

DATE : 08 DEC 2013

DAY : Thursday

DENR

IN THE NEWS

Strategic Communication and Initiative Service

Accredited Boracay hotels now 268

At least 25 more hotels have been added to the list of accommodation establishments allowed to operate in Boracay.

An updated list released by the Department of Tourism (DOT) yesterday showed there are now 268 hotels, with a total of 9,637 rooms, that are cleared to accept guests.

The Boracay interagency task force (BIATF) reiterated that only those that have complied with the requirements set by the Departments of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR), the Interior and Local Government (DILG) and DOT are allowed to operate.

Tourism Secretary Bernadette Romulo-Puyat had earlier said the BIATF would continue to accredit compliant accommodation establishments.

"More rooms will be available as we continue with Phase 2 and 3 of the Boracay rehabilitation. We are making sure the task force's requirements are complied with 100

percent," Puyat said.

The BIATF urged the public to avoid booking with establishments with no permits from the DOT, DENR and DILG.

Puyat said they are not setting a limit on the number of accredited accommodation establishments.

Fernando Roxas, executive director of the Asian Institute of Management Andrew Tan Center for Tourism had earlier told **The STAR** that there is no need to limit private companies from investing in tourist destinations as long as they comply with the regulations.

The government is limiting the number of tourists in Boracay to ensure the sustainability of the island, which was reopened last October after it was closed for rehabilitation for six months.

A study commissioned by the DENR showed that Boracay's carrying capacity is only 55,757 people per day, including its residents.

- Catherine Talavera

268 'Bora' hotels, resorts now open to visitors

A total of 268 hotels and resorts can now accommodate tourists and visitors in Boracay, the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) announced Wednesday.

In a twitter post, the DENR announced that there are 9,637 rooms available for visitors in the island-paradise.

Among the establishments now allowed to operate, the Fairways and Bluewater Resort and the Savoy Hotel in Barangay Yapak have the highest number of available rooms at 700 and 559 rooms, respectively.

Boracay reopened last Oct. 26 following a six-month closure for rehabilitation.

President Duterte earlier called for the closure and clean-up of Boracay after raising concern about the island's environmental and zoning problems.

Last Nov. 26, a total of 243 accommodation establishments have been accredited by the Department of Tourism after securing permits and clearances from the Department of Interior and Local Government and the DENR. —
Inquirer



Department of Environment and Natural Resources
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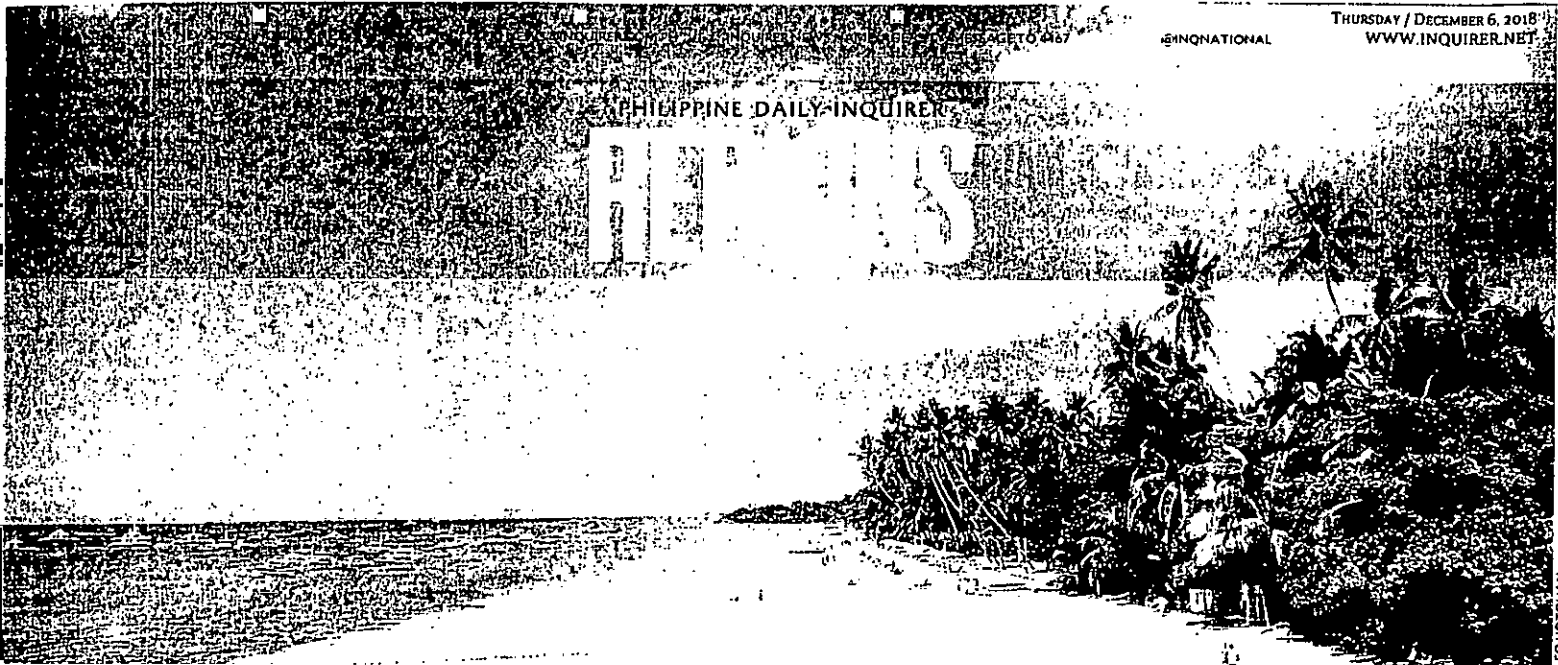
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ACTRESS' BEACH Alona beach on Panglao Island in Bohol province is named after actress Alona Alegre, who shot a scene here for the 1973 film, "Esteban," featuring the late actor Fernando Poe Jr.

Water quality at Panglao improving, tests show

Seven of 10 testing stations show coliform levels at acceptable, safe marks

By Leo Udtohan
@leoudtohaninq

TAGBILARAN CITY—Latest tests done by the environment department on the waters of Panglao Island in Bohol province, showed that most areas frequented by tourists there were safe for swimming.

"Panglao seas are safe for swimming and bathing," Panglao Mayor Leonila Paredes-Montero said in an interview aired over radio station dyRD on Monday night.

The towns of Panglao and Dauis compose Panglao Island, considered the crown jewel of Bohol tourism.

Montero said results of the water quality tests conducted by the Environmental Management Bureau (EMB) in Panglao last month showed that coliform level in Alona beach was down to 33 most probable number (mpn) per 100 milliliters (ml), way below the acceptable level of 100 mpn/100 ml.

Sampling stations

Tests done on water samples from Tawala 1, where Alona beach is located, registered coliform level of below 100 mpn/100 ml. Water samples taken from the same area in October showed coliform



ISLAND BREAK Tourists continue to flock to Panglao Island to enjoy the white sand and clear waters of Alona beach. —LEO UDTOHAN

level of 16,000 mpn/100 ml, prompting the Department of Tourism to declare the waters on Alona beach unsafe for swimming.

Of the 10 sampling stations, water taken from three areas showed unsafe levels. Danao 2 and Danao 3 posted 350 mpn/100 ml, while Doljo 2 had 240 mpn/100 ml.

The sampling station at Doljo 1 had 50 mpn/100 ml, while those at Danao 1, Tawala 2, Tawala 3, Bolod 1 and Bolod 2

recorded below 50 mpn/100 ml. Tourism Secretary Bernadette Romulo-Puyat earlier said the government had ordered a swimming ban at Alona beach in Panglao, Bohol, and at Buena Suerte beach in El Nido town, Palawan province, because coliform levels in these areas had exceeded the acceptable level.

Puyat said imposing the ban was part of the ongoing rehabilitation of El Nido and Panglao. Environment Secretary Roy Cimatu, during an inspection

here in March, gave owners of illegal structures on Panglao Island six months to demolish these, warning violators of court cases.

Wastewater

The Department of Environment and Natural Resources earlier identified the lack of wastewater treatment facility and "bottomless" septic tanks as among the problems contributing to environmental problems on the resort island.

In Manila, presidential spokesperson Salvador Panelo said President Duterte would allow the six-month rehabilitation of Panglao and El Nido without ordering their closure like what the government did on Boracay Island.

"The Cabinet agreed that there was no need to issue an executive order," Panelo said in a statement on Wednesday.

"No closure but rehabilitation," Puyat said in a text message.

Coron, Siargao next

She said Mr. Duterte and the Cabinet approved the recommendation of the task force that was formed to look into the state of tourism destinations in the country. Puyat, Cimatu and Interior Secretary Eduardo Año lead the task force.

"[The President] also instructed us to do other major destinations that do not follow environmental laws ... The President said all major tourist destinations should follow environmental laws," Puyat said.

She said they would visit Coron in Palawan and Siargao in Surigao del Norte province, "possibly by next year." —WITH A REPORT FROM CHRISTINE O. AVENDAÑO INQ

LEO UDTOHAN

Rody OKs rehab for Bohol, El Nido

President Duterte has approved the recommendation of the Department of Tourism (DOT) for the massive rehabilitation of tourist spots in Bohol and El Nido in Palawan, following the six-month

closure of Boracay in Aklan.

Salvador Panelo, chief presidential legal counsel and presidential spokesman, yesterday said the Cabinet had agreed on the rehabilitation of

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Rody From Page 1

Panglao Island and El Nido.

"The Cabinet agreed that there is no need to issue an executive order," Panelo said.

Tourism Secretary Bernadette Romulo-Puyat told reporters that the DOT, along with the Departments of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) under Secretary Roy Cimatu and Interior and Local Government under Secretary Eduardo Año, would ensure the rehabilitation of the two renowned beaches in the country.

Puyat said the President was happy that the rehabilitation efforts are underway and that environment laws are enforced in other areas.

"I was the one who brought it up in the Cabinet, and he said he was very happy," she said.

According to the tourism chief, Duterte said all major tourist destinations should follow environmental laws.

