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## **FINANCIAL TIMES**

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## **MALAYA BUSINESS INSIGHT**

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## **MANILA BULLETIN**

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## **MONGABAY**

### **[Bangladeshi farmers eye moringa as a climate and economic solution](#)**

By: Abu Siddique

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### **DAILY GUARDIAN**

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The “2023 Mga Kuwentong KLIMA-likasan Tungo sa Katatagan: A Climate and Disaster Resiliency Recognition Awards,” a joint initiative of Globe and the DENR Climate Change Service and Gender and Development Office, was held as part of the observance of the National Climate Change Consciousness Week to celebrate environmental stewardship and innovation.

**Information and Knowledge Management Division**

## **ABS CBN**

### **Solidum: Filipinos should be victors, not victims of disasters**

By: Raphael Bosano

With the Philippines being one of the most disaster-prone countries in the world, the Department of Science and Technology (DOST) has underscored the importance of instilling disaster preparedness and resilience.

In a forum for policymakers at the House of Representatives Monday, DOST researchers gave a deep dive on the various disasters that many communities in the country are at risk to, depending on the present hazard. These include ground shaking, liquefaction, landslides, and tsunamis following earthquakes.

DOST Secretary Renato Solidum said the Philippines has many innovations that can help the public during times of disasters.

These include web-based applications like Hazard Hunter, which identifies the different disaster risks that a community faces.

“The Hazard Hunter, it won the International Practice Award for 2023 for disaster risk reduction. We have those technologies, but now we need to make sure that local governments, private sector would be able to use it. It’s one thing that the technology is there, it’s a different thing when it is used,” he said.

The science chief added that many of DOST’s programs aim to enhance efforts in disaster risk reduction, which is why they encourage the active involvement of local governments to improve the public’s knowledge and awareness on resilience and preparedness.

To better capture the attention of lawmakers, the DOST launched its exhibit *Handa Pilipinas 2024*, which highlights its different innovations in disaster risk reduction and management.

Aside from web-based applications that measure and map out a myriad of hazards, augmented-reality terrain and flood simulators were also present to illustrate flood-risks to communities depending on rainfall.

One innovation showcased the use of plant-based cellulose for hemostats that can be used to reduce or stop excessive bleeding in traumatic wounds. The DOST-Philippine Nuclear Research Institute-developed hemostats are seen to be comparable in performance as those equivalent to commercially available hemostat products.

It also used radiation-technology to modify cellulose molecules which, when placed on wounds, would cause the quick clotting of blood. The innovation is now undergoing clinical trials.

“Applicable (ito) sa mga emergency situations, aksidente, or even sa mga military and police operation and sa mga ospital. ‘Yung excessive bleeding can be stopped using the hemostat na na-develop ng Philippines Nuclear Research Institute. Isa ‘yan sa mga gusto natin ma-commercialize kaagad,” Solidum said.

(It’s applicable in emergency situation, accidents, or even in military and police operations and in hospitals. The excessive bleeding can be stopped using hemostat developed by the Philippine Nuclear Research Institute. This is one of the things we want to commercialize as soon as possible.)

Solidum said bringing the exhibit within the compound of the House of Representatives allows policy makers to see the “applicability” of these innovations, especially for their constituents and possibly pave the way for them to craft more policies that could improve and hasten disaster-preparedness in different local governments.

With the country often battered by typhoons and disrupted by volcanic eruptions, earthquake, and landslides, DOST believes that the public’s level of understanding disaster preparedness and resilience is already high.

However, they also say that because the population continues to grow, coupled with technological advancements, people should not settle for what they already know but rather aim to improve it by using up and coming innovations.

## **BUSINESS WORLD**

### **Green is in: Regulations influencing sustainable building development in Philippines**

By: Daniel Salapong

In the Philippines there are various financial regulations in place that encourage the development of green and sustainable buildings. These regulations incentivize businesses to adopt sustainable business practices and contribute to the country's efforts to mitigate the impact of climate change.

In the previous Congresses, lawmakers have proposed a measure that would update the country's Building Code, and mandate the implementation of green building practices in all new buildings and major renovations.

Other government agencies and business organizations have also proposed and enacted green initiatives to assuage the impact of climate change.

The Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas (BSP) has also implemented sustainable finance regulations that encourage financial institutions to support green initiatives. The BSP's Sustainable Finance Framework requires banks and financial institutions to integrate environmental and social considerations in their lending, investing, and risk management activities. The framework incentivizes the issuance of green bonds and green loans, which fund projects that have positive environmental impact, such as renewable energy and sustainable infrastructure. This regulation promotes the development of green finance and encourages sustainable investments, which can contribute to the country's sustainable economic growth.

The Securities and Exchange Commission has issued guidelines on the establishment of Green Bonds and Social Bonds, which promote sustainable and socially responsible investments. These guidelines require issuers to disclose the environmental and social benefits of the bond proceeds and report on the use of proceeds and impact achieved. This regulation encourages the issuance of green bonds and social bonds, which fund projects that have positive environmental and social impacts, such as clean energy, affordable housing, and healthcare. These bonds attract socially responsible investors and promote sustainable development.

The Department of Energy (DoE) also implements financial regulations that encourage the adoption of green and sustainable workspaces. The DoE provides financial incentives, such as tax exemptions, reduced fees, and subsidies, to businesses that use renewable energy sources, such as solar and wind power. This regulation promotes the

development of renewable energy, reduces reliance on fossil fuels, and contributes to the country's efforts to mitigate the impacts of climate change. These incentives make renewable energy more affordable and attractive for businesses, leading to cost savings and environmental benefits.

Moreover, the Philippine Stock Exchange has launched the Sustainability Reporting Guidelines, which require listed companies to disclose their environmental, social, and governance (ESG) practices. This initiative encourages companies to adopt sustainable business practices and provides investors with ESG-related information to make informed investment decisions. The guidelines also promote transparency, accountability, and good governance, which can contribute to the country's sustainable development.

The implementation of these financial regulations is crucial in promoting the development of green and sustainable buildings. Developers and building owners must embrace sustainable design and create structures that are greener and more efficient. Not only can they take advantage of existing regulations, but also use these to attract tenants that have ESG targets to meet. Moreover, the adoption of green and sustainable workspaces can lead to cost savings to building tenants, job creation, improved reputation, and contribute to the country's efforts to mitigate the impact of climate change. Different government agencies are working hand in hand to influence greener construction, projects, and investments so that the Philippines can reap the advantages of an ecologically sound tomorrow.

Sustainability should be every Filipino's responsibility.

## FINANCIAL TIMES

### [\[Opinion\] The world's cities are not ready for climate change](#)

Think of climate change, and the mind instantly tends to go to melting ice caps, arid plains, forest fires and sinking tropical islands. But the impact of rising temperatures will not only be felt in the hinterlands. A report, commissioned by London's mayor, this week highlighted the possibility of "more intense and frequent heatwaves, more intense rainfall, flash flooding and sea level rise" in the British capital. It is a reminder that cities across the world — where over 80 per cent of global gross domestic product and the majority of the planet's population live — are also under significant threat.

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Major urban ports — including those on America's eastern and western coastlines — risk becoming increasingly swamped in the coming decades. The 2050 Climate Change City Index, produced by Nestpick, a rentals platform, places a range of high and low-income cities at risk of rising sea-level damage. This includes Bangkok in top place, where the OECD has projected over 5mn of its inhabitants could be exposed to flooding by the 2070s. Amsterdam, Shenzhen and Dubai also rank in the top 10.

It is not only coastal cities that face challenges. Many riverside cities including Paris, Cairo and New Delhi are at risk of flooding too, while those farther from flowing water are under threat from drought, such as Phoenix, Brasília and Mexico City. The number of cities exposed to extreme heat is expected to almost triple by 2030. Extreme weather events are also expected to become more intense and frequent.

The human and economic costs could be enormous. In young and fast-growing African and Asian countries, urbanisation is set to continue unabated. This will put millions more impoverished city dwellers directly at risk of flooding, heat illnesses and famine. The urban heat island effect — where cities tend to be hotter than rural areas due to heat trapping and emissions from buildings — could also be exacerbated as populations and economic activity swells. Trading floors, skyscrapers and factories in urban centres risk becoming uninhabitable. According to C40, a network of city mayors, climate-related flooding and drought could cost the world's major cities \$194bn annually.

