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NEWS ALERTS

STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION AND INITIATIVES SERVICE



DENR signs MoU for value-added wood products

July 13, 2021



Department of Environment and Natural Resources Secretary Frank Cimatu signs the memorandum of understanding with Asian Forest Cooperation Organization officers.

THE Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) with the Asian Forest Cooperation Organization (AfoCO) for the production of value-added wood products from forests in Negros Oriental and Agusan del Sur, which will generate jobs for grassroots communities.

A vertical integration project for wood processing will produce value-added wood products, using raw materials harvested from community-based forest management areas being managed by People's Organizations in Negros Oriental and Agusan del Sur.

Under the Memorandum of Understanding, the project will be co-financed with AFoCO for US\$1.118 million.

DENR will implement the project through the Forest Management Bureau and DENR's field offices in Regions 7 and 13.

Unlike now when only logs are produced from these CBFM areas, the vertical integration project is seen to produce value-added, semi or finished products (such as construction materials or arts and crafts). Incomes are expected to improve with the products' increased value.

DENR Secretary Roy A. Cimatu said the project with AFoCO will be the start of a sustainable forest management project that will create a new industry in the two provinces.



DENR signs MoU for value-added wood products

He stressed the economic importance that raw materials will come from CBFM, and POs in the grassroots will benefit.

"The Philippines needs five million cubic meters of wood or lumber per year. Only one million is from the Philippines. The rest is imported. Those that come from the Philippines are from private forests, not CBFM," Cimatu said during the MOU signing.

To be implemented over five years until 2026, Cimatu expressed satisfaction that after a two-year delay due to the Covid 19 pandemic, the project will now start.

AFoCO, an organization based in South Korea, is a leader in reforestation.



Wood processing project to tap community forests

By Jed Macapagal - July 13, 2021

The Asian Forest Cooperation Organization (AFOCO) will provide \$1.12 million (P56 million) funding for pilot wood processing facilities in Agusan del Sur and Negros Oriental.

The Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) said the sustainable forest management project is expected to create jobs and will spur new export-oriented industries producing furniture and veneer.

The project will tap unused wood from almost 4,000 hectares of community forest of which , 2,115 hectares are in Agusan del Sur and the remaining 1,932 hectares are in Negros Oriental.

DENR Secretary Roy Cimatu said the wood processing plants will tap raw materials from community-based forest management (CBFM) areas which will raise the income and livelihood levels of people's organizations in the host areas.

Participating farmer groups in the projects are the Nalundan United Farmers' Association (NUFAI) in Bindoy, Negros Oriental and the Mindanao Timberland Farmers Multipurpose Cooperative (MATILFAMCO) in Prosperidad, Agusan del Sur.

"The Philippines needs five million cubic meters of wood or lumber per year. Only one million is from the Philippines, the rest is imported. Those that come from the Philippines are from private forests and not from CBFM," Cimatu said.

The DENR said at present, NUFAI and MATILFAMCO earn from round timber lumber of Acacia mangium and of Falcata due to the absence of wood processing plants.

The agency said lumber of Acasia mangium sells for P7 per board feet or P84 per 12-foot length while raw logs called export can be sold at P150,000 to P180,000 per 30 to 35 cubic meter-truck. Falcata logs called pulp are at P80,000 to P100,000 per 30 to 35 cubic meter truck.

DENR said the completion of the facility can increase the income of stakeholders by as much as 60 percent. Scrap materials can also be turned into packaging boxes for bananas and other fruits and vegetables.



Wood processing project to tap community forests

Cimatu said the DENR will also push for the legislation of a forest law enforcement arm to come up with at least a 2,000-strong forest guard workforce. -J. Macapagal

Cimatu highlights urgent need for peatland conservation amid pandemic

Updated as of July 12, 2021 4:37 pm
By DENR



QUEZON CITY -- Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) Secretary Roy A. Cimatu has called for the protection of peatlands in the ASEAN region citing their important role in preventing haze pollution and mitigating the impact of climate change.

While peatlands only cover three percent of the Earth's land surface, Cimatu pointed out that peatlands can store twice as much carbon as all of the forests on the planet combined if they are kept in their natural state.

"This is why protecting peatlands in our region is of global significance. Keeping the ASEAN peatlands in their natural state, however, is a great challenge, given population pressures and the competition over the uses of land and water resources that they generate," Cimatu said in a video message during the 6th Meeting of the ASEAN Task Force on Peatlands (ATFP) on June 30.

"Despite the current pandemic that hinders us from doing in-person meetings, I am optimistic that through these virtual sessions, we will be able to concretely chart the way forward for our regional programs and projects in peatland management," he added.

The ASEAN region is home to about 27.4 million hectares of peatlands.



Cimatu highlights urgent need for peatland conservation amid pandemic

These comprise 56 percent of global tropical peatlands, which can store an estimated 68 billion tons of carbon or 14 percent of the carbon stored in peatlands globally.

The Philippines has two well-known peatlands—the Leyte Sab-a Basin Peatland in Alangalang and Sta. Fe, Leyte, and the Caimpugan Peat Swamp Forest in Agusan Marsh Wildlife Sanctuary, Agusan del Sur. These are listed as part of the tropical peatlands in the ASEAN region and cover approximately 20,000 hectares.

Cimatu said the adoption of the 2006-2020 ASEAN Peatland Management Strategy (APMS) promoted the sustainable management of peatlands through collective actions and enhanced cooperation to support and sustain local livelihoods, and reduce the risk of fire and associated haze.

The APMS and its programs are being implemented by the ASEAN Member States with the ATFP as the overseer.

It aims to enhance public awareness and capacity on peatlands; address transboundary haze pollution and environmental degradation; promote sustainable management of peatlands; and promote regional cooperation.

The Philippines, through the DENR, hosted a series of meetings on peatlands--the Third Programme Steering Committee (PSC 3) of the Sustainable Use of Peatland and Haze Mitigation in ASEAN, PSC 3 of the Measurable Action for Haze-Free Sustainable Land Management in Southeast Asia, and the 6th Meeting of the ASEAN Task Force on Peatlands or ATFP 6.

DENR Undersecretary for Policy, Planning, and International Affairs Atty. Jonas R. Leones served as chair of the ATFP 6 and the associated PSC meetings.

The meetings were attended by representatives from the ASEAN member-states; donors such as the International Fund for Agricultural Development, European Union, Federal Ministry for Environment, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety; and implementing partners such as the International Union for Conservation of Nature, Center for International Forestry Research, Global Environment Centre, Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit GmbH, and World Resources Institute.



Cimatu highlights urgent need for peatland conservation amid pandemic

The DENR's Biodiversity Management Bureau headed the Philippine delegation as the National Focal Point of the ATFP with the Bureau of Fire Protection (BFP) as the Alternate National Focal Point.

As peat fires are usually associated with forest and wildland fires, the BFP serves as the country's primary agency that ensures the prevention and/or control of these fires.

The meetings of the ATFP aim to coordinate and strengthen the efforts of ASEAN member-states in the protection, conservation, and sustainable use of peatland in the region.

It also serves as a venue to update where the member-states are in terms of implementation of the APMS in relation to their respective National Action Plan on Peatlands.

For his part, Undersecretary for Special Concerns and concurrent BMB Director Edilberto D. Leonardo said that the DENR was "able to continue raising awareness on peatlands with the use of social media, and webinars."

Representing the Philippines as Head of Delegation in the ASEAN-wide meeting, Leonardo presented the updates on the status and implementation of the country's National Action Plan on Peatlands.

"We are gearing towards the way forward to solve these challenges in managing and conserving Philippine peatlands. This includes communication, education and public awareness campaigns, mobilization of resources for the mapping and inventory of peatlands, lobbying for the legislation of Wetland and Peatland Bills, partnership with different stakeholders, among others," Leonardo said.

The ASEAN-wide series of meetings on peatlands were held from June 28 to 30 via Zoom teleconferencing. (DENR)



WATERSHED CONSERVATION CAMPAIGN MAS PINALAWAK NI CIMATU



July 12, 2021 @ 2:24 PM 15 hours ago

HABANG patuloy sa paglaban sa banta ng climate change na kinahaharap ng watershed areas ng bansa, inilunsad ng Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) ang nationwide campaign upang palawakin ang watershed conservation and protection efforts katuwang ang grassroots communities.

Ayon kay DENR Secretary Roy A. Cimatu, ang kampanya na tinawag na Save Our Watershed (SOW) ay magsisilbing plataporma upang hikayatin ang partnership at pakikipagtulungan mula sa national hanggang sa grassroots level.

“We hope that the spirit of the ‘Save Our Watershed’ ripples through to all our DENR regional offices, foreign-assisted projects, and local government units with initiatives on watershed conservation,” saad ni Cimatu.

Idinagdag pa nito na layunin din ng kampanya na hikayatin na magkaroon ng local ordinances para lalong ma-promote ang conservation at protection ng watersheds.

“There are more than 130 critical watersheds in the country that desperately need immediate protection and rehabilitation to minimize erosion and improve water yield,” sabi ni Cimatu.

“For us to mitigate the adverse impacts of climate change-induced disasters, people’s support to government actions, therefore, is still the key,” pahayag pa ni Cimatu.

Para sa national level, hangad ng kampanya na makagawa ng draft executive order (EO) na magsisilbing blueprint para sa magkaugnay at magkaparehong pagkilos para maprotektahan, mapangalagaan at mapanatili ang serbisyong naibibigay ng watersheds sa bansa tulad ng water supply para sa irrigation, domestic use, power generation at biodiversity.



WATERSHED CONSERVATION CAMPAIGN MAS PINALAWAK NI CIMATU

Ayon pa kay Cimatú, ang pinakaimportanteng elemento ng watersheds ay ang puno, ipinunto pa nito na hindi matatawag na watershed ang isang lugar kung walang mga puno.

