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DENR

IN THE NEWS

BusinessMirror

A broader look at today's business

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DENR to close 400 open dumps this year

By JONATHAN L. MAYUGA

THE government will push for the closure of all 400 open dumps in various parts of the country this year, as it steps up the implementation of Republic Act (RA) 9003, or the Ecological Solid Waste Management Act of 2000.

40,000 tons

 **estimated volume of garbage produced daily in the country**

At the same time, officials of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) and the National Solid Waste Management Commission (NSWMC) vowed to push for the establishment of more sanitary landfills, or controlled waste facilities in lieu of the open dumps.

They vowed to "crack the whip" against defiant local government units (LGUs) for the poor implementation of the garbage law.

"The law has been in effect for more than 15 years and it's time that we close all open dumps," Environment Assistant Secretary Juan Miguel Cuna said.

Cuna, the concurrent director of the DENR's Environmental Management Bureau (EMB), said the closure of all open dumps, or their conversion to sanitary landfill as mandated by law, is among the DENR's top priorities this year.

The closure of open dumps and establishment of more environment-friendly sanitary landfills, he said, will pave the way for the implementation of all other aspects of RA 9003, particularly waste segregation, recycling, composting, hauling and disposal of residual wastes.

NSWMC Secretariat Executive Director Eligio T. Ildefonso said closing down the open dumps will require the establishment of 300 sanitary landfills or controlled waste facilities to accommodate the tons of garbage produced every day.

He said LGUs will be ordered to close open dumps within their jurisdiction and warned that local officials will face charges for their failure to comply with the law.

The LGUs should start looking at various options to establish a controlled waste facility, where they can dispose garbage, Ildefonso said. Aside from establishing sanitary landfills, the law also mandates LGUs to put up material recovery facilities (MRFs) for every barangay or clustered barangays, in which waste segregation and recycling of collected wastes can be performed before

disposal. The law also promotes composting of biodegradable materials and their use as organic fertilizers to reduce the volume of garbage produced every day by at least 25 percent.

There are currently 120 controlled waste facilities in the country, not enough to accommodate the estimated 40,000 tons of garbage produced every day, Ildefonso said.

"These additional controlled waste facilities can be used by LGUs clustered into five or six per area," he said.

He said 50 LGUs are being investigated by the NSWMC, DENR-EMB and Office of the Ombudsman for failure to comply with the provisions of RA 9003.

Last year more than 30 LGUs have been charged by the NSWMC.

Charged for violation of RA

STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION AND INITIATIVES SERVICE

DENR to close 400 open dumps
this year



OPEN dumps need to be replaced with sanitary landfills to ensure garbage will not end up clogging rivers and cause widespread flooding. ROY DOMINGO

9003, he said, are those that blatantly violated the law and ignored the NSWMC's warning.

"Ito iyong mga defiant LGUs na talagang hindi man lang nag reply sa mga warning natin," he said. "This year tuloy tuloy na ang gagawin nating pagsasampa ng kaso."

Cases filed against these LGUs are specific to their violations, but he said most of the violations were for failure to close open dumps.

"Pag sinara mo ang mga open dumps, saan pupunta ang basura pag walang sanitary landfills? Sa ilog," Leones said LGUs should start putting solid waste management in their priorities, as the DENR and NSWMC will not hesitate to file necessary charges against erring local officials.

In the past, the DENR and NSWMC have been very lenient

to LGUs; but Leones said it is high time for LGUs to do their part.

The DENR and NSWMC, Leones said, will continue to help LGUs by providing them with technical support, noting that it will take at least an investment of P8 billion to fully implement RA 9003. Cuna admitted that most LGUs do not have the financial resources for the construction of sanitary landfills and MRFs, but he said the DENR had an earlier proposal for cost-sharing between the national and local governments for the purpose. He also suggested for LGUs to explore possible Public-Private Partnership Programs "to establish whatever facility they need to establish."

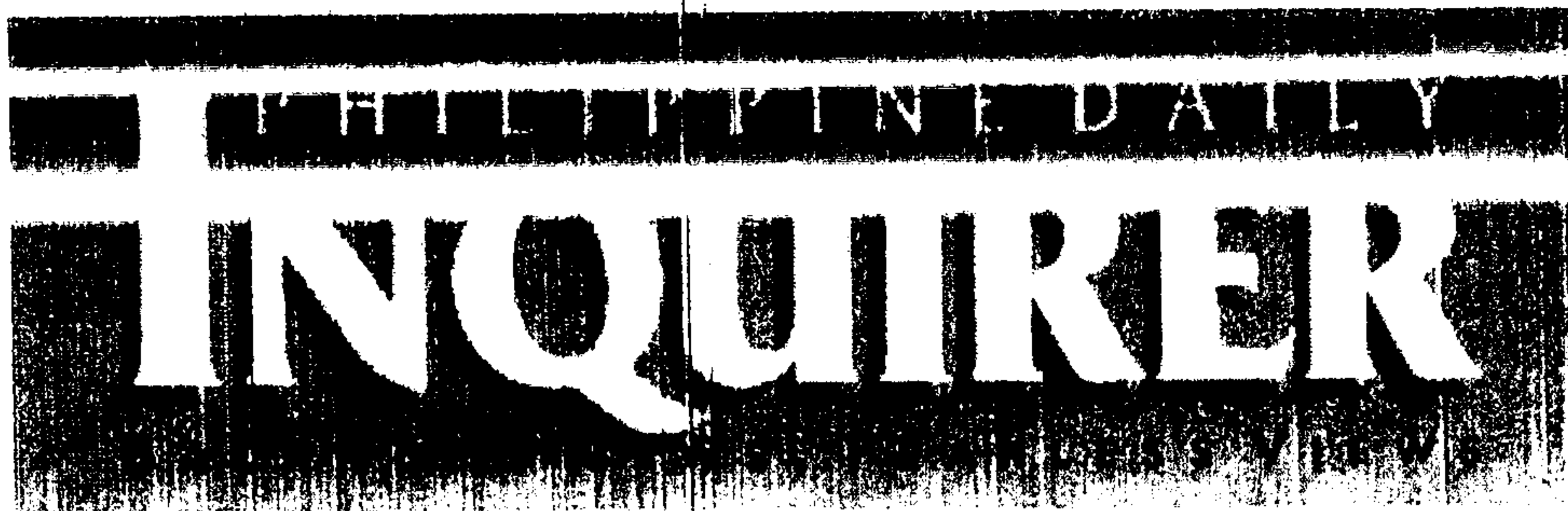
The NSWMC is now eyeing to pilot—test biomass-to-energy projects and establish ecology centers or model resource recovery facil-

ity—one in the Visayas and one in Mindanao—within the year.

