there is much to be done and a bigger world to restore: “Just when you think you’ve accomplished your goals and reached the finish line, that line just keeps getting farther as you find out that what you have done is merely a drop in the bucket. We learned that much is not known about our Philippine native trees and it doesn’t help that there’s not enough protection ordinance and there are limited propagation technology and limited cooperation for the protection of these Philippine native tree species.”

BGCI Secretary-General Paul Smith expressed his gratitude to EDC for the fruitful collaboration: “BGCI is delighted to be working with you and building on an already fruitful partnership. But we have a big job to do. We aim to persuade the government to use the regulatory levers and their incentives at their disposal to protect and restore what is left. Wherever possible, we hope to persuade investors and financiers of greening programs to use their capital to protect and restore old-growth forests. And for conservation organizations and civil society, let us leave the industrial forestry model to the forester.”

“If we want to succeed, we really cannot do this alone, the task is too huge for any one entity. So with all humility, we are actually aggressively partnering as many with as many entities and individuals as we can throughout the country,” added Tantoco.



Lopez Group Foundation Inc. Executive Director Mercedes Lopez Vargas also attended the virtual signing of the agreement. She recalled the passion and “extraordinary love” for trees of her father, EDC Chairman Emeritus Oscar M. Lopez, that gave birth to EDC’s flagship environment program BINHI. “He has always felt deeply about this mission and is the happiest walking and tracking through forests and nature trails that allow him to interact and gain more knowledge about the ecosystems,” she said.

Over 6 million trees have been planted and nearly 10,000 hectares of land have been reforested with the help of 88 farmer associations under the BINHI program. Additionally, 187 partnerships have produced 15 arboreta, and seven more are expected to be established. Four vegetative material reproduction (VMR) nurseries have also been established in different locations in Negros Island, Antipolo City and Mt. Apo in Davao.

Source: <http://pageone.ph/bgci-extends-partnership-with-edc-to-assess-save-670-more-trees-species/>



No jobs on a dead planet

By [RENE E. OFRENEO](#)
APRIL 8, 2021



The International Trade Union Confederation (ITUC) summarized in one sentence the ultimate outcome of an unmitigated warming of Planet Earth: There are no jobs on a dead planet.

Climate scientists gathered by the UN Environmental Programme (UNEP) agree that should there be no decisive efforts of mankind to limit the rise in the global temperature to less than 2.0 degrees Celsius, Planet Earth will be dead within a century or less. Parts of the planet will be uninhabitable, and the other parts inhospitable. This, in brief, is what the five major reports of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) of the UN, summarized in a 2014 *Synthesis Report*, have been saying: end of human life within a century unless governments around the world get united in decisively implementing the needed mitigation and adaptation programs outlined in the 2015 Paris Agreement.

As it is, the Internet is full of climate-related doomsday stories. Scary but they happen to be backed up by climate science. Climate scientists themselves keep on projecting the different catastrophic scenarios. Example: sea rise, which has been happening gradually, can soar up by as much as three meters. Asian mega cities like Metro Manila, Singapore, Penang, Jakarta, Bangkok, Ho Chi Minh, Hong Kong, Shanghai, Tokyo, Mumbai, Chennai, Chittagong and Dhaka shall live in a watery world. The accelerated sea rise is bound to happen, partly due to the melting of the gigantic permafrosts in the Arctic and Antarctic poles. In turn, the melting of the permafrosts can release huge amount of frozen methane (now considered by climate scientists as more potent than carbon dioxide as a heat trapper). Hence, the melting of the permafrosts and ice caps around the world is bound to intensify further the global warming process.

And what happens to communities in the dry lands? They will be wiped out by killer heat waves, unbreathable air, droughts, collapse of agriculture, famine, etc. End of the world, indeed?

All these grim scenarios have captured the imagination of the climate scientists and the climate social activists, who are all working hard in pushing governments and international development agencies to exert extra efforts to save the world from a climate catastrophe. The problem is that for many among the workers and ordinary citizens in different Asian countries, the climate crisis is seen as only one among the "future" threats that Asian governments have to address. It is not comparable to the Covid infection or job displacement arising from the pandemic, both of which require immediate attention and action. Hence, Asian workers' movements—trade and peasant unions, street vendor and home-based workers organizations, transport associations, cooperatives, etc.—hardly submit any formal petitions for their governments to act now, that is, to fulfill the mitigation-adaptation pledges they have made under the Paris Agreement of 2015. Act now to prevent a catastrophic future.

So how can the climate change mitigation-adaptation program be transformed into a mainstream must-do advocacy work for the workers' movements? And how can they involve in this battle the solo, micro and small entrepreneurs that are equally affected by the climate crisis?

One good approach is to highlight the fact that the climate crisis has been happening in the present tense, and the jobs have been collapsing—now—in various sectors of the economy due to this crisis. The point is that global warming is not a new phenomenon. It has been building up since the start of the industrial era. The problem is that the accumulation of the greenhouse gases in the atmosphere and the consequent warming of the Earth are now at a perilous level. The disruptive and deadly impact of climate change is already being manifested in the heat waves, droughts, strong typhoons, warmer days and rising seas occurring around the world.



The most concrete evidence of the risks associated with climate change is the increasing number and destructive power of typhoons or cyclones visiting a number of Asian countries. Supertyphoon Nargis in Myanmar in 2008 alone killed over 130,000 people. The Philippines, which averages 20 typhoons a year, was devastated in 2013 by Haiyan (Yolanda), with a super 5 category. Yolanda killed over 10,000 people in one city, Tacloban, and wrought havoc on half of the archipelago.

