

DATE 16 JAN 2017
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IN THE NEWS

16 JAN 2017

p.1
BusinessMirror

DATE

PAGE

UPPER HALF

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STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION AND INITIATIVES SERVICE

Environmental protection conservation mark 'change' under Duterte admin's first 6 months

BY JONATHAN L. MAYUGA @jonlmayuga

THE year 2016 saw the country witnessing a major policy shift, leaning toward environmental protection vis-à-vis natural-resource exploitation.

President Duterte, the country's 16th president, made several tough policy pronouncements—including the launching of an all-out war against large-scale mining that causes massive destruction of the environment—during the first six months of his administration in the last half of 2016.

Finally, honoring the Paris Agreement—after he earlier called it “stupid” and “absurd”—Duterte designated environment advocate Regina Paz L. Lopez as secretary of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR).

Lopez emphasized the need for the agency to be pro-active and undertake policies and programs, which will ensure that the environment is protected and that natural resources are utilized sustainably.

“The DENR will be a proactive and strategic regulatory agency that will enable the convergence of various sectors so that they may implement strategies that promote area development,” Lopez said when she took her oath as DENR secretary in July 2016.

She also declared the need to

10

The number of mining
companies whose

16 JAN 2017

p. 2
BusinessMirror

DATE
PAGE 12

UPPER HALF

LOWER HALF

STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION AND INITIATIVES SERVICE

Environmental protection, conservation mark 'change' under Duterte admin's first 6 months



ENVIRONMENT Secretary Regina Paz L. Lopez (center) is flanked by key members of the Cabinet, as they launch Task Force ng Kalikasan in August 2016. FILEPHOTO

engagement of the Church, environment, non-governmental organizations, the youth, farmers and fishermen. Under her watch, Lopez vowed that the main thrusts of the DENR are institutional reform and environmental governance, community empowerment, rational minerals management, stronger biodiversity protection, proper ecological solid-waste management and efficient interagency collaboration toward clean air, clean water and transformative climate-change policies.

Mining audit

LOPEZ'S performance at the DENR was marked by the suspen-

integrated social, environmental and biodiversity considerations on top of technical or physical aspects of operations.

As part of the audit, the DENR suspended 10 mining operations, while 20 others were issued show-cause orders.

Lopez has also issued an order making civil-society organizations and community-based groups part of the audit process, which triggered howls of protest from mining's big players under the Chamber of Mines of the Philippines (COMP).

The COMP said Lopez focuses too much on large-scale mining, while being lax or lenient on small-scale mining operating illegally and without paying correct taxes to the government.

ECCs review

As part of the review, the DENR canceled the ECCs of six mining companies and a property developer, which intended to build a housing project within the La Mesa Watershed. Lopez also issued show-cause orders to 11 companies with the threat of having their ECCs canceled.

In issuing a show-cause order to Century Properties for its housing project in the La Mesa Watershed, Lopez declared watersheds "off-limits" to development projects, particularly housing, to preserve the integrity of the environment and the country's precious water resources.

She said the La Mesa Watershed is important to the survival of 12 million people living in the National Capital Region, the same way that watersheds in other areas provide a very

P.3

BusinessMirror

16 JAN 2017

DATE

A/2

PAGE

UPPER HALF

LOWER HALF

STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION AND INITIATIVES SERVICE

Environmental protection
conservation mark 'change'
under Duterte admin's first
6 months

lake's surface are now covered by large fish cages and fish pens, exceeding the biological carrying capacity of the lake, which is 10 percent, or approximately 9,000 hectares. She said some fish-cage operators have been issued permits to operate areas covering 40 hectares up to 50 hectares, explaining why fish cages have mushroomed and exceeded its carrying capacity.

The DENR chief wants the owners of fish cages and fish pens to harvest their remaining stocks and voluntarily dismantle their structures to allow the lake to recover from decades of environmental degradation. This, she said, would also allow fishermen to catch fish in open waters.

She also promised to prioritize small fishermen in issuing business permit for fish cages and fish pens over that of companies and rich and moneyed individuals who have been raking profit from the lake's bounty for decades.

'Biodiversity is gold'

IN integrating biodiversity as part of the mining audit criteria, Lopez declared protected areas as off-limits to development projects, particularly mining, to ensure the protection and conservation of the country's rich biodiversity.

Several mineral-production sharing agreements (MPSAs) issued by the government to mining companies are within or partly covered by protected areas, or areas set aside for conservation.

