



Republic of the Philippines
Department of Education
NEGROS ISLAND REGION

NOV 19 2025

REGIONAL MEMORANDUM
No. 657 s. 2025

27TH WORD CUP PHILIPPINES

To: Schools Division Superintendents
All Others Concerned

1. Attached is DepEd Advisory No. 223 s. 2025 titled 27th Word Cup Philippines on December 5-7, 2025 at the National Press Club, Intramuros, Manila.
2. Immediate dissemination of this Memorandum is desired.


RAMIR B. UYTICO EdD, CESO III
Regional Director

Encl.: None
Reference: As stated
To be indicated in the Perpetual Index
under the following subjects:

CURRICULUM

PROGRAMS

TEACHERS

JEB/CLMD-RM-27th World Cup Philippines
000/November 18, 2025



Address: Batinguel, Dumaguete City, 6200
Telephone Nos:
Email Address: nir@deped.gov.ph
Website: <https://depednir.net>

Advisory No. **223**, s. 2025

November 11, 2025

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

27th WORD CUP PHILIPPINES

The Word Cup Associated Editors Co. invites school paper advisers, administrators, and student publication staff to participate in the 27th Word Cup Philippines, to be held at the National Press Club, Intramuros, Manila, on December 5-7, 2025.

Word Cup Philippines is a national journalism conference and contest series that aims to cultivate young communicators, educators, and public information leaders. This year's event will feature:

1. Hands-on capacity building for student journalists and advisers through training in media literacy, news writing, and digital communication;
2. Authentic newsroom simulations for experiential learning and competitive collaboration;
3. Publication opportunities in national dailies for exemplary works; and
4. Institutional recognition through the Word Cup Ambassadors Award for outstanding schools and mentors.

Interested participants may register through
<https://bit.ly/27thWordCupPH>.

Participation of learners and teachers from public and private schools shall be purely voluntary and will not hamper instructional time in compliance with the provisions of DepEd Order (DO) No. 009, s. 2024 titled Implementing Guidelines on the School Calendar and Activities for the School Year 2025-2026 and DO 9, s. 2005 titled Instituting Measures to Increase Engaged Time-on-Task and Ensuring Compliance Therewith and the policy on off-campus activities stated in DO 66, s. 2017.

This is also subject to the no-collection policy as stated in Section 3 of Republic Act No. 5546, also known as An Act Prohibiting the Sale of Tickets and/or the Collection of Contributions for Whatever Project or Purpose from Students and Teachers of Public and Private Schools, Colleges and Universities (Ganzon Law), issued in DO 19, s. 2008, and reiterated in DepEd Memorandum No. 041, s. 2024.

For more information, please contact:

Word Cup Associated Editors Co.
Mobile Phone Number: 0954-190-2247
Email Address: wordcup.philippines@gmail.com
Facebook Page: facebook.com/associatededitorsco



27 Oct 2025

SONNY ANGARA
Secretary
Department of Education

Through: **DR. MALCOLM S. GARMA**
Undersecretary

Dear Secretary Angara:

Warm greetings!

On behalf of NextNarrative, Inc. and our partners, we are honored to invite the Department of Education's school paper advisers, administrators, and student publication staff to the **27th Word Cup Philippines**, to be held on December 5–7, 2025 at the National Press Club, Intramuros, Manila.

Word Cup remains a leading national platform for campus journalists, advisers, and student leaders to sharpen their craft, showcase their talents, and learn directly from media practitioners. Many of its alumni have gone on to excel in journalism, education, and public service—proof of its continuing contribution to the development of ethical, skilled, and socially aware communicators.

The most recent conference gathered over **600 participants** nationwide for intensive hands-on workshops, live press simulations, and multi-category contests judged by industry experts. Schools that joined not only gained recognition through their students' achievements but also strengthened their reputation for excellence in communication, literacy, and creative learning.

