



## NEWS ROUNDUP

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- CCC, clean energy firm sign agreement to enhance local climate action plans

### CNN PHILIPPINES

#### [Iceberg roughly the size of London breaks off in Antarctica](#)

By: Jennifer Hauser and Angela Fritz

(CNN) — An iceberg nearly the size of Greater London broke off the Brunt Ice Shelf in Antarctica on Sunday according to the British Antarctic Survey.

## **MANILA BULLETIN**

### **[BOI sees \\$25-M Swiss investments](#)**

By: Bernie Cahiles-Magkilat

The Board of Investments (BOI) has placed at \$24.7 million the initial investments from the committed projects during the recent promotion drive in Switzerland.

### **[\[Opinion\] ‘Shear line’](#)**

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The Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration, (PAGASA), in its Climate Outlook Report January-June 2023, which was presented during the 155th Climate Forum last December 2022, estimated rainfall in the country for January 2023 to be “generally near to above normal rainfall conditions in most parts of the country.” The past weeks after Christmas have indeed been characterized by rains and thunderstorms, we do not normally experience during the first month of a new year. PAGASA attributes this unusual weather condition, particularly recently in the Bicol and Eastern Visayas and Mindanao regions to the interplay of weather systems particularly the cool north east monsoon or Amihan and what weather specialists call the shear line.

## **PHILIPPINE INFORMATION AGENCY**

### **[Agri dep’t, seed council/group strengthen partnership for quality seeds](#)**

By: DA-AFID

QUEZON CITY -- The government continues to forge cooperation with various entities to ensure that the Filipino farmers are extended with the best services and support to improve and increase farm production.

## **PHILIPPINE NEWS AGENCY**

### **[DENR, private firms tie up to protect Bulacan forest](#)**

By: Marna Dagumboy Del Rosario

CITY OF SAN FERNANDO, Pampanga – The Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) has partnered with two private corporations to boost forest protection in Bulacan.

## [PH brings initial investment pledges of P1.3B from Swiss firms](#)

By: Kris Crismundo

MANILA – The Board of Investments (BOI) said Wednesday the Philippines has secured initial investment commitments from Swiss companies, amounting USD24.7 million (PHP1.3 billion) during the country's investment mission to Switzerland from Jan. 9 to 13.

## **SUNSTAR**

### [DA technology boosts Tarlac farmers harvests](#)

By: Jovi De Leon

CITY OF SAN FERNANDO The harvests of a farmers' group in Victoria, Tarlac province has improved after it adapted climate-resilient technologies created by the Department of Agriculture (DA).

## **THE MANILA TIMES**

### [\[Opinion\] Is the Philippines ready for carbon pricing?](#)

By: Glen S. Banaguas

THE impacts of climate change continue to escalate, bringing economic instability, disrupting natural systems, creating geopolitical conflicts, and affecting the lives of millions of people, which include loss of life, humanitarian crises, and even the unalterable damage to ecosystems as highlighted by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change's Sixth Assessment Report.

## **THE PHILIPPINE STAR**

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There they were, a bunch of 14- to 18-year-old kids protesting outside a capitol building in Negros Occidental to oppose a 300-megawatt coal-fired power plant, says Joshua Villalobos, now 20, of the Youth for Climate Hope.

## [Swiss firms pledge \\$24.7 million investments in Philippines – BOI](#)

By: Catherine Talavera

MANILA, Philippines — The Philippines has received an initial \$24.7 million worth of investment commitments from Swiss companies, according to the Board of Investments (BOI).

### **CCC IN THE NEWS:**

#### **BUSINESS MIRROR**

### [First Gen, Climate Change Commission forge ties to help LGUs with their climate action plans](#)

The Climate Change Commission (CCC) and First Gen Corporation (First Gen) signed a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) to support local government units (LGUs) in mainstreaming climate change and accessing the People's Survival Fund (PSF).

#### **MANILA BULLETIN**

### [CCC, First Gen agree to support LGUs' on climate action initiatives](#)

By: Argyll Cyrus Geducos

The Climate Change Commission (CCC) and First Gen Corporation (First Gen) have forged ties to capacitate local government units (LGUs) in mainstreaming climate change and accessing the People's Survival Fund (PSF).

#### **PHILIPPINE NEWS AGENCY**

### [CCC, power generation firm back LGUs' climate change action plan](#)

By: Ruth Abbey Gita-Carlos

MANILA – The Climate Change Commission (CCC) and power generation firm, First Gen Corporation, have signed a memorandum of agreement (MOA) to help local government units (LGUs) in implementing their climate change mitigation and adaptation programs.

## **POLITIKO**

### **[CCC, First Gen sign MOU on Local Climate Change Action Plan](#)**

By: Prince Golez

The Climate Change Commission (CCC) and First Gen Corporation (First Gen) signed a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA ) on Tuesday to assist local government units (LGUs) in mainstreaming climate change and gaining access to the People's Survival Fund.

## **RADYO INQUIRER**

### **[LGUs palalakasin para sa climate change campaign](#)**

By: Chona Yu

Nakakuha ng matibay na kakampi ang mga lokal na pamahalaan sa Climate Change Commission para sa kanilang pagtugon sa mga epekto ng climate change sa bansa.

## **THE MANILA TIMES**

### **[Climate change action plans of LGUs get boost](#)**

By: Catherine S. Valente

THE Climate Change Commission (CCC) and power generation firm First Gen Corp. have signed a deal to help the local government units (LGUs) in implementing their climate change mitigation and adaptation programs.

## **THE PHILIPPINE STAR**

### **[CCC, clean energy firm sign agreement to enhance local climate action plans](#)**

MANILA, Philippines — The Climate Change Commission forged a partnership with a renewable energy company to support local government units in mainstreaming climate change and accessing finance for adaptation projects.

**Information and Knowledge Management Division**

## CNN PHILIPPINES

### [Iceberg roughly the size of London breaks off in Antarctica](#)

By: Jennifer Hauser and Angela Fritz

(CNN) — An iceberg nearly the size of Greater London broke off the Brunt Ice Shelf in Antarctica on Sunday according to the British Antarctic Survey.

Scientists first discovered significant cracks in the ice shelf a decade ago, but in the last two years there have been two major breaks. The BAS Halley Research Station is located on the Brunt Ice Shelf and glaciologists say the research station is safe.

The iceberg is around 600 square miles, or 1550 square kilometers. The researchers say this event was expected and not a result of climate change.

“This calving event has been expected and is part of the natural behavior of the Brunt Ice Shelf. It is not linked to climate change. Our science and operational teams continue to monitor the ice shelf in real-time to ensure it is safe, and to maintain the delivery of the science we undertake at Halley,” Professor Dominic Hodgson a BAS glaciologist said in a news release.

The calving comes amid record-low sea ice extent in Antarctica, where it is summer.

“While the decline in Antarctic sea ice extent is always steep at this time of year, it has been unusually rapid this year,” scientists at the National Snow and Ice Data Center reported in early January, “and at the end of December, Antarctic sea ice extent stood at the lowest in the 45-year satellite record.”

