

The City Government of Bacoor is the proponent of twin reclamation projects

The proposed 420-hectare reclamation projects in Bacoor City earned overwhelming support from directly-impacted stakeholders during the public hearing held by the Environmental Management Bureau (EMB) of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) last Thursday, January 9.

The public hearing is part of the Environmental Impact Assessment System as mandated by law under Presidential Decree 1586 and DENR Administrative Order No. 2003-30.

The City Government of Bacoor is the proponent of twin reclamation projects, namely, Bacoor Reclamation and Development Project (BRDP), consisting of a total of 320-hectare islands, and the Diamond Reclamation and Development Project (DRDP) consisting of one 100-hectare island via Public-Private Partnership under the PPP Code of Bacoor.

The City hopes to integrate in these two projects a most effective approach to the long-term clean-up of Manila Bay as mandated by a Supreme Court continuing mandamus, being the only projects along Manila Bay that carry with it a program for relocation and resettlement of informal settler families (ISFs) living along the t10 coastal barangays.

City Mayor Lani M. Revilla explained that the proposed projects will also address flooding in the city

system of the rainwater catchment basin of Bacoor in Buhay na Tubig. The proposed reclamation islands are so situated and formed as to conform with the anti-flooding projects of DPWH, having more than sufficient channels in between the is-



RECLAMATION BEST SOLUTION ALONG CAVITEX

as she made sure they are integrated with the various long-term flood mitigating projects of the Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH). The Flood Risk Management Project of the DPWH will improve river channels and create diversion channels from Imus to Bacoor City which will serve as the flood discharge

lands which are aligned with existing natural river outflows. The studies conducted by the private sector partners of the city show that the islands will also serve as anti-storm surge walls of the City.

Among the sectors represented in the public hearing were the concerned (see page 7)

Coop iCreate Ladderized Training for Cooperatives Graduation Ceremony 2020

Coop iCreate, a successful ladderized training for cooperatives provided by the Provincial Cooperative, Livelihood and Entrepreneurial Development Office (PCLEDO) reached its culmination when 12 participating coops finished the last session and graduated with flying colors on February 18, 2020 at Aqua Mira Hotel and Resort, Saddle and Clubs Leisure Park, Tanza, Cavite. The training aims to identify potential entrepreneurs and provide them with comprehensive support to establish and operate a competitive, profitable and sustainable business.

The participants were partnered with the business coaches who later paneled them in the Business Plan Presentation and recommended some strategies to improve participants' business plan. Panelists included Mr. Zandro Catacutan, Faculty Researcher, CvSU Main Campus; Mr. Alan G. Reclusado, Owner, Aqua 4a and Reclusado Marketing; Mr. Reginold Delos Reyes, AVP, New Business, MBS Solve Insurance Agency; Mr. Rod Steven O. Vasquez, Managing Partner, AQubic, Co. & Supprin Co.; Ms. Rowena S. Fruto, Provincial Cooperative Development Specialist, CDA Region 4A and Mr. Oliver N. Getalla Cooperative Development



Specialist 2, CDA Region 4A.

Ms. Liza Gabatan, PCLEDO Entrepreneurial Division Head warmly congratulated the graduates while Atty. Khervy B. Reyes, Officer-in-Charge, gave his short message of congratulations and cited the continuous support of the provincial government for cooperatives' growth through their

office. He assured that another batch of trainees will undergo the same program. Dr Aldrin P. Antivola, Co-op iCreate Resource Person was grateful for the success of the training and encouraged the graduates to use what they have learned, to be determined and have the

spirit of success.

The awarding of certificates of appreciation to resource speaker and certificates of completion to attendees concluded the event. A special award was also given to CAFFMACO who bagged the Best Business Plan coached by Mr. Zandro Catacutan. --Rebecca Patricio



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BIG TALK

Converse with me
By. Wina Hernandez

THERE IS HOPE. LET US CONTINUE PRAYING! A CURE FOR COVID-19. PLS READ THIS my friends:

Roche launches clinical trial of COVID-19 pneumonia hopeful Actemra after backing from China

Roche's arthritis drug Actemra already has backing from Chinese authorities to tackle COVID-19. But the Swiss drugmaker wants to confirm the use through careful examinations rather than relying purely on encouraging anecdotal stories.

