



15 July 2025

NORMA P. ESTEBAN

Schools Division Superintendent
Bulacan

Dear Superintendent Esteban:

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.

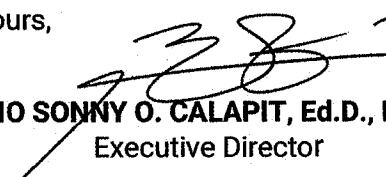
In this light, we humbly seek your **support in cascading this information** to public and private schools in your division. Your role as a learning leader is instrumental in helping young communicators across the country discover their voice, refine their skills, and represent their schools with pride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

Republic of the Philippines	
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION	
Schools Division Office of Bulacan	
ADVISORY	
No. <i>0225-2025</i>	
To: ☐ PUBLIC ☐ PRIVATE ☐ PSDS	
☐ Elementary ☐ Junior High School ☐ Senior High School	
☐ Elementary School Principals/School Heads	
☐ Secondary School Principals/School Heads	
For Information:	
NORMA P. ESTEBAN, EdD, CESO V	
Schools Division Superintendent	
Office of the School Division Superintendent	

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.

26 th Word Cup Philippines Participation Fee per person	
Early bird Payment made on or before 31 July 2025 Inclusive of overnight stay on 30 August 2025	₱6,500
Regular Payment made from 1 August 2025 onwards Inclusive of overnight stay on 30 August 2025	₱7,000
Additional night stay No meals included. ₱800 per person, per night	₱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

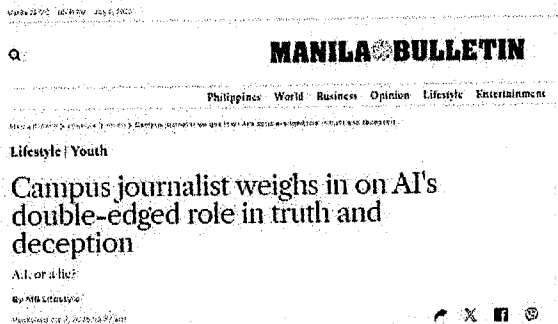
Account Name: Word Cup Associated Editors Co.

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/>



Text by JESSSTONY 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 undeniable: AI makes 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.

Jessstony B. Angel, 20, from Solano, is a second-year Bachelor of Secondary Education student at Nueva Viscaya 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.

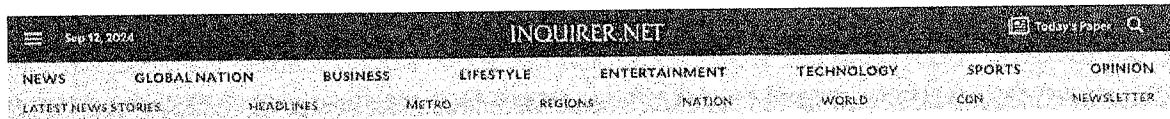
'Voices' is Manila Bulletin Lifestyle's dedicated space for young writers and future journalists as they talk about the topics that matter to their generation—from pop culture and social trends to mental health, education, and everything in between.

If you have an article you want to publish, send your submissions to lifestyle@mb.com.ph with the subject line—Voices: (Article Title)—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. Calapit, executive director of Word Cup Associated Editors Co., welcomes some 350 campus journalists to the 21st Word Cup National Journalism Conference and Contests at Angells Hall, 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.

EDITOR'S PICK



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

MOST READ



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
Manuy Jacinto among nominees for People magazine's Sexiest Man Alive

TAGS: Journalism

Subscribe to our newsletter!

By providing an email address, I agree to the Terms of Use and acknowledge that I have read the Privacy Policy.

