

14 JULY 2022, THURSDAY



# NEWS ALERTS

STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION AND INITIATIVES SERVICE



## DENR-LMB, LRA tie up to ensure hassle-free land registration

Published on: July 13, 2022

By Elaine Allanigue

*Department of Environment and Natural Resources-Land Management Bureau (DENR-LMB) Director Emelyne V. Talabis (center, seated) and Land Registration Authority (LRA) Officer-in-Charge Administrator Robert Nomar Leyretana (left, seated) sign the Joint Memorandum Order (JMO) on the procedural guidelines for the registration of patents and plans approved by the DENR in the Registry of Deeds and other related matters on June 28 in Quezon City. Talabis highlighted that the JMO will provide a more coordinated, accurate, and accessible land information system between the two agencies. It will cover the processing and approval of transactions covering the issuance of DENR-issued patents; and processing, registration and issuance of subsequent titles in relation to LRA-approved plans. LRA is an attached agency of the Department of Justice. Witnessing the ceremonial signing are LMB Assistant Director Romeo Verzosa (right, seated), LRA officials and guests from the Geodetic Engineers of the Philippines and Land Registration Systems, Inc. (Contributed photo/File)*

**QUEZON CITY, (PIA) --** The Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR), through the Land Management Bureau (LMB), has partnered with the Land Registration Authority (LRA) to ensure a more accurate and accessible land information system.

A statement issued by the DENR on Tuesday said the partnership aims to relieve the transacting public of the hassles of land registration through the use of an online data linkage system.

LMB Director Emelyne Talabis and LRA OIC Administrator Robert Nomar Leyretana on June 28 led the signing of a joint memorandum order (JMO) on the Procedural Guidelines for the Registration of Patents and Plans Approved by the DENR in the Registry of Deeds and Other Related Matters.

This is in consonance with the DENR-LRA Joint Memorandum Circular No. 1, Series of 2021, which prescribed the full systems linkage and land data exchange between the two agencies in relation to DENR-approved plans and DENR-issued patents submitted for registration in the Registers of Deeds.

Talabis said the new JMO will provide a more coordinated, accurate, and accessible land information system between the DENR-LMB and LRA.

It provides the protocols for land-related transactions of the DENR and LRA, such as the processing and approval of survey plans, verification of lot status, and patent issuance and registration through the integration of the data linkage systems.



Former DENR OIC Secretary Joselin Marcus Fragada said the signing of the JMO is a land industry milestone as the DENR-LRA data linkage is a *“progressive step in addressing the fragmented system of land administration and management in the country for a more secure, credible, and streamlined titling processes.”*

*“We have several land title-issuing authorities in the country, and these agencies have their own separate land information databases. With this fragmented setup of titling and registration, double-titling is prone to happen. This innovation will solve such problems and improve public service delivery,”* Fragada said.

Through a software intermediary called Application Programming Interface (API), LMB’s Land Administration and Management System (LAMS) will communicate and exchange land information databases such as maps, survey plans, patents, and lot status with those from LRA’s Philippine Land Registration and Information System (PHILARIS) and seamlessly process land-related transactions securely.

The API will enable land processors to view land records and status in both systems, eliminating discrepancies and the current requirement for applicants to personally acquire clearances and certifications from the DENR and LRA offices.

Talabis said the project is just a start, as the DENR-LMB and LRA are still looking at the other features of the LAMS and PHILARIS that can be linked.

*“This JMO is a continuation of our journey towards a better land information system. I believe that this will lead to more reforms in the land administration management system, especially with digitization,”* Talabis said.

She said plans for full digitization of land processes are in the works and plans for implementing electronic patents or e-patents to replace the manual judicial form.

To test the efficiency of the system linkage, implementation will be piloted in the National Capital Region, DENR-Region 4-A, Region 7, Region 10, and followed by other regions in the succeeding years. **(PIA-NCR)**



## DENR to link land database with LRA's to streamline titling

July 13, 2022 | 8:21 pm



DENR FB PAGE

THE Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) said it has entered into a partnership with the Land Registration Authority (LRA) to improve access to information on land and make land-related transactions easier for the public.

The resulting system for land data hopes to ease the processing and approval of survey plans, the verification of lot status, and the issuance of patents and registration by integrating the two agencies' fragmented data.

DENR Land Management Bureau Director Emelyne V. Talabis said that the partnership will result in a more coordinated, accurate, and accessible public-facing land information system.

Former DENR Officer-in-Charge Joselin Marcus E. Fragada said the tieup is a "progressive step in addressing the fragmented system of land administration and management in the country for a more secure, credible, and streamlined titling processes."

"We have several land title-issuing authorities in the country, and these agencies have their own separate land information databases. With this fragmented setup of titling and registration, double-titling is prone to happen. This innovation will solve such problems and improve public service delivery," he added.

The system software will access land information databases such as maps, survey plans, patents, and lot statuses of the DENR and LRA in aid of processing land-related transactions.

This will allow land processors to eliminate discrepancies and do away with the need for applicants to personally acquire clearances and certifications from the DENR and LRA offices.

"Plans for full digitization of land processes are in the works and plans for implementing electronic patents or e-patents to replace the manual judicial form," Ms. Talabis added.

The system will first be piloted in Region IV-A, Region VII, Region X, and the National Capital Region.



“A real honest-to-goodness whole-of-government approach with an interagency task force that will dovetail our undertaking would be very ideal... Someday, all land title-issuing agencies will be our partners,” LRA Administrator Robert Nomar V. Leyretana added. — **Luisa Maria Jacinta C. Jocson**



## DENR Supports PCMC Bloodletting Activity

Wednesday, July 13, 2022 Journal Online



Former Department of Environment and Natural Resources ([DENR](#)) Acting Secretary Jim O. Sampulna (left, front row) holds the Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) for the participation of DENR in the bloodletting activities of the Philippine Children's Medical Center (PCMC). The MOA was signed by Sampulna and PCMC Executive Director Dr. Sonia B. Gonzalez (right, front row). The DENR and PCMC partnership for the activity started in 2011 and continues to the present. Others in photo are: DENR Undersecretary for Legal, Administration, Human Resources and Legislative Affairs Ernesto D. Adobo Jr. (left, front row), DENR Strategic Communication and Initiatives Service Director Khalil S. Bayam (2nd from left, back row), [DENR](#) Assistant Secretary for Human Resources, Strategic Communication and Sectoral Initiatives Hiro V. Masuda (right, front row), and officials from PCMC.



## DENR, NKTi Partnership to Save Lives

Wednesday, July 13, 2022 Journal Online



Former Department of Environment and Natural Resources ([DENR](#)) Acting Secretary Jim O. Sampulna and National Kidney and Transplant Institute (NKTi) Executive Director Dr. Rose Marie O. Rosete-Liquete (left and right, seated) sign the Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) for their first-time partnership for bloodletting activities. Since 2011, the DENR has been participating in such activities to provide assistance to those in need of medical treatments requiring blood supply. Others in the photo are: DENR Strategic Communication and Initiatives Service Director Khalil S. Bayam (extreme left), [DENR](#) Assistant Secretary for Human Resources, Strategic Communication and Sectoral Initiatives Hiro V. Masuda (extreme right), and officials from NKTi.



## DENR, PUP Seal MOA for Certificate Courses

Wednesday, July 13, 2022 Journal Online



Former **Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR)** Acting Secretary Jim O. Sampulna and Polytechnic University of the Philippines (PUP) President Dr. Manuel M. Muhi (2nd and 3rd from left, front row) show the signed Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) for certificate courses in Financial Management and Human Resource Management to be provided by PUP for DENR employees. The courses will start in July 2022 and will be for a period of one (1) year. Also in photo are: DENR Undersecretary for Legal, Administration, Human Resources and Legislative Affairs Ernesto D. Adobo Jr. (extreme left), **DENR** Assistant Secretary for Human Resources, Strategic Communication and Sectoral Initiatives Hiro V. Masuda (extreme right), and other officials from PUP.





## DENR Distributes Gardening Materials in Time-X for the Youth

Wednesday, July 13, 2022 Journal Online



Department of Environment and Natural Resources ([DENR](#)) Stakeholders Management and Conflict Resolution Division (SMCRD) Chief Julie Ibulan (extreme right) joins DENR Region 3 Assistant Regional Director Laudemir Salac (2nd from right) for the turn over of gardening tools and seeds to the Aeta Youth representatives of TimE-X or Training, Immersion and Ecotour activities for youth leaders held at Hacienda Gracia Hotel in Lubao, Pampanga on June 27-29, 2022. Participants in the event were national DENR Youth Desk Officers, National Youth Commission representatives from Bataan, Nueva Ecija and Tarlac, and Aeta Youth leaders from Bgy. Camias, Porac, Pampanga. TimE-X was designed as an action against climate change and to build stronger responses among the Indigenous Peoples (IP) youth through adaptation and mitigation processes. The gardening materials were received by Aeta Youth leader Lucas Abuque, IP Political Council leader Benny Capuno, and IP Mandatory representative Edwin Abuque (3rd, 4th and 6th from right, respectively). The distribution of tools and seeds is part of the livelihood component of the three-day event organized by the SMCRD. Also in photo are Development Management Officer Imelda Matubis (5th from right) and Andrew Noprada (7th from right) from the [DENR](#) Climate Change Service.

Source: <https://journal.com.ph/denr-distributes-gardening-materials-in-time-x-for-the-youth/>



# Legarda lauds PBBM's appointment of Yulo-Loyzaga as DENR Secretary

Published July 13, 2022, 5:21 PM

by [Mario Casayuran](#)

Incoming Senate President Pro Tempore Loren Legarda today July 13 lauded the nomination by President Ferdinand R. Marcos Jr. of Ma. Antonia "Toni" Yulo-Loyzaga as secretary of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR).

"The appointment is timely and strategic given the triple threats of biodiversity loss, pollution, and climate change to the Philippines," Legarda said.

"I look forward to the DENR's effective implementation of at least 10 landmark environments laws we have passed in the past decades, all sorely lacking in serious, strict and efficient monitoring," she added.

Like another nominees of the Executive branch, Yulo-Loyzaga's nomination will go through the public hearing process before the powerful bicameral Commission on Appointments (CA) that determines the fitness of presidential nominees.

The CA will then vote to bypass or confirm her appointment.

"Ms. Yulo-Loyzaga brings to the DENR a deep and broad understanding of the convergence of the environment, climate action, disaster risk reduction and sustainable development," Legarda said.

"This is crucial as the Philippines strives to further strengthen the nexus of transformational and whole of government and society actions needed to address environmental challenges," Legarda, an environmentalist, stressed.

"I am confident that, working together with relevant National Government agencies and development partners, and the scientific community, the DENR under the helm of Ms. Yulo-Loyzaga will provide and undertake critical environmental policies and projects to safeguard and protect the interests of the natural resources of our country, thus saving our people from more poverty and health crises," she added.



# Legarda lauds Toni Yulo-Loyzaga's nomination as DENR secretary

Published 15 hours ago on July 13, 2022 05:46 PM

By [Jom Garner](#)



Senator Loren Legarda on Wednesday, 13 July, commended the nomination of Ma. Antonia “Toni” Yulo-Loyzaga as Secretary of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR).

In a statement, Legarda, who is a known climate change advocate, said the appointment of Yulo-Loyzaga is “timely and strategic” due to the triple threats the country is currently facing: biodiversity loss, pollution, and climate change.

“Ms. Yulo-Loyzaga brings to the DENR a deep and broad understanding of the convergence of the environment, climate action, disaster risk reduction, and sustainable development,” she said.

The returning senator also said that she is looking forward to the implementation of the DENR of the environmental laws she passed in the past decades.

“I look forward to the DENR’s effective implementation of at least 10 landmark environment laws we have passed in the past decades, all sorely lacking in serious, strict, and efficient monitoring,” she said.

Legarda expressed her confidence in Yulo-Loyzaga’s leadership, citing the latter’s previous work experiences.

