

PHILIPPINES SET TO LAUNCH 1ST INTERNET SATELLITE



President Ferdinand R. Marcos, Jr. poses for a photo after witnessing the agreement signing between Philippine firm Orbits Corp. and California's Astranis Space Technologies in San Francisco in the United States. (Photo courtesy: RTVM)

President Ferdinand R. Marcos, Jr. witnessed the signing of a landmark collaboration, \$400 million agreement between Philippine firm Orbits Corp. and California's Astranis Space Technologies during his visit to San Francisco, USA.

The agreement involves the deployment of the country's pioneering internet satellites next year to further boost connectivity across its 7,107 islands.

The two MicroGEO satellites, projected to provide coverage for 10 million users in remote areas, will be the first dedicated internet satellites for the Philippines.

The main advantage of satellite communication is that it works in rural areas—satellite internet doesn't require phone lines, cable, or other infrastructure to function. Instead, a small satellite dish on a home can connect people to the internet.

Also, satellite connectivity has the power to drive communications advances across a broad range of industries and geographies.

Bridging the Digital Divide

"This partnership will help bridge our digital divide and foster our digital transformation," President Marcos said.

The satellites aim to deliver broadband connectivity across underserved barangays and rural communities lacking reliable access. By reaching unconnected Filipinos, the program can spur wider digital adoption.

The program is projected to create more than 10,000 jobs for direct and indirect employees and partners, and generate \$400 million in investment in the next eight years.

Empowering Through Tech

Philippine Ambassador to the US Jose Manuel Romualdez remarked, "The selection of the name 'Agila' or the Philippine eagle holds deep significance, embodying the project's unwavering commitment to empowering the Filipino nation through the expansion of access to the digital world."

Collaboration for Climate Resilience

Alongside the satellite deal, the Department of Science and Technology also inked an agreement with ATMO Inc. to develop an AI-based weather forecasting system to boost climate change resilience.

"ATMO and the Department of Science and Technology's (DOST) partnership on an AI-powered weather forecasting system will help the Philippines build its climate resilience," Marcos said.



A satellite Ground Receiving Station (GRS) facility in Quezon City. (Photo courtesy of Department of Science and Technology-Advanced Science and Technology Institute)

Partnerships like these underscore the potential of technological collaborations to uplift sectors from agriculture to education. As the Philippines pursues its digital transformation, closing the connectivity gap will uplift the lives of millions of Filipinos.

Moreover, as the Marcos administration prepares for the launch of the country's first dedicated internet satellites, this emerging technology opens new possibilities to bridge the digital divide. But how exactly does the internet from space work?

Beaming Signals From Orbit

Satellites equipped with internet capabilities orbit the Earth at altitudes up to 35,000 km. They act like wireless towers in space, receiving signals from ground stations and beaming coverage across wide areas below.

Advanced satellite designs use high frequency bands like Ka-band that avoid interference and boost bandwidth. A network of multiple satellites provides continuous overlapping coverage as devices switch connections.

Two-Way Transmission

User terminals on the ground with small satellite dishes wirelessly connect to the satellites passing overhead. Signals travel at the speed of light between the user and the satellite which then routes the data to and from the wider internet.

Global, All-Weather Access

The view from orbit allows satellites to provide consistent coverage across vast regions, oceans, and remote terrain where cable infrastructure is impractical. Satellites work in any weather and provide mobile connectivity.

However, latency caused by the signal round trip can lag behind cable. Optimized network infrastructure and new generations of low earth orbit or LEO satellites help significantly cut lag.

Boosting Rural Access

For developing countries like the Philippines with an archipelagic landscape, satellite fills connectivity gaps, benefiting rural citizens and industries like agriculture.

As satellite makes strides in bandwidth and affordability, it is an increasingly viable option for universal internet access and a digital society. (PIA-NCR)

DELIVERY OF SOCA



Provincial Administrator Alvin S. Mojica delivered the much-anticipated State of the Children's Address (SOCA) during the 2023 Dasmariñas Youth Convergence at National College of Science and Technology (NCST) Multipurpose Hall, City of Dasmariñas on November 10, 2023. The address was a comprehensive overview of the accomplishments and initiatives undertaken by the provincial government of Cavite to ensure the welfare and development of Caviteño children.

PA Mojica began his address by highlighting the province's commitment to prioritize the well-being and growth of its youngest citizens. The focus on children is a testament to the provincial government's dedication to fostering a nurturing environment that enables each child to reach their full potential.

Key point of the address was the presentation of the accomplishment report, showcasing the strides made in various sectors impacting children's lives. Survival, Development, Protection and Participation rights of children were among the areas emphasized in the report.

In the realm of survival rights, the provincial government through the Cavite Provincial Council for the Protection of Children (PCPC) address the fundamental needs of children, including access to proper nutrition, shelter, and medical services. Recognizing the significance of these necessities is crucial in elevating the quality of life for the younger generation, ensuring they have the foundation to thrive and contribute positively to society. SOCA also shed light on the developmental rights of children. PCPC strives to ensure that every child is granted their rights to progress in various aspects of life through good health, education, spiritual life, culture, and sports.

Furthermore, under the protection rights, PGC tirelessly advocates and implements programs that aimed at safeguarding the youth from all forms of abuse, neglect, and exploitation.

