

iMPACT

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ENERGY, ENVIRONMENT, AND SUSTAINABILITY



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23-24 May, Online & Global Broadcast

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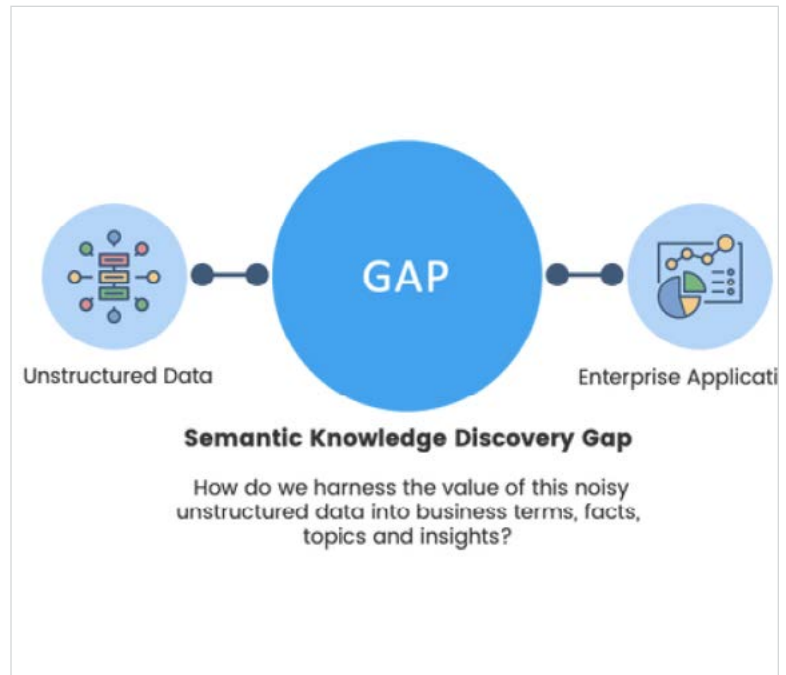
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40 HEALTHY ENVIRONMENTS, HEALTHY COMMUNITIES: THE NECESSITY OF BUILDING ROBUST AND CLIMATE RESILIENT HEALTH SYSTEMS BY NEERAJ JAIN

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48 CARBON CUTTER: A SOLUTION TO REDUCE THE WORLD'S FOSSIL- FUEL GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSION FOOTPRINT BY DAN RENNER

The urgent problem of millions of people dying annually cannot wait for electric vehicles to become the dominant mode of transportation in the future. In this interview, we explore Mr. Brenner's innovative solution, the Carbon Cutter, which aims to bridge the transportation pollution gap that has persisted for decades.

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As we look forward with great expectations to a greener and sustainable Earth, this issue of iMPACT brings to you diverse contributors who provide insights into recent developments, and trends in **Energy, Environment and Sustainability**.

With the world constantly changing for the worse rather than the better, it is important that we navigate the situation with the best mitigation and adaptation strategies. Technological advancement should aid our efforts to address the sustainability challenges. Energy is the lifeblood of modern society, the environment is currently facing unprecedented challenges because of human activity which often arise from the need to produce more energy, and lastly sustainability is the future and goal that we should achieve when it comes to both energy and environment. The theme of our current issue was thus chosen because addressing challenges in these fields requires a holistic approach that brings together stakeholders from a wide range of sectors.

What awaits you in this issue are our conversations with different stakeholders who talk about their work, articles that talk about sustainability in different sectors, and how technology can help companies with their ESG plans and strategy. We also stand by our commitment of bringing exclusive content for our future agents of change through this issue.

We look forward to your feedback, suggestions, recommendations, as together the **impact** of our words and your actions shall create a synergy that could transform the world of development. We hope to have your continued support and patronage.

Thank you for your valuable time!

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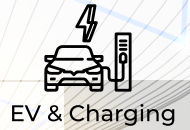
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EVENTS ROUNDUP

As the COVID-19 situation across the world is still developing, some of these events might move online, or be cancelled. Please check the web site for the latest information.

*Click for more details

- 1 [Women Rising: Bridging the Gender Gap and Promoting Inclusive Growth](#)
March 21
📍 *Makati City/BGC & Zoom*
👤 European Chamber of Commerce of the Philippines
- 2 [Asia Climate Forum 2023](#)
April 18-20
📍 *Singapore*
👤 Campbell Scientific, Inc.
- 3 [Learning Technologies Exhibition & Conference 2023](#)
May 3-4
📍 *London, UK*
👤 Learning Technologies
- 4 [Global Impact Summit 2023](#)
May 9-12
📍 *Global*
👤 WomenTech Network
- 5 [10th POWER AND ENERGY / SOLAR POWER EXHIBITION 2023 – KENYA](#)
May 18-20
📍 *Nairobi, Kenya*
👤 ExpoGroup
- 6 [Blue Food Innovation Summit](#)
May 23-24
📍 *London, UK*
👤 Rethink Events
- 7 [Southern Africa ESG, Impact Investing & Sustainable Finance forum](#)
May 25-26
📍 *Cape Town, South Africa*
👤 ESG Impact
- 8 [Webinar: The Sulitest Certificate: a new global standard for assessing sustainability knowledge](#)
May 31
📍 *Global*
👤 Association for the Advancement of Sustainability in Higher Education
- 9 [The 6th International EcoSummit Congress](#)
June 13-17
📍 *Gold Coast, Australia*
👤 EcoSummit Foundation
- 10 [AVPN Global Conference 2023](#)
June 20-22
📍 *Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia*
👤 Asian Venture Philanthropy Network
- 11 [The World's Longest Running CSR & ESG Event: The 15th Annual Global CSR and ESG Summit and Awards 2023](#)
July 27
📍 *Vietnam, Da Nang*
👤 Pinnacle Group
- 12 [Sustainable Energy Technology Asia \(SETA\) 2023](#)
August 17-19
📍 *Bangkok, Thailand*
👤 GAT International Co.,Ltd.
- 13 [ASEAN Sustainable Energy Week \(ASEW\) 2023](#)
August 31-September 1
📍 *Bangkok, Thailand*
👤 Informa Markets
- 14 [5th Annual ESG and Climate Risk Week](#)
September 12-14
📍 *London, UK*
👤 Economist Impact
- 15 [The 21st Series of Power Generation, Renewable Energy & Electrical Equipment Exhibitions](#)
September 13-16
📍 *Jakarta, Indonesia*
👤 Electric & Power Indonesia
- 16 [The 10th World Sustainability Forum](#)
September 14
📍 *Singapore*
👤 MDPI Sustainability Foundation



- 17** [GSG Global Impact Summit 2023](#)
 October 2-3
 📍 *Malaga, Spain*
 👤 Global Steering Group (GSG)
- 18** [Evidence and Implementation Summit 2023](#)
 October 9-11
 📍 *Melbourne, Australia*
 👤 Asian Venture Philanthropy Network
- 19** [14th International Water Supply, Sanitation, Water Resources and Purification Exhibition](#)
 October 11-13
 📍 *Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam*
 👤 Informa Markets Vietnam
- 20** [GITEX Impact 2023: ESG summit and sustainability event](#)
 October 16-20
 📍 *Dubai World Trade Center*
 👤 GITEX Global
- 21** [SOCAP 23](#)
 October 23-25
 📍 *San Francisco, USA*
 👤 SOCAP Global
- 22** [Asia Clean Energy Summit Conference & Exhibition](#)
 October 24-26
 📍 *Singapore*
 👤 Sustainable Energy Association of Singapore
- 23** [EDU_Tech Asia 2023](#)
 November 8-9
 📍 *Sands Expo, Singapore*
 👤 Terrapinn
- 24** [Global Mandatory Sustainability Reporting: What's on the horizon?](#)
 November 23
 📍 *Global*
 👤 Reuters Events

To include your event in this section, please email details of the event, in the format above to editor@theimpactmagazine.org


“Green Transformation” is supported by a \$36.6 million contribution from Japan.



The United Nations Development Programme launched a two-year project with the government of Japan to support four Pacific island nations with a “Green Transformation” of their economies that will reduce their reliance on fossil fuels, drive sustainable economic growth and help them cope with the impacts of climate change.

“The Government of Japan is committed to promoting sustainable development. We intend to support these countries in achieving a more climate-resilient future through our strong partnership with UNDP,” the Permanent Mission of Japan to the United Nations said in a written statement.

Faced with more frequent and extreme weather events that could undo decades of economic growth, Small Island Developing States (SIDS) leaders view climate action as a matter of survival for their countries.


Papua New Guinea, Samoa, Timor-Leste, and Vanuatu will benefit from the project’s investments in renewable energy, improved resource management, and boosted resilience to climate change-related extreme weather events. 

A coal power boom and the “staggering” success of renewable energy are both part of China’s energy transition

Growing renewable energy quickly in China is cautiously raising hopes that the world’s largest carbon emitter will soon start to reduce greenhouse gas pollution.

Beijing is considered to be “the glaring exception to the ongoing global decline in coal plant development,” according to the worldwide Energy Monitor. This presents a major threat to the nation’s climate goals.

China authorised the newest coal-fired plants since 2015 last year, according to research by the Centre for Research on Energy and Clean Air and GEM published late last month.

100 large-fired power plants’ worth of new coal power capacity was approved by Beijing in 2022, which is four times more than the previous year. 



Fire at Rohingya camp, Bangladesh leaving thousands homeless

A fire broke out at the Rohingya refugee camp in Cox's Bazar, Bangladesh, on March 4, 2023, has left an estimated 12,000 Rohingya without a place to stay. The fire, which started in the afternoon, spread quickly due to strong winds, destroying hundreds of shelters in the camp.

Faruque Ahmed, a police official in the area, stated that it was not known what caused the fire on Sunday which was put out in three hours. He added that at least 35 mosques and 21 refugee learning facilities were also destroyed, despite the absence of any reports of injuries or deaths.


More than one million Rohingya refugees, including 700,000 who left their native Myanmar following a brutal military crackdown in 2017, are housed at Camp 11 of the Cox's Bazar refugee camp, where a fire broke out in 2017. 



Photo Courtesy of BBC News

23 dead whales washed ashore on the East coast




Photo Courtesy of New York Times

According to the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), Pivot is one of the 26 humpback whale strandings that have occurred from Maine to Florida since January of last year.

Cetacean strandings, also known as whale strandings, happen when a whale is discovered on the shore, either dead or alive but unable to swim back to the sea. The species averages 90 years of life, weighs 40 tons, and reaches heights of 60 feet.

Humpback whales have accounted for most of the fatalities, and post-mortem investigations have indicated that ship collisions are probably to blame for many deaths.

Of all the whales that died in the past three months, sixteen of them were humpback whales, which is nearly half as many as washed ashore in all of 2017, a peak year for both humpback and right whale deaths. Right whales, minke, and humpback whales were all discovered to be going through what NOAA refers to as an "unusual mortality event" that year. At least 335 of these three species have turned up on the East Coast since then. 



Sustainable Development is the pathway to the future we want for all. It offers a framework to generate economic growth, achieve social justice, exercise environmental stewardship, and strengthen governance



Ban Ki-moon

ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY

THE LATEST GLOBAL STATISTICS AND TRENDS IN RENEWABLE ENERGY, CLIMATE CHANGE, AND NATURAL DISASTERS

IMPACT OF CLIMATE CHANGE



Earth's temperature has risen by an average of

0.14° Fahrenheit (0.08° Celsius)

per decade since 1880, or about 2° F in total. The rate of warming since 1981 has been more than twice as fast.



An estimated **55M people** globally are affected by droughts every year.

The Australian wildfires, between 2019-2020 alone

46M acres

(18.6 million hectares) of land destroyed over 5,900 buildings, and killed at least 34 people and an estimated 1 billion animals. It's estimated that up to 3 billion animals were affected in total.



Water scarcity impacts **40%**

of the world's population, and as many as

700M people

are at risk of being displaced as a result of drought by 2030.



6.14ft

The water level in Venice reached 6.14 feet (1.87 meters) above sea level, the highest ever measured. This was the city's highest water level in over 50 years, causing major flooding and damage.

The number of natural disasters has more than tripled since the 1960s, according to the UN, with climate-related disasters accounting for 90% of the rise. There were 30 named storms in the Atlantic alone in 2020, the most ever documented in a single season.

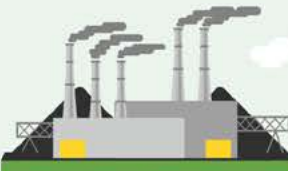



The oceans have absorbed about **30%** of the carbon dioxide emitted by humans, which has led to a **30% ↑** increase in ocean acidity since the Industrial Revolution. This can have negative impacts on marine life.






RESPONSE BY NATIONS

56% of renewable energy sources are accounted for Sweden's electricity production, with hydropower being the largest contributor at **42%**



Fossil fuels accounted for **82%** of primary energy use last year, down from **83%** in 2019 and **85%** five years ago.




Greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions in Germany were **1.9%**  **2022** compared to **2021** while emissions in the Netherlands **9%** 


Europe has built **19GW** of new wind power capacity in 2022, including 16 GW in the European Union, according to WindEurope's Annual Statistics report.

Europe now has a total of **225GW** of installed wind power.

In 2021, the whole of Europe added **17.4GW** of wind.



By the end of **2022** global renewable generation capacity amounted to **3372** Gigawatt (GW) growing the stock of renewable power by a record 295 GW or by 9.6 percent. An impressive 83 percent of all power capacity added last year was produced by renewables.



REFERENCES:

¹ <https://sweden.se/>

² <https://earthobservatory.nasa.gov/>

³ <https://disasterphilanthropy.org/>



WHAT WE DO

At ASSIST Creativelab, we solve communication, visibility and knowledge management needs of development stakeholders and their interventions! We drive equitable development through impactful outreach - from design to implementation and monitoring.

Our capabilities manifest in the form of the following interventions.



Communication
Strategy and Research



eLearning and
Knowledge Management



Design and
Development



Events Activation
and Management



Digital Marketing

COMMUNICATION STRATEGY AND RESEARCH

Formulate communication plans that go

We understand that effective development communication is a science, and we are prepared to do the required to gain a cohesive communication audit and understanding of human behavior.

Through research studies and insights from knowledge of the landscape, we help craft a holistic communication strategy for nonprofits and their development interventions.

ELEARNING AND KNOWLEDGE MANAGEMENT

Empowering stakeholders through continuous learning interventions

Developing stakeholder capacity across communities, government agencies and development agencies requires consistent, accessible and affordable learning content; this is essential to create the platform for sustainable development.

We contribute to the process through our expertise in designing and deploying knowledge content on various topics to different stakeholders through strong instructional design.

DESIGN AND DEVELOPMENT

Great design is not an accident!

Context and creativity applied with purpose is the root for great design. We understand the necessity of immersing in your vision for social impact to deliver excellent, human-centered designs. Our interventions involve creating communication materials, branding your campaign, designing products for your digital presence, and capturing the impact of your programs through captivating design.

EVENTS ACTIVATION AND MANAGEMENT

Create opportunities to bring everyone to the table.

We draw from this experience and provide competent expertise in conceptualizing, planning, organizing, and managing customized and impactful events from technical international summits. Our growing network of media and content partners, subject matter experts and suppliers across South and Southeast Asia makes us a compelling event partner.

