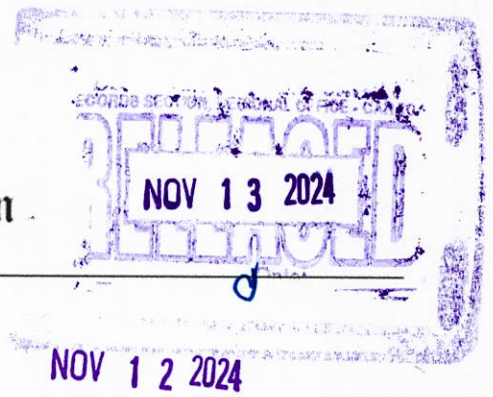




Republic of the Philippines
Department of Education
CARAGA REGION



REGIONAL MEMORANDUM

No. **1243** s. 2024

To: Schools Division Superintendents
All Others Concerned

23RD WORD CUP AND EIGHTH MASTERCLASS

1. This office hereby disseminates the invitation letter from Word Cup Associated Editors Co., inviting School Publication Advisers (SPA) to participate in the 23rd Word Cup and Eighth Masterclass on December 5-7, 2024, in Boracay, Aklan.
2. Further details about this workshop are provided in the attached communication.
3. Participation in this activity is at the discretion of the Schools Division Superintendents, including the determination of funding sources, based on the activity's necessity, relevance, and educational value. However, this office emphasizes the strict adherence to DepEd Order No. 9, s. 2005, "Instituting Measures to Increase Engaged Time-On-Task and Ensuring Compliance Therewith."
4. For your information and guidance.

MARIA INES C. ASUNCION

Director III
Officer-in-Charge
Office of the Regional Director

BY THE AUTHORITY OF THE REGIONAL DIRECTOR:


PEDRO TENEBRO ESCOBARTE JR.
Director III/Assistant 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
11/12/2024



Address: J.P. Rosales Avenue, Butuan City
Trunkline No: (082) 225-1151
Telefax No: (085) 342-5969
Email: caraga@deped.gov.ph
Website: caraga.deped.gov.ph



2024-11-18670

Doc. Ref. Code	RO-ASD-F107	Rev	00
Effectivity	02.01.23	Page	1 of 1



Certificate No.: PHP QMS
24 93 0191



No. 25 Kalayaan Avenue, Fort Bonifacio, Taguig City
0954 190 2247
www.wordcup.com.ph
wordcup.philippines@gmail.com

12 October 2024

MARIA INES C. ASUNCION
Regional Director

Dear RD Asuncion:

We are excited to invite your school publication advisers (SPAs) to participate in our **23rd Word Cup and Eighth Masterclass** in scenic Boracay, Aklan. As a premier professional development opportunity, this masterclass caters to the needs of our teachers in their roles as SPAs. Additionally, we welcome your top students who are passionate about honing their skills under the guidance of experienced practitioners.

Our workshops utilize a learning-by-doing approach, bridging the gap between theory learned in the classroom and practical, real-world experiences. On **December 5-7, 2024** we will offer our innovative experiential training method and provide an engaging and effective way to cultivate lifelong skills in communication and journalism.

To ensure that your teachers and students can benefit from this unique opportunity, we kindly request that the Regional Office **cascade the information** regarding the event. Ideally, we hope this can be funded through the school MOOE or In-Service Training funds, as permitted under Section 17 of the special provisions for the DepEd budget, which covers other learning and development interventions.

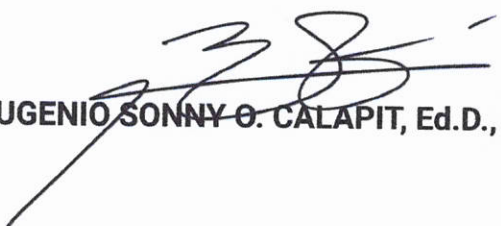
The wider dissemination of this opportunity would greatly support the participation of your teachers and learners. As educational leaders, you have the chance to introduce your team to the only authentic journalism training workshop in the Philippines and Asia.

Interested participants can register through this link: <https://bit.ly/23rdWordCupPH>. For further inquiries, please contact me at wordcup.philippines@gmail.com or 0954 190 2247. You can also find more information on our Facebook page, Word Cup Associated Editors Co.

We look forward to your favorable consideration of our request and hope to welcome your SPAs, academic leaders, subject area teachers and campus journalists to this enriching event.

Thank you for your time and support.