“I am confident that, working together with relevant National Government Agencies and Development Partners, and the scientific community, the DENR under the helm of Ms. Yulo-Loyzaga will provide and undertake critical environmental policies and projects to safeguard and protect the interests of the natural resources of our country, thus saving our people from more poverty and health crises,” she said.

On Tuesday, the Palace announced that President Ferdinand Marcos Jr. nominated Yulo-Loyzaga to be his administration’s Environment Secretary.

Yulo-Loyzaga was chairperson of the International Advisory Board of the Manila Observatory, where she advocated for more scientific research on climate and disaster resilience.



She also served as the executive director of the Manila Observatory and technical adviser of the Philippine Disaster Resilience Foundation.

Yulo-Loyzaga is also on the Senior Advisory Board of the AFP's Command and General Staff College.



## Salceda vouches for new DENR chief Loyzaga: 'Batchmate!'

Published July 13, 2022, 5:04 PM

by [Ellson Quismorio](#)

Albay 2nd district Rep. Joey Salceda spoke highly on Wednesday, July 13 of Ma. Antonia “Toni” Yulo-Loyzaga, who was recently appointed as Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) secretary by President Ferdinand “Bongbong” Marcos Jr.



Albay 2nd district Rep. Joey Salceda (Facebook)

“I am very deeply pleased and inspired by her appointment- another best and brightest moment for PBBM,” Salceda said in a statement.

“Toni is a dear friend and my batchmate in Ateneo. We worked on so many DRR CCA (disaster risk reduction and climate change adaptation) projects making her a reliable friend of Albay especially after ‘Reming’ and many other disasters,” the third-term congressman said.

Salceda says that he worked with Loyzaga “very closely when I was governor of Albay, delegate to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, and as co-chair of the United Nations Green Climate Fund. She is the expert’s expert when it comes to climate adaptation and disaster resilience”.

He hoped that the Loyzaga appointment “will bring the principles of climate adaptation, disaster risk reduction, and science-centered governance in natural resource management”.

“I would like to highlight Toni’s prior stints over the last decade as Executive Director of the Manila Observatory and Chairperson of its International Advisory Board as well as her time as technical adviser of the Philippine Disaster Resilience Foundation where she effectively championed scientific research on climate and disaster resilience,” Salceda added.

He bared that Yulo-Loyzaga is also part of the Philippine Armed Forces’ Senior Advisory Board at the Command and General Staff College and is a trustee for both the Ateneo de Manila and Ateneo de Naga Universities.

Salceda chaired the House of Representatives’ Ways and Means Committee during the previous 18th Congress.

Source: <https://mb.com.ph/2022/07/13/salceda-vouches-for-new-denr-chief-loyzaga-batchmate/>



# Groups weigh in on nomination of Yulo-Loyzaga as DENR chief

BY JONATHAN L. MAYUGA JULY 13, 2022

With Malacañang's official announcement on the nomination of Antonia Yulo-Loyzaga as the country's chief steward of the environment and natural resources, various groups have issued statements welcoming her to President Ferdinand "Bongbong" R. Marcos Jr.'s Cabinet, while expressing hope of enforcing environmental policies in their favor.

The Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR), an agency mandated to manage the country's environment and natural resources, also acts as a regulatory agency for development projects, like quarrying and mining, and other environmentally-critical projects like massive land reclamation in coastal areas and other water bodies like lakes and rivers.

## Balancing act

Mining companies belonging to the Chamber of Mines of the Philippines (COMP), an association composed of most of the country's large-scale metallic minerals development companies, said it looks forward to working with Yulo-Loyzaga "in fulfilling President Ferdinand R. Marcos Jr.'s thrust of striking a balance between economic development and environmental protection under his administration."

"We are prepared to work with Secretary Yulo-Loyzaga in her advocacies, particularly disaster risk reduction and response, sustainable development goals, and climate change protection," Michael Toledo, COMP chairman said.

Stop quarry, mining operations

Environmental groups, however, are quick to call on the new DENR chief to stop destructive quarrying and mining operations.

The Masungi Georeserve Foundation said it recognizes Yulo-Loyzaga's invaluable leadership as a former Executive Director of the Manila Observatory (MO).

"After Typhoon Ondoy, the MO led the scientific studies which proved the impacts of the Upper Marikina Watershed's deforestation to increased flood risk in towns and cities. The science is clear: restore the watershed to protect the people. We are hopeful that the new secretary will share our vision and those of many others to make Masungi and the Upper Marikina Watershed free from quarry interests and other intrusive developments," the group said in a message e-mailed to the media.

## Urgent climate action

The environmental group Kalikasan-People's Network for the Environment (Kalikasan-PNE) expressed hope that Yulo-Loyzaga will take urgent climate action based on the global frameworks and standards on disaster risk reduction and climate resilience in her exercise of leadership.

"Being a former executive director of Ateneo's Manila Observatory and current president of the National Resilience Council, Secretary Toni should understand well the rapidly closing window for climate action over the next three to eight years," the group, through its national coordinator Leon Dulce said.



## Stop reclamation projects

The group Pambansang Lakas ng Kilusang Mamamalakaya ng Pilipinas, for its part, urged the new DENR chief to “stop reclamation projects especially in Manila Bay which is undergoing rehabilitation.”

“Incoming DENR Secretary Yulo-Loyzaga should stop all the ongoing reclamation projects across the country, especially in Manila Bay. She must adhere to the mandate of her department to protect and preserve Manila Bay for the benefit of the people. Reclamation has long been proven to be destructive both to marine biodiversity and livelihood of fisherfolks,” Ronnel Arambulo, the group’s national spokesperson said.



# Pro-environment groups back appointment of new DENR chief

Published July 13, 2022, 9:37 AM

by [Aaron Recuenco](#)

Pro-environment groups hailed the appointment of Antonia “Toni” Yulo-Loyzaga as the new secretary of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR).

In a statement, the Masungi Georeserve Foundation said it supports the appointment of Yulo-Loyzaga as it cited her background works that include a push to address deforestation and protection of watersheds when she was still the executive director of the Manila Observatory (MO).

“After typhoon Ondoy, the MO led the scientific studies which proved the impacts of the Upper Marikina Watershed’s deforestation to increased flood risk in towns and cities,” the Masungi Georeserve Foundation said in a statement.

“The science is clear: restore the watershed to protect the people. We are hopeful that the new Secretary will share our vision and those of many others, to make Masungi and the Upper Marikina Watershed free from quarry interests and other intrusive developments,” it added.

For his part, Infracatch convenor Terry Ridon said they are looking forward to an environment agenda grounded on the needs of the people, environment and the planet, with Yulo-Loyzaga at the helm of the DENR.

The group also called on the new DENR Secretary to take a serious look into the controversial projects of the Duterte administration that include the Kaliwa Dam project, the Manila Bay beach nourishment project and the Bulacan airport project.

“It is our position that continuously refilling the area is an absolute waste of public funding, particularly at this time of very limited fiscal space. It is funding that can be better used for the new administration’s social agenda, or other more effective programs to rehabilitate the Manila Bay,” the group said.





# Mining firms eager to work with next environment head

[Danessa Rivera](#) - The Philippine Star July 14, 2022 | 12:00am

MANILA, Philippines — The Chamber of Mines of the Philippines (COMP), whose members consist of large-scale metallic minerals development companies, welcomed the nomination of Antonia Yulo-Loyzaga as the next secretary of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR).

The COMP said it looks forward to working with her in fulfilling President Marcos' thrust of striking a balance between economic development and environmental protection under his administration.

"We are prepared to work with Sec. Yulo-Loyzaga in her advocacies, particularly disaster risk reduction and response, sustainable development goals, and climate change protection," COMP chairman Michael Toledo said in a statement.

"Our sector eagerly anticipates a meaningful engagement with Sec. Yulo-Loyzaga as well as the members of the government's economic team led by Finance Sec. Benjamin Diokno who has said that mining will be accelerated under the Marcos administration to help buttress the country's post-pandemic recovery initiatives," he said.

COMP said it would continue to foster and promote responsible minerals development in the country.

"Sec. Yulo-Loyzaga can count on our full support in weeding out illegal miners and curtailing irresponsible mining practices, which have tarnished the reputation of our industry for so long," Toledo said.

In a separate statement, Philex Mining Corp. welcomed Yulo-Loyzaga's nomination and vowed to continue to abide by government laws and the highest international standards.

Philex Mining, led by businessman Manuel V. Pangilinan, is one of the oldest and largest copper and gold resource developers in Southeast Asia.

Meanwhile, Alyansa Tigil Mina said they are cautiously optimistic about the nomination of Yulo-Gonzaga as DENR secretary.

"With her experience as executive director of Manila Observatory in Ateneo de Manila University, we expect her to use and rely more on science-based analysis to decide on environmental policies and practices at the DENR," ATM national coordinator Jaybee Garganera said.

"On the other hand, this is her first political appointment and she might face serious challenges in facing the vested corporate interests that want to influence DENR policies, especially on mining and EIA of projects," he said.

If appointed, Yulo-Gonzaga's choices of undersecretaries for senior management will bare the kind and direction of environment policies that she will prioritize, the anti-mining group said.

"It will be interesting to see how her science-based background will respond to the clamor of the economic team for more mining projects, that environment science says will increase our risks and vulnerabilities to climate impacts," Garganera said.

Source: <https://www.philstar.com/business/2022/07/14/2195165/mining-firms-eager-work-next-environment-head>



## Chamber of Mines supports DENR chief

by [Manila Standard](#) July 13, 2022, 7:00 pm

The Chamber of Mines of the Philippines welcomed the nomination of Antonia Yulo-Loyzaga as the next secretary of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources.

“Our association, composed of most of the country’s large-scale metallic minerals development companies, looks forward to working with her in fulfilling President Ferdinand Marcos Jr.’s thrust of striking a balance between economic development and environmental protection under his administration,” the chamber said.

“We are prepared to work with Secretary Yulo-Loyzaga in her advocacies, particularly disaster risk reduction and response, sustainable development goals, and climate change protection,” said COMP chairman Michael Toledo.

“Our sector eagerly anticipates a meaningful engagement with Secretary Yulo-Loyzaga as well as the members of the government’s economic team led by Finance Secretary Benjamin Diokno who has said that mining will be accelerated under the Marcos administration to help buttress the country’s post-pandemic recovery initiatives,” he said.



# New DENR chief urged to stop reclamation, side with biodiversity

[Gaea Katreena Cabico](#) - Philstar.com July 13, 2022 | 4:50pm



Photo from National Resilience Council shows Ma. Antonia 'Toni' Yulo-Loyzaga  
National Resilience Council

MANILA, Philippines — Groups called on Toni Yulo-Loyzaga, the new secretary of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources, to address the threats and destruction brought by energy and extractive industries, and development projects.

President Ferdinand Marcos Jr. nominated Yulo-Gonzaga, a climate change advocate, to lead the agency mandated to manage the country's natural resources, and ensure a healthful ecology for Filipinos.

Fishers' group PAMALAKAYA urged the new environment chief to stop reclamation projects across the country, especially in Manila Bay.

The organization has recorded around 50 reclamation projects in Manila Bay that will cover more than 30,000 hectares of its fishing grounds, mangrove areas and aquaculture. The DENR issued environmental compliance certificates to a 32-hectare reclamation project in Bacoor, Cavite and a land reclamation for the construction of the 2,500-hectare airport city in Bulacan.

"She must adhere to the mandate of her department to protect and preserve Manila Bay for the benefit of the people. Reclamation has long been proven to be destructive both to marine biodiversity and livelihood of fisherfolk," said Ronnel Arambulo, national spokesperson of Pamalakaya.

## Aid in transition to renewables

The new DENR leadership should do its part in ensuring the transition to clean energy from renewables, the Center for Energy, Ecology and Development stressed.

"With weak measures to guard against pollution and environmental destruction from coal, gas, and other dirty energy projects, the DENR of the past administration was also culprit to the continued proliferation of unsustainable energy," CEED deputy executive director Avril De Torres said.

"Her science-based background can bring us an environment secretary who listens to science and works to avert worse ecological crises and irreversible damage from climate change," she added.

