

# Rains to curb SEA nickel output, with consequences for RE adoption, says IEA

A THIRD of Southeast Asia's (SEA) nickel mines are expected to experience heavier rainfall in the coming years, with the resulting drop in production possibly delaying the global transition to renewables, the International Energy Agency (IEA) said.

At the Asian Development Bank (ADB) Asia Clean Energy Forum, Jinsun Lim, IEA Energy and Environment Policy Analyst, said: "Southeast Asia is delivering a dominant role in nickel supply today... However, we are observing that escalating risks of floods due to heavy rainfall could be long-term threats (to nickel production)."

One-third of nickel mines in Southeast Asia are likely to see a more than 10% increase in heavy rainfall by the end of the century, Ms. Lim said.

"If climate change is not mitigated in time, in a high-emission scenario,

almost all nickel mines in the region will see over a 10% increase (in rainfall) or more," she said.

Deemed a crucial energy transition mineral, nickel is a key component of solar photovoltaics (PV) and electric vehicle batteries.

The Philippines and Indonesia account for two-thirds of global nickel output, Ms. Lim said.

Global demand for nickel is expected to increase in the coming years as countries rush to limit global warming to 1.5°C under the Paris Agreement.

The Philippines hopes to increase the share of renewable energy (RE) in its power mix to 35% by 2030 and 50% by 2040.

Renewables currently account for 22% of the Philippine energy mix.

Extreme heat will also reduce the capacity of solar panels, resulting in

lower solar energy production, Ms. Lim said.

"Higher temperature leads to a lower voltage and less solar power generation, as most solar PVs work best in cool and sunny weather of around 25°," she said.

Under a high-emission scenario, around two-thirds of solar PVs would see more than 20 days of maximum temperature of about 35°, according to IEA.

Ms. Lim also noted that the Philippines remains highly vulnerable to rising sea levels, affecting more than half of the population living in coastal areas.

Around 60% of Southeast Asia's gross domestic product is generated by coastal locations, with more than a quarter of the region's population living along the coastal, she added. — **Beatriz Marie D. Cruz**

## Asia-Pacific economies must build up rice reserves to stabilize prices, ADB says

ASIA-PACIFIC countries must build up their reserves of rice while ensuring there is no market abuse to take advantage of shortages, the Asian Development Bank (ADB) said.

"To address these challenges, governments and stakeholders must adopt a multifaceted approach that addresses both short- and medium-term concerns," Pilipinas F. Quising, senior economics officer, and Shiela Camingue-Romance, economics officer at the ADB Macroeconomics Research Division, said in a blog.

"Consistently adopting a reactive rather than proactive approach often results in short-term fixes that can worsen long-term problems," they said.

Rice is a major staple in the Asia-Pacific, where the Philippines is projected to remain the world's biggest rice importer next year, according to the US Department of Agriculture (USDA).

The commodity accounts for up to 70% of daily caloric intake and a major share of the food price basket across Asia.

Global rice prices have risen 38% between December 2022 and December 2023, the bank said. "Despite a slight decline to an average of \$613/metric ton in March, prices remain 29% higher than they were a year ago," the ADB said.

Continued shocks from the El Niño weather phenomenon have also yet to become apparent in the region, it added.

"The persistence of El Niño until the second quarter, coupled with the possibility of transitioning into La Niña later in the year, poses continued risks to rice production."

To curb risks to rice supply and prices, the government must strengthen market transparency and monitoring to prevent price manipulation and hoarding, the ADB said. It must provide targeted subsidies to vulnerable populations.

President Ferdinand R. Marcos, Jr. has yet to sign a bill seeking harsher sanctions against agricultural hoarding, smuggling, and other forms of market abuse.

Asia-Pacific countries must also build up rice reserves to ensure steady supply and dampen volatile prices in the medium term, Ms. Quising and Ms. Camingue-Romance said.

"However, efficient management, transparency, and proper storage and distribution infrastructure are crucial for ensuring effectiveness, preventing corruption and spoilage, and guaranteeing quality and accessibility of the reserved rice," they added.

Philippine rice inflation eased slightly to 23.9% in April after peaking at 24.4% in March, the Philippine Statistic Authority reported.

Governments should also invest in modern agricultural technology and infrastructure, and push for crop diversification to strengthen resilience against climate shocks, Ms. Quising and Ms. Camingue-Romance said.

Damage to agriculture caused by the El Niño dry spell has topped P9.5 billion, the Philippines' Department of Agriculture (DA) said last month.

Countries must also share best practices and ensure open trade to better manage rice supply and prices in the region.

The Department of Finance is studying a proposal to cut tariffs on rice imports to 17.5% or 20% from the current 35% rate. — **Beatriz Marie D. Cruz**

## Economic sabotage bill may deter tobacco smuggling, JTI says

THE impending economic sabotage bill is expected to help the government minimize lost revenue from tobacco smuggling, cigarette maker JTI Philippines said.

