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NEWS ALERTS

STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION AND INITIATIVES SERVICE



[San Miguel's Pasig river rehab project gets support from Japan's shipping giant](#)

NOV 22, 2021, 3:58 PM



Heloise Diamante
Writer

Japan's NYK Line will donate \$1.5 million over five years for the Pasig, Tullahan river cleanup efforts as their way of "giving back to the oceans."

Tokyo's shipping firm Nippon Yusen Kabushiki Kaisha (NYK Line) has pledged a total of \$1.5 million over a five-year period to San Miguel Corporation's (SMC) river rehabilitation initiative.

An April 2021 study identified Pasig River, the Tullahan-Tinajeros River system, and 17 other Philippine rivers among the top 50 polluting rivers in the world. Pasig River ranked number 1 on the list.

Since June 2020, SMC's dredging project in the Tullahan-Tinajeros river system has removed 533,498 metric tons of silt and garbage.

The dredging in Pasig River, which started in July this year, has already removed over 100,000 tons of waste from its two pilot areas, along Pandacan, and near the Malacañang Palace, in Manila.



[San Miguel's Pasig river rehab project gets support from Japan's shipping giant](#)

In support, NYK's donation will be used to purchase additional dredging equipment

"This is something we truly appreciate. It is also a recognition of the importance of the task we've set for ourselves - to continue the clean-up and rehabilitation of our rivers, to try and reverse the decades of pollution that they've suffered," said SMC president Ramon S. Ang.

From NYK, President Hitoshi Nagasawa commented, "As a global shipping and logistics company, protecting the marine environment is part of our DNA and something that we treat very seriously."

The goal of the multi-billion project is to deepen the rivers so the rivers can channel more floodwaters and alleviate flooding in affected areas.

Earlier this year, NYK released the NYK Group Environmental, Social, and Governance (ESG) Story, aimed at integrating ESG into the company's management study.

In October, the company donated printers and copier paper to Philippine schools in support of the training and recruitment of seafarers. The country remains the world's largest supplier of seafarers.

According to NYK, they will continue to aim for a better global society by way of "giving back to the oceans, earth, and people."



Seized logs

posted November 22, 2021 at 10:28 pm



More than 200 pieces of round and half-moon logs were apprehended during one of the continuous monitoring, patrolling, and surveillance operations of DENR CENRO Real along the Magnac River located at Brgy. Maligaya and Canaway, in General Nakar, Quezon. The forest products originated from the timberland areas of General Nakar. The said logs will be hauled and deposited to DENR CENRO Real Impounding Area. Currently, there are 20 identified illegal hotspots within the areas of Real, Infanta, and Nakar.



OpinYon Quezonin

November 20 at 9:14 PM

200 logs seized in anti-illegal logging ops in General Nakar

More than 200 pieces of round and half-moon logs were apprehended during a surveillance operation conducted by CENRO Real last November 13 to 16 along the Magnac River at Barangays Maligaya and Canaway, General Nakar, Quezon.

The apprehended forest products originated from the timberland areas of General Nakar, according to local environmental officials.

Currently, there are 20 identified illegal hotspots within the areas of Real, Infanta, and General Nakar.

The seized logs will be deposited at the DENR CENRO Real Impounding Area.

Administrative Confiscation Proceedings (ACP) will also be conducted in accordance with existing laws and regulations.

(James Veloso/With report from DENR Calabarzon)

#GeneralNakar #QuezonProvince #opinyonquezon #opinyonnews



Sarangani Bay biodiversity threatened by pollution

By [Jerry Adlaw](#)

November 23, 2021

SINGLE-USE plastics and other forms of waste pollution are finding their way to Sarangani Bay, which puts the water's diverse ecosystem in peril as well as the livelihood of fisherfolk, said environment advocate Cecil Diono of Kalikasan.

Diono said Sarangani Bay is known for its rich biodiversity, having been proclaimed a protected seascape 25 years ago. It is now threatened by waste pollution as microplastic particles have been confirmed to be present in fish, mollusks and beach sediments and endangering almost the surroundings of the 215,950-hectare coast.

She noted "kilometers-long patches of waste, including single-use plastics, have been documented accumulating in several portions of the bay since 2018."

She said the microplastics have affected the small fish, as well as top predators such as whales and sharks.

Microplastics also pose danger to corals, which could mistake them for planktons.

"The surroundings of the Sarangani Bay look like an ugly dumpsite," Diono pointed out.

Kalikasan said in its report that "the pollution of the coastal surroundings started when the annual Sarangani Bay Festival, the biggest organized beach party in Mindanao, was held every November of the year."

Records from the Sarangani Bay Protected Seascape (SBPS) showed that the bay hosts a rich biodiversity of fish, sea turtles, corals, seagrasses and mangroves.

"If the bay will not be addressed properly by the provincial government of Sarangani, it would threaten not only the economic livelihood of the fisherfolk in the coastal town that will be affected but also the coastal areas where fishing is the only livelihood of the townsfolk," Diono said.

Sarangani Bay straddles the towns of Glan, Malapatan, Alabel, Maasim, Kiamba and Maitum in Sarangani province and the chartered city of General Santos.



Envi group: Davao City's watershed remains under threat



Contributed photo

[RALPH LAWRENCE G. LLEMIT](#)

November 22, 2021

AN ENVIRONMENTAL group said Davao City's watershed continues to face threats brought about by rampant quarrying, improper waste disposal, and mono-crop plantation, among others.

Interfacing Development Interventions for Sustainability (Idis) Environmental Research Specialist Lemuel Manalo said during the Davao City Watershed Stakeholders Summit on Friday, November 19, that these threats are posing risk to the city's watershed.

Manalo said the Talomo-Lipadas Watershed in the Districts of Baguio, Talomo, and Toril continue to face threats from the increasing livestock and poultry farms, of which several were found without permits.

He also said that mono-crop plantations continue to overrun the slopes, increasing the risk of pesticide contamination.

He added that other land conversion applications that are prohibited, such as memorial parks and cemeteries, continue to pose a threat in the city's Water Resources Zones.



Envi group: Davao City's watershed remains under threat

Talomo River's coastal ecosystem is also reportedly damaged by infrastructure development, including the diking of easements and the Coastal Road Expressway, the researcher said.

The Panigan-Tamugan Watershed in Baguio District, which is dubbed as the "next source of drinking water" to supply the city in the following years, is also threatened by effluents and discharged from mono-crop plantation, agro-industrial and livestock farms, and residential wastes.

Manalo also said that they are alarmed with the large volume of garbage wastes found along the Panigan-Tamugan.

He also said that certain groups in Sitio Kalatong, Barangay Carmen were alarmed with the continued cutting of trees within Mount Tipolog, still in Panigan-Tamugan, to pave the way for an 11-hectare private rest house villa-type of development.

He added that cutting of trees and selling of lands to non-indigenous people have been rampant since 2018.

"The affected area is within the 'conservation zone' and is considered to be an 'environmentally critical area' based on the Davao City Zoning Ordinance and the Davao City Watershed Code," Manalo said.

In Matina Pangi Watershed, Talomo District, the Idis official said leachate and effluents from New Carmen Sanitary Landfill polluted the river's water quality, emitting foul-smell, very dark color.

This has been subjected to complaints from nearby residents.

Meanwhile, quarrying is a longtime issue in the Davao River Basin in Marilog, Buhangin, and Poblacion Districts.

Manalo said the areas of Barangays Mandug, Dalagdag, Callawa, and Lampianao are the most dredged and extracted without replenishment intervals and threshold assessments.

"These quarry areas have reached Barangay Malamba and Barangay Bantol in the north. Reports of illegal quarrying are rampant at Barangay Waan," he said.

He also said agricultural aerial spraying has also resumed in Barangays Dacudao and Lacson where vast plantations for Cavendish banana export are located.

"The pesticide drift affects waterways and creeks connected to the Davao River," Manalo said.



Envi group: Davao City's watershed remains under threat

Quarrying is also a problem in Lasang Watersheds, Paquibato District as operators increased for sand and gravel quarrying at the river in 2019.

In 2020, Davao City Mayor Sara Duterte-Carpio issued a cease and desist order to its operation. But due to the distance and insufficiency in its monitoring, the order was to completely hold the operations and clear our rampant illegal quarrying along the river.

Idis Executive Director Mark Peñalver said it is important to support and acknowledge their efforts in protecting the city's watershed areas and protecting the environment.

"We are very much aware that we are under global pandemic, and despite that, our forces, partners, Bantay Bukid continue to participate and do their job in terms of environmental protection," Peñalver said.

Meanwhile, the annual Watershed Summit aims to provide a deeper understanding of the importance of improving disaster and climate resiliency in managing and protecting the watershed and continuously implementing initiatives towards sustainable and lasting solutions.



SMC, Ramon Ang and the environment

NOV 22, 2021, 12:58 PM



Diego S. Cagahastian
Columnist

LET us not dance around -- many businesses and businessmen are polluters and destroyers of the environment, especially the mineral extraction industry or mining.

Even if directed by the government to rehabilitate the areas which had given and continue to give them tons of money in profits, some businesses just do not comply.

This is true in monopolies, where there is no competition. More so if the monopoly is the holder of a government franchise, and runs essential industries such as water, electricity, etc.

It is therefore worthy to note that there are businessmen who spend much time, effort and money to help the government in cleaning up important river systems and seas which have been abused for so long by residents and industries that contribute to their pollution.

