



Republic of the Philippines
Department of Education
CARAGA REGION

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
RECORDS UNIT, REGIONAL OFFICE-CARAGA

RELEASED
JUNE 5 2025

BY: NMB

TIME: 2:20 PM

JUNE 5 2025

REGIONAL MEMORANDUM

No. 0565, s. 2025

To: Schools Division Superintendents
All Others Concerned

25th WORD CUP PHILIPPINES AND NINTH JOURNALISM MASTERCLASS

1. This office hereby disseminates the invitation letter from the Executive Director of Word Cup Philippines, inviting educators and students to participate in the 25th Word Cup and Ninth Journalism Masterclass on June 12-14, 2025 in Boracay, Aklan.
2. Further details about this workshop are provided in the attached communication.
3. Participation to this activity is at the discretion of the Schools Division Superintendents, including the determination of appropriate funding sources, based on the necessity, relevance, and educational value of the activity. Moreover, participation should not impair the conduct of other scheduled school activities.
4. For your information and guidance.

MARIA INES C. ASUNCION

Director IV
Regional Director

Encls.: As stated

Reference: Letter of Invitation

To be indicated in the Perpetual Index

under the following subjects:

CONVENTION
TEACHERS
TRAINING PROGRAM

CLMD/gsa
6/05/2025



Address: J.P. Rosales Avenue, Butuan City
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Doc. Ref. Code	RO-ASD-F107	Rev	00
Effectivity	02.01.23	Page	1 of 1



May 13, 2025

MARIA INES C. ASUNCION
Regional Director
Caraga

Dear RD Asuncion:

Greetings!

We are excited to invite you to the **25th Word Cup Philippines – Ninth Journalism Masterclass**, happening this 12–14 June 2025 in Boracay. This milestone event is a unique opportunity for students and educators to sharpen their journalism skills through immersive, practitioner-led training.

At Word Cup, we champion hands-on learning guided by respected professionals from the media industry. Our signature workshops and contests are designed to equip campus journalists and their mentors with practical tools, fresh perspectives, and real-world exposure. Participants will benefit from:

- **Interactive workshops** with working journalists, artists, and media professionals
- **Real-world simulations**, including press briefings and media interviews
- **Opportunities for publication** in leading newspapers for standout outputs
- **Individual performance-based contests**, guided by national-level evaluators
- **Recognition for schools and mentors** through the Word Cup Ambassadors Award

For teachers and students to take advantage of this exceptional learning opportunity, we respectfully request your support in **cascading this information to your schools**, and, if possible, issuing a memorandum to encourage participation. Schools may explore funding options through their MOOE or SEF or In-Service Training funds, as permitted under Section 17 of the special provisions for the DepEd budget, which supports various learning and development initiatives. As a learning leader, your support can empower your students and teachers to take part in the only authentic journalism training of its kind in the Philippines and Asia.

For inquiries, feel free to reach out via email at **wordcup.philippines@gmail.com**, or contact us at **0954 190 2247**. They may sign up through this **registration link**: <https://bit.ly/25thWordCupPH> You may also connect with us through our Facebook page: Word Cup Associated Editors Co.

We look forward to seeing you at this landmark celebration of campus journalism!

Truly yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Eugenio Sonny O. Calapit".

EUGENIO SONNY O. CALAPIT, Ed.D., En.P.
Executive Director

25th Word Cup Philippines		
Ninth Journalism Masterclass		
Indicative Matrix of Activities*		
12 June 2025 (Thursday)		
2:00 PM	Check-in for participants with additional night	
13 June 2025 (Friday)		
7:00-8:00 AM	Distribution of IDs & kits	
8:00-9:30 AM	Opening Program & Press Briefing	
9:30-10:30 AM	News Writing (NW) <i>Pagsulat ng Balita</i>	
10:30-11:30 AM	Mobile Journalism (MJ)	
11:30-1:00 PM	Lunch	
1:00-2:00 PM	Photojournalism (PJ) <i>Pagkuha ng Larawan</i>	
2:00-3:30 PM	Press Conference	
3:30-4:30 PM	Feature Writing (FW) <i>Pagsulat ng Lathalain</i>	Sports Writing (SP) <i>Pagsulat ng Balitang Isports</i>
4:30 PM	Output deadline for MJ, NW and PJ participants (PressCon coverage)	
4:30-5:30 PM	Editorial Writing (EDW) <i>Pagsulat ng Pang-ulong Tudling</i>	Outdoor coverage for FW, MJ, PJ, SP and STW participants
6:30 PM	Output deadline for EDW, FW, SP, MJ and PJ participants	
6:30-7:30 PM	Dinner and Feedback Session	
14 June 2025 (Saturday)		
8:00-9:00 AM	Science & Technology Writing (STW) <i>Pagsulat ng Agham at Teknolohiya</i>	Watercolor Wellness (WW)
9:00-10:00 AM	Workshop for STW participants	
10:00 AM	Output deadline for STW participants	
12:00 PM	Check-out for participants without additional night	
12:00-1:00 PM	Lunch	
2:00-5:00 PM	Awarding Ceremony Word Cup Ambassador Award (School Paper Advisers) Word Cup Institutional Ambassador Award Recognition of Exemplary Work	

