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By: Iya Gozum

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THE MANILA TIMES

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By: Giselle P. Jordan

The Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR), and the United Nations Development Program (UNDP) Philippines on Thursday launched their National Plastic Action Partnership (NPAP) to tackle plastic pollution in the country.

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The Transformative Actions for Climate and Ecological Protection and Development (TRANSCEND) Project, a joint initiative between the Federal Republic of Germany through the International Climate Initiative (IKI) and the Republic of the Philippines, launched with a convergence workshop on 13 January and the First Project Steering Committee (PSC) meeting on 14 January.

PHILIPPINE INFORMATION AGENCY

[CCC underscores importance of information-driven action at launch of South-South Collaboration Center of Excellence on Climate Information Services](#)

The Climate Change Commission (CCC) emphasized the role of information-driven climate action in addressing the urgent challenges of climate change at the recent unveiling of the South-South Collaboration Center of Excellence (COE) on Climate Information Services (CIS) at the Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration (PAGASA) Central Office in Quezon City.

Information and Knowledge Management Division

AL JAZEERA

[Bloomberg to fund UN climate body after Donald Trump's Paris exit](#)

The UN climate change body will receive funding from the foundation of billionaire Michael Bloomberg after President Donald Trump declared the United States would withdraw from the Paris Agreement for the second time.

In an announcement on Thursday, Bloomberg said the intervention aims to ensure the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) remains fully funded despite the US halting its contributions.

“From 2017 to 2020, during a period of federal inaction, cities, states, businesses, and the public rose to the challenge to uphold our nation’s commitments – and now, we are ready to do it again,” Bloomberg, who serves as the UN Special Envoy on Climate Ambition and Solutions, said in a statement.

The US typically provides 22 percent of the UNFCCC secretariat’s budget, with the body’s operating costs for 2024-2025 projected at an estimated \$96.5m.

After taking oath on Monday, Trump signed one of his first executive orders withdrawing the US from the climate deal and ending all of the country’s international climate financial commitments.

Simon Stiell, the UNFCCC’s executive secretary, framed Trump’s decision as a lost opportunity for US clean energy business, saying it only sends “all the vast wealth to competitor economies” while making climate-related disasters worse.

European Commissioner for Climate Wopke Hoekstra described Trump’s withdrawal as “a truly unfortunate development” for the US and the rest of the world.

Bloomberg’s decision to step in marks the second time he did so to fill the gap left by US federal disengagement.

In 2017, following the Trump administration’s first withdrawal from the Paris accord, Bloomberg pledged up to \$15m to support the UNFCCC.

He also launched “America’s Pledge”, an initiative to track and report US non-federal climate commitments, ensuring the world could monitor US progress as if it were still a fully committed party to the Paris Agreement.

Bloomberg had sought the Democratic nomination for US president in 2019 but ended his campaign four months later.

MANILA STANDARD

Planting the seeds of the future

By: Patricia Taculao -Deligero

Bureau of Plant Industry celebrates 95th anniversary with focus on climate-resilient agriculture.

The Bureau of Plant Industry (BPI) celebrates its 95th anniversary, marking a significant milestone in Philippine agriculture. Under the theme “Thrive @ 95: Innovating for Climate Resiliency Towards Food and Nutrition Security,” the agency reaffirms its commitment to advance sustainable agricultural practices and ensure food security for the nation amidst the escalating challenges of climate change.

Climate change poses a significant threat to Philippine agriculture, impacting crop yields, exacerbating food insecurity, and jeopardizing the livelihoods of millions of farmers. Extreme weather events such as droughts, floods, and typhoons disrupt planting and harvesting cycles, leading to crop losses and economic instability. Rising temperatures also affect crop growth and development, impacting productivity and quality.

In response to these challenges, the BPI is utilizing technological innovations as a key strategy to enhance climate resilience and ensure food and nutrition security. The agency has been actively developing climate-resilient crop varieties through crop breeding programs. Similarly, biotechnological techniques, such as tissue culture for mass production of true-to-type and disease-free planting materials are given emphasis. These efforts aim to develop crops more tolerant to drought, heat, and flooding, ensuring consistent yields even under challenging conditions.

Furthermore, the BPI promotes sustainable agricultural practices, such as organic agriculture, conservation agriculture, and integrated pest management, to enhance soil health, reduce reliance on synthetic inputs, and mitigate greenhouse gas emissions. These practices improve environmental sustainability and bolster crop resilience and productivity.