One such firm is San Miguel Corporation, headed by Ramon S. Ang.

For some time now, his SMC has been busy taking out garbage, flotsam and jetsam, that impeded the flow of water in the Tullahan-Tinajeros, contributing to the huge floods in the Camanava areas every time there's heavy rainfall.

But aside from spending millions of its own money, SMC also convinces other big businesses to chip in, and its requests and advocacies had found supporters abroad.

The latest news is that a Japanese shipping company is providing \$1.5 million (P75.6 million) to help the diversified conglomerate rehabilitate the Pasig and Tullahan-Tinajeros River systems.

Tokyo-based shipping firm Nippon Yusen Kabushiki Kaisha (NYK Line) will donate \$1.5 million over a five-year period to buy additional equipment needed for the project.

NYK's donation will be coursed through the San Miguel Foundation and will go to the acquisition of additional equipment to be used for targeted river dredging and clean-up operations. NYK has operations in liner trade, air cargo transportation, logistics, bulk shipping, and real estate, and is the preferred employers of many Filipino seafarers.



SMC, Ramon Ang and the environment

SMC is spending P1 billion for the clean-up of the Tullahan-Tinajeros River, initially hauling off 533,498 metric tons of silt and filth in the Navotas, Malabon and Valenzuela sections.

They have the same objective in Pasig River, with an even bigger budget, P2 billion. The Malacanang Palace and Pandacan sections of the river had been free of 100,000 metric tons of solid waste.

Despite these efforts, the usual nitpickers had been criticizing Ramon Ang and SMC for its Pasig River expressway (PAREX) and the Bulacan International Airport project, which are all planned to improve or rehabilitate the environs in these areas, aside from improving on a grand scale the mobility of Filipinos, and thus giving them the opportunities to earn a living.



Concept Central

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November of every year is known as the "Environmental Awareness Month" in the Philippines as stated in the National Environmental Awareness and Education Act of 2008.

#DailyTribune



1 Share



The alphabet of climate change

posted November 23, 2021 at 12:00 am

by [Rudy Romero](#)



BUSINESS CLASS
by Rudy Romero

"These have been the center of discussion for decades."

The twin subjects of global warming and climate change have been at the center of universal discussion for several decades, and as the discussion has progressed, an alphabet of global warming and climate change has gradually been developed. What follows is that alphabet.

A is for the adaptation of planet Earth to the changes wrought by the new climate-change normal. A is also for the Arctic zone and Antarctica, whose ice sheets are breaking away at alarming speeds; for agriculture, which is apparently one of the principal sources of CO₂ (carbon dioxide) emissions; and for Australia, which helped spoil the recently concluded COP (Conference of the Parties) 26 by refusing to make a substantive commitment regarding its coal industry.

B is for Big Oil (Aranco, BP, Shell and the other oil industry giants), which are resisting the global cry for the phaseout of the fossil-fuels industry. B is also for Brazil, which during the administration of President J Bolsonaro has been deforesting the area known as the 'lungs of the Earth'.

C is for coal, arguably the planet's worst destructive fossil fuel. It also stands for carbon footprint, which measures the contribution of every country, industry, and institution to global warming, and for China, the world's No. 1 producer of greenhouse gases.

D is for deforestation, which the COP 26 final agreement sought to phase out by 2030. D is also for disasters, including drought.

E is for emissions of greenhouse gases. It also stands for electric cars, whose more extensive production and use is being regarded as a major reducer of CO₂ emissions.

F is fossil fuels, famines, floods and footprints of the carboniferous kind.

G is for greenhouse gases, the output of which is sought to be maintained at 1.5 degrees Centigrade above the pre-Industrial Revolution average world temperature. It also stands for geothermal power, a renewable source of energy; for the Group of 20 countries, which are being criticized for being slow to make firm emissions-reduction; and for former U.S. Vice-President Al Gore, who has long warned about the world's continued flirtation with environmental disaster.

H is for hydrocarbons and hydro power, another source of renewable energy. H also stands for hurricanes, which have been visiting certain parts of the globe, including Eastern U.S. and the Caribbean area, with increasing frequency and ferocity.

I is the world's small island nations, which stand to be submerged by the global-warming-induced rise in ocean levels. I also stands for India, one of the planet's greatest polluters, and for "Inconvenient Truths," Al Gore's powerful book on the existential threat posed by global warming.



The alphabet of climate change

M is for methane, reduced production of which was agreed at COP 26.

N is for nuclear power, an alternative source of energy that does not give rise to greenhouse-gas emissions.

Paris is for the landmark Paris Agreement on Climate CHange, which was produced by COP 21 in 2015.

R is for the Rio de Janeiro COP, which did not live up to the high aspirations of the world's climatological scientists and the climate-change activists. It also stands for Russia, a major source of greenhouse-gas emissions that did not bother to attend the Glasgow conference.

S is for solar power, upon which much hope is placed by those looking for a transition to a renewable-energy-dominated world.

T is for the sought-after transition to global cooling and positive climate change. T also stands for typhoons and for Greta Thunberg, the Swedish teenager who admirably has made the global warming issue her life's mission.

W is for the warming that is increasingly being experienced by planet Earth and that must be dealt with determinedly by the world's government leaders if catastrophe is to be averted.

Z is for the zero-missions goal of the nations that make up COP. The majority of countries appear to be looking at 2050 as the target year for the attainment of zero global emissions.

I have nothing to offer for the letters J, K, L, O, Q, U, V and Y. Readers are invited to make suggestions that will complete the alphabet of global warming and climate change.



#ECON101:

The Economic Impacts of Climate Change

WHAT IS CLIMATE CHANGE?
Weather changes all the time. It refers to the day-to-day state of the atmosphere and can change from sunny, cloudy, or rainy ever so often.¹ Climate, on the other hand, is long term. Thus, the term "climate change" then, refers to the "long-term shifts in temperatures and weather patterns" and can be considered a natural event due to the changes in the solar cycle as well.²

It also refers to the rise in global temperatures from the mid-20th century till present that have led to the current climate hazards that are being experienced globally today in increasing intensity.

However, in the past few years, climate change has been more man-made than natural because of industrialization and other economic activities, such as deforestation to build cities, burning of fossil fuels (e.g., oil, gas, and coal), use of cars, and more.

These activities emit greenhouse gases that stay in the atmosphere and keep the sun's heat trapped inside the Earth, and thus impeding its release back into space.

WHAT ARE SOME CLIMATE CHANGE INDICATORS?

While the Earth can handle a significant amount of heat, it is the unnatural rate at which the climate is changing that brings about the unusual shifts in weather patterns. This, in turn, causes what we now experience as intense droughts, melting polar ice caps, rising sea levels, forest fires, catastrophic storms, and deteriorating biodiversity, among others.

Experts look into indicators, such as global surface temperature, sea levels, glacier volumes, ocean heat content, climate extremes, precipitation, and the Northern Hemisphere Snow Cover to gauge how much change is occurring.³

With the continued emissions, the Earth is now around 1.1 °C warmer than it was compared to the late 1800s, recording the warmest decade between 2011 to 2020 according to the World Meteorological Organization.

Although this may seem like a small change in the global temperature, this small change can actually bring about drastic effects to all parts of the world, especially to the polar regions of the Earth displacing a number of species in its wake.

HOW DOES CLIMATE CHANGE AFFECT THE PHILIPPINES?

The Philippines is the world's third most vulnerable country to sea level rise and extreme weather events.⁴

Being an insignificant contributor to the global greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions, the country only accounts for 0.3 percent of the total. This, in contrast to the country's total estimated losses and damages due to climate hazards from 2010 to 2020 of a staggering PHP 515.51 billion (around US\$10.6 billion). This amount is equivalent to an annual average of PHP 48.9 billion, which is around 6.33 percent of the annual average gross domestic product (GDP) of the Philippines.

On a local scale, the effects of climate change are mostly experienced by those who live in the rural, agricultural, or coastal areas.

Flooding and drought damages crops in agricultural areas, while catastrophic storms and rising sea levels affect those in the coastal areas, and even some in the metropolitan areas.

ECONOMICS 101: ECONOMIC IMPACTS OF CLIMATE CHANGE

We are the world's 3rd most vulnerable country to sea level rise or extreme weather events.



- An average of 20 tropical cyclones hit the Philippine Area of Responsibility every year.
- The Philippines contributes an estimate of 0.75 million metric tons of mismanaged plastic entering the ocean every year.
- Seven (7) of the top 10 rivers in the world identified as the top plastic polluters of the oceans are in the Philippines.
- Incurred losses and damages due to climate hazards have already amounted to an estimated P506.1 billion (approximately US\$10 billion) over the decade

AGRICULTURE

From October to November 2020, three typhoons successively devastated the Philippines, with a projected combined damages of PHP 10 billion in the agriculture sector and PHP 25 billion in the infrastructure sector. Typhoon Quinta (Molave) wiped out PHP 2.66 billion worth of agricultural and fisheries goods and PHP 923.58 million worth of damage to infrastructure in Regions I, II, III, CALABARZON, MIMAROPA, V, VI, and VIII.

In January 2021, the general price level clocked a higher rate of year-on-year growth of 4.2 percent.

The uptick in January was mainly on account of major food items, such as vegetables at 21.2 percent. Rice also reversed its negative growth trend, registering a slight price increase of 0.10 percent. Cagayan Valley, which was severely battered during the recent typhoons, recorded the highest rate at 8 percent.