The company's now working with the FDA to start a randomized, double-blind, placebo-controlled phase 3 clinical trial to study Actemra in hospitalized patients with severe COVID-19 pneumonia caused by the novel coronavirus, it said Thursday.

Roche and its partner, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services' Biomedical Advanced Research and Development Authority, plan to officially begin enrolling patients in early April in different parts of the world, including the U.S.

The study, coded Covacta, will pit Actemra against placebo, both on top of standard of care, in 330 patients. Investigators will evaluate patients' clinical status, mortality, mechanical ventilation use and intensive care unit variables to determine the drug's efficacy. Patients will be followed for 60 days, and an interim analysis will look for early signs of effectiveness.

For now, the company "cannot speculate on timing as that will depend on enrollment rates, but we will do what we can to share results as early as possible," a Roche spokesperson told FiercePharma.

The decision comes after China's National Health Commission added Actemra to its updated COVID-19 treatment guidelines in early March after Chinese physicians on the front line reported positive outcomes from its use to control dangerous lung inflammation in serious and critically ill patients.

That endorsement apparently triggered wide interest in the drug's potential in COVID-19. "We have received inquiries from government entities in many countries about the availability of Actemra for the treatment of patients with severe COVID-19 pneumonia," the Roche spokesperson said. "Currently, we are in discussions with relevant authorities around the world to determine potential paths forward to provide Actemra to patients in this setting on an emergency basis, and will provide continued updates on our efforts."

RELATED: China turns Roche arthritis drug Actemra against COVID-19 in new treatment guidelines

Actemra works by inhibiting the receptor of proinflammatory cytokine interleukin 6 (IL-6). It was first approved in the U.S. to treat rheumatoid arthritis, and in 2017 added to its label cytokine release syndrome (CRS)—a potentially fatal overreaction of the body's immune system—in patients who received CAR-T cancer therapy.

In some COVID-19 patients, a key hallmark of disease worsening is also CRS, or in its more severe form known as cytokine storm. Chinese scientists from Tongji Hospital and the First Affiliated Hospital of the University of Science and Technology of China (USTC) have reportedly pinpointed IL-6 as responsible for the acute inflammatory disorder.

Several clinical trials testing Actemra in COVID-19 are already underway in China. USTC researchers are running a study comparing the Roche drug with conventional therapy in 188 patients. Another team at Peking University First Hospital is adding Fujifilm's flu drug Avigan (favipiravir) on top of Actemra.

RELATED: Sanofi, Regeneron ready to roll Kevzara into COVID-19 trials immediately

During a coronavirus press briefing on Tuesday, an official at China's Science and Technology Ministry said Avigan is "clearly effective" in COVID-19 treatment. Physicians in Shenzhen, China, found patients taking Avigan turned negative in coronavirus RNA test after a median four days, compared to 11 days in the control group, the official said. The agency has officially recommended the med to health authorities for consideration in its COVID-19 treatment guidelines.

Favipiravir is approved in Japan and China, but not in the U.S.

Despite those existing China studies and anecdotal success stories from doctors, Roche argues the new Covacta study is important "because there are no well-controlled studies and limited published evidence" supporting Actemra's use in COVID-19.

Kawaling Pinoy

Crispy Tahong (Deep-Fried Mussels)

by Lalaine Manalo

As much as I enjoy the camaraderie of happy hour, I am an alcohol lightweight. A few sips of beer and I am already beet-red, standing shame-free on the table singing an off-key, teary rendition of "End of the World." So yes, liquor is not my cup of tea. While everyone in the party is busy with the inuman (drinking), I am deep into the pulutan (appetizers), especially if it's crispy tahong with spicy vinegar dip!

