



## NEWS ROUNDUP

07 FEBRUARY 2023 [ 08:00 am]

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### CCC IN THE NEWS:

- Binibigyang diin ng Climate Change Commission o CCC ang kahalagahan ng research and development para sa kahandaan ng mga lokal na komunidad upang labanan ang climate change.
- CCC highlights the importance of research and development and capacity building

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#### [Climate change: Uni degree will train future disruptors](#)

By: Teleri Glyn Jones

Climate disruptors of the future will be trained by a new degree course, a college has said. Black Mountains College in Talgarth, Powys, has launched a BA in sustainable futures.

## **BUSINESS MIRROR**

### **[Bridging and building a progressive future](#)**

By: Dick Du Baladad

Let me first extend the gratitude of the 2023 Board of Governors for the confidence in entrusting to us the stewardship of the Management Association of the Philippines or MAP. I convey my personal thanks for giving me this opportunity to be MAP's 75th president — the fifth woman to lead this organization – with high hopes that during our watch, we can rise to the challenge of leaving a significant mark in the 73-year history of this organization.

## **CNA**

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## **DW AKADEMIE**

### **[Green hydrogen: How can it help stop climate change?](#)**

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## **EURO NEWS**

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By: Rosie Frost

The Banaue Rice Terraces are sometimes called the 'Eighth Wonder of the World'. Perched 1,500 metres up on the side of the Cordillera mountains in Ifugao, Philippines, the network of fields is as old as some Egyptian pyramids.

## **MANILA BULLETIN**

### **[PhilSA partners with DENR for geospatial database creation, monitoring of nat'l reforestation program](#)**

By: Luisa K. Cabato

A geospatial database of the country's natural resources will be created through a signed partnership between the Philippine Space Agency (PhilSA) and the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR).

## **MINDANAO TIMES**

### **['DEEPLY CONCERNED' | Environment groups quiz JICA on WTE project](#)**

By: Antonio L. Colina

DAVAO CITY (MindaNews) — At least 57 national and international environmental groups said they are “deeply concerned” over the integrity of the claims of the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) that it has not been supporting the development of a multi-billion peso waste-to-energy (WTE) incinerator project in this city.

## **PHILIPPINE NEWS AGENCY**

### **[95-MW solar farm in Ilocos Norte town to supply Luzon grid](#)**

By: Leilanie Adriano

LAOAG CITY – Ilocos Norte province's renewable energy production will be amplified as another 95-megawatt (MW) solar project is up to supply clean energy.

## **THE PHILIPPINE STAR**

### **[Greenpeace, community reps call on Shell to pay for part in climate crisis](#)**

MANILA, Philippines — Greenpeace, along with representatives of communities that suffered floods due to typhoons Ondoy in 2009 and Ulysses in 2020, are calling on oil firm Shell Petroleum Corp. to pay damages for the effects of fossil fuel production.

## [Mining takes star role in last leg of DENR's nationwide consultations](#)

By: Gaea Katreena Cabico

CAGAYAN DE ORO, Philippines — Mining became one of the major topics in the final leg of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources' multi-stakeholder dialogue in Mindanao last week, with mining companies sharing how they have been managing the environmental and social aspects of their operations.

### **CCC IN THE NEWS:**

#### **IBC**

[Binibigyang diin ng Climate Change Commission o CCC ang kahalagahan ng research and development para sa kahandaan ng mga lokal na komunidad upang labanan ang climate change.](#)

Sa ginanap na 34th Regional Symposium sa Batac, Ilocos Nort. Iniulat ni Secretary Robert Borje, Executive Director ng komisyon na nangunguna na ang Pilipinas sa mga bansang tinatamaan ng kalamidad batay sa ulat ng World Risk Report noong 2022.

#### **PHILIPPINE INFORMATION AGENCY**

[CCC highlights the importance of research and development and capacity building](#)

The Climate Change Commission PH (CCC) highlights the importance of research and development (R&D) and capacity building toward strengthening local communities' capacities on climate change adaptation and mitigation actions.

**Information and Knowledge Management Division**

**BBC**

**[Climate change: Uni degree will train future disruptors](#)**

By: Teleri Glyn Jones

Climate disruptors of the future will be trained by a new degree course, a college has said. Black Mountains College in Talgarth, Powys, has launched a BA in sustainable futures.

It teamed up with Cardiff Metropolitan University, the Brecon Beacons National Park and industry partners.

The college also claimed it was the world's first dedicated entirely to climate action, responding to "the climate and ecological emergency".

The course will be partly classroom based, but will include placements in industry and teaching outdoors on the college's farm campus.

It also incorporates the natural landscape, the senses and the arts - students are encouraged to immerse themselves in nature - feeling, listening, even tasting the world around them. The idea is to reinforce the knowledge they learn and forge a deep connection with the world around them.

CEO Ben Rawlance said the college was founded on the ethos that climate change is not only a scientific problem, but "a problem of human behaviour, of values, of systems, of politics and economics".

Jodie Bond from Brecon Beacons National Park Authority said: "The nature and climate emergencies are hugely important.