DIGITAL MARKETING

Optimize your online presence to maximize your social impact

We implement campaigns and tactics that combine organic and inorganic means to contribute to your organizational vision and measure what matters: quality engagement and conversion. We help spread the word so you can focus on your good work. Leverage your social media and online presence through various digital marketing strategies, a user-centric experience, and the best tools in the business.

The 3*is* of Creative Lab

We operate on the principles of Immersion, Innovation and Insight while approaching any engagement to create maximum impact.

- CONTEXT**
- CREATIVITY**
- CONTENT**

Our firsthand experience in navigating challenges and implementing contextual solutions on the ground.

Our blend of technical knowledge and creative flair applied to the products.

Our content that elevates ideas, influences behavior and delivers impact.

we immerse

Your insights are our priority.

we connect

Your advocacies are our motivation.

we co-create

Your impact is our goal.

300+
HOURS
of eLearning
content

200+
knowledge products
developed

Experience in
300+
sectors

Network of
100+
experts

50,000+
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of design and
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10+
languages

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Indonesia's Breakthrough in Creating Eco-Friendly Fuel Ecosystem Catching Global Attention



Photo Courtesy of Paku Bengkok

Indonesia's success in developing an eco-friendly fuel ecosystem has caught our eye due to the use of palm oil. The country has created a process to convert palm oil into biodiesel, which can be used as a renewable fuel in vehicles. The resulting B35 program is the only fuel ecosystem in the world to contain up to 35% renewable fuel, which is a significant step forward in promoting sustainable practices and reducing reliance on fossil fuels.

Japan's interest in studying the B35 program is notable, as the country is known for its advanced technology and a strong focus on sustainability. Indonesia's commitment to promoting eco-friendly practices is reflected in the government's efforts to reduce the country's reliance on fossil fuels and promote renewable energy sources.

The success of the B35 program highlights the potential for renewable energy sources to replace traditional fossil fuels and contribute to a more sustainable future. It is an innovative and important development that has the potential to be replicated in other countries. Despite the controversy surrounding palm oil, Indonesia's achievement emphasizes the need to promote eco-friendly practices and actively work towards reducing carbon footprints. 🌱

Green Living Goals: Best Housing Development in the Philippines for Sustainability



Photo Courtesy of Presello

The recent award-winning housing project in San Jose, Batangas, Philippines has caught our eye for its sustainable modern Filipino home design, which won the Best Housing Development in the Philippines. The project features sustainable amenities such as rainwater catchment, solar power, and community amenities like basketball courts, function rooms, pools, gyms, and kitty playgrounds. The development focuses on being a modern Filipino, taking inspiration from the people who will live there. The units are named after Filipino and Spanish surnames that mean good things.

The Trinidad model unit is an example of modern Filipino design. The living area has large windows that bring in natural light during the day, eliminating the need for electric lights. The community has a rainwater catchment system for gardening needs, washing cars, and other eco-friendly activities. The units have solar panels that help lower energy costs, and cross ventilation is possible with many windows.

This housing development is an example of how we can build houses that are both beautiful and environmentally friendly. We need to prioritize sustainability in our designs to protect our planet and ensure that our homes are safe and healthy for future generations. The project provides not only comfortable living spaces but also a healthy environment that benefits both the residents and the planet. This development highlights the importance of sustainable housing in the country and the need for more developments like this to ensure a better future for all. 🌱

New win for sustainable energy in ASEAN region: Thai firm received grant for region's biggest cross-border wind farm

The global transition towards renewable energy sources is gathering momentum, and Southeast Asia is no exception. The Asian Development Bank's decision to grant Monsoon Wind Power Company a massive \$692.5 million to construct a 600-megawatt wind farm in neighboring Lao PDR is a significant milestone in this regard.

What caught our eye about this announcement is not only the sheer scale of the project but also the potential for it to have far-reaching positive impacts. For one, it will help unlock Lao PDR's untapped wind resources and provide a pathway to a transition to clean energy. Additionally, the electricity generated from the facility will be sold to Vietnam, enabling the country to reduce its greenhouse gas emissions and achieve its reduction goals.

This initiative is also noteworthy for highlighting Thailand's leadership in the renewable energy sector in Southeast Asia. With a firm commitment to the Paris Climate Accords and ambitious targets to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, Thailand is paving the way for other countries in the region to follow suit.

The Monsoon Wind Power Company's wind farm is a prime example of how clean energy can promote sustainable economic growth and contribute to a more sustainable future. It will be exciting to watch as the project takes shape and the positive impacts it will have on the region. 



Photo Courtesy of thaiembdc.org




Photo Courtesy of [Financial Times](http://FinancialTimes)

Turning trash into art: Upcycling a paradise in Bali

In Bali, Indonesia, an overwhelming amount of plastic waste has led environmental activists and designers to create innovative solutions to tackle the issue. Kelly Benchehib and her brothers Gary and Sam, co-founders of Make A Change World and Sungai Watch, have been organizing community clean-ups of the island's rivers and installing floating trash barriers to prevent waste from reaching the ocean. They have also established a social enterprise arm that upcycles low-value plastics such as shopping bags into durable furniture and artwork.

Similarly, Ronald Akili, founder of hospitality hub Potato Head, has established Desa Potato Head, a creative village built around Potato Head beach club and hotel, that repurposes plastic waste in its design. BYO Living reworked 1.7 tonnes of compressed PET plastic into geometric ceilings, and British designer Faye Toogood collaborated with them on a bespoke collection of rattan furniture wrapped in recycled plastic bottles. Since its launch in 2019, Desa has become a gathering spot for Bali's plastic-centric people and a place to create solutions to help regenerate Bali.

These innovative solutions caught our eye because they demonstrate waste has hidden value and can be repurposed into something beautiful and functional. The collaboration between environmental advocates and designers can inspire others to take action and create sustainable solutions to the global issue of plastic waste. 



“Buklod Bayani: Bond of heroes”

Interviewed by Reysha Ruiz and Kateleen Bautista

In order to enhance the safety, cleanliness, and business-friendliness of our community, we recently interviewed Sir Bobby Alvarez to elaborate on how the Buklod Bayani initiative can offer simple, practical, and easy solutions through a conversational platform. Through dialogue, relevant issues can be naturally discussed, and businesses and the community can come together to address any problems that may arise.

Q: What is the Buklod Bayani campaign/initiative, and what are its main goals and objectives?

a. What is the motivation for starting the Buklod Bayani initiative?

A: “Buklod Bayani is an effort to put up a platform so that businesses, such as large business initiatives— put the business sector in a situation where it aims to fix the situation on the ground.”

“The main objective of our campaign is to provide assistance and act as a resource networker for

the business sector and community. Our platform interlinks the existing resources to form a network that can be accessed easily. In case you face any inconsistencies with your mandate, our team is always available to assist you and connect you with the right party who can help you correct it. We believe that this approach will make it easier for everyone to access the resources they need and ensure that the right people are connected to work together toward achieving their goals.”

Q: What are your key initiatives to support your intended beneficiaries for this campaign? And how will you be able to identify the next problem in the area that you want to address?

A: “For this campaign, we will not take the lead in identifying the problems within the community. It’s up to the business sector in the area to identify their needs and reach out to us for assistance if

necessary. Once the business has achieved its goals, it would be recognized for its accomplishments, and be given an award, outlining how it achieved its success. However, if a business requires assistance, they can directly contact us, and we will provide them with a special number to connect with us to easily address their specific needs. Our role is to support and connect businesses with the resources they require, rather than assuming we know what’s best for them”

Q: How does Buklod Bayani work with other organizations and community partners to achieve its mission?

A: “Ultimately, our goal is to create a more self-sufficient and vigilant community that is better equipped to solve problems on its own. By engaging businesses in the dialogue and linking them with government services, we are able to create a platform that empowers the community to take action and improve their lives.

When people discuss issues, it forces individuals to seek solutions together rather than trying to deal with them on their own. By openly discussing problems, the need for clarification becomes apparent and information can then be provided by relevant agencies to ensure a clear understanding. As language models, we act like traffic controllers, not interpreters or decision-makers. Our role is to provide information and resources and connect people to the right sources. We are not the resource ourselves, nor are we the ones who judge or make decisions."

Q: How can government policies better impact the bottom of the pyramid? What kind of policies are you hoping to come in place in uplifting vulnerable groups in the Philippines?

A: "I do not expect any policies to be changed. In implementing national policies, I believe that interpretation will be a key factor, especially since each locality has its own way of interpreting the law. There will be a need for clarification since some local governments may have their own views on what the policies mean. It is important to understand that a law can only have one interpretation, and finding situations where interpretation is required will be crucial. Once an interpretation is established, it should be followed by everyone. I expect that there will be many instances where interpretation is needed, as different areas may interpret policies differently, depending on what suits them. It is important to have a consistent interpretation, and this can only be achieved through open dialogue and clarification. The uplifting of vulnerable groups requires participation and action. This is where we are at right now, actions and delivering results."

Q: Based on your experiences, what do you think would be the biggest challenge that you would face in implementing your next initiative?

A: "Proving to them that this campaign will work. My belief is that the Buklod Bayani will work, but convincing others to see the potential is the first step. Implementing change in a large organization can be a challenge, much like trying to move an elephant. This is where the power of big institutions like the Philippine Chamber of Commerce and Industry (PCCI) comes in. By creating a coalition with shared interests, we can build momentum and get buy-in from influential organizations like PCCI, who will help promote the initiative to their members. I envision PCCI playing a key role in this project, with the chairman and president eventually leading the charge. The plan will start small, with a few stores implementing the changes, and as word spreads about the positive results, more will follow suit. It's a momentum that will deliver the correct services and results, but it requires collaboration and patience. Our previous efforts involved engaging with 7-Eleven businesses to identify solutions to community problems, linking government services to the community, and raising awareness about available services. This led to positive impacts on the community's net disposable income and overall health and well-being. We realized that engaging the community was a more effective solution in supporting law enforcement and that businesses can act as an anchor or big brothers to sustain community efforts. By improving the business climate in the area and providing ongoing support and resources, businesses can help ensure that positive change continues to take place."

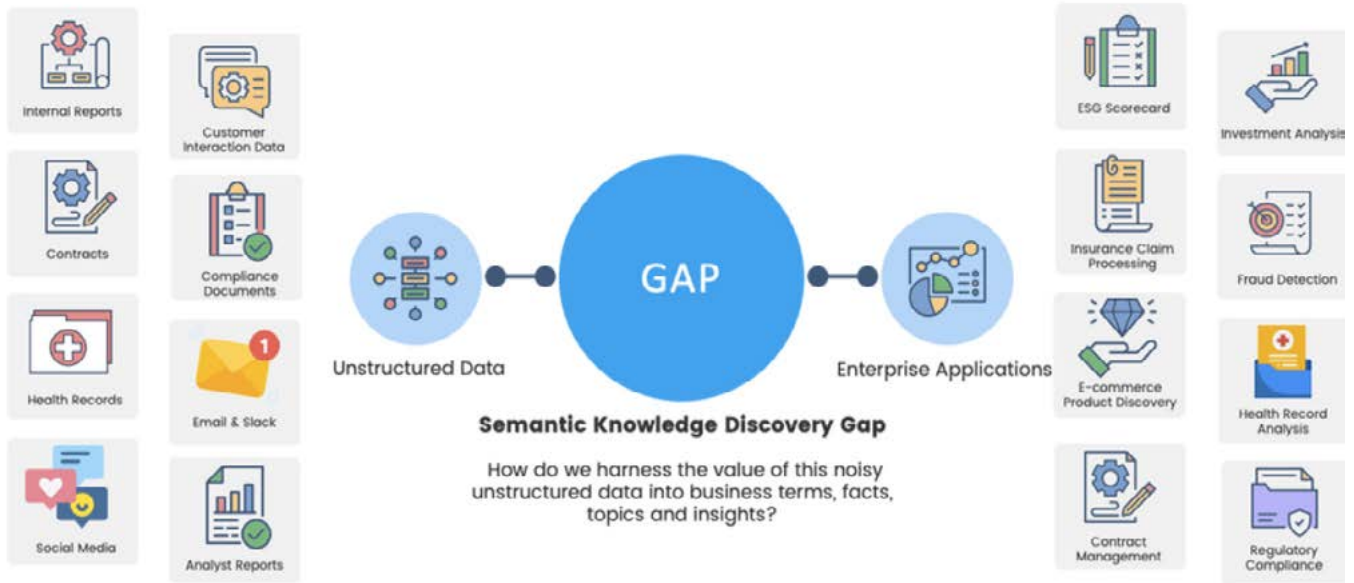


Roberto "Bobby" A. Alvarez, Jr. is a Chairman of multiple companies under ServeQuest Group, now called Noble Home Corp, and also serves as the chairman of the Buklod Bayani Program.

Q: What message would you like to share with the individuals who are interested in supporting or becoming involved with Buklod Bayani?

A: "We need endorsers. Because the hardest part here is the beginning. The success of our venture, Buklod Bayani, depends greatly on having endorsers to support us in the beginning. It can be a challenging time, but once we gain momentum, we'll be on a natural course that will drive us forward. We need all the help we can get in this selling game, and we are actively seeking support from the business community. We've been in talks with a coalition and it looks like things are falling into place. We are in the process of distributing papers among key players in business and after some clarifications, we believe things will be easy. Once we have their support, I will be working with a bigger board, while remaining as President and Chief of Operations. We know that we cannot stand alone, and we are acting as catalysts in bringing together all the necessary players to make our venture successful. At the end of the day, we will still be leading the charge, but with a larger partner on board."

WE CAN TRANSFORM NOISY UNSTRUCTURED DATA INTO USEFUL INSIGHTS



EXPLORING ESG USE CASES FOR NLP WITH ANVAI

Anvai is an AI software company changing how enterprises unlock value from the vast amounts of unstructured data they grapple with daily, e.g. financial reports, internal documents, customer interaction data, email, slack, websites, social media, legal contracts, and data from myriad business applications.

Based on decades of experience from Stanford, Target, Netflix, Sumo Logic, Morgan Stanley, Verizon and startup companies, the team has developed a semantic knowledge discovery platform that can help drive up revenue, accelerate time-to-value and reduce costs for enterprises by 10x through the application of deep Natural Language Processing (NLP) to enterprise business applications.

Why AI and NLP are relevant for ESG

Investors increasingly believe companies that perform well on ESG are less risky, better positioned for the long-term and better prepared for uncertainty. 91% of Ernst & Young global institutional investor survey respondents said that nonfinancial performance played a pivotal role in investment decision-making.

Given the level of interest from investors and regulators, asset managers and their teams of ESG analysts are rushing to develop their ESG capabilities.

However, they face a daunting task with three main themes:



ESG information needs to be gleaned and assembled from multiple sources of unstructured data, which are often noisy and highly textured. A whopping 80% of the world's data is unstructured.

Once assembled and validated, insights must be generated and incorporated into investment decisions.

Emerging risks and opportunities must be detected early and in near real-time for ESG ratings to reflect historical performance and future outlook.

Analysts need tools capable of semantically understanding ESG data and extracting facts and insights automatically at scale. Such tools must be easy to onboard, deploy, use and integrate into investment analysis applications. Fortunately, emerging capabilities in AI and NLP technology have the potential to provide new data points and fresh perspectives to existing data to help bridge these gaps.