Crispy Tahong

Crispy Tahong (Deep-Fried Mussels)

Print

Prep time

15 mins

Cook time

20 mins

Total time

35 mins

Yield: 4 Servings

Ingredients

2 pounds half-shell New Zealand mussels

1 cup flour

¼ cup cornstarch

1 teaspoon salt

¼ teaspoon garlic powder

¼ teaspoon pepper

oil

For Spicy Vinegar Dip

1 cup vinegar

3 to 4 cloves garlic, peeled and minced

4 to 5 peppercorns, crushed

1 thai chili pepper, finely chopped

salt to taste



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Instructions

Using a sharp knife, pry mussels from shells. Discard shells. Wash mussel meat and drain well.

In a bowl, combine flour, cornstarch, salt, garlic powder and pepper. Dredge mussels in flour mixture to completely coat.

In a pot over medium heat, heat about 2-inch deep of oil. Add mussels, shaking off

excess flour, and deep-fry for about 5 to 7 minutes or until mussels are cooked through and are golden and crisp. Remove from heat and drain in a colander set over a bowl. Serve hot with spicy vinegar dip.

For Spicy Vinegar Dip

In a bowl, combine vinegar, garlic, peppercorns, chili and salt to taste.

Notes

Do not overcrowd pot during frying, fry in batches as needed.

EDITOR'S NOTE: All comments and opinions submitted by our contributing writers and herein published shall remain as personal opinion of our column writers. Viewliner shall not be held liable to any legal issues related to any commentaries that may appear herein.

ISSN-1656-0558

An English-Filipino newsweekly published every Monday by Pahayagan ng Kabitenyo with Editorial and Business Office at 147 Panapaan IV, Bacoor, Cavite.
Email: pahayaganngkabitenyo@yahoo.com.
Entered as Second Class Mail at Postal Region IV San Pablo City under Permit NO 200305 on May 27, 2003

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DIOSDADO ARIEL F. ALTO, JR.
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SUBSCRIPTION RATE : P1,000.00/year
Advertising Rate : P200.00/col. cm.
Legal Rate : P160.00/col. cm.



GUHIT NG KAPALARAN

PISCES: (Peb. 19-Mar. 20) Isulat ang paglala-rawan sa mga taong mahalaga sa iyong buhay at gawin itong inspirasyon sa lahat ng mga ginagawang pagsisikap. Tuloy lang ang buhay, huwag kang mawalan ng pag-asa. Lucky numbers at color for the day ang 7, 9, 19, 22 at magenta red.

ARIES: (Mar. 21-Abr. 19) Sa bawat gawain, ibigay ang buong commitment para makita ang magandang resulta. Isang matagal nang kakilala ang mangangailangan, isa ka sa lalapitan niya. Huwag siyang tanggihan kung may magagawa ka naman. Lucky numbers at color for the day ang 3, 31, 37, 39 at dollar green

TAURUS: (Abr. 20-May. 20) Mahalaga ang iyong paninindigan na gawin ang mabuti at tama. Huwag papatinag dahil ang hinahangad na promotion ay malapit nang maabot. Suriing mabuti ang mga papakinggang payo. Lucky numbers at color for the day ang 11, 9, 15, 37 at tangerine.

GEMINI: (May.21-Hun. 21) Ang iyong magagawa ay la-ging makabuluhan sa pamilya. Kaya huwag panghinaan ng loob. Hindi naman nila hanap kung ano ang wala, kundi kung ano ang makakayanan ay sapat na. Lucky numbers at color for the day ang 7, 13, 17, 25 at violet.

CANCER: (Hun. 22-Hul. 22) Mauubos ang iyong time sa pag-entertain ng mga madramang sad story. Kung hindi madidisiplina ang sarili. Maaaring magahol sa mga gawaing kailangan matapos. Unahin ang dapat unahin. Lucky numbers at color for the day ang 17, 27, 33, 44 at green.

LEO: (Hul. 23-Ago. 22) Ang pag-aaral ay nakakasira sa barkada. Maging matalino kung kanino ka mapapabilang. Habang walang pasok, gamit ang oras sa kapakipakinabang na bagay. Mag-review ka naman. Lucky numbers at color for the day ang 11, 17, 29, 43 at lilac.