Manila Times: Campus journalism can boost interest in science

bit.ly/ManilaTimesOn21stWordCup

B12 | Campus Press THURSDAY May 9, 2024



Word Cup Associated Editors Co. Executive Director Eugenio Sonny Calapit welcomes participants to the 21st Word Cup National Journalism Conference and Contests at Angels Hill, Tagaytay City, on May 4 and 5, 2024. Campus journalists take videos and photos of the event as a reference for their outputs. CONTRIBUTED PHOTOS

'Campus journalism can boost interest in science'

SOME 263 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. (SciCommPh) head Ruby Roan-Cristobal said during the 21st Word Cup National Campus Journalism Press Conference and Contests.

Roan-Cristobal, senior lecturer at the University of the Philippines Los Baños (UPLB) College of Development Communication, saw the need for scientists and those in the applied sciences to speak more publicly while challenging campus journalists to serve as "microphones" to hype interest in the field.

"Science communication and education help inform policymakers and provide sound bases for decision-making," she said.

The Word Cup, held at Angels Hill in Tagaytay City on May 4 and 5, carried the theme "The Role of

Science Museums in Promoting A Science Nation: Fostering Interests in Science, Math and STEM-Related Courses and Careers."

Roan-Cristobal also hosts the Sunday radio program "Radio Henry" on DZRH and has been the chief science research specialist at the Department of Science and Technology (DOST) for 46 years.

She said, "NGOs are more vocal" when many scientists who generate actual knowledge through research are often out of the picture.

Roan-Cristobal was with co-presenter May Paginehin, who

manages the Philippines' first museum dedicated to science, during the conference.

Paginehin, executive director of the Philippine Foundation for Science and Technology, who oversees Science Centrum, shared the views of Roan-Cristobal that scientists need to do more to help promote interests in the field, which in turn may prod public officials to fund science education.

She observed that public and private investments in science museums remain low.

While Science Centrum, a privately operated museum dedicated to promoting interests in the sciences, has served over a hundred thousand visitors over the years, the proportion remains low compared to around 26 million learners nationwide.

Paginehin said a financial investment of about P5 million is needed to create a regional science centrum. The organization currently has eight regional hubs in partnership with local governments.

Eugenio Calapit, organizer of the 21st Word Cup, said the event featured two of the country's experts "as a necessary first step in voluntarily assisting the Department of Education (DepEd) in promoting science and math education in view of the very low Program for International Student Assessment (PISA) ranking of 15-year-old learners in the country."

"They say that it takes a community to raise a child, and we add, properly communicating with them, the issues and challenges can help address these concerns," Calapit, a former media professional with a doctorate and advanced degrees in education and management, added.

He added that the participants will submit their content entries based on the information gathered from the press conference and their follow-up interviews with the presenters. After that, the evaluation will be done by invited Word Cup fellows, who are media practitioners. THE MANILA TIMES

UST summit advances church heritage conservation

THE University of Santo Tomas (UST) is hosting the National Summit of Church Archives and Heritage Workers starting May 6, to May 11, 2024, at the Multi-Convention Room, 6th Floor, Buenavista Garcia Paredes OP Building.

The summit has invited diocesan and religious archivists, parish secretaries, diocesan chancellors, and religious congregation secretaries, those appointed and directly involved in archiving roles to participate in an academic and professional capacity, building event aimed toward the conservation of church archival heritage.

It will recognize the Society of Ecclesiastical Archivists of the Philippines (SEAP) membership from around the nation; reinforce the involvement of the archdiocese, diocesan, religious archivists, parish secretaries and records custodians in the implementation and fulfillment of the Church records preservation; discuss existing practices and explore the pivotal role of archivists and heritage workers; and provide knowledge and skills in managing the Church's cultural heritage records.

National Commission for Culture and the Arts (NCCA) Chairman Victoriano Manalo, graced the event and delivered a special message.

On the first day of the summit on Wednesday, UST Faculty of Civil Law Dean Nito Divina delivered the keynote address on "Intellectual Property Law – Applicable to Ecclesiastical and Archival Record and Domain," Prof. Regalado Tria Jose discussed "The Status Quo of the Catholic Church Heritage in the Philippines," and Commission on Cultural Heritage Executive Secretary Fr. Milan Ted Torralba tackled "Archives and Canon Law."

