



## NEWS ROUNDUP

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**Information and Knowledge Management Division**

## DAILY TRIBUNE

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Last week, I delivered my annual priorities speech to the General Assembly. I said that our world is facing a Pandora's box of troubles. We face widening geopolitical divisions, rising inequalities, and an assault on human rights.

We see a multiplication of conflicts, some of which are leading to a re-shaping of different regions of the world — not least the Middle East. But we will never give up in calling for peace, but peace grounded in values of the UN Charter, international law — including international humanitarian law — and the principles of sovereignty, political independence and the territorial integrity of States.

Meanwhile, developing countries are in economic dire straits. Some are facing double-digit inflation rates — while interest payments in Africa are eating up 27 percent of all government revenues.

Today we face two new and profound threats that demand far more global attention and action because they threaten to upend life as we know it: the climate crisis and the ungoverned expansion of Artificial Intelligence.

First, climate chaos. I recently saw an analysis that exposed a grim irony: Thirteen of the world's biggest ports for oil supertankers will be overwhelmed by rising sea levels. Rising seas, which are caused by rising temperatures. And rising temperatures, which are — overwhelmingly — caused by burning fossil fuels.

Our fossil fuel addiction is a Frankenstein monster, sparing nothing and no one. All around us, we see clear signs that the monster has become master. We just endured the hottest year and the hottest decade in history. 2024 is likely to be the first calendar year that pushed past 1.5 degrees above pre-industrial levels. Breaching this limit does not mean the long-term goal of keeping the rise in global temperature to 1.5 degrees is shot. It means we need to fight even harder to get on track. Especially when what we are seeing today — sea-level rise, heatwaves, floods, storms, droughts and wildfires — are just a preview of the horror movie to come.

At the same time, another far more hopeful story is unfolding. Cheap, plentiful energy provided by renewables is an extraordinary economic opportunity. One that will benefit people in every country. And one that will make the end of the fossil fuel age inevitable — no matter how hard vested interests try to stop it.

A number of financial institutions and industries are backtracking on climate commitments. Here at Davos, I want to say loudly and clearly: It is short-sighted. And paradoxically, it is selfish and also self-defeating. You are on the wrong side of history.

You are on the wrong side of science. And you are on the wrong side of consumers who are looking for more sustainability, not less.

This warning certainly also applies to the fossil fuel industry and advertising, lobbying and PR companies who are aiding, abetting and greenwashing.

Global heating is racing forward — we cannot afford to move backward. Governments must keep their promise to produce new, economy-wide national climate action plans this year, well ahead of COP30 in Brazil.

Those plans must align with limiting the rise in global temperature to 1.5 degrees — including by accelerating the global energy transition.

We also need a surge in finance for climate action in developing countries, to adapt to global heating, slash emissions and seize the benefits of the renewables revolution.

We need to tackle high-capital costs that are leaving developing countries behind.

I also urge all businesses and financial institutions to create robust, accountable transition plans this year. These, too, must align with 1.5 degrees. And with the full recommendations of the United Nations High-Level Expert Group on Net Zero.

To the corporate leaders who remain committed to climate action — your leadership is needed now, more than ever. Do not back down. Stay on the right side of history. Now is the time to shift our collective efforts into overdrive, and make 2025 the biggest year yet for climate action.

The second area of existential concern is ungoverned Artificial Intelligence. Yes, AI holds untold promise for humanity. Revolutionizing learning. Advancing healthcare and diagnosing illnesses earlier. Supporting farmers with smarter tools to boost productivity. Clearing landmines. And better targeting aid in times of crisis.

These are real results — happening right now. But with this promise comes profound risk, especially if AI is left ungoverned. AI can be used as a tool of deception. It can disrupt economies and labor markets, undermine trust in institutions and have chilling effects on the battlefield. And AI could deepen inequalities by excluding those without the resources or tools to benefit from its promise.

Once again, collaboration is critical. The Global Digital Compact, adopted in September at the United Nations, offers a roadmap to harness the immense potential of digital technology and close digital divides. It also brings the world together around a shared vision for Artificial Intelligence — one where this technology serves humanity, not the other way around.

The Compact establishes the first universal agreement on the governance of AI that brings every country to the table. It includes the creation of an independent international

scientific panel on AI, pulling expertise to bridge knowledge gaps and help every nation make the most informed AI policy decisions.

