



22 MAY 2020
INTERNATIONAL DAY FOR
BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY
Our solutions are in nature

Environmental Stewardship is more than just a phrase.

The coronavirus pandemic clearly demonstrated how our environment and socio-economic systems are even more interconnected than we realize, and that our systems are susceptible to exogenous shocks, crippling businesses that put millions of people in to severance; widening our pre-existing social inequalities; and inflicts hardship to those most vulnerable.

It is at this time; our traditional metrics seem partly irrelevant. The question now, that we should be asking ourselves, is how can we navigate our socio-economic systems into a post peak environment that is more resilient, inclusive, sustainable, and ensures intergenerational equity.

Private and public sector Interventions, that mitigate the health and economic impacts people and businesses are experiencing, should consider what a post-pandemic economy should look like. If utilized decorously, it could lead to a favorable probability of creating an economy that works for everyone

Overwhelming, as it may seem, this fostered partnership should not lose sight of our longer-term endeavor of addressing the real risk amplifier and cause of this pandemic. The unsustainable development of our environment and inefficient use of its resources – if not acted upon, will continue to be present even long after this pandemic.

The world, more than ever, must become environmentally resilient to be able to cope with these impacts. Policies, as they are being shaped to navigate in a post peak environment, should acknowledge the need to invest in best practices, eco-friendly technologies and approaches that both efficiently and sustainably utilizes and protects our natural resources.

This unprecedented global crisis also presents an unprecedented opportunity to collectively learn and reset our ways to re-shape our economy now that the importance and urgency to maintain a symbiotic balance with health and the environment has been painfully established.

Philippine Business for Environmental Stewardship (PBEST) underscores the need to foster a partnership among all sectors to be able to craft and implement a holistic, environmentally, science-based and forward-looking measures that effectuates fervent actions toward building back better.

Now is the time to show that environmental stewardship is not an empty phrase.

Engr. Felix Jose M. Vitangcol
Secretary-General
Philippine Business for Environmental Stewardship