In addition, increased temperature levels and extreme weather events affect agricultural productivity and can decrease crop yields. Total crop production in the country was projected to be 4 percent lower in 2050 under climate change than it would have been under baseline levels (without

ECONOMICS 101: ECONOMIC IMPACTS OF CLIMATE CHANGE

DID YOU KNOW?
Climate change refers to the "long-term shifts in temperatures and weather patterns" and can be a natural phenomenon due to variations in the solar cycle.

climate change).⁵
This can result in increased prices of agricultural food commodities, increased prevalence of hunger and malnutrition, and risks on food security. In 2020, agriculture attributed to 10.18 percent of the country's Gross Domestic Product (PSA, 2020). This is a significant amount that can negatively impact economic growth if stunted by climate change.

COASTAL AREAS AND FISHERY

The Philippines as an archipelagic country is surrounded by bodies of water. Statistics show that there are 1.6 million fishermen in the country. In 2018, fishery accounted for 1.3 percent of the country's GDP.

At present, sea levels are rising rapidly and have already risen by 60 centimeters in the Philippines. This is roughly three times the global average of 19 centimeters, which puts 60 percent of LGUs in the country at risk, affecting 64 coastal provinces.⁶

Moreover, rise in the ocean temperature can cause changes in oceanic currents and consequently affect the environment for fishes. Research shows that microscopic plants and animals, which are integral to a fish's diet, dwindle due to warmer water and decreased availability of oxygen. This then causes species to move away from specific regions.

According to the Philippine Statistical Authority (2017), the country's fishermen are among the poorest groups in the nine basic sectors: women, youth, children, senior citizens, individuals residing in urban areas, migrant and formal sector workers, farmers, fishermen, and self-employed or unpaid family workers.

The fishermen represent a poverty incidence of 34 percent, belonging to households whose income is below the official poverty threshold. Thus, a decrease in marine production or fishery negatively impacts mitigation of poverty incidence, especially to fishing households.⁷

FLOODING AND TYPHOONS

Due to its location in the Pacific Ring of Fire, the Philippines is among the most disaster-prone countries in the world, experiencing over 20 typhoons a year. However, this can only get worse with the impacts of climate change.

According to the Coastal Sea Level Rise Philippines Project (CSLR-Phil), the Manila Bay Area continues to rise by at least 12.13 mm per year, which is about four times the global average. By 2030, the Manila Bay will have risen by nearly 11 centimeters already affecting nearby areas in Metro Manila such as Caloocan, Malabon, Navotas, and Valenzuela.

Increasing occurrences of cyclones or typhoons that are also getting stronger in intensity, bring about severe flooding, landslides, and casualties both to properties and human lives. Calculated against a long-term average basis, the Philippines can incur public and private asset losses in as much as Php 177 billion per year.

In fact, in the next 50 years, the likelihood of the country experiencing a loss of more than Php 173 trillion is at a staggering 40 percent. While this number is simply a projection, with its high probability and if climate change remains neglected, the effects can ultimately be detrimental not only to the Philippines but to the rest of the globe as well.

WHAT ARE WE DOING TO FIGHT CLIMATE CHANGE?

Economically, climate change can reduce long-term economic growth per year by 0.02 percent.⁸ That said, the government is doing its utmost efforts to mitigate and adapt while also rolling out initiatives for national pandemic recovery, in light of the recent COVID-19 outbreak.

Just last April 2021, the Philippines submitted its first Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC) targets to the United Nations for the Paris Agreement on Climate Change (UNFCCC). The main target is to reduce greenhouse gas emissions (GHG)

by 75 percent in 10 years, from 2020 to 2030. Further, the NDC also aim to: a) Undertake adaptation measures across different sectors (agriculture, forestry, coastal and marine ecosystems and biodiversity, health, and human security); b) Pursue forest protection, restoration and access to results-based finance in forest conservation; and c) Undertake equitable adaptation strategies with mitigation co-benefits while ensuring their contribution to the national pandemic recovery.

To fulfill these ambitious targets, the government has shifted from theorizing about climate change to executing practical climate adaptation and mitigation projects on the ground. The Climate Change Commission (CCC), chaired by the Department of Finance (DOF), has put together a group of Filipino experts who represent all corners of the Philippines to engage communities and prepare them to execute localized action plans.

The newly reconstituted National Panel of Technical Experts (NPTE) launched 16 new members to provide practical advice urgently needed by the climate change body to be able to effectively implement and execute climate mitigation and adaptation strategies down to the local scale.

The Philippines' first-ever Sustainable Finance Roadmap was also launched this October to deploy the engines of finance to get green projects moving across the archipelago. To urge the Filipino people to do their part on a daily basis in saving the world's environment, the DOF is pushing for a law banning single-use plastics, called the Single-Use Plastics (SUP) Regulation Act or HB 9147.

On renewable energy, the country has partnered with the Asian Development Bank for a landmark project that will accelerate the transition from coal to clean energy, upon President Rodrigo Roa Duterte's declaration of a moratorium on new coal plants.

This October to November, the delegation composed of representatives from the Office of the President, Department of Finance, Department of Foreign Affairs, Department of Energy, Department of Environment and Natural Resources and the British Embassy Manila at the recently concluded 26th United Nations Conference on Climate Change (COP26) in Glasgow, Scotland championed climate justice and climate finance during the discussions.

The Philippine Energy Plan (PEP) for the period 2020-2040 which was presented in Glasgow by the Energy Undersecretary and Spokesperson Felix William Fuentes summarized the country's long-term strategic plans and policy initiatives to attain its goals of energy security, equity, and environmental sustainability.

Finally, as the discussions and negotiations at COP26 came to its end, the Philippines along with over 100 other countries in Glasgow formalized their commitment to reverse forest loss and land degradation by 2030 as stated under the Glasgow Leaders' Declaration on Forests and Land Use.

Prior to these, the Government has already passed into legislation several initiatives that promote climate action, such as the Clean Air Act of 1999 (RA 8749), Clean Water Act of 2004 (RA 9275), Climate Change Act of 2009 (RA 9729), Philippine Green Jobs Act of 2016 (RA 10771), among others.

What are we doing to fight climate change this quarter of 2021?

July

- Approval of the Single-Use Plastics Products Regulation bill on third reading in the House of Representatives

September

- Process of scaling up the country's crop insurance protection to include climate-induced vulnerabilities through PCIC

October 13

- Launched a new panel of experts under the Climate Change Commission to engage communities and prepare them to execute localized action plans.

October 31

- Participated in the COP26 to champion climate justice and climate finance

November 3

- Launched the Energy Transition Mechanism Project with ADB

Top 10 Climate Induced Risks in the Philippines (Identified by the Climate Change Commission - National Panel of Technical Experts)

1. Rising sea levels
2. Coastal erosion
3. Flooding
4. Increasing frequency and severity of tropical cyclones
5. Extreme drought
6. Temperature increase and shrinking head indices
7. Extreme rainfall
8. Climate-induced diseases
9. Wild wildfires
10. Biodiversity loss

¹NASA, What's the Difference Between Weather and Climate? (2005). See https://www.nasa.gov/mission_pages/noaa-n/climate/climate_weather.html

²United Nations, Climate Action: What is Climate Change? (2021). See <https://news.un.org/en/climate-change/what-is-climate-change>

³US National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, Global Climate Change Indicators (accessed 2021).

⁴World Bank, Getting a Grip on Climate Change in the Philippines (2015).

⁵International Food Policy Research Institute, The Economy Wide Impacts of Climate Change on Philippine Agriculture (2015). See <https://www.ctn.org/sites/www.ctn.org/files/129755.pdf>

⁶National Integrated Climate Change Database Information and Exchange System, Climate Change Impacts. See <https://nccdes.climate.gov.ph/climate-change-impacts>

⁷Suh D and Pomeroy R, Projected Economic Impact of Climate Change on Marine Capture Fisheries in the Philippines (2020)

⁸International Food Policy Research Institute, The Economy Wide Impacts of Climate Change on Philippine Agriculture (2015). See Page 5



COP26 and the end of coal: Asean needs a plan

By [Han Phoumin](#)

November 23, 2021

AMONG the immediate results of COP26 in Glasgow is a strong commitment by at least 23 nations to phase out coal power. Most importantly, three countries in the Association of Southeast Asian Nations — Indonesia, Vietnam and Singapore — are among countries that joined this pledge. Historically, coal use in Asean is viewed as strategically important due to its competitive cost and available supply within the region.

Thus, transitioning away from coal is challenging for leaders to contemplate. However, the strong consensus at COP26 to dramatically decrease dependence on fossil fuels provides momentum for a more rapid energy transition in the region. Furthermore, world leaders announced a consensus to "phase down unabated coal" use, and countries have set ambitious targets to reduce emissions to limit the temperature rise to well below 2 degrees Celsius, preferably to 1.5 degrees of temperature rise above the preindustrial level.

At COP26, despite some contradictions on the timeline for net zero emissions and other climate policies, they set forth a path to achieve the climate goals including phasing out coal, ending fossil fuel subsidies, putting a price on carbon, protecting vulnerable communities, and delivering the \$100 billion climate finance commitment. If all these can be translated into real policy actions, it will have enormous impact on trade and employment opportunities.

Countries and regions that move quickly are positioned to benefit from favorable policies and incentives. As the saying goes, 'the early bird catches the worm.' Asean should strive to be an "early bird."

