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By: Matt McGrath

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DAILY GUARDIAN

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GMA NEWS

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By: Valerie Volcovici and Jasper Ward

President Donald Trump will once again withdraw the United States from the Paris climate deal, the White House said on Monday, removing the world's biggest historic emitter from global efforts to fight climate change for the second time in a decade.

MANILA BULLETIN

[New Zealand, UNDP, and NCIP launch I-LEAD project for indigenous women and girls](#)

In a significant move to advance the leadership and economic empowerment of Indigenous women and girls, the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) in the Philippines, in partnership with the government of New Zealand and the National Commission on Indigenous Peoples (NCIP), officially launched the Indigenous Women and Girls – Leadership and Empowerment in Ancestral Domains (I-LEAD) Project in a signing ceremony in Davao City.

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By: Betheena Unite

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MANILA STANDARD

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PHILIPPINE INFORMATION AGENCY

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By: Oliver T. Baccay

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[DENR urges public to practice waste-free habits](#)

By: April Grace Padilla

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Information and Knowledge Management Division

BBC

[Trump vows to leave Paris climate agreement and 'drill, baby, drill'](#)

By: Matt McGrath

President Donald Trump has once again vowed to withdraw the US from the Paris climate agreement, the world's most important effort to tackle rising temperatures.

The first Trump administration made a similar move in 2017, but that step was promptly reversed on President Joe Biden's first day in office in 2021.

The US will now have to wait a year before it will be officially out of the pact. The White House announced a "national energy emergency", outlining a raft of changes that will reverse US climate regulations and boost oil and gas production.

It comes after global temperatures in 2024 rose more than 1.5C above pre-industrial levels for the first time in a calendar year.

While the Paris agreement is not a legally binding treaty, it is the document that drives global co-operation to limit the causes of global warming.

President Trump's antipathy to this co-operative approach was echoed in his statement in 2017 that he had been elected to "represent the people of Pittsburgh and not Paris".

This temperature threshold was established in the Paris agreement as a level beyond which the world would face extremely dangerous impacts.

The US will now join Iran, Yemen and Libya as the only countries to currently stand outside the agreement, which was signed 10 years ago in the French capital.

The withdrawal comes as the president announced a "national energy emergency" that would allow him to reverse many of the Biden-era environmental regulations.

"We will drill, baby, drill," he said.

In his inaugural speech, the new president also vowed the US would embark on new age of oil and gas exploration.

"We will bring prices down, fill our strategic reserves up again, right to the top, and export American energy all over the world," he told the audience.

"We will be a rich nation again, and it is that liquid gold under our feet that will help to do it."

However, US fossil fuels are already flowing like never before.

Since 2016, production of American oil has gone up by 70%, and the US is now the world's dominant producer and exporter.

Similarly Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG) exports have gone from almost zero in 2016 to the US becoming the global lead.

The new administration says the president will also end the "green new deal", a reference to the Inflation Reduction Act, Biden's signature climate policy that channelled billions into clean energy.

The president says he will also cancel efforts to boost ownership of electric vehicles, what he terms the Biden "EV mandate", and he will strengthen efforts to save the US car industry.

He will also end the leasing of federal lands and waters to "massive wind farms that degrade our national landscape".

UN climate chief Simon Stiell said that America risks missing out on a global clean energy boom that was worth \$2tn last year.

"Embracing it will mean massive profits, millions of manufacturing jobs and clean air," he said in a statement.

"Ignoring it only sends all that vast wealth to competitor economies, while climate disasters like droughts, wildfires and superstorms keep getting worse, destroying property and businesses, hitting nationwide food production, and driving economy-wide price inflation."

President Trump's previous effort to pull the US out of the Paris agreement served as a rallying cry for many Americans who were dismayed by leaving.

Internationally the US withdrawal was also a unifying force for countries.

This time round though the pull-out may be far more damaging to the global effort to limit emissions, as climate change has dropped down the list of priorities for governments.

There are other countries such as Argentina, who might follow in the US footsteps.

Developing nations are also fuming after COP29 in Azerbaijan when the richer world struggled to improve funding support.

But having survived the previous Trump attack, there is also a sense that this may not be the last US word on the Paris pact.