The Compact also calls for a periodic global dialogue on AI governance as an inclusive space for stakeholders to come together under the auspices of the United Nations.

It also foresees a network of capacity-building initiatives for developing countries, which have the most at stake as AI-driven systems grow and expand.

And we must collaborate so that all countries and people benefit from AI's promise and potential to support development and social and economic progress for all. By investing in affordable internet, digital literacy, and the infrastructure that allows every country to harness AI's potential. By helping developing countries use AI to grow small businesses, improve public services, and connect communities to new markets. And by placing human rights — always — at the center of AI-driven systems.

The United Nations is committed to leading this effort. We are working with governments, industry, and civil society to ensure that AI becomes a tool of opportunity, inclusion and progress for all people.

Ladies and gentlemen. Now is the time to wake up to these existential challenges — and face them head on. As a global community, we must live up to this great responsibility. And let's do so by working as one, in collaboration.

Thank you, and I look forward to our discussion today.

(Excerpts of United Nations Secretary-General Antonio Guterres' Special Address at the World Economic Forum in Davos, Switzerland on 22 January 2025.)

## [SEC, IFC supercharge green financing](#)

By: Maria Bernadette Romero

In a game-changing move, the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) and the International Finance Corp. (IFC) have teamed up to supercharge green finance in the Philippines through the 30by30 Zero Philippines Program. This isn't just another corporate handshake — it's a bold push to ensure money flows into climate-friendly projects that benefit the economy and the environment.

With their freshly inked cooperation agreement, the SEC and IFC are setting the stage for a greener financial landscape. Their mission: to ensure that investments are not only lucrative but also aligned with climate action.

The partnership, made official with a ceremonial signing last week, will roll out capacity-building initiatives for thematic bond issuers, investors and domestic external reviewers. They will also dive deep into the Philippine Thematic Capital Market with a stocktaking survey and scope out fresh opportunities to boost climate financing.

For SEC Commissioner McJill Bryant T. Fernandez, the timing couldn't be more perfect — or more urgent. The Philippines is on the frontlines of climate change, facing everything from devastating typhoons to rising sea levels.

“The Philippines faces the immense challenge of mitigating climate change while ensuring inclusive and sustainable economic growth,” Fernandez said. “Through this partnership, we aim to channel long-term funding into climate-focused initiatives that prioritize both people and the planet.” Translation: we need to act now, and money needs to move where it matters most.

At the heart of this initiative is the 30by30 Zero Philippines Program, an ambitious plan designed by IFC and the World Bank with backing from Germany's International Climate Initiative. It aims to get financial institutions to commit at least 30 percent of their lending to climate-related projects by 2030 while drastically reducing coal exposure.

That means banks and financial institutions need to pivot away from fossil fuels and embrace green infrastructure, renewable energy and other sustainable ventures. It's a tall order, but one that could redefine the future of finance in the country.

IFC regional manager for East Asia and the Pacific Christina Ongoma is all in on the SEC's role to making the shift happen.

“We are grateful for our partnership with the SEC and are delighted to formalize our collaboration,” Ongoma said. “Through this, we will continue to jointly host dedicated technical workshops and training sessions to further enhance the awareness and capacity of capital market players regarding climate thematic instruments and opportunities.” In other words, this isn't just talk — there's a real action plan in place to make sustainability second nature in financial circles.

Beyond workshops and training, this partnership is about equipping investors and financial institutions with the tools to navigate an evolving sustainable finance landscape. By setting clear guidelines and boosting transparency, the SEC and IFC are making it easier (and more attractive) for businesses to embrace responsible investment practices.

For the Philippines, an emerging market with enormous potential, sustainability finance is a golden opportunity to grow the economy without wrecking the planet. ESG (environmental, social and governance)-driven investments are gaining global traction, and aligning the local financial system with these trends is crucial. The SEC has already laid down some groundwork, tightening disclosure requirements for publicly-listed companies and promoting the issuance of green, social, and sustainability bonds.

As sustainability takes center stage in global markets, the SEC-IFC partnership is a reminder that finance has a starring role in the climate fight. It's not just about managing risk — it's about unlocking new opportunities for innovation, resilience and inclusive growth.

With financial institutions steering capital toward greener ventures, this initiative is set to spark a chain reaction across industries. The more businesses and investors adopt sustainability as a core principle, the faster the shift toward a low-carbon economy will take place.