"We are looking forward to its full implementation. The crime of tobacco smuggling is indeed an act of economic sabotage because, put simply, it robs the nation's coffers," JTI General Manager John Freda said in a statement.

"Not only does it deprive government of much needed tax revenue but illegal trade cheats everyone: society, consumers and legitimate businesses," he said.

Last month, the bicameral conference committee report on the Anti-Agricultural Economic Sabotage bill was ratified.

It seeks to repeal Republic Act No. 10845 or the Anti-Agricultural Smuggling Act. It will also introduce stiffer penalties for smuggling, hoarding, profiteering, and cartel-like behavior in regard to agricultural and fisheries products.

Mr. Freda said the illicit tobacco trade is "growing at alarming levels" and threatens the economy, particularly agriculture.

The Bureau of Internal Revenue (BIR) estimates that the government lost P25.5 billion

in taxes from illicit tobacco last year.

This year, the BIR is hoping to collect P324.56 billion in excise taxes, with tobacco products being counted on to generate P152.4 billion.

The tobacco industry has so far contributed around P46.69 billion to the excise tax collections as of April 2024.

Mr. Freda said that the impact of tobacco smuggling extends to farmers, local government units, retailers and consumers, and revenue collection agencies.

The proceeds from the illicit trade also "often finance much larger criminal activities such as corruption, the smuggling of drugs and weapons, human trafficking and terrorism."

Mr. Freda said that once the bill is signed into law, it will "send a strong message to smugglers and their accomplices of the government's serious commitment to address the worsening problem of illicit trade in tobacco."

"Once the law is ready for full implementation by the mandated agencies, the government has an additional potent weapon in its arsenal to wage war against smuggling syndicates." — **Luisa Maria Jacinta C. Jocson**

## Alternate sites touted as closure looms for landfill that serves Clark

THE Bases Conversion and Development Authority (BCDA) said that it will assist local governments and locators whose waste management operations will be affected by the impending closure of a landfill in Tarlac.

In a statement on Monday, the BCDA said that it will help find alternative solutions for waste disposal to ensure continuity of solid waste management services.

The BCDA issued the statement in light of the October expiry of the 25-year contract of Metro Clark Waste Management Corp.'s (MCWMC) for the Kalangitan sanitary landfill.

"The BCDA maintains that a sanitary landfill is no longer consistent with the government's vision of transforming New Clark City into a premier investment and tourism destination," it added.

Citing a report from the Environmental Management Bureau, it noted two existing facilities in

Pampanga that may be tapped by those affected by the end of MCWMC's contract.

"These facilities have a combined total capacity of 3,500 metric tons (MT) of domestic waste per day, and a potential to expand further to 6,000 MT," the BCDA said.

It added that a materials recovery facility is set to open in Porac, Pampanga with a capacity of 5,000 MT per day.

"This brings the total combined capacity to 11,000 MT, which is more than enough to address the solid waste management requirements of Tarlac, Pampanga, and other provinces in and around the region," the agency said.

"This should allay fears of a looming garbage and health crisis in the region," it added.

An estimated 4,000 MT of waste is dumped into the Kalangitan facility per day. — **Adrian H. Halili**



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SANGGUNIANG PANLUNGSOD OF MAKATI

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LnB President	HON. ROLANDO D. ALVAREZ, JR.
SK President	HON. JEROME TRISTAN G. PANGILINAN

**N.B.:**

Councilor HON. KRISTINA T. SAROSA – Vacation Leave

**ALSO IN ATTENDANCE:**

Secretary to the Sanggunian ATTY. DINDO R. CERVANTES

Upon motion of Hon. M.D.M. Arayon, duly seconded, the Sangguniang Panlungsod of Makati, by a unanimous vote, approved City Resolution No. 2024-047 on second and final reading.

**CITY RESOLUTION NO. 2024-047**

Authors: Hon. A.P. Padilla, Hon. R.A.Q. Saguisag, Jr., Hon. D.B. Almario, Hon. B.B. Baniqued, Hon. V.V. Hilario, Jr., Hon. M.D.M. Arayon, Hon. E.M. Marquez, Hon. C.C. Ortega and Hon. J.T.G. Pangilinan

Co-Authors: Hon. M.J.P.Q. Arenas, Hon. J.M. Ariones, Hon. L.S. Javier, Jr., Hon. J.C. Villena, IV, Hon. A.A.M. Yabut and Hon. R.D. Alvarez, Jr.

