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President Marcos Jr. on Wednesday directed concerned agencies to ensure the Philippines' more active participation in the Loss and Damage (LD) Fund Board and in international environmental events as these would "contribute to influential and resourceful actions in combating climate change in the Philippines."

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President Ferdinand “Bongbong” R. Marcos Jr. wants high-risk communities to be prioritized in the National Adaptation Plan (NAP), according to the Palace on Thursday.

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By: Mary Joy F. Javier

The European Union (EU) has offered scholarship grants to Filipino students who are interested in studying in Europe.

## **THE PHILIPPINE STAR**

### **[Climate advocates tell DepEd: Time to solarize schools amid warming world](#)**

By: Cristina Chi

The Department of Education must consider powering schools with solar energy even after it has allegedly decided to bring back the old academic calendar to seek relief from the heat, a group of student-climate justice advocates said on Thursday, stressing the need for the government to pursue long-term solutions.

### [DENR, LGUs told to focus on climate change mitigation](#)

By: Alexis Romero

The Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) must come up with plans to enhance local efforts to mitigate climate change, according to President Marcos, who had described the problem as “the most pressing existential challenge of our time.”

### [Dumagat-Remontado folk to UN: China violated human rights in Kaliwa Dam project](#)

By: Gaea Katreena Cabico

The Dumagat-Remontado indigenous group, whose lands are affected by the Kaliwa Dam, accused China of breaching its international commitments on human rights, environment and climate change by funding and constructing the project.

### [How persons with disabilities are part of the climate solution](#)

By: Danna Peña

If Shiela May Aggarao were to describe COP28 in one word, it would be “intense.” From being chosen among 100 International Youth Climate Delegates out of 11,000 global applicants, attending capacity-building sessions before the 2023 UN Climate Conference (also known as COP28), and participating in the two-week conference in Dubai, Shiela’s experience felt nothing short of the word.

## **CCC IN THE NEWS:**

### **PRESIDENTIAL COMMUNICATIONS OFFICE**

### [PBBM directs agencies, LGUs to focus on high-risk regions in implementing National Adaptation Plan, raise awareness on climate adaptation](#)

President Ferdinand R. Marcos Jr. wants concerned agencies to focus on high-risk regions in the country in the implementation of the National Adaptation Plan (NAP) and conduct an aggressive information dissemination campaign to raise public awareness on the adaptation plan, as well as the risks posed by the changing climate.

**PHILIPPINE NEWS AGENCY**

**[PBBM orders implementation of NAP 2023-2050 in ‘high-risk’ regions](#)**

By: Ruth Abbey Gita-Carlos

President Ferdinand R. Marcos Jr. has directed concerned agencies to implement the National Adaptation Plan (NAP) 2023-2050 and conduct an intensified public awareness campaign in “high-risk” regions, Malacañang said on Thursday.

**Information and Knowledge Management Division**

## DAILY TRIBUNE

### [Marcos says Phi 'advancing towards a low-carbon future'](#)

By: Tiziana Celine Piatos

President Ferdinand Marcos Jr. said that the Philippines is already making steps toward a low-carbon country in the future.

In a statement posted on his Facebook page on Wednesday evening, Marcos reiterated the country's unwavering dedication to tackling climate change after securing seat on the Loss and Damage Fund Board last year.

"We're advancing towards a low-carbon future!" Marcos said after his meeting with the COP28 delegation in Malacañang.

"Our participation in the Loss and Damage Fund Board at COP28 (United Nations Climate Change Conference of the Parties) underscores our resolute commitment to global climate action," he added.

The Loss and Damage Fund, which was agreed at the opening plenary of the first day the Cop28 summit in Dubai last year, aims to help developing nations most vulnerable to the adverse effects of climate change.

Securing a seat on the Board positions the Philippines at the forefront of global efforts to address climate-induced losses and damages.

## **MALAYA BUSINESS INSIGHT**

### **PH to take active role in climate fora**

By: Jocelyn Montemayor

President Marcos Jr. on Wednesday directed concerned agencies to ensure the Philippines' more active participation in the Loss and Damage (LD) Fund Board and in international environmental events as these would "contribute to influential and resourceful actions in combating climate change in the Philippines."