Sure, the road to green finance isn't exactly a smooth ride. But with regulatory muscle and strategic alliances like this, the momentum is building.

By embedding sustainability into financial decision-making, the SEC and IFC are laying down a roadmap for an economy that thrives while keeping the planet intact.

## ECO BUSINESS

### [Small islands sound the climate crisis alarm before the highest court](#)

By: Charlotte Ruzzica De La Chaussée

For the first time, more than 130 states have agreed to collectively seek the opinion of the International Court of Justice (ICJ) regarding the survival of mankind.

Led by Vanuatu and a core group of countries, in April 2023 they agreed to consult the ICJ on the obligations of states to protect the climate system. The court, based in The Hague in the Netherlands, is the principal judicial organ of the UN.

The ICJ is now set to deliver an opinion on this matter, and on the legal consequences under international law of causing significant harm to the climate system. This includes issues related to the prevention of significant harm to the environment, and the protection and preservation of the marine environment, among others.

The Commission of Small Island States on Climate Change and International Law (COSIS), which requested the first climate-related advisory opinion from the International Tribunal for the Law of the Sea (ITLOS), participated in the ICJ proceedings. COSIS presented the small islands' perspective, and has drawn on the conclusions of the ITLOS advisory opinion.

The written phase of the ICJ proceedings concluded in 2024, followed by two weeks of hearings involving 107 states and international organisations, which ended on 13 December.

Vanuatu's special envoy for climate, Ralph Regenvanu, captured the significance of the case at the opening of the hearings: "This may well be the most consequential case in the history of humanity."

The court's opinion is expected for 2025. It will mark the first time a climate case has been brought before the ICJ since governments acquired, over half a century ago, scientific proof that burning fossil fuel increases atmospheric CO<sub>2</sub> concentration and temperatures, which will ultimately jeopardise the ability to sustain human life on the planet.

Small island developing states (SIDS) are both victims of climate change and moral leaders in the fight for environmental justice. They offer the Global North valuable lessons through their ancestral and intimate knowledge of the ocean and natural world, showcasing ways to live in harmony with nature, particularly the ocean.

Despite their minimal historical contribution to greenhouse gas emissions, SIDS have taken on moral leadership by bringing the ICJ into the effort to safeguard humanity. Vanuatu, supported by the SIDS, achieved a tremendous feat by building consensus



among more than 130 states to secure the UN General Assembly's request to refer these questions to the ICJ.

International courts, rooted in Western justice systems, differ significantly from Indigenous systems of justice. Yet, we have witnessed lawyers from island nations – representing formerly colonised states – donning wigs to argue their case before the ICJ judges.

SIDS propose a collective approach to the inaction of major polluters. They recall natural law and appeal to the shared sense of responsibility and wisdom of the international community, urging states to emerge from lethargy and assume their responsibilities as required by law, or else perish.

A global emergency, an exceptional legal action

As climate impacts multiply and intensify, this ICJ procedure bears witness to the international community's overall perception of urgency. It reflects a growing awareness that our collective survival depends on decisive action by states.

The consensus reached by UN member states to request the ICJ's advisory opinion is a testament to the widespread support for finding legal answers to questions that are crucial to humanity's survival. It also demonstrates that the judiciary is recognised as being able to provide answers to the crisis.

This action not only brings the climate issue before the court but also signals a call for a progressive interpretation of international law. A majority of states have shown that they interpret international law as mandating more action to reduce emissions and providing for accountability in the event of violations.

In a context where political and economic solutions have failed to provide fully satisfactory responses to the environmental emergency, this procedure marks a significant milestone in efforts to provide a legal one.

The ICJ case comes at a time when the courts are increasingly being turned to as a tool to respond to the climate crisis. The 2023 Global Climate Litigation Report found a sharp rise in climate-related cases, with filings worldwide growing from 884 in 2017 to 2,180 in 2022, across 65 jurisdictions.

These cases are mostly brought against governments or companies by NGOs, citizens, foreign investors or subnational governments. They might increase further given the damage caused by increasingly frequent extreme weather events, the loss of territory linked to climate change and the resulting migration of populations.

Three cases with a shared goal

Three advisory cases before regional and international courts and tribunals exemplify the international dimension of climate litigation, including the current ICJ case.