Researchers at the data center say the low sea ice has been due in part to a large band of warmer-than-normal air temperatures, which climbed to 2 degrees Celsius above average over the Ross Sea in November and December. Strong winds have also hastened the sea ice decline, they reported.

Recent data shows the sea ice has not since recovered, suggesting the continent could end the summer with a new record on the books for the second year in a row.

Antarctica has experienced a roller-coaster of sea ice extent over the past couple of decades, swinging wildly from record highs to record lows. Unlike the Arctic, where scientists say climate change is accelerating its impacts, Antarctica’s sea ice extent is highly variable.

“There’s a link between what’s going on in Antarctica and the general warming trend around the rest of the world, but it’s different from what we see in mountain glaciers and what we see in the Arctic,” Ted Scambos, a glaciologist at the University of Colorado Boulder and lead scientist at the National Snow and Ice Data Center, previously told CNN.

Satellite data that stretches back to 1978 shows that the region was still producing record-high sea ice extent as recently as 2014 and 2015. Then it suddenly plunged in 2016 and has stayed lower than average since.

## MANILA BULLETIN

### [BOI sees \\$25-M Swiss investments](#)

By: Bernie Cahiles-Magkilat

The Board of Investments (BOI) has placed at \$24.7 million the initial investments from the committed projects during the recent promotion drive in Switzerland.

Trade and Industry Undersecretary Ceferino S. Rodolfo, who is also BOI managing head, said in a statement that the potential investments could also create 475 new jobs for Filipinos. The BOI official met Swiss firms Sateco AG, Naturloop, OVD Kinegram, and Glencore during the investment promotion drive.

“Things are looking up for the Philippines as more Swiss firms have expressed their interest in investing in the country during the investment mission to Switzerland,” said Rodolfo, who met company executives on the sidelines of European Free Trade Association (EFTA) and the 5th Philippines – Switzerland Joint Economic Committee (JEC) Meetings in Switzerland on Jan. 9-13.

The business meetings were arranged by the BOI and Philippine Trade Investment Center (PTIC) in Geneva in Bern and Zug, Switzerland.

“With no less than the President as the country’s number one salesperson in pitching the Philippines, the country’s improved business climate continues to soar high as several multinational companies ramp up their interests in setting up businesses in the country along with existing firms expanding their investment portfolios,” Rodolfo said as he led the first investment post-pandemic mission in Switzerland.

Rodolfo and the Philippine Team met with SATECO AG, a manufacturer of high-precision silicone keypads and silicone sensors, supplying big automotive players with a state-of-the-art manufacturing facility in the Philippines. The company has committed to infuse \$9.7 million (P530.5 million) for a state-of-the-art, high-performance production facility at the TECO Industrial Park, comprised of two stages with full implementation eyed for 2024.

The Philippine Team also met with Swiss startup company NaturLoop which has plans to launch a \$15 million Cocoboard factory in the Philippines by 2026. The company is currently developing a supply chain for coconut husks in Quezon province with local partners including ProSource International Inc. and Quezon Federation and Union of Cooperatives (QFUC).

During the 5th Philippines-Switzerland JEC Meeting, the BOI along with the private sector-led movement Digital Pilipinas pitched opportunities for priority sectors, which include IT-BPM, electronics, fintech, and contract research organization (CRO), in line with the country's digital transformation efforts as part of the administration's goal in keeping up with global innovations and boosting more economic activities.

"These initial investment commitments are promising as we look forward to the growing interest of Swiss firms in the Philippines and benefits from the game-changing reforms pursued by the Marcos administration such as the amendments to the Public Service Act (PSA), Retail Trade Liberalization Law (RTLA), Foreign Investment Act (FIA) and the implementing rules and regulations (IRR) of the Renewable Act of 2008, the latter also allowing full foreign ownership in renewable energy, particularly in solar, wind and tidal RE" Undersecretary Rodolfo added. "There is now a greater demand for sustainability solutions in order to address impact of climate change; hence it is in the country's interest to pursue investments in renewable energy and green projects," he said.

The Philippine Team during their visit to OVD Kinegram's facility as welcomed by key officials of the company.

The Philippine Team also visited the facility of OVD Kinegram, based in Zug, which specializes in the design, production, and supply of the KINEGRAM optical security feature to protect government documents and banknotes. Rodolfo stressed that the Philippines is one of the largest markets of the OVD Kinegram, particularly in the development of the National IDs that cover over 100 million people. The company is also working closely with the Bangko Sentral nang Pilipinas (BSP), Land Transportation Office (LTO), Social Security System (SSS), and Department of Education (DepEd) for securitized documents/ permits and licenses.

They also met with Glencore, a Swiss multinational mining company that owns 78 percent of the Philippine Associated and Refining Corp. (PASAR) which operates a copper smelting facility in Leyte.

"The combination of vast resources of critical green metals such as nickel, cobalt, and copper, the presence of suitable locations such as the Leyte Ecological Industrial (LEIZ), along with the government's strong commitment and efforts on sustainability and rich human capital makes the Philippines a vital and reliable chain partner that enables investors to profitably serve customers regionally and globally," Rodolfo pointed out.

From 2017 to the 3rd quarter of 2022, Swiss investment approval by the country's investment promotion agencies (IPAs) reached Php1.4 billion. Notable BOI-approved Swiss investments include projects of Nestle, Avaloq, and CPW. As of 2021, Switzerland ranked as the Philippines' 26th biggest trading partner (out of 224), 17th largest export market (out of 206), and 29th biggest import supplier (out of 211). Philippine exports to Switzerland grew by 17.3 percent in 2021 as it shipped \$528.2 million, up from \$450.4 million in 2020.

## [Opinion] ‘Shear line’

By: Senator Francis Tolentino

The Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration, (PAGASA), in its Climate Outlook Report January-June 2023, which was presented during the 155th Climate Forum last December 2022, estimated rainfall in the country for January 2023 to be “generally near to above normal rainfall conditions in most parts of the country.” The past weeks after Christmas have indeed been characterized by rains and thunderstorms, we do not normally experience during the first month of a new year. PAGASA attributes this unusual weather condition, particularly recently in the Bicol and Eastern Visayas and Mindanao regions to the interplay of weather systems particularly the cool north east monsoon or Amihan and what weather specialists call the shear line.

The shear line is commonly defined as the convergence of cold and warm winds. The cold winds brought along by Amihan is met by the warm winds from the easterlies from the Pacific Ocean causing heavy rains and thunderstorms most often in the Bicol, Easter Visayas and Eastern Mindanao sections. Weather bureaus monitor the effects of shear lines as persistent rains may result to landslides and flashfloods. The threat to agriculture, infrastructure and human life and habitat is very evident during the presence of a shear line. I recall having read a case study about a heavy rainfall event in Venezuela caused by the interaction of a shear line and intertropical convergence zone sometime in 2010. Heavy rains that poured for six consecutive days in the usually dry region of the northern coast of Venezuela totaled 80 percent of the region’s annual rainfall record. The unfortunate weather event left more than 20 casualties, considerable damage to infrastructure and property, and significant economic losses for the rain ravaged areas. This study may only be one of several others that point to the imminent threat caused by a shear line that runs across other weather systems such as low-pressure areas and tropical cyclones, and not to mention too that the event happened in 2010 when climate change impact may perhaps be not of the greater depth and magnitude we presently attribute to the phenomenon.