The NSWMC, Ildefonso said, has earmarked P115 million each for the project—one in the Visayas and one in Mindanao—which will serve as training centers for LGUs.

The NSWMC plans to acquire the necessary equipment for the projects before the election ban.

The DENR was given a special budget of P500 million for the implementation of RA 9003 this year, which Ildefonso said, will be used for LGUs' capacity-building activities. "How to properly segregate, recycle and even market these recycled materials will be taught in these pilot facilities," he said. "Pag successful ang pilot-testing natin, we will push for the establishment of more resource recovery facilities. At least one for every region."



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DENR takes custody of logs cut from wind farm site

By Allan Macatuno
Inquirer Central Luzon

SUBIC BAY FREEPORT—The dispute over the custody of logs cut from a solar and wind farm site in this free port has been settled.

On Jan. 8, the Subic Bay Metropolitan Authority (SBMA) allowed the power project developer to transport out of the port 50 logs that the SBMA Law Enforcement Department (LED) seized on Dec. 28, its chair, Roberto Garcia, said on Monday.

The logs remain SBMA property even while these are kept in the Olongapo City office of the

Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR), Garcia said.

Earlier, the logs were secured at the LED compound because the truck hired by the firm, Jobin-SQM Inc., could not show a transport permit. Jobin-SQM Inc. is building a \$200-million renewable energy facility inside an 800-hectare Aeta ancestral domain in the area that would produce 150 megawatts of combined solar and wind energy.

The developer had obtained permits to cut the trees and transport the logs out of the port from the Central Luzon of-

fice in Pampanga province.

In a letter to the SBMA Ecology Center, Marife Castillo, Olongapo community environment and natural resources officer, asked the SBMA to release the logs to the DENR instead for safekeeping.

At a press briefing here, Garcia said: "I told Castillo that everything inside the free port is the property of the SBMA. In the past administrations, trees that were cut here were transported out of the free port but that should not happen anymore."

"I insisted that the SBMA become the primary beneficiary of

the logs because these came from us. We will let the Aeta people inside the free port use the logs," he added.

In a text message, Castillo said Jobin-SQM Inc. had turned over the logs to the DENR "in compliance with the conditions of the permit to cut."

"The logs are now under the DENR's custody, physically and legally... I haven't received a written request from the SBMA to date [as to how these would be disposed]," she said.

Garcia said his office was drafting a memorandum of agreement to ask the DENR to turn over the logs to the SBMA.

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House leader seeks DENR reorganization

BY JOVEE N. DE LA CRUZ

THE chairman of the House Committee on Climate Change on Monday pushed for the reorganization of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) into two separate departments "to cope with the demands of time and prevailing environment conditions."

Party-list Rep. Rodel M. Batocabe of Ako Bicol said the reorganization is "appropriate and necessary," given the broad mandate and responsibilities of the DENR.

"This mandate includes water-resources management, soil conservation, promotion and development of small and medium industries, direction and control of energy-resources development, and forest-products research," Batocabe said in a statement.

He noted that the DENR is also responsible for ensuring a healthier environment by reducing air and water pollution, and rolling out an effective waste-management program.

In House Bill (HB) 6317 now pending at the Committee on Government Reorganization, Batocabe sought the DENR reorganization to create the Department of Environment and the Department of Natural Resources.

Under HB 6317, the Department of Environment will be responsible for developing and implementing national policies and programs to protect and conserve the environment, includ-

ing policies on climate-change adaptation and mitigation, and to promote and conserve heritage and biodiversity.

Meanwhile, the Department of Natural Resources will continue to oversee the use and the programmed exploration and extraction of the country's natural resources.

Batocabe's bill proposed that the Environmental Management Bureau, Ecosystems Research and Development Bureau, Biodiversity Management Bureau, Climate Change Office and the Administrative Support Services will be under the Department of Environment.

Other agencies that will be attached to the Department of Environment are the Pollution Adjudication Board, Climate Change Commission and the Laguna Lake Development Authority.

The following agencies will be attached to the proposed Department of Natural Resources: Public Affairs Office, Special Concerns, Forest Management Bureau, Land Management Bureau, and the Mines and Geosciences Bureau.

The National Mapping and Resource Information Authority, Natural Resources Development Corp., National Electrification Administration, Philippine Forest Corp., Philippine Mining Development Corp., Philippine Reclamation Authority and Palawan Council for Sustainable Development will also be placed under the Department of Natural Resources.

Executive Order 192, issued by then-President Corazon C. Aquino on June 10, 1987, reorganized the Department of Environment, Energy and Natural Resources and created what is now the Department of Environment and Natural Resources.

The Manila Times

STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION AND INITIATIVES SERVICE

Forests are key to solving climate change

BY ALBERT BALBUTIN
HARIBON FOUNDATION

AT about 2:30 a.m. on December 13, 2015, more than 190 countries on the other side of the globe approved "The Paris Agreement" documenting how they would accelerate "the reduction of global greenhouse gas emissions . . . emphasizing the need for urgency in addressing climate change."

According to BBC, they agreed to four measures: 1) Achieve a balance between sources and sinks of greenhouse gases in the second half of this century; 2) To keep global temperature increase "well below" 2 degrees Celsius (3.6 degrees Fahrenheit) and to pursue efforts to limit it to 1.5 degrees Celsius; 3) To review progress every five years; 4) \$100 billion a year in climate finance for developing countries by 2020, with a commitment to fur-