The Presidential Communications Office, in a social media post, said the President in his meeting with the Philippine Delegation of the Conference of Parties (COP28) led by Environment Secretary Maria Antonia Yulo-Loyzaga, also ordered the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) to improve the climate change mitigation efforts at the local government unit (LGUs) level and provide guidance and assistance to the areas that require it, as well as to strengthen programs that would reduce carbon emission.

"President Marcos ordered all agencies to ensure the country's climate plans are considered in the different policies. The President also directed the country's active participation in the Loss and Damage Fund Board. PBBM emphasized the government's full-force action in reducing the country's carbon emissions)," PCO said.

During the meeting, Loyzaga reported on the key outcomes of COP28 and presented the draft of the Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC) Implementation Plan 2023-2030 and the Philippine National Adaptation Plan (NAP) 2023-2050.

Loyzaga, in her report, said the key outcomes of COP28 includes the improvement of energy capacity by 2030; transitioning away from fossil fuels in energy systems in a just and orderly manner; accelerating zero-and-low emissions technologies and reduction of emission from road transport; adopting the United Arab Emirates (UAE) Framework for Climate Resilience by 2030; commitment budget for LD Funds; operationalization of LD with the World Bank as Interim Hosting; and the call for scale-up in concessional and grant for climate change.

Loyzaga also reported on some of the "key wins" for the country which focused on the: nexus of biodiversity and climate action, inclusion of workforce as important implements, and the firm commitment to use available science, and emissions avoidance.

She also called for the adoption of both NAP and NDC as basis for climate, approval of the adaptation and implementation plans upon formal concurrence of relevant agencies

for sectoral application, and urged agencies to mainstream both plans in the development planning and budget processes of the government.

Loyzaga requested actions from all agencies such as cascading NAP and NDC to national government agencies and local government units as inputs to policies, and strategically engaging the private sector and development partners to address adaptation, mitigation and disaster risk arising.

The President was supposed to attend the 28th annual United Nations climate meeting in Dubai in the UAE that was held from November 30 to December 12 but skipped the event due to “important developments in the hostage situation involving 17 Filipino seafarers in the Red Sea.”

Loyzaga instead represented Marcos.

## MANILA BULLETIN

### [Recto wants climate-change-focused insurance options](#)

By: Chino S. Leyco

The Department of Finance (DOF) has urged the Insurance Commission (IC) to develop new products aimed at addressing emerging challenges, notably climate change.

Finance Secretary Ralph G. Recto said there is the need to develop new products, implement innovative solutions, and utilize new technologies to address the country's vulnerability to disasters and climate change.

“The Commission should take a leading role in pioneering creative, out-of-the-box solutions to tackle these emerging issues,” Recto said in a message delivered by Officer-in-Charge National Treasurer Sharon P. Almanza during the IC’s anniversary celebration.

Situated in the typhoon belt and the Pacific Ring of Fire, the Philippines regularly incurs losses and damage, equivalent to 0.5 percent of its annual gross domestic product (GDP), mainly due to unpredictable climate.

The country is affected by approximately 20 tropical cyclones per year, along with nearly daily seismic activity.

Earlier, Malayan Insurance Co. Inc. revealed that non-life insurance premiums in the Philippines posted a 50 percent increase last year, largely due to the hardening reinsurance rates and the country's unfavorable risk rating.

The surge in reinsurance costs has been particularly pronounced for countries exposed to catastrophic risks, such as the Philippines.

Recto also urged the IC to actively engage with schools and universities to promote financial education among students.

Recto explained that this initiative will contribute to nurturing a generation of financially literate individuals who are capable of making wise financial decisions from an early age.

“A financially literate population is crucial for the development of a robust capital market and a globally competitive Philippine economy,” the DOF chief said.

“Additionally, we should intensify nationwide financial literacy initiatives, covering a broad spectrum of insurance products available in the Philippine market and extending beyond reach to our Overseas Filipinos,” he added.

The finance chief said that a reliable insurance industry helps more people get financial protection, which is important for making people stronger financially when faced with uncertainties.

“Digital technology will be the key that unlocks not only greater access to a wide range of financial products and services, but also a more responsive, reliable, and effective insurance industry,” Recto said.

## PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

### [PH commitment to climate action affirmed](#)

By: Julie Aurelio

The Philippines will be joining more international environmental events in the future as part of its firm commitment to global climate actions toward a low-carbon future.

President Ferdinand “Bongbong” Marcos Jr. gave this assurance on Wednesday in a meeting with the country’s delegates to last year’s United Nations Climate Change Conference of the Parties (COP28) in Dubai.

In posts on his Facebook and Instagram accounts, Marcos spoke of COP28’s key outcomes like the creation of the Loss and Damage Fund that would help vulnerable nations deal with the effects of climate change. “We’re advancing toward a low-carbon future. With a seat on the Loss and Damage Fund Board at COP28, our commitment to global climate action remains resolute,” he said.

Marcos added that the country’s National Adaptation Plan and National Determined Contribution Implementation Plan 2023-2030 would guide its participation in global efforts. In a post on Radio Television Malacañang’s Facebook page on Wednesday, the President also ordered the Department of Environment and Natural Resources and other government agencies to “prioritize addressing specific local environmental issues first.”

## [Prioritize high-risk communities in climate change plans — Marcos](#)

By: Jean Mangaluz

President Ferdinand “Bongbong” R. Marcos Jr. wants high-risk communities to be prioritized in the National Adaptation Plan (NAP), according to the Palace on Thursday.

The NAP is a country’s three-decade climate change framework to build resilience to climate change.

“The best that we can do is number one, be very specific on what is necessary for the Philippines. If we take care of the Philippines, we can bet with confidence that we are doing our part,” said Marcos during a meeting with officials of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) on Wednesday.

“The communities that are high risk, ano kailnagan nila. Let’s focus on that,” he added.

(The communities that are high risk, let’s find out what they need. Let’s focus on that.)

The DENR also presented the Nationally Determined Contribution Implementation Plan, as well as the outcome of the United Nations Climate Change Conference.

Environment and Natural Resources Secretary Maria Loyzaga led the Philippine delegation to the conference in November 2023.

## **PHILIPPINE INFORMATION AGENCY**

### **EU offers scholarship grants to Filipino students**

By Mary Joy F. Javier

The European Union (EU) has offered scholarship grants to Filipino students who are interested in studying in Europe.

In his visit to this city, Luc Vèron, ambassador of the European Union to the Philippines, discussed possible partnership programs with Tuguegarao City Mayor Maila Ting-Que to include the exchange program for students and researchers.

Vèron said the program is in support of the city's educational programs and to allow the scholars to explore their potential in foreign educational institutions.

"Every year the number of our scholars is gradually increasing. We now have around 70-75 scholars sent to EU countries from the Philippines to study," the ambassador said.

He also expressed appreciation to Filipino students who were successful in applying for the scholarship program.

"Generally, Filipino students are very good," said Vèron.

The scholarship program, he said, is intended for students taking up bachelor's degrees in any chosen field. It involves a direct application process through the tertiary schools' office assigned for foreign exchange programs.

EU Ambassador to the Philippines Luc Vèron discusses possible partnership programs with Mayor Maila Ting-Que during his visit to Tuguegarao City. (Photo courtesy of TCIO) He also said a higher education fair is conducted once a year with different higher education institutions to introduce the scholarship program to other students.

"There's a balance between getting out of your comfort zone and having the comfort to make the best experience," advised Vèron to the students.

On the other hand, Mayor Maila Ting-Que expressed her gratitude to the EU for introducing the opportunity to Tuguegarao City students.

The mayor is hopeful that there will be successful Tuguegaraoño students to conquer a degree title from the EU.

Meanwhile, the two officials also discussed collaborations for climate change mitigation programs, and on trade and industry in Tuguegarao City.

## THE PHILIPPINE STAR

### [Climate advocates tell DepEd: Time to solarize schools amid warming world](#)

By: Cristina Chi

The Department of Education must consider powering schools with solar energy even after it has allegedly decided to bring back the old academic calendar to seek relief from the heat, a group of student-climate justice advocates said on Thursday, stressing the need for the government to pursue long-term solutions.

Zyoen Garcia of the Stewards and Volunteers for the Earth Philippines (SAVE Philippines) warned that extreme weather events have become a year-round threat and that moving the start of classes to June will still force students and teachers to deal with strong supertyphoons.