"We (Cimatu, Año and myself) first spoke to El Nido mayor last Nov. 14 at the DENR and we all went to El Nido last Nov. 28," she said.

Boracay reopened recently after a six-month closure. The rehabilitation efforts in Bohol and Palawan would be pursued, Puyat said, but no closures are needed this time.

In a chance interview at Malacañang, Año said they are not recommending a total closure of El Nido beaches but there would likely be a crackdown on resorts not complying with environmental laws, she said.

Island inspection

An inter-agency task force recently conducted an inspection of both the islands of El Nido and Panglao in line with efforts to begin the rehabilitation of the two tourist destinations.

Last month, the task force said El Nido would not be entirely closed like Boracay as local officials have agreed to cooperate with the national government.

"We'd like to give credit to the mayor and El Nido officials because they took the initiative to make this initial rehab and cleaning operations," Año said.

"This did not happen in Boracay. In fact, when we were trying to clean Boracay, there were so many objections from the local government unit," Año said. — **With Catherine Talavera, Christina Mendez**



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'EO not needed for Panglao and El Nido'

By Nat Mariano

PRESIDENT Rodrigo Duterte need not issue an executive order for the rehabilitation of Panglao Island in Bohol and El Nido in Palawan, the Palace said on Wednesday.

Presidential Spokesman Salvador Panelo said the Duterte's Cabinet members had agreed that an EO was no longer necessary for the government to rehabilitate the tourist destinations.

"On the rehabilitation of Panglao Island in Bohol and El Nido in Palawan, the Cabinet agreed that there is no need to issue an Executive Order," Panelo said in a statement Wednesday.

The Cabinet members reached the said agreement a week after Tourism Secretary Bernadette Romulo-Puyat said the government has ordered a swimming ban in two beaches in both Panglao and El Nido.

The Tourism chief added the Alona Beach in Panglao and Buena Suerte Beach in El Nido would not be allowed to swim for tourists and locals due to a high level of coliform, stressing the ban on the two beaches would be in effect "until the coliform levels are acceptable."

Coliform is a type of bacteria that comes from human or animal feces.

It can cause diarrhea and other water-borne diseases that can be fatal to children.

She explained the coliform levels in the two beaches had reached beyond the acceptable coliform count of 100 most probable number.

Puyat clarified the imposed ban was part of the government's efforts to rehabilitate the beaches of El Nido and Panglao.



Govt rules out closure of Panglao, El Nido

PRESIDENT Rodrigo Duterte will no longer issue an executive order for the rehabilitation of Panglao Island and El Nido because the two tourist destinations will not be shut down just like what happened in Boracay, Malacañang said on Wednesday.

Palace spokesman Salvador Panelo said there would be no total shutdown of Panglao Island in Bohol and El Nido in Palawan.

Duterte ordered the closure of Boracay for six months to pave way for the island's rehabilitation.

"On the rehabilitation of Panglao Island in Bohol and El Nido in Palawan, the Cabinet agreed that there is no need to issue an executive order," Panelo told reporters in a statement.

Tourism Secretary Berna Romulo-Puyat earlier barred tourists from swimming in Panglao and in El Nido due to "very high" levels of coliform.

A quality check by the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) in Panglao's Alona beach yielded a coliform count of 16,000 most probable number (mpn) while Buena Suerte in El Nido had 1,300 mpn.

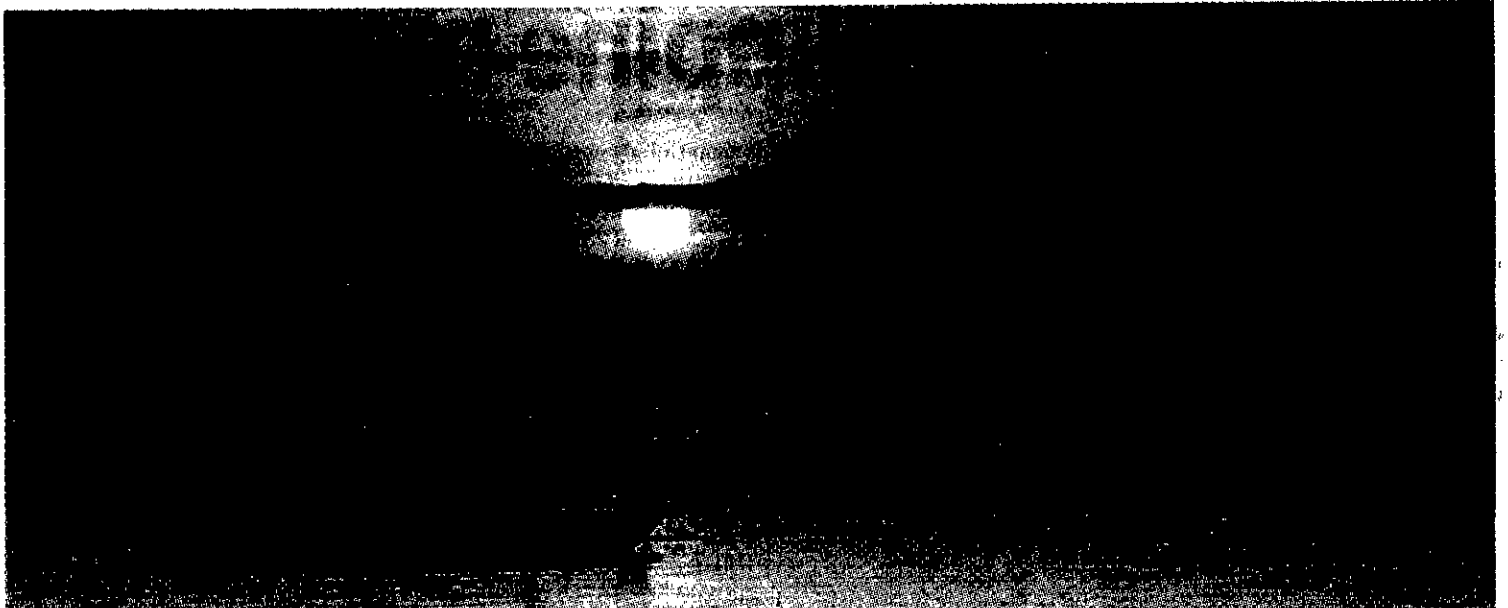
The DENR said normal water quality for beaches was 100 mpn, while swimming pools usually have 400 mpn. A count above 1,000-mpn level is risky.

Puyat told reporters in a text message that the presence of such bacteria indicated contamination, thus, local executives "should have enforced a 'no swimming' policy in the beaches because it's not good for the health of the tourists."

"Local chiefs should start enforcing strict and stringent measures or else we would be forced to shut these beaches down for rehabilitation," Puyat said.

The swimming ban will be lifted once the coliform count has been reduced.

CATHERINE S. VALENTE



Secretaries authorized to rehab Panglao, El Nido without EO

MALACAÑANG on Wednesday said the rehabilitation of Panglao Island in Bohol and El Nido in Palawan, two important centers for the resort industry, will proceed without an Executive Order (EO) from President Rodrigo R. Duterte.

"On the rehabilitation of Panglao Island in Bohol and El Nido in Palawan, the Cabinet agreed that there is no need to issue an Executive Order," Presidential Spokesperson Salvador S. Panelo said in a statement on Wednesday, Nov. 5.

The decision was made during the 32nd Cabinet meeting

on Tuesday night, Dec. 4, at the Aguinaldo State Dining Room in Malacañang, according to Mr. Panelo.

In a phone message to *BusinessWorld*, Tourism Secretary Bernadette Romulo-Puyat said the rehabilitation "has already started," and the timeline is "six months for both."

"We (Environment Secretary Roy A. Cimatu, Interior Secretary Eduardo M. Año, and myself) first spoke to El Nido Mayor on Nov. 14 at the DENR (Department of Environment and Natural Resources), and we

all went to El Nido on Nov. 28," she said.

"The three of us also spoke to the Panglao Mayor on Nov. 27," she added.

Initially, according to Ms. Puyat, the local officials "have to implement the 20-meter + 10 (easement zone) for Panglao and 20-meter in El Nido."

Also last month, the inter-agency task force led by DENR said it was set "to replicate the 'Boracay model of rehabilitation' in Palawan province and other top tourist destinations," including Panglao Island in Bohol.

"We have to maintain Palawan as the last ecological frontier of the country," Mr. Cimatu was quoted as saying in a statement on Nov. 15.

"Since we've started in Boracay, let's continue these rehabilitation efforts for the sake of the Philippines and the Filipino people, so that they can have something to be proud of," he added.

He also clarified that El Nido will not be closed down to visitors, unlike the shutdown of Boracay during its six-month rehabilitation. — **Arjay L. Balinbin**

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Resolusyon na nagtutuhan ng agensiya ng administrasyon

Rehab ng Panglao island at El Nido isusunod na

WALA nang nakikitang rason ang Malacañang para magpalabas ng executive order para magpatupad ng total closure sa Panglao Island sa Bohol at El Nido sa Palawan para bigyang daan ang kinakailangang rehabilitasyon.

Ayon kay Presidential Spokesman Salvador Panelo, ginawa ng pangulo ang pahayag sa cabinet meeting Martes ng gabi sa Malacañang.

Sinabi ng kalihim na nagkasundo kasi ang mga miyembro ng gabinete na huwag nang mag-isyu ng EO at hindi gayahin ang Boracay rehab project na sumailalim sa total closure ng anim na buwan para bigyang daan ang rehabilitasyon.

Una nang inirekomenda ng Department of Environment and Natural Resources, Department of

Interior and Local Government at Department of Tourism na isailalim sa rehabilitasyon ang Panglao island at El Nido dahil sa environmental problems.

Bukod sa nasabing mga lugar nauna naring lumutang ang panukala para isailalim rin sa rehabilitasyon ang Baguio City at Sagada sa Mountain Province. (Mula sa Radyo Inquirer)



East Asian states issue declaration for sustainable marine resources

Eleven countries bordering the seas of East Asia have issued a joint declaration affirming their commitment toward the conservation and sustainable development of coastal and marine resources in the region.

