



2601-1461

Republic of the Philippines  
**Department of Education**  
REGION I  
SCHOOLS DIVISION OF VIGAN CITY

**Advisory No. 42, s. 2026**

In compliance with DepEd Order (DO) No. 8, s. 2023  
This advisory is issued not for endorsement per DO No. 28, s. 2001,  
But only for the information of DepEd Officials,  
Personnel/staff, as well as the concerned public.

**28th WORD CUP PHILIPPINES-NATIONAL JOURNALISM CONFERENCE  
AND CONTEST**

In reference to **DepEd Advisory No. 10, s. 2026**, the Word Cup Associated Editors Co. invites both public and private schools nationwide to its *28th Word Cup Philippines-National Journalism Conference and Contest*, at Ating Tahanan, Baguio City, on March 6-8, 2026.

This year's theme, "*Stories that Matter: Campus Journalism for Community and Nation*," highlights the role of campus journalism in giving voice to local narratives, promoting social awareness, and cultivating young communicators who can critically engage with issues affecting their schools, communities, and country. Through practitioner-led workshops, newsroom simulations, and rigorously judged contests, the program reinforces journalistic standards, media literacy, and ethical storytelling among learners.

The 28th Word Cup Philippines offers the following:

- Hands-on capacity-building sessions for student journalists and school paper advisers aligned with current media practices and digital platforms;
- Authentic newsroom and press conference simulations that promote experiential learning, critical thinking, and collaboration;
- Publication and showcase opportunities for outstanding student outputs that reflect community and development concerns; and
- Institutional recognition through the Word Cup Ambassadors Award for exemplary schools, advisers, and educational leaders.

The event is open for elementary, junior, and senior high school learners. Interested participants can register through the link:  
<https://bit.ly/28thWordCupPH>.

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 No. 012, s. 2025, titled *Multi-Year Implementing Guidelines on the School Calendar and Activities* and DepEd Order No. 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 DepEd Order No.66, s. 2017.



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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 DepEd Order No. 19, s. 2008, and reiterated in DepEd Memorandum No. 041, s. 2024.

For more information, please contact:

**Word Cup Associated Editors Co.**

Mobile Number: **0954-190-2247**

Email Address: [wordcup.philippines@gmail.com](mailto:wordcup.philippines@gmail.com)

Facebook Page: [facebook.com/associatededitorsco](https://facebook.com/associatededitorsco)

SGOD/HRDD/aff/ADV\_28thWordCupPhilippines  
February 9, 2026 *✓* *✓*





Advisory No. **010**, s. 2026

January 8, 2026

In compliance with DepEd Order (DO) No. 8, s. 2013  
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**Invitation to Support Schools' Participation: 28th Word Cup Philippines (DepEd Advisory Issued)**

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From Wordcup Mentor <wordcupmentor@gmail.com>

Date Tue 20/01/2026 14:17

To Wordcup Mentor <wordcupmentor@gmail.com>

2601-1461 E

 2 attachments (2 MB)

DepED CO Advisory No. 010, s. 2026 28WordCup.pdf; 28th Word Cup Invitation - SDS.pdf;

You don't often get email from wordcupmentor@gmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

Dear Schools Division Superintendent,

Warm greetings.

We respectfully inform your good office that the **Department of Education – Central Office has issued an advisory** in support of the **28th Word Cup Philippines – National Journalism Conference and Contest**, to be held on **March 6–8, 2026 in Baguio City**.

In this regard, we respectfully invite the Schools Division Office to **encourage interested schools and campus journalism advocates** to participate in this national learning activity, which provides practitioner-led training, newsroom simulations, and values-driven journalism development for students and school paper advisers.

We respectfully seek your consideration to **allow participating schools, at their discretion, to charge legitimate participation-related expenses to their respective MOOE**, subject to existing accounting, auditing, and local approval rules. This will help ensure equitable access for deserving student journalists and advisers.

We would be grateful for your support in endorsing this activity through your **journalism supervisors and school heads**, should you find it aligned with your division's learning and literacy priorities.