“Because of the worsening climate crisis, we no longer have what we used to call ‘normal’ weather that is conducive and safe for students and teachers,” Garcia said in a statement.

Since 2023, teacher and student groups have clamored to bring back the old academic calendar that begins in June to avoid holding classes during the dry season, after extremely hot temperatures led to a rise in student absences.

DepEd last week allegedly decided to schedule the next start of classes in July for the school year 2024-2025) as part of its gradual return to the old calendar that spans June to March, according to teacher groups who met with DepED officials.

DepEd has yet to issue formal guidelines for the change. During her second Basic Education Report on Thursday, Vice President and DepEd Secretary Sara Duterte said the department is still “awaiting the results of the consultation” with teacher groups and parents.

Schedule change a ‘band aid’ solution?

Garcia said that changing the school calendar is a “band-aid solution” that does not resolve the country’s continued reliance on fossil fuels.

“It is not surprising that (the government does) not have the political will to promote actual solutions to the climate crisis and invest in adaptation and transition to renewable energy because they themselves are the protectors of the status quo,” Garcia added.

As an alternative, Garcia said that DepEd must push for the transition of schools to “rely on solar and other forms of renewable energy instead of fossil fuels.”

“But the youth cannot also wait for those in position to suddenly have a change of heart,” Garcia said.

“As youth that are directly affected by the worsening climate crisis and inheritors of whatever world is left for us, we must also take action and demand the government and institutions to curb all destructive programs and policies and transition to renewable energy,” she added.

President Ferdinand Marcos Jr. vowed in his second State of the Nation Address that he would push for the retrofitting of schools and facilities to be “climate-ready and disaster-proof.”

A climate-ready and disaster-proof school refers to a “safe, resilient, learning-conducive, inclusive and green school infrastructure” that protects students and education personnel from disasters and climate risks, according to Department of Education (DepEd) Order No. 19 s. 2023.

Duterte did not mention any concrete plans by the department to disaster-proof public school classrooms in her second Basic Education Report on Thursday. She did, however, mention that DepEd has partnered with the World Bank and the Asian Development Bank to strengthen the resilience of school infrastructure and climate change-resilient education.

## [DENR, LGUs told to focus on climate change mitigation](#)

By: Alexis Romero

The Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) must come up with plans to enhance local efforts to mitigate climate change, according to President Marcos, who had described the problem as “the most pressing existential challenge of our time.”

Climate change mitigation at the local level was discussed during Marcos’ meeting with the Philippine delegation to the 28th Session of the Conference of Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (COP28) at Malacañang.

“He (Marcos) issues a directive to the DENR and all concerned agencies to prioritize addressing... specific local environmental issues first, emphasizing that breaking down specific plans to improve climate change mitigation efforts at a local level would benefit the country as a whole,” the Radio Television Malacañang (RTVM) said in a Facebook post.

“He also suggests providing guidance and assistance to areas that require it with support from various LGUs (local government units) across different sectors,” it added.

In a statement, the Presidential Communications Office (PCO) said Marcos instructed agencies to focus on high-risk regions in the implementation of the National Adaptation Plan and to conduct an aggressive information campaign to raise awareness about it.

The National Adaptation Plan seeks to steadily lessen climate-related loss and damage and build the Philippines’ capacity toward transformative adaptation, resilience and sustainable economic development by 2050.

“It’s a big, big (task). This covers three decades and the entire country. It’s a completely different situation when it comes to climate change... I think that’s the approach that we should take. We have to try and work our way down through the system – the economic system – so that we can address the specific situations, the specific conditions (of each area),” Marcos was quoted by the PCO statement as saying.

COP28 was held from Nov. 30 to Dec. 12 in Dubai.

The creation of a loss and damage fund that would support climate change-related projects was approved during the summit, a development described by the UN Climate Change as the “beginning of the end of the fossil fuel era.” According to the body, the approval laid the ground for a “swift, just and equitable transition, underpinned by deep emissions cuts and scaled-up finance.”

The Philippines has secured a seat in the inaugural Loss and Damage Fund Board.

In a recent statement, Marcos said the seat would give the country a voice in the management of all funding allocated for climate change mitigation and adaptation.