Historically, assessing long-form text has been a time and resource-intensive process

Fortunately, innovations in NLP have revolutionized how unstructured text can be gathered, examined and interpreted. Deep NLP tools, such as Anvai's Tolka platform, can analyze unstructured data quickly and on a massive scale. Users can take unstructured text from public sources and use Tolka to understand how ESG events drive company performance, drilling down to the specific sentences that Tolka tags as material. Tolka

delivers these insights via dashboards or APIs integrated into internal systems, with customization options.

Another NLP ESG use case could be around quick reaction times to breaking news stories. Tolka can create an ESG tracker on the news for key client names, empowering a sales force to react quickly to emerging ESG risks faced by their accounts, design targeted pitches to accounts with negative sentiment, and validate their campaigns by systematically tracking news.

Clients may also worry about missing important ESG information in the news – information that isn't captured in company disclosures or by survey-based data providers. Clients can leverage Tolka's ESG analytics to track their portfolio, learning in real-time when material ESG conversations were taking place in the news sources that mattered to them. Previously, the client would comb through all news containing ESG terms and mentions of their portfolio companies. Now, Tolka points them to emerging risks daily, helping to target their research.

Tolka can also combine large amounts of data from multiple ESG sources, analyze, and extract key business facts about a company's ESG performance, discern sentiments, categorize, summarize, and make large documents easily searchable. The platform boasts multiple features to simplify your analysis, including:

- | Machine-discovered topics, where Tolka organizes large volumes of text data into semantically meaningful topics.
- | Sentiment analysis, where Tolka identifies the mood of a document and the key factors driving this assessment.
- | Custom labeling, which can map any ESG taxonomy to specific sections of company disclosures discussing the topics in the taxonomy on the fly.
- | Summarization, that provides a gist of long documents for quick and easy understanding.
- | Semantic Search, where Tolka supports almost any query from analysts around ESG concepts related to companies or even wider industries.

User Story: Beacon Asset Management*

*Beacon Asset Management** has \$50B under management across 10 strategies, 2 geographies, and 1000+ demanding institutional clients. Whitney is Beacon's top asset manager and manages a team of analysts who help her in evaluating the ESG risks, opportunities and overall performance of their portfolio companies. However, their current tools do not support the team's needs effectively.



Flexible Mandate

Client A, a large university endowment, wants the flexibility to shift ESG priorities to adapt to evolving requirements.



Real-time Risk Identification

Millions of pieces of information need to be scanned on the fly to identify material risks & support decisions to hold, sell or buy.



Controversy Tracking

Violence in a mobile manufacturing plant in India is linked to the non-payment of contract employees' salaries. They are a large supplier for Banana, the world's largest mobile device company and an important portfolio company for Beacon AM.



Dynamic Ratings

Evolving risks need to be incorporated to provide a dynamic score that presents a short-term ESG outlook alongside a long-term ESG rating for portfolio companies.



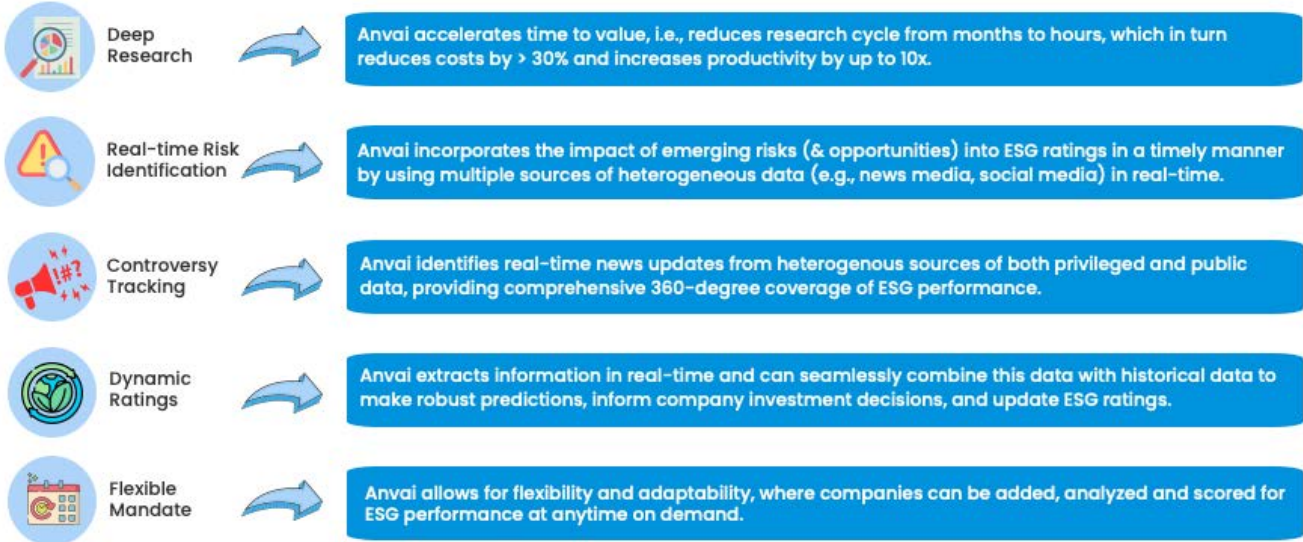
Deep Research

Whitney is evaluating the impact of human trafficking in seafood supply chains on large retailers. She has asked her team to perform a thorough bottom-up review and develop KPIs.



*Beacon Asset Management is a fictitious company name being used for illustrative purposes only

User Story: Beacon Asset Management (continued)*



*Beacon Asset Management is a fictitious company name being used for illustrative purposes only

Tolka can automate ESG scorecard development for any company

Tolka’s semantic AI capabilities make it a great fit for the challenges faced by portfolio managers. They need a flexible mandate to meet their clients’ ever-changing ESG priorities, an ability to evaluate companies based on both their historical performance but also emerging risks and opportunities, as well as the never-ending need for better data and deep research to support all this activity.

Tolka automates the tedious parts of investment decision-making, connects the dots across the vast span of ESG dimensions and data, and provides the right level of insight and data points at the right time in the right way.

Unlike in existing ESG analytics platforms, analyzing new companies added to a portfolio or applying different ESG taxonomies no longer poses much of a challenge. Tolka’s

automated ML workflows and custom labeling capabilities make this quick and straightforward. Tolka, in addition to accelerating time to value, would also add fresh, new perspectives that will help analysts gain competitive advantage or launch new research initiatives.

Increasingly, Tolka’s semantic capabilities are needed by companies of all sizes that are trying to improve their ESG performance and build ESG transparency within their

organizations. While multiple ESG analytics tools are slowly emerging in the market, none provide the flexibility and ease of deployment that Tolka gives enterprises to build their own customized ESG platform.



Anvai creates business value



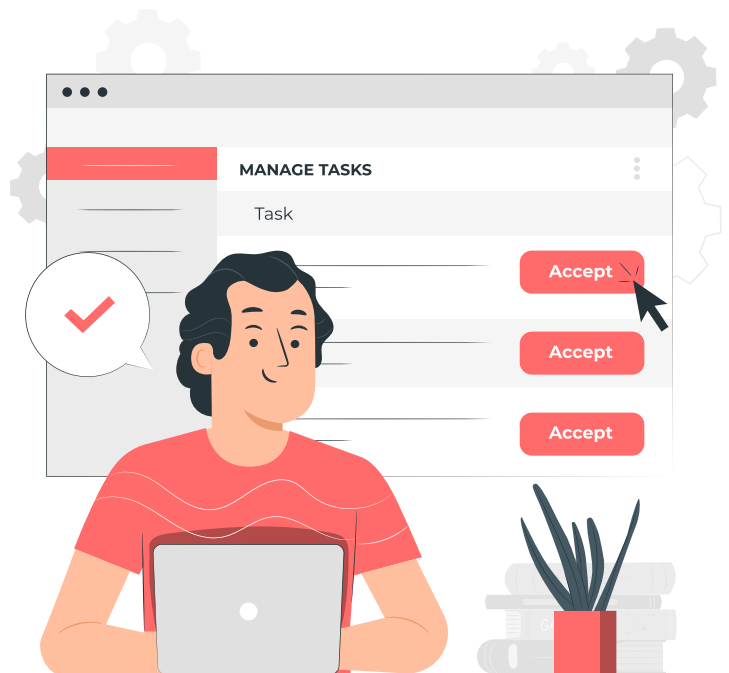
Partners for Progress

Endless notifications that cause a feeling of being overwhelmed. Doubt and lack of clarity that call for too many pointless meetings. Not knowing how in the world your work matters to your organization's mission, which leaves you feeling purposeless. When you're part of a project, these are a few psychological troubles that might interfere with your focus and the flow of your work. But, what if there was a tool that helped you work efficiently and avoid burnout—all while being visually-beautiful and easy-to-use?

This tool is Asana, designed to help you organize, track, and manage projects and tasks.

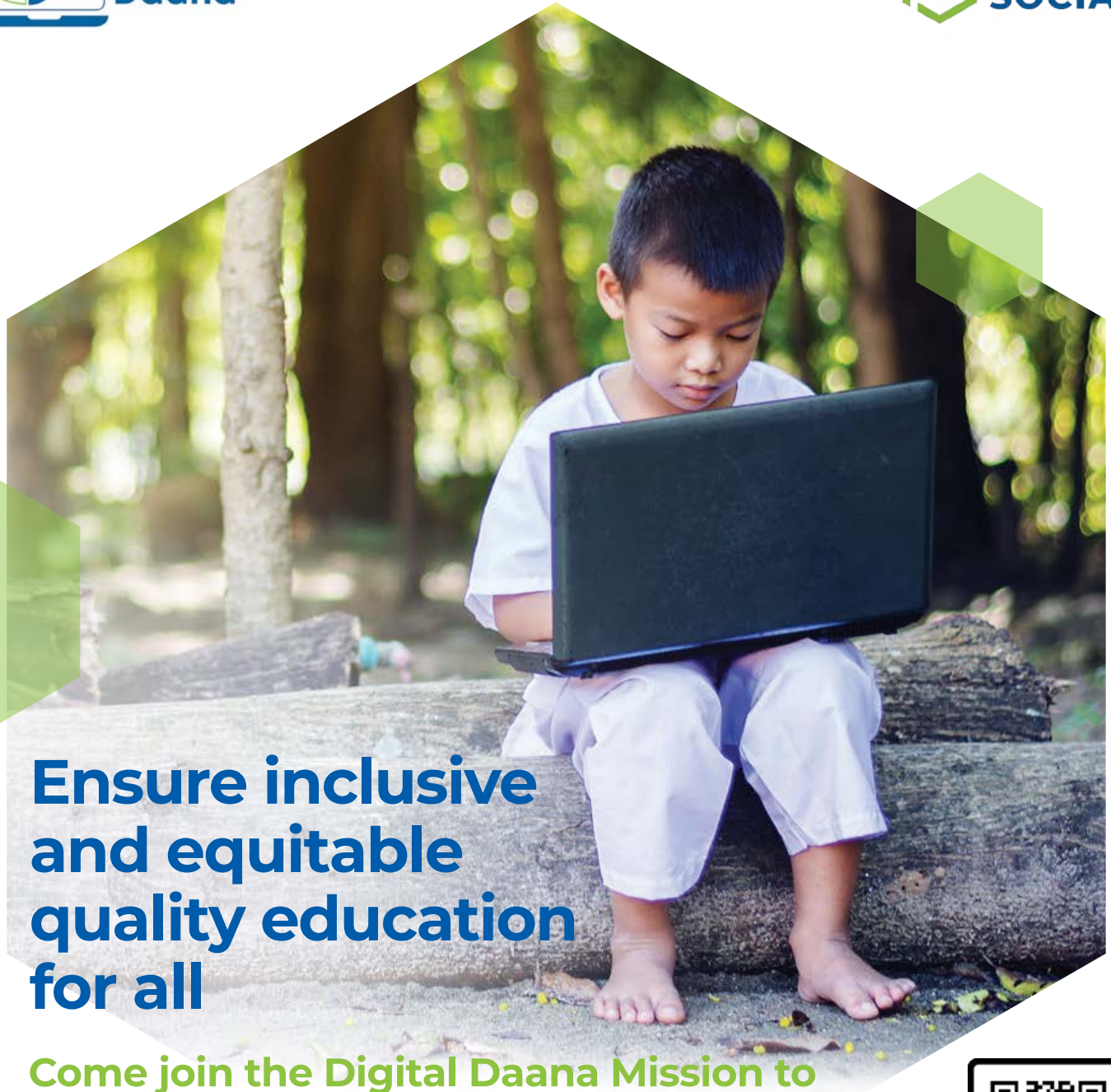
Intricate, yet accessible, Asana has features to aid you in project management, organizing workflows, and internal communication within the organization. The Projects feature helps you visualize your project in the form of boards and lists, thus providing a birds'-eye view of what needs to be done. When you create sub-tasks for each task within the project, the employees assigned the sub-tasks can see how their task contributes to the larger project and are highly motivated as a result. The Workload feature informs you of the work that each member has, and helps you redistribute tasks to avoid overburdening and to keep the project on track. Using the Followers feature, you can add team members as your followers and enable them to stay abreast of the status of your task through notification and relevant updates.

These are only some of the numerous features that make up Asana. They are attractively color-coded, accessible in their simplicity, and truly a crucial tool to ensure the smooth-running of a project. What distinguishes Asana from other project-management tools is its acknowledgement of the link between employees' well-being and the project's success.



This link particularly holds true in the development sector, where employees are prone to feeling overworked and disheartened. Asana presents a solution by helping employees see the 'bigger picture', prioritize tasks, reduce distractions, and feel a sense of belonging and initiative as they work on their developmental project. Save 50% on Asana and equip your nonprofit with an invaluable project-management tool: <https://asana.com/nonprofit>.





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Metta Social hosts 'Impact Dialog 2023' in India

MettaSocial, leading provider of state-of-the-art technology for philanthropic activities and an impact-driven ecosystem, recently concluded an invigorating CSR Impact Leaders Roundtable 2023.

Organised in association with the IIT Kanpur - Startup Incubation and Innovation Centre, the event had over 36+ social champions, including C-level executives, HR leaders, CSR evangelists, social entrepreneurs, and academia. The theme for Impact Dialog 2023 primarily encompassed 'Transformation pivots for CSR Strategy 2023 - Value Co-creation, Scalability and Impact', enabling social purpose organisations to get global prominence.

Understanding the CSR challenges and being able to carve out critical transformation pivots for CSR Strategy 2023.

Impart knowledge on how enterprises can contribute to Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

Socioeconomic dynamics, globalisation imperatives, stakeholder transparency demands, and regulatory disclosure compulsions transform CSR strategies. CSR is now a core of business strategy and leadership responsibility. Enterprise leadership and CSR heads are already taking a long-term sustainable and strategic view, with the right process, partners, and impact interventions for actionability and accountability.

The CSR Impact Leaders Roundtable 2023 discussed trends, insights, and challenges in managing large-scale social projects for organisations and the role of businesses in creating a better future for the environment and community. The event aimed to build

a robust stack of shared knowledge, with perspectives from experienced leaders, academia, and practitioners in the HR/CSR domain.

