



Republic of the Philippines
Department of Education
REGION XI
SCHOOLS DIVISION OF DIGOS CITY

Office of the Schools Division Superintendent

DIVISION MEMORANDUM

SGOD-2024-780

To : Assistant Schools Division Superintendent
SGOD & CID Chiefs
Public Schools District Supervisors
Public Elementary and Secondary School Heads
All others concerned

Subject : **INVITATION TO THE 23RD WORD CUP AND EIGHT
MASTERCLASS**

Date : November 27, 2024

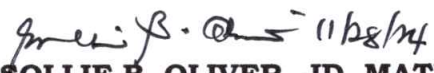
This memorandum is issued not for endorsement but only for the information of schools.

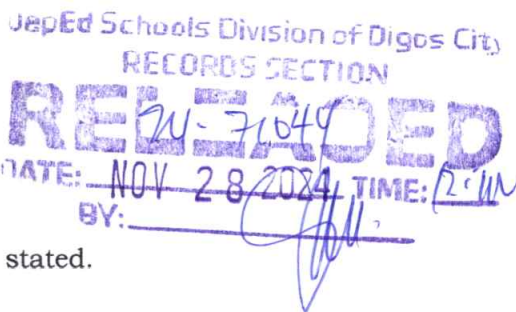
This has reference to the attached invitation letter from Eugenio Sonny O. Calapit inviting school publication advisers (SPAs) to participate in their 23rd Word Cup and Eight Masterclass in scenic Boracay, Aklan on December 5-7, 2024.

Enclosed are the complete details for ready reference.

Participation to this activity is voluntary and is subject to the no-disruption of classes policy stipulated in DepEd Order No. 9, 2005, titled, "Instituting Measures to Increase Engaged Time-on Task and Ensuring Compliance Therewith.

For and in the absence of the
Schools Division Superintendent


SOLLIE B. OLIVER, JD, MATE
SGOD Chief
Officer-In-Charge



Enclosed: As stated.
SGOD/cab



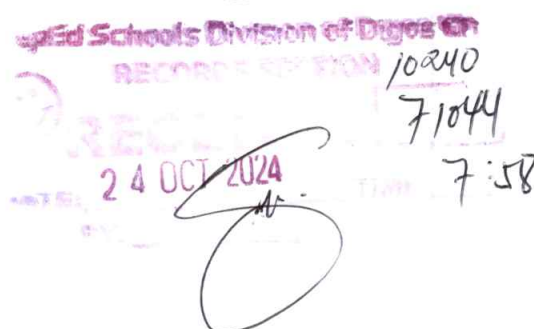
Address: Roxas cor. Lopez Jaena Street, Zone II, Digos City (8002)
Telephone Nos.: (082) 553-8375; (082) 553-8396



No. 25 Kalayaan Avenue, Fort Bonifacio, Taguig City
0954 190 2247
www.wordcup.com.ph
wordcup.philippines@gmail.com

12 October 2024

MELANIE P. ESTACIO (OIC)
Schools Division Superintendent
Digos City
digos.city@deped.gov.ph



Dear:

We are excited to invite your school publication advisers (SPAs) to participate in our **23rd Word Cup and Eighth Masterclass** in scenic Boracay, Aklan. As a premier professional development opportunity, this masterclass caters to the needs of our teachers in their roles as SPAs. Additionally, we welcome your top students who are passionate about honing their skills under the guidance of experienced practitioners.

Our workshops utilize a learning-by-doing approach, bridging the gap between theory learned in the classroom and practical, real-world experiences. On **December 5-7, 2024** we will offer our innovative experiential training method and provide an engaging and effective way to cultivate lifelong skills in communication and journalism.

To ensure that your teachers and students can benefit from this unique opportunity, we kindly request that the Division Office **cascade the information** regarding the event. Ideally, we hope this can be funded through the school MOOE or In-Service Training funds, as permitted under Section 17 of the special provisions for the DepEd budget, which covers other learning and development interventions.

