

**DATE**

13 JAN 2016

**DAY**

**Tuesday**

# **DENR**

## **IN THE NEWS**

# BusinessMirror

A broader look at today's business

## PUBLIC AFFAIRS OFFICE NEWS CLIPPINGS

### DENR eyes incentives for 'greening' partners



**CALDERON:**  
"Performance can be rated based on the high survival rate of trees planted or for keeping the National Greening Program sites safe from forest fires."

**T**HE Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) is eyeing the grant incentives for its partners in the implementation of the Expanded National Greening Program (E-NGP) starting next year.

The E-NGP mandates the DENR to continue the massive reforestation program covering the country's 7.1

million hectares of open, degraded and denuded forests.

Director Ricardo L. Calderon of the DENR's Forest Management Bureau (FMB) said the incentive can be in the form of cash or noncash for a "job well done" by NGP partners.

"This incentive program is currently in the works. It is under the incentive mechanism in the E-NGP,"

said Calderon, also national coordinator of NGP.

"Performance can be rated based on the high survival rate of trees planted or for keeping the NGP sites safe from forest fires," Calderon added.

He said the current NGP contracts with people's organizations (POs) for site maintenance and protection cover

CONTINUED ON A12

CONTINUED FROM A1

a three-year period, during which NGP partners enjoy compensation for seedling production, site preparation, tree planting, maintenance and protection. The incentive is the compensation that NGP partners receive for every NGP site on a per-hectare basis.

In 2015 the cost of the NGP is P10,000 per hectare.

This year the DENR is considering to raise the cost to P20,800 per hectare, because the number of trees to be planted will also increase from an average of 500 trees per hectare to 1,600 per hectare.

Incidentally, many of the NGP contracts entered into by the DENR with NGP partners in 2011 and 2012 have already expired. Upon the expiration of the contracts, which is specifically for site maintenance and protection,

the DENR turns them over to local government units (LGUs) or the implementing NGP partners.

The incentive system, the official said, will encourage POs to maintain the forest plantations, ensuring sustainability of the program even after their contracts expire.

"We are looking at incentivizing POs starting in 2017," he said.

"This will ensure that they will not resort to illegal activities," he added.

Calderon said members of POs earn extra income because of the "green jobs" generated through the NGP. He expressed fears that the NGP sites may be neglected, or worse, overexploited if those who used to benefit from its maintenance and protection would no longer receive compensation.

"After the contracts, they may be tempted to log or produce charcoal

again," Calderon said.

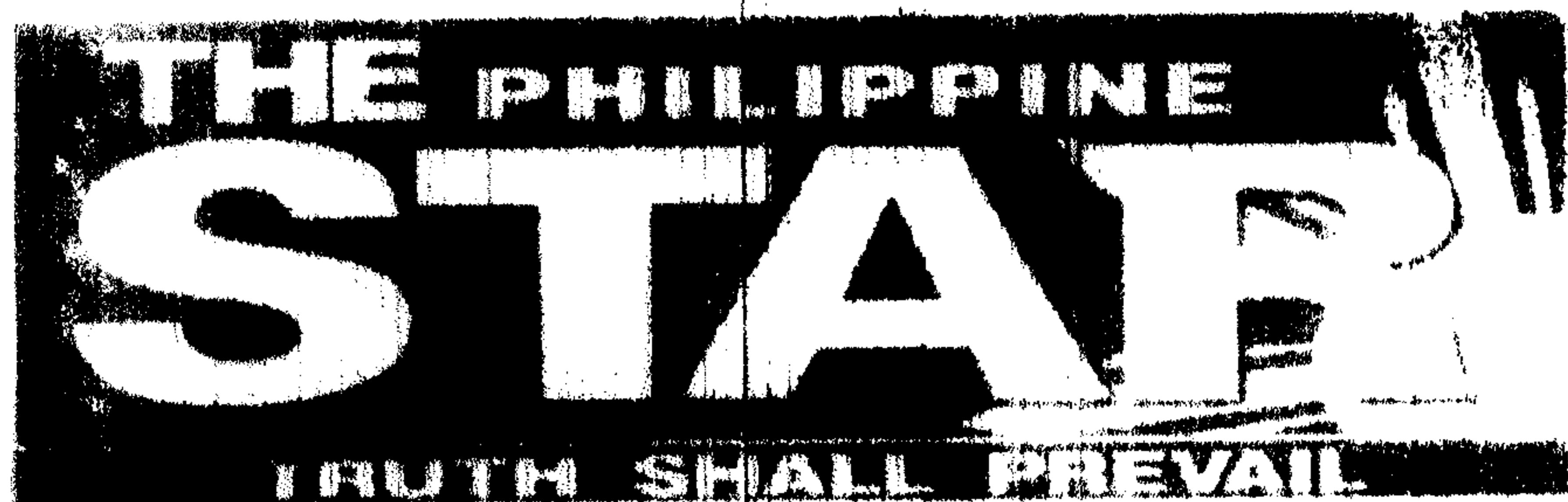
According to Calderon, upland dwellers have already adjusted to a way of life wherein they no longer illegally cut trees for extra income.

Upland dwellers have changed their ways because of the total log ban and the implementation of the NGP.

"Incentivizing POs for their performance will give them a reason to take care of the forest plantations they established," he said.

The NGP, which aims to plant 1.5 billion trees in 1.5 million hectares from 2011 to 2016 had so far generated close to 2.9 million green jobs during its five years of implementation. Last year alone, a total of 636,710 jobs were generated by the NGP. Because of the success of the program, President Aquino signed Executive Order 193, expanding its coverage between 2016 and 2028.





The only paper you read from cover to cover!

13 JAN 2016

DATE

PAGE

2-4

UPPER HALF

LOWER HALF

P-1

## STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION AND INITIATIVES SERVICE

# Small wise ways to Zero Waste

### CONSUMERLINE



By CHING M. ALANO

We welcomed the new year with a bang — and probably mounds of garbage from the New Year's Eve revelry. Imagine garbage collectors emptying overflowing bins and collecting piles and piles of garbage bags on street corners the morning after! That is, if you were lucky enough to have a garbage

truck pass by your house after the holidays — they may forget to pick up your trash but certainly not the "Merry Christmas" envelope they left for you to stuff with your cash gift.

Then came the Feast of the Black Nazarene that annually leaves tons and tons of trash along the processional route (this year, it's from Luneta all the way to Quiapo).

Ironically, January is Zero Waste Month, as per presidential proclamation. Unseen, assorted garbage filling the already polluted air with its foul smell is not exactly the way to kick off Zero Waste Month — especially for a dynamic country like the Philippines, which supposedly has one of the most comprehensive waste prevention and reduction laws in the world! Let's talk dirty (literally, that is) now: Republic Act 9003 espouses ecological solid waste management. Fortunately, there's a legal framework to help us solve this stinking problem without having to spend for costly waste incinerators.

