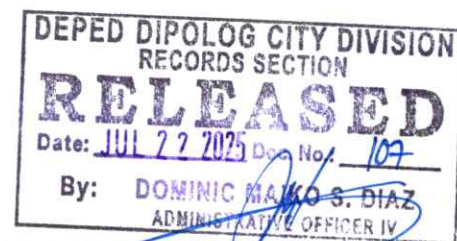




Republic of the Philippines
Department of Education
REGION IX – ZAMBOANGA PENINSULA
SCHOOLS DIVISION OF DIPOLOG CITY



Division Advisory No. 107, s. 2025

July 22, 2025

*in compliance with DepEd Order No. 8 s. 2013
this advisory is issued not for endorsement per DO No. 28, s. 2001
but only for the information of DepEd officials,
personnel/ staff, as well as the concerned public)
(dipolog.city@deped.gov.ph)*

26th Word Cup Philippines-National Journalism Conference and Contest

In reference to the letter invitation of Eugenio o. Calapit, Executive Director of Word Cup Philippines, No. 25 Kalayaan Avenue, Fort Bonifacio, Taguig City re: 26th Word Cup Philippines-National Journalism Conference and Contest on August 29-31, 2025 in Tagaytay.

Participation in this activity is **on a voluntary basis**. Interested schools may send participants composed of campus journalists and their respective advisers, provided that their attendance will not disrupt the delivery of basic education services.

For more details, schools may directly coordinate with the event organizers or refer to the official communication from the Word Cup Philippines Secretariat. See attached *Indicative Matrix of Activities* for further reference.

Wide dissemination of this advisory is desired.

OSDS//MGB//
#107 Adv
Encl: letter invitation





17 July 2025

MA. LIZA R. TABILON

Schools Division Superintendent
Dipolog City

Dear Superintendent Tabilon:

We are thrilled to invite your teachers, editors and staff to one of the most anticipated national journalism conference and contests in the country, the **26th Word Cup Philippines– National Journalism Conference and Contest**, this **August 29–31, 2025** in the cool and creative city of **Tagaytay!**

As the country's longest-running, practitioner-led journalism program for young writers and their mentors, the Word Cup remains a **transformational training ground** for campus journalists, teacher-advisers, and school communicators across the Philippines. Last year, over 500 participants from hundreds of schools and divisions joined us, many of whom earned national recognition and even publication in major newspapers.

This year's conference will feature:

- **Immersive, hands-on workshops** led by respected media professionals
- **Live press simulations**, interviews, and story production
- **Individual contests**, judged by national-level evaluators
- Opportunities for **publication in mainstream media** (see page 5)
- Recognition through the **Word Cup Ambassadors Award** for outstanding schools, mentors, and education leaders

More than a competition, the Word Cup champions journalism as a tool for **leadership, literacy, critical thinking, and civic participation**, values aligned with DepEd's commitment to 21st-century education, media literacy, and student empowerment.

In this light, we humbly seek your **support in cascading this information** to public and private schools in your division. Your role as a learning leader is instrumental in helping young communicators across the country discover their voice, refine their skills, and represent their schools with pride on a national stage. Below are the link and contact details:

- 🔗 Registration link: <https://bit.ly/26thWordCupPH>
- ✉ Email: wordcup.philippines@gmail.com
- 📞 Mobile: 0954 190 2247
- 📘 Facebook: Word Cup Associated Editors Co.

We would be grateful if your office could help circulate the attached information through your usual channels or cluster groups. We believe this experience can be truly transformative for the students and mentors in your division.

Thank you very much for your continued commitment to developing excellent and ethical young communicators. We look forward to welcoming your delegates at this year's Word Cup in Tagaytay.

