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Int'l Biodiversity Day 2021: Cimatu reaffirms value of unified solutions to restore nature

MAY 20, 2021, 5:10 PM

Santiago Celario Writer

Environment Secretary Roy Cimatu pointed out the critical need to protect biodiversity citing its countless functions that include air purification, food and water security, source of livelihood, nature recreation, and reducing the risk of emerging infectious diseases.

THE Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) renewed its call for unified efforts of every Filipino toward biodiversity protection and conservation despite the pandemic as the world celebrates the International Day for Biological Diversity (IDBD) on May 22 (Saturday).

With the global slogan, "We're part of the solution," the DENR underscored both individual and community actions, regardless of roles in society, as key to save the Philippines' threatened biodiversity.

"For many years, our country has been recognized as one of the mega biodiverse countries in the world. Our location in the Coral Triangle makes us a part of the global center of marine biodiversity, Environment Secretary Roy Cimatu said in a statement.

"But the Philippines is also one of the world's biodiversity hotspots with our vast resources and endemic species threatened by human activity and habitat loss," he added.

Cimatu pointed out the critical need to protect biodiversity citing its countless functions that include air purification, food and water security, source of livelihood, nature recreation, and reducing the risk of emerging infectious diseases.

"Biodiversity will be the foundation on which we can build back better once this pandemic is over," he said.

This, as the DENR-Biodiversity Management Bureau (DENR-BMB) has launched an online information campaign on key solutions to pressing environmental issues which the public can engage with and support.

"I urge everyone to live with less plastic to save our oceans from plastic pollution. Educate yourselves on wildlife laws and support the government's campaign against illegal wildlife collection and trade,"

Undersecretary for Special Concerns and DENR-BMB OIC Edilberto Leonardo said.

Leonardo also called on the public to help stop the illegal wildlife trade by reporting illegal pet keepers and traders to the DENR.



Activities

The DENR-BMB will hold a free virtual event on May 21, a day ahead of the official IDBD. The program will be aired at 10 a.m. via its official Facebook page.

DENR-BMB officials will deliver messages for the IDBD celebration including a lecture on urban biodiversity to promote collective efforts in greening our cities.

There will also be a talk on visual storytelling featuring conservation photography.

This will be followed by the announcement of the winners of the BiodiverCity photo contest, and a mini-talk show that will feature the winners.

Cash prizes await the ten (10) consolation and three (3) grand prize winners selected from the 44 shortlisted entries out of nearly 200 photo entries submitted.

The contest aims to showcase urban biodiversity or biodiversity that exists in urban areas, such as urban agriculture, cultural sites, green and blue spaces, and green infrastructure.

Urban biodiversity benefits communities through better health, mitigation of the effects of climate change, and nature recreation. (SC)

Tags: #DepartmentOfEnvironmentandNaturalResources, #biodiversity,
#InternationalBiodiversityDay

Source: <https://opinyon.net/national/int-l-biodiversity-day-2021-cimatu-reaffirms-value-of-unified-solutions-to-restore-nature#title>



Int'l Biodiversity Day 2021: DENR pinatutunayan ang halaga ng pinag-isang solusyon para maibalik ang kalikasan



May 20, 2021 @ 4:36 PM 13 hours ago

MANILA, Philippines – Bilang pagdiriwang ng mundo sa International Day for Biological Diversity (IDBD) sa Mayo 22, muling nanawagan ang Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) sa bawat Filipino na magkaroon ng sama-samang pagsisikap para sa biodiversity protection at conservation kahit na may pandemya.

Sa pamamagitan ng global slogan na “We’re part of the solution,” binigyan-diin ng DENR na ang mga kilos ng bawat indibidwal at komunidad, ano man ang papel sa lipunan, ang magiging susi upang mailigtas ang nanganganib na biodiversity ng Pilipinas.

“For many years, our country has been recognized as one of the mega biodiverse countries in the world. Our location in the Coral Triangle makes us a part of the global center of marine biodiversity. But the Philippines is also one of the world’s biodiversity hotspots with our vast resources and endemic species threatened by human activity and habitat loss,” sabi ni DENR Secretary Roy A. Cimatu.

Sa isang press release binigyang-diin ni Cimatu ang kahalagahan na maproteksiyunan ang biodiversity dahil na rin sa marami nitong tungkulin kabilang na ang air purification, food at water security, pinagkukunan ng kabuhayan, nature recreation, at pagbawas ng panganib ng umuusbong na infectious diseases.

“Biodiversity will be the foundation on which we can build back better once this pandemic is over,” aniya.

Bilang paghahanda sa nalalapit na IDBD, naglunsad ang DENR-Biodiversity Management Bureau (DENR-BMB) ng online information campaign kung paano mabibigyan ng solusyon ang mga pangunahing environmental issues kung saan ang publiko ay maaaring makilahok at magbigay ng suporta.

“I urge everyone to live with less plastic to save our oceans from plastic pollution. Educate yourselves on wildlife laws and support the government’s campaign against illegal wildlife collection and trade,” saad ni Undersecretary for Special Concerns and DENR-BMB OIC Edilberto D. Leonardo.

Kaugnay nito nanawagan din si Leonardo sa publiko na tumulong upang maihintang ang illegal wildlife trade sa pamamagitan ng pagbibigay ng impormasyon sa DENR kung saan matatagpuan ang illegal pet keepers at traders.



Magugunitang kamakailan nang maaresto ang illegal online wildlife trader ng umbrella cockatoos at palm cockatoos at sinampahan ito ng kasong paglabag sa Republic Act 9147 o ang Wildlife Resources Conservation and Protection Act.

Patuloy na nagbibigay babala si Cimatú sa publiko na mahigpit na nagbabantay ang DENR upang mapigilan ang online illegal wildlife trade.

Bilang pakikibahagi sa selebrasyon ng IDBD, magsasagawa ng libreng virtual event ang DENR-BMB sa Mayo 21, isang araw bago ang IDBD. Ang programa ay sisimulan dakong 10:00 ng umaga sa pamamagitan ng official Facebook page ng ahensiya. **Santi Celario**



MGB pushes for lifting of open-pit mining ban

[Catherine Talavera](#) (The Philippine Star) - May 21, 2021 - 12:00am

MANILA, Philippines — The Mines and Geosciences Bureau (MGB) is hoping for the lifting of the ban on open-pit mining as it can help boost the country's economic recovery.

In a text message to The STAR, MGB director Wilfredo Moncano said that open-pit mining is a globally accepted method of mining, with over 1,000 open pit mines all over the globe, and is one of the safest methods.

“Just like any human activity, there is no foolproof and accident-proof mining operation, but this can be mitigated mostly by the use of technology,” Moncano said.

Moncano described open-pit mining as a method of mining available if the geology of the minerals where it is naturally deposited is shallow-depth or near the surface.

“If it's a near-surface mineral deposit, it would be illogical, costly and unsafe to use underground method of mining because the rock formations near the surface are highly fractured, soft, and cannot support tunnels. It becomes unsafe and costly,” Moncano said.

He said that it is the geology of the minerals that determines what mining method to use.

“Aside from that, some of the priority projects that can help the Philippine economy recover are open pit mines. The Constitution and the Mining Act does not prohibit [open pit] mining. So, why not lift the ban,” Moncano said.

In 2017, former Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) Environment secretary Regina Lopez issued Department Administrative Order (DAO) 2017-10, which bans the open pit method for mining for copper, gold, silver, and complex ores in the country.

The MGB is eyeing to lift the ban on open pit mining through a provision repealing the order in the implementing rules and regulations (IRR) of Executive Order (EO) 130, which lifts the moratorium on new minerals agreements.



Funds unload, 4 days straight

The Philippine Stock Exchange index was down 48.07 points or 0.77 percent to close at 6,197.64, the lowest point in yesterday's trading which peaked at 6,253.02

Published 4 hours ago on May 21, 2021 02:30 AM

By [Chito Lozada](#) @tribunephil_cloz



Market index fell below the 6,200 resistance level as the barometer was dragged by SM, down 2.6 percent; SM Property Holdings, weaker by 2.7 percent and Universal Robina Corp, declining 2.3 percent. The three shares accounted for 52 points of total market decline.

Net foreign selling persisted for the fourth straight session with P580 million excluding block sales, while value turnover amounted to P5.1 billion, according to AB Capital Securities Inc. On the upside, traders are also anticipating the Department of Environment and Natural Resources' (DENR) release of the implementing rules and regulations (IRR) on the lifting of the ban on open-pit mining.

DA Market Securities said lifting of the ban would bring in new mining deals and bigger revenues for the government.

The Philippine Stock Exchange index (PSEi) was down 48.07 points or 0.77 percent to close at 6,197.64, the lowest point in yesterday's trading which peaked at 6,253.02. Traded were 88,609 shares valued at P5.066 billion.

Asian markets were mixed and which traders said were affected by the minutes showing some US Federal Reserve officials contemplating a wind-down of its vast monetary easing measures, while optimism remained buoyed by the outlook for the economic recovery.

Bitcoin stabilized somewhat after Wednesday's wild gyrations that saw it collapse almost a third in one day before recovering most of its losses.

Nowhere but up

Global equities have soared after hitting their pandemic nadir in March last year, thanks to central bank largesse and mind-boggling government spending measures, with recent gains also helped by the rollout of vaccines and easing of lockdown measures.

But investors have for months grown increasingly concerned that the blockbuster bounceback expected in the world economy will fan inflation as the stimulus mixes with cashed-up consumers who have been unable to spend finally being let loose.