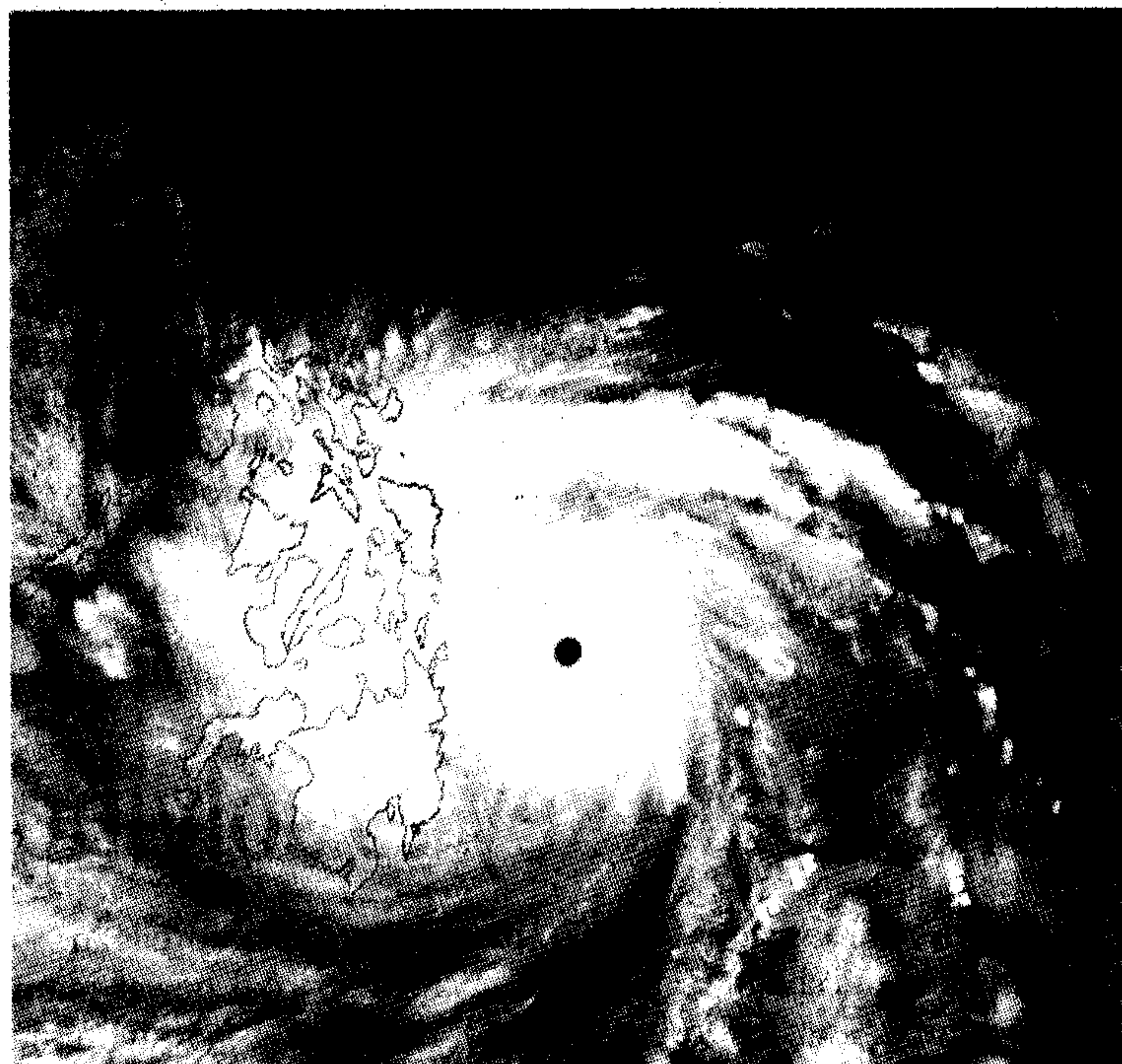
ther finance in the future.

Yet for Haribon Foundation, almost half the battle in addressing climate change lies simply in forests—bringing them to the once lush forests that are full of sequestered carbon and oxygen-giving floral biodiversity.

Bringing back forest and transitioning to non-combusting energy according to Stanford University Professor Mark Jacobson in an interview with CNN, can help solve many problems associated with climate change. Jacobson says that carbon dioxide or CO₂ makes up 42 percent of the warming problem alone, and the simple fact that trees help abate this by taking in CO₂ and releasing oxygen or O₂ makes tree-planting activities all the more important.

By growing and protecting

► Key B7



■ Satellite photo of Typhoon Yolanda: According to the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change 2007 Fourth Assessment Report (AR4) human influences have "more likely than not increased risk of heat waves, area affected by drought since the 1970s and frequency of heavy precipitation events..." (IPCC, 2007). PHOTO FROM NASA

The Manila Times

STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION AND INITIATIVES SERVICE

■ KEY FROM B8

Forests are key to solving

"greenhouse sinks" such as forests and reducing and abating "greenhouse sources" such as oil and coal we can bring ourselves closer to a world with less air pollution and reduced conflicts due to scarcity of resources.

But the journey to bringing back our forests and tackling the challenge of oil and coal dependence has just begun. In 2005 the ROAD to 2020 (Rainforestation Organizations and Advocates) movement in the Philippines started, bringing together individuals, governments, and companies to bring back forests in the country using rainforestation technology, or the use of native tree species in reforestation projects.

Meanwhile, Leody de Guzman of the Power for People Coalition (P4P) cites that current Philip-

pine energy policy unveils an "approval of 59 coal power plants and 118 mining permits under the Aquino administration."

Much indeed has yet to be done, but before we can enjoy lush green forests, solar-powered transport and harmony between humanity and climate, we must protect and expand today the army of floral biodiversity that has always fed and protected human civilizations since its dawn through the following ways:

1) Continue the ongoing effort to bring back our forests, our natural sinks of greenhouse gas carbon. According to a study published in the *Journal of Environmental Science and Management* in 2008, if 1 million hectares of forest are brought back, these areas have the potential to sequester

almost 15 percent of annual carbon emissions of the Philippines.

2) Continue working with local governments using Community-based Resource Management (CBRM) to empower people to restore and protect their forests. Rainforestation work in Sitio Palbong in Mindoro for example has not only brought back 12 hectares of native tree species, but has also transformed a once extractive community into one that has led the rehabilitation and protection of its own forest domain. This has been repeated in more than 60 communities in the country, restoring more than 1,500 hectares so far via the ROAD to 2020 movement.

3) Pass the Forest Resources Bill to protect all existing original forest that we have left and bring back our rainforests. To date only 24 percent of our original forest remain (DENR, 2010). Haribon Chief Operating Officer Maria Belinda de la Paz further notes that "we need 54 percent forest cover to maintain eco-

logical processes in the country. Aside from energy conservation, there is an urgent need to bring back our forests in order to minimize the effects of climate change."

4) Protect and maintain the remaining coastal and marine habitats through the establishment and expansion of marine protected areas and marine protected area networks. These include the mangroves, seagrass beds, coral reefs and soft bottom communities. These 'blue carbon' habitats absorb and store 50 to 71 percent carbon and other greenhouse gases. Covering only 0.5 percent of the seafloor, they play a very big role in world's climate and mitigating the effects of climate change. According to a 2013 study by Gevana et al. the total carbon stock of the current seagrass cover in the Philippines of 27,282 hectares may contain an estimated 161 metric tons of carbon. For mangrove forests in the Philippines, 115.45 t C ha⁻¹ to as high as 1306.9 t C ha⁻¹ (Gevaña and Pampolina

2009, Camacho et al. 2011; Abino et al. 2014).