CEED raised concern about the unprecedented expansion of fossil gas projects, which can affect the country's climate goals and biodiversity, as the projects are concentrated in marine life-rich Verde Island Passage in Batangas and Tañon Strait in Visayas.



## Collaboration

EcoWaste Coalition, for its part, said it is open to collaborating with Yulo-Loyzaga in promoting the effective implementation of Republic Act 9003 or the Ecological Solid Waste Management Act, and the adoption of measures such as ban on single use-plastics and phase out of non-environmentally acceptable products and packaging.

The group also urged the new environment secretary to contribute and participate in the negotiation for a strong globally binding treaty addressing plastic pollution throughout its life cycle.

Prior to her appointment, Yulo-Gonzaga was the president of the National Resilience Council. She was also a former executive director of research institute Manila Observatory.



# Nominasyon ng bagong DENR secretary, inanunsyo

By **Bombo Dennis Jamito** - July 12, 2022 | 6:30 PM

Inanunsyo ni Press Secretary Trixie Cruz-Angeles ang nominasyon ni Ma. Antonia “Toni” Yulo-Loyzaga bilang kalihim ng Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR).

Ayon kay Press Sec. Trixie Cruz Angeles, si Pang. Ferdinand Marcos Jr. mismo ang pumili kay Loyzaga para maitalagang bagong DENR secretary.

Ngunit kailangan pa ani Angeles na makumpleto ang mga kinakailangang requirements o dokumento para sa bago nitong posisyon.

Dating chairperson ng International Advisory Board of the Manila Observatory si Yulo Loyzaga at isinulong ang higit pang scientific research on climate and disaster resilience.

Nagsilbi ring executive director si Yulo-Loyzaga ng Manila Observatory’s at technical adviser ng Philippine Disaster Resilience Foundation.

Naging senior advisory board din sya ng AFP Command and General Staff College.



## EDITORIAL - Hamon sa bagong DENR secretary

(Pilipino Star Ngayon) - July 14, 2022 - 12:00am



Itinalaga ni Pres. Ferdinand Marcos Jr. si Maria Antonia “Toni” Yulo-Loyzaga bilang Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) secretary. Si Loyzaga ay kilalang climate change advocate. Dati siyang director ng Manila Observatory at technical adviser ng Philippine Disaster Resilience Foundation. Si Loyzaga ang ikalawang babaing DENR secretary. Una ay si Gina Lopez na naging DENR chief sa termino ni President Duterte.

Sa pag-upo ni Loyzaga sa DENR, maraming hamon siyang kahaharapin at kabilang dito ang may kinalaman sa illegal mining, quarrying, air, water at plastic pollution na sumisira sa kalikasan.

Haharapin niya ang walang patumanggang pagsira sa kabundukan at watershed na malaking banta ngayon sa maraming bahagi ng bansa. Ang Masungi watershed sa Marikina ay unti-unting winasak ng mga quarrying companies. Kapag hindi napigilan ang mga quarrying companies na ito na pag-aari umano ng mga pulitiko, babaha sa Metro Manila.

Inalis ng nakaraang administrasyon ang ban sa open-pit mining. Ngayon ay nakakatakot ang magiging itsura ng mga bundok na bubutasin. Ang pagbutas sa mga bundok ang dahilan ng landslide. Inililibing nang buhay ang mga taong nasa paanan ng bundok.

Ikatlo ang Pilipinas sa mga bansa sa mundo na kilalang plastic polluter. Araw-araw, tone-toneladang plastic ang itinatapon sa mga estero at sapa at saka hahantong sa Manila Bay. Sinisira ng mga plastic na ito ang yamang-dagat at pinapatay ang mga balyena. Kinakain ng mga balyena ang plastic at iba pang basurang itinapon sa dagat.

Sabi ni PBBM sa kanyang inaugural address noong Hunyo 30, hindi tatalikuran ng kanyang administrasyon ang problema sa plastic pollution. Lilinis niya ang mga kalat.

Nagbabala kamakailan ang coalition ng environmental groups na kung hindi gagawa ng paraan ang pamahalaan para mabawasan ang paggamit ng single-use plastic, aapaw ang may 59.7 bilyong sachets sa Metro Manila.



Mabigat ang mga responsibilidad na nakaatang kay Loyzaga bilang DENR chief. Alam naming magagampanan niya ang mabigat na hamon. Nararapat na masolusyunan ang mga problemang kinakaharap ng bansa na may kaugnayan sa pagkasira ng kalikasan. Simulan na niya ito para mailigtas ang bansa.



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### Environment groups suportado ang piniling DENR chief ni Marcos | TV Patrol

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Suportado ng ilang environmental group ang nominasyon kay Tony Yulo- Loyzaga bilang kalihim ng Department of Environment and Natural Resources.

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# DENR, NSWMC, Nestlé PH push education on climate change, solid waste management

Published 14 hours ago on July 13, 2022 06:39 PM

By [TDT](#) [@tribunephil](#)



Solid waste management (SWM) is one of the most pressing environmental challenges in the world today. In the Philippines, 18 million tons of waste are generated every year; the country is the third biggest source of solid waste in Southeast Asia and the third-largest contributor to ocean plastic pollution worldwide.

Given this reality, Nestlé Philippines is committed to help shape a waste-free future with plastic waste as a top priority. Pursuing a leadership role, it is the first multinational fast-moving consumer goods company in the country to achieve plastic neutrality, recovering volumes of plastic equivalent to what it puts out in the market in its packaging. Nestlé PH collected 48 million kilos of plastic waste from August 2020 to May 2022. It has also transitioned to the use of paper straws for its locally manufactured ready-to-drink products, becoming the first food and beverage manufacturer in the country to do so.

Alongside developing more sustainable packaging and delivery innovations, and increasing collection and recycling initiatives, Nestlé PH is focusing on driving new behaviors and understanding through SWM education. It has produced the country's first SWM education modules to be rolled out in 20,000 public schools nationwide, with separate modules for parents, teens, and communities.

Most recently, the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR), the National Solid Waste Management Commission (NSWMC), and Nestlé PH conducted the first leg of the No Time To Waste: Climate Change and SWM Talks attended by employees of local government units (LGUs) and government agencies, SWM officers, and community leaders. The attendance of close to 700 participants exceeded expectations, indicating increasing awareness and interest in environmental issues.

“Sa pamamagitan ng ating webinar ngayong umaga, layunin na makapagbahagi ng kaalaman at tools kagaya ng social media cards, presentations at mga posters upang epektibo nating maiparating sa ating komunidad kung paano ang tamang pagtatapon ng basura. Malaki ang papel ng mga komunidad sa pagtugon sa mga problemang ating kinakaharap,” said DENR Undersecretary for Finance, Information Systems and Climate Change Atty. Analiza Teh.



(Today's webinar aims to provide LGUs with additional knowledge and tools such as social media cards, presentations, and posters that they can use to effectively educate their communities about proper solid waste management. These communities play a key role in finding a solution for our solid waste management problems.)

The DENR, NSWMC, and Nestlé PH developed five modules for the webinar series: Module 1 – What does waste have to do with climate change and the environment; Module 2 – Climate change and R.A. 9003; Module 3 – Action planning for solid waste management; Module 4 – How to design a materials recovery facility and addressing limitations with alternative steps; and Module 5 – A citizen's guide to proper waste management. The modules were discussed by Mr. Dave Albao, Executive Director of the Philippine Reef and Rainforest Conservation Foundation, and Mr. Robert Guevara, Vice President of the Philippine Alliance for Recycling and Material Sustainability (PARMS).

NSWMC Vice-Chairman Crispian Lao emphasized the key role of education and collaboration to achieve an efficient and effective SWM system: "We need to educate the youth and integrate it into the curriculum. More importantly, we need to educate the local government units from the cities and municipalities down to the barangays. Collaboration is equally important and here, we would like to thank Nestlé for developing these modules that can be a good tool for LGUs not only to learn but to implement an SWM system for their communities."

Nestlé PH Chairman and CEO Kais Marzouki said: "We recognize that partnering with other stakeholders is imperative. Our collaboration with the DENR and the NSWMC enables us to help empower consumers and communities to do their share in practicing effective solid waste management and in particular tackling plastic waste. We welcome our cooperation with local government units in extending education on these pressing environmental concerns."

The No Time To Waste: Climate Change and SWM Talks will be presented across the country, with webinars in the Visayas and Mindanao to be conducted in the vernacular.



# DENR magtatayo ng 'Biosphere Reserve and Research Center' sa Albay

[Joy Cantos](#) - Pang-masa July 14, 2022 | 12:00am

MANILA, Philippines — Pinasalamatan ni Albay 2nd District Rep. Joey Sarte Salceda ang Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) sa itinatayo nilang Biosphere Reserve and Research Center (BRDC) sa bayan ng Manito, Albay na magsisilbing pansamantalang tirahan ng mga nailigtas na mga hayop at sentro ng pagmamasid sa iba't ibang likas na buhay sa dagat at mga tubigan.

Ang pagtatayo ng dalawang palapag na gusaling Albay BRDC na may toreng bantayan sa bubungan, ay pinasimulan nitong ika-11 ng buwang kasalukuyan at ayon sa DENR matatapos ngayong Disyembre 2022.

Anyang, ang pasilidad ay magiging sentro ng mga hakbang at inisyatibo sa pangangalaga sa likas na kapaligiran at yaman ng Albay, kasama ang mga likas na buhay at mga tirahan nila.

Magsisilbi rin diumano itong taguan ng mahalagang datus at mga ulat ng pag-aaral. Ipinanukala rin ni Salceda ang paglikha ng DENR Biodiversity Management Bureau (BMB) ilang taon nang nakaraan.



## 52 olive ridley turtle hatchlings freed



ZAMBOANGA. Personnel of the Community Environment and Natural Resources Office (Cenro) in Magsaysay, Zamboanga del Sur released 52 olive ridley turtle hatchlings on Sunday, July 10, 2022, in the province. A photo handout shows the turtle hatchlings rushing to the shore upon their release back to their natural habitat. (SunStar Zamboanga)

July 13, 2022

PERSONNEL of the Community Environment and Natural Resources Office (Cenro) in Magsaysay, Zamboanga del Sur recently released 52 olive ridley turtle hatchlings in the province.

Rosevirico Tan, Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) information officer, said the turtle hatchlings were released on Sunday, July 10, at the coastal area of Purok Naventad in Bulanit village, Labangan, Zamboanga del Sur.

The olive ridley turtles are listed as vulnerable by the International Union of Conservation of Nature (IUCN).

Although olive ridley turtles are not endangered, this still indicates a risk of extinction for the species.

Tan said the release on Sunday was the third batch of turtle hatchlings sent back to its natural habitat in the region.

The first was on July 6 wherein 94 green sea turtles were released at the coast of Kauswagan village in Baliguian, Zamboanga del Norte.

The International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) has listed green sea turtles as endangered since the decrease in its population due to hunting, loss of nesting sites and illegal poaching of eggs.

The second batch involved the release of 66 olive ridley turtle hatchlings, also on July 6, in the coastal area of Lower Bayao village, Tukuran, Zamboanga del Sur. **(SunStar Zamboanga)**

Source: <https://www.sunstar.com.ph/article/1934852/zamboanga/local-news/52-olive-ridley-turtle-hatchlings-freed>



## ENRO undertakes activities to protect the environment

Published on: July 13, 2022

By Pilar Mabaquiao

SAN JOSE, Antique (PIA) - - The Environment and Natural Resources Office (ENRO) of the Province of Antique has undertaken various activities and programs to protect the environment.



Environment and Natural Resources Officer (ENRO) Vivian T. Marfil of the Province of Antique reported the accomplishments of ENRO Antique in a program at the EBJ Freedom Park recently.

She called for the sustained tree-growing activities of the agencies of government, local government units, private organizations, and families even only in their respective backyards to help in the protection and conservation of the environment.

Marfil said that ENRO has grown 75,000 seedlings of fruit and hardwood trees last year to respond to the requests of various

agencies, LGUs, and private groups who have programs on tree growing in different areas in the province.