The Iloilo Ministerial Declaration entitled "East Asian Region Moving As One to Secure Healthy Oceans, People and Economies," was adopted by environment ministers and heads of delegation during the 6th Ministerial Forum of the East Asian Seas Congress 2018 held in Iloilo City from Nov. 27 to 30.

The 11 countries – Cambodia, China, Indonesia, Japan, Laos, North Korea, Singapore, South Korea, Timor-Leste, Vietnam and the Philippines – are members of the Partnerships in Environmental Management for Seas of East Asia (PEMSEA), an intergovernmental organization operating in East Asia to foster and sustain healthy and resilient oceans, coasts, communities and economies across the region.

PEMSEA, together with the Department of Environment and Natural Resources, facilitated the ministerial forum that was chaired by the

Philippines, represented by DENR Undersecretary Rodolfo Garcia.

Environment Secretary Roy Cimatu hailed the Iloilo Ministerial Declaration as "a reiteration and stronger call to action" among countries within the East Asian region.

"The Seas of East Asia are the most biodiverse marine areas in the world, yet they face severe threats from climate change and densely populated coastal communities," Cimatu said.

"The declaration, supported by the respective countries' plans of action, will ensure that partner countries will

work together in addressing complex issues faced by this region," he said.

The Iloilo Declaration recognizes the significant value and critical contribution of coastal and marine ecosystems' goods and services to securing food and jobs, helping to eradicate poverty, and building resilient coastal communities and blue economies in East Asia.

To achieve these benefits, PEMSEA member nations acknowledged the need to protect coastal and marine ecosystems from the impacts of climate change and other threats,

including marine-related disasters, destruction and loss of habitats and natural coastlines, biodiversity loss and degradation, and overfishing and lack of food security.

The countries also took pride in PEMSEA's pioneering work in the region to develop best practices in the design and implementation of the integrated coastal management approach, as well as in developing knowledge and capacity to build climate smart policies and enable ocean-based blue economies.

– Rhodina Villanueva



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PH No. 11 on global list of most climate deaths

PH among most affected by climate disasters

KATOWICE, POLAND—The Philippines is among the countries most affected by climate-related disasters, ranking 20th last year among 181 in the world, Germanwatch reported in its Global Climate Risk Index. Data showed that 2017 had the highest number of weather-related losses. "Urgent action is needed to step up mitigation and adaptation," said Marie-Lena Hutfils of Germanwatch. —STORY BY JHESSET O. ENANO

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By Jhesset O. Enano
@JhessetEnanoINQ

KATOWICE, POLAND—The Philippines is among the countries most affected by climate-related disasters, placing 20th last year among 181, according to a study released by an environmental policy think tank on Tuesday.

Despite the improvement of its ranking from No. 16 in 2016, the Philippines landed 11th overall with the most number of recorded deaths due to extreme weather events, according to the Global Climate Risk Index report by Germanwatch.

The report, launched on the sidelines of the United Nations climate talks in this southern Polish city, underscored the need to properly deal with the losses and damage caused by climate change.

Losses and damage refer to the impact and effects of climate change, some of which are irreversible, such as loss of life and threats to biodiversity.

More intense storms

Data showed that 2017 had the highest number of weather-related losses ever recorded. The study said more intense storms repeatedly battered poor countries, giving them no time to recover.

"Urgent action is needed to step up mitigation and adaptation," said Marie-Lena Hutfils of Germanwatch, one of the lead authors.

The index is based on the loss figures recorded in weather-related events, such as storms, floods, temperature extremes and mass movements. Researchers considered the number of deaths per 100,000 inhabitants, amount of losses in US dollars in purchasing power parity, and de-

clines in gross domestic product as indicators.

The report said 11,500 people died in 2017 due to extreme weather events, while economic damage amounted to around \$375 billion.

Puerto Rico, a US territory, was the most affected country last year after it was devastated by Hurricane "Maria" in September 2017, killing nearly 3,000 people. It was followed by Sri Lanka, which was battered by strong monsoon rains, leading to heavy landslides and floods that killed and displaced thousands.

Dominica was the third most affected country, after Maria also tore through the

Caribbean island nation.

5 Asian countries

Five Asian countries were among the top 10—Sri Lanka, Nepal, Bangladesh, Vietnam and Thailand.

In the Philippines, Typhoon "Vinta" (international name: Tembin), which hit Mindanao at the end of 2017, killed around 250 people—more than the 65 fatalities in weather-induced calamities recorded the year before.

During a 20-year period beginning in 1998, the Philippines was the fifth country overall that was most vulnerable to weather events, averaging more than 870 deaths annually.

The report said the country also lost \$2.9 billion annually to climate-related events.

David Eckstein, another author of the report, said countries that are repeatedly hit by extreme weather events need "predictable and reliable financial support for dealing with climate-induced loss and damage."

With the urgency to complete the rulebook for the Paris Agreement during the 24th Conference of the Parties, developing countries and civil society organizations are putting pressure on rich countries to not set aside the negotiations on loss and damage, which are often stalled in financial discussions. INQ



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PH No. 11 on global



'VINTA' FURY Typhoon "Vinta" (international name: Tembin), which hit Mindanao at the end of 2017, killed around 250 people—more than the 65 recorded the year before. —AFP



UN: World 'not on track' to slow climate change

The world is heading in the wrong direction as it is "not on track" to slow climate change after another year of near-record temperatures, the United Nations weather agency said.

Petteri Taalas, secretary-general of the World Meteorological Organization (WMO), said the world is not on track to meet climate change targets this year and rein in temperature increases.

"Greenhouse gas concentrations are once again at record levels and if the current trend continues we may see temperature increases 3-5 degrees centigrade by the end of the century. If we exploit all known fossil fuel resources, the temperature rise will be considerably higher," Taalas said.

Data from five independent global temperature monitors, which formed the basis of the latest annual WMO Statement on the State of the Climate report, indicated that this year is on course to be the fourth highest on record.

WMO said, "Worryingly, the 20 warmest years on record have been in the past 22 years, with the top four in the past four years."

"It is worth repeating once again that we are the first generation to fully understand climate change and the last generation to be able to do something about it," Taalas said.

The WMO secretary-general's comments support the findings of another authoritative global body, the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC).

In its report on Global Warming of 1.5°C, it concluded that the average global temperature in the decade prior to 2015 was 0.86 degrees centigrade above pre-industrial levels.

Between 2014-2018, however, this average has risen to 1.04 degrees centigrade above the pre-industrial baseline, IPCC's experts said.

"These are more than just numbers," said WMO deputy secretary-general Elena Manaenkova, noting that "every fraction of a degree of warming makes a difference to human health and access to food and fresh water."

The extinction of many animals and plants also hinged on global warming, the WMO official said, along with the survival of coral reefs and marine life.

"It makes a difference to economic productivity, food security, and to the resilience of our infrastructure and cities," Manaenkova said. "It makes a difference to the speed of glacier melt and water supplies, and the future of low-lying islands and coastal communities. Every extra bit matters."

WMO's report adds to the scientific evidence that will inform climate change negotiations from Dec. 2 to 14 in Katowice, Poland.

The key objective is to adopt the implementation guidelines of the Paris Agreement on Climate Change, which aims to hold the global average temperature increase to as close as possible to 1.5 degrees centigrade.

WMO added that this target is possible, according to the IPCC, but it would require "unprecedented changes in our lifestyle, energy and transport systems."

- Pia Lee-Brago



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Are we on track to meet the 1.5 C Paris climate goal?

THIS week starts the 24th Session of the Conference of Parties (COP24) to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) in Katowice, Poland, where thousands of world leaders, scientists, experts, activists, private sector and local community representatives from nearly 200 countries gather to ensure that the commitments made on the Paris climate agreement three years ago will work.

Two days before the start of the climate negotiations, the leaders of the world's top economies that belong to the Group of 20 (G20) met in Buenos Aires, Argentina and signed a joint statement titled "G20 Leaders' Declaration: Building Consensus for Fair and Sustainable Development." The declaration reaffirms that "the Paris Agreement is irreversible and commit to its full implementation, reflecting common but differentiated responsibilities and respective capabilities, in light of different national circumstances," with the exception of US President Donald Trump who reiterated their decision to withdraw.

The G20 may be a small group but it represents a significant portion of the world's economy — 85 percent of the global gross domestic product (GDP), 80 percent of global investments, 75 percent of international trade and 66 percent of the world population.

The world continues to get warmer

In "The State of the Global Climate in 2018" report released by the World Meteorological Organization (WMO) recently, the world has warmed nearly 1 degree Celsius before widespread industrialization.



ALL ABOUT CHOICES

LUDWIG O. FEDERIGAN

Global mean temperature for the first 10 months of 2018 was 0.98 C above the pre-industrial (1850-1900), according to the estimates of five independently-maintained global data sets.

The year 2018 is on course to be the fourth warmest year on record. This would mean that the past four years — 2015, 2016, 2017 and 2018 — were also the four warmest years in the series. The 20 warmest years have all occurred in the past 22 years.

The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) "Special Report on Global Warming of 1.5 C (IPCC SR15)" released in October reported that our average global temperature has reached approximately 1.0 C above pre-industrial levels, with a likely range of 0.8 C to 1.2 C. The report further said that it was likely to reach 1.5 C between 2030 and 2052 if it continued to increase at the current rate.

In a business-as-usual scenario, we are on track to reach a 4 C warming above pre-industrial by the end of the century. Current policies presently in place around the world are projected to reduce emissions and result in above 3 C warming above pre-industrial levels.

None of the biggest emitters are on track

If we are to rely on the assessments of the Climate Action Tracker (CAT), none of the biggest emitters are on track.

CAT, an independent scientific analysis produced by three research organizations, has been tracking climate action since 2009. It covers all the biggest emitters and a representative sample of smaller emitters, covering about 80 percent of global emissions and approximately 70 percent of global population.

The national actions are track based on: (1) effect of current policies on emissions — the

policies government has implemented or enacted and how these are likely to affect national emission over the time period to 2030, and where possible beyond; (2) impact of pledges, targets and nationally determined contributions on national emissions over the time period to 2030, and where possible beyond; and (3) fair share and comparability of effort — whether a government is doing its "fair share" compared with others towards the global effort to limit warming consistent with the Paris Agreement.