The government issued the MPSAs long ahead of the protected area declarations. Lopez said "biodiversity is gold", and as such should be protected against destructive development projects.

Moratorium on fish-cage operation

LOPEZ announced a one-year moratorium on fish-cage opera-

'For the common good'

LOPEZ justifies her every decision by saying the country cannot establish an economy based on people's suffering. She said the people in the communities should benefit, first and foremost, from the country's natural resources more than business interests.

From the start, leaders of environmental groups welcomed Lopez's appointment to the DENR.

However, her appointment is expected to have rough sailing under the scrutiny of the powerful Commission on Appointments (CA). Lopez has been bypassed twice already by the CA, which observers believe is because of her uncompromising stand against irresponsible mining.

Reappointed by Duterte, Lopez vowed to continue the campaign against irresponsible

STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION AND INITIATIVES SERVICE

Dismantling fish pens to save Laguna de Bay—DENR

BY JONATHAN L. MAYUGA

✉ @jonlmayuga

TO save the Laguna de Bay from further degradation, the government needs to dismantle all fish cages and fish pens, an official of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) said.

Environment Undersecretary and National Anti-Environmental Crime Task Force (NAECTF) Head Arturo Valdez said all fish cages and fish pens within the country's largest freshwater lake would have to go as he makes a final appeal for operators to remove all structures to salvage whatever they can from their structures.

Once the demolition begins, Valdez said all debris will be confiscated by the DENR.

"Once we begin the operation, all assets affected by our dismantling activities will be confiscated in favor of the government," he added.

Valdez said the only way to save the lake and give access to small fishermen is to dismantle all illegal structures within the country's largest lake.

He said these structures also obstruct the natural flow of water, which is necessary to cleanse the lake of pollutants from households and industries, and even from chemical components of fish feeds.

Valdez said the demolition of illegal structures within the Laguna de Bay is part of an overall plan to save the water body from further ecological destruction.

Valdez was ordered by Environment Secretary Regina Paz L. Lopez to coordinate with the Laguna Lake Development Authority (LLDA) and concerned local government units to dismantle the fish pens after declaring a lake-wide moratorium on the operation of fish cages and fish pens.

The dismantling of fish cages and fish pens is in line with the directive of President Duterte to allow small fishermen to gain access to traditional fishing grounds.

"That's the presidential instruction after all, and the DENR is dead set on implementing it unless, of course, a new directive from no less than President Duterte is given," Valdez said. "Those seeking to stop the planned dismantling to direct their appeal not to the DENR, but to the President instead."

According to the DENR official, some operators already voluntarily dismantled their facilities as early as last month, allowing them to keep their assets, especially the fish stock that they still were able to sell in the market.

Valdez said the DENR and the LLDA are now mapping out a "phase-by-phase approach" for the clearing operation.

The DENR chief had ordered the LLDA not to renew fish cage and fish pen permits, which expired last December 31.

"We have imposed a total moratorium on the renewal of permits [starting January 1]. This means the fish pens and cages can be dismantled anytime," Valdez said.

Another key component of the Laguna de Bay rehabilitation plan is the stopping of pollution discharges from industrial and domestic sources, including sedimentation and siltation from degraded watershed surrounding the lake.

16 JAN 2017

DATE

UPPER HALF

84

PAGE

✓
LOWER HALF

STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION AND INITIATIVES SERVICE

Laguna Lake pen owners ordered to self-demolish

The Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) has issued over the weekend its final appeal to Laguna Lake fish pens and cage operators to conduct self-demolition before the government begins this month a massive operation to clear the illegal structures within the area.

DENR's National Anti-Environmental Crime Task Force (NAECTF) head Arturo Valdez said the DENR is still giving the operators a chance to save their valuable assets like pen and cage enclosure materials.

Data from the Laguna Lake Development Authority (LLDA) showed there are a total of 1,018 registered or legitimate fish pen and cage operators in Laguna Lake, covering a total of 9,519 hectares. Of this number, 713 are fishcage operators, while 305 are fishpen operators.

In all, a total of 3,246 structures (both registered and unregistered) can be found in the lake

area, consisting of 358 fishpens and 2,890 fish cages which show a mix of corporations and individual owners.

"Once we begin the operation, all assets affected by our dismantling activities will be confiscated in favor of the government," said Valdez, who is in charge of the dismantling operation, along with the LLDA, and concerned local government units.

