

STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION AND INITIATIVES SERVICE

DATE : 02 MAY 2016

DAY : Monday

# DENR

## IN THE NEWS

THE EXPONENT OF PHILIPPINE PROGRESS  
SINCE 1908

# MANILA BULLETIN

THE NATION'S LEADING NEWSPAPER

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STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION AND INITIATIVES SERVICE

## NWRB maintains Metro Manila's water allocation

By ELLALYN B. DE VERA

The National Water Resources Board (NWRB) has retained the water allocation of 46 cubic meters per second (cms) for Metro Manila households this month, amid the dwindling level of Angat Dam, which supplies 90 percent of the metropolis' water needs.

The water allocation for domestic supply and irrigation for this month was approved by the NWRB Board last Friday.

The NWRB, however, approved a lower allocation for irrigation of farmlands in Bulacan and Pampanga from 15 cms to 7 cms.

The NWRB meanwhile pointed out that in case there is a need for additional power supply during the elections, there will be an additional standby allocation for NIA for power generation.

This was amid the declining water level of Angat Dam, which was at 191.52 meters as of Sunday morning, lower by 20.48 meters than the reservoir's maximum level of 212 meters.

The normal allocation for domestic supply is 43-46 cms, and 20-30 cms for irrigation needs under normal dam level conditions.

Earlier, Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration (PAGASA) hydrologist Sheila Schneider assured that while all the dams in Luzon have dwindling water levels, there is still sufficient amount of water until the beginning of rainy season.

As the country is still reeling from the effects of El Niño, the NWRB continues to appeal to the public to conserve water.

The transition from El Niño to neutral condition (non-El Niño condition) is expected by May to July 2016 thus the impacts of El Niño may be prolonged.

### Weather outlook

Today, warm weather will still prevail over most parts of the country with isolated rains particularly in the afternoon or evening.

PAGASA said the ridge of high pressure area continues to affect Northern Luzon, while the easterlies prevail over the eastern section of Central and Southern Luzon, Visayas and Mindanao.

It said partly cloudy to cloudy skies will prevail over Metro Manila and the rest of the country with isolated rain showers or thunderstorms mostly over the eastern section of Central and Southern Luzon, Visayas and Mindanao.



# HATAW!

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Republic of the Philippines  
Department of Environment and Natural Resources  
MINES AND GEOSCIENCES BUREAU  
Regional Office No. VI  
Queen City Garden Mall, J. De Leon Street, Iloilo City, Philippines

**NOTICE OF APPLICATION  
OF  
ASIAN PALLADIUM MINING DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION  
FOR  
FINANCIAL OR TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE AGREEMENT (FTAA)**

Notice is hereby given that pursuant to Section 55 of DENR Administrative Order No. 2010-21, Providing for a Consolidated Department of Environment and Natural Resources Administrative Order for the Implementing Rules and Regulations of Republic Act No. 7942, otherwise known as the "Philippine Mining Act of 1995", **ASIAN PALLADIUM MINING DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION** with office address at 83 Times St., West Triangle, Quezon City, Philippines has filed an application/ proposal for Financial or Technical Assistance Agreement for the exploration, development, and utilization of certain palladium, platinum and/or other associated mineral deposits and particularly described as follows:

- I. Registration No. : AFTA-000010VI
- II. Date of Registration : April 5, 2016
- III. Area Location : Barangays Embarcadero, Salong, Banban, Alinsolong, Binon-an and Tanao, Municipality of Batad, Barangays Tacuayan, Banca, Paon, Tanza, Jolog, Cuenca, Municipality of Estancia, Barangays, Dayhagan, Guintic-Ban, Barosbos, Poblacion, Punta Bolocawe, Cabunguana, Bancal, Buenavista, Tabugon, Tinigban, Barancalan, Isla de Cana, Punta Bakuan, Bito-on, Laquingot, Buaya, Alipata and San Fernando, Municipality of Carles, and Barangays Naborot, Talootu-an, Macatunao, Tambaliza and Salvacion, Municipality of Concepcion, Province of Iloilo and barangays Antividad, San Esteban, San Ramon, Casanayan, San Antonio, Balago and Dayhagan, Municipality of Pilar, Province of Capiz

**IV. Technical Description of the Area:**

Corner	Latitude	Longitude
1	11°17'00.00"	123°12'30.00"
2	11°19'00.00"	123°12'30.00"
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8	11°23'00.00"	123°12'00.00"
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61	11°20'30.00"	123°12'30.00"
62	11°19'30.00"	123°12'30.00"
63	11°19'30.00"	123°13'00.00"
64	11°17'00.00"	123°13'00.00"

**Exceptions:** The proposed Contract Area shall be subject to Section 19 of RA 7942 and Section 15 ("Areas Closed to Mining Locations") and Section 16 ("Ancestral Lands"), of DENR Administrative Order No. 2010-21, Series of 2010. Among other things:

- The following shall be closed to mining locations: areas with valid and existing mining rights; existing mining applications; and areas expressly prohibited by law.
- The following shall also be closed to mining locations except upon the written consent of the concerned government agency or private entity subject to the evaluation and validation by the bureau: areas near or under public or private buildings, cemeteries, archeological and historical sites, bridges, highways, waterways, railroads, reservoirs, dams or other infrastructure projects, public or private works including plantations or valuable crops.
- Applications for mineral agreement or financial or technical assistance agreements covering: small scale mining areas; civil or military reservations: areas covered by Certificate of Ancestral Domain claims; or areas of ancestral land as may be defined by law shall required prior written consent of concerned individuals, groups or other government agencies having jurisdiction over the area/s applied for.