Chairing the track on technology, Vishal Naik, CEO of Metta Social, said, "To empower the pace of impact creation for the leaders and organisations within the Social Good ecosystem, Metta Social aims to imbibe the existing shortcomings and help with strategies to mitigate challenges with advanced technology solutions. Impact Dialog 2023 has helped unfurl various deep technical challenges the industry faces at multiple levels."

Social projects attract considerable investments and require a 360-view in real-time for stakeholders and audience engagement. Enterprises can accelerate their contribution to mainstreaming the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) using CSR activities and decode the new facets of the social good ecosystem. With a lot of interest from non-profits, foundations, family offices, corporations, academia, startups, government agencies and individual change-makers from India and overseas, the excellent social ecosystem is more vital than ever.

Supporting a world recovering from covid, the advanced need for fundraising platforms and various community upliftment projects are a priority now. Robust engagement with citizens and employees, donor matchmaking and community partners are key requirements. The increased motivation amongst professionals across genres signals a definitive shift in the mindsets as more stakeholders bring the social good ecosystem closer.



Metta Social is equipped with the latest business processes and unparalleled experience in digital transformation, deep tech implementations, and business transformation for large enterprises, multinationals, philanthropic organisations and emerging businesses looking to set up a business practice in their CSR department.

Metta Social is driving innovation and thought leadership within the Social good ecosystem by utilising emerging technology and creativity. Our founding team brings in 100+ years of parallel experience in digital transformation & deep tech implementations, business transformations with large multinational organisations, and building complex operations from the ground up for large organisations such as Bajaj Finserv, Citibank, Amdocs, British Telecom, HCL tech, HP, amongst other.

Visit www.mettasocial.com to learn more about the Metta Social capabilities in empowering Social Purpose organisations to create a better tomorrow with state-of-the-art technology.

Knowledge Forum acknowledges the transformation pivots of 'Adar Poonawalla Clean City Initiative'

Adar Poonawalla Clean City Initiative is an environmentally sustainable initiative founded in 2015 by Mr Adar Poonawalla, owner and CEO of Serum Institute of India, to make one of the fastest-growing cities of India - 'Pune' as a more liveable city. The initiative is an off-shoot of the Swachh Bharat Mission of the Hon. Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

Knowledge Forum - Impact Dialog 2023, organised by Metta Social for the C-Suite, Philanthropists, HR/CSR Leaders and Social Champions recently captured the various success metrics of the effective Adar Poonawalla Clean City Initiative project.

Mr Krishnan Komandur, CEO of Adar Poonawalla Clean City Initiative, said, "Coming together in a collaborative way by local municipal bodies and corporates will make more cities liveable and align with the mission of Swachh Bharat Abhiyan. Our initiative is driven by passion with committed waste warriors (employees), volunteers, youth and citizens who are a part of the impact creation."

Applauding Metta Social's Impact Dialog 2023, Mr Komandur said, "The true value of co-creation can be maximised using technology and public-private cooperation. It's been an exciting experience interacting

with other social champions and learning more about how Metta Social is facilitating the industry with the knowledge to bring in a social good ecosystem."

The clean city initiative addresses garbage issues by deploying state-of-the-art equipment used in developed countries to manage urban waste management systems. Equipment deployed includes Electric Litter Picker, Suction Vacuum Truck, Truck Mounted Road Sweepers, Truck Mounted Pot Hole Filling Machines, Water ADM, and Truck-mounted pothole filling machine to fill potholes in the shortest possible time. The initiative is impactful with the cooperation of the local civic bodies, resident welfare associations, NGOs and all concerned.

Mr Iftekhar Pathan, Co-founder and President, Strategy & Partnerships at Metta Social, said, "We are happy to receive very valuable and insightful inputs from Adar Poonawalla Clean City Initiative. Our focus on capturing the transformation pivots for impactful CSR Strategies encompassed four pillars - Strategy to Conversation/Communications, Digitisation and Transparency, Collaboration and Value Co-Creation and Employee Engagement. An extremely successful implementation of Adar Poonawalla Clean City Initiative findings on on-ground implementation shall be of immense value to the Metta Social community of users."



Recycled shelter provides eco-friendly refuge in disaster zones

New shelter could cut 19,000 tonnes of plastic waste annually

Dubai, UAE. 17 March 2023: Refugees fleeing disaster zones could soon be living in temporary shelters made from 100% recycled materials, which will not only prove safer and more durable than tents but also help to reduce plastic waste.



University of Birmingham sustainable engineering experts in the School of Engineering have worked with UK-based company Suscons over the last 18 months to develop a new type of emergency relief shelter (ERS) – the Suscons ERS Transitional Shelter, which was displayed at the Dubai International Humanitarian Aid and Development (DIHAD) Conference & Exhibition this week.

Meeting all UNHCR requirements, the four-person shelter is delivered as a flat-pack in standard ISO freight

containers. It can be quickly erected by unskilled labour – providing emergency shelter as well as longer-term temporary accommodation, with a minimum lifespan of 10 years continual use.

Doors and windows are lockable providing much-needed security and the shelters can also be adapted to form mobile medical units.

Each shelter is made from 460kg of waste plastic and if the units were to replace 1% of the shelter market

– estimated to be 6 million shelters per year – that would be 42,000 units taking more than 19,000 tonnes of waste plastic out of the waste stream each year.

Peter Braithwaite, Director of Engineering Sustainability at Birmingham Centre for Resilience Research and Education, commented: “We’ve had very positive discussions about the shelter with several relief agencies, including UNHCR and UNICEF, and received a great deal of interest when we showed the shelter

at this year's Dubai International Humanitarian Aid and Development Conference.

"This is high-quality emergency shelter for immediate relief which can become a transitional shelter with the addition of a sanitary/kitchen module - durable, safe accommodation delivered in a flat pack, easily erected with minimal tools. After use, the shelters can be shredded and turned into new products, with no waste generated."

Mr Braithwaite added that while the ERS is more expensive than a tent, it was hoped that a new innovative model of selling, or leasing, the shelters based on whole life costs would encourage relief agencies to start using the shelters in disaster zones.

According to UNHCR, 32.5 million of the 103 million forcibly displaced people worldwide, are refugees. Although the need for emergency relief shelters has increased by at least 5.4 million due to the conflict in Ukraine, demand remains considerable from other countries suffering conflicts such as Syria, Venezuela, Afghanistan, and South Sudan.

A large percentage of refugees end up in UNHCR tents, which are designed for an 18-month life but inevitably camps exist far longer. While tents made from textile or plastic sheets are the simplest and frequently supplied form of shelter in post disaster areas, serious problems remain as:



Shortage of adequate shelters;



Problems with storage of tents due to costs and durability;



Short lifespan of tents;



Tents are uncomfortable and have limited head height; and



Tents do not provide security for the vulnerable

To appropriately respond to disaster victims' urgent needs, traditional temporary accommodation requires improvements in providing security and sanitation for those occupying the spaces, as well as better accessibility, privacy, and living comfort.

Steve Ford, Director of Suscons, said: "We're very excited about the future of the shelters. Discussions at DIHAD have underlined the need for innovative, sustainable shelters. We've found that the shelters can also be adapted to provide mobile medical units. Our partnership with the University has been critical in getting this far, and we look forward to building on this in the future."



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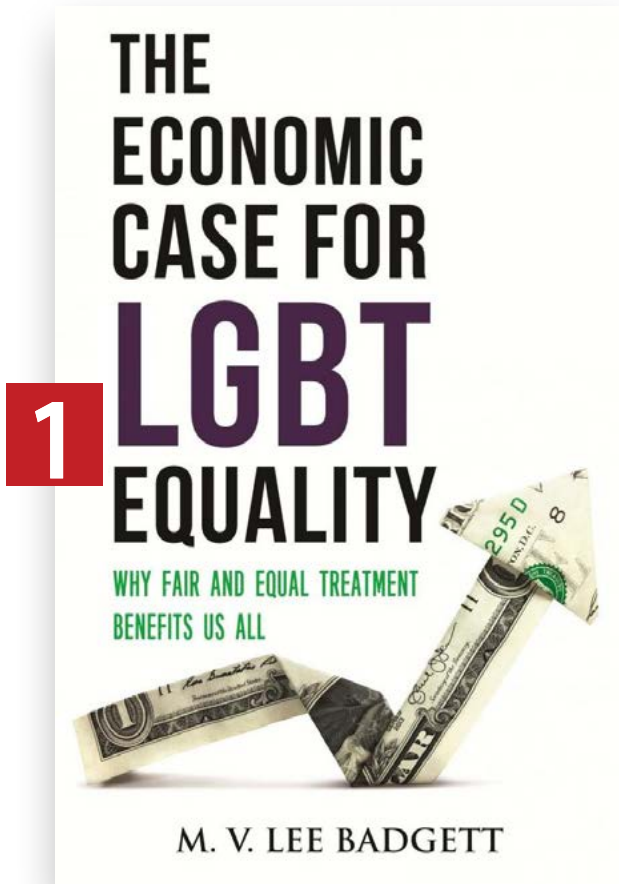


OUR PICKS

Looking for your next read, documentary to watch, or organization to follow? Look no further, for we share some of our favourites in the development space.

If you'd like to suggest a resource for inclusion in this list, email us at editor@theimpactmagazine.org

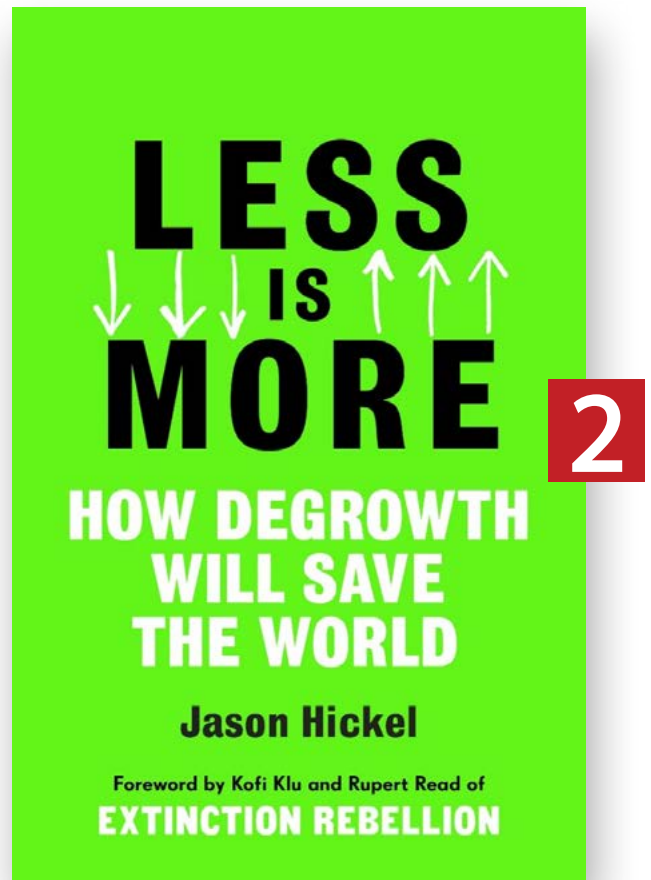
Books



The Economic Case for LGBT Equality (2020)

by Lee Badgett

"The Economic Case for LGBT Equality" is a thought-provoking book by Lee Badgett that explores the economic benefits of ensuring equal rights for the LGBT community. Through rigorous analysis and compelling evidence, Badgett shows how discrimination against LGBT individuals can harm not only individuals but also entire economies, and how greater equality can lead to greater prosperity for all.



Less Is More: How Degrowth Will Save the World (2020)

by Jason Hickel

In "Less Is More", Jason Hickel offers a stimulating analysis of the degrowth concept, contending that scaling back consumption and economic expansion is imperative for ensuring sustainability and social equity. Through a blend of economic analysis and personal stories, Hickel offers a compelling case for rethinking our current system and embracing a simpler, more equitable way of life.

Podcasts



The Social Impact Show

“The Social Impact Show” is a podcast that delves into the convergence of technology and social impact. It showcases interviews with prominent figures in the tech industry who are actively contributing to positive change in society. This podcast serves as a valuable resource for CSR professionals seeking the most up-to-date methods and approaches to enhance their CSR programs and initiatives.

The Energy Gang

Bringing to you the best trends, news, information, and insights about energy, Greentech, renewables, and the environment. Available on Apple Podcasts, Spotify, and stitcher, the show is hosted by Stephen Lacey, Katherine Hamilton, and Jigar Shah. Discussions on the latest innovations, and policies, this is a must-listen for every green energy enthusiast.

Video

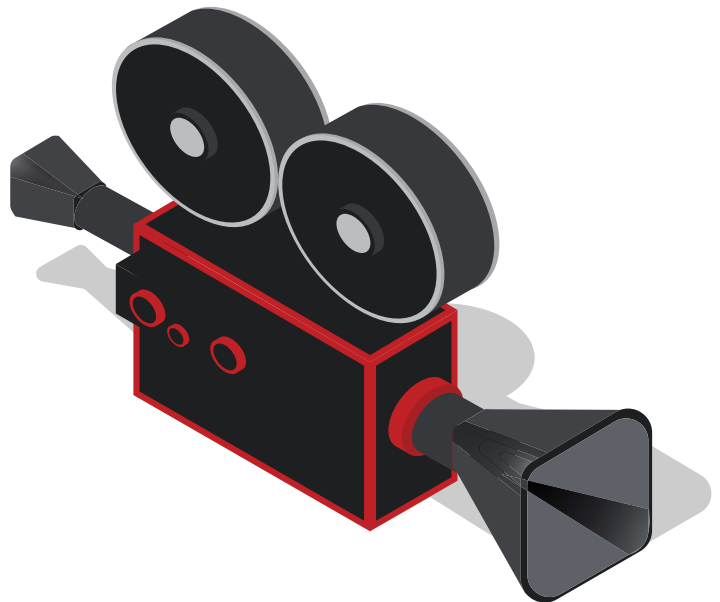
Our Planet

This series is the best introduction to life on our planet and how it is changing due to climate change. This 8-episode series is a combination of breathtaking shots of seas, forests, deserts, and wildlife and the soothing voice of David Attenborough guiding us on how it is imperative that we act now to save this mesmerizing and magnificent planet. Awakening and questioning humankind about the damage we have inflicted upon this planet while also providing steps to save the climes is key to this series. A must-watch, especially for young changemakers.

3000-year-old solutions to modern problems

By Lyla June

This TED Talk, musician, scholar and cultural historian Lyla June talks about the best land management strategies that have been carried forward for over 3000 years by communities and tribes and that she has thoroughly researched during her doctoral research. Something that stood out from her talk was the suggestion that we should sometimes create non-human centric systems rather than having everything revolve around satisfying our needs.



“The Economic Case for LGBT Equality”

Interviewed by Reysha Ruiz and Ragini K R

In a discussion that took place on February 6, 2023, Professor Lee Badgett was interviewed to delve into the economic arguments in favor of promoting equality for the LGBTQIA+ community. The conversation touched upon various issues concerning the LGBTQIA+ community and the advantages of ensuring equal rights for their economic well-being.

Q: Could you tell us more about your book, “The Economic Case for LGBT Equality”?