The impending dismantling operation is in line with the directive of President Rodrigo Duterte to clear the area to allow small fishermen access to traditional fishing grounds.

"That's the presidential instruction after all, and the DENR is dead set on implementing it unless of course a new directive from no less than President Duterte is given," Valdez said, advising those seeking to stop the planned dismantling to direct their appeal not to the DENR, but to the President instead. (MBM)

THE STANDARD

16 JAN 2017

DATE

UPPER HALF

PAGE

LOWER HALF

STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION AND INITIATIVES SERVICE

'Voluntarily dismantle fish pens'

By Anna Leah E. Gonzales

THE Department of Environment and Natural Resources has appealed to operators of fish pens and cages within Laguna de Bay to voluntarily dismantle their illegal structures before the government begins a massive clearing operation this month.

National Anti-Environmental Crime Task Force head Arturo Valdez said the DENR is giving operators a chance to save their valuable assets, including pens and cage enclosure materials.

"Once we begin the operation, all assets affected by our dismantling activities will be confiscated in favor of the government," said Valdez, who is in charge of the demolition of illegal structures together with the Laguna Lake Development Authority.

The clearing operation is in line with the directive of Presi-

dent Rodrigo Duterte to dismantle big fish pens and cages in Laguna Lake to allow small fishermen to gain access to traditional fishing grounds.

"That's the presidential instruction after all, and the DENR is dead set on implementing it unless of course a new directive from no less than President Duterte is given," Valdez said.

Valdez said some operators have already voluntarily dismantled their facilities as early as last month, allowing them to keep their assets, especially the fish stock that they still were able to sell in the market.

The DENR and the LLDA are now mapping out a "phase-by-phase approach" for the clearing operation.

Valdez said all aquaculture facilities in the lake area will be covered by the dismantling operation since the permits given to operators already expired on Dec. 31 and will no longer be renewed by the DENR.

"We have imposed a total moratorium on the renewal of permits. This means the pens and cages can be dismantled anytime," Valdez said.

"The dismantling of fish pens [and cages] is not simple. There

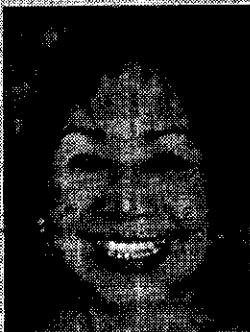
are posts there [and nets] that's why it's better for the owners to dismantle it themselves. You take care of your materials, those are expensive after all," he added.

He said these structures also obstruct the natural flow of water, which is necessary to cleanse the lake of pollutants from households and industries and even from chemical components of fish feeds.

The rehabilitation plan also includes the reconfiguration of sewage systems of the lakeside communities and reforestation of surrounding mountains.

On the shore of Laguna Bay

DAH LI ASPILLERA



'We are back to our normal post-Christmas lull here at Baybayin, at the shores of Laguna Bay, quietly wondering if all those harmful to the lake fish pens will really be gone this year.'

IT'S within President Duterte's development program that the fish pens in Laguna Lake be dismantled. Today, most are still up. I expect that the owners—wealthy men in powerful positions are using any and all influential connections to be granted exemptions, be allowed to keep their fish pens earning millions of pesos in fish export, but destroying the lake. The commercial value shows the detrimental effects on the health of the lake.

One publication reported that some of the enclosed fish pens in the lake are about the size of the U.P. Diliman campus. The fish cultivated in these pens are intended for export. The breaded tilapia whole fillet we buy frozen in Las Vegas supermarkets for big dollars weighs a pound a piece which tells us how huge tilapia the one-piece fillet came from. The frozen tilapia; also the 1.5 kg bangus one can buy in Las Vegas supermarkets marked imports from the Philippines, may have been bred from across my lakefront house in Los Banos.

Columnist Rudy Fernandez writes that Laguna de Bay marches on to its ecological doom. The water quality in Laguna Lake has seriously deteriorated due to pollution from effluents from chemical industries, agricultural from over population of caged export fish, and household discharges, and soil erosion, from a study titled "Environmental Risks to Food and Health Security in the Laguna Watershed"

Michelle Grace Paraso of the UPLB Veterinary Medicine found that a majority of the male common carp in the lake have shrunk testes compared with those of the normal male carp. This indicated that they have been feminized, exposed to certain types of pollutants, particularly estrogen, biomarkers or tools for the detection of the magnitude of pollution in waterways.