Yes, it is on the more positive note to consider that the Philippines has proven its ability to rise above crises situations and calamities. However, as we have also proven, preparedness always brings us halfway to safety in times of crises and emergencies. PAGASA’s guidance will be crucial in ensuring the health and safety of communities and in the mitigating strategies of affected localities.

## PHILIPPINE INFORMATION AGENCY

### [Agri dep't, seed council/group strengthen partnership for quality seeds](#)

By: DA-AFID

QUEZON CITY -- The government continues to forge cooperation with various entities to ensure that the Filipino farmers are extended with the best services and support to improve and increase farm production.

“The Department of Agriculture (DA) has developed a longstanding and fruitful partnership with the National Seed Industry Council (NSIC) over the years,” DA Senior Undersecretary Domingo F. Panganiban relayed during the opening ceremony of the 5th National Seed Summit on January 23, 2023 in Quezon City.

According to the DA official, DA’s alliance with the group has supported the government’s operation that has benefitted 1.6 million rice farmers, 692 corn growers, and 100,000 individual farmers. He added that it has also maintained granary research, and increased agricultural production and income of farmers.

In his message, Panganiban announced that the DA-Bureau of Plant Industry (DA-BPI) is gearing for a special program which will develop the National Seed Industry Development Program.

“The main purpose of this undertaking is to provide swift action and immediate relief for both farmers and consumers as the country grapples with converging prices. This new program presents logical and useful steps in our continuing and various efforts to ensure national food security to Filipino,” he said.

Panganiban said the seed program will strengthen the NSIC five fundamental goals: to bring and develop and maintain improve varieties that are suitable for low and high output; to multiply and distribute sufficient supply of good quality seeds of high yielding varieties that are resistant to disease and insect; to promote farmers acceptance in this improve varieties of seeds; to support the development of public and private sector through research, training, and special finance services to Filipino farmers; and to promote appropriate technology by providing training and technical support in seed production all over the country.

He also urged support from the local government, business sectors, academe, and individual farmers to take part in this initiative.

Meanwhile, Senator Cynthia Villar, who chairs the Senate Committee on Agriculture and Food highlighted the importance of providing high-quality seeds to farmers. She cited a study from the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization which states that seed system is one of the pillars of agricultural development and food security.

“Continuous production and development of seed is necessary because the availability of quality seeds is the key to successful farming which results to increase production and income for farmers. Good seeds play an important role in maintaining the resistance in pest diseases and climate change,” Villar said.

She added that these are the reasons why, during the discussion of the 2023 General Appropriations Act (GAA) budget, she called for a P100 million-increase in the funding of five DA-BPI centers that will serve as a development hub for high-quality vegetable and fruit seeds. The centers, to be built in Baguio, Los Baños, La Granja and Guimaras, Iloilo and Davao City, will equip seed growers’ necessary skills and knowledge to develop high-quality seeds, which they can share with farmers.

The lady Senator also expressed support to revisit the 1992 National Seed Industry Development Plan, and urged Bureau of Investment (BOI) to create policy guidelines that will make seed industry a preferred area of investment. She also asked the private sectors to step up their cooperation with the government agency.

For yellow corn, Villar urged the participants of the summit to help seed growers to improve the currently available varieties to enable it to compete in the market which is predominantly imported.

The two-day summit was organized by NSIC and the Philippine Seed Industry Association (PSIA), to convene the academe, private seed companies, farmers and seed growers, government sector, and other key industry players for a discussion on urgent issues and challenges affecting the sector, exchange best practices, and learn about the newest innovations and developments in the seed industry.

The event was highlighted by a showcase of the latest innovations in seed industry and a presentation on the “Formulation of the Seed Industry Development Program” by Director Glenn B. Gregorio of the Southeast Asian Regional Center for Graduate Study and Research in Agriculture (SEARCA).

Panganiban ang Villar were joined by DA-BPI Director Gerald Glenn F. Panganiban, and PSIA President Mary Ann P. Sayoc during the opening ceremony.

## PHILIPPINE NEWS AGENCY

### [DENR, private firms tie up to protect Bulacan forest](#)

By: Marna Dagumboy Del Rosario

CITY OF SAN FERNANDO, Pampanga – The Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) has partnered with two private corporations to boost forest protection in Bulacan.

DENR Regional Executive Director Paquito Moreno Jr. said on Wednesday Eagle Cement Corporation (ECC) and its wholly-owned subsidiary Solid North Mineral Corporation (SNMC) will adopt over 34 hectares of forestland areas in Barangay Talbak, Doña Remedios Trinidad town.

“The adoption of this forestland area adds a significant boost in our long-term forestland management, especially so that putting up a forest ranger station will be supplemental in our efforts to safeguard this area from any illegal forest activities,” Moreno said in a statement.

He said a non-commercial nursery research center, a forest ranger outpost and a 2.15-hectare seedling nursery would also be established in the area.

The main activities in the area will include nursery development and the propagation of various seedlings to be used for tree-planting activities, he added.

Moreno said a memorandum of agreement (MOA) was signed by the DENR and the two firms last Jan. 9 to support environmental protection and improvement and ensure the long-term management of the province’s forest lands.

Under the MOA, the ECC and SNMC will provide the funds for the development of the adopted area and ensure that seedling production will be continuous throughout the validity of the agreement.

The DENR, on the other hand, will provide the necessary technical and scientific assistance in nursery establishment and maintenance and seedling production.

Moreno said forest protection is one of the most challenging activities of the DENR, noting that partnership and collaboration with private firms are vital.

Aside from the private sector, he also cited the importance of strong collaboration and partnership with the police and military including the local government units and local communities to protect the forest lands.

## [PH brings initial investment pledges of P1.3B from Swiss firms](#)

By: Kris Crismundo

MANILA – The Board of Investments (BOI) said Wednesday the Philippines has secured initial investment commitments from Swiss companies, amounting USD24.7 million (PHP1.3 billion) during the country’s investment mission to Switzerland from Jan. 9 to 13.

These potential investments were generated during the business meetings organized by the Philippine Trade Investment Center (PTIC) in Geneva, Bern and Zug in Switzerland.

These business meetings were conducted on the sidelines of the Philippines-European Free Trade Agreement (EFTA) meeting and the 5th Joint Economic Commission (JEC) meeting between the Philippines and Switzerland.