As outlined in the IPCC's 2014 Synthesis Report, the following CC-related phenomena are already affecting people's health and livelihoods around the world:

Heat waves/warm spells—wild fires, reduced agricultural yields, increased water demand, deteriorating quality of water, health problems (especially for the elderly), reduced quality of life;

Droughts—land degradation, lower yields, crop failure, livestock deaths, more water stress, food and water shortage, water-and-food-borne diseases, water shortage in communities; and

Sea rise—salinization of irrigation water, reduced fresh-water availability, risks associated with increased flooding, reduced coastal protection.

On the climate crisis in Asia, the Asian Development Bank (ADB) came out with a detailed discussion of climate risks facing the region in the book *A Region at Risk: The Human Dimensions of Climate Change in Asia and the Pacific* (2017). The book highlighted the following:

Vulnerability of urban areas—Half of the population of Asia-Pacific are now in the cities and urbanized towns. Soaring urban temperatures put people at risk to various problems: deteriorating air quality, respiratory diseases, increased electricity demand, and rising human heat stress. In addition, there are the problems associated with sea rise for the coastal cities.

Forced migration—Families have been moving out of places vulnerable to typhoons such as the coastal areas. Similarly, families have been moving out of mountainous and agricultural lands that are suffering from droughts. They are climate refugees in every sense of the term. Relatedly, the decision of the more capable members of poor families to accept menial and low-paying jobs overseas can be interpreted as a response to job and income displacement due to climate disasters.

Impact on human health—Climate change naturally affects human health. The World Health Organization has been investigating the climate impacts on health such as diarrheal diseases, stunting among children, heat-related mortality among the elderly and rise of vector-borne diseases such as malaria and dengue. On diarrhea, the experience of Pakistan in 2010, after a record-breaking flood affected 20 million people and caused 1,800 fatalities, indicates that the floods triggered the outbreak of diarrhea and other diseases, especially among the children. Of course, heat waves are also major killers. In 2015 in India, with ambient temperature reaching 48 degree Celsius for several days, more than 2,300 people died due to heat stroke and dehydration.

The ADB also pointed out that Asia's global value chain production, the internationalized system of industrial production involving a chain of factories located in different Asian countries, is at risk, especially when there are climate disasters in one or several GVC locations.

One can go on and on listing the adverse impact of global warming on jobs, health and overall wellness of the working people of every society. The challenge is how should the workers' movements, representing the working people, act on a climate emergency that is killing jobs?

Dr. Rene E. Ofreneo is a Professor Emeritus of University of the Philippines.

For comments, please write to reneofreneo@gmail.com.

Source: <https://businessmirror.com.ph/2021/04/08/no-jobs-on-a-dead-planet/>



Eco warriors

posted April 07, 2021 at 10:58 pm



Team Mandaragat members maintain the cleanliness of the area around the Manila Yacht Club on Roxas Boulevard.



Oil spill affects fisherfolk in Misamis Oriental

By Cris Diaz

April 8, 2021

JASAAN, Misamis Oriental: The local government unit of Lower Jasaan, a coastal village east of Misamis Oriental, stopped all fishing activities in the area as massive cleanup of an oil spill from a sunken vessel there continues.

Village chief Sabas Tagarda Jr. on Wednesday said that about 100 fishermen in the town's five coastal villages were affected by the oil spill when a cargo vessel, MV Rakal, sank due to gaping holes in the container's main hull.

He said that the local government unit (LGU) of Lower Jasaan distributed rice assistance to fisherfolk living along the coastlines while some were hired to assist in the massive cleanup.

Tagarda said authorities led the rehabilitation, which initially produced 21 barrels of oil-contaminated sea water. The oil spill covered 70 percent of the eight-hectare coastline, mostly planted with mangroves.

He said the owner of the vessel, a certain Dr. Lord Salvaña, of Bukidnon, was willing to compensate the LGU of the losses incurred due to the oil spill.

The cargo vessel had been docked at a local shipyard for five years before it sank on Sunday.

Department of Environment and Natural Resources in Northern Mindanao Regional Director Reynaldo Degamo said the first offense of oil spill is fined P10,000. The owner of the vessel could also face charges of violating Republic Act 9275 or the Clean Water Act.



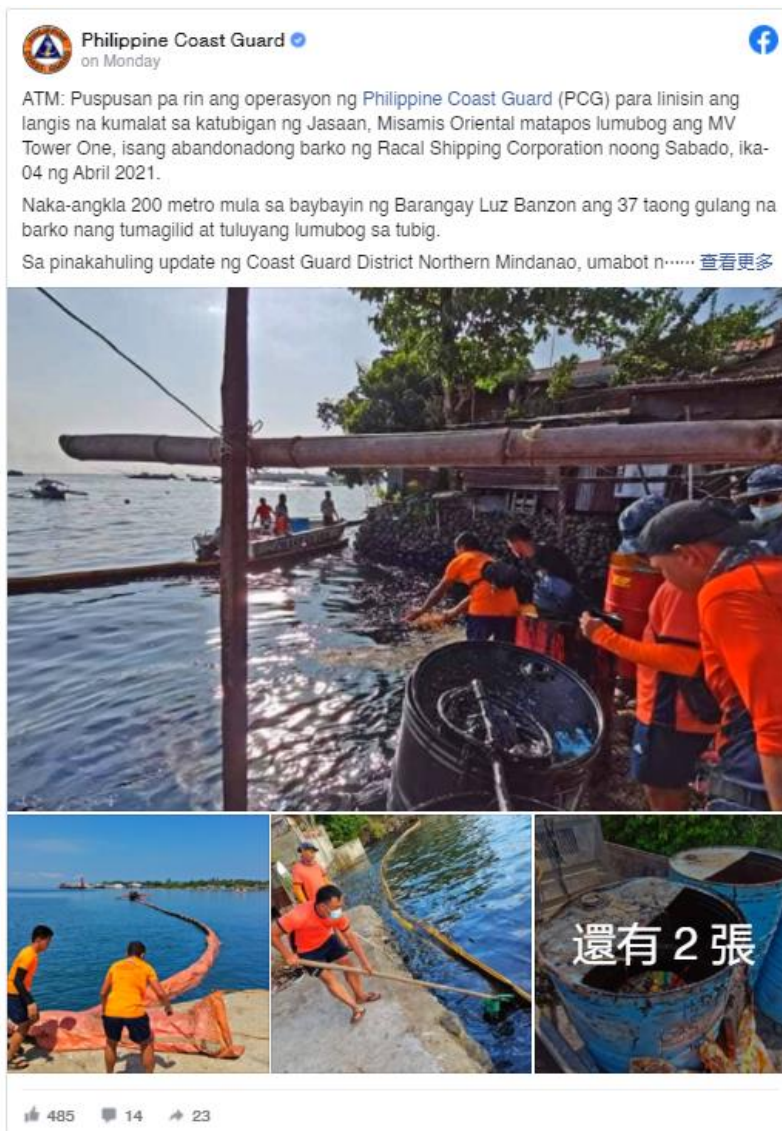
Abandoned ship that sank off Misamis Or. causes oil spill – PCG