Strengthening agricultural research and development is another key focus area for the BPI. The agency fosters strong collaborations with academic institutions, research centers, and international organizations to leverage agricultural research and development expertise and resources. The BPI also plays a crucial role in disseminating research findings and technologies to farmers through training programs, workshops, and demonstration farms.

To ensure the availability of high-quality planting materials, the BPI implements a rigorous seed certification program and supports seed production and distribution systems. The agency also promotes the establishment of community seed banks to conserve and exchange locally adapted seed varieties, enhancing agricultural biodiversity and food security.

The BPI also addresses food and nutrition security by promoting diversified diets and encouraging the cultivation and consumption of diverse crops, including fruits, vegetables, and legumes, to improve nutritional outcomes and reduce the risk of malnutrition. The agency also supports urban and peri-urban agriculture initiatives, providing opportunities for urban dwellers to grow their food and improve access to fresh, nutritious produce.

Innovation is crucial for addressing the challenges of climate change and ensuring food and nutrition security in the Philippines. Developing climate-resilient crop varieties is critical for maintaining agricultural productivity in the face of extreme weather events. These varieties can withstand drought, heat, and flooding, ensuring consistent yields and minimizing production losses. Sustainable agricultural practices, such as organic farming and conservation agriculture, boost soil health, reduce environmental impact, and improve crop yields and resilience to climate change.

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The early years witnessed a period of organizational refinement. The Reorganization Law of 1932 (Republic Act No. 4007) streamlined the BPI's structure, establishing divisions for administration, plant investigation, agricultural extension, plant sanitation, and plant propagation. This framework provided a more focused approach to addressing the evolving needs of the agricultural sector.

Subsequent years saw further organizational adjustments. In 1936, General Memorandum Order No. 186 outlined the merger of the Home Economics Division of the Bureau of Science with the Agricultural Chemistry Section of BPI, creating the Plant Utilization Division. It expanded the agency's scope to encompass the utilization of plant products. Reorganization Plan No. 30-A introduced the Research Division in 1957, emphasizing the importance of scientific inquiry in agricultural advancement.

The latter half of the 20th century saw a continued evolution of the BPI's structure and responsibilities. Presidential Decree No. 1050 in 1977 led to renaming the Crop Development Services Division to Field Trial Services, reflecting the agency's growing emphasis on practical field applications. The establishment of the Pesticide Analytical Laboratory in 1978 underscored the growing importance of crop protection and the need for robust quality control measures.

By 1986, the EDSA Revolution had brought about significant changes. Executive Order No. 116 placed the BPI under the Production Group and redefined its role. The agency's responsibilities expanded to include production planning, crop protection, development of farm equipment, seed certification, plant quarantine, and formulating rules and regulations for plant health.

The Seed Industry Development Act of 1992 (Republic Act No. 7038) marked a significant milestone. Creating the National Seed Industry Council, with the BPI Director as its Executive Director, strengthened the agency's role in seed quality control and industry development. Establishing the National Seed Quality Control Services (NSQCS) further enhanced the agency's capacity to ensure the quality and integrity of seeds available to Filipino farmers.

More recent years have witnessed further organizational refinements. Executive Order No. 366 of 2013 restructured the BPI, creating the Crop Research and Production Support Division and the Plant Product Safety Services Division. This reorganization aimed to strengthen the agency's capacity to address emerging challenges and better serve the agricultural sector's needs.

The transfer of food safety functions from the National Food Authority to the BPI in 2019, following the passage of Republic Act No. 11203, expanded the agency's responsibilities and solidified its position as a key player in ensuring the safety and quality of Philippine agricultural products.

From its humble beginnings to its current position as a leading institution in plant research, crop production, and agricultural development, the BPI continues to innovate and adapt to the evolving challenges of the 21st century.

As the BPI celebrates its 95th anniversary, the agency remains committed to advance Philippine agriculture and ensure food security. The agency is paving the way for a more sustainable and secure agricultural future for the Philippines. Through continued research, development, and collaboration, the agency will continue to empower farmers, increase agricultural productivity, and contribute to a food-secure and prosperous nation.

PHILIPPINE INFORMATION AGENCY

[Zero Waste Month: Energy-saving Starts in the Kitchen](#)

By: John Lester Naguna

Every January, Zero Waste Month is observed in the Philippines – encouraging consumers to be responsible and mindful with their energy-consumption.

In our home, the kitchen is one of the best kick-starters to a sustainable lifestyle.

Switch to energy-efficient appliances

The kitchen typically consumes high energy consumption, with the majority of this energy going towards appliances like refrigerators, ovens, making it one of the most energy-intensive rooms in a home.

