



NEWS ROUNDUP

31 JANUARY 2024 [08:40 am]

- Marcos asks Vietnam to support PH bid to host climate disaster fund
- NCCA Gallery exhibits art crafted from waste
- PH, Vietnam ink 5-year rice trade agreement
- [Opinion] What I learned from Senator Loren
- PH, Viet Nam sign agreements on rice trade, agriculture, SCS incident prevention and management
- PBBM keen on PH-Vietnam collab for land, maritime pollution abatement
- Marcos Calls Vietnam To Support PH Bid To Host Climate Fund
- DBP lends P2B for infra, climate change projects in Palawan
- Multi-hazard platform empowers Filipinos to report disasters in real-time

GMA NEWS

[Marcos asks Vietnam to support PH bid to host climate disaster fund](#)

By: Anna Felicia Bajo

President Ferdinand "Bongbong" Marcos Jr. on Tuesday asked for Vietnam's support for the Philippines' bid to host the Loss and Damage Fund, which seeks to provide financial assistance to countries that are most vulnerable and and impacted by climate change.

MANILA BULLETIN

[NCCA Gallery exhibits art crafted from waste](#)

By: Mat Richter

Explore the blend of sustainability and creativity at Maria Tuazon's "Repurposing the Future" eco-art exhibit at the NCCA Gallery in Intramuros, extended till Jan. 31.

[PH, Vietnam ink 5-year rice trade agreement](#)

By: Betheena Unite

As expected, the Philippines and Vietnam signed a five-year agreement on rice trade during President Marcos's state visit.

[Opinion] What I learned from Senator Loren

By: Anna Mae Lamentillo

I was still in college at the University of the Philippines Los Baños (UPLB) when I first met Senate President Pro Tempore Loren Legarda. Little did I know that a few years after that meeting, I will not only be able to cross paths with her again, but also be mentored by her.

PCO

PH, Viet Nam sign agreements on rice trade, agriculture, SCS incident prevention and management

The Philippines and Viet Nam on Tuesday signed agreements on rice trade cooperation, incident prevention and management in the South China Sea, agriculture and cultural cooperation during the state visit of President Ferdinand R. Marcos Jr. to Viet Nam.

PHILIPPINE NEWS AGENCY

PBBM keen on PH-Vietnam collab for land, maritime pollution abatement

By: Ruth Abbey Gita-Carlos

The Philippines is open to forging partnership with Vietnam to address “land-based and maritime pollution,” President Ferdinand R. Marcos Jr. said on Tuesday.

POLITIKO

Marcos Calls Vietnam To Support PH Bid To Host Climate Fund

By: Prince Golez

President Ferdinand Marcos Jr. champions a sustainable future, pushing for the Philippines to host the Loss and Damage Fund. Amidst discussions with Vietnamese leaders, he emphasizes the importance of a circular economy in ASEAN, highlighting the country's commitment to innovative environmental solutions and low carbon growth.

THE MANILA TIMES

[DBP lends P2B for infra, climate change projects in Palawan](#)

State-owned Development Bank of the Philippines (DBP) extended a P2 billion loan to the provincial government of Palawan to support vital public infrastructure projects, including the upgrade of the province's road network and to beef up its disaster risk reduction initiatives.

THE PHILIPPINE STAR

[Multi-hazard platform empowers Filipinos to report disasters in real-time](#)

By: Gaea Katreena Cabico

Filipinos can now report and share information about floods, earthquakes, volcanic eruptions, and cyclones in their communities directly from their mobile phones with the launch of a multi-hazard platform.

Information and Knowledge Management Division

GMA NEWS

Marcos asks Vietnam to support PH bid to host climate disaster fund

By: Anna Felicia Bajo

President Ferdinand "Bongbong" Marcos Jr. on Tuesday asked for Vietnam's support for the Philippines' bid to host the Loss and Damage Fund, which seeks to provide financial assistance to countries that are most vulnerable and impacted by climate change.

"The offer to host the Board of the Fund is in line with the Philippines' long-standing engagement on discussions of this Fund for the past decades, and it is our belief that all States must contribute to the success of its institutional architecture," Marcos said during his bilateral meeting with Vietnamese President Vo Van Thuong.

