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ABS CBN

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BUSINESS WORLD

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By: Justine Irish D. Tabile

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PANAY NEWS

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By: Marita Moaje

The Philippines and Japan have vowed to explore areas of cooperation on climate change and speed up climate action, including optimizing opportunities in green and gray infrastructure.

DOE exec laments financing gap in renewable energy development

By: Brix Lelis

Lowering capital costs for renewable energy (RE) development is critical in achieving a just energy transition for the Philippines, a senior energy official said, urging global support to close the financing gap.

Information and Knowledge Management Division

ABS CBN

EXPLAINER: How climate change is driving extreme weather events

Global temperatures in 2024 exceeded 1.5 Celsius above the pre-industrial era for the first time, bringing the world closer to breaching the pledge governments made under the 2015 Paris climate agreement, according to scientists.

The World Meteorological Organization confirmed the 1.5C breach, after reviewing data from U.S., U.K., Japan and EU scientists.

Extreme weather swept around the world in 2024, with severe drought hitting Italy and South America, fatal floods in Nepal, Sudan and Europe, heatwaves in Mexico, Mali and Saudi Arabia that killed thousands, and disastrous cyclones in the U.S. and the Philippines.

Scientists say human-induced climate change is making extreme weather events like heatwaves, floods and storms more frequent and deadly and this trend will continue if the world keeps burning fossil fuels.

HOTTER, MORE FREQUENT HEATWAVES

Climate change makes heatwaves hotter and more frequent. This is the case for most land regions, and has been confirmed by the U.N.'s global panel of climate scientists (IPCC).

On average globally, a heatwave that would have occurred once in 10 years in the pre-industrial climate will now occur 2.8 times over 10 years, and it will be 1.2 C warmer, according to an international team of scientists with the World Weather Attribution (WWA) group.

CLIMATE CHANGE DRIVES WILDFIRES

Wildfires are among the many disasters that climate change is making more frequent and severe. Dozens of people died in the wildfires across Los Angeles in January 2025. The blazes reduced whole neighborhoods to smoldering ruins, leaving an apocalyptic landscape. Officials said at least 12,300 structures were damaged or destroyed.

Climate change increases hot and dry conditions that help fires spread faster, burn longer and rage more intensely.

Hotter weather also saps moisture from vegetation.

"That just means that this vegetation becomes easier to ignite, easier, easy to burn. And that basically makes it easier for wildfires to spread," said Erich Fischer, a climate scientist at ETH Zurich.

Forest management and ignition sources are also important factors. In Europe, more than nine out of 10 fires are ignited by human activities, like arson, disposable barbecues, electricity lines, or littered glass, according to EU data.

WORSENING STORMS AND RAINFALL

Climate change is worsening storms and torrential rainfall, because a hotter atmosphere can hold more water, leading to intense downpours. Atmospheric water vapour reached a record high in 2024, and the U.S. National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration said it was the third-wettest year on record.

Six typhoons hit the Philippines in 30 days in 2024, a record-breaking storm season in the Pacific Ocean according to World Weather Attribution (WWA), a global team of scientists that examines the role played by climate change in extreme weather.

'Dangerous new era': climate change spurs disaster in 2024

The likelihood of compounding events like this series of typhoons, or hurricanes Helene and Milton that hit the United States back-to-back in late September and October, will increase with global warming, according to WWA.

Scientists concur that without steep cuts to the greenhouse gases causing climate change, heatwaves, wildfires, flooding and drought will significantly worsen.

BUSINESS WORLD

Exporters urged to develop underserved markets in EU

By: Justine Irish D. Tabile

Exporters need to maximize the potential of electronic equipment, machinery, electricity, precious metals, and fruit exports to Europe, according to the Philippine Exporters Confederation, Inc. (Philexport).

Citing the International Trade Centre's (ITC) Export Potential Map, Philexport said these product categories have unrealized potential in the European Union (EU) and Western Europe.

The map identified electronic integrated circuits (ICs) and IC processors as the products with the most export potential, valued at \$4 billion.

Actual exports of ICs amounted to \$1.7 billion and \$1.5 billion, respectively, with unrealized potential of about \$493 million and \$653 million, respectively.