Archdiocese of Manila Chancellor Fr. Isidro Maunay spoke on "The Interplay of the Work of Diocesan Chancellors, Parish Secretaries and Archivists," while NCCA National Committee on Archives head Emma Muñoz-Rey led the "Panel Discussion on Government Archives." Jacklyn Jove Delgado from the National Archives of the Philippines and Vilma Rodriguez from the Senate of the Philippines Archives.

Also included were lectures from Fr. Jonas Awasan of the Archdiocese of Cagayan de Oro, who headed the discussion on Diocesan Archives.

Meanwhile, St. Wilma Bumbagabang, OP from the St. Catherine of Siena Archives, Fr. Mervin Lomague, OP from the Dominican Archives, and Fr. Nestor Impelido from the Salesian Archives jointly discussed the topic of Religious Archives and Family Search Philippines

field relations; manager Felix Ordinario spoke about "The Impact and Issues of Genealogy Project of the Church of Jesus Christ."

Capping off the first day of the event was a Eucharistic Celebration at the Santissimo Rosario Parish presided by the Archivo de la Universidad de Santo Tomas Acting Archivist Fr. Gaspar Sigaya, OP. Lectures for Thursday, May 9, include "Ethics and Accountability in the Management of Archives and Records Management" by Ateneo de Manila University Archivist, Director Asst. Prof. Francis Navarro, followed by "Development of Archives and Records Management Profession and Training in the Philippines" by the Board for Ecclesiastical Documents' by the executive assistant for the Office of the UST Secretary-General Emmanuel Baulan.

A tour of the UST facilities, including the oldest school-based museum in the country, the UST Museum and its laboratory, the Archivo de la Universidad de Santo Tomas (AUST), and the Antonio Vivencio del Rosario UST Heritage Library, comprise the afternoon session.

Day 3 activities include lectures by the UST Prefect of Libraries Fr. Angel Aparicio regarding the Antonio Vivencio del Rosario UST Heritage Library, "Disaster Resilience and Post-Disaster Recovery for Cultural Heritage" by UST College of Tourism and Hospitality Management academic staff Karl Baroto, and "Sustainability in Conservation in the Philippine Setting" by Okada Manila records specialist Lulu del Mar.

A workshop on Archives management conducted by del Mar, Jocelyn Marcos and the AUST staff follows a Eucharistic Celebration with Fr. Harold Renteria, OSA, as president, and the Fellowship Night.

For the fourth and final day of the summit, the Assistant to the UST Rector for Information and Communications Technology Asst. Prof. Jercelyn Padua will deliver a lecture on "Parish Registry Portal: E-Records Management of Sacramental Books," while AUST Acting Archivist Fr. Gaspar Sigaya and SEAP Secretary Marcos will lead the "SEAP Moving Forward Workshop and Planning" session.

Concluding the four-day National Summit will be a co-celebrated Mass with Dumaguete Bishop Julio Cortes as the main preacher and homilist.

Email archives@ust.edu.ph for more information. TMT

BulSU hosts intl education summit in Malolos

BULACAN State University (BulSU) will host the 1st International Education Summit (IES) 2024 at the Malolos Sports and Convention Center in Malolos, Bulacan, from May 14 to 16, 2024, said BulSU President Teody San Andres.

With the theme "Sustainability for Quality and Excellence Through Transformational Outcomes-Based Education (OBE)," the summit aims to advance sustainability and excellence in education.

Guests of honor and keynote speakers are Commission on Higher Education (CHED) Chairman J. Prospero de Vera III and Sen. Joel Villanueva. De Vera, represented by CHED Region 3 Director Lora Yusii, will speak about "Key Higher Education Trends and Issues to Know."

