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**DENR**

**IN THE NEWS**

Strategic Communication and Initiative Service



# 'World way off course in dealing with climate'

By Jhesset O. Enano  
@JhessetEnanoINQ

KATOWICE, POLAND—The world is "way off course" in dealing with climate change and its impact three years after the Paris Agreement was reached, UN Secretary General Antonio Guterres said on Monday at the start of UN climate talks.

"We cannot afford to fail in Katowice . . . We have no time for limitless negotiations," Guterres told the plenary that included several government leaders and heads of state.

"Even as we witness devastating climate impacts causing havoc across the world, we are still not doing enough nor moving fast enough to prevent irreversible and catastrophic climate disruption," he added.

Proceedings were injected with a shot of glamour as former California Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger and veteran wildlife documentary maker Sir David Attenborough both addressed delegates.

Attenborough issued a plea for action on behalf of humanity: "If we don't take action the collapse of our civilizations and the extinction of much of the natural world is on the horizon."

Climate negotiators of nearly 200 countries will spend the next two weeks in Katowice, a city built on coal mining, for the 24th Conference of the Parties (COP24) to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change.

## Rule book

The main agenda was for the completion of the rule book for the Paris Agreement, which would formalize and ramp up the nations' commitment to limit global temperature to well below 2 degrees Celsius by reducing carbon emissions and implementing adaptation and



**CLAIM THE CLIMATE** Protesters join the "Claim the Climate" march in Brussels on Sunday, a day before the climate change conference COP24 began in Katowice, Poland, drawing representatives from nearly 200 countries. —AP



Antonio Guterres —AP

mitigation measures.

The urgency comes with the backdrop of political divide and high tension among different countries. US President Donald Trump, for instance, has insisted on his decision to withdraw from the Paris Agreement at the recent G-20 meeting.

A US delegation, however, is present at COP24 but it remains to be seen what position it will

take during the talks.

In his welcome remarks, Guterres also highlighted the special report from the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change.

## Radical actions needed

The report said radical and unprecedented actions must be taken to handle global warming in 12 years, or face dire consequences, such as extreme droughts and stronger typhoons that may drive millions to poverty.

Guterres emphasized the need for strong leadership from various countries.

"We have the knowledge... Cities, regions, civil society and the business community around the world are moving ahead," he said.

"What we need is political will and more far-sighted leadership. This is the challenge on which this generation's leaders

will be judged," he added.

Frank Bainimarama, prime minister of Fiji and president of last year's COP, said developed nations must act before countries such as his are consumed by the waves.

"Or, God forbid, (we) ignore the irrefutable evidence and become the generation that betrayed humanity," Bainimarama said.

Also on Monday, Polish President Andrzej Duda presented the Silesian Declaration on Solidarity and Just Transition, a document that calls for a "decent future" for workers affected by the transition away from fossil fuel industries.

The declaration, however, has been met with resistance from environmental activist groups, which also questioned why coal companies were among the sponsors of the climate talks. —WITH REPORTS FROM AFP AND REUTERS INQ



**ENVIRONMENTAL CRUSADE**

# US PURSUING CLIMATE DEAL DESPITE TRUMP, SAYS ACTOR

KATOWICE, POLAND—Governments must protect citizens from the killer effects of climate change, movie-tough-guy-turned-statesman Arnold Schwarzenegger told Agence France-Presse (AFP), insisting that the United States was committed to a greener future despite Donald Trump renegeing on the Paris Agreement.

In an interview on the sidelines of a UN climate summit in Poland this week, the "Terminator" actor and three-time Mr. Universe winner said he was on an "environmental crusade" and urged everyone to join in the climate fight.

Schwarzenegger added a sprinkle of stardust to Monday's opening session of COP24 climate talks in Poland, where nations must agree on a rule book to limit global temperature rises and the devastating economic and health impacts global warming will bring.

"I think governments' responsibility is to protect people. That's why we have armies to avoid an attack. Well, here is the biggest attack," he told AFP.

### Air pollution

"Seven million people die every year because of [air] pollution, 25,000 of them die alone in America. If we don't want to fight that then there is something wrong with us."

In his two terms as California governor between 2003 and 2011, Schwarzenegger helped shape America's richest state into a green powerhouse.

He signed legislation giving local and state officials the tools to bring down greenhouse gas emissions by reducing urban sprawl and promoting renewable energy and green technology.

The 71-year-old said the United States was committed

to act on climate change regardless of President Trump's controversial decision to take the richest country in the world out of the Paris accord.

"Just because Donald Trump dropped out of the Paris Agreement, it doesn't mean that America dropped out," he said.