**#Notes**

- The approval of an Environmental Clearance Certificate, with all the necessary public consultations, shall be required prior to any and all mining construction, development and production.
- The Notice must be accompanied by a map/sketch plan with index map showing the nearest municipality(ies) and any major environmental feature(s).

V. Size of the Area : **10,474.9632 hectares, more or less**

**VI. Duration of the Agreement:**

- Exploration Period – shall have a term of two (2) years renewable for another two (2) years each but in no case shall exceed a total of six (6) years;
- Total duration of the Agreement shall be twenty five (25) years from the date of execution, subject to renewal for another period not to exceed twenty five (25) years under the same terms and conditions subject to changes mutually agreed upon by both parties and provided further, that such terms and conditions are not inconsistent with law and do not prejudice the principle of sustainable development.

**VII. Extent of Exploration to be Undertaken:**

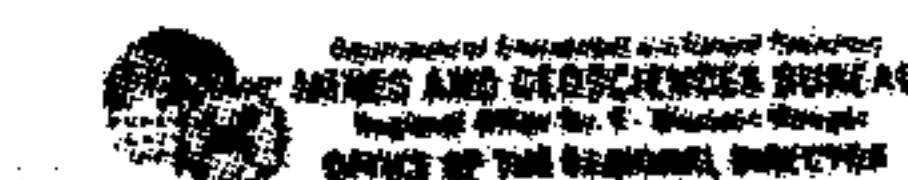
Research Work, Follow-up Marine Geophysical Survey, High-Resolution Seismic Reflection Survey, Bathymetric Survey, Data Processing and Interpretation, Drilling

Any and all persons having adverse claims, protest and/or position to the abovementioned application are hereby notified that their adverse claims should be filed within ten (10) days from the last date of publication/posting, directly with the Regional Office concerned or through any concerned Community Environment and Natural Resources Officer (CENRO) or Provincial Environment and Natural Resources Officer (PENRO) of the DENR for filing in the Regional Office for purposes of its resolution by the Panel of Arbitrators and / or the concerned appellate body(ies) pursuant to the provision of Republic Act No. 7942 and its Revised Implementing Rules and Regulations. Adverse claims, protest or oppositions should be accomplished in accordance with Sections 203 and 204 of DENR Administrative Order No. 96-40, Series of 1996, and a copy thereof shall be furnished to the applicant/contractor by the adverse claimant.

For further particulars, apply or course your inquiries to the Regional Director, Mines and Geosciences Bureau, Regional Office No. VI, Queen City Garden Mall, J de Leon St., Iloilo City

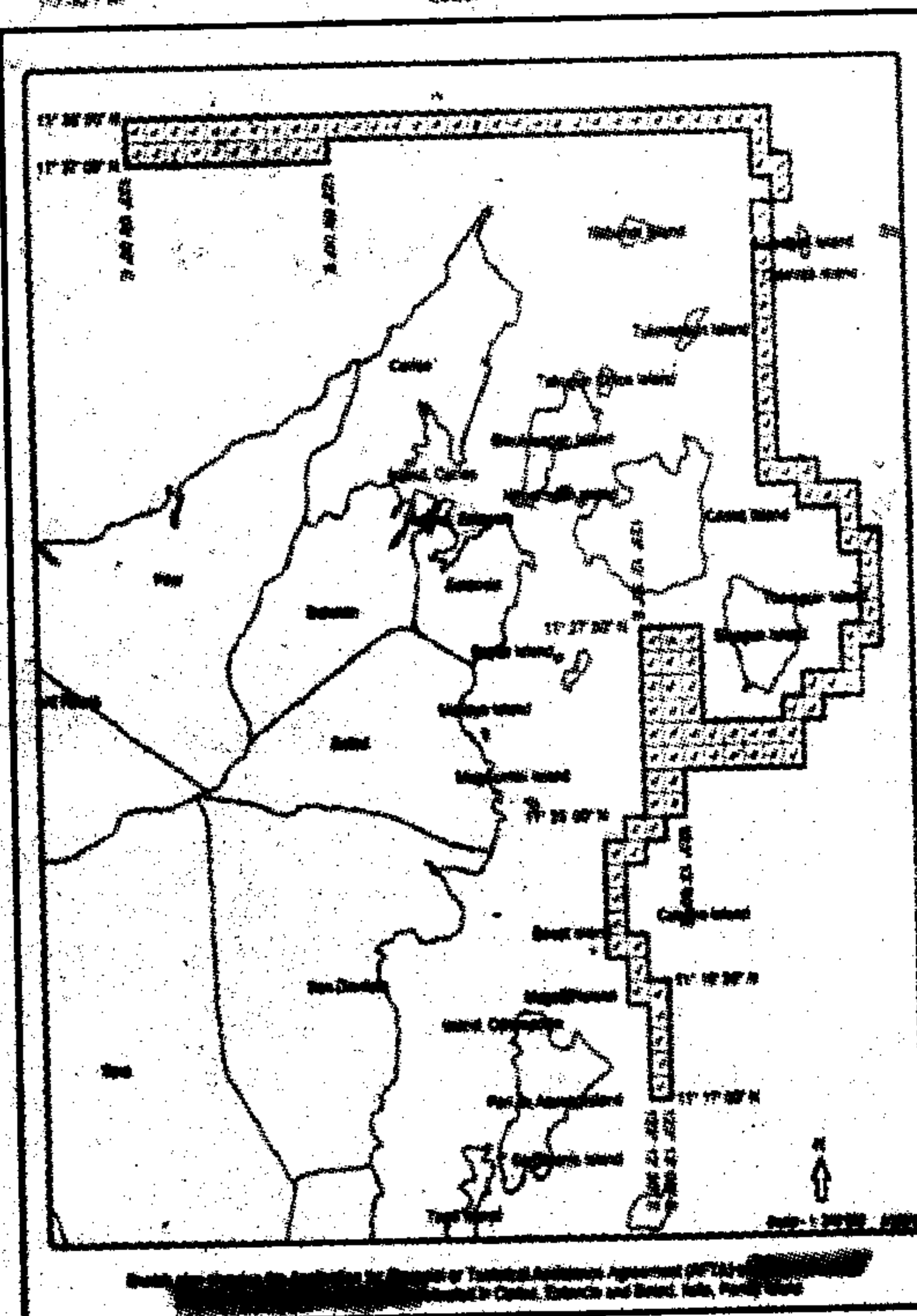
Iloilo City, Philippines, April 22, 2016.