But even before R.A. 9003 was enacted in the year 2000, garbology gurus Luz Sabas and physician Metodio Palaypay were already busy reaching out to various communities and sectors via the Zero Waste Recycling Movement of the Philippines Foundation, Inc. to promote the Zero Waste approach to managing society's discards (which do not include the misfits). Their pioneering efforts have attracted a band of faithful adherents and triggered the birth of like-minded initiatives.

But you might ask: What is Zero Waste? The EcoWaste Coalition, a public interest network pursuing sustainable solutions to waste and climate change, zeroes in on the topic: "Zero Waste (*walang aksaya*) is the synergy of principles, cultures, beliefs, systems, methods, and technologies that aims to eliminate wasting and ensure full and beneficial use of resources to restore ecological balance and provide for the needs of all creation."

According to the Zero Waste International Alliance, it "is a goal... to guide people in changing their lifestyles and practices to emulate sustainable natural cycles, where all discarded materials are designed to become resources for others to use." It involves "designing and managing products and processes to systematically avoid and eliminate the volume and toxicity of waste and materials, conserve and recover all resources, and not burn or bury them."

As an astonishingly big bulk (74 percent) of the waste generated comes from households, various groups have rightly put emphasis on educating and working with families to embrace Zero Waste.

"The household is the point of major intervention. This is where the paradigm shift from a throwaway mindset to one of waste reduction and resource conservation must be effected and emphasized," says Sonia Mendoza of Mother Earth Foundation.

With the war vs. waste being waged at home, Zero Waste advocates have some friendly words of advice to share. "Reducing waste is the best option," says restaurateur Annie Guerrero of Zero Waste Philippines. "If you buy less stuff, then you will have fewer things to dispose of."

In her book *An A-Z Guide for a Green Pinoy*, Annie lists a number of waste reduction tips, which include buying less stuff, refusing packaging whenever possible, buying quality goods that will outlast

cheaper but inferior products, shunning disposables, avoiding anything you cannot reuse, repurpose, recycle, etc..

The "green-minded" Annie gives us more down-to-earth tips in her book *An A-Z Guide for a Green Chef*: "Instead of expensive air filters and ionizers for our homes, houseplants provide a more eco-friendly alternative not only for their aesthetic value but also for their efficacy in purifying our indoor environment." And you don't have to have a green thumb as there are no-fuss, low-maintenance plants you can grow inside your house, such as fortune plant, yucca, Japanese bamboo, sansevieria (also known as snake plant or mother-in-law tongue that you don't have to take care of like your mother-in-law), aloe vera, water plant, philodendron, and rubber plant.

Zero Waste champion Dr. Paul Connett, who has visited the Philippines a few times, notes that "waste is made by mixing discarded items" and that "waste is unmade (or rather not made in the first place) by keeping discarded materials into a few simple categories."

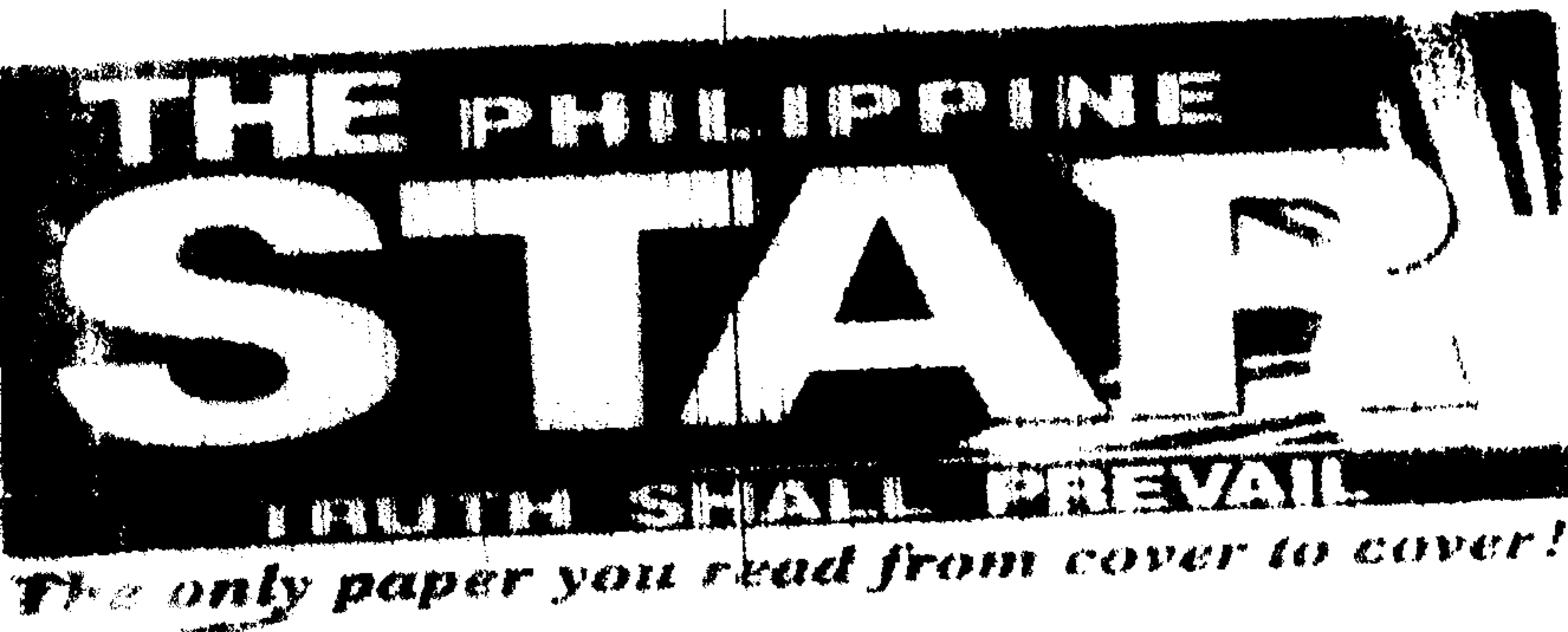
Separating discards at source makes reusing and recycling easier. The simplest method, especially if there is a space issue (as we live in a no-space age), is to segregate discards into biodegradable and non-biodegradable receptacles. Food waste, garden waste, and other organics fall under biodegradable discards, which can be fed to animals or turned into compost. Non-biodegradables can be further grouped into paper, carton box, plastic, glass, tin, etc. for recycling. Clean recyclables can be stored at home and later sold to junk-shop dealers or given to waste pickers or recyclers.

Most discards can also be repurposed into an array of decorative and functional items for use at home, school, office, and elsewhere.