Truly yours,


EUGENIO SONNY O. CALAPIT, Ed.D., En.P.
Executive Director

26th Word Cup Philippines

National Journalism Conference & Contest

Indicative Matrix of Activities*

29 August 2025 (Friday)		
2:00-5:00 PM	Check-in of participants with additional night/ Distribution of IDs & kits	
30 August 2025 (Saturday)		
7:00-8:00 AM	Distribution of IDs & kits	
8:00-10:00 AM	Opening Program & Press Conference	
10:00-12 NN	News Writing (NW) <i>Pagsulat ng Balita</i>	Feature Writing (FW) <i>Pagsulat ng Lathalain</i>
12 NN	Output deadline for NW and FW participants	
12:00-1:00 PM	Lunch	
1:00-2:00 PM	Mobile Journalism (MJ)	Photojournalism (PJ) <i>Pagkuha ng Larawan</i>
2:00-2:30 PM	Check-in of participants	
2:30-5:00 PM	Sports Writing (SP) – Wrestling* <i>Pagsulat ng Balitang Isports</i>	Editorial Writing (EDW) <i>Pagsulat ng Pang-ulong Tudling</i>
5:00 PM	Output deadline for SP and EDW participants	
6:00 PM	Dinner	
6:00 PM	Output deadline for PJ participants	
7:00 PM	Output deadline for MJ participants	
31 August 2025 (Sunday)		
6:00-8:00 AM	Breakfast	
8:00-10:00 AM	Science & Technology Writing (STW) <i>Pagsulat ng Agham at Teknolohiya</i>	Copyreading & Headline Writing (CRHW)
10:00 AM	Output deadline for STW and CRHW participants	
12:00 NN	Check-out for participants without additional night	
12:00-1:00 PM	Lunch	
2:00-5:00 PM	Awarding Ceremony <i>Word Cup Ambassador Award (School Paper Advisers)</i> <i>Word Cup Institutional Ambassador Award</i> <i>Recognition of Exemplary Work</i>	

***SUBJECT TO CHANGE**



DETAILS OF REGISTRATION

The objectives of the press coverage and national contest are to:

1. Enhance the writing, broadcasting and photography skills of teachers and students;
2. Develop skills in mobile journalism;
3. Provide insightful feedback on outputs;
4. Recognize and award exemplary work, and;
5. Publish quality outputs in national media.

Contests are optional and open to elementary, junior and senior high school, tertiary students and school paper advisers, language and communications arts teachers, department heads, school heads and public information officials.

Participants of Mobile Journalism are encouraged to bring their cellphone, lapel/mic and/or laptops installed with video editing applications. Participants of Photojournalism are encouraged to bring cameras or cellphones.

WORD CUP AMBASSADORS AWARD

All **Word Cup Ambassador Awardee** aspirants need to submit 1.) a one-page briefer on the programs/accomplishments of the school in campus journalism and 2.) a two to three-minute video message/testimonial on how the Word Cup workshops have helped individuals or schools. The message/testimonial shall be posted in our social media pages.

In addition, to be an Institutional Bronze Ambassador Awardee, a minimum of 10 participants are expected to attend, 15 for Institutional Silver Awardees and 20 for Institutional Gold Awardees.

ACCOMMODATION AND LOGISTICS

Rooms are **non-exclusive** (male and female may/may not combine in a room). Rooms can accommodate 8-10 persons, first come, first serve basis.

Accommodation for the night of August 30 is included in the registration fee. Additional nights **prior** to August 30 and **after** August 30 will be charged P800 per night.

Check in is at 2:00 PM; Check out is at 12:00 NN.

Transportation expenses for activities outside the venue **are not included and shall be paid separately** should there be any media coverage outside the venue.

Participation fee per person is shown on the next page.

T-SHIRT CUTOFF DATE

The cutoff date to pre-order t-shirts (Php400/shirt) is 15 August 2025. This would give us ample time for production.



26th Word Cup Philippines Participation Fee per person	
Early bird <i>Payment made on or before 31 July 2025</i> <i>Inclusive of overnight stay on 30 August 2025</i>	₱6,500
Regular <i>Payment made from 1 August 2025 onwards</i> <i>Inclusive of overnight stay on 30 August 2025</i>	₱7,000
Additional night stay <i>No meals included.</i> <i>₱800 per person, per night</i>	₱800
Meals 29 August (Day 1): Arrival, meals not included 30 August (Day 2): AM and PM snacks, lunch, and dinner 31 August (Day 3): Breakfast, AM snacks, and lunch	

While no Word Cup event has ever been re-scheduled or cancelled, in case of force majeure and government pronouncement, forfeiture or price adjustment of fees shall take effect. For own cancellation, automatic forfeiture applies, subject to appeal.

Participation fees may be deposited to:

BDO Account Number 012330 081983

Account Name: Word Cup Associated Editors Co.

