

La Salle, UST capture UAAP basketball titles



MANILA – De La Salle University claimed the UAAP Season 86 men’s basketball title after beating the University of the Philippines (UP), 73-69, in deciding Game 3 of their title series at the Smart Araneta Coliseum on Wednesday night.

Kevin Quiambao, who was named the Finals Most Valuable Player (MVP), finished with 24 points, highlighted by four triples, along with nine rebounds, four assists, and

two steals, two assists, and one block.

Francis Lopez chipped in 12 points, nine rebounds, four steals, three blocks, and three assists, while Harold Alarcon added 10 points for UP, which won Game 1 (97-67).

“I’m so grateful and honored to be a part of this amazing group of guys. Also, we have to credit the coaches who came before me and built this team. They’ve done a tremendous job and I’m just so grateful for these guys that were with me throughout the season. Can’t thank enough also the coaches,” Gren Archers head coach Topex Robinson said.

Robinson joined an elite list of La Salle coaches who won the title in their first year, consisting of Franz Pumaren, Juno Sauler, and Aldin Ayo.

Meanwhile, the University of Santo Tomas rallied in the fourth quarter and banked on Angelina Villasin’s fastbreak layup to capture the women’s title after 17 years.

Villasin delivered the crucial basket in

the last 11.8 seconds as the Growling Tigresses dethroned the National University (NU) Lady Bulldogs, 71-69, in Game 3 of their best-of-three title series.

UST took Game 1, 76-72, while NU won Game 2, 72-70.

Reynalyn Ferrer, named Finals MVP, finished with 19 points, 14 rebounds, two steals, and one block for UST, which rallied from a 47-61 third-quarter deficit to claim its 12th title.

Season 85 MVP Kristine Cayabyab led NU with 18 points and four rebounds.

“I’m really at a loss for words. I’m really so happy for the girls, they did it. We were down big, 15 points, I told them don’t give up, stick together, let’s do it little by little until the fourth quarter, and NU gave us a lot of chances to catch up,” UST head coach Haydee Ong said. “We made good stops in the last one minute. I think that spelled the difference, the heart of my players that didn’t give up even when they were down 15,” the former national team mentor added. (PNA)



Ugnayan sa Barangay continues in Cavite province



A round of Cavite provincial government’s Ugnayan sa Barangay was held in Barangay Acacia 1 in Silang, Brgy. Julugan I in Tanza, and in the municipality of General Mariano Alvarez, led by Governor Jonvic Remulla. The event, held on November 28, 30 and December 1, 2023, featured the distribution of rice and financial assistance to fortunate residents.

The cooperative effort between the provincial government and local officials aimed to strengthen community bonds, providing a platform for residents to engage and voice their opinions on

CAVITE GREENING PROGRAM



It reached 350 fruit bearing and forest trees erected by the government in conjunction with the celebration of Cavite Arbor Day in Barangay Maharlika, Tagaytay city last December 1.

According to the Cavite Office of the Provincial Environment and Natural Resources (OPENRO), this is part of the conservation and rehabilitation efforts in Taal Volcano Protected Landscape (TVPL).

It was also attended by personnel from different government agencies, PGC Employees and Community Multipurpose Cooperative, Philippine National Police (PNP), Philippine Army, Non-Government Organization (NGO), private companies, and officials of the city government of Tagaytay. | via C Cavite Provincial Information Office

MPTC’s 2024 Happy Holideals: Over P5 Million Worth of Prizes Await Lucky Motorists!



VP Sara supports NTF-ELCAC despite stand vs. peace talks with Reds

PhilRice kickstarts A-B-K-D campaign for food security, healthier food options

Cayetano nangakong tututukan ang mga suliranin ng transport groups sa gitna ng modernization



NIA agrees to allocate excess irrigation water to Cavite

Provincial World AIDS Day Celebration 2023: “Let Communities Lead”

The Provincial World AIDS Day Celebration for 2023 concluded with an inspiring two-day event held at the GMA Complex in General Mariano Alvarez, Cavite. With the overarching theme of “Let Communities Lead,” the celebration brought together diverse voices, highlighted the importance of education and advocacy, and fostered camaraderie among participants.

The event commenced with a spirited kick-off parade, setting the tone for a series of impactful activities. Dr. Armand Dotollo of the Office of the Provincial Health Officer (OPHO), in his welcome remarks, emphasized the pivotal message of educating, eradicating, and advocating the fight against HIV/AIDS.

Ms. Jacinta Remulla, Founder of Reyna ng Turismo in Cavite, delivered an inspiring message, urging the LGBTQ community to support her campaign in promoting HIV awareness. G.M.A. Sangguniang Bayan member Estelita Manalang, Chairperson of the Committee on Health, shared a powerful message aimed at spreading



awareness about HIV. Vice Mayor Percival Cabuhat delivered a rallying call, stating, “No one will care about us except ourselves.”

Seventeen local government units (LGUs) from Cavite took part in the event, and all attendees received certificates of participation. The eagerly awaited Muse competition featured 17 contestants, with Ms. Tanza claiming victory, demonstrating talent and grace.

An orientation and briefing of players set the stage for the volleyball games tournament, featuring intense competition

among participating LGUs. The City of Dasmariñas claimed the championship, with the City of Bacoor securing first place, GMA, Cavite, earning the second place, and Silang in third place, receiving cash prizes of Php 15,000.00, Php10,000.00, and Php7,000.00, respectively. In addition to the cash awards, the winners were presented with trophies and medals, encouraging continued dedication and excellence.

The 2023 Provincial World AIDS Day Celebration not only highlighted athletic prowess

but also underscored the crucial role of communities in advocating for HIV awareness and support. Cavite OPHO with the assistance of the GMA Municipal Health Office also provided free HIV testing to all the participants.