Warm regards,


EUGENIO SONNY O. CALAPIT, Ed.D., EnP

23rd Word Cup Philippines

Matrix of Activities*

5 December 2024 (Thursday)

2:00 PM	Check-in for participants with additional night
2:00-5:00 PM	Distribution of IDs & kits (bag with pen & paper)

6 December 2024 (Friday)

7:00-8:00 AM	Distribution of IDs & kits (bag with pen & paper)
8:00-9:00 AM	Opening Program & Press Briefing
9:00-10:00 AM	News Writing (NW) <i>Pagsulat ng Balita</i>
10:00-11:00 AM	Mobile Journalism (MJ)
11:00-12:00 PM	Photojournalism (PJ) <i>Pagkuha ng Larawan</i>
12:00-1:00 PM	Press Conference & Lunch
1:00-2:00 PM	Feature Writing (FW) <i>Pagsulat ng Lathalain</i>
2:00 PM	Output deadline NW, MJ, & PJ participants (PressCon coverage) Check-in for participants without additional night
2:00-3:00 PM	Interview/data gathering/story development/photoshoot for FW, MJ, PJ Topic for FW: Outdoor/community or PressCon Topic for MJ & PJ: Outdoor/community
2:00-3:00 PM	Editorial and Column Writing (ECW) <i>Pagsulat ng Pang-ulong Tudling at Kolum</i>
3:00-4:00 PM	Workshop (for ECW participants)
4:00 PM	Output deadline ECW & FW participants
4:00-6:00 PM	Feedback session (for ECW, FW, NW, MJ, & PJ participants)
6:00 PM	Output deadline for MJ & PJ participants (Outdoor coverage)
6:00-7:00 PM	Dinner

7 December 2024 (Saturday)

8:00-9:00 AM	Copyreading & Headline Writing (CHW) <i>Pag-uulo at Pagwawasto ng Balita</i>	Watercolor Painting for Beginners (New!)
9:00-10:00 AM	Workshop (for CHW participants)	
10:00 AM	Output deadline for CHW participants	
10:00-12:00 PM	Feedback session (for CHW, MJ, & PJ participants)	
12:00 PM	Check-out for participants without additional night	
12:00-1:00 PM	Lunch	
2:00-5:00 PM	Awarding Ceremony <i>Word Cup Ambassador Award (School Paper Advisers)</i> <i>Word Cup Institutional Ambassador Award</i> <i>Recognition of Exemplary Work</i>	

* subject to change

Visit our Facebook Page for updates: <https://facebook.com/associatededitorsco>

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.

Registration and payment of participants who did not sign up online and distribution of kits and IDs will be on **5 December 2024 (3:00 to 5:00 PM)**

ACTUAL SEMINAR-WORKSHOP is on **6 to 7 December 2024** at Faith Village Gardens **Boracay Station 3**; Activities/Venues may be subject to change.

Rooms are non-exclusive (male and female may/may not combine in a room). Rooms can accommodate 6-10 persons, first come, first serve basis.

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.

Participation fee per person is shown on the next page.

WORD CUP AMBASSADORS AWARD

All Institutional Ambassador Awardee aspirants need to submit a one-page brief on the programs/accomplishments of the school in campus journalism for the last three years. If 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 programs/accomplishments.

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.



No. 25 Kalayaan Avenue, Fort Bonifacio, Taguig City
0954 190 2247
www.wordcup.com.ph
wordcup.philippines@gmail.com

23rd Word Cup Philippines

Participation Fee per person

Early bird

Payment made on or before 30 October 2024
Inclusive of overnight stay on 6 December

₱6,500

Regular

Payment made from 31 Oct. to 1 December 2024
Inclusive of overnight stay on 6 December

₱7,000

Additional night stay

For 5 or 7 December night
No meals included

₱500 per night

Meals

6 December (Day 1): AM and PM snacks, lunch, and dinner

7 December (Day 2): Breakfast, AM and PM 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.

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

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

Environment News Thursday, May 30, 2019 B-7

Go Green, read us an email: Environment@wordcup.com

Boracay RENAISSANCE

A year after its closure, what now?

Text by JOHANNES L. CRUA

There is always an expectation when it comes to Boracay. No doubt, it is the country's most famous island, consistently ranking on top of most-visited destinations and vacation spots. Therefore, it came as a shock (especially to those who have businesses in the island) that the six-month closure and rehabilitation was implemented amidst opposition.

Visiting Boracay once again after a year of its April 26, 2018, closure, one can notice a striking difference. The island – especially the beachfront – is much cleaner. There is a sense of community but there are also the inclement visitors.