Published Articles on the 25th Word Cup Philippines Ninth Masterclass

<https://mb.com.ph/2025/07/07/campus-journalist-weighs-in-on-ai-double-edged-role-in-truth-and-deception>

As promised to participants whose works are outstanding, our speaker gave this incredible opportunity, and they're reaping the rewards! 🏆 We're proud of our Word Cup family for their hard work and dedication! 🙌

<https://www.facebook.com/share/p/16hTy8sMN1/>

MANILA BULLETIN | 10:41 PM | July 8, 2025

Q

MANILA BULLETIN

Philippines World Business Opinion Lifestyle Entertainment

Lifestyle | Youth

Campus journalist weighs in on AI's double-edged role in truth and deception

A.I. or a lie?

By MB Lifestyle

Illustration by J. Reyes/MB



Text by JESSTONY B. ANGEL

Cartoon by ALNICO FERNANDEZ JR.

With the rapid rise of artificial intelligence (AI), now capable of generating realistic videos, we must ask ourselves: are we embracing a revolutionary breakthrough, or have we just unlocked a powerful new channel for the spread of fake news?

AI is no longer a futuristic concept—it's here, woven into our daily routines. From drafting essays to generating images and automating paperwork, AI has become a convenient tool for many Filipinos. It's undeniably making life easier. But as with any powerful tool, there are downsides, especially when it's used to mislead, manipulate, or misinform.

Take, for instance, the AI-generated video involving the impeachment of the Vice President. In the video, "AI students" were shown responding to the issue. But if the goal was to gather genuine youth opinion, why rely on computer-generated personas? Why not amplify real voices?

The truth is, every AI-generated output is based on prompts and commands from a human operator. It reflects the intent, bias, and perspective of its creator. And when such content is framed as public opinion, it risks becoming a sophisticated form of disinformation.

Thankfully, some viewers were quick to notice: the visuals looked off, the settings unfamiliar, and the quality inconsistent. But not every Filipino has the awareness and ability to distinguish real from fabricated. In fact, AI-generated content is becoming so lifelike that even seasoned politicians and netizens have failed to spot that the video wasn't real.

That's alarming. If our public officials can be fooled, how much harder is it for the average Filipino, many of whom are still adjusting to this new digital reality? According to a study, majority of Filipinos either fall victim to fake news or face challenges navigating media and information online.

Social media, the most common source of disinformation, is particularly vulnerable. Unlike messaging apps or search engines, social platforms amplify content quickly and widely. This is why tech companies must step up: strengthen moderation, fact-check rigorously, and prevent false content from spreading unchecked.

Yet, platform moderation remains inadequate. While a third of Filipinos believe current efforts are enough, there are those who feel platforms are falling short in removing harmful or misleading posts. The message is clear: Filipinos want more accountability from these tech giants.

But we, the users, also bear responsibility. We cannot wait for platforms to fix everything. We must take proactive steps. So, what do we do?

Let's think of information like food. Before eating, you check for ingredients, inspect its freshness, and observe how it's presented. The same logic should apply online. Before believing a post or sharing a video, ask: Is it credible? Does it come from a reliable source? Is there anything suspicious about it?

This mindset of careful, critical consumption is our best defense in a digital world polluted by misinformation. If we can cultivate this skill, if we can tell the difference between truth and manipulation, between human-made and AI-generated, then we stand a chance of preserving the integrity of public discourse.

As AI continues to shape our digital future, we must remember: it is a double-edged sword. It can power progress, and at the flip side, propagate lies. At its core, AI is just a tool. Whether it builds a better society or breaks it apart depends on how we decide to use it.

Jesstony B. Angel, 20, from Solano, is a second-year Bachelor of Secondary Education student at Nueva Vizcaya State University (NVSU). He currently serves as the assistant managing editor of Varsity Courier, official student publication of NVSU. He was a participant of the 25th Word Cup held in Boracay.

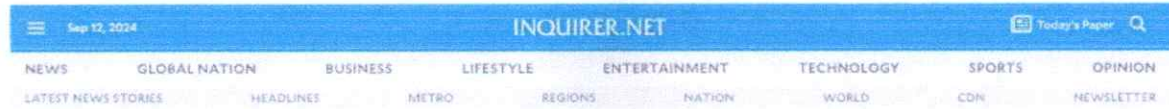
"Voices" is Manila Bulletin Lifestyle's dedicated space for young writers and future journalists as they talk about the topics that matter to their generation—from pop culture and social trends to mental health, education, and everything in between.