The priority recipients of the seedlings from ENRO are tree-growing programs of various groups in denuded areas and watersheds.

The Office is also maintaining a seven-hectare farm lot in Barangay Igbucagay, Hamtic which served as a demonstration center of sustainable upland technologies.

Igbucagay farm is also being developed as an eco-tourism destination in the province.



Marfil also reminded everyone of the proper solid waste management in their respective offices and households.

Single-use containers are not recommended, instead, use eco-friendly containers.

On the other hand, she also reported the collection of not less than P2.5 million from quarry operations of sand and gravel in the designated areas in Antique for the last six months.

Marfil assured that the quarry operations are being supervised by ENRO personnel to ensure the permittees only quarry in designated areas and ensure that they pay corresponding taxes and fees to the provincial government. (JBG/PSM/PIA-Antique)



# Catanduanes town gets P1.9-M aid for solid waste management

By Connie Calipay July 13, 2022, 8:29 pm



**LEGAZPI CITY** – The Department of Science and Technology (DOST) has released a PHP1.9-million grant intended for the solid waste management of generated plastics and glass in Catanduanes province.

In an interview on Wednesday, DOST Catanduanes Director Marie Grace Molina said the local government unit (LGU) of Virac received the amount early this week through the agency's Grants in Aid (GIA) project.

"The GIA fund is the immediate intervention of DOST to help the LGU in their goal in proper waste management and for the establishment of eco-park in Virac town," Molina said.

Asked why in Virac, Molina said it is "the central business of the island province with a huge amount of waste that can be converted to valuable products".

Molina said the project wants to mechanize the processing of collected wastes by converting them into valuable products.

"It will also enhance the knowledge and technical capacity of barangay officials on the system, material recovery facilities operation, proper segregation, among others," she said.

The grant will be used for the procurement of one unit glass pulverizing machine, one unit styro plastic densifier, and one set of brick maker and hollow block machine.

"After we gave them the money, they will be the one to procure and after a year the said machines will be owned by the LGU," Molina added.

She also said that they would continue to monitor the machines if these were really purchased and being used in the intended project.

Molina also said the LGU of Virac will establish an eco-park that will display the valuable products that were created from the segregated waste.

DOST-Catanduanes will also provide capacity building to implement the project.

Molina said their agency is open to accommodating other LGUs that want to ask for grants. **(PNA)**

Source: <https://www.pna.gov.ph/articles/1178883>



# Boracay lands on TIME's 2022 World's Greatest Places list

BYMA. STELLA F. ARNALDO JULY 13, 2022



[Jackmalipan | Dreamstime.com](#)

Boracay Island's alluring white-sand beaches and incredible hospitality make it a spectacular tourist haven.

BORACAY Island landed on TIME magazine's World's Greatest Places for 2022, and only one of two Southeast Asian destinations that made the list.

In a piece written by Charlie Campbell, he recalled the time former President Rodrigo Duterte called the island a "cesspool" after years of unabated sewage problems plagued the island, and closed it for six months in 2018.

"The once brilliant white sand and clear waters of Boracay Island were choking on the trash and traffic that comes from 2 million annual visitors," he said. Then when Covid-19 wreaked havoc across the globe, closing down international borders, while community quarantines halted domestic tourism as well, the island's economy suffered once more.

"[But] the silver lining was this 4-sq-mi. speck in the Visayas island chain had proper time to truly recover. As of February 2022, international visitors can finally revel in this revamped, recuperated, natural playground after what was effectively a three-year convalescence. Locals report the return of flora and fauna, like sea turtles, and hospitality has come back just as spectacularly," noted Campbell.

Data from the Department of Tourism (DOT)-Region 6 showed tourist arrivals in Boracay reached 849,047 in the first half of 2022, a dramatic surge of over 1,000 percent from the same period in 2021, and 176.2 percent higher than the same period in 2020. The first half arrivals this year was just 25.88 percent less than the 1.15 million that arrived from January to June 2019, prior to the pandemic.

Of the total arrivals this year, foreign tourists accounted for 18,845 while overseas Filipinos were 12,987. Of domestic travelers, the largest numbers came from the National Capital Region at 298,932; Western Visayas at 173,116; and Calabarzon at 155,335.

## 'Our pride and honor'

IN a news statement, the DOT applauded the inclusion of Boracay Island in the TIME list. "We affirm our pride and honor as Boracay Island once again proved its allure as a tourist haven. Such recognition will surely help us attain our goal of regaining our position in the global market," said Tourism Secretary-designate Christina Garcia Frasco.





She added, “Surely, the Philippines has a multitude of sites and tourism activities that we can offer to the world. In addition to natural resources, we look forward as well to developing and promoting the talents of our people, and the products that have potential for national and global marketability.”

Boracay has also reaped similar distinctions in the past from international travel publications and news sites, like Conde Nast and CNN Traveler.

Other than Boracay, another beach destination, Bali, was the other Southeast Asian destination that landed on the prestigious TIME list. The list likewise included Asian destinations like Kerala and Ahmedabad in India, Setouchu and Kyushu islands in Japan, and Seoul in South Korea.

According to TIME, the list of 50 world’s greatest destinations was drawn up after nominations were solicited “from our international network of correspondents and contributions, with an eye toward those offering new and exciting experiences.”

Frasco underscored, “Through collaboration between the DOT central and regional offices, relevant national government agencies, the local government units, and the private sector, we will exert all efforts to put in the limelight not only on the country’s premier tourist destinations like Boracay, but also other places of interest in the country which may not have been given equal focus and attention in the past.”



# Boracay among TIME's 'World's Greatest Places of 2022'

By SUNDY LOCUS, GMA News

Published July 13, 2022 3:22pm



JP SORIANO/GMA News

Boracay has been named by TIME Magazine as one of the [“World’s Greatest Places of 2022.”](#)

On its website, [TIME described the world-famous white-sand beach](#) as a “paradise reborn” and called it among the “50 extraordinary destinations to explore.”

In creating its list, TIME said it solicited nominations of places from its international network of correspondents and contributors “with an eye toward those offering new and exciting experiences.”

The Department of Tourism (DOT), for its part, welcomed Boracay’s inclusion saying this affirms its “allure as a tourist haven.”

“Such recognition will surely help us attain our goal of regaining our position in the global market,” DOT Secretary Christina Garcia Frasco said in a press statement.

"Surely, the Philippines has a multitude of sites and tourism activities that we could offer to the world. And, in addition to natural resources, we look forward as well to developing and promoting the talents of our people and the products that have the potential for national and global marketability," she said.

Other tourist spots that made it to the list are:

- Ras Al Khaimah, UAE
- Park City, Utah
- Galapagos Islands
- Dolni Morava, Czech Republic
- Seoul, South Korea
- Great Barrier Reef, Australia
- Doha, Qatar



- Detroit
- Kerala, India
- The Arctic
- Ahmedabad, India
- Nairobi
- València, Spain
- Queenstown, New Zealand
- Hwange National Parl, Zimbabwe
- Historic Silk Road Sites, Uzbekistan
- S?o Paulo
- Trans Bhutan Trail, Bhutan
- Devon, England
- Bali, Indonesia
- International Space Station
- Kyushu Island, Japan
- Rapa Nui, Chile
- Salta, Argentina
- Portee, Scotland
- Tofino, British Columbia
- Madeira, Portugal
- Franschoek, South Africa
- Miami
- El Chaltén, Argentina
- Bogotá, Colombia
- The Alentejo, Portugal
- Lower Zambezi National Park, Zambia
- Kaunas, Lithuania
- Setouchi Islands, Japan
- Calabria, Italy
- San Francisco
- Skelleftea, Sweden
- Copenhagen, Denmark
- Marseilles, France
- Thessaloniki, Greece
- Istanbul, Turkey
- Ilulissat, Greenland
- Jamaica
- Fremantle, Australia
- Toronto, Canada
- Kigali, Rwanda
- Riviera Nayarit, Mexico
- Portland, Ore

— LA, GMA News

Source: <https://www.gmanetwork.com/news/lifestyle/travel/838003/boracay-among-time-s-world-s-greatest-places-of-2020/story/?fbclid=IwAR3AaqSu31NUIxyxmmC6u49pimbJxlQWU8npHIYXurpfIIKgYDEcQX-9dls>



## IP Rep reminds public anew: Ancestral domain not for sale



Photo by Canva

KRIZZY S. DAUGDAUG  
July 12, 2022

MANDATORY Representative of the Indigenous People, Datu Rodolfo Mande, clarified ancestral domain title is meant for the tribal community and not a personal property of an individual that could be sold to anyone.

“Matagtribo nato dire, para sa kasayuran sa tanan, na-award na ang five kantis, lima ka tribo nga naa na gyud og kanti [serves as land title], kaso lang property ni sa tanan, kaya gani nga gitawag nga Obo-Manuvu, Tagabawa, Ata, Matigsalug ug Klata kay mao nay nakapangalan walay nabanggit diha nga isa ka-apelyido (Our tribal groups there, for the information of everyone, have been awarded of a land title, but the property is for the community that’s why it is named as Obo-Manuvu, Tagabawa, Ata, Matigsalug and Klata and no last name has been indicated),” Mande said in an interview with Davao City Disaster Radio on July 12, 2022.

Mande said that the ancestral domains now had a lot of intruders and built their properties in the area.

“Niabot na gyud ang panahon nga nagyagaw na ug di masabtan, isa ka punto nga naay nisulod ug nidaghan na gyud karun, taod-taod makita nato nga mushroom na gyud ang bukid kay murag nagkaanam na karun mag sige’g tinundugay didto na commercialized na ang uban (It has come to a point that there are a lot of problems in the area because there are intruders who managed to get in the vicinity, and later on we’ll see that the mountain is being commercialized),” Mande said.

However, Mande said there is no law that states that outsiders are prohibited to enter the premises.

“Di man gyud totally nga gibawalan ang mga tao nga mosulod didto, mohangayo nga magtukod og balay ang naproblema lang karun sa kasamtangan kay murag mahurot man pud, kana lang ang problema, daghan na ang giganahan (It is not prohibited to get inside like if they will ask to build a house. The problem right now is that, they almost occupied all the space since they figured out it’s nice to live there),” Mande said.

He also said the transfer of rights is legal.

“Ato ning klarohon, naay transfer of rights sa mga gusto para pud maka-farm, para sa mga taga syudad (We need to clarify this, there’s a transfer of rights for those from the city who wanted to farm),” Mande said.



Mande said this ancestral domain is protected by the government. The Indigenous Peoples have the right to their ancestral domains according to Republic Act 8371, an act to recognize, protect and promote the rights of indigenous cultural communities/indigenous people, creating a national commission of indigenous people, establishing implementing mechanisms, appropriating funds, therefore, and for other purposes. **KSD**



## Climate change causes rise in skin, respiratory allergies

JUL 13, 2022, 6:53 PM

Rose De La Cruz  
Columnist

***Climate change has caused the eruption of skin and respiratory diseases. The best remedy is to avoid allergens usually in the outdoors and severe exposure to UV rays.***

A variety of skin diseases appear to be worsened by climate change. This includes inflammatory disorders such as eczema (atopic dermatitis) and pemphigus, an autoimmune blistering disorder.

Pediatric dermatologist Dr. Markus Boos said climate change—a result of elevated carbon dioxide levels—lead to environmental changes that affect everyone.

The 20 warmest years on record globally all occurred in the last 22 years with the past 5 years being the warmest, he added.

Boos, who practices at Seattle Children’s Hospital, said although the effects of UV exposure, humidity and temperature on eczema are not clear, air pollution is known to cause eczema flares.

Anecdotally, I have seen in my own clinics that the warmer spring in Seattle, and presumably elevated pollen levels, causes an increased number of patients with eczema flares. We also know that emotional stress causes conditions such as eczema, vitiligo and psoriasis to flare. This would be expected in communities that have been affected by natural disasters.

### PSAAI

The Philippine Society of Allergy, Asthma and Immunology (PSAAI) also said that climate change has increased the incidence of skin and respiratory allergies, according to a story of Business World.