"All of our states that were always environmentally friendly are still going in the same direction. All of our cities in America are going in the same direction. They are still in the Paris Agreement," he added.

"People are investing in green technology. It's a booming industry and people should understand that we all have to work together. America is in and our crazy leader is not, so be it."

### Economy, environment

During his presidential campaign, Trump promised to protect the nation's coal workers and even reopen mines that had been mothballed.

The COP24 summit is being held in the Polish mining city of Katowice and the Polish government is pushing for a "just transition" that gradually reduces coal usage while protecting the miners whose livelihoods depend on it.

Schwarzenegger said the idea that fossil fuel-dependent economies would suffer as they transitioned to renewables was a fallacy.

"Green technology creates a huge amount of jobs and the reality is that we don't have to choose between one and the other. You can protect the environment and protect the economy at the same time," he said.

The Advanced Energy Economy Institute said California employed more than half a million people in green energy in 2016, several times the amount of US coal workers nationally. —AFP



# Phl rallies climate vulnerable countries in Poland talks

By JANVIC MATEO

The Philippines has vowed to lead vulnerable countries in ensuring climate action during the climate change conference in Katowice, Poland this week.

Climate Change Commission Secretary Emmanuel de Guzman, head of the Philippine delegation to the conference, said the talks is an opportunity for the Philippines to show leadership and momentum on global action against climate change.

He stressed the need to ensure the completion of the implementation guidelines of the landmark 2015 Paris agreement on climate change that underscored the priorities, needs and attainment of sustainable development for the world's poorest and most vulnerable countries.

"In the climate talks, ours is a leadership voice on behalf of the climate vulnerable. The Philippines has succeeded in championing climate justice and other fundamental principles in the talks," De Guzman said.

"We continue to enjoin developed countries to improve their mitigation targets, mobilize climate finance and accelerate its flow, as well as the development and transfer of technology," he added.

Delegates from 196 countries are meeting in Katowice for the 24th session of the Conference of the Parties under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change.

Its objectives include finalizing the implementing guidelines of the Paris agreement, which aims to mitigate the impact of climate

change worldwide.

De Guzman said the Philippines will continue to champion concerns of developing countries, including financial support for technology development, transfer and diffusion and capacity-building; clear programs for delivery among developed countries; and clarity and acceptability of the time frame of the programs to enable developing countries to build their national capacities.

He noted that the Philippines is highly regarded in the negotiation process at the climate talks as a leader of developing countries.

As chair of the Climate Vulnerable Forum in 2015, the country, on behalf of 48 developing countries, led the advocacy for the ambitious global warming threshold of 1.5 degree Celsius.

"We succeeded in stipulating

in the Paris Agreement that adaptation finance must solely be in the form of grants, and not loans or other means of access. We also succeeded in retaining the focus on loss and damage and on strengthening the international mechanisms and approaches for managing climate and disaster risk," he said.



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## Leaders seek support for climate measures

**KATOWICE, Poland:** As leaders attending the UN's annual climate summit heard fresh warnings about the dire consequences of leaving global warming unchecked, a new issue emerged Monday as a pressing concern: how to persuade millions of workers their industry can't have a future if humanity is to have one.

Hosting the talks in the heart of its coal region of Silesia, Poland tried to set the tone for the two-week meeting by promoting the idea of a "just transition" for miners and other workers facing layoffs as countries adopt alternative energy sources.

"We are trying to save the world from annihilation, but we must do this in a way that those who live with us today in the world have the best possible living conditions," Polish President Andrzej Duda said. "Otherwise they will say, 'We don't want such policy.'"

The issue of a "just transition" isn't restricted to workers in energy industries who might lose their jobs. Many economists argue that ambitious curbs on greenhouse emissions require raising the cost of carbon fuels — one of the measures that triggered large-scale protests in France by motorists feeling the squeeze at the pump.

Scientists say the only way to keep average global temperatures from rising above 1.5 degrees Celsius (2.7 F) by the end of the century is to phase out the use of fossil fuels by 2050. That is the most ambitious goal set in the 2015 Paris agreement, which negotiators from nearly 200 countries have come to Katowice to finalize.

UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres issued a dramatic appeal to leaders Monday to take the threat of global warming seriously, calling it "the most important issue we face."

"Even as we witness devastating climate impacts causing havoc across the world, we are still not doing enough, nor moving fast enough, to prevent irreversible and catastrophic climate disruption," Guterres told delegates from almost 200 countries on the second day of talks.

Famed British naturalist Sir David Attenborough echoed his warnings, telling the gathering that the "collapse of our civilizations and the extinction of much of the natural world is on the horizons" if no urgent action is taking against global warming.