Ending on a positive tone, the celebration showcased the community’s dedication to combating HIV/AIDS collectively. Beyond raising awareness, the event honored the unity and teamwork crucial for building a healthier and better-informed society. - Amy C. Cabrera

LANDBANK supports ACEN’s RE projects with P20-B loan



(front) LANDBANK President and CEO Lynette V. Ortiz (right) and ACEN President and CEO Eric Francia (left) lead the signing of a P20-Billion loan agreement to fund ACEN’s general corporate requirements and investments in renewable energy projects on 29 November 2023 in Makati City. Joining them (from L-R) are ACEN Chief Finance and Compliance Officer Maria Corazon Dizon, Treasurer Cecile Cruzabra, and Head of Corporate Finance Juan Martin Syquia, alongside LANDBANK Senior Vice Presidents Lucila E. Tesorero and Ma. Celeste A. Burgos.

MAKATI CITY – The Land Bank of the Philippines (LANDBANK) approved a P20-billion loan to ACEN CORPORATION (ACEN)—the listed energy platform of the Ayala Group—in support of the National Government’s thrust to expand the country’s mix of renewable en-

the share of renewable energy in the country’s power generation mix from the current 22% to 35% by 2030.

LANDBANK President and CEO Lynette V. Ortiz and ACEN President and CEO Eric Francia formalized the loan agreement on 29 November 2023 at the Ayala Triangle Gardens, Makati City. They were joined by ACEN Corporation Chief Finance and Compliance Officer Maria Corazon Dizon, Treasurer Cecile Cruzabra and Head of Corporate Finance Juan Martin Syquia, alongside LANDBANK Senior Vice Presidents Ma. Celeste A. Burgos and Lucila E. Tesorero.

“LANDBANK is proud to collaborate with ACEN, as we continue to build strategic partnerships to address the impact of global warming

and climate change in the country. More than just a loan agreement, we see this partnership as an important step that supports the greening of our energy sector,” said LANDBANK President Ortiz.

ACEN has ~4,500 MW of attributable capacity from its owned facilities in the Philippines, Australia, Vietnam, Indonesia and India, with a renewable share of 98%, which is among the highest in the region.

This year, ACEN allocated up to P50 billion to continue growing its renewable energy portfolio.

LANDBANK’s loan to ACEN underscores the Bank’s thrust of promoting sustainable finance and environmental protection, while funding key economic development sectors to help address the consequences of climate change.



Vice President Sara, Concepcion Sign MOA to Promote Entrepreneurship Among Youth

The Department of Education (DepEd) signed a Memorandum of Agreement with non-profit organization Go Negosyo last November 27, 2023 to promote entrepreneurship and agriculture among the Filipino youth through various programs and initiatives. Vice President and DepEd Secretary Sara Duterte and Go Negosyo founder Joey Concepcion signed the MOA during the non-profit's 18th anniversary celebrations in Makati City.

The programs outlined in the MOA aim to promote an entrepreneurial mindset among Filipino youth, build skills through mentorship, increase financial literacy, raise agricultural awareness, cultivate entrepreneurial skills in agriculture, and facilitate industry connections for mentorship. The programs and initiatives include the school garden project called "Pampaaralang Taniman ng mga Agribida (PTA)," a public entrepreneurship mentoring event called "Youthpreneur", and "Mentoring the Mentors," which will train teachers in teaching basic entrepreneurship concepts in the classroom.

The Vice President noted how an innovative mindset among the youth will be key to achieving a truly progressive nation, highlighting how the MOA strengthens the DepEd's MATATAG agenda, and how it enables the youth to identify opportunities for creating wealth and respond to social and economic changes.

Vice President Duterte also noted how agriculture is one of the strongest backbones of wealth creation. "We want to inspire a generation of agricultural leaders," she said, outlining how, with the help of private sector, high school students can be introduced to basic agriculture concepts, school gardens can be established, and make possible the cultivation of cash

crops using school sites. "School gardens provide a platform for communities to come together, work toward a shared goal and promote healthy eating habits," she said.

"Public-private partnership has had a lot to do with the success of Go Negosyo," said Concepcion. Already, the organization has organized the country's biggest agriculture companies under its KALAP (Kapatid Angat Lahat sa Agri Program) initiative to harness the private sector to scale up the country's agriculture sector. Concepcion also noted how young Filipinos are becoming interested in entrepreneurship.

"At our public entrepreneurship events, we are getting more young attendees who are keen on starting their own business," said Concepcion. "And now with the support of the Department of Education, we can institutionalize this training so that it becomes part of the school curriculum in primary education, enabling us to reach more young Filipinos and teach them about entrepreneurship, or at least open their minds to it," he said.

Last November 25, Go Negosyo held a successful pilot event of Youthpreneur, and attracted hundreds of Senior High School students from 17 schools in the National Capital Region. Concepcion said that the success of the pilot event of Youthpreneur bodes well for its future programs aimed at growing the next generation of Filipino entrepreneurs.

Following the signing, a technical working group comprising members of both DepEd and Go Negosyo will be created to oversee, implement, and fulfill the objectives of the MOA. DepEd shall provide policy guidance, data, and evaluation of program implementation, while Go Negosyo will be responsible for providing mentors, securing support and resources,



and leading in its implementation in coordination with the DepEd.

The signing was witnessed by the heads of some of the country's top conglomerates and business groups, as well as veteran entrepreneurship mentors that form

MPTC's 2024 Happy Holideals: Over P5 Million Worth of Prizes Await Lucky Motorists!



Metro Pacific Tollways Corporation (MPTC), the Philippines' leading mobility infrastructure and solutions provider, is turning up the holiday excitement with the return of its 2024 Happy Holideals promo. Brace yourselves for a prolonged yuletide adventure like never before, with over P5 Million in dazzling prizes up for grabs.