The Philippines will also represent the Asia Pacific Group in the board along with the United Arab Emirates, Saudi Arabia and Pakistan in a term-sharing setup. The country will serve as a full member in 2024 and 2026 and will be an alternate member in 2025.

In the same meeting, Marcos agreed that the Philippines should join international environmental events, saying it would contribute to “influential and resourceful actions” in combating climate change in the country.

Environment Secretary Maria Antonia Yulo-Loyzaga discussed the improvement of energy capacity by 2030; transitioning away from fossil fuels in energy systems in a just and orderly manner; accelerating zero-and-low emissions technologies and reduction of emission from road transport.

Loyzaga also presented the country’s gains on biodiversity and climate action, the inclusion of workforce as “important implements” and its commitment to use the available science on emissions avoidance.

She noted that there are ongoing bilateral projects on the adaptation and resilience of local governments. These projects include the Strengthening Institutions and Empowering Localities Against Disasters and Climate Change in the Philippines backed by Australia and the US-funded Climate Resilient Cities.

## [Dumagat-Remontado folk to UN: China violated human rights in Kaliwa Dam project](#)

By: Gaea Katreena Cabico

The Dumagat-Remontado indigenous group, whose lands are affected by the Kaliwa Dam, accused China of breaching its international commitments on human rights, environment and climate change by funding and constructing the project.

In their joint submission to the United Nations Human Rights Council (UNHRC) for the fourth Universal Periodic Review (UPR) of the People's Republic of China, Dumagat-Remontado groups said that their report demonstrates China's "lack of meaningful progress" to fulfill its extraterritorial obligations on human rights under international law.

At least 10,000 members of the Dumagat-Remontado community in the southern portion of the Sierra Madre Mountain Range are "adversely affected" by the project. "[Beijing] has not made significant advancement in its commitments in the last UPR to regulate, prevent, and ensure accountability for human rights abuses outside of China that are attributed to State or non-state business entities," the joint submission read.

UNHRC is currently examining China's human rights record in a meeting in Geneva this week. UPR is an examination that all 193 UN member states must undergo every four to five years to assess their human rights record.

The Dumagat-Remontado groups said that the New Centennial Water Source-Kaliwa Dam Project (NCWS-KDP) violates the indigenous peoples' rights to cultural integrity, ancestral domain, adequate standard of living, and self-governance and empowerment.

The groups also said that the P12.2-billion Kaliwa Dam damages the Kaliwa River Forest Reserve, a declared watershed, putting the area's natural resources and biodiversity integrity at risk.

They added that the forest degradation and deforestation caused by the dam's construction will reduce the area's capacity to contribute to climate change mitigation and adaptation. The Sierra Madre Mountain Range serves as the country's shield from cyclones and a carbon sink.

Kaliwa Dam is an infrastructure flagship project under the government's Build, Build, Build program. It is funded by a loan from the Export-Import Bank of China and contracted to the state-owned China Energy Engineering Corporation.

The dam is expected to address Metro Manila's water problems by supplying some 600 million liters a day to the capital region's 14 million people.

The Dumagat-Remontado indigenous cultural communities urged China to adopt a legal framework that would prevent and address risks to human rights defenders, and conduct due diligence including human rights and environmental impact assessments.

"Abuse of such rights can be avoided, and the negative impacts on the enjoyment of these rights caused or contributed to by their decisions and operations, and those of entities they control can be accounted for," the submission read.

The report also called on China to support an independent investigation within a month after the UPR "to avoid further harm" as well as remedies due to the Dumagat-Remontado.

Last Tuesday, Philippine Deputy Permanent Representative to the UN in Geneva Kristine Leilani Salle said that Manila "recognizes China's strong advocacy for the right to development in the multilateral sphere and lauds its determined efforts to operationalize this right domestically resulting in significant gains in poverty alleviation."

The UPR working group will adopt the report on China's human rights record this Friday.

## How persons with disabilities are part of the climate solution

By: Danna Peña

If Shiela May Aggarao were to describe COP28 in one word, it would be “intense.” From being chosen among 100 International Youth Climate Delegates out of 11,000 global applicants, attending capacity-building sessions before the 2023 UN Climate Conference (also known as COP28), and participating in the two-week conference in Dubai, Shiela’s experience felt nothing short of the word.