*“There’s longer pollination as well as increasing humidity, leading to the proliferation of dust mites, molds, pollens, and fungi. This leads to an increasing incidence of skin and respiratory allergies,” said Dr. Addah S. de Peralta, an allergologist at De La Salle University Medical Center.*

Dust mites, molds, pollens, and fungi are among the most common allergens, or substances that cause allergic reactions.



A March 2022 study published in Nature Communications found that atmospheric conditions affect the release of pollen, and the timing and magnitude will be altered by climate change. Simultaneous exposure to allergens and toxic air pollutants can also worsen allergic responses, warned the US National Climate Assessment.

*“To decrease the effects of climate change, we need to practice solid waste management in our barangays [communities],” said Dr. Glaiza M. Madulara, an allergologist affiliated with Pacific Global Medical Center.*

Eczema or atopic dermatitis is a chronic skin condition that makes one’s skin red and itchy. It tends to flare periodically and may be accompanied by asthma or hay fever (seasonal allergic rhinitis).

Patients with this condition have a 50 to 75 percent risk of developing asthma and allergic rhinitis, Dr. Madulara said. “Atopic dermatitis is usually the starting point for food allergies to develop later in life too.”

While there is no cure for it, individuals can control atopic dermatitis by the avoidance of skin triggers and good skin care.

*“Shower with lukewarm water, use a gentle skin cleanser, and apply moisturizer after tapping dry your skin,” said Dr. Madulara. “Flareups can be treated with steroidal anti-inflammatory creams or ointments, per the supervision of each individual’s doctor.”*

Avoiding triggers is also a good management strategy for allergic rhinitis, according to Dr. Jose Carlo Miguel M. Villanueva, an allergologist from Capitol Oral Rehabilitation Center Medical/Dental Clinic.

### **Allergic rhinitis**

If you have a runny nose in the morning, sneeze when it’s dusty, and have itchy eyes especially at night, then you might have allergic rhinitis, he said. “[Another telltale sign] is mouth breathing because of a clogged nose, which can result in dry lips, a change in the shape of your jawline, and crooked teeth,” he added.

Symptoms worsen with weather changes, strong emotions, and air pollution. “One of the most important things to find out is which allergens give you your symptoms,” said Dr. Villanueva. “One way to do it is through a skin allergy test.”

A patient’s skin is exposed to suspected allergens in a skin prick test. The skin area is then observed for signs of an allergic reaction. Those with a family history of atopy — or the genetic tendency to develop allergic rhinitis, asthma, and eczema — are more predisposed to having allergies (a 20 to 40 percent risk among children with one atopic parent, and a 40 to 60 percent risk among children with parents who are both atopic).

*“As we go through the new normal and start to finally get our old lives again, let’s not forget that there are people who struggle with diseases in everyday life,” Dr. de Peralta said.*

The overall prevalence of allergic rhinitis in the Philippines based on the National Nutrition and Health Survey of 2008 is 20 percent.

### **Common causes of allergies**

Common causes include dust mites, mold, pet dander and pollen from trees and plants. Symptoms of hay fever include sneezing, nasal congestion and irritation of the nose, throat, mouth and eyes. Allergic rhinitis is not the same as infectious rhinitis, otherwise known as the common cold.



It clears up on its own after a few days for many people. In others, especially those with allergies, rhinitis can be a chronic problem. Chronic means it is almost always present or recurs often. Rhinitis can last for weeks to months with allergen exposure.

Left untreated, allergic rhinitis often becomes chronic and may lead to complications including: Chronic nasal inflammation and obstruction, which can lead to more serious complications in the airways. Acute or chronic sinusitis. Otitis media, or ear infection

Common symptoms of allergic rhinitis are sneezing, itchy nose, a runny or blocked nose, itchy, red and watery eyes, a cough, the roof of mouth being itchy.

#### 4 skin allergies caused by climate change

**1. Skin asthma** affects 10 to 20 percent of people. Symptoms in infants include dry and scaly skin, itchy rash on the scalp or cheeks, and rash that oozes clear fluid. In children and adults, symptoms include scaly patches or rash on the neck or face and in the creases of elbows and/or knees, extremely dry skin, and light or dark skin spots.

Although there is no cure yet for atopic dermatitis, finding the right skincare routine and products is key in reducing discomfort. According to dermatologists, the best preventive measure is to keep the skin hydrated by applying an effective moisturizer soon after every bath. This way, you can improve the function of your skin barrier and fight against known allergens and irritants. It is also important to avoid the common irritants, stressful environments, and long baths to keep flare-ups to a minimum.

**2. Urticaria**—Studies show urticaria affects 20 percent of people at some point in their lives. It occurs when the body releases chemicals like histamine as a reaction against an irritant or allergen—causing inflammation to form into itchy and swollen hives, patches, wheals, welts, or plaques. O

Often, urticaria appears in batches on the face, arms, legs, hands, and feet. It is important to note that sweat, alcoholic drinks, and scratching may further aggravate the itching. Also, avoid common triggers including fish, chocolate, tomato, and processed meat. To further reduce inflammation, you can wear loose clothing, use mild soap, and shower with cold water.

**3. Eczema**—aside from itchy and scaly rashes and blisters, eczema can cause intense itching, red or brownish patches, and small bumps that ooze fluid. Some known irritants that can intensify symptoms include strong detergents, rough clothing, extreme temperatures, sweat, stress, pet dander, and food allergies.

Aside from prescription medication, creams, and ointments, you can explore alternative remedies like acupuncture, aromatherapy, yoga, and meditation.

**4. Hay Fever**—this condition is the result of the body's reaction to environmental allergens such as pollen, dust mites, dander, fungi, mold, and cigarette smoke.

To reduce symptoms, you should avoid outdoor activities on high pollen days. Try not to hang laundry outside and wear protective masks when needed. For proper diagnosis and management, it is best to visit a trusted physician.

Source: [https://opinyon.net/national/climate-change-causes-rise-in-skin-respiratory-allergies?fbclid=IwAR1WDteZyJlsOECyVIQBWHP0KXVBdMZcmISTBCjtXbdYMiSGOUzlaE6\\_op0](https://opinyon.net/national/climate-change-causes-rise-in-skin-respiratory-allergies?fbclid=IwAR1WDteZyJlsOECyVIQBWHP0KXVBdMZcmISTBCjtXbdYMiSGOUzlaE6_op0)





# Japanese horseradish farmers fear for future amid climate change

By [Irene Wang via Reuters](#) - July 13, 2022 - 2:29 PM



Newly harvested wasabi roots are kept in a basket in a field on Masahiro Hoshina's farm in Okutama Town, Tokyo, Japan, May 30, 2022. (Reuters/Kim Kyung-Hoon)

TOKYO — Masahiro Hoshina, a Japanese farmer, starts worrying about typhoon season months before it begins, haunted by memories of the heavy rains and landslides that washed away wasabi farms during one 2019 storm.

“Recently the power of typhoons feels totally different from before due to global warming. It’s getting stronger,” said the 70-year-old farmer in Okutama, west of downtown Tokyo.

“Since it’s happened once, there’s no guarantee it won’t happen again.”

Wasabi, the tangy Japanese horseradish that’s an essential part of sushi and dabbed onto slices of raw fish or into bowls of soba buckwheat noodle soup, is usually grown along streams in narrow valleys, leaving farms prone to disasters.

Typhoon Hagibis, which slammed into eastern Japan in 2019, slashed production in Okutama by nearly 70% the next year. The need for replanting and careful tending meant it’s taken nearly three years for sushi farms there to recover.

Experts say global warming is affecting production not only by increasing the number and severity of storms, but with rising temperatures that threaten growth of the plants, which need to be in water a consistent 10-15 degrees C year-round.

A lack of wasabi could also endanger traditional Japanese foods such as sushi and sashimi, where the tang of the wasabi is used as a contrast with raw fish.

Weather isn’t the only obstacle wasabi farmers face. A drop in rural populations due to aging means there are no successors. Because of the two factors, the output of wasabi grown in clear-flowing water, like at Hoshina’s farm, had fallen to half that of 2005, according to the Agriculture Ministry.

Norihito Onishi, head sales manager at a chain of soba buckwheat noodle restaurants called Sojibo, has seen his business directly affected by wasabi shortages and supply problems.

The restaurants were long known for allowing customers to grind their own wasabi roots to produce the spicy paste used as a condiment for soba. But they’ve had to mostly give this up.



“In the past, we served all the cold soba noodles with a piece of raw wasabi, but now we can no longer do that,” Onishi said.

Though wasabi root was plentiful when the restaurant first opened 30 years ago, Onishi said over the last 5 to 10 years there have been times when he couldn’t get any at all. The precious root is now made available only for certain types of dishes.

“If this unstable supply of wasabi persists, due to many factors including global warming, we will face a situation where we need to come up with other ways to overcome the problem so we don’t end up not serving raw wasabi at all,” said Onishi.

**—Additional reporting by Rikako Maruyama, writing by Elaine Lies; Editing by Raju Gopalakrishnan**



# Fatty 'katsuo' fish may foreshadow climate change, threat to Japan's sushi

By [Kantaro Komiva via Reuters](#) - July 13, 2022 - 5:46 PM



Crew members on the Nakajomaru katsuo (skipjack tuna) fishing boat catch katsuo using traditional ipponzuri (single pole fishing method), in Tosa Bay, Kochi Prefecture, Japan, May 15, 2022. Locals and experts say fatty katsuo indicates climate change and a risk for the fish numbers already under threat due to growing demand and overfishing. It "must have something to do with the water temperature," captain Takeo Nakajo, 70, said. "I have a sense of urgency thinking what if katsuo doesn't come to the bay some day." (Reuters/Kim Kyung-Hoon)

NAKATOSA — For half a century, Takeo Nakajo has been catching katsuo, or skipjack tuna – indispensable in Japanese cuisine whether eaten raw, dried or used as a base for the broth.

But he and other fishermen in Kure, in Kochi prefecture in southwest Japan, have seen something worrying in the past two years – an unprecedented number of unusually fatty katsuo.

While heavier katsuo means more money, locals and experts say it indicates climate change and a risk for katsuo numbers already under threat due to growing demand and overfishing.

"The fatty katsuo must have something to do with the water temperature," said the 70-year-old Nakajo. "I have a sense of urgency thinking what if katsuo doesn't come to the bay some day."

Noriaki Ito, the head chef at a century-old restaurant Tsukasa in Kochi City, said he too had "never seen such fatty katsuo during this season of the year".

This is worrying as changes in the sea and climate have already wiped out some other fish "including a shellfish called chambara-gai that used to be Kochi's speciality", Ito added.

Originally from tropical waters, some Pacific katsuo migrate northward on a warm ocean current every spring, making Kochi's arc-shaped bay a fertile fishing ground.

The average surface temperature of the bay in winter has risen by 2 degrees Celsius in the four decades to 2015, local fisheries lab data shows, and the fatter katsuo may be due to ample prey in the warmer sea.

But longer term, this warming may prevent mineral-rich water from rising to the surface, resulting in a drop in plankton and smaller fish to feed on, leading to fewer katsuo, said Hiroyuki Ukeda, an agrosociologist and vice president of Kochi University.

This comes as Japan's ageing population is threatening the sustainability of local fishing and related businesses such as the production of dried and fermented katsuo, and wasabi horseradish – an eye-watering condiment tucked under fish in a piece of sushi.



In Kure, a district in Nakatosa town, many fishermen have gone out of business in the past three decades, said Takahiro Tanaka, a fourth-generation owner of a fishmonger who calls himself a “katsuo sommelier”.

“We can distinguish different tastes of katsuo, just like ordinary French farmers may savor subtleties of wine ... this place might be one of Japan’s last communities where katsuo is part of the daily culture,” he added.

“But without fishers, this won’t last,” Tanaka said.

Fisherman Nakajo also rued the ageing community and fewer successors. “I asked my grandson if he would take over, but he’s now studying to work at a government office,” Nakajo said.