* subject to change

DETAILS OF REGISTRATION

The objectives of the press coverage and national contest are to:

1. Enhance the writing, broadcasting and photography skills of teachers and students;
2. Develop skills in mobile journalism;
3. Provide insightful feedback on outputs;
4. Recognize and award exemplary work, and;
5. Publish quality outputs in national media.

Contests are optional and open to elementary, junior and senior high school, tertiary students and school paper advisers, language and communications arts teachers, department heads, school heads and public information officials.

Participants of Mobile Journalism are encouraged to bring their video cameras and/or laptops installed with video editing applications. Participants of Photojournalism are encouraged to bring cameras or cellphones.

WORD CUP AMBASSADORS AWARD

All **Word Cup Ambassador Awardee** aspirants need to submit a one-page briefer on the programs/accomplishments of the school in campus journalism for the last three years. If they were a previous Word Cup participant, a testimonial (one-minute video-message) on how the workshops have helped individuals or schools may also be submitted.

In addition, to be an Institutional Bronze Ambassador Awardee, a minimum of 10 participants are expected to attend, 15 for Institutional Silver Awardees and 20 for Institutional Gold Awardees.

ACCOMMODATION AND LOGISTICS

Rooms are **non-exclusive** (male and female may/may not combine in a room). Rooms can accommodate 4-6 persons, and from 10 up to 20 persons in the dormitories, first come, first serve basis.

Accommodation for **the night of June 13 is included in the registration fee**. Additional nights **prior** to June 13 and **after** June 13 will be charged accordingly.

Check in at Faith Gardens Boracay Station 3 is at 2:00 PM; Check out is at 12:00 NN.

Transportation expenses for activities outside the venue **are not included and shall be paid separately** should there be any media coverage outside the venue.

Participation fee per person is shown on the next page.

T-SHIRT CUTOFF DATE

The cutoff date for free t-shirts for Word Cup Boracay is 15 May 2025. This would give us ample time for production.

25th Word Cup Philippines Participation Fee per person	
Early bird <i>Payment made on or before 30 April 2025</i> <i>Inclusive of overnight stay on 13 June 2025</i>	₱6,500
Regular <i>Payment made from 1 May to 1 June 2025</i> <i>Inclusive of overnight stay on 13 June 2025</i>	₱7,000
Additional night stay <i>No meals included. ₱500 per night (dormitory) or</i> <i>₱800 per night (family room)</i>	₱500 or ₱800
Meals 12 June (Day 1): Arrival, meals not included 13 June (Day 2): AM and PM snacks, lunch, and dinner 14 June (Day 3): Breakfast, AM snacks, and lunch	

While no Word Cup event has ever been re-scheduled or cancelled, in case of force majeure and government pronouncement, forfeiture or price adjustment of fees shall take effect. For own cancellation, automatic forfeiture applies, subject to appeal.

Participation fees may be deposited to:

BDO Account Number 012330 081983
 Account Name: Word Cup Associated Editors Co.

Published Articles on the 21st Word Cup Philippines

Inquirer: Uptrend in science museums investment to benefit DepEd learners
bit.ly/InquirerOn21stWordCup

Sep 12, 2024

INQUIRER.NET

Today's Paper

NEWS

GLOBAL NATION

BUSINESS

LIFESTYLE

ENTERTAINMENT

TECHNOLOGY

SPORTS

OPINION

LATEST NEWS STORIES

HEADLINES

METRO

REGIONS

NATION

WORLD

CDN

NEWSLETTER

REGIONS

Uptrend in science museums investment to benefit DepEd learners

INQUIRER.net / 02:27 PM May 10, 2024



Dr. Eugenio Sonny O. Calapit, executive director of Word Cup Associated Editors Co., welcomes some 250 campus journalists to the 21st Word Cup National Journalism Conference and Contests at Angels Hill, Tagaytay.

