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By: Kathryn Jose

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By: Martin Arnold

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The Philippines will continue to pursue just and equitable climate action in its multilateral engagements to build resilience and adapt to the changing weather, President Ferdinand R. Marcos Jr. said in an address in Australia on Monday.

THE MANILA TIMES

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By: Kristina Maralit

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THE PHILIPPINE STAR

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By: Romina Cabrera

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By: Pat Santos

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By: Dianne Ivy C. Calucin

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By: Ferdinand Patinio

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With the support of Senator Loren Legarda and in partnership with the Asian Institute of Management (AIM), the Climate Change Commission (CCC) is set to launch a scholarship program that grants full scholarship to candidates for AIM's Executive Master in Disaster Risk and Crisis Management (EMDRCM) program.

Information and Knowledge Management Division

DAILY TRIBUNE

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By: Kathryn Jose

The Asian Development Bank will help Southeast Asian countries develop their local currency bond markets to expand financing for climate change mitigation projects through a new \$1.5-million aid from Japan.

ADB said it approved a technical assistance program to help the Association of Southeast Asian Nations, as well as China, Japan and South Korea — collectively known as ASEAN+3—design mechanisms on marketing, issuances and pricing of sustainability bonds

“The activities are related to enhancing long-term and effective public finance management. The development of local currency bond markets, including debt instruments, operating modalities, transparency of pricing and issuance mechanisms, and the requirement to align issuances with strategy and annual financing plan, helps strengthen public debt risk management and timely government budget financing,” ADB said.

Transparent online data exchange platform

As a result of the technical assistance program, ADB also said investors will see a more transparent and insightful online data-exchange platform about the ASEAN+3 sustainability bonds.

The \$1.5-million fund comes from Japan Fund for Prosperous and Resilient Asia and the Pacific which was established in 2000 to support ADB projects related to poverty reduction.

Data from the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change show the ASEAN could see an economic loss amounting to \$97.3 billion over this decade from extreme weather conditions.

In the Philippines, farmers could endure 15 to 20 percent lower agricultural production due to drought, the panel adds.

FINANCIAL TIMES

[ECB sparks staff revolt over board's 'disrespectful' approach to climate change](#)

By: Martin Arnold

European Central Bank staff are in revolt over the board's approach to climate change after an executive said new recruits had to be "reprogrammed" to ensure they supported its green policies.

The ECB's staff committee has called for the bank's president Christine Lagarde and her top team to rethink their management style in a letter, seen by the Financial Times, which complains about the "disrespectful" comments made by an executive board member at a meeting last month.

The move highlights rising dissent among ECB staff against their bosses, who have made tackling the risks of climate change a priority for the central bank.

Frank Elderson, who joined the ECB in late 2020, told the internal meeting: "Why would we want to hire people whom we have to reprogramme because they came from the best universities but they still don't know how to spell the word 'climate'."

The staff representatives said "many colleagues were shocked by the choice of words and the viewpoints of Mr Elderson" and that the idea of "reprogramming" people was "in direct contradiction to the democratic values the ECB and EU stand for".

"We would encourage the executive board to reflect on their leadership style and to acknowledge that people in democratic societies shall not be 'reprogrammed' but convinced by reasoning and facts and leading by example," said the letter, which was shared with ECB staff on Monday.

The ECB, which is set to keep its key eurozone interest rate unchanged at its meeting on Thursday, said Elderson was "a staunch supporter" of all forms of diversity.

"His message that climate science should be considered in the ECB's work directly reflects the bank's strategy," it said, adding that his colleagues on the executive board shared his views "that all factors affecting the ECB's mandated tasks should be properly understood".

More than half of the ECB staff responding to a survey by its main union this year said Lagarde was performing poorly and almost six in 10 said they had no trust in her or the board.

Elderson's comments, first reported by Politico, have also caused a political stir. The European parliament last week called on the ECB to investigate his statement and to "swiftly address any suspicions of ideological bias" in a resolution it passed on the central bank's annual report.