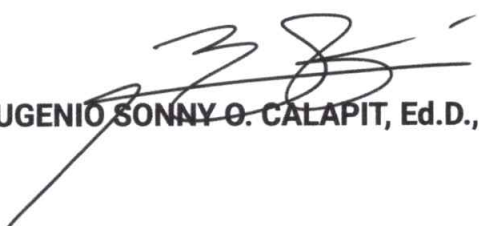
The wider dissemination of this opportunity would greatly support the participation of your teachers and learners. As educational leaders, you have the chance to introduce your team to the only authentic journalism training workshop in the Philippines and Asia.

Interested participants can register through this link: <https://bit.ly/23rdWordCupPH>. For further inquiries, please contact me at wordcup.philippines@gmail.com or 0954 190 2247. You can also find more information on our Facebook page, Word Cup Associated Editors Co.

We look forward to your favorable consideration of our request and hope to welcome your SPAs, academic leaders, subject area teachers and campus journalists to this enriching event.

Thank you for your time and support.

Warm regards,


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



No. 25 Kalayaan Avenue, Fort Bonifacio, Taguig City
 0954 190 2247
 www.wordcup.com.ph
 wordcup.philippines@gmail.com

23rd Word Cup Philippines		
Matrix of Activities*		
5 December 2024 (Thursday)		
2:00 PM	Check-in for participants with additional night	
2:00-5:00 PM	Distribution of IDs & kits (bag with pen & paper)	
6 December 2024 (Friday)		
7:00-8:00 AM	Distribution of IDs & kits (bag with pen & paper)	
8:00-9:00 AM	Opening Program & Press Briefing	
9:00-10:00 AM	News Writing (NW) <i>Pagsulat ng Balita</i>	
10:00-11:00 AM	Mobile Journalism (MJ)	
11:00-12:00 PM	Photojournalism (PJ) <i>Pagkuha ng Larawan</i>	
12:00-1:00 PM	Press Conference & Lunch	
1:00-2:00 PM	Feature Writing (FW) <i>Pagsulat ng Lathalain</i>	
2:00 PM	Output deadline NW, MJ, & PJ participants (PressCon coverage) Check-in for participants without additional night	
2:00-3:00 PM	Interview/data gathering/story development/photoshoot for FW, MJ, PJ Topic for FW: Outdoor/community or PressCon Topic for MJ & PJ: Outdoor/community	
2:00-3:00 PM	Editorial and Column Writing (ECW) <i>Pagsulat ng Pang-ulong Tudling at Kolum</i>	
3:00-4:00 PM	Workshop (for ECW participants)	
4:00 PM	Output deadline ECW & FW participants	
4:00-6:00 PM	Feedback session (for ECW, FW, NW, MJ, & PJ participants)	
6:00 PM	Output deadline for MJ & PJ participants (Outdoor coverage)	
6:00-7:00 PM	Dinner	
7 December 2024 (Saturday)		
8:00-9:00 AM	Copyreading & Headline Writing (CHW) <i>Pag-uulo at Pagwawasto ng Balita</i>	Watercolor Painting for Beginners (New!)
9:00-10:00 AM	Workshop (for CHW participants)	
10:00 AM	Output deadline for CHW participants	
10:00-12:00 PM	Feedback session (for CHW, MJ, & PJ participants)	
12:00 PM	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

Visit our Facebook Page for updates: <https://facebook.com/associatededitorsco>



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 will be on **5 December 2024 (3:00 to 5:00 PM)**

ACTUAL SEMINAR-WORKSHOP is on **6 to 7 December 2024** at Faith Village Gardens **Boracay Station 3**; Activities/Venues may be subject to change.

Rooms are non-exclusive (male and female may/may not combine in a room). Rooms can accommodate 6-10 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.

Participation fee per person is shown on the next page.

WORD CUP AMBASSADORS AWARD

All Institutional Ambassador Awardee aspirants need to submit a one-page briefer on the programs/accomplishments of the school in campus journalism for the last three years. If previous Word Cup participant, a testimonial (one-minute video-message) on how the workshops have helped individuals or schools may also be submitted in addition to programs/accomplishments.

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.