If you have an article you want to publish, send your submissions to lifestyle@mb.com.ph with the subject line—Voices: (Article Titles)—or send us a DM @manilabulletinlifestyle on Instagram. We can't wait to read your stories!



Published Articles on the 21st Word Cup Philippines

Inquirer: Uptrend in science museums investment to benefit DepEd learners
bit.ly/InquirerOn21stWordCup



REGIONS

Uptrend in science museums investment to benefit DepEd learners

INQUIRER.net / 02:27 PM May 10, 2024



Dr. Eugenio Sonny O. Calagit, executive director of Word Cup Associated Editors Co., welcomes some 250 campus journalists to the 21st Word Cup National Journalism Conference and Contests at Angels Hill, Tagaytay.

MANILA, Philippines—A young campus journalist struggled to free a rope trapped inside a one-meter tall, square-shaped metal device. A puzzle master quickly intervened, demonstrating how to navigate the tubular labyrinth.

This “rope puzzle” was among the many interactive exhibits that captivated the 250 campus journalists and school publication advisers attending the 21st Word Cup National Journalism Conference and Contests held in Tagaytay City on May 4-5.

May Pagsinohin, executive director of the Philippine Science and Technology Foundation (PSTF), explained that science museums like these are designed to pique children’s curiosity and interest in science.

While the PSTF-operated Science Centrum in Marikina remains closed to the public despite the lifting of health restrictions, Pagsinohin acknowledges that investment in science museums in the Philippines falls short compared to ASEAN neighbors.

EDITORS' PICK

MOST READ



GLOBAL NATION
Trump falsely accuses Ohio immigrants of abducting, eating pets



GLOBAL NATION
Wildfires around Los Angeles blanket city in smoke



GLOBAL NATION
Key takeaways from Kamala Harris-Donald Trump debate



LIFESTYLE
Fernando Amorsolo: A refresher on the first-ever Filipino National Artist



BUSINESS
Meralco hikes power rates by 15¢/kWh this September



ENTERTAINMENT
Manny Jacinto among nominees for People magazine's Sexiest Man Alive

TAGS: Journalism

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Sample Workshop Output of Previous Word Cup Masterclass (14th Word Cup)

Environment News Thursday, May 30, 2019 B-7

Go Green, read us on email: EnvironmentPH@gmail.com

Boracay RENAISSANCE

A year after its closure, what now?

Text by MORANNE L. CHUA

There is always an expectation when it comes to Boracay. No doubt, it is the country's most famous (or some would say, infamous) island, consistently ranking on top of most visit destinations and vacation spots. Therefore, it came as a shock (especially to those who have been previously disappointed) that the six-month closure and rehabilitation was implemented without opposition.

Visiting Boracay once again after a year of its April 26, 2018 closure, one can notice a striking difference. The island – especially the beachfront – is much cleaner. There is a sense of community but there are also the necessary vigilances.

During the 14th Word Cup held in Boracay, we invited select campus journalists – students and editors – to share their views and words on how they saw the new Boracay. They had hope but they also said that the island had to fully heal Boracay is not yet finished.



HAIR-RAISING SUNDOWN – Despite early morning rain, tourists view their vacation, viewed from the White Beach which has expanded from up to 25 meters from the shoreline. The photo was taken by 14th Word Cup Philippines Ambassador participants, mostly school publishers and campus journalists who attended the country under the theme: 'Principles of a Sustainable Economy and Tourism Development: Opportunities and Challenges in Boracay and Beyond.' (Photo by Editor Sander S. Retagata/Carpeteer 14th Elementary School)

BE HUMANS, NOT PLASTIC

Text by MARK JULIUS D. FUENTES

Malay's Municipal Ordinance No. 348 prohibiting the use of disposable plastic items among hotels, resorts, restaurants and business establishments is proof that the local government of Malay, Aklan has learned its lesson. Nevertheless, despite the six-month long nightmare of the island's rehabilitation, plastics are still freely accessible in some souvenir stores, convenience shops and food stalls.

Nobody knows when single-use plastic bags became so pervasive and prevalent. They are accessible everywhere because they are cheap, useful and convenient. We find them – not just in Boracay – but in various places where people purchase goods, especially in the markets because of convenience. But at what expense?

Ben campaigns identify the harm plastic bags can cause, including how it affects aquatic animals through ingestion and entanglement. Even when plastic products break down, the plastic lives on as smaller elements that get into the ecosystem with long-term negative effects.