Further details, including the DepEd advisory, program, and guidelines, are attached.  
Registration link: [bit.ly/28thWordCupPH](https://bit.ly/28thWordCupPH)

Thank you very much for your continued leadership in supporting campus journalism and learner development.

Respectfully yours,

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

Executive Director

Word Cup Philippines

 [wordcup.philippines@gmail.com](mailto:wordcup.philippines@gmail.com) |  0954 190 2247





15 January 2026

**Dear Superintendent:**

Warm greetings!

Good news. The Department of Education – Central Office has issued an advisory encouraging schools nationwide to participate in the **28th Word Cup Philippines – National Journalism Conference and Contest**, happening on **March 6–8, 2026 in Baguio City**.

The conference theme, ***"Stories that Matter: Campus Journalism for Community and Nation,"*** highlights the role of campus journalism in giving voice to local narratives, promoting social awareness, and cultivating young communicators who can critically engage with issues affecting their schools, communities, and the country. Through practitioner-led workshops, newsroom simulations, and rigorously judged contests, the program reinforces journalistic standards, media literacy, and ethical storytelling among learners.

For decades, Word Cup Philippines has become one of the country's longest running and most trusted platform for the training and recognition of campus journalists, school paper advisers, and student publication leaders. The conference is designed to strengthen journalism as both a skill and a civic responsibility, emphasizing storytelling that is grounded in community realities, public service, and national development.

Recent Word Cup conferences have drawn thousands of participants from across the regions, providing immersive learning experiences such as live press briefings, writing laboratories, editing clinics, and multimedia storytelling workshops. Participating schools benefit not only from student achievements and national recognition, but also from strengthened institutional capacity in communication, literacy, and creative learning.

The **28th Word Cup Philippines** will offer:

- \* **Hands-on capacity-building sessions** for student journalists and school paper advisers, aligned with current media practices and digital platforms
- \* **Authentic newsroom and press conference simulations** that promote experiential learning, critical thinking, and collaboration
- \* **Publication and showcase opportunities** for outstanding student outputs that reflect community and development concerns
- \* **Institutional recognition** through the Word Cup Ambassadors Award for exemplary schools, advisers, and education leaders

In view of the DepED's continuing thrusts on literacy development, 21st-century skills, values formation, and civic engagement, we respectfully request **cascading this information** to schools, and if possible, explore funding options through their **MOOE or SEF or Training funds**, which support various learning and development initiatives.

Registration details, program overview, and guidelines are provided in the attached materials. Interested participants may also register through <https://bit.ly/28thWordCupPH>, and direct inquiries to [wordcup.philippines@gmail.com](mailto:wordcup.philippines@gmail.com) and 0954-190-2247. Updates are likewise available through our official 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



## 28th Word Cup Philippines

### Indicative Matrix of Activities\*

6 March 2026 (Friday)			
4:00-5:00 PM	Arrival of participants; Distribution of IDs, kits and t-shirts		
7 March 2026 (Saturday)			
7:00-8:00 AM	Distribution of IDs, kits and t-shirts		
8:00-11:30 AM	Opening Program & <b>Press Conference</b>		
11:30 AM – 12:45 PM	<b>Lunch</b>		
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 <b>deadline</b> for <b>NW, FW and EDW</b> 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	<b>Workshop</b> (MJ, PJ, SP)		
6:00 PM	Output <b>deadline</b> for <b>MJ, PJ and SP</b> participants		
8 March 2026 (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 <b>deadline</b> for <b>STW, CHW and EC</b> participants		
10:15- 12:00 NN	Watercolor Wellness		
12:00-1:30 PM	<b>Lunch</b>		
1:45-5:00 PM	<b>Awarding Ceremony</b> <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 7 March 2026](#). Participants arriving in Baguio City on [6 March 2026](#) can claim their IDs, kits and shirts from 4:00 to 5:00 PM at the venue.