Starting with the pioneering efforts of the Siliman University in establishing the Apo Island Marine Reserve in Dumaguete, the number of MPAs has been steadily increasing, 455 in 1995, 688 in 2000 and 1785 as of December 2015. This has been made possible through the efforts of various institutions and organizations from the government, non-government organizations, academe and the numerous peoples organizations.

5) Support conservation research initiatives to learn more about our biodiversity and the impacts of climate change.

The knowledge, resources, abilities and even the technologies are available today to curb the adverse affects of human-induced climate change by the deadlines set by the entire world.

Conservation efforts, rainforestation technology, and community-building strategies conducted in the Philippines within the last four decades

alone might just be enough to create the change needed on this side of the Pacific. The ROAD to 2020 movement, backed by sound science from the Haribon Foundation and the Rain Forest Restoration Initiative (RFRI), has long developed strategies such as community-based native tree nurseries, and has advocated that a forest is more than just a collection of trees: it is an ecosystem that requires requires protection from national government. The roots to a safe world have long been laid. The question is, can we finally move together to grow toward a safer climate.

The goal of ROAD to 2020 is to bring back 1 million hectares of forest, enroll your rainforestation project or Adopt-A-Seedling, Nurture-A-Seedling or plant trees with the Haribon Foundation.

For more information contact Haribon Partnerships and Development Officer Bianca Osorio at support@haribon.org.ph or call 911-6088. Visit www.haribon.org.ph today.



The only paper you read from cover to cover!

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P50-M climate center to rise in Clark

By JANVIC MATEO

The government has allotted P50 million for the establishment of a climate center in Clark Green City in Pampanga, **The STAR** learned yesterday.

The climate center will house the South-South Center of Excellence on Climate Information and Services, which will be established in the next five years as part of a five-million-euro grant (around P250 million) from the German government.

Budget documents showed the Climate Change Commission (CCC) would receive a capital outlay funding of P50 million this year for the creation of a center for climate resilience.

The Bases Conversion and Development Authority (BCDA), which is handling the development of Clark Green City, has offered a parcel of land where the center will be built.

The CCC confirmed that the capital outlay and land from BCDA are the country's counterpart for the multimillion-peso climate resilience project, to be primarily financed by the German federal ministry on the environment through its international climate initiative.

According to the CCC, the five-million-euro funding from the German government will

be used to finance the technical services in order to strengthen the climate information and services in the country.

Among the objectives of the project are the assessment of climate data and information, capacity building for government agencies and education institutions, and development of climate information and knowledge products for stakeholders.

STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION AND INITIATIVES SERVICE

Climate-change inaction to limit PHL growth to 6 percent until 2050—ADB

BY CAI U. ORDINARIO

IF the Philippines fails to address climate change, the country's economic growth will not breach 6 percent even until 2050, according to the Asian Development Bank (ADB).

In a report titled "Southeast Asia and the Economics of Global Climate Stabilization," the ADB said a "business as usual scenario" will see the country's average annual GDP growth reaching only 6 percent between 2011 and 2020 and 5.5 percent between 2021 and 2030; 2031 and 2040; and 2041 to 2050.

"GDP is modeled to reach \$1.1 trillion in 2050, primarily supported by the growth of the service sector. Heavy industries slightly increase their share. The relative share of agriculture in GDP shrinks from 11 percent in 2010 to 7.7 percent in 2050," the ADB said.

"Given this development scenario, energy consumption is projected to increase more than threefold, peaking at 4.3 exajoule

12.23%

Tourism arrivals are seen to decline and expenditure at 7.61 percent in 2050

in 2050. In the absence of climate or renewable-energy policies, the energy consumption mix is modeled as remaining dominated by fossil sources, which account for over 90 percent of the total, with hydropower expected to double by 2050," the report stated.

The economic costs of climate-change inaction on the part of the Philippines can reach up to a per-

cent of GDP in 2050, the largest in Southeast Asia.

The ADB estimates also showed that inaction on the part of the country may see costs rising to just below 0.5 percent of GDP in 2030 and over 0.5 percent in 2040.

The Manila-based multilateral development bank said the country will see its tourism arrivals and expenditures decline, as well as crop production.

Tourism arrivals are seen to decline by 12.23 percent, and expenditure at 7.61 percent in 2050.

In agriculture, this means a decline in rice production of 2.71 percent and other crops, 0.94 percent in 2050. However, there will be a 1.34-percent increase in vegetable and fruit production.

Further, the ADB said sea level rise will cost land and capital stock in the Philippines to decline by 0.2 percent in 2050.

"In 2050 climate change could cause a GDP loss of 0.6 percent in the DA5 [Asean 5] aggregate, which is much higher than the global average and that experienced in more developed regions, such as the European Union and the United States. The lowest losses are in Malaysia, while the highest are in the Philippines, with a GDP

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Climate-change inaction to limit PHL
growth to 6 percent until 2050 - ADB

contraction of roughly 1 percent in 2050," the ADB report stated.

"In general, economic losses determined by changes in tourism flows tend to dominate other impacts and are of particular relevance in the Philippines and Thailand. This is due to the relatively high contribution of the sector to GDP," it added.

The report stated that across Southeast Asia, economic losses from the impacts of climate change in Southeast Asia could be 60 percent higher than previously estimated. This can reduce the region's GDP by up to 11 percent by 2100.

With this, Southeast Asian countries need to reduce emissions through a number of fronts, including a sharp reduction in the rate of deforestation, which accounts for the majority of Southeast Asia's current emissions.

The ADB also said there is a need to avert deforestation which can represent the lowest cost opportunity for emissions reductions and could generate half of the cumulative regional mitigation through the mid-2030s.

The study also recommended that Southeast Asia must step up its efforts on energy efficiency through technologies that improve and reduce power consumption. These

technologies will allow the region to reduce emissions in the long term.

"The study notes that without changing existing energy use patterns, which include fast growing use of coal and oil, GHG [greenhouse gas] emissions are likely to be 60 percent higher in 2050 than in 2010," ADB said.

Reducing emissions is also contingent on developing and introducing low-carbon energy technologies, which would allow the GDP cost of decarbonization to peak within 20 to 25 years.