According to the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR), the plastic ban implemented by Malay is correct but tourists admit that the ban is just a form of suggestion as single-use plastics are still visible.

Tourist or not, we have to understand that in order to help Boracay fully heal, we must be disciplined. If the government has prohibited smoking, drink

CHALLENGING ENHANCEMENT

Text by ANNA MARIE D. PUGERA

After six months of being placed under rehabilitation, Boracay was indeed historic and momentous for what was considered as the rebirth of a better Boracay. The return of the summer season and the roads together with the standardization of how hotels and resorts should manage their waste are part of the things that the government has done that has temporarily disrupted the business in the area.

After the six-month rehabilitation, there is a general feeling that it is just the start. The people need to ensure the sustainability of environmental efforts in order to prevent recurrence of what caused the closure of the island.

De Al Oroffo, the Deputy Ground Commander of the DENR National Task Force Boracay said that the sustainability of the rehabilitation should fall wholly on the shoulders of the government.

Sustaining the positive effects of the cleanup of Boracay

SUSTAINING PARADISE

Text by MARIA JOSEPHINE A. PLEDES

At first, Boracay's sustainable tourism was a long shot. But it was worth trying and perhaps worth depicting.

It has been months now since the reopening of Boracay after its six-month rehabilitation. Changes are evident. Wider beachfront, quieter atmosphere, better road system and closure of erring establishments. However, there is a downside, too. According to Deputy Ground Commander of Task Force Boracay De Al Oroffo, when asked about the state of discipline among locals and tourists, he said that it is a "cat-and-mouse activity".

The Task Force Boracay has been very firm in implementing its rules to ensure sustainable tourism practices in the island. It may be able to do so until April 2020 when the two-year implementation of the program will conclude. But even if Filipinos will have a clear direction on what sustainable tourism is all about, could the ordinary Juan de la Cruz follow the rules even when no one is watching?

While rehabilitating Boracay is considered as the DENR's biggest accomplishment in 2018, measure on sustaining the program should be put in place.

De Oroffo believes that a strong and consistent law en-

DESERVING BORACAY

Text by DOLORES L. CARBON

Let us all become tourist police. Let us become information multipliers.

These were the words of Dr. Al Oroffo, the Deputy Ground Commander of the DENR National Task Force Boracay as he urged responsible tourists to share their stories about the rehabilitation of the island.

A reliable survey reported that 92 percent of adult population in Boracay has used technology and social media to communicate and spread information about updates and progress about the island.

The government also did its part. It intensified the monitoring of waste disposal and imposed higher penalties to those who will be caught violating environmental laws.

However, these efforts seem to have been taken for granted by some businesses. A few weeks ago, the local government

DISCIPLINE IN DEED

Tourists line up to segregate trash in colored bins spread in one of Boracay's popular destinations in Station 2. The local campaign for solid waste management seems to have caught on since government allowed commercial businesses to reopen in the island. (Photo by Eugene Sonay G. Calapat)



GARBAGE COLLECTOR – Garbage collectors load segregated trash on a municipal truck which do daily door-to-door collection starting from 3 a.m. up until they finish their task. The truck will be headed to Malay, on the mainland where there is a registered dump site. (Photo by Ralph Anthony Geronimo/Bagumbayan National High School, Setaen Kankar)

forcement can sustain the program. Yet, he cautioned that we cannot have a cat-and-mouse law enforcement system. There should be ways to address other concerns such as the livelihood of ordinary vendors up to the concerns of big businesses who have invested a lot of money in the island.

Boracay's sustainability is just the start of the change we need in the Philippines. If we can do it here in this island, then it can be done anywhere else in the country.

The will to change should come from the hearts of every Filipino. Law implementers should consistently enforce what is right and prosecute violators – no matter who they are. The political will of leaders should be made of steel but also flexible enough to have a vision and put in place long-term solutions to problems.

The Duterte administration has already started the change and it showed in how an island dubbed a "ceasepost" can transform to become a paradise once again.

Sustaining this change requires that each Filipino also change their old, backward way of thinking. It is not too late.

The author is a principal of Mithula Elementary School in Koronadal City. She teaches science and health subjects and is a journalism adviser.

Climate action now

By JOHN RYAN M. JACOT

Worsening global temperatures. Rising sea levels. Melting ice sheets. Blazing forest fires. The signs of an environmental crisis called climate change are around us and its effects create a colossal impact that continues to rock the ecological sphere and disrupt the dynamics of ecosystems.