Margaret Tadeja-Cruz, an "upcycling" craftsperson, has co-published with the National Solid Waste Management Commission the manual *3Rs of Fun in Waste* that tells you "what little things you can do to reduce waste that will end up in landfills (or dumpsites)." Big examples of these "little things," include toy horses creatively fashioned from fabric scraps, origami flowers or lanterns from instant noodle packs, doormats from broken or unpaired flipflops, garden shovels from cooking oil bottles, earrings and bracelets from phone cards, and a lot more artsy-craftsy items.



13 JAN 2016



DATE

PAGE 12-4

UPPER HALF

LOWER HALF

**STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION AND INITIATIVES SERVICE**

P-2

## Small wise ways to Zero Waste

Zero Waste advocates give their collective nod to composting as the key to any successful waste management program, especially in Metro Manila where 52 percent of generated waste is reportedly biodegradable, 41 percent recyclable and seven percent residual.

Joey Papa of the Bangon Kalikasan Movement puts it pat: "Composting is giving back what belongs to the earth."

Composting is really no rocket science and can be done in a variety of ways — such as through pits, pots, pails, drums, used tires, and other vessels, or with the help of worms.

In a joint publication, the EcoWaste Coalition and the Global Alliance for Incinerator Alternatives outlined the major benefits that the society can derive out of composting, as follows:

1. Composting returns nutrient-rich compost to Mother Earth.
2. Composting helps combat climate change by replenishing the topsoil, helping it store carbon more efficiently.
3. Composting can lead to huge savings for local governments in terms of reduced collection and hauling charges.
4. Composting supports sustainable and organic agriculture, reduces the use of chemical fertilizers and pesticides.
5. Composting supports disaster risk reduction efforts by preventing soil erosion and silting.

By reducing what we consume and dispose of, by separating our discards at source, by reusing, recycling, and composting, we surely can prevent and reduce waste, and celebrate Zero Waste Month just the way it should be — without waste!

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## PUBLIC AFFAIRS OFFICE NEWS CLIPPINGS

### GenSan pushes summer opening of P200-million sanitary landfill

**G**ENERAL SANTOS CITY—After nearly six years of delay, the city government is planning to finally open by the second quarter its P200-million sanitary landfill complex.

City Mayor Ronnel Rivera said on Monday that the construction and development of the facility is currently in full swing and is on track toward its targeted completion and opening by April 30.

He said a 2-hectare garbage-acceptance system or cell is being constructed at the site which sits in a 63.3-hectare property in Barangay Sinawal here.

"The facility is already about 56-percent complete based on our latest assessment," the mayor said.

Last week the city government signed a memorandum of agreement (MOA) with the Department of Environment and Natural Resources's Environmental Management Bureau (DENR-EMB), R-II Builders Inc., and the Philippine Ecology Systems Consortium Inc. for the operationalization of the landfill.

The local government is currently working on the closure of its open dump, which covers portion of barangays Bawing and Tambler, in line with the opening of the sanitary landfill.

The city government had pushed for the construction of the sanitary landfill in compliance with the Ecological Solid Waste Management Act of 2001, or Republic Act (RA) 9003.

RA 9003, signed into law by former President now Pampanga Second District Rep. Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo in 2001, provided for the closure of all open dumps in favor of sanitary landfills and ordered the segregation of recyclable and nonrecyclable wastes.

In 2010 the local government, then under Mayor Darlene Antonino-Custodio, commissioned construction firm R-II Build-

ers Inc. and the Philippine Ecology Systems Corp. Consortium Inc. to "design, build and operate a solid-waste management and disposal facility" for the city.

The project was funded by a soft loan from the World Bank's Support for Strategic Local Development and Investment Project coursed through the Land Bank of the Philippines.

When Rivera assumed as city mayor in 2013, he immediately requested the Sangguniang Panlungsod or city council to prioritize the passage of an ordinance regarding the landfill project.

It led to the suspension of the project early last year to give way to a review of its contract following noted delays in its implementation.

During the proceedings, Rivera noted some "irregularities" were corrected, including the project's "questionable cost."

"From the original construction cost of P325 million, it was reduced to P219 million," the mayor said.

Rivera said the local government went through a thorough process before it allowed the project to proceed in July last year.

"This project [landfill] is not a jinx. We amended some of the terms for its construction that's why it took almost three years before we were able to push for its completion," he said.

"We want this to be transparent to our people. There should be no anomalies with this and any of our other projects," Rivera stressed.

Chito Nombres, R-II Builders project head, lauded the local government for proceeding with the project and making sure that it would be completed.

He said that after the project's completion in April, they will proceed with their expansion plans for the facility.

"The operationalization of the landfill will be an additional source of income for the city government as the facility may accept garbage from other areas," he added. *PNA*



13 JAN 2016

THE NATIONAL NEWSPAPER

# Malaya

DATE

A-3

PAGE

UPPER HALF

LOWER HALF

**PUBLIC AFFAIRS OFFICE NEWS CLIPPINGS**

## Options to environment insurance pushed

BY IRMA ISIP

A TECHNICAL working group (TWG) tasked to review and refine a proposed law seeking to require environmentally risky companies to take out environment insurance coverage has proposed alternative payment options rather than mandatory environment insurance coverage (MEIC).

The Philippine Exporters Confederation Inc. (Philexport) quoted Dilbert Quetulio, House Committee on Ecology secretary, on the consensus reached by the TWG on House Bill 5485 entitled "An Act Requiring Mandatory Environment Insurance Coverage for Environmentally Critical Businesses."

Quetulio said the TWG proposed to look at cash bonds, sureties, super funds and other alternatives to mandatory insurance coverage.

Rather than mandatory environment insurance as proposed in the House bill, business stakeholders prefer to be given options on their preferred mode of payment for any environmental damage that may be incurred through their operations.

Philexport also said the TWG agreed that the MEIC may not be feasible because the high premium for taking out insurance would be too steep for most small and medium enterprises.

The bill wants companies to take out an MEIC for the "payment of damages and environmental rehabilitation as a result of environmental impairment from its operation."

The draft regulation, co-authored by Manila Reps. Rosenda Ann Ocampo and Amado Bagatsing, said as commercial and industrial businesses proliferate and provide investments and employment, their large-scale operations "may cause environmental disasters and undue suffering to the people."

MEIC is thus intended to "relieve a business firm of the financial burden to spend for environmental loss or damage as a consequence of its project's construction or operations."

The TWG also noted the tendency for the release of claims to drag due to the long process of verification and documentation, more so if there are lawsuits involved,

defeating the purpose of immediate clean-up and rehabilitation of the environment, payment for loss of income or property, or remuneration for medical or burial expenses after an ecological disaster.