#### Sushi culture at risk

Overfishing has already hit catch numbers and dealt a blow to the fishermen in Kochi who have stuck to traditional single pole fishing methods versus large-scale seine fishing across the western Pacific.

Government data shows catch numbers in Kochi are only at a quarter of their 1980s peak.

“We have observed a catastrophic decline in landings over the last 10 years or so,” said Ukeda. “A growing number of people fear we may no longer be able to eat katsuo in the near future if things continue like this.”

Production of katsuobushi, dried and fermented katsuo, often used as a shaved condiment over traditional Japanese dishes or as a broth base, is already suffering.

The number of katsuobushi manufacturers in Kochi has plunged from dozens some forty years ago to only a few, said Taichi Takeuchi, who runs one in the town of Usa.

“I’m really unsure if we can continue this,” said Takeuchi.

Wasabi, the tangy horseradish that is an essential for Japanese food, especially sashimi and sushi, is facing similar production challenges.

Typhoons and rising temperatures have hurt production in Okutama, a mountainous area to the west of Tokyo, said Masahiro Hoshina, 72, head of the local wasabi growers’ association. “I am extremely worried about the future of our farming,” Hoshina said.

The number of farmers in the area is down 75% from the 1950s due to depopulation, and unless something changes, some worry sushi itself could be endangered.

“The combination of raw fish and spice, as in katsuo and wasabi, is an art, and we must maintain both,” said Ukeda. “I never want to think about a future” without them, he added.

**—Reporting by Kantaro Komiya in Nakatosa; Additional reporting by Kim Kyung-hoon and Irene Wang; Editing by Elaine Lies and Himani Sarkar**

Source: <https://interaksyon.philstar.com/trends-spotlights/2022/07/13/222096/fatty-katsuo-fish-may-foreshadow-climate-change-threat-to-japans-sushi/>

## Do single-use plastic bans work?



(Image credit: Getty Images)

By Axelle Parriaux 13th July 2022

The problems caused by plastic waste are rapidly increasing around the globe, but it still serves a useful purpose in food packaging. Can plastic still be a green option?

In many countries, plastic straws are increasingly hard to come by. In the UK, where I live, they were **banned completely at the end of 2020 along with plastic coffee stirrers**. So when I am offered a straw in a restaurant or café now, it's usually made of paper.

But these paper straws bend and go limp after a few minutes in my drink, and in the end they all go in the general waste, either to an incinerator to be burned to produce energy, or to landfill.

Do I really want a paper straw? I am lucky enough to be able to lift that glass to my lips, so I might as well do so. And just like that, a step towards zero waste is taken, and it feels good.

Single-use plastics seem to be disappearing. **Australia has had a plastic bag ban** since 2018. India followed the UK with a **ban on straws, cutlery and food packaging** in July 2022. In my home country of France, plastics are now banned on fresh fruit and vegetables.

While plastic waste is a problem, plastic is also a useful material in which to package food. So why is it the subject of so much attention? And does plastic still have a place on our supermarket shelves?

In 2018, we produced **two billion tonnes of solid waste globally**, of which 275 million tonnes was plastic. With the world population predicted to double by 2050, waste will increase by 70%.

Globally, **packaging is the largest source of plastic waste** – and by some margin. In 2015, **141 million tonnes of plastic packaging waste was generated**, compared to 42 million tonnes of plastic textile waste – which was the next largest sector.

Some countries are able to recycle most of their plastic waste. Up to **56% is recycled in Germany, closely followed by Austria, South Korea and Wales**. But the global picture is quite different – 15% of plastics go to recycling, but 40% of this waste is rejected for contamination or other issues, meaning **only 9% of plastic waste is actually recycled**. By contrast, metals can have an up to 100% recycle rate.



*Environmental plastic pollution is linked to cancers, hormone disruption and loss of fertility (Credit: Getty Images)*

But while unsightly, plastic straws and cling wraps are only a small contributor to plastic packaging pollution. This got me thinking; how much of a difference will plastic packaging bans make? And is plastic always the villain it is made out to be?

### **Is plastic the public enemy it is made out to be?**

It is very complex to evaluate life cycles of materials, and in certain cases there is obvious plastic bashing, says Romane Osadnik, an account manager at CITEO, a French non-profit company founded to reduce the impact of packaging materials. Osadnik helps companies identify and calculate the emissions from their packaging.

"Plastic can sometimes be the best option," Osadnik says, "especially in the food industry. Film wraps and plastic bags that seal food [like cucumber wraps] preserve the quality of the food and are lightweight options."

**France recently banned the use of plastic wrapping in the food industry.** When walking down the fruit and vegetable aisles of a French supermarket, you are now likely to see only loose items, with occasional styrofoam nets wrapping exotic fruit (or plastic bags for larger quantities like bags of apples).

Will other countries follow suit? Personally, I have seen the amount of plastic wrapping in British supermarket decrease rapidly since arriving in London a year and a half ago, but smaller chain supermarkets still tend to offer little to no loose vegetable options.

**In the end it often turns out to be more polluting to use cardboard wrapping than plastic, when the entire food production chain is taken into account –**  
**Romane Osadnik**

The journey from the field to the supermarket or market stall requires packaging to protect the produce. So in France, cucumbers, which might once have been wrapped in clear plastic film, are now delivered to supermarkets in containers made of alternative materials. "Plastic is most commonly replaced with cardboard," Osadnick says, "but **food can be damaged more easily in cardboard** causing more food waste in transport, and it weighs much heavier [which] means in turn that more lorries are needed to carry the same quantity of product. Transport weighs heavily in the life cycle of food. In the end it often turns out to be more polluting to use cardboard wrapping than plastic, when the entire food production chain is taken into account."



*An Indian company designed this cutlery made from dried and pressed palm leaves (Credit: Getty Images)*

Likewise, [a life cycle assessment of single-use plastic, plastic "bags for life", cotton and paper shopping bags](#) found that cotton and paper had the highest negative impacts for measures like fossil fuel use.

There may be an appropriate time, then, to use plastic. Perhaps the problem is that we are accustomed to using plastic only once and discarding it. The prevalence of plastic waste has led to serious concerns about the effect it has on human health. Plastics [leach a class of chemical called endocrine disruptors](#), which can block or change how hormones are used in our bodies. Plastics are sometimes coated with polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) – [often referred to as "forever chemicals"](#) – which have been linked to several diseases.

Are there better examples elsewhere that could inspire alternatives? India, like much of the world, has an expanding plastic problem. Plastic waste per person [doubled between 2016 and 2020](#).

"In Delhi, street food used to be served in a banana leaf container and the cutlery was also made of natural material," says Harsh Malhotra, an Indian urban designer. Malhotra grew up in Delhi, then lived in the Netherlands and UK before moving back to his home country.

"I remember walking to the farmer's market with my grandfather as a very young child, he would always carry a cloth carrier bag on the shoulder," says Malhotra. "Somehow, my parents lost the habit, and... the greengrocer now wraps greens individually before storing them in my carrier bag. I can't help but wonder where it went wrong."

Those banana leaf containers might be making a comeback. One Indian [20-year-old](#) used this centuries-old tradition as inspiration to develop a technique to prevent leaves from degrading for [up to three years](#). After treating the leaves with UV and shaping them into plates and cups, they can be used and reused as plastic replacements. This take on a traditional practice promotes a local sustainable solution and cultural heritage.

Assessing the life cycle of a material is complex. For instance, producing glass is very energy intensive, but if it is well kept it can be cleaned and reused perhaps indefinitely.

Linda Gaines, an environmental scientist at Argonne National Laboratory in the US, and her late colleague Max Mintz found that although you can recycle glass indefinitely through melting, this process does not save a significant amount of energy compared with primary glass production – [at best it saves 13% of the energy](#). Glass is more eco-friendly than plastic only if it is reused and in many cases (due to the lack of glass collecting networks), plastic might be more sustainable.



"In emerging economies the cost of [producing] beverages is cheaper than in the industrialised world," Nathan Dufour from Zero Waste Europe, an NGO that is trying to find alternatives to incinerators, explains. "As a result, the cost of packaging represents a higher proportion of the total price. This explains why it makes more economic sense to keep refillable packaging, be it in glass or plastic, in countries in the global South," he says.

"So, big consumer brands have transitioned away from refillables to single-use packaging faster in the global North than in the South; it simply made more economic sense," he says.

Dufour suggests that if companies are shown economically interesting ways of being sustainable they will go for the more sustainable option without a second thought. Consumers can contribute to tipping the balance to the more sustainable side.

Plastic is a victim of its own success: cheap, light and flexible. It's so cheap that many of us don't question using it once and throwing it away. It's so useful that we find it everywhere. While plastic waste is a pressing problem, its properties mean that it still has an important part to play, particularly in transporting food.

So before we give up on plastic, perhaps we should think about how to use, and reuse, it better.

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# NEWS ALERTS

# NEWS CLIPPINGS

STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION AND INITIATIVES SERVICE



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## Appointment of new DENR chief lauded

BY JOM GARNER  
AND MARIA ROMERO

Senator Loren Legarda on Wednesday commended the nomination of Ma. Antonia "Toni" Yulo-Loyzaga as Secretary of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR).

Legarda, who is a known climate change advocate, said the appointment of Yulo-Loyzaga is "timely and strategic" due to the triple threats the country is currently facing: biodiversity loss, pollution, and climate change.

"Ms. Yulo-Loyzaga brings to the DENR a deep and broad understanding of the convergence of the environment, climate action, disaster risk reduction and sustainable development," she said.

The returning senator said that she is looking forward to the implementation of the DENR of the environmental laws she passed in the past decades.

"I look forward to the DENR's effective implementation of at least 10 landmark environment laws we have passed in the past decades, all sorely lacking in serious, strict and efficient monitoring," she said.

Legarda expressed her confidence in Yulo-Loyzaga's leadership, citing the latter's previous work experiences.

"I am confident that, working together with relevant National Government Agencies and Development Partners, and the scientific community, the DENR under the helm of Ms. Yulo-Loyzaga will provide and undertake critical environmental policies and projects to safeguard and protect the interests of the natural resources of our country, thus saving our people from more poverty and health crises," she said.

### Meaningful engagement

The Chamber of Mines of the Philippines (COMP), meanwhile, "anticipates a meaningful engagement" with the disaster resilience expert.

"We are prepared to work with Sec. Yulo-Loyzaga in her advocacies, particularly disaster risk reduction and response, sustainable development goals, and climate change protection," COMP chairperson Michael Toledo said in a statement on Wednesday.

"Our sector eagerly anticipates a meaningful engagement with Sec. Yulo-Loyzaga as well as the members of the government's economic team led by Finance Secretary Benjamin Diokno has said that mining will be accelerated under the Marcos administration to help buttress the country's post-pandemic recovery initiatives."

Toledo vowed that the mining industry will work closely with the government to fulfill the President Ferdinand R. Marcos Jr.'s "thrust of striking a balance between economic development and environmental protection under his administration."

### Halt reclamation, new chief urged

In a separate statement, fishers' group Pambansang Lakas ng Kilusang Mamamalakaya ng Pilipinas (PAMALAKAYA) called on Yulo-Loyzaga to "stop reclamation projects especially in Manila Bay which undergoes rehabilitation program."

"She must adhere to the mandate of her department to protect and preserve Manila Bay for the benefit of the people. Reclamation has long been proven to be destructive both to marine biodiversity and livelihood of fisherfolks," PAMALAKAYA National spokesperson Ronnel Arambulo said in a statement.

The group pointed out that there are "around 50 reclamation projects in Manila Bay that will cover more than 30, 000 hectares of its fishing grounds, mangrove areas, and aquaculture." @tribunephl\_jom @tribunephl\_mbr



## DENR SECRETARY INANUNSYO NA

**INANUNSYO** ng Malakanyang ang pagtatalaga kay Maria Antonia "Toni" Yulo-Loyzaga bilang kalihim ng Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR).

Ayon kay Press Secretary Trixie Cruz-Angeles, si Yulo-Loyzaga ay dating chairperson ng International Advisory Board ng Manila Observatory kung saan naging adbokasiya niya ang scientific research sa climate and disaster resilience.