"The door remains open to the Paris agreement, and we welcome constructive engagement from any and all countries," said the UN's Simon Stiell.

DAILY GUARDIAN

[\[Opinion\] Small Steps Forward In Philippines' Global Climate Leadership](#)

By: John Leo Algo

After what we observed at the 2024 UN climate negotiations (COP29), it looks like the Philippines' leadership in global climate governance is starting to trend in the right direction once again.

While the negotiations on a new global finance goal to support the climate actions of developing nations ended in an alarmingly disappointing note, the efforts of the country's negotiators and staff deserve praise for holding their ground for most of the conference in a way that others did not.

The Philippines was one of the strongest voices calling for loss and damage (L&D) to be part of the new global finance goal (known in short as the NCQG). This is not only aligned with the country's position as host of the Board of the Fund for Responding to Loss and Damage (FRLD); it also comes on the heels of Filipino communities being hit by six storms in under a month.

Unfortunately, the urgency of scaling up L&D finance was only acknowledged in the final decision text, being viewed as not on the same level as adaptation or mitigation. This is just the tip of the iceberg of how uneventful COP29 ended up being in terms of spurring meaningful progress for global climate action.

It is painfully obvious that the climate COP process requires a significant overhaul, as developed countries are exploiting outdated parts of global treaties to avoid accountability and giving the finance and support owed to nations like the Philippines.

Yet that does not discount the significance of the multilateral approach itself; as all countries are affected by the climate crisis but in different ways and with varying resources to respond, they all should fairly and equitably participate in the global decision-making process.

The outcomes of last year's climate talks in Dubai, including the supposed beginning of the end of the fossil fuel era and the creation of the FRLD that were hailed as significant victories, all seem like a distant memory. Negotiations on almost every major issue discussed in Baku ended up with no progress or being delayed until next year, with a main exception being on Article 6 of the Paris Agreement that concerns carbon markets.

While climate COPs keep ending up with delayed progress, the impacts of the climate crisis do not due to the pollutive actions of developed countries and fossil fuel corporations. It is a reality that we were reminded of yet again recently, despite the denial of some local industry talking heads.

With this context, the Philippine government is placed in strategic positions to set the tone for global climate policies that could also boost its national strategies. Aside from the FRLD, government officials also have a presence in the governance of key global climate bodies such as the Green Climate Fund, the Adaptation Committee, and the Warsaw International Mechanism.

It is also seeking sources of finance outside of public finance. This is why it is high on using carbon markets to urgently deliver this support, which is good news for most of domestic businesses and a cause for concern and skepticism by the non-government (NGO) sector.

Did we improve from last year?

The lack of guarantees for social and environmental safeguards is one of the main issues for NGOs and community representatives in a few dialogues with Philippine government officials, including some that took place at the sidelines of COP29.

This becomes an even bigger concern with the low global finance goal set in Baku; with not enough from public finance by developed countries, expect the Philippine government to lean harder on using carbon markets to access much-needed support for implementing adaptation and mitigation projects.

The discourse on carbon markets is bound to continue at the national and local levels for at least the next few years, with the non-government sector remaining firm on the inclusion of said safeguards that protect human rights and the well-being of communities and ecosystems.

Nonetheless, there has been one small improvement in the consultation held this year in preparation for COP29. For the first time in years, government agencies presented the draft positions it would carry at the negotiating table before the conference itself. Positions on the likes of adaptation, mitigation, finance, and just transition were presented to non-government representatives, an improvement in transparency and in compliance with the Implementing Rules and Regulations of the Climate Change Act.

Based on the series of government-NGO dialogues last year during the Dubai negotiations, the process is underway for institutionalizing a platform for inputs of civil society and community representatives to be accounted for in national climate governance. This is an initiative of the Climate Change Commission, as part of its mandate as an autonomous and independent lead in coordinating climate policies and programs by government agencies.

Of course, there remain significant inclusivity issues that need to be addressed. These issues are rooted in factors such as the working dynamics between government agencies, the pro-business outlook of the agency higher-ups and much of the policy direction, and mistaken perceptions about the NGO sector.

More open dialogues with Philippine negotiators and consultations set not just days before succeeding climate conferences must also take place, aligned with the Climate Change Act and the imperative of a “whole-of-society” approach.

