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DepEd Regional Office No. 02

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**BENJAMIN D. PARAGAS**  
 Regional Director  
 Region II  
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Dear Sir:

Greetings!

We wish to provide your school publication advisers the best professional development opportunity by inviting them to our **22nd Word Cup and Seventh Masterclass**.

While our primary intended audience are your leading mentors, we also welcome select students who share the same passion for learning the craft. By adopting the learning-by-doing method in our workshops, we have successfully broken the barrier between theory, or those taught and learned in the classroom, and practice, or those that are learned through actual experiences.

From August 23-25, we are offering our novel experiential training method to your constituents. We believe that our authentic journalism workshops are effective ways to impart life-long learning in journalism. For instance, months before the pandemic in July, we provided 270 Word Cup Masterclass participants an actual news coverage by having them work side by side with media professionals in the live coverage of seven events, namely: the Asian Obstacle Course Racing Championships back to back with the ASEAN Para Obstacle Course Racing Championships at the Quirino Grandstand and the National Milo Marathon at the Mall of Asia; the Pencak Silat demonstration at Bayview Park Hotel; the press briefings on: Toward a Livable City: Balancing Environment and Development in the Metropolis held in Las Pinas-Paranaque Critical Habitat and Ecotourism Area; The Philippine Cinema's Centennial: Quo Vadis? and the Philippines Global Initiative to Decongest Cities in GSIS.

After the coverage, the Manila Bulletin published our Word Cup participants' articles and photos of the Las Pinas Paranaque Critical Habitat and Ecotourism Area. Months prior, on May 30, the newspaper also featured the Boracay rehabilitation. These were campus journalists and teachers embracing life-long learning as a method to reinforce their classroom learning. More recently, we exposed our participants to our country's leading advocate of science education, and both Manila Times and Inquirer.net published our pressers on the actual event.

We think that your Division and Regional SPAs, even your leading campus journalists, will benefit immensely from this training. But in order to reach them, we would like to request that the Regional Office issue a Memorandum or an Advisory cascading the event and when possible chargeable to the Local School Board fund or school MOOE, subject to the usual accounting rules and regulations. They may register via this link: <https://bit.ly/22ndWordCupPH>.

We look forward to your favorable accommodation of this request. For further inquiries, I may be reached through [wordcup.philippines@gmail.com](mailto:wordcup.philippines@gmail.com) or at mobile number 0968.297.3049 You can know more about us on our Facebook account Word Cup Associated Editors.

Thank you and more power!

Truly yours,

**EUGENIO SONNY O. CALAPIT, Ed.D., EnP**

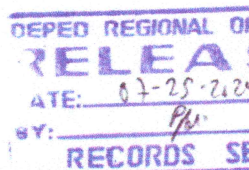
July 24, 2024

To: **SCHOOLS DIVISION SUPERINTENDENTS**

Greetings!

For your information and widest dissemination.

**BENJAMIN D. PARAGAS PhD, CESO III**  
 Director IV/Regional Director



|  |   |                                     |  |
|--|---|-------------------------------------|--|
| <b>ADVISORY</b>  |   | Date: 8-12                          | Released (Records):                                      |
| To: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PSDS/DICs                        | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Elem/Sec School Heads |                                     |  |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private Schools                      | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Others:               |                                     |  |
| For: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information                     | <input type="checkbox"/> Dissemination                    |                                     |  |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Guidance                             | <input type="checkbox"/> Strict Compliance                |                                     |  |
| <b>ORLANDO E. MANUEL PhD., CESO V</b><br>Schools Division Superintendent |   |                                     |  |
| By: <input type="checkbox"/> #SDS  | <input type="checkbox"/> CID Chief                        | <input type="checkbox"/> SGOD Chief | <input type="checkbox"/> AO <input type="checkbox"/> Any |