The 27th Word Cup offers:

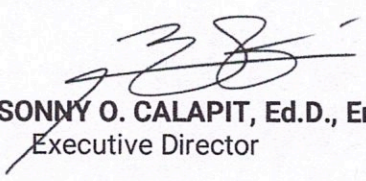
- Hands-on capacity building for student journalists and advisers through training in media literacy, news writing, and digital communication
- Authentic newsroom simulations for experiential learning and competitive collaboration
- Publication opportunities in national dailies for exemplary works
- Institutional recognition through the Word Cup Ambassadors Award for outstanding schools and mentors

Considering these, we would be most grateful if the Department could encourage the widest participation of schools nationwide. This will help teachers and students benefit from an authentic journalism learning experience that supports DepEd's thrusts on literacy, 21st-century skills, and civic engagement.

Registration is through <https://bit.ly/27thWordCupPH>, and further details may be found in the attached program and guidelines. For inquiries, we may be reached through wordcup.philippines@gmail.com and 0954 190 2247 or through our Facebook page: Word Cup Associated Editors Co.

We would be deeply grateful for your support in empowering the next generation of storytellers, truth-seekers, and nation-builders.

With sincere regards,


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

27th Word Cup Philippines

Indicative Matrix of Activities*

5 December 2025 (Friday)			
2:00-5:00 PM	Distribution of IDs, kits and t-shirts (optional)		
6 December 2025 (Saturday)			
7:00-8:00 AM	Distribution of IDs, kits and t-shirts		
8:00-11:30 AM	Opening Program & Press Conference		
11:30 AM – 12:45 PM	Lunch		
1:00-3:00 PM	News Writing (NW) <i>Pagsulat ng Balita</i>	Feature Writing (FW) <i>Pagsulat ng Lathalain</i>	Editorial Writing (EDW) <i>Pagsulat ng Pang-ulong Tudling</i>
3:00 PM	Output deadline for NW, FW and EDW participants		
3:15-4:00 PM	Mobile Journalism (MJ)	Photojournalism (PJ)	Sports Writing (SP) <i>Pagsulat ng Balitang Isports</i>
4:00 – 5:00 PM	Coverage of Sports event		
5:00 – 6:00 PM	Workshop (MJ, PJ, SP)		
6:00 PM	Output deadline for MJ, PJ and SP participants		
7 December 2025 (Sunday)			
8:00-10:00 AM	Science & Technology Writing (STW) <i>Pagsulat ng Agham at Teknolohiya</i>	Copyreading & Headline Writing (CHW) <i>Pag-uulo at Pagwawasto ng Balita</i>	Editorial Cartooning (EC) <i>Paglalarawang Tudling</i>
10:00 AM	Output deadline for STW, CHW and EC participants		
10:15- 12:00 NN	Watercolor Wellness		
12:00-1:30 PM	Lunch		
1:45-5:00 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

Please note that the actual program starts on 6 December 2025. Participants arriving in Manila on 5 December 2025 can opt to claim their IDs, kits and shirts from 2:00 to 5:00 PM at the venue (4th Floor, National Press Club, Intramuros, Manila).



DETAILS OF REGISTRATION

Objectives of the press coverage and national contest:

1. Enhance skills in writing, photography, and mobile journalism.
2. Cover live press briefings.
3. Recognize and award exemplary work.
4. Publish quality outputs in national media.

Contests are **optional** and open to:

- Elementary, junior, and senior high school students
- Tertiary students
- School paper advisers, language and communication arts teachers, department heads, school heads, and public information officers

What to bring:

- *Mobile Journalism participants* – cellphone, lapel/mic, and/or laptop with video editing applications
- *Photojournalism participants* – cameras or cellphones



WORD CUP AMBASSADORS AWARD

- Aspirants must submit a **2 to 3-minute video message/testimonial** on how Word Cup workshops have benefited students, teachers, or schools. These will be posted on our social media pages.
- To qualify as an **Institutional Ambassador Awardee**:
 - Bronze: minimum of 10 participants
 - Silver: minimum of 15 participants
 - Gold: minimum of 20 participants

ACCOMMODATION AND LOGISTICS

Accommodation and transportation for activities outside the venue are **not included** and must be shouldered separately by participants.