MANILA, Philippines—A young campus journalist struggled to free a rope trapped inside a one-meter tall, square-shaped metal device. A puzzle master quickly intervened, demonstrating how to navigate the tubular labyrinth.

This “rope puzzle” was among the many interactive exhibits that captivated the 250 campus journalists and school publication advisers attending the 21st Word Cup National Journalism Conference and Contests held in Tagaytay City on May 4-5.

May Pagsinohin, executive director of the Philippine Science and Technology Foundation (PSTF), explained that science museums like these are designed to pique children's curiosity and interest in science.

While the PSTF-operated Science Centrum in Marikina remains closed to the public despite the lifting of health restrictions, Pagsinohin acknowledges that investment in science museums in the Philippines falls short compared to ASEAN neighbors.

EDITORS' PICK

MOST READ



GLOBAL NATION
Trump falsely accuses Ohio immigrants of abducting, eating pets



GLOBAL NATION
Wildfires around Los Angeles blanket city in smoke



GLOBAL NATION
Key takeaways from Kamala Harris-Donald Trump debate



LIFESTYLE
Fernando Amorsolo: A refresher on the first-ever Filipino National Artist



BUSINESS
Meralco hikes power rates by 15¢/kWh this September



ENTERTAINMENT
Manny Jacinto among nominees for People magazine's Sexiest Man Alive

TAGS: Journalism

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Manila Times: Campus journalism can boost interest in science

bit.ly/ManilaTimesOn21stWordCup

B12 **Campus Press** THURSDAY May 9, 2024



Word Cup Associated Editors Co. Executive Director Eugenio Sonny Calapit welcomes participants to the 21st Word Cup National Journalism Conference and Contests at Angeles Hill, Tagaytay City, on May 4 and 5, 2024. Campus journalists take videos and photos of the event as a reference for their outputs. CONTRIBUTED PHOTOS

'Campus journalism can boost interest in science'

SOME 263 campus journalists and school paper advisers from across the country can help "improve public understanding and appreciation of the value of science in everyday life," Science Communicators Philippines Inc. (SciCommPh) head Ruby Roan-Cristobal said during the 21st Word Cup National Campus Journalism Press Conference and Contests.

Roan-Cristobal, senior lecturer at the University of the Philippines Los Baños (UPLB) College of Development Communication, saw the need for scientists and those in the applied sciences to speak more publicly while challenging campus journalists to serve as "microphones" to hype interest in the field.

"Science communication and education help inform policymakers and provide sound bases for decision-making," she said.

The Word Cup, held at Angeles Hill in Tagaytay City on May 4 and 5, carried the theme "The Role of

Science Museums in Promoting A Science Nation: Fostering Interests in Science, Math and STEM-Related Courses and Careers."

Roan-Cristobal also hosts the Sunday radio program "Radio Hemo" on DZRH and has been the chief science research specialist at the Department of Science and Technology (DOST) for 46 years.

She said, "NGOs are more vocal" when many scientists who generate actual knowledge through research are often out of the picture.

Roan-Cristobal was with co-presenter May Paginohin, who

manages the Philippines' first museum dedicated to science, during the conference.

Paginohin, executive director of the Philippine Foundation for Science and Technology, who oversees Science Centrum, shared the views of Roan-Cristobal that scientists need to do more to help promote interests in the field, which in turn may prod public officials to fund science education.

She observed that public and private investments in science museums remain low.

While Science Centrum, a privately operated museum dedicated to promoting interests in the sciences, has served over a hundred thousand visitors over the years, the proportion remains low compared to around 26 million learners nationwide.

Paginohin said a financial investment of about P5 million is needed to create a regional science centrum. The organization currently has eight regional hubs in partnership with local governments.

Eugenio Calapit, organizer of the 21st Word Cup, said the event featured two of the country's experts "as a necessary first step in voluntarily assisting the Department of Education (DepEd) in promoting science and math education in view of the very low Program for International Student Assessment (PISA) ranking of 15-year-old learners in the country."

"They say that it takes a community to raise a child, and we add, properly communicating with them the issues and challenges can help address these concerns," Calapit, a former media professional with a doctorate and advanced degrees in education and management, added.

He added that the participants will submit their contest entries based on the information gathered from the press conference and their follow-up interviews with the presenters. After that, the evaluation will be done by invited Word Cup fellows, who are media practitioners. **THE MANILA TIMES**

The Manila Times
www.manilatimes.net

UST summit advances church heritage conservation

THE University of Santo Tomas (UST) is hosting the National Summit of Church Archives and Heritage Workers starting May 6, to May 11, 2024, at the Multi-Function Room, 5th Floor, Buenaventura Garcia Paredes, OP Building.