| <b>22<sup>nd</sup> Word Cup Seventh Journalism Masterclass<br/>Subic Bay Peninsular Hotel<br/>Matrix of Activities*</b> |  |   |   |
|---|--|---|---|
| <b>23 August 2024 (Friday)</b>  |  |   |   |
| 3:00-5:00 PM  | Distribution of IDs & kits (bag with pen & paper)  |   |   |
| <b>24 August 2024 (Saturday)</b>  |  |   |   |
| 8:00-9:15 AM  | Opening Program & Press Briefing   |   |   |
| 9:15-10:15 AM   | Mobile Journalism<br>MoJo on the Go<br>(MJ)  | News Coverage<br><i>Pagsulat ng Balita</i><br>(NW)                    | Photojournalism Hacks<br><i>Pagkuha ng Larawan</i><br>(PJ)        |
| 10:15-11:15 AM  | Press Conference   |   |   |
| 11:15-12:15 PM  | Workshop (MJ, NW, & PJ)  |   |   |
| 12:15 PM  | Output deadline for NW & PJ participants (Press Conference coverage)   |   |   |
| 12:15-1:30 PM   | Lunch  |   |   |
| 1:30-2:30 PM  | Feedback Session (NW & PJ)   |   |   |
| 2:30-3:30 PM  | Editorial & Column<br>Writing: On Point<br><i>Pagsulat ng Pang-ulong<br/>tudling at Kolum</i><br>(ECW)   | Feature Perfect<br><i>Pagsulat ng Lathalain</i><br>(FW)               | Sports Coverage<br><i>Pagsulat ng Balitang<br/>Isport</i><br>(SP) |
| 3:30-4:30 PM  | Workshop (ECW & FW)<br>Sports event (To be covered by MJ, PJ, & SP)  |   |   |
| 4:30 PM   | Output deadline (ECW & FW)   |   |   |
| 4:30-5:30 PM  | Feedback Session (ECW & FW)  |   |   |
| 5:30 PM   | Output deadline for PJ & SP participants (Sports coverage)   |   |   |
| 6:30 PM   | Output deadline for MJ participants  |   |   |
| <b>25 August 2024 (Sunday)</b>  |  |   |   |
| 7:30-8:30AM   | Copyreading & Headline Writing<br><i>Pag-uulo at Pagwawasto ng Balita</i><br>(CRHW)  | Decoding Science Writing<br><i>Pagsulat ng Balitang Agham</i><br>(SC) |   |
| 8:30-9:30 AM  | Workshop (CRHW & SC)   |   |   |
| 9:30 AM   | Output deadline (CRHW & SC)  |   |   |
| 9:30-10:30 AM   | Feedback Session (CHRW & SC)   |   |   |
| 11:30-1:00 PM   | Lunch  |   |   |
| 2:00-5:00 PM  | Awarding Ceremony<br>Word Cup Institutional Ambassador Award<br>Word Cup Ambassador Award (School Paper Advisers) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Gold Ambassadors – 30 participants per school</li> <li>○ Silver Ambassadors – 20 participants per school</li> <li>○ Bronze Ambassadors – 15 participants per school</li> </ul> Ambassador awardees may upload the school's journalism program accomplishments for the last five years in the registration link<br>Recognition of Exemplary Work |   |   |

\* subject to change

Visit our Facebook Page for updates: <https://facebook.com/associatededitorsco>  
 Please hit the subscribe button: <http://bit.ly/WordCupVideos>



## 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.

> Registration and payment of participants who did not sign up online and distribution of kits and IDs – **23 August 2024 (3:00-5:00 PM)**

> **ACTUAL SEMINAR-WORKSHOP is on 24-25 August 2024 in Subic;** Activities/Venues may be subject to change.

> Rooms are non-exclusive (male and female may/may not combine in a room). Rooms can accommodate 4 persons, first come, first serve basis.