In collaboration with Chevrolet Philippines, MPTC is doubling the excitement by giving motorists a chance to win not just one but two brand-new Chevrolet Tracker LS.

But there's more to be excited about! MPTC will also be giving out P3 Million worth of cash prizes. 10 lucky winners will get to win P100,000 each while 40 winners will have a chance to bring home

Go Negosyo's core pool of mentors for its various programs such as Kapatid Mentor MicroEntrepreneurs, Kapatid Agri Mentor ME, and 3M on Wheels, as well as its Kapatid Angat Lahat sa Agri Program and the ASEAN Mentorship for Entrepreneurs Network.

PhilRice...

CALAMBA CITY, Laguna (PIA) -- The Philippine Rice Research Institute (PhilRice) has launched a campaign that will ensure food sufficiency and lead to healthier food choices for Filipinos.

Through the A-B-K-D advocacy, PhilRice aims to encourage the public to adopt the A-B-K-D concept in their daily lives and become 'RICE-possible' citizens.

In an interview with the Philippine Information Agency Calabarzon's Usapang PIA program, Imelda Olvida, senior science research specialist at PhilRice, said a new advocacy dubbed "A-B-K-D" promotes responsible rice consumption and provides healthy food options to consumers.

"The A-B-K-D campaign aims to inspire individuals to become RICEpossible and improve their health while helping our farmers achieve the goal of sufficient rice supply in the Philippines," said

instantly receive 2 points. MPT DriveHub app is available via the App Store (<https://apple.co/3mBKwb6>) or Google Play Store (<https://bit.ly/MPTDriveHubPlayStore>).

For each reload of P200 denomination via the MPT DriveHub App, users earn an additional 1 point (non-cumulative). But here's the exciting part - every point is equivalent to 1 raffle entry, serving as a golden ticket to the grand raffle draw! The more points collected, the better the chances of winning.

Don't miss out on this longest holiday celebration ever. The promo runs from December 8, 2023, to March 7, 2024, giving you plenty of opportunities to rack up those points and secure your

Olvida.

The 'A' stands for "Adlay, Mais, Saba atbp. ay ihalo sa kanin" mixing rice with crops such as adlay, mais, and saba, which are high in energy, potassium, and fiber.

The agency believes that this practice will reduce rice consumption while still providing essential nutrients and satiety.

'B' stands for "Brown Rice ay Kainin" (Eat Brown Rice). This encourages the consumption of brown rice, which is a nutritious alternative to the more common white rice.

"Brown rice is rich in protein, fiber, Vitamin C, B1, B2, B9, and antioxidants. It also helps prevent type 2 diabetes, cancer, cardiovascular diseases, and high blood pressure," explained Olvida.

The 'K' and 'D' emphasize PhilRice's support for farmers' efforts to provide food by promoting "Kanin ay Huwag Sayangin" (Don't Waste Rice) and "Dapat Bigas ng Pilipinas ang Bilhin" (Buy Philippine Rice).

spot in the race for fantastic prizes.

Per DTI Fair Trade Permit No. FTEB-179965 Series of 2023. For the latest updates and more details, please visit website, www.mpt-drivehub.com.ph, or follow us on Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/metropacificfollowways>, <https://www.facebook.com/MPT-DriveHubPH>, <https://www.facebook.com/NLEXexpressways>, <https://www.facebook.com/cavitexpressway>, <https://www.facebook.com/OfficialCALAX>, <https://www.facebook.com/CCLEXexpressway>

For further information and media concerns, please get in touch with corpcomm@mpt-south.com



EDITORIAL:

If most Filipinos believe the national government should exert greater efforts to fight corruption, will our leaders and policy makers heed their sentiment?

The latest Pulse Asia survey found 84 percent of 1,200 respondents agreed with this statement: "Pursuant to the Philippines' concurrence with international agreements, the power of national agencies, laws, and mechanisms to fight corruption should be strengthened."

A total 36 percent said they "strongly agree" while 48 percent said they "somewhat agree" with the statement.

What's interesting is that most of those who agreed the government should do more to curb corruption come from Mindanao (92 percent) and Visayas (89 percent), where poverty levels are higher as compared to NCR (82 percent) and Balance Luzon (80 percent).

The result of the survey, from June 19 to 23 and commissioned by Stratbase ADR Institute, indicates nearly all Filipinos consider corruption as an enormous challenge that should compel government to take firm steps to solve.

According to Pulse Asia President Dr. Ronald Holmes, "virtually no one" disagrees with the strengthening of the agencies, laws, and mechanisms to fight corruption.

Empowering...

20k Cash + Plaque)

- Ms. Mae M. Garcillanosa of the MAPUA Malayan Colleges Laguna with their research "FPGA Based Powerline and Baseline Interference Removal in Electrocardiogram Using Modified EWT-DWT Filtering" (2nd Place: 10k Cash + Plaque)
- Ms. Michelle C. Gonzales of the Laguna

State Polytechnic University with their study "Table-top Surface Mount Printed Circuit Board (PCB) Assembly Machine (3rd Place: 5k Cash + Plaque)

RESEARCH ASSISTANTS' CATEGORY

- Jayson F. Garcia from the Institute of Molecular Biology and Biotechnology - University of the Philippines Los

Baños with their study "Advancing Tomorrow's Palette: The Commercial Development of a Natural Red Pigment for Industrial Applications" (CHAMPION: 20k Cash + Plaque)

- John Paul Heje from the Batangas State University with their study "MR Tourguide: A Cultural Adaptive Mapping Platform Using Mixed Reality" (2nd Place: 10k Cash + Plaque)

The two-day summit aimed to promote interdisciplinary collaboration among industries, academia, research institutions, and government agencies by bringing them together and enabling the exchange of ideas and expertise. The summit provided an opportunity for member institutions to showcase their innovative technologies, products, and services.