End of coal financing

Until now, Asian economies have benefited from the growth of coal-fired power plants due to financing from China, South Korea and Japan. However, surprisingly, these three developed countries of northeast Asia have turned away from coal and recently announced plans to end overseas coal financing. In addition, major banks and financial institutions also made landmark commitments at COP26 to stop funding coal around the world. COP26 partners, including Italy, Canada, the United States and Denmark, have also signed a UK-led joint statement committing to ending international public support for the unabated fossil fuel energy sector' by the end of 2022 and instead prioritizing support for the clean energy transition (UNFCCC, press release, Nov. 4, 2021).

It is very likely that the outcome of COP26 will influence national policies across the globe towards becoming low carbon societies to limit global warming to below 2 C. For example, Europe's Carbon Border Adjustment Mechanism (CBAM) on imported products will likely to be imposed on all products entering the region, including from Asia. This means that all future imports of products and services to Europe will be assessed by the life cycle assessment (LCA) method to evaluate their carbon impact. If the CBAM is implemented strictly, it will have huge implications for the future export of products and services produced in Asean countries where carbon intensity is still relatively high.



COP26 and the end of coal: Asean needs a plan

What will happen after COP26 in terms of policy changes? Also what does the energy transition towards net zero emissions mean for Asean? And how can the region handle the sudden elimination of coal financing from China, South Korea and Japan?

Undoubtedly, the race to net zero emission has begun, posing an extreme challenge for many countries that have high dependency on fossil fuels, especially for many developing countries around the world and Asean in particular. In the region of Asean and East Asia, Japan and South Korea have joined the pledge for net zero emissions by 2050, while China aims to achieve net zero emissions by 2060. Singapore has also announced ambitious plans for net zero emissions beyond 2050, and Thailand pledged for net zero emissions by 2065. Although many countries in Asean have yet to set any specific emissions targets, most are working hard to redesign their policies towards more sustainable cleaner energy systems.

The COP26 outcomes therefore pose a risk for Asean countries with high carbon intensity. These countries should envisage policy changes to offset the risk, including assessment of unintended consequences. One of the chief issues will be the impact on energy affordability. Will Asean leaders dare to guarantee energy affordability if fossil fuels and coal are reduced drastically? Will alternative energy be affordable? Who will finance the energy transition as many clean technologies remain expensive or technologies that are expected to abate emissions are yet to be commercialized or developed?

There is doubt that countries that are able to decarbonize not only help protect the environment, but also enhance opportunities for future economic growth as many policies will offer incentives to do so. However, it is important to understand changes in carbon competitiveness relative to countries or regions that may compete in the export market. This knowledge will be the starting point for considering necessary actions to strengthen the economic competitiveness of the Asean region even in the low-carbonized world of the future.

Carbon-offset mechanisms

Decarbonization will require policies for renewable energy, the deployment of clean energy such as hydrogen along with other carbon-offset mechanisms such as energy efficiency and carbon credits, and the deployment of carbon sink technology such CCUS. We know that Asean is rich in solar PV resources and hydropower. However only a few countries have offshore wind and geothermal resources. If the Asean electricity market gradually shifts to an integrated electricity market, hydropower resources from the Mekong subregion could function as the baseload power and complement solar and wind energy. In the absence of thermal power plants, the region needs to develop sufficient electrical battery storage as a backup during shortages of sunshine and wind power.

In providing the roadmap for decarbonization in the Asean region, ERIA research has found that the marginal CO₂ abatement cost exceeds \$900 per tonne of CO₂ in net zero emission target by 2050, implying big economic challenges for carbon neutrality in this region.



COP26 and the end of coal: Asean needs a plan

Thus, ensuring success for energy transition, Asean needs to be bold and carefully craft the energy policy road map that can ensure growth, sustainability, accessibility and affordability. Rich countries should deliver on their COP 26 commitment for \$100 billion a year to support the energy transition in less developed countries. And Asean countries should put those funds to work.

Han Phoumin is a senior energy economist at the Economic Research Institute for Asean and East Asia (ERIA).

Should Southeast Asia return to 'native' packaging to tackle the plastic crisis?

Solutions to mounting plastic waste in the archipelago require careful consideration of the local context, or they may not work.



Banana leaf packaging. Natural forms of packaging could be Southeast Asia's best defence against plastic pollution. Image: thebetterindia.com

By [Robin Hicks](#)

Nov. 22, 2021

Should the future of packaging in Southeast Asia take cues from the past to unravel the plastic crisis?

The regional bloc is home to some of the world's biggest plastic polluting nations because of a toxic mix of rapid urbanisation and poor waste management infrastructure, and experts suggest that solutions to plastic pollution should come from local customs rather than emerging technologies and business innovations.

Southeast Asia produces 1.14kg per capita plastic waste per day, with a high proportion of that ending up as marine litter. North Americans produce the most at 2.21kg per day, according to World Bank [statistics](#). The volume of plastic waste is expected to triple by 2025, according to data from the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP).

Source: <https://www.eco-business.com/news/should-southeast-asia-return-to-native-packaging-to-tackle-the-plastic-crisis/>



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C20 SPACES

Francine M. Marquez, Editor

Tuesday, 23 November 2021
Daily Tribune

Solar Energy powers up cement plant

Holcim has a deep portfolio of innovative solutions that can help local builders execute a wide range of projects from massive infrastructure to simple home repairs

BY RAPPY AYENG
@tribunezhi_rap79

In its aim to improve its sustainability performance, Holcim Philippines Inc. has signed a 20-year power purchase agreement with Blueleaf Energy, a leading renewable energy company, to deliver solar power to its plants in Bulacan and La Union.

Under the arrangement, Blueleaf Energy will finance, build, operate and maintain solar energy facilities in Norzagaray, Bulacan and Bacnotan, La Union with a combined capacity of 29-megawatt peak and an annual generation of more than 50-gigawatt hours that will supply up to 15 percent of the energy requirements of Holcim Philippines' plants there. The solar energy facilities are scheduled to be

completed in 2024.

The partnership is projected to significantly reduce the power costs and carbon footprint of Holcim Philippines. The parties held a signing ceremony on 16 November.

The deal marks Holcim Philippines' transition to sustainable cleaner energy for cement production. Manufacturing cement is energy-intensive so the shift to renewable power enables Holcim Philippines to conserve natural resources and reduce CO2 emissions.

"Reducing the carbon footprint of our operations is one of our key sustainability commitments. This year, we have made great progress by stepping up the production of blended cement and replacing coal with alternative fuels. Shifting to renewable solar energy will help us further improve as an environmental steward and a partner in building progress in the country sustainably," said Horia Adrian, president and CEO of Holcim Philippines.

For his part, Raghuram Natarajan, CEO of Blueleaf Energy, noted that they are pleased to continue to build its strong track record in delivering world-class clean energy solutions in the region and supporting large multinational companies like Holcim.

"With our credentials of developing and operating over 2 GW of projects, of which more than 250 MW is in the Philippines, this partnership also underscores our strong capability to support corporates in Asia in achieving their clean energy ambitions," Natarajan said.

Holcim has a deep portfolio of innovative solutions fostered by a full range of products from structuring to finishing applications that can help local builders execute with high performance and efficiency a wide range of projects from massive infrastructure to simple home repairs.

With cement manufacturing facilities in La Union, Bulacan, Batangas, Misamis Oriental and Davao, as well as aggregates and dry mix business and technical support facilities for building solutions, Holcim Philippines is a reliable partner of builders in the country.

Holcim Philippines is a member of the Holcim Group, the world leader in the building materials industry present in 80 countries with over 70,000 employees.

PHOTOGRAPH COURTESY OF HOLCIM PHILIPPINES

THE deal marks Holcim Philippines' transition to sustainable cleaner energy for cement production.



ELEVATING BAMBOO'S PROFILE AS SUSTAINABLE BUILDING MATERIAL

One of Base Bahay's main thrust is the creation of our own National Structural Code for Bamboo

To be the world's authority on the use of bamboo and other sustainable materials for building construction, and, in the distant future, establish a "bamboo university" that will become the global center of learning on everything that this resilient grass species has to offer.

These two are part of the overall vision and mission of non-profit Base Bahay Foundation Inc. To constantly nurture these dreams and bring them closer to reality, Base Bahay relies heavily on a unique component of their organization: A "bamboo laboratory" located here, in the heart of the Philippines, called the Base Innovation Center (BIC).

"You can't find a laboratory like this anywhere else in the world — one that is focused on alternative building materials, especially for the social housing sector," says Luis Felipe López, who runs the BIC as its director, along with dedicated engineers and students from partner universities conducting their own research.

BIC officially opened at the start of the year in Manila as the research and development arm of Base Bahay, to ensure continuous testing and knowledge improvement on the overall application of the foundation's Cement Bamboo Frame technology, explains Maricen Jalandoni, Base Bahay president and chair of the board of trustees.

"Through continuous research and innovation, Base Bahay is able to establish itself as the leader in bamboo technology," Jalandoni noted.

A huge chunk of the research that BIC does involves testing bamboo to evaluate its mechanical

properties, explains López. Knowing this allows local authorities to have design values for bamboo that permits the creation of a national building code for bamboo. The code could then be used by structural engineers to determine the design of the housing structure that will be built using Base Bahay's Cement Bamboo Frame. Currently, the foundation partners with like-minded organizations such as Habitat for Humanity to build



PHOTOGRAPHS COURTESY OF HNTI FOUNDATION/PICTURE/ALCÉS ONGCAL

At the Base Innovation Center, Technology director Luis Felipe Lopez runs tests to evaluate the mechanical properties of different types of bamboo that will feed into the creation of a national bamboo building code and bring it into the mainstream as a sustainable building material.



sustainable communities with affordable housing across the Philippines. So far, they have established 12 such communities, which house and provide livelihood to around 1,000 families or more than 5,000 individuals.