The 92-year-old TV presenter blamed humans for the "disaster of global scale, our greatest threat in thousands of years."

Without naming specific countries, Guterres chided the nations most responsible for greenhouse gas emissions for failing to do enough to meet the goals set in Paris.

Citing a recent scientific report, the UN chief urged governments to aim for net zero emissions by 2050. Net zero emissions mean that any greenhouse gases emitted need to be soaked up by forest or new technologies that can remove carbon from the atmosphere.

Such cuts would require a radical overhaul of the global economy. But Guterres said governments should embrace the opportunities of shifting to a "green economy" rather than cling to fossil fuels such as coal, which are blamed for a significant share of man-made greenhouse gas emissions.

US officials have kept a low profile at the talks so far. President Donald Trump has announced Washington's withdrawal from the Paris accord, saying it's a bad deal for Americans, and repeatedly questioned the science behind climate change.

By contrast, action film star and former California Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger drew crowds and applause at the U.N. conference Monday for insisting that many in the United States remain committed to the agreement.

"America is more than just Washington or one leader," he said, calling Trump "meshugga" — Yiddish for "crazy" — for deciding to withdraw from the Paris accord. Schwarzenegger said he wished he could travel back in time — like the cyborg he portrayed in "The Terminator" — to stop fossil fuels from being used.

The Netherlands, a country with a long history of pumping oil and gas from the ground, is also among the places most at risk from rising sea levels caused by global warming.

With millions of people in the Netherlands living in low-lying areas, "you have your evidence and your case in point to make, sure, that you prevent sea levels from rising even further" Dutch Prime Minister Mark Rutte told The Associated Press.

Asked about the recent protests in France, one of which turned into a riot in Paris on Saturday, Rutte said politicians must work to get all of society to back the measures needed to tackle climate change.

"That means talking, talking, talking," he said. "With all societal organizations, politicians, all citizens being involved if they want to."

More talk is doubtlessly necessary, including at the international level. Poland's President Duda told reporters that his country, which relies on coal for 80 percent of its energy, would work to reduce its reliance on coal but never entirely give up its "strategic fossil fuel."

Among those addressing conference participants this week is a 15-year-old Swedish activist, Greta Thunberg, who has inspired students around the world to campaign against global warming.

Thunberg criticized leaders, such as Trump and German Chancellor Angela Merkel, who failed to come to the climate talks.

"I think that in the future we will look back and we will either laugh at them or we will hate them," she told The Associated Press. "It's very sad, but if they don't do anything right now that is the truth." **AP**

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STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION AND INITIATIVES SERVICE

## CCC: Rise to 1.5° climate challenge to survive, thrive

AT the closing of the 2018 Climate Change Consciousness Week recently, Climate Change Commissioner Rachel Anne S. Herrera reiterated the call for all Filipinos and the international community to step up climate action to limit global warming at 1.5 degrees Celsius.

With the increasing prevalence of climate risks, Herrera said leaders are tasked to exert more effort, especially for indigenous peoples, farmers, and fisherfolk who are highly dependent on their natural ecosystems, in order to "live safely and effectively amidst the impacts of climate

change."  
"We must act on what nature and science are telling us. If not, we are putting lives and our biodiversity at risk. Our call for the 1.5 degrees Celsius global warming threshold is already gaining momentum globally, and this shall drive us to push for greater ambition and strengthened leadership in climate talks for the benefit of our present and future generations," Herrera said.

"Above all, we must continue to show leadership as a vulnerable country, as a way to amplify and inspire many more to action," Herrera added.

Herrera also shared the message of President Duterte, who chairs the Climate Change Commission, at the first Climate Vulnerable Forum (CVF) Virtual Leaders Summit, emphasizing that "climate action and ambition must be shared and demonstrated by all nations" and that developed countries must give their fair share of climate action, especially in terms of technology transfer, climate finance, and capacity building.

Climate Change Secretary Emmanuel De Guzman also stated that addressing climate change is "our moral responsibility to ensure that generations will sur-

vive and thrive in a warmer world."

Senator Loren Legarda joined this week's celebration, via a recorded message, underlining the importance of local climate action.

"At the global stage, we are forging a bold, strategic vision for adaptation. But we must then contextualize our discussions on our efforts on the ground: climate action is local. For us in the Philippines, adaptation is a matter of survival. We have been urging both our public and private sectors to embrace adaptation and to work together for a secure and resilient future," Legarda stressed.