If you can afford to invest in energy-efficient appliances, look for those with yellow labels with a star rating system, which indicates the appliance's energy efficiency level. This is part of the Philippine Energy Labelling Program (PELP), implemented by the Department of Energy (DOE) to guide consumers towards more energy-saving products.

Look for more stars, which signifies higher efficiency. This can help you lower your electricity bills, and at the same time, help the environment through lower energy consumption.

Use sustainable cooking tools and equipment

Avoid using single-use plastics and switch to reusable and eco-friendly ones like stainless steel containers, glass jars, vegetable brushes, metal straws, and metal or glass cups to avoid or less plastic waste.

Have a proper food waste segregation

Make sure to recycle food waste. Some of these can be used to feed the animals. Vegetable trimmings can also be regrown such as onions, carrots, potatoes, cilantro, and more others. Other organic waste can be used for makeshift compost pits then eventually, fertilizer.

Food scraps can be used to feed the animals we consume and to return nutrients to the soils where we grow our food and food for the animals we consume. Healthy soils result in healthy foods, air and water resources.

Be responsible in food shopping

Overbuying food can result in food waste. To avoid this, plan ahead with a shopping list and avoid impulse buying. Make sure to bring an eco-friendly bag or any reusable bag to avoid plastic packaging.

Save water

Avoid washing vegetables, fruits, or plates under the tap and instead use a bowl or a container. Double-check that water taps are closed when not in use.

Steaming, as opposed to boiling, is also a good way to conserve water. This consumes less water and preserves more nutrients.

Reducing carbon footprint and energy-consumption may not be a part of your New Year's Resolution, but you can also start anytime—preferably today. As the Philippines is starting to move into a more sustainable future, we, too, should follow and contribute to a greener future.

PHILIPPINE NEWS AGENCY

C. Visayas nears full compliance with Solid Waste Management Act

By: John Rey Saavedra

Only seven out of 136 local government units (LGUs) in Central Visayas have yet to secure approval for their 10-year Solid Waste Management Plan, an official said Wednesday.

John Roy Quiamco, head of the solid waste management division of the Environmental Management Bureau (EMB)-Central Visayas, said the region is nearing full compliance with Republic Act 9003, or the Ecological Solid Waste Management Act of 2000, which marks its 24th year on Jan. 26.

As of July 2024, 118 LGUs had secured approval for their solid waste management plans.

Quiamco noted that the number of compliant LGUs has significantly increased, with only a few remaining under review by the Solid Waste Management Commission.

The 10-year plan is a key requirement for LGUs applying for the Department of the Interior and Local Government's Seal of Good Local Governance (SGLG).

EMB-7 is now focusing on supporting the informal waste sector, including garbage collectors and junk gatherers, who play a crucial role in managing waste.

In line with January's Zero Waste Month theme, "Integrating Sustainability and Circularity Into The Informal Waste Sector," the agency aims to connect waste collectors with companies producing recyclable materials.

Quiamco also highlighted an initiative in Toledo City, Cebu, where plastic waste is incorporated into concrete materials for hollow block production.

Legarda files Magna Carta for disaster risks reduction workers bill

By: Leonel Abasola

Amid the increasing impacts of climate change, Senator Loren Legarda on Thursday said she filed Senate Bill (SB) 2927, or the Magna Carta for Public Disasters Risks Reduction and Management (DRRM) workers.

She said it is important for the bill to be enacted to help recognize the efforts of DRRM workers in a country that has consistently topped the World Risk Index among 193 countries.

"The country as a whole faces natural hazards more than any other nation in the world; we face earthquakes, volcanic eruptions, and other natural and human-induced hazards," Legarda, a UNDRR Global Champion for Resilience, said.

SB 2927 seeks to institutionalize measures that would protect the DRRM workers' welfare, promote professional growth, and enhance their capacity to deliver critical services.

The bill aims to improve the socio-economic and psychological well-being of DRRM workers by creating better working environments, improving terms of employment, and providing robust benefits.

It also focuses on professionalizing the DRRM workforce by offering capacity-building opportunities.

"With the passage of this bill into law, we want the government to recognize the significance of their contributions by supporting those who consistently risk their lives to save others from certain destruction," Legarda said.

Legarda said there will be efforts to improve the working conditions of DRRM workers in terms of career advancement and psychosocial care to help them be equipped to satisfy their roles.