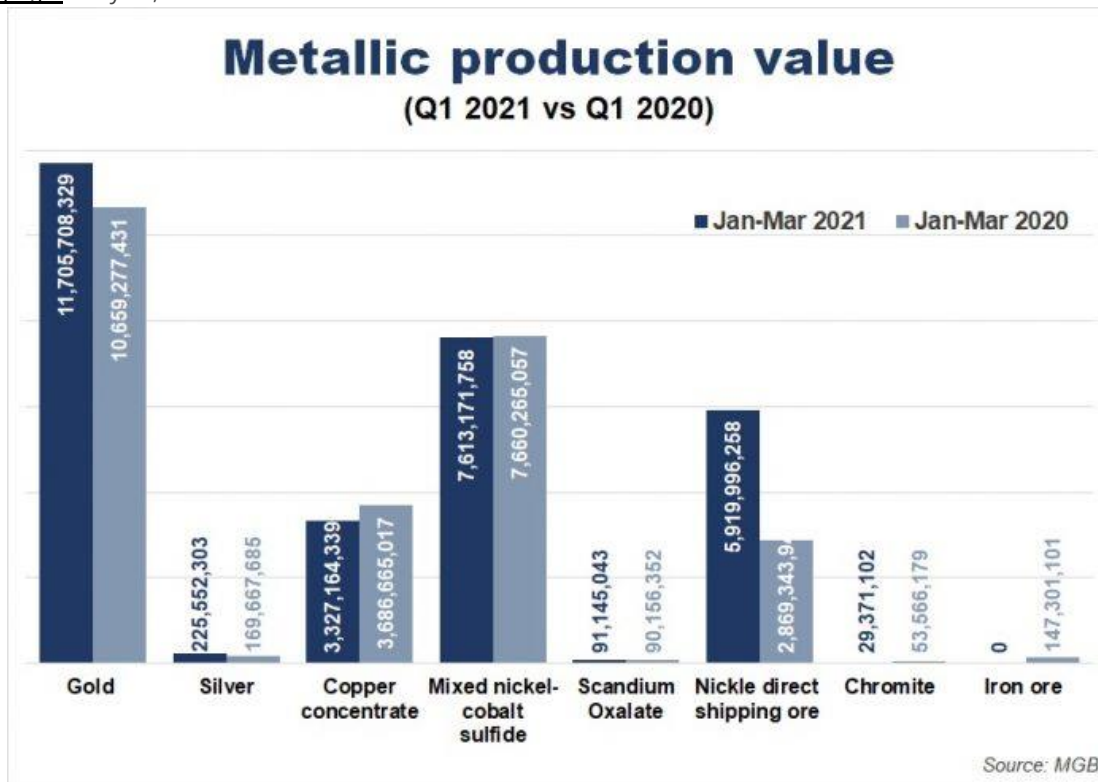
Data suggests those fears are coming true as recent inflation readings in several countries beat forecasts, with supply shortages and a low base effect from last year compounded by companies hiking wages to attract workers.

The Fed has repeatedly insisted that it sees the upward pressures as transitory and that prices will stabilize next year, adding that it will maintain its ultra-easy policies and record low interest rates until unemployment has been tamed and inflation is running consistently hot.



Metallic mine value up 14% in Q1

By [Jed Macapagal](#) - May 21, 2021



The Philippines' metallic mineral production value grew by 14.11 percent in the first quarter of the year to P28.91 billion from P25.34 billion attributed to higher metal prices.

In a report, the Mines and Geosciences Bureau (MGB) said the average price of gold for the period went up by 14 percent to \$1,801.86 per troy ounce from \$1,584.87 per troy ounce while metal prices surged by 55 percent to an average of \$26.29 per troy ounce from \$17.00 per troy ounce.

The three-month averages for copper and nickel also grew by 50 percent and 38 percent, respectively. Copper went up from \$5,651.25 to \$8,478.58 per ton while nickel rose from \$12,739.72 to \$17,625.46 per ton.

The collective output of nickel ore and other nickel by-products contributed 47.12 percent or P13.62 billion to total production value followed by gold, 40.49 percent or P11.71 billion; copper, 11.51 percent or P3.33 billion and the consolidated value of silver, chromite and iron ore accounted for less than 1 percent or P250 million.

Nickel ore continued to enjoy upbeat prices and posted significant advances both in volume and value by 48 percent and 106 percent, respectively, from 2,406,973 dry metric tons (dmt) with an estimated value of P2.87 billion to 3,570,374 dmt with an estimated value of P5.92 billion.

Mixed nickel-cobalt sulfide production volume and value were down by 10 percent and 1 percent, respectively, from 22,493 dmt with an estimated value of P7.66 billion to 20,239 dmt with an estimated value of P7.61 billion.

Gold production volume and value went up by 3 percent and 10 percent, respectively from 4,098 kg valued at P10.66 billion to 4,212 kg valued at P11.71 billion but silver suffered a 12 percent deficit in volume from 6,335 kg to 5,603 kg while enjoying a 33 percent increase in value from P169.67 million to P225.55 million.



Copper production volume and value declined by 33 percent and 10 percent, respectively to 44,050 dmt with an estimated value of P3.33 billion from 65,538 dmt with an estimated value of P3.69 billion.

The MGB said mineral analysts are optimistic that the favorable metal price will be sustained especially with China's stable appetite for copper and nickel to support its stainless and electric vehicle battery supply industries.

But the agency warned of disruptions in mining production worldwide due to forced lockdowns and slashed operating hours still loom which can further tighten metal prices.



Stop mining

By: [Peter Wallace](#) - [@inquirerdotnet](#)

[Philippine Daily Inquirer](#) / 05:06 AM May 20, 2021

I agree with those who oppose mining; it's not good for the environment. But we have a choice: We can ban mining, or accept it in a responsible manner.

If we ban it, we go back to the land of the Luddites. A simple life with no modern conveniences. No metal pot to cook our rice in, or gold for our wedding rings. Just stone axes and ceramic pots. Forget the cars and TVs, a horse-drawn carriage with wooden wheels is what you'll travel in.

And in a land that's 80-percent Roman Catholic, don't tell me "Let someone else do it." Are you going to destroy someone else's environment so you can enjoy the fruits of their labors? That's about as unchristian as you can get.

So, if we want the modern world we so much enjoy, we must accept that our lives are intertwined with mining, and the metals it produces. And don't forget the limestone for the cement for our houses, that's mining, too.

The oppositors have a valid point: Mining has destroyed some areas of our land. But it was not mining per se, it was destructive, irresponsible, illegal mining. The responsible companies look after the land. They have no choice — both our laws and society in general require it, and anti-mining groups are always looking over their shoulders to ensure they do. That's the real role the oppositionists should play—ensure miners do the least possible damage and put the land back into an environmentally friendly condition when the metal runs out. As it will, mines have a fixed life. When all the metals are gone, the mine ends.

In the meantime, ban the small irresponsible miners. They are not good for the environment. They couldn't care less about the damage they do or the rivers they pollute. They force children to scabble or squeeze underground. We need far better policing for those whose greed exceeds their social responsibility, something Philippine governments have done a lousy job of in the past. Unscrupulous, corrupt local officials have abetted their destructive ways.

That's where Alyansa Tigil Mina (ATM-Stop Mining Alliance) can come in. Expose irresponsible miners. Take videos (that's what your smartphone is for) and release them to the media. Invite the media to visit. Write to the big guys in government; they just might read them if there's enough public pressure. I have always wondered why ATM does not talk about illegal mining, which is the real concern. They know how to get public attention to your cause. They should use it to change the message. Not "ban mining," but "mine responsibly."

Maybe I'm pipe-dreaming, maybe corruption can't be stopped (and that's at the heart of illegal and destructive mining). But isn't that defeatist? The land where I was born stopped destructive mining and corrupt practices. It passed laws that jailed corrupt officials. The Western world has done the same.

Are we to say "Ah, but we Filipinos are different, we're corrupt by nature. It can't be stopped"? Because that's the incredible message you'll be sending to the world if you don't step up and fight. It might take a generation or two to wipe out corruption, but I believe it can be done, if enough have the courage to act.



I'd hate to think my adopted country will just lie down and allow itself to be raped by corruption. What a defeatist attitude.

Proverbs 15:27 says: "The greedy bring ruin to their households, but the one who hates bribes will live." Deuteronomy 16:19 also says: "Do not pervert justice or show partiality. Do not accept a bribe, for a bribe blinds the eyes of the wise and twists the words of the innocent." I often wonder how the corrupt Catholics accept that they'll not get into heaven. Confession doesn't absolve them. It might fool an earthly priest, but a heavenly Father can read minds. He knows genuine contrition from fake. Just the fact that the corrupt leave the church and go at it again is proof enough of their Christian guilt.

Let's have more faith in Filipinos. Let's all work together to stop corruption in all activities, not just mining where illegal activities have been allowed to continue. Don't just leave it to government, because that has been proven unsuccessful. Let's see to it that mining is done responsibly—and honestly.

The benefit to the country is considerable, particularly at a time when we need money flowing into government coffers. Tens of billions, according to government estimates. COVID-19 has stolen money from us, but mining can bring some of it back. Don't stop it, support its responsible revival.

Email: wallace_likeitis@wbf.ph

Degraded mangrove coastal area in Gen. Santos adopted by Bayer

Rhizophora farm to help sustain biodiversity, generate livelihood and income

posted May 20, 2021 at 06:30 pm

by [Manila Standard](#)

A degraded mangrove coastal area in Barangay Buayan, General Santos City has been adopted as a “Rhizophora” farm by Bayer Crop Science in an aim to help sustain biodiversity, protect the community from storm surges, and generate livelihood and income.



Bayer employees give back to the environment and the community of Brgy. Buayan, General Santos City through mangrove planting.

Called “Adopt a Coastal Special Protection Area,” the project was initiated by the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) in the city.

“It will generate income for the community from the seedlings that they’re able to grow. We will encourage them to maintain the transplanted seedlings in a portion of the coastal area,” said Richard Bangoy, Bayer Crop Science regional field technical lead for Philippines and Indonesia.

An initial 200 seedlings of the mangrove variety *Rhizophora mucronata* have so far been planted in the mangrove area by Bayer.

The *Rhizophora* varieties have been identified by the City Environment and Natural Resources (CENRO) office of General Santos as *Rhizophora* has been naturally occurring in the area for a long time. It has been the long-known adaptable mangrove variety that better survives diseases and climate changes.

Rhizophora mucronata has multiple uses, multiplying potential sources of income for the Barangay Buayan community.

Aside from helping prevent coastal erosion, its timber is used for firewood and in the construction of buildings, as poles and pilings, and in making fish traps.

The fruits can be cooked and eaten or the juice extracted to make wine, and the young shoots can be consumed as a vegetable. The bark is used in tanning and a dye can be extracted from both bark and leaves. Various parts of the plant are used in folk medicine

The degraded coastal area in Barangay Buayan has made the community vulnerable to harsh impacts of climate change -- storms and tsunamis.