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Department of Environment and Natural Resources  
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A broader look at today's business

## Climate denial was the crucible for Trumpism



Paul Krugman

**NEW YORK TIMES**

**M**ANY observers seem baffled by Republican fealty to Donald J. Trump—the party’s willingness to back him on all fronts, even after severe defeats in the midterm elections. What kind of party would show such support for a leader who is not only evidently corrupt and seemingly in the pocket of foreign dictators but also routinely denies facts and tries to criminalize anyone who points them out?

The answer is, the kind of the party that, long before Trump came on the scene, committed itself to denying the facts on climate change and criminalizing the scientists reporting those facts.

The GOP wasn’t always an anti-environment, anti-science party. George H.W. Bush introduced the cap-and-trade program that largely controlled the problem of acid rain. As late as 2008, John McCain called for a similar program to limit emissions of the greenhouse gases that cause global warming.

But McCain’s party was already well along in the process of becoming what it is today—a party that is not only completely dominated by climate deniers, but is hostile to science in general, that demonizes and tries to destroy scientists who challenge its dogma.

Trump fits in with this mindset. In fact, when you review the history of Republican climate denial, it looks

a lot like Trumpism. Climate denial, you might say, was the crucible in which the essential elements of Trumpism were formed.

Take Trump’s dismissal of all negative information about his actions and their consequences as either fake news invented by hostile media or the products of a sinister “deep state.” That kind of conspiracy theorizing has long been standard practice among climate deniers, who began calling the evidence for global warming—evidence that has convinced 97 percent of climate scientists—a “gigantic hoax” 15 years ago.

What was the evidence for this vast conspiracy? A lot of it rested on, you guessed it, hacked e-mails. The credulousness of all too many journalists about the supposed misconduct revealed by “Climategate,” a pseudo-scandal that relied on selective, out-of-context quotes from e-mails at a British university,

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prefigured the disastrous media handling of hacked Democratic e-mails in 2016. (All we learned from those e-mails was that scientists are people—occasionally snappish, and given to talking in professional shorthand that hostile outsiders can willfully misinterpret.)

Oh, and what is supposed to be motivating the thousands of scientists perpetrating this hoax? We've become accustomed to the spectacle of Trump, the most corrupt president in history leading the most corrupt administration of modern times, routinely calling his opponents and critics "crooked." Much the same thing happens in climate debate.

The truth is that most prominent climate deniers are basically paid to take that position, receiving large amounts of money from fossil-fuel companies. But after the release of the recent National Climate Assessment detailing the damage we can expect from global warming, a parade of Republicans went on TV to declare that scientists were saying these things only "for the money." Projection much?

Finally, Trump has brought a new level of menace to US politics, inciting his followers to violence against critics and trying to order the Justice Department to prosecute Hillary Clinton and James Comey.

But climate scientists have faced harassment and threats, up to and including death threats, for years. And they've also faced efforts by politicians to, in effect, criminalize their work. Most famously, Michael E. Mann, creator of the famous

"hockey stick" graph, was for years the target of an anti-climate science jihad by Ken Cuccinelli, at the time Virginia's attorney general.

And on it goes. Recently a judge in Arizona, responding to a lawsuit by a group linked to the Koch brothers (and not understanding how research works), ordered the release of all e-mails from climate scientists at the University of Arizona. To forestall the inevitable selective misrepresentation, Mann released all e-mails he exchanged with his Arizona colleagues, with explanatory context.

There are three important morals to this story.

First, if we fail to meet the challenge of climate change, with catastrophic results—which seems all too likely—it won't be the result of an innocent failure to understand what was at stake. It will, instead, be a disaster brought on by corruption, willful ignorance, conspiracy theorizing and intimidation.

Second, that corruption isn't a problem of "politicians" or the "political system." It's specifically a problem of the Republican Party, which has burrowed ever deeper into climate denial even as the damage from a warming planet becomes more and more obvious.

Third, we can now see climate denial as part of a broader moral rot. Trump isn't an aberration; he's the culmination of where his party has been going for years. You could say that Trumpism is just the application of the depravity of climate denial to every aspect of politics. And there's no end to the depravity in sight.



STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION AND INITIATIVES SERVICE

# Capas quarry feud turns bloody

By MARY SUPNAD

**C**APAS, Tarlac – A disagreement over a multi-billion quarry business here has turned bloody with four people, including two policemen, killed in a shootout last Saturday.

Police however appear to be trying to keep a lid on the incident. Capas police chief Noirel Rombaoa refused to provide newsmen with the official report on the shooting.

A report from Camp Tolentino, the

police headquarters in Bataan, provided a hazy picture of the incident.