T-SHIRT CUTOFF DATE

- Official Word Cup t-shirts are available at **₱400/shirt**.
- **Order deadline: 15 November 2025** (to allow time for production)



27th Word Cup Philippines

Participation Fee per person

Early bird

Payment made on or before 31 October 2025

₱5,000

Regular

Payment made from 1 November 2025 onwards

₱5,500

Meals

6 December – AM snacks, Lunch and PM snacks

7 December – AM snacks, Lunch and PM snacks

Accommodation and transportation **NOT** included

Participation fees may be deposited to:

BDO Account Number 012330 081983

Account Name: Word Cup Associated Editors Co.

No Word Cup event has ever been rescheduled or cancelled. For own cancellation in case of force majeure and government pronouncement, fees paid may be applied to the next Word Cup event.

MANILA BULLETIN

Lifestyle | YOUTH

B-8 | TUESDAY, JULY 15, 2025

EDITORS: REY ROBES ILAGAN AND KRIZETTE CHU
ASSOCIATE EDITOR: JOHN ROLAND LEGASPI

lifestyle@mb.com.ph
manilabulletinlifestyle

VOICES

The youth must practice digital discernment

Scroll, think, decide

By MA. VICTORIA H. CARRERA
Iloilo Doctors' College
Basic Education Department



"Do you agree?" "Why yes?" "Why not?" "What do you mean?" "Why did they side with this?"

These are the questions lingering in our ears and minds whenever we are asked about a hot topic. Now, mind if you share yours?

In a world where technology is rapidly evolving, the youth are most likely to be influenced. Growing up surrounded by gadgets and devices, this is bound to happen.

Everyone carries gadgets loaded with social media apps like Facebook, YouTube, Instagram, X, TikTok, Threads, and more, drawn to the endless "fun" they provide. Spending time on these apps, "doom scrolling," must seem enjoyable, as you're entertained without paying a cent.

Social media is a platform where not only can you connect and converse with friends and loved ones, but also access boundless and unfiltered entertainment. You can share various information, interact with people, and build relationships. It can even be educational through free tutorials and lessons, "how-to" guides, and crash courses on YouTube. As long as you have



The author

Internet access, the possibilities are endless. It can be a helpful tool to unwind and relax after a long, hectic day.

Being on these social media platforms also allows users to follow people they admire for any reason — and that's where the snafu starts to widen.

People are easily influenced, especially those who are quick to let their guard down. With the "right" structure of opinion and the promise of "right" data, anyone can be swayed. This fuels the spread of misinformation and the misuse of popularity because the Internet is a wild place.

In any topic — beauty, travel, art, science, and more — everyone is entitled to their own opinion. But once someone sees a post that contradicts their views, and it has massive engagement, something inside them may start to shift. Picture this: A teen is clueless about a certain debate and stumbles upon a post with 500,000 likes and 400 comments. What do you think they'll do? Of course, they'll read it. But the catch is, they're hearing only one side of the story. That's why having your own opinion matters. Have it and own it, only after knowing and understanding the full story.

A post may offer facts, but that doesn't mean it's 100 percent accurate.

Artwork by Neilmond
Kaysen Carman



According to Pew Research Center, 95 percent of teens worldwide use social media apps. That means 95 percent can scroll through TikTok, with a 50 percent chance of being influenced. Through engagements, this industry is fueled by influence, thanks to algorithms that tailor content for each user. It's like a mind game you face every day where you ask yourself, "Not real?" — then end up agreeing with the post simply because it uses facts to sound "valid" and "favorable."

People are easily influenced, especially those who are quick to let their guard down.

Social media, especially in the age of artificial intelligence, is growing more powerful with time. Let's not underestimate, nor disregard, our ability to think critically and form our own opinions. We are all entitled, and we are powerful in our own right, and that's something no one can take away.

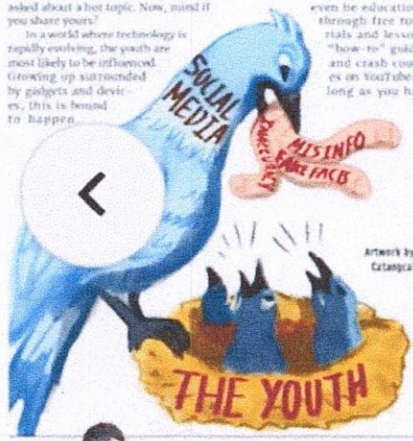
We, the youth, must not let a single

post define what our hearts and minds truly stand for. To my fellow youth, I offer this reminder: Understand, reflect, and discern wisely, drawing from verified information and credible sources. Let truth guide your voice, not just what's trending.