It was also brought up that making environment insurance coverage mandatory will likely drive premium costs up.

Instead, the group agreed to explore options to MEIC that can also be effectively used for the same purpose.

Quetulio said what is important is for businesses to be able to adequately comply with the government mandate to have money on hand immediately to pay for any adverse impact on the environment of their activities.

Marivic Yao, representing the Environmental Management Bureau, said the Environmental Guarantee Fund (EGF) can be one of these options as it is "readily available."

Philexport in its draft position papers on the issue also pointed to the existence of the EGF, as well as the Philippine Environmental Impact Statement System and similar mechanisms, as sufficient to address concerns over environmental destruction.



Corporations would be given options on how they will pay for environmental damage caused by their operations. Photo shows the Philex Padcal minespill that damaged environs.



13 JAN 2016

THE NATIONAL NEWSPAPER

# Malaya

DATE

A-3

PAGE

UPPER HALF

LOWER HALF

## PUBLIC AFFAIRS OFFICE NEWS CLIPPINGS

P2

### IFC targets 20 projects for green certification

THE International Finance Corp. (IFC) targets to have 20 percent of construction projects in the Philippines certified "green" through its so-called Excellence in Design for Greater Efficiencies (EDGE) certification.

The Philippines is among the 20 main markets, mainly emerging market countries, that IFC is focused on in promoting this innovation from the IFC-World Bank Group "because of its huge environmental angle," Prashant Kapoor, global green building specialist of IFC, said yesterday in a press conference awarding property developer ItalPinas Development Corp. (IDC) its EDGE certificate.

EDGE helps property developers build and brand their properties "green" in a fast, easy and affordable way. EDGE is supported by a software that encourages solutions to reduce energy, water and the energy used to make building materials by at least 20 percent, which is the standard for EDGE certification.

Kapoor said IFC has a pipeline of \$1.5 billion for clients including banks across all countries to tap for EDGE certification.

"We want to find partnerships to bring local capacity building and infrastructure in the Philippines," Kapoor said.

Aside from the Philippines, the list of 20 countries EDGE is focused on includes Vietnam, India and countries in Latin America.

"Nowhere else EDGE makes more sense than in the Philippines because of (fast) growth," said Kapoor, adding fast growth takes a hit on resources which should thus be managed more carefully.

Kapoor noted the cost of electricity is expensive in the Philippines where due to its climate, requires the consistent use of more energy for comfort.

IDC is the second developer in the Philippines to get EDGE certification. The first was Imperial Homes Corp., developer of the first solar-powered mass housing project in the Philippines that is located in Batangas.

The EDGE certification was awarded to IDC for its Primavera Residences Tower A and B, the first completed condominium project in East Asia to be given that certificate.

Primavera Residences, IDC's flagship project, is a twin tower condominium in Uptown Cagayan de Oro City. It is Mindanao's first and only multi-awarded eco-friendly development project located at Pueblo de Oro Township, offering residential, commercial and office spaces for lease and purchase.



13 JAN 2016

THE NATIONAL NEWSPAPER

# Malaya

DATE

B-5

PAGE

✓

UPPER HALF

LOWER HALF

## PUBLIC AFFAIRS OFFICE NEWS CLIPPINGS

### Modern technology in marine conservation

ANGEL C. ALCALA



*'People should strengthen the health of the environment so that it can minimize the negative effects of climate change.'*

THE use of GIS and remote sensing techniques to determine how coral reef microhabitats and structure influence fish dynamics will begin this month with the arrival of Katie Sievers, a Fulbright scholar from the Biology Department of San Diego State University in California, USA. Sievers has been studying the subject of fish microhabitats as driver for healthy environment, using kelp beds in southern California. Her extending the use of these technologies to the conservation of coral reefs in the Philippines is an excellent idea, and we look forward to a fruitful collaboration with her. Dr. Rene Abesamis from SUAKCREM will be her main collaborator. Other researchers should be able to profit from Sievers' visit. This new study will be made on Negros and Siquijor Islands, the study area of SUAKCREM. She will hold office at SUAKCREM in the Silliman Marine Laboratory.

For some time, we have been considering the use of modern technological tools in our research program. Last year, young scientists from Norway and Australia conducted experiments in deeper parts of Apo Marine Reserve using underwater video system and acoustic hydrophone receiver and surgical implantation of acoustic tag. These experiments explored what fishes are found at deeper ocean depths and their distribution following the frequent occurrence of typhoons in southern Philippines. The other research project using genetic technology is the connectivity of protected areas and fished areas in the Bohol Sea, which deals with questions where the fish larvae from no-take MPAs go. Knowing this would show how important MPAs are in the long-term in terms of sustaining fisheries in Philippine waters.

Use of remote sensing technology is useful in monitoring the status of coral reefs and reef-associated fish without the need for researchers to travel to distant areas. One can, for example, monitor coral reefs in the Sulu archipelago without going there physically. The present limitation would appear to be improvement of penetration into deeper water to record conditions deeper than a few feet. I understand that remote sensing techniques are being improved continuously for use in deeper water.

Thus far, SUAKCREM has pioneered in making use of the wisdom of social scientists in its research program on marine protected areas. The example of the past contribution of the Apo Island community to the success of its no-take reserve speaks well of the importance of the social dimension in resource protection. In reviewing the lack of success of other MPAs established without the cooperation of the local community, it has become necessary to emphasize the need for returning to the methods we used in the 1980s that included a strong community involvement in the processes of empowering the community for conservation. In fact, one former member of our team suggested a return to our earlier community-oriented program at Apo Island.

I would like to suggest to the Apo PAMB to heed this suggestion in view of certain issues in the implementation of the program at Apo. Among these issues are keeping the whole population at Apo well informed of the program of PAMB including the concerns for balance in the use of the island's resources, water pollution, etc. with the help of technological advances. The PAMB should lead in this endeavor.

The PAMB should not overemphasize the large density of resource users just to get more income and forget about the negative impacts of overuse. It must learn a lesson from other tourism sites that are deteriorating because of lack of proper balance in the implementation.

Let us not forget that too much success in acquiring money could lead to the deterioration and ultimate destruction of the environment at Apo Island. This is especially relevant because already climate change has begun the slide towards deterioration, and we must avoid exacerbating this initial natural damage. On the contrary, people should strengthen the health of the environment so that it can minimize the negative effects of climate change.



13 JAN 2016



DATE

PAGE

UPPER HALF

LOWER HALF

PUBLIC AFFAIRS OFFICE NEWS CLIPPINGS

## Antipolo City bags gold for environmental compliance

**ANTIPOLO City Government won a gold award for being one of the most environmentally-compliant cities in the preservation and rehabilitation of Manila Bay during the Environmental Compliance Audit (ECA) Conferment Ceremony, spearheaded by the Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG) Region IV-A, last December in Tagaytay City.**

"I would like to commend the hard work of the Task Force Manila Bay and CEWMO (City Environment and Waste Management Office) for their dedication in supporting the Manila Bay Clean-Up Drive by living up to the policies and standards set by DILG and effectively implementing the environmental projects and programs of the city," said Antipolo Mayor Jun Ynares.