Carbon capture and storage is a key technology to reduce emissions that the region should explore further. A brief about the report was released during the Conference of Paris 21 conference on climate change in Paris in December 2015.

The study looks at the economic impact of climate change across a range of scenarios, including business-as-usual, and another which sees countries take steps to limit their GHG emissions to keep temperatures from rising above 2° Celsius.

The global analysis focuses on the region's five largest economies, Indonesia, Malaysia, the Philippines, Thailand and Vietnam, which account for 90 percent of the region's emissions.

STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION AND INITIATIVES SERVICE

New report urges more Asean carbon reduction

A NEW Asian Development Bank (ADB) report raised urgency for fast-tracking Southeast Asia's greenhouse-gas (GHG) emission reduction, warning limited impacts of climate change arising from these discharges can already reach some 11 percent of the region's GDP by 2100.

Launched on Monday in Metro Manila, the report, titled "Southeast Asia and the Economics of Global Climate Stabilization," highlights need to mitigate GHGs, as it cites the region as among areas most vulnerable to climate change due to geographic, demographic, economic and other conditions prevailing in Asean.

The report also said Southeast Asia registered—at nearly 5 percent annually between 1990 and 2010—the fastest relative growth in emission of carbon dioxide, one of the climate change-driving GHGs.

"It finds that mitigation is in the region's economic interest," ADB Knowledge Management and Sustainable Development Vice President Bambang Susantono said at the report's launch.

He noted adapting energy efficient (EE) measures and addressing deforestation are among mitigation activities for significantly reducing Southeast Asia's GHG emissions.

"EE is the largest source of potential emission reduction while addressing deforestation is critical to mitigation especially in the medium-term," he said.

According to experts, GHG emissions accumulate in the atmosphere and trap heat so global temperature rises, resulting in climate change.

Increasing onslaught of extreme weather events as well as sea level and temperature rise are climate change's impacts on the Philippines and other Southeast Asian countries, they said.

Last year's climate agreement in Paris targets stabilizing climate by keeping global temperature below a set threshold.

5%



Asean's annual
growth in
emission of
carbon dioxide
between 1990 and 2010

To help achieve such target, ADB Climate Change and Disaster Risk Management Division Dir. Preety Bhandari said the bank will double its climate financing to \$6 billion by 2020.

She noted that \$4 billion of such financing will be for mitigation.

Some \$2 billion will be for adaptation so countries can better cope

with climate change, she also said.

"We stand ready to assist," she assured at the launch.

The report is an output of the ADB's five-year technical assistance project "Strengthening Planning Capacity for Low-Carbon Growth in Developing Asia," which the UK and Japanese governments cofinanced.

Indonesia, Malaysia, Thailand, Vietnam and the Philippines are countries covered in the report.

"Emissions growth would need to fall substantially under a contraction and convergence framework" which has national shares of global emissions "transition from business as usual [BAU] in 2020 to an equal per capita basis by 2050," the report said.

Achieving a 500 parts per million (ppm) climate-stabilization target under such framework requires regional emission reduction of over 60 percent from BAU to a level some 30 percent below 2010 emissions by 2050, the report noted.

• "Even a 650 ppm scenario requires that 2050 emissions need to

be slightly below 2010 levels," the report continued.

The report warned delaying climate action can increase climate-stabilization cost—even possibly by about 60 percent as one model suggested. Adapting low-carbon technologies are among measures essential to reducing carbon emissions, the report said further.

ADB Principal Climate Change Specialist Ancha Srinivasan assured the bank's continuing funding support for climate initiatives in Southeast Asia.

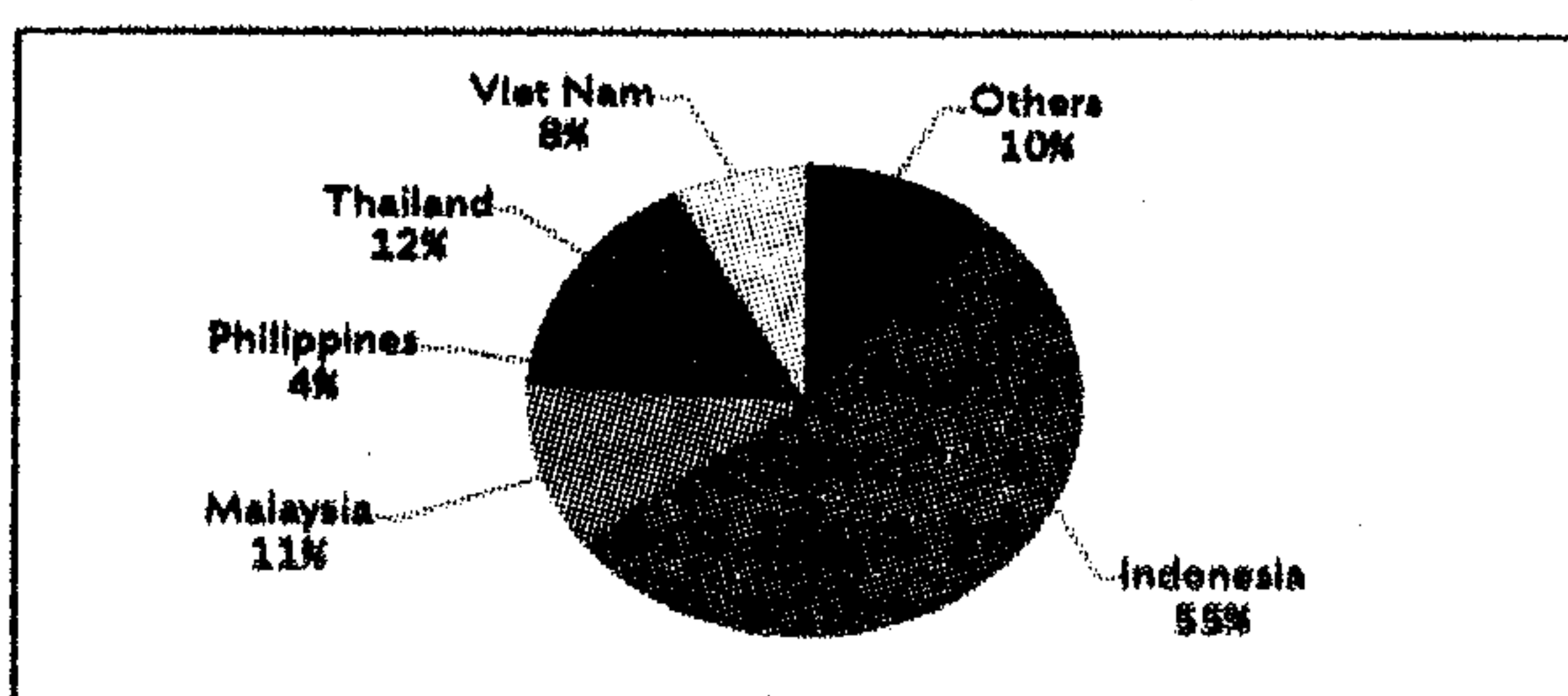
"We recognize climate change is a threat to the region," he said at the launch.