Ma. Victoria H. Carrera is a student journalist for *The Horizon*, the official student publication of Iloilo Doctors' College — Basic Education Department. Her love for journalism blossomed at an early age, beginning in elementary when she joined various writing competitions. Her commitment deepened when she became part of *The Horizon*, where she continues to grow as a campus writer, recently participating in journalism seminars such as the 15th 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!



Artwork by Ian
Catanpangas

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Published Articles, 25th Word Cup Philippines Ninth Masterclass

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Manila 25.4°C - 12:24 PM - October 16, 2023

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MANILA BULLETIN

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Manila Bulletin 3 | Lifestyle | Youth | Campus journalist weighs in on AI's double-edged role in truth and deception

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Lifestyle | Youth

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

AI, or a lie?

By MB Lifestyle

Published Jul 7, 2023 10:37 AM

Facebook X YouTube



Text by JESSTONY B. ANGEL

Cartoon by ALNICO FERNANDEZ JR.

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

AI is no longer a futuristic concept—it's here, woven into our daily routines. From drafting essays to generating images and automating paperwork, AI has become a convenient tool for many Filipinos. It's 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.

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'Bakit ngayon lang?':
Dikino raises eyebrow on



Published Articles on the 25th Word Cup Philippines

<https://mb.com.ph/2025/07/16/truth-and-trend>

'Truth and trend

The digital war for the youth's opinion

By MICHAEL JAY DEMINGOY
 Illustration by LEONAR D. FUNA

Digital footprints are now louder than street protests. Social media has become the battleground of thoughts, opinions, and ideologies, especially among the youth. Platforms like Facebook, TikTok, X, and Instagram have grown into spaces where conversations unfold, sometimes even faster than traditional news can catch up. But with this access comes a challenge: How do we ensure that what shapes our youth is rooted in truth—and not just in trends?

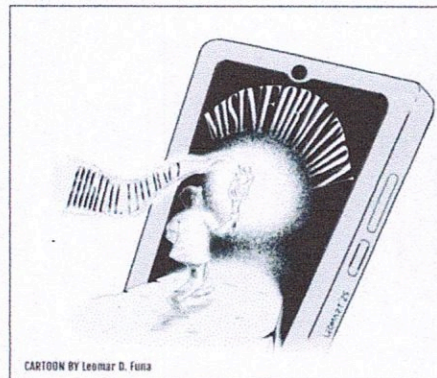
Social media has empowered the voice of the youth like never before. It has enabled them to engage in social issues, speak out against injustice, and influence conversations that once seemed beyond their reach. With just one click, they can create movements, organize protests, or advocate for change. This digital empowerment is vital, but so is the need to complement it with accountability and awareness.

In this digital age, however, the spread of misinformation, disinformation, and fake news remains a

growing and glaring threat. Opinions are often formed not solely through facts, but also through edited content, misleading headlines, and viral posts designed to provoke emotion rather than encourage understanding. It becomes increasingly difficult to distinguish verified knowledge from manipulated narratives.

In this digital war, campus journalists are among the most affected. Many still struggle to distinguish truthful information from falsehoods. They trust the sources they see until they realize they have unknowingly become messengers of misinformation. While these campus journalists are expected to be the watchdogs in their respective schools, they are bombarded with so much unfiltered content that separating fake from real information becomes a challenge.

Therefore, campus journalists must be equipped with the tools to verify sources, fact-check claims, and report issues that matter. But they cannot do this alone. For example, school paper advisers (SPAs) are not only mentors as they are also the frontline defenders of truth, tasked with guiding the youth to become vanguards



CARTOON BY Leonar D. Funa

of ethical journalism and responsible digital citizenship. The SPAs are responsible for nurturing a generation that can resist misinformation and rise above digital manipulation.

