

CONVEYER

ANG OPISYAL NA PAHAYAGANG PAMPAMAYANAN NG ISLA NG SEMIRARA
TOMO 3 ISYU 3

HULYO-SETEYEMBRE 2021

BEFORE: South Panian Open Pit in 2017

AFTER: South Panian Rehabilitated Pit in 2021

SMPC mine rehab wins ASEAN award

Integrated energy company Semirara Mining and Power Corporation (SMPC) received top honors in the recently held ASEAN Energy Awards, Southeast Asia's highest recognition for excellence, creativity, practicality, and dedication to a cause in the field of energy.

SMPC was declared as the winner in the Special Submission category for its accelerated rehabilitation of its South Panian pit in Semirara Island, Antique.

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Habang bata-bata pa tayo, ginugugol natin ang oras at lakas sa paggawa upang makaipon ng yaman. Kapag matanda na, ang naipong yaman ay nauubos para palakasin ang ating pangangatawan. Hindi mae-enjoy ang kayamanan kung ang kalusugan ay may problema.

Ang aral na dulot ng pandemyang ito ay ang kaugnayan ng kalusugan sa kayamanan o ekonomiya ng isang bansa.

Bagsak din ang turismo, ang *stock market*, nabawasan ang pamamasyal sa mga *malls* at pasyalan, halos walang pumapasok sa mga *hotel*, limitado ang biyahe ng mga eroplano at bapor. Nakatatakot isipin ang maaaring ibungang kahirapan dahil sa COVID-19.

Lagi tayong pinaaalalahanan ng kahalagahan ng pagiging malakas upang hindi kaagad maibagsak ng sakit. Kasama na rin dito ang madalas na paghuhugas ng kamay upang mapatay ang mga mikrobyo at pagdistansya upang hindi mahawa o makahawa. Mahalaga ang kalusugan. Mas mahalaga pa kaysa kayamanan. Kaya nakapagtataka na may mga taong “pinapatay” ang katawan kumita lamang ng pera. Naghahanapbuhay tayo para mabuhay at hindi para mamatay.

Ang materyalismo ay hindi destinasyon ng buhay. Hindi ito ang layunin ng buhay. Mas maraming mahalaga kaysa kayamanan, tulad ng kalusugan. Kaya napapanahon na pagtuunan natin ang kalusugan bilang basikong pangangailangan ng buhay. Bigyan natin ng halaga ang kalusugan kaysa yaman. Laging ilagay sa kaisipan: “*Health is wealth!*”

Vicente Cesar V. Malig

Editor in Chief/Administrative Division Manager

Higit isang taon na ang lumipas ngunit patuloy pa rin tayong nakikipaglaban sa COVID-19. Bukod sa banta sa pisikal na kalusugan, lubhang naapektuhan din ng pandemya ang ating lusog-isip o *mental health*. Ang mga kaganapan sa ating paligid ay nagdulot ng pagkabalisa, pagkalungkot, pagkagalit, at iba pang matinding emosyon sa bawat isa sa atin. Iba-iba man ang ating kalagayan o naging karanasan, lahat tayo’y nakaramdam paminsan ng bigat ng kalooban habang tayo’y namumuhay sa *new normal*.

Sa kabila man ng mga pagsubok na ito, normal lamang ang mga kabagabagan na ito. *Normal* lamang makaramdam ng takot, alinlangan, at pag-iisa. Ang usapin sa *mental health* ay hindi guni-guni o kathang isip na maaaring isawalang-bahala, bagkus ay napapanahong talakayin at solusyonan upang matamo ang pangkalahatang kalusugan.

Mas lalo nating ipadama sa ating kapwa na “hindi siya nag-iisa”. Mas lalo natin pairalin ang malalim na pang-unawa at pakikinig nang walang panghuhusga o pangungutya.

Maging katig tayo ng bawat isa sa pagbalanse sa mga kaganapan sa buhay. Maging sandigan tayo ng bawat isa sa anumang pagsubok na haharapin. Higit sa lahat, maging karamay natin ang bawat isa, sa lumbay o ligaya, sa hirap o ginhawa, sa krisis man o tagumpay.