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

"BIC allows our partners to see what we can offer them and lets us elaborate on the different construction methods and design elements we can study for bamboo, such as wind design and seismic design."

At the moment, Base's research touches on a variety of topics, including the characterization of five different bamboo species in the Philippines, which they are



working on in close collaboration with the De La Salle University Manila. Base has been working

with Coventry University UK in the implementation of the ISO 19624 Bamboo grading, a standard that allows bamboo producers to have a better classification of their poles.

Meanwhile, the BIC, in collaboration with Pittsburgh University, Coventry University, and Arup, is producing a guidebook about bamboo structural design, which will cover load tables for bamboo similar to those commonly used for steel and timber. These tables will reduce the need for repetitive calculation and allow rapid calculation of minimum design requirements.

One of Base Bahay's main thrusts is the creation of our own National Structural Code for Bamboo team that is currently working with the Association of Structural Engineers of the Philippines (ASEP) to promote our own National Structural Code for Bamboo.

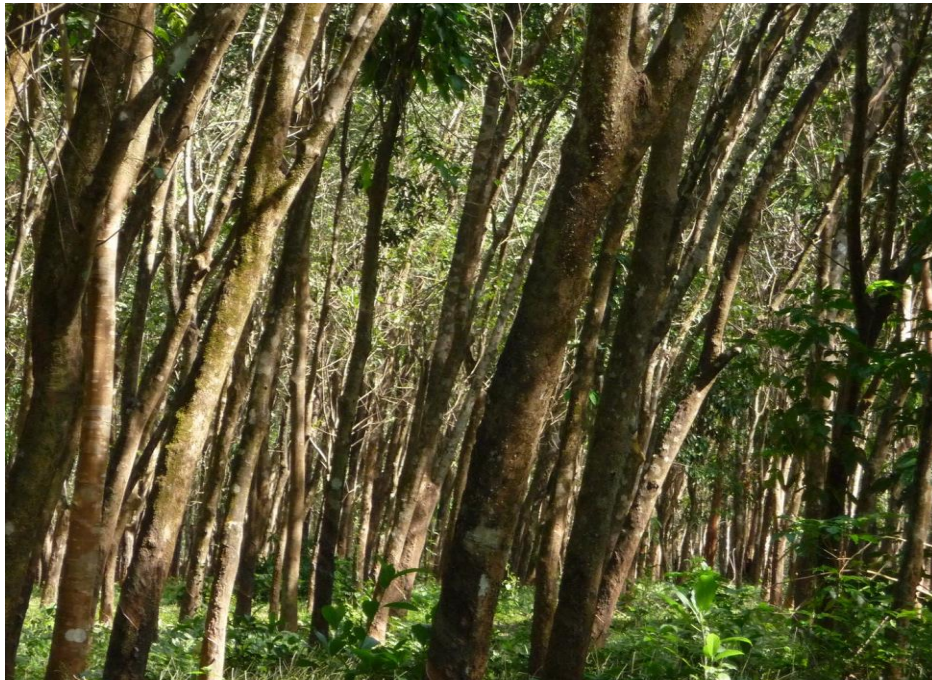
This move was further encouraged by the publication, in June, of a new standard on structural design using bamboo poles, by the International Organization on Standardization (ISO): ISO 22158:2021.

"This milestone is a significant step for the mainstreaming of bamboo construction around the world," Jorillo says.

For more information on Base Bahay Foundation and ongoing projects, visit base-builds.com.

Nature can't wait

Humanity is enmeshed in nature. Because we are capable of destroying it, we are responsible for protecting it.



A rubber farm in Myanmar. Rubber growers can boost their climate resilience with the right cultivation methods. Image: [Sean Beesley via Flickr](#), [CC BY 2.0](#)

By **Andrea Meza**

Nov. 22, 2021

Costa Rica is celebrating 200 years of independence this year. It is an opportunity to honor our ancestors and think about our descendants, and we invite the world to celebrate with us. Those who cannot visit in person should do so by protecting the Earth's land and oceans, the source of all life.

Specifically, governments, businesses, communities, and individuals should commit to conserving at least 30 per cent of the planet's land and oceans by 2030. Scientists have determined that this "[30x30](#)" goal is the minimum level of conservation needed to prevent a catastrophic loss of nature and to stem climate change.

But 30x30 will not happen by itself; it will require time, attention, and money. Economists estimate that [achieving this goal](#) – by conserving the world's most important intact wild areas and restoring crucial degraded habitats – would represent [less than one-third of the amount](#) that governments spend on subsidies to activities that destroy nature.

It is encouraging that nine major philanthropic organisations recently [pledged US\\$5 billion](#) to the 30x30 effort, the [largest donation to nature in history](#).

Others must now follow their lead. [Sixty percent](#) of the world's terrestrial wildlife populations have been lost since 1970, and [almost one-third](#) of global fish stocks are being exploited at an unsustainable level. The destruction of natural areas also releases huge quantities of greenhouse gases, contributing to climate change.

Nature can't wait

True, the cost to protect nature may seem like a lot, especially as countries grapple with the economic fallout of the Covid-19 pandemic. But it is less than 1 per cent of global GDP (roughly [US\\$87 trillion](#) in 2019), and little more than one-third of the nearly [US\\$2 trillion](#) in total military spending worldwide in 2020.

Nature will repay us many times over for the investments we make.

Moreover, this sum is a fraction of what economies would lose should crucial ecosystems fail. The World Bank recently estimated that the collapse of three ecosystem services – pollination, food provision from marine fisheries, and timber from native forests – could reduce annual global GDP by [US\\$2.7 trillion](#).

Because we cannot rely solely on private philanthropists to foot the bill, the necessary global investments must come from a combination of enhanced public and private finance. Every country must commit its share, with the G7 in particular leading the way with solid funding pledges.

Governments could free up additional resources by phasing out subsidies that harm nature instead of protecting it. For example, countries are currently [negotiating](#) at the World Trade Organisation to end US\$35 billion in annual [fishing subsidies](#) that support large-scale industrial fleets and have driven the depletion of global fish stocks.

A substantial portion of the funds we need should go to low-income countries that host the majority of the world's biodiversity. Costa Rica, for example, accounts for only 0.03 per cent of the planet's landmass, but contains an estimated 5 per cent of its biodiversity. Furthermore, significant funds should be dedicated to protecting the land rights of indigenous peoples and local communities, who are nature's best and most cost-effective stewards.

Nature will repay us many times over for the investments we make. The economic benefits of protecting 30 per cent of the world's land and oceans by 2030 – including job creation in sectors such as forestry and tourism – would likely outweigh the costs by a ratio of [at least five to one](#).

Costa Rica's economy is based on nature-positive activities such as forest conservation, renewable electricity generation, and biodiversity protection. Since the 1980s, the country has stopped and then reversed [forest loss](#), while the economy [has grown by some 250 per cent in real terms](#). We now have a system of national parks and protected areas that cover more than 26 per cent of our land area.

[Winning one of the first-ever Earthshot prizes](#) will help us replicate in the ocean our successes on land. Already, an [ambitious process is underway](#) this year to enlarge protected areas from under 3 per cent of our oceanic territory to closer to the 30 per cent promised in our [2020 nationally determined contribution](#) under the Paris climate agreement. My goal is to realize this massive expansion before I leave office.

Momentum toward 30x30 is growing. The [High Ambition Coalition for Nature and People](#), led by Costa Rica, France, and the United Kingdom, has engaged over 70 countries in support of this goal. And 30x30 has become a [crucial feature](#) of the most recent draft of the Global Biodiversity Framework, which is set to be finalized by 196 countries at the United Nations Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD COP15) in Kunming, China, in 2022.



Nature can't wait

But actions speak louder than words. Governments, firms, and all of society must dedicate the financial resources needed to achieve 30x30.

Nature is the ultimate source of all our fresh water, food, clean air, and genetic resources for medicine and industry. It keeps dangerous pathogens in check and carbon in the ground, and generates green jobs. It is an irreplaceable source of human creativity, and spiritual and mental health.

Humanity is enmeshed in nature. Because we are capable of destroying it, we are responsible for protecting it. Let us decide now to invest the funds needed to fulfill that responsibility before it is too late.

Andrea Meza is Minister of Environment and Energy of Costa Rica.

HK Universities to Hold Training on Sea-Related Toxins and Emerging Pollutants

by  [Village Connect](#) about 11 hours ago



A consortium of Hong Kong-based universities is holding two online trainings on “**Pollution Assessment and Management (PAM)**” and “**Recent Advances in Marine Environmental Research**” on November 26 and 27 respectively, as part of the last series of pre-2021 **East Asian Seas Congress (EAS)** collabs. The collabs are a mix of technical and knowledge-sharing sessions held in the lead up to the EAS Congress and organized by the **Partnerships in Environmental Management for the Seas of East Asia (PEMSEA)** and other stakeholders.

The two-day technical sessions are co-organized by the **State Key Laboratory of Marine Pollution (SKLMP)**; **City University of Hong Kong (CityU)**; Department of Applied Biology and Chemical Technology, **The Hong Kong Polytechnic University (PolyUHK)**; and the Department of Science and Environmental Studies, **The Education University of Hong Kong (EdUHK)**.