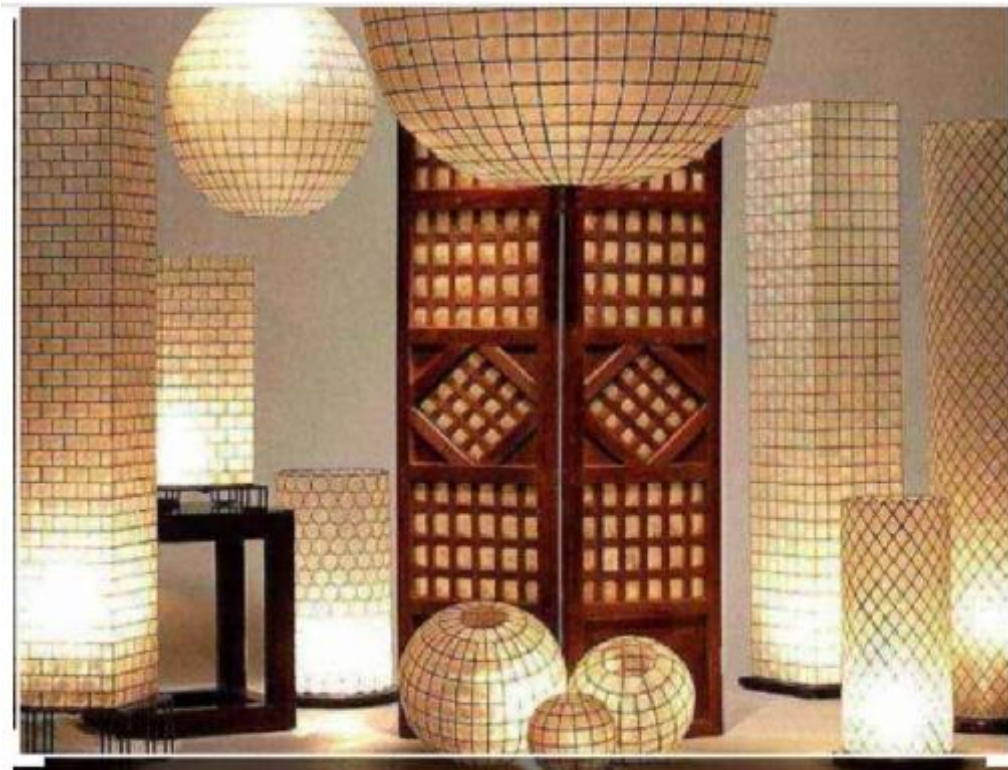
Umaasa naman si DENR Assistant Secretary at concurrent Forest Management Bureau Director Marcial Amaro na matatapos nila ang draft EO bago matapos ang taon o sa fourth quarter para maisumite sa Office of the President.

Sinabi pa ni Amaro na ang mga stakeholders, kabilang ang national at local authorities, local government units, at coastal communities ay kukunsultahin para sa draft EO alinsunod sa polisiya ng DENR sa pagsunod sa "reef-to-ridge approach" para sa watershed conservation.



DENR urges coastal LGUs to support Manila Bay-Bataan restoration

July 13, 2021



Windowpane oyster shells found in Samal, Bataan used as material for home décor CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

THE Department of Environment and Natural Resources has urged local government units to co-invest in the Manila Bay-Bataan restoration program, using their increased income that could churn back sustainable jobs and ecosystems services.

Investing in the restoration of the Manila Bay to Bataan coastal areas will bring back to life key biodiversity areas that could in turn provide sustained livelihood for residents in coastal areas.

A key result should be the restoration and sustainability of the windowpane oyster shell (capiz) industry in Samal, Bataan, according to DENR Undersecretary Analiza Teh.

"Bagac and Morong (Bataan) abound with numerous fish species. The capiz or windowpane made from oyster shells used to be abundant in Manila Bay. It still can be found along the coast of Samal," said Teh during the Manila Bay-Bataan Coastal Strategy project workshop.

The windowpane oyster shell industry in Samal declined attributed to the receding supply of oyster shells as a result of illegal and destructive fishing.



DENR urges coastal LGUs to support Manila Bay-Bataan restoration

"The Mandanas ruling will increase internal revenue allotment (IRA) of LGUs by 56 percent. There's an opportunity for us to engage the LGUs to invest more on natural resources protection. We can convince LGUs to undertake co-management of Protected Areas with the community," said Teh.

Similarly, Teh said the private sector can also invest in the project.

"There is also an opportunity for us to rally the private sector to invest. Let's see how we can provide incentives to them so they can participate actively not only as part of CSR (corporate social responsibility) but investment on natural resources protection," she said.

The Manila Bay-Bataan Coastal Strategy project is a comprehensive five-year project financed by the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO).

With a budget of \$2.7 million from GEF (Global Environment Facility) and \$15.5 million co-financing from the Philippine government.

The project will train provincial government people in Sustainable Land Management (SLM).



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SANITARY LANDFILL ITATAYO SA CAVITE

sa anim na pangunahing ilog sa Cavite.

Sa pulong, binanggit ni DENR Calabarzon Regional Executive Director Nilo B. Tamoria ang anim na pangunahing ilog na dumadaloy sa Manila Bay. Ito ay ang Imus River, Zapote River, Rio Grande-Ylang-Ylang River, Cañas River, Labac River at Maragondon River.

Ayon kay Remulla, ang solid waste management ang numero unong problema ng Cavite kung ang pag-uusapan ay ang kapaligiran, sinabi pa nito na tinatayang ang 50 percent ng solid waste sa probinsiya ay napupunta sa mga ilog at aabot ito sa 2,000 tonelada kada araw kung saan ang 90

percent dito ay napupunta sa Manila Bay.

Ipinaliwanag ni Cimatu na dahil na rin sa nakaraang pag-ulan, ang mga basura mula sa ilang waterways kabilang na ang galing sa mga ilog ng Cavite ay naaanod sa Manila Bay na nakasisira sa pagbabago sa Baywalk area kung ang pag-uusapan ay ang coliform level at solid waste collection.

Samantala, iminungkahi rin ni DENR Undersecretary for Solid Waste Management and LGUs Concerns at Cavite Cluster Task Force head Benny D. Antiporda ang ilang istratohiya na maaaring ipatupad ng LGUs upang mabigyang solusyon ang

problema sa kanilang lokalidad.

Kabilang na dito ang pagkakaroon ng "environmental marshals" sa mga barangays, "influencing behavioral change, enforcement of policies and city ordinances, and checking the environmental compliance of various industries and establishments in their respective areas of responsibility."

Ayon kay Antiporda, handa ang DENR na tulungan ang LGUs para sa kanilang isinasagawang cleanup activities tulad ng paglalagay ng trash traps, "employing additional river rangers at managing the wastes generated by informal settlers."

BINABALAK ngayon ni Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) Secretary Roy A. Cimatu na magtayo ng isang compliant sanitary landfill (SLF) sa probinsiya ng Cavite upang matulungan ito na pamahalaanan ang problema ng basura na nakakaapekto sa isinasagawang rehabilitasyon ng Manila Bay.

Si Cimatu, na pinamu-

munuan din ang Manila Bay Task Force kasama ang ilang opisyal ng DENR, ay nakipagpulong kay Cavite Governor Juanito Victor "Jonvic" Remulla at mga alkalde ng probinsiya upang pag-usapan ang mga paraan upang mahiyakat ang kooperasyon ng mga ito para mabigyan ng solusyon ang mga isyu tungkol sa solid waste at water quality management



DENR exec tells online retailers to go easy on bubble wrap usage

Published July 12, 2021, 1:02 PM
by Ellson Quismorio

Online retailers and merchants have been warned by Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) Undersecretary Benny Antiporda to not be “abusive” when it comes to the usage of bubble wrap.



(Photo by Ellson Quismorio)

“We would prefer the use of biodegradable wrapping materials like used newspapers rather than bubble wrap, which is made of plastic,” said Antiporda, the alternate chairman of the National Solid Waste Management Commission (NSWMC).

“Its abusive use will not be tolerated,” he added.

Antiporda made these remarks after he acknowledged how retailers, especially those on online shopping platforms, have been indiscriminately using bubble wrap in shipping their goods to customers.

The DENR official reckoned that not all products need to be bubble-wrapped for shipping since not all products are fragile. He also contended that alternative packing methods would give the same cushion provided by bubble wrap.



DENR exec tells online retailers to go easy on bubble wrap usage

"We all know that they are using plastic bubble wrap as cushion for their fragile products. Old newspapers can also be of the same effect as the bubble wrap," Antiporda said.

The Department of Trade and Industry (DTI) said last year that Filipinos' transactions with online shopping sites soared amid the imposition of the enhanced community quarantine (ECQ).

The fact that their purchased items could be delivered straight to their doorstep have allowed buyers to shop despite the strict stay-at-home orders. This trend has continued to this day.



DENR Undersecretary Benny Antiporda (Photo from DENR Facebook page)

Bubble wrap, while reusable, is still plastic and not environment-friendly, stressed Antiporda.

The NSWMC has been pushing for the implementation of the ban on non-environmentally acceptable products (NEAP), which primarily targets single-use plastics.

The NEAP list is a key provision of Republic Act (RA) No.9003 or the Ecological Solid Waste Management Act of 2000. It was only in February 2020 when the first two items were placed on the proposed NEAP list—plastic straws and stirrers.



DENR recognizes community initiatives on climate and disaster resiliency

JUL 12, 2021, 10:52 AM
Santiago Celario
Writer

The 2021 Resiliency Awards gives recognition to Filipino "movers and workers" who have been making change to bolster climate and disaster resiliency.

The Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR), through its Gender and Development Office and Climate Change Service, has announced the top three winners of this year's "Mga Kwentong KLIMA-likasan Tungo sa Katatagan: A Climate and Disaster Resiliency Recognition Awards" during a virtual ceremony on July 2.

Seven entries were also given special citations for the categories of Youth Empowerment, Gender Empowerment, Originality, Sustainability Initiatives, Community Participation, Ecological Waste Management, and Disaster Risk Reduction.

DENR Secretary Roy Cimatu said the 2021 Resiliency Awards gives recognition to Filipino "movers and workers" who have been making change to bolster climate and disaster resiliency.

"We recognize all the winners as our environmental heroes. They, who tirelessly work to protect our environment and natural resources deserve honor and acknowledgment," Cimatu said.

"No work and no project to save our planet are ever too small or too big because everyone can make a difference and can provide a solution to climate change – individuals, organizations, communities, and local governments," he pointed out.