When emotions are weaponized and misinformation is left unchecked, critical thinking becomes more crucial than ever. Algorithms—systems that rank user-provided signals to determine what type of content to display—often trap users within echo chambers,

exposing them only to opinions that reinforce what they already believe. This narrow perspective threatens healthy discourse.

To maximize social media's potential, the government, schools, and communities must work hand-in-hand to promote digital literacy and access to truthful information. Although social media shapes opinions, it must not be left unchecked. In the hands of informed and conscientious



THE AUTHOR, Michael Jay Demingoy

youth, it becomes not just a platform, but a powerful instrument for change.

As critical thinkers, now is the time for us to advocate for truth in the name of transparency and good governance through access to accurate and verified information. For in this ongoing digital war, social media is shaping opinions and, ultimately, the direction of our nation.

The author is the school paper adviser of *The Hillside Echo*, the official student publication of Uklamer Christian University in Roxas City, Capiz.

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 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

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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 Sarmiento Calapit welcomes participants to the 21st Word Cup National Campus Journalism Conference and Contests at Angeles Hill, Taguig 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 Angeles Hill in Taguig 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 Hemo" on DERR 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 Paginohin, who

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

Paginohin, 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.

Paginohin 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 5 to May 11, 2024 at the Multi-Function Room, 5th Floor, Buenavista Tuna 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, dioceses, 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 Victorino Manalo graced the event and delivered a special message.

On the first day of the summit on Wednesday, UST Faculty of Civil Law Dean Nilo Divina delivered the keynote address on "Intellectual Property Law - Applicable to Ecclesiastical and Archival Record and Domain," Prof. Regalado Irota 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 Marinay 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 Joyce 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 Ayanan of the Archdiocese of Cagayan de Oro, who headed the discussion on Diocesan Archives. Meanwhile, St. Wilma Bumannabang, 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 Felvir 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 Archives Director Asst. Prof. Francis Navarro, followed by "Development of Archives and Records Management Profession and Training in the Philippines" by the Board for Librarians Chairman Yolanda Granda and "Data Privacy for Ecclesiastical Documents" by the executive assistant for the Office of the UST Secretary-General Emmanuel Batulan.

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 Barero, 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 Bontoria, OSA, as presider, 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. Terralyn 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 Natcon will lead the "SEAP Moving Forward Workshop and Planning" session.

Concluding the four-day National Summit will be a celebrated Mass with Dumaguete Bishop Jolito Cortes as the main presider 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 Yusi, will speak about "Key Higher Education Trends and Issues to Know."

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

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

Magpa 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."

Magpa University professor and Association of Education Researchers and Trainers President Jaunne Pimago will talk on "Assessing Outcomes Skills and Competencies and Providing Feedback" and Philippine Normal University professor Edrice Yeban 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**

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Quality Education through Transformational OBE!

CONTRIBUTED IMAGE

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

ANTONIO G. PAPA

MMSU prof wins Swiss Invention silver

A faculty member of the Manila Times Science Communication Office said MMSU



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

Environment News

Thursday, May 30, 2019 B-7

Co-Create, send us an email: EnvironmentMB@gmail.com

Text by JOHANNES L. CHIA

Boracay RENAISSANCE

A year after its closure, what now?



MAKING SENSE—Tourists enjoy a relaxing evening as they ride their bikes along the White Beach which has expanded from up to 25 meters from the shoreline. The photo was taken by 14th Word Cup Philippines Journalism participant/assistant editor and campus journalist from around the country under the theme, 'Prospects of a Balanced Ecology and Tourism Development: Opportunities and Challenges in Boracay and Beyond.' (Photo by Esther Sandee S. Melagata/Carpe Diem Elementary School)

There is always an expectation when it comes to Boracay. No doubt, it is the country's most famous island (or some would say, infamous) island, consistently ranking on top of most travel destinations and vacation spots. Therefore, it came as a shock to many who have been in the island that the six-month closure and rehabilitation was implemented without a second thought. Visiting Boracay once again after a year of its

April 28, 2018 closure, one can notice a striking difference. The island—especially the beachfront—is much cleaner. There is a sense of community but there are also the incessant tourists.