A biomarker is an organism with a particular substance that may serve as indicator of some natural phenomenon like pollution and various biological pressures like pollution infection and disease. Estrogenic contaminant or pollutant is estrogen produced through unnatural means. The contaminants developed from chemical components obtained in an environment and they

Among other things, the researchers developed water quality maps for Laguna de Bay and its watershed that showed the high presence of heavy metals in the lake's western region. They also evaluated individual willingness to pay for enhanced ecosystem services and provided estimates of the farmers' decision-making in agroforestry.

The study showed that Laguna de Bay is faced with declining agriculture and fisheries productivity, increasing domestic wastes and health issues, pollution and environmental degradation, and household food insecurity and health risks. "Laguna Lake has become more vulnerable to food-health insecurities due to environmental deterioration," the study stated.

When Ming Ramos was First Lady and into cleaning up the waterways, a report came to Los Banos that a textile mill was dumping unprocessed dye effluent into the Los Banos lake. Much planning involved send seven or more government investigators (Malacañang, PNP, DENR, DOH, UPLB, Barangay Baybayin, Los Banos Council) went to make a surprise visit to check on the filtration system of this textile mill. One sektyu met the delegation at the gate. "Hindi po ako nagpapapasok kung walang ok ni boss." The power and credentials of these seven agencies could not make this one security guard open the gate. I was there as faculty member of the IESAM (Institute of Environmental Science and Management, UPLB) and we all had to turn around and leave. This is how poorly the law is implemented when it comes to protecting the environment.

General Manager Nereus Acosta of the Laguna Lake Development Authority had held an open forum for the Lake Ecosystem Assessment in the Philippines. The forum was a collaboration of the Department of Science and Technology, National Research Council of the Philippines (DOST-NRCP) and School of Environmental Science and Management, UPLB. To know more about the services of NRCP, visit their website: <http://www.nrnp.dost.gov.ph>.

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16 JAN 2017

DATE

PAGE

UPPER HALF

LOWER HALF

BusinessMirror

STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION AND INITIATIVES SERVICE

PIDS bats for creation of national greening agency

By CAIU ORDINARIO

@cuo_bm

THE government should create an agency focused on reforestation alone to build on the success of the National Greening Program (NGP), according to a study released by the Philippine Institute for Development Studies (PIDS).

In a Policy Note, titled Taking Stock of the National Greening Program Six Years Hence, PIDS research fellow Danilo C. Israel said if this is not possible, the Forest Management Bureau (FMB) of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) must be "ultimately responsible for all reforestation initiatives."

"The national government should place the ultimate responsibility for all reforestation initiatives on the FMB. Thus, its conversion to a bureau should be seriously studied," Israel said.

"Alternatively, the creation of a

new agency, tasked only with reforestation, possibly answering directly to the president, should be considered," he added.

Israel said this is one of the ways to boost the DENR's reforestation and rehabilitation efforts.

Currently, the DENR hires NGP coordinators and extension officers as contractual workers to manage and run the project, which is a "double-edged sword."

Israel said that, while their lack of security of tenure can compel them to work and meet the project targets, they are not invested in the missions and mandates of the DENR.

He said this has an impact on project management and funding, as well as monitoring corruption in NGP activities.

"The national government should strengthen the capacity of DENR personnel and POs [people's organizations] to monitor corruption in NGP activities. For one, the implementation of an effective

reward system for those who report illegal practices should be considered," Israel said.

The program, he said, must invest in organization development and the capacity-building of the POs to reduce conflicts that could undermine the gains of the NGP.

It must also put in place incentives for communities to protect and sustain the plantations in the long run, Israel said.

These could be in the form of harvesting rights, livelihood support, mechanisms for long-term financing, such as payments for ecosystem services schemes and addressing tenure issues.

The government must also review the design of the NGP in terms of individual species and mix of tree species planted, tree spacing and other important technical parameters.

"The DENR should identify and include highly vulnerable areas in the site mapping and planning and then

match species and spacing with the sites," Israel added.

In terms of hectares covered and seedling planted, the NGP was able to meet 113 percent and 90 percent of its targets, respectively, between 2011 and 2016.

Under the NGP, 1.34 million of the 1.5 million seedlings of various tree species were planted in 1.64 million hectares of the 1.45-million hectares target open, denuded and degraded forestlands.

The program allowed the Philippines

to rank fifth among the countries worldwide, with the most annual forest gain between 2010 and 2015.