DENR recognizes community initiatives on climate and disaster resiliency

The first-place winner was Annadine Marzinares of the local government unit (LGU) of Botolan, Zambales for her entry, "Women Leadership, Trailblazers of Environmental Sustainability," which showcased the programs and projects initiated by the Botolan municipal government in achieving environmental sustainability in their municipality.

These include fabrication and installation of artificial reef with coral transplantation, mangrove and forest reforestation, and solid waste management.

Engineer Reynaldo Gonzales of the Office of the City Environment and Natural Resources in Zamboanga City bagged second place for "Greenhouse Gas Emission Reduction (GHG): Zamboanga City Initiatives for Climate Change Mitigation."

The entry describes Zamboanga City as one of the model cities that integrated the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions as a component for their Local Climate Change Action Plan or LCCAP.

Maria Clarita Limbaro from the local government of Bayabas, Surigao del Sur won third prize for her entry "Sagip-Wakatan Program: Kwentong KLIMA-likasan ng Bayabas, Surigao del Sur."

The Sagip-Wakatan program is an annual mangrove reforestation, replanting, and coastal cleanup initiative of the municipality of Bayabas that aims to maintain and improve the mangrove cover density to help protect the community against destructive effects of storm surges, tidal waves, tsunami, and soil erosion.

Special citations in seven categories were also given recognition during the virtual ceremony.

- Youth Empowerment -- Carvel Acabal of National Anti-Poverty Commission's Children Basic Sector and Kalambulan Youth Organization (KAYO) in Zamboanga del Sur for "KAYO: Extraordinary Youths in Extraordinary Times."

- Gender Empowerment -- Nyla Cordero of Kalayaan Organic Practitioners Association in Laguna (KOPA) for "Nyla Cordero's Story: Empowering Women on Climate and Disaster Resiliency in the Community."

- Originality -- Adela Jamelo of Panatao Plastic Waste Recycling Association in Surigao del Norte for "From Waste to Wealth Project."



DENR recognizes community initiatives on climate and disaster resiliency

•Sustainability Initiatives -- Danielle Ann Ravallo of Graymont (Philippines) Inc. in Las Piñas City for "Juan Earth: Efforts in saving the only thing we all have in common."

•Community Participation -- Auria Primaverde Gonzales of the Metropolitan Naga Water District (MNWD) in Camarines Sur for "MNWD Integrated Watershed Management Program: The Beginning of a Promising Story."

•Ecological Waste Management -- Ian Chester Solver of the Parish Youth Ministry-Basud, Youth of Poblacion Uno-Basud in Camarines Norte for "Binhi ng Pag-asa (Seed of Hope)."

•Disaster Risk Reduction -- Zia Sagoso from General Santos City for her entry "Green Initiatives: A Better Life and Environment."

The winners received P50,000, P40,000, and P30,000 for first, second and third prizes, respectively, while special citation awardees received P15,000 each.

DENR Undersecretary Analiza Rebuelta-Teh congratulated the winners for their contributions, which she said were "nothing less than a mark of passion, dedication, commitment, and love for our campaigns and advocacies for the environment and our peoples."

(SC)

Tags: #DepartmentOfEnvironmentandNaturalResources, #2021ResilienceAwards, #climatechange, #disasterresiliency



10 katao kinilala ng DENR para sa community initiatives on climate and disaster resiliency



July 12, 2021 @ 9:52 AM 20 hours ago

Manila, Philippines – Inanunsyo na ng Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) sa pamamagitan ng kanilang Gender and Development Office and Climate Change Service ang tatlong nanalo ngayong taon para sa “Mga Kwentong KLIMA -likasan Tungo sa Katatagan: A Climate and Disaster Resiliency Recognition Awards sa ginanap na virtual ceremony noong Hulyo 2.

Pitong kalahok din ang nabigyan ng special citation para sa mga kategoryang Youth Empowerment, Gender Empowerment, Originality, Sustainability Initiatives, Community Participation, Ecological Waste Management, at Disaster Risk Reduction.

Sa press release ayon kay DENR Secretary Roy A. Cimatu, ang 2021 Resiliency Awards ay ang pagbibigay ng pagkilala sa mga Filipino “movers and workers” na gumagawa ng pagbabago para mapalakas ang climate and disaster resiliency.

“We recognize all the winners as our environmental heroes. They, who tirelessly work to protect our environment and natural resources deserve honor and acknowledgment,” sabi ni Cimatu.

“No work and no project to save our planet are ever too small or too big because everyone can make a difference and can provide a solution to climate change – individuals, organizations, communities, and local governments,” pagdidiin pa nito.

Si Annadine Marzinares ng local government unit (LGU) ng Botolan, Zambales ang nakasungkit ng first place para sa kanyang entry na “Women Leadership, Trailblazers of Environmental Sustainability,” na nagpapakita ng mga programa at proyekto ng Botolan municipal government upang magkaroon ng environmental sustainability sa kanilang munisipalidad.

Kabilang na dito ang fabrication at installation ng artificial reef na may coral transplantation, mangrove and forest reforestation, at solid waste management.



10 katao kinilala ng DENR para sa community initiatives on climate and disaster resiliency

Nakuha naman ang second place ni Reynaldo Gonzales of Office of the City Environment and Natural Resources sa Zamboanga City para sa kanyang “Greenhouse Gas Emission Reduction (GHG): Zamboanga City Initiatives for Climate Change Mitigation.”

Inilalarawan sa entry na ito na ang Zamboanga bilang isa sa model cities ay isinama ang reduction ng greenhouse gas emission bilang bahagi ng kanilang Local Climate Change Action Plan o LCCAP.

Si Maria Clarita Limbaro ng local government ng Bayabas, Surigao del Sur ang nagkamit ng third place para sa kanyang entry na “Sagip-Wakatan Program: Kwentong KLIMA-likasan ng Bayabas, Surigao del Sur.”

Ang Sagip-Wakatan program ay isang annual mangrove reforestation, replanting, at coastal cleanup initiative ng municipality ng Bayabas na layuning mapanatili at maisaayos ang mangrove cover density upang makatulong na maprotektahan ang komunidad laban sa mapaminsalang epekto ng storm surges, tidal waves, tsunami, at soil erosion.

Nagbigay din ng special citation mula sa pitong kalahok sa ginanap na virtual ceremony.

Youth Empowerment — Carvel Acabal ng National Anti-Poverty Commission’s Children Basic Sector and Kalambulan Youth Organization (KAYO) in Zamboanga del Sur para sa “KAYO: Extraordinary Youths in Extraordinary Times.”

Gender Empowerment — Nyla Cordero ng Kalayaan Organic Practitioners Association in Laguna (KOPA) para sa “Nyla Cordero’s Story: Empowering Women on Climate and Disaster Resiliency in the Community.”

Originality — Adela Jamelo of Panatao Plastic Waste Recycling Association sa Surigao del Norte para sa “From Waste to Wealth Project.”

Sustainability Initiatives — Danielle Ann Ravallo ng Graymont (Philippines) Inc. in Las Piñas City para sa “Juan Earth: Efforts in saving the only thing we all have in common.”

Community Participation — Auria Primaverde Gonzales ng Metropolitan Naga Water District (MNWD) sa Camarines Sur para sa “MNWD Integrated Watershed Management Program: The Beginning of a Promising Story.”

Ecological Waste Management — Ian Chester Solver ng Parish Youth Ministry-Basud, Youth ng Poblacion Uno-Basud, Camarines Norte para sa “Binhi ng Pag-asa (Seed of Hope).”

Disaster Risk Reduction — Zia Sagoso mula sa General Santos City para sa kanyang lahok na “Green Initiatives: A Better Life and Environment.”

Ang mga nanalo ay makatatanggap ng P50,000, P40,000 at P30,000 para sa first, second at third prizes, ayon sa pagkakasunod.



10 katao kinilala ng DENR para sa community initiatives on climate and disaster resiliency

Samantala, makatatanggap naman ng P15,000 bawat isa ang ang mga special citation awardees.

Binati naman ni DENR Undersecretary Analiza Rebuelta-Teh ang mga nanalo para sa kanilang kontribusyon na sinabi pa nitong “nothing less than a mark of passion, dedication, commitment, and love for our campaigns and advocacies for the environment and our peoples.”

Nakatanggap ang DENR ng halos 100 entry mula sa iba’t-ibang sulok ng bansa para sa “Mga Kwentong KLIMA-likasan Tungo sa Katatagan: A Climate and Disaster Resiliency Recognition Awards.” (Santi Celario)



DENR, JICA open new irrigation system in Carranglan

Updated as of July 11, 2021 6:50 pm
By CARLO LORENZO DATU



CABANATUAN CITY (PIA) -- Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) and Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) inaugurated the eight-kilometer long Calaocan Irrigation Pipeline System in barangay Burgos in Carranglan, Nueva Ecija.

DENR Regional Executive Director Paquito Moreno Jr. said the P9.4 million irrigation system was funded by JICA as an agroforestry support facility for the 10-year Forestland Management Project in the more than 44,000-hectare Pantabangan-Carranglan Watershed that will ensure the survival of forest plantations during dry months.

"It will also strengthen the resiliency of local communities in the area in the face of global warming and climate change," he added.

The irrigation system, composed of seven water tanks connected by eight kilometers of pipes, is expected to provide water to over 850 hectares of forest plantations and agroforestry farms benefitting about 900 families of upland farmers.

DENR, JICA open new irrigation system in Carranglan



Department of Environment and Natural Resources and Japan International Cooperation Agency inaugurate the eight-kilometer Calaoacan Irrigation Pipeline System in barangay Burgos in Carranglan, Nueva Ecija. (DENR)

Department of Environment and Natural Resources and Japan International Cooperation Agency inaugurate the eight-kilometer Calaoacan Irrigation Pipeline System in barangay Burgos in Carranglan, Nueva Ecija. (DENR)

This is the fourth major agroforestry support facility in Carranglan funded by JICA in two years after the three concrete and hanging bridges in Pantabangan and Carranglan towns.