Speakers during the plenary sessions include CHED OIC-Deputy Executive Director Lily Feida Milla to talk on "HEIs Internationalization: Meeting the Global Set-up

— Graduate Employability and Capability" and "Father of OBE" William Spady to speak on "Quality Education Through OBE."

Mapua University Institute for Digital Learning Dean Jonathan Macayan will talk on "Transformational OBE: Challenges and Benefits" and "Designing OBE Framework, Instructional Materials and Methods and Strategies."

Mapua University professor and Association of Education Researchers and Trainers President Jamine Pinares will talk on "Assessing Outcomes Skills and Competencies and Providing Feedback," and Philippine Normal University professor Felice Yoban will speak on "Empowering Leaders and Faculty Toward a Sustainable Quality Education."

The IES2024 is expected to gather participants across the academe, particularly members of the Philippine Association of State Universities and Colleges, government sector and nongovernment organizations to discuss the crucial



BULACAN STATE UNIVERSITY

INTERNATIONAL EDUCATION SUMMIT 2024

Theme: Sustainability for Quality and Excellence Through Transformational Outcomes-Based Education

MAY 14-16, 2024

1st Manila Sports and Convention Center, City of Malolos, Bulacan, Philippines

Website: www.bulSU.edu.ph/ies2024

CONTACT: ies2024@bulSU.edu.ph

CONTRIBUTED IMAGE

role of OBE in driving positive change and innovation in higher education.

ANTONIO G. PAPA

MMSU prof wins Swiss Invention silver

1. Faculty members of the MMSU have been recognized for their contributions to the field of education.



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

[illegible]

**BE HUMANS,
NOT PLASTIC**

TEST BY MARK DANIUS D. FUENTES

[illegible]

Baronpeter points out that the harm plastic bags can cause, including how it affects aquatic animals through "ingestion and entanglement," is not the only harm plastic bags break down, the plastic lives on as smaller elements that go into the ecosystem with long-term negative effects.

According to the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR), the plastic ban implemented by Manila is correct but burials admit that it does not is just a form of "suggestion" not a "requirement" because plastic is still visible.

Transition to more **degradable** or reusable items.

Climate change and ecological degradation are global problems, for which there are no single nor simple solutions. If our fascination with plastic will again transform Binondo Island into a dumping site, the consequences for our environment, resources, effect and time.

Let us all become humans. No to plastic!

The author is a teacher of Monggong National School in Marikina City, Cagayan. A school paper editor for 12 years, he is

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-

DESERVING BORACAY

THE M. DOUGLAS L. CARRON

Let us all become tourist police. Let us become information multipliers. These were the words of Dr. Al Oroko, the Deputy Ground Commander of the DENR Na-

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 emergencies 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 businessmen. A few weeks ago, the local government



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 the island. For the mom, it is teaching kids the importance of sustainable tourism. (Photo by Ariver B. Ejera/Division of Coronado)

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.



DISCIPLINE IN DEED—Tourists line up to segregate trash in Colombia spread in one of Bogotá's popular destinations to Statos. The local campaign for solid waste management seems to be caught on since government allowed commercial businesses—mainly in the last part. (Photo by Enriquez Soria O. Calapit)



GARBAGE COLLECTOR. Garbage collectors load segregated trash on a municipal truck which is daily door-to-door collection starting from 2 a.m. up until they finish their task. The trash will be taken to a landfill, or the manhole where there is a registered dumpsite. (Photo by Ralph Anthony Geronimo/Bagumbayan National High School, Ermita, Manila)

CHALLENGING ENHANCEMENT

Prof. Dr. ANNA MASCHKE D. PH.D.

After six months of being placed under rehabilitation, Borscay opened its doors in October of 2015.