“With no less than the President as the country’s number one salesperson in pitching the Philippines, the country’s improved business climate continues to soar high as several multinational companies ramp up their interests in setting up businesses in the country along with existing firms expanding their investment portfolios,” Trade Undersecretary and BOI managing head Ceferino Rodolfo said.

The USD24.7-million investment pledges, which are expected to generate 475 jobs, came from the keypad and silicone sensor manufacturer, Sateco AG and startup company, NaturaLoop.

Sateco AG aims to invest USD9.7 million (PHP530.5 million) for a manufacturing facility at the TECO Industrial Park. The manufacturing plant is expected to be completed by 2024.

NaturaLoop also plans to set up a USD15-million Cocoboard factory in the Philippines.

Currently, NaturaLoop is developing a supply chain for coconut husks in Quezon province with local partners ProSource International Inc. and Quezon Federation and Union of Cooperatives (QFUC).

“These initial investment commitments are promising as we look forward to the growing interest of Swiss firms in the Philippines and benefits from the game-changing reforms pursued by the Marcos administration such as the amendments to the Public Service Act (PSA), Retail Trade Liberalization Law (RTLTA), Foreign Investment Act (FIA) and the implementing rules and regulations (IRR) of the Renewable Act of 2008, the latter

also allowing full foreign ownership in renewable energy, particularly in solar, wind and tidal RE,” Rodolfo added.

For the past five years, investments of Swiss companies in major investment promotion agencies amounted to PHP1.4 billion, with notable projects from companies such as Nestle, Avaloq and CPW.

## SUNSTAR

### [DA technology boosts Tarlac farmers harvests](#)

By: Jovi De Leon

CITY OF SAN FERNANDO The harvests of a farmers' group in Victoria, Tarlac province has improved after it adapted climate-resilient technologies created by the Department of Agriculture (DA).

AMIA Cruz Farmers Association Chairman Lina Apolonio said DA's "Adaptation and Mitigation Initiative in Agriculture" (AMIA) has helped the group harvest more.

"The DA-AMIA's interventions helped boost our resiliency against climate change. The system includes the provision of shallow tube wells for ample supply of water even during the dry season, training on alternate wetting and drying which is a water-saving technology that farmers can apply to reduce their irrigation water consumption in rice fields without decreasing yield, plus the provision of a hand tractor and harvester," she said.

The group also followed DA rice crop manager advisory service that provides farmers with information geared toward increasing productivity and profitability of rice farming.

This is through targeted integrated nutrient and crop management, in which a hybrid rice derby---conducted in March 2022, showed that hybrid rice farming increased their yield.

"In hybrid, we found out that 15 kilos of seeds is enough for a hectare is enough while in inbred is 40 kilos per hectare, We save a lot from it. Before, when it was traditional, we only had inbred rice and the farmer was happy if he could harvest 80 to 90 cavans per hectare for every cropping season. When we embraced and tried hybridization, the result of the hybrid derby was okay because we harvested 160 cavans, which is double of what we harvested using hybrid rice," Apolonio said.

She added that the AMIA Cruz Farmers Association's assets have reached P5 million since they adapted the DA-AMIA technologies three years ago.

## THE MANILA TIMES

### [\[Opinion\] Is the Philippines ready for carbon pricing?](#)

By: Glen S. Banaguas

THE impacts of climate change continue to escalate, bringing economic instability, disrupting natural systems, creating geopolitical conflicts, and affecting the lives of millions of people, which include loss of life, humanitarian crises, and even the unalterable damage to ecosystems as highlighted by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change's Sixth Assessment Report.

The inevitable consequence also includes the temperature rising that would require rapid emissions reductions across all sectors. Though efforts and attempts to avert this environmental dilemma by shunning greenhouse gas emissions have been gaining momentum, the threat remains stark. Addressing this perilous occurrence needs wide-ranging assessment and commitment from people from all walks of life. In this regard, carbon pricing, which is an instrument towards decarbonization or low carbon economy, controls greenhouse gas emissions (GHGs) by placing a fee on high-emitters and offering incentive programs for low-emitters. This price signal generated shifts in utilization and investment designs, creating financial growth congruent with climate protection.

What is the essence of carbon pricing? Why is it creating a magnetic force to attract government and business actors in the world?

According to Resources for the Future, carbon pricing is defined as a climate policy approach used in a number of countries and sub-national jurisdictions (regions, states, provinces, cities) around the world. Carbon pricing works by charging emitters for the tons of emissions of carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>) for which they are responsible. Carbon dioxide is emitted largely through the combustion of fossil fuels used for electricity generation, industrial production, transportation, and use of energy in residential and commercial buildings. Other carbon dioxide emissions are from the waste and agricultural sectors.

According to the World Bank, carbon pricing is a cost-effective policy tool that governments can use as part of their broader climate strategy. A price is placed on greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions in the form of carbon dioxide equivalents (CO<sub>2</sub>-eq), which makes a financial incentive to reduce the emissions or improve removals. By integrating climate change costs into economic planning and decision-making, this

climate policy methodology can help encourage changes in production, consumption, and investment models, thus, strengthening low-carbon development.

These two definitions simply mean one thing — carbon pricing is a method of putting a price on carbon as a way of bringing down emissions and driving investment into cleaner opportunities.

There are two types of carbon pricing instruments as defined by Duggal who prepared for the report in Asian Development Outlook 2021: Financing a Green and Inclusive Recovery. And they are as follows:

- A carbon tax sets a fixed carbon price that creates a cost for emitting, providing an economic incentive to innovate and transition to clean energy and energy-efficient operations. Carbon taxes can effectively modify production and consumption patterns in favor of low-carbon goods and services while providing a relatively predictable and much-needed public revenue that can be used to further pursue sustainable development.

In a more laymanized manner, a carbon tax directly sets a price on carbon by stating a tax rate on greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions in the form of carbon dioxide equivalents.

- A cap-and-trade system typically sets a fixed quantity of emissions allowed from the sector that it regulates, which has the advantage of predictability in helping countries meet the emission-reduction targets expressed in their nationally determined contributions (NDCs). The market response in the form of a price signal can be influenced by governments through methods used for allocating emissions allowance and the fees charged for non-compliance, but with sufficiently low allowances and a sufficiently high noncompliance fee, the price of emitting is determined primarily by market supply and demand.

This cap-and-trade system, which is also called the emission trading system (ETS), covers the total concentration of greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions and permits the low-emitting industries to sell their extra allowances to larger emitters. By creating supply and demand for emissions allowances, an ETS establishes a market price for GHG emissions.

### **How does carbon pricing work?**

According to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), carbon pricing works by arresting the external costs of emitting carbon — for instance,

the costs that the public pays, such as loss of property due to sea level rise, the damages and losses of crops caused by changing precipitation patterns, intense tropical cyclones, severe flooding or the health care costs associated with heat waves and droughts — and putting the fee back at its source.

Carbon pricing effectively transfers the role and responsibility of paying for the damages of climate change from the public to the GHG emission entities. This gives these GHG emitters the choice of either cutting their emissions to avoid paying a high price or continuing emitting but having to pay for their emissions.