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23rd Word Cup Philippines Participation Fee per person	
Early bird <i>Payment made on or before 30 October 2024</i> <i>Inclusive of overnight stay on 6 December</i>	₱6,500
Regular <i>Payment made from 31 Oct. to 1 December 2024</i> <i>Inclusive of overnight stay on 6 December</i>	₱7,000
Additional night stay <i>For 5 or 7 December night</i> <i>No meals included</i>	₱500 per night
Meals 6 December (Day 1): AM and PM snacks, lunch, and dinner 7 December (Day 2): Breakfast, AM and PM 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.	

LINKS to Published Articles on the 21st Word Cup Philippines:
Manila Times

B12 | Campus Press THURSDAY August 22, 2024

The Manila Times
www.manilatimes.net

Students to hone journalism skills in Subic

OVER 150 campus journalism aficionados are set to sharpen their pens in Subic, Zambales, over the weekend to roll out and re-echo the learnings they would receive in a masterclass session with industry practitioners.

For its 22nd Word Cup National Journalism Contest and 20th Manila Times on Aug. 23 to 25, 2024, the organizers have arranged a pre-conference and on-site cultural exchange visit where participants can gather information, generate content and shoot photos in preparing their stories and other outputs. In preparation for the event Word Cup organizers visited the Arts in the Pampalundian Nature Trail in Subic as a pre-activity demonstration.

Memoran, a 40-year-old husband-and-wife art duo, showcased his skills in survival painting by showing how to start a fire using bamboo slats in just two minutes.

For the on-site demonstration, Memoran and his group had the opportunity to train thousands of P100 per student.

"We used to work for the Department of Tourism. Now we just teach visitors how to do it here in Subic," he said.

Memoran is among the few artists who speak fluent English and can also engage foreign tourists with conversational English.

"I have also gone to school," he said, highlighting their tribe's assimilation of many cultural practices driven by those learned in school. "We always started by knowing how to do it in school," he added with a smile.

Going by the Christian name William Memoran, he has been doing this work for nearly two decades.

"We're happy to have visitors here at Pampalundian, especially since very few had been coming over the last week," he said as Filipinos.

His exclusive demonstration to the Word Cup team rehearsal

what he and his group will be doing on Saturday, August 24, with participants from all Department of Education (DepEd) and Commission on Higher Education (CHED) regions, including several LGU public information officers.

A competition has also been added to the national masterclass to spice up the outputs, which centers on nature preservation promoting cultural understanding and peace.

The pre-conference and evaluation sessions shall be held Saturday and Sunday at Subic Bay Peninsula Hotel.

"The need for cultural understanding is important in education as it serves as a lens where we engage a highly diverse audience," said Virginia Calapit, co-founder of the Word Cup Association Editors Co. three decades ago with Publisher Pinar Calapit, the Law Lines Center Inc., of the Associated Press (AP) Manila.

"With our creative skills as presented in PEEK at its latest package showing our students and students some real life activity outside the confines of the school will engage their innate talents," said Calapit.



Delegates from various schools around the country gather once again for the 22nd Word Cup National Journalism Contest and 20th Manila Times in Subic, Zambales, from Aug. 23 to 25, 2024.

Calapit was a former stringer and deskman for the defunct United Press International Manila Bureau and was managing editor for news for an ILO station that possessed the 24-hour broadcast format during his stint.

The workshop will also feature an actual press conference with UP Manila Science Institute director and professor Lorna Daval, the co-

founder of ILO-2, a technology to estimate fish size, population density and biomass, and Resilience Initiative and Thrive, a table-top board game promoting sustainable development of our coast.

Daval uses scientific research and modeling to explore how ocean plastics influence the distribution and state of ocean flora and fauna. Her expertise is being tapped to

generally to assist in matters related to climate change vulnerability and adaptation.

At a time when other states across the country are showcasing their professional maritime education, her insights will help equip teachers and students with the proper knowledge on the matter.

The other pre-conference shall highlight peace education. **TMT**



The British Council gathers its International English Language Testing System partners to celebrate the previous year's achievements on Aug. 2, 2024.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

British Council pays nod to IELTS partners

THE British Council (BC) held its highly anticipated Annual Exam Partners' Invitational Conference and Awards ceremony last week, celebrating the previous year which it said was a "remarkable success".

This year's event on August 2 was themed in the spirit of the 30th anniversary of the British Council's 90th anniversary, marking a significant milestone in the BC, for the first time, extended its invitations beyond IELTS partners, including those in Arts and other key stakeholders.