DOLE to wage earners: Spend 13th month pay, Christmas bonus wisely

CALAMBA CITY, Laguna (PIA) -- The Department of Labor and Employment (DOLE) has advised wage earners to wisely spend their 13th month pay and Christmas bonus.

Speaking at the Sulong Calabarzon program of the Philippine Information Agency Region IV-A, DOLE Laguna senior labor and employment officer Vincent Martinez said mindful spending is the way to go making sure that the family's urgent needs are met while still saving a portion for emergency or personal purposes.

"If the 13th month pay is more than enough, then he can think about other things he wants to buy, whether for personal use or for the household. Not everyone receives 13th month pay, but as a parent, my advice is to prioritize our families," Martinez said.

According to the

Labor Advisory No. 25, series of 2023 released by DOLE, the 13th month pay shall be given to rank-and-file employees in the private sector regardless of their position, designation, or employment status, and irrespective of the method by which their wages are paid, provided that they have worked for the company at least one month during the calendar year.

DOLE reminded employers that the benefit shall not be less than one-twelfth (1/12) of the total basic salary earned by an employee within the calendar year or the total basic salary earned during the year divided by 12 months.

"The reason why companies give the 13th month pay... It is for the productive work of our employees. If he doesn't have deductions for absences, he will receive the full amount," Martinez added.

Employers were

BingoPlus Launches The Big Client Service System to Enhance Gaming Experience for its Loyal Users

PHILIPPINES - In the midst of intensifying competition within the online gaming industry, BingoPlus once again asserts its leadership by introducing a groundbreaking Big Client Service System, aiming to provide players with an even more exceptional gaming experience.

The Big Client Service System is a BingoPlus initiative that aims to further solidify its leadership in the Philippine online gaming market, providing players with more comprehensive and personalized services. As an industry innovator, the brand

continues to strive to create exhilarating gaming experiences by offering premium features that cater to the players' comfort and enjoyment, such as a personalized service that deeply understands the particular needs of each client, delivering a unique gaming experience that enhances user satisfaction.

The system comprises dedicated account managers that provides 24/7 attentive service in addressing concerns, as well as an advanced and state-of-the-art technical support, that guarantee

smooth gaming without any technical disruptions. Furthermore, the initiative delivers an unmatched social interaction platform wherein users can safely share experiences, exchange gaming tips, encourage community collaboration, and stimulate healthy competition.

In addition, loyal clients who showed unending support towards BingoPlus will enjoy exclusive gaming events and benefits, including customized competitions, special discounts, and limited-edition virtual items.

In the radiant night of November, the BingoPlus significant client banquet unfolded seamlessly, marking an extraordinary event in the online gaming industry.

It is not only encapsulated a night of gaming but also presented a luxurious feast tailored exclusively for BingoPlus significant clients, offering the epitome of opulent gaming services. The event took place in one of the Philippines' premiere luxurious venues wherein the special guests were served with customized menus, exceptional gaming experience showcase, exclusive treats, and a space to interact with

also reminded to release the benefits on or before December 24, 2023 as stated in the labor guidelines.

Meljhun Nerecina, a 26-year-old virtual assistant from Lipa City, Batangas, agrees with smart spending even as he laments that even middle class earners like him are feeling the pinch of rising commodity prices.

He said his 13th month pay has already been allocated to pay for monthly bills and that nothing is left to be saved.

"It is right to spend wisely, however, when it comes to saving, it is difficult. There's nothing left because the 13th month pay is also used to pay debts and loans, and other necessary daily expenses. Even a middle-class Filipino's 13th month pay is not enough to sustain the needs," he added.

DICT bolsters ICT awareness, literacy through partnerships

CALAMBA CITY, Laguna (PIA) – The Department of Information and Communications Technology (DICT) IV-A has bolstered the government's Information and Communications Technology (ICT) agenda by building stronger ties with other government agencies and private partners.

During the Multi-Stakeholders' Summit 2023 held on November 22 in Lipa City, Batangas, leaders and representatives from different stakeholders including state universities, local government, private companies, government agencies signed a Letter of Intent (LOI) for Partnership with the DICT IV-A to accelerate the ICT awareness, literacy, and skills development across all sectors of the society.

DICT Assistant Secretary for Regional Development Maria Theresa Camba underscored the impact of partnerships with the government agencies to strengthen the ICT awareness in the country.

"Our growth is the product of our continuing collaborations with our stakeholders and partners from the national and local governments or partners in the private sectors and civil society organizations and our empowered Tech4Ed," Camba said.

She also recognized and congratulated DICT IV-A and the people behind the success and 'trailblazing' implementation of the Tech4ED Program that had constantly innovated to keep up with the challenge of making the Tech4ED Centers in the region more responsive and relevant to the community's needs.

The Tech4ED also known as Technology for Education, Employment, Entrepreneurs, and Economic Development is one of the agency's flagship programs that aims to provide access for individuals and communities to bridge the digital and

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education divide. Some Tech4ED Centers are strategically located in schools, universities, barangay halls, community libraries, and even in jails or correctional facilities.

The center targets to promote grass root development, inclusive growth and poverty reduction by providing Filipinos both ICT tools and skills training needed to advance in the digital world.

"The Tech4Ed project is very close to my heart and over the years it has evolved to empower more communities nationwide. (With this project), we connect to our communities for digital awareness and engage them to pursue opportunities for learning entrepreneurship for the improvement of their way of life," Camba added.