Engr. Ruben P. Lozada

Vice President for Mining Operations at Resident Manager



Ang **CONVEYOR** ang opisyal na pahayagang pampamayanan ng isla ng Semirara na tatluhan-buwan na inililimbag ng Semirara Mining and Power Corporation sa pakikipagtulungan sa Department of Energy. Ang punong tanggapan ng SPMC ay sa 2F DMCI Plaza, 2281 Chino Roces Avenue, Makati City, Philippines 1231

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Sama-samang naglinis ng dalampasigan ng Sitio Sabang sa Barangay Tinogboc ang mga *volunteers* mula sa Semirara Mining and Power Corporation (SMPC) at mga residente noong Setyembre 4, 2021, bilang pakikiisa sa *International Coastal Cleanup Day*.

Mahigit 1,000kg na *residual waste* ang nalinis mula sa dalampasigan.

Nagkaroon ng maikling pananalita si Engr. Janesto S. Diaz Jr, *Environmental Head and Pollution Control Officer* ng SMPC, ukol sa tamang pagkuha at pagsasalinsin ng basura.

Naghandog din ng mga sako at mga kalaykay ang SMPC sa mga residente upang magamit sa kanilang mga susunod na paglilinis.

“Nagpapasalamat kami sa SMPC kasi kahit papaano ay nagkakaroon ng mga ganitong aktibidades sa aming sitio at pinapaalalahanang alagaan ang ating dagat at ‘wag basta magtapon ng basura kung saan,” ani Penny Lyn Sulgan, guro ng Sabang Elementary School.



Ni Rachele Ann N. Lauricio

Coastal Cleanup inilunsad sa Sitio Sabang





DepEd-Semirara Island Cluster Head Rosarita Peñaflores receives the storybooks from SMPC President and COO Maria Cristina C. Gotianun during the turnover ceremony at Semirara Elementary School, Caluya, Antique on August 25, 2021.

SMPC donates books to 7,500 Caluya students

Semirara Mining and Power Corporation (SMPC) recently donated educational storybooks to over 7,500 public and private school students in Caluya, Antique.

Commissioned by SMPC and published by Adarna House, the storybooks aim to boost student literacy amid the ongoing distance learning setup because of the COVID-19 pandemic.

“Remote classes can be tough for young students. With these books, we hope to give them something new to enjoy and learn from,” said SMPC President and COO Maria Cristian C. Gotianun.

Titled “A Home for Giants” and “Ang Paaralan ni Tatay”, the donated books also form part of the information, education and communication program of SMPC.

“A Home for Giants” chronicles the journey of Taks, a giant clam who found a permanent home in the waters of Semirara Island while “Ang Paaralan ni Tatay” depicts mining through the eyes of a boy and his miner-father.

The Department of Education (DepEd) Schools Division of Antique “strongly recommends” the use of the two storybooks in the subjects of Science, English, Filipino, and Edukasyon sa Pagpapakatao.

“These learning materials promote love and appreciation for environment, family, and education which are appropriate to Grade 5, 6 and even high school learners,” said Felisa Beriong, CESO VI, Assistant Schools Division Superintendent of DepEd-Antique.

For Caluya Central School Principal Olive Joy Calanoy, the storybooks support DepEd’s Contextualization, Localization and Indigenization (CLI) of learning materials to make them relatable for learners.

“Readers from other islands will also have a vivid picture of the local settings described in the stories,” Calanoy said.

“Ang Paaralan ni Tatay reminds me to study hard and value the hard work of my parents as they sacrifice for us,” said Grade 5 pupil Samantha Fedge Gabrielle Sabuca-a of Semirara Adventist Academy.

“I liked the story of giant clams because it teaches us how to take care of these unique species,” said Grade 6 pupil Dave Cantao of Alegria Elementary School.

To further aid teachers and students, SMPC will be providing audio-visual book versions adaptive to the current online learning mode.





Principals and head teachers from Caluya and other nearby islands, together with Caluya Mayor Rigil Kent Lim (seated second from left), receive the storybooks during the turnover ceremony at Caluya Central School on October 18, 2021.



Antique Governor Rhodora Cadio leads other local government officials who attended the turnover ceremony at Semirara Elementary School, Caluya, Antique on August 25, 2021.



Teachers from Semirara Elementary School in Semirara Island, Caluya, Antique receive the copies of "A Home for Giants" and "Ang Paaralan ni Tatay".



Teachers from Villarises Elementary School in Semirara Island, Caluya, Antique receive the copies of "A Home for Giants" and "Ang Paaralan ni Tatay".