**LEO VAN V. JUGUAN, CESO V**  
Regional Director



09:30 PM

Letter



HATAW: May 2, 2016



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# BusinessMirror

A broader look at today's business

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## Oil-field wastewater spills release toxins, scientists say

**B**RINE spills from oil development in western North Dakota are releasing toxins into soils and waterways, sometimes at levels exceeding federal water quality standards, scientists reported on Wednesday.

Samples taken from surface waters affected by waste spills in recent years in the state's Bakken oil-field region turned up high levels of lead, ammonium, selenium and other contaminants, Duke University researchers said.

Additionally, they found that some spills had tainted land with radium, a radioactive element.

Long-term monitoring of waters downstream from spill sites is needed to determine what risks the pollution might pose for human health and the environment, geochemistry Prof. Avner Vengosh said. But the study revealed "clear evidence of direct water contamination" from oil development using the method known as hydraulic fracturing, or fracking, he said, describing the problem as "widespread and persistent."

Wastewater spills are a long-standing yet largely overlooked

# 175M

**The number of gallons of wastewater spilled in North Dakota from 2009 to 2014**

side effect of oil and gas production that worsened during the nation's recent drilling boom, when advances in fracking technology enabled North Dakota's daily output to soar from 4.2 million gallons in 2007 to 42 million gallons in 2014.

The Associated Press (AP) reported last year that data from leading oil- and gas-producing states showed more than 175 million gallons of wastewater spilled from 2009 to 2014 in incidents involving ruptured pipes, overflowing storage

tanks and other mishaps or even deliberate dumping. There were some 21,651 individual spills. The numbers were incomplete because many releases go unreported.

The wastewater is often much saltier than the oceans and kills nearly all vegetation it touches, rendering sections of crop and ranch lands unusable. It also contains toxic chemicals, some of which are injected during fracking to release oil and gas from rock deposits and others that exist naturally underground.

In their report, published in the journal Environmental Science and Technology, Vengosh and other Duke researchers said their findings were based on an analysis of water samples from four areas affected by spills, two of which—in July 2014 and January 2015—were the largest on record in North Dakota.

They identified unique chemical "fingerprints" that showed the contaminants came from brine spills and not some other source, Vengosh said.

In most samples, toxic selenium was measured in concentrations up to 35 times the level that the US Environmental Protection Agency considers safe for freshwater aquatic life, the report said. And other elements were found in



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Oil-field wastewater spills release to toxins  
Scientists says

concentrations above the EPA limit for drinking water.

"The results of this study indicate that the water contamination from brine spills is remarkably persistent in the environment, resulting in elevated levels of salts and trace elements that can be preserved in spill sites for at least months to years," the report said.

Dave Glatt, chief of North Dakota's environmental health section, said it was well known that oil-field wastewater is laced with toxic substances. But most spills don't endanger the public because they are quickly cleaned up and don't reach waterways, he said. Work continues on three of

the sites from which the Duke researchers drew samples and drinking water has not been contaminated, he said.

Kerry Sublette, a University of Tulsa chemical engineering professor and expert on oilfield wastewater spills who wasn't involved with the Duke study, said the team's methods could help other researchers establish clear links between the spills and changes in stream chemistry.