VIRGO: (Ago. 23-Set.23) Sundin ang budget sa gastusin. Kapag nag-shopping, iwan ang credit card sa bahay para maiwasan ang temtasyon. Gawin ang dapat para hindi mabaon sa utang. Lucky numbers at color for the day ang 17, 25, 55, 1 at cyan blue.

LIBRA: (Set. 24-Okt. 23) Ang pagturo ng supernatural na kaalaman ang magpapasigla sa iyong katauhan. Ito ang aakit ng suwerte mo. Kung may bisyo, tantanan dahil tiyak na pagsisisihan ito sa huli. Lucky numbers at color for the day ang 17, 35, 45, 51 at garnet green.

SCORPIO: (Okt. 24-Nob. 22) Magpa-aura cleansing upang maalis ang kulam mula sa inggit. Nakatadhana ang tagumpay maging sa negosyo. Kaya kung nagbabalak na mag-invest, simulan ang pagsasaliksik. Lucky numbers at color for the day ang 19, 27, 31, 45 at powder blue.

SAGITTARIUS: (Nob. 23-Dis. 21) Pag-aralan kung paano makontrol ang iyong sobrang pagseselos. Ito ay issue ng kawalan ng tiwala mo sa sarili at sa iyong partner. Baguhin ang mindset bago pa tuluyang layuan ng iyong mahal. Lucky numbers at color for the day ang 21, 35, 39, 44 at emerald green.

CAPRICORN: (Dis. 22-Ene. 19) Maiirita ka sa isang customer. Habaan ang pa-sensya kung mahal mo ang iyong trabaho. Ang social connections ngayon ang magpapasigla sa buhay mo. Lucky numbers at color for the day ang 5, 9, 31, 47 at brown.

AQUARIUS: (Ene. 20-Peb. 18) Ang kasalukuyang financial proposal ay dapat na pag-aralan ng mabuti bago pirmahan. Pairalin ang malawak na pasensiya para sa isang pasaway na kapamilya. Lucky numbers at color for the day ang 7, 11, 29, 33 at butter yellow.

The City Government of Bacoor.....

barangay officials, the fisherfolk, informal settler families (ISFs), student leaders, mussel and oyster farmers, businessmen, environmental groups, and other concerned government agencies. The fishermen are most satisfied with the proposed Fisherman's Village in Barangay Alima which is also part of the proposed reclamation projects in order to make sure that they will not be displaced from their industry. The proposed projects are expected to uplift their living conditions with the establishment of the Fisherman's Wharf along Sineguelasan coasts which will also develop and preserve the 40-hectare mangroves plantation of the City.

"Sa mga sinabi po ng opisyal ng Bacoor na kami ay hindi maiiwan, bagkus ay mabibiyayaan kami po ay lubos na natutuwa at nagpapasalamat," said Cherielyn Espiritu, leader of the League of Modern and Responsible Women composed of female residents living along the city's coastal areas.

One of the stakeholders also expressed gratitude to the city government for holding the public hearing to address their concerns, noting they were never consulted for a similar project in the past, which is the construction of the Cavite road.

In-city relocation

The projects are expected to boost the city government's on-going relocation program for the concerned coastal residents and hasten its compliance with the SC mandamus for Manila Bay clean up.

In 2008, the SC issued a continuing mandamus, directing the Department of Environment and Natural Resources and several other government agencies to clean up, rehabilitate, and preserve Manila Bay, and restore and maintain its waters to make them fit for swimming, skin-diving, and other forms of contact recreation.

recreation.

Specifically, for the DENR, the Court ordered the full implementation of its Operational Plan for the Manila Bay Coastal Strategy (OPMBCS), which includes the reduction of illegal settlers, establishments and structures along coast lines and prevent future occupation of these shorelines.

"Nakita po natin na hindi naging matagumpay ang rehabilitation ng Manila Bay sa nakaraang administrasyon. Natuto na po tayong sa mga naging karanasan ng national government sa kaso ng Manila Bay," Bacoor City Mayor Lani Revilla said, noting that after over six years of continued effort and expenditure of more than P50 billion, the problem of Manila Bay pollution has yet to be sufficiently addressed.