The report, however, identified those killed as PO3 Vincent Lugtu, 40, his brother, barangay tanod Clint Donald Lugtu, 33, of Barangay Sta Lucia, Capas, SPO2 Jason Garcia, 45, of the Mabalacat police station and Renato Mercado, Lugtu's driver.

The report said tanod Lugtu had pulled over the dump truck of Garcia. A heated argument escalated with the two policemen exchanging fire.

Both policemen died on the spot.

Mercado then allegedly grabbed the fallen Garcia's gun and shot tanod Lugtu who was also killed.

Mercado himself was killed by a stray bullet, the report said.

The shooting has been linked to the quarry business here because a top police official is reportedly receiving huge amount weekly as protection money from illegal quarry operators.

A resident of Sta. Lucia who requested his name with-

held said, "ang pinag-aawayan nila ang ang pagku-quarry ni Garcia. Pinapagtigil ng mga Lugtu ang paghuhukay sa quarry dahil na-apektuhan ang bukid nila (Lugtus)."

Operators with connections at the provincial capitol are quarrying without a permit, reports indicated.

According to Melanio Atompag of the Provincial Environment and Natural Resources, Governor Susan Yap has yet to issue a directive on the quarry operations in Sta. Lucia.

There are at least three quarry operators in the barangay.

STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION AND INITIATIVES SERVICE

**DENR-XI strengthens its partnership with the youth on environmental protection**

**W**ith its aim to continue to heighten the awareness of the youth when it comes to environmental conservation and management, the Department of Environment and Natural Resources Region XI (DENR-XI) further strengthens its partnership with the youth sector through the Department's different activities and programs.

Environment Secretary Roy A. Cimatu recently called on the Filipino youth to take part in the government's effort to protect the country's rich biological resources against destruction and loss. He also directed all of the Department's field offices to intensify the information campaign on proper waste disposal with focus on children and youth.

During the ASEAN Biodiversity Heroes' Forum in Makati last September, Cimatu said that the young people, who constitute a large part of the country's population, must do their share in protecting the environment as it provides the people food, shelter, clothing, medicine and other ecological services essential to its survival.

"The youth today are in a better position to protect their future from environmental crisis, including depletion of resources and biodiversity loss. No one will be forever in this earth but our actions as global citizens are indispensable in our battle to save the environment," he said.

Cimatu also believes that Intensified Information, Education and Communication (IEC) campaign can increase the youth's knowledge, awareness and participation on various environmental issues especially on solid waste management.

**YES-O Environmental Forum**

Through DepEd Order No. 72, series of 2003, the Youth for Environment in Schools Organization (YES-O) was established for students' actions and movement toward safeguarding, protecting and conserving the environment for future generations. The establishment of YES-O is in partnership with the DENR.

In Davao region, majority of the public schools have active YES-Os most especially in the provinces. To further encourage the students to actively initiate environmental activities within and outside their schools, DENR-XI started to conduct its yearly YES-O Environmental Forum in various schools.

For DENR Regional Executive Director Ruth M. Tawantawan, such event is very significant as it can be one of the venues for students to be aware of the different environmental programs of the government.

"We aim to really reach out to the students and to the youth sector because we want them to know that they are one of our partners when it comes to taking care of the environment and that they have the responsibility to make our planet cleaner and greener," she said.

With its theme "YES-O: Let's Go, Grow and Glow", the forum started last September 2017 with the aim to reactivate those YES-Os in Davao City that has been inactive for years. The event was participated in by YES-O officers and moderators from different schools in Davao City.

"The Forum was a success in a way that we were able to encourage YES-O members as well as the teachers from different schools to reactivate their organization once again. They started initiating environmental activities and projects in and outside their schools and what's more important is we have strengthened our partnership with the school and with the youth," Tawantawan said.

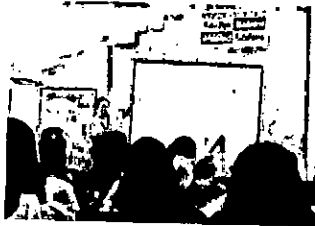
This year, DENR-XI conducted its YES-O Environmental Forums in Davao Occidental and Davao del Norte.

**MakakaLIKHAan Essay-writing and Photography Contest**

DENR-XI's MakakaLIKHAan Environmental Essay-writing and Photography Contest started in 2013 as one of the Department's IEC activities aiming to heighten the youth's level of awareness on Climate Change and Global Warming.

MakakaLIKHAan is a yearly event participated in by high school students from both public and private schools within the Davao Region. This event aims to showcase the talents of students in writing and in photography as well as encourage them further to continue to be DENR's partners when it comes to climate change mitigation.