The summit has invited diocesan and religious archivists, parish secretaries, diocesan chancellors, and religious congregation secretaries, those appointed and directly involved in archiving roles, to participate in an academic and professional capacity-building event aimed toward the conservation of church archival heritage.

It will reorganize the Society of Ecclesiastical Archivists of the Philippines (SEAP) membership from around the nation, reinforce the involvement of the archdiocese, diocese, religious archivists, parish secretaries and records custodians in the implementation and fulfillment of the Church records preservation, discuss existing practices and explore the pivotal role of archivists and heritage workers, and provide knowledge and skills in managing the Church's cultural heritage records.

National Commission for Culture and the Arts (NCCA) Chairman Victoriano Manalo, graced the event and delivered a special message.

On the first day of the summit on Wednesday, UST Faculty of Civil Law Dean Nilo Divina delivered the keynote address on "Intellectual Property Law - Applicable to Ecclesiastical and Archival Record and Domain," Prof. Regalado Triola Jose discussed "The Status Quo of the Catholic Church Heritage in the Philippines," and Commission on Cultural Heritage Executive Secretary Fr. Milan Ted Torralba tackled "Archives and Canon Law."

Archdiocese of Manila Chancellor Fr. Isidro Marinay spoke on "The Interplay of the Work of Diocesan Chancellors, Parish Secretaries and Archivists," while NCCA National Committee on Archives head Emma Muñoz-Rey led the "Panel Discussion on Government Archives." Jeddyn Joyce Delgado from the National Archives of the Philippines and Vilma Rodriguez from the Senate of the Philippines Archives.

Also included were lectures from Fr. Jonas Ayanay of the Archdiocese of Cagayan de Oro, who headed the discussion on Diocesan Archives. Meanwhile, Sr. Wilma Bumbagbang, OP from the St. Catherine of Siena Archives, Fr. Mervin Lomague, OP from the Dominican Archives, and Fr. Nestor Impelido from the Salesian Archives jointly discussed the topic of Religious Archives and Family Search Philippines.

Concluding the four-day National Summit will be a celebrated Mass with Dumaguete Bishop Isidro Cortes as the main preacher and homilist.

Email archives@ust.edu.ph for more information. **TMT**

BulSU hosts intl education summit in Malolos

BULACAN STATE UNIVERSITY (BulSU) will host the 1st International Education Summit (IES) 2024 at the Malolos Sports and Convention Center in Malolos, Bulacan, from May 14 to 16, 2024, said BulSU President Teody San Andres.

With the theme "Sustainability for Quality and Excellence Through Transformational Outcomes-Based Education (OBE)," the summit aims to advance sustainability and excellence in education.

Guests of honor and keynote speakers are Commission on Higher Education (CHED) Chairman Prospero de Vera III and Sen. Joel Villanueva. De Vera, represented by CHED Region 3 Director Lora Yusil, will speak about "Key Higher Education Trends and Issues to Know."

Speakers during the plenary sessions include CHED OIC-Deputy Executive Director Lily Feorda Milla to talk on "HEI Internationalization: Meeting the Global Set-up

— Graduates' Employability and Capability" and "Father of OBE" William Spady to speak on "Quality Education Through OBE."

Mapua University Institute for Digital Learning Dean Jonathan Macayan will talk on "Transformational OBE: Challenges and Benefits" and "Designing OBE Framework, Instructional Materials and Methods and Strategies."

Mapua University professor and Association of Education Researchers and Trainers President Jasmine Pungu will talk on "Assessing Outcomes Skills and Competencies and Providing Feedback," and Philippine Normal University professor Felice Yeban will speak on "Empowering Leaders and Faculty Toward a Sustainable Quality Education."

The IES2024 is expected to gather participants across the academic, particularly members of the Philippine Association of State Universities and Colleges, government sector and nongovernment organizations to discuss the crucial



BULACAN STATE UNIVERSITY

INTERNATIONAL EDUCATION SUMMIT 2024

Theme: Sustainability for Quality and Excellence through Transformational Outcomes-Based Education

MAY 14-16, 2024

Malolos Sports and Convention Center, City of Malolos, Bulacan, Philippines

Quality Education through Transformational OBE

CONTRIBUTED IMAGE

role of OBE in driving positive change and innovation in higher education

ANTONIO G. PAPA

MSU prof wins Swiss Invention silver

MSU prof wins Swiss Invention silver



Sample Workshop Output of Previous Word Cup Masterclass (14th Word Cup)

ENVIRONMENTAL NEWS

Thursday, May 30, 2019

Go Green, read us at our e-mail: Kaviratana@gmail.com

Boracay REHAUSANCE

A year after its closure, what now?

