



Iloilo City, Philippines

The “City of Love”
loves
sustainability

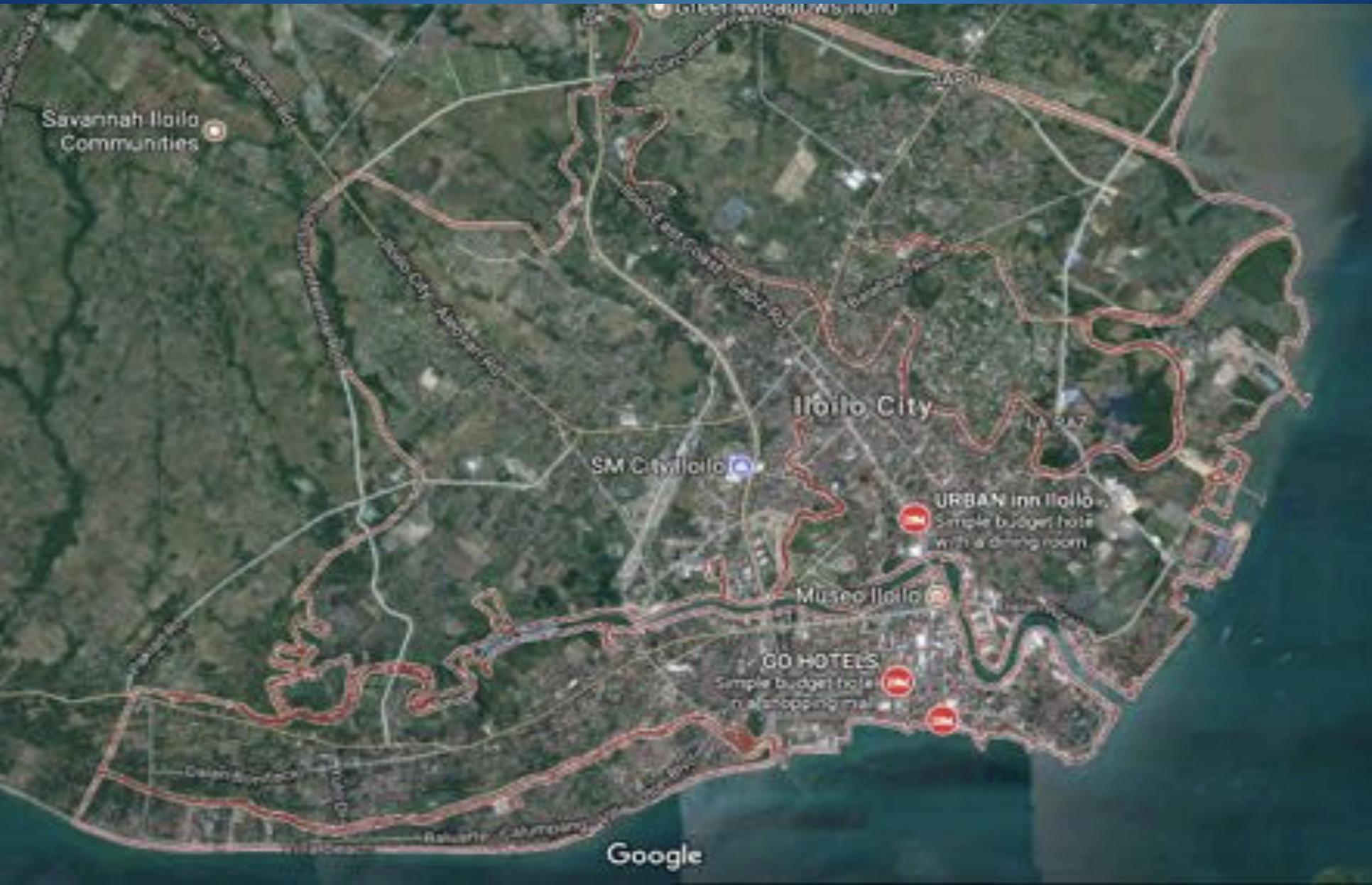
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This is the city where I live now..



