

23 September 2023 Saturday



DENR

NEWS ALERTS

NEWS CLIPPINGS

STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION AND INITIATIVES SERVICE



STRATEGIC
COMMUNICATION
AND
INITIATIVES
SERVICE

THE ASSOCIATION OF PHILIPPINE PRESS
1920
MANILA BULLETIN
THE NATION'S LEADING NEWSPAPER



FACE



LOWER



PAGE 1

SIDE



PAGE 2

SIDE



PAGE 3

SIDE



PAGE 4

SIDE

SEP 23 2023

DATE

10 1/2

Smog blankets Metro Manila

Hazy condition caused by heavy traffic emissions and thermal inversion, not Taal

By ELIYNN DE VERA-SOLIS, JR., SANIUS,
and PATRICK ELY SANCIA

Taal Volcano's activity is not related to the smog that blanketed Metro Manila and neighboring areas on Friday, Sept. 22, the Philippine Institute of Volcanology and Seismology (Phivolcs) said.

The smog is not related to Taal Volcano. Instead, the fog (volcanic smog) was over areas on the western side of Taal Volcano," Phivolcs said in a message to reporters. "Phivolcs detected the fog drifting west-southwest of Taal Volcano, so it is" ► 10



HAZE — A blanket of thick smog hovers over Metro Manila on Friday, Sept. 22, 2023, in what the Philippine Institute of Volcanology and Seismology (Phivolcs) was related to emissions from heavy vehicle traffic in the metropolis, and not because of the increased activity in Taal Volcano. (Mark Balanores)



STRATEGIC
COMMUNICATION
AND
INITIATIVES
SERVICE

Smog blankets Metro Manila

Not going toward Metro Manila? Phivolcs detected 4,569 tons of sulfur dioxide emissions during a 24-hour observation of the active volcano in Batangas, which produced significant volcanic smog.

This is slightly higher than the 4,322 tons recorded on Thursday, Sept. 21.

It explained that vog forms up of tiny droplets of volcanic gas, such as sulfur dioxide, which can irritate the eyes, throat, and respiratory system. The severity of these effects depends on the concentration of the gas and the length of exposure, it added.

Vehicle emissions, 'thermal inversion' cause haze condition

The smog in Metro Manila, initially thought to have been caused by volcanic smog from Mt. Volcanso turned out to be due to emissions from heavy vehicular traffic and 'thermal inversion.'

"From initial assessment, haze does in Metro Manila on the morning of September may be attributed to ground level and suspended particulate matter (PM) concentration," the Department of Natural Resources and Environmental Management Bureau (DENR-EMB) said in a statement released on Friday.

Based on the real-time air quality measurements of the DENR-EMB, "heightened haze in some parts of Metro Manila, primarily attributed to emissions from heavy vehicular traffic, especially during rush hour."

"Air quality varies in time and place and can change anytime depending on pollution sources and meteorological factors," it added.

"Thermal inversion occurs when the layers of the atmosphere do not mix, causing aerosols to get trapped."

"Normally, as temperature decreases with increasing altitude, but during an inversion warmer air is held below the cooler air. An inversion can also suppress convection which is the ability of particles to move vertically causing visibly trapped particulate matter closer to the ground," the agency explained.

The Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration (PAGASA) explained in a separate statement that Friday morning's meteorological conditions in Metro Manila, Calabarzon (Cebu,

Laguna, Batangas, Rizal, Quezon), and some areas of Central Luzon were favorable for the formation of haze or smog.

"This occurs when very small particles get trapped close to the surface due to the presence of a thermal inversion, high humidity, and calm wind conditions," it said. "These floating minute particles in the air come from smoke, pollutants, or volcanic aerosols."

PAGASA said thermal inversion occurs when cool air, which is typically found at higher altitudes, stays closer to the earth's surface than warm air.

"It occurs when layers of the atmosphere do not mix, causing aerosols to get trapped," it pointed out.

"Usually, the haze or smog disappears later in the day as heat from the sun allows the mixing of the air, allowing the aerosols to disperse. However, cloudy conditions may reduce surface heating, allowing haze to persist," it said.

Classes suspended

As a precautionary measure, several local government units in the National Capital Region (NCR) and in the provinces of Cavite, Laguna, and Batangas suspended classes in all levels, public and private, as well as work in the government on Friday.

In the NCR, classes were suspended at the following:

- San Juan (all levels, both public and private)
- Calabarzon (all levels, both public and private starting 12 p.m.)
- Marikina (all levels, both public and private)
- Marikina (all levels, both public and private)
- Pasig (all levels, both public and private)
- Mandaluyog (all levels, both public and private starting 12 p.m.)
- Marikina (all levels, both public and private starting 12 p.m.)
- Las Piñas (all levels, both public and private)
- Malabon (all levels, both public and private)
- Navotas (all levels, both public and private)
- Valenzuela (all levels, both public and private)

SAFETY MEASURES DURING SMOG CONDITIONS



Stay indoors and close all windows and doors. Run air conditioning with air filters to keep indoor air clean.



Use N95 masks if you need to go outside for brief periods. Ordinary cloth and surgical masks will not protect against finest particles.



Avoid excessive physical activity outdoors as it can cause deeper breathing and inhalation of more smog.



Medical help should be sought immediately if experiencing any worsening cough or breathing difficulties.



Monitor advisories from PAGASA by updating on smog conditions and clearance.



PHIVOLCS - Students from a Quezon City school go home after classes are canceled suspended by the local government due to the smog in Metro Manila on Friday, Sept. 22, 2023. (Mark S. Bitorres)

- Pasig (all levels, both public and private starting 12 p.m.)
- Manila (all levels, both public and private)
- Quezon City (all levels, public and private)
- Malabon (all levels, both public and private)

Neighboring provinces

- Cavite (all levels, both public and private)
- Rizal
 - Davao (all levels, public and private)
 - Pangasinan (all levels, both public and private)
 - San Mateo (all levels, both public and private)
 - Tarlac (all levels, both public and private)
 - Agusan (all levels, both public and private)
- Laguna
 - Biñan (all levels, public and private)
 - Calabarzon (all levels, public and private)
 - Lee Torres (all levels, public and private)
 - San Isidro (all levels, public and private)
- Batangas
 - Alitagtag (all levels, public and private)

- all levels, public and private)
- Calabarzon (all levels, public and private)
- Marikina (all levels, public and private)
- Marikina (all levels, public and private)
- Marikina (all levels, public and private)
- Marikina (all levels, public and private)
- Marikina (all levels, public and private)
- Marikina (all levels, public and private)
- Marikina (all levels, public and private)
- Marikina (all levels, public and private)

Work suspension

The local governments of Calabarzon and Valenzuela declared the suspension of afternoon work on Friday to ensure the safety of their employees from the harmful effects of smog that blanketed parts of Metro Manila.

According to the Public Information Office (PIO) of the two cities, work in the city government was suspended starting at 2 p.m., except for agencies involved in the delivery of basic and

health services and response to disasters and calamities, which shall continue their operations.

The Valenzuela City government also cancelled activities such as the Medical Mission in Gateway East National High School and Ugnas 3, Cavite, and the Office of the 1st Congressional District Medical Mission in Kapuluan Central Elementary School on Saturday, Sept. 23.

The local government unit also advised residents to continue wearing face masks and limit outdoor activities when possible.

Las Piñas City Mayor Imelda Acuña ordered the suspension of work at 2 p.m. but said that agencies involved in delivering basic and health services, disaster preparedness and response and other vital services continued their operations to ensure that the public's essential needs will be met even as precautionary measures are in place.

She also advised the public to wear face masks and limit outdoor activities especially those in high risk areas. She urged them to stay vigilant and to follow official channels for accurate and timely information.

Marikina City Mayor Eric Olivarez ordered the suspension of government work following the suspension of afternoon classes in both public and private schools in the city.

Olivarez made the order after the Philippine Institute of Volcanology and Seismology warned about high levels of sulfur dioxide emissions from Mt. Volcanso causing volcanic smog to vog.

The mayor ordered the offices that deliver vital services such as the Public Safety and Management Office, Social Operations and Communication Office, City Health Office (CHOS), Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Office, OSHART and H, PSHD-Executive Security, and CEMRO. Disaster and Calamities Response Personnel, to remain open.

Olivarez advised residents to wear face masks.

Mayor Eric Calixto-Tabares also suspended government work in the afternoon, except for offices that need to respond to emergency cases.

Tabares advised residents to take the necessary precaution.

HEALTH RISKS OF SMOG

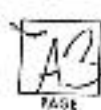


- Breathing irritation can irritate the eyes, nose, throat, and lungs. People with respiratory illnesses such as asthma are especially at risk.
- Very small particles in smog can cause scratching and irritation in the eyes.
- Prolonged exposure to smog has been linked to respiratory infections and chronic lung disease.



STRATEGIC
COMMUNICATION
AND
INITIATIVES
SERVICE

PHILIPPINE DAILY
BALANCED NEWS FEASIBLE VIEWS
INQUIRER



SEP 23 2013
DATE

It's smog, not vog, in Metro—but put masks back on

By Dexter Cabalza
@dxcabalza1992

Authorities are now again urging the public in Metro Manila and nearby provinces to wear face masks, especially outdoors, due to smog and vog (air pollution from volcanic emissions) caused by the continued arrest of Taal Volcano.

But both the Philippine Institute of Volcanology and Seismology (Phivolcs) and the Environmental Management Bureau (EMB) clarified on Friday that the smog in Metro Manila was not caused by Taal, but rather, by the air pollution in the metropolis coupled with a natural phenomenon called "temperature inversion"—which basically traps smog and other particulate matter closer to the ground.

"The smog [in Metro Manila] is not related to Taal Volcano. Instead, the vog was over areas on the western side of Taal Volcano," Phivolcs said.

The EMB, an agency of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources, said in a report on Friday: "Real-time air quality measurements indicate heightened alert in some parts of Metro Manila, primarily attributed to emissions from heavy vehicular traffic, especially during rush hour."

Not related

The bureau also noted that Taal's vog could not reach Metro Manila as surface and upper winds were "blowing from the northeast direction going to the southwest direction, or going away from Metro Manila."

Science and Technology Secretary Renato Solidum Jr. also confirmed that the smog in the capital region was not the vog from Taal.

Nevertheless, he advised the public to wear masks when outside or, if possible, stay indoors.

But authorities could not



The smog [in Metro Manila] is not related to Taal Volcano. Instead, the vog was over areas on the western side of Taal Volcano

Philippine Institute of Volcanology and Seismology (Phivolcs)

categorically determine when the smog in Metro Manila would be cleared.

Air quality index

"Air quality varies in time and places and can change anytime depending on pollution sources and meteorological factors," the EMB said.

The bureau's report still noted the health risks of air pollution in the metropolis, specifically PM_{2.5} and other particulate matter, as detected in the southern cities of Paranaque and Makati, and the municipality of Batavia.

PM_{2.5} are fine, inhalable particles with diameters that are generally 2.5 micrometers, or 30 times larger than the diameter of a hair strand.

Short-term exposures to PM_{2.5} (up to 24-hour duration) have been associated with premature mortality, increased hospital admissions for heart or lung causes, acute and chronic bronchitis, and asthma attacks.

These adverse health effects have been reported primarily among infants, children, and older adults with pre-existing heart or lung diseases.

Paranaque registered an air quality index (AQI) of

217—classified as the fifth in a six-tier air quality guide which is considered "seriously unhealthy." Lower numbers means better air quality.

Under this category, people are advised to limit going outdoors, especially those with heart or respiratory diseases.