Tut by JOHANNES L. CRUA

There is always an expectation when it comes to bureaucracy. No doubt, it is the country's most famous (or some would say, infamous) consistently ranking on top of most-worst destinations and vacation spots. However, if one is as a shock insensitive to those who have been in the island that the its most famous and rehabilitation was implemented amidst opposition.

Waiting. Bureaucracy once again after a year of its

April 23, 2018 closure, one can notice a striking difference. The island - especially the beachfront - is much cleaner. There is a sense of consensus but there are also the inconsistent visitors.

During the 11th World Cup held in Boracay, one noticed school campus journalists - students and advisers - to share their photos and words on how they and the advisers. They see hope but they also find that the lack of any to fully live in Boracay is not yet finished.

MAKING SENSE: 1-weekly early morning before tourists start their visit (2) served from the white beach which has expanded from up to 25 meters from the shoreline. The photo was taken by the 11th World Cup Philippines' Journalism Program's weekly newspaper advisers and campus journalists from around the country the views 'Prospects of a Balanced Ecology and Tourism Development: Opportunities and Challenges in Boracay and Beyond.' (Photo by Esther Sandoz S. Hernandez, Carpenter Hill Elementary School)

BE HUMANS, NOT PLASTIC

Tut by MARK JULIUS D. FUENTES

Malay's Municipal Ordinance No. 188 prohibiting the use of disposable plastic items among hotels, resorts, restaurants and business establishments is proof that the local government of Malay has learned its lesson. Nevertheless, despite the six-month-long 'highway of enthusiasm' during the island's rehabilitation, plastics are still freely accessible in some souvenir stores, convenience shops, and food stalls.

Nobody knows when single-use plastic bags became so pervasive and prevalent. They are accessible everywhere but they are cheap, useful and convenient. We find them - not just in Boracay - but in various places where people purchase goods especially in the markets because of its convenience. But at what cost?

Ben Cangelan identifies the harm plastic bags can cause, including how it affects aquatic animals through 'ingestion and entanglement.' Even when plastic products break down, the plastic lives on as smaller elements that get into the ecosystem with long-term negative effects.

According to the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR), the plastic ban implemented by Malay is correct but tourists admit that the ban is just a form of 'suggestion' as single-use plastics are still visible.

Tourist or not, we have to understand that in order to help Boracay fully heal, we must be disciplined. If the government has prohibited smoking, drink-

MOTHER AND CHILD - Both local residents, they do their daily routine of picking up litter left by tourists along Boracay's famous White Beach. In them, this is their way of showing their love for the island. For the mom, it is teaching kids the importance of sustainable tourism. (Photo by Ader B. Lagura/Division of Koronadal)

'Sustaining the positive effects of the cleanup of Boracay entails a joint effort with the residents and even tourists and businessmen.'

This can be done by following the set of rules, by being a responsible tourist and by helping spread the positive effects of sustainable tourism.'

DISCIPLINE IN DEED - Tourists line up to segregate trash in colored bins spread in one of Boracay's popular destinations in Station 2. The local campaign for solid waste management seems to have caught on since government allows commercial businesses to reopen in the island. (Photo by Engenio Sanyal S. Calangui)

GARBAGE COLLECTOR: Garbage collectors load segregated trash on a municipal truck which do daily door-to-door collection starting from 2 a.m. up to they finish their task. The trash will be hauled to Malay, on the mainland where there is a regulated dump site. (Photo by Ralph Anthony Gervacio/Tagaytay National High School, Sulfan Kataran)

CHANGING ENHANCEMENT

Tut by ANNA MARIE D. PIONERA

After six months of being placed under rehabilitation, Boracay opened its doors in October of 2018.

This October was indeed historic and momentous for it was considered as the rebirth of a better Boracay. The repairs of the sewerage system and the roads together with the standardization of how hotels and resorts should manage the waste are part of the things that the government has done that temporarily disrupted the business in the area.

After the six-month closure, there is a general feeling that it is just the start. The people need to ensure the sustainability of environmental efforts in order to prevent recurrences of what caused the closure of the island.