## 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

**Overnight accommodation on March 7 is *included* BUT 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 February 2026** (to allow time for production)





<b>28th Word Cup Philippines</b> <b>Participation Fee per person</b> <b>(includes overnight accommodation for March 7 only)</b>	
<b>Early bird</b> <i>Payment made on or before 15 February 2026</i>	<b>₱6,500</b>
<b>Regular</b> <i>Payment made from 16 February 2026 onwards</i>	<b>₱7,000</b>
<b>Meals</b> 7 March – AM and PM snacks, Lunch and Dinner 8 March – Breakfast, AM snacks, and Lunch	
<b>Transportation <b>NOT</b> included</b>	
<b>Additional night accommodation without meals – P1,000/person</b>	
<b>Participation fees may be deposited to:</b> 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.**





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Published Articles, 27<sup>th</sup> Word Cup Philippines  
<https://bit.ly/WordCupYearenderDailyTribune>



NATION

## Word Cup's fight vs disinformation through experience



FILED BICOL Saro Rep. Terry Ridon comments on HRA incident. Photo from the House of Representatives.

Alvin Marcia

Published on: 12 Jan 2026, 8:00



As misinformation floods social media and trust in institutions wavers, Word Cup Philippines is doubling down on experiential journalism — training students not just to write, but to question, verify, and serve the public.

As jubilant students in crisp school uniforms lined up for registration at the storied Plaridel Hall of the National Press Club, it was clear this was no ordinary campus activity. Press credentials were issued, notebooks opened, and cameras readied. Moments later, the announcement came: participants in the news, editorial, and feature writing categories were to prepare for an actual press briefing.

This was Word Cup Philippines at work — where journalism is not taught as theory, but practiced in real time.

Professional journalists and seasoned reporters attended not merely to cover the event, but to mentor the next generation of truth-tellers. Instead of inspirational national issues: flood control controversies, political dynasties, and governance questions — raised directly with a sitting lawmaker.

Representative Terry Ridon of the Bicol Saro Partylist was met not with scripted questions, but with sharp, no-holds-barred inquiries from students as young as 12. It was journalism stripped to its essentials: curiosity, courage, and accountability.

The press briefing offered participants and school publication advisers a rare chance to step into the shoes of working reporters — covering live issues, framing questions, producing stories, and defending facts under deadline pressure.

This experiential learning model is Word Cup's signature, and one that even the Department of Education and the Commission on Higher Education may find both relevant and effective in upskilling young communicators.

In an era shaped by artificial intelligence, disinformation, and content shortcuts, Word Cup insists on something radical: original thinking, clear writing, and verified reporting. Outputs are evaluated not just for style but for substance, ensuring that ideas are organized into coherent arguments grounded in facts.

Now in its 27th season, Word Cup has become a national microcosm of perspectives, bringing together students and advisers from across the Philippine archipelago to engage with issues that matter — from governance and the environment to science and community journalism.







**Published Articles, 25<sup>th</sup> Word Cup Philippines Ninth Masterclass**

<https://www.facebook.com/share/p/16fQ42s8pV/>

MANILA BULLETIN

# Lifestyle

## YOUTH

B-S | TUESDAY, JULY 15, 2025

EDITORS: REY ROBERT ILAGAN AND KRIZETTE CNU  
ASSOCIATE EDITOR: JOHN ROLAND LEGASPI

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manilabulletinlifestyle

VOICES

## The youth must practice digital discernment

Scroll, think, decide

By MA. WILFRED M. CAMARA  
Senior Lecturer, College  
Basic Education Department

**Q** "Why, yes?"  
"Why not?"  
"What do you mean?" "Why do they exist with this?"

These are the questions beginning, brain cells and minds whenever we are asked about a hot topic. Some, none of you share yours?

In a world where technology is rapidly evolving, the youth are especially 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. It's not the end, less "fun" they provide spending time on these apps. " doom scrolling" may seem enjoyable, as you're entertained without paying a cent.

Social media is a platform where not only can you connect and connect with friends and loved ones, but also access boundless and unlimited 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 vlogs come in on YouTube, as long as you have



The author

internet access. The possibilities are endless. It can be a helpful tool to research 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 trouble starts to unfold. People are easily influenced, especially those who are quick to let their guard down. With the "right" amount of opinion and the presence of "right" data, anyone can be swayed. This fuels the spread of misinformation and the abuse 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 a number of engagements, something inside them may start to shift. Picture this: A teen is challenged about a certain debate and responds upon a post with two over-the-top 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 with hearing your own opinion matters. Read it and use 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 Belmont  
Kayan Garman



According to Pew Research Center, 95 percent of teens worldwide use social media apps. That means 95 percent can scroll through TikTok, with a high potential chance of being influenced through engagements, that industry is fueled by influence. Thanks to algorithms that tailor content for each user, it's like a tailored game you face every day where you ask yourself, "the real?" then end up agreeing with the post simply because it says facts to sound "real" and "familiar."