Published April 7, 2021, 1:18 PM

by [Richa Noriega](#)

An abandoned ship that sank last week caused an oil spill along the coast of Jasaan, Misamis Oriental, the Philippine Coast Guard (PCG) reported on Tuesday, April 6.

In a statement, the PCG said the Racal Shipping Corporation’s MV Tower One was anchored 200 meters off the coast of Barangay Luz Banzon, Jasaan, Misamis Oriental when it capsized and sank.



In the latest report from the Coast Guard District Northern Mindanao, they collected at least 21 drums of oil 21 drums of “oily water mixture” and 30 sacks of “oily debris.”

“Sa pinakahuling update ng Coast Guard District Northern Mindanao, umabot na sa 21 drum ng ‘oily water mixture’ at 30 sako ng ‘oily debris’ ang na-recover sa katubigan ng Barangay Luz Banzon (In the latest update of the Coast Guard District Northern Mindanao, up to 21 drums of ‘oily water mixture’ and 30 sacks of ‘oily debris’ have been recovered in the waters of Barangay Luz Banzon),” the PCG said. The cleanup operations are still ongoing, as of writing.

Source: <https://mb.com.ph/2021/04/07/abandoned-ship-that-sank-off-misamis-or-causes-oil-spill-pcg/>



The ‘smoking gun’ at the bottom of the ocean

By [The Manila Times](#) April 8, 2021

ON March 23, Filipino oceanographer Deo Florence Onda and American explorer Victor Vescovo made a remarkable journey to the Emden Deep, the deepest spot in the Philippine Trench east of Mindanao. The event was historic in the sense that it was the first manned mission to the third deepest ocean depth on Earth and that it appropriately was made by a Filipino scientist as the Emden Deep is also the deepest point in Philippine waters.

The 10,045-meter descent aboard a deep-sea submersible called the DSV Limiting Factor took Onda and Vescovo about four hours, and while they could not know for sure what they would see at a place never before visited by man, they certainly did not expect to see what they found: trash, and apparently a lot of it.

Interviewed by local media, Onda and Vescovo said that they discovered a surprising amount of garbage at the bottom of the trench, including plastic bags, food packaging and even discarded clothing. Vescovo, who has dived to the deepest points in all four oceans and the Mediterranean Sea, told reporters that except for the latter, the concentration of trash in the Emden Deep was the most he'd ever seen.

Onda, who is an associate professor at the University of the Philippines' Marine Science Institute, explained that the trash was remarkably well-preserved, due to the cold temperature, absence of light and lack of oxygen of extreme ocean depths.

Onda told interviewers that the trash might have come from coastal communities in Mindanao, been dropped by passing ships, or carried to the bottom of the trench by currents from as far away as Hawaii or other Pacific islands.

The discovery of human garbage in one of the most inaccessible places on the planet is both enlightening and deeply disturbing. In one sense, it is a “smoking gun”: stark, undeniable evidence of Man's impact on the environment, and a refutation of baseless assertions that other human-caused environmental effects, such as global warming, are in any way debatable.

The best ways to manage our impact on the environment and adapt to a changing climate can certainly be questioned and discussed. But if the casual debris of our human society can find its way to places we cannot even reach without the use of extremely sophisticated technology, there can no longer be any doubt that our effect on the world around us is profound — and profoundly harmful.

We would like to think that, despite the visible evidence of our ongoing struggle to control land, water and air pollution, most people here in the Philippines are aware of the need to minimize environmental harm and are receptive to being educated about it. The country is often identified as being one of the most “climate-vulnerable” in the entire world, and most people seem to accept that, even if many do not understand what they can do to contribute to environmental sustainability and climate adaptation. Although policy and programs have been understandably hampered by the ongoing Covid-19 pandemic, the Duterte administration has been admirably proactive in many ways in promoting and pursuing environmental management.

There is, however, still much work to be done, which is why Dr. Onda's landmark voyage to the bottom of sea and his startling discovery there may have come at an ideal time. It may be difficult now to look beyond the immediate challenges of the pandemic, but that crisis will inevitably end, and give the country the opportunity to begin rebuilding. We should use that opportunity improve systems such as solid waste management, management of watershed and coastal resources, and clean transport and energy infrastructure.



We also hope that Dr. Onda's adventure would encourage greater interest and support for scientific research, both among Filipinos and among the rest of the world's research community. We are blessed to live in one of the most ecologically diverse and unique countries in the world, and the lessons that can be learned here can be a benefit to all of mankind.