And lastly, provincial government is continuously fostering active participation of Caviteño youth in various community and national activities to enhance the capabilities of the young generation.

The State of the Children's Address painted a positive and hopeful picture of the future for Caviteño children. The accomplishments showcased in the report demonstrate the provincial government's unwavering dedication to creating an environment where every child can thrive. It was evident that the commitment to the well-being and development of Caviteño children will remain a top priority for the province in the years to come./POC

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MANILA, Philippines — President Marcos joined over 17,000 children from selected shelters and orphanages around the country for the second Christmas gift-giving day at Malacañang yesterday. In his speech, Marcos recalled that his late father and namesake also had similar Christmas gatherings for children at the Palace during his presidency. "You know, when I was your age, my father was the president. So, every Christmas this is what we do here. Now, of course we are high-tech, we're not only having a merry Christmas and gift-giving here at the Palace, but in different places in the Philippines so that all our children can feel Christmas," the President told over 1,700 children at Malacañang in Filipino. ADVERTISING "We all know that Christmas is really about the children. And we always have a merry Christmas when the children have a good Christmas," he said. "That's really what the Christmas spirit



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PUBLIC SCHOOLS TO PLANT 236,000 TREES NATIONWIDE

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GO NEGOSYO HOLDS FIRST YOUTH MENTORING EVENT

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CHINESE JETS SHADOW PHILIPPINE AIRCRAFT IN WEST PHILIPPINE SEA

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“Navigating the Holidays: Filipino OFWs Facing the Dual Challenge of Distance and Holiday Inflation”

As the Christmas season draws near, a significant portion of the Filipino population eagerly anticipates the joyous festivities that come with the holidays. However, for our Overseas Filipino Workers (OFWs), this year's celebration brings forth a unique challenge – the struggle to bridge the gap of distance compounded by the burden of holiday inflation.

The dedication and sacrifices of our OFWs, who work tirelessly abroad to provide for their families back home, are commendable. Their remittances have been a lifeline for many households, sustaining livelihoods and ensuring access to education and healthcare. Yet, as they extend themselves across borders to send love and financial support, the specter of holiday inflation looms large, creating an additional hurdle for these modern-day heroes.

Holiday inflation, characterized by the rise in prices during the festive season, poses a dual challenge for OFWs. The cost of goods and

services traditionally surges as Christmas approaches, stretching the purchasing power of remittances. While OFWs strive to make the season special for their families, the economic impact of inflation threatens to diminish the value of their hard-earned money.

The global economic repercussions of the ongoing pandemic have further intensified the struggle. Many OFWs faced job uncertainties, reduced incomes, or even unemployment. As they navigate through these challenging times, the added pressure of ensuring a joyful Christmas for their families becomes an even more arduous task.

This Christmas, it is crucial for us to acknowledge and empathize with the predicament of our OFWs. Their sacrifices extend beyond the physical distance that separates them from their loved ones – they also face the economic challenge of making every remittance count amidst rising prices. As a nation, we must rally to support policies that address inflation and ensure that

the fruits of our OFWs' labor retain their value, especially during the holiday season.

Government initiatives, financial literacy programs, and support services can play a crucial role in assisting OFWs in navigating the impact of holiday inflation. Furthermore, employers and recruitment agencies must be mindful of the economic challenges faced by OFWs and actively work towards providing stable employment and fair compensation.

This Christmas, let us extend our gratitude not only for the financial support our OFWs provide but also for their resilience in the face of economic challenges. Together, as a nation, we can work towards creating an environment where the sacrifices of our OFWs are acknowledged, their efforts appreciated, and their families can enjoy a meaningful and joyous holiday season without the undue burden of holiday inflation.

-Ang Kabitenya

President...

it means – when we are surrounded by children who are chaotic, noisy, playful – but happy, that's what matters,” the President said.

Marcos and First Lady Liza Marcos rode a trackless train with some children to the venue at the Kalayaan grounds. As the President alighted from the vehicle, other children came forward to greet and shake his hand. Some of the young guests were also seen hugging Marcos while he was going on stage, where he and the First Lady distributed blue bags containing gifts for the kids.

Aside from food, inflatable slides were also set up inside the Palace grounds. The nationwide gift-giving day dubbed “Balik Sigla, Bigay Saya” was organized by the Office of the President through the Social Secretary's Office. There were 1,120

children from Metro Manila who received the early Christmas gifts, 449 in Cebu, 600 in Davao, and over 14,867 children in other satellite centers across the country.

The Department of Social Welfare and Development, with the support of partners, including Jollibee and San Miguel Corp., also organized the simultaneous celebration in over 250 locations nationwide. Tree lighting ceremony Marcos also led the Christmas tree lighting ceremony at the Kalayaan grounds in Malacañang on Saturday evening. The traditionally outdoor event was held indoors because of rain.

The ceremony included members of the Cabinet, as they were serenaded by Filipino music icon Jose Mari Chan, who performed “Perfect Christmas” and “Christmas in our hearts.”

De Lima...

MANILA, Philippines — Former senator Leila de Lima has called for the investigation into former Justice chiefs Vitaliano Aguirre II and Menardo Guevarra after the Court of Appeals ordered the Office of the Ombudsman to act on her complaints against the two.