That October was indeed historic and momentous for the city. It was considered as the rebirth of a better Borscay. 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 Orofio, the Deputy Ground Commander of the DENR National Task Force Borsac 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 Borsac

SUSTAINING PARADISE

THE MATHIA JOSEPHINE A. PLEDS

At first, Borsery'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 closures of erring establishments. However, there is a downside, too. According to Deputy Ground Commander, AFP 3rd Zone, Hon. Gen. Del

of Task Force Hornet. Dr. Al Orofio, when asked about the state of discipline among locals and tourists, he said that it is a "cat-and-mouse activity."

The Task Force Bureau 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 pro-

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 through, and what can be done to help?

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

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

Climate action now

By JOHN RYAN M. JACOB

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 India 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 predicted that the world's oceans and ice sheets are under distress 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 23 cities are found to be highly vulnerable to 2035 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 claims that entangle communities as the world seeks the ecological sustainability.

Stakeholders of the environment – civil 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 Saúl Palilio 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 11, is a 2018 UNICEF study in the Cagayan de Oro, Mindanao, Philippines.

EDITOR'S NOTE

During the 10th Word Cup held in Subic, various journalists and school paper editors all over the country converged to learn about journalism and to listen to experts on various topics such as media health and climate change. After the talk, participants were expected to submit an article on climate change. Here are four of the best ones. — Johnnie L. Chan

No one is spared

By JONATHAN B. CHAN

Climate change is inevitable to grow. 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 of them do not actually do anything about it.

With overwhelming scientific evidence, 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 Saúl Palilio 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 emissions by 70 percent by 2030.

The commitment is a long-term perspective 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 temperatures. The argument now must be about 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. Nonetheless, we can fight climate change. We are the world's greatest resource.

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



Take the first step

By RILANSANG

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 "alarm game."

Harmless as not off the hook when it comes to climate change. It's an inherent fact that we are all guilty of it.

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 the book, *The Climate Mindset*, shared his insights and expertise on climate change.

Masing 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," Masing 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 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 Zamboanga.



Write about climate change

Dr. Crispin C. Masing, author and columnist at *GoDeverNet*, explains to participants, composed of campus journalists and school paper editors, how to report on climate change in the talk "Writing various stakeholders in the Climate Crisis" held during the 10th Word Cup in Subic. (Photo by Jimmy A. Dominga)

No classes, yehey?

By JUVELLE P. VILLARUEYA

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 imminent 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 playing 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. Crispin Masing, a veteran journalist who published books on climate change, talked about how rainfall patterns have changed and how "floods and rains have become more severe."

This was supported by Saúl Palilio from the Climate Change Commission, who underscored Masing's point. Typically, the Philippines encounters about 120 typhoons a year. Though the typhoon hitting 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 Palilio.

Palilio 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.

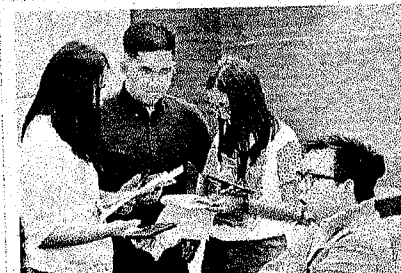
These changes are no doubt effects of climate change. However, students are not the only ones affected.

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

"Climate change" has become a threat to the survival of many," warned Masing.

The next time students hope 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.

Villarueya, 20, is a communication arts student from Legazpi of the Philippine-Cebu.



Learn what PH is doing vs. climate change

Participants of the 10th Word Cup interview Saúl Palilio (seated) of the Climate Change Commission to clarify how the Philippines which contributes a meager 0.22 percent compared to China's 26 percent and the US's 16 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. Breaching 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 Noel C. Casipit III of Market Science High School)