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

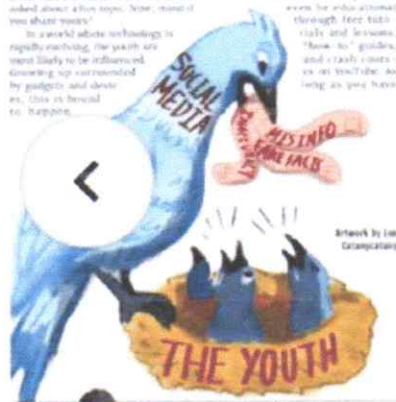
In a world where technology is rapidly evolving, the youth are especially likely to be influenced, growing up surrounded by gadgets and devices, this is bound to happen.

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

Ma. Wilfred M. Camara is a student journalist for The Horizon, the official student publication of Ateneo de Manila University. She is also a member of the Journalism Department. She has been a journalist since she was 15, beginning in elementary where she joined various writing competitions. Her commitment deepened when she became part of The Horizon, where she continues to grow as a campus writer, currently pursuing a journalism minor such as the 25th Word Cup held in Manila.

"Voices" is Manila Bulletin's lifestyle 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 [voices@manilabulletin.com.ph](mailto:voices@manilabulletin.com.ph) with the subject line "Voices (Article Title)" or send it to a physical address: Manila Bulletin, 25th Word Cup, 25th Kalayaan Avenue, Fort Bonifacio, Taguig City. We can't wait to read your stories!



Artwork by Lou  
Catacombs

EXPLORE MORE

## Published Articles, 25<sup>th</sup> Word Cup Philippines Ninth Masterclass

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Manila Bulletin | October 16, 2023

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# MANILA BULLETIN



Philippines World Business Opinion Lifestyle Entertainment Sports

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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 10:07 PM on October 16, 2023

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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 Diokno raises eyebrow on...





## Published Articles on the 25<sup>th</sup> 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 DOMINGOS  
Illustration by LEONAR D. FERRA

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?

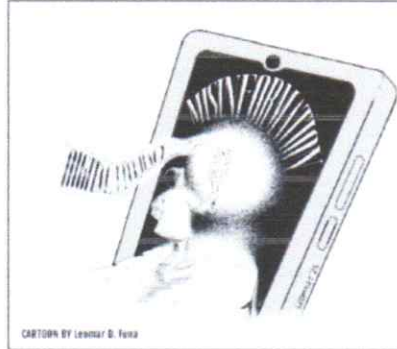
Social media has empowered the voice of the youth like never before. It has enabled them to engage in social issues, speak out against injustice, and influence conversations that once seemed beyond their reach. With just one click, they can create movements, organize protests, or advocate for change. 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 can not 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. FERRA

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 Domingos

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 Rubicube Lab*, the official student publication of Xavier Christian University in Roman City, Cagaitan.



## Published Articles on the 21<sup>st</sup> Word Cup Philippines

Inquirer: Uptrend in science museums investment to benefit DepEd learners

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# Uptrend in science museums investment to benefit DepEd learners

INQUIRER.NET | 02:27 PM May 10, 2024



Dr. Eugene Torres (2nd row, 3rd from left) presides over the 21st Word Cup Associated Editors Co. welcomes some 130 campus journalists to the 21st Word Cup National Journalism Conference and Contests at Angeles 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


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### Sample Workshop Output of Previous Word Cup Masterclass

[illegible]

**BE HUMANS,  
NOT PLASTIC**

Test by MARK J. JUSI &amp; FRANCES

slaps municipal Ordinance No. 388 prohibiting the use of disposable plastic bags at hotels, resorts, restaurants and business establishments is proof that the state will force government of Maui, which has feared its tourism-dependent economy, to take action. Maui is also cracking the island's restaurant plastic bags and has already taken on some tough terrain, "communities such as first class hotels and ending on the beach to the beach." Maui is also cracking the island's restaurant plastic bags and has already taken on some tough terrain, "communities such as first class hotels and ending on the beach to the beach."