DILG recognized the local government units (LGUs) that adhered

to the Climate Change Advocacy Campaign of the Manila Bay Rehabilitation Program entitled "Manila Bay Para sa Kalinisan" through the directives of the Supreme Court in rehabilitating the Manila Bay.

In compliance with the standards of ECA, Antipolo City strictly implemented the proper solid waste management, prepared the 10-Year Solid Waste Management Plan, and continuously conducted clean-up drives and river clean-ups. The city was also strict in the implementation of No Segregation, No Collection Scheme and the incessant desludging to all households.

Antipolo received a plaque of recognition and a P60,000 cash prize that would be useful for the maintenance and improvement of other solid waste management projects and programs of the city.



# INQUIRER

STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION AND INITIATIVES SERVICE

## El Niño weakening, to end middle of year, say experts

By Ronnel W. Domingo

THE EL NIÑO phenomenon, along with the dry condition it brings, is weakening and is expected to be over toward midyear, according to American climate experts.

In their latest monthly update, the US National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) said all El Niño indicators had "decreased slightly" compared with December when the phenomenon was still strong.

Temperatures below the surface of the central and eastern Pacific Ocean have subsided although still above historical averages.

But the abnormal westerly direction of the winds blowing over the tropical regions of the Pacific has continued.

The NOAA explained that such atmospheric and oceanic anomalies "reflect the continuation of a strong El Niño episode."

It said most climate prediction models suggest the El Niño would weaken with a transition to neutral—meaning no El Niño nor La Niña with its opposite effects—during the late spring or early summer in the northern hemisphere.

"The forecasters are in agreement with the model consensus, though the exact timing of the transition is difficult to predict," the NOAA said.

Earlier this month, the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs called for urgent action to help secure food supplies for regions and countries threatened by the effects of the strong El Niño.

Stephen O'Brien, UN under-

secretary general for the coordination of humanitarian affairs, said in a statement the El Niño over the past months had caused massive floods in some countries while leaving others very dry.

O'Brien said that in some regions, millions of people were facing food insecurity caused by drought related to El Niño.

"In other parts of the world, we have a short window of opportunity to prepare for what we know will happen within months," he added. "In both cases, we must act together and we must act quickly."

Climatologists said the current El Niño was most likely among the three strongest occurrences since 1950, along with those that happened in 1997-1998 and in 1982-1983.

In the Philippines, agricultural production managed to stay afloat in the first nine months of 2015, growing by 0.6 percent year-on-year to P658.7 billion in constant prices as destructive typhoons and dry conditions due to the El Niño laid siege to farms.

The Department of Agriculture has been pushing for the popular adoption of cisterns and other water-harvesting facility projects to help address the effects of El Niño, as well as the long-term prospects of a water shortage in the Philippines.

Also, the Bureau of Plant Industry said a total of 116,104 bags of drought-resilient, inbred rice seeds were available to farmers in supply centers across the nation.

These supplies, enough to plant about the same number of hectares of farms, are recommended for planting, especially for the dry season crop.



13 JAN 2016



DATE

2

PAGE

UPPER HALF

LOWER HALF

## PUBLIC AFFAIRS OFFICE NEWS CLIPPINGS

### **Mercury patagong ibinebenta sa miners**

PATAGONG ibinibenta ng mga dentista ang delikadong mercury sa halagang P18,000.00-P30,000 kada kilo sa mga minero dahil ginagamit ito sa pagproseso ng ginto.

Ito ang ibinunyag kahapon ni Rep. Rufus B. Rodriguez (2nd District, Cagayan de Oro City).

Aniya, dapat na itigil ang nasabing ilegal na praktis at imbestigahan matapos na ibunyag ng International Association of Oral and Toxicology na siyang humiling ng pag-ban ng dental amalgam sa Pilipinas.

Nabatid na ang mga dentista ang siyang pinapayagang makabili at makagamit ng mercury bilang dental amalgam o tooth "silver filling". Ang kemikal na ito ay nagtataglay ng liquid mercury at ang pulbos na mercury ay may silver, tin, copper at zinc.

**BETH ARAGON**



13 JAN 2016

DATE

3

PAGE

UPPER HALF

LOWER HALF

**PUBLIC AFFAIRS OFFICE NEWS CLIPPINGS**

**Fisherman's wharf itatayo sa Parañaque coastal road**

Gagawing tourist destination at fisherman's wharf ng pamahalaang lungsod ng Paranaque ang mga lumang gusali na matatagpuan sa kahabaan ng Coastal Road.

Ayon kay Parañaque City Mayor Edwin Olivarez, ang "fisherman's wharf" o tatawag-ing "Bulungan sa Parañaque" ay magiging bagsakan ng mga sariwang isda at lamang dagat mula sa Manila Bay.

Sinabi ni Olivarez, bukod dito, magiging isa rin itong tourist destination dahil magkakaroon dito ng retail at souvenir stores, palengke at mga seafood restaurants kung saan pwedeng ipaluto ang mga nabiling sariwang isda.

Magkakaroon din ng ferry pier sa lugar kung saan ang mga local at foreign tourist mula sa PAGCOR Entertainment City ay pwedeng sumakay ng ferry papunta sa lugar.

"It will just a 15-minute ferry ride from Entertainment City going to the "Bulungan. We will also offer boat rides for local

and foreign tourists," paliwanag ng mayor.

Sinabi ni Olivarez, ang Bulungan ay magiging event place o kahit mini-concert venue. "Pwede rin dito ganapin ang firework display tuwing Pasko dahil malawak ang lugar."

Ayon sa engineering plan, magkakaroon din ng mga floating restaurants sa gitna

ng wharf at Freedom Island na kasalukuyang sa pangangalaga ng Department of Environment and Natural Resources.

Dagdag pa ni Olivarez, ang Bulungan, na magiging bagsakan ng mga sariwang laman dagat at produktong agrikultura mula sa ibang bayan tulad ng Cavite at Laguna, ay kumpleto sa parking area at jeep at taxi terminals. (Lordeth Bonilla)



13 JAN 2016

DATE

PAGE

UPPER HALF

LOWER HALF

# BusinessMirror

A broader look at today's business

## PUBLIC AFFAIRS OFFICE NEWS CLIPPINGS

### Albay adopts local PPP code to hasten infra implementation, boost growth

**L**EGAZPI CITY—Albay has adopted a local version of the public-private partnership (PPP) code for the implementation of big infrastructure projects in the province designed to pursue unhampered economic growth, and become a development hub in Bicol and Southern Luzon.

