



EUROPEAN UNION

Delegation of the European Union to
the Philippines

26 April 2018

SIKAD PALAWAN

EU and EU MS Ambassadors to bike for 200 km from El Nido to Puerto Princesa from 28 to 30 April

Ambassadors and diplomats from the European Union, France, Germany and Romania together with local government officials and bikers from Palawan will bike from El Nido 28 April to arrive in Puerto Princesa on 30 April.

EU Ambassador Franz Jessen together with wife Madam Qi Wang and son Alexander Jessen, Ambassador of Germany Gordon Kricke, Mr Laurent Legodec, Chargé d'Affaires, a.i., Embassy of France and Mr Mihai Sion, Chargé d'Affaires, Embassy of Romania, will bike from El Nido to Taytay to Roxas to San Rafael in Puerto Princesa to convey the message that climate change needs to be countered, and to underscore European Union's commitment to lower carbon emissions.

During the tour, the ambassadors shall also meet with Palawan Governor Jose Ch Alvarez, Vice-Governor Dennis Socrates and mayors and local government officials from Tayay, Roxas and Puerto Princesa as well as with the Palawan Chamber of Commerce.

Our participation in "Sikad Palawan" is a call to all stakeholders to do their share in countering climate change, EU Ambassador Jessen said.

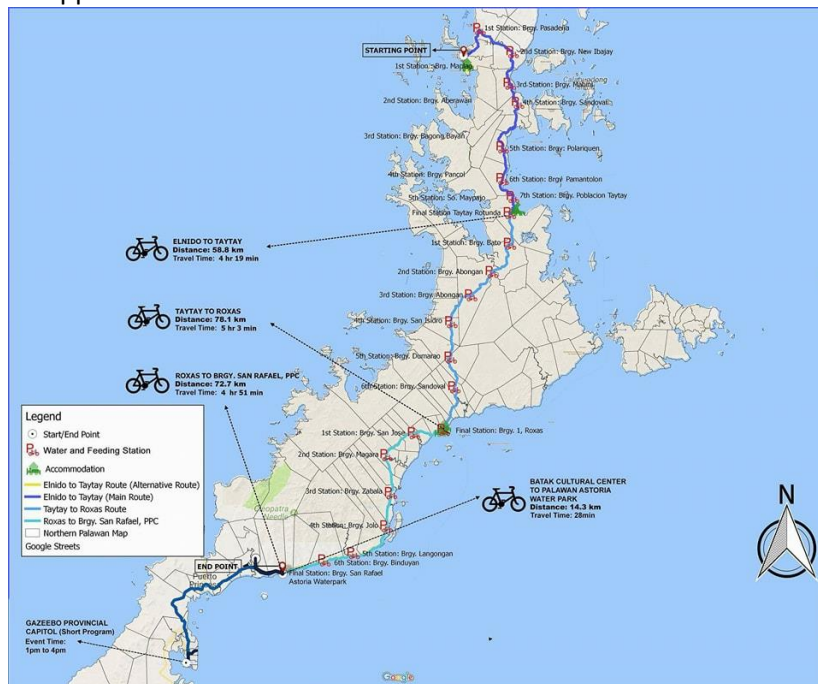
The EU, as the rest of the world, continues to be challenged by the impact of climate change. Despite high GDP-levels, the EU is not protected against this global challenge. Damage to health, property and infrastructure imposes heavy costs on society and the economy.

In the Philippines, the EU has been supporting various energy efficiency actions under the SWITCH Project. Technical advice was provided to support the Philippines National Roadmap for Energy Efficiency which aims to generate 30% energy savings in the Philippines by 2030 compared to the business as usual scenario. Targeted energy conservation measures for the private sector were also funded by the EU, including tourism establishments operating in remote areas where electricity is less reliable and costly.

On the adaptation front, the EU has already launched many initiatives, particularly in developing countries. Projects are locally owned and are being implemented by national authorities or civil society.

Meanwhile, energy sector strategies can play a significant role in mitigating climate change. In the Philippines, as part of the Access to Sustainable Energy Programme, the EU supports the Department of Energy in implementing its Energy Efficiency Policy. In particular, the EU provides technical assistance to define and achieve objectives of reducing energy consumption in transport, industry, buildings and agriculture sector.

"Sikad Palawan" comes from the words Bike Palawan and is organised by the EU Delegation to the Philippines in collaboration with the Palawan Provincial Government.



The EU and Member States ambassadors have participated in two previous biking tours in Palawan. Last year, they signed a manifesto of support for the environment.

"Sikad" or cycling can both be a hobby, a way of life and at the same time the most energy efficient transport mode with a great potential to reduce energy consumption and to enhance the liveability of any city, municipality or province.

The concept of bicycles originated in European Union. The prototype of the bicycle was developed by French craftsman, Comte Mede De Sivrac in the 1790s while Baron Karl Drais Von Sauerbronn, a German nobleman patented his Draisine in 1817. The concept called bicycle evolved through the years until the current period.

Cycling is the best way to exercise and to remain fit and at the same time, it reduces pollution through noise and exhaust emissions, and reduces congestion problems.

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