MEPs expressed their "grave concern" about his comments, called for the ECB to have "an undeterred focus" on its primary mandate of price stability — defined as inflation at 2 per cent — and stressed "the importance of pluralism for the ECB's institutional culture".

Lagarde said in response to questions from MEPs about Elderson: "While I completely support all my colleagues, including the one you referred to, I realise sometimes words can go a little bit beyond the passion that underlines what they express.

"Trust me that diversity will not be diluted by the passion of something that is critically important and impacts on our activity," she said.

Lagarde has increased the ECB's efforts to tackle the risks of climate change, adjusting its collateral rules and bond reinvestments to take account of green factors and setting up an internal climate hub.

While some central banks such as the US Federal Reserve have taken a cautious approach, Elderson has made the issue a major focus in his role as vice-chair of the ECB's supervisory board, which oversees the eurozone's biggest banks.

The Dutchman recently warned 20 banks that the ECB would impose daily fines if they did not start to assess and tackle climate risks soon. He also said the ECB should consider a green shift in both its €4.7tn bond portfolio and in its cheap financing for commercial banks.

The nine-member staff committee, which is elected by all employees, said: "Many colleagues individually support the ECB's decision to include climate change into the ECB's mandate." But it added there were "good reasons to question the legitimacy of the ECB to self-extend the boundary of its own mandate without any amendment of the legal framework and based on the opinions of its leadership".

Its letter compared the ECB's approach to climate change with topics such as immigration and geopolitical conflicts, saying the ECB should strive for diversity of thought "instead of having one-sided views unilaterally imposed from the top to the bottom".

It added that Elderson's comments followed "other public statements made by executive board members which were perceived as disrespectful towards the ECB's staff".

PCO

[PH to continue pursuing just, equitable climate action to address climate change, but developed countries should do more in climate adaptation and mitigation, says PBBM](#)

The Philippines will continue to pursue just and equitable climate action in its multilateral engagements to build resilience and adapt to the changing weather, President Ferdinand R. Marcos Jr. said in an address in Australia on Monday.

Speaking at the Lowy Institute, President Marcos said the countries in the Indo-Pacific region cannot build resilience without addressing the threat posed by climate change.

“We will continue to pursue just and equitable climate action in all our multilateral engagements, including in the context of the Loss and Damage Fund Board. Developed countries have a responsibility to support vulnerable countries in climate adaptation and mitigation,” Marcos said in his keynote address.

“We will also continue to pursue our climate action strategy, a pillar of which is our robust commitment to a just energy transition.”

The Philippines is a member of the “Loss and Damage” Board, and vowed to advocate for the prioritization of addressing biodiversity destruction and species loss in climate-change vulnerable countries.

But he stressed that “developed countries have a responsibility to support vulnerable countries in climate adaptation and mitigation.”

He further stressed that climate change is a deadly challenge that threatens the very survival of millions, especially those in the small island developing states in the Pacific, Marcos said, saying the Filipino people share this vulnerability.

“The Filipino people share this vulnerability with our kin in the Pacific Island States. For us, the time to talk about ifs and whens has long since passed, it is here and it is now. We expect responsible states and partners to do more and they must do that now,” he stated.

THE MANILA TIMES

Marcos witnesses signing of P86-B deals

By: Kristina Maralit

President Ferdinand Marcos Jr. on Monday witnessed the signing of 12 business deals, which translate to \$1.53 billion or P86 billion in investments to the country, during the Philippine Business Forum organized by the Department of Trade and Industry (DTI) in Melbourne, Australia.

The signing took place on the sidelines of the Asean-Australia Special Summit that Marcos attended.

"These investments will fuel growth across sectors like renewable energy, health care, housing and technology," the President said.

The 12 business deals consist of 10 memoranda of understanding (MoUs) between Filipino and Australian business leaders and two letters of intent (LOIs) from Australian business leaders who intend to invest in the Philippines.

Among the MoUs are the development, design, construction, commissioning and funding of a Tier-3 Data Center with a capacity of 30 MW-40 MW in the Poro Point Freeport Zone with a land area of approximately 16 hectares and the Expansion of Next-Generation Battery Manufacturing in the Philippines.