"We hope for the support of Viet Nam in our bid to host the Board of the Fund in the Philippines," Marcos added.

Earlier, Environment Secretary Ma. Antonia Yulo-Loyzaga announced that the Philippines garnered a seat on the board of the climate disaster fund.

Loyzaga said the Philippines' next job would be "to work with the rest of the board to see how we can have a proper host for the board itself."

Meanwhile, Marcos is also hoping to work with Vietnam on projects aimed towards land-based and marine pollution abatement, given that both countries are vulnerable to climate change.

Marcos also mentioned that the Vietnamese community has grown in the Philippines.

"They have contributed greatly through our society, to our workforce and have become a very crucial part now of the areas where they live. They have formed communities that, again, are much appreciated by the Filipinos," Marcos said.

"And, the relationship between the Philippines, the Vietnamese in the Philippines, I think serves as a very good example on what we can achieve. I would like to once again express my assurance that the Philippines will remain a steadfast partner to Vietnam, and the robust bond between our nations fills me with optimism for the future of our relationship," he added.

MANILA BULLETIN

[NCCA Gallery exhibits art crafted from waste](#)

By: Mat Richter

Explore the blend of sustainability and creativity at Maria Tuazon's "Repurposing the Future" eco-art exhibit at the NCCA Gallery in Intramuros, extended till Jan. 31.

"Through my art, I reuse and repurpose discarded materials to create unique and meaningful pieces, while also using art to raise awareness about climate change and waste," said Tuazon.

The Legazpi-based freelance artist's eco-masterpieces range from acrylic paintings to mixed media works — all embedded with environmental advocacy that transcends the gallery.

Tuazon's solo exhibit opens from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m., and entrance is free.

[PH, Vietnam ink 5-year rice trade agreement](#)

By: Betheena Unite

As expected, the Philippines and Vietnam signed a five-year agreement on rice trade during President Marcos's state visit.

The Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) on Rice Trade Cooperation was among the several agreements forged by the two countries on Tuesday, Jan. 30.

Under the MOU, a framework for rice cooperation between the Philippines and Vietnam is created to ensure and establish sustainable food supply amidst the impact of climate change, pandemics, and other events external to both countries.

Vietnam agreed on a five-year trade commitment to supply, through its private sector, 1.5 million to 2 million metric tons (MT) per year at a competitive and affordable price of white rice to the Philippine private sector.

Apart from rice trade, the two countries are also expected to exchange information on policies, plans and regulations, and other rice-trade related activities.

Another MOU— Cooperation in Agriculture and Related Fields—was also signed during the bilateral meeting of both sides on Tuesday.

It aims to intensify tie up between the Philippines and Vietnam in the fields of agriculture, rural development, and other related fields, as well as establish 19 areas of cooperation including high value crops, livestocks, and aquaculture, farm management and sustainability, smart agriculture and aquaculture technology, research trainings, and exchanges of experts.

Other agreements inked in the meeting were Understanding on Incident Prevention and Management in the South China Sea, Memorandum of Understanding between the Philippine Coast Guard (PCG) and the Vietnam Coast Guard (VCG) on Maritime Cooperation, and Cultural Cooperation Program between the National Commission for Culture and the Arts of the Republic of the Philippines and the Ministry of Culture, Sports and Tourism of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam for the Period of 2024-2029.

The signing of the rice agreement was among the expected highlights of Marcos' visit in Vietnam as it guarantees the Philippines that Vietnam will be continuously supplying rice even in calamity situations.

[Opinion] What I learned from Senator Loren

By: Anna Mae Lamentillo

I was still in college at the University of the Philippines Los Baños (UPLB) when I first met Senate President Pro Tempore Loren Legarda. Little did I know that a few years after that meeting, I will not only be able to cross paths with her again, but also be mentored by her

In 2012, I joined her Senate team as legislative and communications staff. Anyone familiar with Senator Legarda would know the amount of discipline that it requires to be part of her team. My work ethic was largely built at the time I was working with her.

She taught me the value of detail, hard work, and discipline. She gives 110 percent to all her advocacies. She goes by the discipline of complete staff work (CSW), and she expects the same dedication from her staff.

From her, I learned that even the smallest details need attention, and that planning is as important as execution itself. Thus, when she says CSW, she means that you have covered every tiny detail that is vital to the success of a task.