Carranglan Mayor Mary Abad said they are committed to sustain the irrigation system and ensure that it will benefit more generations to come. (CLJD-PIA 3)



The irrigation system, composed of seven water tanks connected by eight kilometers of pipes, is expected to provide water to over 850 hectares of forest plantations and agroforestry farms benefitting about 900 families of upland farmers. (DENR)



BOC recovers rare leopard gecko from Thailand parcel

INQUIRER.net / 10:34 AM July 12, 2021



The Bureau of Customs (INQUIRER FILE PHOTO)

MANILA, Philippines — The Bureau of Customs' Ninoy Aquino International Airport unit seized a live leopard gecko worth around P20,000 from a parcel from Thailand.

The package arrived at the Paircargo warehouse in Parañaque City last July 5 without the required import permit from the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR), prompting a physical examination of the parcel, the BOC said in a statement Monday.

The seized rare gecko was immediately turned over to the DENR.

"The seized leopard gecko shall be subjected to seizure and forfeiture proceedings for violation of Section 1113 in relation to Section 117 of the RA 10863 or the Customs Modernization and Tariff Act (CMTA) and Section 11 of RA 9147 (Wildlife Resources Conservation and Protection Act)," the BOC said.

According to the bureau, the DENR "will pursue the case building and prosecution against the importer and co-conspirators for violation of RA 9147."

The Bureau Action Team Against Smugglers, BOC's legal service, meanwhile, will be tapped to conduct case build-up and prosecution for violation of Section 1401 of the CMTA, the BOC added.



BOC recovers rare leopard gecko from Thailand parcel

The DENR said the gecko is a species regulated under the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES) of Wild Flora and Fauna and protected under the Philippine Wildlife Resources Conservation and Protection Act.

Collection and trade of species under the regulation requires an import permit from the Biodiversity Management Bureau under the DENR while violation of the act is punishable by imprisonment up to four years and a fine up to P300,000, the BOC noted. (Faith Yuen Wei Ragasa, Inquirer trainee)

Read more: <https://newsinfo.inquirer.net/1458545/boc-recovers-rare-leopard-gecko-from-thailand-parcel#ixzz70Rq5gprV>

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Sewage from anchored ships laying waste to coral reefs in Spratlys

By Patricia Lourdes Viray(Philstar.com) - July 12, 2021 - 3:06pm



In this file photo taken on March 31, 2021 this handout photo from the National Task Force West Philippine Sea (NTF-WPS) via the Philippine Communications Operations Office (PCOO) shows Chinese vessels anchored at Whitsun Reef, some 320 kilometres (175 nautical miles) west of Palawan Island in the South China Sea.

MANILA, Philippines — Raw sewage from hundreds of anchored ships in the Spratly Islands in the South China Sea, including West Philippine Sea, have damaged coral reefs in the area, according to a report from a US-based geospatial imagery and data analysis company.

Liz Derr, co-founder and CEO at Similarity, presented the Spratlys water quality report in an online forum organized by the Stratbase ADR Institute on the fifth anniversary of the South China Sea arbitral ruling.

Similarity released satellite images showing how anchored ships created chlorophyll-a blooms in Union Banks, located entirely within the country's exclusive economic zone in the West Philippine Sea.

According to the report, chlorophyll-a concentration in water is a measure of phytoplankton.

"Excess phytoplankton that cannot be consumed by the reef inhabitants dies off and sinks to the sea floor, where it is consumed by bacteria," the report read.

"These bacteria consume oxygen that would normally be available to the fish, creating a 'dead zone,'" it added.

Source: <https://www.philstar.com/headlines/2021/07/12/2111973/sewage-anchored-ships-laying-waste-coral-reefs-spratlys-report/amp/>



Dumi ng tao, tinatambak ng China vessels sa West Philippine Sea



July 12, 2021 @ 8:00 PM 9 hours ago

MANILA, Philippines – Nabuko ang palagian umanong pagtatapon ng dumi ng tao at iba pang basura ng mga Chinese ship sa ilang bahagi ng West Philippine Sea na naging dahilan ng pagkasira ng malawakang marine life, ayon sa isang US-based expert. Lunes.

Sinabi ni Liz Derr, founder at CEO ng Similarity, na dalubhasa pagdating sa geospatial analysis at siyang naglabas ng satellite data imagery, na palagian umanong nagtatapon ang Chinese ships sa katubigan ng WPS.

“It is so intense you can see it from space,” ani Derr sa isang online forum.

Ipinakita niya pa ang satellite images sa huling limang taon, o panahon ng pagkapanalo ng Pilipinas sa arbitral ruling sa WPS, sinabi ni Derr lubos na nasira na ang ilang mga bahura sa nasabing lugar at kinakailangan ng dekadang panahon para makarekober ang mga ito.

“When the ships don’t move, the poop piles up,” paliwanag niya. “The damage to the reefs in the last five years is visible and dramatic.”

Sinabi pa ni Derr na nasa 236 ships ang namataan sa Union Banks o Pagkakaisa Reefs, na nasa loob ng West Philippine Sea hanggang nitong Hunyo 7. RNT



Bakawan sa Gumaca

JUL 12, 2021, 9:09 AM
Jeanelle Abaricia
Writer

HINDI naging hadlang ang pandemyang kinakaharap ng buong mundo upang kumilos ang pamahalaang lokal ng Gumaca, Quezon upang pahalagahan at ingatan ang kalikasan.

Pinangunahan ito ng Sangguniang Barangay ng Panikihan sa pamumuno ni Kap. Henry Targa at Tau Gamma Phi sa kanilang malasakit sa kapaligiran at inisyatibong makapagtanim ng maraming puno ng bakawan.

Sa unang taong anibersaryo ng pagtanim ng Bakawan sa baybayin ng Panikihan, binisita at muling tinamnam ng karagdagang mahigit 1,500 binhi ng bakawan ang lugar na may kabuuang mahigit 14,000 na ng binhi ng bakawan ang kanilang naitanim.

Labis ang kanilang kasiyahang makitang malalaki na at buhay na buhay ang kanilang mga itinanim na bakawan noong nakaraang taon.

Ang mga bakawan ay malaking tulong upang magsilbing tirahan ng mga isda, pananggalang sa malaking alon kapag dumarating ang bagyo at iba pa.



Bakawan sa Gumaca

Nakiisa sina Mayor Webster D. Letargo kasama ang may bahay na si Mayora Justin Espina-Letargo at Konsehal Rico Bañal sa pagtanim ng mga bakawan sa lugar. Nagbigay pasasalamat din ang Punong Bayan sa sipag at dedikasyon ng bawat isana nakibahagi sa Mangrove Planting.

Paalala sa bawat isa na maging responsable sa mga basura at iwasan ang pagtatapon sa karagatan, sapagkat sa malinis na kapaligiran nakasalalay ang malusog at ligtas na mga mamamayan. (JA)



Masungi Georeserve

8h · 🌐



A pair of Luzon Tarictic Hornbills perch on exposed branches and look over the georeserve. Forest clearings are considered as major threats to endemic species such as this hornbill.





Century brands get 'plastic neutral' papers

By Faye Almazan
July 13, 2021

Listed Century Pacific Food Inc. (CNPFI) said its brands has received Plastic Neutral certifications from the Plastic Credit Exchange (PCX), which signifies their compliance with the requirements of the Plastic Pollution Reduction Standard.

The food manufacturer said all its brands that utilize flexible and plastic packaging have been recognized as "plastic neutral" by PCX.

"This means that all these brands have successfully offset their plastic footprint from July 1, 2019 to June 30, 2020 by recovering an equivalent amount of plastic waste away from leaking into nature and ensuring it is processed safely into the circular economy through PCX," CNPFI explained in a statement on Monday.

These brands include Angel Coffee Creamer, Argentina, Coco Mama, Century Quality Bangus, Fresca Tuna, Hunt's, Home Pride, Swift, Wow and its recently launched plant-based brand, Unmeat. Its dairy brand, Birch tree, was certified last April.

The certification process is facilitated by PCX and verified by audit and assurance firm, Isla Lipana and Co.

CNPFI said it marked its second year of being "plastic neutral" last January, making them one of the first Filipino companies to do so.

"Caring for the environment and minimizing our impact are key pillars of CNPFI's sustainability program. We are fully committed to our plastic neutrality initiatives because we firmly believe that it is only right and proper for our business, our planet, our people and the communities we serve," CNPFI Chief Operating Officer Greg Banzon was quoted as saying.

CNPFI ended the first quarter with a 24-percent higher profit of P1.3 billion and an 11-percent better consolidated revenues of P13.4 billion.

Shares of CNPFI jumped by 3.24 percent or 75 centavos to close at P23.90 each on Monday.

Source: <https://www.manilatimes.net/2021/07/13/business/corporate-news/century-brands-get-plastic-neutral-papers/1806826>



HULA-HULA NG GLOBAL FINANCE SA KALIGTASAN SA PINAS



July 12, 2021 @ 2:28 PM 15 hours ago

SAAN kayang basurahan nakuha ng Global Finance Magazine ang mga datos o rekord nito upang ilagay ang mahal kong Pinas sa pinakakulelat na bansa sa usapin ng kaligtasan o safety ng mga mamamayan?

Kamakailan, inilabas ng nasabing magazine ang sarbey nito sa 134 bansa at nasa ika-134 tayo sa listahan sa tinawag nitong World Safest Countries 2021.

Heto ang sinukat ng nasabing magazine upang palabasin ang hula-hulang balita nito: giyera at kapayapaan, personal na seguridad, kalamidad at coronavirus disease-19.

GIYERA AT KAPAYAPAAN

Sabi ng magazine, matindi umano ang 'civil war' sa Pilipinas at i to ang isa sa dalawa na pangunahing sinukat nito.

Nasaan 'yang civil war o giyera sa pagitan ng pamahalaan at mamamayan?

Kahit sino ang tanungin mo, walang nagaganap na ganito.

Kung meron mang giyera, walang iba kundi giyera laban sa terorismo at droga.

Mga terorista lang ang nanggugulo subalit sa mangilan-ngilang lugar lang nagaganap ito at wala sa kalakhan ng bahagi ng bansa.

Mga sangkot sa droga rin ang ayaw magbago at patuloy ang mga ito sa kanilang krimeng lasunin ang mga mamamayan at karaniwang armado ang mga ito sa pamiminsala.