This year, the 6th MakakaLIKHAan contest was conducted last November 22-23, 2018 at DENR Regional Office. With the theme "Educate and empower the youth for a healthier environment and safer climate", the champion for the essay-writing contest is Cheene Jean M. Languido from F. Bangoy National High School. Other winners are Andrea Leatio of Ateneo de Davao University as the 1st runner-up and Alexis Mareo J. Gaylo of Colegio de San Ignacio as 2nd runner-up.



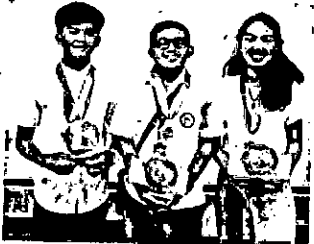
With its aim to encourage the youth to take action for a cleaner environment and preservation of the country's biodiversity, lectures on DENR Programs as well as environmental laws are given during the YES-O Forum.



YES-O members from Daniel R. Aguinado National High School participate in the coastal clean-up activity of the DENR in celebration for the Month of the Ocean.



Winners of the 6th MakakaLIKHAan Essay-writing Contest.



Winners of the 6th MakakaLIKHAan Photography Contest.

On the other hand, Aeron Alex O. Tabudong of Ateneo de Davao University came out as the champion for this year's photography contest while Leo Adrian Licayan of Mad School of Arts and Trades and Patricia V. Rivas of Colegio de San Ignacio bagged the 1st and 2nd runner-up respectively.

MakakaLIKHAan Environmental Essay-writing and Photography contest is being conducted by DENR-XI's Regional Public Affairs Office (RPAO) every November in line with the celebration of the National Climate Change Consciousness Week, National Day for Youth in Climate Action and National Environmental Awareness Month.

**Green Film Festival**

With the aim to educate and raise awareness of young students on the state of the Philippine environment and promote environmental sustainability, the DENR through its Environmental Management Bureau (EMB) hosted this year a simultaneous Green Film Festival. This event is in partnership with SM Cinemas and in cooperation with DepEd and the Commission on Higher Education (CHED).

Green Film Festival was launched last February 13, 2018 at SM North EDSA in Quezon City to give teachers, students and environmental advocates the opportunity to watch various films and video materials about the environment. It also aims to inspire the youth sector in the protection and sustainable management of the environment and natural resources.

This festival is one of the many initiatives of DENR-EMB in compliance to Republic Act 9512 or the National Environmental Awareness and Education Act which is now on its 10th year of enactment.

In Davao City, screenings were held on the following venues: Cinema 2 of SM Lanang Premier on June 18, Cinema 4 of SM EcoLand on August 14, and Cinema 4 of SM EcoLand on October 9. Secondary and tertiary level students were invited to join the event.

Materials that were shown during the Green Film Festival included short films and documentaries from DENR and its Bureaus. It also featured various environmental topics such as climate change mitigation and adaptation, biodiversity conservation, air and water pollution prevention, solid waste management and sustainable and eco-friendly schools to name a few.

Said materials aim to showcase the beauty of planet earth as well as to teach the value of preserving the environment and natural resources.



Through the Green Film Festival, students from secondary and tertiary levels are taught the value of preserving the environment and natural resources.



This year's champion for DENR-XI's ICC Poster-making contest is Raphael Antonio Mendoza of F. Bangoy National High School. With Mendoza and (L-R) DENR-XI's Section Chiefs Godfrey Cotlingho and Redentor Magno, Jr. together with Mendoza's Coach Roger Garcia.

**ICC Poster-making Contest**

In celebration of this year's International Coastal Clean-up (ICC) Day and National Clean-up Month, DENR-XI conducted its first-ever ICC Poster-making Contest last September with the theme "Bayanihan Para Sa Karagatan". This event was organized the Coastal Resources and Foreshore Management Section (CRFMS) and the Regional Public Affairs Office (RPAO).

RPAO Chief Jayvee Jude V. Agas said that the ICC poster-making contest aims to show to the students the significance of the coastal ecosystem and the need to conserve, protect and manage its resources.

"This is our first ICC poster-making contest and hopefully this will become DENR-XI's yearly event in celebration of the International Coastal Clean-up Day," she said.

The event was participated in by eight (8) high school students from different public schools within Davao City and most of the contestants are active YES-O members.

Raphael Antonio P. Mendoza of Francisco Bangoy National High School is this year's Champion. His artwork depicts the importance of coastal resources and the need for people to work together to protect it from destruction and pollution. Also highlighted in his artwork is the "pawikan", an endangered marine species that needs conservation efforts from human beings.