Grade 6 pupils from Sabang II Elementary School in Semirara Island, Caluya, Antique receive their printed copies of "A Home for Giants" and "Ang Paaralan ni Tatay".







Last December 2020, DOE Undersecretary Donato D. Marcos inspects the narra tree he planted in 2019.



Visit of DOE officers at rehabilitated Panian mine in August 2021



Clockwise from seated right: SMPC President and COO Maria Cristina C. Gotianun, VP-Mining Operations and Resident Manager Ruben Lozada, Mining Division Head Leto Macli-Ing Jr., Environmental Head Janesto Diaz Jr., Reforestation Unit Consultant Vicente Lantaca Jr., and Mine Planning and Engineering Consultant Eduardo Potayre



Philippine Wild Ducks and Eastern Cattle Egrets in the Panian rehabilitated area

SMPC mine rehab wins ASEAN award

FROM PAGE 1

The category is reserved for projects that involve innovative, creative, best practices and excellent cases in the field of coal development and utilization. Entries are required to show the contribution of the project to energy transition and energy resilience, as well as low carbon sustainable development.

“We share this recognition with the Department of Energy, the driving force behind this unprecedented feat. They wanted South Panian to be the model of sustainable and responsible mining in the country, and we did what we could to make this happen,” said SMPC president and COO Maria Cristina C. Gotianun.

The fastest of its kind and scale in the Philippines, SMPC’s South Panian mine rehabilitation involved the accelerated backfilling and reforestation of the 168-hectare open pit.

“I am thankful for winning the ASEAN Energy Awards. I am happy and proud because SMPC is really doing

a good job in rehabilitation. I know that I contributed to the backfilling that enabled the tree planting by the Reforestation unit,” said backhoe operator Ador Luces, resident of Barangay Tinogboc in Semirara Island and an SMPC employee for 22 years.

Panian pit was closed in September 2016 following the depletion of its mineable coal reserves. In less than two years, SMPC completed what should have been a five to 10-year rehabilitation plan for South Panian.

From an elevation of 260 meters below sea level—equivalent to a 78-story building, the mined-out area is now 5 to 11 meters above sea level with rolling terrain and over 350,000 seedlings of endemic and native trees.

SMPC field inspector Jupiter Mortel from Barangay Semirara shares, “When I heard the news that the company won in the ASEAN Energy Awards, I was so happy. It’s so nice to know that the trees we planted have grown taller

which may be the reason why we won the award.”

This is the third ASEAN Award for SMPC. In 2015, it was a runner up in the Corporate Social Responsibility category for its reef rehabilitation efforts in Semirara Island. The project involves the spawning and reseedling of endangered giant clams through the Semirara Marine Hatchery Laboratory.

In 2013, SMPC earned second runner-up honors in the same category for its 5Es Program, which aims to uplift living conditions in Semirara Island through education, employment, environmental stewardship, economic empowerment and electrification.

As the biggest employer in Semirara Island, SMPC taps into the talent of its local community and hires approximately 59% of its mine site workforce of 3,150 from the provinces of Antique, Aklan, Capiz, Iloilo, and Mindoro, with 45% from Semirara Island or Caluya municipality.



By Mark S. Duldulao

SMPC continuously adheres to the Comprehensive Water Quality Management



SMPC has always been aware of its impact towards environment particularly in water quality. Hence, different monitoring stations were established to check if there is any disturbance or effect of its mining operation to the quality of ambient waters such as freshwater and seawater.

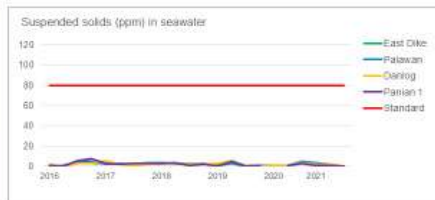
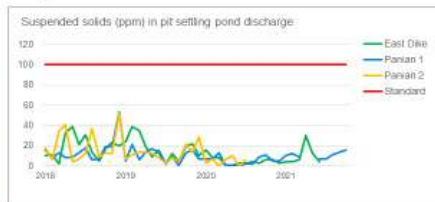
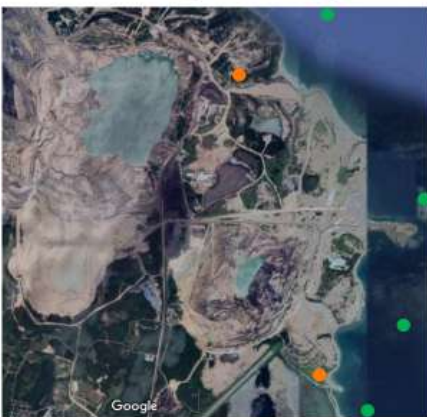
With the company's different sources of effluents such as from power plant, desalination plant, and pit discharges, SMPC's Environmental and Biodiversity