Based on CAT's analysis, only the government efforts of Morocco and Gambia are assessed to be in consistent with the Paris Agreement of 1.5 C limit.

The government efforts of the Philippines, Bhutan, Costa Rica, Ethiopia and India are well within but not way below the 2 C, and still too high to be in consistent with the Paris Agreement of 1.5 C limit.

Australia, Brazil, European Union, Kazakhstan, Mexico, New Zealand, Norway, Peru, Switzerland and United Arab Emirates are within the range of above 2 C up to 3 C.

Argentina, Canada, Chile, China, Indonesia, Japan, Singapore, South Africa and South Korea are within the range of above 3 C up to 4 C while Russia, Saudi Arabia, Turkey, the United States and Ukraine are above 4 C.

In another report, the "United Nations Environment Programme Emissions Gap Report 2018," which zeroed in on the G20 member countries that represent around three-quarters of our global emissions, of their commitments to the Paris climate accord, only seven countries — Australia, Brazil, China, European Union, India, Japan and Russia — are currently on track to meet their pledges by 2020. Six countries — Brazil, China, India, Japan, Russia and Turkey — are on track to meet their post-2020 pledges. However, these pledges may not be on the path that will lead their countries in fulfilling their commitments until 2030.

Move from words to action

Hundreds of millions of people, especially in the developing countries, will continue to be at risk if nations does not cut greenhouse emissions.

Now more than ever, unprecedented and urgent action is required by all nations. If we are to stay below 1.5 C global warming, our emissions have to peak no later than 2020.

A landmark UN report said that "it would require rapid and far-reaching transitions if we are to limit global warming to 1.5 C." It is, therefore, imperative that all nations should collectively work and ensure that our "global net anthropogenic CO2 emissions should decline by 45 percent by 2030, reaching net zero around 2050."

Secretary Emmanuel de Guzman of the Climate Change Commission, who heads the Philippine delegation to the UN climate negotiations in Katowice, Poland, said: "Climate change is moving faster than us. We need faster and bolder responses from all if we are to win this fight for human survival and security. We must rise up to the 1.5 C climate challenge to survive and thrive together."

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Department of Environment and Natural Resources
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Carbon tax revolt, exposé on IPCC shatter UN climate agenda

First word

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Philippine politics, I could not resist discussing one more time the climate change row — for a compelling reason.

The latest developments are shattering or seismic for the climate issue. As the song says, the end is near — not the end of the world, but the end of the UN climate

►MakabentaA4

agenda. The climate alarmists will go the same way as the flat earthers. They will turn to social media and become just a website or a curiosity.

Climate alarmists headed for defeat

Instead of beholding the fulfillment of its dire forecast of global climate catastrophe, the United Nations could witness the shattering of its climate-change agenda.

In a series of developments this week, Murphy's law ("whatever can go wrong will go wrong") has plagued the climate initiatives of the world body.

At nearly every turn, it now looks like the climate alarmists are headed for defeat. And climate skeptics are poised to prevail.

Behold the march of events:

1. *Carbon tax revolt* — The world has exploded in revolt against the once ubiquitous sword of carbon taxation. As if a repeat of the French revolution, the French people rose in uncontrolled anger against the fuel tax in many French cities.

The alarmist government of President Emmanuel Macron has been forced to postpone the tax. Other countries are also retreating from the tax.

2. *Book exposé on IPCC* — Climate skeptics in America have published a best-selling book that exposes the UN's Intergovernmental Panel for Climate Change (IPCC) as a scientific fraud. Titled, *The Politically Incorrect Guide to Climate Change*, the book was authored by Marc Morano, publisher of Climate Depot.

Morano details and quotes many UN scientists who have resigned and turned against the UN. The IPCC has admitted that the "solutions" they are

advocating have nothing to do with science. Scientists are not impressed with the latest UN attempt to re-engineer every aspect of human life.

3. *Climate change summit tuned out* — The ongoing UN climate change summit in Katowice, Poland will likely fall short of confirming the commitment of nations to radically cut down on their use of fossil fuels to bring down global temperature to 1.5 C or lower. The meeting may not even last up to December 14 as planned.

The French prime minister cancelled his attendance at the summit. Other countries stepped back from sending delegations. Even Al Gore, the self-proclaimed pope of global warming, may not show up in Poland.

4. *Leaders under threat* — Political leaders who are bigtime advocates of climate change action are increasingly under threat of being toppled from power, starting with Macron of France, who will almost surely be voted out next year.

As governments lose power, the talk will turn toward an overhaul of the UN leadership and the abolition of the IPCC.

Global carbon tax revolt

Macron blinked in the fuel-tax dispute with the Yellow Vests movement in France, as protests broke into riots and spread to many French cities.

Faced with another weekend of destructive protests, Prime Minister Édouard Philippe told a press conference on Tuesday that the tax increase would be pushed back six months.

The carbon tax revolt is worldwide. Voters in Washington state last month rejected a carbon tax.

Ontario province in Canada is suing to block a federal carbon

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Carbon tax revolt, exposé on IPCC shatter UN climate agenda

tax, and the issue could topple the Alberta government and perhaps, Prime Minister Justin Trudeau.

A carbon tax is in theory a more efficient way than regulation to reduce carbon emissions. But after decades of global conferences, voters don't believe that climate change justifies policies that would hurt the economy.

ICC posing as scientific body

In his 2018 bestseller, author Marc Morano charges that the UN IPCC is not a scientific body. The book documents the fraud.

He quotes a plethora of scientists, many of whom worked at one time with the IPCC. Among them are:

1. Prof. John Brignell: "The creation of the UN IPCC was a cataclysmic event in the history of science. Here was a purely political body posing as a scientific institution."

2. Kiminori Itoh, an award-winning environmental physical chemist from Japan who has turned his back on the UN climate panel. Kiminori contends that global warming fears are the "worst scientific scandal in history.... When people come to know what the truth is, they will feel deceived by science and scientists."

3. Climatologist Judith Curry on the new IPCC report: "Same old, same old". "The IPCC still has not made a strong case for this massive investment to prevent 1.5 C warming."

Morano writes in his book: "The notion that 'hundreds' or 'thousands' of UN scientists agree does not hold up to scrutiny."

5. The UK *Guardian* reported on how the sausage is made for the UN IPCC reports: "Nearly 500 people must sign off on the exact wording of the summary, including the 66 expert authors, 271 officials from 115 countries, and 57 observers."

This is allegedly a scientific process. And yet it somehow features "government officials" having a say in each line of the report's summary.

6. Climate scientist Mike Hulme took apart the claim that the UN speaks for the world's scientists. Hulme noted: "Claims such as '2,500 of the world's leading scientists have reached a consensus that human activities are having a significant influence on the climate' are disingenuous."

In fact, the key scientific case for CO2 driving global warming was reached by a very small gaggle of people.

7. UN climate panel lead author William Schlesinger disclosed that very few UN scientists are climate experts.

8. Harvard professor Robert Stavins revealed his disgust with the UN IPCC process for which he was a lead author.

9. UN IPCC expert reviewer John McLean: "The reality is that the UN IPCC is in effect little more than a UN-sponsored lobby group, created specifically to investigate and push the 'man-made warming' line."

Climategate and Clexit

As disclosures of dishonesty in IPCC have led to charges of Climategate, critics, scientists and political leaders have also started talk of Clexit — short for how nations can exit from the UN climate agenda.

From here, it won't be long before there is a call for change in the UN leadership or the abolition of the IPCC.

The UN could take back its forecast of global climate catastrophe. Global warming could be placed in a deep freeze.

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"WASTE"

Waste-to-Energy: A practical lesser evil



ROUGH
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I AM generally considered a sympathetic audience for those with environmental advocacies, and for good reason, which is probably why a strongly worded press release from the group No Burn Pilipinas (NBP) found its way into my inbox last week.

NBP describes itself as "an alliance of civil society groups who are advocating Zero Waste technologies and are calling on the government to uphold the ban on waste incineration." Its press release was a
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Waste

harsh reaction to a recent statement by Public-Private Partnership Center Executive Director Ferdinand A. Pecson that "waste-to-energy" (WtE) projects may be "the next wave of PPPs" in the Philippines due to chronic solid waste management issues and depletion of the country's indigenous energy sources.

Pecson's comments came in the wake of progress in Quezon City's bid to launch a WtE project, which would be the second one in the country; a smaller unit is already being developed in Puerto Princesa. According to Pecson, other cities such as Cebu and Naga have also expressed interest in the technology.

"The PPP Center's fantasy over waste-to-energy must stop and avoid giving wrong information to the public," the NBP's statement warned.

Unfortunately, the only organization giving wrong information to the public at this point is the NBP. Environmental advocates are generally thorough in their research and make sound arguments, but in this instance have chosen to discard rigor and reason.

In its statement, the NBP cites "a study" (which is not identified) that "shows that a pyrolysis plant for self-sustaining Energy from Waste is thermodynamically unproven, practically implausible, and environmentally unsound. The study also established the linkage between wide-

spread commercial failures and a lack of focus on thermodynamic fundamentals, along with an environment of indifference or ignorance towards energy balances and sustainability when these technologies are presented, assessed and financed."

The study is apparently the one entitled, "Waste Gasification & Pyrolysis: High Risk, Low Yield Processes for Waste Management," produced in March 2017 by GAIA (Global Alliance for Incinerator Alternatives), and it does make a strong argument against those technologies. It also happens to be completely irrelevant to the Philippines case.

Waste gasification and pyrolysis are indeed problematic and have yet to be reliably demonstrated at commercial scale, which is why they already have been rejected as options for WtE projects in the Philippines. In a pre-feasibility study to the Quezon City project done back in December 2016, for example, the Asian Development Bank discarded gasification technology as being inadequate to the city's needs in terms of the amount and kind of solid waste that has to be processed, economic soundness of the solution, and the relatively short time-frame available — the Payatas landfill, if it is not expanded in some way, will cease to be useable sometime between next year and 2021.