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

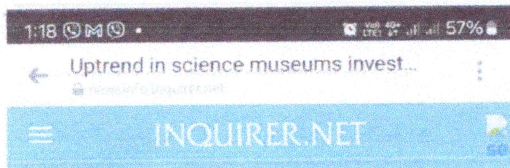
| <b>22<sup>nd</sup> Word Cup Seventh Journalism Masterclass</b>  |        |                         |
|---|--------|-------------------------|
| Register at: <a href="https://bit.ly/22ndWordCupPH">https://bit.ly/22ndWordCupPH</a>  |        |                         |
| <b>Participation Fee per person</b>   |        |                         |
| <b>Early bird</b><br><i>Payment made on or before 31 July 2024</i>  | ₱6,500 | ₱1,500 Additional night |
| <b>Regular</b><br><i>Payment made from 01 to 15 August 2024</i>   | ₱7,000 | ₱2,000 Additional Night |
| <b>Inclusions</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• One overnight stay (night of Aug. 24<sup>th</sup> Check in: 12nn Check out 2 PM next day)</li><li>• Meals<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>○ 24 August 2024: AM snacks, lunch, PM snacks, dinner</li><li>○ 25 August 2024: Breakfast, AM snacks, lunch, PM snacks</li></ul></li></ul> |        |                         |
| <b>Exclusions:</b><br>Transportation fees for activities outside the hotel ARE NOT INCLUDED AND SHALL BE PAID SEPARATELY such as the sports coverage (for Sports Writing and Photojournalism participants) or the Pamulaklakin Trail (for Feature and Photojournalism participants). Please prepare not more than P500 for transportation costs.    |        |                         |
| 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, replacement of participant is allowed, otherwise automatic forfeiture applies.  |        |                         |
| Participation fee may be deposited to:<br><b>BDO</b><br>Account name: Word Cup Associated Editors Co.<br>Account number: 012330 081983  |        |                         |

**LINKS to Published Articles on the 21<sup>st</sup> Word Cup Philippines:**

**Inquirer:**

**Uptrend in science museums investment to benefit DepEd learners**

<https://bit.ly/InquirerOn21stWordCup>



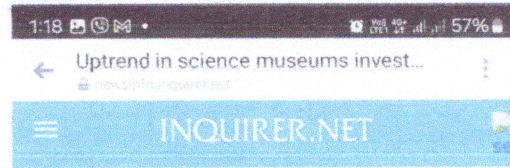
**Uptrend in science museums investment to benefit DepEd learners**

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



Dr. Eugenio Sonny O. Calapit, 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



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A recent project, the “STEM on the GO Project,” is a collaboration between PSFT, DOST, and the BARM that aims to reach 50,000 learners in Tawi Tawi, Sulu, Basilan, and Lamitan this August.

**Pagsinohin's** co-presenter, Dr. Ruby Roan-Cristobal, head of the Science Communicators Philippines (SciCommPh), urged scientists to be more vocal about science communication.



# Manila Times: 'Campus journalism can boost interest in science'

<https://bit.ly/ManilaTimesOn21stWordCup>



Word Cup Executive Editor Co-Executive Director Cesarina Tanya Gallego and others participate in the 21st Word Cup National Journalism Conference and Contest at the Manila Times Press City on May 9 and 10, 2024. Campus journalists take photos and photos of the event as a reference for their reports.

## 'Campus journalism can boost interest in science'

SOME 200 campus journalists and school paper advisers from across the country can help "improve public understanding and appreciation of the value of science in everyday life," Science Communicators Philippines Inc. (SciComPh) head Ruby Roan Costabal said during the 21st Word Cup National Campus Journalism Press Conference and Contest.

Roan, speaking under the theme of "The Power of the Philippines: Science, Innovation, and the Future," said that the 21st Word Cup National Campus Journalism Press Conference and Contest is an opportunity for campus journalists to hone their skills and contribute to the development of the country's science communication landscape. She emphasized the importance of accurate and accessible science reporting, particularly in the context of the Philippines' diverse and rapidly changing scientific landscape. Roan also highlighted the role of campus journalism in promoting science literacy and inspiring the next generation of scientists and innovators. She encouraged participants to use their platforms to report on local and global scientific advancements, and to engage their readers with clear and compelling stories. The conference and contest are organized by SciComPh, a non-profit organization dedicated to promoting science communication in the Philippines. The event is a key component of the organization's mission to advance science literacy and public understanding of science in the country.