Pero suportado ng mga mamamayan ang mga giyerang ito at bibihira ang tumitingin dito na malawak na kaguluhan.



HULA-HULA NG GLOBAL FINANCE SA KALIGTASAN SA PINAS

GRABENG KALAMIDAD

Totoong maraming kalamidad sa bansa na isa sa pinagdidiinan ng magazine.

Pero lahat ng bansa ay pare-parehong sinasalakay ng mga kalamidad.

'Yun bang === walang bansang makapigil sa kalamidad na dala ng mga bagyo, baha, lindol, putok ng bulkan at iba pa

Ang totoo, natuto na ang pamahalaan sa paghahanda sa mga kalamidad na nagmumula sa kalikasan.

Bukod sa maramihang paglilikas at pagtatayo ng mga evacuation center at pag-aasikaso sa mga bakwit, mabilis na tumutugon ang pamahalaan gaya ng pagpapalawak at pagpapalalim ngayon sa Cagayan River na sinalanta ng baha ng bagyong Ulysses.

Mismong ang mga tao ay alerto na rin at maganda ang kooperasyon ng mga ito at ng mga pamahalaang pambansa at lokal.

Napakaganda na rin ang bunga ng pagkakaroon ng internet sa halos lahat ng mga lokal na pamahalalan na roon nagkakaroon ng kaugnayan ang pamahalaan at mga mamamayan laban sa dumarating mga kalamidad at maging sa mga biglaang kalamidad na dala ng lindol at iba pa.

Hindi matatawaran ang pustang-buhay na search and rescue ng mga sundalo, pulis at mga sibilyan sa mga kalamidad at buhay na buhay ang diwa ng bayanihan.

PERSONAL NA SEGURIDAD

Karaniwang galing sa mga kriminal at terorista ang pinagmumulan ng mga pag-atake sa mga mamamayan.

Meron ding mga napapraning na mga taga-pamahalaan pero bibihirang mangyari ito.

Ang katanungan: ligtas ba ang mga mamamayan sa pangkalahatan mula sa kriminalidad, terorismo at praning na mga tauhan ng pamahalaan?

Oo naman.

Simula noong nalunsad ang giyera sa droga, ramdam na ramdam na ang pagiging ligtas ng mga mamamayan sa mga lansangan, tahanan at opisina, kahit gabi.

Tanungin na lang ninyo ang libo-libong delivery boys and girls na nakalantad ang mga cellphone, mga magulang ng mga batang mag-aaral at mga nasa tahanan.

Kung may mga nagaganap mang patayan sa pagitan ng mga nasa pamahalaan at terorista, paisa-isa lamang at bunga ito ng giyerang laban sa terorismo.

Agad namang dinarakip, dinidisarmahan, binibilanggo at sinisibak sa serbisyo ang mga praning sa bahagi ng pamahalaan.



HULA-HULA NG GLOBAL FINANCE SA KALIGTASAN SA PINAS

Kung tutuusin nga, hindi na kailangang igiit ni Philippine National Police chief Guillermo Eleazar na 63 porsyento na ang ibinaba ng krimen sa buong bansa, bagama't mahalaga ito bilang pagpapatunay ng tunay na kalagayang ligtas ang mga mamamayan sa kamay ng mga kriminal, terorista at praning.

ANG COVID-19

Unang-una, nagpapasalamat tayo nang lubos sa hindi gaanong pagpasok ng Delta o India variant sa Pilipinas.

Kilala ang Delta variant na napakabagsik at napakabilis manghawa.

Nananatili mang naglalaro ang patay sa humigit-kumulang sa 100 araw-araw, kahit papaano nasa 5,000 lang ang nagkakasakit araw ngayon.

Nagkakabunga nang maganda ang pagiging istrikto ng pamahalaan sa pagkakaroon ng border control sa pagitan ng Pilipinas at ibang bansa at border control din sa pagitan ng mga lokal na pamahalaan.

At maganda na ring umaabot sa nasa 200,000 ang nababakunahan araw-araw laban sa COVID-19.

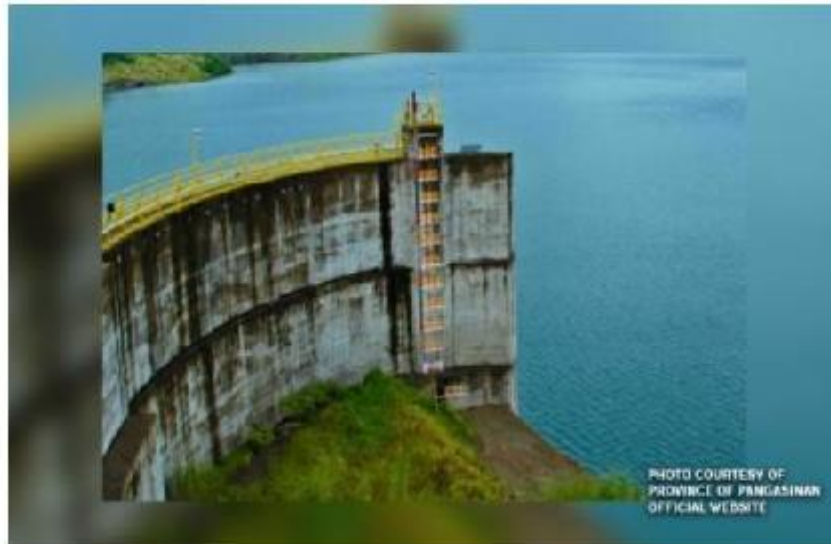
Maaaring sa araw na lalabas ang ulat nating ito, nasa 13 milyon na ang nabakunahan, kabilang na ang nasa 3 milyon nang may doble bakuna.

Magdasal lang tayo na bumuhos at hindi magkaroon ng aberya ang pagdating ng mga binibili nating mga bakuna at bigay ng Covax facility ng World Health Organization.



San Roque Dam water may reach critical level: PAGASA

By Catherine Teves July 12, 2021, 3:28 pm



(PNA file photo)

MANILA – Dipping water in San Roque Dam may hit the 225 meters critical low elevation this week.

Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration (PAGASA) hydrologist Adel Duran is not discounting such possibility, noting San Roque Dam has not been receiving much water and is unlikely to immediately do so.

"With insufficient inflow, water in San Roque will likely dip to the low elevation there this week," she said Monday.

PAGASA reported San Roque Dam's 6 a.m. water level at 227 meters on Monday, just 2.00 meters above the critical low level.

Duran noted San Roque's water level has been dipping at an average 0.40-meter recently and expected inflow will unlikely increase dramatically soon so there is possibility for water in the dam to already reach the critical low.

"In the next three days, the watershed where San Roque is may receive rain totaling 25 mm to 30 mm only -- that's not a lot of inflow for the dam," she said, noting PAGASA forecast below-normal rainfall there this July.



San Roque Dam water may reach critical level: PAGASA

Water levels in Ambuklao and Binga dams are fluctuating so these sister-facilities of San Roque may not yet significantly increase such inflow soon, she continued.

Ambuklao, Binga and San Roque dams comprise the series of cascading dams supporting irrigation and power generation in Luzon.

Water in Ambuklao discharges into Binga which, in turn, releases water to San Roque.

San Roque Dam's water level is generally low in July but begins rising either later this month or in August, noted Duran.

"That trend in San Roque indicates possibility for water level there to be above its critical low elevation by the end of July this year," she said.

Forecasting mean rainfall of some 446 millimeters this July over San Roque's watershed, and assuming a 34 cubic meters per second water allocation there, PAGASA earlier said water level in the dam can rise to nearly 239 meters by this month's end.

PAGASA also forecast near-normal rainfall over San Roque watershed this August and September. (PNA)



Opposition to P23-B reclamation project mounts in Dumaguete

By Mary Judaline Partlow July 12, 2021, 8:08 pm



NO TO RECLAMATION. Gary Rosales and Aidalyn Arabe of the environmental advocacy group, Kinaiyahan, lead a peaceful assembly on Sunday (July 11, 2021) at the Rizal Boulevard in Dumaguete City. The activity aimed to collect signatures to show opposition to a multi-billion-peso reclamation project covering most of the city's shoreline. (Photo by Judy Flores Partlow)

NO TO RECLAMATION. Gary Rosales and Aidalyn Arabe of the environmental advocacy group, Kinaiyahan, lead a peaceful assembly on Sunday (July 11, 2021) at the Rizal Boulevard in Dumaguete City. The activity aimed to collect signatures to show opposition to a multi-billion-peso reclamation project covering most of the city's shoreline. (Photo by Judy Flores Partlow)

DUMAGUETE CITY – More people are opposing the planned massive reclamation project fronting the coastline here that is set to be implemented through a joint venture agreement between the city government and a Quezon City-based investor.

In an interview Monday afternoon, Aidalyn Arabe, one of the spokespersons of the environmental group Kahugpungan para sa Kinabuhi ug Kinaiyahan, Inc. (Kinaiyahan), said they have delivered a letter of objection to the office of Mayor Felipe Antonio Remollo seeking the stoppage of the signing of the joint venture agreement with EM Cuerpo, Inc.

She said this is just the first of a series of signature campaigns that Kinaiyahan and other groups have initiated to express their opposition to the planned reclamation project that would cover 174 hectares of reclaimed land.



Opposition to P23-B reclamation project mounts in Dumaguete

The project, which would be at no cost to the city government, is estimated to be worth PHP23.35 billion. Its proponents aim to build an “off-shore” island from Barangay Tinago to Barangay Banilad in the south and from Barangay Looc to Barangay Bantayan in the north.

“We are now awaiting word from city hall if the signing of the joint venture agreement originally scheduled today had pushed through, but we have not heard from anyone about it yet,” Arabe said. “Our initial move is to ask the mayor to put on hold the signing of the agreement while issues and concerns are being tackled, most especially the holding of public consultations.”

The opposing groups are also asking that the city council rescind the approval it gave last Wednesday for the mayor to enter into such an agreement with the investor, she added.

They questioned the move of the local legislators, saying it was done “hastily”, suggesting that it was because of the coming elections.

On Sunday, Kinaiyahan and the Friends of the Environment of Negros Oriental (FENOR), organized a signature campaign against the reclamation project at the Rizal Boulevard.