Backing an argument with a study that addresses a completely different technology than the one proposed for the various WtE projects being considered around the country — the more conventional, moving grate reactor incinerator — is at best sloppy.

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"WASTE"

But perhaps that is the best NBP can do in the face of realities that are outracing objectively better alternatives.

To be fair, the NBP statement does point out two very common problems with the WtE concept. First, waste incineration unavoidably produces harmful emissions; nitrous oxides, dioxin, and heavy metals are just a few of the nasty potential byproducts of the process. The NBP actually doesn't mention it, but incineration is also a prodigious producer of carbon dioxide, the one greenhouse gas everyone is desperately trying to reduce — burning waste produces CO2 on nearly a one-to-one basis, i.e., one ton of garbage results in almost one ton of CO2 emissions.

That is obviously not ideal, but there are two mitigating factors. First, developers of waste incineration technology are not ignorant; the equipment comes standard with extensive systems to "scrub" emissions and sequester the harmful byproducts. Second, even though the CO2 emissions are undesirable, a waste incinerator still produces roughly 30 percent less greenhouse gases than a landfill. Landfills produce methane, which is up to 3,000 times more potent than CO2 in its greenhouse effects, along with some CO2; waste incinerators produce no methane. Nor do incinerators produce harmful leachate that can contaminate ground water and rivers.

The second argument NBP makes against the Quezon City project is that the energy in WtE is unreasonably expensive; it costs about 10 times as much to produce one kilowatt (kW) by incinerating waste than it does with solar technology, accord-

ing to the group. That is objectively true; in terms of cost per kW or megawatt (MW), WtE is more expensive than every other form of generation technology available. That is also not the point. The point is to get rid of the trash; the energy is a helpful byproduct that helps to allay some of the cost and extract some extra value from the process. When the avoided costs of maintaining a landfill and transporting waste longer distances are taken into account, WtE clearly represents fiscal savings, though it might never actually be profitable.

The "4 R's" mantra — Reduce, Reuse, Repurpose, Recycle — championed by environmental groups like NBP is absolutely the ideal solution, and if fully realized, would ideally reduce solid waste by about 80 percent. But the reality for Quezon City is that it collects 1,700 metric tons of solid waste per day (to say nothing of the hundreds of tons more that is surreptitiously buried, burned, or dumped in waterways), and it has about two years to find a long-term, financially sensible, and environmentally tolerable solution to its current manner of dealing with it.

WtE is by no means a perfect solution, but in both ecological and fiscal terms, it is a definite improvement over landfilling. Rather than trying to obstruct the effort with impractical orthodoxy, environmental advocates like NBP should work with municipal governments on waste-reduction initiatives that can complement WtE projects and improve environmental management even further.

Email: ben.kritz@manilatimes.net



TITLE:

A POINT OF AWARENESS

PRECIOSA S. SOLIVEN

Claiming our sovereign rights in WPS - a guide for present and future generations (Part I)



During the launching of his eBook "The South China Sea Dispute: Philippine Sovereign Rights and Jurisdiction in the West Philippine Sea" last May 4, 2017, Justice Antonio Carpio hailed DFA Sec. Albert del Rosario as a true Filipino patriot, who filed the landmark arbitration case against China together with our foreign service officials who never fail to advance, promote and protect our national interest. He also thanked the Supreme Court for allowing him to take leave, en banc to travel to Vietnam, Malaysia, Indonesia and Brunei, the neighboring countries affected by the disputes the South China Sea.

Last Nov. 24, as keynote speaker of the first general assembly of Akademyang Filipino, an organization whose members include National Artists, National Scientists and the country's Ramon Magsaysay awardees Law of the Sea advocates stressed, "We all have one common purpose - to DEFEND, PROTECT and PRESERVE Philippine maritime entitlement in the West Philippine Sea."

Three-fold purpose of the e-book

First, the eBook is intended to inform the Filipino people about the vast maritime areas and rich natural resources that they own in the West Philippine Sea under international law. Once the Filipino people realize that these maritime areas and resources belong to them and to future generations of Filipinos, as affirmed with finality by a United Nations Convention on the Laws of the Sea (UNCLOS) arbitral tribunal, then the Filipino people will never allow any government administration, any government agency, or any government official to give away or compromise these maritime areas or resources in favor of a foreign state in violation of the Constitution.

Second, this eBook is intended to inform other coastal states of the world that it is in their national interest to help the Philippines protect Philippine maritime entitlements. That is why Vietnamese, Indonesian, Japanese and Spanish versions of this eBook has been released. For if China can grab for itself the maritime entitlements of the Philippines in violation of international law, then other coastal states may also lose their maritime entitlements to their more powerful neighboring states. This would end the rule of law in the oceans and seas of our planet.

Third, this eBook is intended to convince the Chinese people that the nine-dash line has no legal or historical basis. That is why a Mandarin version of this eBook has been released.

China's grand design

China's grand design is to control the South China Sea for economic and military purposes. China wants all the fishery, oil, gas and mineral resources within the nine-dash line. In the 1990s, China was taking only 20 percent of the annual fish catch in the South China Sea. Today, China is taking 50 percent of the annual fish catch in the South China Sea as more than 80 percent of its coastal waters are already polluted. China has the largest fishing fleet in the world, with some 220,000 sea-going vessels, about 2,600 of which go all the way to East Africa. China's fish consumption is the highest in the world considering its 1.4 billion population.

China is the largest net importer of petroleum in the world. China wants the lion's share of the oil and gas in the South China Sea. The Chinese estimates that the South China Sea holds 130

billion barrels of oil, and if this is correct, the South China Sea has more oil than either Kuwait or the United Arab Emirates. A reserve of 130 billion barrels of oil can supply China's oil needs for 22 years. The South China Sea is also rich in methane hydrates - said to be one of the fuels of the future. China wants to secure all these methane hydrates, which can fuel China's economy for 130 years.

China also wants the South China Sea as a sanctuary for its nuclear-armed submarines - free from surveillance by US submarine-hunting Poseidon aircraft or US nuclear powered attack submarines. China wants a second-strike nuclear capability, joining the ranks of the US and Russia. A second-strike capability means a nuclear power, after its land-based nuclear weapons are obliterated in a pre-emptive first-strike by nuclear-armed enemy, it can still retaliate with its nuclear-armed ballistic missile submarines. This second-strike capability deters an enemy from making a pre-emptive first strike.

Illegal reclamations and harvesting

of endangered species
The coral reefs in the Spratlys serve as the breeding ground of fish in the South China Sea. It comprise 34 percent of the world's total coral reefs, despite the South China Sea occupying only 2.5 percent of world's total ocean and sea surface. Coral reefs are the single most valuable ecosystem - a hectare of reef can produce a potential value of approximately \$350,000 a year.

From 2014 to 2016, China deployed dozens of dredgers

in the Spratlys. The rotating cutters of these dredgers pulverized the coral reef and the hard sediment on the seabed. The pulverized materials are pushed by pressure through a floating pipe and deposited on the rim of the reef. This kills all the coral reefs in the atoll. Dr. McManus, a marine biologist who has studied the marine life in the Spratlys, made a survey in February 2016 said "China's reclamations are the most rapid permanent loss of coral reef in human history. It's a terrible, terrible thing to do this. It was really a massive destruction."

The nine-dash line claim of China drilled into the Chinese

In December 1947, the Kuomintang Government of China adopted the nine-dash line claim, embodied in the *Location Map of the South Sea Islands*, released in China, February 1948, with 11 dashes forming a broken U-shaped line covering almost the entire South China Sea. The title of the map indicates China's claim of the islands enclosed by the eleven dashes, namely Pratas, Paracels, Macclesfield Bank, and Spratlys. China was silent on any claim to the surrounding waters. Scarborough Shoal is not mentioned in the map. Macclesfield Bank is not an island because it is fully submerged. In 1950, China under communist rule, announced the removal of two dashes in the Gulf of Tonkin. The line became known as the nine-dash line.

Once the Chinese people realize the falsity of the nine-dash line, they themselves will be too ashamed to press the nine-dash line claim before the world. That will be the time when the Chinese government can comply with the ruling of the arbitral tribunal.

(Part II - "China's Militarization of the South China Sea")

(Ref: "The South China Sea Dispute..." eBook by Antonio T. Carpio)



PEOPLES' DEMAND

INQUIRER



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CLIMATE JUSTICE

END COAL, FOSSIL FUEL USE, PEOPLES' GROUPS DEMAND

By **Jhesset O. Enano**
@JhessetEnanoINQ

KATOWICE, POLAND—Civil society organizations from all around the world formally launched on Tuesday the “Peoples’ Demands for Climate Justice” to urge countries, governments and private business to keep coal and other fossil fuels in the ground.

The various campaign groups gathered on the sidelines of the 24th Conference of the Parties (COP24) to the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) as they race against time to lay down the implementation rules of the 2015 Paris Agreement.

The climate talks are being held in the Silesian coal mining region of Poland, whose government recently issued a declaration for “just transition” for its workers who would be affected by the shift away from fossil fuel industries, such as coal mining.

Filipino activist Lidy Nacpil of the Asian Peoples’ Movement on Debt and Development said government representatives must keep in mind that the climate talks should not just be about technicalities.

Not just numbers

“The 1.5 degrees Celsius is not just a number. For us in the Philippines, it is a matter of life and death,” she told the Inquirer. “Sometimes they forget these are not just numbers, they are negotiating, but peoples’ lives and the future of our children.”

Without radical commitments and actions to reduce carbon emissions to keep global warming below 1.5 degrees C—one of the key components of the 2015 accord—the world may face stronger storms, harsher droughts and coastal flooding as early as 2030, according to a recent report by the Intergovern-



Sometimes they forget these are not just numbers they are negotiating, but peoples’ lives and the future of our children

Lidy Nacpil

Asian Peoples’ Movement
on Debt and Development
coordinator

mental Panel on Climate Change.

The activist groups called on governments to phase out subsidies to the fossil fuel industry and pledge to divest fully from fossil fuels by 2020.

They also rejected “false solutions” to the climate crisis and demanded that rich countries honor their climate finance obligations to developing countries, many of which are the most vulnerable to climate-related risks.