Carbon pricing also creates a price signal that reduces or regulates greenhouse gas emissions and at the same time provides a robust financial case for investments away from high-emission fossil-fuels-based innovation toward cleaner technology.

## THE PHILIPPINE STAR

### [\[Opinion\] Of bikini-clad conservationists and climate change](#)

By: Iris Gonzales

There they were, a bunch of 14- to 18-year-old kids protesting outside a capitol building in Negros Occidental to oppose a 300-megawatt coal-fired power plant, says Joshua Villalobos, now 20, of the Youth for Climate Hope.

And then there's an eye doctor, sometimes clad in her different bikinis – Dr. Frances Yap – who keeps local communities informed on a damaging reclamation project in Dumaguete.

Quezon City Mayor Joy Belmonte also has a story to tell. She shared the city's gender-responsive climate initiatives, which included an urban agriculture program that generated green livelihoods for more than 13,000 women while Makati Mayor Abby Binay affirmed the crucial role of women as environmental advocates “that lead the charge to protect our planet.”

These and more are real stories and not some propaganda or some small and fleeting passion projects which we could all learn from.

I heard these real life experiences of Filipino explorers and conservationists at the “Explorer Encounters: Movements, Creating Tomorrow,” a recent event organized by The Masungi Georeserve Foundation.

The different individuals shared their different stories on how they are addressing this thing called climate emergency.

Supported by the government of Canada through the Canada Fund for Local Initiatives, the event gathered these explorers and conservationists to share their transformational ideas and to connect with inspiring people. The indefatigable Colin Townson, head of political affairs of the embassy of Canada in the Philippines, represented the embassy that night.

It was an honor to be there in that room and hear the experiences of individuals who are charting the path for tomorrow.

The energy in the room was almost tangible. You feel it in the air – the passion and determination and the strong sense of community to help address one of the biggest problems in our lifetime today – climate change.

### **Call to action**

To a jam-packed crowd at Kondwi in Poblacion, five presenters shared their inspiring campaigns.

“From a bunch of 14- to 18-year-olds protesting outside the capitol, we are now here working with adults and experts to stir the energy scenario of an island with five million residents to the right direction,” said the young Joshua Villalobos.

Josefa Cariño Tauli, a member of the Global Youth Biodiversity Network steering committee and an Ibaloi-Kankanaey Igorot indigenous youth, emphasized the protection of indigenous tribes as a key element in protecting environmental spaces.

She talked about the importance of including indigenous communities in dialogues in forming ways to strengthen sustainable biodiversity.

“In all our actions, we must welcome diverse voices and diverse visions because only then can we stop business as usual and learn from the voices of youth, from indigenous peoples, local communities, of women, of PWDs, to enrich the actions that we do on the ground no matter what field we are in,” she said.

But it was Dumaguete’s Dr. Frances Yap of Oceans 6 who brought the house down with her stories on how she and her group embarked on creative campaigns against the said reclamation project in Dumaguete – including wearing a bikini!

In the mornings, before her daily swim, she would post her bikini-clad photos to accompany her rally announcements – anything to raise awareness on the issue.

It wasn’t really to flaunt her bodacious body but to really show the community how reclamation projects can harm the ocean.

Yap and five other women formed Ocean 6 and accomplished the tremendous feat of swimming six kilometers across Tañon Strait to raise awareness on ocean protection.

Ann Dumaliang, managing trustee of the Masungi Georeserve Foundation, for her part, captured the night’s message.

“Our call to action is simple. We ask you to stay vigilant and to stand by us. Big challenges like this give us the opportunity to make monumental changes for our country. So for this we must be grateful and not bitter. We have to be more determined than ever and not hopeless.”

These stories and actions aren't enough to address climate change of course but for sure, these are major steps toward a better tomorrow.

We should also write our own similar stories – big or small – of how we can help address this climate emergency that is happening all around us.

### **The story of Masungi**

May we find inspiration in the story of Masungi itself, a piece of paradise somewhere in the Sierra Madre mountain range. It is a conservation area and rustic limestone landscape tucked in the rainforests of Rizal.

Here, wildlife and plant species abound and the air is still fresh and crisp. It's a community rich with heritage and life but threatened by modern-day developments.

The group behind it is the Masungi Georeserve Foundation, a non-profit organization which is doing what it can to fight threats against the area – from land grabbing to quarrying to urban development.

They need all the support that we can give. Kudos to Metro Manila mayors Joy Belmonte (Quezon City), Marcelino Teodoro (Marikina), Vico Sotto (Pasig) and Jaime

Fresnedi (Muntinlupa) who are supporting Masungi by calling for the cancellation of quarrying agreements within the Upper Marikina Watershed and the Masungi Georeserve.

There's really so much work to do with so little time as we deal with the climate emergency that is happening all around us today.

It is not enough to listen to stories but as I said, we must write our own too and do our part in creating a better tomorrow for us, our children and our children's children.

As Joshua of the Youth for Climate Hope said, the best time for significant climate action was 20 years ago.

“And the second best time is now.”

## Swiss firms pledge \$24.7 million investments in Philippines – BOI

By: Catherine Talavera

MANILA, Philippines — The Philippines has received an initial \$24.7 million worth of investment commitments from Swiss companies, according to the Board of Investments (BOI).

In a statement yesterday, the BOI said the initial investment commitments, which were generated in the business meetings arranged by the BOI and Philippine Trade Investment Center in Switzerland from Jan. 9 to 13.

“With no less than the President as the country’s number one salesperson pitching the Philippines, the country’s improved business climate continues to soar high as several multinational companies ramp up their interests in setting up businesses in the country along with existing firms expanding their investment portfolios,” Trade Undersecretary and BOI managing head Ceferino Rodolfo said.

Rodolfo and the Philippine team met with SATECO AG, a manufacturer of high-precision silicone keypads and silicone sensors, supplying big automotive players with a state-of-the-art manufacturing facility in the Philippines.

The company has committed to infuse \$9.7 million (P530.5 million) for a state-of-the-art, high-performance production facility at the TECO Industrial Park, comprising two stages with full implementation eyed for 2024.

The Philippine team also met with Swiss startup company NaturLoop, which has plans to launch a \$15 million Cocoboard factory in the Philippines by 2026.

The company is developing a supply chain for coconut husks in Quezon province with local partners, including ProSource International Inc. and Quezon Federation and Union of Cooperatives (QFUC).

During the 5th Philippines-Switzerland JEC meeting, the BOI along with the private sector-led movement Digital Pilipinas pitched opportunities for priority sectors, which include IT-BPM, electronics, fintech, and contract research organization (CRO), in line with the country’s digital transformation efforts as part of the administration’s goal in keeping up with global innovations and boosting more economic activities.