Naging executive director din si Yulo-Loyzaga ng Manila Observatory at technical adviser ng Philippine Disaster Resilience Foundation.

Nagsilbi si Yulo-Loyzaga sa Senior Advisory Board ng AFP's Command and General Staff College.

"The President has nominated Ms. Ma. Antonia "Toni" Yulo-Loyzaga as Secretary of the Environment and Natural Resources. Her nomination will still be subject to the fulfilment of the required documents," sabi ni Angeles.

Samantala, noong Lunes ay inanunsiyo na rin ang pag-nominate kay Atty. Raphael Perpetuo Lotilla bilang kalihim ng Department of Energy.

Si Lotilla ay kasalukuyang independent director ng Aboitiz Power at ng power firm na ENEXOR.

Nagsilbi rin si Lotilla na kalihim ng DOE noong panahon ni dating Pangulong Gloria Macapagal Arroyo mula 2005-2007 at nagsilbi ring Deputy Director General ng National Economic Development Authority.

Naging Presidente rin si Lotilla ng Power Sector Assets and Liabilities Management Corporation (PSALM), na government corporation na nanatasing magpalakad sa privatization ng power generation assets, independent power producers contracts at iba pang non-power assets, kabilang na rito ang management ng financial obligations at stranded contract costs para sa state-owned na National Power Corporation (NAPOCOR).

**EVELYN QUIROZ**



*Ang aming pananaw...*

## **MAY KNOW-HOW VS CLIMATE CHANGE ITINALAGA SA DENR**

MAGDADALAWANG linggo bago nakapili ng bagong pinuno sa Department of Environment and Natural Resources si Pangulong Bongbong Marcos.

Gaya ng Department of Health at Department of Energy.

Masasabing dapat mga technocrat ang ilalagay sa mga ahensiya.

At tiyak na mabusisi ang pagsala sa mga itinalagang kalihim.

Mga technocrat na ibig sabihin ay bihasa sa kanilang propesyon.

Kahapon ay napaulat na nominado ni Pangulong Bongbong Marcos si Ma. Antonia "Toni" Yulo-Loyzaga para maging kalihim ng DENR. Na kinalaunan ay siya na nga ang itinalaga sa DENR

Kinumpirma ni Press Secretary Trixie Cruz-Angeles na bago ang appointment ay hinihingan na nila ng dokumento si Yulo-Loyzaga at batay sa assessment, pasado ito.

Si Yulo-Loyzaga ay nagsilbing chairperson ng International Advisory Board of The Manila Observatory kung saan ang kanyang adokasya ay nakasalig sa scientific research on climate and disaster resilience.

Dati rin siyang executive director of the Manila Observatory at technical consultant to the Philippine Disaster Resilience Foundation.

Sa kasalukuyan, si Yulo-Loyzaga ay umaaktong senior advisory board ng Armed forces of the Philippines' Command and General Staff College.

Kung pagbabasehan ang inaugural speech ni PBBM noong Hunyo 30, sakto ang katangian ni Yulo-Loyzaga sa nais na pagresolba ng pangulo sa problema sa climate change.



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## Boracay among TIME's greatest places

Dubbed as a "paradise reborn," the Philippines' world-class island resort Boracay has made it to *TIME Magazine's* 50 World's Greatest Places of 2022.

Although no ranking was made by TIME, its official website uploaded a video-slide presentation of the 50 extraordinary places in the list in which an aerial snapshot of Boracay beach came in fifth order.

In the article written by *TIME's* East Asia correspondent Charlie Campbell, Boracay was described as a "paradise reborn," with a reference to former president Rodrigo Duterte's six-month shutdown of all tourism activity on the island in 2018 to fix sewage issues.

It also cited the difficulties Boracay had to face during the COVID-19 pandemic due to restrictions on domestic and global travel since 2020.

"It took a severe toll on the local economy, but the silver lining was that this 4-sq.-mi. speck in the Visayas island chain had proper time to truly recover," Campbell wrote.

In announcing Boracay's reopening last February, the article said "international visitors can finally revel in this revamped, recuperated, natural playground." "Locals report the return of flora and fauna, like sea

## Improvements

Last Tuesday, President Marcos called for improvements in the country's tourism policies, suggesting that stakeholders pick up the best practices of tourist havens like Singapore, Hawaii and Thailand.

Marcos raised the need for more tourism-driven infrastructure projects and a plan to develop an enabling environment for the sector during his second Cabinet meeting since assuming the presidency.

He emphasized the "ease of getting here, getting around, arranging for tours, getting drivers... finding a hotel" and noted how Singapore's attention to these details boosted tourism despite its limited natural resources.

Addressing his Cabinet via teleconferencing after testing positive for COVID-19 recently, the President also talked about ways to improve the health care facilities in major tourist destinations like Boracay. In this regard, he cited such arrangements implemented on the beaches of Hawaii and Thailand.

"In the beach, there are many police personnel and everything... So if anything happens along that stretch, they have someone to run to. The lifeguards know exactly where to bring them," he said in a mix of English and Filipino.

- With Alexis Romero



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THE EXHIBIT OF PHILIPPINE PROGRESS  
SINCE 1900  
**MANILA BULLETIN**  
THE NATION'S LEADING NEWSPAPER

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## PH among 40 'most beautiful' countries; Boracay in world's greatest places list

By PNA and JALEEN RAMOS

New York-based Condé Nast Traveler (CNT) has recognized the Philippines' charm once again, listing it as one of the 40 most beautiful countries in the world.

The Philippines, joined by South Africa, Canada, Australia, Mexico, and the United States, was cited for the natural attractions the country has to offer.

"There are more than 7,000 islands in the Philippines, and they easily number among the most beautiful in the world," CNT writer Caitlin Morton wrote in a June 2 article. **►10**



## PH among 40 'most beautiful' countries; Boracay in world's greatest places list 1◀

"The Puerto Princesa Subterranean River National Park in Palawan encompasses mangrove forests, one of the world's most impressive cave systems, and an underground river. The Chocolate Hills of Bohol Island consist of an estimated 1,776 grass-covered domes that are mysteriously uniform in shape. The rice terraces of both Banaue and the Philippine Cordilleras provide panoramic views of every shade of green imaginable," she added.

### 'Paradise reborn'

Time, meanwhile, recognized Boracay as one of the world's greatest places in 2022, describing it as a "paradise reborn."

Boracay, a resort island in Aklan, is known for its unrivaled and long stretch of white beach made more pristine after a six-month rehabilitation in 2018.

Before the rehabilitation, former President Rodrigo R. Duterte labeled it a "cesspool."

Today, Boracay offers beaches with no more obstructions, new sidewalks, better drainages, more e-trikes and a wider main road.

"As of February 2022, international visitors can finally revel in this revamped, recuperated, natural playground after what was effectively a three-year convalescence," TIME said.

"Locals report the return of flora and fauna, like sea turtles, and hospitality has come back just

as spectacularly," it added.

Also included in Time's list are Seoul in South Korea; Dolni Morava in the Czech Republic for its "one-of-a-kind vistas"; Historic Silk Road Sites in Uzbekistan; Trans Bhutan Trail; Kyushu Island in Japan; and the Alentejo in Portugal, among others.

Time said it "solicited nominations of places from our international network of correspondents and contributors, with an eye toward those offering new and exciting experiences" to complete the list.

"The result: 50 far-flung and familiar spots, from the Great Barrier Reef, where visitors can see undersea wonders while participating in conservation efforts, to the ultra-high-tech city of Seoul. Many of the destinations are charting a path to economic recovery; this year paradise reopens on The Philippines' Boracay Island, which had been closed for years due to overtourism and then the Covid-19 pandemic," it said in its July 12 article.

### Manila among best cities

Meanwhile, the City of Manila ranked 34th in Time Out's list of best cities in the world.

This year's Time Out Index is focused on "the ones with thriving nightlife, amazing food and drink, and art, culture, and museums galore" as the world opens up again after the Covid-19 pandemic.

While the City of Manila continues to face problems such as overpopulation and epic traffic jams, Time Out credited the capital city for being, "an underrated hub for art and culture, with unique customs and cuisine to boot" that was mainly influenced by the legacies of Chinese, Spanish, and American.

It also praised the City of Manila for its aggressive Covid-19 response

"The pandemic brought the longest lockdowns, cruel liquor bans, and the demand for spacewear-like face shields, but a strong vaccine drive has helped this megacity stay afloat," the magazine wrote.

"Manila was voted the third most resilient in this year's survey, and not a single respondent described the city as rude - instead, it was admired by many for the welcoming and infectious smiles of its people," it added.

Time Out added people should visit the City of Manila as it is thriving again.

"The city really is thriving again. Let Manila entertain you as it has before with its high-end shopping malls, eclectic contemporary art galleries, and the edgy music venues of the south," it wrote.

"One hundred percent of respondents in Manila didn't describe locals as rude, making it the least rude city in this year's Index. Sixty percent said that the city was resilient, while 78 percent raved about its nightlife and party scene."



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# Manila Standard

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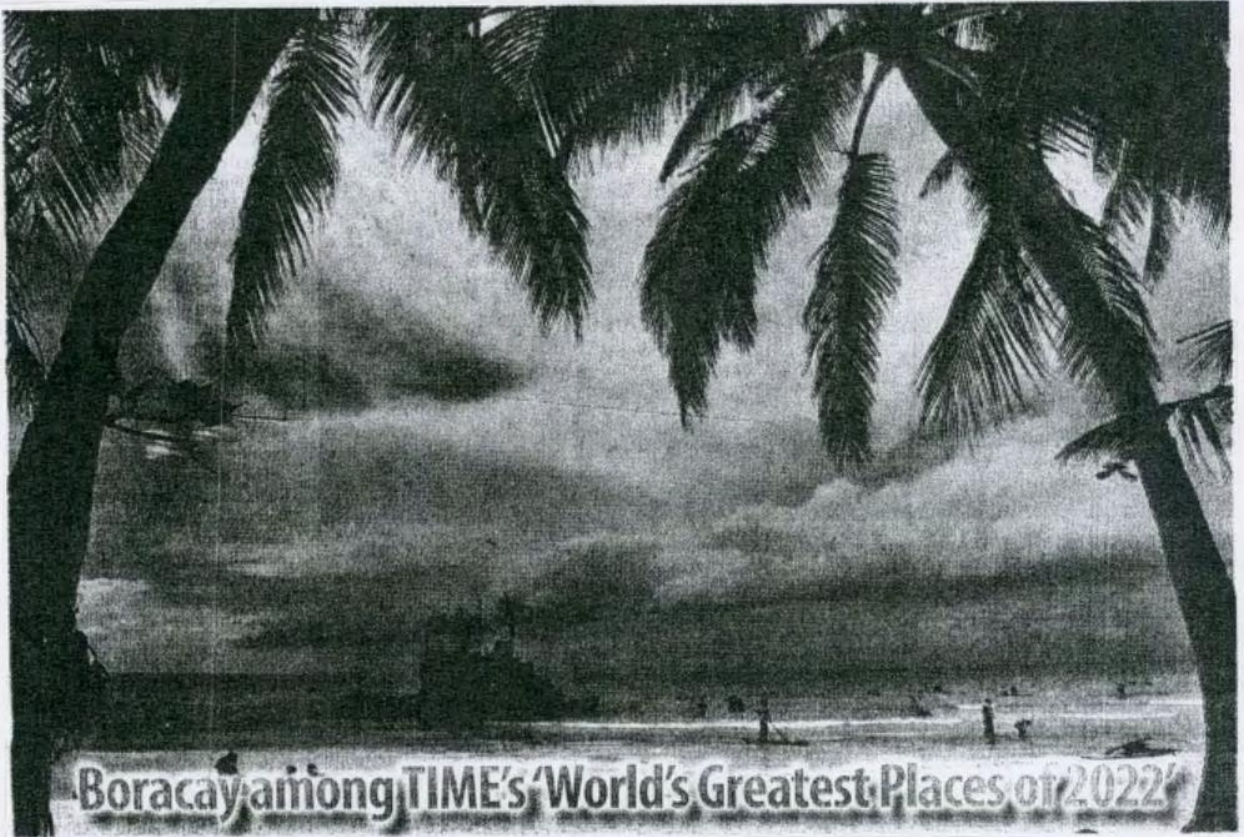
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**By Vito Barcelo and Vince Lopez**

BORACAY, a tropical island surrounded by stunning white sand beaches and clear blue waters in Panay, has been named by TIME Magazine as one of the "World's Greatest Places of 2022."