A: “It’s really focused on one big idea, which is that inclusion is obviously good for LGBT people. It’s good for **education, job opportunities, and health**. But it’s also good for economies overall. That is the core argument I talk about”

“When we have exclusion, it means that LGBT people are not getting as much education as they’re capable of, they’re not able to learn as much, and their health might be poor. And in workplace contexts, they may not be able to be as productive as they could be. And all of

those situations put a poll on the human capital that LGBT people can develop and actually use in the workplace. So our economies are missing out on the skills, the knowledge, the creativity that LGBT people have to contribute.”

Q: Do you think there are any specific industries that benefit or suffer from increased LGBTQIA+ visibility and rights? And do you think there is a stereotype or conditioning that the LGBTQI people tend to be involved more in the fashion or cosmetic industry than others?

A: “I think **they all do**. I think you find LGBT people in many different kinds of jobs and many different kinds of industries. And so I would expect this effect to be there, really, for all of them, for all the industries for every occupation.”

“There are definitely stereotypes and I think in

a situation like that it is important to distinguish between places where they are visible as opposed to their representation overall. And we know they are LGBT people when they are visible and only when they are willing to speak out, or be themselves.... So that’s one piece to say that I am not sure, I am not so sure that happens.”

“But it is also true that studies show that **LGBT people do tend to look for occupations that are more tolerant of them**. And that makes sense to avoid places that are discriminatory, and maybe, even so, discriminatory that you cannot possibly get a job there. And to kind of look more towards other kinds of jobs where it seems like they’re more open. So I think there definitely are jobs that are perceived as being more open, you know, more creative jobs, for example. So I think that that is possible, but I don’t think that necessarily means that that’s where most LGBT people end up.”

Q: Do you think that the acceptance of LGBTQIA+ individuals or these activities in a community is enough to lead to an increase in economic growth?

A: "I do think that being more inclusive, if that means **more educational opportunities, more workplace opportunities, and conditions allow people to be healthier**, then I do think that the countries are likely to have stronger economies."

The best evidence of that link is when we look at this from a macroeconomic level. And if there is a length, and here's what it should look like, it should look like **countries that are more inclusive ought to be doing better economically holding other things equal**. And that is exactly what we found in several different studies..., where we have controlled a lot of things that matter for the size of economies by how successful their capital stock is, how many people live there, and what the educational level is overall in those countries, and we've even included measures of gender equality. And we've controlled for lots of other differences across countries and what economists call fixed effects. And what we still find is that **even after you take into account all those different factors, the measure of LGBTI inclusion still predicts positive GDP per capita levels. In other words, countries that are more inclusive have higher GDP per capita.**"

"We've used several different measures of inclusion, we've looked at laws related to just LGBT people and homosexuality, we've looked at measures that are a little bit broader than that, that still capture legal rights and opportunities. We've looked at

measures of social acceptance that you see on public opinion surveys, for example. And in all of those cases, we found that correlation, that positive correlation between inclusion and GDP per capita."

Q: How can policies and initiatives be implemented to address economic inequalities faced by the LGBTQIA+ community?

A: "...The UN Development Programme has been sponsoring an effort to create an LGBTI inclusion index for all the countries in the world, but we're not quite there yet. We're just done a small pilot this past year. But the idea is that there are certain kinds of public policies that can tend to make societies more inclusive. So that might rule against bullying in schools based on sexual orientation and gender identity or sex characteristics. They might be just broad non-discrimination policies in schools, such that you can't discriminate against students or teachers because of being LGBTI. Similarly, in the workplace, a lot of countries have laws that protect that say, 'you're not allowed to discriminate in the workplace against LGBTI people'."

"There are several other policies, like, for transgender people it is really important they have the right to get official documents, like, identity cards, passports, that allow them to get gender identity that is theirs, and to be able to choose that themselves without a long onerous process."

Q: Can you just briefly talk to us about the concept of Pink Dollar and its significance?

A: "I think the idea is that **companies who want to attract LGBTI consumers might need to take steps to show that they are supportive of the community. And that might be having strong policies for their own workforce, having non-discrimination policies, and having good benefits policies that are fully inclusive of the needs of LGBTI people and their families.** It might mean being visibly supportive of LGBTI people on issues of public concern, like public policies, so it can mean different things."

"There's also a concern though, among the LGBTI community about what we call **pinkwashing**. The idea is that **companies might show up at a pride parade. And say, we are supportive, but not do anything else.** There is some suspicion within the community and the community does pay attention to what the companies are doing."



*Professor Lee Badgett is an economics professor, faculty co-director of the Center for Employment Equity at UMass Amherst, and a distinguished scholar at the Williams Institute on Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity Law and Public Policy at UCLA's School of Law. Her work includes research and publications on employment discrimination, poverty, marriage equality, and the economic cost of homophobia and transphobia, and she has worked with the United Nations Development Program and the World Bank. Her most recent book, *The Economic Case for LGBT Equality: How Fairness and Equality Benefit Us All*, was published in 2020.*

Q: From a non-profit perspective, what are the 3 key problems or areas that the solution we design and develop should address?

A: "So thinking about it, I looked through the most recent copy of your magazine, and, and yeah, a lot of those are issues related to agriculture and technology and other kinds of development efforts, food security programs, that sort of thing. And I would say, the top one, from my perspective, is to take any one of those programs and ask the question, are they inclusive of LGBTI People? And? And how do you know? Because I think sometimes people think, Oh, of course, we don't discriminate, but in fact, **people might not be comfortable being open or, or even trying to access those kinds of projects, and opportunities, because of their concerns about how they will be treated.**"

"...And secondly, you know, that might, that might mean for the organizations running those programs. **They want to make sure they as organizations, and as employers themselves are also inclusive.** So can LGBTI people who work in those projects, sort of talk about the knowledge that they bring about issues for LGBTI people to their work? And the only way that's going to happen is to, yes, to make it clear that that organization, that nonprofit is supportive and inclusive. ... Sometimes there are a lot of employers of a certain size that have what they sometimes call employee resource groups, or just groups of LGBTI employees who could come together and network and try to provide support for each other. So I think that it's important to make sure that the nonprofits who want to be inclusive have their own house in order."

And then I guess the third side is thinking about how it might be necessary to create somewhat different projects that will be inclusive of LGBTI people. I mean, one of the things about the ... exclusion in education and employment and health is that sometimes **there might be specific concerns that are different for LGBTI communities.** And so you might want to develop some programs or, at least, you know, interview people in the community who seemed like they would be potential beneficiaries of the work that a nonprofit does."

Q: What role do education and awareness play in promoting the economic case for LGBT equality in non-profit organizations?


A: I think it does play a role, the idea that there's an economic benefit to LGBTI inclusion. ... **Human Rights argument is what we usually use for LGBTI inclusion.** ... But in some places, it's not one that will be particularly useful. It's not one, like at a development bank that's supposed to be about, you know, kind of economic growth and prosperity; talking about human rights is not very comfortable for them. Often, that sounds too political. But understanding that this is an economic issue, I think has the potential to really change things. And sometimes it affects how people see issues. ... They [studies] gave a little bit of information saying that there are more **countries that have more inclusive and more inclusive laws related to LGBTI people, have stronger GDP, have higher GDP per capita.**"

Q: What steps can non-profit organizations take to ensure that their efforts to promote LGBT equality are sustainable and effective in the long term?

A: "I think one really important step is to connect, to collaborate with or at least consult with local LGBTI people and organizations, the big umbrella organizations for LGBTI groups around the world. Note that **almost every country has at least one organization that operates openly as an LGBTI Organization.** And many countries have many more than that, but, but it's pretty rare that there aren't any. So there's always a possibility of reaching out and talking with local communities, and local LGBTI communities to find out what their most pressing concerns are. So agencies that are nonprofits that are working on skill development, or poverty alleviation or food security, training people for skills, building entrepreneurs, and doing micro-loans, ... all those kinds of efforts are things that LGBTI people are very likely to be very interested in because of their very vulnerable economic position. So I think that **reaching out is the first step to finding out what those nonprofits need to be doing.**"



“Spring has sprung in this once-forsaken land”



As cocktail party conversations go, this one back in 2009 turned out to be a true game-changer for the rural poor at the foothills of the Sierra Madre in San Miguel, Bulacan.

Dr. Mylene V. Matti, an anesthesiologist practicing in the San Francisco Bay Area, had returned home to the Philippines for the holidays. At a Christmas party, she casually mentioned that it was so difficult to find organic vegetables in Manila, she was tempted to start her own little farm. Her yearning reached the right ears. A guest at the party called her the next day with an immense challenge. He was prepared to give her 107 hectares of land to make her organic farm dream come true. However, this “gift” would come with many strings attached. It was not an undertaking for the fainthearted.

FEATURE: GREEN EARTH

The land, located in the foothills of the Sierra Madre mountains in Bulacan, had been denuded by decades of illegal logging and charcoal-making by the locals. Attempts to steer the people to other sources of livelihood were fruitless without a viable alternative. In this province, the birthplace of the hukbalahap movement, the insurgency was still a raging problem. Illiteracy was also a serious constraint, as children had to walk a bridgeless river and unpaved roads 3 hours round trip each day when GreenEarth started. When Dr. Matti and her husband James surveyed the situation, they realized that converting this inaccessible hillside slope into a productive organic farm and reforestation site would need a holistic, multi-pronged approach. They would need simultaneous programs to address decades of damage done to the land, the distrustful mindset of the people, and the total absence of infrastructure.

Imbued with Christian fervor and tenacity, they agreed to take the property on, thus received the endowment of land under a non-stock, non-profit model. GreenEarth Heritage Foundation was born.

Touring GreenEarth today, one can easily see the many hard-earned milestones achieved over the past decade and a half. There are now more than 100,000 indigenous forest hardwoods and fruit-bearing trees planted and over 30 varieties of vegetables and herbs grown and harvested regularly. GreenEarth's short but passionate list of farm-to-table customers buys the produce at Fair Trade prices than what had been the norm for their beneficiaries for years. Seeing the resulting spike and stability in their incomes, the rural poor who have embraced GreenEarth's mission has been weaned away from the illegal logging trade and are now rebuilding forests and embracing organic agriculture as their new way of life.

Hope has been revived for the first time in generations with the installation of solar power in the farmers' home residing on foundation-owned land, and the establishment of a Learning Center,

Science Lab, and Playhouse for the children of their community. Perhaps most impressive is the fact that GreenEarth has mobilized its small donor pool in order to help its most promising farmers' children to attend college, with one notable boy set to graduate from Harvard University this year. Amongst the farmers' children, they now have a Certified Public Accountant, and graduates in agriculture, business, and financial management. GreenEarth's most notable farmer's child-scholar is graduating with a degree in History and Government at Harvard University this year.

For the last eight schoolyears, GreenEarth has had its own Dep-Ed accredited homeschool curriculum from preschool to Grade 5, in order to spare its farmers' kids from the three-hour round-trip trek across a bridgeless river and unpaved roads in order to attend school. After 11 years of government engagement and fervent prayers, the farm-to-market road was built at last in 2020! But GreenEarth continues its educational programs on-site, to fulfill its dream for higher quality education for the heirs of its land.

The work has barely just begun at GreenEarth. There are 75 hectares left to develop with many inherent challenges in the soil per se. It takes decades for trees to reach their full height and stability. In the meantime, the denuded land is exposed to the harsh sun for more than half the year and beating wind and rain in the remaining months. Seedlings that are planted stand zero chance of survival if they are not tended to carefully by the farmers and forest guardians. The earth itself lacks nutrients to support the plants, and what little nutrients remain to get washed away when rain travels down the sloping terrain.

GreenEarth's solution to its water-scarce environment was to build a network of 455 rainwater harvesting tanks that are connected by at least 800 linear meters of the flexible pipeline going upslope. Water still runs out during the dry season due to the ever-increasing tree population. Staggering labor costs must be incurred daily to fill the tanks during the dry season. To keep each of their hundreds of thousands of seedlings on-field and in their nursery from drying out, farmers



place one PET bottle to disseminate water ever so gradually in drips and drops over two to three weeks. Note that GreenEarth's current development only covers the first 32 hectares out of their 107 hectares land endowment due to a sore lack of resources. Additionally, GreenEarth is hoping to implement biochar, vermicompost, and animal husbandry solutions to raise soil nutrition for the quality care and growth of their precious seedlings. Their goal is biodiversity. And so they are planting an entire variety of Philippine forest hardwoods, fruit-bearing trees, and ornamental plants.

For financial sustainability, GreenEarth is pinning its hopes on a small green plant - moringa - which has been described as a medicinal herb as early as 2000 years BC. In the annals of Ayurvedic Medicine, one of the oldest healthcare systems in the world, Moringa has been mentioned as a cure for over 300 diseases.



Tests show Moringa has 90 nutrients and over 46 antioxidants, far more than other medicinals tested. GreenEarth has focused on growing Moringa, and then drying and processing the leaves into tea in their FDA-certified processing facility, certified-organic by the USDA and Ecocert. GreenEarth is presently marketing Moringa Tea and Raw Moringa Powder. While more new products are being studied, the path to sustainable income for the farm hinges greatly on these products finding markets locally and abroad. They are presently selling in over 65 stores locally and their search for more markets goes on.

An ardent GreenEarth moringa buyer writes----"My family and I have lived in NY for more than 2 decades. We recently visited the Philippines and my wife received GreenEarth's certified-organic moringa tea as a gift. Upon our return Stateside, the moringa tea was sitting on our kitchen table for some time. I decided to take it daily. I cannot put my finger on it, but two months later, I am full of energy and my sense of well-being has just tremendously improved like never before. I started researching heavily on moringa and I am blown away by the scientific findings on this humble crop."

Illusions that the road ahead will be smooth, GreenEarth's small team of dedicated professionals have already proven themselves to be capable and

committed to the cause. The land's former owner has passed away and is no doubt smiling in heaven, pleased with his decision to cede his idle land to what is now GreenEarth Heritage Foundation. Judging from the palpable reforestation of the first 32 hectares, and the stellar changes in the lives of more than 120 rural poor beneficiaries, spring and all the hope it brings - have come to this once-forsaken land.



Chary Mercado is a journalist who embraces topics related to children's welfare, livelihood, and literacy. She started to support GreenEarth's scholarship assistance program 11 years ago and continues to support GreenEarth scholars by tutoring and mobilizing resources to help support their tuition and living expenses, for those who are already in college.