“General Santos City’s environment and natural resources have been under threat from various environmental issues and problems from deforestation and conversion of forestlands, degradation of its rivers and coastal waters and resources from erosion, pollution and anthropogenic activities, climate change, among others,” said Bangoy.

Protecting the community from serious disasters (such as what happened to Leyte communities during the very destructive Yolanda storm) is a major objective in rehabilitating the coastal area.

“Mangroves are the first line of defense for coastal communities. They stabilize shorelines by slowing erosion and provide natural barriers protecting coastal communities.”

The communities in Barangay Buayan have contributed to putting up the nursery for Rhizophora. They are the ones picking up seeds or seedlings and first grow these seedlings up to a height of one foot to 1.5 foot before transplanting to more vulnerable coastal areas exposed to the tide. They also water the transplanted plants.

Over the longer term, the mangrove area may potentially generate livelihood from growing crabs or a local delicacy called “Tamilok,” a kind of edible earthworm prepared into a dish like kinilaw or kilawin – a dish cooked in vinegar.

Bangoy also hopes that sustaining the environmental beauty in the coastal area of Barangay Buayan would help transform it into a tourist site near General Santos City airport.

In the last eight years, Bayer has been supporting different environmental projects including a bamboo planting along the riverbanks of Barangay Tinagakan, General Santos City.

Bayer has a corn research and breeding station in the city and these efforts are a way of giving back to the local community there.



Destruction stops here: Shaping landscape restoration in Philippines

A call to restore millions of hectares of degraded land

ROBERT FINLAYSON @HANOMAN01

Thursday, 20 May 2021



This area in Tabuk City, Kalinga, Philippines, is surrounded by grasslands and agricultural lands where kaingin is commonly practiced. Fortunately, some parts of these are now being developed in conservation farming learning sites for the INREMP. CIFOR-ICRAF/Zarrel Gel Noza

“I will be a guardian and restorer of this land and help the people living here do that,” said Loren Legarda in a call to citizens to cease deforestation and degradation of Philippine ecosystems and “build back better” in a green, sustainable manner.

Legarda, the deputy speaker of the Philippines House of Representatives, has a long history of supporting essential laws that have helped begin to turn the tide of environmental destruction wrought during the last century.

Early this year, she was instrumental in presenting to the House the Philippine Ecosystem and Natural Capital Accounting System bill, which, if passed would be a landmark natural capital accounting law factoring in the cost of using natural resources. Adding depreciation into the equation overrides the assumption that clean water, air, land and oceans are freely exploitable without negative social, environmental or economic impact.

“We will never be able to undertake restoration if the economic indicators we use value only the incomes and ignore the destruction of our natural capital in generating those revenues,” said Legarda, speaking at the first webinar on forest and landscape restoration in the Philippines. The event was attended by nearly 600 people from all corners of the country and around the world.

“The proposed law hopes to bring about a fundamental shift in how we see the world, how we understand our place in it, and how we value it. It corrects the misconception that we have to choose between the environment and the economy because it highlights the fact that our economy will only ever be as robust as our natural capital.”

Legarda is a keen advocate for the environment, also holding other influential roles, notably, as the U.N. Office for Disaster Risk Reduction’s Global Champion for Resilience, the U.N. Framework Convention on Climate Change’s National Adaptation Plan Champion, and as a Commissioner of the Global Commission on Adaptation.

Dennis Garrity, drylands ambassador for the U.N. Convention to Combat Desertification, agreed with Legarda and added to her call, urging a massive restoration movement to drive the Philippines, and the planet, to regreen.



“The great transition to an evergreen Earth is underway,” he said. “The Philippines can lead the way. Tree cover in the Philippines has been increasing over the last decade or so after large-scale destruction. Can this positive trend be accelerated? Could this be the basis for a national movement that mobilizes every community in every part of the country? Yes! Filipinos everywhere can rally to this goal.”

Marcial Amaro, Jr., assistant secretary for Policy, Planning and Foreign-assisted and Special Projects with the Philippine Department of Environment and Natural Resources, confirmed that 53 percent of the country’s total land area was supposedly devoted to forest cover.

“We gained, on average, 34,887 hectares per year from 2010 to 2015,” he said. “Forest cover in 2015 was an estimated 7 million hectares, of which 29 percent was closed forest, 67 percent open forest and 4.3 percent mangroves. Since 1961, nearly 2 million hectares have been reforested.”

But there were many challenges to continued, and accelerated, reforestation.

“The remaining areas are remote and difficult to access,” he said, “There are still conflicting policies. We have problems in some places with peace and order, with fire, pests and diseases. Water shortages are a problem, too, leading to low survival rates. We need to improve product development, marketing and transportation. So how can we accelerate restoration and maintain it? We need to find ways to strengthen livelihoods, increase monitoring, prioritize critical watersheds for enhancement of existing forest cover, recover easements, build more partnerships with the private and non-governmental sector, add value to products, install small dams, and create better and more accessible financial and insurance products.”

Robin Chazdon, professor of Ecology with the Tropical Forests and People Research Centre at Australia’s University of the Sunshine Coast, confirmed that restoration of forest landscapes is a process that unfolds over time, combining many practices, engaging local people, is based on socio-ecological principles and a departure from past practices, requiring long-term commitment and investment.

“The core principles are a focus on landscapes, to restore multiple functions, engage diverse groups of people in support of participatory governance, maintain and enhance natural ecosystems, tailor to local contexts using varied approaches, and manage adaptively for long-term resilience,” she said.

She stressed that mediating the trade-offs of competing demands using a systems’ approach is the key to effective and long-lasting restoration.

The foundation of all restoration is soil, pointed out Samuel Contreras, chief agriculturalist and head of the Soil Conservation and Management Division at the Philippine Department of Agriculture, but about 11 million hectares of the country’s total land area featured degraded soils.

“We have set a land degradation neutrality target of 4.05 million hectares or 60 percent of degraded forest land by 2030 and 2.2 million hectares of farmland by 2040,” he said. “Forests and trees are at the center of forest landscape restoration and land degradation neutrality. But we have many challenges, such as a need for enabling national policy; greater building of capacity in development, technology, innovation and knowledge, including high-resolution datasets; and more transformative programs.”



Legarda noted other challenges and said that “we need to strategically select around 30 percent of our 30 million hectares and stand our ground. Already, our protected areas are full of people, almost urbanized. We need to determine what level of restoration we are aiming for because it is possible to live inside a protected area and still restore it.

“The climate crisis and unabated biodiversity loss only further increase the risk of future pandemics that would cause even greater damage on economies and take even more lives if we fail to act now.

“Restoration action is always local. We succeed and fail depending on how well we do at the level of communities, which are at the frontlines.”

You can watch the recording of the webinar [here](#).

This webinar was co-organized by the Center for International Forestry Research and World Agroforestry (CIFOR-ICRAF); Bureau of Soils and Water Management of the Department of Agriculture; Forest Management Bureau of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources; Yale Environmental Leadership and Training Initiative; Restoration Initiative for Sustainable Ecosystems; and the Green Relief Initiative.



Restoring forests and landscapes

Consolidating gains and accelerating progress in the Philippines

SAVE THE DATES!

APRIL 28 WEBINAR PART 1	MAY 26 WEBINAR PART 2	JUNE 30 WEBINAR PART 3	JULY 28 WEBINAR PART 4	NOV 24 CONFERENCE - WORKSHOP
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SECOND WEBINAR: Consolidating experiences and gains from forest and landscape restoration initiatives in the Philippines

The second webinar will showcase successful interventions in the Philippines by INGOs, NGOs, private sector, local governments and civil society groups, among others. The interventions featured will include technologies, practices and services that restore degraded landscapes. [Register](#)

This research forms part of the [CGIAR Research Program on Forests, Trees and Agroforestry](#), which is supported by [CGIAR Fund Donors](#).

Source: <https://forestsnews.cifor.org/72688/destruction-stops-here-shaping-landscape-restoration-in-philippines?fnl=>



CENRO 'ready' to answer raps over controversial cutting of Bacolod trees

By **Panay News** -Thursday, May 20, 2021

BY DOMINIQUE GABRIEL BAÑAGA

BACOLOD City – The Community Environment and Natural Resources Office (CENRO) here said they are ready to respond to the charges filed against them over the cutting of trees at the Old Bacolod Airport along Araneta Street.

A citizen anti-graft and corruption group lodged a complaint before the Office of the Ombudsman Visayas against officials of CENRO and Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH).

In a radio interview, Engineer Joan Nathaniel Gerangaya, CENRO head, said the group has every right to do so.

The environment officials were only doing their jobs based on the mandate given to them, Gerangaya pointed out, adding that this was the first time a complaint was filed against him over the issue of tree cutting.

Gerangaya further explained that in 2018, Environment secretary Roy Cimatu gave CENRO officers the authority to sign tree cutting permits for the projects of the DPWH, as long as the documents and requirements are met.

Before 2018, only the regional director of the DENR was given such authority, however, they were blamed for DPWH's delays on project implementation.

Gerangaya added that if they ignored DPWH's request for tree cutting, they could have been charged, too.

Dominador Villaluna Jr., president and founder of the Crusaders for Justice, filed a complaint for grave misconduct, gross ignorance of the law, grave abuse of authority and violation of Republic Act 3571 (An Act to Prohibit the Cutting, Destroying or Injuring of Planted or Growing Trees, Flowering Plants and Shrubs or Plants of Scenic Value Along Public Roads, in Plazas, Parks, School Premises or in Any Other Public Pleasure Ground) and Presidential Decree 705 (Revised Forestry Code) against Gerangaya and Engineer Jaime Javellana, district engineer of DPWH-Bacolod.

The complaint stemmed from the controversial cutting of 35 decades-old trees here to give way to a "sidewalk project".

The move earned criticisms from environmental advocates and residents.

The growing criticism later led to the DENR calling off the planned cutting of trees along the old airport./PN

Source: <https://www.panaynews.net/cenro-ready-to-answer-raps-over-controversial-cutting-of-bacolod-trees/>



CCC, RARE hold first of three webinars on climate change, coastal, marine ecosystems

By Ma. Elaine P. Allanigue Published on May 20, 2021



Candijay Mangrove Forest (Contributed photo)

QUEZON CITY, May 20 (PIA) -- The Climate Change Commission (CCC) and its National Panel of Technical Experts (NPTE), in partnership with RARE Philippines and the UP Marine Science Institute (UP-MSI), successfully convened the first of the three-part online webinar series on the effects of climate change on coastal and marine ecosystems.