"Ang nakikita natin, reclamation ang pinakamagandang long-term solution lalo na sa may Cavite area," she added. Revilla pointed out that the city is readying two resettlement sites for the ISFs and fishermen living along coastal areas who would be affected by the reclamation projects.

"Masasabi natin na ito ay isa sa mga iilang reclamation projects sa Pilipinas na may in-city relocation," Revilla assured the Bacooreños.

One of the resettlement sites is a property in Molino II that would be called "Ciudad Kaunlaran," where medium-rise buildings will be constructed with basic facilities and livelihood support programs. A government center with social services will also be established within the site. Among the target beneficiaries for Ciudad Kaunlaran are ISFs from 10 barangays of Bacoor who would be affected by the project.

Likewise, properties in Barangay Alima would be transformed into a Fisherman's Village for the resettlement of fishermen living along the coastlines of

Bacoor Bay. The relocation site would still allow fishermen to ply their trade while a wharf with berthing facility will be constructed for their use.

New metropolis in the offing

With the reclamation projects, Revilla said Bacoor will soon be transformed into a new center of growth in line with President Rodrigo Duterte's vision to decongest Metro Manila and spread development to other areas of the country.

She said reclamation is the prudent, sustainable, and viable solution to effectively address Bacoor's critical need for available land necessary to cope with economic stagnation and provide additional space for residential and commercial purposes.

"Reclamation ang nakikitang tugon para sa pangangailangan natin ng karagdagan lupain upang isulong and pag-unlad ng ating lungsod. Matutugunan ang lumalaking populasyon at mapabubuti ang kalagayan ng ating mga mamamayan," Revilla said.

Official data show that as much as 73 percent of Bacoor's available land space is already devoted to residential use, with only about 2 percent utilized for commercial purposes.

On the other hand, the agri-fishery areas—covering all rice lands, other productive agricultural lands, and water bodies or fishponds -- have shrunk to a total area of 410 hectares, or a mere 6.61 percent of the total land area of Bacoor.

Based on the 2015 census, the city's population density is at 13,009 per square kilometers or a total of about 600,609

individuals. If the trend continues, it is projected that Bacoor's population will double its size by 2025.

Revilla also claimed that the projects will attract new investments and busi-

nesses in the mixed-use zone for residential, leisure, commercial and education and technology hubs. Moreover, the twin projects will enhance the city's potential as a tourist attraction and increase its income from ecotourism activities.

With the establishment of business hotels in the reclamation area and their operation, Bacoor is projected to earn an additional P1.8 billion in revenues from tourism activities alone.

The reclamation projects are likewise expected to boost productivity and efficiency for economic enterprises and open new business and livelihood opportunities.

"Sisigla ang negosyo at magkakaroon ng aabot sa 700,000 na mga bagong trabaho para sa mga taga-Bacoor at mga karatig-lugar. Kaya ngayon pa lang ay nagbukas na kami ng mga libreng kurso sa aming TESDA Center upang maging handa ang Bacooreño para sa mga kakailanganin at mabubuksang oportunidad," Revilla said.

"Increased revenues will also enable the city government to improve the delivery of government services, particularly through extensive use of smart technology," she declared.

Support flood-control infrastructure

The reclamation projects which are designed with deep channels and waterways for the efficient flow of water to the sea, complement the anti-flood measures being implemented by the national government. These are necessary because Bacoor is currently the catch-basin of the Province of Cavite and naturally prone to flooding. These channels will serve as outlets of the government flood-control infrastructures aided with the most advanced technology with least inconvenience to the public.

PGC trains Internal Quality Auditors for ISO 9001:2015

To fully grasp the requirements of ISO 9001:2015 in the context of an internal auditor, the provincial government of Cavite thru the Cavite Quality Management Office (CQMO) conducted the ISO 9001:2015 Internal Quality Audit Training at the Sangguniang Panlalawigan, Legislative Building in Trece Martires City on February 11-12, 2020. The training aimed to capacitate the internal auditors for the continual improvement of the Quality Management System of the different offices of the provincial government in preparation for recertification.