Gold exports amounted to \$1.3 billion with \$497 million in further export potential.

Storage for data-processing machines had exports valued at \$1.3 billion and unrealized potential worth \$753 million.

Other products with top export potential are coconut oil, static converters, printers and copying machines, semi-manufactured gold, and parts of automatic data-processing machines.

Nelli Hajdu, ITC EU Market Access Expert, said that several regulatory and policy developments in the last five years have impacted business opportunities in the EU market.

These include climate change and its global response, supply chain vulnerability and changing geostrategic perception of the food trade, and greening initiatives.

"The shift from sanitary and phytosanitary and food safety to sustainability points to the EU trade agenda," Ms. Hajdu said.

In the agriculture and food and beverage sector, the top products include bananas, crude coconut oil, pineapples (fresh or dried), and prepared or preserved tunas.

Other top products are desiccated coconuts, pineapples (prepared or preserved), mucilages and thickeners derived from vegetable products, edible parts of plants, and frozen yellowfin tuna.

DAILY TRIBUNE

[Endo attends 2nd Phi-Japan Environment Week](#)

The Ministry of the Environment of Japan and the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) jointly held yesterday the “2nd Philippines-Japan Environment Week” in the city of Makati.

Ambassador Endo Kazuya welcomed the participants of the event, along with DENR Secretary Maria Antonia Yulo Loyzaga and Japan’s State Minister of the Environment Kobayashi Fumiaki.

A wide range of stakeholders, including representatives from the governments of Japan and the Philippines, local government units, and the private sector, came together for the event. To promote a sustainable and resilient society, the program featured a series of presentations and booth exhibits addressing key topics such as climate change mitigation, waste management, and the circular economy.

In his welcome remarks, Ambassador Endo underscored the vital role of Japan-Philippines cooperation in addressing environmental challenges through advanced environmental technologies. He also expressed his hope that this event would serve as a significant step toward achieving these shared goals.

Japan, Phi hold 2nd Environment Week in Makati

The Ministry of the Environment of Japan and the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) held the 2nd Philippines-Japan Environment Week in Makati on Tuesday.

Ambassador Endo Kazuya, DENR Secretary Maria Antonia Yulo Loyzaga, and Japan's State Minister of the Environment Kobayashi Fumiaki opened the event, which brought together government representatives, local government units (LGUs), and private sector stakeholders.

The event aimed to promote a sustainable and resilient society through presentations and exhibits focused on climate change mitigation, waste management, and the circular economy.

In his remarks, Ambassador Endo emphasized the importance of Japan-Philippines cooperation in tackling environmental challenges through advanced technologies and expressed hope that the event would help advance their shared environmental goals.

PANAY NEWS

[PH calls for energy transition support from oil-producing countries](#)

The Philippines has called on oil-producing countries to ramp up their support in the energy transition initiatives of developing countries like the Philippines that become more vulnerable to the impacts of climate change despite contributing less to global emissions.

This was the message of Department of Energy (DOE) Undersecretary Rowena Guevara at the 15th session of the International Renewable Energy Agency (IRENA) Assembly in Abu Dhabi held from Jan. 12 to 13.

“Developing countries are often the most vulnerable to the impacts of climate change, despite contributing the least to global emissions,” Guevara said in her statement during the Assembly on Monday.

She added: “It is essential that those who have historically benefited from fossil fuels now support those who are striving to achieve a sustainable future.”

Guevara shared the Philippines’ clean energy goal of increasing renewable energy (RE) share to the power mix by 35 percent in 2030 and to 50 percent by 2040.

To achieve these targets, the DOE identified six energy transition strategies, which include accelerating RE development and utilization, building a smart and green grid, developing ports for offshore wind, voluntary early retirement or repurposing of coal-fired power plants, energy efficiency and conservation, and decarbonization the transport sector.

Guevara said the Philippines will need 52.8 gigawatts of new RE installed capacity in the next 20 years to hit its RE targets, with investments heavily dependent on the private sector.

This is why the Marcos administration eased restrictions on foreign investments in the RE sector, allowing 100 percent equity in RE projects, she said.