“These initial investment commitments are promising as we look forward to the growing interest of Swiss firms in the Philippines and benefits from the game-changing reforms

pursued by the Marcos administration such as the amendments to the Public Service Act, Retail Trade Liberalization Law, Foreign Investment Act and the implementing rules and regulations (IRR) of the Renewable Act of 2008, the latter also allowing full foreign ownership in renewable energy, particularly in solar, wind and tidal RE,” Rodolfo said.

“There is now a greater demand for sustainability solutions in order to address [the] impact of climate change; hence it is in the country’s interest to pursue investments in renewable energy and green projects,” he added.

Meanwhile, the Philippine team also visited the facility of OVD Kinegram, based in Zug, which specializes in the design, production, and supply of the KINEGRAM optical security feature to protect government documents and banknotes.

Rodolfo said the Philippines is one of the largest markets of the OVD Kinegram, particularly in the development of the National IDs that cover over 100 million people.

The company is also working closely with the Bangko Sentral nang Pilipinas, Land Transportation Office, Social Security System and Department of Education for securitized documents/ permits and licenses.

Moreover, the Philippine delegation also met with Swiss multinational mining company Glencore.

“The combination of vast resources of critical green metals such as nickel, cobalt, and copper, the presence of suitable locations such as the Leyte Ecological Industrial, along with the government’s strong commitment and efforts on sustainability and rich human capital makes the Philippines a vital and reliable chain partner that enables investors to profitably serve customers regionally and globally,” Rodolfo said.

From 2017 to the third quarter of 2022, Swiss investments approved by the country’s investment promotion agencies reached P1.4 billion.

Notable BOI-approved Swiss investments include projects of Nestle, Avaloq, and CPW.

As of 2021, Switzerland ranked as the Philippines’ 26th biggest trading partner , 17th largest export market, and 29th biggest import supplier. Philippine exports to Switzerland grew by 17.3 percent in 2021 as it shipped \$528.2 million, up from \$450.4 million in 2020.

## CCC IN THE NEWS:

### BUSINESS MIRROR

#### [First Gen, Climate Change Commission forge ties to help LGUs with their climate action plans](#)

The Climate Change Commission (CCC) and First Gen Corporation (First Gen) signed a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) to support local government units (LGUs) in mainstreaming climate change and accessing the People's Survival Fund (PSF).

The ceremonial signing was led by CCC Vice Chairperson and Executive Director (VCED) Robert E.A. Borje and First Gen President and Chief Operating Officer Francis Giles B. Puno.

The partnership aims to capacitate representatives from Maria Aurora, Aurora; Pantabangan and Carrangalan in Nueva Ecija; Alfonso Castañeda, Nueva Vizcaya; Lobo, Batangas; Caramoan and Garchitorena in Camarines Sur; Baungon, Impasug-ong, Libona, Manolo Fortich, and Talakag in Bukidnon; and Jabonga in Agusan del Norte in enhancing Local Climate Change Action Plans (LCCAPs) including updated climate and disaster risk assessments and greenhouse gas inventory, and developing PSF project proposals.

As of 19 January 2023, 1,399 out of 1,715 LGUs (81.57%) have submitted their LCCAPs to the CCC. Through partnerships and capacity-building initiatives, the Commission hopes to achieve 100% compliance by 2024.

This collaboration forms part of both the CCC and First Gen's shared advocacy for strengthening local communities' resilience to climate change and its impacts.

"Our LGUs, down to the barangays, are at the frontlines of climate change and its impacts. They need all the help they can get to have a fighting chance, but they also need transformation. We don't want them to just adapt, we want them to thrive and grow, and this particular agreement—through formulation of eLCCAPs and capacitating them to access the PSF—will exactly do that," CCC VCED Borje emphasized.

"Our mission of forging collaborative pathways for a decarbonized and regenerative future simply means that we cannot do it alone. Signing an agreement with the Climate Change Commission is completely aligned with what our company is trying to do, in

addressing an important challenge that's ahead of us – climate change,” First Gen Pres. Puno highlighted.

The CCC and First Gen will also strengthen initiatives that involve key stakeholders to promote science- and evidence-based risk assessment and sustain climate-smart leadership and governance among the target beneficiaries.

“At the end of the day, we have to safeguard our national interests, which for us means, ‘Buhay, kabuhayan, at kinabukasan ang nakataya.’ That’s all we have to plan for, but it takes more than a village to do this. We need to work very closely together, and this partnership is key to making that happen,” VCED Borje underscored.

The MOA was signed Tuesday, 24 January 2023, at the Eugenio Lopez Center in Antipolo, Rizal, and joined by Atty. Carol Kay Paquera, CCC Chief-of-Staff; Shirley H. Cruz, Vice President and Chief-of-Staff; Ricky A. Carandang, Vice President for Corporate Communications; and Ramon Araneta, Vice President for External Affairs and Security of First Gen.

Following the MOA signing, seedlings of Narra, Ipil, Banuyo and Supa trees were planted at the BINHI Arboretum to kick-off the partnership. (CCC) (PIA)

## MANILA BULLETIN

### [CCC, First Gen agree to support LGUs' on climate action initiatives](#)

By: Argyll Cyrus Geducos

The Climate Change Commission (CCC) and First Gen Corporation (First Gen) have forged ties to capacitate local government units (LGUs) in mainstreaming climate change and accessing the People's Survival Fund (PSF).

The ceremonial signing of the Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) was led by CCC Vice Chairperson and Executive Director (VCED) Robert E.A. Borje and First Gen President and Chief Operating Officer Francis Giles B. Puno in Antipolo City on Tuesday, Jan. 24.

The partnership aims to capacitate representatives from Maria Aurora, Aurora; Pantabangan and Carrangalan in Nueva Ecija; Alfonso Castañeda, Nueva Vizcaya; Lobo, Batangas; and Caramoan and Garchitorena in Camarines Sur.

The LGUs of Baungon, Impasug-ong, Libona, Manolo Fortich, and Talakag in Bukidnon; and Jabonga in Agusan del Norte would also benefit from the partnership.

According to the CCC, the partnership aims to enhance Local Climate Change Action Plans (LCCAPs), including updated climate and disaster risk assessments and greenhouse gas inventory and developing PSF project proposals.

As of Jan. 19, a total of 1,399 out of 1,715 LGUs (81.57 percent) have submitted their LCCAPs to the CCC. The Commission hopes to achieve 100 percent compliance through partnerships and capacity-building initiatives by 2024.

This collaboration forms part of the CCC and First Gen's shared advocacy for strengthening local communities' resilience to climate change and its impacts.

"Our LGUs, down to the barangays, are at the frontlines of climate change and its impacts. They need all the help they can get to have a fighting chance, but they also need transformation," Borje said.

"We don't want them to just adapt, we want them to thrive and grow, and this particular agreement—through the formulation of eLCCAPs and capacitating them to access the PSF—will exactly do that," he added.

Puno acknowledged its partnership with the CCC, saying it would help achieve its mission of forging collaborative pathways for a decarbonized and regenerative future.

“Signing an agreement with the Climate Change Commission is completely aligned with what our company is trying to do in addressing an important challenge that’s ahead of us – climate change,” he said.