"We can't face these big challenges we have as a society on our own, we have to work together."

Mr Rawlance said the world of work was already changing, with corporations employing sustainability and climate officers, and this course was about "giving students the tools to imagine a different future".

"These young people are going to be highly valued by industry because they're going to have that holistic world view," he added.

"They're going to understand how change happens and be schooled in theories of organisational change."

Those skills include critical thinking, creativity, communication, collaboration and compassion.

One of the industry partners is consultancy firm Accenture, which employs 750,000 people worldwide.

Chief responsibility officer Peter Lacy said there was "insatiable" demand for expertise in the fields of sustainability and systems change.

"[Demand] is going to increase exponentially for the kind of disruptors that can bring new thinking, new solutions to problems."

Alison Stunt is studying horticulture at the college and said the approach was not purely intellectual: "It's not academic in that way, it's not learning from books.

"It's learning from being out there in nature and experiencing things with our whole bodies, rather than just reading about it and knowing it in an intellectual way."

Mr Rawlance admitted it was really difficult for people "who were educated in these very strict degree programmes to get our heads around" but was "obvious to young people coming up now".

"So, this is not only urgent and necessary but it's responding to the market. This is what the kids want."

Black Mountains College has received more than £500,000 in lottery funding and is in the process of securing £1.5m of social investment to fund the launch of the course.

## **BUSINESS MIRROR**

### **Bridging and building a progressive future**

By: Dick Du Baladad

Let me first extend the gratitude of the 2023 Board of Governors for the confidence in entrusting to us the stewardship of the Management Association of the Philippines or MAP. I convey my personal thanks for giving me this opportunity to be MAP's 75th president — the fifth woman to lead this organization – with high hopes that during our watch, we can rise to the challenge of leaving a significant mark in the 73-year history of this organization.

We thank the past leaders whose decades of stewardship had brought MAP to where it is today — a premier, independent, professional and prestigious association of business leaders whose insights are listened to, in both the private and public sectors. That includes Fred Pascual and Babes Singson, who jointly headed MAP in 2022. I wish to thank both of them, and their respective teams, for their contributions.

MAP today has a strong membership base of 1,074 leaders who are significant influencers in their respective fields. Its members cut across many industries and their outputs can be felt in employment generation, in sharing gains through corporate social responsibility initiatives and in economic development. Certainly, one of MAP's biggest contributions is leadership excellence. From among its ranks came many of those who are called for public service and shared their expertise to benefit the country and Filipinos.

## **CHALLENGING TIMES**

The year 2023 will still be challenging — a continuation of the transition years as we try to put our pandemic experience in the rear-view mirror. Now, we must set our sights to what's ahead with cautious optimism, even as the fight with COVID continues.

The bigger challenge before us will be RECOVERY — not just on the economic front but also in the structural rebuilding of the fundamentals needed to address the impact of the digital transformation and the changing business dynamics in our government on our respective organizations. The growing expectation that business should integrate social responsibility as success indicator places an enormous burden on our shoulders that will need new, transformational ideas and a high degree of collaboration across industries and sectors.

The Management Association of the Philippines can be that lynchpin, the hub if you will, to generate ideas and help make that cooperation happen. MAP today has solidified its standing as a professional, impartial and independent organization, whose advocacies extend beyond its mission to achieve management excellence. We are a voice that is listened to in many socially relevant issues we initiate, support and reinforce in multiple platforms to influence changes for the better.

Preserving these gains is foremost in the minds of your 2023 Board. During its strategic meeting in November, we committed to work on crafting and implementing a two-pronged strategy to significantly contribute to this objective: by bridging and enhancing the internal fundamentals and harnessing our collective strengths to help in building a national future in shared prosperity.

The two-pronged strategy is captured in our 2023 theme, “Bridging and Building a Progressive Future.” This will guide our directions and activities for the year. To give flesh and substance to the theme, we mapped out six priority programs aptly embodied in the acronym B R I D G E.

- We keep Bridging our internal strengths
- Focus on Resilience and recovery
- Initiate and welcome Innovation
- Advocate Diversity, equity and inclusion
- Make a strong push for Growth and people development
- Base our actions on what can contribute to the Environment, social and governance goals

These priority programs integrate the major concerns of our members gathered from the responses in a quick survey in November. The results identified the Top 10 issues ranked according to priority and we duly noted that ease of doing business remains to be the top concern, followed by the economy, energy, climate change, competitiveness of local industries, education, agriculture, infrastructure, environment, social and governance goals and dealing with local governments.

## **GETTING INTO ACTION**

With the identified key directions of MAP for the year, the Board will work with 30 MAP committees grouped into six clusters. Together with their respective governors-in-charge, they will be responsible for the plans and actions to best deliver results. The programs will be harmonized, tracked and calibrated to maximize resources and generate quick wins.

## **INTERNAL STRENGTHS**

The first Cluster is tasked to bridge the internal strengths. A strong MAP organization will capacitate us to deliver our mandate. Our collective strengths will enable MAP to lead, be the voice for management excellence, the hub of new ideas and solutions, that can effectively push our advocacies forward.