Government representatives (including policy makers and environment authorities), environment consultants and practitioners, representatives from industries, scientists, academics, research students, and other interested individuals are invited to attend.

Training session on Pollution Assessment and Management (PAM)

PAM is a six-hour online training session happening on **November 26, 2021 from 9:00 AM – 5:00 PM (GMT+8)** that will introduce the fundamental concept and best practices in environmental risk assessment and management of chemical contaminants and give an overview on the frontier technologies in monitoring and assessment of marine pollution. Special focus will be placed on emerging chemicals of concern and the risks they pose to the marine ecosystem and public health.



HK Universities to Hold Training on Sea-Related Toxins and Emerging Pollutants

For participants, expected outcomes include understanding the concepts and principles of environmental risk assessment, risk management, and communication as applied in practice. Attendees will also understand the basic risk assessment tools (i.e., prospective, retrospective and tiered approaches) for environmental risk management and learn about advanced methods for monitoring emerging chemicals of concern and their current status in coastal environments around the world. This training session will also enable participants to appreciate and employ modern approaches in pollution assessment and management in environmental policy formulation and decision making.

The program will be chaired by Professor Kenneth M. Y. Leung of SKLMP with Dr. Ling Jin of the Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering, PolyUHK as co-chair.

Symposium on Recent Advances in Marine Environmental Research

A one-day symposium on **November 27, 2021, from 9:00 AM – 5:00 PM (GMT+8)** will feature a series of talks focusing on toxins or man-made substances that pollute the ocean or affect its living biodiversity. The symposium will consist of three interrelated themes: (1) innovative technologies in pollution monitoring and control; (2) environmental risk assessment of emerging chemicals of concern; and (3) ecological restoration. The symposium will conclude with a panel discussion with experts.

Participants will learn about the most recent technology for pollution monitoring and control; occurrence and impacts of emerging chemicals of concern; problems of eminent stressors such as hypoxia and algal toxins; and novel approaches in ecological restoration. Attendees will also have a chance to express their views on the challenges in marine environmental research during the panel discussion, paving the way for capacity building and research collaboration in the Asia-Pacific region.

Dr. Leo Chan, Associate Director, SKLMP and Dr. Henry He of the School of Energy and Environment, CityU, will facilitate the morning session. The afternoon session will be chaired by Dr. Chan with Dr. James Fang, Department of Applied Biology and Chemical Technology and Research Institute for Future Food, PolyUHK. Professor Rudolf Wu, Department of Science and Environmental Studies, EdUHK, will moderate the panel discussion.



Foreign govts eyed in retirement of coal plants

By [Mayvelin U Caraballo](#)

November 23, 2021

Finance Secretary Carlos Dominguez 3rd is looking into how foreign governments might be able to help the Philippines speed up the decommissioning and repurposing of its coal-fired power plants, particularly where foreign companies have a significant stake in their continued operation, according to the Department of Finance (DoF).

In a statement on Monday, the DoF said Dominguez discussed the prospect of foreign governments buying out the shares of their nationals who own significant stakes in companies that operate coal-fired power plants in the Philippines.

He added that the proceeds from the proposed buyout could be donated to help fund the finance vehicle created for the Philippines under the Asian Development Bank's (ADB) Energy Transition Mechanism (ETM) initiative, which aims to accelerate Southeast Asian countries like the Philippines' transition from coal to clean energy.

"If we can get the foreign governments to buy out those shareholders and donate the shares of that company to a government — to our government — or to a group, including ADB and other agencies, we can actually shut down that plant. And that foreign government would actually be making a contribution to reducing a coal-fired power plant," Dominguez was quoted as saying at a recent Green Finance Session co-hosted by TIME Magazine Singapore and the Finance department in Glasgow, Scotland.

The DoF said the TIME panel discussion was one of the side events during the recently finished 26th United Nations Conference of the Parties (COP26) in Glasgow.

It said Dominguez added that employees working at coal-fired plants scheduled for decommissioning will be retrained to work on other energy initiatives.

For example, the Finance chief mentioned a coal plant in Mindanao that is scheduled for deactivation as part of the Philippines-ADB partnership created through the new ETM facility.

"First of all, there are not a lot of people actually working in that particular coal-fired power plant, or in any coal-fired power plant. So, it's very easy to retrain them to do other projects," he emphasized.

Source: <https://www.manilatimes.net/2021/11/23/business/top-business/foreign-govts-eyed-in-retirement-of-coal-plants/1823259>



QC supports bike use in push for safer, greener transport



BY BUSINESSMIRROR

NOVEMBER 22, 2021

3 MINUTE READ

FOLLOWING the completion of the 93-kilometer exclusive bicycle lanes, the Quezon City (QC) government is set to establish various facilities for bikers in line with the implementation of City Ordinance 2988-2020 or the “QC Safe Cycling and Active Transport Ordinance of 2020.”

The ordinance, authored by Councilor Fernando Miguel F. Belmonte, ensures the safety and seamless travel of the cycling public in the city and promote a healthier and active lifestyle.

“Nang magsimula ang pandemya noong nakaraang taon, nakita nating naging pangunahing mode of transportation na ang bisikleta. Kaya naman, sinikap ng pamahalaang lungsod na magkaroon ng maayos na pasilidad, daanan, at batas para naman ma-protectahan natin ang mga biker lalo na sa pagbaybay nila sa mga pangunahing lansangan,” Mayor Maria Josefina Tanya “Joy” G. Belmonte said.

The ordinance mandates all city government offices and facilities to put up end-of-trip facilities or designated places that supports bikers. Facilities include bike parking areas, shower facilities, and hydration areas.

Bike parking must be established in all government agencies in QC, as well as in MRT and LRT stations within the city. Further, through City Ordinance 2369-2014, establishments such as malls, restaurants, groceries, and banks are required to put up bike racks.

Green rest or repair stations will also be constructed in public areas. Common tools such as bike pumps, hex keys, and wrenches will be installed in a manner that prevents theft and vandalism, while ensuring convenience in the use of cyclists.

On the other hand, separate shower facilities and changing areas for different genders will be installed close to the parking area. The hydration area will be located in close proximity to the entrances of city government buildings.

Soon, an additional 81.7 km of protected bike lanes will be opened, as stated in the city’s Enhanced Climate Change Action Plan for 2021-2050. A pedestrian and bikers bridge across Katipunan Road linking the Ateneo and Miriam Campuses with UP Campus will also be constructed.

“Bilang katuparan ng ating mithiing maging bike-friendly city ang lungsod, tuluy-tuloy ang mga programa natin. Maliban sa pagiging mode of transport, mainam din ang pagbibisikleta para mapanatili ang malusog na pangangatawan at mabawasan ang carbon emission para sa mas malinis na hangin,” the mayor said.

To ensure the strict implementation of the ordinance, the city has also established the QC Bicycle and Active Transport Section under the Green Transport Office of the Department of Public Order and Safety.

Bike patrols were also assigned to different areas to ensure the safety of the cyclists and apprehend motorists obstructing the exclusive bike lane.

Meanwhile, since August 2021, the city has distributed over 1,800 bicycles to daily wage workers and those most needing of alternative mode of transport.



QC supports bike use in push for safer, greener transport

Helmets were also provided to over 12,300 bikers traversing the city before the implementation of the City Ordinance SP-2942 S2020 or the Bicycle Riders Helmet Ordinance of Quezon City.

To further promote cycling as an active and healthier transport, the city organized various activities such as the Bike Run Activity during the city's celebration of its 82nd founding anniversary.

On November 25, the local government will launch QC Cycle to End VAW as a kick-off event for the commemoration of the 18-day campaign to end violence against women.



House extends availability of 2021 budget until December 2022

By Filane Mikee Cervantes November 22, 2021, 4:23 pm



MANILA – The House of Representatives on Monday approved on second reading a proposal that would extend the availability of the 2021 national budget until December next year.

The lower chamber approved through voice voting House Bill 10373, authored by ACT-CIS Party-list Rep. Eric Go Yap, that would amend Section 62 of the General Provisions of Republic Act 11518 or the General Appropriations Act (GAA) of Fiscal Year 2021.

The proposed amendment would extend the availability of the 2021 appropriations until Dec. 31, 2022.

Yap said the coronavirus pandemic curbed the opportunities for socio-economic growth and development.

He also noted that it brought "disruptions" in the operations of government, which then caused delays in the release and issuances of budget allocations.

"Nearing the end of the year, there are still programs, projects, activities funded by the 2021 GAA that are very much needed by the Filipino people, especially those in the most vulnerable sector," he said.

He said extending the availability of this year's budget would allow the agencies to fully utilize the allocations to implement government programs and projects and to ensure that the intended beneficiaries of these basic services are reached.

The 2021 national budget, he said, would strengthen the country's response against the pandemic, as well as boost economic recovery.

"The GAA of 2021 centers on the philosophy that more than our priorities for a responsive and dynamic governance, the focus of our resources shall also be directed to the most urgent priority – to reset our momentum and action, rebound from the devastating effects of the pandemic on the health and economy and fully recover from current and continuing impacts of the crisis," Yap said. *(PNA)*



Duterte directs gov't agencies to support 3-day vax drive

By Azer Parrocha November 22, 2021, 2:24 pm



(File photo)

MANILA – President Rodrigo Duterte has directed all government agencies and instrumentalities to fully support the nationwide simultaneous vaccination drive against Covid-19 from November 29 to December 1, Malacañang said on Monday.

