The Development Bank of the Philippines (DBP) has granted a P245-million term loan to the municipality of El Nido, Palawan, to finance the construction of water supply and wastewater treatment systems as part of its efforts to promote environmental protection and sustainable development. The proposed water supply systems are expected to help sustain the growth of local businesses especially the tourism industry in the municipality. These will consist of river diversion weirs, primary and dual media filters, storage tanks, disinfection systems and a combination of PVC and HDPE transmission pipelines for falls or rivers as water source. When completed, the project will provide a steady supply of safe and potable water to approximately 9,042 households in all 18 barangays of the municipality. It will also address the inadequate treatment measures in existing water pumps and deep wells in the area. The project is supported by the provincial government of Palawan, the Department of Public Works and Highways, and the Department of Tourism.

**ADB, partners to help energy sector drive Indonesia’s growth**

The Asian Development Bank (ADB) has approved a $500 million loan including $100 million from the ADB-administered ASEAN Infrastructure Fund, to help stimulate Indonesia’s energy sector, support the government’s reform agenda, and unleash the sector’s potential as a key engine of sustainable economic growth. The funds will support President Joko Widodo’s reform agenda to improve overall governance in the energy sector by lowering subsidies, adopting cost-recovery-based tariffs and boosting the performance of state-owned enterprises such as PLN, the state-owned electrical utility. To help enhance private investment in the energy sector, the program will support the implementation of long-overdue policy actions. This includes streamlining of licensing and permitting of energy projects through the government’s one-stop-shop; allowing private firms to use PLN’s transmission lines to sell power directly to end users in remote locations; and providing greater regulatory certainty in the oil and gas sub-sector, for example, through a consistent process for making decisions on expiring oil and gas production sharing contracts. The program will boost government efforts to scale up renewable energy through price incentives for geothermal, biomass and small hydropower and set up an energy efficiency market place through improved standards and labels for electrical appliances, and requirements for energy efficient buildings and municipal facilities. The program will also support the government’s electrification agenda and pave the way for adoption of cleaner fossil fuel technologies such as carbon capture and storage, at scale. The ADB loan will be complemented by about $800 million in potential co-financing from key development partners.

IPDC of Bangladesh offers green financing

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**Building a green leadership mindset**

The best way for leaders to build support for their company’s environmental efforts is to model a green-leadership mindset, writes Douglas LaBier, Director, Center for Progressive Development. That means internalizing facts about the global environmental situation and an awareness of one’s own leadership capabilities. In his article, “Green Leadership: Learning it and Doing it”, LaBier stressed that green leadership mentality leads to more success in creating “green teams” within companies. When successful, green teams can have a dramatic benefit on a company’s environmental and financial performance. They can realize reduced costs associated with resources and energy consumption, via collaboration across departments. LaBier concluded that with a green leadership mindset, leaders become equipped to create and act upon sustainable practices. And those, in turn, are likely to generate larger-scale actions: support for public policies that will ensure long-term success, wellbeing, and security for all segments of society.

Our environment, the world in which we live and work, is a mirror of our attitudes and expectations.

--Earl Nightingale
Customers are sensitive to “greenwashing”

“Greenwashing” is a term to describe a practice by companies that espouse environmentally-friendly policies but don’t actually follow them. They talk the talk but don’t walk the walk. According to a research, consumers are becoming increasingly cynical about corporations that bolt to the front of every trendy cause. The same data shows a majority of consumers are willing to boycott a company if they think they are being misled. Further, the researchers discovered that consumers – especially environmentally conscious ones – can quickly determine if they’re being played by companies that supports good environmental policies only in the parts of the business where it helps the bottom line.


Partnerships are the fast route to a low carbon future for business

Today, companies are becoming more and more climate-literate and are taking actions to reduce their carbon emissions and making their value chains more resilient in the face of climatic threats, write experts. With this, new business partnerships are forming that are powerful sources of advocacy. They demonstrate to governments and civil society that multiple companies and sectors support action by policymakers on issues such as a price on carbon, science-based targets and carbon reporting. These partnerships are helping change the perception in government circles that companies are resistant to climate action. But these partnerships have their limitations, too. They focus on advocating change rather than delivering change. Companies need to form coalitions to reduce their emissions too. To deliver these collective reductions in emissions, companies need to work with other businesses with common business models, operations and supply chains to tackle their shared carbon footprint. A shared commitment to change across a sector can send a powerful signal to suppliers, employees and customers that change will happen – and that the market will not be distorted for those who commit early to the change agenda.

Source: http://www.theclimategroup.org/

5 rules for a carbon-efficient supply chain

Supply chain and freight transportation activities have a significant global footprint, and that footprint is only getting bigger. Nina Kruschwitz enumerates the five rules for a carbon-efficient supply chain:

1. Choose the most carbon-efficient mode possible. When it comes to carbon emissions per ton-mile, planes emit 47 times more than container ships and trucks emit six times more than trains. Clearly differentiating cargo that needs to be expedited from that which doesn’t is step one; other options include vendor-managed inventory and even moving final assembly closer to the client.

2. Collaborate with other shippers. Are there opportunities to merge your warehouses and distribution assets with other companies? Ship products directly to the client and avoid warehousing altogether? Match “back-haul” lanes with other shippers to improve efficiency? All of these strategies are being used successfully.

Source: http://sloanreview.mit.edu

3. Redesign your own network for efficiency. New logistics tools can help to optimize warehouse locations, shipping routes and modal connections.

4. Get the most out of each move. Set goals for trailer utilization, look for new ways to combine loads and use the best new software to optimize orders. Redesigning and consolidating packaging can also increase utilization while decreasing damage.

5. Increase energy efficiency in distribution centers. These vital links account for 11 percent of the carbon footprint of goods movement. Changes to HVAC, lighting, motor controls and refrigeration can be quick payback ways to save energy and emissions.”

Source: http://www.nytimes.com/

What is the ‘Present Tree’ initiative?

The ‘Present Tree’ initiative was started by the Japanese-certified non-profit organization, Environmental Relations in January 2005. The initiative promotes forest restoration and regional development by planting commemorative trees for people’s loved ones or for themselves under the slogan of “Let’s plant trees to commemorate our lives!” Each area involved needs trees to be planted for different reasons – some areas were damaged by the disaster, some plantings were abandoned, some forests were destroyed by forest fires or wind, some areas need to be conserved as satoyama (community-based forest areas with surrounding countryside) and some need to be maintained for their water resources. The ‘Present Tree’ initiative aims to establish a system for conserving forests in cooperation with local governments and people. It also helps activate not only forests but also local regions by having people in cities act as foster parents of trees, increasing the number of people who interact with people living in mountainous areas. Connections have been created thanks to the trees planted through this initiative.

Source: Japan for Sustainability Newsletter.

G.E. to spin off new energy technologies into one company

General Electric is creating a company to house developing energy businesses. The company, to be called Current, will focus on providing products and services in energy efficiency, renewable generation and storage to large customers like hospitals, universities, retail stores and cities. Jeffrey R. Immelt, the G.E. chief executive, said in a statement. Current will start with $1 billion in revenue and expects to become a $5 billion business by 2020, executives said. Early customers who have agreed to start using the G.E. systems include Walgreens, the Simon Property Group, Intel and JPMorgan Chase.

Source: http://www.nytimes.com/