De Lima secured another legal victory as the CA reversed the Ombudsman's dismissal of her complaints against Aguirre and Guevarra over the government's use of convicted criminals as state witnesses. The court voided the notices issued by the Ombudsman, citing “lack of due process.”

In a statement Sunday, the former justice chief of late President Benigno “Noy” Aquino III welcomed the development. “With the reversal of the Ombudsman dismissal by the CA, I expect the Ombudsman to now conduct a full investigation of both Aguirre and Guevarra,” De Lima said.

De Lima added that Guevarra, who currently serves as the solicitor general, should at least be required “to answer the administrative aspect of the case and defend his role in propping up criminal convicts as state witnesses even if they are disqualified from being granted immunity under the law.”

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A NEW FOUNDATION FOR CONDUCTIVE LEARNING

SM Foundation turns over new school building in Batangas



Inside one of the newly built classrooms donated by SM Prime Holding, Inc. (SMPHI), through SM Foundation.

Over 21 million students have enrolled for the school year 2023-2024, with Region 4A logging the most enrollments at over three million. The school year was also met with challenges as the country reported a classroom deficit, reaching 159,000.

San Antonio Elementary School (SAES), situated in one of Batangas' most populated municipalities, has been affected by the longstanding challenge of classroom shortage.

“Sa sobrang dami po ng aming estudyante, hindi po namin maprovide ang accommodation na narapat para sa mga bata. Meron po kaming 1,550 learners last school year at 21 classrooms—kaya't kulang po talaga kami ng 22 classrooms,” SAES Principal Joy Obreo said.

SAES utilized class shifting to be able to still fulfill their duty of honing the minds of Filipino youth. However, this, too, posed a problem.

“Ang shifting of classes po kasi namin ay nagarun po from 6am to 6pm. ‘Yung six hours po kasi ng bata, kulang na kulang para magkaroon ng sapat na interaction ang students at teachers,” she stated.

“Malaki po yung challenge sa amin, since ‘yung bata, kailangan gumising ng maaga. Pag nale-late sila ay magkakaroon na agad ng gap sa learning na dapat maituturo sa kanila. ‘Yung dapat po naibibigay sa mga mag aaral, hindi po talaga kinakaya,” she raised.

Building a new tomorrow one school at a time



DepEd and SM group representatives led by SM Foundation Executive Director for Education Programs Carmen Linda Atayde and School Building Head Juris Soliman as they mark the official turnover of the school building.

SM Prime, through SM Foundation, improves education in the Philippines by constructing new school buildings. SM group's school building program has contributed to the resolution of educational woes, hoping to improve the quality of learning.

As an active partner of the Department of Education's Adopt-A-School Program, SM Foundation turned over a two-floor, four-classroom school building to SAES. Each of the classrooms is well-equipped with armchairs, including left-handed ones, wall fans, and concave whiteboards.



Students of SAES begin using the new facilities and learning equipment, including a concave whiteboard.

Promoting inclusivity, the building is equipped with PWD-friendly facilities—from ramps to accessible restrooms with handrails. SM Foundation also set up a reading nook in an area with high student traffic to encourage learning.



SM Foundation installed a reading corner to help encourage learning and interest in reading among SAES students.

SM Foundation also strategically installed a handwashing facility accessible to the SAES community. The foundation aims to protect students and staff from infections, foster a more conducive learning environment, and promote lifelong healthy habits.

With a new school building, SAES can end class shifting for sixth graders and have smaller class sizes, taking a step towards providing a more engaging and effective learning environment.

“Instead na ang pasok nila ay pang six am to 12 noon, magiging 7 am to 3 pm na po sila. Magkakaroon na po sila ng sapat na oras para sa intervention activities kagaya ng reading, numeracy, at iba pa,” Principal Joy happily shared.

“Mahalaga po itong mga intervention activities po natin dahil dito po natin natututukan ang mga estudyante na nagkakaroon ng challenges during regular classes. So during the intervention program, they will have the opportunity to catch up and better understand the lectures,” she added. **/PR**

SM SUPERMALLS TO SPEARHEAD ANNUAL JOB FAIRS IN SELECT MALLS NATIONWIDE

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SM Supermalls, in partnership with the Department of Labor and Employment (DOLE), Public Employment Service Office (PESO), and Local Government Units (LGUs), will hold job fairs across SM malls from November 29 to December 11, 2023. The initiative aims to provide employment opportunities for job seekers and contribute to the government's ongoing efforts to alleviate unemployment in the country.

On November 29, the Job Fair will take place at SM City Lucena, followed by SM City Legazpi on December 1. Additionally, the Job Fair will be held on December 2 at SM Cagayan de Oro (CDO) Uptown and SM City Tuguegarao, on December 7 at SM City Iloilo, on December 8 at SM Seaside City Cebu, and on December 11 at SM City Olongapo Central.

These job fairs welcome all job seekers, including fresh graduates, returning Overseas Filipino Workers (OFWs), and those exploring new job options. DOLE has extended invitations to various companies, ensuring a diverse range of job opportunities.

Throughout the job fairs, attendees can submit their resumes and undergo initial interviews with participating companies. Some companies may even extend on-the-spot job offers, providing qualified applicants with immediate employment opportunities.