The virtual webinar, organized in celebration of the Month of the Ocean, gathered more than 500 participants, consisting of members of the academe and research institutions in the Philippines and abroad, government agencies, policymakers, and organizations leading community-based initiatives, to build awareness on the current and future state of marine and coastal ecosystems in the Philippines.

The said webinar featured presentations from NPTE members Dr. Laura T. David and Ms. Lourdes Tibig, and Dr. Caroline Marie B. Jaraula, Assistant Professor from UP-MSI on their studies on historical climate data and evolution of marine and coastal ecosystems and the highlights of ocean acidification as reported on the IPCC Special Report on the Ocean and Cryosphere in a Changing Climate (SROCC).

“When we talk about climate change in the marine environment, we don’t just talk about temperature change, which is usually the focus in the terrestrial environment. We also talk about the changes in the patterns, the delivery of rainfall, as well as extreme events in that area, ocean acidification, and sea level rise,” said Dr. David.

“We will look into the geologic records as a proxy record especially in critical areas or times where we do not have ample data sets that were measured. We’re also looking at the present-day analogs of forecasted global warming scenario, warmer seas, and effects of ocean acidification. Climate change is not just a physical process; it is a bio-chemical phenomenon that can impact our health, economy, food security, and geopolitical stability,” said Dr. Jaraula.

Tibig, one of the lead authors of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change’s Special Report on the Ocean and Cryosphere in a Changing Climate emphasized that over the years, the ocean takes excess heat leading to the decline of its acidity level.

“Based on the global trends of the IPCC SROCC, the ocean has warmed unabated since 1970, and has taken up more than 90 percent of the excess heat in the climate system. The rate of ocean uptake of atmospheric carbon has continued to strengthen in the recent two decades in response



to the increasing carbon concentration in the atmosphere. As a consequence, the ocean is continuing to acidify in response to ongoing ocean carbon uptake, and open ocean surface water pH is observed to be declining by a range of 0.017-0.027 pH units per decade since the late 1980s," said Ms. Tibig.

Through his opening remarks, CCC Commissioner Noel Antonio Gaerlan encouraged the participants to drive positive actions within the communities in an effort to save the coastal and marine ecosystems.

"Marine life is vital to support human life. Our lives are linked closely to the ocean and the rich marine resources that it yields. We must act accordingly and work together to find the much-needed balance in using the resources of our oceans and protecting its biodiversity to ensure that it benefits us in a sustainable manner," Gaerlan emphasized.

The three-part webinar series aims to provide the public a broader understanding of the importance of science and data for informed policies on oceans. This is aligned with the overall goal of the United Nations Decade of the Ocean Science for Sustainable Development (2021-2030) with the message, "The Science We Need for the Ocean We Want". The full webinar can be accessed through this link: <https://www.facebook.com/CCCPhl/videos/2935422240112073>.

The second part of the online webinar, airing on Tuesday, May 25, will focus on how the climate is changing in the country and specifically its impact on local coastal communities.

For more information about the "Climate Change is Changing our Coastal and Marine Ecosystems", visit the Facebook page of the Climate Change Commission at www.facebook.com/CCCPhl. (PIA NCR)



Avoiding climate disaster



[BREAKTHROUGH](#) - [Elfren S. Cruz](#) (The Philippine Star) - May 20, 2021 - 12:00am

In the midst of the catastrophes we are going through in this age of the pandemic, it is important that we also do not forget that the biggest catastrophe that is facing the world in the medium and long term is “climate disaster.” If the world does not watch out, this can become like the pandemic.

People knew the pandemic was coming but nobody was taking it seriously until it started destroying communities. Countries had to resort to severe measures like lockdowns to cope with the crisis.

When will the world start addressing climate disaster? When coastal cities become permanently flooded areas and uninhabitable? When floods and typhoons become more frequent and more intense, causing more destruction? When farms and crops become disaster areas causing food shortages? I could go on and on. Food shortages will cause malnutrition and widespread hunger, with children as the main victims.

Will these disasters happen? It will all happen but sadly, decision makers will not react until they see the effects already in our midst. Then there will be attempts to address the situation.

There is no vaccine for solving a climate disaster. The ways to address all the effects of a climate disaster require long term solutions that require the joint efforts of government, business and the citizenry.

Bill Gates has just written the most readable book on climate change: HOW TO AVOID A CLIMATE DISASTER: The Solutions We Have and the Breakthroughs We Need published by Alfred Knopf 2021.

The book describes the challenges the world faces. He has focused on what must be done in order to stop the “...planet’s slide to certain environmental disaster.” He also explains why we need to work toward net-zero emission of greenhouse gases and details what is needed to achieve this goal of net zero greenhouse gas emissions.

Greenhouse gas emissions

In order to have an intelligent discussion about climate disasters, people must first understand the root cause. Global warming refers to the increase in global temperature. A small increase in the global temperature – just 1 or 2 degrees Celsius – could actually cause a lot of trouble. Gates writes: “In climate terms, a change of just a few degrees is a big deal. During the last ice age, the average temperature was just 6 degrees Celsius lower than it is today. During the age of the dinosaurs, when average temperature was perhaps 4 degrees Celsius higher than today, there were crocodiles living above the Arctic Circle.” This is to illustrate how a few degrees can matter to the world’s environment.

How do greenhouse gases cause global warming? The answer: they absorb heat and trap it in the atmosphere. This is the same way that gardeners use greenhouses to grow plants even in arid places. The greenhouses absorb the heat and protect the plants growing inside the greenhouse.



Unfortunately if the heat from the sun is trapped in the atmosphere, the temperature on the earth's surface will increase, thus causing global warming. The most common greenhouse gas is carbon dioxide, but there are others, nitrous oxide and methane. Together these gases total 51 billion tons that comprise the world's annual emissions. Carbon dioxide accounts for 37 billion tons a year. Methane, which is emitted every time you use a water heater, is actually more poisonous than carbon dioxide.

Every year, global temperature is rising because greenhouse gas emissions are actually still increasing every year. The ideal solution is for the world to aim at zero gas emissions.

Getting to zero emissions requires us to understand the sources. Gates has a table that shows the major sources of greenhouse gas emissions:

- Making things like cement, steel, plastic, etc. – 31%
- Plugging in (electricity) – 27%
- Growing things (plants, animals) – 19%
- Getting around (planes, trucks, ships, etc.) – 16%
- Keeping warm and cool (heating, cooling) – 7%

Helping the poor

Rich and middle income people are causing the vast majority of climate change. The poorest people are doing less than anyone else to cause the problem, but they stand to suffer the most. The poor deserve to be helped the most. Gates has some suggestions.

Governments must help farmers grow a wider variety of crops and livestock so that one setback (like a disease) does not wipe them out. Weather-based insurance can help farmers recover their losses.

Help the most vulnerable people like women and children. Women should have access to livelihood programs. There should be feeding and quality education for children.

According to Gates, the most important assistance we can give vulnerable sectors: "We should shore up natural defenses." He writes:

"Forests store and regulate water. Wetlands prevent floods and provide water for farmers and cities. Coral reefs are home to the fish that coastal communities depend on for food. But these and other natural defenses against climate change are rapidly disappearing."

Bill Gates had several proposals in his book like restoring forests and watersheds and protecting river basins. He did make one proposal which is very suited to the Philippines. He wrote:

"Here's some more low hanging fruit so to speak: mangrove forests. Mangroves are short trees that grow along coastlines, having adapted to life in salt water; they reduce storm surges, prevent coastal flooding and protect fish habitats. All told, mangroves help the world avoid some \$80 billion a year in losses from floods and they save billions more in other ways. Planting mangroves is much cheaper than building breakwaters, and the trees also improve the water quality. They're a great investment."



Anyone who wants to understand climate disasters and how to solve them should read this book.

* * *

Young Writers' Hangout via Zoom on May 22, 2-3 pm with Write Things alumna Mica Magsanoc. Writefest2021, our annual six-session workshop is ongoing with guest authors Sarge Lacuesta and Mookie Katigbak. Facilitators are Kim Derla and Roel SR Cruz.

Contact: writethingsph@gmail.com. 0945.2273216

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Researchers describe 3 newly discovered hermit crab species known only from Bohol Sea

Published May 20, 2021, 3:39 PM

by [Jhon Aldrin Casinas](#)

Researchers have recently described three newly discovered species of hermit crab currently found only in Bohol Sea.



(Credit to MB Visual Content)

In a recently published study, three new species of hermit crab namely: *Catapagurus exilidigitus*, *Catapagurus fimbriatus*, and *Catapagurus latus* were described and illustrated based on materials collected by the Panglao 2004 Marine Biodiversity Project from the Bohol Sea.

The official descriptions of the new species of hermit crabs were published in the *Raffles Bulletin of Zoology* on May 17 by Tomoyuki Komai and Dwi Listyo Rahayu.

“The number of species of *Catapagurus* known from the Philippines increases to seven,” the researchers said.

In the study, experts described *Catapagurus exilidigitus* as appears to be closest to another species of hermit crab called *C. tanimbarensis* within the *C. misakiensis* species group.

But they noted that the new crab species can be distinguished from the latter through the wide U-shaped median cleft of the telson.

Researchers explained that the Latin word *exilidigitus*, which translates to thin toes, refers to the very slender dactyli of the ambulatory legs of the new species.

This crab species from the Bohol Sea can be found at depths between 100 to 138 meters (m).

Meanwhile, *Catapagurus fimbriatus* has been observed to have a characteristic fringe of setae on the mesial surfaces of the ambulatory dactyli and propodi of the pereopods.

Researchers said this new species can be found in Bohol Sea at depths of around 77 to 137 m.

The new species was named after the Latin word “*fimbriatus*” or fringe which refers to the characteristic setation of its ambulatory dactyli.

On the other hand, *Catapagurus latus* appears to be closest to *C. haigae* in the general shape and armature of the ambulatory dactyli within the *C. ensifer* species group, “but might be unique within the group in having a setal cluster on the distoventral portion of each ambulatory propodus.”