**A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE HONORABLE MAYOR MAR-LEN ABIGAIL S. BINAY OR HER DULY AUTHORIZED REPRESENTATIVE TO NEGOTIATE, ENTER INTO, AND SIGN A MEMORANDUM OF AGREEMENT (MOA), AND ALL OTHER PERTINENT DOCUMENTS RELATIVE THERETO, FOR AND ON BEHALF OF THE CITY GOVERNMENT OF MAKATI, WITH THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH-METRO MANILA CENTER FOR HEALTH DEVELOPMENT (DOH-MMCHD) RELATIVE TO THE RETURN OF ONE (1) UNIT OF AMBULANCE AND SEVERAL PIECES OF MEDICAL EQUIPMENT, SUBJECT TO EXISTING LAWS, RULES, AND REGULATIONS.**

**WHEREAS**, on 29 December 2021, the Department of Health – Metro Manila Center for Health Development (DOH-MMCHD) donated two (2) units of ambulance, in favor of the City Government of Makati, worth approximately Four Million Eight Hundred Seventy-Six Thousand Pesos (Php 4,876,000.00) wherein one of the ambulances donated was for the use of Comembo Health Center with the following specifications:

Brand	Hyundai
Model	Grand Starex
Chassis No.	KMFBXKALU13572
Engine No.	D4CBL015260
Official Receipt (OR) No.	2115959720
Certificate of Registration (CR No.)	42253798-6
Property Transfer Report (PTR)	2021-09-026
Plate No.	KIV502

**WHEREAS**, DOH-MMCHD likewise transferred, through Property Transfer Tax Receipts, several pieces of medical equipment to the City of Makati and forty-four (44) of those amounting to approximately Four Hundred Eight-One Thousand Three Hundred Twenty-Nine Pesos (Php481,329.00) to be used by EMBO Barangays, *to wit*:

Medical Equipment	Quantity
EENT Diagnostic Set	8
Emergency Lights	17
Fetal Doppler	1
Minor Surgical Set/Cut Down Set	8
Resuscitator, Manual, Adult	8
Wheeled Stretcher	2

**WHEREAS**, pursuant to the Supreme Court decision in the case entitled as Municipality of Makati (now City of Makati) vs. Municipality of Taguig (now City of Taguig), G.R. No. 235316, dated 1 December 2021, the territorial jurisdiction over the EMBO barangays has been transferred to the City of Taguig;

**WHEREAS**, notwithstanding the abovementioned adverse decision by the Supreme Court, the City Government of Makati is firmly faithful in promoting the best interests and well-being of the residents, including the now residents of Taguig City, healthcare workers, and non-medical personnel;

**WHEREAS**, the City Government of Makati is dedicated to protecting and promoting the right to health of the people, thereby wholeheartedly handing over to DOH-MMCHD the abovementioned ambulance, as well as the forty-four (44) units of medical equipment, under the sole condition that such undertaking shall primarily for the benefit of the EMBO barangays;

**WHEREAS**, a Memorandum of Agreement, among other documents, between the City Government of Makati and DOH-MMCHD is necessary to effectuate the abovementioned purpose;

**WHEREAS**, Section 8 (a) (6) of R.A. No. 7854, otherwise known as the Charter of the City of Makati, provides that the City Mayor, as the chief executive of the city government, shall, among others, represent the City in all its business transactions and sign on its behalf all bonds, contracts, and obligations, and such other documents upon authority of the Sangguniang Panlungsod or pursuant to law or ordinance;

**WHEREAS**, in consideration of the reasonableness and absence of any legal impediment to the aforesaid authority that will be given to the City Mayor, the Sangguniang Panlungsod of Makati, pursuant to the abovementioned provision of law, hereby approves this Resolution.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, AS IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED BY THE SANGGUNIANG PANLUNGSOD OF MAKATI, METRO MANILA, BY THE POWERS VESTED IN IT BY LAW, IN SESSION ASSEMBLED**, to authorize the Honorable Mayor Mar-len Abigail S. Binay or her duly authorized representative to negotiate, enter into and sign a Deed of Partial Revocation of Donation, and all other pertinent documents relative thereto, for and on behalf of the City Government of Makati, with the Department of Health – Metro Manila Center for Health and Development (DOH-MMCHD), relative to the return of one (1) unit of ambulance and several pieces of medical equipment, subject to existing laws, rules, and regulations.

**RESOLVED FURTHER**, that copies of this Resolution be furnished the Department of Health – Metro Manila Center for Health Development (DOH-MMCHD), Office of the Mayor, Office of the City Administrator, Law Department, Makati Health Department (MHD), General Services Department (GSD), Information and Community Relations Department (ICRD), Department of the Interior and Local Government – Makati City Field Office (DILG-Makati City), and all other departments, offices, and agencies concerned for their information, guidance, and reference.

This Resolution shall be posted and published in accordance with the provisions of R.A. No. 7854.

**APPROVED BY THE SANGGUNIANG PANLUNGSOD OF MAKATI, METRO MANILA**, in its Regular Session held on 29 May 2024.

Attested by:

**ATTY. DINDO R. CERVANTES**  
Secretary to the Sangguniang Panlungsod

Certified true and correct by:

**HON. MONIQUE YAZMIN MARIA Q. LAGDAMEO**  
Vice Mayor & Presiding Officer