During the 14th Word Cup held in Boracay, we invited select campus journalists – students and scholars – to share their photos and words on how they see the new Boracay. They see hope but they also feel that the task at hand to fully heal Boracay is not yet finished.

MAJESTIC SIGHTS – Tourists enjoy seeing fellow tourists ride their vitalis 33 viewed from the white beach which has expanded from up to 25 meters from the shoreline. The photo was taken by 14th Word Cup Philippines Journalism participants, mostly school paper advisers and campus journalists from around the country under the theme 'Prospects of a Balanced Ecology and Tourism Development: Opportunities and Challenges in Boracay and Beyond.' (Photo by Esther Sandoz S. Hefagata, Carpenter Hill Elementary School)

BE HUMANS, NOT PLASTIC

Text by MARILYN LUIS O. FUENTES

Malay's Municipal Ordinance No. 386 prohibiting the use of disposable plastic items among hotels, resorts, restaurants and business establishments is proof that the local government of Malay, Adnan has learned its lesson. Nevertheless, despite the six-month-long 'nightmare' of businessmen during the island's rehabilitation, plastics are still freely accessible in some souvenir stores, convenience stores and food stalls.

Nobody knows when single-use plastic bags became so pervasive and prevalent. They are accessible everywhere because 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 convenience. But at what expense?

Ben campaigns identify 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, drinking and eating on the beach to minimize trash with 'pollution control officers' to notify or capture litterbugs, then all of us have to follow. This is the law of the land and not merely a suggestion.

Our plastic bag habit causes environmental pollution, and so it only makes sense to start taking common sense measures to lessen the more degradable or reusable items.

Climate change and ecological degradation are global problems for which there are no single nor simple solutions. If our 'fascination' with plastic will again transform Boracay Island into a dump, then we are bound to fail – wasting money, resources, effort and time.

Let us all become humans. No to plastic!

The author is a teacher at Monggong Elementary School in Romo City, Cebu. A school paper adviser for 12 years, he is president of the Association of School Paper Advisers of Schools Division Office of Sogod, a publication editor-in-chief of Sogod, a publication of DepEd Sogod City.

CHALLENGING ENHANCEMENT

Text by ANNA MARIE D. PUGENA

A few months of being placed under rehabilitation, Boracay opened its doors in October of 2018. That 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 hotel and resorts should manage their waste are part of the things that the government has done that has temporarily disrupted the business in the area.

After the six-month rehabilitation, 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 recurrence of what caused the closure of the island.

Dr. Al Orelto, the Deputy Ground Commander of the DENR National Task Force Boracay, said that the sustainability of the rehabilitation should not fall wholly on the shoulders of the government.

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.

The author teaches English to senior high students at the Victor Dama of Cebuana, she is the editor of the school publication called Carver.

DESERVING BORACAY

Text by DOLORES L. CARRION

Let us all become tourist police. Let us become information multipliers. These were the words of Dr. Al Orelto, the Deputy Ground Commander of the DENR National Task Force Boracay as he urged responsible tourists to share their stories about the rehabilitation of the island.

A reliable survey reported that 12 percent of adult population in Boracay has used technology and social media to communicate and spread information about updates and progress about the island.

The government also did its part. It intensified the monitoring of waste disposal and imposed higher penalties to those who will be caught violating environmental laws.

However, these efforts seem to have been taken for granted by some businesses. A few weeks ago, the local government has closed some establishments found to be non-compliant with regards to business permits including sanitary and environmental inspection requirements.

With all the efforts – from government and people organizations – to restore Boracay to its pristine condition, there are still deserving factors such as people's resistance to change and discipline. What else can Boracay do to make the people pay for what they had served?

Boracay needs everyone's help. No matter who you are, you have a responsibility to take care of the environment. Become a responsible citizen police. Serve Boracay what it deserves before it is once again too late.

The author is a head teacher of Mariboc Elementary School in Mariboc, Cebu. She is a school paper adviser and has taught English for 10 years.

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 allowed commercial businesses to reopen in the island. (Photo by Eugenio Sandoz O. Calapat)

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

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 hubs that would improve 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 distress 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 25 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 Sealitel Patillo 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?