Named after the Latin word “latus” which means broad, this new species features a broadly blade-shaped dactyli on its ambulatory legs. It can be found at a shallower depths of 67 to 74 meters.

The Panglao 2004 Marine Biodiversity Project was a collaboration between the Muséum national d’Histoire naturelle in Paris and the University of San Carlos in Cebu City.

The project was supported by the Total Foundation for Biodiversity and the Sea, the French Ministry of Foreign Affairs, and the ASEAN Regional Center for Biodiversity Conservation (ARCBC).



Researchers make 1st documented sighting of Bryde’s whale in Tañon Strait

By: Morexette Marie B. Erram - CDN Digital | May 20, 2021 - 10:07 AM

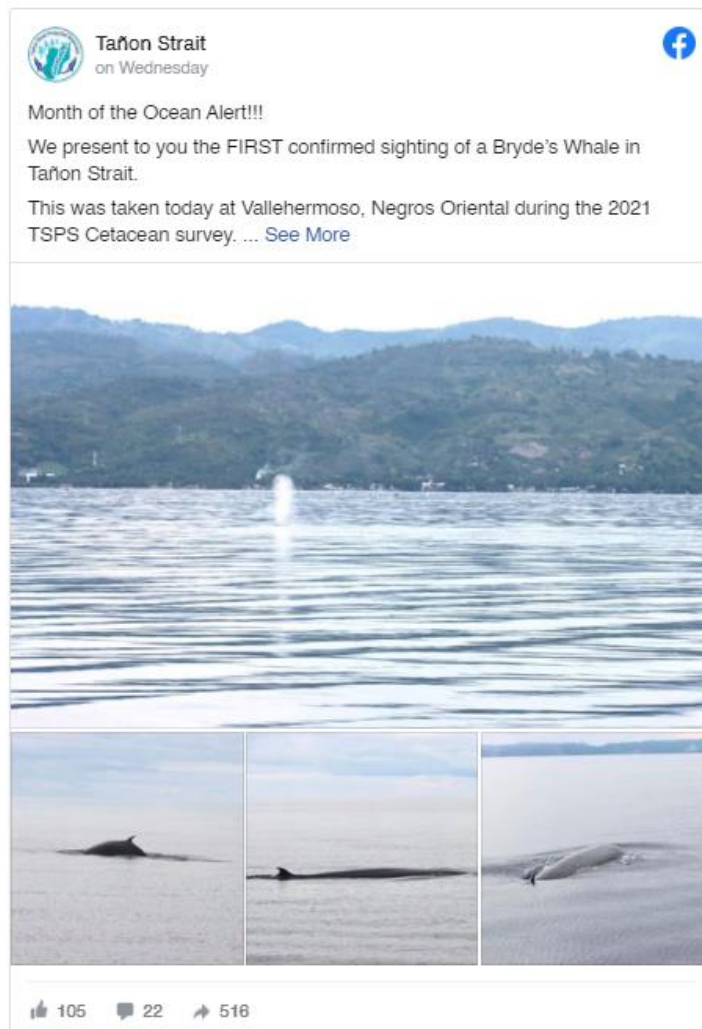


Photos from KL Tapales, TSPS-PAMO

CEBU CITY, Philippines – A team of researchers documented the first sighting of Bryde’s whale in Tañon Strait.

The whale was spotted off the seawaters of Vallehermoso town in Negros Oriental by experts who were doing the 2021 Cetacean Survey for Tañon Strait on Wednesday, May 19, 2021, [a post from the Tañon Strait Protected Seascape \(TSPS\) read.](#)

“A gentle reminder to all people out there to always handle our wildlife with utmost care. Never go near any wildlife for fun and leisure. This sighting was made possible for our research and monitoring within the largest marine reserve in the Philippines,” it added.





According to the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) of the U.S. Government, Bryde's whales are part of the baleen whale family, or 'the great whales', that include the humpback whales and blue whales.

They can be found in 'warm, temperate oceans, including the Atlantic, Indian, and Pacific.'

Tañon Strait, the body of water that separates the islands of Negros and Cebu, is the Philippines' largest marine protected area, encompassing 5,182 square kilometers.

It is also known for having a rich marine biodiversity.

Based on a list compiled by the non-profit organization [Oceana](#), other marine mammals found in Tañon Strait included spinner dolphins, sperm whales, dugongs (sea cows in English), and the 'rare' pygmy killer whale.

/bmjo

2 toneladang gamit nang surgical gloves nasabat sa Cavite; 2 tiklo

ABS-CBN News

Posted at May 20 2021 05:09 PM

Dalawang tonelada ng mga gamit nang surgical gloves ang nasabat sa isang apartment sa Tanza, Cavite nitong Martes.

Sa sumbong ng mga kapitbahay, sinalakay ng pulisya, Municipal Environment and Natural Resources Office (MENRO), at Rural Health Unit ang isang apartment sa isang subdivisyon sa Barangay Tres Cruces.

Nasa loob ng 4 na apartment units ang gamit na surgical gloves. Bakas pa sa ibang surgical gloves ang dugo at gamot.



Dalawa ang naaresto sa insidente. Ayon sa isa sa mga suspek, hindi niya alam kung saan galing ang mga gamit nang surgical gloves.

Nakiusap lamang umano ang kakilala niya na itambak ito sa apartment.

"Siyempre ibebenta po nila ata 'yan sa may scrapan ata. 'Yun ang alam ko tapos ire-recycle, tutunawin po ata. Pasensya na po, kung ano dapat gawin para mai-clear lahat gagawin po namin," ayon sa suspek na si Ernest Latuan.

Ayon kay Menandro Dimaranan ng Tanza MENRO, nakakaalarma umano ito lalo't may pandemya.

"Dapat mga ganyan na basura ay dapat dadalhin sa treater. Ite-treat muna siya bago siya itapon doon sa tamang basurahan," ani Dimaranan.

Kinasuhan ang dalawa ng paglabag sa RA 9003 o Ecological Waste Management Act at RA 6969 o Act to Control Toxic Substances And Hazardous Waste.

— Ulat ni Dennis Datu, ABS-CBN News

Source: <https://news.abs-cbn.com/news/05/20/21/2-toneladang-gamit-nang-surgical-gloves-nasabat-sa-cavite-2-tiklo?fbclid=IwAR1sYNfHYB3M0tI2u7nTSoX5c0iNlexA2Kgsy4KCHO9a2vK324HAq1gjuS4>

2 TONELADANG NAKAIMBAK NA GAMIT NA SURGICAL GLOVES SA 4 NA APARTMENT SA CAVITE KUMPISKADO

written by ***Agustina Nolasco*** May 20, 2021



Nasabat ng pulisya, Municipal Environment and Natural Resources Office (MENRO), at Rural Health Unit ang dalawang toneladang gamit na surgical gloves sa apartment sa isang subdibisyon sa Tanza, Cavite.

Ayon kay SSgt. Si Jonathan Lagario, apat na apartment units ang pinaglakan ng gamit na mga surgical gloves kung saan makikita na may bakas pa ng mga dugo at gamot ang ilan sa mga ito.

Samantala, arestado naman ang dalawang suspek na sina Ernest Latuan, 31 at ang helper nito na si Marlon Cenizal, 21 na kapwa kumakaharap sa kaso na paglabag sa RA 9003 o Ecological Waste Management Act at RA 6969 o Act to Control Toxic Substances And Hazardous Waste.

Kaugnay nito, hindi pa rin malinaw kung saan nakuha at dadalhin ng mga suspek ang mga gamit na surgical gloves at patuloy pa rin ang isinasagawang imbestigasyon ng pulisya hinggil sa insidente.



Source: <https://www.dwiz882am.com/index.php/2-toneladang-nakaimbak-na-gamit-na-surgical-gloves-sa-4-na-apartment-sa-cavite-kumpiskado/>



Davao City watershed yields discarded face masks, face shields

Published May 20, 2021, 5:04 PM

by [Zea Capistrano](#)

DAVAO CITY – An environmental group here called for the regulation of increased recreational activities near the Panigan-Tamugan watershed after a recent cleanup drive yielded several wastes, including discarded face masks and face shields.



(Interfacing Development Interventions for Sustainability – IDIS / MANILA BULLETIN)

“The majority of masks are made of long-lasting plastic materials that, if discarded, will survive for decades to hundreds of years in the environment. As a result, they can have a variety of adverse effects on the environment and people,” the Interfacing Development Interventions for Sustainability (IDIS) said in a statement Wednesday.

The Panigan-Tamugan watershed will soon be the source of water under the Davao City Bulk Water Supply Project. The project is a partnership between the Davao City Water District (DCWD) and Apo Agua Infraestructura Inc. (Apo Agua).

According to IDIS, volunteers of the cleanup drive attributed the increase in the improperly disposed of wastes to “the presence of various recreational activities within the Panigan-Tamugan.”

“Currently, several people are doing their laundry and swimming in the river. These activities are unregulated and unmonitored,” it added.

The group also noted structures and cottages in the area “which (encourage) the influx of people in the river as it is used for recreational activities along the riverbanks.”

“We, at IDIS, hope that this will be addressed immediately and regulation will be imposed on various recreational activities and to continue the protection of Panigan-Tamugan watershed,” it said.

Source: <https://mb.com.ph/2021/05/20/davao-city-watershed-yields-discarded-face-masks-face-shields/>



Environmental advocates concerned over global waste trade

Jasmin Romero, ABS-CBN News

Posted at May 19 2021 09:21 PM



Greenpeace Malaysia has been conducting a field investigation on the broken system of recycling and how it impacts Malaysian society. The findings were shocking: a new 'dump site' of plastic waste from more than 19 countries -- most of them are developed countries. *Nandakumar S. Haridas, Greenpeace*

MANILA - Environmental advocates in Asia on Wednesday expressed concern on the status of global waste trade in the region, saying bad practices are still being observed despite the introduction of some reforms.

Speaking in a virtual press briefing, Mageswari Sangaralingam of Consumers Association of Penang said plastic waste imports in Malaysia increased from 333,500 tons in 2019, to 478,092 tons in 2020, despite the waste import ban.

"Although the Malaysian government said there is a ban on import waste, in reality, they were issuing a proof permits for imports of plastic waste," she said.