Since 2008, SM Supermalls has collaborated with DOLE in hosting job fairs.

“At SM Supermalls, we're committed to fostering meaningful connections between job seekers and employers. Our goal is for SM to be recognized as more than just a shopping destination but also as a dynamic job fair matching area, where career opportunities flourish,” said SM Supermalls' President Steven Tan.

The event celebrates DOLE's 90th Founding Anniversary with the theme ‘DOLE 90th Anniversary, Serbispong Mabilis at Matapat sa Bagong Pilipinas.’ It is supported by the Private Sector Advisory Council (PSAC) Jobs Group, the Philippine Chamber of Commerce and Industry (PCCI), and the Employers Confederation of the Philippines (ECOP). **/PR**

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EDUCATION: A LEVERAGE FOR LIMIT-LESS ASPIRATIONS

SM Foundation's scholarship program empowers dreams of youth



Aljon Laborte (center) with his proud family during his graduation in 2015.

"I strongly believed that through education, I could hope for a better life for us. So, I prayed to God to grant me a college scholarship." Aljon started, recalling how his mother worked hard to make ends meet after his father's tragic loss in the 2008 MV Princess of Stars capsizing. The now-Certified Public Accountant (CPA) shared that through his SM scholarship, he was able to study at a prestigious university and remained motivated to chase his goals.

"My scholarship from SM Foundation turned my once impossible dreams into reality. It paved the way for my academic success and professional development... It lifted the burden of thinking about where I'd get money for tuition and allowance, which helped me focus on my studies," he added.

It was in 2015 when he proudly graduated Cum Laude from the National University-Manila. While it has been years, the ripples of kindness from his scholarship still reverberate in his heart, inspiring him to spread social good.

He currently works part-time at his alma mater, wanting to give back and inspire the next generation to pursue their professional aspirations and strive hard in their studies. He also volunteers at their community church, contributing his professional skills to improve their financial reporting and help with transactions and regulatory compliance.

As Aljon progresses in life, he takes joy in repaying his mother for the sacrifices she made for their family. Though there are more things he wishes to provide, he's content with what they have now, savoring the things they once only dreamed of, like travelling, meeting their needs without worry, and having the freedom to celebrate special moments.

"Education opens the door to boundless opportunities. I'm glad that I didn't give up on my education and that SM Foundation found me and believed in my potential.. Sabi nga nila, 'malayo pa, pero malayo na.' There are still plenty of things we hope to achieve in life, but one thing's for sure: we've come a long way," he said.

Turning dreams into achievable goals

Following the footsteps of Aljon is aspiring CPA and fellow SM scholar-alum Joyce de Guzman. She is one of the 397 scholars from batch 2023, set to be honored at SM Foundation's presentation of graduates event.

Much like Aljon, Joyce is a driven and visionary student, who clearly knew that education would allow her to fully realize her dreams: become a CPA and be able to give back to her family.

"My friends, who were all top students, informed me about SM Foundation's college scholarship program. This has ignited a flame of determination within me. I was driven to be one of them, not just for personal fulfillment but also to alleviate the financial strain of higher education on my family and myself," she said.

Recalling what she felt when she got in, "This scholarship represented a beacon of hope that solidified my path towards a future where my dreams can soar unburdened by financial constraints."

Through the scholarship, Joyce was able to fully focus on her studies and set up the foundations of her career through an internship program that paved her professional and personal enrichment. As a bonus, she was a consistent awardee and graduated with academic distinction.



SM scholar alumna Joyce de Guzman, an aspiring CPA.

As she takes a step closer to her dreams, the aspiring alumna remains grateful to those who made this a reality: her family who believed in her dreams and SM Foundation that accompanied her throughout her academic journey.

"When I applied for the scholarship, we were

struggling financially. It was difficult to make ends meet because only my dad worked. My older brother had to stop studying to help support us. But even though things were tight, my family knew that education was important, so they supported my dream of going to college," she shared her inspiration.

"Now, the scholarship has empowered me to pursue my dream of becoming a CPA and has paved the way to ward financial stability for myself and my family. I am also excited to continue growing both professionally and personally. Someday, I hope to have the opportunity to support other aspiring students' dreams of pursuing higher education, the same way SM Foundation believed in mine," she concluded.

HOPE IN FARMING TAKES ROOT IN URBAN COMMUNITIES

SM Foundation marks graduation of Urban Gardeners



Some of the KSK farmers in Manila harvest the vegetables in SM City San Lazaro's urban garden.

The once niche practice of urban gardening is now gaining ground in various cities across the country through SM Foundation's Kabalikatan sa Kabuhayan (KSK) on Sustainable Agriculture Program.

Through the program, SM Foundation has successfully trained 27 farmers in SM City Urdaneta Central and 19 others in SM City San Lazaro on Urban Gardening. For weeks, the farmers cultivated vegetables in the midst of city spaces—from SM Supermalls' own rooftops to community plots.

In addition to the comprehensive lectures on farming in an urban landscape, SM foundation and its partner schools included topics on the basics of entrepreneurship and principles of SM group founder Henry Sy, Sr. These were done to empower them to take control of their livelihoods, generate more income, and contribute to economic development.