Dr. Al Grotto, the Deputy General Commander of the DENR National Task Force Boracay, when asked about the rehabilitation should not fall solely on the shoulders of the government.

Sustaining the positive effects of the cleanup of Boracay

entails a joint effort with the residents and even businessmen. This can be done by following the set of rules, by being a responsible tourist and by helping spread the positive effects of sustainable tourism.'

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Climate action now

By JOHN RYAN M. JACOT

Worsening global temperatures. Rising sea levels. Melting ice sheets. Blazing forest fires. The signs of an environmental crisis called climate change are around us and its effects create a colossal impact that continues to rock the ecological sphere and disrupt the dynamics of ecosystems.

Urban and industrial traditionalists assert that climate change action is a mere obstacle to the advancement of urban infrastructure and the quality of life, raise income levels, and develop business activities.

However, despite the fruits of industrial development, ecological sustainability continues to be compromised which further worsens the damage caused by climate change.

For instance, a 2019 United Nations report concluded that the world's oceans and ice sheets are under stress with fish populations already declining in many regions. Its fallout would be difficult to contain without immediate and sustained ecological action.

In addition, a 2018 report from PAGASA revealed that there will be an increase in annual mean temperature which shows a large amount of warming year per year. This change is being driven by increased carbon dioxide and other human-made emissions.

The global effects of climate change can be seen in the increase of sea levels where 23 cities are found to be highly vulnerable to a one-meter sea level rise. According to a 2017 study by the Asian Development Bank (ADB), this will

'Come together because your future is at risk. If we take action now, we can work together toward ensuring that our future and the future of the next generation will be safe.'

'Effectively flood cities around the world.'

The excuses made against climate change are heavy chains that entangle communities as the world seeks for ecological sustainability. Stakeholders of the environment – civic groups, the government, and all of us – should pool resources toward promoting simple yet dynamic ways to address climate change anchored in the National Framework Strategy on Climate Change.

It is best for everyone to answer the call of environmental action now, not later. Let us take it from the words of Sealbil Palito from the Climate Change Commission, who said: "Come together because your future is at risk. If we take action now, we can work together toward ensuring that our future and the future of the next generation will be safe."

Are you ready to take action now?

Just, it is a HUMSS student of the Calapit de la Juncosville Concepcion in Marikina, Cebu

EDITOR'S NOTE

During the 10th Word Cup held in Subic, students journalists and editors were selected to attend the Word Cup summit and workshop, and to listen to experts on various topics such as mental health and climate change. After the talk, participants were encouraged to submit an article on their reaction on climate change. Here are four of the best ones. — Johnnies L. Chua

No one is spared

By ROBERTAN B. CHAMPAUEL

Climate change is inevitable to ignore. It is no longer an abstract scenario of the future. We feel it now. We see it now. With urgency, we are now doing tangible actions to act now, with efforts on combating climate change on a global scale.

A lot of people say they are aware about climate change, but sadly, most if not all, actually only know little about it.

With overwhelming scientific evidences, reports, and data revealing extreme weather, record-breaking temperatures, melting glaciers, we tend to just admit ourselves at the mercy of nature. Well, perhaps not anymore especially in the case of the Philippines.

According to Sealbil Palito from the Climate Change Commission, under the Paris Agreement,

'Climate change is inevitable to ignore. It is no longer an abstract scenario of the future. We feel it now. We see it now.'

the Philippines has committed to cut greenhouse gas emissions by 70 percent by 2050.

"The commission is doing extensive information campaigns using all media platforms, symposia, and trainings on the effects of climate change, and to also relay things which can be done to deal with this issue," he said.

Scientists also suggest with certainty that the issue must be addressed in bigger perspective to gain global attention. Climate change must be given optimum attention, more than anything else.

Without doubt, the issue now is beyond the use of fossil fuel, industrial revolution, levels of carbon dioxide, forest-trapping gases and global temperatures. The argument now must be beyond the portals of forests burning, coral reefs dying, and water supplies shrinking.

It is about finding tangible and sustainable mechanisms to stop the damage. We need to act together as one. We need to do it now – faster and better – because no one is spared. Remember, we can fight climate change. We are the world's greatest resource.

Champaemel has 10 years of experience in advising school papers. He is currently teaching at Boracay National Comprehensive High School



Write about climate change

Dr. Crispin C. Masling, author and columnist at SoCebuNet, explains to participants, composed of campus journalists and school paper advisers, how to report on climate change in the talk "Engaging Various Stakeholders in the Climate Crisis" held during the 10th Word Cup in Subic. (Photo by Jethy A. Demingos)

Take the first step

By BJ LANSANG

Numerous national and international interventions have been proven to be inadequate in reversing the devastating effects of climate change.