KEY ELEMENTS IN ILOILO CITY

Energy Source

- Only now is the city beginning to explore alternative sources of energy. Some government and private sectors are using solar energy.

Food Source

- As far as wet markets go, many products come from local and direct suppliers. As for supermarkets, there are imported goods, commercial good and organic goods.

Town Center

- The town center belongs to the old part of the city. Unfortunately, it is crowded and mostly concrete.



One of the main roads in the city, the widest one, Benigno Aquino Ave.



One of the popular supermarkets in the city.

KEY ELEMENTS IN ILOILO CITY

Transportation

- Vehicle volume is usually too much for the roads to handle, especially during rush hours.
- There are public utility jeepneys, taxis, tricycles (motorcycles with sidecars) and private vehicles. Leading to the towns, there are buses and public vans.
- There is no railway system.
- There are bike lanes beginning to be constructed in major roads.

Rooftops

- Rooftops are often not utilized. Some use it to dry clothes or dry fish. You can hardly see rooftops used for growing plants.



Common road scene.

KEY ELEMENTS IN ILOILO CITY

Empty spaces

- Often, empty spaces would be covered by tall grass, weeds and some have garbage.
- Empty spaces in subdivisions, if not left unattended, would be used either for extra vehicle parking, garbage dump or (sometimes) vegetable gardens.



Most empty spaces look like this. Some have garbage ☹️

Landfills

- Our landfills are a sorry sight ☹️



Landfills make it so difficult to recycle. Waste is not segregated. ☹️

Suggestions

These are the initial, somewhat more do-able, steps we can take towards a sustainable Iloilo City →

- ◆ Encourage houses with rooftops to grow vegetables and herbs on these. A garden in pots will help clear the air and provide the people in the household with vegetables for personal consumption
- ◆ Unused/empty land can be planted with pollinator-friendly plants. The plants can clean the air and the pollinators get a boost in their population.
- ◆ Supermarkets can have more infographics on where their fruits, vegetables, meat products come from. This way, consumers make informed choices.

Bigger changes...

These are the more major steps we can take towards a sustainable Iloilo City →

- ◆ Transportation
 - ◆ Encourage carpooling by providing carpool lanes.
 - ◆ Implement strict rules on public vehicle maintenance to insure that harmful gas emitted into the air is minimized.
- ◆ Waste disposal
 - ◆ Device a system that makes sure that the segregated garbage from homes and from establishments remain segregated even as they reach their destinations.
 - ◆ Make recycling plants more accessible.

- I am sending a letter to the City Planning Office. The letter is found on the next page....

Good luck to me!

DOLLY ANNE MASTILERO ZOLUAGA
Assistant Department Head
Iloilo City Planning and Development Office
Iloilo City, Philippines

Dear Ma'am,

Good day! I am a senior high school student of Philippine Science High School. I commend you and your office for your continuous efforts toward a "green" and sustainable Iloilo City. Congratulations to your whole team, along with the mayor, for winning the Department of Environmental and Natural Resources award for "Environmental Champion."

I am looking forward to more changes toward a better Iloilo City. Hopefully we inspire the rest of the country to pursue sustainability as well.

I would like to point out a couple of things that I hope you make a priority:

1) Waste disposal in the city. Is there a way we can devise a system that segregated garbage remains segregated even as it is gathered by the trucks and taken to the landfills. It would make recycling easier that way. We could also implement a compost area for biodegradable or organic waste. Lastly, a no polystyrene and no plastic policy will help reduce our city's waste.

2) Utilization of unused spaces in the city. If unused spaces were planted with pollinator-friendly plants, these plants could be used to feed some of the city's shelters and rescue centers. The plants can clean the air. Also, pollinators like butterflies and bees can have a chance at growing their population.

Thank you so much for taking time to go through my letter. Please let me know if I can be of help in any way to the city.

More power to you and your office.

Sincerely,

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