Her unrelenting passion for her advocacies is infectious and she was always ahead of her time. For instance, even before climate change became common knowledge, she was already advocating for adaptation and mitigation.

She authored and sponsored the country's landmark laws on the environment, climate change awareness and action, and disaster resilience, such as the Ecological Solid Waste Management Act, the Clean Air Act, the Climate Change Act, the People's Survival Fund Act, the Philippine Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Act, Green Jobs Act, the Expanded National Integrated Protected Areas System Act, among others.

Senator Legarda is also a champion of promotion and preservation of Philippine culture and the arts. She authored laws such as the National Museum of the Philippines Act, the National Cultural Heritage Act, the Gabaldon School Buildings Conservation Act, and the National Indigenous Peoples Day.

She is also one who literally wears her heart on her sleeve as she was already known for her "fashionalism" even before wearing garments made by Filipino artisans became a fad.

She is the author of the Philippine Tropical Fabrics Law that mandates the promotion of the country's natural fabrics through the use of such materials for official uniforms of government officials and employees. I remember that,aside from special events, we

would also wear Filipiniana during Mondays at the Senate in compliance with this law she authored.

Senator Legarda has initiated numerous projects that promote Philippine art and culture, and benefit our indigenous communities and local artists, but one that I fondly remember during my time as her staff is the HIBLA Pavilion of Textiles and Weaves of the Philippines, which was part of the Manila FAME Design and Lifestyle Event 2012. It was a showcase of Filipino indigenous weaving traditions featuring several cultural villages in different parts of the country. She asked us to interview the artisans so that we could have a better appreciation not only of their artistry and talent but also of the importance of preserving our indigenous culture. She would allow us to immerse in her advocacies so that we understand the value of the work that we do.

I have always considered Senator Loren as one of my first mentors in government. And one of the best things I learned from her is to have a “can-do” attitude, that when you want to achieve something, you have to give it your all and do your best to attain it, because as she would always say, “There is no such thing as, it can’t be done.”

PCO

[PH, Viet Nam sign agreements on rice trade, agriculture, SCS incident prevention and management](#)

The Philippines and Viet Nam on Tuesday signed agreements on rice trade cooperation, incident prevention and management in the South China Sea, agriculture and cultural cooperation during the state visit of President Ferdinand R. Marcos Jr. to Viet Nam.

Among those signed include the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) on Rice Trade Cooperation, Understanding on Incident Prevention and Management in the South China Sea, Memorandum of Understanding on Cooperation in Agriculture and Related Fields, Memorandum of Understanding between the Philippine Coast Guard (PCG) and the Viet Nam Coast Guard (VCG) on Maritime Cooperation, and Cultural Cooperation Program between the National Commission for Culture and the Arts of the Republic of the Philippines and the Ministry of Culture, Sports and Tourism of the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam for the Period of 2024-2029.

The MOU on Rice Trade Cooperation creates a framework for rice cooperation between the Philippines and Viet Nam to ensure and establish sustainable food supply amidst the impact of climate change, pandemics, and other events external to both countries.

Under the MOU, Viet Nam agreed on a five-year trade commitment to supply, through its private sector, white rice to Philippine private sector, amounting to 1.5 million to 2 million metric tons (MT) per year at a competitive and affordable price.

Apart from rice trade, the Philippines and Viet Nam are also expected to exchange information on policies, plans and regulations, and other rice-trade related activities.

On Incident Prevention and Management in the South China Sea, the two nations agreed to enhance coordination regarding maritime issues bilaterally, within the ASEAN and with other dialogue partners, with both sides intensifying efforts to promote trust, confidence, and understanding, through dialogue and cooperative activities.

The MOU on agriculture cooperation will intensify tie up between the Philippines and Viet Nam in the fields of agriculture, rural development, and other related fields, as well as establish 19 areas of cooperation including high value crops, livestock, and aquaculture, farm management and sustainability, smart agriculture and aquaculture technology, research trainings, and exchanges of experts.

On the other hand, the MOU on Maritime Cooperation is aimed at strengthening the understanding, mutual trust, and confidence between the two parties through development of a Joint Coast Guard Committee to discuss common issues and interests between the PCG and VCG. A hotline communication mechanism will be established between the PCG and VCG.