Data from the Food and Agriculture Organization showed the country's annual forest gain was 240,000 hectares, representing a 3.5-percent yearly increase in forest area.

Apart from forest area gained, the NGP was able to create 3.3 million jobs and employed 462,066 in upland and rural communities as of November 2016.

16 JAN 2017

DATE

UPPER HALF

7

PAGE

✓
LOWER HALF

STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION AND INITIATIVES SERVICE

₱600M for bamboo, mangrove plantations

By **RESTITUTO ASCAYUBI**

TACLOBAN CITY—Funding worth ₱600 million has been set aside for the massive bamboo and mangrove plantations establishments in Eastern Visayas, the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) regional office said.

DENR Regional Director Leonardo Sibbaluca told reporters bamboo and mangrove planting particularly in areas devastated by super-typhoon "Yolanda" is the flagship program of DENR Secretary Gina Lopez.

Sibbaluca said ₱200 million has been allotted for Leyte, ₱200 million for Western Samar, ₱100 million for Eastern Samar and ₱100 million for Northern

Samar.

He said there were no allocations for Biliran and Southern Leyte because there are no more available areas especially for planting mangroves in the two provinces.

Sibbaluca said the setting up of bamboo and mangrove plantations provide livelihood for Yolanda victims who were still reeling from economic losses brought about by the super typhoon.

Bamboo has many economic and environmental uses. It is used as a building material, for furniture, for food and also best in erosion control especially in steep slopes and riverbanks.

Mangroves strengthen coastal areas in Eastern Visayas against storm surges.

16 JAN 2017

DATE

UPPER HALF

PAGE

LOWER HALF

STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION AND INITIATIVES SERVICE

Mega Harbour chairman confident of getting approval for green reclamation technology

By Carmencita A. Carillo
Correspondent

DAVAO CITY — The proponent of the Davao Coastline and Port Development Project has expressed confidence in getting regulatory approvals with the use of the "latest reclamation technology" in its planned 200-hectare mixed-use complex.

"We are about to build not just a port, but a modern, integrated, self-contained and environment-friendly and comprehensively masterplanned port city of such an unprecedented scale, spanning 200 hectares of world-class facilities," said Mega Harbour Port and Development, Inc. Chairman Reghis M. Romero II during the 49th induction of officers of the Davao City Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Inc. (DCCCII) Saturday night.

Mega Harbour presented the company's progress report on the various technical studies being conducted to

serve as basis for the development masterplan.

The port project — which was endorsed by the city government through an agreement signed by the company and then Mayor and now President Rodrigo R. Duterte in June — will have to be approved by the Davao City Engineering Office and various national agencies, including the Philippine Reclamation Authority, the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR), and the National Economic and Development Authority.

"The results of these studies will more than address the regulatory requirements of various government agencies," Mr. Romero said.

Mega Harbour, he said, intends to use the latest reclamation technology in the Davao project and possible similar undertakings in other parts of the country.

"The technology involves the use of choice marine sands for the reclamation and the clearing and filtration of

silts from the site to ensure the stability of the sea bed. The silts, which may contain mud and toxic chemicals from precipitated industrial wastes, will then be dumped into a pit especially built for this purpose. The site where the pit will be constructed will depend on the recommendation of the DENR," Mr. Romero said.

The use of marine sands, instead of filling materials from land, would prevent water displacement that could make sea level rise and cause flooding.

"The project's ongoing technical studies cover a detailed environmental impact, geological and geohazard assessment, and all other topographical and engineering requirements to ensure safety and capability to meet future needs," Mr. Romero said.

He did not indicate whether this technology is from the CCCC Dredging Group Co. Ltd., which participated in China's controversial reclamation activities in the contested South China Sea. CCCC has expressed interest to be a partner in the Davao port project.

STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION AND INITIATIVES SERVICE

UN: E-waste rising dangerously in Asia

Electronic waste is rising sharply across Asia as higher incomes allow hundreds of millions of people to buy smartphones and other gadgets, with serious consequences for human health and the environment, according to a UN study released on Sunday.

This, so-called e-waste in Asia has jumped 63 percent in five years, the report by UN University said, as it warned of a need for most nations across the region to improve recycling and disposal methods.

"For many countries that already lack infrastructure for environmentally sound e-waste management, the increasing volumes are a cause for concern," said Ruediger Kuehr, the report's coauthor and head of the UN University's Sustainable Cycles Programme.