Jacot, 18, is a HUMSS student at the Colegio de la Inmaculada Concepcion in Marikina, Cebu

EDITOR'S NOTE

During the 16th Word Cup held in Subic, campus journalists and school paper advisers all over the country converged to learn about journalism and broadcasting, and to listen to experts on various topics such as mental health and climate change. After the talk, participants were enjoined to submit an article on their reaction on climate change. Here are four of the best ones. — Johannes L. Chua

No one is spared

By JONATHAN G. EMBANQUEL

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

According to Sealitel Patillo 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 green house gas emission 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 nor heat-trapping gases and global temperatures. The argument now must be beyond the perils 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 bolder – because no one is spared. Remember, we can fight climate change. We are the world's greatest resource.

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



Write about climate change

Dr. Crispin C. Maslog, author and columnist at SoGreen.net, 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 16th Word Cup in Subic. (Photo by Jimmy A. Deniagay)

No classes, yehey?

By JUVELLE P. 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 Certe have only attended their classes once, since their Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, and Friday classes have been suspended due to inclement weather brought about by Typhoon Nymfa.

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 Maslog, 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 Sealitel Patillo from the Climate Change Commission, who underscored Maslog'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 Patillo.

Patillo 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 Maslog. 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 Maslog.

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, 23, is a communication arts student from Lyncem of the Philippines-Certe

Take the first step

By RI 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 roundabout 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 his book, Dr. Crispin Maslog, shared his insights and expertise on climate change.

Maslog 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," Maslog 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 (Barretto campus) in Zamboanga



Learn what PH is doing vs. climate change

Participants of the 16th Word Cup interview Sealitel Patillo (seated) of the Climate Change Commission to clarify how the Philippines which contributes a meager 0.12 percent compared to China's 26 percent and the US's 26 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 Eugene Amado Noel C. Calapit III of Masung Science High School)

B-6 **MANILA BULLETIN**

Environment News

Thursday, August 1, 2019

Go Green, and write email:
Eavrosana@B@gmail.com



**Saving a critical wetland
to promote ecotourism**

HAVEN IN THE METRO

EGRETS FLY OVER THE LPPCHEA
- There are about 88 bird species documented in the 175-hectare area. Photo below: Word Cup Journalism participants gather in the conference area for an ecology education lecture and press briefing courtesy of the DENR Protected Area Biodiversity Conservation Section and organized by the Manila Palawan Lungs Club. The DENR has welcomed stakeholders in the clean-up, tree planting and ecology education at the LPPCHEA since the government launched the Manila Bay rehabilitation in June. Freedoms and Long Islands - which comprise LPPCHEA - serve as a catch basin of solid wastes mostly plastic and household wastes. On a weekly average, some 3.5 tons of garbage are hauled by DPWH for processing at the Las Pallas Dump Site en route to its final destination in Rodriguez, Rizal. (Photos by Jimmy A. Domingo)

Text by PATRICK JERBERT B. BAYATO

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 Pallas-Panahag Critical Habitat and Ecotourism Area (LPPCHEA), a proof that a highly urbanized place could still spare some space for environmental causes.

Poised itself by being listed in the Ramsar Wetland of International Importance, the 175-hectare LPPCHEA caters to 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, the critical habitats suffer 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 36-hectare mangrove



Bestista Estela, 59, a fisherman in LPPCHEA said they also help protect the cleanliness of the habitat as it is also their source of livelihood. They can catch an average of two kilos of fish for an hour using their nets. (Photo by Jimmy A. Domingo)



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?

'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 DPWH worker, one of its personnel assigned at the LPPCHEA, gather garbage, mostly plastics and household non-biodegradable wastes which wash ashore from the Las Pallas and Paranaque river tributaries, Cavite and Batangas areas. (Photo by Jeram Hope Baltazar of Titas NHS, 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 Bea Herby T. Egreola 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 Negros Oriental)

GREEN IS IN!

Eco responsibility

Toyota Motor Philippines Corporation (TMP) joined the Global Toyota Environment Month through a series of activities that raise awareness in environmental conservation. TMP team members and representatives from the Toyota Region Club (TRC) planted 300 trees inside the 31-hectare Toyota Forest at the Toyota Special Economic Zone in Santa Rosa, Laguna. Toyota volunteers also participated in the river clean-up along the Silang-Santa Rosa River near the company's vicinity (in photo). By cleaning up the river, TMP hopes to prevent further pollution and improve the waterways. The Silang-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 Bini 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.

Bini 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 Alty Allen V. Barera, 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 Bini to expand the program by using science in planting and rescuing threatened native trees. A total of 88 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 Valencia, Negros Oriental and in Antipolo, Metro Manila.

Moreover, around 9,323 hectares of forest land within and surrounding EDC project sites has been rehabilitated. This is equivalent to about 6.4 million

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

EDC's Bini 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 156 stakeholder partners.