Conducted over the past two years, these cases aim to harmonise international law and clarify states' responsibilities in addressing the global climate emergency.

The second case, initiated by COSIS, was brought before ITLOS and marked the first request for a climate-related advisory opinion from an international tribunal.

In May 2024, ITLOS issued a resounding advisory opinion, concluding that greenhouse gas emissions are pollution of the marine environment under the UN Convention on the Law of the Sea. It therefore sets out the obligations of states to preserve and protect the marine environment, and to prevent, reduce and control its pollution.

The third case, brought by Chile and Colombia, is before the Inter-American Court of Human Rights. It concerns the obligation of states to respond to the climate emergency from the perspective of international human rights law. The opinion is expected in 2025.

The three advisory proceedings have been running in parallel and feeding into and reinforcing each other. One way a case can influence another is when judges look to the reasoning of other courts when constructing their reasoning in a case.

In the ICJ case, states referred extensively to the ITLOS advisory opinion in their oral statements and written comments. It is therefore hoped by many pushing for stronger action against climate change that the ICJ will give deference to ITLOS jurisprudence, particularly for questions relating to the law of the sea.

#### ITLOS and the ICJ advisory opinion

The ITLOS opinion is particularly relevant to the ICJ case on several substantive points of law. Firstly, ITLOS made it clear that greenhouse gas emissions constitute pollution of the marine environment under the UN Convention on the Law of the Sea.

Another key finding of considerable importance to the ICJ proceedings and any subsequent climate cases was that the science is irrefutable. ITLOS considered it an objective factor that must guide courts and tribunals in determining the risk of harm caused by greenhouse gas emissions.

Science must therefore help determine the degree of due diligence necessary for states to meet their climate obligations. The tribunal concluded the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change reports to be the source of the best available science.

The tribunal also made clear that the minimum threshold of emission-mitigation measures necessary under the UN Convention on the Law of the Sea must be determined objectively using the best available science, precaution in the absence of scientific certainty, and climate-related treaties and instruments.

Thus, state measures must evolve to comply with existing obligations under international law, becoming more ambitious over time as the climate changes and scientific knowledge advances.

Another central question in the ICJ advisory opinion request is determining which instruments apply to inform states' obligations in relation to climate change.

Most participants in the ICJ case used the tribunal's conclusion that the Paris Agreement does not limit, modify or take precedence over all previous international law instruments regulating marine pollution from anthropogenic emissions. Thus, these participants took the view that the Paris Agreement is not the only text informing states of their obligations to take all necessary measures to prevent, reduce and control such pollution.

The ITLOS conclusion also fed into arguments by COSIS to harmonise a contemporary regime – still being formed – that can achieve the goals of the Paris Agreement to keep global temperatures to 1.5°C above pre-industrial levels.

A harmonious interpretation of states' obligations means considering the UN Convention on the Law of the Sea in conjunction with other specific obligations of states under the "international climate regime", not in isolation. Interpreting and applying available legal instruments in a vacuum would contribute to the fragmentation of the regime, which is what historical polluters have attempted to do in their pleadings.

Hope for the ocean, the environment and the future

COSIS and island states are not asking for the moon. They want the existing rules of international law to be understood, applied and respected.

The ICJ opinion could clarify existing rules, enabling all states to read them in the same way and apply them consistently. A clear legal precedent, with a certain level of particularity, would enable island states to determine with certainty which state measures are appropriate, and which are in breach of international law.

An opinion on the climate issue that does not shy away from the realities we face, would help guide the relevant legal and political bodies in negotiations, public policies, and subsequent court decisions, ensuring that states' actions comply with international law.

In the long term, we hope to see a change in the behaviour of states – particularly the biggest polluters – toward greater ambition in meeting scientifically established emissions reduction targets. The goal is to ensure liveable conditions for present and future generations, and prevent further cataclysms. At stake is the survival not just of island and coastal populations but of humanity as a whole.

## MANILA STANDARD

### [At Davos, UN's Guterres slams backsliding on climate commitments](#)

The world's political and business elite present in Davos on Wednesday faced an uncompromising address from UN chief António Guterres as he rounded on a lack of multilateral collaboration in an "increasingly rudderless world" at risk from two existential dangers: climate change and unregulated Artificial Intelligence (AI).

Guterres was speaking at the annual meeting of the World Economic Forum, the exclusive event held high in the Swiss Alps where senior politicians, heads of state and chief executive officers of some of the world's biggest and most influential companies rub shoulders.