The CCC and First Gen will also strengthen initiatives that involve key stakeholders to promote science- and evidence-based risk assessment and sustain climate-smart leadership and governance among the target beneficiaries.

“At the end of the day, we have to safeguard our national interests, which for us means, ‘Buhay, kabuhayan, at kinabukasan ang nakataya’ (Lives, livelihood, and the future are at stake),” Borje said.

“That’s all we have to plan for, but it takes more than a village to do this. We need to work very closely together, and this partnership is key to making that happen,” he added.

Following the MOA signing, seedlings of Narra, Ipil, Banuyo, and Supa trees were planted at the BINHI Arboretum to kick off the partnership.

The CCC was formed under Republic Act 9729, or the Climate Change Act, signed on Oct. 23, 2009.

Meanwhile, according to its website, First Gen is one of the leading providers of clean and renewable power in the Philippines.

## PHILIPPINE NEWS AGENCY

### [CCC, power generation firm back LGUs' climate change action plan](#)

By: Ruth Abbey Gita-Carlos

MANILA – The Climate Change Commission (CCC) and power generation firm, First Gen Corporation, have signed a memorandum of agreement (MOA) to help local government units (LGUs) in implementing their climate change mitigation and adaptation programs.

CCC vice chairperson and executive director, Robert Borje, and First Gen president and chief operating officer, Francis Giles Puno, led the ceremonial signing of the MOA at the Eugenio Lopez Center in Antipolo, Rizal on Tuesday, the commission said Wednesday in a news release.

The MOA, the CCC said, will capacitate the LGUs to mainstream climate change adaptation into national development and gain access to the People's Survival Fund (PSF), an annual fund for the implementation of climate change adaptation projects.

The CCC said its partnership with the First Gen will benefit representatives from Maria Aurora town, Aurora province; Pantabangan and Carrangalan towns in Nueva Ecija; Alfonso Castañeda, Nueva Vizcaya; Lobo, Batangas; Caramoan and Garchitorena in Camarines Sur; Baungon, Impasug-ong, Libona, Manolo Fortich and Talakag in Bukidnon; and Jabonga in Agusan del Norte province.

The deal would develop PSF project proposals and enhance the LGUs' Local Climate Change Action Plans (LCCAPs), including the updated climate and disaster risk assessments and greenhouse gas inventory, the CCC added.

"This collaboration forms part of both the CCC and First Gen's shared advocacy for strengthening local communities' resilience to climate change and its impacts," the CCC said.

As of Jan. 19, around 81.57 percent or 1,399 out of 1,715 LGUs have submitted their LCCAPs to the CCC.

The CCC expressed optimism that through partnerships and capacity-building initiatives, the LGUs' "100 percent compliance" is attainable by 2024.

"Our LGUs, down to the barangays (village officials), are at the frontlines of climate change and its impacts. They need all the help they can get to have a fighting chance, but they also need transformation," Borje said.

"We don't want them to just adapt, we want them to thrive and grow, and this particular agreement—through formulation of LCCAPs and capacitating them to access the PSF—will exactly do that," he added.

Puno said the signing of MOA with CCC is in line with First Gen's commitment to address climate change.

"Our mission of forging collaborative pathways for a decarbonized and regenerative future simply means that we cannot do it alone. Signing an agreement with the Climate Change Commission is completely aligned with what our company is trying to do, in addressing an important challenge that's ahead of us – climate change," he said.

Under the MOA, the CCC and First Gen will also strengthen initiatives that involve key stakeholders to promote science- and evidence-based risk assessment and sustain climate-smart leadership and governance among the target beneficiaries.

Borje said the ultimate goal of the partnership with First Gen is to safeguard the national interests, which include the "life, livelihood, and future" of all Filipinos.

"That's all we have to plan for, but it takes more than a village to do this. We need to work very closely together, and this partnership is key to making that happen," he said.

Following the MOA signing, seedlings of Narra, Ipil, Banuyo and Supa trees were planted at the BINHI Arboretum to kick-off the partnership.

## POLITIKO

### [CCC, First Gen sign MOU on Local Climate Change Action Plan](#)

By: Prince Golez

The Climate Change Commission (CCC) and First Gen Corporation (First Gen) signed a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA ) on Tuesday to assist local government units (LGUs) in mainstreaming climate change and gaining access to the People’s Survival Fund.

CCC Vice Chairperson and Executive Director Robert Borje and First Gen President and Chief Operating Officer Francis Giles Puno led the signing ceremony, the CCC said in a news release on Wednesday.

The partnership aims to enhance Local Climate Change Action Plans (LCCAPs) including updated climate and disaster risk assessments and greenhouse gas inventories, as well as develop PSF project proposals.

Beneficiary LGUs are as follows:

-Naria Aurora, Aurora

-Pantabangan and Carrangalan in Nueva Ecija

-Alfonso Castañeda, Nueva Vizcaya

-Lobo, Batangas

-Caramoan and Garchitorena in Camarines Sur

-Baungon, Impasug-ong, Libona, Manolo Fortich, and Talakag in Bukidnon; and

-Jabonga in Agusan del Norte.

As of January 19, 2023, 1,399 out of 1,715 LGUs (81.57%) had submitted their LCCAPs to the CCC. The Commission hopes to achieve 100 percent compliance by 2024 through partnerships and capacity-building initiatives.

This collaboration is part of the CCC and First Gen’s shared advocacy for increasing local community resilience to climate change and its impacts.

“Our LGUs, down to the barangays, are at the frontlines of climate change and its impacts. They need all the help they can get to have a fighting chance, but they also need transformation. We don’t want them to just adapt, we want them to thrive and grow, and this particular agreement—through formulation of eLCCAPs and capacitating them to access the PSF—will exactly do that,” said Borje.

For his part, Puno noted: “Our mission of forging collaborative pathways for a decarbonized and regenerative future simply means that we cannot do it alone. Signing an agreement with the Climate Change Commission is completely aligned with what our company is trying to do, in addressing an important challenge that’s ahead of us – climate change.”

The CCC and First Gen will also strengthen initiatives involving key stakeholders to advance science- and evidence-based risk assessment and maintain climate-smart leadership and governance among the target beneficiaries.

“At the end of the day, we have to safeguard our national interests, which for us means, ‘Buhay, kabuhayan, at kinabukasan ang nakataya.’ That’s all we have to plan for, but it takes more than a village to do this. We need to work very closely together, and this partnership is key to making that happen,” the CCC chief stressed.

Also present during the MOA signing held at the Eugenio Lopez Center in Antipolo, Rizal were CCC Chief-of-Staff Atty. Carol Kay Paquera, First Gen Vice President and Chief-of-Staff Shirley Cruz, Vice President for Corporate Communications Ricky Carandang, and Vice President for External Affairs and Security Ramon Araneta.

Seedlings of Narra, Ipil, Banuyo and Supa trees were also planted at the BINHI Arboretum to kick-off the partnership.