Department is conducting a monthly monitoring of these discharges. A quarterly water sampling from 18 stations for seawater monitoring and 7 stations for freshwater monitoring are also performed.

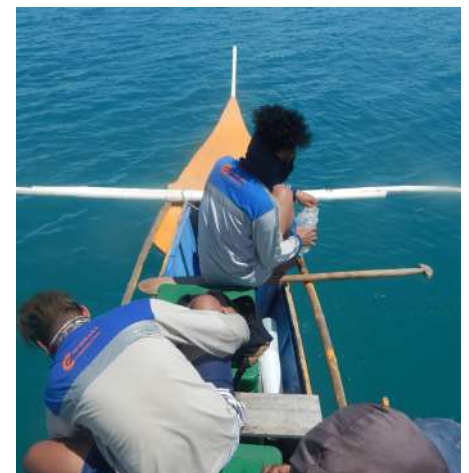
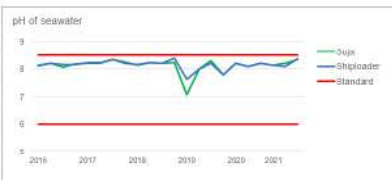
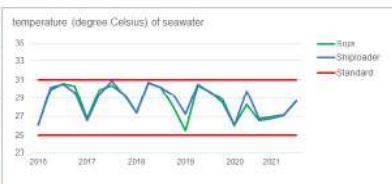
Onsite monitoring equipment such as Hach Portable TSS Analyzer and Water Quality Meter are used for in-situ measurements. These equipment are calibrated annually for a reliable indicative monitoring. For a credible result, collected water samples are delivered to a third-party laboratory accredited by the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) for its analysis. Significant parameters are tested as well as its metallic and organic components.

Analyses of the tested parameters are in compliance with the RA 9275's Implementing Rules and Regulations which is the DAO 2016-08 and the updated water quality guidelines and effluent standards (DAO 2021-19).

Environmental Impact Monitoring- Water Quality



Environmental Impact Monitoring- Water Quality





By Roanni L. Magdaug

Bringing government services closer to Semirara island residents

For the past several years, residents of Barangay Semirara, Tinogboc, and Alegria have to take a 2-3-hour ferry ride from Semirara Port to Caluya to avail of basic government services. This is especially true for transactions involving registration of businesses, civil registry records, payment of real property taxes and other complex government transactions requiring personal appearance.

In most instances, residents and workers of Semirara Mining and Power Corporation (SMPC), the coal mining company operating in Semirara Island, have to risk life and limb when travelling to Caluya Island. Even though the Municipality of Caluya has an existing sub-office in Semirara, that building is more than 20 years old and had been damaged and dilapidated

due to numerous typhoons and poor maintenance.

Last year, Mayor Rigil Kent G. Lim identified the Semirara municipal sub-office as a priority project of the LGU.

"Caluya is a first-class municipality. Under my leadership, we will build on the visions of my late father and former mayor Reynante Lim. So we will have new buildings that will bring the services of the municipality closer to residents of Semirara with the construction of a new municipal sub-office which started this July 2021," Lim said.

Mayor Lim said the LGU has also prioritized the construction of a new municipal hall in Caluya Island this fourth quarter of 2021.

The municipal sub-office will house front-line services such as business registration, civil registry,

land assessment and real property tax payments, agriculture and fishery services, and services for senior citizens among others.

It will also have quarters for LGU staff and officers coming from Caluya and Sibay when coming over to Semirara for the implementation of various projects.

The building will also provide a permanent presence for the LGU in Semirara and bring closer the connections between Municipality of Caluya and SMPC to easily provide access and deliver of more services of the government to residents of Semirara Island and the whole municipality of Caluya.

The municipal sub-office in Semirara is expected to be completed by December 2021 and will be open for business to residents and SMPC by January 2022.