SM group representatives from SM City Urdaneta Central and SMFI Asst. Vice President Cristie Angeles join the Harvest Festival.

Homemaker empowered to take on new role



Homemaker and aspiring entrepreneur Mheryll Ignacio completes SM Foundation's KSK training.

Mheryll Ignacio, one of the KSK graduates in SM City San Lazaro, had a new-found power after finishing the program.

"Gusto ko po talagang matuto ng iba't ibang paraan para kumita. Ang asawa ko po ay isang mekaniko, pero nakadepende po ang kita niya sa dami ng nagpapagawa ng sasakyan sa araw-araw," she shared why she was always looking for ways to earn and support her family. Excited and happy, she joined the KSK without hesitation as soon as she learned about it from their barangay leaders.

She was confident that she could always provide healthy meals for her family despite rising food prices, as she could rely on the urban garden she cultivated with her community.



"Katulad ngayon, napaka mahal ng bilihin. Kung may alam ka sa pagtatanim, meron at meron kang pagkukunan. Pag tumataas ang bilihin, hindi ka masyadong mag aalala dahil kampante ka't alam mong meron kang pananim na masasandalan," she said.

"Maganda pa dahil masustansya ang maipapakain mo para sa pamilya mo," she added.

Mheryll also said that the training served as the bedrock of her goals. Beyond enhancing her role as a more informed mother, KSK empowered her to embrace entrepreneurship, enabling her to stand as an additional provider for her family. "Higit sa lahat, puwedeng pwede mo rin ibenta 'yung mga inani mo," she started, sharing that she was already able to sell their harvest to their neighbors.

"Dahil dito, nagkaroon ako ng power na tumayo sa sarili ko dahil meron akong alam na alternatibong pangkabuhayan ng aming pamilya. Bilang isang ina, nagkaroon ako ng kakayahang makapagtaguyod sa aming pamilya," she said.

As she reaps the fruits of KSK, Mheryll hopes to pass on her urban gardening knowledge to other mothers in their community: "Gusto ko rin pong yakagin sila at sabihin na masayang magtanim lalo na pag nalaman niyo kung paano ito gawing pangkabuhayan."/>

/PR

Chinese.....

US conducts freedom of navigation trip in SCS

MANILA, Philippines — Aircraft from China's People's Liberation Army (PLA) shadowed Philippine aircraft that participated in the joint Philippine-Australia drills in the West Philippine Sea (WPS) over the weekend, according to Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) chief Gen. Romeo Brawner Jr.

In an interview yesterday, Brawner said the Chinese jets that shadowed an A-29B Super Tucano from the Philippine Air Force provided the only noteworthy moment in the joint exercises. When asked how the joint patrol exercise with Australia was going, the AFP chief said everything was going "OK," with no untoward incidents.

"There were two Chinese jet fighters that circled our plane. They just circled," Brawner added in Filipino. The Philippine aircraft, he said, was shadowed by the two Chinese jets while it was flying in the vicinity of Hubo Reef.

"There was shadowing (of our plane) in the maritime (patrol), and in the air," Brawner said. He said that the Super Tucano was able to finish its air and maritime patrol mission as laid out in its flight path, despite the shadowing done by the Chinese aircraft. Brawner said that no Australian aircraft was shadowed by the Chinese PLA jet fighters. "No, none. Only ours," he said.

Col. Xerxes Trinidad, AFP Public Affairs Office chief confirmed with defense reporters yesterday that "two Chinese fighter jets were monitored orbiting the PH' A-29B Super Tucano at the vicinity of Hubo Reef," and that the Philippine aircraft "continued on its flight route without untoward incident."

Brawner said, "We are just practicing our right to conduct patrols jointly with our allies and partners in furtherance of promoting the rules-based international order. So, while doing the joint maritime and air patrols, we are following the international laws like UNCLOS (United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea), rule of law, etc."

The AFP earlier said that

two Philippine Air Force A-29B Super Tucanos — a light attack, combat and reconnaissance aircraft — joined the Philippine-Australia Maritime Cooperation Activity with the Australian Defense Force over the weekend.

US conducts freedom of navigation operation United States Navy destroyer USS Hopper asserted navigational rights and freedom in the South China Sea (SCS) near the Paracel Islands, the US Indo-Pacific Command (USINDOPACON) said, calling the freedom of navigation operation consistent with international law. At the conclusion of the operation on Friday, the USS Hopper exited the excessive claim area and continued operations in the SCS.

"This freedom of navigation operation upheld the rights, freedoms, and lawful uses of the sea recognized in international law by challenging restrictions on innocent passage imposed by the People's Republic of China, Taiwan, and Vietnam," USINDOPACON said in a statement.

China, Vietnam and Taiwan each claim sovereignty over the Paracel Islands. All three claimants require either permission or advance notification before a military vessel or warship engages in "innocent passage" through their territorial sea, in violation of international law. Under customary international law as reflected in the UNCLOS, the ships of all states — including their warships — enjoy the right of innocent passage through a territorial sea.

It said that the unilateral imposition of any authorization or advance-notification requirement for innocent passage is unlawful. "By engaging in innocent passage without giving prior notification to or asking permission from any of the claimants, the United States challenged these unlawful restrictions imposed by the PRC, Taiwan, and Vietnam. The United States demonstrated that innocent passage is not subject to such restrictions," it said.