Climate change has been a recurrent topic that it has already become a staple on newspapers and campus publications. And most of these articles focus on one topic – the "blame game."

Humans are not off the hook when it comes to climate change. It's an inherent fact that we are at fault here.

This is not a matter of judging who is to blame.

It's a matter of do, don't, or die.

In his talk, climate change resource speaker and author of *It's Not Us*, Dr. Crispin Masling, shared his insights and expertise on climate change.

Masling encouraged the young journalists to use the "power of the pen" in combating climate change.

"Be involved, take it as an issue, and write in publications," Masling said.

Actions speak louder than words. It is an adage that has continued to prove that it is easier said than done.

Everybody should take part in alleviating and eventually eliminating this global crisis. It is never enough to pinpoint the root cause of all of these.

Words are empty if not coupled with the right actions.

As Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. once said, "Take the first step in faith. You don't have to see the whole staircase, just take the first step."

We already know what needs to be done. We have to act now and save the planet. Take the first step.

Lansang is a school paper adviser of Columbian College (Barrato campus) in Zamboanga

No classes, yehey?

By REVELLE F. VILLANUEVA

It has been two months into the academic year, yet students have already missed a lot of classes due to frequent class suspensions. On the third week of September alone, out of the five school days, students in Carite have only attended their classes once, since their Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, and Friday classes have been suspended due to incident weather brought about by Typhoon Kima.

Meanwhile, posts on social media seem to show how most students are in favor of these suspensions. A little rain and they would be putting their hopes up to hear a word from their governor or mayor.

However, this frequent rainfall seems to be just a glimpse of a bigger picture. Dr. Crispin Masling, a veteran journalist who published books on climate change, talked about how rainfall patterns have changed and how "winds and rains have become more severe."

This was supported by Sealbil Palito from the Climate Change Commission, who underscored Masling's point. Typically, the Philippines encounters about 20 typhoons a year. Though the typhoons visiting the archipelago have lessened in

number, they became stronger in intensity.

"Monsoons are strengthened and there are new situations we have never experienced before," said Palito.

Palito lamented that local government officials are sometimes caught off guard by these changes but this has improved through time, especially now that they are more active in making decisions such as class suspensions.

"These changes are no doubt effects of climate change. However, students are not the only ones affected."

"Farmers don't know when to plant anymore," said Masling. He then "changed" the term climate change to make it not only as "climate crisis" but more as a "climate catastrophe."

"It [climate change] has become a threat to the survival of man," warned Masling. "The next time students hope for class suspension, may they be reminded of the bigger battle that all of us are facing. There is more to it than just taking a day off from class."

Villanueva, 26, is a communication arts student from Lyceum of the Philippines-Carite



Learn what PH is doing vs. climate change

Participants of the 10th Word Cup interview Sealbil Palito (center) of the Climate Change Commission to clarify how the Philippines when contributes a meager 0.12 percent compared to China's 28 percent and the US's 18 percent of greenhouse gas emissions can reduce it further by more than half without sacrificing industrial growth. Countries are racing against time to limit rising global temperatures due to the greenhouse effect. Breaching the additional two-degree threshold can lead to irreversible threat of sea level rise of close to one meter due to the unabated melting of polar ice. (Photo by Eugenio Amado Noel Jr., Calapit III of Marikina Science High School)

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MANILA BULLETIN

Environment News

Thursday, August 1, 2019



Text by PATRICK JUBERT B. BATAYO

Within the busy concrete jungle that is Metro Manila, one would not expect to find a haven for migratory birds just right at the south of Manila Bay. This area is called the Las Pinas-Panapaque Critical Habitat and Ecotourism Area (LPPCHEA), a plot that a highly urbanized place could still spare some space for environmental causes.

Paid off by being listed in the Ramsar Wetland of International Importance, the 175-hectare LPPCHEA takes more than 5,000 migratory birds which consider the latter as a rest stop from tedious migration over the months of August to July.

However, with urbanization creeping just right at its doorstep, ready to take over the mangrove-laden wetland, how much time do these birds have to enjoy this habitat?

Adding to that challenge, during the southwest monsoon, this critical habitat suffers from pollution due to the arrival of solid and liquid wastes, increasing the amount of coliform bacteria in the water. This harms the fishes too that temporarily serve as food for the birds that come from as far as Australia, Siberia and Japan.

It is also important to note that infrastructure development is gaining ground in the area which could affect the health of the 58-hectare mangrove



forest.