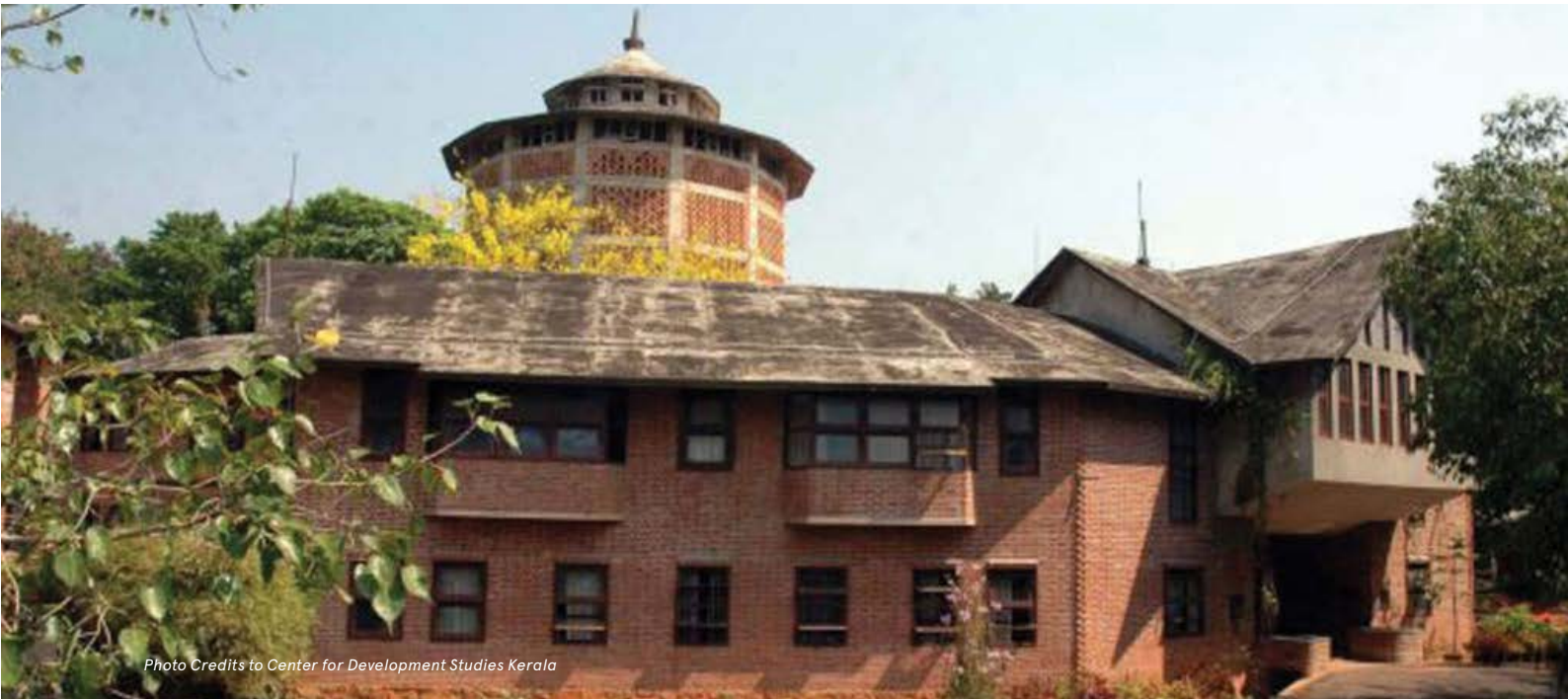


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Center for Development Studies Kerala

Location: Kerala, India



The Centre for Development Studies (CDS) was established as an autonomous social science research institute on 19 October 1970. It was the leadership and vision of Achutha Menon, the then Chief Minister of Kerala, that led to the creation of several research centers in Kerala in different disciplines related to the development of the State. He persuaded legendary development economist Professor K. N. Raj to set up the Centre and provide intellectual leadership. Professor Raj remained the driving force behind all academic activities of CDS for over two decades. CDS was also fortunate to have Laurie Baker, a radically innovative architect, visualize and design its campus and buildings in a distinctive but cost-effective manner. The architectural splendor of the CDS campus is the result of this vision and effort of Laurie Baker.

The Centre draws its financial support mainly from the Government of Kerala and the Indian Council of Social Science Research (ICSSR). The Reserve Bank of India, the Planning Commission, NITI Aayog, the Ministry of Commerce and Industry, and the Government of Kerala have instituted endowment units for research in selected areas at CDS. A new research program for analyzing international migration from Kerala has been established at the Centre. The Union Ministry of Overseas Indian Affairs had set up a migration unit to study issues relating to international migration from India.

Over the past 50 years, CDS has crossed several milestones. During the 1970s, although a large part of academic research conducted at CDS was devoted to issues about the national economy, it was natural that CDS researchers devoted significant attention to matters about the economy and society of Kerala. In the mid-1970s, CDS became an institution affiliated with the Indian Council of Social Science Research (ICSSR) and started receiving a part of its core funding from this agency. Right from its inception, CDS emphasized the training of young researchers and launched the MPhil and Ph.D. programs, recognized by Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi. It also ran a Ph.D. program affiliated with the University of Kerala.

Over the past decades, CDS has diversified its research into many areas. Some of the topics that received significant attention in the 1970s and 1980s are no longer in vogue, while new areas of research concern have emerged in the field of development studies. It is also worth mentioning that the Centre received prestigious endowment funds from different government agencies to set up dedicated research units in recent years to focus on specific areas like local government, migration, and plantation development. CDS has been attracting sponsored project research funding from several national and international organizations for researching various dimensions of development.

The 5s of Japanese efficiency

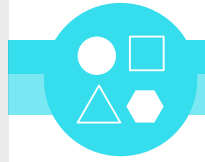
In today's fast-paced and highly competitive business world, creating and maintaining an efficient work environment is crucial to the success of any organization. One method that has gained popularity in recent years is the implementation of the 5S principles of workplace organization, developed in Japan in the 1960s. This method focuses on creating an organized, clean, and efficient workspace that maximizes productivity, improves safety, and enhances quality.

The 5S principles consist of five Japanese words that describe the steps involved in creating an effective work environment: Sort, Set in Order, Shine, Standardize, and Sustain. Let's look at each step and how it contributes to creating an effective workplace.



MANAGEMENT TOOL IN SIMPLE STEPS

The first step, Sort (Seiri), involves separating the necessary items from the unnecessary ones. This step helps to remove clutter and free up space in the workplace. It involves evaluating all items in the workplace and deciding which ones are essential for daily operations and which ones are not. Unnecessary items should be removed, sold, or disposed of properly. This process allows employees to focus on essential tasks and reduces the risk of accidents, injuries, and lost time.



The second step, Set in Order (Seiton), involves arranging the necessary items in a logical and organized manner. This step helps to reduce time wasted searching for tools or materials and increases efficiency. The goal is to create a system where everything has its place, and it is easy to find what is needed. This can be achieved by labeling items, arranging them in designated areas, and implementing a system for storing and retrieving them.



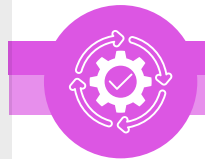
The third step, Shine (Seiso), involves keeping the workspace clean and free of debris. This step helps to maintain a safe and healthy work environment, reduce the risk of accidents, and improve the quality of work. It involves regular cleaning, dusting, sweeping, and wiping down surfaces. All tools and equipment should be maintained and kept in good working condition to prevent breakdowns and delays.



The fourth step, Standardize (Seiketsu), involves establishing standard procedures and protocols for maintaining the 5S principles. This step helps to ensure consistency and sustainability of the work environment improvements. It involves creating guidelines, checklists, and visual aids to help employees maintain the new standards. Regular audits and reviews should be conducted to identify areas for improvement and ensure that the standards are being followed.



The fifth and final step, Sustain (Shitsuke), involves the ongoing commitment to maintaining the 5S principles. This step requires a culture shift, where employees are empowered to take ownership of their work environment and committed to continuous improvement. It involves ongoing training, communication, and recognition of the efforts made to maintain the 5S principles. This step is critical to the program's long-term success and requires a sustained effort to ensure that the work environment remains efficient, safe, and productive.





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HEALTHY ENVIRONMENTS, HEALTHY COMMUNITIES:

THE NECESSITY OF BUILDING ROBUST AND CLIMATE RESILIENT HEALTH SYSTEMS

By: Neeraj Jain

The severity of the impact of climate change is becoming increasingly clear – in India, we have just had the hottest February in 122 years, and, according to the Global Climate Risk Index, the country is among the top ten most vulnerable to adverse climate incidents.

Climate-resilient health systems are the need of the hour

Research highlights that the climate crisis threatens tightly intertwined systems of care, including public health systems. For example, household and outdoor air pollution, alongside unhealthy diets, lifestyles, and work environments, were recently included in the global strategy to prevent non-communicable diseases (NCDs). Similarly, research has shown that climate variations in temperature, rainfall patterns, and humidity have a profound effect on the transmission of malaria, dengue, and chikungunya, especially in tropical regions.

Health systems themselves are a major contributor to climate change, accounting for almost 5% of global greenhouse emissions. These systems have a large carbon footprint due to the consumption of extensive amounts of energy, the use of a wide array of machinery and equipment, chemicals, consumables, etc. Biomedical waste generated by health facilities also contributes to environmental pollution.

What do climate-resilient health systems look like?

Robust and climate-resilient health systems, meaning systems that can recover or adapt quickly, are a first line of defense against climate-related stressors. This is because not only do they provide much-needed care to people affected by climate-related incidents, but also future-proof communities and essential facilities against conditions that are becoming more and more frequent, from water-borne diseases such as cholera to mosquito-borne diseases such as malaria and Japanese Encephalitis.

Further, climate-resilient health systems require that existing systems are, in themselves, environmentally sustainable and adaptable. The World Health Organization (WHO) developed an operational framework in 2020 that outlines four essential elements for providing safe and quality care in the public health community. These include an informed health workforce that can adequately respond to environmental challenges; systems in place to sustainably manage water, sanitation, and healthcare waste services; services that are energy-sustainable; and operations, infrastructures, and technologies that can adequately support the functioning of essential healthcare facilities.

For example, energy-efficient and zero-carbon innovations in healthcare infrastructure, diagnostics, devices, and transportation - telehealth interventions, for instance - have the potential to pay dividends in low-resource climate-impacted areas, while simultaneously reducing the carbon footprint that the healthcare industry often leaves behind.



The potential of a climate resilience toolkit

There are important opportunities for synergy between health and climate change mitigation in energy, households, food systems, transport, and other sectors which must be identified and integrated into the climate response. One way of doing this is through technology.

Utilizing digital solutions such as centralized databases to track areas that need urgent interventions, as well as potential hotspots, is one such idea. For example, early warning country-wide weather forecasting systems mapped alongside the predictive risk of outbreaks can play a pivotal role in this area.

Another is shifting to renewable energy, such as solar power, to

reduce the carbon footprint of health systems, and ensure that there is a constant supply of energy to essential health facilities. PATH did exactly this with the WHO through 'Project Optimize'. To ensure that vaccine and heat-sensitive drugs could be stored and transported at controlled temperatures in remote regions where electricity was inconsistent, the two organizations worked with private and public partners to solarize these logistical methods, thereby providing a template for judicious use.

The development of biogas machinery, which can turn medical waste into energy for health facilities, is yet another mechanism that can be utilized to reduce the industry's carbon footprint and make facilities self-reliant.

Thinking beyond emergency response to include preparedness

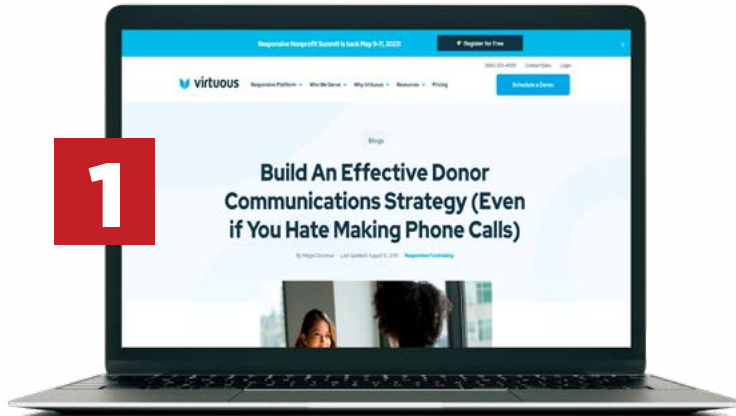
An essential component in all of this is the engagement of local governance structures, along with those communities which are most affected by climate change. It is important to encompass the lived experiences and evidence-based knowledge about climate-related health conditions provided by healthcare workers, communities, and local institutions into the planning and development of climate-resilient healthcare systems. Another tactic is actively building capacities, knowledge, and skills that will ensure that people are empowered to take decisions that suit their needs. This is critical in paving the way for preparedness and building stronger, better, and sustainable health systems for the future.



Neeraj Jain is PATH's director for the South Asia region based in New Delhi. He leads the PATH India country program and oversees PATH's work in Myanmar, Bangladesh, Nepal, and Sri Lanka. He serves as a liaison between the office in India, PATH headquarters, donors, partners, and national-level ministries. Mr. Jain's career includes more than 30 years of extensive leadership experience in strengthening organizations. His strengths lie in setting up new ventures, organizational development, and market development, and he has provided strategic leadership for change management in organizations across Asia and Europe.

From the vast gallery of information about Project Management and related topics for nonprofits, we have curated some interesting and educational pieces.

To surf through more of such assets, visit our official website.



[Build An Effective Donor Communications Strategy](#)

By Megan Donahue

Excerpt: “Donor communication strategies aim to build a strong relationship between donors and organizations by providing them with insider knowledge, instruction, and motivation to feel impactful, as explored in the essay’s detailed discussion on key elements and implementation strategies.”

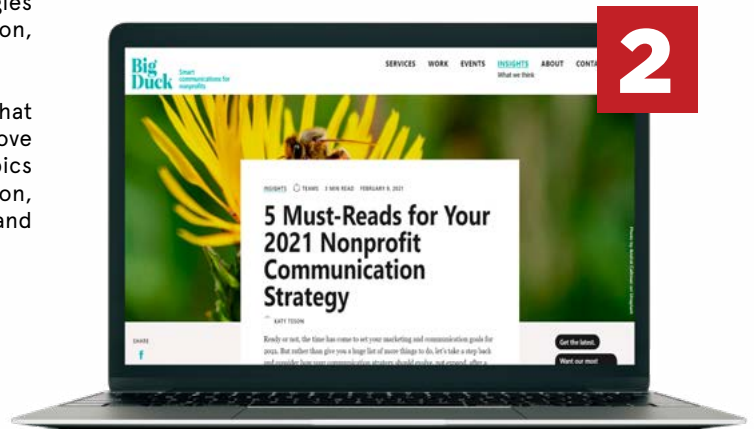
Description: Donors want to develop a relationship with the organizations they support, so donor communication strategies go beyond the phone by seeking more insider knowledge, instruction, and motivation to feel that they are making a difference. The essay goes into detail on the keys and elements of an engaging donor communications strategy, and how to implement these strategies. Management Accounting for Non-Governmental Organizations, August 2013.

[5 Must-Reads for Your 2021 Nonprofit Communication Strategy](#)

By Katy Teson

Excerpt: “Improve your nonprofit’s communication strategies with these 5 journals covering digital transformation, diversity, capacity building, awareness, and optimization.”

Description: The article offers a list of 5 journals that nonprofit organizations should read in order to improve their communication strategies. The papers’ main topics include digital transformation, diversity and representation, strengthening capacities, raising awareness, and measurement and optimization.



[Project Management for Nonprofits: How It Can Help + 18 Software Tools to Consider](#)

By Sayana Izmailova

Excerpt: “An article that explores project management for nonprofits and offers insights on its benefits, along with a list of 18 software tools that can aid in managing projects effectively.”

Description: This article provides a comprehensive overview of project management, emphasizing its importance and benefits in managing projects efficiently. Additionally, it delves into the potential applications of project management for nonprofits and provides a list of 18 software tools that can assist in project management.