Today's MAP is a diverse group in age, gender and professional background. It is the very first time in the history of MAP that four of the nine members of the MAP Board are women. This alone sets a tone.

We have a relatively young Board that can potentially cement what MAP has been desiring to do for years — to create and institutionalize an environment that would bridge and connect the wisdom and wealth of experience of seasoned CEOs, with the new thinking, new ideas, innovations in doing business and new paradigm of the next generation of CEOs. This combined force will enable us to foster thought leadership and collect a wealth of ideas, solutions and business opportunities that are adaptive, transformative, relevant and sustainable.

We will focus on narrowing the generational divide and create an environment of real inclusiveness, true to our management discipline of succession planning. The perspectives between the present and the next generation may differ, but I believe that this is not because we have different challenges, but because we have differing approaches. We have to bridge the gap of understanding, listen without judgment and impatience, and open our hearts and minds to meaningful collaboration.

Our first act, therefore, was to assign next-generation members to be co-vice chairpersons in most committees to give them the opportunity to lead, participate and be immersed in the organization. As of today, 23 next-gen members have risen to the challenge. That translates to 27% or almost a third of the total leadership posts in committees represented by those whom we hope will eventually take over the reins in the future. We also keep making strides in achieving gender balance. For this year, we

are gratified to note that we are at 44% female to 56% male gender mix of leaders in our various committees.

Building internal strength also mean that we can provide support to our members through timely information that can increase the confidence level in their business planning. We will establish a data map that will make available relevant statistics, facts, figures, policy papers and other research materials that we may all need from time to time.

We will strengthen our linkages with data repositories like NEDA, PSA, DTI and other research organizations that can share their studies with us. I believe that business intuition is a spark that can be ignited when backed by solid indicators. MAP can better serve the members when we can help manage business risks through informed data points.

Because these are core components of our programs, I shall personally head this Cluster. Armed with a strengthened MAP, we shall do our share in Building a Progressive Future.

The Cluster on Resilience and Recovery is headed by Ciel Habito, the former secretary of NEDA under the Ramos administration. His group will persistently pursue the eight-point MAP recommendations that MAP submitted in 2022 to the then incoming administration.

To provide inputs to our members on the business horizon, we will hold an economic briefing on Feb. 8. However, we feel that we can enrich the context of economic prospects if we can identify investment opportunities we can take advantage of, to expand our markets. This year, therefore, we will be introducing an innovation of twinning the briefing on the economy with an investment campaign to be scheduled within the first quarter of the year.

This initiative will be undertaken in partnership with the Department of Trade and Industry, and solidified through the signing of a memorandum of understanding.

The importance of innovation cannot be overemphasized. Digital marketing expert Donald Lim is a natural choice to oversee this cluster tasked to implement programs to help scale up tech start-ups. It will also provide support to students to turn their technological ideas into actual products and services that will benefit farmers, fisherfolk and the rest of our population.

The Diversity, Equity And Inclusion cluster assigned to cluster head Karen Batungbacal is expected to conduct the third round of the SGV-MAP NextGen CEO Transformative Leadership Program as one of its major undertakings.

This cluster will continue to encourage our next-gen members and leaders to engage through the “4th MAP NextGen CEO Conference.” This is the learning platform where they can discuss the most pressing challenges being faced by their generation and provide an avenue for them to learn from one another.

The Growth and People Development Cluster is headed by Chito Salazar, whose forte is education. Their task is to undertake initiatives and pursue critical reforms to address our education crisis and promote life-long learning.

And fittingly, the Environment, Social and Governance Cluster, which will be headed by Alex Cabrera, the ESG leader of PwC Philippines, will keep us focused on the advocacy and social responsibility dimension of what we all do.

The highlight will be a major mid-year activity we plan to initiate — and that is to bring together the decision-makers in government, business leaders, the academe and NGOs, and other interest groups to connect and collaborate.

In this whole-day event, we have high hopes that the multisectoral discussions will catalyze our common vision to contribute in national recovery and nation building. The output will be a blueprint for shared prosperity.

## **CLOSING**

Friends, we are in for a busy, busy 2023. It may seem to be lofty goals that we set for ourselves but we have a lot of catching up to do, and we can do no less. What gives us confidence is knowing that we have one another’s backs and we have the valuable support and active participation of the MAP community and our partners in government and other business organizations, especially those who are with us today.

I will end by sharing a timely gem of wisdom from one of the world’s famous neuroscientists and an untiring advocate of global harmony and peace, Abhijit Naskar, who said and I quote:

“The holy trinity of tackling crisis is unity, faith and sacrifice. We must stay united as humans above all else, we must have faith in ourselves and in each other, and we must sacrifice our self-obsession.”

In other words, we should think not only in terms of what serves our own interests, but more importantly, in what will serve the greater good. Let us cross the bridge together. I look forward to an interesting and dynamic 2023 chapter with all of you.

This was lifted from the inaugural address delivered on Jan. 31 by the author as the 2023 president of the Management Association of the Philippines.

**CNA**

### **China warns of more extreme weather in 2023**

China's regions have been warned to prepare for more extreme weather this year after record-breaking temperatures and a lengthy drought played havoc with the country's power supplies and disrupted harvests last summer.