With the Paris Climate Agreement's goal to limit global warming to 1.5C or to well below 2C potentially slipping out of reach, cities need to make a step-change in their adaptation and resilience efforts. Some are already acting. At the extreme end, the Indonesian government plans to abandon its capital, Jakarta, 40 per cent of which now lies below sea level, for a new capital city over 1,000km away. Others have begun by greening cities with parks and gardens, which help to cool urban space and reduce flood risk.

But too many cities are taking inadequate action. The report on London stated the capital was "underprepared" for the effects of climate change. Greening and retrofitting often aged infrastructure in dense urban spaces is complicated, disruptive and expensive. To navigate this, more cities must first create adaptation strategies. Planning rules may need reform and local areas will also need the powers and resources to adapt their cities. Investment in flood defences, land engineering solutions and green technology also needs to be ramped up. Regional and multilateral lenders can provide financial support for cities in developing countries.

There are political challenges too. Boosting cities' resilience could be seen as shifting funds from needy regions to wealthier urbanites. Big populations in urban areas may also vote down necessary, but ugly, infrastructure adaptations. It is essential nonetheless that national and local governments find a way through the myriad difficulties. Otherwise their urban economic powerhouses will come under increasing strain, multiplying their problems in the process.

## **MALAYA BUSINESS INSIGHT**

### **DENR sets P15B projects this year**

By: Jed Macapagal

The Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) expects \$278 million (P15.5 billion) foreign-funded projects biodiversity and climate change programs to further strengthen environmental resiliency and sustainability in local government units (LGUs).

In a statement, DENR Secretary Ma. Antonia Yulo Loyzaga noted the need to secure foreign funding to bridge financial gaps in implementing environmental projects in the country.

“Through strategic partnerships with multilateral and bilateral institutions, we can address environmental issues efficiently and effectively,” Loyzaga said.

DENR said countries that provided the grants include Japan, Australia, United States, South Korea and Canada.

Loyzaga also highlighted the importance of the partnership with the Department of Interior and Local Government, Department of Finance, Department of Health, Department of Public Works and Highways, Department of Tourism, Department of Agriculture, Department of Science and Technology, and other agencies in a “whole of government” approach to accelerate LGU programs with global best practices in environmental management within the next five to six years.

The DENR is collaborating with development partners, including the Global Environment Facility, United Nations Industrial Development Organization and the European Union (EU) to implement a circular economy approach with the Circular Solutions to Plastic Pollution Integrated Program.

Loyzaga said other initiatives are the Green Economy Program of the Philippines funded by the EU which focuses on solid waste management and plastic waste reduction in sixty LGUs over five years; and the enhancement of marine litter management in Manila Bay.

The DENR has an ongoing collaboration with the World Bank on studies on municipal solid waste plans, recycling systems, plastic circularity opportunities and strategies to combat plastic waste crisis.

## MANILA BULLETIN

### [DENR-6 focuses on 3 priorities in 2024](#)

By: Tara Yap

The Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR)-6 (Western Visayas) is focusing on three priorities – disaster resiliency, climate action, and water security – this year.

DENR-6 Regional Director Livino Duran said the three priorities are anchored on Chapter 16 of the Regional Development Plan or the “Accelerate Climate Action and Strengthen Disaster Resilience Plan.”

Duran said disaster resiliency is not just the work of the DENR-6 alone but also in close coordination with other national government agencies and local government units (LGUs) in Aklan, Antique, Capiz, Guimaras, Iloilo, and Negros Occidental provinces as well as the highly urbanized cities of Iloilo and Bacolod.

“The DENR’s mandate is focused on the delineation of public easements, especially the riverbanks and coastal areas. This is to prevent occurrences of disasters in landslide prone and flood prone areas,” said Duran.

However, areas prone to disasters have been occupied with public easement and cadastral survey having been conducted more than 100 years ago.

Duran said that relocating affected residents is the responsibility of the Department of Human Settlements

For climate action, the DENR-6 has an ongoing reforestation program under the Enhanced National Greening Program (ENGP).

Water security is DENR-6’s newest thrust, with key concern for the critical watersheds and river systems as well as identifying other underground water sources such as aquifers, which can be done by the DENR-attached agency Mines and Geosciences Bureau (MGB).