For many years, China and some other parts of Asia have been a dumping ground for discarded electronics from the developed world, recycling the waste in often unsafe but ultra-

cheap backyard factories.

The report said in recent years, Asia has rapidly emerged as a major source of e-waste, due to increasingly affluent consumers buying items such as phones, tablets, refrigerators, personal computers and televisions.

China more than doubled its own generation of e-waste between 2010 and 2015, the period of the study, according to the report.

The worst offending econo-

my per capita in the region was Hong Kong, with each person in the Chinese territory generating an average of 21.7 kilograms of e-waste in 2015.

Singapore and Taiwan were also big e-waste dumpers, with just over 19 kg per person generated in 2015, according to the study.

Cambodia, Vietnam and the Philippines were among the lowest e-waste generators with an average of about one kilogram for each person.

Meanwhile, improper and illegal e-waste dumping means increased exposure to extremely toxic chemicals, leading to severe health and environment consequences.

Acids that are used to separate the metals in the electronic products are a particular concern, with inhalation or exposure to them causing serious health problems.

In the Chinese town of Guiyu, which built its economy on recycling waste from over-

seas, heavy metal contamination has turned the air and water toxic, according to a 2014 study by researchers at Shantou University Medical College.

Children in the town also had high lead levels in their blood, the university study found.

When an AFP team visited Guiyu in 2014, electronic remnants were strewn in a nearby stream, and the air was acrid from the burning of plastic, chemicals and circuit boards.

-AFP

THE PHILIPPINE STAR

16 JAN 2017

DATE

A-24

PAGE

UPPER HALF

LOWER HALF

STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION AND INITIATIVES SERVICE

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the environment, according to a UN study released yesterday.

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A worker sorts out electronic waste from discarded computer goods at a recycling factory in Kuala Lumpur yesterday.

AFP

THE STANDARD

16 JAN 2017

DATE

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PAGE

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STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION AND INITIATIVES SERVICE

ELECTRONIC WASTE

PAGE 1/2

Electronic waste rising dangerously in Asia, says UN study

MANILA—Electronic waste is rising sharply across Asia as higher incomes allow hundreds of millions of people to buy smartphones and other gadgets, with serious consequences for human health and the environment, according to a UN study released Sunday.

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This picture taken on January 14, 2017 shows a worker taking apart electronic components at a government-approved recycling shop in the To Kwa Wan district of Hong Kong. Electronic waste is rising sharply across Asia as higher incomes allow hundreds of millions of people to buy smartphones and other gadgets, with serious consequences for human health and the environment, according to a UN study released on January 15. AFP

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China more than doubled its own generation of e-waste between 2010 and 2015, the period of the study, according to the report.

Per capita the worst-offending economy in the region was Hong Kong, with each person in the Chinese territory generating an average of 21.7 kilograms (47.8 pounds) of e-waste in 2015.

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Cambodia, Vietnam and the

THE STANDARD

16 JAN 2017

DATE

UPPER HALF

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PAGE

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LOWER HALF

STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION AND INITIATIVES SERVICE

ELECTRONIC WASTE

PAGE 2/2

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When an AFP team visited Guiyu in 2014, electronic remnants were strewn in a nearby stream, and the air was acrid from the burning of plastic, chemicals and circuitboards. AFP



Picture taken on January 13, 2017 shows a worker going through items at a sorting facility for electronic appliances, where some items will be refurbished and resold while others will be transferred to a processing plant for recycling, in Sheung Shui in the New Territories in Hong Kong. AFP

STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION AND INITIATIVES SERVICE

Rising gadget mountain in Asia threatens health, environment

JAKARTA, Indonesia—The waste from discarded electronic gadgets and electrical appliances has reached severe levels in East Asia, posing a growing threat to health and the environment unless safe disposal becomes the norm.

China was the biggest culprit with its electronic waste more than doubling, according to a new study by the United Nations University. But nearly every country in the region had massive increases between 2010 and 2015, including those least equipped to deal with the growing mountain of discarded smartphones, computers, TVs, air conditioners and other goods.

On average, electronic waste in the 12 countries in the study had increased by nearly two-thirds in the five years, totaling 12.3 million tons in 2015 alone.

Rising incomes in Asia, burgeoning populations of young adults, rapid obsolescence of products due to technological in-

12.3 million tons

The volume of electronic waste in the 12 countries in East Asia in 2015

waste, are among factors driving the increases.