Ban single-use plastics in food packaging, group tells government

By [JONATHAN L. MAYUGA](#)

APRIL 8, 2021

Saying diseases borne out of toxic chemicals in most food packaging is another pandemic waiting to happen, environmental and health groups on Wednesday reiterated the call to ban single-use plastics, especially those in food packaging.

At an online webinar and news briefing, leaders of the Global Alliance for Incinerator Alternatives (GAIA) Asia Pacific, together with #breakfreefromplastic, Greeners Actions (Hong Kong), Health Care Without Harm-Southeast Asia, and UPSTREAM warn the public against what they described as false industry narrative that single-use plastics prevent virus transmission.

Among others, they are calling to make alternatives to single-use plastics available by providing incentives to refilling stations and Zero Waste stores, put in place guidelines on toxic-free packaging to include elimination of chemicals in food packaging; and schedule the phase out for sachet use to be included in single-use plastics ban.

Finally, they are also calling to promote the development of community-driven livelihood projects for alternative natural and local materials.

The online event was held in time for the celebration of the World Health Day on April 7.

“The dramatic rise in the use of single-use plastics in food service during the pandemic has been fueled by a false industry narrative that single-use plastics prevent virus transmission,” Miriam Gordon, UPSTREAM policy director said.

The event is part of The Unwrapped Project: Exposing the health risks of plastics + food packaging chemicals.

“Covid-19 research demonstrates the virus is transmitted from aerosolized droplets not by touching contaminated surfaces and the idea that plastic packaging makes us safer lacks any scientific basis,” she said.

While single use plastics are being marketed as the safer option, The Unwrapped Project revealed that there are in fact over 4,000 chemicals present in plastic packaging and many are known to be hazardous to human health.

The groups cited test samples from 19 locations worldwide, wherein 93 percent of the bottled water samples contained micro-plastics with an average of 10.4 plastic particles per liter.

Source: <https://businessmirror.com.ph/2021/04/08/ban-single-use-plastics-in-food-packaging-group-tells-government/>



Dangers of 'Forever Chemicals' bared, measures to protect human health from such substances pressed

By EcoWaste Coalition Published on April 7, 2021

QUEZON CITY, Apr. 7 -- An online gathering of over 100 people held in observance of the World Health Day today highlighted the dangers posed by a family of highly persistent chemicals dubbed as "forever chemicals" and the urgent need to protect the people and the environment from these synthetic substances.

Organized by the EcoWaste Coalition and the International Pollutants Elimination Network (IPEN), the "D-Tox Webinar on Forever Chemicals" turned the spotlight on the hazards of PFAS (the acronym for per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances), a group of over 5,000 chemicals that has earned the moniker "forever chemicals" because they don't break down easily and can stay in the environment indefinitely, build up in human bodies over time and bring about adverse health outcomes.

Resource persons Pamela Miller (Co-Chair of IPEN and Executive Director of the Alaska Community Action on Toxics) and Jeff Gearhart (Research Director of Healthy Stuff Lab and Ecology Center) led the discussion on PFAS and recommended actions to control and prevent exposure to these persistent chemicals.

"For more than 70 years, chemical corporations such as Dupont and 3M have contaminated the world and our bodies with dangerous PFAS substances. These chemicals are harmful to our health at exceptionally low exposure levels. We must take collective action to hold chemical manufacturers accountable and ban PFAS as a class to prevent further harm to our environment and health," said Miller.

"We know the hazards that are inherent to many PFAS chemicals, although there are 1,000's of PFAS chemicals which are poorly studied," Gearhart pointed out. "As a result, for many product applications, we don't even know the identity of the specific chemicals being used until they start showing up in our food, our bodies, our water, and environment. We encourage manufacturers to eliminate and find safer substitutes for PFAS in their products"

PFAS are known for their grease- and water-resistant properties and are used in numerous products, including non-stick cookware, greaseproof food packaging, water repellent clothing, stainproof carpets and upholstery, fire fighting foams, polishes and waxes, paints, coatings and sealants, personal care and cosmetic products, etc.

Humans are exposed to PFAS by drinking PFAS-contaminated water, eating food crops grown on PFAS-contaminated soil, cooked in PFAS-laden cookware or packaged in a PFAS-containing disposable packaging material, consuming fish caught from PFAS-contaminated water, inhaling air and dust particles polluted with PFAS, and skin absorption from cleaning and cosmetic products containing PFAS.

Adverse health effects associated with exposure to PFAS include pregnancy-induced hypertension, immune suppression, liver and kidney damage, increased cholesterol, increased risk of thyroid disease, increased risk of asthma, decreased fertility, decreased birth weight and decreased antibody response to vaccines.



"People who are exposed to PFAS may be more vulnerable to COVID-19 and its complications," Miller said, adding that "PFAS can harm the immune system and lower our resistance to infectious diseases. Studies show that PFAS exposure can lower antibody response to vaccines such as tetanus, diphtheria, flu, and rubella."

To avoid PFAS, exposure, the public is encouraged to:

- Avoid non-stick pans and kitchen utensils, and use stainless steel or cast iron instead.
- Be wary of fabrics labeled stain- or water-repellant.
- Minimize greasy fast foods—these foods often come in PFAS-treated containers.
- Avoid microwaveable popcorn and pop corn the old-fashioned way—on the stovetop.
- Choose personal care products without "PTFE" or "fluoro" ingredients.
- Find products that haven't been pre-treated and skip optional stain-repellant treatments on new carpets and furniture.

To prevent further use of PFAS chemicals and their eventual release into the environment, the following actions are likewise recommended.

- Ban PFAS as a class, including use of PFAS chemicals in firefighting foam, food packaging, textiles, and other non-essential products.
- Require that industry disclose PFAS content in products and provide clear warning labels.
- Establish health-protective drinking water standards and ensure that contaminated communities are provided with safe sources of drinking water.
- Require environmental and human biomonitoring of PFAS chemicals to prevent chronic and acute exposures.
- Hold manufacturers financially responsible for cleaning up PFAS pollution and the harm it caused communities.