“The President has directed all government agencies and instrumentalities to extend all possible support to the “Bayanihan Bakunahan” program spearheaded by the Department of Health and the Department of Interior and Local Government,” Cabinet Secretary and Acting Presidential Spokesperson Karlo Nograles said in a press statement.

The three-day vaccination drive seeks to inoculate 15 million Filipinos across 16 regions outside Metro Manila.

Currently, some 32.9 million Filipinos have completed their Covid-19 jabs.

Citing government data, Nograles said increased vaccination rates have contributed to the reduction of active Covid-19 cases and the drop in daily new Covid-19 cases.

He also enjoined those who have yet to get vaccinated against Covid-19 to participate in the simultaneous vaccination rollout.

“We urge our unvaccinated kababayans to participate in the Bayanihan Bakunahan project so that they can provide themselves and their families with the protection and peace of mind that vaccines provide its recipients,” he said.

He expressed gratitude to those working to organize all the personnel and resources that will be mobilized “to vaccinate our countrymen, as well as front-liners working for the success of the government initiative.”

Earlier, Nograles clarified that November 29 and December 1 are considered “special working days” while only November 30 is a regular holiday for the commemoration of national hero Andres Bonifacio's birth anniversary.



Duterte directs gov't agencies to support 3-day vax drive

Secretary Carlito Galvez Jr., chief implementer of the National Task Force (NTF) against Covid-19, said the national Covid-19 vaccination initiative will involve a "whole-of-society and whole-of-government" approach.

He said deliveries will be fast-tracked by enlisting the help of the Armed Forces of the Philippines, the Philippine National Police, the Office of Civil Defense, the Department of Transportation as well as the private sector.

Medical organizations, nurses' and dental associations are also going to be tapped to augment the government's healthcare workers in administering the expected increase in vaccine recipients, which include minors aged 12-17 years old. *(PNA)*

Northeast Monsoon to bring rain over parts of Luzon — PAGASA

Published November 22, 2021 5:48pm



Metro Manila and the rest of the country will experience partly cloudy to cloudy skies with isolated rain showers or thunderstorms due to the easterlies or localized thunderstorms.

Batanes and the Babuyan Islands will experience cloudy skies and light rain due to the Northeast Monsoon or Amihan, PAGASA said Monday.

In its 24-hour forecast, the weather bureau said the Amihan will also bring partly cloudy to cloudy skies with isolated light rain over Ilocos Region, Cordillera Administrative Region and rest of Cagayan Valley.

Meanwhile, Metro Manila and the rest of the country will experience partly cloudy to cloudy skies with isolated rain showers or thunderstorms due to the easterlies or localized thunderstorms.

PAGASA advised affected residents to prepare for possible flash floods or landslides during severe thunderstorms.

Further, moderate to strong wind and moderate to rough coastal water conditions will prevail over northern Luzon, while light to moderate winds and slight to moderate waters will be experienced over the rest of the country. — **Ma. Angelica Garcia/BM, GMA News**

23 NOVEMBER 2021, Tuesday



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NEWS ALERTS

COVID-19 NEWS

STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION AND INITIATIVES SERVICE



‘Philippines ranks lowest on COVID-19 deaths among select countries’

By [Sheila Crisostomo](#) (The Philippine Star)
- November 23, 2021 - 12:00am



Citing the “Our World In Data” report, Duque noted the Philippines ranked lowest for mortality related to COVID-19 compared to the United States, Mexico, Brazil, Italy, United Kingdom, Spain, France and Germany.

MANILA, Philippines — The Philippines has the lowest number of deaths from COVID-19 compared to eight other mostly wealthy countries that have the highest number of cases, Health Secretary Francisco Duque III said yesterday.

Citing the “Our World In Data” report, Duque noted the Philippines ranked lowest for mortality related to COVID-19 compared to the United States, Mexico, Brazil, Italy, United Kingdom, Spain, France and Germany.

The data compared the number of deaths from Jan. 5, 2020 up to March 31, 2021.

According to Duque, the Philippines’ low mortality could be attributed to the country’s COVID-19 response.

“A much improved prevent, detect, isolate, treat, reintegrate and lately, improving vaccination rate especially in the National Capital Region... Also, the early detection to isolation efforts of our local government units contribute to the low morbidity,” he told The STAR.

Duque had credited health care workers for the “improved clinical care management” of COVID-19 patients.

He added that the “good Living Clinical Practice Guidelines has guided our physicians in the use of life-saving meds such as Dexamethasone Tocilizumab and Remdesivir and (leading to) better detection outcomes.”



‘Philippines ranks lowest on COVID-19 deaths among select countries’

Unvaccinated deaths

Health Undersecretary Maria Rosario Vergeire reported yesterday that there were 216,074 COVID-19 patients in health facilities from March 1 to Nov. 14 this year.

Of this, she said 86 percent were not fully vaccinated.

“Based on hospital discharged COVID-19 patient data... deaths and serious outcomes are more likely to happen among unvaccinated,” she claimed.

Severe and critical cases were 1.75 times more likely to occur among the unvaccinated, compared to those fully vaccinated.

“Death was 2.6 times more likely to occur among unvaccinated than those fully vaccinated individuals,” Vergeire added.

The Department of Health (DOH) is hopeful that the Philippines will not go the way of some European countries that saw spikes in COVID-19 cases after loosening up restrictions.

Vergeire said a number of countries in Europe have been reporting an increase in COVID-19 cases in recent weeks.

But she noted the DOH remains hopeful that cases in the country will not soar despite the relaxed restrictions under the alert level system.

“While we keep a close eye on COVID-19 trends in our country, it is also important to stay up to date with what is happening in other countries... Hopefully, that will not happen to us,” she added.

According to Vergeire, Europe has had a steep rise in the number of cases recently. At the country level, Slovenia, Austria, Czech Republic and the Netherlands have the steepest increase in cases.

“Cases in these countries have reached new peaks since the beginning of the pandemic,” she said.

Spikes

The official pointed out the rise in cases was due primarily to two reasons – the loosening of restrictions and requirements for minimum public health standards and “vaccine hesitancy and skepticism.”

She said that some countries in Europe have loosened up their COVID-19 restrictions since June.

England, for instance, removed mask mandates on July 19 despite having their four-week moving average at more than 200,000 cases that week.

“The United Kingdom, however, does not plan to bring back COVID-19 restrictions at present as the country transitions to learning to live with a virus,” she added.

On the other hand, the Netherlands also lifted mask mandates in June as long as social distancing of 1.5 meters is followed.

Vergeire said one of the major differences of the Philippines with these countries is the improved behavior of Filipinos.



‘Philippines ranks lowest on COVID-19 deaths among select countries’

“Here in the Philippines, we saw that through the months from the start of the pandemic, the behavior of the people improved in terms of wearing of mask, frequent hand washing, physical distancing,” she maintained.

She added the government will continue to push for compliance with minimum public health standards and ramp up vaccination in order to sustain the “low risk level of the country.”

Vergeire said there are differences in each country’s settings on how to transition into “living with the virus.”

For the Philippines, she claimed this is being done by making sure that the health system capacity is ready, among others.

“When we started our shift in policy, the main goal of this would be for us to be able to really ‘live with the virus’ eventually and that’s why we are looking at the capacity of each local government unit in employing different strategies like the granular lockdowns,” she said.

Under 1,000 cases

After a week, the Philippines has once again logged a daily tally of COVID-19 cases below 1,000, DOH said yesterday.

Based on the DOH’s case bulletin, there were 984 new cases of COVID-19 documented on Nov. 22, bringing the total tally to 2,826,853 cases.

It was on Nov. 16 when the DOH had recorded a single-day tally that was below 1,000 cases at 849 cases.

The DOH noted that two laboratories were not operational on Nov. 20, while three laboratories were not able to submit their data to the COVID-19 Document Repository System.

The agency added that there were 25,464 active cases of COVID-19, representing 0.9 percent of the overall tally.

Data showed 99 COVID-19 patients died, raising the death toll to 45,808, while 2,393 cases have recovered, bringing the number of recoveries to 2,819,341.

Nationwide, the health care utilization rate ranged from 21 percent to 34 percent.

The DOH has reminded the public not to let their guard down.

“We should continue to adhere strictly to the minimum public health standards... Let us all get vaccinated to be protected more against COVID-19,” the agency maintained.



Philippines starts rollout of COVID-19 booster shots, third doses

By [Christian Deiparine](#) (Philstar.com)
- November 22, 2021 - 1:06pm



Health Secretary Francisco Duque III administers a COVID-19 booster shot to Dr. Nina Gloriani, head of the government's Vaccine Expert Panel, during the ceremonial vaccination at East Avenue Medical Center in Quezon City on November 22, 2021
PTV/Mark Fetalco

MANILA, Philippines — The Philippines on Monday started giving COVID-19 booster shots for the elderly as well as third doses for the immunocompromised, nearly nine months into its inoculation drive.

Health Secretary Francisco Duque III led the administering of the jabs at a ceremonial vaccination at East Avenue Medical Center in Quezon City.

Authorities opened COVID-19 booster shots last week starting with health workers. In a separate briefing, Health Undersecretary Ma. Rosario Vergeire said the rollout would be done in phases.

“May we just remind the public that this is still only for health care workers, senior citizens who are 60 years old and above, and immunocompromised individuals in the A3,” she said in mixed English and Filipino.