During the 14th Word Cup held in Boracay we invited select campus journalists—students and advisors—to show their photos and words on how they see the new Boracay. They saw hope but they also felt that the task ahead to fully heal Boracay is not yet finished.

BE HUMANS, NOT PLASTIC

Text by MARK JULIUS D. FUENTES

Malay's Municipal Ordinance No. 286 prohibiting the use of disposable plastic items among hotels, resorts, restaurants and business establishments is proof that the local government of Malay, Aklan has learned its lesson. Nevertheless, despite the six-month long 'nightmare' of businesses during the island's rehabilitation, plastics are still freely accessible in some convenience stores, convenience shops and food stalls.

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

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

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

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-

Our plastic bag habit causes environmental pollution, and so it only makes sense to start taking common sense measures to 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 'sustainable' with plastic will again transform Boracay into a dump, then we are bound to fail—wasting money, resources, effort and time.

Let us all become humans. No to plastic.

The author is a teacher at Mongpong Elementary School in Romina City, Cebu. A school paper adviser for 21 years, he is president of the Association of School Paper Advisers of School Division Office of Romina City. He is also editor-in-chief of Romina publication of DepEd Romina City.

CHALLENGING ENHANCEMENT

Text by ANNA MARIE D. PROENA

After the six months of being placed under rehabilitation, Boracay opened its doors in October of 2018. That October was indeed historic and momentous for the island as it 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 Orloff, 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

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.

The birth of the new Boracay is indeed a humongous challenge and it calls all of us to become responsible while enjoying its new life.

The author teaches English to senior high students at the Notre Dame of Cotoledo. She is the adviser of the school publication called Clarion.

DESERVING BORACAY

Text by RODRIGUEZ L. CARBON

Let us all become tourist police. Let us become information multipliers. These were the words of Dr. Al Orloff, 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 10 percent of adult population in Boracay has used technology and social media to communicate and spread information about updates and progress about the island.

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

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

has closed some establishments found to be non-compliant with regards to business permits including sanitary and environmental inspection requirements.

With all the efforts—from government and peoples' organizations—to restore Boracay to its pristine condition, there are still deterring factors such as people's resistance to change and discipline. What else can Boracay do than make the people pay for what they had served?

Boracay needs everyone's help. No matter who you are, you have a responsibility to take care of the environment. Become a responsible citizen police. Serve Boracay of what it deserves before it is once again too late.

The author is a head teacher of Mambucal Elementary School in Romina City. She is a school paper adviser and has taught English for 10 years.

SUSTAINING PARADISE

Text by MARIA JOSEPHINE A. PLEDES

At first, Boracay's sustainable tourism was a long shot. But it was worth trying and perhaps worth 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 Orloff, when asked about the state of discipline among locals and tourists, he said that it is a 'cat-and-mouse activity.'

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

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

Dr. Orloff believes that a strong and consistent law en-

forcement can sustain the program. Yet, he cautioned that we cannot have a cat-and-mouse law enforcement system. There should be ways to address other concerns such as the livelihood of ordinary vendors up to the concerns of big 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 in this island, then it can be done anywhere else in the country.

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

The Duterte administration has already started the change and it showed in how an island dubbed a 'cesspool' 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 Mambucal Elementary School in Romina City. She teaches science and health subjects and is a journalism adviser.

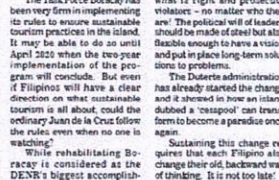
DISCIPLINE IN DEED

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



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 Maray, on the mainland where there is a regulated dump site. (Photo by Ralph Lathway Geronimo/Elagunayan National High School, Sultan Kudarat)



Climate action now

By JOHN RYAN M. JACOT

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

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

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

For instance, a 2019 United Nations report concluded that the world's oceans and ice sheets are under 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 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 excuses made against climate change are heavy chains that entangle communities as the world seeks for ecological sustainability. Stakeholders of the environment – civic groups, the government, and all of us – should pool resources toward promoting simple yet dynamic ways to address climate change as anchored in the National Framework Strategy on Climate Change.

It is best for everyone to answer the call of environmental action now, not later. Let us take it from the words of Sealbit Paillo 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?