The UN Secretary-General took aim at the theme of this year's meeting, Collaboration for the Intelligent Age, maintaining that there has been scant proof of either collaboration or intelligence and plenty of evidence that many of the world's problems are worsening, from conflicts to inequality and assaults on human rights.

Nuclear war is no longer the only existential threat to humanity, he said, pointing to the climate crisis and the "ungoverned expansion" of Artificial Intelligence (AI).

Likening fossil fuel addiction to Frankenstein's monster—"sparing nothing and no one"—Guterres noted the irony that 13 of the world's biggest ports for oil supertankers are set to be overwhelmed by rising sea levels, a consequence of rising temperatures and sea ice melt, caused overwhelmingly by burning coal, crude oil and natural gas.

A number of financial institutions and industries are backtracking on climate commitments, noted Guterres.

A move that is, he said "short-sighted, and paradoxically, it is selfish and also self-defeating. You are on the wrong side of history. You are on the wrong side of science. And you are on the wrong side of consumers who are looking for more sustainability, not less."

Looking ahead to the UN Climate Conference (COP30) in Brazil at the end of the year, the UN chief reminded world leaders that they must keep their promise to produce new, economy-wide national climate action plans well before the event.

Developing countries need a "surge in finance" for climate action, he declared, urging not just governments but all businesses and financial institutions to create robust and accountable transition plans.

The next existential threat, AI, is a double-edged sword, Guterres continued, as it is already revolutionizing learning, diagnosing illnesses, helping farmers to increase their yields and improving the targeting of aid.

But it comes with profound risks if it is left ungoverned: it can disrupt economies, undermine trust in institutions and deepen inequalities, he warned.

The Global Digital Compact—part of the Pact for the Future adopted by UN Member States last September—offers a “roadmap to harness the immense potential of digital technology and close digital divides” with a shared vision of AI serving humanity, not the other way around.

Despite the challenges, the UN will never halt its demand for peace grounded in the UN Charter , international law and the principles of sovereignty, political independence and the territorial integrity of states, he said.

Reforming institutions, from the global financial architecture to the UN Security Council is, the UN chief asserted, a necessity because systems of governance are often ill-equipped to deal with today’ challenges. But achieving these essential changes—which world leaders committed to at last September’s Summit of the Future—will only be possible with political will, he said, cautioning: “I am not convinced leaders get it.”

**MSN**

**Marcos: Deeper innovation, closer cooperation vs climate change**

By: Zacarian Sarao

President Ferdinand Marcos Jr. on Monday stressed the need for “deeper innovation” and “closer cooperation” between countries against the impacts of climate change.

Marcos made the pronouncement during a ministerial dinner for the 2024 Asia Pacific Ministerial Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction (APMCDRR) in Malacañang.

According to Marcos, the conference paves the way for a vital opportunity which would allow different participating countries and international bodies to share knowledge, build stronger partnerships, and implement innovative strategies against the effects of climate change.

“The increasing frequency and severity of natural hazards call for deeper innovation, for closer cooperation, and for sustained commitment from all of us,” said Marcos in a speech, noting how the Philippines remains to be among the countries most exposed to disasters such as typhoons, earthquakes, tsunamis, and volcanic eruptions.

“Through this conference, we are presented with the opportunity to explore new avenues for collaboration, especially in leveraging science and technology to alleviate the impact of climate change and ensuring that disaster risk reduction financing is accessible to all,” he added.

The President also noted how the APMCDRR will be conducted at a time when the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction “has never been more critical.”

The Sendai Framework refers to the global blueprint for disaster risk reduction which outlines how countries can work together to identify and reduce risks before turning into disasters.

“Our vision is clear: to reduce disaster risks and losses, protecting lives, livelihoods, and the social and economic pillars of our societies,” Marcos said.

The APMCDRR will be held from Oct. 14 to Oct. 18 at the Philippine International Convention Center or PICC in Pasay City.

More than 4,000 delegates from 69 countries are expected to participate in the event.

## PHILIPPINE INFORMATION AGENCY

### [Gov't agencies, private groups call for preservation of Leyte Sab-a Basin Peatland](#)

By: Ahlette C. Reyes

Calls for the preservation of the Leyte Sab-a Basin, one of the larger confirmed peatland in the country and the largest water catchment in Leyte Island, was one of the highlights during the Forest Echoes Project launch by Tinker House as the world observes World Wetlands Day on February 2, 2025.