But microorganisms don't eat harm plastic bags and can cause, including bio-films aquatic animals through ingestion and entanglement." Even when plastic bags are broken down, the plastic you are on is another chemical that get into the acceptance with long-term negative effects.

According to the Department of Environment and Nature Resources, the plastic industry has improved by 100% in correct but someone admit that the ban is just a form of suggestion as single-use plastics are still

known to be more degradable or reusable items.

Climate change and ecological degradation are global problems for which there are no simple or single solutions. On the contrary, with plastic will again transform. "Because later used to a sharp, then we are bound to find: saving money, resources, effort and time."

Plastic is plastic.

The author is a teacher at Honggang Elementary School in Puzos City, Guizhou, a school

Toussaint or not, we have to understand that it is our duty. Borecky fully said, we must be disciplined. If the government has prohibited smoking, drink-

## DESERVING BORACAY

**DESERVING  
BORACAY**

**THE UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO**

**L**et us all become tourist police. Let us become information misologists. These were the words of Dr. Al Gerbasi, the Deputy Ground Area Supervisor of the EPA, who has closed some establishments found to be non-compliant with regards to hazardous permits including sanitary and environmental inspection requirements.

Coordinator of the DENN Network, said these three towns are the largest responsible tourists in the world because they share the rehabilitation of the island.

A reliable survey reported that 52 percent of adult population in Boracay has used technology and social media to communicate and spread

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.

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



**MOTHER AND CHILD** - Both local residents, they do their duty of picking up litter left by tourists along Disney's famous White Beach. To them, this is their way of showing their love for their island. For the most, it is teaching kids the importance of maintaining cleanliness. (Photo by Abby R. Laines, Division of Recreation)

'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.'

## CHALLENGING ENHANCEMENT

TEST BY ANNA MARSE D. PROHENA

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

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 oil-related problems. It also entails a joint effort with the moderators and even tourists and businessmen. This can be done by showing the set of rules, by being a responsible tourist and by helping spread the positive effects of oil-related tourism.

Dr. Al Croffe, the Deputy Ground Commander at the DENR National Task Force Boracay said that the sustainability of the rehabilitation should not fall solely on the shoulders of

Sustaining the positive effects of the cleanup of Bercy

## SUSTAINING PARADISE

DOI: 10.1002/for

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

It has been months now since the reopening of Bora-bora after its six-month rehabilitation. Changes are evident: Wider beachfront, quieter at-

Dorsey'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 world.

The Task Force Bureau has

be a very firm in implementing its rules to ensure sustainable tourism practices in the island. It may be able to do so until April 1995 when the two-year implementation of the provisions – no matter wise they are. The political will of leaders should be eroded much less after flexible enough to have a vision and put in place long-term solutions to problems.

The Duterte administration has already started the changes and it showed in how an island dubbed a "nazi-pool" can transform to become a paradise once

While rehabilitating Boracay is considered as the DENR's biggest accomplishment in 2005, venture on another

Dr. Gerbasi believes that a strong and consistent law is the answer to the problem.



**DISCIPLINE IN DICES** Foodstuffs lining up to segregate trash in color-coded bins spread in one of Boracay's popular destinations in Station 2. The local campaign for solid waste management seems to have caught on since government allowed commercial businesses to reopen in the island. (Photo by Eugene Sonay O. Cadapit)



**CARRIAGE COLLECTOR.** Garbage collectors load segregated trash on a municipal truck which the day after to-door collection starts off from 2 a.m. up until they finish their task. The truck will be headed to Malay, on the mainland where there is a regulated dump site. (Photo by Rupa Anthony Coomaras-Rajamugam National High School, Nallur Kallidai)



## Climate action now

By JOHN RYAN M. JACOT

**W**orsening global temperatures. Rising sea levels. Melting ice sheets. Drying forest fires. The signs of an environmental crisis called climate change are around us and its effects mean a real impact that endures to the ecological sphere and disrupt the dynamics of ecosystems.