Among the priority group for persons with comorbidities, Vergeire said those eligible to get third doses so far are:

- those in immunodeficiency state
- people living with human immunodeficiency virus (HIV)
- with active cancer or malignancy
- transplant recipients
- patients under immunosuppressives
- dialysis patients



Philippines starts rollout of COVID-19 booster shots, third doses

Those not in the list would be part of the rollout's second phase, the health official added.

But as the country begins giving out booster and third doses, Vergeire stressed the focus should remain on administering the primary series on the unvaccinated.

Vaccine czar Carlito Galvez Jr. has sought to assure that the Philippines's vaccine stockpile is enough for the two efforts.

"We have enough doses of vaccine brands," he said during the ceremonial booster rollout. "We have allocated six to eight million [doses] for senior citizens and with comorbidities, excluding the 1.6 million we have for health workers."

The Food and Drug Administration has cleared four vaccine brands as booster shots and third doses, namely: Sinovac, Astrazeneca, Pfizer, and Moderna.

There are now 33.57 million Filipinos fully vaccinated for COVID-19, latest data showed.

The figure is out of the 77.13 million the government targets to inoculate this year to meet "population protection."

Some 41.99 million, meanwhile, have received a first dose.



Kaso ng COVID-19 sa mundo, sumampa na sa higit 257.83 milyon

By Angellic Jordan November 22, 2021 - 01:53 PM



Reuters photo

Pumalo na sa 257.83 milyon ang bilang ng kumpirmadong kaso ng COVID-19 sa buong mundo.

Batay sa huling tala, pumalo na sa kabuuang 257,832,881 ang tinamaan ng nakakahawang sakit sa iba't ibang bansa.

Nangunguna pa rin sa may pinakamaraming naitalang kaso ng COVID-19 ang Estados Unidos na may 48,592,810 cases.

Sumunod na rito ang India na may 34,518,901 na nagpositibo sa pandemiya.

Nasa 22,017,276 naman ang kaso sa Brazil habang 9,845,492 ang napaulat na kaso sa United Kingdom.

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

- Russia - 9,331,158
- Turkey - 8,571,554
- France - 7,414,971
- Iran - 6,077,438
- Germany - 5,378,192
- Argentina - 5,315,348
- Spain - 5,080,663
- Colombia - 5,048,061

Samantala, lumabas din sa pinakahuling datos na umakyat na sa kabuuang 5,168,069 ang bilang ng nasawi sa iba't ibang bansa.

Nasa 232,756,149 naman ang total recoveries ng COVID-19 pandemic sa buong mundo.

Read more: <https://radio.inquirer.net/304838/kaso-ng-covid-19-sa-mundo-sumampa-na-sa-higit-257-83-milyon#ixzz7CyzYdB8E>

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PH detects 426 more cases of Delta variant

By Ma. Teresa Montemayor November 22, 2021, 12:51 pm



MANILA – An additional 426 cases of the highly transmissible and dominant Delta variant of the coronavirus have been recorded nationwide, a health official said Monday.

In an online media forum, Department of Health Undersecretary Maria Rosario Vergeire said the new Delta variant cases were from a total of 506 samples collected in March, April, September, October, and November and sequenced on November 20.

Of the samples collected and sequenced, about 426 or 84.19 percent were Delta variant cases, 10 cases or 1.98 percent Alpha variant, and 18 cases or 3.56 percent are Beta variant.

The new cases pushed the total Delta variant cases to 7,038, Alpha variant cases to 3,139, and Beta variant cases to 3,595.

The latest sequencing brought the number of total sequenced samples with assigned lineages to 18,383 as of November 21.

Vergeire noted that all regions and all cities and municipalities in the National Capital Region (NCR) either have Alpha or Beta variants detected.

The Delta variant, initially detected from returning overseas Filipinos, is now detected in all 17 regions and all NCR cities and its lone municipality.

Meantime, the P.3 variant, which was initially observed in only one region, is now detected in all regions. *(PNA)*

Source: <https://www.pna.gov.ph/articles/1160467>



BATA SA MALL, PASYALAN, ATBP? PATAY KANG BATA KA!



November 22, 2021 @ 8:28 PM 9 hours ago

Madadaldal na ang mga batang edad 3-4.

Labis na kasiyahan ang nadadarama ng mga magulang na makinig sa mga kwento ng mga batang ito.

Laman ng kwento ng mga ito ang pagsakay sa traysikel o dyip o bus sa mga lugar na malalayo mula sa kanilang mga bakuran o eskinita o kalsadang pambarangay.

Gayundin ang magaganda nilang karanasan sa loob ng mga palengke, mall, pasyalan at iba pa.

Ang dami palang mabiling sari-saring pagkain na gusto nilang bilhin at tikman at mga laruan.

Ang gaganda pala ang mga ilaw sa loob ng mga mall o kaya sa mga parke at tourist area.

At ang lalaki pala Ang mga tao sa kalsada.

‘Yun bang mga naglalakihang tarpaulin ng mga kandidato at nakakakita sila ng mga artista nang personal at hindi lang sa telebisyon o sa mga cellphone.

Siyempre, masayang magdadaldal ang mga batang ganito ang edad lalo na kung isipin na ngayon lang sila nakalalabas at nagkakataon pang buo na ang kanilang mga pagkukwento.

LIBO-LIBO NAGKAKASAKIT, DAAN-DAAN NAMAMATAY

Lingid sa murang kaisipan ng mga batang ito, hindi nila alam na marami sa kanila ang nagkakasakit sa halos dalawang taon nang pandemya.



BATA SA MALL, PASYALAN, ATBP? PATAY KANG BATA KA!

Batay sa GMA research, mahigit halos 64,000 na ang mga batang edad 11 anyos pababa ang nagka-COVID-19.

Halos 400 na rin ang namamatay.

Karamihan umano sa mga biktima ang 4 anyos pababa, kasama na ang isa sa mga pinakabagong 2 anyos na sinampol ni Pangulong Rodrigo Duterte sa kanyang mga pahayag ukol sa mga batang biktima.

Paano ang mga hindi nasuri at naisama sa mga rekord ng mga ospital at Department of Health, lalo na ang mga biktima sa mga malalayong barangay mula sa mga kabayanan?

PINAKAMADALING MAGKASAKIT AT MAMATAY

Nahahanay ang mga batang edad 11 pababa sa mga pinaka-vulnerable o pinakamadaling magkasakit, maospital at mamatay.

Simple lang ang dahilan, mga Bro: Hindi bakunado ang mga ito at ang mga edad 4 pababa, hindi sinusuutan ng face mask dahil hindi nila alam kong nahihirapan sila o hindi sa paghinga.

Sa ganitong kalagayan, talaga naman madali silang makapitan ng COVID-19 at wala sila ni anomang proteksyon.

Kaya naman, sa katutusan na mismo ni Pangulong Duterte, makagawa na ang pamahalaan ng paraan na mapigilan ang mga magulang, guardian, caretaker at lolo at lola sa pagbitbit sa mga bata sa mga "closed, crowded at close contact" na lugar.

Hindi umuubra ang mga pakiusap ng pamahalaan kaya kailangan ang nauukol na batas o patakaran para protektaan ang mga nasabing mga bata.

Siyempre pa, may mga umaangal.

Pero dapat higit na intindihin na ang pagpigil sa mga bata na lumabas sa mga tahanan at pumunta o madala kahit saan na posibleng may virus ay para kanilang magandang kalusugan at buhay.

Ang mabuting gawin ng mga umaangal, sumali sila sa programang bakuna ng pamahalaan sa pinakamadaling panahon upang makatulong sila sa pangkumunidad na mga mamamayan na ligtas sa pandemya.

Malaking tulong din ang pagpapabakuna nila sa pagpigil sa anomang pagkahawa mula sa kanila ang mga bata.

23 NOVEMBER 2021, Tuesday

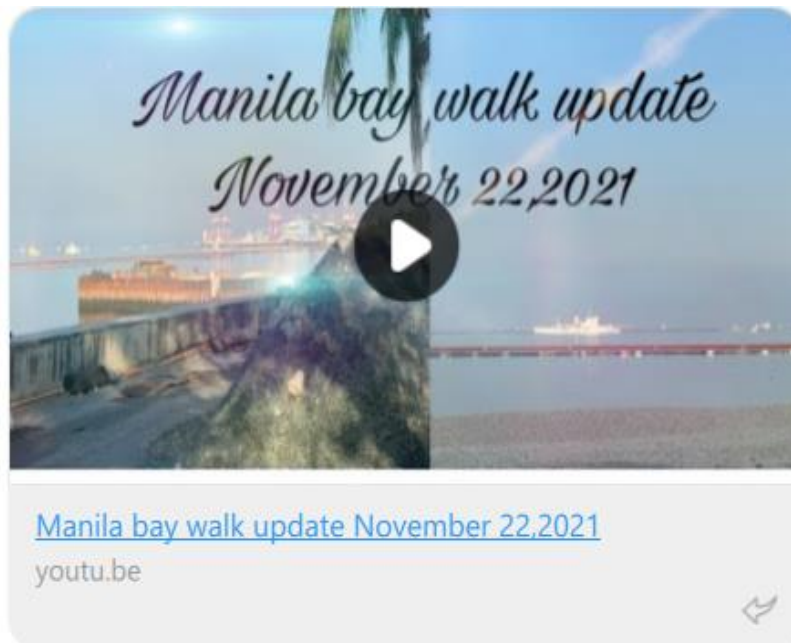


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