"As PFAS are poorly regulated in most countries, we urge the governments to take a more proactive approach to control and phase out these highly persistent substances. Actions that will prevent and reduce the harmful impacts of PFAS on human health and the ecosystems will contribute to the achievement of sustainable development and a toxics-free future for all," said Chinkie Peliño-Golle, IPEN Regional Coordinator for Southeast and East Asia based in the Philippines. (EcoWaste Coalition)



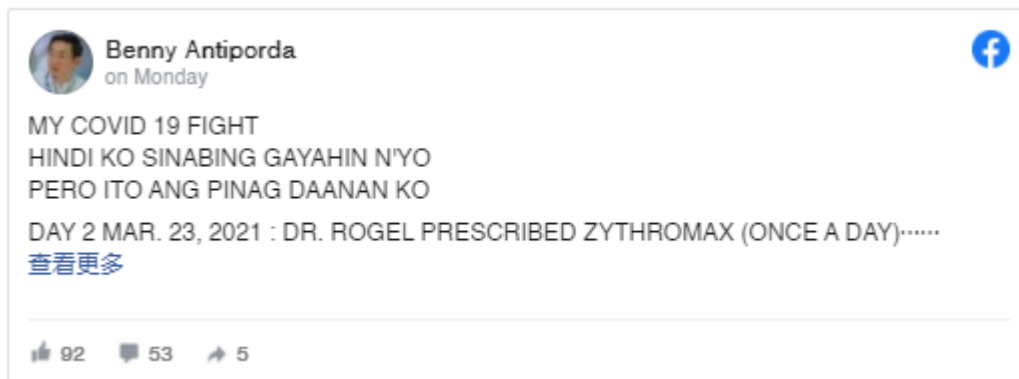
DENR Usec. Antiporda bares COVID ordeal on Facebook

Published April 6, 2021, 1:35 PM

by [Ellson Quismorio](#)

Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) Usec. Benny D. Antiporda revealed on Facebook Tuesday, April 6 his episode with the dreaded coronavirus disease (COVID-19)

Based on his post, Antiporda tested positive for COVID-19 via antigen test over two weeks ago.



He said his symptoms first manifested on March 22 after he lost his voice and had itchiness in his throat. He immediately took the test, he said.

Fortunately, all of his housemates turned out negative for the virus during their respective antigen tests.

As a precautionary step, Antiporda said he practiced “immediate self isolation, hiwalay kagad lahat ng gamit to avoid contamination (I moved away from all belongings to avoid contaminating them).”

He didn't mention in his post if he had undergone a re-test, although it had already been over 14 days since he caught the virus.

His post has since been filled with comments from friends and followers who wished him a speedy recovery.

Antiporda—the face of DENR's fight against plastic pollution—serves as the undersecretary for Solid Waste Management and LGU Concerns and alternate chairman of the National Solid Waste Management Commission (NSWMC).



Hospital room ipinaubaya ni DENR Usec. Antiporda sa may sakit na senior citizen



April 6, 2021 @ 7:55 PM 2 days ago

MANILA, Philippines – Mas minabuti ni Department of Environment and Natural Resources Undersecretary Benny Antiporda na sa bahay na lang magpagaling para makatulong sa ibang positibo sa coronavirus disease 2019 na higit na nangangailangan ng pagkalinga sa mga ospital.

Ito ang naging tugon ni Usec. Antiporda bunsod ng mga negatibong komento sa kanyang post sa social media hinggil sa kanyang pagpapagamot sa kanilang tahanan.

Ayon kay Antiporda, maaari naman siyang magpaospital subalit dahil umaapaw na sa mga pasyenteng may COVID-19 ang ilang ospital, ibinigay na lang niya ang ipagagamit sanang kwarto sa kanya sa ina ng isang kapatid sa media na senior citizen na at may malubhang kalagayan.

Sa rami umano ng kanyang kaibigan at taong natulungan niya, natitiyak niyang hindi siya mapahihindian at patunay rito ang inialok sa kanyang silid sa isang ospital na ipinaubaya na lang niya sa higit na nangangailangan.

“Mas minarapat po naming mag-asawa na sa bahay na lamang kami makikipagsapalaran, may-awa ang Diyos!” dagdag pa niya.

Matatandaang nag-post si Usec. Antiporda na Marso 22, 2021 nang makaramdam siya ng pagkapaos at pangangati ng lalamunan kaya agad siyang nagpasailalim sa antigen test kung saan siya nagpositibo.

Ipinasuri rin niya ang kanyang pamilya at negatibo naman ang mga ito kaya agad siyang nag-self isolate at hiniwalay rin ang lahat ng gamit niya para makaiwas sa kontaminasyon.

Napuno naman ng komento ng kanyang mga kaibigan na humihiling ng kanyang paggaling ang mga post ni Antiporda na ikinwento ang kanyang naging karanasan sa pagkakaroon ng COVID-19. RNT

Source: <https://www.remate.ph/hospital-room-ipinaubaya-ni-denr-usec-antiporda-sa-may-sakit-na-senior-citizen/>



DENR USEC BENNY, PATULOY ANG MALASAKIT KAHIT NAGKA-COVID



April 8, 2021 @ 12:36 AM 7 hours ago

SADYANG nasa dugo na ni Department of Environment and Natural Resources Undersecretary Benny Antiporda ang tunay na pagmamahal at pagmamalasakit sa kapwa.

Sa kabila ng iniindang karamdaman dala ng coronavirus disease 2019, nagawa pa nitong tumulong at magparaya para sa mga nangangailangan.