Unlawful and sweeping maritime claims in the SCS pose a serious threat to the freedom of the seas,

including the freedom of navigation and overflight, free trade and unimpeded commerce, and freedom of economic opportunity for SCS littoral nations. The US challenges excessive maritime claims around the world regardless of the identity of the claimant. Customary international law reflected in the 1982 UNCLOS protects certain rights, freedoms and lawful uses of the sea enjoyed by all nations.

Washington said "the international community has an enduring role in preserving the freedom of the seas, which is critical to global security, stability, and prosperity."

The US upholds freedom of navigation for all nations as a principle. "As long as some countries continue to claim and assert limits on rights that exceed their authority under international law, the United States will continue to defend the rights and freedoms of the sea guaranteed to all. No member of the international community should be intimidated or coerced into giving up their rights and freedoms," it added.

"US forces operate in the South China Sea on a daily basis, as they have for more than a century. They routinely operate in close coordination with like-minded allies and partners that share our commitment to uphold a free and open international order that promotes security and prosperity."

Washington emphasized that all US operations are conducted safely, professionally and in accordance with customary international law, noting that the operations demonstrate that the US will fly, sail and operate wherever international law allows — regardless of the location of excessive maritime claims and regardless of current events.

PCG towing, water cannon exercise Meanwhile, representatives from the Japan Coast Guard (JCG) observed the five-day towing and water cannon exercise conducted by the Philippine Coast Guard (PCG) from Nov. 20 until Nov. 24.

In a statement, the PCG said JCG-Mobile Cooperation representatives observed the freedom of navigation and overflight, free trade and unimpeded commerce, and freedom of economic opportunity for SCS littoral nations.

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PCG towing, water cannon exercise Meanwhile, representatives from the Japan Coast Guard (JCG) observed the five-day towing and water cannon exercise conducted by the Philippine Coast Guard (PCG) from Nov. 20 until Nov. 24.

In a statement, the PCG said JCG-Mobile Cooperation representatives observed the freedom of navigation and overflight, free trade and unimpeded commerce, and freedom of economic opportunity for SCS littoral nations.

The US challenges excessive maritime claims around the world regardless of the identity of the claimant. Customary international law reflected in the 1982 UNCLOS protects certain rights, freedoms and lawful uses of the sea enjoyed by all nations.

Washington said "the international community has an enduring role in preserving the freedom of the seas, which is critical to global security, stability, and prosperity."

Public....

MANILA, Philippines — Public schools in the Philippines will plant 236,000 trees on Dec. 6 as part of the Department of Education (DepEd)'s Christmas project, according to Vice President and Education Secretary Sara Duterte.

In a Nov. 17 memorandum, Duterte said that 47,678 public schools would be in asynchronous mode for the tree-planting activity, in which one school would plant at least five trees.

Duterte said the trees should be planted within school grounds but if space is scarce, schools may find alternatives in local parks, marine protected areas or any open space near schools.

ADVERTISING "The project provides a unique educational opportunity for students to actively participate in tree planting activities, fostering a deeper understanding of environmental issues and promoting conservation efforts.

Through hands-on learning and practical application of environmental concepts, students will develop a strong sense of responsibility towards the environment," the memorandum read.

To implement the project, Duterte ordered all DepEd regional offices to coordinate with the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) to acquire seedlings for each school in their region.

She said the seedlings must be fruit-bearing, Philippine native trees or mangroves for schools within coastal areas. If the regional DENR office cannot provide seedlings, schools may use seedlings from their nurseries or request from the local government.

Duterte noted that participants should be not more than 10 teachers and not more than 20 students.

Go Negosyo ...

From Page 1

MANILA, Philippines — Go Negosyo held its first entrepreneurship mentoring event "YOUTHPRENEUR" at the SM City Fairview in Quezon City on Nov. 25.

The entrepreneurship advocacy group reported that 17 schools from the National Capital Region and hundreds of senior high school students were mentored by veteran entrepreneurs and successful businessmen.

"At our public entrepreneurship events, I notice that we are getting more young attendees who are keen on starting their own business," said Go Negosyo founder Joey Concepcion.

"We are fortunate that the Department of Education is supporting us, and we are now exploring ways to institutionalize this training so that it becomes part of the school curriculum in primary education," he added.

Vice President and Education Secretary Sara Duterte sent her message of support for YOUTHPRENEUR, saying the event "serves as a beacon of hope and opportunity for young Filipinos, igniting their passion for entrepreneurship and providing them with the tools and resources they need to transform their ideas into reality."

Angkas chief executive officer George Royeca said time management is an important skill mastered by successful entrepreneurs.

Content creators Kween Yasmin and Hiraya Filipina CEO Cleo Loque also shared their experiences as businesswomen in their 20s.