In addition, there will be provisions to provide hazard pay for high-risk activities, mandatory insurance coverage, overtime pay, night differential, and retirement pay for eligible DRRM workers, among others.

"To be disaster resilient, we must be able to be capable of covering all fields, including our DRRM workers that have tirelessly risked their lives in the field," Legarda said.

"As we seek ourselves to be more capable against the power of Mother Nature and increase the chance of safety, we hope that the passage of this bill into law can also help inspire many to stay in this noble endeavor," Legarda said.

Legarda is a co-sponsor of the Philippine Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Act of 2010, as well as the principal author of the PAGASA Modernization Act of 2015, which has helped the country be better prepared against annual typhoons.

RAPPLER

[Government, private sector to develop roadmap on fight against plastic pollution](#)

By: Iya Gozum

In a new step to fight plastic pollution, the Philippine government, through the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR), is linking manufacturers, private companies, and civil society organizations to develop a national roadmap within 2025.

While this platform, called the National Plastic Action Partnership (NPAP), focuses on addressing the plastic crisis locally and providing baseline data, it could aid the Philippines as the last round of the plastic treaty negotiations comes around.

“Hopefully, with this baseline data, we can strengthen our position in the plastic treaty discussion because we cannot really implement or enforce activities as proposed by the treaty if we don’t have the capacity to implement it,” Environment Undersecretary Jonas Leones said in a press briefing on Thursday, January 23.

Aside from the roadmap and baseline data, the platform seeks to channel funds to support various plastic reduction initiatives.

More than 100 nations gathered in Busan, South Korea, last November to create a legally binding treaty to tackle the plastic crisis. They failed to reach an agreement, and talks are set to resume this year.

As of 2024, 19 countries, including the Philippines’ ASEAN neighbors Vietnam, Cambodia, Lao PDR, and Indonesia, have established NPAPs. The network is supported by the World Economic Forum’s Global Plastic Action Partnership, which is active in international plastic talks.

In the Philippines, the plastic problem comes in distinctive packaging: sachets. Of the 61,000 metric tons of solid waste the country generates daily, 12% to 24% are plastic waste, Leones said during the launch of the NPAP on Thursday.

And in a day, Filipinos utilize more than 163 million plastic sachets. This tingi culture has long been acknowledged by concerned sectors, with groups like Greenpeace linking with local governments to install refill hubs.

According to Floradema Eleazar, lead of the Climate Action Team of the United Nations Development Programme, the initial target to release the anti-plastic roadmap is in August 2025.

THE MANILA TIMES

[DENR, UNDP launch action vs plastic waste](#)

By: Giselle P. Jordan

The Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR), and the United Nations Development Program (UNDP) Philippines on Thursday launched their National Plastic Action Partnership (NPAP) to tackle plastic pollution in the country.

The plan will adopt a "convergent approach" to promoting a circular economy — bringing together the DENR and other government agencies, development partners, civil society organizations and the private sector to pursue the goal.

According to the DENR, the Philippines accumulated over 22 million metric tons of waste in 2024, of which 12 to 24 percent are plastic waste. Some of these wastes end up improperly disposed of into the environment.

The circular economy approach to this problem is to extend the lifecycle of products to have lesser material footprint, reduced waste, conserved resources and opportunities for economic growth.

The NPAP comprises the following key components: formation of baseline data to assess plastic pollution in the country; development of a National Plastic Action road map and a financing road map; and the establishment of an inclusive dialogue space.

UNDP Philippines climate action team outcome lead Floradema Eleazar said the aim is to finish the action and financing road maps in August, ensuring these would be based on assessment, data and related socioeconomic issues.

The action plan will focus on evidence-based decision-making, national and stakeholder ownership, and inclusive and holistic solutions.

DENR will serve as chairman of the NPAP Philippines steering board, with a private sector representative as co-chairman, and UNDP Philippines as the secretariat. There will also be 15 representatives from government, the private sector, development partners and civil society. They will serve for a term of two years.

Aside from the NPAP, the DENR has also integrated a circular economy approach through its National Plan of Action for Marine Litter, the Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) Act and its adoption of the road map for the Management of Plastic Waste and Reduction of NonRecyclable Single-Use Plastics in the Philippines.

DENR Undersecretary Jonas Leones said that, through the NPAP, the agency will assess EPR implementation data from 2024. There have been discussions on giving incentives or notices of violation based on compliance or noncompliance of the EPR.

Leones admitted that while the agency has been discouraging manufacturers from using plastic, it remains a challenge as long as there are no affordable and effective alternatives.