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

However, despite the 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 threat with sea level rise already accelerating in many regions. Its failure would be difficult to contain without immediate and sustained ecological action.

In addition, a 2018 report from PAGASA revealed that there will be an increase in annual mean temperature within a large area of the country by 2050. 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 21 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), the 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 climate move against climate change are better than that of climate communities in the world such as ecological sustainability.

Stakeholders of the environment – civil groups, the government, and all of us – should pool resources toward providing simple yet effective ways to address climate change as enshrined in the National Framework Strategy on Climate Change.

It is best for everyone to answer the call of environmental action now, not later. Let us take it from the words of Sealán Pádraic 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."

Anybody ready to take action now?

Just, it is a **CLIMATE** student of the College de

in Immediate Consequence in Marikina City

### EDITOR'S NOTE

During the 14th Word Cup held in Subic, campus journalists and school paper editors all over the country converged to learn about journalism, writing, 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 few of the best ones. — **Johnnie L. Chao**

## No one is spared

By JOHNATHAN M. ENRIQUETA

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

A lot of people say they are aware about climate change but actually most of them actually only know little 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 Sealán Pádraic 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, agencies, and strategies 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 warning that the issue must be addressed in bigger perspective to gain global attention. Climate change must be given top priority 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 person of forests burning, coral reefs dying, and water supplies shrinking.

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

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



**Write about climate change**

Dr. Orsolin C. Manog, senior and columnist at StarView.net, speaks to participants, composed of campus journalists and school paper editors, how to report on climate change in the talk "Engaging Various Stakeholders in the Climate Crisis" held during the 14th Word Cup in Subic. (Photo by Jemmy A. Domagala)

## Take the first step

By RI LANSANG

**N**umerous 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.

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

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

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

In his talk, climate change resource speaker and author of *Islands*, Dr. Orsolin Manog, shared his insights and expertise on climate change.

Manog 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." Manog 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 editor of Columbian College (Barnaulo campus) in Zamboanga.

## No classes, yehey?

By JESSIE D. 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 Cante have only attended their classes twice. Since their Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday classes have been suspended due to intense 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 more and they would be putting their hopes up to hear a word from their governor or mayor.

However, this frequent mental seems to be just a glimpse of a bigger picture. Dr. Orsolin Manog, 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 Sealán Pádraic from the Climate Change Commission, who underscored Manog's point. Typically, the Philippines experiences about 20 typhoons a year. Though the typhoons making the headlines have lessened in

number, they became stronger in intensity.

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

Pádraic 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 Manog. He then "changed" the term climate change to make it not only a "climate crisis" but more as a "climate catastrophe."

"It (climate change) has become a threat to the survival of man," warned Manog.

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

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



**Learn what PH is doing vs. climate change**

Participants at the 14th Word Cup interview. Sealán Pádraic (second from left) of the Climate Change Commission to clarify how the Philippines plans to contribute a margin 5.12 percent, versus not to China's 20 percent and the U.S. 15 percent or greenhouse gas emissions are reduced further by more than half without sacrificing industrial growth. Countries are racing against time to limit rising global temperatures due to the greenhouse effect. Reducing the additional greenhouse gas footprint can lead to moderate threat of sea level rise of 100 to 200 meters due to the contraction melting of polar ice. (Photo by Eugene Amado Wood C. College III of Mahabang High School)



D-6 MANILA BULLETIN

## Environment News

Thursday, August 1, 2019



**Saving a critical wetland to promote ecotourism**

# HAVEN IN THE METRO

Text by **FRANCIS JURENT B. BAYASO**

When the busy concrete jungle that is Metro Manila, we would not expect to find a haven for migratory birds. This area is called the Las Pintas Port of Call, a small but significant urbanized place could still spare some space for environmental causes.

Proving itself by being listed in the National Wetland Inventory (NWI), the 175-hectare LPPCHIA is home to more than 1,000 migratory birds which consider the water as a rest stop from tedious migration over the months of August to July.

However, with urbanization creeping just right as no distance, ready to take over the water-laden wetland, how much time do these birds have to enjoy this habitat?