Albay Gov. Joey S. Salceda said the new “PPP code of Albay” could be regarded as a major breakthrough in local government administration that will pave the way for implementing monumental infrastructure projects for economic growth under the build-operate-transfer (BOT) scheme in a “climate of minimum government regulations.”

Salceda said Albay could probably be the first province to have drawn its own local PPP code as it stands in the threshold of becoming the development hub in Southern Luzon, particularly the Bicol region. BOT is regarded as the easier way to administer big government infrastructure development.

The Albay Sangguniang Panlalawigan, headed by Vice Gov. Harold Ong Imperial, recently approved the local PPP code that provides “clear guidelines for PPPs by the province and its component local government units [LGUs].”

Salceda said the Local Government Code allows LGUs to enter “into joint ventures and such other cooperative engagements with non-governmental and people’s organizations to engage in the delivery of certain basic services...”

Among others, the Albay PPP Code aims to identify specific undertakings and potential support, financial or otherwise, that may be

“PPP code of Albay” could be regarded as a major breakthrough in local government administration that will pave the way for implementing monumental infrastructure projects for economic growth under the build-operate-transfer scheme in a “climate of minimum government regulations.”—Salceda

granted to the project proponents, as well as specific incentives as provided for under the Local Government Investment Code, the governor said.

As chairman of the Bicol Regional Development Council for nine years now, and the Luzon Area Development Council for three years, Salceda has sponsored and pushed for big infra projects, among them the Bicol International Airport (BIA) which is set to open in 2017, and the national government’s P171-billion South Rail Line of the North-South Railways system, now being rescheduled for bidding under the PPP scheme.

For a start, Salceda said there are at least two proposed projects lined up for PPP provincial engagements—the modern, four-story Climate Change Academy building at the lot of the Albay Provincial Safety and Emergency Management Office, and the Albay Dialysis Center at the Josefina Belmonte Duran Hospital in Ligao City.

The academy, the first of its kind in Asia, is

currently based at the Bicol University campus since its establishment four years ago. Founded by Salceda, its creation was hailed by climate-change advocates from all over the world, and had brought awards to Albay’s decisive campaign for climate change adaptation.

The governor said the academy needs a bigger area and a building of its own to cater to the growing number of enrollees from different LGUs in the country and officials from other countries who want to learn more and train in climate-change adaptation and disaster-risk reduction.

Salceda said more and bigger infrastructure projects are seen to rise in Albay in the future particularly after the BIA shall have opened, which will pave the way for more rapid economic growth.

He said the drawing of the Albay PPP code is anchored on the constitutional provision that “the local government, as a territorial and political subdivision enjoys local autonomy...and local governments have the power to create their own sources of revenue.” PNA



# The Standard

DEFINING THE NEWS

13 JAN 2016

DATE

B 7

PAGE

UPPER HALF

LOWER HALF

**STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION AND INITIATIVES SERVICE**

## 2015 called a tipping point for climate change problem

*PARIS—When future generations write the history of humanity's faltering quest to repair Earth's climate system, 2015 will have its own chapter.*

Nature, along with the usually fractious family of nations, conspired to make it a landmark year: almost certainly the hottest on record for the planet as a whole, and a rare moment of unity when 195 states pledged to curb the carbon pollution that drives global warming.

Whether the December 12 Paris Agreement is the key to our salvation or too-little-too-late depends on what

happens starting now, experts and activists told AFP.

"The most compelling thing you can say about Paris is not that it saved the planet, but that it saved the chance of saving the planet," said Bill McKibben, founder of the grassroots organization 350.org and an architect of the worldwide movement to divest from fossil fuel companies.

Robert Stavins, director of the Harvard Environmental Economics Program at the Harvard Kennedy School, was also chary: "We will only be able to judge whether it is truly a success year, perhaps decades, from now."

But whatever lies ahead, they all agree that the last year has been a "tipping point" on climate change.

"Paris represented a real sea change in seriousness in coming to grips with the issue," said Alden Meyer, a veteran climate analyst from the Washington-based Union of Concerned Scientists who has followed the UN process for nearly three decades.

Much of that seriousness was driven by a crescendo of deadly extreme weather and the growing confidence of science in connecting the dots with long-term shifts in climate.

The US National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration will likely report Wednesday on record-breaking heat in 2015.

They could point to the most powerful hurricane ever registered; freakish, above-freezing temperatures—if only for a day—at the North Pole

in December; or life-threatening droughts in eastern and southern Africa.

Some of that will be chalked up to El Niño, a natural weather pattern that creates havoc along the tropical and southern Pacific Rim every five or six years. But the very fact that the El Niño is the most intense ever measured may itself be a by-product of global warming.

Scientists reported last week that climate change has probably pushed back the next Ice Age by 50,000 years.

That may sound like good news, but more than anything it is a stunning testament to the extent to which human activity—mainly burning fossil fuels—has played havoc with planet's thermostat. **AFP**



13 JAN 2016

# PEOPLES JOURNALS

Everybody's Newspaper

DATE

6

PAGE

UPPER HALF

LOWER HALF

## PUBLIC AFFAIRS OFFICE NEWS CLIPPINGS

# SAVING EARTH

## 2015 a 'tipping point' for climate change

By Marlowe Hood

PARIS -- When future generations write the history of humanity's faltering quest to repair Earth's climate system, 2015 will have its own chapter.

Nature, along with the usually fractious family of nations, conspired to make it a landmark year: almost certainly the hottest on record for the planet as a whole, and a rare moment of unity when 195 states pledged to curb the carbon pollution that drives global warming.

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### The 'golden spike'

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Scientists reported last week that climate change has probably pushed back the next Ice Age by 50,000 years.

That may sound like good news, but more than anything it is a stunning testament to the extent to which human activity — mainly burning fossil fu-

els — has played havoc with the planet's thermostat.

Experts have also come a step closer to concluding that our impact on Earth's bio-chemical systems has been so massive as to justify the christening of a new geological era.

The "golden spike", or start date, for the Anthropocene — the "Age of Man" — will probably be the mid-20th century.

What Saleemul Huq, director of the International Centre for Climate Change and Development in Dhaka, calls a "greater planetary consciousness" on climate has shown up in business and politics as well.

In the World Economic Forum's annual survey on global risks over the coming decade, released last week, some 750 experts put "failure of climate change mitigation and adaptation" at the top of the list for the first time.

"Mitigation" means cutting greenhouse gas emissions, and "adaptation" refers to coping with the consequences of climate change.

In third and fourth position are "water crises" and "large-scale involuntary migration".