With 2025 set to be a defining year for global and Philippine climate action, it is a must for the government to match its seemingly growing leadership at the global level with decision-making mechanisms at the domestic level to ensure that no one is left behind.

There is a lot of room for improvement, but for the first time in years, there are signs that we may be ready to go in the right direction.

GMA NEWS

[Trump to withdraw from Paris climate agreement, White House says](#)

By: Valerie Volcovici and Jasper Ward

President Donald Trump will once again withdraw the United States from the Paris climate deal, the White House said on Monday, removing the world's biggest historic emitter from global efforts to fight climate change for the second time in a decade.

The decision would place the United States alongside Iran, Libya and Yemen as the only countries in the world outside the 2015 pact, in which governments agreed to limit global warming to 1.5 degrees Celsius (2.7 degrees Fahrenheit) above pre-industrial levels to avoid the worst impacts of climate change.

The announcement, in a document from the White House, reflects Trump's skepticism about global warming, which he has called a hoax, and fits in with his broader agenda to unfetter U.S. oil and gas drillers from regulation so they can maximize output.

United Nations Secretary-General Antonio Guterres is confident that U.S. cities, states and businesses "will continue to demonstrate vision and leadership by working for the low-carbon, resilient economic growth that will create quality jobs," said associate U.N. spokesperson Florencia Soto Nino, in a written statement.

"It is crucial that the United States remains a leader on environmental issues," she said. "The collective efforts under the Paris Agreement have made a difference but we need to go much further and faster together."

The United States is already the world's top producer of oil and natural gas thanks to a years-long drilling boom in Texas, New Mexico and elsewhere fueled by fracking technology and strong global prices since Russia's invasion of Ukraine.

Second US withdrawal

Trump also withdrew the U.S. from the Paris deal during his first term in office, though the process took years and was immediately reversed by the Biden presidency in 2021. The withdrawal this time around is likely to take less time – as little as a year - because Trump will not be bound by the deal's initial three-year commitment.

This time could also be more damaging to global climate efforts, said Paul Watkinson, a former climate negotiator and senior policy advisor for France.

The U.S. is currently the world's second-biggest greenhouse gas emitter behind China and its departure undermines global ambition to slash those emissions.

"It will be harder this time because we are in the thick of implementation, up against real choices," Watkinson said.

The world is now on pace for global warming of more than 3 C by the end of the century, according to a recent United Nations report, a level scientists warn would trigger cascading impacts such as sea level rise, heat waves, and devastating storms.

Nations have already been struggling to make steep cuts to emissions required to lower the projected temperature increase, as wars, political tensions and tight government budgets push climate change down the list of priorities.

Trump's approach cuts a stark contrast to that of former President Joe Biden, who wanted the United States to lead global climate efforts and sought to encourage a transition away from oil and gas using subsidies and regulations.

Trump has said he intends to unwind those subsidies and regulations to shore up the nation's budget and grow the economy, but has said he can do that while ensuring clean air and water in the United States.

Li Shuo, an expert in climate diplomacy at the Asia Society Policy Institute, said the U.S. withdrawal risks undermining the United States' ability to compete with China in clean energy markets such as solar power and electric vehicles.

"China stands to win, and the U.S. risks lagging further behind," he said.

MANILA BULLETIN

[New Zealand, UNDP, and NCIP launch I-LEAD project for indigenous women and girls](#)

In a significant move to advance the leadership and economic empowerment of Indigenous women and girls, the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) in the Philippines, in partnership with the government of New Zealand and the National Commission on Indigenous Peoples (NCIP), officially launched the Indigenous Women and Girls – Leadership and Empowerment in Ancestral Domains (I-LEAD) Project in a signing ceremony in Davao City.

The I-LEAD Project, built on the longstanding collaboration between UNDP Philippines and the New Zealand Government, aims to foster inclusive development, resilience-building, gender equality, and women's empowerment by promoting leadership roles and economic opportunities for Indigenous women and girls across ancestral domains, particularly in Regions 11 and 12 in Mindanao. The project will strengthen Indigenous Peoples' rights protection and promote sustainable practices in response to climate change and biodiversity challenges. It also aims to address underlying gender norms and discriminatory practices to enable their meaningful participation and leadership.