Jose Uy III, Nestlé Philippines corporate affairs head, said the NPAP would be beneficial to the public, since microplastics' harm to one's health has been a growing concern in recent years.

Asked what fast-moving consumer goods makers like Nestlé are doing to help address plastic pollution, Uy said the company has started producing recyclable monomaterial packaging. Nestlé wants to absorb the cost of sustainable packaging, he added.

Eleazar said the NPAP Philippines steering board wants to form an education working group to enlighten the public on plastic pollution and how it can help the government deal with it.

The NPAP is supported by the Global Plastic Action Partnership (GPAP), an initiative of the World Economic Forum. The DENR joined GPAP in 2023. It is also backed by the United Kingdom, Canada and the Coca-Cola Foundation.

CCC IN THE NEWS:

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[Phi-Germany TRANSCEND project launched with key meetings](#)

The Transformative Actions for Climate and Ecological Protection and Development (TRANSCEND) Project, a joint initiative between the Federal Republic of Germany through the International Climate Initiative (IKI) and the Republic of the Philippines, launched with a convergence workshop on 13 January and the First Project Steering Committee (PSC) meeting on 14 January.

The convergence workshop aimed to align the project's goals with government priorities. It brought together the project consortium, implementing partners, and government stakeholders, including the Climate Change Commission (CCC), the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR), the Department of Human Settlements and Urban Development (DHSUD), the Department of Trade and Industry (DTI), the Department of Transportation (DOTr), the German Federal Ministry for Economic Affairs and Climate Action (BMWK), the German Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation, Nuclear Safety and Consumer Protection (BMUV), and Zukunft – Umwelt – Gesellschaft gGmbH (ZUG), which oversees IKI program management.

CCC Vice Chairperson and Executive Director Robert E.A. Borje highlighted the project's potential to make a real impact on communities and protect ecosystems.

“Let us remember that our work through TRANSCEND covers the core values, needs, and interests of our people. Through TRANSCEND, we are focused on transforming these into core strengths to secure a resilient future for our people,” Borje said.

The PSC meeting, co-chaired by CCC Commissioner Rachel Anne Herrera and DENR Undersecretary Analiza Rebueta Teh, centered on future milestones and the project's steering structure.

Commissioner Herrera emphasized the need for collaboration to meet TRANSCEND's goals.

“TRANSCEND is more than a project – it is a catalyst for transformative change toward a climate-resilient, low-carbon, and biodiversity-friendly Philippines. Through our collective wisdom and decisive action today, we set the strong foundation for this ambitious journey,” Herrera said.

Undersecretary Teh pointed to the project's whole-of-government and whole-of-society approach, shown by the variety of sectors represented in the committee.

"There is an urgent need to strengthen the whole-of-government and whole-of-society approach to adopt actions that would lead the Philippines toward climate resiliency. As evidenced by your presence in today's Project Steering Committee meeting, TRANSCEND is designed to work across different sectors and targets a multi-level governance approach," Teh said.

This vision was captured in a joint statement developed by the project, which committee members adopted through a signing ceremony.

TRANSCEND Program Manager Johanna Sibbert presented the joint vision statement, which she said would guide their efforts. "May the image of an inclusive, equitable, climate-resilient, and nature-positive future inspire us to act collectively for climate action," Sibbert said.

The TRANSCEND Project, which will run from 2024 to 2029 with a total funding of €32.7 million, aims to help the Philippines transition to a climate-resilient, low-carbon, and biodiversity-friendly society. It aligns with national and international climate and biodiversity goals, contributing to the National Adaptation Plan (NAP), the Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC), and the Philippine Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (PBSAP).

The project is implemented by a consortium that includes Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH, Conservation International Philippines Foundation Inc. (CIPFI), Rare, the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat), and the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO).

The project also receives targeted support from the Foundation for the Philippine Environment, Wuppertal Institute, International Council for Clean Transportation, Clean Air Asia, Climate Analytics, Institute for Climate and Sustainable Cities, and the University of the Philippines Center for Women's and Gender Studies.

PHILIPPINE INFORMATION AGENCY

[CCC underscores importance of information-driven action at launch of South-South Collaboration Center of Excellence on Climate Information Services](#)

The Climate Change Commission (CCC) emphasized the role of information-driven climate action in addressing the urgent challenges of climate change at the recent unveiling of the South-South Collaboration Center of Excellence (COE) on Climate Information Services (CIS) at the Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration (PAGASA) Central Office in Quezon City.