Arabe, however, said the number of signatures could not yet be tallied as online campaigns were also launched by youth groups and other sectors.

“The letter expresses our strong opposition to the mayor’s signing the agreement without providing information to the public and without community consultation,” said Gary Rosales, who is a member of both Kinaiyan and FENOR.

Arabe said the project will cause tremendous “irreversible damage to ecosystems that will affect the livelihood of local fishers”.

Foundation University president Dean Sinco, in a statement released to the media on Monday, also bucked the proposed reclamation project, citing environmental concerns as well as other issues that have to be addressed first prior to the start of the undertaking.

Sinco, an architect and staunch environmental advocate, said the project is “quite illegal and immoral as no due diligence was applied in its introduction and eventual approval”.



Opposition to P23-B reclamation project mounts in Dumaguete

Outlining his opinions on issues of a landfill, the environment, and sewage, among others, he called for the protection and preservation of the boulevard as it is “our history” and “our promenade from the past”.

Meanwhile, Silliman University also put up a campaign on its social media page opposing what is now known as “174 Dumaguete”. The petition has so far been signed by 1,639 Sillimanians.

The university said it opposes building structures across the shorelines and the city’s joint venture agreement signing “unless and until a public consultation on its technical, ecological, social, and economic merits, and its potential cultural and financial costs, risks, and consequences to Dumaguete residents shall have been done”. (PNA)



PH's first air quality monitors to be deployed to Taal-affected communities

Published July 13, 2021, 12:00 AM
by Charissa Luci-Atienza

The Department of Science and Technology-Philippine Council for Industry, Energy and Emerging Technology Research and Development (DOST-PCIEERD) bared on Monday, July 12, the deployment of locally made air quality monitors to communities affected by Taal's unrest in provinces of Batangas and Cavite.



Roam Technology (Photo from DOSTPCIEERD)

The DOST-PCIEERD said researchers from the University of the Philippines (UP) Diliman are expected to deploy Robust Optical Aerosol Monitor (ROAM) Air Quality Monitor units from Project ROAM to local government units (LGUs) in Agoncilloo, Batangas, and Tagaytay and Alfonso in Cavite.

"Towns and cities majorly affected by the continued restiveness of Taal Volcano would soon receive a helping hand as researchers from the University of the Philippines Diliman are set to deploy air quality monitors in their area," it said in a statement on Monday.

The Council noted that ROAM Air Quality Monitor is the first Filipino-made air quality monitor created by the project team, led by Dr. Len Herald V. Lim, to measure particulate matter in the air using mass concentration measurement.



PH's first air quality monitors to be deployed to Taal-affected communities

It said the locally developed high-quality aerosol monitors are low-cost compared to its commercial counterparts.

"It was designed specifically to look for ways to reduce the effects of air pollution in communities and workplaces and was developed in partnership with the DOST-PCIEERD," it added.

It said the residents from three LGUs will be aided by ROAM which was initially developed to provide information for policy creation and programs for environmental protection.

Levi Guillermo L. Geganzo of Project ROAM said the planned deployment of the air quality monitors are currently being discussed. The team is in talks with the Philippine Institute of Volcanology and Seismology (PHIVOLCS) to help them with their regular monitoring, the Council said.

"Currently, ROAM is exploring the creation of a spin-off company through DOST-PCIEERD's Funding Assistance for Spinoff and Translation of Research in Advancing Commercialization (FASTRAC) program to help advance the commercialization of their technology," it said.

Geganzo said they are in "the process of asking more organizations to use ROAM for free for a year, in line with the requirement for the FASTRAC grant."

DOST PCIEERD Executive Director Dr. Enrico Paringit cited the group's effort, even as he urged LGUs to forge partnership with ROAM in putting up air quality monitors in their area.

"We thank the Project ROAM team for heeding the call of the times and making innovations work for the people. As a leader and partner in enabling innovations in the Philippines, we enjoin our local government units to collaborate with our researchers in finding solutions in making our air cleaner through technologies brought about by research and development," he said.



Vegetation-eating goats help prevent California wildfires

JUL 12, 2021, 2:40 PM

Rose De La Cruz

Columnist

As California continues to face the threats of wildfires, authorities have found goats eating vegetation a welcome ally in reducing the chances of a blaze.

Goats are an unlikely but increasingly popular weapon in California's fight against the wildfires that rage through the western US state every year.

On a recent hot July morning, a herd of 80 ungulates were deployed to a hilly patch of land in Glendale, just outside Los Angeles.

They had been chomping away for the past 10 days or so, helping to clear away bone-dry vegetation that could go up in flames and threaten the surrounding homes.

Their work comes up a vital time. Last year was the worst in California's modern history for wildfires, with more than four million acres (1.6 million hectares) scorched.

Due to climate change and a brutal drought, officials fear that months of massive infernos are now the norm.



Vegetation-eating goats help prevent California wildfires

"We started hearing a lot about goats, both from community members, other fire departments, other cities," said Glendale fire marshal Jeffrey Ragusa.

"And the more we looked into it, the more we realized how effective they can be, how environmentally friendly they can be."

Corridor

The goats' voracious appetite serves two purposes.

Eating easily flammable vegetation helps to restrict the spread of fire and creates a convenient corridor in which firefighters can operate to "protect the homes in a safer environment" should the need arise, said Ragusa.

Of course, the animals are just one small part of the strategy for coping with the threat of fires.

But their help can be valuable, lightening the workload for overstretched human contractors who create buffer zones by removing vegetation -- often manually, in sweltering heat and difficult terrain -- before and during ever-longer fire seasons.

"There's always a threat of injury to personnel," said Ragusa. "I haven't seen a goat trip yet."

The goats grazing in Glendale are brought in by Sage Environmental Group, a company that carries out habitat restoration and environmental planning.

Its founder, Alissa Cope, began incorporating goats into her work five years ago, and now owns around 400 of the animals.

'Watch them closely'

The strategy carries an inherent risk -- goats, if left to their own devices, will munch anything in their path.

"We watch them closely," she said. "If there's an area that we feel that they're overgrazing -- which is essentially the downside of using goats -- we will deliberately move them," using electric fences or luring them with hay.

Without revealing how much the goats earn for their labor, Cope says the cost of employing the animals is comparable to what authorities would pay for human workers -- at a lower environmental toll.



Vegetation-eating goats help prevent California wildfires

The company runs similar projects elsewhere in California, including nearby Anaheim and South Pasadena.

The idea to bring in goats to Glendale originated with Rick Stern, a member of the neighborhood homeowners' association.

Stern heard of the strategy when his wife found out goats had helped keep the Ronald Reagan Presidential Library -- also in southern California -- safe from fire in 2019.

Months before the devastating blaze, a trip of goats had been dispatched to create a fire break around the famous complex.

While the goats' presence in Glendale is just a pilot program for now, it will be evaluated with a view to broader use.

"So far, it's been a really good program," said Ragusa. "We've been really happy with the results."



EDITORIAL

Heat wave a sign of global warming's coming wrath

July 13, 2021

LATE June's heat wave that scorched the US' Pacific Northwest and western Canada is the most compelling proof yet that human-induced climate change is pushing the planet's temperature off the charts.

Hundreds of people were killed, reservoirs dried up, roads buckled and wildfires raged as temperatures soared to triple-digit levels.

In Portland, Oregon, it was 116 degrees Fahrenheit and in Canada's British Columbia, it was 121 degrees Fahrenheit.

A team of 27 experts who analyzed the heat wave agreed it was more than rare - it was a once-in-a-millennium event. And they are convinced global warming increased its likelihood by at least 150 times.

But for scientists, the biggest takeaway is that as the warming continues, extreme heat waves "will become a lot less rare." Turning that statement around, it simply means such a brutal weather event will become the new normal.

Over the years, awareness of the deadly impact of global warming has been growing. Campaigns to reduce carbon emissions have sprouted and more governments have adopted policies to curb greenhouse gases. It is an encouraging development, but the consensus is much more needs to be done and it has to be done soon.

Global warming is a naturally occurring phase our planet goes through in much the same way it has experienced several ice ages. But left on its own, Earth always finds a way to survive these climatic cycles and restore ecological balance.

Man has upset that balance and did so in less than a thousand years.

The Industrial Revolution that flourished in the 18th century saw the shift from an agrarian economy to a factory-driven one. The machines in the factories needed fuel to run and coal quickly replaced wood as the fuel of choice.



Heat wave a sign of global warming's coming wrath

Canada and US northwest bake under record-smashing heat wave

As more factories were built, more coal was burned. Soon soot, the most visible byproduct of coal, began to envelop the villages surrounding the factories, but it was considered as more of a tolerable inconvenience than a health or environmental hazard.

Decades later, the automobile became the next biggest catalyst for air pollution, releasing carbon dioxide in the form of exhaust fumes. Soon after, chlorofluorocarbons or CFCs and similar refrigerants found their way into the upper atmosphere, eroding the ozone layer.

It was not until 1970 air pollution began attracting attention as a threat to humans and the environment. That year, the US Congress passed the Clean Air Act, which established the first set of air-quality standards.

Still, it took a while to convince world leaders that air quality is directly linked to climate change. It was only in 1997 36 countries signed the Kyoto Protocol, an agreement to reduce carbon dioxide emissions and other greenhouse gases.

Climate change is everything

Over the past 24 years, the goals set by the Kyoto Protocol have been tweaked to adjust to the prevailing situation. But many believe the revisions are too slow in coming.

United response

For one, not every country is on the same page when it comes to forming a united response to global warming. It was only when Joe Biden was elected president the US government embraced a firm resolve to take the lead in addressing climate change.

China and India, two of the world's biggest polluters, are not totally committed.

Raising the red flag over global warming becomes even more difficult because the world is focused on fighting the coronavirus pandemic.

But the heat wave in Canada and the US should serve as a warning of the cataclysm looming on the horizon. Heat waves are just one tragic aftermath of climate change. We must be prepared for more severe droughts, storms and floods as well.



Heat wave a sign of global warming's coming wrath

"Our results provide a strong warning: our rapidly warming climate is bringing us into uncharted territory having significant consequences for health, wellbeing and livelihoods," scientists who analyzed the recent heat wave wrote.