Makati and Batavia were monitored as having 128 and 141 AQI, respectively—both considered "unhealthy for sensitive groups."

DepEd order

Amid the poor air quality, only six of the 17 local government units in Metro Manila—Las Piñas, Marikina, Paranaque, Pasig, San Juan and Valenzuela—suspended classes early on Friday. The rest in the National Capital Region suspended afternoon classes.

Scathing comment, Education Assistant Secretary Francis Cesar Brillas said school heads should follow Department Order No. 37, series of 2004, on the cancellation or suspension of classes and work in the event of natural disasters, power outages and other calamities.

From northwest

While DO 37 has no provision on such phenomena as the presence of smog, Brillas said a memorandum he signed in April gives school heads the "authority and responsibility" to suspend classes.

This includes events "which may considerably affect the conduct of classroom learning and put the learners' health and well-being at risk."

The memo was issued at the time when schools needed to suspend classes due to extremely high temperatures in the country, which was previously not listed as a strong valid grounds for the suspension or cancellation of classes. —WRM
REPORTS FROM ARDY ROSER, KATHLEEN DE VILLA, HIKIYA SUMIKOGAWA
ING AND INQUIRER RESEARCHERS



STRATEGIC
COMMUNICATION
AND
INITIATIVES
SERVICE



PAGE

SEP 23 2023

DATE

Smog blankets MM, nearby provinces

By ROMINA CABRERA and RAINIER ALLAN RONDA

Pollution-related smog smothered Metro Manila residents yesterday, leading to some local government units suspending classes due to poor air quality and hazy visibility, while provinces surrounding Taal Volcano experienced volcanic smog.

Data from the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) showed air quality in some parts of Metro Manila was deemed "acutely unhealthy" for residents.

The DENR said that air quality index (AQI), which monitors six criteria pollutants to determine how clean or

polluted the air is, reached as high as 217 points in Paranaque City, 141 points in Pateros and 128 points in Makati - exceeding the guideline value of 35 micrograms per normal cubic meter ($\mu\text{g}/\text{Nm}^3$).

The smog "may be primarily attributed to emissions of heavy vehicular

traffic especially during rush hour," the DENR-Environmental Management Bureau said.

Science Secretary Renato Solidum said what was over Metro Manila was not vog but just plain smog brought by thermal or temperature inversion.

Turn to Page 4





STRATEGIC
COMMUNICATION
AND
INITIATIVES
SERVICE



PAGE

7787
LOWER

PAGE 1
STORY

PAGE 1
STORY

PAGE 1
STORY

PAGE 1
STORY

SEP 23 2023
DATE

news

SATURDAY | SEPTEMBER 23, 2023

Smog

From Page 1

He said that fog or volcanic smog was only present in the atmosphere near Batangas but not in Metro Manila.

"It's not about Taal Volcano," Soliman stressed.

"It's not fog, it's smog," he related. But the smog in Metro Manila can affect the health. When outdoors, wear masks. When staying indoors, close the doors and windows," he said during a briefing.

The Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration explained that meteorological conditions in parts of Luzon, which includes the National Capital Region, Calabarzon, and some parts of Central Luzon, were conducive for haze or smog formation.

For its part, the Philippine Institute of Volcanology and Seismology (Phivolcs) noted that volcanic smog from Taal was drifting west-southwest of the volcano, not heading toward Metro Manila.

Still, volcanic smog has lingered over Taal Volcano since Tuesday as sulfur dioxide emissions reached 4,879 tons.

Fog has been affecting the Taal area since the first week of September amid continuous depressing and upwelling of the Pacific water lake.

State volcanologists said that volcanic smog could also be generated during periods of non-fall, causing damage to crops and affecting metal roofs of houses and buildings.

Phivolcs said that Alert Level 1 or abnormal conditions will prevail over Taal Volcano.

In an advisory, the Office of Civil Defense warned Metro Manila residents and those living near Taal Volcano to reduce exposure and stay indoors with closed doors and windows.

It added that the public should seek medical attention in case of emergency and monitor advisories from PAGASA and health offices.

The Department of Health-Calabarzon has declared a "code white alert" due to transmissions from Taal Volcano. The code white alert was implemented starting Thursday and will be in force until Sunday.

Code white alert status refers to the readiness of the hospital workforce such as general and critical care nurses, anesthesia jobs, intensive care unit nurses, operating room nurses, specialists and interventional radiologists in response to any emergency situation.

Classes suspended

A number of local government units suspended classes yesterday due to the smog that covered Metro Manila.

The Manila city government announced that "no personal face-to-face classes" in all levels of public and private schools, as well as work in

city hall and its satellite offices starting 1 p.m., according to an advisory from the Manila Public Information Office.

Excluded from the work suspension were "general welfare functions involving the delivery of basic and health services, preparedness/ response to disaster and calamities, and/or the performance of other vital services," it noted.

The Quezon City government also suspended afternoon classes in all public schools, as it advised the public to stay in their homes and limit outside activities.

It also recommended face wearing of face masks.

"Go to the nearest health center or hospital in case you experience difficulty in breathing or other conditions due to the volcanic smog," it added.

San Juan City Mayor Francis Zamora suspended classes in all levels in public and private schools yesterday.

Marikina Mayor Marianne Rodon suspended classes in the city on Friday and whole day today in all levels in both public and private schools, citing health risks posed by the smog. The local chief executive urged constituents to stay indoors as much as possible.

Classes in Calapan, Malabon, Valenzuela and Navotas were suspended.

Calapan and Malabon declared afternoon class suspensions in all levels for both public and private schools, while Calapan government also suspended outdoor activities in the city for precautionary measures.

In Navotas, the city's disaster risk reduction and management office recommended the suspension of classes to ensure the health and safety of students.

Valenzuela suspended classes in all levels

for both public and private schools, as well as working government offices in the city at 2 p.m.

The local government also canceled activities scheduled today.

After the suspension of face-to-face classes, Las Piñas City Mayor Imelda Aguilar also approved the suspension of government work at 1 p.m. yesterday.

"However, agencies involved in delivering basic and health services, disaster preparedness and response and other vital services will continue operations. This ensures that the public's essential needs will be met even as precautionary measures take place," said a statement from the Las Piñas City public information office.

The local government units of Marikina, Pasig, Baguio and Iligan also announced the suspension of classes in all levels, both private and public.

In Bulacan, the local government units of Bacay, Marilao and Santa Maria suspended classes in the afternoon on Friday, upon the recommendation of the local disaster risk reduction management office.

"The meteorological conditions this morning (NCM-Calabarzon) and some parts of Central Luzon) are conducive for haze or smog formation. This occurs when very small particles get trapped close to the surface due to the presence of a thermal inversion, high humidity and other local conditions. These floating, minute particles in the air could be from smoke, dust, pollen or volcanic aerosols," according to an advisory from the Department of Science and Technology.

Courts suspend work

The Supreme Court also suspended work in seven courts in Batangas and Cavite due to

the emission of hazardous volcanic smoke or fog from Taal Volcano.

In an advisory, the SC Public Information Office announced the suspension of work in Taal Regional Trial Court Branch 26, Div. Six, Nicolas Zito Municipal Circuit Trial Court, Alibangbang-Taal and MCTC, Lemoso KTC Branch 5, Lemery-Agencia Re-MCTC and San Luis MCTC in view of the fog emitted by Taal Volcano in Batangas.

Suspension of work was also declared in all courts in Tuguegarao City, General Trial Court and Municipality of Uman in Cagayan, All Municipal Trial Courts in Iloilo and the Office of the Clerk of Court in Davao were also suspended.

Flights normal

The Media Affairs Division of the Manila International Airport Authority (MIAA) said flight operations at the Ninoy Aquino International Airport remain normal despite the presence of volcanic smog in the air since the expected emissions of sulfur dioxide.

MIAA said it is closely monitoring the situation and assures the traveling public that any disruptive effect of the smog to flight operations will be addressed accordingly.

Travelers, passengers and airport workers, especially those who are wearing respiratory protection, should wear masks to reduce exposure to volcanic smog particles with health hazards.

Philippine Airlines flights to and from Manila were not affected by the Taal emissions, and the ongoing smog caused by the volcano.

"Our flights to and from Manila remain unaffected by the ongoing smog caused by Taal volcano emissions," PAL spokesperson Chris Villanueva said.

"As a precautionary measure, we are avoiding flight paths near the vicinity of the volcano. We continue to monitor the situation as safety remains our top priority and we will update our clients on further developments," she added.

Meanwhile, the Media Affairs Division of the MIAA said as of 8:23 a.m. Friday, Cebu, Pangasinan, and Manila-Davao flights were cancelled due to unfavorable weather conditions in the area.

The Civil Aviation Authority of the Philippines issued Notice to Airmen 03745/23 Revised, 03747/23 as of 9:40 a.m. Friday Sept. 22, 2023.

In its advisory, it said that Taal Volcano is on an Alert Level 1 (low level unrest). Flight operations are advised to avoid flying close to the volcano's summit as airborne ash and ballistics fragments from sudden explosions may pose hazards to aircraft up to 10,000 ft.

With Michael Punongbayan, Rhodora Villanueva, Glibo Ong, Julie Mazon, Emmanuel Torres, Mark Ernest Villora, Ramon Eren Fernandez, Kathleen Baulista, Rudy Santos



Volcano's smog or fog blankets Lake Taal, Batangas yesterday. The Philippine Institute of Volcanology and Seismology reports that Taal Volcano in Batangas has been observed emitting fog.

PHOTO: PAGASA



A family leaves the school grounds of the Placido T. Amo Senior High School in Lantawan, Batangas yesterday after several local governments suspended classes due to volcanic smog from Taal Volcano. Lower photo shows the hazy Ortigas skyline caused by smog attributed to vehicular traffic emissions. (PHOTOGRAPH BY [unreadable])

STAR
15 MN

PHOTO

PAGE

SEP 23 2023

DATE

STRATEGIC
COMMUNICATION
AND
INITIATIVES
SERVICE



1998
 1999
 2000
 2001
 2002
 2003
 2004
 2005
 2006
 2007
 2008
 2009
 2010
 2011
 2012
 2013
 2014
 2015
 2016
 2017
 2018
 2019
 2020
 2021
 2022
 2023

COPY
 EDITORIAL
 STORY
 PHOTO
 VIDEO
 OTHER



STRATEGIC
COMMUNICATION
AND
INITIATIVES
SERVICE

PHILIPPINE DAILY
BALANCED NEWS AND FEASIBLE VIEWS
INQUIRER

73
PAGE

OFFER
100%

PAGE 1
STORY

WARRER
SIDE

EDITORIAL

CARTOON

PHIL

PAGE

SEP 23 2023
DATE

TAAL VOG FORCES WEARING OF MASK EVEN INDOORS

TAGAYTAY, BATANGAS FOLK DEAL WITH 'SULFURIC SMELL'

By Delfin T. Mallari Jr.
deltmallari@INO

LUCENA CITY, QUEZON—Elia Therese Dumais, 22, a mother of three and a resident of Teledino East village in Tagaytay City, had to change through her cabin again to find her old stocks of face masks.

Her children, ages 2, 6 and 10, have been suffering from cough for the past two days since Taal Volcano began emitting volcanic sulfur dioxide (SO₂) gas.

"I have to protect my three kids from the toxic volcanic smog. Wearing a face mask even inside the house is again a must for them," Dumais told the Inquirer in a phone interview on Friday.

"It's good that we still have remaining stocks of surgical face masks after the pandemic," she said.