“Identifying our productive aquifers could help guide our LGUs. Ideally, land use above ground of these productive aquifers should be agricultural, not commercial or residential. We should move ahead – identify the exact location (of the aquifers) to protect these and for the LGU to anticipate proper zoning scheme,” added Duran.

## **MONGABAY**

### **Bangladeshi farmers eye moringa as a climate and economic solution**

By: Abu Siddique

In Bangladesh, farmers are increasingly tapping into a growing global market for moringa, a tree prized for its nutritional value and potential as a climate solution. The fast-growing, drought-resistant moringa (*Moringa oleifera*) tree is indigenous to South Asian nations such as India, Pakistan, Bangladesh and Afghanistan and widely cultivated in tropical and subtropical countries.

As both the leaves and the fruits of the moringa tree are rich in nutrients, with so many minerals combining to provide both immunity-boosting and life-sustaining nutrients, researchers refer to moringa leaves as highly beneficial to the human body.

A Bangladeshi entrepreneur has been working to create a social movement and entrepreneurship in moringa cultivation and marketing since 2017 and has set up producer groups for community farming, contract farming and homestead cultivation of moringa in 20 districts of Bangladesh.

“I have been trying to make people understand the importance of moringa cultivation and its economic and health benefits since 2004. Finally, in 2017, I established a formal company to produce different products by using different parts of the moringa tree,” said Rajib Parvez Raju, the chief executive of GT Moringa.

About 5,000 farmers in 20 districts from different parts of the country have planted moringa plants, and all of them are selling the leaves, which are used to produce a range of products, including moringa powder, moringa cookies and other beauty products, based on market demand, he added.

The initial motivation for the farmers to participate was to use fallow land to earn extra money from the plant.

Mohammad Azim, a farmer from the frequently drought-prone area of Kushtia district, said, “I have been cultivating moringa trees in my 2.5 acres of arable land for the last five years. From there, I am now getting 400,000 taka (\$3,600) annually as profit.

As the local demand for moringa products in Bangladesh is comparatively less than in most other countries, GT Moringa aims for its products to reach areas with higher market demand globally.

Regarding this, Rajib Parvez Raju told the Mongabay that by using vast amounts of fallow land and ensuring the quality and variety of products, the target is to capture a significant stake in the global market.

Health awareness and the growing global moringa market

According to a study, all parts of the moringa plant, including the leaves, pods, seeds, roots and flowers, have a nutritional profile rich in high biological value proteins, vitamins A and C, antioxidants, omega-3 fatty acids, and minerals such as calcium, iron, potassium and phosphorus. As a result, they can be used in various industrial sectors, including pharmaceutical, cosmetic, human food, animal feed and water treatment.

Data show that the global market size of moringa products was about \$9.5 billion in 2022. It is projected to grow to around \$18.2 billion by 2030, with a growth rate of 8.5% annually, thanks to growing health awareness among people across the globe.

According to the World Health Organization, 422 million people, mostly from low- and middle-income countries, are suffering from diabetes. In the case of Type 2 diabetics, the human body produces inadequate insulin. The chlorogenic acid in moringa helps to balance the sugar level in the human body more effectively and add insulin naturally. Considering the health benefits, the demand for moringa-based products is rising in Europe, North America and South America.

Based on demand, producers offer different types of products, including moringa leaf, moringa oil, moringa fruits, and moringa powder, which can be consumed as soups, curries, stews and salads.

Moringa as an adaptation tool in changing climatic pattern

Moringa trees can aid in the fight against desertification since they thrive quickly in arid climates. Because of its extensive taproot, moringa can withstand dry spells. Additionally, moringa can be grown in regions that experience severe soil erosion due to prolonged dry spells and strong winds.

According to the Global Climate Risk Index, Bangladesh has been the seventh-most-affected country worldwide by extreme weather occurrences during the past 20 years.

Additionally, a changing climate has worsened drought and food insecurity in the drought-prone northern region due to shifting rainfall patterns and river water diversion across the border in India.

According to the Bangladesh Ministry of Agriculture, of 8.8 million hectares (21.7 million acres) of arable land, 0.4 million hectares (988,000 acres) are unused, for various reasons including drought and salinity.

Researchers also suggest that moringa cultivation could be a part of smart agriculture as climatic patterns change, as the plant can tolerate extreme heat and cold.