This year, DICT IV-A has awarded the Imus City Jail Male Dormitory Tech4ED Center as the emerging Tech4ED Center while Local Government unit of Sampaloc, Quezon Tech4ED Center was declared as the Outstanding Tech4ED Center.

DICT IV-A and IV-B Regional Director Cheryl Ortega hopes that the strategic partnerships in the region will usher a brighter and inclusive technological landscape in the Philippines.

"As we gather and honor exemplary achievements through the awards ceremony, we also celebrate the spirit of collaboration that forms the cornerstone of our collective journey towards progress," Ortega said. (CO/PIA-4A)



CARD MBA marks 24th year with AcciPlan launch and notable achievements



During the 24th anniversary of CARD MBA, seven MBA Coordinators were hailed as regional winners during the 8th awarding ceremony for the "Natatanging MBA Coordinator" on September 07, 2023 held in Maharlika Square Events Place in San Pablo City, Laguna.

CARD Mutual Benefit Association (CARD MBA), the microinsurance arm of CARD Mutually Reinforcing Institutions (CARD MRI), highlighted its latest microinsurance product, AcciPlan, during its 24th anniversary celebration, on September 7, 2023.

AcciPlan will deliver comprehensive accident insurance coverage for both its members and their legal dependents.

Empowering Innovation and Collaboration in Industry, Energy, and Emerging Technology: STCIEERD conducts its 1st Research Summit



The 1st Southern Tagalog Consortium for Industry, Energy and Emerging Technology Research and Development (STCIEERD) Research Summit with the theme "Harnessing the Power of Emerging Technologies for Economic Growth and Social Impact" was conducted at the Batangas State University, The National Engineering University - Pablo Borbon Campus last 28-29 November.

Ms. Glenda Sacibit, Supervising Science Research Specialist of the Department of Science and Technology - Philippine Council for Industry, Energy and Emerging Technology Research and Development (DOST-PCIEERD) served as the

Keynote Speaker of the event. She focused on the current programs and initiatives of their agency and the importance of consortiums in providing and funding relevant research for the betterment of the nation.

Engr. Elmer Joaquin, Product Performance Lead in Data Science of the International Workplace Group (IWG plc), Mr. Ferdinand B. Binondo, Chief of the Solar and Wind Energy Management Division - Department of Energy (DOE), Ms. Lovely Mores, Chief Economic Development Specialist of the National Economic and Development Authority (NEDA) IV-A, and Ms. Russel Pili, Chief Science Research Specialist/Chief

guarding Filipinos amid uncertainties. Natatanging MBA Coordinator Awardee

Meanwhile, the program also awarded outstanding MBA coordinators, namely, Rowena Sumilang from VisMin Region as the 2023 NMC National Winner; Jessa Bulos from Luzon 2 Region, 1st place; and Anna Sheila Raut-raut from Luzon 2 Region, 2nd place.

Each awardee received a cash prize, a plaque of recognition, and a token of appreciation.

The event was graced by Founder and Chairman Emeritus Dr. Jaime Aristotle Alip, Managing Director Aristeo Dequito, CARD Bank President/CEO Marivic Austria, CARD SME Bank President/CEO Cynthia Baldeo, CARD RBI President/CEO Elma Valenzuela, CAMIA

As of July 2023, CARD MBA had a total of 7,349,281 active members.

the On-Road Performance of Hybrid Electric Vehicles (HEVs) and Electric Vehicles (EVs) in Urban Road" (3k Cash)

• Mr. Erwin Rafael Cabral of the Batangas State University with their research on "Infrastructure-Soil Interaction and Land-Usage Assessment for New Developments (ISLAND)" (3k Cash)

• Mr. John Carlo Agarrri of the Batangas State University with their research on "Building Earthquake - effect Assessment and Monitoring System" (3k Cash)

The 1st Junior Researchers' R&D Competition winners were also awarded. The following are the winners for their respective category:

NEW PROJECT LEADERS' CATEGORY

• Janice F. Peralta of the Batangas State University with their research "GIS-based Emergency Displaced persons monitoring System (GEDS) for Batangas Province" (CHAMPION: cont. on page 7

POINT OF VIEW 100 HEALTH AND FITNESS TIPS

22. Do your grocery shopping with a list in hand.

- Making a list before getting to the grocery store can help you say no to impulse buys or giving into those snacks that look super tasty. Plan our your meals, make a list of the ingredients needed and stick to your list.

23. Exercise during TV commercials.

- When a commercial starts, make the most of that downtime. You don't need to plan anything too intense – set a squat or a pushup goal, walk through your entire house or hold a plank as long as possible. Have a Netflix-only household? Set a timer on your phone to remind you to get up every ten minutes to fit in a short exercise.

24. Take Naps!

- Sleep deprivation can affect all aspects of your life: your diet, your workouts, your stress, etc. Don't feel guilty about squeezing in a short nap to help your body recharge. A 30-minute nap or even an extended rest period of laying down (without a nap) have been found to improve alertness and performance.

25. Avoid people and things that stress you out.

- Identify stressors in your life and try to keep a distance. It's not always possible to do, but removing anything causing you stress is an improvement. If the stress can't be removed, can it be improved? Brainstorm ways to reduce these stress points in your day-to-day life. You can always ask for help too! Your friends are good resources to ask about how to approach these issues.

26. Laugh and smile!

- Celebrate those moments that make you happy. Taking time to express your positive emotions can impact your health and happiness. Laughter helps to cope with stress and can boost your mood (event forced laughter can give you a temporary boost).



From left: Backbase Chief Product Officer Karan Oberoi and Chinabank's Chief Digital Officer Noel Tagaza, Retail Digital Platforms Division Head Lester Callopo, and Channels Delivery & Support Department Head Richele Navarro.



Cayetano...