According to Dumais, the view of scenic Taal Volcano from the city was covered with fog, or air pollution caused by volcanic emissions.

"Terrible and nauseating!" "The air quality is not good. The fog has a sulfuric smell, especially when it's raining. It's suffocating," said Dumais.

Other residents likened their air to a strong smell of wood burned by gasoline, which is painful to the throat.

Sherwin Tan, 28, who works for a printing press in Tagaytay City, said he had been down



DANGER IN THE AIR: Taal Volcano is shrouded in a mist of hazardous sulfur dioxide as seen from Agoncillo town, Batangas province.—MICHAEL SERRA

with a cold and feeling unwell since Thursday.

"The sulfuric smell is terrible and nauseating, especially after the rain," he said over the phone.

A resident of Tagaytay for 20 years now, Tan said he has witnessed several eruptions and volcanic unrest.

"But this volcanic smog or fog is different. It is really irritating to the body. It is not advisable to stay out of the house, especially for older and sick persons. And even when inside, face mask is a must wear," he said.

Tan said his uncle, who lives near Lucena, has been complaining of a harsh cough since Thursday.

"First experience"

"My uncle went to Manila this morning to escape the fog," he said.

Jackie de Teza, who heads the Municipal Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Office in

Tagaytay province, said the spread of the fog in the municipality was caused by a sudden change of the wind's direction.

"The large fog on Thursday was our first experience in our town. Even during the past volcanic unrests, there was no volcanic smog around us," De Teza said in a phone interview on Friday afternoon.

She said at least 58 high schoolers from three schools in Tagaytay had been brought to medical facilities in the town for emergency treatment due to sickness associated with the fog.

But most have been cleared as of Friday and "only one of them is still confined due to asthma," De Teza said.

Also on Friday, six high

school students in Santa Rosa were reported to have experienced skin irritation, difficulty in breathing and asthma attacks.

Even early this month, at least 35 students in Mataas na Lupa town were treated due to chest pain and difficulty in breathing associated with dizziness.

"Code white"

The Department of Health (DOH) in the Calabarzon (Metro Laguna, Batangas, Rizal, Quezon) region issued an advisory on Friday urging the public to remain cautious over the high levels of SO₂ emissions from Taal.

"Fog can be harmful to health and may cause irritation to the eyes, throat, and respiratory tract, which can

A4



STRATEGIC
COMMUNICATION
AND
INITIATIVES
SERVICE

PHILIPPINE DAILY
BALANCED NEWS & FEARLESS VIEW
INQUIRER

A3
PAGE

UPPER
LOWER

FRONT
STORY

OPINION
STORY

EDITORIAL

CARTOON

REF:

PAGE

2/3

SEP 23 2023
DATE

TAGAYTAY, BATANGAS FOLK DEAL WITH 'SULFURIC SMELL'

FROM A3

become severe depending on the concentration or duration of exposure," said DOH-Calabarzon.

A "code white alert" has been raised since Thursday, and the agency advised residents around the volcano "to stay indoors as much as possible."

The alert status refers to the readiness of the hospital work-

force to respond to an emergency situation.

Residents were also advised to wear N95 masks, drink water frequently and seek medical attention if needed.

In a statement, Ariel Valencia, DOH-Calabarzon director, warned that "vog should not be taken lightly as sulfur dioxide poses a serious threat to human health that can cause eye and throat irritation and respiratory diseases."

Classes in public and private schools in Batangas and Cavite provinces and some municipalities in Laguna and Rizal provinces were suspended on Friday to ensure the safety of students and teachers, the Calabarzon Regional Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council said.

Alert level since 2022

Meanwhile, the Department of Tourism (DOT) in Calabarzon

advised travelers and tourists to reconsider their plans to visit the areas near Taal Volcano.

"Civil aviation authorities have also been informed that flying any aircraft close to the volcano is not allowed," the DOT said in an advisory.

The Philippine Institute of Volcanology and Seismology (Phivolcs) reminded the public that alert level 1 prevails over Taal Volcano—the alert status

since July last year.

The volcano "is still in abnormal condition and should not be interpreted to have ceased unrest nor ceased the threat of eruptive activity," the agency said in a bulletin on Friday.

"Vog has been affecting the Taal region since the first week of September 2023 as an average of 3,402 tons per day of SO₂ has been degassed from Taal Volcano for the month," Phivolcs said.

Meanwhile, House Speaker Martin Romualdez on Friday urged the DOH and concerned local government units to distribute N95 face masks in areas affected by the vog from Taal.

Romualdez said the DOH still has adequate supplies of N95 face masks bought at the height of the COVID-19 pandemic, which can be used to protect Filipinos in vog-hit areas. —WITH A REPORT FROM JULIE M. AURELIO DIO



Volcanic ash, smoke emissions, fog engulfs Calabarzon, NCR—Solidum

By JONATHAN I. MAYUGA
& RENIE LUCYCLA

VOLCANIC ash from Taal, exhaust vehicle smoke and fog combined with thermal inversion triggered a slight decline in air quality in certain parts of Calabarzon and the National Capital Region (NCR) on

Thursday and Friday.

Classes affected by smog—of smoke and fog in Metro Manila; and fog or volcanic ash plus smoke and fog in areas surrounding the restive Taal Volcano, were suspended due to poor ambient air quality.

8xb "Smog," A11

Smog...

CONTINUED FROM A4

Department of Science and Technology (DOST) Secretary Renato Solidum, a volcanologist, said the natural phenomenon called thermal inversion aggravated air pollution brought about by smoke from motor vehicles in Metro Manila and the volcanic ash with smog over Taal since Wednesday.

Thermal inversion is a natural phenomenon that involves a change in the normal tendency of the air to cool down with altitude. During this event at night, the earth's surface cools quickly, transmitting cold air to the atmosphere closest to the ground.

Worst, this and lack of air, keeps dirty air at ground level, Solidum said in an interview televised over PTV.

He said, while rain may wash down smog, rain over Taal might not be of any help since such precipitation will bring down sulfuric gas that may pose health risks to the people, as well as plants and animals.

He warned that if thermal inversion will continue, dirty air will continue to affect the people, and threaten to cause damage to farming as sulfuric gas brought about by

the volcanic activity may adversely affect crops and livestock.

"Sulfur can cause dizziness. Since it is acidic, it can cause skin irritation and itchiness," he said.

The country's top science and technology official said it is advisable to drink a lot of water, wear a face mask at all times, and better stay inside the confines of your homes to avoid health problems caused by fog and smog.

In Metro Manila, problems like skin disease may take its toll on children. Dirty air, such as those emitted by motor vehicles may trigger skin allergies.

"If you don't have anything important to do, might as well stay inside your homes," he advised.

According to Solidum, smog in the NCR will be observed in the morning because of the thermal inversion effect.

In rural areas, he advised farmers to postpone planting their seedlings while smog and fog persist to avoid loss. "Don't plant yet if you have no greenhouse to protect your seedlings," he said.

In Talisay, Batangas, residents observed that while it is raining, the temperature is hot.

"Maalinsangan because there's no wind.

The water absorbs hot temperature. But outside Taal is normal," Solidum said.

Meanwhile, Taal, which is one of the most active volcanoes in the world, continues to show restiveness. It has been under Alert Level 1 for months and over the past few days, it continues to emit sulfuric gas.

Solidum said local government units (LGUs) should advise their constituents to be ready for evacuation in case the alert level in Taal rises.

Meanwhile, the official reiterated that Taal Volcano Island is a permanent danger zone: "Even steam with sulfur is dangerous to your health. The volcano island should be off-limits. There should be no residence in that area," he said.

In Quezon City, public health officials released an advisory telling its constituents to wear facemasks when going out.

The fog or smog is also affecting certain areas in Cavite, which is near Taal, which has continued to emit sulfuric gas for the past several months.

Because of the fog and smog that engulfs some parts of the Calabarzon Region, including Metro Manila, the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) through the Environmental Management



STRATEGIC
COMMUNICATION
AND
INITIATIVES
SERVICE

BusinessMirror

Article for circulation



PAGE



LETTER



PAGE STORY



FEATURE STORY



EDITORIAL



CARTOON

mu: Volcanic

PAGE

SEP 23 2023

DATE

Bureau (ENB) reported that real-time air quality measurements indicate heightened alert primarily attributed to emissions from heavy vehicular traffic, especially during the rush hour.

"Air quality varies in time and places and can change anytime depending on pollution sources and meteorological features," the DENR-ENB advisory said.

"From initial assessment, hazy skies in Metro Manila on 21st-22nd of September may be attributed to ground level and suspended Particulate Matter (PM) concentration," the report added.

However, real-time air quality monitoring stations do not reflect the same alarming levels, it was observed.

The worst air quality was monitored in Paranaque City—but that was recorded in the month of July. Meanwhile, the latest air quality in Caloocan, Makati, Parañaque, San Juan, and Taguig with air quality index of 52, 57, 62, 64, and 70, respectively is "fair" as it is slightly below the 24-hour guideline value of 150 ug/m³, even though smog is observed at ground level in certain areas.

As for Phivolcs, volcanic smog has lingered over the region since Wednesday night. This prompted Phivolcs to issue a Taal Volcano

Advisory at exactly 5:30 p.m. on September 21, reporting the continuous upwelling at the Taal Main Crater Lake, generating plumes that rose 2,400 meters high before drifting to the west-southwest area.

In addition, Phivolcs said 4,568 tons/day of volcanic sulfur dioxide or SO₂ gas emissions from the Taal Main Crater were also observed.

Satellite monitors have also detected a large cloud of SO₂ stretching west over Taal Lake.

"Vog has been affecting the Taal Region since the first week of September as an average of 3,402 tons/day SO₂ has been degassed from the Taal Volcano for the month," the Taal Volcano Advisory said.

In Metro Manila, ambient air quality monitoring was reported to be heavily polluted in certain areas by smog.

Air quality monitoring stations in different parts of Metro Manila, however, provide varying degrees of air pollution levels—from Good to Acutely Unhealthy—because of the vog and smog.

While vog occurs only during the sulfur emission as part of volcanic activities, smog which is a combination of smoke and fog may be attributed to air pollution caused by smoke emitted by motor vehicles.

Red alert hoisted

THE National Grid Corporation of the Philippines (NGCP) said Friday it was on heightened alert to ensure the grid's reliability following the volcanic smog detected at Taal Volcano in Batangas.

The grid operator said it continues to monitor the effects of the volcanic activity to transmission facilities. Contingency measures are in place, ready for activation, it said. These measures include activation of Overall Command Center and South Luzon Regional Command Center. Also, all available quick response teams are on standby for deployment.

As of this writing, there are no affected transmission lines.

"Transmission services in affected areas remain normal as there are no reported related line outages. As soon as the situation is deemed safe, field crews will be mobilized to inspect and conduct cleaning of critical line equipment as necessary," NGCP said.

NGCP, which holds the sole and exclusive concession and franchise for operating the Philippines' transmission network, will provide updates for significant transmission-related developments.



NCR suspends classes amid smog blanket; not vog, says Phivolcs

By Joel E. Zurbano, Rio N. Araja,
Maricel V. Cruz, Macon Ramos-
Araneta and Vince Lopez

LOCAL government units in Metro Manila suspended classes at all levels yesterday due to

are advising the people, especially those with asthma, lung and heart disease, senior citizens, pregnant women, and even children, to wear face masks and limit outdoor activities," Metropolitan Manila Development Authority (MMDA) chairman Romando Artes said.

Taguig City Mayor Laarni Cayetano said she

heavy smog, which most mistook for volcanic smog or vog from Taal Volcano.