Urban and industrial traditionalists assert that climate change action is a mere obstacle to the advancement of urban hubs that would improve the quality of life, raise income levels, and develop business activities.

However, despite the fruits of industrial development, ecological sustainability continues to be compromised which further worsens the damage caused by climate change.

For instance, a 2019 United Nations report concluded that the world's oceans and ice sheets are under duress with fish populations already declining in many regions. Its fallout would be difficult to contain without immediate and sustained ecological action.

In addition, a 2018 report from PAGASA revealed that there will be an increase in annual mean temperature which shows a large amount of warming year per year. This change is being driven by increased carbon dioxide and other human-made emissions.

The global effects of climate change can be seen in the increase of sea levels where 35 cities are found to be highly vulnerable to a one-meter sea level rise. According to a 2017 study by the Asian Development Bank (ADB), this will

'Come together because your future is at risk. If we take action now, we can work together toward ensuring that our future and the future of the next generation will be safe.'

'effectively flood cities around the world.'

The excuses made against climate change are heavy chains that entangle communities as the world seeks for ecological sustainability.

Stakeholders of the environment – civic groups, the government, and all of us – should pool resources toward promoting simple yet dynamic ways to address climate change as anchored in the National Framework Strategy on Climate Change.

It is best for everyone to answer the call of environmental action now, not later. Let us take it from the words of Sealbel Palito from the Climate Change Commission, who said: "Come together because your future is at risk. If we take action now, we can work together toward ensuring that our future and the future of the next generation will be safe."

Are you ready to take action now?

Just, it is a HUMMS student at the Colegio de la Inmaculada Concepcion in Marikina, Cebu

EDITOR'S NOTE

During the 16th Word Cup held in Subic, campus journalists and school paper advisers all over the country converged to learn about journalism and broadcasting, and to listen to experts on various topics such as mental health and climate change. After the talk, participants were enjoined to submit an article on their reaction on climate change. Here is a few of the best ones. — Johnnie A. Chua

No one is spared

By JONATHAN B. ENRIQUETA

Climate change is inevitable to ignore. It is no longer an abstract scenario of the future. We feel it now. We see it now. With urgency, we are now doing tangible actions to act now with efforts on combating climate change on a global scale.

A lot of people say they are aware about climate change, but many must not all, actually only know little about it.

With overwhelming scientific evidences, reports, and data revealing extreme weather, record-breaking temperatures, melting glaciers, we tend to just submit ourselves at the mercy of nature. Well, perhaps not anymore especially in the case of the Philippines.

According to Sealbel Palito from the Climate Change Commission, under the Paris Agreement,

'Climate change is inevitable to ignore. It is no longer an abstract scenario of the future. We feel it now. We see it now.'

the Philippines has committed to cut greenhouse gas emission by 70 percent by 2050.

"The commission is doing extensive information campaigns using all media platforms, symposia, and trainings on the effects of climate change, and to also relay things which can be done to deal with this issue," he said.

Scientists also suggest with certainty that the issue must be addressed in bigger perspectives to gain global attention. Climate change must be given optimum attention, more than anything else. Without doubt, the issue now is beyond the level of fossil fuel, industrial revolution, levels of carbon dioxide, nor heat-trapping gases and global temperatures. The argument now must be beyond the portals of forests burning, coral reefs dying, and water supplies shrinking.

It is about finding tangible and sustainable mechanisms to stop the damage. We need to act together as one. We need to do it now – faster and better – because no one is spared. Remember, we can fight climate change. We are the world's greatest resource.

Enriqueta has 10 years of experience in advising school papers. He is currently teaching at Koro National Comprehensive High School.



Write about climate change

Dr. Crispin C. Masling, author and columnist at 50CNet.net, explains to participants, composed of campus journalists and school paper advisers, how to report on climate change in the talk 'Engaging Various Stakeholders in the Climate Crisis' held during the 16th Word Cup in Subic. (Photo by Janey A. Domagala)

Take the first step

By RI LANSANG

Numerous national and international interventions have been proven to be inadequate in reversing the devastating effects of climate change.

Climate change has been a roundabout topic that it has already become a staple on newspapers and campus publications. And most of these articles focus on one topic – the blame game.

Humans are not off the hook when it comes to climate change. It's an inherent fact that we are at fault here.

This is not a matter of judging who is to blame.