Sa kanyang post kamakailan lang sa kanyang Facebook account, sinabi niya na may nakalaan nang kwarto na maaaring ipagamit ang isang ospital para sa kanyang pagpapagaling.

At dahil nanaig pa rin ang pagiging public servant ni Usec. Benny, sa halip na gamitin ang impluwensya upang maging maayos ang gamutan, mas minabuti niyang magparaya na lang para sa ina ng isang kasamahan sa media na mayroong malubhang karamdaman.

Idol ka namin talaga, Boss, kaya hindi nakapagtataka kung bakit maraming nagmamahal sa'yo!

Kilala natin nang personal si Boss Benny kaya kabisado na natin ang kanyang damdamin at pag-uugali.

Sa matagal na panahon, hindi matatawaran ang kanyang mga naitulong sa publiko at pati na sa mga kasamahan at miyembro ng media.

Isang tao na may isang salita, may paninindigan at tapang.

Madaling lapitan at hingan ng tulong basta't sambitin lang ang mga totohanang karaingan.

Naiirita paminsan-minsan ang ating bida dahil ayaw na ayaw niyang naaantala ang pagresolba sa mga problema lalo na kung may kaugnayan ito sa mga maralitang pinanghihinaan.

Kasalukuyan siyang nasa bahay habang lumalaban sa virus.

Bilang mga kaibigan, atin siyang sasamahan sa pamamagitan ng pagdarasal, upang mas lalo siyang lumakas at gumaling.

Palagian natin siyang uusisain at aalalayan upang matunaw sa katawan niya ang salot na nakahahawa.



Gawin din natin ito sa iba pang tulad ni Usec. Benny na binabaka ang virus at nangangailangan ng malaking suporta at pagmamahal.

At para sa'yo, Boss Benny, tanggapin mo ang aming pagmamahal at pagmamalasakit para sa iyong kagalingan.

Saludo kami sa'yo Boss. At dahil

lagi ka naming kailangan, kaya... MABUHAY KA USEC BENNY ANTIPORDA.

∞ ∞ ∞

Philippians 2:4 "Everyone should look out not only for his own interests but also for the interests of others. "

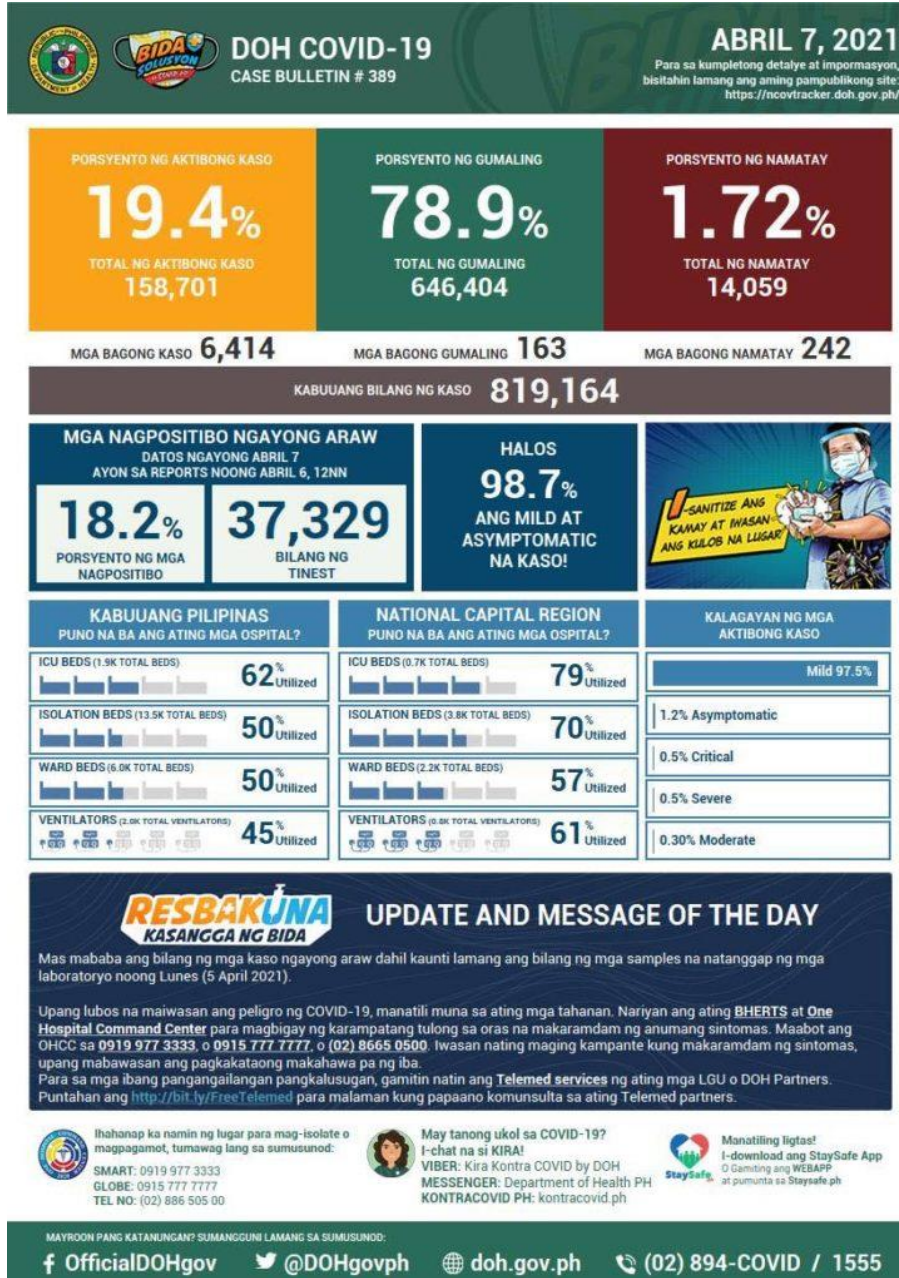
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Para sa inyong mga komento, suhestyon, sumbong o tanong kung papaano maging isang safety officer, mag-text sa +639455238284 o mag-email sa napule8@yahoo.com.