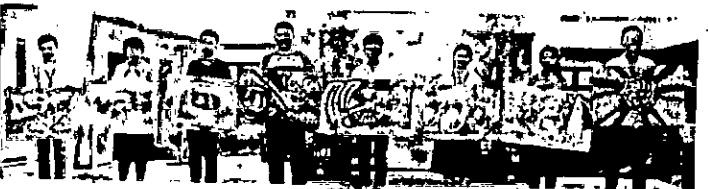
Other winners are Leah A. Alfara of Davao City National High School (1st Runner-up) and Kyle Edward B. Manglicmot of Sta. Ana National High School (2nd Runner-up).

**Other Endeavours**

In order to sustain its strong partnership with the youth sector, giving of environmental lectures and conducting school caravans are among the regular activities being done by DENR-XI every year.

Director Tawantawan said that through these activities, she is hopeful that the youth would be inspired to continue to care for the environment and become role models in their respective schools and communities.

"I am urging all youth, the students as well as the teachers, to continue to support all the Programs and Projects of the DENR and help us in our efforts in climate change mitigation and in making our environment clean and healthy," she stressed.



Participants of DENR-XI's ICC Poster-making Contest.



### Zero-waste campaign pinalakas ng Navotas MRF

PINANGUNAHAN ni Mayor John Rey M. Tiangco, kasama sina Vice Mayor Clint Geronimo, Punong Baranggay Malou Gonzales at iba pang opisyal ng lungsod, ang pagpapasinaya sa Materials Recovery Facility (MRF) ng Brgy. Bagumbayan North (BBN).

Nakipag-ugnayan ang Navotas sa GAIA at Mother Earth Foundation para sa pagpatutupad ng Zero Waste Program, kasama ang pagtatatag ng mga MRF.

Ang GAIA ay isang worldwide alliance na may higit na 600 grassroots groups, non-government organizations at mga indibidwal na nangunguna sa pagkilos tungo sa zero waste world.

Sa kabilang banda, ang Mother Earth Foundation ay nakikipagtulungan sa mga komunidad, mga paaralan, at mga pribadong institusyon sa Filipinas para sa pagsasagawa ng zero waste projects.

Inobserbahan ng parehong organisasyon ang implementasyon ng BBN ng door-to-door sorted waste collection at ang pagpapatupad ng mga batas pang-kalikasan, kasama ang mga deputized eco-police ng Navotas City Environment and Natural Resources Office.

Sa kanilang pagbisita, pinuri ng mga kalahok, na karamihan ay mga miyembro ng GAIA global network, ang multi-sector effort ng Navotas sa pagpatutupad ng waste management program sa BBN, lalo sa pagbibigay-pokus nito sa pagpapaintindi sa mga residente ukol sa kahalagahan ng pagsusulong ng zero waste sa lungsod. (JUN DAVID)



## Old rubber trees turned into high-value products

BY PAUL ICAMINA

THE country's first rubber wood processing facility is now operating in Naga, Zamboanga Sibugay.

Its woodworking equipment will be utilized for making furniture, moldings, finger-jointed

lumber and joinery products. The equipment includes a portable sawmill, thickness planer, single end tenoner, pin router, shaper, boring machine and a table saw.

The equipment – located

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An employee of FPRDI trains technicians in turning rubber wood into high value products.

### OLD

at the Tambanan Agrarian Reform Beneficiaries Cooperative (TARBEMCO) plantation – are standard woodworking tools.

In Zamboanga Sibugay, where rubber wood materials are typically used for low-value products such as fruit crates, pallets, firewood and charcoal, the tools will make a lot of difference.

Malaysia, Thailand and Indonesia, in contrast, transform rubber wood materials into high-value housewares, housing components and composite boards.

TARBEMCO has 832 hectares of rubber trees in its plantation, of which 210 hectares are either senile or unproductive. These trees alone are expected to yield 31,500 cubic meters of good lumber for use in high-value applications.

The three-year P57-million research grant to TARBEMCO Rubber Wood Processing Plant is an initiative of the Forest Products Research and Development Institute (FPRDI), Department of Science and Technology (DOST).

Martine Wee, DOST regional director, said the facility will process senile and unproductive rubber wood into high-value products in the next three years, starting this year. He said rubber wood is one of the most important agro-forest crops in Asia.

The Philippine Rubber Research Insti-

tute will assist TARBEMCO in identifying senile and unproductive rubber trees. The Department of Trade and Industry will help with business and entrepreneurial trainings as well as promotions and marketing.