Sublette recently completed a study that found toxins from spills in streams flowing through Oklahoma's Tallgrass Prairie Preserve, which will disrupt food chains by killing insects, worms and other small animals, he said. AP



PUMP jacks operating at the Kern River Oil Field in Bakersfield, California, in January 2015. A federal review says the US Environmental Protection Agency is failing to protect drinking-water reserves from oil-field contamination. The US Government Accountability Office review follows disclosures that California allowed oil companies to dump wastewater into some federally protected supplies of drinking water. AP/JAC. HONG



THE EXPONENT OF PHILIPPINE PROGRESS  
SINCE 1900

# MANILA BULLETIN

THE NATION'S LEADING NEWSPAPER

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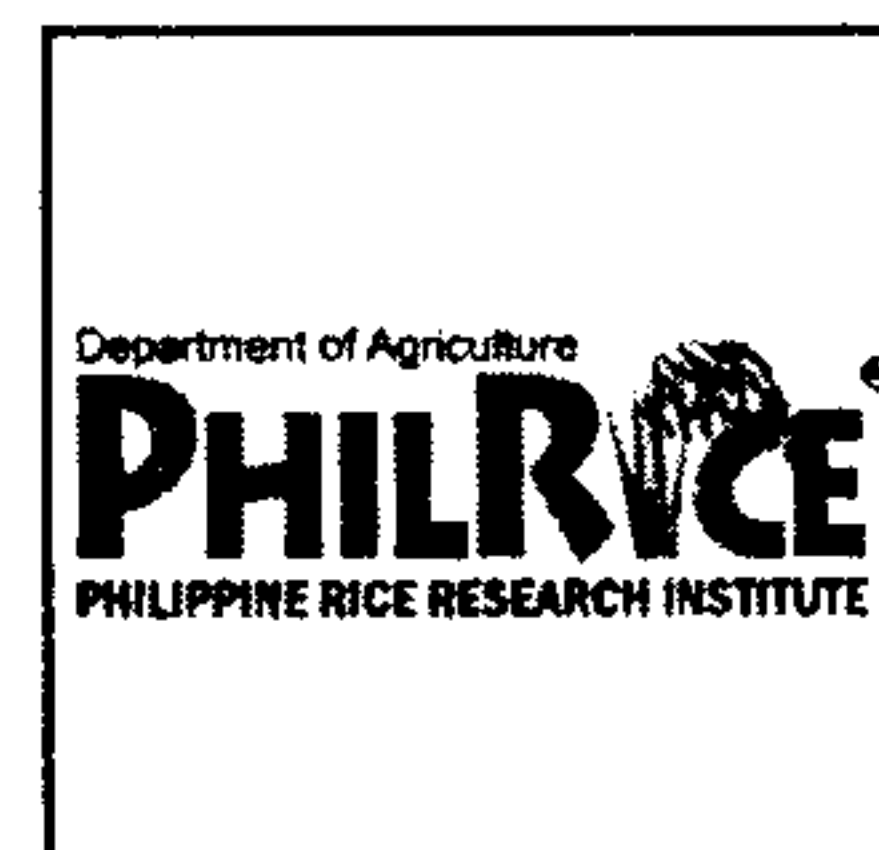
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## STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION AND INITIATIVES SERVICE

### PHILRICE WARNING

## Burning of rice straw reduces soil nutrients



**S**CIENCE CITY OF MUÑOZ, Nueva Ecija (PNA) — The Philippine Rice Research Institute (PhilRice) has asked farmers to refrain from burning “dayami” (rice straw), saying this could reduce soil nutrients and make farmlands unproductive.

Evelyn Javier, supervising science research specialist of the PhilRice’s Agronomy, Soil, and Physiology division, said rice straw-burning, which is being practiced during the harvest season, releases air pollutants such as carbon dioxide, carbon monoxide, nitrogen dioxide, and sulphur dioxide.

When done frequently, she said this could reduce the soil’s nitrogen content and phosphorus content by 25 percent.

It also cuts potassium content in soil by 20 percent and sulphur by 5-60 percent, she said.

Javier said that some beneficial insects are being killed when the rice straws are burned.

Useful insects kill some harmful insects which destroy palay and reduce production.

The PhilRice said that Republic Act 9003, the Solid Waste Management Act and the Philippine Clean Air Act of 1999 both prohibit open-field burning, including burning of rice straws.

Based on PhilRice statistics, the country produces 15.2 million tons of rice annually of which 11.3 million tons are turned into rice straw.

To minimize post-harvest waste, rice straws can be used by farmers as organic fertilizer and primary material for mushroom production.

Also, rice straw and other biomass from farm by-products can help farmers save expenses from chemical fertilizer inputs.

Javier said that when rice straws are scattered in the field during land preparation, they maintain the soil’s nutrients such as nitrogen, phosphorus, potassium, sulphur, silicon, and carbon as well as moisture.

They also preserve the biodiversity of microorganisms that helps in nutrient cycling and efficient fertilizer utilization.

Rice straws can also be used as mulch to protect the roots of the plants from heat and cold and reduce the evaporation rate and prevent weeds from growing in the paddy.

Rizal G. Corales of PhilRice’s Palayamanan Plus recommended the use of rice straws as substrate for oyster mushroom production.

Instead of burning rice straws, Corales said, they could be utilized for other agricultural purposes.