New Zealand Ambassador to the Philippines, Dr. Catherine McIntosh said, "As a small donor country committed to development that works, we are carefully targeting our efforts to where we will make a real difference. And I'm optimistic that together we can make a real difference in the lives of indigenous communities in Regions 11 and 12 and beyond."

UNDP Philippines Resident Representative Dr. Selva Ramachandran highlighted the significance of partnerships in delivering impact. "This initiative is a testament to what we can achieve together when we unite around a shared vision of empowerment, equity, and sustainable development. Together, we can create programs that are responsive, inclusive, and impactful," he expressed.

NCIP Chairperson Bo-i Jennifer Pia Sibug-Las emphasized the importance of involving Indigenous women in the community's political structures. "There are still a lot of aspirations by women. They should still be given the chance to have representation in governance and to raise their voices in a lot of areas, especially when it comes to sharing their cultures, traditions, and identities," she conveyed.

Mindanao Development Authority (MinDA) Secretary Leo Tereso Magno, in a message delivered by Undersecretary Janet Lopez, reaffirmed their commitment to supporting the project's success. "The I-LEAD project is very much aligned with our priorities under the Mindanao Development agenda. MinDA will ensure that all our programs and projects will always include the marginalized sectors of society so we that ensure we create a collective impact in Mindanao."

The I-LEAD Project will be implemented over four years by NCIP with UNDP Philippines through a P247 million (US\$ 4.5 million) funding support from the New Zealand Government. The project will actively involve indigenous communities and government agencies in key roles to ensure its success. UNDP Philippines and the New Zealand Government reaffirm their continued commitment to support Indigenous Peoples through initiatives that promote inclusive governance, sustainable development, and the protection of ancestral domains.

Tesla's entry in PH signals more environment-friendly transpo system

By: Betheena Unite

The entry of multinational automotive firm Tesla into the Philippines is a step forward to the country's long-term goal towards an environmentally-friendly transportation system, President Marcos said.

Marcos said it marks another significant step in the country's fight against climate change.

"While it is true that electric vehicles are currently seen as premium products, Tesla's entry into the Philippine [market] signals much more than high-tech cars on the road. It is a step – a very significant step forward to our long-term transformation towards a more environment-friendly transportation system," Marcos said in his speech at the launching of Tesla Center Philippines in Taguig City on Monday, Jan. 20.

"The government understands that transitioning to electric vehicles is a complex journey, one that requires vision and a great deal of strong and committed concrete action to make it practical, inclusive, and impactful for every Filipino," he added.

The President further said that Tesla's decision to invest in the Philippines was a "recognition of our nation's potential, underpinned by forward-thinking policies and a collective determination to innovate."

He stressed that as Tesla lays the groundwork, and as the government invests in infrastructure and implements policies supporting the industry, competition will grow, which may lead to half of the vehicles in the streets as electric vehicles.

"Let me also highlight that Tesla's entry into the country will encourage local innovation and drive new investments in the EV sector," he said.

Marcos also said with Tesla's plans to expand, the automotive company is building a generation of Filipinos equipped to lead in the global shift towards sustainable technologies.

He also expressed hopes that Tesla can one day choose to manufacture its vehicles in the Philippines.

In his speech, the Chief Executive also highlighted reforms and policies the government has undertaken to further attract investments into the country.

He emphasized that the Tax Reform for Acceleration and Inclusion or TRAIN Act removing the excise taxes on battery electric vehicles and the Electric Vehicle Industry Development Act or EVIDA offers duty-free importation for charging stations, lower user fees for EV owners, and prioritized registration and traffic privileges created more competitive, traditional options.

“Under the Tax Reform for Acceleration and Inclusion or TRAIN Act, excise taxes on battery electric vehicles have been removed, making these advanced technologies more competitive than other traditional options,” the President pointed out.

“The Electric Vehicle Industry Development Act or EVIDA offers duty-free importation for charging stations, lower user fees for EV owners, and prioritized registration and traffic privileges,” he added.

Marcos also emphasized the additional measures that concretize the laws and strengthen the government’s commitment to clean energy.