Before the event, students were asked to select a specific sector they were interested in pursuing business before they were matched with veteran mentors to guide them through the process of starting a business and what steps they should take to pursue their entrepreneurship dreams. /PHILSTAR.COM

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CROSSWORD

A DIFFICULT DIVERSION By Timothy E. Parker

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65									66			67		
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freedailycrosswords.com

ACROSS

- 1) Old sorcerer
- 5) It's waved before musicians
- 10) Bounce back, in a way
- 14) Milky birthstone
- 15) ancient Greek marketplace
- 16) Blooper
- 17) It's attractive in cartoons?
- 20) Many French immigrants
- 21) It plays it
- 22) Under a doctor's care
- 23) Some widths for printers
- 24) Harangue
- 27) Some deer
- 29) Anklebone
- 32) Intense anger
- 33) "Right there, that's it"
- 36) Private, as information
- 38) Old-fashioned mode of transportation
- 41) Birthright
- 42) 'Neath counterpart
- 43) Important time
- 44) "You did _ nice job"
- 46) Dutch cheese
- 50) Detonating device
- 52) Smartphone program
- 55) Contraction before "seenworse"
- 56) Crumb on a dinner table
- 57) It prevents embarrassment
- 60) Activity seen at Pimlico
- 63) Miscellaneous assortment
- 64) Mysterious ancient letters
- 65) "Bus Stop" playwrightWilliam
- 66) Unskilled working stiff
- 67) Daisy variety
- 68) They are chipped on golfcourses

DOWN

- 1) Angora coat
- 2) Classic Harlem venue
- 3) Use mouthwash, e.g.
- 4) "... or _!"
- 5) It holds water
- 6) Horrified
- 7) Warner Bros. creation
- 8) Assayers' subjects
- 9) '60s conflict site
- 10) "Doctor Dolittle" actress Samantha
- 11) Participating in a certain line dance
- 12) Farmer's tool
- 13) Many a time
- 18) "... he drove out of sight"
- 19) Under debate
- 24) Engine supercharger
- 25) Heavy cart
- 26) Slippery sea creature
- 28) Bombay dress
- 30) Sleeper's breathing problem
- 31) Trailed no one
- 34) Ancient goddess of fertility
- 35) Got wind of
- 37) Shrek, e.g.
- 38) "Catch!"
- 39) Handel bars?
- 40) Cause of wrinkles
- 41) Cool, old-school
- 45) Servile servant
- 47) Kind of inspiration
- 48) Exact retribution for
- 49) Integrates
- 51) Improper lighting?
- 53) As such
- 54) Letters of pressure
- 57) Imitation, as fur
- 58) Unflattering facial marks
- 59) Mine entrance
- 60) Bounce
- 61) "Bravo, bullfighter!"
- 62) Generic family nickname

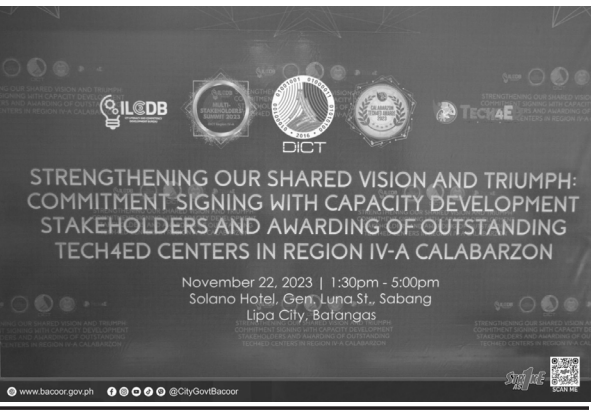
CITY OF BACOOR NEWS

Bacoor Computer at Tech4Ed Center, Binigyang parangal sa ginanap na Multi-Stakeholders Summit at Tech4Ed Awards 2023



Nakamit ng Bacoor Computer at Tech4Ed Center ang ikalawang puwesto bilang "Outstanding Tech4Ed Center 2023" sa prestihiyosong pagkilala sa ginanap na Multi-Stakeholders Summit and Tech4Ed Awards na inorganisa ng Department of Information and Communications Technology (DICT) Region IV-A kahapon, November 22, sa Salona Hotel, Sabang Lipa City, Batangas. Ang pagkilala na ito ay masayang tinanggap ni Vice Mayor Rowena Bautista-Mendiola kasama sina MIS/E-Governance Department Head Lodge Asuncion at BCC Supervising Officer Michelle F. San Gabrielle, sapagkat patunay lamang ito ng kanilang natatanging kontribusyon sa pagpapalaganap ng kaalaman sa teknolohiya at digital literacy sa rehiyon. [/bacoor.gov.ph](http://bacoor.gov.ph)

Garden City – Grand Launching



Last week's solution:

A DIFFICULT DIVERSION By Timothy E. Parker

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66	67	68	69	70	71	72	73	74	75	76	77	78



November 25, 2023 — Isinagawa ang Grand Launching ng Garden City noong Sabado sa Bacoor Talaba Diversion Road ng Brgy. Zapote III. Sinimulan ang seremonya na may makabuluhang motorcade, misa, ribbon cutting, blessing of showroom at ang paglalagay ng capsule. Layunin ng Garden City na makapagbigay ng bagong oportunidad sa serbisyo, trabaho at negosyo sa mga residente ng Bacoor. Nagbigay-pugay at nagpakita ng buong pu-song suporta sa nasabing okasyon sina Mayor Strike B. Revilla, Congresswoman Lani Mercado Revilla, at Sen. Mark Villar. Dumalo rin sina, G. Jardin Wing (Chief Operation Officer, Golden Bay Landholdings) kung saan kasama niya rin ang mga kasapi ng Shareholders ng kumpanya. [/bacoor.gov.ph](http://bacoor.gov.ph)