The COE aims to strengthen transdisciplinary exchange and enhance the availability and accessibility of CIS across key sectors. The unveiling also included the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the German Development Cooperation (GIZ) and the ASEAN University Network, formalizing a joint commitment to advancing CIS initiatives across the region.

Supported by GIZ, the South-South Collaboration on Climate Information Services (SSCIS) Project aims to use CIS to enhance climate knowledge and improve decision-making for effective adaptation and mitigation planning. Last year, high-level stakeholders from the implementing agencies reviewed the SSCIS Project Implementation and Status, emphasizing the CCC's role as the lead implementer of activities as part of the project's Technical Working Group.

In his keynote, CCC Deputy Executive Director Romell Cuenca lauded the establishment of the Center of Excellence as a vital platform for addressing climate risks.

"This Center embodies our shared vision of transforming data into actionable knowledge that empowers communities and drives evidence-based solutions. Through collaboration and innovation, we can address the impacts of climate change with resilience and foresight," Cuenca said.

He also emphasized the value of partnerships in building climate-smart solutions, acknowledging the GIZ's contributions.

"The success of the South-South Collaboration on Climate Information Services Project showcases the power of partnerships. Leveraging science, research, and global best practices from similarly vulnerable nations, we can craft solutions tailored to our unique needs."

Cuenca further stressed the importance of climate information in driving effective adaptation strategies. "The CIS are more than just tools; they are lifelines. They guide

us in understanding risks, anticipating threats, and formulating proactive responses that strengthen resilience at all levels.”

Dr. Marcelino Villafuerte, Deputy Administrator for Research and Development at DOST-PAGASA, emphasized the importance of international collaboration in addressing climate challenges.

“This center stands as a symbol of what we can achieve through shared resources and cooperation, united by a vision of resilience against climate challenges,” he stated. Villafuerte further highlighted the transformative role of science, technology, and innovation in shaping resilient communities and advancing a sustainable future.

Dr. Renato Solidum Jr., Secretary of the Department of Science and Technology (DOST), highlighted the role of technology and collaboration in building resilient communities.

“At the DOST, together with other agencies, we are working to develop smart and sustainable communities. PAGASA will host the Climate Information Services, making it a hub not only for the country but also for the rest of the world.”

CCC Vice Chairperson and Executive Director Robert E.A. Borje emphasized the value of collaboration and science-based strategies in strengthening climate resilience under the President’s leadership.

“The SSCIS Project with CCC and the Philippine government underscores the importance of partnerships that work under President Ferdinand R. Marcos, Jr.’s administration. Collaborating with Germany, we demonstrate how a transformative climate agenda gets done through a science-based and data-driven approach. This partnership is key in promoting a whole-of-world approach to significantly enhance the climate resilience of our communities,” said Secretary Borje.

Mathias Kruse, Deputy Head of Mission at the German Embassy in Manila, emphasized the global significance of the CIS initiative. “The SSCIS initiative provides a platform to equip stakeholders with the tools needed to tackle these challenges. Rest assured, Germany remains committed to collaborating with the Philippines and our partners in achieving a sustainable and resilient future.”

Meanwhile, Inka Gnittke, Deputy Director of the Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation, Nuclear Safety, and Consumer Protection (BMUV), commended the launch of the CIS as a significant milestone. “The launch of this center marks a

significant step forward. With the CIS becoming a center of excellence, we are pleased to have taken a big step forward.”

Nina Alsen, Policy Officer of BMUV, reiterated the need for shared knowledge and collaboration in addressing climate change. “It is essential to grow our shared knowledge to ensure access to accurate and timely information. This empowers communities to make informed decisions and build resilience against the growing challenges of climate change.”

The event also featured a panel discussion titled “Addressing Regional Climate Challenges Through Information Services: In Focus ASEAN.” Thelma Cinco, Project Leader of SSCIS-CIS; Dr. Juan Pulhin, Chairperson of UP Los Baños Integrated Natural Resources and Environment Management; Dr. Ma. Estrelita Uy, Director of UP Manila National Institutes of Health; and Dr. Emmanuel Delocado of ASEAN University Network on Ecological Education and Culture participated in the discussions.

The event, organized by DOST-PAGASA with support from the International Climate Initiative (IKI), GIZ, and BMUV, marked a significant milestone in promoting climate resilience in the Philippines and other members of the ASEAN.

In achieving the SSCIS project objectives, the CCC remains steadfast in its commitment to building a climate-resilient and sustainable Philippines. By facilitating partnerships, championing climate science, and integrating actionable knowledge into policymaking, the CCC continues to pave the way for a more resilient future.

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