Recycling plants or factories also continue to proliferate, she said. "This is a cause for concern, because burning off plastics will emit toxic gases, including those that can cause cancer."

Ray Yeung, Green Earth's campaign and communications manager in Hong Kong, said that while the island-city may not be a "dumping ground" of waste imports after China banned it in 2017, "it has been a major free port for the exporting of plastic waste in Malaysia, Vietnam and Thailand", thereby violating "environmental justice".

As a result, other countries particularly in Southeast Asia have become alternate dumping grounds.

"In 2020, Hong Kong re-exports 100,000 tons of plastic wastes equivalent to 5,000 containers in Southeast [Asia] countries, including Malaysia," said Yeung.

To improve the situation around the world, environmentalists called for data transparency through community and media involvement to push governments to beef up their roles on plastic waste trade.

Source: <https://news.abs-cbn.com/spotlight/05/19/21/environmental-advocates-concerned-over-global-waste-trade>

Metro Clark paves way for waste-to-energy technology

By ... -May 21, 2021



MCWM facilities serving the cities and municipalities in Central and Northern Luzon, industrial clients and locators in the biggest Freeport zones in the country.

Metro Clark Waste Management Corp (MCWM), the country's leading waste management company, looks forward to breaking ground on a pioneering waste-to-energy (WTE) project.

The first of its kind in the Philippines, the secondary fuel power plant is part of an integrated waste management system that will help to address the severe shortage in waste disposal capacity in Central Luzon.

The project is a 50/50 joint venture between Metro Clark and Plambeck-Emirates Global Renewable Energy LLC, a partnership between a German technology firm and the Royal Family of Abu Dhabi. The consortium has more than fifty years of combined experience in all aspects of waste management, spanning both developed and developing markets across the globe, and will also provide the funding for the entire \$200-million project cost.

The WTE project will be built on Metro Clark's existing 100-hectare site located in the Clark Special Economic Zone in Central Luzon, under the jurisdiction of the Bases Conversion Development Authority (BCDA). The system will serve the entire Region 3, providing municipal solid waste transfer, treatment, and disposal services to LGU's and industrial clients in the entire area, as well as producing up to 35-megawatts of power that can be fed back into the region's distribution grid.

With Metro Clark's planned system in place, up to 70 percent of waste that would find its way into the landfill, would be used as fuel for the WTE plant. The reduction in waste going into the landfill will expand the lifespan of Metro Clark's 20-million-tons waste facility for at least another 50 years.

Source: https://malaya.com.ph/index.php/news_special_feature/metro-clark-paves-way-for-waste-to-energy-technology/

Asia's cities are worst hit in a warming world

Climate change, water shortage and pollution are worst for Asia's cities, researchers say. The rest of us have a lucky escape.



Cairo scores better, but even near Giza's pyramids there are pollution hotspots. Image: Sophia Valkova, via [Unsplash](#). [CC BY-NC-ND 2.0](#).

[Kieran Cooke, Climate News Network](#)

May 20, 2021

It's bad news for residents of Jakarta. People living in Delhi, Chennai or Wuhan do not fare much better. A new study has found that a wide range of environmental and climate change threats are worst for Asia's cities, with the rest of the planet getting off more lightly.

The [study](#), by the analysis and forecasting group [Verisk Maplecroft](#), looks primarily at the risks posed to businesses operating and investing in various urban centres.

Based on such factors as pollution, a lack of water, extreme heat and general vulnerability to climate change, 99 of the 100 most risk-prone cities in the world are in Asia, with the Indonesian capital Jakarta topping the list and cities in India close behind.

Jakarta, with a population of more than 10.5 million people, is sinking. Like many coastal cities around the world, [it is vulnerable to sea level rise](#).

Built on what was once a swamp, the city has serious water supply problems as well, and the air is severely polluted.

The reality for most cities is of widespread productivity losses, skyrocketing cooling costs, and a grim toll of heat-related disease.

Little can be done: the Indonesian government plans to shut up shop and [move the capital to East Kalimantan](#) on the island of Borneo.

Air and water pollution are particularly acute problems in India's cities. In its risk index, the study ranks Delhi, Chennai, Agra and Kanpur in the top ten of the world's cities most at risk of environmental disaster and climate change.

Several cities in China, along with Manila in the Philippines, Bangkok in Thailand and Karachi in Pakistan score badly. Nor are cities outside Asia immune from the growing environmental and climate crisis.

"Londoners might envisage warm days in the park and an Italian café culture, but the reality for most cities is of widespread productivity losses, skyrocketing cooling costs, and a grim toll of heat-related disease", says the study.

Clean Cairo?

The business sector has to be aware of what's happening and assess the risks of locating and investing in various urban centres. "How well global organisations manage the escalating environmental and climate crisis is now one of the most critical factors determining their long-term resilience", says Verisk Maplecroft.

Legal issues have to be considered. "As the pace picks up on carbon regulations, legal liabilities related to climate are also becoming more mainstream", the study says.

Cities in Canada and New Zealand generally perform well on the Verisk Maplecroft index. Many European cities also achieve a good rating.

Istanbul in Turkey and Jeddah in Saudi Arabia perform badly while, perhaps surprisingly, the Egyptian capital Cairo — a city of nearly 10 million — performs better, mainly due to its cleaner air and greater access to water supplies.

Northern attraction

Elsewhere In Africa, the teeming metropolises of Lagos in Nigeria and Kinshasa in the Democratic Republic of Congo have a low rating. In South America, the desert city of [Lima, the Peruvian capital, is facing severe water shortages](#) and other environmental problems.

There is more and more evidence that [fish and many other creatures are moving north](#) as ocean and land temperatures rise. [Plant life is also trying to adjust to global warming](#).

One of the overall messages of the study seems to be that, however grim the problems of Asia's cities, when it comes to looking for cities to live in, we humans should also be moving northwards.

Helsinki, the capital of Finland, scores well on the study's index. Vancouver and Ottawa in Canada would not be a bad bet. Krasnoyarsk in Siberia looks OK.

And there's good news for those heading for Glasgow for [the big COP-26 climate conference](#) later this year. The Scottish city – not renowned for warm, moisture-free days — is among those in the world least exposed to the dangers of climate change, says the study.

This story was published with permission from [Climate News Network](#).



Brazil's environment minister faces timber smuggling probe

[By Agence France -Presse](#)

May 21, 2021

SÃO PAULO: Brazil's Supreme Court ordered an investigation of Environment Minister Ricardo Salles as police raided ministry offices on Wednesday (Thursday in Manila), targeting a timber trafficking scheme allegedly involving him and other top officials in far-right President Jair Bolsonaro's government.

The ruling by Justice Alexandre de Moraes said federal police had evidence that Salles and other environmental officials were involved in an "extremely serious scheme to facilitate the trafficking of rainforest products."

It suspended 10 officials from their posts, including Eduardo Bim, head of Brazilian environmental protection agency Ibama, and granted police access to Salles' bank accounts to look for evidence of illicit income.

Salles, one of the most controversial figures in Bolsonaro's government, has presided over a surge of deforestation in the Amazon rainforest and activists accuse him of dismantling Brazil's environmental protection programs.



Manacapuru, Brazil: Aerial file photo taken on July 16, 2020 of logs of wood seized by the Amazon Military Police at the Manacapuru River in Manacapuru, Amazonas State, Brazil. Brazilian Environment Minister Ricardo Salles is suspected of involvement in a trafficking ring that sold illegal timber on the black market, a Supreme Court ruling said as police raided various ministry offices on May 18, 2021. AFP FILE PHOTO

Brazilian media reported police had searched Salles' home in São Paulo as part of the operation. Some 160 officers also raided environment ministry offices in Brasília, São Paulo and the northern state of Para, police said.

Under the alleged scheme, Ibama waived requirements for timber exporters and granted retroactive authorization to thousands of wood shipments exported in violation of environmental regulations in 2019 and 2020.

Some shipments had been seized by US and European authorities. Ibama allegedly instituted the policy over the objections of its own staff shortly after Salles and Bim met with representatives of three companies whose shipments had been seized.

Moraes's ruling revoked the Ibama policy with immediate effect. Salles, 45, denied wrongdoing. "These alleged acts never happened," he told journalists.

The news was the latest blow to Brazil's environmental track record under Bolsonaro. The destruction of the Amazon, a vital resource for curbing climate change, has accelerated in Brazil since the former army captain took office in 2019.



Deforestation in the Brazilian Amazon surged by 85 percent in his first year in office, destroying an area bigger than Puerto Rico, according to government data. It has continued at a high rate since last month setting a new record for April at 581 square kilometers.

Facing international pressure, Bolsonaro vowed at a world climate summit hosted by the United States last month to eliminate illegal deforestation by 2030. But he has repeatedly pushed to open protected lands to farming, cattle ranching and industry.



Antarctica gives birth to world's largest iceberg

By Steve Gorman via Reuters - May 20, 2021 - 1:37 PM



An enormous iceberg has calved from the western side of the Ronne Ice Shelf, lying in the Weddell Sea, in Antarctica. The iceberg, dubbed A-76, measures around 4,320 sq km in size – currently making it the largest berg in the world. (European Space Agency/CC BY-SA 3.0 IGO)

A giant slab of ice bigger than the Spanish island of Majorca has sheared off from the frozen edge of Antarctica into the Weddell Sea, becoming the largest iceberg currently afloat in the world, the European Space Agency said on Wednesday.

The newly calved berg, designated A-76 by scientists, was spotted in recent satellite images captured by the Copernicus Sentinel-1 mission, the space agency said in a statement posted on its website with a photo of the enormous, oblong ice sheet.

Its surface area spans 4,320 square km (1,668 square miles) and measures 175 km (106 miles) long by 25 km (15 miles) wide.

By comparison, Spain's popular tourist island of Majorca in the Mediterranean occupies 3,640 square km (1,405 square miles). The U.S. state of Rhode Island is smaller still, with a land mass of just 2,678 square km (1,034 square miles).

The enormity of A-76, which broke away from Antarctica's Ronne Ice Shelf, ranks as the largest existing iceberg on the planet, surpassing the now second-place A-23A, about 3,380 square km (1,305 square miles) in size and also floating in the Weddell Sea.