It's a matter of do, don't, or die.

In his talk, climate change resource speaker and author of his book, Dr. Crispin Masling, shared his insights and expertise on climate change.

Masling encouraged the young journalists to use the 'power of the pen' in combating climate change.

"Be involved, take it as an issue, and write in publications," Masling said.

Actions speak louder than words. It is an adage that has continued to prove that it is easier said than done.

Everyone should take part in alleviating and eventually eliminating this global crisis. It is never enough to pinpoint the root cause of all of these.

Words are empty if not coupled with the right actions.

As Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. once said, "Take the first step in faith. You don't have to see the whole staircase, just take the first step."

We already know what needs to be done. We have to act now and save the planet. Take the first step.

Lansang is a school paper adviser of Columbian College (Barretto campus) in Zambales.

No classes, yehey?

By RIVELLE P. VILLANUEVA

It has been two months into the academic year yet students have already missed a list of classes due to frequent class suspensions. On the third week of September alone, out of the five school days, students in Cavite have only attended their classes once, since their Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, and Friday classes have been suspended due to inclement weather brought about by Typhoon Nida.

Meanwhile, posts on social media seem to show how most students are in favor of these suspensions. A little rain and they would be putting their hopes up to have a week from their governor or mayor.

However, this frequent rainfall seems to be just a glimpse of a bigger picture. Dr. Crispin Masling, a veteran journalist who published books on climate change, talked about how rainfall patterns have changed and how "winds and rains have become more severe."

This was supported by Sealbel Palito from the Climate Change Commission, who underscored Masling's point. Typically, the Philippines experiences about 20 typhoons a year. Though the typhoons visiting the archipelago have lessened in

number, they became stronger in intensity. "Monsoons are strengthened and there are new situations we have never experienced before," said Palito.

Palito lamented that local government officials are sometimes caught off guard by these changes but this has improved through time, especially now that they are more active in making decisions such as class suspensions.

These changes are no doubt effects of climate change. However, students are not the only ones affected.

"Farmers don't know when to plant anymore," said Masling. He then 'changed' the term climate change to make it not only as "climate crisis" but more as a "climate catastrophe."

"If climate change has become a threat to the survival of man," warned Masling.

The next time students hope for class suspensions, may they be reminded of the bigger picture that all of us are facing. There is more to it than just taking a day off from class.

Villanueva, 20, is a communication arts student from Laguna of the Philippines-Cavite



Learn what PH is doing vs. climate change

Participants of the 16th Word Cup interview Senator Paolo (seated) of the Climate Change Commission to clarify how the Philippines which contributes a meager 0.12 percent compared to China's 26 percent and the US's 18 percent of greenhouse gas emissions can reduce it further by more than half without sacrificing industrial growth. Countries are racing against time to limit rising global temperatures due to the greenhouse effect. Meeting the additional two-degree threshold can lead to irreversible threat of sea level rise of close to one meter due to the unabated melting of polar ice. (Photo by Eugene Amado Niet C. Calapit III or Marikina Science High School)

B-6
MANILA BULLETIN
THE DAILY NEWS MAGAZINE

Environment News

Thursday, August 1, 2019

Go Green, read word cup!
Environment@wordcup.philippines@gmail.com

Saving a critical wetland
to promote ecotourism

HAVEN IN THE METRO

Text by PATRICK JORNEY B. BATAJO

Within the busy concrete jungle that is Metro Manila, one would not expect to find a haven for migratory birds just right at the south of Manila Bay. This area is called the Las Pilas-Panaguanan Wetland and Ecotourism Area (LPPCHEA), a plot that a highly urbanized place still spares some space for environmental causes.

Priding itself by being listed in the Ramsar Wetland of International Importance, the 175-hectare LPPCHEA caters to more than 1,000 migratory birds which consider the latter as a rest stop from tedious migration over the months of August to July.

However, with urbanization creeping just right at its doorstep, ready to take over the mangrove-laden wetland, how much time do these birds have to enjoy this habitat?

Adding to that challenge, during the southwest monsoon, this critical habitat suffers from pollution due to the arrival of solid and liquid wastes, increasing the amount of coliform bacteria in the water. This hampers the fishes too that temporarily serve as food for the birds that come from as far as Australia, Siberia and Japan.

