

Trivia

Did you know that?

COMPILED BY ANGEL SALES

Gender-sensitive cyclones

An Australian weatherman by the name of C. Wragge was responsible for naming cyclones after women during the later part of the 19th century. Here in the Philippines, this naming system was first adopted in 1963 by the Philippine Weather Bureau through the use of four sets of alphabetically arranged Filipino women nicknames ending in “ng” that are alternately used every four years. In 1999, the Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical and Astronomical Services (PAGASA) held a nationwide search for new generation tropical cyclone names. It was dubbed as “Name the Bagyo Contest.” The result of the search which was picked out from more than 18,000 entries was 140 no-gender-bias names that will be used until 2016 by PAGASA (Our personal favourite: Zosimo!).



Source: www.dost.gov.ph (from “How Tropical Cyclones are Named”)

Danger zone

The Philippines is one of the most hazard prone countries in the world. This is due to our country’s geographic location. Not only is our country located in the western part of the infamous “Pacific Ring of Fire” but it also lies within the “Pacific Typhoon Belt,” a belt between 10 and 40 degrees north latitude where typhoons are very common.

Fiery island

Camiguin province holds the distinction of having the most number of volcanoes per square kilometre than any other island on earth. It is also the only place in the Philippines which has more volcanoes (seven) than towns (five).

Early warning creatures

Animals and insects are believed to exhibit forecasting behaviour before an earthquake or even a volcanic eruption. One indication is a study conducted by the Philippine Institute of Volcanology and Seismology (PHIVOLCS) which noted the odd behaviours made by dogs, chickens, and even cockroaches days before the July 1990 earthquake.

Source: www.phivolcs.dost.gov.ph (from the “The July 16 Luzon Earthquake: A Technical Monograph”)

Feeble but terrible

The Ormoc Tragedy in Leyte in 1991 was caused by a weak tropical storm named Uring with speed of only 95 kilometers per hour. But the heavy rains that followed caused the river that intersected Ormoc City to overflow, inundating the whole city in more than ten feet of water, mud and debris. This is considered as one of the deadliest natural disaster of the country because almost a quarter of the city’s population was wiped out.

Source: www.typhoon2000.ph (from the “10 Worst Typhoons in the Philippines from 1947-2002”)

ILLUSTRATIONS BY RAYMOND VELASCO

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