

Almost 53% of the Philippines' 30 million hectares of lands is part of Southeast Asia's forests – the most bio-diverse terrestrial ecosystem on planet Earth. But how have we treated these blessings?

We lose an average of 130,000 hectares of forests annually. Whatever declining balance we have continues to degrade in bio-physical, environmental and economic aspects. The Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) says that the "decline is largely attributed to a number of inadequate and poorly implemented forestry policies that led to the rapid exploitation of timber from virgin forests at prices far below real market values."

What are our legislators doing to address the inadequacy of the policies? What are our regulators doing to address the poor implementation of whatever good-enough forestry policies there are? On top of the massive deforestation, does our urban-development strategy respect trees that are still standing in some areas, such as, Subic?

Given the Philippines' weak policy and regulatory environment, what actions can we take to conserve, secure, and manage our forests and make them help us face the current and emerging financial, water, climate change, and other crises?

Hear answers to these questions and recommendations toward sustainable forest resources

"Forest Assets Can Help us Face Financial, Water, Climate Change and Other Crises?" on KK! Feb. 25 - M

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management and rational forest land allocation: Tune in or watch Kalikasan, Kaunlaran! (KK!) on Feb. 25, 2009, Wednesday, 6:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. (Manila time), at DZRH-AM radio (666 in Metro Manila, other kHz nationwide), TV (Ch. 9 in Metro Manila, other cable TV channels nationwide), and Internet (<http://dzh.tripod.com> or <http://dzh.prepys.com>).

Guests are some of the country's leading foresters: Napoleon T. Vergara, retired Forestry professor, University of the Philippines-Los Baños (UPLB) and now chair, Green Topics International; Likas Yaman Awardee Dr. Adolfo V. Revilla, Jr., former dean, UPLB College of Forestry and Natural Resources; and Renato A. de Rueda, former Undersecretary for Field Operations, DENR, and now National Coordinator, OIKOS Society and Trustee, GREEN Army. EARTH Institute Asia President Dr. Cora Claudio will moderate the discussion in conversational Tagalog-English.

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KK! co-producers are EARTH Inst. Asia and DZRH, with the support of Unilever, Unilab, Manila Water, Pilipinas Shell, Toby's Sports, Delbros Supply Chain Solutions, Yehey.Com, MAP, and Brahma Kumaris, and with the cooperation of GREEN Army, PFST, TOWNS, PBE, AIJC, PEIA, DENR, MabuhayRadio.com, SanibLakas, and various egroups and environment-caring groups/individuals.

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