It is also important to note that infrastructure development is gaining ground in the area which could affect the health of the 36-hectare mangrove



Besthate Estola, 59, a fisherman in LPPCHEA said they also help protect the cleanliness of the habitat as it is also their source of livelihood. They can catch an average of two kilos of fish for an hour using their nets. (Photo by Jimmy A. Domingo)



forest.

The impact of urban expansion towards the country's economy is undeniably significant. Urbanization entails with it the promise of increased employment, stronger international ties and a more equitable economic growth. But should this prosperity be at the expense of the environment?

The people behind LPPCHEA firmly believe that the habitat could be an urban destination where visitors could be offered a unique experience. Aside from learning about the importance of nature, see migratory birds in flight, and know the impact of the presence of mangroves, this could be an ideal site for "voluntourism" — merging the joy of volunteerism with the service of volunteering one's time and resources to promote empathy towards our one and only planet.

But on the other side of the coin, if we get rid of our apathy towards nature conservation, LPPCHEA could not only continue to provide a temporary home for migratory birds for years to come but also become a shining example how environment conservation can exist side-by-side with urbanization.

(The author is an English teacher at Guadalupe National High School in Negros Oriental)



A DSWD worker, one of 40 personnel assigned at the LPPCHEA, gather garbage, remove plastic and household non-biodegradable wastes which wash ashore from the Las Pilas and Panaguanan river tributaries, Cavite and Batangas areas. (Photo by Jean Hope Baltazar of Titay NIS, Zamboanga Sibuyan). Left: On average, since the Manila Bay Rehabilitation which kicked off in 2008, these workers and volunteers collect at least 50 sacks of trash weighing 6 to 7 kilograms when dry. (Photo by Bea Nerby L. Eugenio from V. Mapa High School, Manila)

GREEN IS IN!

Eco responsibility

Topota Motor Philippines Corporation (TMP) joined the Global Topota Environment Month through a series of activities that cater to environmental conservation. TMP team members and representatives from the Topota Philippines Club (TPC) planted 100 trees inside the 11-hectare Topota Forest at the Topota Special Economic Zone in Santa Rosa, Laguna. Topota volunteers also participated in the river clean-up along the Ilang-Santa Rosa River near the company's vicinity (in photo). By cleaning up the river, TMP hopes to prevent further pollution and improve the watershed. The Ilang-Santa Rosa River is connected to Laguna Lake, which is one of the primary water sources for livelihood of nearby communities.



Corporate-led forest restoration program cited by CSR group

The future has, indeed, taken root for geothermal leader Energy Development Corporation (EDC) whose Binihi greening legacy program has won the best corporate social responsibility (CSR) project in environment at the League of Corporate Founders' 1st CSR Guild Awards.

Binihi is the first corporate-led forest restoration program that has been bringing forest gaps and bringing back to abundance our threatened Philippine native trees.

"This recognition is a big honor for us because it comes from our peers who have their own laudable CSR programs as well," said Ally Allen V. Barcena, head of EDC's CSR group.

Planting trees and growing them have been an integral part of

maintaining the geothermal reservoir in EDC's geothermal reservation for over 40 years. In 2008, the company launched Binihi to expand the program by using science in planting and rescuing threatened native trees. A total of 16 threatened native tree species have been prioritized for this search and rescue program as their numbers have been dwindling, with some even believed to be extinct.

In 2017, EDC finished locating, collecting these threatened species and began propagating them in 2018 through its Vegetative Material Reproduction (VMR) technology, which mimics the forest's natural environment in two automated nurseries located in the company's geothermal facility in Valencia, Negros Oriental and in Jaitopo, Metro Manila.

Moreover, around 9,323 hectares of forest land within and surrounding EDC project sites has been rehabilitated. This is equivalent to about 8.1 million

seedlings planted all over the country in partnership with 100 farmers' associations whose members are incentivized for helping EDC grow and maintain its Binihi areas.

EDC's Binihi experience shows that, with the right combination of win-win strategies and partnerships, the triple bottom line of environmental, social, and economic transformation is attainable.

Another good example of successful strategic partnerships is the 10 Million Trees in 10 Years for a Greener Negros (10M in 10) project, one of the finalists in the 1st CSR Guild Awards' Outstanding CSR Collaboration Project category. 10M in 10 is a movement that EDC initiated in 2015 to grow back the forests in Negros Island by planting, growing, and maintaining 10 million trees in 10 years.

As of 2018, 10M in 10 has already planted over 4.2 million trees with the help of its 156 stakeholder partners.

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