## **RADYO INQUIRER**

### **LGUs palalakasin para sa climate change campaign**

By: Chona Yu

Nakakuha ng matibay na kakampi ang mga lokal na pamahalaan sa Climate Change Commission para sa kanilang pagtugon sa mga epekto ng climate change sa bansa.

Ayon kay CCC Vice-Chairperson at Executive Director Robert Borje, nilagdaan na ng kanilang hanay at ni First Gen President at Chief Operating Officer Francis Giles Puno ang Memorandum of Agreement na susuporta sa LGUs upang pagandahin ang kanilang local climate change action plans at kung papaaano magkakaroon ng access sa people's survival funds.

Layunin din ng MOA na i-update ang climate and disaster risk assessments at greenhouse gas inventory ng mga LGUs.

Base sa talaan ng CCC hanggang noong Enero 19, 1,715 LGUs mula sa 1,399 ang nakapagsumite ng kanilang LCCAPS kung saan inaasahan ng komisyon na maabot ang 100 percent compliance sa taong 2024.

Binigyang-diin ni Borje na target din ng MOA na mas patatagin pa ang mga lokal na komunidad sa mga negatibong epekto ng climate change.

“Our LGUs, down to the barangays, are at the frontlines of climate change and its impacts. they need all the help they can get to have a fighting chance, but they also need transformation. we don't want them to just adapt, we want them to thrive and grow, and this particular agreement—through formulation of elccaps and capacitating them to access the psf—will exactly do that,” ayon kay Borje

Paliwanag pa ng opisyal na buhay, kabuhayan, at kinabukasan ang nakataya kaya kailangang magtrabaho ang gobyerno katuwang ang lahat ng stakeholders upang mapagtagumpayan ng bansa ang epekto ng climate change.

## THE MANILA TIMES

### [Climate change action plans of LGUs get boost](#)

By: Catherine S. Valente

THE Climate Change Commission (CCC) and power generation firm First Gen Corp. have signed a deal to help the local government units (LGUs) in implementing their climate change mitigation and adaptation programs.

CCC Vice Chairman and Executive Director Robert Borje and First Gen President and Chief Operating Officer Francis Giles Puno led the ceremonial signing of the memorandum of agreement (MoA) at the Eugenio Lopez Center in Antipolo, Rizal on Tuesday.

In a statement sent to reporters on Wednesday, the CCC said the MoA will capacitate the LGUs to mainstream climate change adaptation into national development and gain access to the People's Survival Fund (PSF), an annual fund for the implementation of climate change adaptation projects.

"The partnership aims to capacitate representatives from Maria Aurora, Aurora; Pantabangan and Carrangalan in Nueva Ecija; Alfonso Castañeda, Nueva Vizcaya; Lobo, Batangas; Caramoan and Garchitorea in Camarines Sur; Baungon, Impasug-ong, Libona, Manolo Fortich and Talakag in Bukidnon; and Jabonga in Agusan del Norte," the CCC said.

The deal also aims to enhance Local Climate Change Action Plans (LCCAPs), including updated climate and disaster risk assessments and greenhouse gas inventory and developing PSF project proposals.

"This collaboration forms part of both the CCC and First Gen's shared advocacy for strengthening local communities' resilience to climate change and its impacts," the CCC said.

As of January 19, the CCC said that around 81.57 percent or 1,399 out of 1,715 LGUs have submitted their LCCAPs to the commission.

The CCC expressed optimism that through partnerships and capacity-building initiatives, the LGUs' "100 percent compliance" is attainable by 2024.

"Our LGUs, down to the barangay, are at the frontlines of climate change and its impacts. They need all the help they can get to have a fighting chance, but they also need transformation," Borje said.

"We don't want them to just adapt, we want them to thrive and grow, and this particular agreement — through the formulation of LCCAPs and capacitating them to access the PSF — will exactly do that," he added.

Puno, for his part, said the signing of MoA with CCC is in line with First Gen's commitment to address climate change.

"Our mission of forging collaborative pathways for a decarbonized and regenerative future simply means that we cannot do it alone," Puno said.

"Signing an agreement with the Climate Change Commission is completely aligned with what our company is trying to do, in addressing an important challenge that's ahead of us — climate change," he added.

Under the MoA, the CCC and First Gen will also strengthen initiatives that involve key stakeholders to promote science- and evidence-based risk assessment and sustain climate-smart leadership and governance among the target beneficiaries.

"At the end of the day, we have to safeguard our national interests, which for us means, 'Buhay, kabuhayan, at kinabukasan ang nakataya' (Lives, livelihood, and the future are at stake)," Borje said.

"That's all we have to plan for, but it takes more than a village to do this. We need to work very closely together, and this partnership is key to making that happen," he added.

Following the MoA signing, seedlings of narra, ipil, banuyo and supa trees were planted at the Binhi Arboretum to kickoff the partnership.

The CCC was formed under Republic Act 9729 or the "Climate Change Act" signed on Oct. 23, 2009.

Meanwhile, according to its website, First Gen is one of the leading providers of clean and renewable power in the Philippines.

## THE PHILIPPINE STAR

### [CCC, clean energy firm sign agreement to enhance local climate action plans](#)

By: Gaea Katreena Cabico

MANILA, Philippines — The Climate Change Commission forged a partnership with a renewable energy company to support local government units in mainstreaming climate change and accessing finance for adaptation projects.

The partnership with First Gen Corporation aims to capacitate representatives from Maria Aurora in Aurora; Pantabangan and Carrangalan in Nueva Ecija; Alfonso Castañeda, Nueva Vizcaya; Lobo, Batangas; Caramoan and Garchitorena in Camarines Sur; Baungon, Impasug-ong, Libona, Manolo Fortich, and Talakag in Bukidnon; and Jabonga in Agusan del Norte in enhancing Local Climate Change Action Plans (LCCAPs).

An LCCAP is the action plan formulated by local governments that focuses on climate change adaptation and mitigation. It describes how LGUs plan to respond to the impacts of climate change and mainstream them into local land use plan, sectoral development plan, and investment program.

The enhanced LCCAPs should include updated climate and disaster risk assessments and greenhouse gas inventory, and People's Survival Fund (PSF) project proposals, the CCC said.

The PSF is an annual fund for LGUs and accredited local organizations to implement adaptation projects that will bolster the defenses of communities against climate change.

As of January 19, 1,399 or 82% of 1,715 LGUs have submitted their LCCAPs to the commission. The CCC hopes to achieve 100% compliance by 2024.

"Our LGUs, down to the barangays, are at the frontlines of climate change and its impacts. They need all the help they can get to have a fighting chance, but they also need transformation," said CCC vice chairperson and executive director Robert E.A. Borje.

"We don't want them to just adapt, we want them to thrive and grow," he added.

The CCC and First Gen will also strengthen initiatives to promote science- and evidence-based risk assessment, and sustain climate-smart leadership and governance among the target beneficiaries.

**=END=**