Another massive Antarctic iceberg that had threatened a penguin-populated island off the southern tip of South America has since lost much of its mass and broken into pieces, scientists said earlier this year.

A-76 was first detected by the British Antarctic Survey and confirmed by the U.S. National Ice Center based in Maryland using imagery from Copernicus Sentinel-1, consisting of two polar-orbiting satellites.

The Ronne Ice Shelf on the flank of the Antarctic Peninsula is one of the largest of several enormous floating sheets of ice that connect to the continent's landmass and extend out into the surrounding seas.

Periodic calving off of large chunks of those shelves is part of a natural cycle. But some ice shelves along the Antarctic Peninsula have undergone rapid disintegration in recent years, a phenomenon scientists believe may be related to climate change, according to the U.S. National Snow & Ice Data Center.

—Reporting by Steve Gorman in Los Angeles; Editing by Peter Cooney

Source: <https://interaksyon.philstar.com/hobbies-interests/2021/05/20/192212/antarctica-gives-birth-to-worlds-largest-iceberg/>



Pres. Duterte balak na pulungin ang mga dating pangulo ng bansa dahil sa WPS issue

By **Bombo Jovino Galang**

-May 21, 2021 | 3:00 AM

Ikinokonsidera ni Pangulong Rodrigo Duterte na pulungin ang mga nagdaang pangulo ng bansa para pag-usapan ang isyu sa West Philippine Sea.

Sinabi ni Presidential spokesperson Harry Roque na magiging posibleng gawin ito kaysa sa pagpulong sa National Security Council (NSC).

Dagdag pa ni Roque na walang nareresolve kapag nagpupulong ang NSC base na rin karanasan nito.

Nauna kasing ipinanukala ni dating Senador Rodolfo Biazon na pulungin dapat ng pangulo ang NSC para magkaroon ng malinaw at nagkakaisang opinyon sa West Philippine Sea issue.

Ang NSC ay binubuo ng Pangulo, pangalawang pangulo, senate president, speaker of the house, mga head ng bawat executive Department, Chairman of the Committee of National Defense sa Senado at House of Representatives at AFP Chief of Staff.



DAPAT TALAKAYIN SA NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL ANG ISYU SA WPS — BIAZON

written by [Lyn Aurora Legarteja](#) May 21, 2021



Hinihikayat ni dating Senador Rodolfo Biazon ang mga senador na ipanawagan kay Pangulong Rodrigo Duterte na talakayin sa National Security Council ang isyu sa West Philippine Sea.

Ayon kay Biazon, ito ay para makabuo ang gobyerno ng klaro at unified stand hinggil sa West Philippine Sea.

Aniya, hindi maaaring mag-isa lang ang pangulo sa pagpapasya kung ano ang dapat gawin sa West Philippine Sea at kung ano ang polisiya hinggil dito.

Giit pa nito na nakasalalay sa isyu ng WPS ang pambansang seguridad at food security kung kayat mapanganib ang nakakalito at magkakaibang pahayag ng pangulo, mga miyembro ng gabinete, mga mambabatas at mga eksperto.

Pinangangambahan pa ni Biazon na posible ring maguluhan ang mga kaalyadong bansa ng Pilipinas at baka dahil sa kalituhan ay gumawa ng agresibong hakbang ang China.

21 MAY 2021, FRIDAY



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Active COVID-19 cases hit 51,912 after Philippines logs 6,100 new infections

(Philstar.com) - May 20, 2021 - 4:00pm



Crowds queue along the sidewalk and parking lot while representatives from the local government screen and hand out numbers for the allotted 900 qualified individuals for the Pfizer-BioNtech COVID19 vaccine at a hotel in Manila on Tuesday, May 18, 2021.

MANILA, Philippines — Health authorities on Thursday recorded 6,100 additional COVID-19 infections, bringing the national caseload 1,165,155.

- Active cases: 51,912 or 4.5% of the total
- Recoveries: 4,071, pushing total to 1,093,602
- Deaths: 13, bringing total to 19,641

What's new today?

- Another 500,000 doses of the coronavirus vaccine developed by Sinovac Biotech [arrived](#) in the Philippines this morning.
- It would be "counterproductive" not to announce the brands of COVID-19 vaccines available at inoculation sites, Sen. Risa Hontiveros [said](#) as she warned that enforcing such a policy might erode people's trust in the national vaccination program.
- She was referring to a [suggestion](#) made the day before by Health Undersecretary Myrna Cabotaje who expresses concern at the huge crowds, many of them walk-ins, turning up at sites offering vaccines developed by Pfizer-BioNTech.
- But the interior department said it [directed](#) all local government units "to refrain from announcing the brand of vaccines" to be used in a particular vaccination center in favor of disclosing them only when the beneficiaries are on-site.
- The US Food and Drug Administration [allowed](#) vials of the Pfizer vaccine to be stored at refrigerator temperatures of 2-8 degrees Celsius for up to one month.

— **Bella Perez-Rubio with a report from Xave Gregorio**

Source: <https://www.philstar.com/headlines/2021/05/20/2099611/active-covid-19-cases-hit-51912-after-philippines-logs-6100-new-infections/amp/>



Global death toll bunsod ng COVID-19, higit 3.43 milyon na

By Angellic Jordan May 20, 2021 - 01:11 PM



Lagpas 3.43 milyon na ang bilang ng mga nasawing COVID-19 patient sa buong mundo.

Batay sa huling tala, umakyat na sa kabuuang 3,431,786 ang nasawi sa iba't ibang bansa bunsod ng nakakahawang sakit.

Nangunguna pa rin sa may pinakamaraming naitalang nasawi dahil sa COVID-19 ang Estados Unidos na may 601,949.

Sumunod na rito ang Brazil na may 441,864 na pumanaw bunsod ng pandemiya.

Nasa 287,156 naman ang death toll sa India habang 220,850 ang napaulat na nasawi sa Mexico.

Narito naman ang naitalang COVID-19 death toll sa iba pang bansa at teritoryo:

- United Kingdom – 127,694
- Italy – 124,646
- Russia – 116,965
- France – 108,181
- Germany – 87,405
- Colombia – 82,743
- Spain – 79,568
- Iran – 77,765
- Poland – 72,265
- Argentina – 72,250

Samantala, lumabas din sa pinakahuling datos na umakyat na sa kabuuang 165,568,854 ang tinamaan ng nakakahawang sakit sa iba't ibang bansa.

Nasa 145,815,707 naman ang total recoveries ng COVID-19 pandemic sa buong mundo.

Source: <https://radyo.inquirer.net/292448/global-death-toll-bunsod-ng-covid-19-higit-3-43-milyon-na>



OCTA: No community transmission of India variant in PH yet

By [CNN Philippines Staff](#)

Published May 20, 2021 10:24:43 AM



Metro Manila (CNN Philippines, May 20) — The OCTA Research group has not yet seen a community transmission in the Philippines brought by the COVID-19 variant first detected in India.

"We know that it has been detected in a few cases in travelers who landed in the Philippines but right now we are not seeing a community transmission yet on the India variant based on the numbers," OCTA Research Fellow Guido David told CNN Philippines' New Day on Thursday.

David noted that it is still too early to assess the transmission, at least in Metro Manila, Cavite, Bulacan, Laguna, and Rizal.

However, they will be on the lookout for the situation on areas from other regions that have recently shown a spike in COVID-19 cases.

"We don't think it's spreading in the NCR Plus," he said, "but we can't say for sure if it's spreading in certain regions where we are seeing a spike in cases."

OCTA reported ["significant increases"](#) in Cagayan de Oro, Davao City, and Iloilo City over the past week. The highest number of new cases outside Metro Manila was also seen in Zamboanga City.

The Department of Tourism previously said relaxed rules will encourage domestic travel and help the industry recover amid the pandemic. But OCTA warned that this could pave the way for increased transmission.

"It's always good to have some measures in place for border controls," David said.

He also urged the government to intensify contact tracing and testing efforts, especially in areas with high positivity rate. Isolation facilities could also be scaled up, in coordination with local government units, he added.

The Department of Health last reported that the country has at least [12 cases](#) of the B.1.617.2 variant first detected in India.

On Wednesday, the country's COVID-19 case tally rose to 1,159,071 with 4,700 new infections, 19,507 total deaths, and a total of 1,089,613 people who recovered from the disease.

Source: <https://cnnphilippines.com/news/2021/5/20/OCTA--No-community-transmission-of-India-variant-in-PH-yet.html>

Japan to provide ₱8.78-B loan for PH pandemic response

By [CNN Philippines Staff](#)

Published May 21, 2021 12:12:54 AM



Metro Manila (CNN Philippines, May 21) — The Japanese government is set to release a loan worth 20 billion yen, or around ₱8.78 billion, to the Philippines to help finance Manila's COVID-19 pandemic response.

In a statement, the Japan's Embassy in the Philippines said the assistance will be provided through the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) in June 2021 under the Post-Disaster Standby Loan (PDSL) Phase 2.

"As general budgetary support, said loan is aimed at helping finance the GOP's (Government of the Philippines) pandemic response measures, such as testing and quarantine facility expansion and social amelioration program for vulnerable people and sectors, with the re-imposition of the Enhanced Community Quarantine (ECQ) in the NCR Plus on March 29, 2021," it explained.

The approval of the financial aid was also the result of the "[successful summit teleconference](#)" between President Rodrigo Duterte and Japanese Prime Minister Yoshihide Suga on Wednesday.

This is the third tranche to be released under the PDSL 2, which was signed on September 15 last year.

So far, around ₱8 billion out of ₱22 billion has been released in two tranches under the loan agreement between JICA and the Department of Finance, which aims to facilitate the Philippines' recovery from the onslaught of natural and health-related disasters.

The first allotment was used for programs following the extension of the state of calamity in the country due to COVID-19, while the second allocation was used for programs after a state of calamity was put in place in Luzon due to Typhoons Quinta, Rolly, and Ulysses.

The loan agreement has a payment period of 40 years, with a grace period of 10 years and fixed interest rate of 0.01% annually.

Source: <https://cnnphilippines.com/news/2021/5/21/Japan-P8-billion-for-PH-covid-19-response.html>



ADB economists Shu Tian, Donghyun Park and Mai Lin Villaruel said green and social finance are yielding results that can contribute to a more sustainable world especially as countries bounce back from COVID-19.