### Record clean energy investment

In the business arena, the balance of investment is shifting away from fossil fuels and towards renewables, Bloomberg New Energy Finance reported recently.

Despite tumbling oil and gas prices, global investment in clean energy

reached \$329 billion (300 billion euros) in 2015, a new record, Bloomberg said.

US President Barack Obama has dealt the US coal industry — already reeling from bankruptcies — another body blow in announcing a freeze on new coal mine permits on federal land.

The 2015 watershed on climate change has crystallized a gradual shift from debate over the reality and extent of global warming, to a discussion on what to do about it.

"After having concentrated for years on the problems generated by climate change, we are seeing across the globe solutions responding to the crisis," said Pascal Canfin, a former French government minister and the new head of WWF France.

But Canfin and others caution against undue optimism.

"There's a huge amount of resistance and inertia built into the system," said Huq. "Changing the global economy is not a trivial matter."

Much of that resistance will come from the fossil fuel industry, faced with the fact that 80 percent of known reserves must stay in the ground to have even a shot at holding global warming to "well below two degrees Celsius" (3.6 degrees Fahrenheit) above mid-19th century levels, much less the 1.5 degree target climate-vulnerable countries fought so hard to include in the Paris Agreement as an aspirational goal.



13 JAN 2016

DATE

PAGE 11

UPPER HALF

LOWER HALF

# MANILA BULLETIN

THE NATION'S LEADING NEWSPAPER

STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION AND INITIATIVES SERVICES

## SURVEY

# Migration, climate top risks for Davos leaders

By BEN HIRSCHLER

**L**ONDON, United Kingdom (Reuters) — We live in an increasingly dangerous world, with political, economic, and environmental threats piling up, according to experts polled by the World Economic Forum.

Ahead of its annual meeting in Davos next week, the group's 2016 Global Risks report on Thursday ranked the migrant crisis as the biggest single risk in terms of likelihood, while climate change was seen as having the greatest potential impact.

Around 60 million people have been displaced by conflicts from Syria to South Sudan, pushing refugee flows to record levels that are some 50 percent higher than during World War II.

Coupled with attacks such as those on Paris last year and geopolitical fault lines stretching from the Middle East to the South China

Sea, the world is today arguably less politically stable than at any time since the end of the Cold War.

Economic fears, particularly for Chinese growth, and increasingly frequent extreme weather events are further red flags, resulting in a greater breadth of risks than at any time in the survey's 11-year history.

"Almost every risk is now up over the last couple of years and it paints an overall environment of unrest," said John Drzik, head of global risk at insurance broker Marsh, who helped compile the report.

"Economic risks have come back reasonably strongly, with China, energy prices, and asset bubbles all seen as significant problems in many countries."

Last year, the threat of conflict between states topped the list of risks for the first time, after previous editions mostly highlighted economic threats.

British Finance Minister George

Osborne, one of those heading to the Alpine ski resort set the mood last week, warning that 2016 opened "with a dangerous cocktail of new threats."

The Jan. 20-23 Davos meeting will bring together players from geopolitical hot spots such as the foreign ministers of arch-rivals Iran and Saudi Arabia, as well as the biggest ever US delegation, including Vice President Joe Biden.

North Korea's invitation, however, has been revoked, after it conducted a nuclear test, defying a United Nations ban.

The immediate problems of Middle East tensions, China's turbulent markets, and a tumbling oil price are likely to dominate corridor conversations at Davos.

But long-term concerns identified in the report center more on physical and societal trends, especially the impact of climate change and the danger of attendant water and food shortages.





13 JAN 2016

# PEOPLES JOURNALS

Everybody's Newspaper

DATE  
4  
PAGE

UPPER HALF

LOWER HALF

## PUBLIC AFFAIRS OFFICE NEWS CLIPPINGS

### South Wind

**IF it is good for the North it must be good for the South.**

This is specially true for things derived from nature.

Consider man's basic needs—food, clothing, shelter, energy.

Energy derived from nature—hydro, solar, and wind—is not only cheap but also clean and renewable.

They don't pose a heavy burden on the economy, and they don't harm the ecology.

Thus, vice presidential candidate Senator Ferdinand “Bongbong” R. Marcos Jr. over the weekend urged the development of wind farm energy source in Mindanao as part of the solution to the perennial power shortage in the island.

Marcos said the wind farm energy source is suitable since the technical requirement for it is present in the southern part of the country.

“The technical requirement for a wind farm, ang tawag nila doon ay wind farm, is determined by the terrain, by the wind, by the seasons. I think, I'm sure mayroon tayo dito sa Mindanao na pwede tayong paglagyan (ng wind-mills) and it's just the question of finding it,” he told reporters in a press conference after he spoke at the “Davao Regional Consultation” meeting in Apo View Hotel, Davao City.

Aside from wind mills, Marcos proposed the development and establishment of other alternative “green energy sources” like solar energy source.

“Kailangan nating tingnan...all kinds of alternative energy (sources), una na diyan yung wind tapos iyung solar kasi bumababa ang cost kaya't nagiging viable na ang ganyang mga klaseng alternative energy source,” he said.

But Marcos reminded that peace in Mindanao is the most basic requirement since no corporation will invest in energy source or power supply if the risks are high.

“Balik na naman tayo sa peace process kasi walang papasok na malalaking korporasyon kung may high risk, not only in terms of financial risk, but also of security risk,” he said.

Manila is a signatory to the recent Paris pact, an international agreement limiting carbon emission to address the problem of global warming signed by 150 capitals.

Such warming of the planet has been largely blamed on the burning of fossil fuels like oil and coal.

This are major air pollutants that have caused climate change or the steady warming of the planet.

The Paris pact is designed to stop this catastrophic trend.



13 JAN 2016



DATE

PAGE

UPPER HALF

LOWER HALF

## PUBLIC AFFAIRS OFFICE NEWS CLIPPINGS

### Senate okays state salary hike measure

VOTING 19-0-0, the Senate yesterday passed the proposed Salary Standardization Law IV, which seeks a higher compensation system for all government employees, including nurses, teachers and soldiers.

Senate Bill No. 2671, sponsored by Sen. Antonio Trillanes IV with Sen. Chiz Escudero as co-sponsor, was approved on third and final reading with 19 affirmative votes, no negative vote and no abstention. It was already approved last Dec. 14, but was returned to the plenary the next day, Dec. 15, for reconsideration.

Trillanes said that the proposed measure will introduce a new compensation and position classification system (CPCS) which will bring the pay of government personnel closer to prevailing rates in the private sector, or to at least 70 percent of the market rate for all salary grades.