MEDICAL AND DENTAL MISSION IN MARAHAN I, ALFONSO



The provincial government of Cavite, thru the collaboration of the Office of the Provincial Governor-Extension and Office of the Provincial Health Officer, conducted a medical and dental mission in Barangay Marahan I, Alfonso on November 14, 2023, serving a total of 241 patients. GEAMH medical professionals led by Dr. Anna Maureen Reyes-Villamar and Dr. Sherwin Victa, together with Jeannie Z. Lizardo and Azaleah Masicap, rendered the free medical consultation and check-ups. Simultaneously, the dental team composed of Dr. Mary Ann G. Montenegro, Dr. Cristina J. Lim, and Dr. Raymond Mendoza, along with the invaluable support of Ms. Lilibeth Nahine and Ms. Reyliza F. Rom, provided dental check-ups, extraction and wide range of treatments to improve oral health of the community. Of the 241 patients served, 195 availed the free medical services while 46 individuals received free dental extractions. They also received maintenance medicines, multivitamins and mosquito repellent-lotion from the medical mission staff. The mission's success was a result of the collaborative effort of the Triskelion Marahan I Chapter, under Dexter Jay Estopin and Bryan Lee Pagkaliwangan's leadership, partnered with Barangay Chairman Marte V. Alvarez, and the local government unit of Alfonso. They expressed their gratitude to the provincial government for providing these services to their community. **OFFICE OF THE PROVINCIAL INFORMATION OFFICER**

PARENT SUMMIT: NURTURING CONNECTIONS FOR LIFELONG LEARNING



The Office of the Provincial Population Officer in cooperation with the Provincial Government of Cavite Employees and Community Multipurpose Cooperative (PGCE-CMPC), orchestrated a meaningful parent summit on November 10, 2023 at the Ceremonial Hall of the Provin-

CAVITE BNS GENERAL ASSEMBLY, A CONVERGENCE OF DEDICATION, GLAM AND TALENT



cial Capitol in Trece Martires City, where parent-leaders from municipalities of Naic, Indang, Rosario and Cities of General Trias and Trece Martires gained profound learnings, meaningful exchanges and connections. Ms. Lorena R. Cron, Chairperson, PGCECMPC, welcomed the participants, setting a positive tone for the event. The activity resonated with inspirational messages from Ms. Rose Adlawan, Project Manager of Family Planning Organization of the Philippines (FPOP), Ms. Angelina C. Bergonio, General Manager of PGCECMPC, Ms. Karen De Jesus, Grievance Officer, and Mr. Ariel G. Jarin, Provincial Population Officer I, each emphasizing the significance of open communication in fostering strong parent-child relationships. Parenting, as underscored during the speech of Ms. Anna Viela V. Amparo, Provincial Population Officer I, was portrayed as a lifelong journey and commitment.

The summit also featured a livelihood training session with Ms. Venus Romerosa. Attendees learned the techniques in preparing longganisa, hamonado, tocino, skinless, and lumpiang shanghai, enhancing the culinary skills and potentially opening economic avenues. Adding a touch of excitement, a raffle draw was included during the event, creating a sense of community and shared celebration for the participants. Open communication is the cornerstone of effective parenting, making it a lifelong pursuit and responsibility. The event not only educated but also empowered parents, reinforcing the idea that nurturing connections with their children is a continuous, evolving process. **OFFICE OF THE PROVINCIAL INFORMATION OFFICER**

BRIGHT SMILES, BRIGHT FUTURES COMMUNITY PROGRAM



The Province of Cavite was one of the beneficiaries of "Bright Smiles, Bright Futures" Community Program of Colgate Palmolive Philippines, Inc., with the objective of reducing the occurrence of dental caries and periodontal disease through "Preventive First Approach" that includes oral health awareness, habit development and fluoride application. Through the Oral Health Cluster of the Office of the Provincial Health Officer, the program was launched on November 8, 2023 in Alfonso, in cooperation with the Municipal Social Welfare and Development Office and the Municipal Health Office. Alfonso Mayor Randy A. Salamat, Sangguniang Bayan members, MSWDO Head, Ms. Gina T. Vedan, and Child Development Workers graced the activity which benefited one hundred fifty-nine children. Aside from the oral health awareness lecture presented by OPHO dentist Dr. Cristina J. Lim, all the children who participated in the program also received dental kits and topical fluoride application, provided by the Oral Health Cluster head, Dr. Mary Ann G. Montenegro, together with Dr. Suzette Y. Pulido, Dr. Raymond J. Mendoza, Dr. Merrie Lourd T. Adina, Dr. Anthony A. Asis, assisted by dental aides Ms. Lilibeth B. Nahine and Ms. Reyliza F. Rom. Municipal Health Officer, Dr. Ma. Cecilia N. Sargento and MHO staff, also conducted medical check-up. In CaLaBaRZon, only the provinces of Cavite and Quezon were granted with 1000 dental kits and 10 tubes of fluoride per city and municipality. **OFFICE OF THE PROVINCIAL INFORMATION OFFICER**

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