By the afternoon of Friday, classes in all 16 cities and the lone municipality of Pateros had been suspended. Marikina City suspended classes from noon Friday until Saturday.

"As part of the precautionary measure, we

ordered the suspension of classes at all levels (from preschool to college) due to the potential health hazards from the smog.

Still, city officials said the air quality in Taguig remains safe as particulate matter and sulfur dioxide are at minimal levels. But they,

Next page

NCR...

From A1

too, advised people to reduce outdoor activities, close windows, and wear masks.

Despite the widespread belief that the smog came from Taal, the Philippine Institute of Volcanology and Seismology (Phivolcs) said the haze in Metro Manila did not come from the volcano but was most likely from heavy vehicular emissions.

The volcanic smog, the agency said, was only over the western side of the volcano and was not headed toward Metro Manila.

Rhea Torres, a state weather forecaster, said thermal inversion—where the air is hotter than the surface temperature—kept pollutants from vehicular emissions from being dissipated.

She added, however, that smog from Taal could reach Metro Manila by Thursday night.

Phivolcs director Teresito Bacolcol said: "For as long as Taal Volcano is spewing out sulfur dioxide, this will be a recurring threat."

The Civil Aviation Authority of the Philippines sent an advisory to flight operators to avoid flying close to Taal

Volcano following its recent activity.

"The volcano is on Alert Level 1. Flight operations are advised to avoid flying close to the volcano's summit as airborne ash and ballistic fragments from sudden explosions may pose hazards to aircraft. Vertical limits are from the surface up to 10,000 feet," the agency stated in its Notice to Airmen.

Philippine Airlines said its commercial flights to and from the Ninoy Aquino International Airport remain unaffected by Taal's volcano emissions.

"As a precautionary measure, we are avoiding flight paths near the vicinity of Taal volcano," said PAL spokesperson Cielo Villaluna.

Meanwhile, the Batangas Provincial Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Office said there was zero visibility in the towns of Tuy, Balayan, Lian, and Nasugbu.

Speaker Martin G. Romualdez on Friday urged the Department of Health (DOH) and LGUs to help people affected by the Taal's volcanic smog.

"We have to assist residents of areas around Taal Volcano like Batangas, Cavite, Laguna, and even Metro Manila to cope with this temporary problem," he said. (See full story online at manilastandard.net)



STRATEGIC
COMMUNICATION
AND
INITIATIVES
SERVICE

PHILIPPINE DAILY
BALANCED NEWS & OPINIONS VIEWS
INQUIRER



TITLE:

PAGE:

SEP 23 2023
DATE

**It's smog, not fog, in Metro
—but put masks back on**
NEWS / A3

**Tagaytay, Batangas folk endure
'sulfuric smell' from Taal**
NEWS / A3

**DUETO POLLUTION, NOT
VOLCANO** Smog thickly veils the
skyline of Ortigas Center as seen
from Circumferential Road No. 5
on Friday morning. The photo could
be the phenomenon in Metro
Manila's air pollution, with the air
quality recorded as having critical
degrees. —ORIN SUICO





EDITORIAL

Smothered by smog

The last time Metro Manila and neighboring provinces were blanketed by ashfall, grounding flights, forcing the cancellation of classes and disrupting office work was in January 2020 when Taal Volcano erupted.

Yesterday, several local government units in southern Metro Manila as well as in neighboring areas in Cavite, Laguna, Rizal and much of Batangas also suspended classes in all levels, after the sky turned a murky brownish gray with poor visibility. Taal Volcano's unrest was initially blamed, with warnings raised about the health risks posed by toxic vog or volcanic smog.

It turned out, however, that the reason for the poor visibility was a more common one. According to government scientists, it was plain smog, mostly from vehicular emissions, and aggravated by "thermal inversion."

As explained by Science and Technology Secretary Renato Solidum, the air, as it goes higher in the atmosphere, should be cooler. In the case of thermal inversion, the cool air is at a higher altitude. The Philippine Institute of Volcanology and Seismology, which Solidum used to head, also clarified that the vog from Taal was drifting west-

southwest, away from Metro Manila.

Solidum doused speculation that fine sand used in the controversial reclamation activities in Manila Bay had aggravated the smog from vehicular emissions. The speculation arose from the unusually dense smog, which was alarming enough to cause the suspension of classes in many areas. Solidum said sand is too heavy to be part of smog.

Vehicle emissions have long been a bane in air quality, despite the requirement that all motor vehicles must pass a smoke emission test before registration. There was no particular spike in vehicle density in Metro Manila and the neighboring provinces throughout the week. Was thermal inversion a sufficient explanation? Will the heavy air pollution become a regular occurrence, and one of the common reasons, along with typhoons and floods, for the suspension of classes?

If this is so, yesterday's heavy smog should prompt a review of the enforcement of regulations on vehicle emissions. That vile-looking smog was clearly bad news for public health, and greater effort is needed in improving air quality.



STRATEGIC
COMMUNICATION
AND
INITIATIVES
SERVICE

THE SPIRIT OF
SINCERE
TRUTHFULNESS

MANILA BULLETIN
THE NATION'S LEADING NEWSPAPER



OFFICE
LOWER

PRINT
STORY

EMAIL
STORY

EDITORIAL

OPINION

SEP 23 2023

DATE

Villar leads celebration of ICC at LPPWP, renews call to protect our seas

Our commitment to safeguard our seas today for the benefit of everyone must be clear, said Senator Cynthia Villar.

During the International Coastal Cleanup Day or ICC celebrated at the Las Pitas Parasique Wetland Park, the chairperson of the Senate Committee on Environment and Natural Resources said, we must strongly adhere to protecting our environment and our seas because we and our "babes" all depend on the resources of the seas.

This year's ICC theme, "Clean Seas For Healthy Fisheries," emphasizes the crucial connection between ocean health and the abundance of our fisheries. Clean waters are essential for the well-being of marine life and a vibrant fishing sector.

Held annually on the third Saturday of September, the ICC represents the world's largest voluntary effort for ocean health.

Volunteers from around the globe gather on beaches, coasts, rivers, other waterways, and other sites to remove trash and document the volume and type of trash collected.

While our government strives to provide us with the ocean's bounty, Villar lamented that they are often the ones most impacted by the worsening state of the seas, fish habitats, and climate events such as typhoons and frequent storms.

"Sadly, our seas face threats from habitat degradation and



International Coastal Cleanup. Senator Cynthia A. Villar took the opening celebration of the International Coastal Cleanup Day at Las Pitas Parasique Wetland Park, Las Pitas, Bulacan, and announced the official start of September 23, 2023, as "Clean Seas for Healthy Fisheries."

pollutants like plastics, which not only reduce the fish population but also affect the livelihood of our fishermen," she said. The chairperson of the Senate Committee on Agriculture and Food.

"We are fortunate to have our ICC here in Las Pitas - Parasique Wetland Park, a place where we can immerse ourselves in nature while participating in the clean-up," she added.

She noted that our wetland park

is protected under RA No. 11038 or the expanded NIPAS Act of 2018, which she pushed in the Senate.

Aside from this, LPPWP was recognized as the sixth wetland of international importance under the International Convention for the Conservation of Wetlands or Ramsar Convention.

As member of the Ramsar Convention, it is the duty of our government to protect Ramsar sites, including Las Pitas

Parasique Wetland Park for long-term protection of our natural resources.

Beyond its ecological significance, the LPPWP offers crucial benefits to the local residents of Las Pitas, Parasique, and Bacoor. It safeguards against flooding, high tides, and storm surges. In line with our ICC theme, it also serves as a vital livelihood source for numerous fishermen and the urban poor who rely on it daily.



STRATEGIC
COMMUNICATION
AND
INITIATIVES
SERVICE

3-2
PAGE

UPPER
LOWER

TOP
BOTTOM

LEFT
RIGHT

PHOTO
VIDEO

OTHER

SEP 23 2023

DATE

Watsons joins SM Group in clean-up drive

Watsons Philippines, the leading brand in health, wellness, and beauty retail, conducted a clean-up of the Manila Bay coastline and gathered a whopping 66,200 kilograms of trash.

The retail chain said it continues to demonstrate its commitment to the environment through its annual coastal clean-up initiative which reflects Watsons' ongoing efforts to make a positive impact on both the planet and the community.

This year, Watsons joined forces with SM for the International Coastal Cleanup celebration at SM by the Bay, held last Sept. 16. Watsons is an affiliate of SM and collaborated as one of the teams that successfully contributed and collected tons of trash during the activity.

The focal point of this year's coastal clean-up was the iconic Manila Bay coastline, a heavily frequented area by the public. Watsons, along with the entire team, is dedicated to ensuring the continued cleanliness, beauty, and safety of this cherished destination.

"As a part of Watsons' sustainability goals, we are com-

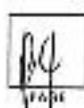
mitted to help clean up the environment, especially our waterways," said Watsons Philippines Senior Sustainability Manager Lexie Coloma.

She added that, "One of the goals we've set for ourselves is to be able to collect 65,000 kilograms of trash by 2030. It looks like a big goal to achieve but with our partnership with SM for the International Coastal Clean Up, we are one step closer to that."

A total of 12,580 volunteers, including Watsons employees, suppliers, partners, media representatives, and even social media influencers, gathered at dawn to contribute to this meaningful event and do their part in environmental preservation.

During the program, officials from the Department of Environment and Natural Resources and the Coastguard conducted a brief orientation on coastal clean-up, emphasizing the proper care of our oceans and the importance of reducing plastic consumption.

Participants were also encouraged to adopt the 3Rs - Reuse, Reduce, and Recycle. *(James A. Loyola)*



TITLE:

PAGE:

SEP 23 2023
DATT

GRAY TO GREEN

Zero Waste PH's mission: A trash-free society becomes reality

BY NATE BERTS

In a startling projection for 2025, the Commission on Environment anticipates an annual solid waste production of a staggering 19.76 million metric tons in the country, posing a grave threat to the environment.

From plastic waste to hazardous chemicals, the call to reduce, reuse and recycle waste creation, has never been more urgent. This is especially true today as our country faces the consequences of excessive garbage production.

Enter Zero Waste PH, an online community dedicated to the cause of waste reduction, offering a glimmer of hope to the otherwise depressing issues that our planetizes to face.

Building an online community

In 2019, Zero Waste PH launched its Facebook group with a singular goal: to create a trash-free nation. With nearly 50,000 members, this eco-conscious community advocates for "sharing stories and engaging

in mindful conversations on low-impact and zero-waste living in the Philippines."

Sahara Lara Casteel, the driving force behind Zero Waste PH, revealed that her inspiration for this movement stemmed from a visit to Sydney, Australia — a city filled with stores selling bulk products and numerous implements to reduce waste-reduction solutions.

"Seeing like-minded individuals on a similar journey, we set up the group to exchange ideas and encourage others to embark on the same path," said Sahara.

This initiative has helped Sahara create a green community that practices low-carbon and waste-conscious living right here in the Philippines.

What's in it for you?

Before you toss your waste into the bin, consider the message of Zero Waste PH, where trash can turn into treasure. When de-littering you can visit the Facebook group and post items for donation, reuse, or recycling.

To illustrate, one member posted pictures of reused lightbulbs, broken emergency lights, neck fans, charging cables, headsets, and used batteries — all available for donation and recycling.

"Simple changes like using a reusable water bottle, finding unpackaged soap bars, and reducing plastic usage can already make a positive impact," she said.

Toward a circular economy

Transitioning from a high-waste lifestyle to trash-free living can be challenging, but the benefits for the planet are immeasurable.