## The Manila Times

### DST summit advances church heritage conservation

180 delegates of the National Department of Education (NDE) gathered in Manila for the National Department of Education Summit on Church Heritage Conservation, held from May 9 to 10, 2024. The summit, organized by the National Department of Education (NDE) in partnership with the Department of Education - Office of the Director General, focused on the importance of preserving the country's rich cultural and historical heritage. The summit featured a series of sessions, including a keynote address by NDE Secretary General Armin Luistro, who emphasized the need for a holistic approach to education that includes the preservation of the country's heritage. The summit also featured a series of panel discussions and workshops, where participants shared their experiences and insights on heritage conservation. The summit concluded with a series of resolutions and recommendations, which will be used to guide the NDE's efforts in heritage conservation in the coming years.

## BuSU hosts intl education summit in Malolos

**INTERNATIONAL EDUCATION SUMMIT 2024**  
 Sustainability for Quality and Excellence Through Transformational Outcomes Based Education  
 MAY 16-18, 2024  
 BULACAN STATE UNIVERSITY  
 Malolos, Bulacan

## MMSU prof wins Swiss Invention silver

A 2024 member of the Swiss Federal Institute of Technology (ETH Zurich) awarded a silver medal to MMSU Professor Zedy Fernandez for his invention of a multi-layered, multi-functional, and multi-use material. The invention, titled "Multi-Layered, Multi-Functional, and Multi-Use Material," is a revolutionary material that can be used in a wide range of applications, from construction to healthcare. The invention is a significant breakthrough in materials science and has the potential to revolutionize many industries. Professor Fernandez's invention was recognized as one of the top 100 inventions of the year by the Swiss Patent Office. The award is a testament to the university's commitment to research and innovation, and to the work of its faculty members.

They also said that the summit is a key component of the organization's mission to advance science literacy and public understanding of science in the country. The summit is a key component of the organization's mission to advance science literacy and public understanding of science in the country. The summit is a key component of the organization's mission to advance science literacy and public understanding of science in the country. The summit is a key component of the organization's mission to advance science literacy and public understanding of science in the country.

## CHURCH ARCHIVES AND HERITAGE WORKERS

**CHURCH ARCHIVES AND HERITAGE WORKERS**  
 CONTACT US  
 Email: [churcharchives@wordcup.com.ph](mailto:churcharchives@wordcup.com.ph)  
 Website: [www.wordcup.com.ph](http://www.wordcup.com.ph)

**SILVER AWARDEE Inventions Geneva**  
 MMSU Professor Zedy Fernandez receives a silver award from the 49th International Exhibition of Inventions in Geneva, Switzerland, on April 11, 2024. For his innovative equipment made from a multi-layered, multi-functional, and multi-use material for drinking and bathing for carbon neutrality.

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Church Archives and Heritage Workers, gathering archival and cultural organizations in the country to conserve and promote church heritage from May 9-17, 2024.



## Sample Workshop Output of Previous Word Cup Masterclass (16<sup>th</sup> Word Cup)

MANILA BULLETIN

Environment News

Thursday, October 10, 2019 9:46

### Climate action now

By JOHN ERAN B. SACOT

**W**orsening global temperatures, rising sea levels, melting ice sheets, blazing forest fires. The signs of an environmental crisis called climate change are etched in earth. Its effects create a colossal impact that continues to rock the ecological sphere and disrupt the happiness of humankind.

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

However, despite the brags 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 revealed that the world's ocean and its climate are under stress, 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 PISAASA revealed that there will be an increase in annual mean temperature which drops a large amount of warming 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, which 70 cities are found to be highly vulnerable in a warmer sea level state. 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.'*

*'Addressing flood risks around the world.' The actions made against climate change are better choices that enhance communities in the world today for ecological sustainability. Stakeholders of the environment - civil groups, the government, and all of us - should pool resources toward preventing, mitigating and dynamic ways to address climate change as outlined 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 Senator Paolo 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.'*

*Ann, 12 is a ROTM student of the College of Environmental Science in Marikina, City.*

**EDITOR'S NOTE** During the 16<sup>th</sup> Word Cup held in Manila, former president and senator Ferdinand Marcos Jr. was invited to give the opening remarks. He said that the Philippines is not just a victim of climate change but also a contributor to it. He called for more action to address the issue. He also mentioned that the Philippines is not just a victim of climate change but also a contributor to it. He called for more action to address the issue.