“Using rice straw as mushroom substrate is economically profitable for farmers and people engaged in agribusiness,” he said, adding that waste from mushroom production is also the main substrate for vermicomposting, one of the best organic fertilizers produced.



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### El Nido Resorts advocate for nature conservation

**B**ACUIT Bay, home of three of the four El Nido Resorts (ENR), has remained essentially the same for the last 250 million years. But in the 1970s, the place was in danger of getting overwhelmed by logging activities. Fortunately, the place was named a turtle sanctuary and, eventually, a protected area, developments that have helped keep the area relatively untouched.

Stories like these shared by the guides of Bacuit Bay's Miniloc, Lagen and Pangulasian island resorts and Apulit, a fourth island resort in the next municipality, make a stay in El Nido Resorts memorable, said Joey Bernardino, ENR director of Sales and Marketing.

"Most of our guides who accompany guests to the activities offered in the islands, are locals and they inject freshness and vitality to the visitor's appreciation of his surroundings," Bernardino said.

In addition to the facilities, accommodations and food and beverage, their interactions with clients have been significant in reaping a 95-percent guest satisfaction rating through the years. The guides also contribute to maintaining the biodiversity in the area by helping guests identify as many of the 855 species of marine fish, 400 species of corral and five of the seven species of marine turtles in the world found around the resorts. They also educate guests on the origins of Palawan, its geology, the history of El Nido municipality and the many other facets that make the place so special in addition to assisting guests snorkel, do trail hikes, and get on and off the boats.

Thus, when they point out just how important it is to keep the balance in the area by not littering, not feeding the monkeys and respecting the wildlife, guests readily respond

as their contribution to sustaining the resorts. They are so drawn to the advocacy of preserving as much of El Nido's beauty that they willingly accept the reusable bags handed them upon arrival for personal trash, such as empty sachets of shampoo and conditioner.

Many guests even heed the suggestion to bring home the litter.

Nevertheless, most of the guides and other frontliners who were born and raised in the area grew up oblivious to the uniqueness of their surroundings. They are themselves the products of ENR's program called "Be GREEN"—short for Guard Respect Educate El Nido—which teach different aspects of conservation to all new employees of the resorts.

Moreover, they undergo intense training and refresher courses in Nature Interpretation defined by ENR Director for Sustainability Mariglo Laririt as "the systematic ordering and weaving of observable and verifiable facts to create compelling stories."

According to Jamie Dichaves, Lagen Environmental officer, the five-day Nature Interpretation program is composed of lectures on the geography and biodiversity of Palawan, the geology of the El Nido area, the marine turtles, terrestrial animals, birds and the like found there. But among the most compelling invitations to preserve El Nido's beauty results from activities such as witnessing marine turtle eggs hatch—and alongside other guests and resort staff—to cheer the hatchlings as they make their way back to the sea. Female turtles who survive to adulthood will return to that very same beach to lay their own eggs, the guides pointed out. Those rites of passage make an El Nido Resort vacation unique and extra special.



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El Nido Resorts advocate for nature  
conservation



El Nido Resorts (ENR) guests witness marine turtle eggs hatch and, alongside ENR staff, cheer the hatchlings as they make their way back to the sea.



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## ADB's new long-term strategy may include climate finance

BY CAI ORDINARIO [@cuo\\_bm](#)

**F**RANKFURT, Germany—The Asian Development Bank (ADB) said it will soon prepare a new long-term strategy, dubbed as the Long Term Strategic Framework (LTSF) for 2030, which could include financing for climate action.

In an interview with the BUSINESSMIRROR ahead of the 49th Annual Meeting here, ADB Board of Governors Secretary Woo Chong Um said the discussions in the seminars and among the board of governors will be part of the inputs in the next LTSF.

The ADB released its LTSF for 2020 during the Annual Meeting of Governors in Madrid, Spain, in 2008. The document contained future directions for ADB priority areas and lending operations, among others.

"There will be a discussion

### \$5.53B

**The amount of loans extended by the Asian Development Bank to the Philippines**

among the governors about what Asia will look like in the future and what the ADB should do. Now is the appropriate time to start thinking about 2030," Um said.

He said LTSF 2030 may include climate change, the 17 Sustainable Development Goals and climate finance. It could also feature efforts to harness trade facilitation between and among countries.

Um said the ADB's efforts to scale up its private-sector lending operations, which accounted for 10 percent to 15 percent of the bank's portfolio, will be included in the new LTSF.

While the ADB remains a sovereign lender, with sovereign loans accounting for 85 percent to 90 percent of its portfolio, Um said there is a need to provide more loans to private companies.

Under the LTSF 2020, the ADB had targeted to raise its private-sector lending to as much as 50 percent of its portfolio. Um said this was an "ambitious" target, which will take time to achieve.

Earlier, the ADB said the push for more loans to the private sector is due to the fact that its developing member-countries (DMCs), including the Philippines, are expected to have higher per-capita incomes in the next 25 years.

This highlights the need to address the financial requirements of local companies who would like to undertake projects with the gov-



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ADB's new long-term strategy  
may include climate finance

ernment, according to the ADB.