Nangako si Senador Alan Peter Cayetano nitong Sabado na tututukan niya ang mga suliranin ng transport groups na nahihirapan sa pag-modernize dahil sa laki ng gastos at sa kahirapan ng pagkuha ng utang.

"First and foremost, hundred percent I hear you... So count on me to be one of those na magbabantay at titingin [sa issue na ito]," sagot ni Cayetano sa tanong ng isang transport group adviser sa isang press conference sa Baguio City nitong November 25, 2023.

Ayon kay Joseph Cabanas ng Gabriela Silang Operators and Drivers Association, hindi naman tutol sa modernization ang mga transport group kundi humihingi lang ng tulong sa gobyerno para makapangutang.

"Gusto namin [ng modernization]. Mangungutang kami pero may counterpart sana ang gobyerno," wika ni Cabanas.

Sinabi ni Cayetano na nauunawaan niya

NIA agrees...

MANILA – The National Irrigation Administration (NIA) on Thursday partnered with the provincial government of Cavite to revolutionize the utilization of water resources for the benefit of the province.

NIA acting administrator Eduardo Guillen and Cavite Governor Juanito Victor "Jonvic" Remulla signed a memorandum of agreement (MOA) in a ceremony at Malacañan Palace in Manila.

The MOA seeks

Chinabank wins customer engagement award

Chinabank made waves at the recent ENGAGE 2023 conference of Backbase, the global leader in engagement banking platform.

Chinabank was named as The Big Shift Champion of the Year during the Excellence in Customer Engagement Awards 2023 ceremony.

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walang cure-all, sa programa ng gobyerno lalo in a country with more than 7,000 islands, wala namang one-size-fits-all," aniya

"Kasi hindi pare-pareho. May mga lugar na mas malalaki ang highway so mas maraming jeep than tricycle. Dito sa Baguio maraming taxi, then the buses papunta ng [malalayong lugar tulad ng] Dagupan, Nueva Ecija, Manila," dagdag niya.

"Win-win" formula ang PTK

Sinabi ni Cayetano na ang isa sa mga programang inumpisahan niya — ang PTK (Presyo, Trabaho, Kita/Kaayusan) — ay napatunayan nang mabisa sa pagsagot sa mga pangangailangan ng mga sectoral groups na nahihirapang kumuha ng pantang.

Ikinuwento niya ang karanasan ng isang PTK group sa Iloilo na nakatanggap ng P250,000 sa kanyang programa at napalago ito hanggang sa nakabili ng 90 buses gamit ang isang P100-million loan. Ngayon aniya,

"Basta win-win, most [drivers and operators] papayag [sa modernization]," aniya. PR

and of course ang provincial government (Now, it can be used in a good way and many will benefit. the NIA and of course the provincial government will benefit)," Guillen added.

Remulla said the signing of the agreement was an indication that "the government is finally moving forward always to the right direction."

"Cavite has 1.2 million households which are in desperate need [of] 24/7 supply of water. This agreement ensures that our growth is continued. Yeah, that our industry continues," he said. "What is good for Cavite is good for the country."

The collaboration between the NIA and the Cavite provincial government is in line with President Ferdinand R. Marcos Jr.'s commitment to maximize the potential of water resources.

Also present during the event was Senior Deputy Executive Secretary Hubert Dominic Guevarra. (PNA)

DTI Laguna, Entrepz Ave in Forum about Government Initiatives on eCommerce and Logistics

Victoria, Laguna — On 27 July 2023, the Department of Trade and Industry in Laguna joined hands with the Laguna Chamber of Commerce and Industry Inc (LCCI) and Entrepz Ave in sharpening the understanding of our micro, small, and medium enterprises (MSMEs) in today's eCommerce and logistics scenarios thru the government initiatives.

The crowd was composed of different trade and industries mainly within the Carmelray and nearby communities. The ideation took place at Entrepz Ave, The Junction Strip Mall, Carmelray Ave corner, Wisdom Ave, Calamba City, Laguna.

Present during the session who shared insights and welcomed queries

regarding the status of the eCommerce logistics industry were LCCI President Atty Rose Lynn Coloma, DTI Assistant Secretary and Digital Philippines and Ecommerce Lead Mary Jean Pacheco, USAID DELIVER Infrastructure Team Lead Prof. Roni Balbiera, Supply Chain Management Association of the Philippines President Pierre Carlo Curay, Entrepz Ave Owner - Cafetalista and PAG-IBIG Board of Trustee Relly Fajardo, and DTI Laguna Acting Provincial Director Christian Ted Tungohan.

DTI Assistant Secretary Pacheco inspired the participating MSMEs on the progress in terms of the implementation of the Ecommerce Philippine 2022 Roadmap summarized in one Fili-



pino word, "madali". According to Pacheco, the Agency upholds its thrust to achieve the captured vision for Filipinos about our eCommerce: easy, simple, and fast. She also described the three main strategies, namely, Market Access, DigitAlization, and Logistics Integration.

Entrepz Ave is a co-working space that also offers virtual office in affordable prices. Way back in 2018, DTI Laguna and Entrepz Ave opened its door to potential and exist-

ing MSMEs by launching a Negosyo Center Help Desk in order to provide optimum assistance to its clients. Due to the rising popularity of digitalization and eCommerce linked with reliable logistics, Entrepz Ave aims to provide a venue for exchange of ideas and interlinkage and DTI continues to be one of the main catalyst of enabling innovative, competitive, job generating and inclusive businesses and an enabler of empowered consumers. (IMFlores, DTI-Laguna)

MGB-8 wins 'best technical paper' in annual technical forum



Photos during the presentation of papers and awarding of winners of the MGB Annual Technical Forum in Cagayan de Oro City on Sept. 26–29, 2023. (MGB-8)

TACLOBAN CITY -- The Mines and Geosciences Bureau - Regional Office No. VIII, represented by Geologist Celes Emilio D. Sia, won the Best Technical Paper in the MGB 2023 Annual Technical Forum held in Chali Beach Resort, Cagayan de Oro City, on Sept. 26–29, 2023, hosted by the MGB Regional Office No. X.