"Every journey must start somewhere," Sahara said, "and it all begins with the awareness and willingness to make a difference."

In essence, you won't walk this eco-journey alone. You'll be joined by like-minded individuals committed to preserving our planet — our one and only home in this vast universe.

After all, everything we discard onto the planet ultimately returns to us. Through collective action, let's turn waste into wealth, and gradually move toward a truly zero-waste society.

"Simple changes like using a reusable water bottle, finding unpackaged soap bars, and reducing plastic usage can already make a positive impact."
— SAHARA LARA CASTEEL, administrator of Zero Waste PH.





Cities must step up to prioritize people over cars



ELEVENTH HOUR
THE CLIMATE REALITY PROJECT PHILIPPINES

One out of five households in the country, amounting to approximately 20 million households nationwide, now own at least one bicycle, according to the latest survey released by the Social Weather Stations (SWS).

A significant increase from the past two years, with 7.5 million cycles recorded in April 2023 and 6.2 million cyclists estimated in May 2022, the recent SWS findings highlight the growing reliance of many Filipinos on bicycles for transport, livelihood, and recreation. This year's respondents cited economic benefits, health improvements, financial savings, and reduced travel time as their main reasons for cycling.

In response, Mobility Awards National Coordinator Ariella Colla Tabliga underscored that this increased cycling must come with the development of policies, programs, and infrastructure to protect active mobility and respond to bicycle commuters' growing needs.

The Mobility Awards, led by its convenor Institute for Climate and Sustainable Cities, The Climate Reality Project Philippines, SP3 Pilipinas, NNU Manila, and Pinay

2024 Commuter Community, is the first platform in the country that gives recognition to acts of leadership that encourage cycling, walking, and other sustainable mobility options.

"The Metropolitan Manila Development Authority (MMDA) has already initiated bicycle-friendly initiatives. The latest SWS survey provides solid evidence that this movement is not only persisting but is also gaining momentum. With Filipino citizens leading the charge, our collective vision of a safer and more inclusive transportation system is clear," Tabliga said.

"Bicycles are no longer confined to a recreational pastime; but instead, have emerged as a dependable, healthy, affordable, and convenient mode of transportation for Filipinos," she added.

While the recent SWS data proves that more Filipinos are cycling, Tabliga noted that the nomination period of this year's Mobility Awards, which closed last Sept. 9, has shown that many citizens are concerned their current efforts are falling short.

"Despite the many individuals and organizations that are stepping up to the challenge, there is a resounding consensus among bicycle users that only additional facilities, establishments, and workplaces are stepping up to the challenge," she said.

"We call on our leaders in the national and local governments—in particular, the MMDA, the Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH), the Department of Transportation (DOTr), and city executives—to pave the way and work together to provide safe and more convenient infrastructure for cyclists, pedestrians, and commuters."

The Mobility Awards have received a total of 20 nominations for cities, 17 for stand-alone establishments, 42 for large establishments, and 59 for workplaces this year. Evaluations of the submissions regarding winners will be announced in November this year.

6 Bicycles are no longer confined as a recreational pastime; but instead, have emerged as a dependable, healthy, affordable, and convenient mode of transportation for Filipinos. 9

20 CITIES COMPETING FOR THE MOST BICYCLE-FRIENDLY CITIES AWARD

20 CITIES COMPETING FOR THE MOST BICYCLE-FRIENDLY CITIES AWARD

59 WORKPLACES COMPETING FOR THE MOST BICYCLE-FRIENDLY WORKPLACES

59 WORKPLACES COMPETING FOR THE MOST BICYCLE-FRIENDLY WORKPLACES

Tabliga underscored that cities that have previously stepped out for their commitment to promote active mobility during the first and second years of the Mobility Awards have an unparalleled opportunity to inspire and lead.

"The post-pandemic push to sustainable has accelerated a truth that we cannot ignore: cycling to ease the clutter behind traffic congestion is not only a practical solution by our overdependence on driving motorized vehicles. As we envision a future where cities thrive with enhanced mobility, and embrace low-carbon, it is imperative that we prioritize reliable, clean, equitable, and inclusive modes of transport," he said.



TITLE

PRICE

DATE

'POWER LIKE NO OTHER'

10 years after the completion of the mothballed Bataan Nuclear Power Plant, the notion of nuclear power use for electricity generation gains traction once in the Philippines

BY DINA LACUNA

WHENEVER nuclear energy is mentioned, some of the words associated with it are Fukushima, Chernobyl, and the mothballed Bataan Nuclear Power Plant (BNPP).

Nine years after a year of the Fukushima Daiichi nuclear disaster, the world is yet to get the nuclear energy industry talking in positive terms. It's still seen as a high-risk technology with a long history of safety concerns.

And while the power industry is seen to explore nuclear energy technology, the industry is still mostly seen as a high-risk industry. It's still seen as a high-risk industry.

Identifying ways to improve the industry's reputation is a key challenge. "There are two main ways to do this: one is to improve the industry's supply of energy and the other is to improve the industry's reputation," says a senior industry official.

BNPP, he said, will address the water needs in coastal towns. "We have a long-term supply of water, but we need to improve the industry's reputation," says a senior industry official.

Industry study will take the form of a workshop. "Probably by the middle of next year, we'll have the workshop ready, and we'll share it with everybody," says the government. "During the workshop, we'll discuss the industry's reputation, the industry's supply of energy, and the industry's reputation."

Industry study will take the form of a workshop. "Probably by the middle of next year, we'll have the workshop ready, and we'll share it with everybody," says the government. "During the workshop, we'll discuss the industry's reputation, the industry's supply of energy, and the industry's reputation."

Industry study will take the form of a workshop. "Probably by the middle of next year, we'll have the workshop ready, and we'll share it with everybody," says the government. "During the workshop, we'll discuss the industry's reputation, the industry's supply of energy, and the industry's reputation."



PAGE



VOLUME



ISSUE



DATE



VOLUME



ISSUE

1988

PAGE

DATE

'POWER LIKE NO OTHER'

Corporate Power
and Development. By 2000, with an interim target for 2005, and a 2010 deadline by 2015.

Agenda of 2000
To get the bill of law, the Department of Energy (DOE) recently unveiled the Energy Program and Energy Policy Act of 2000, which includes nuclear as a component.

The bill provides for a 2000 nuclear energy capacity to be added to reach 2,000 MW by 2002, 2,000 MW by 2005, and 2,000 MW by 2010. The target nuclear capacity would include 1,000 MW of capacity by 2000.

"The plan is to meet the demand of the country by 2000, and to ensure safety and reliability by a timely response to the energy needs," said DOE Director Generalissimo. The bill is subject to review pending the final version of the Energy Policy Act.

The DOE has also been working for the development of 2000 MW of nuclear capacity to be added to reach 2,000 MW by 2002, 2,000 MW by 2005, and 2,000 MW by 2010. The target nuclear capacity would include 1,000 MW of capacity by 2000.

Working with a 2000 target, the bill provides for a 2000 nuclear energy capacity to be added to reach 2,000 MW by 2002, 2,000 MW by 2005, and 2,000 MW by 2010.

President Ferdinand S. Marcos Jr. is the author of the bill, and the bill is subject to review pending the final version of the Energy Policy Act.

"We need everything. We just have to have everything and this new technology is something," said Generalissimo.

Energy Policy
DOE's energy policy is to ensure that the country has a sufficient supply of energy to meet its needs by 2000, and to ensure safety and reliability by a timely response to the energy needs.

The bill provides for a 2000 nuclear energy capacity to be added to reach 2,000 MW by 2002, 2,000 MW by 2005, and 2,000 MW by 2010. The target nuclear capacity would include 1,000 MW of capacity by 2000.

Working with a 2000 target, the bill provides for a 2000 nuclear energy capacity to be added to reach 2,000 MW by 2002, 2,000 MW by 2005, and 2,000 MW by 2010.

The DOE has also been working for the development of 2000 MW of nuclear capacity to be added to reach 2,000 MW by 2002, 2,000 MW by 2005, and 2,000 MW by 2010. The target nuclear capacity would include 1,000 MW of capacity by 2000.

Working with a 2000 target, the bill provides for a 2000 nuclear energy capacity to be added to reach 2,000 MW by 2002, 2,000 MW by 2005, and 2,000 MW by 2010.

President Ferdinand S. Marcos Jr. is the author of the bill, and the bill is subject to review pending the final version of the Energy Policy Act.

Nuclear Power Co. is the main supplier of electricity in the country, and is the main supplier of electricity in the country.

The bill provides for a 2000 nuclear energy capacity to be added to reach 2,000 MW by 2002, 2,000 MW by 2005, and 2,000 MW by 2010. The target nuclear capacity would include 1,000 MW of capacity by 2000.

Working with a 2000 target, the bill provides for a 2000 nuclear energy capacity to be added to reach 2,000 MW by 2002, 2,000 MW by 2005, and 2,000 MW by 2010.

The DOE has also been working for the development of 2000 MW of nuclear capacity to be added to reach 2,000 MW by 2002, 2,000 MW by 2005, and 2,000 MW by 2010. The target nuclear capacity would include 1,000 MW of capacity by 2000.

Working with a 2000 target, the bill provides for a 2000 nuclear energy capacity to be added to reach 2,000 MW by 2002, 2,000 MW by 2005, and 2,000 MW by 2010.

The DOE has also been working for the development of 2000 MW of nuclear capacity to be added to reach 2,000 MW by 2002, 2,000 MW by 2005, and 2,000 MW by 2010. The target nuclear capacity would include 1,000 MW of capacity by 2000.

Working with a 2000 target, the bill provides for a 2000 nuclear energy capacity to be added to reach 2,000 MW by 2002, 2,000 MW by 2005, and 2,000 MW by 2010.

President Ferdinand S. Marcos Jr. is the author of the bill, and the bill is subject to review pending the final version of the Energy Policy Act.

"The nuclear plants will provide a significant portion of the country's electricity by 2000, and will provide a significant portion of the country's electricity by 2000.

The bill provides for a 2000 nuclear energy capacity to be added to reach 2,000 MW by 2002, 2,000 MW by 2005, and 2,000 MW by 2010. The target nuclear capacity would include 1,000 MW of capacity by 2000.

Working with a 2000 target, the bill provides for a 2000 nuclear energy capacity to be added to reach 2,000 MW by 2002, 2,000 MW by 2005, and 2,000 MW by 2010.

The DOE has also been working for the development of 2000 MW of nuclear capacity to be added to reach 2,000 MW by 2002, 2,000 MW by 2005, and 2,000 MW by 2010. The target nuclear capacity would include 1,000 MW of capacity by 2000.

The DOE has also been working for the development of 2000 MW of nuclear capacity to be added to reach 2,000 MW by 2002, 2,000 MW by 2005, and 2,000 MW by 2010. The target nuclear capacity would include 1,000 MW of capacity by 2000.

Working with a 2000 target, the bill provides for a 2000 nuclear energy capacity to be added to reach 2,000 MW by 2002, 2,000 MW by 2005, and 2,000 MW by 2010.

President Ferdinand S. Marcos Jr. is the author of the bill, and the bill is subject to review pending the final version of the Energy Policy Act.

and provide 2000 MW of capacity to be added to reach 2,000 MW by 2002, 2,000 MW by 2005, and 2,000 MW by 2010.

The bill provides for a 2000 nuclear energy capacity to be added to reach 2,000 MW by 2002, 2,000 MW by 2005, and 2,000 MW by 2010. The target nuclear capacity would include 1,000 MW of capacity by 2000.