The impact of urban expansion towards the country's economy is undeniably significant. Urbanization entails with it the promise of increased employment, stronger international ties and a more equitable economic growth. But should this prosperity be at the expense of the environment?

The people behind LPPCHEA firmly believe that the habitat could be an urban destination where visitors could be offered a unique experience. Aside from learning about the importance of nature, see migratory birds in flight, and know the impact of the presence of mangroves, this could be an ideal site for 'voluntourism'—merging the joy of tour-

'Urbanization entails with it the promise of increased employment, stronger international ties and a more equitable economic growth. But should this prosperity be at the expense of the environment?'



A DENR worker, one of 49 personnel assigned at the LPPCHEA, gather garbage, mostly plastic and household non-biodegradable wastes which wash ashore from the Las Pinas and Panapaque river tributaries, Cavite and Bulacan areas. (Photos by Ivan Hope Baltazar of Tily Nits, Zamboanga Sibugay). Left: On average, since the Manila Bay Rehabilitation which kicked off in June, these workers and volunteers collect at least 50 sacks of trash weighing 6 to 7 kilograms when dry. (Photo by Sea Wely L. Eugenio from V. Mapa High School, Manila)

ism with the fervor of volunteering one's time and resources to promote empathy towards our one and only planet.

Sadly, we live in a time where considering our critical habitats as collateral to the surge of urbanization is justifiable.

But on the other side of the coin, if we get rid of our apathy towards nature conservation, LPPCHEA could not only continue to provide a temporary home for migratory birds for years to come but also become a shining example how environment conservation can exist side-by-side with urbanization.

(The author is an English teacher at Guadalupe National High School in Naga City, Camarines Sur.)

GREEN IS IN!

Eco responsibility

Toshiba Motor Philippines Corporation (TMPC) joined the Global Toyota Environment Month through a series of activities that raise awareness on environmental conservation. TMPC team members and representatives from the Toyota Suppliers Club (TSC) planted 200 trees inside the 11-hectare Toyota Forest at the Toyota Special Economic Zone in Santa Rosa, Laguna. Toyota volunteers also participated in the river clean-up along the Ilog-Santa Rosa River near the company's vicinity. By cleaning up the river, TMPC hopes to prevent further pollution and improve the waterways. The Ilog-Santa Rosa River is connected to Laguna Lake, which is one of the primary water sources for livelihood of nearby communities.



Corporate-led forest restoration program cited by CSR group

The future has, indeed, taken root for geothermal leader Energy Development Corporation (EDC) whose 'Binhi' greening legacy program has won the best corporate social responsibility (CSR) project in environment at the League of Corporate Foundation's 1st CSR Guild Awards.

Binhi is the first corporate-led forest restoration program that has been bridging forest gaps and bringing back to abundance our threatened Philippine native trees.

"This recognition is a big honor for us because it comes from our peers who have their own laudable CSR programs as well," said Atty Allan Y. Barcena, head of EDC's CSR group.

Planting trees and growing them have been an integral part of

sustaining the geothermal reservoir in EDC's geothermal reservation for over 40 years. In 2008, the company launched Binhi to expand the program by using science in planting and rescuing threatened native trees. A total of 56 threatened native tree species have been prioritized for this search and rescue program as their numbers have been dwindling, with some even believed to be extinct.

In 2017, EDC finished locating, collecting these hardwood species and began propagating them in 2018 through its Vegetative Material Reproduction (VMR) technology, which mimics our forest's natural environment in two automated nurseries located in the company's geothermal facility in Valencia, Negros Oriental and in Antipolo, Metro Manila.

Moreover, around 9,233 hectares of forest land within and surrounding EDC project sites has been rehabilitated. This is equivalent to about 4.4 million

seedlings planted all over the country in partnership with 109 farmers associations whose members are incentivized for helping EDC grow and maintain its Binhi areas.

EDC's Binhi experience shows that, with the right combination of win-win strategies and partnerships, the triple bottom line of environmental, social, and economic transformation is attainable.

Another good example of successful strategic partnerships is the 10 Million Trees in 10 Years for a Greener Negros (10M in 10) project, one of the finalists in the 1st CSR Guild Awards' Outstanding CSR Collaboration Project category 10M in 10 is a movement that EDC initiated in 2015 to grow back the forests in Negros Island by planting, growing, and maintaining 10 million trees in 10 years.

As of 2018, 10M in 10 has already planted over 6.2 million trees with the help of its 150 stakeholder partners.

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