China's southern regions need to brace for more persistent high temperatures and ensure that energy supplies are available to meet the summer demand peak, while northern regions need to prepare for heavy floods, said Song Shanyun, spokesman at the China Meteorological Administration, at a briefing on Monday (Feb 6).

"At present, global warming is accelerating ... and under the impact of climate change, the climate system is becoming increasingly unstable," Song said.

China was hit last June by a heatwave that lasted more than 70 days, damaging crops, drying up lakes and reservoirs and causing devastating forest fires throughout the Yangtze river basin. In August, as many as 267 weather stations registered their highest temperatures to date.

A sharp drop in rainfall in the southwestern regions of Sichuan and Chongqing also forced hydropower facilities to cut output. Local industries had to restrict operations and electricity deliveries to the eastern coast were also affected.

Average temperatures in China over the whole of 2022 reached 10.5 degrees Celsius, 0.62 Celsius higher than average, Jia Xiaolong, a government expert told the same briefing on Monday, with mean temperatures in spring, summer and autumn at their highest on record.

Average rainfall in China last year was 5 per cent lower than normal, he added.

### [Green hydrogen: How can it help stop climate change?](#)

The molecule can carry the energy needed to replace dirty fuels in polluting industries like steelmaking and shipping, but scaling it up fast enough will prove tricky.

It is the most common element in the universe, one of the key building blocks of life and the fuel that makes stars burn bright.

But hydrogen, an invisible gas that experts say is major part of the solution to stopping climate change, is in surprisingly short supply.

Hydrogen burns cleanly and can replace dirty fuels in industries like steelmaking and shipping, where electric processes are unsuitable or expensive. But the molecule is so reactive that it is almost never found in its pure form. To honor their promises to stop the planet heating, world leaders need to make lots more hydrogen — and fast.

"It will be extremely challenging to scale up renewable hydrogen production at the pace required to keep the planet from warming by less than 1.5 degrees Celsius [2.7 Fahrenheit]," said Alejandro Nunez-Jimenez, who researches hydrogen at the Swiss Federal Institute of Technology in Zurich.

#### Race for cleaner hydrogen

Experts use colors to refer to different ways of making hydrogen — some of which are cleaner than others — and disagree fiercely over which types should be supported.

Green hydrogen is made using electricity from renewable sources to split water molecules into hydrogen and oxygen atoms. Gray hydrogen, which accounts for nearly all hydrogen produced today, is made with methane gas and steam in a chemical process that emits carbon dioxide. Blue hydrogen is made with the same process, but the carbon is captured and stored.

If all the electricity to make green hydrogen comes from dams, wind turbines or solar panels, the result is a fuel that does not heat the planet. If engineers get better at capturing carbon — and gas companies plug methane leaks — the emissions from making blue hydrogen could be low enough to speed the shift to a clean economy.

Done badly, producing blue hydrogen can be dirtier than directly burning fossil gas.

"Too many factors conspire in making blue hydrogen much more challenging than renewable hydrogen," said Nunez-Jimenez, adding it could play a useful role in some settings.

Demand for hydrogen is set to soar as subsidies flow into clean technologies and lawmakers raise the price of polluting the atmosphere. In the United States, a climate law passed in August put a price on methane pollution and gave tax incentives to capture carbon. Weeks later, the European Union announced €5.2 billion (\$5.7 billion) in funding for hydrogen projects it hopes will kick-start private investments.

If all planned projects go ahead, production of blue and green hydrogen will rise from less than 1 megaton in 2021 to about 20 mt by the end of the decade, according to the International Energy Agency (IEA), an organization led by the energy ministries of mostly rich nations. To reach net-zero emissions by 2050, the sector would need to be making 100 mt of blue and green hydrogen by 2030.

Why can't the world make more green hydrogen right now?

Two obstacles stand in the way of making green hydrogen, which today accounts for less than 1% of the world's hydrogen production. The first is building electrolyzers to get hydrogen from water.

Electrolyzers, which break water molecules into hydrogen and oxygen, are being built at record rates. Installations tripled between 2020 and 2021, according to the IEA, but are starting from a very low base and are a long way from meeting climate targets.

Several barriers hold back the industry, including the short supply of iridium and platinum. These expensive metals are used as catalysts for the chemical reaction in a common type of electrolyzer.

"If that cost comes down, the total cost comes down," said Neethu Varghese, a hydrogen researcher at the University of Genoa in Italy.

But experts say the scale of the challenge is hard to grasp. Even if electrolysis capacity were to grow as fast as wind and solar power — the biggest success stories of the energy transition — green hydrogen will make up less than 1% of final energy demand globally by 2035, according to a study published in the journal *Nature* in September.

Still, the scientists found technologies that had grown faster than renewables — with the right support. The US manufactured fighter planes at unprecedented speeds during

World War II. France poured public money into its nuclear industry in the 1970s. And China coordinated construction of the world's biggest high-speed rail network in a decade.

By taking an "emergency" approach to green hydrogen, policymakers could close the gap between supply and demand, the authors found.