In a phone interview, head of private-sector lending at ADB Todd Freeland recently told the BUSINESS-MIRROR that the demand for private-sector lending is rising among DMCs because of higher GDP growth. Within five years, Freeland said, the Manila-based multilateral development bank projects that almost all of the DMCs will reach middle-income or upper-middle income status.

The ADB said it approved a record \$2.6 billion of new financing and investments for the private sector in 2015, a 37-percent increase from a year earlier and 62 percent higher than in 2013.

With this, the ADB said its private-sector investment portfolio has increased to over \$8 billion, and its private-sector operations are now targeted to double from current levels by 2020.

As of 2015, the Philippines was one of the ADB's biggest sovereign borrowers, according to its Annual Financial Report. The Philippines was the fourth-largest sovereign borrower of the ADB after China, India and Indonesia. The ADB said it extended a total of \$5.53 billion, or 9.5 percent, of the bank's total loan portfolio to finance various projects in the Philippines.



# Freshwater could be PHIL's next big export, ADB executive says

BY CAI U. ORDINARIO [@cuo\\_bm](#)

**F**RANKFURT, Germany—The Philippines could become Asia's largest freshwater exporter if it can maximize the opportunities presented by climate change, according to an executive of the Asian Development Bank (ADB).

In an interview with BUSINESS-MIRROR ahead of the 49th annual meeting here, ADB Board of Governor's Secretary Woo Chong Um said climate change is bound to bring more water to the Philippines through heavy rainfall due to stronger cyclones.

While this poses a threat to millions of Filipinos, especially those living in coastal and low-lying areas, it also presents a unique opportunity to diversify the country's exports.

"Why don't we set up better

dams, better water storage, so that we can sell the water to somewhere else where water is lacking? In the Philippines water is actually of good quality," Um said.

"The Philippines could be the next Evian in France, where fresh water could be sourced. The Philippines could be like that for Asia. Freshwater could be more valuable than petroleum," he added.

Um said climate change can cause severe droughts in many Asian countries and bring more rainfall to the

Philippines in 30 years.

With this is still a long way off, Um said the government and the private sector should start investing in dams and water-storage facilities.

Other investments should also be focused on maintaining water quality. Um said there are times when mishandling of water in the country leads to contamination and people getting sick.

"It's not all pessimistic in terms of dealing with climate change. [It's just a matter of changing the] mind-set. And the ADB is here to help," Um said.

Diversifying exports has been one of the biggest challenges for the Philippines. The country's focus on just a handful of "export winners" is being touted as one of the reasons behind the anemic performance of its merchandise exports.

The country's export earnings have been contracting since March 2015, when it grew only 2.1 percent.

Data from the Philippine Statistics Authority showed that export receipts in February plummeted by 4.5 percent to \$4.31 billion, from



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A broader look at today's business

## PUBLIC AFFAIRS OFFICE NEWS CLIPPINGS

Freshwater could be PHL's next big export, ADB executives says

# \$4.31B



**The export earnings  
of the Philippines in  
February 2016**

\$4.513 billion in the same month last year. Turning water into the next big export, according to Um, is part of the Philippines's adaptation to climate change. But, the country must also couple this with mitigation efforts.

Mitigation means reducing pollution and greenhouse gases. For the Philippines, this would entail an increase in the use of renewable energy resources—wind, solar and geothermal.

While the Philippines has already put in place the Renewable Energy Act of 2008, which promoted the development and use of renewable-energy resources, much needs to be done to scale up these efforts.

Um said one of the ways to scale

up renewable-energy use is to take advantage of severe weather conditions, like the El Niño.

Too much sun, Um said, presents the Philippines with an opportunity to scale up solar energy use. This should spur more investments in solar-power technology and innovations.

He said the power that can be generated through solar energy can be used for cooling systems during hot summer months or during prolonged dry spells. It can even be used for urban mass transport.

"In the last few weeks, it's been scorchingly hot and everyone's complaining of too much sun, so why don't we make use of that and turn it into energy? That's an opportunity that the Philippines can capitalize on," Um said.

Over 3,000 delegates are expected to attend the 49th Annual Meeting of the ADB's Board of Governors, which will kick off today.

Under the theme "Cooperating for Sustainability," this year's meeting will highlight the critical importance of sustainable, inclu-

sive development and the need for closer Asian and European linkages to support it.

Delegates will discuss other topics crucial to the issue of sustainability and inclusiveness, such as what is needed to achieve "green" cities, the finance and technology required to both mitigate and adapt to the impacts of climate change, and actions necessary to produce high-quality jobs in developing Asia that can help address the region's growing levels of inequality.

The meeting will also highlight the essential role the private sector increasingly plays in supporting low-income groups, with an awards ceremony to be held for ADB client companies, who have developed innovative products and services that have benefited the poor.

Host country, Germany, will showcase its own innovative approaches to sustainable living in a "City of Sustainability" exhibition with examples of creative cooperation used to resolve urban problems and to make cities more green and livable.



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## PUBLIC AFFAIRS OFFICE NEWS CLIPPINGS

### Human-centered: Seeing PPP justice like climate justice



By Alberto Agra

#### PPP LEAD

Continued from A1

Per the Alternatives for Community and Environment, "climate justice focuses on the root causes of climate change. As a movement, climate-justice advocates are working from the grassroots up to create solutions to our climate and energy problems that ensure the right of all people to live, learn, work, play and pray in safe, healthy and clean environments."