B-6 **MANILA BULLETIN**
The Nation's Leading Newspaper

Environment News

Thursday, August 1, 2019



**Saving a critical wetland
to promote ecotourism**

HAVEN IN THE METRO

SECRET FLIES OVER THE LPPCHEA
There are about 30 bird species documented in the 175-hectare area. Photo below: World Cup Journalism participants gather in the conference area for an ecology education lecture and press briefing courtesy of the DENR Protected Area Biodiversity Conservation Section and organized by the Makati Planning Lanes Club. The DENR was selected as one of the winners in the 2019 World Cup Journalism contest for its outstanding ecology education at the LPPCHEA. Since the government launched the Manila Bay Rehabilitation Project, the Freedom and Long Islands - which comprise LPPCHEA - serve as a catch basin of solid wastes mostly plastic and household wastes. On a nearby island, some 3.5 tons of garbage are hauled by DPWH for processing at the Manila Solid Waste Management and Final Destination in Rodriguez, Rizal. (Photos by Jimmy A. Dominguez)

Text by PATRICK JUDGET B. SAYSIO

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

Folding itself by being listed in the Ramsar Wetland of International Importance, the 175-hectare LPPCHEA refers to more than 3,000 migratory birds which consider this place 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 midwest 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 leaves the fishes 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 Sabendera mangrove



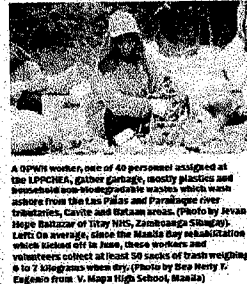
Secretary Duterte, Sr., a fisheries in LPPCHEA said they also help protect the cleanliness of the habitat so it is also their source of livelihood. They can catch and sell the fish to the local market. (Photo by Jimmy A. Dominguez)



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?

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 the ideal site for 'urban tourism' - merging the joy of urban



A DPWH worker, one of 40 personnel assigned at the LPPCHEA, gather garbage, mostly plastics and household non-biodegradable wastes which were ashore from the Las Pilas and Panaguan river tributaries, Cavite and Batangas areas. (Photo by Juan Hope Baltazar of Titya Nito, Zamboanga Sibugay). Later on average, close the Manila Bay Rehabilitation which kicked off in June, these workers and volunteers collect at least 50 sacks of trash weighing 9 to 2 kilograms every day. (Photo by Rosemary T. Engano from V. Mapa High School, Masaka)

tem with the fervor of volunteering one's time and resources to promote empathy towards our one and only planet.

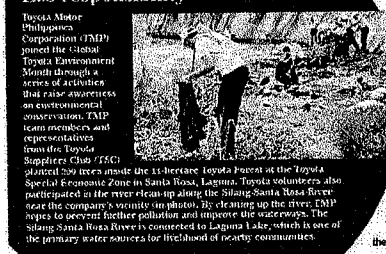
Sadly, we live in a time where considering our critical habitats as collateral to the surge of urbanization is justifiable.

But on the other side of the coin, if we get rid of our 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 Cebu Division National High School in Negros Oriental.

GREEN IS IN!

Eco responsibility



Toyota Motor Philippines Corporation (TMP) powered the Sibuyan Toyota Environment Month through a series of activities that raise awareness on environmental conservation. TMP team members and representatives from the Toyota Suppliers Club (TSC) planted 200 trees inside the 11-hectare Toyota Plant at the Toyota Special Economic Zone in Santa Rosa, Laguna. Toyota volunteers also participated in the river cleanup along the Sibuyan-Santa Rosa River near the company's waste treatment plant. By cleaning up the river, TMP hopes to prevent further pollution and improve the watershed. The Sibuyan-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 'Binhi' greening legacy program has won the best corporate social responsibility (CSR) project in environment at the League of Corporate Foundations 1st CSR Gold 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 Atty. Allan V. Sorensen, 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 Binhi to expand the program by using science in planting and raising threatened native trees. A total of 96 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 9,000 hectares of forestland within and surrounding EDC project sites has been rehabilitated. This is equivalent to about 6.6 million seedlings planted all over the country in partnership with 105 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 (TM10 in 10) project, one of the finalists in the 1st CSR Gold Awards' Outstanding CSR Collaboration Project category. TM10 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, TM10 in 10 has already planted over 6.2 million trees with the help of its 106 stakeholder partners.

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