Md. Hamidur Rahman, former director-general of the Bangladesh Agricultural Extension, said, among other climatic solutions, planting more moringa in fallow lands could help the country use the lands and ensure economic benefits for rural communities.

Moringa can also serve as a backup, in case of conventional crop failure — including cereals —due to the changing climate and other anthropogenic conditions. Moringa offers people both health and financial benefits, said Pavel Partha, director of the Bangladesh Resource Center for Indigenous Knowledge (BARCIK).

## TIME

### [Earth 2.0°C: How to Make Passing the 1.5°C Climate Change Threshold An Opportunity](#)

By: William Solecki

Addressing the climate crisis will be difficult and demand focused attention and action. It is not a problem that will go away, and in fact a lot of new evidence shows that the world is heating and changing faster, weather-wise, than we expected just a few years ago. Many highly vulnerable populations and ecosystems already are facing the devastating impacts of climate change.

While the COP28 meeting in Dubai late last year provided some glimmers of hope that the world's countries can meaningfully respond to climate change, it is increasingly clear that the rise in global temperature will exceed the 1.5°C (2.7°F) threshold first defined as part of the 2015 Paris Climate Agreement. Currently the earth has experienced approximately 1.15°C of heating above the 19th century baseline and will likely pass the 1.5°C level globally in the mid-2030s. The window of opportunity to forestall this event is about to close, as significant barriers including lack of financing and institutional capacity, and to say nothing of poverty, consumption, and lack of societal trust.

While the challenges to address the climate crisis are great, several valuable opportunities to advance climate solutions lie well within our grasp. It is important that we collectively work to achieve the goals of what is called "climate resilient development," and thereby simultaneously adapt to growing climate risks and incentivize opportunities to reduce greenhouse-gas emissions. Together, these two aims could tackle climate change while promoting economic advancement that is both sustainable and equitable. Equity is central to the process of transition. Whether it is industries and employees retooling for a green economy, or communities fearing loss of their neighborhood to flooding or climate gentrification, the evidence is overwhelming that the more equitable and engaged the decision-making process, the more likely the climate action will be successful.

Two other key areas of climate solutions are central to our everyday lives: the quality of life in our cities and towns, and enrichment of the natural world which surrounds and is infused within them. We are living in a profoundly urban century. Currently 56% of the world's 8.1 billion live in urbanized areas, and almost all the global population growth expected in the next several decades will be in metropolitan areas. At the same time, these places drive approximately 70% of the world's greenhouse-gas emissions and are where most economic activity takes place.

Through responsible and equitable planning, the urban (re)construction taking place now can integrate the latest climate solutions while also making our cities and towns better places to live and provide all with a higher quality of life. Fundamental to this achievement is protecting and more effectively using the services that nature provides human society. Nature-based solutions to climate change can't address all our climate adaptation and mitigation challenges, but the data are strong that the more we can protect and enhance biodiversity and ecosystem function, the more benefits we can accrue in flood reduction, urban cooling, and air- and water-quality protection.

A key question is whether or not we can make such significant changes. Peering back into our own recent history, we find lots of stories of how we have done so. In a soon-to-be-published book, *Cities and Environmental Change: From Crisis to Transformation*, I document many examples of how seemingly overwhelming urban environmental crises were addressed through innovation. For example, by the mid-1950s air pollution had become a significant health and economic issue in the greater Los Angeles region. Within a decade transformative new air-pollution science, stakeholder coalitions, and governance institutions had been created and put into practice.

On a grand scale, the modernization of cities—while far from perfect—brought significant advances in drinking-water supply, sanitation, electrification, mass public transit, and recreation in many places. However, these developments were uneven, and today many cities, particularly in the Global South, are growing without the necessary infrastructure to adequately support the local population. Climate-resilient development is an opportunity to reduce or even eliminate these discrepancies.

The convergence of global climate change, rapid urbanization, and growing demands for economic and social equity create both an immediate imperative for action, and a rare opportunity to transform the present and create a better future. Successful solutions to past urban environmental crises can give us insights into how to best seize this opportunity: They show the importance of a flexible response where lived experiences, and the needs of multiple stakeholders are considered in policymaking.