“As a result, applications for service contracts have increased and we now have over 1,400 service contracts for over 150 GW of RE,” Guevara said.

She said building resilient RE infrastructures that can withstand typhoons, earthquakes, and volcanic eruptions is likewise critical in the energy transition.

Aside from these efforts, the government is initiating policies to encourage exploration in the geothermal sector, longer loan period for pump storage hydropower technologies, and considering energy transition trading, she said.

“Energy transition is a shared responsibility, and we must act with urgency, solidarity, and fairness,” she added.

PHILIPPINE NEWS AGENCY

46K evacuate due to bad weather in Bicol

By: Connie Calipay

The Office of Civil Defense in Bicol (OCD-5) reported that over 46,000 individuals from several towns and cities in the Bicol Region have evacuated due to heavy rainfall caused by the shear line.

In an interview on Tuesday, OCD-5 spokesperson Gremil Alexis Naz said the threat of flooding and rain-induced landslides prompted the evacuation.

"We are coordinating with provincial disaster risk reduction management offices across the six provinces to provide a verified and updated report of affected individuals," Naz said.

He said 9,896 families, comprising 46,709 individuals from four provinces, have been displaced.

A total of 7,858 families or 38,362 persons are occupying 77 evacuation centers while 2,038 families or 8,777 persons are staying with relatives.

"The families who evacuated are from 254 barangays," Naz said.

He said there was also flooding in 32 local government units.

"We are monitoring 58 local roads and bridges affected by the continuous rain. As a result, 35 roads are not passable to all vehicles, 13 are not passable to light vehicles, five are one-lane passable, and five are passable to light vehicles," Naz said.

The Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration said rains due to the northeast monsoon (amihan) will continue in the Bicol Region.

The shear line will bring moderate to heavy rains over Camarines Norte, Camarines Sur, Albay and Sorsogon.

[Aviation growth risks undermining EU climate goals: Report](#)

Aviation industry plans to expand are at odds with the EU's climate objectives, a clean transport advocacy group said Monday.

A report by Brussels-based Transport & Environment warned that if passenger traffic doubles by 2050, as planned by aircraft manufacturers Airbus and Boeing, the sector will burn 59 percent more fuel in 2050 than in 2019.

While efficiency improvements and the use of sustainable aviation fuels (SAFs) are expected to contribute to emission reductions, the group warned these efforts would be overshadowed by an exponential growth in air travel.

The EU's green fuels regulation mandates 42 percent use of SAF by 2049. Yet, even with this measure, the sector could still consume as much fossil kerosene as it did in 2023, the group warned.

The European Commission has committed to reducing emissions 90 percent by 2040 compared to 1990 levels.

However, under Airbus and Boeing's growth scenarios, aviation emissions in 2049 will be just 3 percent below 2019 levels, leaving the sector emitting 79 million tons of CO₂ in 2050, the year the EU pledged to achieve net zero greenhouse gas emissions.

"Such a target is completely meaningless without concrete policies to reduce emissions from aviation," Jo Dardenne, aviation director at Transport & Environment, said.

Between 2023 and 2050, an additional 960 million tons of CO₂ could be released under these projections, significantly surpassing the European Commission's own climate modeling, according to the report.

PH, Japan boost environmental cooperation, advance climate action

By: Marita Moaje

The Philippines and Japan have vowed to explore areas of cooperation on climate change and speed up climate action, including optimizing opportunities in green and gray infrastructure.

In her speech during the opening of the 2nd Philippine-Japan Environment Week on Monday, Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) Secretary Maria Antonia Yulo Loyzaga said the partnership marks another milestone in addressing shared environmental challenges.

“This event is a testament to our commitment that we formalized in our Memorandum of Cooperation which we signed in December of 2023. This embodied the enduring friendship and shared ambition of our two nations to achieve mutual prosperity, sustainable development, and regional stability through a rules-based international order,” Loyzaga said.

The event was attended by Japan's Minister of Environment, Kobayashi Fumiaki, and Japan's Ambassador to the Philippines, Endo Kazuya, as well as various stakeholders.