### Renewable energy shortages

The second hurdle is the cost and availability of renewable energy that can power the process cleanly.

In many regions, green hydrogen has been able to compete with gray hydrogen on cost since Russia invaded Ukraine and sent gas prices soaring, according to the IEA.

Still, building enough wind turbines and solar panels to make green hydrogen is tricky. Estimates vary for how much is needed by 2050, but "to decarbonize electricity and to have clean hydrogen means a ramp up of 15-20 times today's renewable generation," said Gniewomir Flis, an independent clean technology consultant.

There are three big bottlenecks, he added. The first is the raw materials and factories to build hardware like turbine blades and solar panels. Then there's local opposition and rules that slow planning. And lastly there are high energy prices, which bump up costs of building the required hardware and make it harder to get loans.

### **A lifeline for fossil gas**

By betting on green hydrogen to clean up parts of the economy, critics have said policymakers risk locking in fossil fuels.

In Germany, politicians have approved fossil gas pipelines and built liquefied natural gas (LNG) terminals, saying they are now "hydrogen-ready." However, LNG terminals will need to be replaced, and the pipelines would likely need to be retrofitted to carry hydrogen, said Flis.

"It's not accurate to describe an LNG terminal as hydrogen ready per se," said Flis, adding that converting one to import hydrogen was so difficult it was unlikely to happen.

Similar problems could happen in other sectors. If supplies of green hydrogen stay short, steelmakers who ditch coal-fired furnaces will burn fossil gas instead.

Vaitea Cowan, CEO of electrolyzer maker Enapter, said policymakers need to "clearly define what renewable hydrogen is" to help the industry attract funding. They also need to "stop subsidizing fossil fuels," she added.

## EURO NEWS

### [Banaue Rice Terraces - World wonder at risk of collapse as locals turn to tourism jobs](#)

By: Rosie Frost

The Banaue Rice Terraces are sometimes called the 'Eighth Wonder of the World'. Perched 1,500 metres up on the side of the Cordillera mountains in Ifugao, Philippines, the network of fields is as old as some Egyptian pyramids.

But now climate change and the appeal of higher wages in the tourism industry are putting these ancient green steps at risk.

#### **Why are the Banaue Rice Terraces culturally and historically significant?**

Just 250 kilometres north of Manila, this network of rice fields is known locally as the "stairs to heaven". The entire valley is covered with green steps, carved into the mountain by hand by the ancestors of the Igorot people at least two millennia ago.

Farmer Julia Amehna has worked in the rice fields, which she inherited from her parents, for the last 50 years.

"This stone wall was built by my ancestors 2,000 years ago. It still stands because it was very well done," she says.

"At the time, they had no machinery, no engineers, it was all done thanks to their ingenuity."

Unlike other rice fields around the world, these terraces are flooded all year round thanks to an irrigation system designed when they were built. The water flows from the forests on top of the mountains and is directed to each step as it passes down to the bottom.

Why are the Banaue Rice Terraces at risk of collapsing? This exceptional feat of ancient engineering is now at risk of collapsing.

Climate change has seen the region hit by ever more intense and frequent typhoons. The structures that support the rice fields are being eroded by extreme weather.

“Look, these terraces are abandoned because of erosion, and wild weeds and bamboo have grown,” says Samsong Chommog, a farmer forced to abandon his destroyed plot.

Repairing the structures is expensive and other jobs pay a lot better. Samsong has now become a tourist guide in the region, an industry where wages are much higher than they are for the farmers of the Banaue terraces.

“Some farmers abandon their land cause they don’t have enough money to repair terraces, they prefer being construction workers or tourist guides. Even me, I work as a guide or help other farmers but I must admit I earn better money with tourism,” he explains.

Young people too are now turning to tourism instead of working in the fields. Several studies have found that up to a third of Banaue’s rice fields are abandoned.

This neglect has raised fears about the survival of the UNESCO World Heritage Site.

## MANILA BULLETIN

### [PhilSA partners with DENR for geospatial database creation, monitoring of nat'l reforestation program](#)

By: Luisa K. Cabato

A geospatial database of the country's natural resources will be created through a signed partnership between the Philippine Space Agency (PhilSA) and the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR).

The spaceborne data that will be gathered through this project will be used in monitoring DENR's National Greening Program (NGP) or the nationwide reforestation program, said PhilSA.

A memorandum of agreement was signed by both agencies at the DENR office in Quezon City on Monday, Feb. 6.

The project, called "Use of Satellite Imagery in the Creation of the National ENR Geospatial Database and other related Programs of the DENR," will be funded by DENR.

"PhilSA will generate monthly indices or maps on vegetation trends and biophysical parameters, and develop ways to detect forest disturbance and forest cover classification," the space agency said.

It will also assist DENR to enhance its monitoring capabilities in NGP areas and other forests through the use of "satellite remote sensing, machine learning, artificial intelligence, and geographic information systems."

Moreover, PhilSA and DENR have also joined forces for the latter's National Resource Accounting Program (NRAP).