Furthermore, we know that solutions should focus on securing the needed knowledge, financing, and decision-making capacity in advance, and being prepared to act when a window opens. Shocks like massive floods and disease outbreaks can become tipping points and bring attention to issues; but if emergent policies are to be effective and provide long-lasting solutions, they must also address underlying societal conditions, such as inequity and lack of trust in those in power due to a history of being cut out of the decision-making process.

Already, the world is full of small-scale climate-action success stories and other experiments that are making a difference. The historical evidence shows that to rapidly scale these up, we need to better monitor and evaluate these examples, bring in people and institutions from all levels of government, tap the incentive motives of the private sector, and address the concerns of those opposed to change. Even as the global community is failing the test of meeting the 1.5°C threshold, we have other resources to bring into the fight, and many of them are embedded in the history and culture of places and how we have addressed our past environmental crises.

## CCC IN THE NEWS:

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The “2023 Mga Kuwentong KLIMA-likasan Tungo sa Katatagan: A Climate and Disaster Resiliency Recognition Awards,” a joint initiative of Globe and the DENR Climate Change Service and Gender and Development Office, was held as part of the observance of the National Climate Change Consciousness Week to celebrate environmental stewardship and innovation.

The awards highlighted exceptional efforts to promote a sustainable lifestyle and net zero future. These initiatives, marked by strategies to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and encourage sustainable resource use, played a key role in fostering awareness and inspiring collective responsibility.

“Recognizing the challenge posed by climate change globally, we understand the effort needed across all sectors to address it. Our individual winners and groups this year exemplify the level of diligence, innovative mindset and commitment it takes to make a real difference in what is perhaps the greatest challenge the world is facing right now,” said Yoly Crisanto, Chief Sustainability and Corporate Communications Officer at Globe.

“We are committed to continuing our collaboration with all relevant stakeholders to amplify our contributions to climate action. It’s through these collective efforts that we can develop effective solutions and ensure the successful attainment of our shared goals for a sustainable future.”

In the Individual category, the top spot went to Paul Lester Dellosa, who established CICCADA, a fashion brand advocating for a waste-free environment by using scrap materials to make new clothes and other items. Meanwhile, Nida Collado, farmer and community leader, won second place and the Gender Equality, Women’s Empowerment, and Climate Change Award for her leadership in forest protection in Palawan as part of the Macatumbalen Community-Based Forest and Coastal Management Association.

Perlito Cabautan, inventor and electronics technician, was presented with the Climate Technology for Resilience Award for his innovation called Nuvitron, an engine enhancement device that can potentially help reduce vehicle emissions.

The Group category was equally competitive. Sultan Kudarat State University claimed first place and the Climate Tech Award for its multifaceted climate change adaptation and disaster risk reduction strategies, which include the deployment of technologies like automated weather stations, water quality monitoring systems, and geographic information systems (GIS).

In second place was the Hijo-MPA Seagrass Meadows of Trinity Project, which was recognized for its impactful conservation efforts of the marine protected area (MPA) in the Davao Gulf. On the other hand, the Compostela Elementary School – SPED Center received the Gender Award for its inclusive environmental programs involving a wide range of stakeholders.

The LGU category saw the City Government of Tagum winning first place and the Climate Tech Award for its innovative Reef Enhancement through Ecosystem Fortification (REEF) Project, which utilized GIS technology for conservation. The Provincial Government of Palawan placed second for its community-centered disaster risk reduction and management programs.

The Gender Award in this category went to the LGU of Kasibu, Nueva Vizcaya, for its comprehensive solid waste management program that integrates vermicomposting, recycling, and upcycling with significant women's involvement.

The panel of judges included Commissioner Rachel Herrera from the Climate Change Commission, Director Jose Harry Barber from the Department of National Defense-Office of Civil Defense, and Globe.

The ceremony not only honored the achievements of the awardees but also served as a reminder of the importance of collaboration in environmental conservation and climate action.

“As we celebrate these remarkable initiatives, we envision many more years of inspiring a sustainable movement for the well-being of future generations as there is still a lot of ground to cover, a lot of minds to enlighten, and a lot of innovative solutions to develop,” said Director Elenida Basug of DENR Climate Change Service.

Globe acknowledges that effective climate action and environmental conservation demand involvement from all stakeholders. The company remains dedicated to fostering collective efforts such as KLIMA-likasan to encourage more people to make a clean, healthy and sustainable environment.

**=END=**