He added data indicate Southeast Asia's increasing vulnerability to climate change. **PNA**

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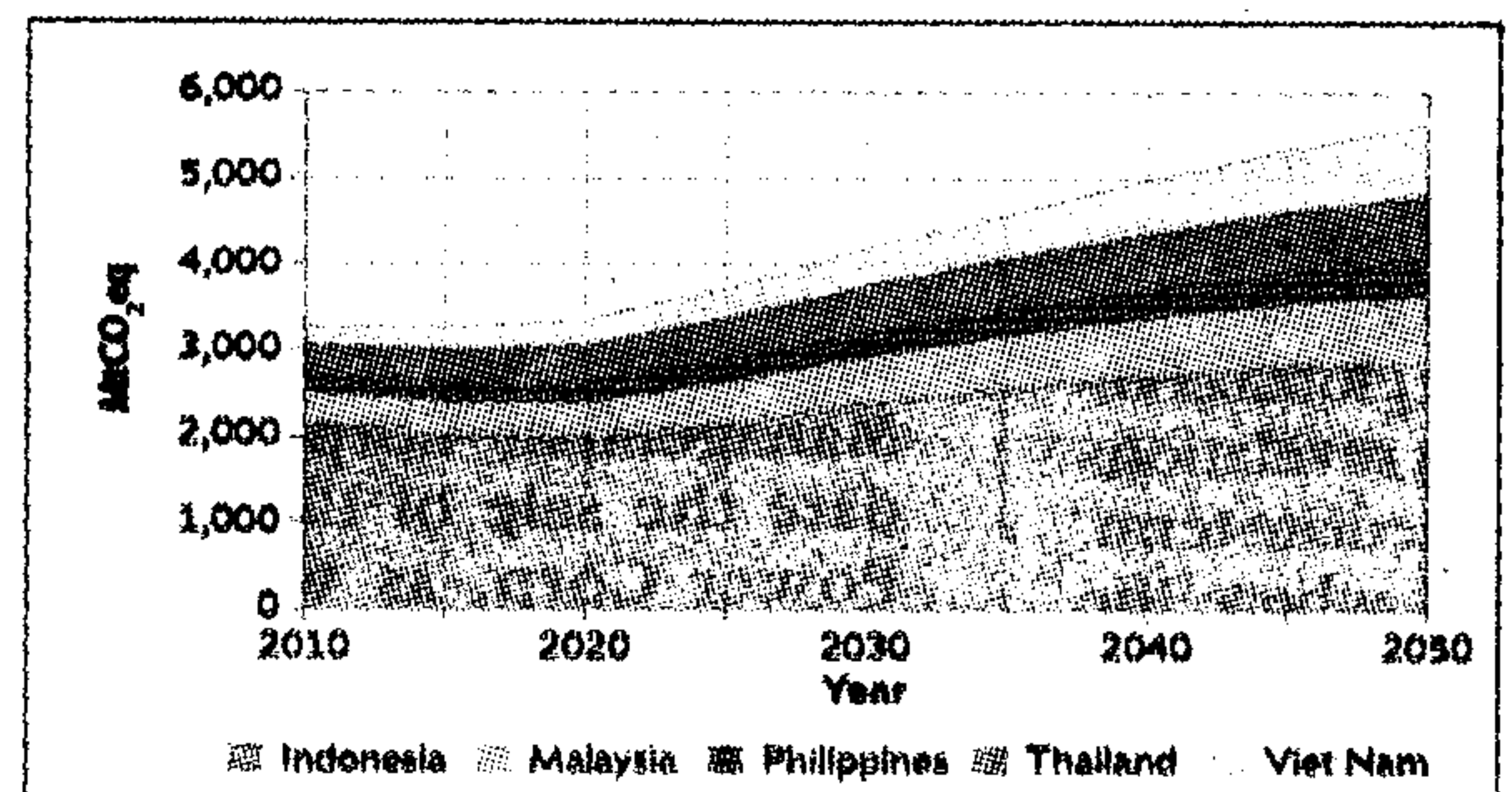
Climate change will stall PH, SE Asia growth

Greenhouse Gas Emissions in Southeast Asia per Country, 2010
(In carbon dioxide equivalent)



Sources: International Energy Agency, CO₂ emissions statistics, <http://www.iea.org/statistics/topics/co2emissions/> (accessed 5 December 2014); Food and Agriculture Organisation of the United Nations, FAOSTAT, <http://faostat.fao.org> (accessed 1 November 2014).

Greenhouse Gas Emissions by Country under the Business-as-Usual Scenario



MtCO₂eq = million tons of carbon dioxide equivalent.
Source: ADB Study Team.

Decarbonization Goals for 2020

Country	Goals Description	Interpretation (relative to 2010)
Indonesia	25% reduction of emissions relative to BAU by 2020	23.4% CO ₂ eq emissions decrease
Malaysia	Up to 40% CO ₂ eq emission reduction per unit of GDP relative to 2005	19.8% CO ₂ eq emissions increase
Philippines	10% energy savings from all sectors, 2009-2030	5.7% CO ₂ eq emissions decrease
Thailand	8% reduction of energy intensity by 2015 and 25% by 2030 compared with 2005	18.0% CO ₂ eq emissions increase
Viet Nam	Total energy savings of 3%-5% by 2010 compared with 2006 and by 5%-8% in 2012-2015 versus total energy demand forecast in Power Development Plan 7	15.0% CO ₂ eq emissions increase

BAU = business as usual, CO₂eq = carbon dioxide equivalent, GDP = gross domestic product.
Note: The "Interpretation" is that of the authors, as a translation of goals into emissions levels. Most of the countries listed have no official emission reduction goals.
Sources: IEA (2010), GIZ and Beerepoot (2010), Vietnam (2012), Hsu et al. (2010), Philippines Climate Change Commission (2010).