Kaso ng COVID 19 sa Pilipinas nadagdagan ng 6,414; 242 namatay

By Jan Escosio April 07, 2021 - 04:49 PM



Nasa 819,164 na ang naitatalang COVID 19 cases sa bansa.

Ito ay matapos ianunsiyo ng DOH na may nadagdag pang 6,414 bagong kaso ngayon araw.

Kasabay nito, may naitalang 163 na gumaling sa sakit, ngunit 242 naman ang namatay.

Sa kabuuang bilang ng mga naitalang kaso sa bansa, 19.4% (158,701) ang aktibong kaso, 78.9% (646,404) na ang gumaling, at 1.72% (14,059) ang namatay.

May 10 'duplicates' ang tinanggal sa kabuuang bilang at pito sa mga ito ay gumaling na.

May 133 kaso naman na napaulat na gumaling at lumabas na namatay pala matapos ang final validation.

Source: <https://radyo.inquirer.net/289003/kaso-ng-covid-19-sa-pilipinas-nadagdagan-ng-6414-242-namatay>



Residents of Batasan Hills in Quezon City line up to receive their financial assistance from the national government on April 7, 2021.

The STAR/Michael Varcas

Philippines sees 6,414 new COVID-19 cases

(Philstar.com) - April 7, 2021 - 4:05pm

MANILA, Philippines — **(Updated 4:13 p.m.)** The Philippines on Wednesday logged 6,414 new coronavirus cases, pushing its overall count to 819,164.

Health authorities said the relatively lower number of additional infections is due to the low number of samples received by laboratories on April 4.

Active cases also saw a 6,139 increase from yesterday's 152,562. The Department of Health, however, has yet to say if the significant increase in deaths are still due to backlogs.

- Active cases: 158,701 or 19.4% of the total
- Recoveries: 163, bringing the number to 646,404
- Deaths: 242, or now 14,059 in total

What's new today?

- A vaccine experts panel in the country recommended the use of China's Sinovac to senior citizens, despite the Food and Drug Administration earlier advising against it.
- The Department of Health warned that persons distributing the anti-parasitic drug [Ivermectin](#) as a COVID-19 treatment could be [violating the law](#).
- The chief of police in General Trias in Cavite has been [relieved](#). It came after the death of a supposed curfew violator who was told to do 300 rounds of pumping exercise.
- Still on this topic: Rights watchdog Amnesty International said the Duterte administration's [heavy-handed approach](#) to containing the virus resulted in many human rights violations.

Source: <https://www.philstar.com/headlines/2021/04/07/2089526/philippines-sees-6414-new-covid-19-cases>



With the pandemic not ending anytime soon and the country remaining at the mercy of limited vaccine supply globally, the government is considering the idea of attracting vaccine manufacturers to set up production in the country to sustain the vaccination drive.

Unsplash stock

Government prepares plan to produce vaccines

[Czeriza Valencia](#) (The Philippine Star) - April 8, 2021 - 12:00am

MANILA, Philippines — President Duterte has given the go-signal to the economic team to find ways to encourage the private sector to manufacture vaccines in the country, Budget Secretary Wendel Avisado said yesterday.

With the pandemic not ending anytime soon and the country remaining at the mercy of limited vaccine supply globally, the government is considering the idea of attracting vaccine manufacturers to set up production in the country to sustain the vaccination drive.

“The President has already given instructions for the concerned agencies to encourage our private sector to go into vaccine manufacturing,” Avisado said during the Kapihan sa Manila Bay forum yesterday.

“We also need to come up with our own initiative rather than just depending and relying on global supply,” he said.

Most of the shots that arrived in the country have so far been donations as the government has yet to receive the jabs it ordered.

“The virus is here to stay and therefore we must find ways to manufacture our own vaccines,” Avisado said.

Several members of the Cabinet, he said, met Tuesday night to discuss this initiative.

Present during the meeting were Science and Technology Secretary Fortunato De la Peña, Health Secretary Francisco Duque, vaccine czar Carlito Galvez, Trade Secretary Ramon Lopez, FDA director Eric Domingo among others.

“We were all in agreement that the best thing to do is to encourage our private sector partners to go into this activity. They have a ready market and the government will buy all their vaccines,” said Avisado.

The country used to have a history of manufacturing inoculations for some diseases.



In the 1930's, the Philippines had a vaccine and serum laboratory in Alabang that used to manufacture vaccines for tetanus, tuberculosis and anti-snake venom.

This was later on sold and repurposed into a mall in the latter part of the century.

Back in 1909, the former Bureau of Science offered vaccines for diseases like diphtheria, cholera, typhoid and dysentery.

The Department of Finance (DOF) earlier said the government had secured a budget of P82.5 billion for the procurement of vaccines as well as logistics requirements.

This comprises P58.4 billion (\$1.2 billion) from loans obtained from multilateral banks Asian Development Bank (ADB), World Bank (WB) and Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB); P2.5 billion allocation for the Department of Health under the 2021 national budget; P10 billion allocated for COVID-19 vaccine financing under the Bayanihan to Recover as One Act and the P11.6 billion sourced from savings and other official development assistance.



Davao Oriental inuga ng 5.1 magnitude lindol

Wednesday, April 7, 2021 | Jun I. Legaspi18

INUGA ng 5.1 magnitude na lindol ang Jose Abad Santos, Davao Oriental kahapon ng umaga, ayon sa Philippine Institute of Volcanology and Seismology (Phivolcs).

Ayon sa Phivolcs, nangyari ang lindol bandang 8:45 a.m. Tectonic ang origin at may lalim ito sa lupa ng 091 kilometers.