[Financial strategies you can adopt as a non-profit organization](#)

By Aditi Sahu

Excerpt: “Learn how a non-profit organization can achieve its goals and foster growth through financial tactics and strategic planning, as outlined in this informative article.”

Description: The article offers financial tactics that a non-profit organization can use. It also covers the development and implementation of an appropriate strategic plan within the organization in order to meet the company’s goals and promote better growth.



[How to Choose a CMS for Your Nonprofit](#)

By Wes Holin

Excerpt: “The article covers all the key factors to consider when selecting the right CMS as the foundation of your organization’s website.”

Description: Before choosing the best CMS for your organization, the article contains all the information you need to consider. The foundation of your website is the content management system (CMS).



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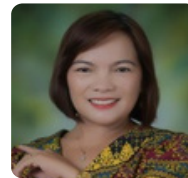
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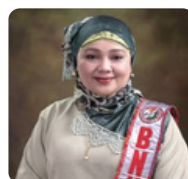
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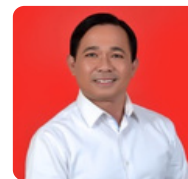
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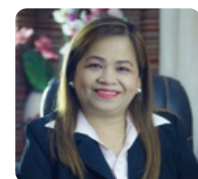
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Event Highlights: NGO Awards Summit



With our further incubation at the NSRCEL IIM Bangalore & nurturing from industry's best mentors, we can find more innovative ways to support NGOs. It's our vision to be the partner who makes it easier for NGOs to start, operate & scale. A virtual coworking space designed to help NGO's accelerate their impact . A smart digital destination for all NGOs to organize their work, find resources, people, mentors & even sources of funding , connecting all stakeholders to benefit from networking & collaborations.

NGO Awards Summit brings exciting opportunities for every grassroots NGOs and social impact leaders to connect, collaborate & grow together. After successful completion of two seasons, NGOStory is proud to announce upcoming Season 3- NGO Awards Summit 2022 -Celebrating the joy of Social Entrepreneurship together. An event to honor and recognize the humble efforts of all Nonprofits and their sheer hard work. Through NGO Awards Summit 2022, we want to reach the last mile social entrepreneur and give the opportunity to be a part of the Impact Awards and for whom the Celebration of this journey matters.

NGO Awards Summit 2022 was held on 18th March 2023 at St Joseph's University, Bangalore. It started with a welcome address from the founder & CEO - Ms Neha Chawla, followed by an inaugural address from Special guest- Mr. Anand Sri Ganesh - COO, NSRCEL, and a keynote address by Dr. Ronald Mascarenhas - Pro Vice Chancellor, SJU.

The Summit was graced with several panel discussions comprising of various social sector leaders and also sessions from our Knowledge partners , Haqdarshak and Canva for Nonprofits.

Panel discussion 1 was on the topic- "Challenges faced by the grassroots NGOs towards building a sustainable model in the social sector" with a panel of diversified Social entrepreneurs. An insightful discussion on challenges faced by grassroots NGOs.

Panel Discussion 2 was on "Current trends in Field Work and Supervision : Perspectives from the Practitioners" Panel discussion 3 on "Women Empowerment, Climate Change, Sustainability & Livelihood"

Panel discussion 4 on “Empowering Social Entrepreneurship and Giving economy- Challenges, Trends & Way forward”

Individual sessions from our Knowledge partners- Canva for Nonprofits conducted by Chandrika Deb and from Haqdarshak conducted by Gayathri Shanmugham.

It was a great day with impactful conversations, applauding for the awardees and most importantly being humble and supporting each other in this journey of Social entrepreneurship.



“Impact Awards is a felicitation of the hard work of the organizations running one of the toughest jobs of empowering people at the bottom of the pyramid. NGOStory is moving towards creating a wonderful ecosystem in which NGOs can easily start, operate & scale.”



We are so excited to announce the winners for NGO Awards Summit 2022, celebrating last year’s impact. All the Winners will be felicitated with micro grants to fuel their ongoing/future projects. All the participants will be given access to LinkedIn Bootcamp on Leveraging LinkedIn to connect with CSRs.

- 1 NGO of the year - Empowering Education - The Apprentice Project**
- 2 NGO of the year - Empowering Women - Parihaar Foundation**
- 3 NGO of the year - Empowering Healthcare - Chronic Pain India**
- 4 NGO of the year - Empowering Livelihood - Srujna Charitable Trust**
- 5 NGO of the year - Empowering Rural Communities - The Gender Lab**
- 6 NGO of the year - Empowering Environment - Marpu Foundation**
- 7 NGO of the year - Empowering Specially abled/Old age - Diya Foundation**

We applaud all the awardees and wish all the best for their future projects.

All of you are heroes, inspiring so many lives. We salute your hard work.



NGOStory is an Impact Storytelling & Consulting organization, which aims at branding grassroots NGOs thereby helping them build credibility. As a Social startup, we have been empowering the Nonprofits by giving them the opportunity to share their inspirational journey & ongoing projects through Impact talk shows, Fundraising events, and Awards recognition platform. We also conduct knowledge-based training programs oriented towards organizational design, strategy and accelerated growth. Over the past 2 years, we have reached out to more than 3000+ organizations, and are looking forward to accelerated impact. NGOStory offers services like- Media feature, Impact Talk Show, Mentoring Sessions.

“Carbon Cutter: A Solution to Reduce the World’s Fossil-Fuel Greenhouse Gas Emission Footprint”

Interviewed by Reysha Ruiz and Ragini K R

The urgent problem of millions of people dying annually cannot wait for electric vehicles to become the dominant mode of transportation in the future. In this interview, we explore Mr. Brenner’s innovative solution, the Carbon Cutter, which aims to bridge the transportation pollution gap that has persisted for decades.

Q: What led you to make the initiative of creating a carbon-cutter product?

A: “In my case, my cars were emitting gasoline through the exhaust, and I could detect it by the smell. Based on my expertise, I knew that unburned gasoline was being wasted, leading to a loss of power and money. I experimented with a few existing solutions, and while one of them performed decently, I suddenly had an idea one day that I could create something better. So I went ahead and developed my own solution.”

“I began researching and testing the carbon cutter device in 1995 as a hobby, but it wasn’t until 2009 that it was performing well enough for me to close my service business and devote myself to it full-time. Since then, I’ve been in the Philippines for about a decade, conducting extensive testing with many before and after emission measurements. The Department of Science and Technology (DOST) required me to apply for Environmental Technology verification, which involved a lot of paperwork. After a review, they called me for a meeting and agreed to test the device, but warned me that I was likely to fail. Every single one, along with the supervisor was a little surprised by us when the device worked. The test included not only emissions but also consumption. We claimed a constant reduction in consumption and an increase in power output, which we were able to pass all of the tests and requirements.”

Q: Can you share with us how your product evolved?

A: “I sold half of my computer business and approached many clients asking if they were interested in trying out something new. Fortunately, none of my clients’ networks were infected due to the different approach I had taken in handling their computers. I gained the trust and loyalty of about 300 clients who were willing to try out my research and development work, as I experimented with different designs to see what worked best. I always looked for ways to make my product more efficient and better. Just like improving the efficiency of an engine, I sought to make improvements to my product that would be immediately noticeable to my clients.”

"I continued to make changes, and it literally developed through trial and error, constantly developing the technology. After I arrived here, I did about 750 research and development installations, allowing people to try them out and see if they liked it. For example, a customer who had a 1994 Rav4 and had to drive up two freeways to get her mail. She could only go up to 45 mph, so I installed the device in her car and the next day, she was able to go up to 55 mph. This gave me an indication that I was going in the right direction. After about three months, I came up with a device that looked promising in other vehicles. So, I asked her if it was okay to replace her old device with the new design, and she agreed. The next day, she called me up, thrilled that she was able to race a Ferrari up the hill. These results are what brought us here today."

Q: Can you throw some light on the features of the Carbon Cutter, the principle, or the theory of how it works?

A: There is a physical law called laminar flow. Laminar flow describes the flow of multiple layers in a pipe, which can cause friction and slow down the flow of any substance being transported. This device creates rifling around the edge of the pipe, which allows for a major flow without friction, thereby increasing the speed of the air as it enters the fuel. This vaporizes the fuel and burns a larger percentage of it, resulting in more power and less fuel consumption.

Another would be the role of a Catalytic Converter in burning the fuel that did not burn in the engine. Carbon is fuel, and to vaporize fuel before burning it, the speed of the air needs to be increased. This process vaporizes the fuel, burns a larger percentage of it, and generates more power. So, if all the fuel is burned, more power is generated, and less fuel is consumed, making it easier to go uphill. Through the laminar flow, it helps slow down the air's speed, and liquid fuel does not combust well. As the airspeed increases, more power can be generated. More power, less burden, less pedal, less gas."

Q: How did the product transition from being just an invention to a commercial or business opportunity?

A: "It hasn't yet. About three months before the pandemic hits, it starts, and maybe October or November 2019. We have partnered with the local government of Malabon in the Philippines, and the mayor himself tested 24 TODA tricycles using our device and they were all satisfied with its performance. As a result, the 24 drivers requested to have the device installed on all their tricycles. Upon getting the city's approval of an award for the installation of 800 tricycles. We were ready to proceed, but unfortunately, two days later, the first lockdown occurred. So you ask how we're commercialized. We're not yet there, but we are trying to build it back up. Basically, we are back from scratch and starting all over."



Q: Are there any specifications needed to be met to fulfill the use of the product?

A: "Yeah, well, I may have different sizes for different engines. Yeah, I mean, I was vacationing in Palawan once and there was a single-cylinder Chinese diesel generator. ... So I took a pair of scissors and I took a coke can and I made one of my devices out of coke cans and I stuck it on that engine and then the fuel lasted from 11 o'clock at night till seven o'clock"

"So yes, I made it out with a coke can and plopped it in there. And so, it will work with any engine, yes, it will work in any engine, but it won't work with some of the few newer car computers out there. And there's not that many of them, it's just a few."

Q: What are the other Sustainability goals that you aim to achieve or have already achieved as of the moment?

A: "It started when my investor suggested that we get disabled people to work for us. For example, way back he asked me to help his disabled son's teacher by providing him with work. The investor tried the device and saw that it worked, so he partnered with the business and suggested getting disabled people to make the device. The business had already trained four people from an NGO and they did well, so there is no problem in getting more people to make the device. Training more people is the only requirement to handle any supply."

"Another example was when we tested the device on 60 tricycles for an NGO. As a result, all of the writers reported anywhere from a 20 to 33% reduction in consumption. So, okay. What does that mean for the drivers? It means a 20% reduction in fuel costs that they have to pay every day or a 20% increase in their income that they can use to buy food, books for the kids, and other needs. Apart from that, we got clean air for the citizens that live in the area. Our device can also be used for jeepneys. The project has multiple benefits, including emission reduction, providing employment opportunities to persons with disabilities, increasing income for drivers, and raising the income of local mechanics, even those who are not fully trained as the installation process is simple. Therefore, the project is making a positive impact in various aspects."



Mr. Dan Renner, an ex-US Navy technician/instructor, and serial entrepreneur, developed the Carbon-Cutter device in 2012. He has since retrofitted it in approximately 3,000 vehicles worldwide and developed a hand-fabrication model, training individuals including marginalized people as hand-fabricators.



A UN organization charged with assisting nations in eradicating poverty and achieving human development and sustainable economic growth. The UNDP places a strong emphasis on building local ability for long-term prosperity and self-sufficiency.

The United Nations Special Fund and the United Nations Expanded Programme of Technical Assistance, both established in 1949 and 1958, were combined to form UNDP. The United Nations General Assembly created the UNDP as we know it today in 1966. It is the largest UN development assistance organization, with offices spread across 177 nations, and has its main office in New York City.

To achieve Sustainable Development Goals, they assist nations in developing their institutional capacities, leadership abilities, partnering capacities, and resilience. Their work is primarily focused on three areas:



CLIMATE AND DISASTER RESILIENCE



DEMOCRATIC GOVERNANCE



PEACEBUILDING

By increasing access to economic opportunities and resources, tying poverty programs to national goals and policies, and ensuring that the voice of the poor is heard more, UNDP assists countries in developing strategies to fight poverty. Additionally, it functions on a macro level to change trade, promote debt reduction and foreign investment, and guarantee that the world's poorest people profit from globalization.

On the ground, UNDP supports development pilot projects, encourages women's participation in development, and ties government, nongovernmental organizations, and external funders together. In this manner, UNDP collaborates with local authorities and leaders to give disadvantaged people the chance to start their businesses and improve their economic situation. All voluntary donations from UN member states go towards funding the UNDP.

The UNDP aims to address environmental issues in order to improve developing countries' capacities to develop sustainably, boost human development, and reduce poverty because the poor are disproportionately impacted by environmental degradation and lack of access to clean, affordable water, sanitation, and energy services. By offering creative policy advice and connecting partners through environmentally responsible development projects that aid the poor in establishing sustainable livelihoods, UNDP works with nations to strengthen their ability to address global environmental problems.

The environmental strategy of the UNDP places a strong emphasis on efficient water governance, including access to water supply and sanitation, sustainable energy services, sustainable land management to prevent desertification and land degradation, conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity, and regulations to reduce emissions of harmful pollutants and ozone-depleting substances.



Photo caption: A Carpill employee with a farmer inspecting his cocoa beans in Bush, Ghana, Africa.

Green Convergence Hosts 4th Philippine Environmental Summit

Green Convergence, an environmental organization in the Philippines, is proud to host the 4th Philippine Environmental Summit last February 21-23, 2023, at the Taal Vista Hotel in Tagaytay City. The three-day program aimed to address the urgent environmental challenges facing the planet through cultivating dialogues among subject-matter experts, institutions, and the youth. The event gathered local and international NGOs, government agencies and local units, corporations, academic institutions, students, and youth organizations committed to environmental sustainability.

The summit focused on the theme of "Caring for Earth: Scaling up Solutions to the Climate Emergency". Keynote addresses, messages from special guests, breakout sessions, and a workshop activity were organized to discuss innovative and practical solutions for a sustainable future. The event was divided into three days, with the following topics covered.

The Three-Day Program

On Day 1, the keynote address speaker was Hon. Ma. Antonia Yulo-Loyzaga, Mayor of the City of Tagaytay. The breakout sessions for the day were Ako Ang Bukas: Quantum Leap to 2050, to envision a greener climate by quantifying institutional carbon footprint from the fronts of the academe and businesses; Climate Resilient & Sustainable LGUs, to give a preview to the programs and local responses of City of Ormoc, Makati, and Quezon City; Marine Programs, to discuss corals and mangrove ecosystems as carbon sinks; and Renewable Energy as a substitute for fossil fuels.

Day 2's keynote speaker was Federico Lopez, CEO of First Philippine Holdings Corporation. The breakout sessions for the day were Innovations for Sustainability—where the first breakout room discussed conserving mineral and biological resources to minimize the usage of fossil fuel

for industrial and manufacturing operations, and the second discussed alternative technologies that lower energy use; Community-led Initiatives, that featured initiatives from the ground-up towards environmental protection; and Youth and Climate Action, to highlight environmental programs that involve and empower the youth.