"For the NRAP, PhilSA will develop methodologies to produce annual mangrove extent maps and air quality maps. In the following years, PhilSA will generate maps that cover other natural resources," PhilSA said.

It will also provide technical capacity training that will help DENR personnel to adopt applicable technologies for the projects and develop systems and tools which can be used for mapping.

“PhilSA welcomes this outstanding collaboration with the DENR. This is a concrete step in further strengthening the domestic space value chain, specifically the capacity to transform satellite imagery and spaceborne data into insights and actions for the conservation, protection, management, and restoration of our environment and natural resources,” said PhilSA Director General Joel Joseph Marciano, Jr.

“The partnership highlights the socio-economic benefits and value from our country’s emerging space capabilities,” he added.

DENR Secretary Ma. Antonia Yulo-Loyzaga, in her speech, highlighted the importance of the space value chain: “The space value chain...actually helps us identify valuable ecosystems, habitats, and ecosystems services’ potential that are critical to the country’s development. And we look forward to this particular endeavor, for being a small initial step but growing in terms of impact, importance, and resources towards building a resilient and inclusive Philippines.”

## **MINDANAO TIMES**

### **'DEEPLY CONCERNED' | Environment groups quiz JICA on WTE project**

By: Antonio L. Colina

DAVAO CITY (MindaNews) — At least 57 national and international environmental groups said they are “deeply concerned” over the integrity of the claims of the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) that it has not been supporting the development of a multi-billion peso waste-to-energy (WTE) incinerator project in this city.

The statement, signed by environmental alliances and organizations, urged JICA to “withdraw its support for Waste-to-Energy in Davao City and elsewhere in the country in respect to our ban on incinerators.” The statement was released in response to JICA’s January 26 statement that it has not been supporting the WTE project in Davao City.

In a three-page statement dated January 30 but e-mailed on Saturday, February 4, the groups maintained that JICA has been instrumental in introducing the WTE technology to this city and reiterated their strong opposition to the proposed project.

They also questioned JICA for its alleged lack of accountability on past and present efforts in promoting and investing in false solutions to the waste management and climate in the city.

Fifty-seven groups from different countries — 27 from the Philippines and 30 from Indonesia, India, Bangladesh, Malaysia, Vietnam, People’s Republic of China, United Kingdom, United States of America, Mongolia, South Africa, Tanzania, and Argentina have joined calls for JICA “to withdraw its support for the WTE incinerator project and elsewhere in the country” in respect of the national ban on incinerators.

Among the 27 signatory groups from the Philippines are Interfacing Development Interventions for Sustainability (IDIS), Inc., Ecoteneo, Magsasaka at Siyentipiko para sa Pag-unlad (MASIPAG-Mindanao), Mintal Resource Collectors Association and Panalipdan Youth-Davao, Pag-asa Youth Association of the Philippines-Mintal Chapter, Sustainable Davao Movement, and Youth Advocates for Climate Action Philippines (YACAP)-Mindanao.

The involvement of JICA in the WTE project started as early as 2010, the statement said.

It noted that the development assistance, which began as a collaboration program with the private sector for disseminating Japanese technology, commenced in March 2018 with the signing of the Japanese Government and the Republic of the Philippines of a grant agreement worth P2.052 billion to fund the construction and operation of a P5.23 billion WTE incinerator.

The remaining amount of around P3 billion will be sourced from the budget of the national government as a “counterpart fund.”

In August 2022, the City Council of Davao passed a resolution asking President Ferdinand Marcos Jr. to provide a counterpart fund, a move detested by environmental advocates as the amount requested is equivalent to more than 60 percent of the entire annual budget of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources.

Ide Soichiro, senior representative of JICA Philippines, said JICA is “neither funding nor implementing” the proposed WTE facility of the local government of Davao City.

“We would like to clarify that JICA is neither funding nor implementing the waste-to-energy facility project in Davao City,” he said.

He said JICA has always anchored its development cooperation with the Philippines through consultations with local stakeholders to promote sustainable, inclusive, and resilient growth.

He said the agency’s cooperation with the Philippines has always centered on “integrated society efforts” in addressing issues on climate change.

The environmental groups said JICA, in its feasibility study, recognized some legal challenges, particularly the Clean Air Act and the Solid Waste Management Act, in the construction of a full-scale WTE facility.

“Yet, JICA has continued promoting its Japanese technology despite a standing legal ban on incinerators now being defended by environmental advocates in the Supreme Court and in the midst of City-wide opposition to the project,” the groups said.

They said JICA’s assistance “flowed to systematically undermine the policy barriers for the entry of this Japanese technology in our waste management system.”

“JICA has directly engaged in the development of waste management guidelines, supported interagency meetings to discuss implementation arrangements for its project,

and facilitated learning tours of government officials and waste regulators to WTE incinerator sites in Kitakyushu City, Japan,” they said.

The groups added that the cooperation “continued without access to information and meaningful consultations that city residents have continued to oppose.”

They expressed concern that the WTE incinerator would “produce globally known harmful byproducts such as dioxins, furans, mercury that will have dire implications to crop and soil health, air quality, the ecosystems, health and food security.”