### No one is spared

By JONATHAN B. ENMANUEL

Climate change is inevitable to ignore. It is no longer an abstract, uncertain of the future. We feel it now. We see it now. With urgency, we are not 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 sadly, most of them, actually only know little about it.

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

According to Senator Paolo from the Climate Change Commission, under the Paris Agreement,

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

The Philippines has committed to cut green house gas emissions by 70 percent by 2030.

The commission is doing extensive information campaign 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.

He also suggests, with certainty that the issue must be addressed in bigger perspective to gain global attention. Climate change must be given optimum attention, more than anything else. Without doubt, the issue now is beyond the talk of forest fire, industrial revolution, levels of carbon dioxide not just trapping gases and global temperatures. The arguments must be beyond the portals of forests burning, coral reefs dying, and water supplies shortening.

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

Enmanuel has 16 years of experience in writing and publishing. He is currently teaching at Marikina National Comprehensive High School.



### Take the first step

By RJ LANSANG

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

Climate change has been a mainstream topic that it has already become a staple on newspapers and campus publications. And most of these articles focus on one topic - the "tough game."

Humans are not off the hook when it comes to climate change. It is understood that we are at fault here.

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

It's a matter of: don't, or do. In his talk, climate change resource speaker and author of *Climate Change*, Maung, shared his thoughts and expertise on climate change.

Maung encouraged the young journalists to use the powers of the past in combating climate change.

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

Actions speak louder than words. It is an adage that has continued to prove that it is never said than done.

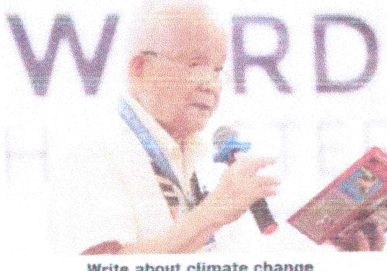
Therefore, should take part in advocating and eventually elevating this global crisis. It is never enough to prevent the most cause of all of them.

Words are empty if not coupled with the right actions.

As Dr. Maung Latorre King, Jr. once said, "Take the first step in both. 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.

Listening to a school paper editor of Columbian College (Berkeley campus) in Zamboanga.



Write about climate change

Dr. Maung, author and columnist at *Business Week*, speaks to participants, composed of campus journalists and student leaders, how to report on climate change in the talk "Writing in various stakeholders" at the Climate Change Week during the 16<sup>th</sup> Word Cup in Manila. (Photo by Shady A. Domagala)

### No classes, yehey?

By JANELLE P. VILLARREYA

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

Meanwhile, posts on social media seem to show how most students act in terms of these suspensions. A huge rant and they would be putting their fingers up to hear a word from their professor or teacher.

However, that frequent outfall seems to be just a glimpse of a bigger picture. Dr. Maung, a climate change expert, talked about how rainfall patterns have changed and how "winds and waves have become more erratic."

This was supported by Senator Paolo from the Climate Change Commission, who underscored Maung's point. Typically, the Philippines experiences about 20 typhoons a year. Through the typhoons, the suspensions have increased in

classes they have to attend and there are new situations we have never experienced before," said Paolo.

Paolo forwarded that local government officials are sometimes caught off guard by these changes, but that 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 Maung. He then changed the term climate change to make it not only an "abstract crisis" but more as a "climate catastrophe."

"If climate change has become a threat to the survival of man," Maung said. "The next time students fight for class suspensions, may they be reminded of the bigger battle that all of us are facing. There is more to it than just taking a day off from class."

Maung, 39, is a communication arts student from Lyceum of the Philippines-Corona.