An MoU was also signed for the deployment of decarbonization solutions comprising orchestration of renewable energy, storage, and e-mobility to New Clark City Stadium and other BCDA sites to reduce energy costs, reliance on grid power, improve sustainability and achieve progress on the decarbonization journey.

THE PHILIPPINE STAR

Digital technology to aid in protecting biodiversity – DENR

By: Romina Cabrera

In commemoration of World Wildlife Day last March 3, Environment Secretary Maria Antonia Loyzaga is pushing for the use of digital technology to aid in biodiversity protection.

Digital innovations can be leveraged to combat illegal wildlife trade and support biodiversity in the country alongside collaboration with partners, according to Loyzaga.

“We should maximize the advantages that these digital technologies have to offer in various applications in the implementation of our plans and programs on environmental protection and conservation,” she said.

The Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) chief opined that regulators and law enforcers can be better equipped to implement laws and regulations using newer technologies.

She noted that wildlife crime has become more well-planned and fast-moving, circumventing established procedures for trade.

She emphasized that the DENR is promoting the use of electronic permitting systems called “eCITES PH” that can prevent fraud in wildlife trade through paperless transactions.

The DENR is also developing a mobile application for monitoring and reporting wildlife crimes through its Wildlife Agency and Citizen Law Enforcement Reporting Tool or WildALERT.

Loyzaga said the DENR is also collaborating with the Philippine Space Agency to use space technology, artificial intelligence and machine learning to map out mangrove areas in the country.

She added that the country and the world is facing the triple crisis of climate change, pollution and biodiversity loss, and that all members of the public should serve as ambassadors for wildlife protection and conservation.

“Let us be the voices that cannot be heard in order to create awareness and to protect and take active part in conservation and prevention of illegal wildlife trade,” she said.

Women and rural poor hit hardest by climate change — UN

Heatwaves and floods inflict greater economic pain on rural women than men because climate change intensifies existing inequalities, the United Nations' food and farming agency said on Tuesday.

Scientists say the effects of rising temperatures are already being felt most acutely by the poorest and most vulnerable people on the planet.

"Failure to address the unequal impacts of climate change on rural people will intensify the already large gap between the haves and have-nots, and between men and women," the Food and Agricultural Organization (FAO) said in a new report.

The report said rural, women-led households in low- and middle-income nations already face more financial burdens than men when disaster strikes.

If these "significant existing differences" in wages are not addressed, the gap will worsen, the FAO added.

It estimated that if average temperatures increase one degree Celsius, women would face a 34 percent greater loss in total income compared to men.

Scientists estimate current global temperatures are around 1.2C hotter overall than they were in the late 1800s, causing a relentless increase in destructive extreme weather such as floods, storms and heatwaves.

Women are more vulnerable to changes in the climate than men, the FAO said, because of deep rooted "social structures, and discriminatory norms and institutions."

That leaves women bearing a much larger domestic and childcare burden than men, which limits their opportunities to study and find a job, it said.

It also makes it harder for them to migrate or make money from non-farming activities when climate change affects their crops.

Wide gap

The FAO analysed data from 109,341 households in 24 low- and middle-income countries, cross-referenced with rain, snow and temperature data over 70 years.

In rural areas, poorer households have limited access to resources, services and jobs, which can make it harder for them to cope with climate change.

On average, they lose five percent more income than wealthier households due to heatwaves, and more than four percent due to floods, according to the study.

Women-led households are even harder hit.

Compared to men-led households, they lose around eight percent more of their income due to excessive heat and three percent more due to floods.

This amounts to an average drop in income per person of \$83 due to heat stress and \$35 due to floods.

Extrapolating this across all developing countries, these losses totalled \$37 billion and \$16 billion respectively, the report said.

CCC IN THE NEWS:

DAILY TRIBUNE

[Lacuna: Switch off lights, give Earth an hour](#)

By: Pat Santos

Manila Mayor Honey Lacuna calls everyone to turn off lights for at least an hour, during the launch of Earth Hour Philippines 2024 at Manila City Hall, Tuesday 5, March.