This means government personnel like nurses who are currently receiving P24,887 per month (under Salary Grade 15) will have their salaries raised to P26,192 next year. In the final year of the SSL, their monthly salaries shall have been raised to P30,531. He said the minimum basic salary for civilian government personnel (Salary

Grade 1 or "Administrative Aide") would be raised from the current rate of P9,000 to P11,068.

A similar hike, Trillanes said, would be applied to the pay of military and uniformed personnel, as army privates, apprentice seamen and police officers of the lowest rank would have their monthly salaries raised from P14,834

to P16,597.

Aside from the increases in the monthly salary of government personnel, the proposed measure also introduces an improved set of allowances and benefits, such as 14th month pay, a mid-year bonus, and an enhanced performance-based bonus which can be equal or double the monthly salary.

"The bill will maximize the employees' net take-home pay and recognize the government personnel who play a greater role and carry a heavier responsibility in improving government performance," said Trillanes.

The bill passed on second reading after the inclusion of amendments.

**Bernadette E. Tamayo**



# The Manila Times

STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION AND INITIATIVES SERVICE

## New technologies help make ethanol more sustainable

**E**THANOL is helping America reduce its dependence on foreign oil, lowering gas prices, improving the environment with lower emissions and growing the economy with jobs that can't be outsourced. In 2014 alone, the ethanol industry created and supported nearly 400,000 new jobs across the country. And a University of Wisconsin/Iowa State University study found that, in 2011, ethanol saved consumers an average of \$1.09 per gallon.

Now, new technologies are helping make ethanol more sustainable. Enogen corn enzyme technology, available only from Syngenta, is the industry's only corn bio-engineered specifically to enhance ethanol production. By incorporating Enogen grain into its existing production process, an ethanol plant can reduce its carbon footprint.

In a 100 million-gallon plant, for example, Enogen corn can help save 350 billion BTUs of natural gas; 10 million kWh of electricity; 68 million gallons of water; and 106 million pounds of CO<sub>2</sub> emissions.

Savings across ethanol industry would generate enough natural gas to homes for a year and enough electricity to light 1.5 million more, while saving water equal to 140 billion eight-ounce glasses. The reduction in CO<sub>2</sub> emissions would be equivalent to removing approximately 630,000 passenger cars from the road each year.

### More ethanol from the same kernel of corn

Last year, Quad County Corn Processors (QCCP) helped kick off a new era for the biofuels industry when it opened its 2 million-gallon cellulosic ethanol facility in Galva, Iowa. QCCP employs

Cellerate, a revolutionary process technology, to produce cellulosic ethanol from corn kernel fiber. Cellerate is licensed exclusively by Syngenta and will be marketed along with Enogen. Dry grind ethanol plants can integrate Cellerate into their existing production process. With Cellerate, the biofuels industry now has the technology to create 2 billion gallons of additional cellulosic ethanol—all from the same kernel of corn.

During 2013, Syngenta announced six commitments to address the global food security challenge. The Good Growth Plan has specific, ambitious and measurable targets that focus on boosting resource efficiency, rejuvenating ecosystems and strengthening rural communities. Enogen and Cellerate are examples of how Syngenta is bringing "The Good Growth Plan" to life by helping ethanol plants increase production efficiency and make ethanol more sustainable.

Ethanol is a fuel for today and tomorrow. Ethanol is making a significant contribution to the U.S. economy, helping to drive down gasoline prices for consumers and reduce carbon emissions for a cleaner environment.

**NORTH AMERICAN PRECIS SYNDICATE**



■ Ethanol industry created and supported nearly 400,000 new jobs



# The Manila Times

**STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION AND INITIATIVES SERVICE**

## COMMENTARY

### How do we pay for climate change?

**BY RONY V DIAZ**  
FORMER MANILA TIMES EDITOR  
AND PUBLISHER

**R**ISING seas. Stronger storms. Prolonged droughts. Species extinction.

These are some of the impacts of climate change. Our response is adaptation and mitigation that have to be done together within the first half of the century. Otherwise, climate change becomes irreversible.

The Paris Agreement, although not legally binding, is compelling enough to make us act on our own to help protect our "common home," to borrow Pope Francis's words.

The key policy is to put a price on carbon and to tax it. With this policy we can hasten the transition from fossil fuels to clean, renewable energy and generate the additional revenue needed for adaptation measures.

We should not wait for other countries to help us adjust to the impacts of climate change.

In an article in the science journal *Nature*, "Energy Policy: Push renewables to spur carbon pricing" on September 2, 2015, Gernot Wagner, et al, said: "Putting a price on carbon dioxide and other greenhouse gases to curb emissions must be the centerpiece of any comprehensive climate change policy. We know it works: pricing carbon creates broad incentives to cut emissions. Yet the current price of carbon remains too low relative to the hidden environmental, health,

and societal costs of burning a ton of coal or a barrel of oil. The global average price is zero, once half a trillion dollars of fossil fuel subsidies are factored in."

The idea of carbon pricing and a carbon tax has caught on. At this moment, about twenty countries have begun different variations of a carbon tax.

Sweden has the highest price on its CO2 emissions at up to US\$125 per ton. The European Union has priced 45% of its greenhouse gas emissions at US\$8 per ton. In the US, carbon pricing is a policy in California, Colorado and Maryland (at the level of a county and only one thermal power plant). In Canada, only Quebec has a carbon tax.

Of the countries that I have studied, I would suggest that we look at the systems in South Korea and Denmark.

South Korea began on August 22, 2008 by organizing a Low Carbon, Green Growth Movement that is financed by a tax on emissions for vehicles, and a tax on carbon for power plants.

In addition, the private sector is asked to contribute to a central fund operated by the Korea Finance Corporation to undertake R&D on climate change.

In the case of Denmark, the tax is levied on the carbon content of fossil fuels. For example, petroleum is taxed at DKK per metric ton while the levy on natural gas

is DKK 5.6 per metric ton. The CO2 tax is applied to all energy users. But manufacturing can be taxed differently depending on a voluntary agreement on energy efficiency. A tax refund is given to efficient users. Most of the money collected goes to an R&D fund.

Our problem is the present low price of fossil fuels. There's no incentive for efficiency or for investments in renewable energies.

Unfortunately, global warming, unless controlled, is inexorable and could become irreversible before an "appropriate" price of carbon is reached.

The market-based solution is through a carbon tax with incentives for private industry to make the switch to clean energy. It would also help if feed-in tariffs and access to the grid were introduced to make household generated electricity by rooftop solar panels, if not profitable, at least viable.

In terms of new technologies, more investments in storage batteries should be encouraged using some of the revenue from the carbon tax.

Finally, climate science requires the training of young people in the techniques and technologies of climate change adaptation and mitigation. This too can be financed also by a carbon tax.

I do not want to mislead my readers. These are rearguard actions. I don't know if they will work. But what else can we do?