

English title and summary of the paper, courtesy of Ma. Florina Orillos-Juan:

Orillos-Juan, Ma F. 2012. “Ang Bisa at Hinaharap ng Lapit na Disaster Diplomacy sa Kasaysayang Pangkapaligiran ng Pilipinas: Isang Inisyal na Pagtatasa”. *Dalumat E-Journal*, vol. 3, no. 2, pp. 118-125, full text available from <http://ejournals.com.ph/index.php?journal=DALUMAT&page=article&op=view&path%5B%5D=5726&path%5B%5D=5956>

Some Preliminary Notes on the Use and Prospects of Disaster Diplomacy in the Writing of the Philippines’ Environmental History

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The author introduces disaster diplomacy as a contemporary, relevant, and useful conceptual framework in broadening the people’s understanding of disasters, especially in the context of the Philippines where disasters and hazards play a major role in the lives of Filipinos. The beginnings of disaster diplomacy, both as a framework and as an evolving research discipline, serve as background. The role played by [JC Gaillard](#) in suggesting the possibility of applying it in the Philippines’ scenario is elucidated, by summarizing some of his completed research.

As an historian, the author believes that disaster diplomacy as a framework is of utmost importance for budding Filipino environmental and diplomatic historians. A cursory survey of the history of hazards and disasters that occurred in the Philippines would yield other types of disasters that may have catalyzed diplomacy or diplomatic efforts in the past. Examples would be rinderpest, locusts, mine tailings, and red tides. Finally, the author proposes that, aside from taking a look at the Filipino government actors versus the left-wing actors including the New People’s Army and the Moro National Liberation Front amongst others, it is likewise worthwhile and interesting to look at how some major ethnolinguistic groups (which have often been categorized as minorities) are affected by calamities and how they play a vital role in the effectiveness or failure of disaster diplomacy.