The DOE has also been working for the development of 2000 MW of nuclear capacity to be added to reach 2,000 MW by 2002, 2,000 MW by 2005, and 2,000 MW by 2010. The target nuclear capacity would include 1,000 MW of capacity by 2000.

Working with a 2000 target, the bill provides for a 2000 nuclear energy capacity to be added to reach 2,000 MW by 2002, 2,000 MW by 2005, and 2,000 MW by 2010.

The DOE has also been working for the development of 2000 MW of nuclear capacity to be added to reach 2,000 MW by 2002, 2,000 MW by 2005, and 2,000 MW by 2010. The target nuclear capacity would include 1,000 MW of capacity by 2000.

Working with a 2000 target, the bill provides for a 2000 nuclear energy capacity to be added to reach 2,000 MW by 2002, 2,000 MW by 2005, and 2,000 MW by 2010.

President Ferdinand S. Marcos Jr. is the author of the bill, and the bill is subject to review pending the final version of the Energy Policy Act.



'We need everything. We just have to have everything and this new [nuclear] technology is something'
—President Ferdinand S. Marcos Jr.

The Energy Policy Act of 2000 provides for a 2000 nuclear energy capacity to be added to reach 2,000 MW by 2002, 2,000 MW by 2005, and 2,000 MW by 2010.



China to control half of world hydrogen electrolyzer capacity

PARIS, France—By the end of 2023, China will control half the world's installed capacity of electrolyzers for producing low-carbon hydrogen amid a slowdown in new projects due to inflation, according to an International Energy Agency report released Friday.

"After a slow start, China has taken the lead on electrolyzer deployment," the IEA report on hydrogen said.

China's installed electrolyzer capacity has jumped significantly in recent years, and is expected to reach 1.2 gigawatts—50 percent of the global capacity—after having accounted for just 10 percent of the global capacity in 2020.

Electrolyzers are devices used for the

industrial separation of hydrogen and oxygen within water molecules, using electricity obtained through renewable energy sources such as solar, wind or nuclear.

With the green energy transition underway, electrolyzers are becoming essential to replace traditional methods of producing industrial hydrogen.

These have relied on polluting methane gas in a process linked to the petrochemical industry which is inexpensive but results in greenhouse gas emissions.

The production of low-carbon hydrogen could reach 38 million tons by 2030 as long as all projects that have been announced are implemented, the IEA said

But the IEA is concerned about rising equipment costs due to inflation which are "putting projects at risk and reducing the impact of government support for deployment".

"Several projects have revised their initial cost estimates upwards by up to 50 percent," it said.

The agency is also concerned about the slow replacement of traditionally produced grey hydrogen for green hydrogen worldwide.

Low emission hydrogen accounted for less than one percent of the world's demand in 2022, the agency said, meaning hydrogen use accounted for 900 million tons of equivalent carbon dioxide emissions. **AFP**



China denies coral damage; DOJ, SolGen to talk WPS case

By Rey E. Requejo,
Macon Ramos-Araneta
and Vince Lopez

CHINA on Friday denied it was involved in the destruction of coral reefs in parts

of the West Philippine Sea, saying the accusations have no factual basis.

"We urge relevant parties of the Philippines to stop creating a political drama from fiction," China's foreign ministry said in a statement.

Instead, China urged the Philippines

to remove the BRP Sierra Madre from Ayungin Shoal "if it is really concerned about the environment."

"If the Philippines truly cares about the ecological environment of the South China Sea, it should tow away

Next page

China...

From A1

the illegally "grounded" warship at Ren'ai Jiao as soon as possible, stop it from discharging polluted water into the ocean, and not let the rusting warship bring irrevocable harm to the ocean," the statement said.

However, Justice Secretary Jesus Crispin Remulla said he and lawyers

from the Department of Justice will meet with the Office of the Solicitor General to discuss the strategy and legal options the government can take against China for the destruction of coral reefs in the waterway.

Remulla said he is also seeking the help of one of the foremost environmental law experts in Asia, lawyer Antonio Oposa Jr., "to help us with the task of forming a complaint when it comes to this destruction of the environment."

The DOJ views the filing of the case

as "a responsibility to the world to take a hand in matters wherein environmental destruction is being done," the secretary said.

The Philippines has "a moral responsibility to pursue the destruction of the environment as a task for the good of humanity," Remulla added.

The Armed Forces of the Philippines has suspected China of harvesting corals in Rozal Reef, before dumping the "processed" coral reefs in some parts of

the West Philippine Sea.

Last month, China demanded the Philippines remove BRP Sierra Madre from Ayungin Shoal, claiming that it had obtained a promise that it would be towed away.

However, President Ferdinand Marcos Jr. denied that the Philippines made such a promise to China and said if there were such an agreement he would rescind it immediately. *(See full story online at manilastandard.net)*



PHL, 74 other countries sign High Seas Treaty

SEVENTY-FIVE countries, including the Philippines, signed in New York City the High Seas Treaty, the first ever treaty to protect the oceans.

Foreign Affairs Secretary Enrique Manalo signed the High Seas Treaty, also called Biodiversity Beyond National Jurisdiction (BBNJ Agreement), on behalf of the Philippine government on September 20.

Other countries including the United States, China, United Kingdom, the European Union as well as Asean countries Indonesia, Singapore and Vietnam also signed on the first two days since the treaty was opened for signing in the margins of the United Nations High Level Week.

The agreement provides for the common governance of about half of the Earth's surface and 95 percent of the ocean's volume, the largest habitat on the blue planet.

It took almost two decades for the United Nations to agree to the text of the High Seas Treaty. On June 19, the UN adopted by consensus the text of the treaty, under the UN Convention on the Law of the Sea (Unclos).

The high seas are defined as areas in the ocean beyond the exclusive economic zones of coastal lines of coastal states.

Marine resources and biodiversity in the high seas provide ecological, economic,

social, cultural, scientific and other benefits to mankind.

70 percent is protected, while the rest face mounting threats such as pollution, overexploitation, climate change and biodiversity loss.

"Honored to sign today (September 20) the historic agreement under #1982UNCLOS on the Conservation and Sustainable Use of Marine Biological Diversity of Areas beyond National Jurisdiction Agreement. Proud to take this step to protect the world's oceans for present & future generations," Manalo said in his X post.

The legally binding treaty needs at least 60 ratifications, approval, acceptance or accession from these country signatories before it comes into force. On the part of the Philippines, a two-thirds vote of the Senate members is needed for the BBNJ Agreement to be ratified.

The Philippines is the second largest archipelagic state in the world and considered one of the eight mega-biodiverse in the world. The health of the oceans has a direct impact on the ecosystems, livelihood as well as the economy of the Philippines.

Once the treaty is implemented, it is hoped that the biodiversity of at least 30 percent of the planet can be protected by 2030. *Malair Tafasig-Bartolome*



PHIL: 74 other countries sign High Seas treaty

SEVENTY-FIVE countries, including the Philippines, signed in New York City the High Seas Treaty, the first ever treaty to protect the oceans.

Foreign Affairs Secretary Enrique Manalo signed the High Seas Treaty, also called Biodiversity Beyond National Jurisdiction (BBNJ) Agreement, on behalf of the Philippine government on September 28.

Other countries including the United States, China, United Kingdom, the European Union as well as Asean countries Indonesia, Singapore and Vietnam also signed on the first two days since the treaty was opened for signing in the margins of the United Nations High Level Week.

The agreement provides for the common governance of about half of the Earth's surface and 95 percent of the ocean's volume, the largest habitat on the blue planet.

It took almost two decades for the United Nations to agree to the text of the High Seas Treaty. On June 19, the UN adopted by consensus the text of the treaty, under the UN Convention on the Law of the Sea (Unclos).

The high seas are defined as areas in the ocean beyond the exclusive economic zones of coastlines of coastal states.

Marine resources and biodiversity in the high seas provide ecological, economic,

social, cultural, scientific and food security benefits to mankind. However, only about 1 percent is protected, while the rest face mounting threats such as pollution, overexploitation, climate change and biodiversity loss.

"Honored to sign today (September 28) the historic Agreement under #1982 UNCLOS on the Conservation and Sustainable Use of Marine Biological Diversity of Areas beyond National Jurisdiction Agreement. Proud to take this step to protect the world's oceans for present & future generations," Manalo said in his X post.

The legally binding treaty needs at least 60 ratifications, approval, acceptance or accession from these country signatories before it comes into force. On the part of the Philippines, a two-thirds vote of the Senate members is needed for the BBNJ Agreement to be ratified.

The Philippines is the second largest archipelagic state in the world and considered one of the eight mega-biodiverse in the world. The health of the oceans has a direct impact on the ecosystems, livelihood as well as the economy of the Philippines.

Once the treaty is implemented, it is hoped that the biodiversity of at least 30 percent of the planet can be protected by 2030. *Manila Bulletin*



Saving Philippine coral reefs

As defined and differentiated, coral is a live animal while a reef is a physical structure. Reefs are the habitat of corals which have been erected through the secretions of coral polyps over many generations. Reef-building corals are only found in shallow tropical and subtropical waters.

The Philippines, as a center of marine biodiversity, is widely recognized nowadays for its coral reefs and corals. This is on account of the fact that the country is located in the Coral Triangle, an area with more species of fish and corals than any other marine environment on Earth.

More than 10,000 miles of Philippine coral reefs support numerous species of reef fish and hard corals. They help protect the Philippine coastlines from erosion, typhoons and other dangerous impacts. Reef color, shapes and sizes attract foreigners to the country and play a big role in tourism. Though the medicinal use of coral reefs is still underdeveloped, the pharmaceutical industry holds on to the possibility of their being the source of cures



AMBASSADORS'
CORNER

AMADO S.
TOLENTINO JR.

for cancer, arthritis, Alzheimer's and other serious illnesses.

Actually, the islands of the Philippines lie at the apex of the Coral Triangle in the Indo-Pacific. Of late, a number of Philippine coral reefs have been written about in marine science journals and magazines. Among those are the Tubbatuba Reef (Sulu Sea), Apo Reef (Occidental Mindoro), Balicasag Reef (Bohol) as well as the reefs in Cebu, Siquijor and in the Mabini-Tingloy area in Batangas.

Healthy coral reefs are among the most biologically diverse and economically valuable ecosystems on earth providing valuable ecosystem services. They provide habitat, spawning and nursery grounds for economically important fish species; provide jobs and income to local economies, and most important, a source of food for millions.

Be that as it may, many uses of coral reefs are unsustainable

and could lead to serious reef decline. Deterioration of reefs has been linked to a number of causes: over-harvesting of reef organisms, destructive illegal fishing practices, uncontrolled tourism activities, pollution (i.e., plastics) and climate change. Furthermore, anthropogenic impacts on coral reefs can have far-reaching consequences on adjacent ecosystems such as mangroves, seagrass beds and open ocean.

The protection that coral reefs provide the coastlines from currents, waves and winds is particularly relevant to the Philippines where a minimum of 20 typhoons hit the country each year. And while white coral sand characteristic of Philippine island shores are traced to coral reefs, coral bleaching impacts have been traced in some areas, and the question is whether or not our coral reefs still have the capacity to recover from such events amid more chronic stressors such as pollution, overfishing and global climate change in particular.

The Philippines does not want legislation to protect the marine environment. Under the Local



Government Code (Republic Act [RA] 7160), local governments are mandated to protect the waters within their jurisdiction. We have the National Integrated Protected Areas System Act (RA 7586) as well as the national marine policy that complies with the UN Convention on the Law of the Sea. The Philippine Fisheries Code (RA 8550) established fish sanctuaries or marine protected areas (MPAs) all over the country. The Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources is responsible for the development, improvement, management and conservation of the country's fisheries and aquatic resources.