Aperts is an innovative awardment tool that helps assess and test English language skills — reading, writing, listening and speaking. Developed by BC, experts in language testing, Aperts is underpinned by the latest research in assessment.

IELTS stands for International English Language Testing System, an international standardized English language proficiency test for non-native English speakers. It is a popular English language proficiency test for higher education and global migration, with

exceptional achievements over the past year.

According to the British Council, its partners have played a central role in creating global opportunities for many Filipinos to take the IELTS.

With 20 IELTS on the computer and 22 IELTS on paper test locations across the Philippines, BC said it continues to make IELTS more accessible to Filipinos, with plans to open more test centers this year.

During the gathering, District Director, BC Senior Client Manager for Exams-Southeast Asia 2, led the IELTS Marketing and Promotion Workshop for Partners, which provided insightful strategies and innovative marketing techniques for promoting IELTS, exploring target audiences and understanding the brand guidelines.

Part of the event was the "Partners Get Together," where partners showcased their singing, dancing and performing skills, making the evening memorable.

The culminating ceremony highlighted the event, where IELTS partners were recognized for their

MMDC, Concentrix prop up working students

SOUTH MALAPAN Digital College (SMDC), the digital-first, fully online college in the Philippines, together with Concentrix, a global provider of customer experience solutions and technology, are collaborating for an exciting youth and study program that aims to address the Filipino labor market's problems, an unemployment, improve quality of education and work life balance, especially for working students, and produce more skilled professionals.

According to a report by the Philippine Statistics Authority (PSA) released in February 2024, there are 1.6 million unemployed Filipinos as of December 2023.

The talent shortage and high unemployment rates in the country are due to several factors, such as poor education system, lack of career preparation and lack of relevant skills.

However, the Information Technology and Business Process Management or IT-BPM Association of the Philippines states that by 2026, the tech industry is expected to create 1.5 million jobs in the country. So far, the association is on track to hit its goal of creating more jobs in the last two years.

SMDC and Concentrix will work together to provide part-time jobs and just-four college education programs in Filipino study to result in a higher future through its work and study program.

The program offers to foster inter-entrepreneurial and developing work and hard skills to support their growth and become more qualified professionals.

It is designed to give students graduate workers will be able to work and earn enough money to be able to go back to school and complete their degree. **TMT**



South Malapan Digital College students.

DoST brings back youth science fest to promote STEM careers

Engaging the Youth in Providing Solutions and Opening Opportunities

18-21 September 2024

The PICC Forum Tent

FREE ADMISSION!

#2024NYSTIF #NYSTIF #SCIENCE#FESTIVAL #ROAD2STEM

THE National Youth Science, Technology, and Innovation Festival (NYSTIF), organized by the Department of Science and Technology (DOST), will return for its second edition on Sept. 18 to 21, 2024, at the Philippine International Convention Center Forum Tent in Pasay City.

DOST said the festival would allow the youth to experience science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) in a vibrant, innovative, brilliant and engaging (VIRE) way and equip them to pursue careers in these fields.

With the theme "STEM VIBE: Engaging the Youth in Providing Solutions and Opening Opportunities," this science festival aims to enhance youth appreciation and awareness of science, technology, and innovation. DOST said in a media release.

"We're inviting all our youth to join us in this celebration. It will be a fun, exciting, and engaging festival of science and technology (SAT) exhibits, projects, competitions, and other activities where the youth can participate," said DOST Undersecretary for Scientific and Technical Services Marlon Labagon in an interview with the DOST-Science and Technology Information Institute.

This year's activities will cover various SAT topics, including blockchain technology, science communication, nanotechnology, mobile technology, data analysis, food and nutrition, 3D printing, and science and art of leaves.

Serving as a platform to showcase the SAT achievements of DOST, the 2024 NYSTIF will also feature exhibits by the various department agencies to enlighten the Filipino youth and increase their science knowledge.