During the event, Loyzaga outlined the key areas of collaboration between the two nations, including climate change adaptation and mitigation, pollution management, clean energy, and water accessibility.

She said these areas will be discussed throughout the three-day event, exploring concrete opportunities while tackling some of the most pressing environmental challenges faced by the two countries.

Loyzaga underscored the Philippines' efforts to accelerate its climate action, particularly through reforestation, multi-purpose water facilities, and investments in both green and gray infrastructure.

She also highlighted the country's progress in enhancing its monitoring, reporting, and verification systems to better engage in carbon markets.

Meanwhile, Loyzaga also shared updates on the DENR's work on disaster risk reduction, air quality monitoring, and integrated water resource management.

She said the Philippines is currently working on over 200 water projects aimed at improving water supply for underserved populations while enhancing water security for agriculture and industry.

The DENR chief also reiterated the country's commitment to advancing a circular economy by enhancing compliance with the extended producers' responsibility in terms of waste management, with a focus on plastic pollution management and marine litter.

Loyzaga added the DENR action on tackling hazardous chemical management by initiating bans on high-impact substances like lead in paints, asbestos, and mercury-containing products.

As an archipelagic nation, the Philippines shares with Japan the unique challenges and opportunities of managing ocean resources.

For the Philippines, she said, marine science stations will be established across the country's marine biogeographic areas aimed at advancing scientific research and the sustainable management of ocean environments.

On biodiversity conservation, Loyzaga reiterated the DENR's full commitment to the implementation of the global biodiversity framework, addressing biodiversity loss, restoring ecosystems, and protecting indigenous peoples and local communities.

"We have adopted an ecosystem-based approach to identify, map, secure, observe, monitor, and evaluate the state of our terrestrial, coastal, and marine ecosystems," she said.

"It is in fact their health that allows the flow of natural resources and ecosystem services as inputs to inclusive, resilient, and sustainable development. We are now investing in our blue future."

[DOE exec laments financing gap in renewable energy development](#)

By: Brix Leis

Lowering capital costs for renewable energy (RE) development is critical in achieving a just energy transition for the Philippines, a senior energy official said, urging global support to close the financing gap.

Speaking at the recent International Renewable Energy Agency (IRENA) assembly, Energy Undersecretary Rowena Cristina Guevara said that an affordable energy transition is key to accelerating the shift to renewables.

“At the end of the day, in order for the energy transition to be just, we need to afford the electricity generated from renewable energy. But in order for that to happen, we hope our partners will be able to address the financing gap,” Guevara said.

Under the Philippine Energy Plan, the country wants to scale up the share of renewables in the energy mix to 35 percent by 2030 and 50 percent by 2040.

To achieve this ambitious target, the Philippines needs about 52.8 gigawatts (GW) of new installed renewable capacity over the next 20 years, alongside a total clean energy investment of up to P31 trillion.

Guevara has expressed confidence that the country’s RE developers have the “technical ability” to construct these facilities.

“My hope in attending this general assembly is to learn more about how international cooperation can help us address the cost of RE to make sure that while we pursue sustainable development, the socioeconomic aspect of sustainability is also addressed,” she said.

In 2022, the government allowed full foreign ownership in the RE sector, which was previously subject to a 40-percent cap.

This landmark move was well received by industry stakeholders, as it effectively opened the floodgates for investment in RE projects, particularly capital-intensive offshore wind developments.

“As a result, applications for service contracts have increased, and we now have over 1,400 service contracts for over 150 GW of RE,” Guevara said.

Furthermore, Guevara pointed out that developing countries like the Philippines are among the most vulnerable to the impact of climate change.

“It is essential that those who have historically benefited from fossil fuels now support those who are striving to achieve a sustainable future. Energy transition is a shared responsibility, and we must act with urgency, solidarity, and fairness,” she said.

The IRENA assembly gathered high-level delegates from 170 member states, development banks, academia and private sector leaders to discuss pressing challenges and assess progress in global energy goals.

The discussions centered on tripling RE capacity by 2030, promoting innovation and improving international cooperation to meet ambitious climate and sustainability targets.

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