These measures include Comprehensive Roadmap for the Electric Vehicle Industry (CREVI) which aims to achieve a fifty percent electric vehicles market share in the Philippines by 2040; and the issuance of Executive Order No. 62 which aims to reduce tariff rates to zero until 2028 on pure electric or hybrid four-wheel and motorcycle EVs.

MANILA STANDARD

[DENR boosting climate actions to counter risks](#)

The Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) reiterated its commitment to accelerate its climate action, notably through reforestation, multi-purpose water facilities and investments in both green and gray infrastructure.

DENR Secretary Maria Antonia Yulo Loyzaga said last week the government was accelerating its efforts on disaster risk reduction, air quality monitoring and integrated water resource management to offset the effects of climate change. The initiatives include pollution management, promoting clean energy and improving water accessibility.

Loyzaga bared the government's drive during the opening of the 2nd Philippine-Japan Environment Week, saying the partnership with Japan marked another milestone in addressing shared environmental challenges.

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.

"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.

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

She 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 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.

She reported 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 would 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.

"Their health... 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."

PHILIPPINE INFORMATION AGENCY

[DENR ramps up Cagayan Valley biodiversity conservation](#)

By: Oliver T. Baccay

The Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) Region 2 recently briefed mining companies in the region on the provisions of Administrative Order No. 2022-04 known as “Enhancing Biodiversity Conservation and Protection in Mining Operations.”

Regional Executive Director Gwendolyn C. Bambalan said the move aims to intensify biodiversity conservation and responsible management of the region’s mineral resources toward resource sustainability.

AO 2022-04 aims to institutionalize a science-based approach for the rehabilitation of disturbed ecosystems in mining areas along with additional measures to safeguard the environment and promote biodiversity conservation in the Philippine mining industry.

During the event held in Santiago City, representatives of the mining rights holders namely: FCF Minerals, Oceana Gold Philippines, Inc., Dinapigue Mining Company, and JDVC Resources Corporation were apprised of the said administrative order.

Information on biodiversity protection and conservation, such as the conduct of a Biodiversity Assessment and Monitoring System, biodiversity-friendly enterprises, Landscape Wildlife Indicator patrol, the deputation of Environment and Natural Resources Officers, and planning for enhanced biodiversity conservation measures, was also presented.

Bambalan reiterated to the mining firms the need to comply with existing regulations to protect and conserve biodiversity in mining areas.

“With your support as our partners in environmental protection, we can all work together for the sustainability of our natural resources,” she said, emphasizing the importance of collaboration among stakeholders as stewards of the environment.

Also, the mining firms presented their accomplishments and 2025 Work and Financial

Plan on biodiversity conservation as part of their Annual Environmental Protection and Enhancement Program.

[DENR urges public to practice waste-free habits](#)

By: April Grace Padilla

In line with the Zero Waste Month campaign this January, the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) 6 invites the public to practice “waste-free habits” and alternative environment-friendly practices.

The theme of the campaign this year is “Integrating Sustainability and Circularity into the Informal Waste Sector.”

“As we celebrate this Zero Waste Month this January 2025, let us prioritize doing the best for our environment. There is no Planet B nor another Earth. Thus, it is imperative that we take care of our precious planet,” said DENR 6 Regional Executive Director Raul L. Lorilla.

He added that as we look forward to a “Zero Waste Future,” we need to work hard to ensure that our environment is clean.

Further, according to DENR, the education, intervention of local government units, and consumers’ behavior that are geared towards active engagement in waste practices are needed to address solid waste management problems.

Likewise, DENR 6 views the stronger implementation of RA 9512 or the Environmental Awareness and Education Act of 2008 crucial to widen understanding and promote behavioral change in the academe.

The conduct of awareness campaigns engaging the residents to practice waste-reducing habits and implement waste-free practices like “No Single Use Plastics in Market Day” or eliminating plastic utensils in the establishments are also beneficial.

“By embracing circular economies with 3Rs (Reduce, Reuse, Recycle), leveraging technology, engaging communities, implementing supportive policies, and fostering conscious consumerism, we can pave the way for a cleaner planet. The journey toward zero waste is tough but is worth taking, worth achieving,” said Lorilla.

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