Adding to that challenge, during the construction phase, this critical habitat suffers from pollution in the form of soil and silt runoff, increasing the amount of sediment in the water. This hampers the birds' use of the water as a food source for the birds that come from as far as Australia, Siberia and Japan.

It is also important to note that infrastructure development is going on in the area which could affect the health of the 16-hectare mangrove



**MANILA BAY**  
LPPCHIA  
Las Pintas  
Mangrove



Deborah Felicia, 16, a student at LPPCHIA, said they also help protect the cleanliness of the habitat as it is also their source of livelihood. They can earn an average of two to three pesos per day by using their nets. (Photo by Jimmy A. Dominguez)



The impact of urban expansion towards the country's economy is undeniably significant. Urbanization results in the growth of a modern, dynamic, and more equitable economic growth. But should this prosperity be at the expense of the environment?

The people of LPPCHIA 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, one can enjoy the view of the water, and the impact of the presence of nature, this could be a great place for urban tourism.



A group of people, including children and adults, are gathered around a body of water, observing birds. A map of Manila Bay is overlaid on the image, showing the location of LPPCHIA.

**Urbanization entails with it the promise of increased employment, stronger international ties and a more equitable economic growth. But should this prosperity be at the expense of the environment?**

With the heavy of urbanization, one's life and resources to promote equality must be an end result. Such, we live in a time where considering our critical habitats as a source of income is a challenge. But on the other side of the coin, if we get rid of our agency towards nature conservation, LPPCHIA could not only continue to provide a temporary home for migratory birds, but years to come but also become a thriving example how environmental conservation can exist with urbanization.

(The author is an English teacher at Orlino High School in Marikina City.)

## GREEN IS IN!

**Eco responsibility**

Toyota Motor Philippines Corporation (TMPC) joined the Global Toyota Environmental Month through a series of activities that raise awareness on environmental conservation. The main activities and experiences from the Toyota Suppliers Club (TSC) played 180 days inside the 16-hectare Toyota Forest at the Toyota Agri-Exhibition Zone in Santa Rosa, Laguna. Toyota volunteers also participated in the river clean-up along the Nipa-Nipa River near the company's vicinity (in photo). By cleaning up the river, TMPC hopes to prevent further pollution and improve the watershed. The Nipa-Nipa River is connected to Laguna Lake where it 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 professional leader Energy Development Corporation (EDC) whose 2019 governing agency program has won the best corporate social responsibility (CSR) project in environment at the League of Corporate Foundations 1st CSR Guild Award.

EDC is the first corporate-led forest restoration program that has been bridging forest gaps and helping to restore the forest's natural environment.

This recognition is a big honor for us because it comes from our peers who have their own CSR programs as well," said Mr. Alan V. Becerra, 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 recovery for more than 40 years. In 2018, the company launched EDC's 2019 program by using science in planting and restoring threatened native trees. A total of 10 threatened native tree species have been prioritized for this search and rescue program as these numbers have been dwindling, with some even believed to be extinct.

In 2017, EDC launched a program to restore these threatened native trees and human propagating them in 2018 through its Vegetative Material Reproduction (VMR) technology, which mimics our forest's natural environment in two automated nurseries located in Valenzuela, Nagasaki and in Lito, Metro Manila.

Moreover, around 1,200 hectares of forest land in and around EDC project sites has been rehabilitated. This is equivalent to about 1.4 million

seedlings planted all over the country in partnership with 100 farmers across the country. These farmers are involved in helping EDC grow and maintain its forest area.

EDC's 2019 program aims to, with the right combination of vision, strategy and partnerships, the triple bottom line of environmental, social, and economic transformation in a sustainable way.

Another good example of successful strategic partnerships is the 10 Million Trees in 10 Years for a Greener Nagasaki (10M10Y) project, one of the results in the 1st CSR Guild Awards/Outstanding CSR Collaboration Project category. EDC is in it to promote that EDC initiated in 2018 to grow back the forests in Nagasaki Island by planting, growing, and maintaining 10 million trees in 10 years.

As of 2018, 10M10Y has already planted over 6.7 million trees with the help of its 10 stakeholder partners.