WHAT TO KNOW ABOUT THE DELTA VARIANT



ORIGINAL COVID-19 STRAIN



DELTA VARIANT COVID-19 STRAIN



Delta spreads more easily. It infects more people and spreads faster than other variants of the virus that causes COVID-19.



Vaccinated people are at low risk



Unvaccinated people are at higher risk

for severe illness, hospitalization and death.

I'M STILL CONSIDERING GETTING VACCINATED. WHAT DO I NEED TO KNOW ABOUT DELTA?

There's strong evidence that **Delta** is much more transmissible than earlier variants of COVID-19 which puts you in greater danger of becoming sick even in areas where cases are falling.

You should get vaccinated as soon as possible and keep wearing a mask and avoiding crowded indoor spaces until you are fully vaccinated.

Delta might cause more severe illness than other variants in **unvaccinated people**.

Fully vaccinated people are much less likely than unvaccinated people to get **very sick from Delta**, but some can still be **infected by and spread Delta**.

HOW YOU CAN SLOW THE SPREAD OF DELTA VARIANT

- ✓ Vaccines help protect you from getting very sick from COVID-19, including from illness caused by the **Delta variant**. They can also reduce the spread of the virus in your community.
- ✓ If you're in an area of **substantial or high transmission**, wear a mask indoors in public even if you're fully vaccinated.
- ✓ If you've been exposed to COVID-19 or developed symptoms, **get tested even if you're fully vaccinated**.
- ✓ If you're a **community or business leader**, encourage vaccination and wearing of mask to help prevent further spread of Delta, especially in areas of high or substantial transmission.
- ✓ If you're a teacher, staffer, student, or parent of a student, **wear a mask at school**, even if you're fully vaccinated.



WHEN SHOULD YOU GET TESTED?



EARLIER STRAINS

5-8 DAYS

3-5 DAYS

DELTA VARIANT



By DOE

EE&C law to help mitigate climate change, cut power cost-DOE

TAGUIG CITY --- Energy Secretary Alfonso G. Cusi on Thursday (2 September) said full implementation of the Energy Efficiency and Conservation Act (EE&C) will not only help mitigate the disastrous effects of climate change but would also serve to lower power costs for consumers.

“Isa sa malaking batas na naipasa para sa consumers ang Energy Efficiency and Conservation Act. Energy efficiency is seen as a major driver in the increased GHG (greenhouse gas) reduction/avoidance of the energy sector with its full implementation,” Sec. Cusi noted.

GHG is any gas in the atmosphere which absorbs and re-emits heat, keeping our planet’s atmosphere warmer than it otherwise would be, increasing the amount of water vapor in the atmosphere, which can lead to extreme weather phenomena such as prolonged drought, torrential rains, severe snowstorms, and stronger

typhoons.

Among others, the law calls for the development and enforcement of a mandatory energy efficiency rating and labeling system for energy-consuming products such as air-conditioners, refrigerators, and television sets as well as performance labeling for vehicle manufacturers, importers, and dealers.

It also mandates local government units to implement the Guidelines on Energy Conserving Design on Buildings for the construction of new buildings.

Covered establishments are required to submit an Annual Energy Consumption and Conservation Report (ECCR) by the 15th of April of every year to the Department of Energy (DOE).

To fully implement the law, Sec. Cusi said the DOE has been actively coordinating and partnering with other agencies and stakeholders to educate local government units on how they can be agents of energy efficiency and conservation.

Although challenges may continue to rise, Sec. Cusi said the DOE remains committed to securing a sustainable, clean, and affordable energy supply for the country.

Sec. Cusi believes the EE&C would be a “game-changer” that would eventually integrate the best practices on energy efficiency and conservation in the way of life of Filipinos.

Signed on 12 April 2019, the EE&C Act or Republic Act 11285 (RA 11285), seeks to institutionalize energy efficiency and conservation, enhance the efficient use of energy, and grants incentives to energy efficiency and conservation projects.

The law was the result of DOE’s efforts to pursue its advocacy of curbing energy demand without sacrificing economic productivity.

Sec. Cusi signed the Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR) on 22 November 2019 and became effective on 21 December 2019.



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AND RESILIENCE**

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ENVIRONMENTAL STEWARDSHIP

ENERGY

ECONOMIC EMPOWERMENT



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