On its website, TIME, the New York-based

American mass media corporation, described the world-famous white-sand beach as a "paradise reborn" and called it among the "50 extraordinary destinations to explore."

The news coincided with President Ferdinand Marcos Jr.'s statement underscoring the need to

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The Manila Times

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# Editorial

## Greening the economic recovery

A RECENT study by the Asian Development Bank (ADB) argues that a green recovery from the economic downturn of the Covid-19 pandemic is crucial to the well-being of Southeast Asia, particularly the Philippines, Indonesia, Thailand, Cambodia and Myanmar. As the Philippines moves further from the ill effects, literally and figuratively, of the pandemic, and at this particular moment when a new administration is just beginning its work, we believe the ADB's recommendation should be one of the cornerstones of national policy moving forward.

The report, titled "Implementing a Green Recovery in Southeast Asia," is a product of the Southeast Asian Department of ADB and was released publicly at the end of May. It makes a relatively straightforward but powerful assertion: well-designed policy measures that take environmental sustainability into account can achieve both socioeconomic and environmental goals, but on the other hand, not addressing "the environmental crises of climate change and biodiversity loss," will constrain the region's long-term growth prospects as worsening environmental challenges will impact lives and livelihoods to an ever-increasing degree.

From the ADB's point of view, the five countries in focus are making some moves in the right direction, such as investments in green infrastructure, but "there are also areas of concern," such as fossil fuel subsidies and various environmental deregulation initiatives. One local example of a step in the wrong direction is the deeply flawed proposed Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) law, which we highlighted in Wednesday's editorial and which would have a host of unintended environmental consequences.



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#### 4 key advantages

Shifting policy to prioritize a "green recovery" has four key advantages, according to ADB. First, it will help to safeguard against future pandemics due to the growing link between environmental and human health. Second, it is obviously important for directly addressing the already severe and worsening effects of climate change and biodiversity loss in the region. Third, it presents numerous opportunities to achieve significant economic stimulus. And finally, it is critical for strengthening the region's long-term competitiveness.

To jump-start policy development, the ADB report details five areas in which not only are the most productive opportunities for growth in the focus countries available, but which the countries cannot ignore if they wish to avoid further economic hardship. These areas are productive and regenerative agriculture; sustainable urban development and transport models; clean energy transitions; circular economy models, which primarily address the growing waste problem in the region; and healthy and productive oceans.

The relevance of all of these subjects to the Philippines is quite obvious, and to the Marcos administration's credit, much of its early policy orientation is already directed toward some of these aims. What is more interesting about the ADB report, however, and what may encourage the government to sharpen its focus even more is the study's subtext.

There are two implicit messages in the report. First, the five "green opportunities" highlighted by ADB are common issues among the focus countries; the report in fact devotes a couple of pages to explaining the research methodology behind the selection of these areas for development. That means they are areas of potential cooperation for the Philippines and its neighbors, which in turn hints at a whole galaxy of new potential trade and business opportunities.

The second implied message of the report is that ADB is willing to support the efforts in these areas by the governments in question with the substantial resources at its disposal. The opposite of that coin, of course, is that requests for assistance for government initiatives or programs that are outside these broad areas or run counter to their goals are probably not going to be received with much sympathy.

We would hope that the Marcos administration critically considers the ADB recommendations in the context in which they were presented, a broad set of recommendations backed by solid research that can help point policy and development in the most positive direction. We believe it is the direction the country needs to take, though the specific steps along the way might be debated, and evolve with changing circumstances.



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## **Bulacan coastal area residents lumubog sa baha**

**BULACAN** - Ginulantang ng baha ang umaga ng maraming residenteng nasa mababang lugar, malapit sa ilog at baybayin sa lalawigan ito matapos bayuhin ng ulan na sinundan ng high tide.

Ayon sa impormasyon, mas kinatatakutan nila ang pinagsamang puwersa ng dambuhalang high tide, habagat at ang posibleng pagpapakawala ng tubig sa dam

sakaling mapuno ito.

Nalamang bandang 4:00 a.m. nitong Miyerkules, kabilang sa binayo ng ulan ang ilang parte ng lalawigan dahil sa Low Pressure Area (LPA) na nagpabaha sa maraming lugar.

Bandang 8:30 a.m., sinundan ito ng high tide na may taas na 4.9 ft na lalong nagpabaha sa mga mababang lugar sa bayan ng Obando, Meycauyan, Marilao,

14 JULY 2022, THURSDAY



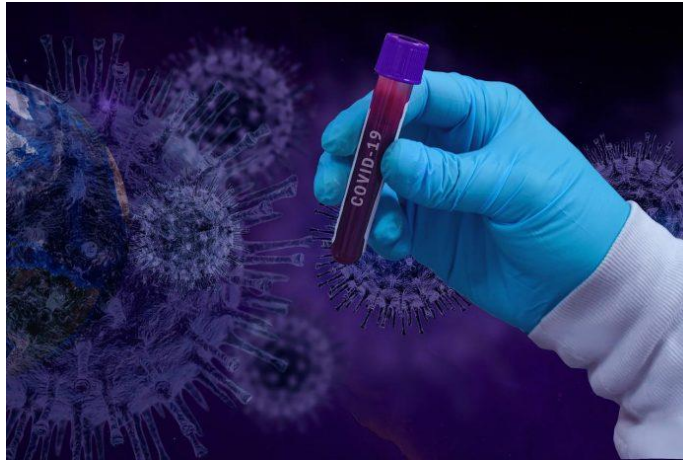
# NEWS ALERTS

# COVID-19 NEWS

STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION AND INITIATIVES SERVICE

# Daily COVID-19 cases in NCR may reach 11-K by end-July

July 13, 2022



COVID-19 photo. (Photo from Pixabay)

**By Katrina Gracia Consebido**

The Department of Health (DOH) said daily COVID-19 cases in the National Capital Region (NCR) may reach up to 11,186 by the end of July based on FASSSTER projections.

The movement in the number of cases is dependent on the compliance with minimum public health standards (MPHS), vaccination drive, and mobility.

With improved MPHS compliance, case uptrend will be on a “slower rate” with daily cases ranging from 4,651 to 6,037.

In terms of national daily case count by the end of July, it may reach 17,105 with the current compliance rate.

“If MPHS further declines, along with other factors contributing to higher transmission rates such as lowered vaccination effective coverage and higher mobility, cases may be as high as 22,187,” the DOH said in response to reporters Tuesday, July 12.

Health authorities continue to call on the eligible population who have not yet received their due COVID-19 vaccine dose to get vaccinated.

Meanwhile, OCTA Research has observed an escalation in the healthcare utilization rate (HCUR) of NCR and other regions.

Based on DOH data as of July 11, there is an increase of 30.1% in NCR’s HCUR, while intensive care unit (ICU) is at 21.8%.

Hospital admissions have surpassed 50% in Bohol and Iloilo province, while Olongapo’s HCUR reached 64.9%.

Health Undersecretary Maria Rosario Vergeire said the public should “remain vigilant” to lessen the severe and critical COVID-19 cases and hospitalizations.

“But we would like to remain vigilant. Our surveillance system is up. We are closely monitoring. We are prepared in the communities and even in our hospitals if and when magtuloy-tuloy po ang pagtaas ng kaso dito sa ating bansa,” she said.



The DOH and the National Vaccination Operations Center are working together to strengthen the vaccination drive of the government and to address the increasing cases of COVID-19.  
– ***With reports from Mark Fetalco-ag***



# Continue wearing masks as BA.5 cases rise: health expert

By Ma. Teresa Montemayor [July 13, 2022, 2:18 pm](#)



Infectious disease expert Dr. Edsel Salvaña (PPD photo)

**MANILA** – An infectious disease expert is advising the public to continue wearing face masks amid the rising cases of Omicron subvariants in the country.

In a Facebook post Wednesday, Dr. Edsel Salvaña said masks should be worn even outdoors as the Omicron BA.5 subvariant is “super contagious”.

“They’re finding that out in other countries AFTER they removed their mask mandates. Good thing we’re a lot more cautious in the Philippines,” he said.

Salvaña noted that current vaccines continue to prevent severe disease but are less effective for preventing infection and the use of face masks is still significant to avoid more infections while waiting for updated vaccines.

Health authorities say Omicron subvariants BA.4 and BA.5 are highly transmissible, as transmissible as measles, which is considered the most infectious viral illness in humans.

Being outdoors provided good protection against infection with previous coronavirus variants like Alpha and Delta. However, being at an outdoor event could be somewhat risky with the newest Omicron subvariants.

In the country, there are a total of 293 cases of BA.5, 87 BA.2.12.1 cases, and 12 BA.4 cases. Some 60 new cases of BA.5 along with 17 additional cases of BA.2.12.1 and two BA.4 were logged from July 7 to 11.

Salvaña clarified that Omicron BA.5 subvariant is “not the worst Covid-19 variant”.

“That distinction currently belongs to Delta which killed more people than any other variant locally and almost caused our healthcare system to collapse,” he said. “The deadliness of Delta was a combination of the virulence of the variant and a lack of widespread vaccination.”

BA.5, being an Omicron sublineage, is likely less virulent than Delta at baseline, he added.

Severe and critical cases positive with Omicron subvariants are not expected to be anywhere near Delta levels to overwhelm the healthcare system with the widespread vaccination which still protects against severe disease, he added.



Earlier, President Ferdinand “Bongbong” Marcos Jr. said the government may consider wearing face masks optional if it is clearly safe. **(PNA)**





# WHO chief concerned coronavirus cases, deaths rising again

July 13, 2022, 4:39 pm



**GENEVA** – The head of the World Health Organization said Tuesday that he is concerned coronavirus cases and deaths are climbing, stretching health systems while monkeypox is also rising with 9,200 cases reported in 63 countries.

"I am concerned about the increasing trend in Covid-19 deaths – putting further pressure on stretched health systems and health workers. The Emergency Committee on Covid-19 met on Friday last week and concluded that the virus remains a Public Health Emergency of International Concern," Tedros Ghebreyesus said at a media webinar and noted it was at the WHO's highest alert level.

Tedros said the Committee noted its concern that sub-variants of omicron, like BA.4 and BA.5, continue to drive waves of cases, hospitalization and death worldwide.

"Surveillance has reduced significantly --including testing and sequencing -- making it increasingly difficult to assess the impact of variants on transmission, disease characteristics, and the effectiveness of countermeasures," he said.

In addition, diagnostics, treatments, and vaccines are not deployed effectively, he said.

## Running freely

"The virus is running freely, and countries are not effectively managing the disease burden based on their capacity, in terms of both hospitalization for acute cases and the expanding number of people with the post-Covid-19 condition -- often referred to as 'long-Covid.'"

Globally, the WHO's new weekly cases increased for a fourth consecutive week after declining since the last peak in March.

During the week of June 27 to July 3, more than 4.6 million cases were reported to WHO, similar to the previous week with 8,100 fatalities.

As of July 3, more than 546 million confirmed virus cases and over 6.3 million deaths had been reported globally.

Regarding monkeypox, Tedros said: "The Emergency Committee for monkeypox will reconvene next week and look at trends, how effective the countermeasures are, and make recommendations for what countries and communities should do to tackle the outbreak."



"(The) WHO is working closely with civil society and LGBTIQ+ community, especially to tackle the stigma around the virus and spread information so people can stay safe," he said.

Additionally, the WHO said it continues to work with countries and vaccine manufacturers to coordinate the sharing of vaccines, which are currently scarce, and work with countries and experts to drive research and development. **(Anadolu)**

14 JULY 2022, THURSDAY



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