"To maximize the use of this resource, we aim to establish a complete line of rubber wood processing facilities from timber harvesting to finishing; generate technical information and technologies on its preservative treatment; determine the financial viability of production operations; prepare promotional materials to encourage its use, and train woodworkers on processing techniques to produce high-value products," said Victor Revilla, FPRDI project leader.

Also in the pipeline are a pressure method wood treatment plant and a furnace-type lumber dryer with a 5,000 board feet capacity.

The plan is to establish the TARBEMCO Rubber Wood Processing Plant into an innovation center for rubber wood processing in the country.

Natural rubber production in the Philippines is characterized by low productivity due to lack of planting materials, pest infestation and diseases – and senile as well as ageing trees. One way to address these issues is to replace old trees with new trees.

The result: a lot of rubber wood lumber that could be transformed into value-added products.

More rubber wood lumber is to be expected as old trees are replaced to achieve the commercial production of high value crops – including rubber. Industrial tree plantations are being encouraged for rubber.

Among the challenges identified by the DOST is the low level of wood utilization from senile trees. Improved facilities and technologies are recommended to address the issue, including globally competitive furniture and handicraft from rubber wood. These initiatives include cost-effective processing and waste management technologies.

### SHARES

2019, especially if we see inflation improving throughout the months," Lu said.

Most actively traded Metropolitan Bank and Trust Co. was up P3.05 to P79.90. Ayala Land Inc. was up P0.75 to P42.65. SM Prime Holdings Inc. was up P0.90 to P37.40. SM Investments Corp. was up P32 to P980. Abotiz Equity Ventures Inc. was up P1.55 to P54.45. Ayala Corp. was up P20.50 to P970.50. BDO Unibank Inc. was up P2.80 to P136.



## MGA DELEGADO NG CHINA MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES BUMISITA SA PILIPINAS

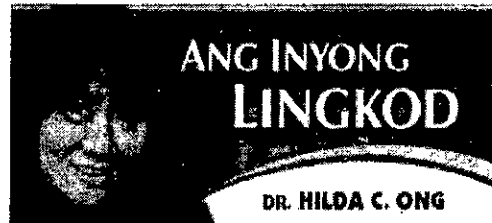
APAT na araw bumisita sa Pilipinas ang mga opisyal ng China Ministry of Water Resources (MWR) kasama ang anim na miyembro ng delegasyon na pinamunuan ni Mr. Ye Jianchun, Vice Minister ng China Ministry of Water Resources para sa isang diyalogo ukol sa mga patakaran at reporma sa tubig at iba pa.

Ang layunin ng pagbisita ay ang: a) magsagawa ng policy dialogue sa bansa na may kaugnayan sa patakaran ng water policy at reporma sa tubig, pinagsamang pamamahala ng mga mapagkukunan ng tubig, paglitipid, pag-iingat at proteksyon ng tubig, pag-iwas sa kalamidad at mitigation, at iba pa. b) bumisita sa pro-

yektong may kaug-nayan sa tubig malapit sa Manila, lalo na sa isang multi-purpose reservoir at ilang mga proyekto sa pamamahala ng ilog at lawa.

Ang anim na delegado ay ang mga sumusunod:

1. Mr. Ye Jianchun, Vice Minister, China Ministry of Water Resources (MWR)
2. Mr. Ruan Limin, Director General, Department of Water Project Operation Management, MWR
3. Mr. Wang Songchun, Director General, Department of Supervision, MWR
4. Mr. Li Ge, Deputy Director General, Department of International Cooperation, Science and Technology, MWR
5. Mr. Cai Hong, Deputy Director, General Office, MWR
6. Ms. Wang Jinsu, De-



puty Director, Department of International Cooperation, Science and Technology, MWR

### PAGBISITA SA ANGAT DAM

Noong Oktubre 21, 2018, ang delegasyon ng Tsina kasama ang mga kawani ng National Water Resources Board (NWRB) sa pangunguna ni Executive Director Seville D. David Jr., ay nagsagawa ng field visit sa Angat Dam na matatagpuan sa Norzagaray, Bulacan. Ang aktibidad na ito ay naunang iminungkahi ng mga delegado na isasama sa kanilang itineraryo.

Ang buong delagasyon ay tinanggap ni Engr. Alex Palada at iba pang kawani

ng National Power Corporation.

Ipinakita ni Engr. Palada sa mga ito ang operasyon at pamamahala ng Angat Dam, at makaraan ang sandaling pagtatanghal ay nagtungo na ang grupo palungong Angat Dam at sa spillway sa may Norzagaray, Bulacan. Sila'y nag-courtesy visit at isinagawa ang Policy Dialogue Meeting.