PPPs should be, thus, reframed and advanced like climate justice. There are five ways.

**1. Beyond the legal, financials and technical.** Climate justice goes beyond and much deeper than the

environment. Similarly, PPP justice is much more than just being compliant with law, economically feasible and technically sound. PPPs must be pursued to serve the true north. The benefits of PPP must not be exclusive to the parties to a PPP. The benefits of PPPs must be actually felt by the people. This is inclusive development.

**2. People as core.** PPPs must be undertaken to benefit the people, improve their quality of life and enhance the public good. Like climate justice, development should be achieved through a human-centered approach. PPPs, therefore, cannot be anti-people, anti-change, anti-development, anti-innovation and anti-participation.

remain in the periphery. Without participation, the underprivileged will remain fence sitters. PPP justice must be designed to attain social justice. Further, in the very process that this goal is met, the silent majority should be part of the kitchen and become active participants in the PPP cycle. PPP must not only be ethical in content. It must, likewise, be ethical in process.

**5. "Sharing in the burdens and benefits."** PPP is about resource exchange. The PPP parties—the gov-

As a movement, climate-justice advocates are working from the grassroots up to create solutions to our climate and energy problems that ensure the right of all people to live, learn, work, play and pray in safe, healthy and clean environments.

**3. Addresses deficits.** A PPP project should not be undertaken for its own sake. A PPP is a development and change strategy aimed at addressing the root causes of poverty, democratic deficits and infrastructure gaps. PPP serves as a bridge to bring us from what is to what should be. Road, water, power, tourism, land development, reclamation, bridge, school, transportation and housing projects under various PPP schemes are necessities and imperatives.

**4. Social justice.** Without development, the marginalized will

ernment, the private-sector proponent and the beneficiaries/consumers—all have a stake, must share in the burden and benefits of the project. PPP is a win-win-win, not just a win-win between the signatories to a PPP contract. To future-proof the arrangement, the reason for PPPs—the people must be coparticipants, coowners, cofunders, codesigners, codevelopers, cocommunicators and cothinkers.

Let us all be part of PPP and climate justice.



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## G-77 should adopt South-South climate-change program, envoy says

UNITED NATIONS—The 134 members of the Group of 77 (G-77) and China made their mark on the Paris climate-change agreement and should now adopt a program of action to implement it, Ambassador Ahmed Djoghlaif told Inter Press Service in a recent interview.

Djoghlaif of Algeria was co-chairman of the Ad Hoc Working Group on the Durban Platform for Enhanced Action (ADP) together with Daniel Reifsnyder of the United States, a position which allowed him to “witness very closely” the negotiation of the Paris agreement.

“As the cochair of the preparatory committee I can tell you that the G-77 has been a major actor

during the negotiation and a major player for the success of the Paris conference,” Djoghlaif said.

Djoghlaif said the G-77 and China made its mark on the Paris agreement by mobilizing a diverse range of countries and subgroups, to “defend the collective interests of the developing countries.”

The group helped to find balance in the agreement “between mitigation issues that are important for developed countries and adaptation issues that are very close to the heart of the developing countries,” Djoghlaif said.

He also said the group fought for equity, response measures, loss and damage, as well as means of implementation, including financing, capacity building and

transfer of technology. “Those that are suffering the most nowadays are those that have less contributed to climate-change crisis and they are using their own limited financial resources to address them, to adapt, to adjust to the consequences created by others,” he said.

### Program of action in Marrakech

“I HOPE that the G-77 through the leadership of Thailand will be able to take the lead and submit to its partners at the next conference of the parties in Marrakech a draft work program on capacity building for the implementation of the Paris agreement,” Djoghlaif said. The 22nd meeting of the Conference

of Parties (COP22) to the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) will be held in Marrakech, Morocco, from November 7 to 18.

Djoghlaif said the program should address North-South, as well as South-South capacity building, which is needed to ensure that developing countries can implement their commitments, including on issues related to the finalization of their nationally determined contributions and preparation of their future contributions.

“It would be important for the developing countries to be able to identify their own capacity-building needs and let others do it for them. It will be also important to

have a framework to coordinate the South-South cooperation on climate change similar to the Caracas Plan of Action on South-South Cooperation or the Buenos Aires Plan of Action on economic and technical cooperation among developing countries,” he said.

Quoting French poet Victor Hugo, Djoghlaif said “not a single army in the world can stop an idea whose time has come, I do believe when it comes to South-South cooperation on climate change it’s an idea whose time has come also.”

“Within the G-77, the diverse group, you have emerging countries that are now leaders in renewable energy and the energy of tomorrow and the they have

I think a responsibility to share their experience and to allow other countries from the same region and the same group to benefit from their experience,” he said.

“I also believe that time has come for the G-77 to initiate its own program of action on climate change,” he said.