“The WTE incinerator is not the answer to our city’s limited capacity for collection and segregation that was identified in the project feasibility,” they added.

The groups also hope that development institutions like JICA “see their support to capacitate our local governments to fully implement the Ecological Solid Waste Management Act and the provision of financing for existing Zero Waste systems and innovations that are deemed to be a just and more appropriate option for managing our waste.”

## PHILIPPINE NEWS AGENCY

### 95-MW solar farm in Ilocos Norte town to supply Luzon grid

By: Leilanie Adriano

LAOAG CITY – Ilocos Norte province's renewable energy production will be amplified as another 95-megawatt (MW) solar project is up to supply clean energy.

In a joint report of the Provincial Board's committees on environment and natural resources and on laws, rules, ethics, and privileges, Board Member Rafael Salvador Medina on Monday said the solar project in Barangays Tanap and Agaga in Burgos town, Ilocos Norte has been given the green light to connect to the Luzon grid.

“Upon review of the Municipal Resolution No. 2022-130 of the municipality of Burgos, the joint committees hereby recommend that said resolution endorsing the exploration, assessment, harnessing, development, utilization, and commercialization of the 95-MW solar project is declared valid,” he said.

Consisting of 279,410 solar panels, each panel can produce 340 watts. The area occupies 235.27 hectares within the 1,092.16 forest land use agreement entered into between the Energy Logics Philippines, Inc. (ELPI) and the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR).

Both the national and provincial governments support the project to provide an alternative and viable energy supply that can compete with the existing high energy prices in the market.

In 2011, the Philippine government granted Energy Logics the exclusive right to develop the Ilocos Norte solar power project and the Burgos-Pasuquin east wind project as indicated in the solar energy service contract no. 2011-12-2003.

The start of the solar project however has been delayed pending the issuance of endorsement resolutions and due to the pandemic.

Initially, Energy Logics planned to establish a 132-megawatt wind farm in Burgos and a 100-megawatt solar power plant in Pasuquin, also in Ilocos Norte.

The solar project however was relocated to Tanap village in Burgos and it will be expanded to neighboring Pasuquin town in the future.

## THE PHILIPPINE STAR

### [Greenpeace, community reps call on Shell to pay for part in climate crisis](#)

MANILA, Philippines — Greenpeace, along with representatives of communities that suffered floods due to typhoons Ondoy in 2009 and Ulysses in 2020, are calling on oil firm Shell Petroleum Corp. to pay damages for the effects of fossil fuel production.

On Monday, Greenpeace volunteers and community representatives biked from Quezon City to Shell's corporate headquarters in Taguig. The group delivered their letter of demands, which also include urging the corporation to recognize that they produce historical carbon emissions and to shift to renewables as well as stop plans for fossil fuel expansion.

"They must support communities in building better homes, and they must help the next generations rise from poverty so that they don't have to live in danger zones and risk areas," said Jimmy Ceguerra, kagawad from Barangay Tumana in Marikina City.

"However, even if they've paid people and helped them recover, these floods will happen again and again unless we address the true cause of climate change. The real triumph is if we get Shell to stop producing fossil fuels, and if the government addresses the problem through policies and regulations."

Their protest action comes just after the company posted a record \$40-billion profit.

The group cited a 2022 report done by the Commission on Human Rights that names Shell, along with 46 other carbon major respondents, in its climate change and human rights inquiry to stop engaging in fossil fuel activities that end up harming communities,

Greenpeace said Shell has yet to acknowledge the report.

"We are not stopping you from doing business, but you have to be responsible, and you also have to recognize the rights of communities and the environment in your line of work," Derek Cabe, national coordinator at the Nuclear and Coal-Free Bataan Movement, said.

"Instead of ignoring our demands, your action, and taking accountability for the climate crisis, should be treated as the real measure of your humanity."

## [Mining takes star role in last leg of DENR's nationwide consultations](#)

By: Gaea Katreena Cabico

CAGAYAN DE ORO, Philippines — Mining became one of the major topics in the final leg of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources' multi-stakeholder dialogue in Mindanao last week, with mining companies sharing how they have been managing the environmental and social aspects of their operations.

As police broke up the human wall of anti-mining residents of Romblon's Sibuyan Island in Luzon, the mining industry took the stage at the Limketkai Luxe Hotel in Cagayan de Oro last Friday and spoke about what they said was responsible mining.

Rocky Dimaculangan, vice president for communications of the Chamber of Mines of the Philippines, said the association's members have adopted the Towards Sustainable Mining (TSM) standard that was developed by the Mining Association of Canada in 2004.

TSM requires mining firms to annually assess their facilities' performance in key areas such as tailings management, community outreach, safety and health, biodiversity conservation, crisis management, and energy use and greenhouse gas emissions management.

"The Chamber of Mines of the Philippines is in tune with the times and our members are ready to contribute our share to meet the global demand for green technologies through sustainable mining practices," added Dimaculangan, who is also the national coordinator for TSM.

Mark Vincent Junel Felias, officer-in-charge of community relations and development department of Taganito Mining Corp., noted that mining persists "because it is able to provide meaningful and tangible support not only to national interests and agenda, but also towards the needs of many remote communities where life may be different and difficult."