Not aid, but obligation

Harjeet Singh, who leads climate advocacy for ActionAid, said developed nations should remember that climate finance is “not an aid, but an obligation.”

“There is no justice without climate finance ... Finance is going to be the deal breaker or maker here and you don’t see the progress happening,” he said.

Nearly 300,000 from 129 countries have signed the “Peoples’ Demand,” which was to be handed over to the UNFCCC secretariat. INQ



Nickel industry sees 10-20% output decline in 2019

THE Philippine Nickel Industry Association (PNIA) is projecting a decline in nickel production of 10-20% in 2019, though companies expect to be profitable, with economic activity driven by the May elections and the 'Build, Build, Build' infrastructure program.

At the Pandesal Forum in Quezon City on Wednesday, Dante R. Bravo, PNIA president, said: "It's likely that production will be reduced 10 to 20%."

Mr. Bravo is also the president of listed nickel ore exporter Global Ferronickel Holdings Inc (FNI).

According to Mr. Bravo, nickel production will fall to 212,000 to 215,000 tons this year from 370,000 tons a year earlier.

He said that assuming a similar decline next year, nickel output will fall to 150,000 tons "which is less than 10% of the global requirement."

The decline in Philippine nickel production started in 2016 due to low prices and unfavorable weather. More recently, the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR), led by Secretary Roy A. Cimatu, also released an order limiting production area de-



GLOBAL FERRONICKEL HOLDINGS

WORKERS maneuver backhoes at a mine site of Global Ferronickel Holdings, Inc.

pending on the mine's production volume per year.

"If you limit the open areas, that means you lose certain flexibility," Mr. Bravo said. He also noted that the Philippines exports more than 90% of its nickel to China which is the country's biggest market.

Mr. Bravo said that the Philippines also has high power costs, while China has cheap power and many nickel processing plants.

"The other thing we have to consider, given that we have to compete with China, is where are we going to sell it? Also to China

because we don't have a local market here," Mr. Bravo said.

"They have the technology, they have the money, they have everything. What we can do is to be part of the value chain because they don't have the raw materials. If we're going through from end to end of the value chain, we simply can't compete," Mr. Bravo explained, however noting that the comparative advantage of the Philippines is that it has a higher grade ore.

Asked for his outlook on nickel prices in 2019, Mr. Bravo said: "Overall, we will have modest growth in 2019. [There's] elec-

tions. There's too much money in circulation. We're also hoping the 'Build, Build, Build' program will support economic growth in 2019."

He said that if prices for low-grade ore rise, it will encourage more production.

"We've been shipping more medium-grade ore because of the low prices of low-grade ore," Mr. Bravo said, noting that this trend may continue until 2019.

Currently, the Philippines has 48 metallic mines of which 30 are devoted to nickel ore. Most of the ore is exported to China for processing into stainless steel. — **Reicelene Joy N. Ignacio**



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Phl hosts IMO workshop on safe ship recycling

By JOSE RODEL CLAPANO

The Maritime Industry Authority (MARINA) hosted the International Maritime Organization (IMO) regional and national workshop on the ratification and implementation of the International Convention for the Safe and Environmentally Sound Recycling of Ships, 2009 otherwise known as the Hong Kong Convention.

In a statement posted on its website, MARINA said the workshop was participated in by representatives of Bangladesh, China, Hong Kong, India, Viet Nam, Pakistan and the Philippines, the regional workshop capacitated the IMO Member States for their eventual ratification, implementa-

tion, and enforcement of the Convention.

The workshop was delivered in Manila under the IMO Technical Cooperation Program, facilitated by various international maritime experts.

The IMO is a specialized agency of the United Nations responsible for global regulation of international shipping.

The IMO adapted the Hong Kong Convention to ensure that ships, when being recycled after reaching the end of their operational lives, do not pose any unnecessary risks to human health and safety, as well as to the environment.

MARINA Officer-in-Charge Vice Admiral Narciso Vingson Jr emphasized that the Philippines recognizes the impor-

tance of this platform in reinforcing the spirit of responsibility and solidarity among IMO member states that bear equal obligations in maintaining the highest standards in maritime safety, prevention of marine pollution, and shipping navigation and trade.

Lawyer Josephine Marie Uranza, IMO Regional Presence for Technical Cooperation in East Asia, said the Hong Kong Convention is the only workable instrument of ship recycling currently available for international shipping.

The regional workshop served as an avenue to raise awareness on various issues related to the Hong Kong Convention, to become more familiar with the international

regulatory requirements related to the Convention, to provide the best practice for the safe and environmentally sound recycling of ships, and to seek the way forward for participating countries to ratify the Convention.

The national workshop is a collaboration effort of the stakeholders such as the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR), Philippine Coast Guard (PCG), University of the Philippines Marine Science Institute (UP MSI), Shipyards Association of the Philippines (ShAP), Society of Naval Architects and Marine Engineers (SONAME), as well as steel recyclers and companies responsible in the disposal and handling of waste.



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Navotas MRF aids zero-waste city campaign

By Jun David

NAVOTAS Mayor John Rey M. Tiangco, together with Vice Mayor Clint Geronimo, Brgy. Captain Malou Gonzales and other city officials, recently led the inauguration of the Materials Recovery Facility at Brgy. Bagumbayan North or BBN.

Navotas has partnered with GAIA and Mother Earth Foundation to implement a Zero Waste Program, which includes the establishment of MRFs.

GAIA is a worldwide alliance of more than 600 grassroots groups, non-govern-

ment organizations and individuals who are leading the transition toward a zero waste world.

Mother Earth Foundation works with communities, schools and private institutions in the Philippines in implementing zero waste projects.

Both organizations observed the implementation of BBN's door-to-door sorted waste collection and its enforcement of environmental laws, together with deputized eco-police of the Navotas City Environment and Natural Resources Office.

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Police crack down on Agusan timber poachers

By MIKE U. CRISMUNDO

CAMP COL. RAFAEL C. RODRIGUEZ, Butuan City - The regional command of Northeastern Mindanao Police Regional Office 13 (PRO 13) on Wednesday ordered the arrest of timber poachers in Surigao del Sur and Agusan del Sur.

"These timber poaching must be stopped in an effort to preserve and protect the remaining forest cover in Caraga region," said Regional Director Chief Supt. Gilbert DC Cruz, in a directive Wednesday to all field unit commanders.

The regional police's anti-illegal logging force also seized illegally cut logs and lumber in separate operations in Agusan del Sur.

A team from the San Luis Municipal Police Station in Agusan del Sur and the Department of Environment and Natural Resource (DENR) confiscated 20.75 cubic meters of mixed dipterocarp logs worth P 103,650 in Barangay Don

Alejandro, San Luis.

Two other operations of the anti-illegal logging task force made up of police and DENR elements also seized 1,609.20 board feet of illegally sawn lumber worth close to P50,000 in Purok 2 and Purok 3, both in Barangay Sta. Fe, Esperanza town, also in Agusan del Sur.

The crackdown also resulted in the confiscation of P20,838.00 worth of mixed dipterocarp logs in three separate operations in Veruela, Sibagat and Rosario towns, on the same day.

"This success is attributed to the combined efforts of the PNP, DENR and other partner agencies in protecting and conserving the forests in Caraga region," Cruz told Manila Bulletin on Monday.



Phi, 195 countries to adopt Paris accord guidelines

By HELEN FLORES

The Philippines and 195 other countries are set to adopt the implementation guidelines of the 2015 Paris Agreement during the 24th session of the Conference of the Parties (COP 24) under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), which is being held in Katowice, Poland.

The Philippine delegation, headed by Climate Change Commission vice chairperson Emmanuel de Guzman, will reaffirm the country's leadership on climate action and highlight its initiative on climate justice to help vulnerable communities adapt to climate change during the two-week conference, which opened Monday.

Under the climate pact signed in 2015 in Paris, France, nations across the world committed to keep global warming well below two degrees Celsius and to pursue efforts to limit the rise to 1.5 degrees.

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

ciples in the talks," De Guzman said.

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

UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres opened the climate summit in Poland by issuing a dramatic appeal to world leaders Monday to take seriously the threat of global warming and act boldly to avert a catastrophic rise in temperatures before the end of the century.

Guterres named climate change as "the most important issue we face."

"Even as we witness devastating climate impacts causing havoc across the world, we are still not doing enough, nor moving fast

enough, to prevent irreversible and catastrophic climate disruption," Guterres told representatives from almost 200 countries gathered in Katowice.

The UN chief chided countries, particularly those most responsible for greenhouse gas emissions, for failing to do enough to meet the goals of the Paris climate accord. The 2015 agreement set a goal of keeping global warming well below two degrees Celsius (3.6 Fahrenheit), ideally 1.5 C (2.7 F) by the end of the century.

Citing a recent scientific report on the dire consequences of letting average global temperatures rise beyond 1.5 degrees, Guterres urged countries to cut their emissions by 45 percent from 2010 levels by 2030 and aim for net zero emissions by 2050.

Such a move, which experts say is the only way to achieve the 1.5-degree goal, would require a radical overhaul of the global economy.

"In short, we need a complete transformation of our global energy economy, as well as how we manage

land and forest resources," Guterres said.

He said governments should embrace the opportunities rather than cling to fossil fuels such as coal, which are blamed for a significant share of man-made greenhouse gas emissions.

In order to steer businesses and consumers away from heavily polluting forms of energy, he urged countries to embrace carbon pricing, something few countries have yet to do.

De Guzman said the climate talks are an opportunity for the Philippines to show leadership and momentum on global climate action and to ensure the completion of the implementation guidelines of the landmark Paris Agreement that addressed the priorities, needs and attainment of sustainable development for the world's poorest and most vulnerable countries.

The 2015 Global Climate Risk index put the Philippines on top of the list of 186 countries most affected by climate change. — With AP



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A broader look at today's business

Greenpeace cites 5 tuna canneries in Asean for 'green performance'

By JONATHAN L. MAYUGA

[@jonlmayuga](#)

ENVIRONMENTAL group Greenpeace on Wednesday named five tuna canneries in Southeast Asia as overall green performers based on their policies on sustainability, transparency and equitability.