Government agencies led by the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR), Department of Education (DepEd), Department of Science and Technology (DOST), and non-profit organizations such as Forest Foundation Philippines, the provincial government of Leyte and the media were all in accord in the efforts to stop the land conversion of the Leyte Sab-a Basin Peatland and call for its restoration to save what is left after more than half of its vast swamp forest has been turned into agricultural use and the peatland has been found to have reduced its ability to store carbon.

A recent study by the Forest Foundation Philippines on the impact of the land-use conversion in the Leyte Sab-a Basin Peatland (LSBP) revealed that when peatlands are turned into grasslands or agriculture, their ability to act as carbon sinks is reduced.

Such conversions also change the peatland on a physical and chemical level, reducing its ability to perform other functions.

Land-use conversion changes the characteristics and properties of the LSBP as the study also found that moisture and the water table decreased from forest to cultivated areas.

This ability of the peatland to hold water is essential in flood mitigation. It acts as a sponge during the rainy season and then lets the water seep out during the dry season.

DENR 8's Marissa Solite, chief of the Conservation and Development Division, said this ability of peatlands to be water repositories become even more critical as the Philippines experience more and stronger typhoons.

Earlier, the DENR-8 expressed concern with the expansion of farming activities on the 3,088-hectare Leyte Sab-a Basin Peatland, the largest water catchment in Leyte Island.

Good water management techniques, such as controlled flooding, are needed to prevent peat degradation and maintain high water tables in the peatland, thus preventing peat degradation and carbon emissions, the DENR said.

Forest Foundation Philippines has recommended that there should be an impetus to develop and implement effective conservation and management plans to keep the function of the LSBP as a significant carbon sink, preserve its ecological functions and help communities adapt to climate change.

Apart from developing effective management plans, strengthening the institutional capacities, and awareness, engaging local communities in sustainable and biodiversity-friendly practices is also crucial to peatland's conservation strategy.



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### [PH's first wave flume facility opens in Ilocos Norte](#)

By: Leilanie Adriano

A two-dimensional wave flume facility was unveiled on Monday at the Mariano Marcos State University (MMSU) in Batac City, Ilocos Norte to simulate complex wave and water movements in a controlled environment.

Funded by the Department of Science and Technology (DOST) and worth over PHP41 million, the country's first wave flume laboratory is a useful tool to test different coastal protection structures meant to address concerns on climate change, disaster risk reduction, and sustainable coastal management, according to Dr. Nathaniel Alibuyog, program leader of the Coastal Engineering and Management Research and Development Center (COASTER) of MMSU.

As the Philippines has one of the longest coastline in the world measuring over 36,000 kilometers (22,549 mi), Alibuyog said the new facility would help bridge gaps in coastal engineering by developing science-based technologies and innovations, strengthening human resource capacity in coastal engineering research and management, and shaping policies to enhance coastal community resilience against flooding and storm surge.

"This is useful for us on disaster preparedness because in here, we can come up with appropriate design for specific areas in the country," Alibuyog said.

Alibuyog's team has come up with some varied geometric design of seawall to dissipate wave forces that will be tested at the facility to address coastal erosion, one of the most disturbing environmental problems that the country faces today.

"With all the designs that we are doing here, we will be able to reduce scouring," he said, pointing out that currently, the country's response to these problems is constructing hard structures such as seawalls and groins that are reactionary and done without deeper analysis and planning for the long-term effects of these structures on the natural coastal processes.

Based on assessment of coastal flood protection structures in Ilocos Region, Alibuyog reported that 68 percent of the structures are visually in ideal condition and about five percent is in need of major refurbishment or replacement.

In a separate interview on Monday after the ceremonial inauguration, Dr. Enrico Paringit, director of the DOST-Philippine Council for Industry Energy and Emerging Technology Research and Development, said harnessing the powers of science and technology would ensure the protection of communities and properties against the ravages of typhoon.

“Having an experimental facility (to test design materials) will save us a lot of time, resources, and headaches rather than doing the testing itself in an actual project site,” Paringit said.

He also added that the facility is in response to the directive of President Ferdinand R. Marcos Jr. to ensure that designs for flood control projects are well-thought of.

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