“We are so tired of being called and treated as vulnerable,” Shiela shares to Young STAR. While this sentiment is laced with a hint of exasperation, the steadfastness in her voice embodies a fiery perseverance that is undoubtedly promising. “We are part of the solution,” she proclaims. “We can be part of the solution.”

Being visually impaired since 2005 and raised in Valenzuela City where her home was “like a catch-basin” for flooding, Shiela is no stranger to extreme weather events caused by the climate crisis and its impact on persons with disabilities.

Shiela, a millennial feminist who loves playing board games with friends and proudly identifies as a Ravenclaw, is deeply involved in organizations that champion her advocacies. She is an active member of the Inclusive Generation Equality Collective, as well as two Philippine organizations of persons with disabilities: the Nationwide Organization of Visually-Impaired Empowered Ladies (NOVEL) and Life Haven Center for Independent Living.

“Climate action is just one of the things that I do because gender and disability are cross-cutting,” Shiela shares. While she doesn’t claim to be a specialist on the technicalities of climate change, she is an expert on gender equality and disability inclusion, having joined and co-facilitated disaster risk-reduction training and community-based inclusive development programs.

So when her colleague Dr. Jun Bernardino from Life Haven CIL linked her to an application to the International Youth Climate Delegate Program (IYCDP), the first COP28 program of its kind that embedded 100 youth participants within the global climate policy negotiation process, she had to seize the opportunity.

Citing a 2023 report by the Disability Inclusive Climate Action Research Program at McGill University and the International Disability Alliance (IDA), Shiela recounts how there are only 39 out of 195 signatories of the Paris Agreement—not even a quarter—that included persons with disabilities in their National Determined Contributions (NDCs),

or the plans that state a country's adaptation and mitigation measures for the climate crisis.

"I took the chance because disability is an angle that isn't often discussed in COP. I thought, maybe I had the chance to get in."

After the deliberation process, Shiela was accepted at the age of 32. Out of the 100 chosen delegates, only five are persons with disabilities. "While there needs to be more representation, it's a good start," Shiela shares, considering that IYCDP is in its infancy. Shiela was the only delegate from this pool with a visual impairment.

Led by Youth Climate Champion, Her Excellency Shamma Al Mazrui, and in collaboration with YOUNGO, the UNFCCC's Official Children and Youth Constituency, the IYCDP entails a demanding and rigorous experience for its delegates.

Months leading up to COP28, the program held capacity-building sessions that covered topics like negotiation streams (adaptation, mitigation, global stocktake, and loss and damage) and the UNFCCC constituencies. Harvard Kennedy School conducted training sessions on Negotiations, Conflict Management, and Interest-Based Negotiations, wherein youth delegates were taught different negotiation styles that would be beneficial during COP28.

Apart from being intellectually demanding, the event itself was physically taxing. "It was really hard to move around. While there were buggy carts available, one needed to walk a couple of blocks to reach the station," Shiela recalls, mentioning how the city's heat and the vastness of Expo City Dubai made it challenging to navigate the area.

Spanning two weeks from Nov. 30 to Dec. 13, COP28 featured numerous negotiating sessions and thousands of events. While Shiela initially felt overwhelmed and started second-guessing her impact during the first few days—a sentiment that several co-delegates also felt—she persisted and focused on what was at hand.

While disability inclusion was her overarching advocacy, Shiela concentrated on climate finance, gender, and education as her main areas of interest. "Primarily, I was engaged in the youth program and youth constituency as a person with a disability. Secondly, I was engaged in the Disability Caucus. Thirdly, I interacted with Philippine CSOs and the Philippine delegation, attending daily meetings and participating in discussions."

Challenges presented themselves in Shiela's COP28 journey. This included the need for more substantial efforts and concrete plans in disability inclusion, as well as

holistically integrating persons with disabilities within the community and not being treated as a group that operates separately.

Before the event, Shiela also attended meetings with COP28's accessibility consultant and had bilateral meetings with Harvard to ensure accessibility for persons with disabilities. In addition, she had to lobby for full funding for her personal assistant's presence during the event. Although these opportunities were helpful, they entailed considerable time and effort, proving how the playing field is still not equal for all.