The Earth Hour is set this year on Saturday, 23 March 2024, from 8:30 PM to 9:30 PM.

In her speech, Lacuna thanked the WWF Philippines for having chosen Manila as the venue for this year's Earth Hour, with the theme "Switch off Plastic Pollution, Give an Hour for Earth".

"The Philippines has been actively participating in the annual Earth Hour since 2009. And we in Manila feel very honored to be hosting this year's Earth Hour on its 15th year celebration," she said.

Lacuna said that the city has partnered with WWF Philippines last 2020 for the Plastic Smart Cities (PSC) Project which aims to achieve 30% reduction of plastic waste leakage into the open environment by 2024, thus, contributing to the 100% reduction of plastic waste leakage in the City of Manila by 2030. The project aims to focus on generating entrepreneurial solutions designed to accomplish the main objective of reducing plastic pollution in the city.

"In our own little way, we have been helping in cleaning up the waterways in our juridical area through our own small teams without any other goal but to pick up trash and clean the bay. We have dedicated teams meant to address three different waterfronts in the nation's capital; Baseco Beach, Roxas Boulevard, and our esteros and creeks which lessens the chances of plastic wastes to eventually end up and float to the open sea. Furthermore, we are very proud to share that the City of Manila is the first city in the National Capital Region to adopt a City Plan of Action on Marine Litter (CPOA-ML) and localize the National Plan of Action on Marine Litter (NPOA-ML)," she said.

Lacuna added: "We have also partnered with different private and non-government organizations for waste diversion projects and incentivized plastic waste collection that aim to reduce the amount of plastics going into our waterways and landfills. These are 1) Kolek, Kilo Kita Para sa Walastik na Maynila, 2) Alaskalikahan Wrapper Redemption

Program, 3) Aling Tindera: A Waste to Cash Program, and 4) Tapon to Ipon Project to name a few."

In encouraging everyone, especially the Manileños to join the call for action and join the Earth Hour on 23 March, Lacuna said it will be a great help if everyone could turn off non-essential lights for one hour.

"Let us always remember that Earth Hour is more than just how much energy is saved when we switch off our lights for one hour. This is more than that. This is about inspiring people to unite for our Mother Earth and stand against the destruction of the environment and climate change," she said.

The mayor also assured the WWF of the city's support toward the common goal to protect the environment and stop the flow of plastic pollution in the waters surrounding the country.

As the country's capital, we're keen on using the influence we have in engaging other cities and Filipinos to do their part in saving the environment, she added.

Lacuna urged Manilans to help create the 'Biggest Hour for Earth' by spending an hour or 60 minutes 'doing anything positive for our one shared home.'

In solidarity for the Earth Hour 2024 celebration, the city government-led launch was held at the Manila City Hall through the Department of Public Services-Manila, in partnership of WWF-Philippines.

The Earth Hour is aimed at creating awareness of and taking responsibility toward a sustainable future by turning the lights off for one hour.

MANILA BULLETIN

[Manila partners with WWF for Earth Hour PH 2024](#)

By: Dianne Ivy C. Calucin

Manila Mayor Honey Lacuna-Pangan announced the city's partnership with the World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF) Philippines to lead the Earth Hour Philippines 2024 at the Kartilya ng Katipunan in Ermita, Manila on March 23.

In preparation, the city government held the media launch at the Manila City Hall with the Department of Public Services-Manila and members of WWF-Philippines.

Earth Hour aims to create awareness and take responsibility for a sustainable future by turning the lights off for one hour on the last Saturday of March.

During Earth Hour, people from all over the world will turn off their lights starting at 8:30 p.m. in their local times.

Businesses and government organizations, as well as community and political leaders, will take part in the activity, to work together to create a sustainable low carbon future for planet earth.

By switching off, everyone is encouraged to dedicate an hour to help bring the world back to life, show symbolic support for the planet, and raise much-needed awareness of the environmental issues that affect it.

The mayor called on the Filipinos, especially Manileños, to switch off and give an hour for mother earth on Saturday.