STAR/File

Green, social financing to aid in COVID-19 recovery

[Louise Maureen Simeon](#) (The Philippine Star) - May 20, 2021 - 12:00am

MANILA, Philippines — Investments focused on achieving positive environmental and social outcomes are expected to aid in the economic recovery in Asia-Pacific, the Asian Development Bank said.

ADB economists Shu Tian, Donghyun Park and Mai Lin Villaruel said green and social finance are yielding results that can contribute to a more sustainable world especially as countries bounce back from COVID-19.

Green and social finance are investment capital specifically targeted toward positive environmental goals such as clean energy and social goals such as low-cost housing for the poor.

According to the ADB Asian Development Outlook 2021, tapping green and social finance helps meet the preferences of various stakeholders, hedge and mitigate sustainability risks, and generate resilience under shocks.

“Tapping green finance serves as a credible signal of commitment to sustainable impact in the financial markets. Evidence from the global market shows that corporate green bond issuers achieve better environmental outcomes after they issue green bonds,” the ADB economists said.

ADB studies showed that Asian green bond issuers improved their environmental rating score on average by 17 percent after one year and 30 percent after two years of issuance.

At the market level, green bond issuance is associated with reduced carbon dioxide emissions as market participants become more aware of the Sustainable Development Goals and committed to achieving them.

Social impacts, on the other hand, are more varied, but ADB said innovative financing instruments such as impact bonds show potential.

“Green finance reflects an overall awareness of the SDGs which goes beyond environmental issues to encompass social issues,” the economists said.

For example, green bond finance is associated with improved air quality and lower mortality rate. Countries also witnessed lower emissions and narrowed gender gaps after they issued their first green bond.

Source: <https://www.philstar.com/business/2021/05/20/2099405/green-social-financing-aid-covid-19-recovery>



HUWAG HINTAYING ITAPON, SUNUGIN ANG BANGKAY NG COVID VICTIMS KUNG SAAN-SAAN



May 21, 2021 @ 12:36 AM 5 hours ago

SANA'Y hindi aabot sa mahal kong Pinas ang nagaganap sa India na ginawa nang sementeryo at sunugan ng bangkay ng mga namamatay sa coronavirus disease 2019 o COVID-19 ang pinakabanal at mayaman nilang ilog na Ganges River.

Sana hindi rin maganap sa atin ang pagtatago, kung totoo, ng pamahalaan doon ng dami ng mga namamatay sa pandemya na taliwas sa aktwal na nakikita at nararanasan ng mga mamamayan.

Kung magaganap ang mga ito sa atin, saang sunugan o sementeryo, este, kangkungan tayo pupulutin?

DAAN-DAAN VS LIBO-LIBONG PATAY

Para maging malinaw agad ang tinutumbok nating mga usapin, silipin natin ang malaking pagkakaiba ng mga ulat ukol sa mga patay.

Ayon sa gobyernong India, noong Abril 16 hanggang Mayo 6, 2021 sa Kanpur district, 196 ang patay sa COVID-19.

Ngunit sa bilang ng mga taong namamahala ng mga crematorium, umabot lahat sa 8,000 ang kanilang sinunog na bangkay.

Sinabi pa nilang tanging ang mga may death certificate lang ang kanilang sinusunog at hindi ang mga wala nito.

Kung ganoon, iba pa ang mga daan-daan kundi mang libong bangkay na sinusunog sa mga pampang ng ilog at ilalim ng mga tulay, lalo na sa Ganges River na itinuturing nilang pinakabanal sa lahat ng ilog sa nasabing bansa.

Iba pa ang mga basta ibinabaon na lang nila sa pampang at mga itinatapon na mismo sa ilog.

Ayon sa mga mamamayan, mahal ang cremation sa halagang nasa \$40-\$60 kada bangkay o walang makuha o mabiling panggatong para sa pagsusunog kaya ibinabaon na lang ang mga bangkay sa pampang o diretsong itinatapon nila ang mga ito sa ilog.

LUMALAGANAP ANG PANDEMYA

Heto pa ang nagaganap sa India.



Medyo kumakalma ang pandemya sa mga pangunahing lungsod gaya ng New Delhi at Mumbai dahil nagsisidating na ang mga tulong na oxygen, bakuna at gamot mula sa iba't ibang bansa.

Ngunit ang pandemya ay lumalaganap na rin sa mga malalayong estado o lugar na mas kakaunti ang mga ospital at nagsisilbing health workers, may mas maraming mahihirap, mas hindi nabibigyan ng pansin sa pagrerekord at iba pa.

Ang paglala ng pandemya sa mga kanayunan ng India habang unti-unting nakokontrol ito sa mga kalunsuran ay nagbubunga talaga ng maraming kamatayan na hindi umaabot sa pandinig, aksyon at talaan ng pamahalaan.

Sa kanayunan matatagpuan ang mga hindi na tinatanggap sa mga ospital, wala o labis na kakulangan ng oxygen, bakuna, gamot at iba pang mga problema.

Kaya naman, naglalaro na araw-araw ang mga patay, sa rekord ng gobyerno lamang, sa mahigit 3,000 hanggang lampas 7,000 gaya ng naganap noong Mayo 8 na may 6,840 patay, ayon sa ulat ng virusncov.com.

EPEKTO SA KAPALIGIRAN

Dahil sa mga nagaganap sa India, nasisira ang kalikasan sa pagbaon ng mga bangkay sa pampang, paglutang ng mga ito sa ilog kung tumaas ang tubig gaya ng pagdating ng superbago na naganap roon kamakailan lang at pagtatapon nang diretso sa ilog ng mga ito.

Halimbawa, hindi na makahinga nang maayos ang mga nakatira sa pampang ng ilog sa baho ng mga nabubulok na bangkay.

Paano rin ang pag-uwi sa mga bahay-bahay ng mga alagang aso nila na lumalapa sa mga bangkay na namatay sa COVID-19?

Paano rin ang mga isda at lamang ilog na kinakalap at ikinabubuhay ng mga mangingisda at ibinebenta sa mga palengke?

At paano ang pagiging sagrado ng ilog na pinaniniwalalan nilang nakalilinis sa kanilang katawan at kaluluwa sa gitna ng mga nagsisilutangan at lumobong bangkay sa paligid?

EPEKTO RIN SA UGNAYANG PAMAHALAAN AT MAMAMAYAN

Maaaring babagsak naman mismo ang gobyerno at ang buhay-buhay ng mga mamamayan kung magtatago ang una ng katotohanan ukol sa malulungkot na balita sa pandemya.

Ang totoo, nitong nakaraang halalan, natalo sa halalan ang napakalakas na partido pulitikal ni Prime Minister Narendra Modi dahil sa pagpapakita nitong okey lang ang kalagayan ng kanyang bansa sa kabila ng katotohanang kabaligtaran ang nagaganap.

Paano nga makukuha ng pamahalaan ang tiwala at pakikipagtulungan ng mga mamamayan laban sa pandemya kung pagtataguan ng una ang huli ng mga tama at mahalagang impormasyon sa pandemya?

At kakambalan pa ito ng labis na kapabayaang?

Masasabak lang sa kapahamakan, sakit at kamatayan ang mga mamamayan na sasabak din sa mga pang-ekonomiyang gawain 'pag hindi nila alam ang mga mapanganib na sitwasyon at lugar na kanilang kikilusan na dapat nililinaw nang husto ng pamahalaan.

Ang napakalaking pagkakamali ng pamahalaan, ayon sa mga ulat, ay ang pagrelaks nito laban sa pandemya simula sa katapusan ng taon at sumunod na rin dito ang mga mamamayan na nagdaos ng mga pambansang religious gathering at paglahok sa halalan, sa mga kampanya, botohan at canvassing nang walang pagsaalang-alang sa mga health



protocol sa mga sumunod na buwan.

At huli na ang lahat nang umatake ang mga COVID-19 variant na lumikha ng daan-daang libong pagkakasakit ng mga Indian sa bawat araw at libo-libong namamatay araw-araw rin.

Nag-alangan na rin pati ang produksyon ng mga bakuna at gamot na kailangan laban sa pandemya dahil sa kapabayaan umano mismo ng pamahalaan.

AKTIBO ANG PINAS

Nang luwagan ni Pangulong Rodrigo Duterte ang community quarantine sa Metro Manila at mga karatig na lalawigan nitong nagdaang mga araw, kasama ang iba pang mga lalawigan, kakambal ang anunsyo nitong hindi siya mangingiming magpataw muli ng maigting na quarantine kung kinakailangan.

At kakambal nito ang puspusang pagbili at pagbabakuna ng pamahalaan laban sa COVID-19, kasama ang pagsusumikap na mabigyan ang mga pinakabiktima, mga mahihirap, ng mga ayuda at pagbubukas ng mga oportunidad sa hanapbuhay.

Sa bakuna, layon ng pamahalaan na makamit natin ang herd immunity o 60-70 milyong mabakunahan sa Pinas upang mapigilan na ang mga maramihan at tuloy-tuloy hawaan na nagbubunga ng mga pagkakaospital at kamatayan.

Dahil dito lang magsisimulang makamit natin ang pag-usad muli ng ating mga pambansa, pampamilya at indibidwal na buhay.

Kaugnay nito, milyones na ang dose ng mga bakuna na nakakalat sa buong bansa at inaasahang darami pa sa susunod na mga araw, linggo at buwan.

Sana naman, makiisa tayo sa programang ito at kumapit tayo sa tamang paniniwala na ang available na bakuna ang pinamaganda at pinakamabisang bakuna.

Hangga't tumatanggi tayo na mabakunahan o choosy o picky, lalong magtatagal tayo sa krisis na tayo rin ang magiging biktima.

Huwag nating hayaang maganap ang napakasamang karanasan ng mga Indian na hanggang ngayon, kung saan-saan na lang may mga nagkakasakit at namamatay sa mga tahanan at ospital hanggang sa wala nang hantungan kundi sa mga sunugan sa mga ilog at pagtatapon ng mga bangkay sa mga ito.

Source: <https://www.remate.ph/huwag-hintaying-itapon-sunugin-ang-bangkay-ng-covid-victims-kung-saan-saan/>

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