Shifting focus, Shiela enumerates a handful of triumphs. "One of the wins of COP28 was institutionalizing the Youth Climate Champion because it opens up more participation from the youth." She also expresses joy at an outcome made possible by the youth's involvement: "I'm so happy that persons with disabilities were mentioned in the COP28 Global Youth Statement, which includes the demands of the youth when it comes to climate change and climate action."

Moreover, Shiela and her co-delegates sought to incorporate a disability inclusion session that wasn't initially planned in the program. This session allowed persons with disabilities to share how climate change affects them and how they can be part of the solution.

"The stories of the household and the community should be the center of any COP and any climate action," she emphasizes, citing her research with Life Haven CIL in Laoang, Northern Samar. This study revealed that persons with disabilities are not included in the municipality's extensive climate action plan, with poverty emerging as a significant barrier that hinders their adaptation to climate change.

"Disabilities are not the problem," Shiela points out. "It's the social and environmental barriers that restrict persons with disabilities on their participation and personal development in the community."

Moving past COP28, Shiela's plea to the Philippine government is to comprehensively review the National Climate Action Plan for 2011 to 2028 and to justly incorporate persons with disabilities in all its stages. Her next agenda also involves sharing her research findings, participating in more projects, engaging with CSOs, and promoting the capacity building of women with disabilities in climate action.

While COP28 brought forth prospects and hurdles, what's certain is that there remains a collective appeal for a future COP—and society—that is more equitable and inclusive.

Shiela, the first and only IYCDP youth delegate in COP28 hailing from the Philippines, eloquently punctuates the point: “A climate-resilient world is not possible if there’s one sector or group of people that is left out.”

## CCC IN THE NEWS:

### PRESIDENTIAL COMMUNICATIONS OFFICE

#### [PBBM directs agencies, LGUs to focus on high-risk regions in implementing National Adaptation Plan, raise awareness on climate adaptation](#)

President Ferdinand R. Marcos Jr. wants concerned agencies to focus on high-risk regions in the country in the implementation of the National Adaptation Plan (NAP) and conduct an aggressive information dissemination campaign to raise public awareness on the adaptation plan, as well as the risks posed by the changing climate.

The Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) met with the President and other concerned agencies at the Malacañan Palace on Wednesday to discuss the key outcomes of the COP28 and present the draft Nationally Determined Contribution Implementation Plan (NDCIP) 2023-2030 and the Philippine National Adaptation Plan (NAP) 2023-2050.

“It’s a big, big (task). This covers three decades and the entire country. It’s a completely different situation when it comes to climate change. Anyway, I think that’s the approach that we should take. We have to try and work our way down through the system—the economic system—so that we can address the specific situations, the specific conditions (of each area),” he said during the meeting.

He said all efforts under the NDCIP and NAP must be for the interest of the Philippines, especially those in high-risk areas.

“The best that we can do is number one, be very specific on what is necessary for the Philippines. If we take care of the Philippines, we can bet with confidence that we are doing our part. So, asikasuhin muna natin ‘yung Pilipinas, kung what is good for us. So, the communities that are high risk, ano kailangan nila. Let’s focus on that,” the President said.

In addition, he pointed out, different government agencies and local government units (LGUs) involved in carrying out the plan must fully understand the NDCIP and NAP and what they intend to achieve in order for them to implement them in their programs. The President also said ordinary people must also have a full grasp of the two plans as they relate to their own condition and environment.

Environment Secretary Antonia Yulo-Loyzaga told the President that there are several ongoing bilateral projects that actually deal with adaptation and resilience of LGUs.

These projects include the ongoing \$15-\$16 million Strengthening Institutions and Empowering Localities Against Disasters and Climate Change in the Philippines (SHIELD) project backed by Australian government and a US-funded project called Climate Resilient Cities focusing on metropolis.

“Australia on provinces and special regions including BARMM and Metro Manila. There is a Canadian offer for another... also LGU-based for adaptation. So kasama po namin ang DILG in that particular implementations. So there is already bilateral funding, specifically for the localization of adaptation and resilience,” said Yulo-Loyzaga.