Part of the highlights of the summit was the Community-Led Initiatives session, chaired by the Executive Director of the Asia Society for Social Improvement and Sustainable Transformation (ASSIST), Francis Macatulad. The session discussed initiated environmental programs of guest speakers, including a community action in Sarangani whose unity to preserve their land stopped a mining project and a successful grassroots ecotourism program. The panelists included the President of Kiamba Sarangani Development

Foundation Philippines Inc., Rev Charlie Teves, and the President of Bojo Aloquinsan Ecotourism Association (BAETA), Jomelyn Delos Reyes.

Day 3's keynote speaker was Robert Chan, Executive Director of Palawan NGO Network Inc. The breakout sessions for the day were Sustainable Agriculture, in pursuit of developing native products and systems; Business for Climate, to discuss the role of corporations in addressing greenhouse gas emissions; Effective Climate Emergency Communication, which highlighted innovative strategies to effectively communicate the climate emergency; and Nature-based Solutions, which featured programs that highlight key ecosystems for climate change mitigation.

POST-EVENT HIGHLIGHT: GREEN CONVERGENCE



Involving the Youth

During the workshop activity, participants brainstormed solutions for leveraging and optimizing the existing efforts of climate organizations, corporations, and government bodies. The analysis focused on understanding the needs and gaps of environmental responsibility in the Philippine context, and its implications for the crisis and civil society. Students were given a chance to present their work on stage as they are the future bearers who stand as crucial players in seizing a more sustainable planet in the long term. They presented key insights on how the government response can be streamlined and enhanced towards efficient and effective initiatives towards meaningful impact.

The event was embellished with intermission performances from Banda Kawayan Pilipinas, La Salle Filipiniana Dance Company, and Mirma Tica-Ortiz as a tribute to the environment as a provider of life. These reflected elements of nature and how it enriches cultures

of communities through tribal dances and musical performances. It symbolizes a testament to the importance of the environment in the transgenerational development of our society, and what will be lost if we were to further abuse and neglect it.

In conclusion, the 4th Philippine Environmental Summit hosted by Green Convergence was successful in providing a platform for experts, organizations, and individuals to

discuss practical solutions for environmental sustainability. The event highlighted the importance of community-led initiatives, institutional engagement and responsibility, environmental conservation, and the role of the youth in promoting environmental action. The success of this summit is a demonstration of the commitment of Filipinos to protect the environment and ensure a sustainable future for the generations to come.



CYBERSECURITY DURING A RECESSION

According to most economic forecasters, a recession seems almost inevitable in 2023. The World Bank cut its growth outlook from 3% to 1.7%, and companies have either started laying employees off or warning that layoffs are coming. It's an unfortunate reality that could have a significant impact on a company's approach to cybersecurity.

During the recession of 2007-2009, companies cut back on their cybersecurity activities. They stopped scheduled network layer technology refreshes, stopped investing in new cybersecurity technology, and stopped hiring cybersecurity staff to protect their digital assets.

With the increased sophistication of cyber threats set against a growing attack surface for companies to protect, the probability of breach is increasing. Taking a cost-saving approach in response to today's current economic and geopolitical outlook seems both counter-intuitive and self-defeating. The temporary savings can easily be offset by increased costs in business recovery and fines, while loss of brand reputation can reach millions of dollars. Furthermore, employees can easily evolve into insider threats, and reduced eyes-watching systems make it more likely that attacks would get through. Stolen data, encrypted files, and ransomware are on the horizon for any company that fails to safeguard its perimeter, which could then bring on increased government fines for things like GDPR inadequacies.

Today more than ever, security teams need to take steps today to improve their security posture and response capability. However, as we enter this period of significant economic turbulence, budgets and availability of resources will need to be justified with more depth to meet the economic pressures.



Pitch the ROI

Most businesspeople don't view cybersecurity through an ROI lens. They look at it as a necessary expense or cost of doing business. However, due to an increasing awareness amongst security professionals, they now understand that presenting an ROI to their board of directors is required to convince them of the need for more budget and resources to help them achieve their and the company's goals.

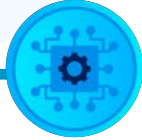
Calculating ROI for cybersecurity has become more simple over time with the availability of tools and availability of data, but it does require slightly more nuance where local and industry-specific information should be used for higher impact and relevance. A preferred way to begin is by monitoring attempted hacks on your company's perimeter through

your logs. IBM reported that the average breach cost a company over \$4.24M. While this number needs to be adjusted to your location and industry, it gives a starting point for demonstrating the ROI from endpoint protection.

Determining the cost of a breach on lost business is another way organizations demonstrate cybersecurity ROI. You need to determine the number of days your company would lose business and the amount that would cost. You'd also have to add in the cost to recover data loss and factor in customer churn, as many customers will look for businesses that appear to be safer.

Finally, you should remind your board of directors about the government fines that could be levied against you in the event of a data breach. Calculate all your potential costs that stem from attacks, subtract the cost of running your cybersecurity program, and present that data to the board to demonstrate the value your cybersecurity program adds to the company.





Increase Automation

Cybersecurity programs are most successful when they combine automation with human intelligence. Automated tools scan endpoint devices, correlate data from across the network, generate protection ahead of an attack, and detect threats that have already entered the network.

Increasing your level of automation during periods of economic uncertainty is an excellent strategy for protecting corporate assets. While they can't replace humans, automated tools are far better than people at scanning millions of lines of code and detecting anomalies, turning raw data into knowledge. Once detected, human cybersecurity professionals can analyze results and take necessary steps to end the threat and prevent future breaches.



Add Threat Hunting Activities

Layoffs may be coming to legitimate businesses, but threat actors are still working hard to breach networks, deploy ransomware, and steal your data. Taking a proactive approach during these periods is a reasonable use of resources in defending your company's assets. When done effectively, threat hunting discovers hidden advanced persistent threats (APT), attempts at cybercrime, poor security practices, and environmental vulnerabilities.

Threat hunting enables organizations to find breaches that have slipped past the security shield and are dormant until activated. This activity enables organizations to stay ahead of the latest threats and stop breaches from turning into full-blown attacks. While threat hunting can be done manually, it is far more effective and significantly quicker to supplement efforts with automated tools.



Strengthen Your Cybersecurity Posture During Economic Uncertainty

It's unfortunate, but cybercriminals take advantage of any weaknesses they discover. Many businesses will undoubtedly cut back on their cybersecurity program as they ride out the predicted recession, opening the door to cyberattacks.

By continuing to invest in and prioritize cybersecurity, your business will be able to emerge stronger when the economy improves.



Evan Davidson, Vice President of Asia Pacific Japan at SentinelOne

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REFLECTIONS FROM A WARM BALI RETREAT: BALANCING SEASONS AND GLOBAL DISASTERS

**“WOW:
2023 crept
up on me:
it’s already
March!”**

Those of you from the northern hemisphere will be happy to soon be seeing the snow and frosts behind you hoping the spring weather takes a quick and lasting hold. Those of you reading this from the southern hemisphere are perhaps happy the summer heatwaves are behind you but hoping for a mild winter.

I remain untouched by the hot/dry season cycle being based 5 degrees south of the equator in Jakarta and I am happily drafting this column from a warm Bali Island holiday retreat of peace and serenity. Bali is however still very much rebuilding from the closure of tourism due to the recent pandemic, whether this pandemic was man-made is perhaps academic but clearly a planet with some 8 billion people is at high risk to disasters of many kinds. We need to be aware and prepared.

We seem to be increasingly seeing across the globe more erratic and extreme weather events and we consistently hear more doomsday theories linked to the changing climate. These events are brought about, primarily, by people-made actions. I hope you are escaping the worst of these climate induced disasters and thinking how you may



Chris Morris
Advisor for ASSIST
and iMPACT

change your lifestyles to contribute to a better environment and future for our planet. In my first year of retirement, I'm trying to work towards a climate neutral living, and I must say it's not always simple. I have changed my diet to predominantly vegetarian, reduced my flying and offset any air miles, my remaining challenges living in Jakarta, Indonesia are local transport (with few EV on the road and subsidized fossil fuel), national-grid (dirty and cheap) electricity and single use plastic (why has it not been banned?).

The theme of energy, environment and sustainability for this quarterly publication is hugely relevant to young people who are often disproportionately affected by events of today and powerless in shaping the future. For example, we are all affected by the current events in Ukraine, which dramatically affect global wellbeing. The UNDP estimates over 50 million people fell into extreme poverty (living off less than \$1.90 a day or less) in the first three months of the war. The spiraling energy and food cost which are direct consequences of the war is felt across the globe. Also, with some 40 countries pledging over \$170 billion, to date, to support ammunition and human suffering associated with the Ukraine war means that development support to the global poor, and to address environmental and climate issues has been vastly reduced. I do wonder what the impact for the future of the planet and people could have been if the war chest of funds used for the war machines of Russia and Ukraine had been used for advancement of the SDGs or mitigating climate change. And whilst this particular war is getting the headlines across the globe, we don't need to look too far to see huge resources in other areas being diverted to other man-mad conflicts.

The UN is already sending dire messages about the threat to SDG targets and warning many 2030 targets are in danger. Recently there has been a lot more talk of adapting to climate change rather than mitigating the effects of climate change. This I find, whilst pragmatic and necessary, somewhat depressing. Why can't

politicians mitigate and stop disasters rather than ignore and respond after the event? I read in the Economist this week that the benefits to cutting down the Amazon is \$1,500 /ha, whilst the cost to the planet is \$25,000! Surely, it is not beyond imagination to develop programs so local poor and illegal loggers refrain from cutting down the Amazon!

I recently read some interesting articles outlining the different terminologies used in the 'development world' explaining the use of terms 'adaptation' and 'resilience'. Terms which are often used interchangeably but having important differences. Basically adaptation is the process or action that makes changes so one is better able to survive in a new environment. Resilience describes the ability to respond to disasters or shocks, and to recover from their impacts in a timely and effective manner. Increasingly resources (i.e development \$\$\$) are being pumped into the funding of long term adaptation, with emergency funds diverted to rescue and resilience support. This is happening in a world where unnecessary wars are draining developmental funding resources leaving the world at a higher risk to climate change and need to adapt and respond rather than avoid. What should be happening is the funding of vital mitigation projects and initiatives.

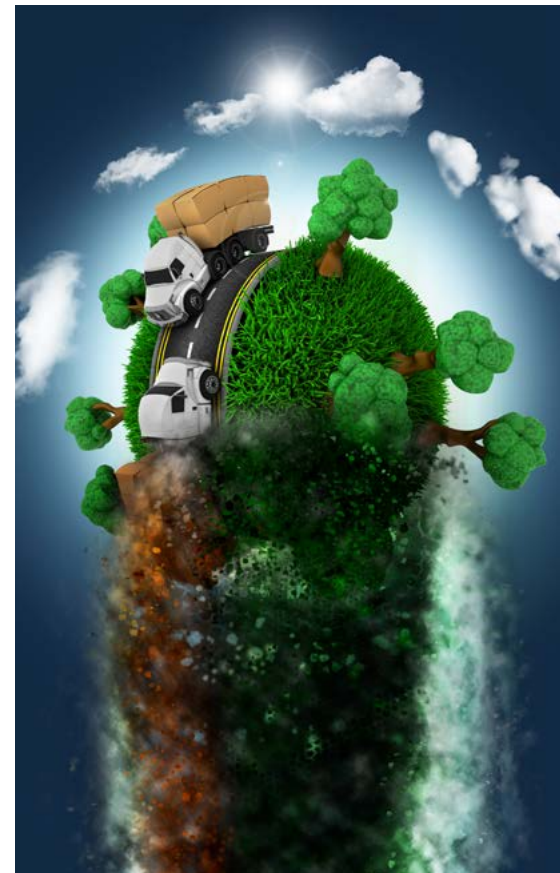
Funding mitigation priorities to: improve energy efficiency and develop more renewable energy, price carbon, end fuel subsidies, build low-carbon cities and reduce household energy use, accelerate climate-smart agriculture and nurture forest landscapes, and reduce greenhouse gasses and improve the quality of the local environment, is what is urgently needed. Not the funding of wars.

As I sign off from Bali I reflect with sadness on a walk down the famous 'Kuta Beach' which I first did over 30 years ago. Currently the height of the wet monsoon season the winds and currents bring in waves of flotsam, which I remember from my earlier visits to Kuta (over 20 years ago) was predominantly natural wood and

vegetation from the region's rivers; now this flotsam is laden with man made pollutants primarily plastics wastes carried around the region by our oceans. Local Balinese rivers are relatively clean as the indigenous culture protects the environment and manages water and rivers with the local Hindu religion incorporating important features of animism. Such outside influences, whether it be unnecessary wars, unsustainable energy sources or man made plastics illustrate how fragile our communities and environment is, in the long term, to human actions.

I encourage our youth today to continue the struggles of COP 21 on Climate Change in Sharm el-Sheikh, Egypt and in Montreal, Canada at the UN's Biodiversity COP15. Also to think how you can reduce your own carbon footprint and contribute to saving the planet.

I wish you continued good health, peace, and prosperity as we move deeper into 2023.



RESOURCES

TITLE OF ARTICLE	ORGANIZATION	WEBSITE
News Roundup: "Green Transformation" is supported by a \$36.6 million contribution from Japan	UN Development Programme	https://www.undp.org/asia-pacific/press-releases/japan-contributes-368-million-support-green-transformation-four-pacific-island-nations
News Roundup: A coal power boom and the "staggering" success of renewable energy are both parts of China's energy transition	CNBC	https://www.cnbc.com/2023/03/08/energy-chinas-renewables-progress-comes-alongside-a-coal-power-boom.html?qsearchterm=A%20coal%20power%20boom%20and%20the
News Roundup: Fire at Rohingya camp, Bangladesh leaving thousands homeless	BBC	https://www.bbc.com/news/world-asia-64854843
News Roundup: Toxic 'Forever Chemicals' Found in Toilet Paper across Globe	NDTV	https://www.ndtv.com/feature/toilet-paper-around-the-world-contains-harmful-forever-chemicals-says-study-3858930
News Roundup: 23 dead whales washed ashore on the East coast	The New York Times	https://www.nytimes.com/2023/02/28/nyregion/east-coast-whale-deaths.html?searchResultPosition=1
News Roundup: Sun is about to get more active than it was for a decade	Forbes	https://www.forbes.com/sites/jamiecartereurope/2022/08/02/the-sun-is-now-more-active-than-nasa-predicted-it-could-be-in-its-strongest-cycle-since-records-began/?sh=59526d20cd59
This Caught Our Eye: Indonesia's Breakthrough in Creating Eco-Friendly Fuel Ecosystem Catching Global Attention	Facebook	https://www.facebook.com/groups/898899773959040/permalink/1609290922919918/
This Caught Our Eye: Green Living Goals: Best Housing Development in the Philippines for Sustainability	Youtube	https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Z7WEAfh8
This Caught Our Eye: New win for sustainable energy in ASEAN region: Thai firm received grant for region's biggest cross-border wind farm	Royal Thai Embassy	https://thaiembdc.org/2023/03/17/thai-firm-wins-grant-for-regions-biggest-cross-border-wind-farm/
This Caught Our Eye: Turning trash into art: Upcycling a paradise in Bali	Financial Times	https://www.ft.com/content/be07595a-2fda-4a2b-9ef8-c320112b6d3c



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