TMC is a subsidiary of Nickel Asia Corp., which operates in Claver, Surigao del Norte.

Jasmin Dansigan Goriano, a member of the Mansaka indigenous peoples community in Davao De Oro, said their partnership with Apex Mining Co., Inc. "has given us the opportunity to have a better life."

She added the firm has made community livelihood opportunities, and access to healthcare and education available.

Platform needed for objections to mining

Bishop Cerilo Casicas, who heads the Diocese of Marbel where the Tampakan open-pit mine is located, said the DENR's attempt to gather the insights of different stakeholders is a good move. He, however, said it was sad that it was largely the views of the mining industry that were reflected in the session.

"Maybe they can also give those in Mindanao who have reservations and strong objections against mining an opportunity to be heard in the same level, not only in breakout rooms, but in the plenary," Casicas said in Filipino on the sidelines of the forum.

He also urged Environment Secretary Toni Yulo-Loyzaga or other agency officials to have a direct dialogue with groups opposed to mining.

Casicas stressed he has reservations about the concept of "responsible" mining because the standards are set by the mining industry.

"All stakeholders should talk and set the standards high. And before we set that, there should be a moratorium on mining first or status quo, do not expand," he said.

Environmental groups and host communities have pointed out that the extraction of minerals is displacing people and disrupting their livelihoods. Mining also drives deforestation and the climate crisis, and threatens water sources.

On the island of Sibuyan, residents are resisting the mining exploration activities of Altai Philippines Mining Company. Operations of the mining firm have reportedly been suspended until concerns raised in protests are addressed. The company told Philstar.com on Sunday, however, that it has yet to receive Notices of Violation — which come with suspension orders — issued by the DENR.

DENR: Here to listen

The Philippines is the fifth most mineral-rich country in the world, producing minerals such as gold, chromium, cobalt, copper, nickel and silver.

Revitalizing the mining sector—even though the industry only accounts for less than one percent of the country's gross domestic product—is a priority of the Marcos

administration following the Duterte administration's lifting of a moratorium on new mining projects.

Yulo-Loyzaga said last week that the DENR will engage with all stakeholders—whether they support mining or not.

"We're here to listen and until we can be satisfied that we've heard all stakeholders, we cannot achieve a balance in terms of the approach. Geographically and socially, [things are] different. So these complexities need to be addressed in whatever approach that we will take moving forward," the DENR chief said.

"Let me say this: we need minerals. You all know that. How we balance that really depends on the context that we're actually faced with," she added.

The Cagayan de Oro leg completed the department's nationwide consultations on environmental governance, ecotourism, agriculture, food security, forest and land management, climate and disaster resilience, and mining.

On the first day of the forum, Ateneo de Davao University president Joel Tabora urged the environment department to craft decisions that are guided by the voices of people on the ground.

"The DENR cannot just be a government agency to exploit the natural resources of the Philippines in favor of the economy and of the private interests that drive this... [They should] make sure the society and the planet are not killed by the vicious technocratic paradigm driving the economy," Tabora said.

"A fundamental component of the DENR's research-based and centralized decision making needs to be to listen to the cry of the environment, in the tears and frustration of people committed to preserving the environment on the ground."

## CCC IN THE NEWS:

### IBC

[Binibigyang diin ng Climate Change Commission o CCC ang kahalagahan ng research and development para sa kahandaan ng mga lokal na komunidad upang labanan ang climate change.](#)

Sa ginanap na 34th Regional Symposium sa Batac, Ilocos Nort. Iniulat ni Secretary Robert Borje, Executive Director ng komisyon na nangunguna na ang Pilipinas sa mga bansang tinatamaan ng kalamidad batay sa ulat ng World Risk Report noong 2022.

Kaya naman napakahalaga ng pangangalap ng datos upang matukoy ang mga problemang dapat aksyunan ng mga LGU.

Binigyan papuri ng CCC ang ginawang pagsusuri ng Mariano Marcos State University kung saan nailahad ang sampung pinakaproblema sa epekto ng climate change.

Ang pagtaas ng lebel ng tubig sa ating karagatan, malalakas na pag ulan, matinding tagtuyot, pagguho ng lupa, pagkasira ng biodiversity at iba pa.

Pnagaaralan ngayon ng National Panel of Technical Experts ang mga maaaring solusyon para rito sa pagsusuring yan.

Ipinagpapasalamat ngayon ng CCC ang pagkakasama ng pagtugon sa climate change sa Philippine Development Plan ngayong 2023-2028 ng administrasyong Marcos Jr.

## PHILIPPINE INFORMATION AGENCY

### [CCC highlights the importance of research and development and capacity building](#)

The Climate Change Commission PH (CCC) highlights the importance of research and development (R&D) and capacity building toward strengthening local communities' capacities on climate change adaptation and mitigation actions.

The CCC vows to continue its efforts in building and strengthening partnerships with the academe, private sector, development partners, and relevant stakeholders to be linked with scientists and innovators to deliver and implement more climate actions with tangible results.

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