Consumers in Asia now replace their gadgets more frequently. In addition, many products are designed for low-cost production, but not necessarily repair, refurbishment or easy recycling, said the study. It urges governments to enact specific laws for management of electronic waste or rigorously enforce

Japan have long established recycling systems based on laws introduced in the 1990s. Open dumping of lead- and mercury-laden components, open burning of plastics to release encased copper and unsafe backyard operations to extract precious metals are the norm in most countries, including Indonesia, Thailand and Cambodia, which also lack laws governing the treatment of electronic and electrical waste.

The study said open burning and unsafe recycling is associated with a slew of health problems for workers and communities near recycling operations. They include infertility, childhood development problems, impaired lung function, liver and kidney damage, inheritable genetic damage and mental health problems.

Backyard recyclers are after gold, silver, palladium and copper, mainly from printed circuit boards, but the crude acid bath extraction process releases toxic fumes and is also inefficient, recovering only a portion of the valuable material.

Asia as a whole is the biggest market for electronics and appliances, accounting for nearly half of global sales by volume, and

P.2

16 JAN 2017

BusinessMirror

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STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION AND INITIATIVES SERVICE

Rising gadget mountain in Asia threatens health,
environment



HE owner of a used electronic goods stall sits as he waits for customers at his shop in the outskirts of Jakarta, Indonesia. The waste from discarded electronic gadgets and appliances is two-thirds in East Asia over five years, posing a growing threat to health and the environment unless proper disposal becomes the norm. AP/TATAN SYUFLANA

town in China that specializes in dismantling consumer electronics, some of it exported from rich countries, has become synonymous with the costs of a throw-

park on its outskirts.

Ruediger Kuehr, one of the study's authors, said the amount of waste being generated is higher than governments estimate, partly because

even if we want to continue like this, we must be reusing the resources contained in electronic and electrical equipment."



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MGA PARASITIKO DELIKADO SA EXTINCTION DAHIL SA CLIMATE CHANGE, MAKAAAPEKTO NANG MALAKI SA ECOSYSTEMS

NATUKOY sa pag-aaral na pinangunahan ng University of California sa Berkeley na posibleng maglaho ang mga parasitiko sa mundo dahil sa pandaigdigang climate change, at malaki ang magiging epekto nito sa ecosystem.

Inilathala kamakailan ng journal na Royal Society Open Science, natuklasan ng pag-aaral na posibleng pinakalantad sa posibilidad ng extinction ang mga parasitiko sa may magkakaibang internal temperature, mga parasitiko sa may malalaking katawan, mga parasitiko sa mga partikular na host, at mga parasitikong may kumplikadong life cycles.

Ayon sa pag-aaral, ang pagkawala ng mga parasitikong ito ay maaaring magdulot ng kawalan ng katatagan sa ecosystems sa maraming paraan, gaya ng pagdaming kaso ng mga mapaminsalang sakit o pagpapalit ng food web o pagbabago sa host physiology.

"This is the first comprehensive review of how climate change may affect parasite biodiversity, from the point of view of parasite conservation," sabi ni Carrie Cizauskas, na nanguna sa pananaliksik bilang postdoctoral affiliates sa laboratoryo ni Wayne Getz, propesor ng wildlife ecology sa Department of Environmental Science, Policy and Management ng UC Berkeley.

Habang nagbabago ang pinagtutuunan ng karamihan sa mga pananaliksik sa mga parasitiko at pagbabago sa kalikasan sa kung paanong mapapasama ang mga host, partikular na ang mga tao, natukoy sa mga naunang pag-aaral na ang mga parasitiko ay 10 beses na mas delikado sa tuluyang paglalahok kaysa kanilang host.

Sa bagong pag-aaral, iminungkahi ng mga mananaliksik na ang mga parasitiko ay delikado rin sa extinction dahil sa climate change, tulad din ng iba pang taxonomic group. Isang bagong pagsusuri mula kina Cizauskas at Colin Carlson, isang graduate student sa kaparehong departamento at isa sa mga nanguna sa inaabangang pag-aaral, ang nagtangkang tukuyin ang aktuwal na panganib sa extinction ng mga parasitiko gamit ang mga umiiral nang datos at modeling.

"Ultimately, our goal is for this review to act as a catalyst for further research efforts and discussions regarding the important and little-addressed topic of parasite vulnerability in the face of climate change," sinabi ni Cizauskas.

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