These tuna canneries are the Alliance Select Foods International (Philippines), PT International Alliance Foods Indonesia (Indonesia), PT Samudra Mandiri Sentosa (Indonesia), PT Purefoods International (Indonesia) and Tops Supermarket (Thailand).

The five were among 23 canneries and brands from the Philippines, Thailand and Indonesia that were evaluated by Greenpeace as part of the tuna-ranking assessment made by the environmental group, Ephraim Batungbacal, Regional Oceans Research Coordinator for Greenpeace Southeast Asia, said in a statement.

"The Sea to Can: 2018 Southeast Asia Canned Tuna Ranking Report" was released by Greenpeace as a result of three years of proactive engagement.

"After three years of proactive engagement, brands and canneries in the region are now more open and collaborative to work with Greenpeace and consumers on fixing their supply chains. But, unfortunately, they are still not transitioning swiftly enough in response to the alarming state of our oceans," Batungbacal said.

Tuna continues to be the most economically valuable fish in the world. Southeast Asian countries Thailand, Philippines, Indonesia and Vietnam are among the top 10 exporters of processed canned tuna, with a combined income of \$3.016 bil-

lion. A total of \$7 billion worth of canned tuna products was exported in 2017, Greenpeace said.

The Greenpeace report comes at a time when tuna stocks globally are experiencing intense pressure from destructive fishing practices and overfishing. Illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing remains rampant in this part of the world. For this reason, the European Union—one of the biggest importers of tuna from the region—issued a yellow-card sanction against Thailand in 2015 and Vietnam in 2017 for failing to combat IUU, which remains in effect pending these countries' compliance.

Greenpeace's tuna rankings evaluate canneries by checking the company's performance against a seven-point criteria on their tuna sourcing practices.

The companies are strongly encouraged to favor and source tuna from lower-impact fishing methods, including pole and line, handline, troll or Fish Aggregating Devices (FAD) free purse seining.

This year, there were notable improvements in the sector.

Specifically, Greenpeace said more companies now have tighter policies on traceability and sustainability, resulting in increased procurement of sustainably caught tuna, with 11 companies sourcing using pole and line, and 11 companies sourcing FAD-free purse seine.

There is also a heightened awareness of issues on slavery at sea and improved measures to avoid inadvertently sourcing tuna associated with human rights and labor abuse.

Last, consumers now have access to more product information, with improved labeling at the point of sale for the public to identify the species and how tuna is caught.

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The Manila Times

"Two Iconic Birds"

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Department of Environment and Natural Resources
STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION INITIATIVES SERVICE

Two iconic bird species saved from extinction

CAMBRIDGE, UK: Targeted conservation action continues to yield positive results, with two of the world's rarest and most threatened bird species, Northern Bald Ibis and Pink Pigeon, the latest to recover from the brink of extinction, thanks to direct intervention.

The finding forms part of BirdLife International's latest assessment of the extinction risk of the world's birds, which is updated annually in BirdLife's role as the official Red List Authority for birds for The IUCN Red List of Threatened Species. IUCN is the International Union for Conservation of Nature.

Prior to this year's assessment, the Northern Bald Ibis was among 222 bird species worldwide classed as critically endangered — the highest possible threat category, indicating that a species is highly likely to go extinct in our lifetimes. However, the ibis has recovered to such an extent that it has now been downlisted to a lower threat category, increasing the total number of critically endangered bird species downlisted as a result of direct conservation action since 2000 to 2026.

The Pink Pigeon is even further along the journey to safety — having been downlisted from critically endangered to endangered in 2000, its threat status has now improved to vulnerable.

Against the backdrop of the ongoing biodiversity crisis, these results show that highly threatened species are not necessarily doomed to extinction, but can be saved with effective conservation action. However, the update also warns us that conservation challenges are continuing, with illegal trade, large-scale habitat loss and climate change at the forefront of these concerns.

As a result of these pressures, mainland bird extinctions are now on course to outpace island bird extinctions for the first time, meaning that targeted, species-specific interventions alone will not be enough. To effectively combat these threats, large-scale international collaboration between non-government organizations, governments, businesses and local communities is required, along with robust policies to protect the world's most important sites for nature.



The Northern Bald Ibis *Geronticus eremita* was once widespread and idolized across North Africa, the Middle East and southern Europe, and was even used as an ancient Egyptian hieroglyph. HARIBON PHOTO

Conservation successes

The Northern Bald Ibis population has reached a modern record and expanded to new breeding sites like Morocco.

The Northern Bald Ibis *Geronticus eremita* was once widespread and idolized across North Africa, the Middle East and southern Europe, and was even used as an ancient Egyptian hieroglyph. However, by 1998, habitat loss, pesticides and hunting had driven the population to an all-time low of 59 pairs, most of them confined to one breeding colony in the Souss-Massa National Park, Morocco, rendering it critically endangered.

BirdLife, working with the Moroccan government and organizations including Groupe de Recherche pour la Protection des Oiseaux au Maroc (GREPOM, BirdLife's Moroccan Partner), employed local fishermen as wardens to protect the breeding colony from human disturbance and predators. Thanks to this and further conservation measures, numbers have now risen to a modern day record of 147 breeding pairs, which in 2017 spread to two small new breeding sites. Following the likely extinction of the tiny Syrian population, the Moroccan birds constitute the only truly wild population. As its numbers remain very low, the bird is still categorized as endangered, and much work remains to be done to secure its long-term future. But semi-wild populations in Turkey and high-profile captive release projects in southern Europe raise hopes for further recovery across its former range.

Meanwhile, the Pink Pigeon is no longer endangered thanks to invasive species control on the Dodo's former home island like Mauritius, Indian Ocean.

The Pink Pigeon *Nesoenas mayeri* has been downlisted from endangered to vulnerable following decades of invasive species control and habitat restoration on Mauritius, the island where the Dodo *Raphus cucullatus* met its demise. In 1990, the Pink Pigeon's population had been reduced to only 10 wild individuals by habitat loss and introduced mammalian predators such as the Black Rat, Crab-eating Macaque and Small Indian Mongoose. In response, conservationists combined a captive breeding program with intensive conservation in the field. By 2000, efforts by the Mauritian Wildlife Foundation (BirdLife Partner in Mauritius) and associates had helped numbers to reach an estimated 300 individuals, and the Pink Pigeon was downlisted from critically endangered to endangered. This year, the species' wild population of 400 individuals was deemed stable enough to downlist it a further step to vulnerable.

The Red-headed Woodpecker and Henslow's Sparrow are also recovering thanks to habitat restoration in North America.

Formerly declining populations of Red-headed Woodpecker *Melanerpes erythrocephalus* and Henslow's Sparrow *Passerculus henslowii*, both native to North America, have stabilized, thanks to

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The Manila Times

"TWO ICONIC BIRD"

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habitat management. Henslow's Sparrow in particular has benefited from the United State's Conservation Reserves Program, whereby farmers are paid to remove environmentally sensitive land from cultivation and instead plant species that will improve environmental health and quality. This year, both species have been downlisted from near threatened to least concern, ideally how we would wish all life on earth to be categorized.

Emerging threats and challenges

On the other hand, seven Hornbill species are under severe threat from deforestation and hunting in Southeast Asia.

The seven Hornbill species have been uplisted to higher threat categories, primarily from deforestation. Most of these species are concentrated in the Sundaic lowlands of Southeast Asia, where rates of deforestation are highest. Hornbills nest in the largest, oldest trees, which are often the first to be felled. And in a vicious circle, forest loss is also making it easier for hunters to access these birds. Larger species such as the Great Hornbill *Buceros bicornis* and Rhinoceros Hornbill *Buceros rhinoceros* are often shot because they are mistaken for the Helmeted Hornbill *Rhinoplax vigil* (already critically endangered since 2015), whose unique solid "casque" is highly desirable on the black market as a fertility charm or status symbol. To combat this threat, BirdLife International has united with conservation organizations across the globe to implement an ambitious ten-year Helmeted Hornbill Action Plan, centered around sharing information and analyzing data to stem the illegal trade of hornbill ornaments at its source.

The Straw-headed Bulbul and Java Sparrow are, too, being trapped to extinction for the songbird trade in Southeast Asia.

The Straw-headed Bulbul *Pycnonotus zeylanicus*, also native to Southeast Asia, has been uplisted from endangered to critically endangered as one of many species decimated by Asia's songbird trade from the popularity of birdsong competitions, which offer large monetary prizes. The Straw-headed Bulbul is considered one of the very best singers, and in recent years trapping has been made easier by the loss of

wilderness across its habitat — as logging roads spread through the forest, the distance between access points is getting smaller, making it easier for trappers to reach the birds and leaving no safe refuges. Similarly, the Java Sparrow *Lonchura oryzivora* can be purchased from almost any pet store in Southeast Asia and has been introduced to places as disparate as Hawaii and Puerto Rico. However, owing to decades of trapping (which reached its peak in the 1960s and 1970s), its wild population, found only on Java and Bali, is now so small it has been uplisted from vulnerable to endangered. BirdLife, in particular our partner Burung, Indonesia, is tackling the Asian songbird crisis by identifying the last refuges of several songbirds in the montane rainforests of West Java and working with the Indonesian authorities and local communities to improve and extend their protection.

The Eastern Whip-poor-will and Rufous Hummingbird are well-known birds sliding to extinction in plain sight in North America.

The Eastern Whip-poor-will *An-trostomus vociferus* and Rufous Hummingbird *Selasphorus rufus* have been uplisted to near threatened. There had been little previous research into the health of their populations because of their image as "common" birds. The Eastern Whip-poor-will, a highly-camouflaged nightjar, is an intrinsic part of local culture and features in much American folklore. But long-term monitoring by citizen scientist birdwatchers has revealed that its population fell by over 60 percent between 1970 and 2014. Dependent on flying insects throughout the year, this species is particularly sensitive to pesticides, intensified agriculture and other factors that reduce insect availability, and is also a victim of habitat loss. Initiatives such as the aforementioned Conservation Reserves Program are a crucial starting point in reversing this trend.