Djoghlaif said that developing countries need capacity building to ensure that they can continue to participate fully in the implementation of the Paris climate-change agreement. Unlike developed countries, which “have fully fledged ministries dealing with climate change,” he said, “In the South there is not a single country that has a minister of climate change.” *IPS*





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### Baler vulnerable to sea rise due to climate change

By MAMER BAÑEZ

**BALER, Aurora --** This coastal town is vulnerable to a rise in sea level due to climate change.

This was the warning raised by Dr. Jonathan Moises Jadloc, chairman of the climate change committee of the Philippine College of Physicians Foundation (PCPF), who said that the province -- which has been hit by a tsunami that wiped out 500 families in 1735 -- is susceptible to sea level rise, the threat that Manila and Cebu are both facing.

"Aurora is definitely vulnerable to a rise and sea level, particularly as it lies within the Pacific Ocean. We have seen it during Typhoons Lando and Sendong," Jadloc said.

He said a one-meter rise in sea level could engulf 112,000 hectares of areas and will sink Manila and half of Cebu.

Citing a study by the National Astronomical Service Agency (NASA), Jadloc said a 6.7-inch rise in sea level occurs every 100 years.

Jadloc and his colleagues from the PCPF led the planting of 1,500 mangrove propagules along with local fisherfolks, students and environmentalists along the coastlines at the fish port in Sitio Cemento, Bgy. Zabali, here, re-

cently to strengthen its shores and set up a barrier against tsunami and storm surges in the face of global warming and climate change confronting the country, an archipelagic area composed of small islands.

Aside from serving as barrier against tsunamis and storm surges, mangrove forests serve as spawning ground and habitat for marine animals and migratory birds.

The activity is part of the climate change caravan, a quarterly activity of the PCPF which also supports and pushes for laws that advocate environmental protection.

From 20 pioneering members, it now has 5,000 affiliate members of the Philippine Medical Association (PMA) with 22 regional chapters, eight of which are in the National Capital Region (NCR).

Jadloc said global warming has been the primary cause of sea level rise abetted by melting of ice and glaciers. He said that over the last century, sea level has risen twice as fast as in the previous 100 years.

Last March, Sec. Ramon Paje revealed that sea levels at the country's shores have risen more than 14 millimeters per year, or five times more than the global average of only three millimeters per year.



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## Record gold production pulls up OceanaGold Q1 revenue to \$36.7M

By JONATHAN L. MAYUGA

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**A**USTRALIAN miner OceanaGold Corp. posted a net revenue of \$36.7 million during the first quarter of the year. This is slightly higher compared to the \$31.2-million net income recorded during the same period last year.

In an official statement released to the media, OceanaGold said it achieved a consolidated gold production of 122,782 ounces, with a record quarterly gold production of 46,811 ounces at its Didipio mine in Luzon.

"I'm pleased to announce another strong quarter of operational and financial results underpinned by a record quarterly production and continued improvement in safety. Our portfolio of high-quality assets continues to deliver positive results, and with the construction of the Haile Gold Mine and the Didipio underground progressing on time and budget, we are well placed to achieve our plans for growth in 2016," said Mick Wilkes, president and CEO.

Wilkes also expressed high hopes with the extension of its exploration permit granted by the Mines and Geosciences Bureau (MGB) within its mining tenement at Didipio. He said the company's exploration team had been mobilized in the Philippines to carry out drilling on a number of high-quality, drill-ready targets across its mining tenement. With its quarterly gold production at Didipio hitting a record high of 46,811 ounces, consolidated gold production, together with its Macraes, Waihi and Reefion mines in New Zealand, reached 122,782 ounces, slightly up compared to its year-ago gold production during the same period at 119,500 ounces.

Copper production at Didipio reached 5,972 tons, slightly higher than the 5,591 ounces produced during the first quarter of last year.

The company sold 37,061 ounces of gold from its Didipio mines, while consolidated gold sales, including that from Waihi, Macraes and Reefion of 117,387 ounces, are slightly lower compared to the consolidated gold sales of 125,246 ounces, quarter-to-quarter.





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STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION AND INITIATIVES SERVICE

## Albay's underwater rosary restored

By CET DEMATERA

LEGAZPI CITY – Workers yesterday restored the underwater solar-powered rosary that was destroyed by typhoon-generated sea currents in the Albay Gulf in Sto. Domingo, Albay.

The coral-generating rosary beads are now larger and made of materials that can withstand typhoon-triggered currents, according to Martin Reynoso, chief of the Coral Genesis Underwater Rosary project.

"The more than 100 beads are spread out in rosary formation, occupying an area twice the size of a basketball court," Reynoso told **The STAR**.

The beads are attached to solar panels and nickel that will help the corals grow faster.

He said they placed the rosary in a portion of the gulf that is not directly hit by strong currents during typhoons.

Sto. Domingo Mayor Herbie Aguas said the rosary is expected to draw local and foreign tourists.

"We formed a *bantay-dagat* group that would look after the beads as corals start to grow and attract marine species," Aguas said.

Albay Gov. Joey Salceda said the provincial government has allotted at least P3 million for the construction of support facilities at the surface of the rosary.

Salceda lauded the JCI-Legazpi for leading the project, which he said would restore marine life in the Albay Gulf.

"This giant rosary shows that the Albayanos and Bicolanos are religious people," Salceda said.

The first solar-powered, underwater rosary was constructed in 2013. It was destroyed during the onslaught of typhoons Yolanda and Glenda.