And through the Cultural Cooperation Program, the Philippines and Viet Nam will expand cultural exchanges and strengthens friendly relations in accordance with the Cultural Agreement signed between the two nations in 1998.

PHILIPPINE INFORMATION AGENCY

[PBBM keen on PH-Vietnam collab for land, maritime pollution abatement](#)

By: Ruth Abbey Gita-Carlos

The Philippines is open to forging partnership with Vietnam to address “land-based and maritime pollution,” President Ferdinand R. Marcos Jr. said on Tuesday.

During his separate meetings with Vietnamese President Vo Van Thuong and Vietnamese Prime Minister Pham Minh Chinh in Hanoi, Marcos said the Philippines is keen on pursuing land-based and marine pollution abatement projects with Vietnam.

He cited the two countries’ vulnerability to climate change and stressed the need to explore opportunities for low carbon growth and other joint research initiatives.

“Recognizing the vulnerability of both our nations to climate change, I am eager to collaborate with Vietnam on projects focused on mitigating land-based and [marine] pollution,” Marcos said.

Following the recent adoption of a “Loss and Damage Fund” to help developing nations cope with the extreme impacts of climate change, Marcos said the Philippines is interested in having a seat on and hosting the Board of the Fund to “grant it the requisite legal personality and capacity to fulfill its duties.”

Marcos hopes that Vietnam will support the Philippines’ hosting of the Board of the Loss and Damage Fund.

“The offer to host the Board of the Fund is in line with the Philippines’ long-standing engagement on discussions of this Fund for the past decades, and it is our belief that all States must contribute to the success of its institutional architecture,” he said.

Circular economy

Marcos also emphasized the Philippines’ resolve to develop a circular economy that will reduce further consumption of natural resources, and develop an alternative method to current plastic waste management approach.

He said the Philippines is optimistic about the full implementation of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) Framework for Circular Economy, starting with different sectors depending on each country’s circumstances.

“The Philippines also recognizes that saving the environment is an existential issue that demands concrete, innovative, and immediate solutions. Thus, the Philippines welcomes an approach to economic development that maximizes all of its produces use in a manner that reduces further consumption of natural resources,” Marcos said.

“I believe that a circular economy is an important component for achieving sustainable economic growth and mitigating carbon emissions in ASEAN,” he added.

Considering the growing demand for responsible consumption and production, Marcos said the Philippines is committed to engaging the micro, small, and medium enterprises as they shift to greener practices.

Marcos said the Philippines’ efforts to strengthen the program and policies for a circular economy are essential in developing the Sustainable Development Goals.

He said such transitions will be “a long-term multi-sectoral and multi-stakeholder process” which needs the strong support of both the private and public sectors.

“With our cooperation and the rest of ASEAN member states, I am certain that we can make the circular economy a reality for us in order to save our region’s natural resources and growing economies,” Marcos said. “I trust that Vietnam would be the Philippines’ willing partner in this endeavor, and we are eager to learn from Vietnam and from your good experiences.”

POLITIKO

Marcos Calls Vietnam To Support PH Bid To Host Climate Fund

By: Prince Golez

President Ferdinand Marcos Jr. champions a sustainable future, pushing for the Philippines to host the Loss and Damage Fund. Amidst discussions with Vietnamese leaders, he emphasizes the importance of a circular economy in ASEAN, highlighting the country's commitment to innovative environmental solutions and low carbon growth.

President Ferdinand Marcos Jr. asked the Vietnamese government on Tuesday to support the Philippines' bid to host the "Loss and Damage Fund."

In his separate meetings with President Vo Van Thuong and Prime Minister Pham Minh Ching, Marcos Jr. said that he's "excited" about the prospect of pursuing low carbon growth and participating in collaborative research initiatives.

"Considering the adoption by the COP28 of a Loss and Damage Fund, the Philippines is extending an offer to host the Board of the Loss and Damage Fund and grant it the requisite legal personality and capacity to fulfill its duties," according to the President.

"This offer to host the Board of the Fund is in line with the Philippines' long-standing engagement on discussions of this Fund for the past decades, and our belief that all States must contribute to the success of its institutional architecture," he added.