The Rufous Hummingbird, although it famously feeds on nectar, also relies on insects during the breeding season, and as such, could be impacted by lack of insects in its forest habitat. Additionally, the species may soon become a victim of climate change: flowers are already blooming as many as two weeks earlier in some locations, meaning many hummingbirds arrive from migration too late to take advantage of this vital food source.



MATITINDI ang mga lindol na nagaganap sa Alaska at New Caledonia.

Tinamaan ng lindol na magnitudé 7 at may lalim na 25 milya o 40 kilometro ang Anchorage sa Alaska na malapit lang sa border ng Canada at United States.

Ito namang New Caledonia ay mga isla na nasa paligid ng Australia, New Zealand, Fiji at Vanuatu at nasa Dagat Pasipiko.

Tinamaan ito ng lindol na magnitudé 7.5 at may lalim na 10 kilometro lamang.

Habang tintipa natin ito, wala pang naitatalang namatay sa Alaska at New Caledonia.

MATINDI

Sa dalawang lindol, mas matindi siyempre ang lindol sa New Caledonia.

Lumikha ito ng tsunami sa malawak na karagatañ na ang taas ay tatlong metro.

Kung ano-ano ang mga pinsala rito na itinuturing na hawak ng bansang France, malalaman natin sa mga susunod na araw.

Pero sa Alaska, mga Bro, bagama't mas mahina ang magnitudé ng lindol o pagkilos ng kapaligiran dahil malalim ito, mas malawak naman ang sakop nito.

Giniba ng lindol ang mga bundok, highway at magiging ang mga riles ng tren ay sinira rin nito.

Putol-putol ang mga highway at kalsada dahil sa pagkagiba ng mga ito at nakita rin ang mga lumubog na parte na lumamon sa mga ito.

Marami ring gusali ang sinira at nag-crack.

Nagkaroon din ng mga blackout at pinatigil nila ang pagdaloy ng oil pipeline na mahigit 800 kilometro ang haba.

At ang matindi pa, umabot sa 1,800 ang mga aftershock mula Nobyembre 13 hanggang kahapon.

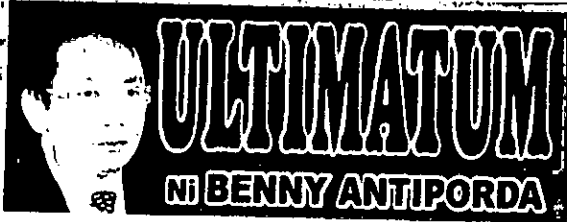
Puro takot ang inabot ng mga mamamayan sa Alaska na may 25,000 Pinoy.

GOOD NEWS

Titindig ang balahibo mo sa tuwa ng mga taga-Alaska bagama't nasiraan sila ng mga imprastruktura, tahanan, gusali at iba pa.

Natuwa sila dahil hanggang ngayon wala pang naitatalang namatay at ang mga ospital ay parang ordinaryo lang ang operasyon.

Natuwa rin sila dahil nagbunga ang masiksik ni-



MALALAKAS NA LINDOL DAPAT PAGHANDAAN

lang pagsunod sa kanilang umiiral na Building Code.

Ginawa ang batas sa mga gusali makaraang tamaan sila ng lindol na maghitudé 9.2 na pumatay ng 130 katao at sumira sa malawak na bahagi ng Alaska.

Ayon sa kanila, walang gumuho na mga gusali ngayon bagama't may mga bumitak lamang sa mga dinding at flooring.

Kung ano ang mahigpit na laman ng Building Code nila, dapat na pag-aralan din ng mahal kong Pinas.

Ang isang napakahalagang bagay rito ay sumunod ang lahat sa mga patakaran kung saan dapat itayo ang mga bahay o gusali, kung gaano dapat katayog at kalawak at kung paano gagamit ng mga materyales na kayang lumaban sa malakas na lindol.

Maging ang mga koneksyon ng mga kuryente, tubig at pipeline ng mga langis at liquefied petroleum gas ay hindi gaanong napinsala.

At kung may napinsala rian, nariryan ang mga mabilisan at masiksik na imbestigasyon at pag-aksyon ng pamahalaan para sa mga kinakailangan remedyo.

Lahat para sa kaligtasan ng mga mamamayan.

WEST VALLEY FAULT

Mayroon tayong inaantabayanan na malakas na lindol sa Metro Manila at mga karatig na lalawigang Bulacan, Rizal, Cavite at Laguna.

Manggagaling ito sa West Valley Fault na konektado sa lahat ng nabanggit na lugar.

May magnitudé na 7.2 ang lindol na ito at nasa pagitan ng magkasunod na lindol sa Alaska at New Caledonia.

Pero para magkaroon tayong saktong larawan, kasinglakas ng lindol mula sa West Valley Fault ang gumiba sa lalawigan ng Bohol noong 2013.

Mahigit 200 ang namatay, nasa 800 ang sugatan at may ilang missing.

Pero giniba nito halos lahat ang mga simbahan at marami pang mga tahanan at istrakturang pamahalaan at

pangnegosyo.

Hanggang ngayon, hindi pa nakababangon ang ilan sa mga biktima.

50K SA MM

100K SA BULACAN

Kapag maganap ang lindol ng West Valley Fault, sinasabing agad na may mamatay na 50,000 katao sa Metro Manila at kung magigiba pati ang Angat Dam sa Bulacan, may 100,000 ding Bulakenyo ang mamatay sa lunod na dahil sa 30' metrong baha mula sa dam.

Bukod sa malinaw na dahilan ng mga Bulakenyo, tiyak na manggagaling ang kamatayan sa Metro Manila mula sa mga magigibaing gusali, tren, poste ng kuryente, paralisadong ospital at iba pa.

Tanong: nasaan ang ating mga kahandaan at paghahanda laban sa lindol na malakas?

Dapat tayong magsanay nang magsanay laban sa lindol na ito.

BUILDING CODE

Tulad ng Alaska, mayroon din tayong Building Code o batas sa paggawa ng lahat ng istruktura.

Kung sumusunod nang todo ang mga taga-Alaska sa kanilang batas sa gusali, ganito rin ba tayo?

Napakaraming ginagawang gusali sa mga housing project.

Anak ng tokwa, titindig ang balahibo mo kung lapitan mo ang mga ito.

Napakarurupok sa liti ng mga bakal na ginagamit at rupok din ng mga hollow blocks.

Napakababaw pa ang mga pundasyon at halos ipinapatong lang sa lupa ang mga dinding na hollow blocks.

Pagkatapos, ibinebenta ang mga ito ng mahigit P1 milyon bawat isa.

Dapat mag-imbestiga ang mga kinauukulan dito.

oOo

Anomang reaksyon o reklamo ay maaaring ipatating sa 09228403333 o i-email sa bantiporda@yahoo.com.



DENR AT CHINA MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES PALALAKASIN ANG UGNAYAN NG DALAWANG BANSA

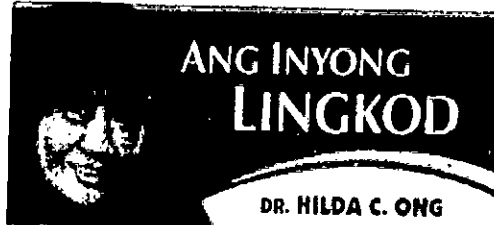
NOONG Oktubre 22, 2018, nagtungo sa Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) ang mga opisyal ng China Ministry of Water Resources (MWR) kasama ang anim na miyembro ng delegasyon na pinamumunuan ni Mr. Ye Jianchun, Vice Minister ng China Ministry of Water Resources upang bisitahin si Secretary Roy A. Cimatu para sa isang pagpupulong at diyalogo ukol sa mga patakaran ng ahensya na ginanap sa OSEC Conference room ng DENR.

Ang rationale ng diyalogo ay upang magkaroon ng pagkakataon na palakasin ang ugnayan sa pagitan ng People's Republic of China (PROC) at Pilipinas sa pagbabahagi ng kaalaman at kadalubhasaan sa mga tuntunin ng pamamahala ng mga magkukunan ng tubig.

Ito ay dinaluhan ng mga Undersecretaries ng Kagawaran at mga kinatawan mula sa siyam na iba't ibang ahensya ng gobyerno na may kaugnayan sa tubig tulad ng: National Water Resources Board (NWRB), National Economic Development Authority (NEDA), Bureau of Soil and Water Management (BSWM), National Irrigation Administra-

tion (NIA), Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH), Office of Civil Defense (OCD), Climate Change Commission (CCC), National Power Corporation (NPC), Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical and Astronomical Administration (PAGASA). Attached herewith is the attendance of the said activity.

Pinangunahan ni DENR Undersecretary Rodolfo C. Garcia ang nasabing diyalogo. Sa kanyang welcome remarks, pinahalagahan niya ang presensya ng mga Chinese delegates at binanggit na ito ang pangalawang pagkakataon na dumalaw ang isa pang pinuno sa DENR, pag-



DR. HILDA C. ONG

katapos ng pagbisita ng Chinese Premier Li Keqiang noong nakaraang taon na nagdala ng relasyon ng dalawang bansa sa mas mataas na antas at maraming mga kasunduan Naka-sign sa pagitan ng parehong pamahalaan.

Binanggit din ni Garcia ang mga layunin ng pagbisita nila sa bansa ay upang ibahagi ang mga balangkas, patakaran at mahusay na kasana-yan pagdating sa mga magkukunan ng tubig at ang mga epekto ng pagbabago ng klima sa tubig. Gayundin, sa mga tuntunin ng kalidad ng

tubig, ang pagkakaroon ng malinis na tubig ay isa sa prayoridad na programa ng kagawaran sa pagpapabuti ng kalidad ng tubig ng mga ilog at lawa at pagkontrol sa polusyon na ipinatutupad sa pamamagitan ng Clean Water Act.

Dagdag dito, sinabi ni Usec. Garcia na ang pagbisita ay magpapalakas ng komunikasyon sa pagitan ng dalawang bansa at pagtatag ng pundasyon ng pakikipagtu-lungan sa hinaharap at inasahan para sa isa pang produktibong pakikipag-ugnayan sa Tsiná sa pamamagitan ng MWR.