BY ANGELA CELIS

CLIMATE change will stall growth in Southeast Asian countries including the Philippines. David Raitzer, Asian Development Bank (ADB) Economic Research and Regional Cooperation Department project officer and economist, said the region is the world's most vulnerable to climate change.

An ADB report, Southeast Asia and the Economies of Global Climate Stabilization, said Southeast Asia's economic losses from climate change may be larger than previously estimated.

The ADB said that the region's GDP could drop by up to 11 percent by 2100 if not steps are taken to curb climate change. That was up 60 percent from 2009 report which put the decline at seven percent.

The Philippines' inefficient energy use and reliance on coal is seen to increase its

greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions to twice the 2010 level under "a business-as-usual scenario". (related story on Page 3)

It said GHG emissions in the Philippines will increase from just above 150 million tons of carbon dioxide equivalent (MtCO₂eq) in 2010 to 400 MtCO₂eq in 2050 due to the absence of climate-related policies.

The ADB report said this is based on the 2010-2050 modeling assumptions of the Philippines. During the said period, the country is projected to have the third fastest growth among the five economies analyzed in the report, which also include Indonesia, Malaysia, Thailand and Vietnam.

The report said the Philippines' gross domestic product (GDP) is modeled to reach \$1.1 trillion, primarily supported by the growth of the services sector. Heavy

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CLIMATE

industries will slightly increase their share while the share of agriculture in GDP is seen to shrink from 11 percent in 2010 to 7.7 percent in 2050.

"Given this development scenario, energy consumption is projected to increase more than threefold, peaking at 4.3 exajoule in 2050," the report stated.

"In the absence of climate or renewable energy policies, the energy consumption mix is modeled as remaining dominated by fossil sources, which account for over 90 percent of the total, with hydropower expected to double by 2050," it added.

The report noted the energy intensity and carbon intensity of the country's GDP are the lowest among the five economies.

"Following the sectoral restructuring of the economy (by 2050), there is an increase in share of emissions from transportation services, fossil-fuel-based electricity, heavy industry and households. In contrast, the share of emissions by the agriculture sector is found to decline from around 28 percent to 6.4 percent," it said.

"Improvements in energy efficiency and productivity growth are found to foster reduction in the carbon intensity and energy intensity of the country's GDP by roughly 60 percent between 2010 and 2050," it added.

Energy intensity is a measure of the energy efficiency of a nation's economy. It is calculated as units of energy per unit of GDP. High energy intensities indicate a high price or cost of converting energy into GDP. Low energy intensity indicates a lower price or cost of converting energy into GDP.

In the report's regional launch held in Ortigas yesterday, Raitzer said

"Indonesia, Malaysia, Philippines, Thailand and Vietnam account for 90 percent of Southeast Asia's greenhouse gas emissions in 2010."

The report noted the region has experienced rapid economic growth in recent years and regional GHG emissions have rapidly increased, at nearly five percent annually over the last ~~two~~ decades.

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ADB makes cost-benefit case for curbing carbon emissions

THE PHILIPPINES stands to gain \$10 billion worth of "co-benefits" annually from slashing 50% from its carbon emissions by 2050, the Asian Development Bank (ADB) said in a report launched yesterday.

The indirect benefits from deliberate climate action represent around 0.5% of the country's gross domestic product (GDP), according to the report titled "Southeast Asia and the Economic of Global Climate Stabilization."

The so-called "co-benefits" partly offset the estimated costs of implementing measures aimed at cutting carbon emissions, which are estimated at around 1.8% of the GDP.

"Including co-benefits and climate change benefits... the net benefits are higher than costs," Francesco Bosello, who co-authored the report, said during the launch.

The co-benefits largely reflect reduction in pollution-related mortality, transport congestion and transport accidents, assum-

ing the concentration of carbon dioxide in the Philippines reaches 500 parts per million.

The report defines co-benefits as "additional beneficial effects that are neither captured in the modeling of policy responses nor which are part of the benefits derived from reduced climate damage."

In the absence of climate-related policies, greenhouse gas emissions in the Philippines will likely increase from 150 to 400 metric tons of carbon dioxide equivalent in 2050.

The Philippines plans to reduce its carbon dioxide emissions by 5.7% in 2030 from 2010 levels, the Manila-based multilateral lender said, citing targets outlined by the country's energy sector.

The goal translates to roughly 30% emission reductions in 2020 from what the Philippines would have emitted in the absence of climate-related policies.

The Philippines has the "most stringent" emission re-



duction goal when compared to those of Indonesia, Malaysia, Thailand and Vietnam, according to the ADB report.

"Energy efficiency improvement is one of the key options that need to be exploited to reduce emissions. Of course energy efficiency does not improve by itself," Mr. Bosello said.

The ADB report also highlighted the need for a global carbon trading platform to discourage consumption of fossil fuels and eventually reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

The Philippines, along with Vietnam, will likely benefit from the proposed global carbon market by selling excess carbon emissions rights to other countries like Indonesia.

"If reducing emissions from deforestation and forest degradation credits are not allowed to enter the global carbon market, increased carbon prices will raise carbon permit export values to \$160 billion in 2015," the report said. — **Keith Richard D. Mariano**

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Mining tunnels and then tanks

DEAN DELA PAZ

'Businessmen worldwide are usually left to divining economic geomancy and interpreting tea leaves as they cluster and whirl in the global tea pot impacted by the influential Chinese economy.'



IN a command economy such as China's where values, whether of commodities, stocks or even currencies, are not determined by the market and the laws of supply and demand, it is difficult to ascertain what are real and what are not. Values are posted and openly declared but they are posted and declared by the state which determines what these values are regardless of their basic foundations. They are what the state says they are. Intrinsic foundations may, or may not have anything to do with what the state says.

Ironically our democracy under the present dispensation has similarities with that. Especially where leaders claim alternate truths.

In a command economy it is also difficult to prepare for value changes, whether these might suddenly rise, or as has happened in recent days, suddenly, drastically crash. Unpredictable as these are neither a function of trends or market responses but simply by the unfathomable desires of government and state officials, businessmen worldwide are usually left to divining economic geomancy and interpreting tea leaves as they cluster and whirl in the global tea pot impacted by the influential Chinese economy.

In August last year economies were taken aback when China had suddenly devalued the Yuan in unprecedented levels sending other currencies in a downward spiral. The prognosis was that the domestic economy had enough fundamental strengths to weather the August moon.