It is fatal to ignore their warning.

13 JULY 2021, Tuesday



DENR

NEWS ALERTS

COVID-19 NEWS

STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION AND INITIATIVES SERVICE

BREAKING: Kaso ng COVID-19 sa Pilipinas, higit 1.47-M na; 5,204 ang nadagdag

By Angellie Jordan July 12, 2021 - 04:05 PM



Lagpas 5,000 muli ang panibagong napaulat na kaso ng Coronavirus Disease o COVID-19 sa Pilipinas.

Sa huling datos ng Department of Health (DOH) bandang araw ng Lunes (July 12), pumalo na sa 1,478,061 ang confirmed cases ng nakakahawang sakit sa bansa.

Sa nasabi kasing bilang, 49,128 o 3.3 porsyento ang aktibong kaso.

Sinabi ng kagawaran na 5,204 ang bagong napaulat na kaso ng COVID-19 sa bansa.

89.6 porsyento sa active COVID-19 cases ang mild; 4.7 porsyento ang asymptomatic; 1.72 porsyento ang moderate; 2.5 porsyento ang severe habang 1.5 porsyento ang nasa kritikal na kondisyon.

Nasa 100 naman ang napaulat na nasawi.

Dahil dito, umakyat na sa 26,015 o 1.76 porsyento ang COVID-19 related deaths sa bansa.



BREAKING: Kaso ng COVID-19 sa Pilipinas, higit 1.47-M na; 5,204 ang nadagdag

Ayon pa sa DOH, 5,811 naman ang gumaling pa sa COVID-19.

Dahil dito, umakyat na sa 1,402,918 o 94.9 porsyento ang total recoveries ng COVID-19 sa Pilipinas.

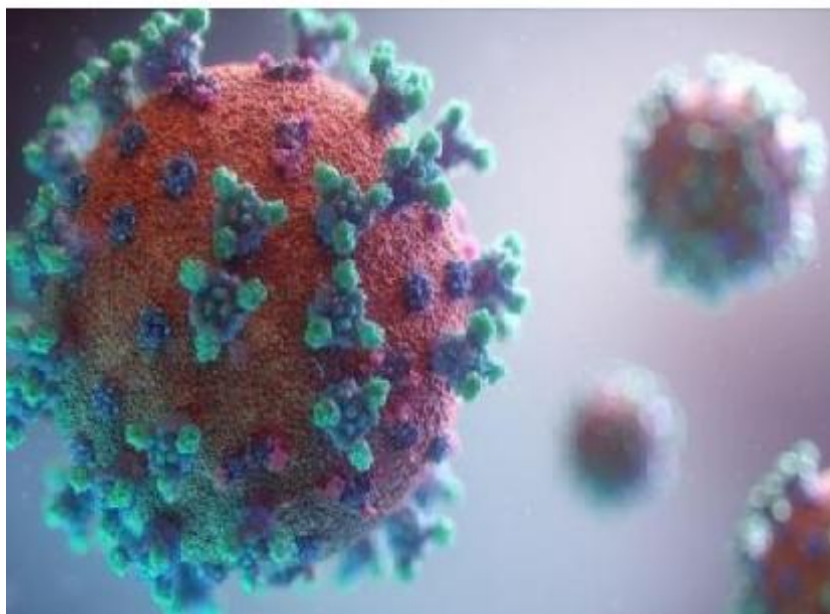
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Delta, Lambda Covid-19 variants cause of concern: PRRD

By Azer Parrocha July 12, 2021, 11:49 pm



MANILA – New Covid-19 strains like the Delta and Lambda variants are a cause of concern and the government is closely monitoring the country's border to prevent local transmission.

President Rodrigo Duterte made the assurance after health authorities worldwide raised alarm over Lambda, a Covid-19 variant that has spread rapidly through parts of South America.

Delta variant, first detected in India, has already been found in some 100 countries.

Local health authorities, however, said there is no local case yet of the Delta variant in the Philippines.

Duterte renewed his call for the public to get vaccinated against Covid-19, noting that it is the best form of protection against respiratory disease.

"Our best defense is still to be vaccinated as soon as possible," he said in a pre-recorded meeting Talk to the People. "I reiterate my appeal: Please get vaccinated as soon as possible. The life you'll be saving is not only your own, but of your loved ones and the people around you."

He also lauded the pace of the country's Covid-19 vaccination drive.



Delta, Lambda Covid-19 variants cause of concern: PRRD

"I am pleased to know that as of July 11, more than 3 million Filipinos have received the second dose and with the total of more than 13 million doses so far administered in the country," he said.

Duterte reminded the public to continue observing minimum public health standards such as wearing face masks, face shields, hand-washing, and physical distancing.

In the same meeting, Food and Drug Administration (FDA) Director-General Eric Domingo assured that even if the efficacy of Covid-19 vaccines is reduced due to the emergence of more infectious variants, they remain effective against these new strains.

The Covid-19 vaccine brands that are currently part of the Philippines' inventory and have been cleared for emergency use are Sinovac, AstraZeneca, Pfizer, Sputnik V, and Moderna.

"Ang mga variant po, nababawasan ng konti yung efficacy ng vaccine pero hindi naman po siya nawawala. Nagiging very useful pa rin po (The variants have reduced the efficacy of vaccines but they are still very useful)," Domingo said.

Duterte, in response, said it is "consoling" to hear that the vaccines still have a "fighting chance" in preventing deaths and severe illness due to Covid-19.

"It seems that we are a little bit safe. Not really totally safe, but I said it is very consoling to hear from you that the present vaccine[s] we are using are as effective although not to its full degree, but rather could give us a minimum of comfort that there is available vaccine and it can be used against the variants," he said. (PNA)



Gov't vows equitable distribution of Covid-19 vaccines

By Kris Crismundo July 12, 2021, 4:53 pm



File photo

MANILA – The government has vowed to speed up equitable distribution of vaccines against the coronavirus disease 2019 (Covid-19) as more supplies arrive in the country in the coming months, National Task Force Against Covid-19 (NTF) deputy chief implementer Vivencio Dizon said.

In a press conference Monday, Dizon said the country already administered nearly 14 million jabs as of last week even with the delay in delivery of some vaccines in the past weeks.

He added the country will inoculate some 4 million Covid-19 vaccines for the first two weeks of July, the fastest and highest number of inoculation in two weeks since the immunization program started last March.

“Vaccines are coming and our fellow Filipinos can expect that we will speed up our vaccination efforts so that many Filipinos will be able to receive vaccines in the coming weeks and months,” he said in Filipino.

Dizon also called on local government units (LGUs), particularly in Metro Manila, to continue the vaccination services even if they already achieve their target population for inoculation.

He said vaccination sites of Metro Manila LGUs in the future could vaccinate those from neighboring provinces.



Gov't vows equitable distribution of Covid-19 vaccines

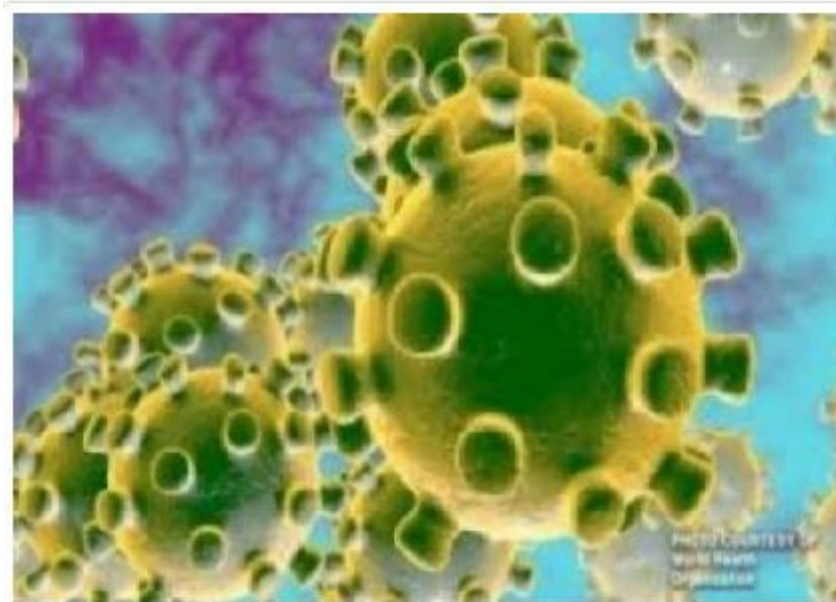
San Juan City Mayor Francis Zamora said his city is more than willing to continue the vaccination once the LGU has inoculated its target population, as long as the national government will continue providing the vaccines for them.

Zamora added that with more people coming from other provinces to San Juan for Covid-19 vaccines, this will translate to foot traffic in the vaccination site located in a mall, higher sales for the entrepreneurs, and higher tax collection for the LGU. (PNA)



PH Covid-19 recoveries reach 1.4 million

By Filane Mikee Cervantes July 12, 2021, 6:05 pm



MANILA – With 5,811 new recovered cases reported on Monday, the overall tally of coronavirus disease 2019 (Covid-19) recoveries nationwide rose to 1,402,918.

According to the Department of Health (DOH), the figure is equivalent to a 94.9-percent recovery rate among those who contracted the disease nationwide.

The DOH also tallied 5,204 new confirmed cases, bringing the total number of active cases in the country to 49,128.

Of the active cases, 89.6 percent are mild, 4.7 percent are asymptomatic, 2.5 percent are severe, 1.72 percent are moderate, and 1.5 percent are in critical condition.

The DOH also logged 100 new fatalities, raising the death toll to 26,015.

The DOH said 12 duplicates were removed from the total case count.

“In addition, 156 cases were deactivated after being tagged by their Regional Epidemiology and Surveillance Units (RESUs)/City Epidemiology and Surveillance Unit (CESUs) as duplicates. Of these, 150 are recoveries and six are deaths,” it said.



PH Covid-19 recoveries reach 1.4 million

Meanwhile, the DOH said 75 cases previously tagged as recoveries have been validated to be active cases, and 62 cases that were previously tagged as recoveries were reclassified as deaths after final validation.