Learn what PH is doing vs. climate change

Participants of the 16<sup>th</sup> Word Cup interview Senator Paolo (center) on the Climate Change Commission to clarify how the Philippines which contributed a meager 0.12 percent compared to China's 28 percent, was the 18<sup>th</sup> highest emitter of greenhouse gas emissions last year. It is not that bad without accounting industrial growth. Countries are racing against time to limit rising global temperatures due to the greenhouse effect. Reducing the additional greenhouse gases can help to develop the threat of the sea rise or drop to the coast. Due to the knowledge of power on. (Photo by Eugene Anand Noel C. Calapat II of Marikina Science High School)

### Sample Workshop Output of Previous Word Cup Masterclass (15<sup>th</sup> Word Cup)

**Environment News**

Thursday, August 1, 2019

Go Green, and Save Blue!  
 Environment@wordcup.com

## Saving a critical wetland to promote ecotourism

# HAVEN IN THE METRO

**By PATRICK JEROME B. SAYSO**

Within the busy concrete jungle that is Metro Manila, you would not expect to find a haven for migratory birds just right at the middle of Manila Bay. This area is called the Las Pilas Presque Isle National Park and Ecotourism Area (LPPNREA), a park that a highly urbanized place could still spare some space for environmental causes.

Finding itself to be listed in the Ramsar Wetland of International Importance, the 176-hectare LPPNREA covers more than 1,000 migratory birds which consider the latter as a rest stop from bird migration over the months of August to July.

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

Adding to that challenge, during the summer months, this critical habitat suffers from pollution due to the arrival of solid and liquid wastes, increasing the amount of organic bacteria in the water. This means the birds can die temporarily when it is too hot 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 six-hectare mangrove forest.

**Devil's Island, Ok, a Suburban in LPPNREA**  
 said they also help protect the sanctuaries of the habitat as it is also the source of livelihood. They can catch an average of two kilos of fish for an hour using their net. (Photo by James A. Dominguez)

**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?**

...with the better of valuing the one's time and resources to provide equality towards our one and only planet.

Sadly, we live in a time where capital, using our critical habitat as collateral to the surge of urbanization is profitable.

But on the other side of the coin, if we get rid of our quality coastal nature conservation, LPPNREA could not only continue to provide a temporary home for migratory birds for them to come but also become a strong strategic low environmental conservation area that will help with urbanization.

The author is an English teacher at Oshington National High School in Negros Oriental.







## GREEN IS IN!

### Eco responsibility

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## Corporate-led forest restoration program cited by CSR group

The future that indeed taken root for global leader Energy Development Corporation (EDC) when Buhar's growing legacy program has won the best corporate social responsibility (CSR) project in Southeast Asia at the League of Corporate Foundations' 2018 CSR Digital Awards.

Buhar is the first corporate-led forest restoration program that has been recognized for its impact and having back 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 at work," said Mr. Alan S. Buhar, head of EDC's CSR group.

Planting trees and growing them have been an integral part of

maintaining the post-mineral reservoir in EDC's post-mineral restoration for over 40 years. To link the company's commitment to the program, Buhar is spearheading the program by organizing activities in planting and monitoring threatened native species.

A total of 36 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 on trial through its Vegetative Material Reproduction (VMR) technology, which mimics our forest's natural environment in the automated nurseries located in the company's post-mineral facility in Marikina, Negros Oriental and in Antipolo, Metro Manila.

Moreover, around 223 hectares of forest land within and surrounding EDC project sites has been rehabilitated. This is equivalent to about a million seedlings planted all over the country, including 100,000 native tree seedlings which are considered the bulwark of EDC's green and mission in Buhar's area.

EDC's 30th anniversary shows that, with the right combination of strategies and partnerships, the league leader 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 10Y) project, one of the finalists in the 2018 CSR Digital Awards' Outstanding CSR Collaborative Project category. 10M in 10Y is a movement that EDC initiated in 2016 to grow back the forests in Negros Island by planting, growing, and maintaining 10 million trees in 10 years.

As of 2018, 10M in 10Y has already planted over 8.2 million trees with the help of its 10 stakeholder partners.