It did. While the macro economy might indeed be resilient, specific sectors within its fold are not necessarily so. The recent crash had greeted us like a bat out of hell with steep devaluations of the Yuan and the tripping of circuit breaker safeguards in the Chinese exchanges.

The crash in the Chinese equities however impacts directly on the health of Chinese manufacturing as it drains factories of funds needed to sustain its once optimal levels. As the factories turn capital-anemic so would their output. Allow us to focus on yet a third crash - specifically, the fall in metal prices and its impact on China as well as on the domestic economy.

If there is any semblance of industrialization, or at least the requisite industries that make up an industrialized country from one wallowing in agriculture to another simply exploiting its natural resources to supply other offshore and industrialized economy, it is the mining sector that is perhaps the most critical.

Unfortunately, in the last five years, as a result of deliberate

neglect, unfulfilled promises and perhaps severe economic bungling, the mining sector has been undeniably moribund. Executive Order 79 issued early on effectively placed nearly all mining investments on hold pending legislation that to this day has been in the congressional back burner.

While there are some bright spots as foreign investment is set to return in a big way when the present dispensation takes its bow this year, the prognosis for the sector following the same factors that have suddenly impacted the global community from the disturbing New Year's morning revelations from the China crisis do not bode well in the immediate term.

Allow us to go through a quick list and see where the mining industry might, on the whole, continue in the same dark tunnel that the Aquino administration had placed it and decide for ourselves if the sector will, in the coming year, continue to be tanked in the ways it has been.

One, the Chinese manufacturing slowdown and perhaps an eventual prolonged recession will severely affect demand specially for nickel which is perhaps our most prolific metal export to that economy. It is also in the nickel sub-sector where we have the best distinctive advantage compared to other nickel exporting economies as our nickel mines are perhaps the most state-of-the-art and the biggest thus impacting on the local economy in more ways than others might.

Two, the Chinese slowdown in demand creates a supply glut in the metals market. This would further depress metal values and impact negatively as margins thin out where we are most competitive. For large scale miners, the economies of scale might provide some relief but for the smaller miners of which we have a lot, the thinning of supply would practically drive them out of business.

Three, the global fall in metal prices would render our metal exports unviable given domestic taxation structures currently in place. Already mining taxation is one of the heaviest given its diverse impacts all throughout the mining value chain. Given a prospective statutory increase in taxes pending in congress, the adverse taxation effects would further eat into viabilities and turn metal exports uncompetitive with global suppliers where mining enjoys state support.

Four, as our mines are largely capitalized with debt on one end and public equity on another the initial macroeconomic signals at the start of the year do not bode well. First, the prospective increase in key policy rates globally does not augur well for any enterprise capitalized largely with debt. Second, the fall in global equities show that as a source of capital, public equity may not be the wisest way to go.

Finally, with the prospect of another administration that will pursue pretty much the same policies that the Aquino administration pursued in the mining sector, such forebodes a regime of effectively higher taxation for the industry as the same economic managers perpetuate in place and push for gross receipts taxation that effectively renders the industry uncompetitive.

The Manila Times

STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION AND INITIATIVES SERVICE

The mileage of plans in disaster environments

HOW far can plans and resources take leaders when managing a disaster?

When disaster strikes, we tend to measure the success of responding organizations according to whether resources are readily available for deployment. Consequently, managers look to increasing the capabilities of their organizations according to three factors: speed, communication and resources. For example, organizations leverage social media as a way of providing faster information during disaster situations, or in anticipation of future disasters, they invest in resources such as state-of-the-art technology, computers, airplanes, drones and trucks, among other things.

This is an important aspect of disaster management because it acknowledges the fact that disasters can overwhelm the capacity of organiza-



**MANAGING
FOR SOCIETY
EULA BIANCA
VILLAR**

tions to cope with the situation. So you manage it as if you were going to war: you strategize and then come up with an execution plan.

However, there are times when sticking to a plan becomes the very reason disasters are mismanaged. Managers sometimes forget that disasters are dynamic and, in turn, render plans and resources inapplicable. Disaster situations leave people with very little resource. An example that is close to home is that of Typhoon Yolanda, which had proven too devastating for even the key decision makers to find an alternative means of communication and coordination of rescue efforts

when the cellular sites were rendered useless in the midst of the storm. Communication was down for a week after the infrastructure was damaged. There are accounts of utility organizations that had to resort to basic "relay/pass the message" communication technique.

Bricolage, i.e. making do with what you have at the moment, is an important aspect of disaster management. In the same manner, the simultaneous conception and execution of action, which is also known as improvisation, can be a solution when the plan becomes inapplicable to the current context.

As far as resources go, they can be scarce. As far as plans go, they need to be flexible. In disaster situations, a 'drop your tools' mentality can sometimes spell the difference in survival. This was evident in the Mang Gulch Fire of 1949.

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Global carbon trade suggested

A global carbon trading market could boost Southeast Asia's efforts to combat climate change, the Asian Development Bank said on Monday.

The region had the fastest growth in carbon dioxide emissions in the world from 1990 to 2010, and will continue to rely mainly on coal-fired plants for its power needs, making it one of the top contributors to global greenhouse gas emissions, the ADB said in a report.

Southeast Asia's five largest economies - Indonesia, Malaysia, the Philippines, Thailand, and Vietnam - account for 90 percent of the region's emissions, the Manila-based development bank said in the report, which comes in the wake of a landmark international agreement on fighting climate change reached in Paris in December.

"A global market greenhouse gas emissions could benefit countries in the region, as Southeast Asia is a net exporter of emissions allowances," the report said.

"Naturally the most efficient way to achieve mitigation is generally to have a carbon market," added David Raitzer, an economist who led the ADB study team that produced the report.

A global carbon market has remained elusive, but schemes in places such as Europe and China have been gathering momentum.

Under cap-and-trade schemes, companies or countries face a carbon limit. If they exceed the limit they can buy allowances from others.

The ADB also reiterated that the region's GDP could decline by up to 11 percent by 2100 if no steps are taken to curb climate change. That was up from a 2009 report, which put the decline at 7 percent.

Meanwhile, Raitzer said that countries in the region would need to push harder to comply with the deal forged in Paris to rein in rising global temperatures to "well below" 2 degrees Celsius (3.6 degrees Fahrenheit) above pre-industrial levels, a mark scientists fear could be a tipping point for the climate.

"Basically that means you would have minimal deforestation by 2030. It also means that you need to have a much faster rate of energy efficiency improvements, a rate that's double what is targeted in the energy sector plans for countries in the region," he said. *-Reuters*