To date, 57 percent of 3,500 intensive care unit beds, 45 percent of 19,300 isolation beds, 42 percent of 12,300 ward beds, and 36 percent of 2,800 ventilators dedicated to patients with Covid-19 are in use nationwide.

In Metro Manila, 42 percent of 1,100 intensive care unit beds, 37 percent of 4,700 isolation beds, 32 percent of 3,400 ward beds, and 30 percent of 1,000 ventilators dedicated to patients with Covid-19 are being used. (PNA)

Combating Covid-19 and ensuring no-one is left behind

By Bambang Susantono and Armida Salsiah Alisjahbana and Kanni Wignaraja
July 12, 2021



Health workers attach a notice about the shortage of Covid-19 vaccine supplies at a vaccination centre in Mumbai, India.
Image: Reuters/Francis Mascarenhas

Ensuring the digital transformation reaches all in Asia Pacific is one of the greatest challenges we face. Even before Covid-19, the digital revolution was transforming how people and businesses work. As the pandemic unfolded, the accelerated adoption of digital technologies helped governments, education, private enterprise and people keep activities going amid social distancing, lockdowns and other containment measures. High-speed internet connectivity and financial technology hold immense promise for deepening financial inclusion, and keeping local economies alive, even in times of crisis.

Yet many poor households, women and vulnerable groups have been unable to afford or access the benefits of digitalisation. Digital divides within and between countries in the region threaten to exacerbate existing gaps in economic and social development. We need more equitable access to digital technologies to drive innovation and create new business models.

Regional cooperation must refocus on the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)

Regional cooperation plays a critical role in managing the transition out of the current crisis, and a renewed focus on environmental and social dimensions of cooperation is essential. Working together can also help countries achieve digital transformation for all, including through joint efforts to develop and expand digital infrastructure, and legal and regulatory reforms that make these services more accessible.



Combating Covid-19 and ensuring no-one is left behind

The pandemic has exposed the inadequacy of the region's health, education and social protection systems, making life even more difficult for the poorest and socially excluded, and deepening inequalities within communities and countries, particularly for women.

The crisis has shown the value of building universal social protection systems for all members of society — from infancy to old age — which can be bolstered to provide additional relief in times of crisis. There have also been huge disparities in the ability of countries to insulate themselves from the pandemic and roll out vaccines. This is widening development gaps. A renewed focus on people, their well-being and capabilities is needed through regional cooperation.

In recovering from the Covid-19 pandemic, environmental sustainability needs to become much more central to economic, social and global value chain integration efforts. By building low-carbon economies, including through a new focus on industry and tourism sectors to generate green jobs, we can help create a more resilient region. While governments recognise the potential to pursue more environmentally sustainable development as part of recovery, much more needs to be done if we are to achieve the goals of the Paris Agreement on Climate Change and protect our planet's natural capital and biodiversity.

Meeting the needs of people and planet

These issues, highlighted in a recent joint report by our three organisations, warrant greater emphasis as countries meet this week to review implementation of the SDGs at the United Nations High-level Political Forum. Policymakers have necessarily focused on containing the pandemic and meeting peoples' immediate needs. Tangible action on the multiple interconnected dimensions of the SDGs poses difficult policy and fiscal choices.

Regional collaboration around financing can help countries raise and expand resources to meet the SDGs. Key priorities include cooperation on tax, through common standards, and efforts to address tax havens and avoidance. In addition, countries in the region can work together to design incentives to align private investment with the SDGs and expand the use of sustainability-focused instruments that tap regional and global capital markets.

Another form of international cooperation is worth noting. Governments, multilateral organisations, development banks, philanthropic organisations and the private sector have joined forces in unprecedented efforts to fight the pandemic, such as through the COVID-19 Vaccines Global Access (COVAX) initiative. Science, technology and innovation enabled by such partnerships will continue to drive countries' efforts to recover and build resilience.



Combating Covid-19 and ensuring no-one is left behind

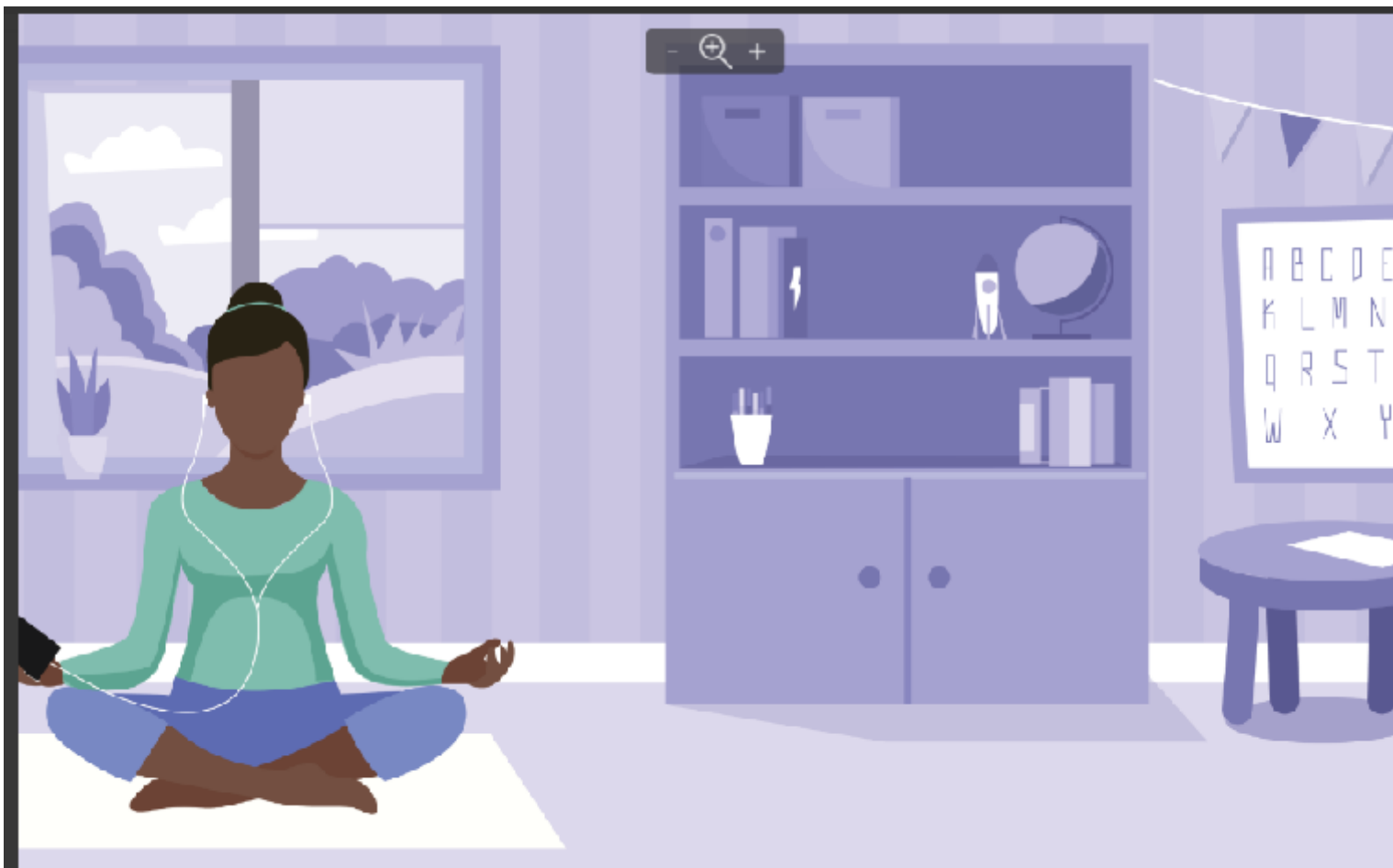
Today, what begins as highly local can soon become a global phenomenon. A reinvigorated multilateralism can and must respond faster to take on new challenges and expand provision of public goods. Together, our organisations will seek to nurture such cooperation to achieve the SDGs.

Armida Salsiah Alisjahbana is the Executive Secretary, Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific. Kanni Wignaraja is the Assistant Secretary-General, United Nations Development Programme. Bambang Susantono is the Vice-President, Asian Development Bank.





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**Covid-19
Situation and Response**



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Source: [cdc.gov/coronavirus](https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus)

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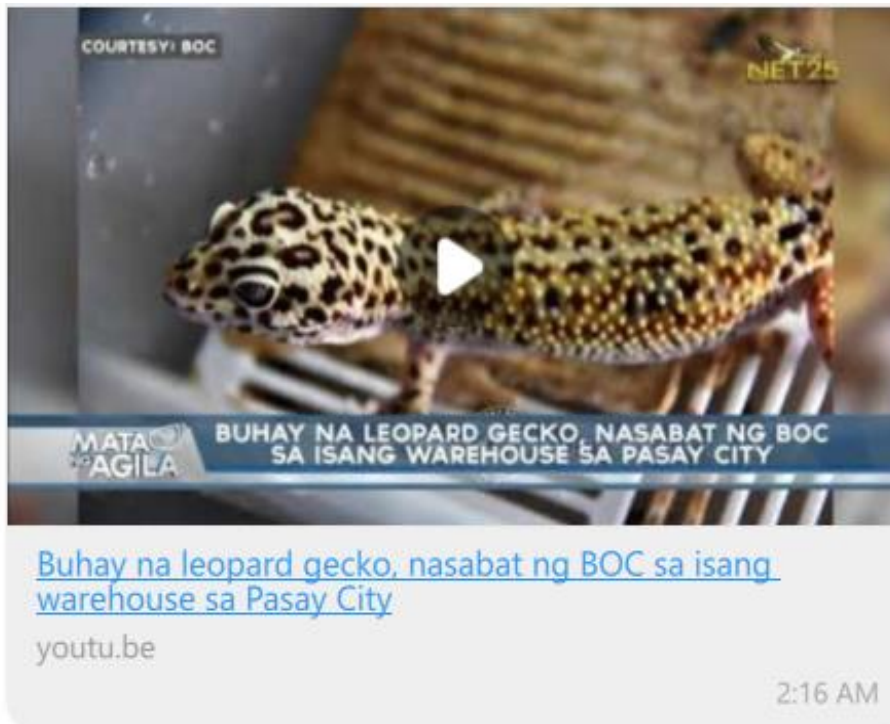
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