In her speech, Lacuna-Pangan thanked the WWF Philippines for choosing Manila as the next venue for this year's Earth Hour, with the theme "Switch off Plastic Pollution, Give an Hour for Earth".

"The Philippines has been actively participating in the annual Earth Hour since 2009. And we in Manila feel very honored to be hosting this year's Earth Hour on its 15th year celebration," she said.

She noted that the city also partnered with WWF Philippines in 2020 for the Plastic Smart Cities (PSC) Project which aims to achieve a 30 percent reduction of plastic

waste leakage into the open environment by 2024, thus, contributing to the 100 percent reduction of plastic waste leakage in the City of Manila by 2030.

The project aims to focus on generating entrepreneurial solutions designed to accomplish the main objective of reducing plastic pollution in the city.

"In our own little way, we have been helping in cleaning up the waterways in our juridical area through our own small teams without any other goal but to pick up trash and clean the bay. We have dedicated teams meant to address three different waterfronts in the nation's capital; Baseco Beach, Roxas Boulevard, and our esteros and creeks which lessens the chances of plastic wastes to eventually end up and float to the open sea. Furthermore, we are very proud to share that the City of Manila is the first city in the National Capital Region to adopt a City Plan of Action on Marine Litter (CPOA-ML) and localize the National Plan of Action on Marine Litter (NPOA-ML)," she said

She also cited the waste diversion and incentivized plastic waste collection projects that Manila had launched in partnership with private and non-government organizations to reduce the amount of plastics in the city's waterways and landfills.

"Let us always remember that Earth Hour is more than just how much energy is saved when we switch off our lights for one hour. This is more than that. This is about inspiring people to unite for our Mother Earth and stand against the destruction of the environment and climate change," she added.

As the country's capital, the mayor assured the WWF of the city's support toward the common goal of protecting the environment and engaging other cities and Filipinos to do their part in saving the environment.

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[Senator To Provide Disaster Resilience Scholarships With CCC, AIM](#)

The office of Senator Loren Legarda has forged a partnership with the Climate Change Commission (CCC) and the Asian Institute of Management (AIM) to grant full scholarship to candidates for Executive Master in Disaster Risk and Crisis Management (EMDRCM) program.

The Sustainable Leadership Learning for Climate and Disaster Risk Reduction (SLL-CDRR) scholarship program will provide full financial support to outstanding students enrolled in the EMDRCM program starting June 26.

“This program embodies our commitment to forging collaborative partnerships with institutions like AIM, which are pioneers in shaping future leaders,” Legarda said in a news release on Monday.

“By joining forces, we aim to advance the national climate agenda. We also aim to cultivate transformative leaders capable of professionalizing disaster risk reduction and management (DRRM), climate change adaptation (CCA), and building resilient communities,” she added.

The CCC will lead the selection process, prioritizing candidates with backgrounds and expertise in climate change and disaster risk management who are working in the national government agencies mandated with climate change and disaster resilience, DRRM officers in local government units, women leaders for CCA, leaders from indigenous groups, and sustainability and inclusivity champions.

Recognizing the urgency of addressing climate change impacts, the CCC acknowledges the need for collective action and the crucial role of academic institutions in advancing climate science and sustainable solutions through capacity and knowledge building.

“Our comprehensive program, integrated into AIM’s Executive Master in Disaster Risk and Management program, aims to empower present and future champions of disaster and climate resilience. This initiative caters to a wide range of stakeholders, including practitioners, and policy and decision-makers,” CCC Vice Chairperson and Executive Director Robert E.A. Borje said.

The partnership is seen to strengthen each party's commitment to sustainable development which underscores the urgent need for innovative solutions to address climate challenges on a global scale.

“Partnering with Senator Legarda and CCC on this impactful initiative aligns perfectly with AIM’s mission of empowering future leaders for sustainable development. Through this collaboration, we can equip leaders to tackle climate challenges and pave the way for a more resilient future,” AIM president and dean, Professor Jikyeong Kang, said.

The SLL-CDRR scholarship program will formally launched Tuesday in Makati City.