With the theme #TheFuturesMINE: Innovative Technologies and Practices in Geosciences and Minerals Industry, the Annual Technical Forum (ATF) 2023 showcased three (3) Special Papers (Non-Competition), 15 Technical Papers and sev-

en (7) Policy Papers or a total of 25 papers coming from the MGB Central Office and Regional Offices. Geologist Sia won first place in the technical paper category with his paper entitled Geohazard Exposure Analysis of the Population in Eastern Visayas: Integration of Updated 1:10,000 Scale Geohazard Maps, 2020 Census Data and GIS Processing with Macro-Enabled Spreadsheets.

Sia's study aimed to underscore the importance of continuously updating geohazard maps and integrating them with demographic and administrative data for effective disaster management and

community resilience in Eastern Visayas. Meanwhile, MGB Region IV-B (MIMAROPA) and MGB Region X came in second and third place, respectively.



Aabot sa 49,087 magsasaka ang napagbuklod ng Department of Agriculture IV-CALABARZON (DA-4A) sa ilalim ng programang Farm and Fisheries Clustering and Consolidation (F2C2) simula noong taong 2021 hanggang 2023.

Layon ng F2C2 na isulong ang pagguguro sa maliliit na mga magsasaka at mangingisda upang mapaunlad ang kanilang kabuhayan sa oras na sila ay matuto sa pagnenegosyo at makamit ang economies of scale o pagpapababa ng gastusin

Chinabank...

our customers—what they need, want, and expect—are front and center in our transformation journey,” Chief Digital Officer Noel Tagaza said. “Our aim is to ensure seamless and frictionless omni-channel experience for all our customers.”

In the panel discussion, Modernizing Customer-Led Journeys to Transform the Future of Digital CX, Tagaza shared insights on the bank's digital transformation strategies and challenges to enhance customer experience. He and the other panelists also tack-

led the best practices in platform strategies, digital approaches to reach the unbanked, and the value of unified platforms versus siloed approaches.

ENGAGE 2023 was held from November 7 to 9 in Bangkok, Thailand. Over 100 senior banking executives from seven Asian countries, including the Philippines, joined the conference which featured an engaging line-up of topics to assist banking leaders in recalibrating their 2024 banking transformation strategies and in navigating the dynamic digital banking landscape in Asia.

49-K magsasaka sa CALABARZON, napagbuklod sa ilalim ng programang F2C2 ng DA-4A

sa produksyon. Alinsunod ito sa Administrative Order no. 27 series of 2020.

Habang ang unang pokus ng F2C2 ay matipon ang mga magsasaka sa mga cluster na may magkakatulad na produkto at sistema ng produksyon, ito rin ang nagsisilbing estratehiya ng Kagawaran upang marami pang magsasaka ang makinabang sa mga ipamahaging interbensyon sa mga susunod na taon.

Ito ay sa pamamagitan ng Cluster Development Plan (CDP) na siyang unang requirement sa bawat cluster at magiging batayan sa pagbibigay ng suporta. Naglalaman ito ng pagkakakilanlan at kasalukuyang kalagayan ng cluster, at ang limang taong plano ng pag-unlad na sasagot sa kanilang mga pangangailangan sa produksyon, merkado,

kasayanan, at iba pa.

Kaugnay nito, kasunod ng 73 CDP na natapos noong nakaraang taon ay karagdagang 54 CDP na ngayong 2023 ang kasalukuyang isinusulong at nasa proseso na ng deliberasyon sa harap ng Regional Program Management Office (RPMO) at Province-led Agriculture and Fisheries Extension System o F2C2 Regional Technical Working Group (PAFES/F2C2 RTWG). Ito ay pang-surin ang mga detalye nito para sa pagsasapinal lalo na sa teknikal at pinansyal na aspeto.

Ayon kay Rolando Seralvo, pangulo ng cluster ng Samahang Magsasaka sa Barangay Encarnacion, nariyan man ang kaba sa pagdepensa ng kanilang CDP ay alam niyang ang lahat ng hirap na itanim ng kanilang samahan kasama ang lokal na pamahalaan ay aanihin din nila sa mga matatanggap na interbensyon na nakapaloob sa plano.

Para sa huling antas, inaasahan na kapag naaprubahan na ang mga CDP ay ipresenta na ito sa mga stakeholder, pamunuan ng Kagawaran, at lokal na pamahalaan kalakip ng paglalagda ng Memorandum of Agreement (MOA).

SM Prime, WWF-Philippines hold eco-camp for youth sustainability ambassadors



Students and teachers from 13 Metro Manila high schools attended a three-day eco-camp to learn about environmental conservation and sustainability

Thirty-one student ambassadors from 13 Metro Manila high schools gathered in an eco-camp last November 24 to 26 organized by SM Prime Holdings, Inc. (SM Prime) and WWF-Philippines (WWF-PH). Participating schools include Assumption College, FEU Manila High School, La Salle Greenhills, National University of Nazareth, Las Pinas Science High School, Manila Science High School, Muntinlupa Science High School, School, Paranaque Science High School, PAREF Southridge, Pasay Science High School, Pasig Science High School, Philippine Science High School, and Quezon City Science High School.

Held at the Pico De Loro Beach and Country Club, the three-day eco camp marks the second leg of YOUTH are the Future—a joint environmental leadership program by SM Prime and WWF-PH aiming to empower environmental stewards among the youth sector. By enhancing their understanding of biodiversity conservation and sustainability, the program aims to instill a strong sense of responsibility and commitment towards the protection of the environment.