Visit the NYSTIF Facebook Page at www.facebook.com/nystif.dost and the NYSTIF website at www.nystif.dost.gov.ph for more information. **TMT**

Inquirer: Uptrend in science museums investment to benefit DepEd learners
<https://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. 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 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



GLOBALNATION
Trump falsely accuses Ohio immigrants of abducting, eating pets



GLOBALNATION
Wildfires around Los Angeles blanket city in smoke



GLOBALNATION
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-P

Go Green, read it as small.
EavironmentD@gmail.com

Environment News

Thursday, May 30, 2019 B-P

Text by ARMANDO L. CERRA

BORACAY RENAISSANCE

A year after its closure, what now?

ARMANDO CERRA - Tourists enjoying sunset views from the White Beach which has expanded from up to 25 meters from the shoreline. The photo was taken by 14th Word Cup Philippines Magazine participants, mostly school paper advisers and magazine publishers from around the country under the theme 'Prospects of a Sustainable Ecology and Tourism Development Opportunities and Challenges in Boracay and Beyond.' (Photo by Esther Lander S. Meligata, Capistrano Hill Elementary School)

BE HUMANS, NOT PLASTIC

Text by MARK JULIUS D. FUENTES

Malay's Municipal Ordinance No. 186 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 "brightline" of businesses during the island's rehabilitation, plastics are still freely accessible in some souvenir shops, convenience stores 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 heavy plastic bags our cause, including how it affects aquatic animals through "ingestion and entanglement." Even when plastic products break down, the plastic lingers on as smaller elements that pollute 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 O. PUODERA

After six months of being placed under rehabilitation, Boracay opened its doors in October of 2018.

That October was indeed historic and momentous for what was considered as the rebirth of a better Boracay. The repairs of the sewerage system 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.

Dr. Al Oroño, the Deputy Ground Commander of the DENR National Task Force Boracay said that the sustainability of the rehabilitation should not fall wholly on the shoulders of the government.

Sustaining the positive effects of the cleanup of Boracay

DESERVING BORACAY

Text by JOLINESS L. CARBON

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

There were the words of Dr. Al Oroño, 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, those efforts seem to have been taken for granted by some businesses. A few weeks ago, the local government

SUSTAINING PARADISE

Text by MARLA JOSEPHINE A. PLEDES

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

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 Dr. Al Oroño, 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 Philippines will have a clear direction on what sustainable tourism is all about, could the ordinary Juan de Cruz follow the rules even when no one is watching?

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

Dr. Oroño believes that a strong and consistent law enforcement 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 businessmen 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 on 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 "cage" 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 Marula Elementary School in Koronadal City. She teaches science and health subjects and is a journalism adviser.

'Sustaining the positive effects of the cleanup of Boracay entails a joint effort with the residents and even tourists and businessmen. This can be done by following the set of rules, by being a responsible tourist and by helping spread the positive effects of sustainable tourism.'

MOTHER AND CHILD - Both local residents, they do their daily routine of picking up litter left by tourists along Boracay's famous White Beach. To them, this is their way of showing their love for their island. For the moment, this is their way of showing the importance of sustainable tourism. (Photo by Jiver S. Lajera/Division of Boracay)

DISCIPLINE IN NEED - Tourists line up to segregate trash to be disposed into one of Boracay's popular destinations in Station 2. The local campaign for solid waste management seems to have caught on since government urged commercial businesses to reopen in the island. (Photo by Eugenio Sassy G. Calapat)

GARBAGE COLLECTOR - Garbage collectors load segregated trash on a municipal truck which do daily door-to-door collection starting from 2 a.m. up until they finish their task. The trash will be hauled to Matay, on the mainland where there is a regulated dump site. (Photo by Ralph Anthony Covadonga/Tagaytay National High School, Tagaytay)



Saving a critical wetland to promote ecotourism

HAVEN IN THE METRO

EGRETS FLY OVER THE LPPCHEA
— There are about 80 bird species documented in the 175-hectare area. Photo below: Word Cup Journalism participants gather in the ecotourism area for an ecology education lecture and press briefing courtesy of the Dept. Protected Area Biodiversity Conservation Section and organized by the Manila Platform Lions Club. The DPCB has welcomed stakeholders in the clean-up, tree-planting and ecology education at the LPPCHEA since the government launched the Manila Bay Rehabilitation in Intra-reef and Long Islands — which comprise LPPCHEA — serve as a catch basin of solid wastes mostly plastic and household wastes. On a weekly average, some 2.5 tons of garbage are loaded by barge for processing at the Las Pinas Dump Site en route to its final destination in Rodriguez, Rizal. (Photos by Jimmy A. Domingo)

Text by PATRICK JEROME B. BAYASO

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 Pinas-Panaguan Critical Habitat and Ecotourism Area (LPPCHEA), a great that a highly urbanized place could still open some space for environmental causes.