Naramdaman ang intensity 1 sa General Santos City, Koronodal, South Cotabato, Alabel at Kiamba, Sarangani, ayon sa agency.

Nagbabala ang Phivolcs na asahan ang pagkaroon ng mga aftershocks.

Wala namang naiulat na mga damage of property o anumang pinsala.



Renewable energy key to climate adaptation – UN

By Xinhua April 8, 2021

UNITED NATIONS: Support for climate adaptation in Africa is crucial, UN Secretary General Antonio Guterres said on Tuesday (Wednesday in Manila) in appealing for greater action to provide renewable energy to hundreds of millions who still lack access to reliable and affordable electricity.

“As the continent that has contributed least to the climate crisis, Africa deserves the strongest possible support and solidarity,” he told an online dialogue for leaders convened by the African Development Bank.

The top United Nations official warned that “adaptation must not be the neglected half of the climate equation.”

Although Africa has abundant and untapped renewable resources, it has received just 2 percent of global investment in renewable energy over the past decade, he reported.

Old models of development and energy use have failed to provide Africans with universal energy access, he said, meaning hundreds of millions of people still lack reliable and affordable electricity or are cooking with polluting and harmful fuels.

“We can provide universal access to energy in Africa primarily through renewable energy. I call for a comprehensive package of support to meet this objective ahead of COP26,” the secretary general said, referring to the United Nations climate change conference in November.

“It is achievable. It is necessary. It is overdue. And it is smart: climate action is a \$3-trillion investment opportunity in Africa by 2030,” he added.

However, Guterres pointed to “the major finance” gap blocking progress toward this goal. He urged developed countries to deliver on their 100-billion-dollar climate commitment made over a decade ago.

“Developed countries and main financiers must ensure a swift shift of the billions to support African green investments to increase resilience and to create the conditions for scaled-up private finance,” he said.

“And the private sector must step up and get organized to provide immediate, concrete solutions to governments. Local authorities can work with unions and community leaders on reskilling and social security nets.”

While African governments also can lead the way by committing to ambitious adaptation and mitigation plans, they first need to regain their fiscal autonomy, he said.



World Health Day: Investing in nature is investing in people's health

By ACB Published on April 7, 2021



Photo by Jose Raul D. Garbo, Jr.

LAGUNA, Apr. 7 -- The ASEAN Centre for Biodiversity (ACB) joins the global community in celebrating World Health Day today. The theme "Building a fairer, healthier world" is a fitting reminder that health is the foundation of economic recovery and prosperity, and achieving this would require appropriate investments in nature and biodiversity.

We have seen how the COVID-19 has exposed the frail relationship between humans and nature. The past year has challenged us to deepen our understanding of the critical role of natural ecosystems and biodiversity in human health. In the ASEAN region, the pandemic has claimed 58,589 lives as of 31 March 2021 with 2,827,782 confirmed cases since last year. Yet, the end seems not in sight with new waves of infections hitting some parts of the world and the threat of emerging new diseases looming.

This leads us to the question: Why is investing in nature tantamount to investing in people's health?

Biodiversity is of value to the far-reaching quest to ensure good health for all. Healthy biodiversity, which encompasses genetic, species, and ecosystem variety, remains crucial for humans' health and survival. It is a vital component, not only in building resilience from diseases, but also in narrowing health system gaps.

With biodiversity loss, humans are at great risk from the increasing wildlife and human interactions and spillover of infections. The latest Pandemics report of the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES) warns about how increased human-driven activities drive the risks of pandemics. The report identified unsustainable exploitation of the environment due to land-use change, agricultural expansion, trade, and consumption of wildlife and other drivers that disrupt natural interactions among wildlife and their microbes.

Protecting biodiversity, thus, means preventing diseases at the source.

Apart from curing and regulating diseases, natural ecosystems deliver essential services, such as food and clean water; without which life would be impossible. Non-communicable diseases are an outcome of the shrinking space and access to these essential services. In ASEAN, cardiovascular diseases, chronic respiratory problems, and diabetes are major causes of mortality. These are largely driven by the lack of equitable access to food and dietary diversity, safe environment, and active lifestyle. Thus it is vital that an enabling environment—one that ensures healthy ecosystems, as part of a holistic approach to human health and wellness.



As the ASEAN region is home to diverse species of medicinal plants, the recognition and promotion of traditional knowledge in governing and managing these resources emphasise the strong interconnection between human health and biodiversity. For example, *Senna alata*, or akapulko, a medicinal plant present in six ASEAN Member States, has anti-inflammatory, anti-bacterial, and anti-fungal properties, among others. Euphorbiaceae or prakplae in Cambodia, is used as a natural remedy for diabetes and indigestion. Apart from their medicinal and health benefits, these medicinal resources found in the wild also provide additional income and livelihood for many communities.

An integrated and whole-of-community approach is the most logical pathway in building a fairer, healthier world. Considering the inseparable relationship of culture, biodiversity, and public health, it is important to ensure that the needs and values of the people and communities are incorporated in the recovery efforts.

Guided by the ASEAN Comprehensive Recovery Framework, which was adopted by the ASEAN leaders in November 2020, the ACB and the AMS are working on realising a green and equitable recovery ambition by harmonising biodiversity and health policies, plans, and programmes. This is a key step in ACB's main thrusts of mainstreaming biodiversity across various sectors and the region's recovery efforts.

Allow me to stress that any form of investment in biodiversity and public health will never go down the drain. The real benefits of protecting ecosystems and their biodiversity are incalculable and can be enjoyed by one generation after another. Indeed, as we take care of nature we take good care of our health and well-being.

Happy World Health Day! (Dr. TMSLim/ACB)

08 APRIL 2021, THURSDAY



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