The immersive weekend kicked off with a fireside chat on climate action where leaders Jessica Sy, Assistant Vice President of SM Development Corporation, WWF-PH Executive Director Katherine Custodio, and marine biologist and WWF-Philippines National Youth Council member Romina Lim engaged in a discussion on facing the climate

crisis, inspiring the attendees to take proactive steps towards preserving our planet and promoting the advocacy towards a sustainable future.

“Climate change affects our daily lives and the youth have the most at stake being the ones who will face greater and greater impacts in the years to come. It is important that our young people find and use their voices, and be given opportunities such as the YOUTH are the future program, to learn more about what needs to be done, and to discover where those intersect with their own individual talents and passions. It was also a strategic choice to focus the program on high school students, who would need to think about what further studies or careers they might pursue. I hope they understand that there is space for environmental advocacy whatever career or degree they choose.”, shared Custodio.

Campers attended learning sessions that tackled the most pressing environmental conservation and sustainability issues, specifically on water, energy, and biodiversity. Antoinette Taus, UN Goodwill Ambassador and founder of Project CORA, also graced the camp to share insights on waste management.

Apart from the talks, the campers immersed themselves in nature by hiking Pico De Loro's Santelmo Eco-Trail and taking a guided walking tour of its vast mangrove forests.

As a symbol of their commitment towards the environment, the stu-



Camp participants enjoy the scenery of nature at the view deck on top of the Santelmo Eco-trail

dent ambassadors produced social media videos sharing their vision for the future and a call to action for their fellow youth. They also created a storybook based on lessons from their experiences at the camp. Xia Vigor, WWF-Philippines ambassador, gave tips on how the students can create good videos and share impactful messages.

“Mother Nature implanted a seed planted deep inside my mind—that I need to protect her. And I know that we are all implanted with that same seed that brought us all here together. We cannot lose hope,” shared Vigor in a message delivered to encourage her fellow youth to do their part for nature.

The camp concluded with a closing keynote by SM Engineering Design and Development Corporation (SMEDD) President and sustainability champion Hans “Chico” Sy, Jr., where campers were given a chance to ask questions and tips on sustainability and environmental leadership.

“Study, ideate, plan, and experiment. Use your creativity and experiment some more until you find the right solutions. You might fail, you might need to start from scratch again, but the most important thing you have to remember is to learn from your mistakes and try again. That, my young participants, is the only way for us to move forward to creating a better world”, shared Sy.

As part of its third and final leg, the YOUTH are the Future program will culminate on Janu-

ary 2024 through a series of mall and school tours throughout Metro Manila to further boost youth engagement and student ambassador recruitment.

There is an undeniable surge in the number of young individuals dedicated to facing the current challenges that will impact the future. Their unwavering commitment is a powerful reminder that it is within our collective power to create lasting change and reimagine a sustainable future for all. Through programs like YOUTH are the Future, SM Prime and WWF-PH hope to empower the youth further to become powerful agents of change, inspiring others to #ChangeTheEnding for the planet.

About WWF: WWF is one of the world's largest and most respected independent conservation organizations, with over 5 million supporters and a global network active in over 100 countries. WWF's mission is to stop the degradation of the Earth's natural environment and to build a future in which humans live in harmony with nature, by conserving the world's biological diversity, ensuring that the use of renewable natural resources is sustainable, and promoting the reduction of pollution and wasteful consumption.

WWF-Philippines has been successfully implementing various conservation projects to help protect some of the most biologically-significant ecosystems in Asia since its establishment as the 26th national organization of the WWF network in 1997.

Westwind At Lancaster New City Gears Up For Construction



The first-ever low-rise condominium inside Lancaster New City, Westwind, breaks ground to gear up for construction. The mixed-use development is set to promote connected, healthy, and convenient living inside a sustainable community. In his speech, Business Unit Head Eric Ganaden outlined the vision for the 13-hectare project: “Years from now, we will transform these perspectives and renders into actual buildings and amenities.”

Westwind at Lancaster New City features 4-storey buildings with flexible units. A common outdoor lifestyle spaces connect the residents in these units within walkable distances. Offering the essentials

“Years from now, we will transform the idle property into a sprawling yet thriving community with all the essentials to support it and add-ons to flourish it,” said Ganaden. The essentials include its own clubhouse, parking building, swimming pools, kiddie playground, multi-purpose court, and a retail row. Other than these homeowners' needs, Westwind at Lancaster New City will change the landscape of condominium living by having outdoor lifestyle open spaces like exercise grounds, outdoor workspace, pet-friendly spaces, al fresco dining, dedicated bicycle lanes and jogging paths. Its location inside

Lancaster New City enables our residents to also enjoy the proximity to St. Edward School (K-12), Parish of the Holy Family, The Square Community Mall, Suntech i-Park, and Lancaster grounds.

Community-living in a condo-set-up

“Years from now, we will transform presumptive spreadsheets into actual figures not only in terms of sales but in terms of number of residents who are happily joining us in our journey in creating a vibrant community,” added Ganaden. Ideally located inside an active and vast community, which is Lancaster, Westwind is set to create an upgraded condo-living experience by being a part of the community life of Profriends' flagship project. Powered by the GalingLNC movement, Westwind at Lancaster New City community is soon expected to be thriving and dynamic.

Ganaden noted: “we seed the vision, we nurture the commitment, and together, we will reap the fruits of our journey.”

The Westwind at Lancaster New City ground-breaking event was attended by the Profriends board and management. They were joined by the various agent networks and the board members of Lancaster's homeowners' association. The project is accessible via the following major road networks: CavitEx, NAIAX, SLEX, MCX, and the soon to be completed CALAX.

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