Jacot, 22, is a HUMSS student at the Colegio de la Inmaculada Concepcion in Mandor, Cebu

EDITOR'S NOTE

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

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 efforts on combating 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 Sealbit Paillo from the Climate Change Commission, under the Paris Agreement,

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

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

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

Scientists also suggest with certainty that the issue must be addressed in bigger 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 carbon dioxide nor heat-trapping gases and global temperatures. The argument now must be beyond the portals of forests burning, coral reefs dying, and water supplies shrinking.

It is about finding tangible and sustainable mechanisms to stop the damage. We need to act together as one. We need to do it now – faster and 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 teaching school papers. He is currently teaching at Koronadal National Comprehensive High School



Write about climate change

Dr. Crispin C. Maslog, author and columnist at SoDev Net, explains to participants, composed of campus journalists and school paper advisers, how to report on climate change in the talk "Engaging Various Stakeholders in the Climate Crisis" held during the 16th Word Cup in Subic. (Photo by Jimmy A. Dominguez)

Take the first step

By RJ LANSANG

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

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

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

This is not a matter of judging who is to blame. It's a matter of do, don't, or die.

In his talk, climate change resource speaker and author of 11 books, Dr. Crispin Maslog, shared his insights and expertise on climate change.

Maslog encouraged the young journalists to use the "power of the pen" in combating climate change.

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

No classes, yehey?

By RIVELLE R. 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 Typhoon Nirmal.

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

This was supported by Sealbit Paillo from the Climate Change Commission, who underscored Maslog's point. Typically, the Philippines encounters about 20 typhoons a year. Though the typhoons visiting the archipelago have lessened in

number, they became stronger in intensity.

"Monsoons are strengthened and there are new situations we have never experienced before," said Paillo.

Paillo 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 as "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 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.

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



Learn what PH is doing vs. climate change

Participants of the 16th Word Cup interview Sealbit Paillo (head 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 28 percent of greenhouse gas emissions can reduce it further by more than half without sacrificing individual growth. Countries are being urged 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 Eugenio Amado Noel C. Calapit III of Makati Science High School)



Text by PATRICK JUBERT & DAYATO

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

Priding itself by being listed in the Ramsar Wetland of International Importance, the 175-hectare LPPCHEA is home to more than 3,000 migratory birds which consider the latter as a rest stop from tedious migration over the months of August to July.

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

Adding to that challenge, during the southwest monsoon, this critical habitat suffers from pollution due to the arrival of solid and liquid wastes, increasing the amount of oil from factories in the water. This harms 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 taking ground in the area which could affect the health of the 36-hectare mangrove



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

The people behind LPPCHEA firmly believe that the habitat could be an urban destination where visitors could be offered a unique experience. Aside from learning about the importance of nature, see migratory birds in flight, and know the impact of the presence of mangroves, this could be an ideal site for 'nature tourism'—merging the joy of tour-



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

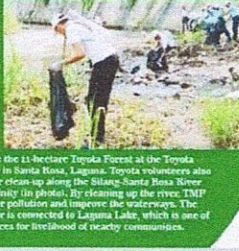
Sadly, we live in a time where considering our critical habitats as collateral to the surge of urbanization is justifiable. But on the other side of the coin, if we get rid of our apathy towards nature conservation, LPPCHEA could not only continue to provide a temporary home for migratory birds for years 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 Guadalupe National High School in Naga City.)

GREEN IS IN!

Eco responsibility

Toyota Motor Philippines Corporation (TMP) joined the Global Toyota Environmental 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 Forest at the Toyota Special Economic Zone in Santa Rosa, Laguna. Toyota volunteers also participated in the river clean-up along the Silangan-Santa Rosa River near the company's vicinity (in photo). By cleaning up the river, TMP hopes to prevent further pollution and improve the watershed. The Silangan-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 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 Atty. Allan V. Barcena, 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 planning and rescuing 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 9,023 hectares of forest land within and surrounding EDC project sites has been rehabilitated. This is equivalent to about 64 million seedlings planted all over the country in partnership with 106 farmers 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 146 stakeholder partners.