Adopting of the process approach and risk-based thinking, PGC-QMS Consultant on Operations, Mr. Antonio Santos shared

valuable inputs on auditing to equip IQAs with knowledge and understanding of what objective evidence are needed to demonstrate conformance with the QMS requirements. The training also aims to prepare the internal auditors on reporting valid information, factual and value-adding audit findings.

Among the topics tackled on the first day were Audit Principles, Understanding the Requirements, and Initiating the Audit and Audit Preparation. Participants were also taught on how to prepare the correlation matrix and how to fill out the auditors note.

On the second day, Audit Execution, Audit Reporting and Audit Follow-up were deliberated and a mock audit was initiated to let the

internal auditors have a feel of how an audit is conducted in an organization with situational problems to test their skills in finding evidence that will support their audit reports.

Previous trainings and seminars were initiated in preparation for the external audit to be held on the second quarter of this year. On August 7-9, 2019, Internal Quality Auditors Training was also conducted at Tagaytay Haven Hotel for the new set of internal auditors. It also served as a refresher course for the senior internal auditors. Likewise, on January 21, 2020, ISO 9001:2015 Appreciation and Risk-Based Thinking Seminar was held to fully grasp the concepts of the QMS international standard. --Gina Perlado Pereña

City Government of Bacoor

Buong-buo ang commitment ng lahat ng mga nangangasiwa ng iba't ibang ospital sa lungsod upang panatilihin ligtas sa Covid 19 ang Bacoor. Sama-sama, tulong-tulong na poprotektahan nila ang mga Bacooreño.



DOST-CALABARZON Food Safety Team capacitates women coffee processors

By: Myrrh Caithlin L. Gutierrez

As support to Philippine Commission on Women's (PCW) focus area on Women's Economic Empowerment (WEE), DOST-CALABARZON conducted a series of forum and trainings for women micro entrepreneurs, specifically coffee processors, in CALABARZON from February 10-13, 2020 at DOST-CALABARZON Regional Office.

On the first day, Ms. Anna Rina Evangelista oriented the participants on the Food and Drug Administration's (FDA)- License to Operate (LTO) and FDA-Certificate of Product Registration (CPR) processes. On the following days, the DOST-CALABARZON Food Safety Team members, Ms. Lyn Fernandez, Ms. Niña Giron, Ms. Lorelie Dorado, Ms. Anna Daigan, Ms. Precious Monedera, and Ms. Jenny Bronburac conducted several trainings on Basic Food Hygiene, Good Manu-

facturing Practices, and Food Safety Hazards.

These forum and trainings are expected to onset the assistance to be provided for the women coffee processors. DOST-CALABARZON, in partnership with PCW-WEE project, eyes to assist the women entrepreneurs in complying with basic food safety standards to acquire FDA-LTO and CPR. Next activities laid out for this plan is the training writeshop on GMP manual and records preparation, implementation, mock audit, and turn-over of packaging and label-

ling assistance to the MSMEs.

The participants commended the initiative of DOST-CALABARZON and PCW. Dr. Estela Taño of Green Rescue said "Nakita ko ang mga dapat gawin to acquire LTO at CPR. Gayundin, ang mga dapat bantayan sa negosyo ng pagkain: contaminants, hazards, toxins. Mapapataas din ang quality ng finished product, self-confidence in the business, at consumer's confidence/[trust]."

"Malaking tulong po ang seminar na ito dahil ito po ay nagbigay sa amin ng kaalaman kung paano magiging safe at quality ang aming produkto at paano o ano ang mga dapat naming gawin para maka comply sa requirement ng FDA. Maraming salamat po! Please, more quality seminars like this." Ms. Emmalyn Rubrico of AbsMush added.

PCW-WEE is a project supported by DOST-CALABARZON that aims to provide women "access to and control over high-value productive resources". It supports women in accessing more and better jobs, starting and doing businesses, and having greater livelihood security. WEE envisions women to have "decent jobs and humane working conditions, while enjoying benefits from wealth-creating opportunities equal with men" (Philippine Commission on Women, 2009).