Feeling built by being listed in the Bureau of International Programs, the 175-hectare LPPCHEA caters to more than 5,000 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 southeast 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 38-hectare mangrove forest.



Nestheta Estrella, 60, a student 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)



'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 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 leave the impact of the presence of mangroves, this could be an ideal site for 'volun-tourism' — merging the joy of tourism with the favor of volunteering one's time and resources to promote empathy towards our own and only planet.

Sadly, we live in a time where considering our critical habitats as collateral to the surge of urbanization is justifiable. But on the other side of the coin, if we get rid of our quality 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 Chalmers National High School in Negros Oriental)



A DPWH worker, one of 40 personnel assigned at the LPPCHEA, gather garbage, mostly plastics and household non-biodegradable wastes which wash ashore from the Las Pinas and Paralinque river tributaries, Cavite and Batangas areas. (Photo by Ivan Hope Baltazar of May NIN, Zamboanga Sibuyan). Later the average, since the Manila Bay Rehabilitation which kicked off in June, these workers and volunteers collect at least 50 sacks of trash weighing 4 to 7 kilograms when dry. (Photo by Lisa Betty S. Eugenio from V. Mapa High School, Manila)

GREEN IS IN!

Eco responsibility

Toyota Motor Philippines Corporation (TMPC) joined the Global Toyota Environmental Month through a series of activities that raise awareness in environmental responsibility. TMPC team members and representatives from the Toyota Suppliers Club (TSC) visited the 100-hectare Torontal Forest of the Toyota Special Economic Zone in Santa Rosa, Laguna. Toyota volunteers also participated in the river cleanup along the Silang-Santa Rosa River near the company's vicinity (in photo). By cleaning up the river, TMPC hopes to prevent further pollution and improve the surroundings. The Silang-Santa Rosa River is considered to Laguna Lake, which is one of the primary water sources for the 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 'Binhi' greening legacy program has won the best corporate social responsibility (CSR) project in environment at the League of Corporate Foundation's 1st CSR Guild Awards.

Binhi is the first corporate-led forest restoration program that has been bridging 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 Aloy V. Barco, head of EDC's CSR group. Planting trees and growing them have been an integral part of sustaining the geothermal reservoir in EDC's geothermal reservation for over 40 years. In 2008, the company launched Binhi to expand the program by using science in planting and rearing threatened native trees. A total of 80 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 hardwood species and began propagating them in 2018 through its Vegetative Material Reproduction (VMR) technology, which mimics our forest's natural environment in two automated nurseries located in the company's geothermal facility in Valencia, Negros Oriental and in Antipolo, Metro Manila.

Moreover, around 9,323 hectares of forest land within and surrounding EDC project sites has been rehabilitated. This is equivalent to about 8.4 million seedlings planted all over the country in partnership with 109 farmer associations whose members are incentivized for helping EDC grow and maintain its Binhi areas.

EDC's Binhi 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 6.2 million trees with the help of its 56 stakeholder partners.

Go Green, send us an email: Environment@wordcup.com

Climate action now

By JOHN RYAN B. 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 operation 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 distress with fish populations already declining in many regions. Its failure 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 25 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 accusations 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 enshrined 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 Sealito 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 HUMSS student of the Colegio de la Inmaculada Concepcion in Marikina, Cebu

EDITOR'S NOTE During the 18th Word Cup held in Bulacan, almost 100,000 students from all over the country gathered to learn about environmental and social issues. They participated in various activities such as group discussions, role-playing, and listening to experts on various topics such as mental health and climate change. After the talk, participants were encouraged to submit an article on their reaction on climate change. Here are four of the best ones. — JONATHAN L. CHONG

No one is spared

By JONATHAN B. EMMANUEL

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 effects on containing climate change on a global scale.