In December last year, the DENR and Climate Change Commission (CCC), in partnership with the ADB and Government of the United Kingdom, conducted a high-level panel discussion on the Philippines’ commitment in the NAP and NDCIP.

The discussion also served as a platform in mobilizing financing for these national plans.

The NAP aims to steadily reduce climate-related loss and damage as well as build the country’s adaptive capacity towards transformative adaptation, resilience, and sustainable economic development by 2050.

The NDCIP is the Philippines’ commitment to the Paris Agreement which sets to bring about sustainable industrial development; eradication of poverty and provision of basic needs; securing social and climate justice; and energy security.

## PHILIPPINE NEWS AGENCY

### [PBBM orders implementation of NAP 2023-2050 in 'high-risk' regions](#)

By: Ruth Abbey Gita-Carlos

President Ferdinand R. Marcos Jr. has directed concerned agencies to implement the National Adaptation Plan (NAP) 2023-2050 and conduct an intensified public awareness campaign in “high-risk” regions, Malacañang said on Thursday.

Marcos issued the directive during a meeting with the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) and other concerned agencies at Malacañan Palace in Manila on Wednesday to discuss the key outcomes of the 28th Conference of the Parties (COP28), Communications Secretary Cheloy Garafil said in a statement.

Garafil said the NAP 2023-2050 and the draft Nationally Determined Contribution Implementation Plan (NDCIP) 2023-2030 were also presented to Marcos during the meeting.

In his meeting with the DENR and other concerned agencies, Marcos said all efforts under the NDCIP and NAP must be in the interest of the Philippines, especially those in high-risk areas.

“It’s a big, big (task). This covers three decades and the entire country. It’s a completely different situation when it comes to climate change. Anyway, I think that’s the approach that we should take. We have to try and work our way down through the system—the economic system—so that we can address the specific situations, the specific conditions (of each area),” Marcos said, as quoted by the Presidential Communications Office.

“The best that we can do is number one, be very specific on what is necessary for the Philippines. If we take care of the Philippines, we can bet with confidence that we are doing our part. So, asikasuhin muna natin ‘yung Pilipinas (Let’s take care of the Philippines first), what is good for us. So, the communities that are high risk, ano kailangan nila (What do they need)? Let’s focus on that,” he added.

Marcos also emphasized the importance of providing guidance and assistance to areas that need support from various local government units (LGUs) to improve climate change mitigation efforts at a local level that would benefit the country as a whole.

He said concerned government agencies and LGUs must have a full comprehension of the NDCIP 2023-2030 and NAP 2023-2050 to ensure the effective implementation of the plans.

He added ordinary people must also have a full grasp of the two plans, as well as of the risks posed by the changing climate.

DENR Secretary Maria Antonia Yulo-Loyzaga told Marcos about the several ongoing bilateral projects that deal with adaptation and resilience of LGUs.

Yulo-Loyzaga said the projects include the ongoing USD15-million to USD16-million Strengthening Institutions and Empowering Localities Against Disasters and Climate Change in the Philippines (SHIELD) project backed by Australian government and a United States (US)-funded project called Climate Resilient Cities focusing on metropolis.

“There is a Canadian offer for another... also LGU-based for adaptation. So kasama po namin ang DILG (So, the DILG is involved) in these particular implementations. So, there is already bilateral funding, specifically for the localization of adaptation and resilience,” she said.

In a statement posted on state-run Radio Television Malacañang, Marcos also expressed his intention to engage the private sector and development partners to strengthen the country’s climate change adaptation and disaster risk management.

Marcos also stressed the need to participate in international environmental events, saying such participation would contribute to an influential and resourceful actions in combating climate change in the Philippines.

In December last year, the DENR and the Climate Change Commission (CCC), in partnership with the Asian Development Bank and the government of the United Kingdom, conducted a high-level panel discussion on the Philippines’ commitment in the NAP and NDCIP.

The discussion also served as a platform in mobilizing financing for these national plans.

The NAP aims to steadily reduce climate-related loss and damage as well as build the country’s adaptive capacity towards transformative adaptation, resilience and sustainable economic development by 2050.

The NDCIP, on the other hand, is the Philippines' commitment to the Paris Agreement which sets to bring about sustainable industrial development; eradication of poverty and provision of basic needs; securing social and climate justice; and energy security.

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