A very significant development in fighting reef decline in the Philippines was the timely proposal of marine scientists for the identification and setting up of small community-managed MPAs all over the country enlisting for the purpose the involvement of local communities. The proposal benefited not only coral reefs but also seagrass and mangrove areas to safeguard and strengthen their natural climate mitigation and

adaptation capacity.

Marine reserves were thereby established for coral reef areas in Palawan, Cebu, Siquijor, Bohol and the Mabini-Tingloy area in Batangas, among others, which proved very beneficial for the needed coral reef protection on which millions of Filipinos

natural climate mitigation and adaptation capacity.

Coupled with better enforcement of fishery laws and the effective implementation of coastal, land and water-use plans will help save the country's coral reef system.

Reported successful examples of coral reef conservation in the

Philippines are those in Negros Oriental, Batangas and the Tubatuba Reef National Marine Park where significant areas of reefs are legally protected. Initial understanding of why coral reefs should be conserved as well as cooperation among all stakeholders and community members are key elements of sustainable reef management. In short, people need to see a direct connection between a physically disturbed coral reef habitat and decreased fish catches, otherwise they will not take action to protect the reef.

The government, with the help of the private sector, can still re-

depend for survival.

The "silver lining" in the Philippine efforts at protecting its coral reefs could be traced to its program on the establishment of a network of MPAs benefiting not only coral reefs but also seagrass and mangrove areas to safeguard and strengthen their

Philippines are those in Negros Oriental, Batangas and the Tubatuba Reef National Marine Park where significant areas of reefs are legally protected.

Initial understanding of why coral reefs should be conserved as well as cooperation among all stakeholders and community mem-

bers are key elements of sustainable reef management. In short, people need to see a direct connection between a physically disturbed coral reef habitat and decreased fish catches, otherwise they will not take action to protect the reef.

The government, with the help of the private sector, can still reverse the destructive impacts of overfishing and climate change. Indeed, "being the epicenter of global marine biodiversity and the apex of the Coral Triangle, the Philippines is crucial to a healthy and resilient world," said Perry Alino of the University of the Philippines Marine Science Institute.



The hidden jewel: Presidential Proclamation 1636 and Rizal-Quezon's unnamed national park



Mountains and clear skies inside this park.



An unidentified fruit species in the unnamed national park, pine grove, and wildlife sanctuary.



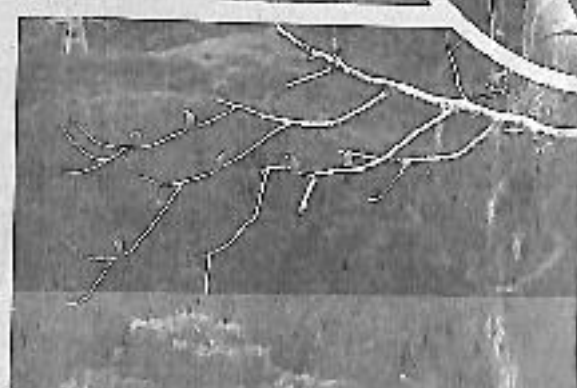
THE GREEN TEA
RUFF COMALAN

In the vibrant expanse of the Philippines, a vast treasure lies hidden in plain sight — over 100,000 hectares of a lush national park and wildlife sanctuary spanning parts of Rizal, Quezon, and other neighboring provinces. Intriguingly, this was an initiative by President Ferdinand Marcos in the '70s through Presidential Proclamation 1636.

This proclamation locally declared the area to be "withdrawn from sale, settlement, exploitation, or exploitation," with the intention of preserving it as a "National Park, Wildlife Sanctuary, and Game Reserve." Further, it explicitly prohibited activities detrimental to the sanctuary, such as hunting, wounding, or killing of wild animals, accumulation of vegetation, or causing disturbances to the wildlife habitats.

'It's pivotal for the President to uphold the essence of Proclamation 1636: Stopping further encroachments and eradicating harmful activities within the park should be top priorities. After all, such protective measures align with the Philippine Development Plan's vision.'

Despite its immense potential, many remain unaware of this invaluable park, a gem that's slowly slipping away from the hands of the nation. In the wake of a "locking" among agencies in recent days, the park's true story is being rediscovered. Not just a scenic beauty, it promises cleaner air and a healthier environment. A green sanctuary of this scale, located tantalizingly close to Metro Manila, can serve as a haven for its residents, granting a respite from urban malfeasance.



The pine-grove landscape (Pinus carolinensis) is one of the natural splendors that can be found inside Vinalang Cave, which is covered by PP 1636.

Presidentia, Proclamation 1636 encompasses ecological treasures like the massive pine grove and a portion of the Upper Palaran Watershed. These zones are not just ecological wonders but essential resources for a myriad of species, including us.

However, this green sanctuary has faced numerous challenges. The violation of the 1987 Rizal-Quezon Coalition, an alliance of over 80 groups, was crucial when securing agreements surfaced with the local authorities.

Though the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) said that it had ordered the cancellation of these agreements in September 2022, the shadow of vested interests persists, evidenced by continued hostility against environmental defenders, often backed by influential political figures.

Further exacerbating the situation, unauthorized forests and private structures have proliferated within the watershed, violating the sanctuary's

integrity and its intended purpose. Meanwhile, the security guard by environmental defenders has been dismissed, often diverting attention from these blatant transgressions.

In the light of these challenges, it's pivotal for the President to uphold the essence of Proclamation 1636. Stopping further encroachments and eradicating harmful activities within the park should be top priorities. After all, such protective measures align with the Philippine Development Plan's vision.

The dream to see Philippine national parks, the best in the world in terms of conservation, and sustainable tourism through innovative partnerships with civil society.

As advocates of nature and protectors of heritage, let us rally behind this cause, ensuring that this "hidden" park finds its rightful place and place in the heart of the nation. The time is ripe to recognize and celebrate this green jewel to a lasting legacy for all Filipinos.



STRATEGIC
COMMUNICATIONS
AND
INITIATIVES
SERVICE



000

PAGE

SEP 23 2023

DATE

Rare's 'Coastal 500' named The Earthshot Prize finalist

Leaders commit to protecting and restoring coastal ecosystems



Above: Leaders from the Philippines sign a local leadership pledge to support sustainable coastal communities.

Coastal 500, a global network of mayors and local leaders committed to healthy, prosperous, and thriving coastal communities, is one of the 10 finalists for The Earthshot Prize 2023. This is a prestigious global environmental award initiated by Prince William that celebrates and champions initiatives focused on solving our most pressing global climate challenges.

'Healthy oceans are vital to securing livelihoods, ensuring food security and slowing the effects of climate change.'

The Coastal 500, which first debuted in 2021, is among the finalists in the "Revive Our Oceans" category. The winners will be announced in Singapore on Nov. 7, 2023.

The Coastal 500, along with the 12 other Earthshot finalists, were chosen from more than 1,000 nominees. Each of the finalists will be in the running for a prize of 1.5 million pounds.

Currently, the Coastal 500 consists of more than 500 leaders or their equivalent from 100 countries in Asia,



"We should protect coastal ecosystems and communities, particularly in the Global South, without the support of local political leaders. This is the collective mission of Coastal 500, whose signatories are transforming the lives of the people who rely on the coast."

— ROCKY SANCHEZ TIRADO, managing director of Rare's Fish Forever program.

Central Asia, the Pacific, Indonesia, Micronesia, Mozambique, Papua, and the Philippines. These leaders represent communities adjacent to coastal ecosystems, which are at high biodiversity and critical habitats, but are under enormous pressure from climate change, overfishing, pollution, and other human activities.

The Coastal 500 leaders commit to protecting and restoring coastal ecosystems of vital and unique biodi-

versity, which are essential for food and food security for half a billion people worldwide, while curbing climate change.

Since its launch, the Coastal 500 network has been a global leader in influencing stakeholders within the coastal sector across various entities in public opinion, political will, and government policies impacting coastal ocean health and coastal communities. It has also provided essential technical and network support, and advocacy development for coastal leaders from

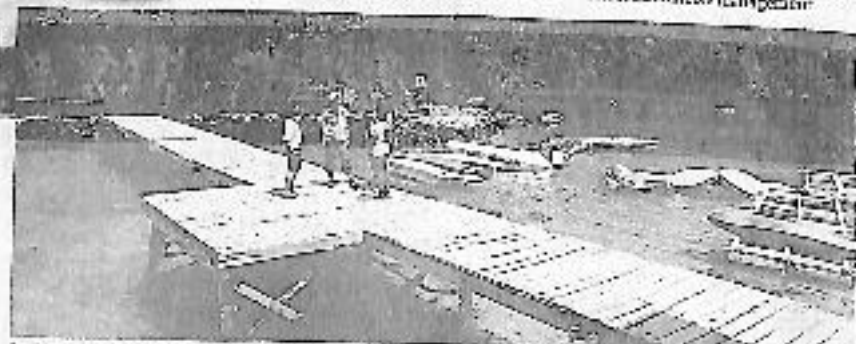
around the world.

"Healthy oceans are vital to securing livelihoods, ensuring food security and slowing the effects of climate change," said Rocky Sanchez Tirado, managing director of Rare's Fish Forever program. "Rare nominated the Coastal 500 for the Earthshot Prize because we know the best way to restore and protect our oceans is to give the communities closest to the coast, resources and rights to care for them. The members of the Coastal 500 are inspiring their fellow local leaders to commit to taking coastal communities through a path of protection and ecological restoration through local impact."

"The concept of the Coastal 500 is rooted in Rare's belief that locally led solutions achieve the greatest impact for people and nature," said Brock Janda, CEO of Rare. "We are thrilled to see the spotlight shine on these local leaders and the transformative ways in which they are inspiring even greater support for locally led ocean action. We are proud to be a part of this, and we will continue to support the leadership in working on a variety of coastal environmental challenges."

The primary impact of the Coastal 500 is the "Local Leadership Pledge," where members publicly commit to taking specific actions to build healthy, prosperous, and thriving coastal communities through activities focused on: Promoting responsible fishing behaviors, advocating for the rights of local fishers to access and manage, and ensuring participation in fisheries management, including co-management; Investing in community-based climate management and climate resilience and response with other local stakeholders around the world.

Here, through its Fish Forever program, is the main facilitator of the Coastal 500. It works to empower coastal communities to sustainably manage coastal resources and prevent and mitigate the negative impacts of climate change. The program has engaged over 1,000 communities across five countries and is helping place over 5.5-million hectares of ocean water under sustainable management.



Coastal 500 is actively restoring ocean habitats and promoting global coastal protection.



Gov't strengthens bamboo production

DEPARTMENT of Agriculture (DA) Undersecretary Deogracias Victor Savellano underscored the importance of bamboo in the agriculture sector and its contribution to the national economy during World Bamboo Day and Philippine Bamboo Month.

"Ang kawayan ay kailangan natin sa araw araw na kabuhayan natin, lalo na ang mga magsasaka at manggaganda. Kapag pinag-uusapan ang kawayan, ang number one problem natin ay 'yung raw materials. Iyan ang challenge sa arin, magtanim tayo ng kawayan. Even our president, noong pinag-uusapan ang kawayan, excited siya. We are now preparing to present the bamboo economics kami gusto natin, during the time of President Bongbong Marcos, ang industriya ng kawayan ay damo na," he said.