A lot of people say they are aware about climate change, but sadly most if 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 Sealito 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 green house gas emission by 70 percent by 2030.

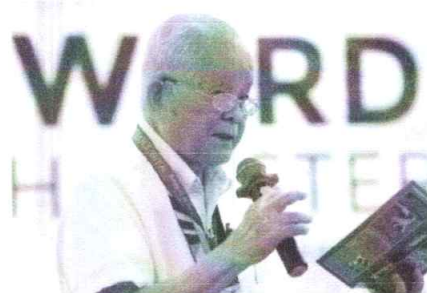
"The commission is doing extensive information campaigns using all media platforms, symposia, and seminars on the effects of climate change, and to also relay things which can be done to deal with this issue," he said.

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 use of fossil fuel, industrial revolution, levels of carbon dioxide rise 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 braver – because no one is spared. Remember, we can fight climate change. We are the world's greatest resource.

Emmanuel has 10 years of experience in writing school papers. He is currently teaching at Zamboanga National Comprehensive High School



Write about climate change

Dr. Cristop C. Maslog, author and columnist at SoDeV.Net, explains to participants, composed of campus journalists and school paper editors, how to report on climate change in the talk 'Engaging Various Stakeholders in the Climate Crisis' held during the 18th Word Cup in Bulacan. (Photo by Jimmy A. Domingo)

Take the first step

By RIJ 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 logic that it has already become a staple on newspapers and congress publications. And most of these articles focus on one topic – the 'Alma game.'

Business 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 'E' books, Dr. Cristop Maslog, shared his insights and opinions on climate change.

Maslog 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," Maslog said.

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

Everybody should take part in affecting and eventually eliminating this global crisis. It is never enough to pinpoint the root cause of all of them.

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 editor of Columbian College (Barretto campus) in Zambales

No classes, yehey?

By JUVELLE P. VILLANUEVA

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 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 typhoons 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 hear a word from their governor or mayor.

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

This was supported by Sealito Palito from the Climate Change Commission, who underscored Maslog'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 several 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 Maslog. He then 'changed' the term climate change to make it not only a "climate crisis" but more as a "climate catastrophe."

"It (climate change) has become a threat to the survival of man," warned Maslog. The next time students keep for class suspension, 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.

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



Learn what PH is doing vs. climate change

Participants of the 18th Word Cup interview Sealito Palito (center) of the Climate Change Commission to clarify how the Philippines which contributes a meager 0.12 percent compared to China's 28 percent and the US's 18 percent of greenhouse gas emissions can reduce it further by more than two without sacrificing industrial growth. Countries are racing against time to limit rising global temperatures due to the greenhouse effect. Breaching the additional two-degree threshold can lead to irreversible threat of sea level rise of close to one meter due to the unrelenting melting of polar ice. (Photo by Eugenio Amado West C. College of Marikina Science High School)

(insert letterhead)

Advisory/Memorandum No. _____ s. 2024

In compliance with R.A. 7079 or the Campus Journalism Act of 1991, this advisory/memorandum is issued for the information of officials, personnel/staff, teachers and students as well as the concerned public.

23rd Word Cup Eighth Journalism Masterclass and Ambassadors Awards

The 23rd Word Cup Philippines Eighth Journalism Masterclass and Ambassadors Awards is a practitioner-led professional development and training workshop designed to enhance the writing, photography and digital storytelling skills of teachers and students. The program aims to recognize outstanding work and produce quality outputs suitable for publication in national media.

This national event shall be held at Faith Village Gardens, Station 3, Boracay, Malay, Aklan on Dec. 5-7, 2024. Attached are the event objectives, activity matrix, contest mechanics and registration details.

Participating academic leaders, school officials, teachers and school paper advisers shall ensure that classes remain uninterrupted by utilizing appropriate learning modalities. Student participants are required to secure travel and medical insurance as well as consent/waiver form from their parents or guardians.

Funding for this activity shall be charged against the SEF, MOOE, and other available fund sources subject to the usual budget and accounting rules and regulations.

For more details, contact **Eugenio Sonny O. Calapit**, Ed.D. EnP through 0954-190-2247 or email wordcup.philippines@gmail.com.

NAME
Superintendent