PHILIPPINE NEWS AGENCY

[Manila to host Earth Hour 2024, calls for residents' participation](#)

By: Ferdinand Patinio

The Manila City government is encouraging residents to participate in this year's Earth Hour to be hosted by the city.

Mayor Honey Lacuna led the event's launch on Tuesday at the Bulwagang Villegas inside the Manila City Hall, which was also attended by representatives from World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF) Philippines and Climate Change Commission.

Lacuna called on everyone to switch off and give an hour for Mother Earth on March 23 from 8:30 p.m. to 9:30 p.m.

She thanked the WWF Philippines for having chosen Manila as the venue for this year's Earth Hour, with the theme "Switch off Plastic Pollution, Give an Hour for Earth".

Lacuna said she is honored to host the event's 15th edition since its inception in 2009.

"Let us always remember that Earth Hour is more than just how much energy is saved when we switch off our lights for one hour. This is more than that. This is about inspiring people to unite for our Mother Earth and stand against the destruction of the environment and climate change," she said in her speech.

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Lacuna also shared that Manila is the first city in the National Capital Region to adopt a City Plan of Action on Marine Litter (CPOA-ML) and localize the National Plan of Action on Marine Litter (NPOA-ML).

"We have also partnered with different private and non-government organizations for waste diversion projects and incentivized plastic waste collection that aim to reduce the amount of plastics going into our waterways and landfills," she said.

She added these include Kolek, Kilo Kita Para sa Walastik na Maynila; Alaskalikahan Wrapper Redemption Program; Aling Tindera: A Waste to Cash Program; and Tapon to Ipon Project.

The Earth Hour is aimed at creating awareness of and taking responsibility toward a sustainable future by turning the lights off for one hour.

THE MANILA TIMES

[CCC, AIM, Office of Senator Legarda launch scholarship program](#)

With the support of Senator Loren Legarda and in partnership with the Asian Institute of Management (AIM), the Climate Change Commission (CCC) is set to launch a scholarship program that grants full scholarship to candidates for AIM's Executive Master in Disaster Risk and Crisis Management (EMDRCM) program.

The Sustainable Leadership Learning for Climate and Disaster Risk Reduction (SLL-CDRR) scholarship program will be formally launched at the Aboitiz Tech Space, AIM, Makati City on March 5, 2024 from 10 a.m. to 11 a.m.

The SLL-CDRR scholarship will provide full financial support to outstanding individuals to be enrolled in the EMDRCM program, starting on June 26, 2024.

"This program embodies our commitment to forging collaborative partnerships with institutions [such as] AIM [that] are pioneers in shaping future leaders," Legarda says. "By joining forces, we aim to advance the national climate agenda. We also aim to cultivate transformative leaders capable of professionalizing disaster risk reduction and management (DRRM), climate change adaptation (CCA) and building resilient communities," Legarda adds.

The CCC will lead the selection process, prioritizing candidates with backgrounds and expertise in climate change and disaster risk management that are working in the National Government Agencies (NGAs) mandated with climate change and disaster resilience, DRRM officers in local government units (LGUs), women leaders for CCA, leaders from indigenous groups, and sustainability and inclusivity champions.

Recognizing the urgency of addressing climate change impact, the CCC acknowledges the need for collective action. As the lead government agency tasked with coordinating and monitoring climate change programs in the country, the CCC recognizes the crucial role of academic institutions in advancing climate science and sustainable solutions through capacity and knowledge building.

"Our comprehensive program, integrated into AIM's Executive Master in Disaster Risk and Management program, aims to empower present and future champions of disaster and climate resilience. This initiative caters to a wide range of stakeholders, including practitioners, and policy and decision-makers," CCC Vice Chairman and Executive Director Robert Borje says.

Emphasizing the importance of collaboration and collective action, the partnership strengthens each party's commitment to sustainable development. The partnership also underscores the urgent need for innovative solutions to address climate challenges on a global scale.

"Partnering with Senator Legarda and CCC on this impactful initiative aligns perfectly with AIM's mission of empowering future leaders for sustainable development. Through this collaboration, we can equip leaders to tackle climate challenges and pave the way for a more resilient future," AIM President and Dean Jikyeong Kang says.

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