Marcos Jr. said the Philippines recognizes that saving the environment is an existential issue that needs concrete, innovative, and immediate solutions.

"The Philippines welcomes an approach to economic development that maximizes all of its produces use in a manner that reduces further consumption of natural resources," according to him.

"I believe that a circular economy is an important component for achieving sustainable economic growth and mitigating carbon emissions in ASEAN," he also said.

THE MANILA TIMES

[DBP lends P2B for infra, climate change projects in Palawan](#)

State-owned Development Bank of the Philippines (DBP) extended a P2 billion loan to the provincial government of Palawan to support vital public infrastructure projects, including the upgrade of the province's road network and to beef up its disaster risk reduction initiatives.

DBP President and Chief Executive Officer Michael de Jesus said the loan assistance was granted through the bank's Assistance for Economic and Social Development for Local Government Units Financing Program.

DBP has been the eighth largest bank in the country in terms of assets, providing credit support to four strategic sectors of the economy: Infrastructure and logistics; micro, small and medium enterprises; environment; and social services and community development.

Palawan was mainly an archipelagic province and the second largest contributor to the economy of Region 4-B. It had 23 municipalities, an independent city and 467 barangay (villages) with an aggregate population of 939,594 as of latest government data.

De Jesus said that out of the total loan amount, P1.4 billion would be allotted for upgrading nearly 76 kilometers of gravel roads into two lane concrete roads to better connect farmers and fishermen to the markets, and speed up the transport of goods and people across the province.

He said DBP would also be funding the construction and rehabilitation of various flood control projects in the province to mitigate the adverse impact of climate change on communities, especially those located in the northern and southern portions of the province.

THE PHILIPPINE STAR

[Multi-hazard platform empowers Filipinos to report disasters in real-time](#)

By: Gaea Katreena Cabico

Filipinos can now report and share information about floods, earthquakes, volcanic eruptions, and cyclones in their communities directly from their mobile phones with the launch of a multi-hazard platform.

MapaKalamidad.ph is a crowd-based platform that provides real-time hazard information. The tool aims to enhance disaster preparedness and response efforts in the Philippines by empowering citizens to share critical information in the face of hazards.

The Philippines is one of the countries most vulnerable to the impacts of climate change, including cyclones and floods. It is also highly exposed to geologic hazards, such as earthquakes and volcanic eruptions.

MapaKalamidad.ph harnesses the power of social media to gather disaster information from residents on the ground, who often have the most up-to-date information in their area. This real-time information, like a flood report, is then displayed on a web-based map.

The data can be used by authorities to coordinate response efforts.

“MapaKalamidad allows everyone access to this information on their mobile phones, which means every single resident can participate in this cooperative process to share what’s going on around them, to understand what’s going on around them,” Nashin Mahtani, director of Yayasan Peta Bencana (Disaster Map Foundation), told reporters during the platform’s launch Monday.

“That allows people to make critical decisions about safety and navigation during disasters instead of concentrating decision making tools in a small group of people sitting in a control room,” she added.

A pilot version of the platform was launched in 2020, covering only Quezon City and Pampanga. The reach of the tool was expanded nationwide in 2022, but was only limited to flood reports.

“Establishing and developing initiatives in the area of information sharing support the various aspects of our work in disaster risk reduction,” Office of Civil Defense (OCD) Operations Service Director Cesar Idio said.

How to report using the MapaKalamidad.ph

Social media users can search for @kalamidadbot on Telegram or @mapakalamidad on Facebook Messenger to report hazards in their communities.

A one-time link prompts them to input location, upload a photo, and describe the hazard. Then, users will receive links to their reports on the map.

“What makes MapaKalamidad stand out is that it’s not an app, and it plugs into existing social media channels. That’s what allows us to reach millions of users every day,” Mahtani said.

She added the platform was designed to encourage people to submit detailed information, minimizing the risk of false reports.

Government agencies like the OCD and local government units also help validate reports sent by users.

“Through those factors, we’re able to ensure that all of the reports come in real-time, but they’re all verified,” Mahtani said.

The MapaKalamidad.ph team is working on integrating SMS and radio services to allow residents without internet access to report hazards.

The multi-hazard platform has an Indonesian counterpart—PetaBencana.id—which was launched in 2013.

=END=