Under Executive Order (EO) No. 879, the DA must identify

idle and marginalized agricultural areas suitable for bamboo plantations. The agency will also assist in establishing bamboo nurseries and their propagation focused on bamboo shoot production.

In her message, Senator Cynthia Villar, chairperson of the Senate Committee on Environment and Agriculture, highlighted the economic and long-term sustainable benefits of propagating bamboo.

"According to the Sustainable Development Goals, bamboo has the potential of supporting sustainability in economic growth as it grows very fast and can be grown easily in different climate conditions and altitudes and thus, reduces the pressure on trees producing timber for products for wood," she explained.



Department of Agriculture (DA) Undersecretary Deogracias Victor Savellano (second from right) with Senator Cynthia Villar (third from left)

The event was highlighted by a bamboo planting activity at the Bambusetum in Marikina on September 18, 2023, led by the Philippine Bamboo Industry Development Council (PBIDC).

The PBIDC was created to help strengthen the bamboo industry in the Philippines. Its members include several national government agencies, with the Department of Trade

and Industry (DTI) as the chair. It is composed of the DA, with the Departments of Environment and Natural Resources, Education, Science and Technology, Labor and Employment, along with the League of Municipalities of the Philippines, two non-government organizations representatives, and one representative, each from two private industry associations.



The Manila Times
www.manilatimes.com



Manila, Philippines: Searca and
Department of Environment and
Natural Resources (DENR) officials
discuss the project on Sept. 22, 2023.

PH climate resilience in 3 areas enhanced

BY LEANDER C. DOMINGO

A NEW project that will enhance climate resilience in agriculture, natural resources and ecosystems in the Philippines is being led by the Philippine government-hosted Southeast Asian Regional Center for Graduate Study and Research in Agriculture (Searca).

Officially titled 'Accelerating Climate Resilience in Agriculture, Natural Resources and the Environment Project,' this initiative

aims to advance the government's climate resilience reform agenda under the Climate Change Action Program (CCAP).

The project brought together 47 national and international experts from relevant government agencies and multisectoral institutions in agriculture, natural resources and the environment to deliberate on the project's objectives.

It is done in collaboration with Niras Asia Manila Inc. and the International Center for Environmental Management, and funded by the Asian Development Bank. It kicked off with an inception workshop this month

and encouraged collaborative discussions to propel it forward.

Focusing on three key areas, the project aims to strengthen climate resilience in agriculture by promoting climate-resilient farming and supporting climate-smart technologies in crops, livestock and fisheries in collaboration with the Climate-Resilient Agriculture Office and National Organic Agriculture Program under the Philippine Department of Agriculture.

Searca Director Glenn Gregorio

noted that the project intends to enhance climate resilience in natural resources and ecosystems by expanding the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR)-Risk Resiliency Program with resiliency road maps, guidelines, online monitoring and capacity building to address climate hazards.

To be implemented in partnership with the DENR, the project seeks to improve agricultural insurance for climate risk by developing a medium-term insurance road

map for the Philippine Crop Insurance Corp., exploring innovative financing solutions and prioritizing financial sustainability and cost-effectiveness with the latter's guidance.

Cesar Umali, project deputy team leader, highlighted the project's role in advancing the government's climate resilience agenda as outlined in the CCAP.

'Together, these efforts will strengthen the Philippines' ability to face climate-related challenges head-on,' Gregorio said.



STRATEGIC
COMMUNICATION
AND
INITIATIVES
SERVICE

1900
1900
MANILA BULLETIN
THE NATION'S LEADING NEWSPAPER



SEP 23 2023

100

PH

DATE

Int'l treaty for non-proliferation of fossil fuels pushed

By ANNALYN JUSAY

Climate campaigner Udy Nacpil made history as the only Filipino and civil society leader to speak at the UN Climate Ambition Summit in New York on Sept. 20 where she called on world governments to take decisive bold actions for a rapid, equitable transition out of fossil fuels directly to renewable energy systems, undertake an international treaty for the non-proliferation of fossil fuels, and move for a global phaseout with clear timelines.

"The current commitments are nowhere near enough—we need new commitments and agreements, including an international treaty for the non-proliferation of fossil fuels and a global phaseout with clear timelines and fair sharing of actions to reach real zero (emissions) by 2050," Nacpil said in her three-minute speech where she represented the regional alliance Asian Peoples' Movement on Debt and Development as its coordinator.

She noted that transitioning out

of fossil fuels directly to renewable energy must be made "with no loopholes, no exceptions, no false solutions that merely extend the life of fossil fuels and serve as an excuse to continue emitting greenhouse gases."

Nacpil called on wealthy countries to meet their "full obligations to deliver climate finance." She deemed this necessary "for equity and fair sharing of efforts in the energy transition, without which this transition will not succeed."

"We, the people of the Global

South, are not asking for aid or assistance. Climate finance is an obligation and part of reparations for historical and continuing injustices. We have a right, not just to survive, but also to build a better home and future for our children."

"The climate crisis has already claimed millions of lives, wreaked devastating impacts on our health, livelihoods, food and water statements, caused trillions of dollars in damages to crops, homes and infrastructure, and triggered horrifying

disasters such as super typhoons, unprecedented droughts and raging wildfires. How much more pain, loss, and suffering will it take for governments and corporations to do the necessary?" Nacpil pointed out.

"We urge governments to meet their duties and obligations to their people, to all of humanity. We especially call on the governments of the wealthiest countries, who bear the biggest responsibilities for the climate crisis, whose commitments are the farthest away from their fair share of climate actions, and yet are fond of presenting themselves as climate champions," she stated.



STRATEGIC
COMMUNICATION
AND
INITIATIVES
SERVICE

Continued

The Manila Times

A5
2024

FREE
LOWER

PAID
STORY

PAID
STORY

PAID
STORY

PAID
STORY

SEP 23 2024

MIC

PAGE

DATE

PH environmental documentary gets Emmy nomination

"DELIKADO," Dangerous. This authoritative environmental journalist-directed and -produced documentary feature is not simply about environmental crusaders trying to protect Palawan's natural resources but a microcosm of Philippine politics and oligarchy as well.

I watched the full 97 riveting minutes of this acclaimed documentary Wednesday night and decided to write about it.

"Delikado" was the closing movie in last year's Cinemalya Independent Film Festival. Apparently, the film never made it to the commercial cinemas in the Philippines. Big cinema owners allegedly refused to screen it commercially to the public. One can view it through private screenings and online streaming only.

The movie was directed by Australian filmmaker and journalist Iain Malabanan and produced by Vancouver-based Michael Collins and Filipino broadcaster journalist Sara Magpanon-Alipala.

According to IMDb (an online database of information related to films, television series, podcasts, home videos, video games and streaming content online), "Delikado" already has four wins and seven nominations.

The four wins were Best Documentary Feature Film, Special Mention (2022 Asia Pacific Screen Award), Best Film (2022 Valladolid International Film Festival), Sustainable Future Award (2022 Sydney Film Festival) and Documentary, Special Mention (2023 Riviera International Film Festival).

The nominations were for the following — Best Documentary Feature Film (2022 Asia Pacific Screen Award), Best Documentary (2022 Hot Docs Canadian International Documentary Festival), Best Film (2022 DMZ International Documentary Film Festival), Green Docs (2022 Dokfest International Documentary and Short Film Festival), Best Documentary (2023 Riviera International Film Festival), International Green Film Award (2023 Cinema for Peace Awards) and Outstanding Investigative Documentary (2023 News and Documentary Emmy Awards).



ALL INSIGHT
ALS
VITANGCOL 3RD

The 2023 Emmy Awards ceremonies have reportedly been moved to Jan. 15, 2024.

A dangerous plot

Instead of parroting my own storyline, let me just reproduce the film's summary from the creators (www.delikadofilm.com) themselves:

"Palawan appears to be an idyllic tropical island. Its powder-white beaches and lush forests have made it one of Asia's hottest new tourist destinations. But a deadly network of environmental crusaders and vigilantes trying to protect its spectacular natural resources, it is more akin to a battlefield.

"But few people know it is on the path to environmental destruction. Politicians and businessmen are destroying Palawan at an unprecedented rate to extract its forests, minerals and fish. Urbanization and tourism are other pressures leading to the depletion of Palawan's natural resources.

"Delikado" follows Bobby, Tata and Nieves, three magnetic leaders of this network, as they risk their lives in David versus Goliath-style struggles trying to stop politicians and businessmen from destroying the Philippines' last ecological frontier.

"It is a timely film emblematic of the struggles globally for land defenders as they are being killed in record numbers trying to save natural resources from being plundered by corporations and governments. As the world faces its sixth-mass extinction and the climate emergency worsens, it has never been a more dangerous time to be a land defender.

"It is also a unique expose of President Rodrigo Duterte's 'war on drugs' in the Philippines, which has claimed thousands of lives and which the International Criminal Court of Justice has said may amount to a crime against humanity. 'Delikado' shows the drug war is used as a tool

for politicians to control the levers of economic and political power.

"Delikado" offers a story of courage and resilience to inspire others into action."

Politics and oligarchies

How could politicians and big business owners (sometimes these two arms are fused into one) ignore environmental concerns? It is a common perception that some politicians and big business owners are unmindful of environmental issues (although it's important to note that this generalization doesn't apply to a handful of individuals in these groups) due to some factors.

Government officials in leadership positions may choose not to fully understand the complexities of environmental issues or may even underestimate their significance. This kind of ignorance (or deliberate idiocy) can result in decisions that do not adequately consider environmental impacts. Politicians often face reelection pressures, which can lead them to prioritize short-term issues that resonate with voters over long-term environmental concerns. This may prevent politicians from taking proactive environmental stances.

It is no secret that politicians may receive campaign contributions or lobbying efforts from industries with a vested interest in environmental deregulation. This influence can lead to policies that favor business interests over environmental protection. More importantly, the low level of public opinion about environmental issues can influence the actions of both politicians and businesses. When environmental issues are not a top priority for the public, these issues may receive less attention from leaders.

Most businesses prioritize short-term profits over long-term sustainability. This can lead them to exploit natural resources without considering the environmental consequences. Profits may be maximized by cutting corners on environmental practices. Public awareness, advocacy and

pressure can play a significant role in pushing both political leaders and businesses to prioritize environmental issues and adopt more responsible practices. Sustainable practices and environmentally responsible policies are increasingly being recognized as essential for long-term economic and social well-being.

Drug war for political ends

"Delikado" sideswiped the government's touted "war on drugs" its fallacies and its value for furthering political ends.

Politicians may use a tough stance on illegal drugs to appeal to certain segments of the population who support a crackdown on drug-related crime. This can help them secure votes and gain popularity among constituents who are concerned about public safety. Those facing other challenges or controversies may use the drug war as a distraction. By emphasizing anti-drug efforts, they can divert public attention away from other pressing issues or scandals, such as environmental degradation.

Some politicians may use the drug war as a pretext to consolidate power and justify authoritarian measures. They may curtail civil liberties, limit press freedom or centralize power under the guise of combating drug-related crime. Politicians may use the drug war to manipulate election outcomes. For example, as shown in "Delikado," they might arrest or target opposition figures on drug-related charges to weaken their political rivals.

Public scrutiny, transparency and accountability are essential for evaluating the motives and actions of politicians in this context.

I dare the readers to watch "Delikado" — and be inspired to go into action.

"Delikado" teaser: <https://www.delikadofilm.com/videos/vj/delikado-teaser>

Email: allinsight@manilatimes@gmail.com

FB page: www.facebook.com/AllInsightManilaTimes

Viber account: (0915)4901087