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ABS CBN

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Lest our resident climate denier gets excited and again misinterprets my questioning of the science as an indication that I have accepted the notion that political ideology can control the weather, let me clarify that I am asking the question not because I think climate scientists have been alarmist, but because they may have been entirely too conservative.

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Information and Knowledge Management Division

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Climate change drove weeks of crop-withering temperatures last year in the West African countries that underpin the world's chocolate supply, hitting harvests and likely further stoking record prices, researchers said Wednesday.

Farmers in the region -- which account for some 70 percent of global cacao production -- have struggled with heat, disease and unusual rainfall in recent years, which have all contributed to falling production.

That has caused an explosion in the price of cocoa, which is produced from the beans of the cacao tree, and is the main ingredient in chocolate.

A new report found that "climate change, due primarily to burning oil, coal, and methane gas, is causing hotter temperatures to become more frequent" in Ivory Coast, Ghana, Cameroon and Nigeria.

The study, by the independent research group Climate Central, found the trend was particularly marked in Ivory Coast and Ghana, the two biggest cacao producers.

Using observational data from 44 cacao-producing areas in West Africa and computer models, the researchers compared today's temperatures with a counterfactual of a world without the effects of climate change.

They looked at the likelihood of these regions facing temperatures in excess of 32 degrees Celsius (89.6 Fahrenheit) -- above levels considered optimum for cacao trees.

The report calculated that over the last decade, climate change had added an extra three weeks of above 32C heat in Ivory Coast and Ghana during the main growing season between October and March.

Last year, the hottest year globally on record, they found that climate change drove temperatures above 32C on at least 42 days across two thirds of the areas analysed.

Researchers said that "excessive heat can contribute to a reduction in the quantity and quality of the harvest".

Many other factors were also potentially harming cacao trees and boosting prices, they noted, including mealybug infestations, rainfall patterns, smuggling and illegal mining.

Christian Aid published separate research on Wednesday on the vulnerability of chocolate and cacao farmers to weather changes and extremes driven by global warming.

The UK charity said conditions in West Africa have whiplashed from extreme rainfall and spoiled crops during the dry season in 2023 to drought in 2024.

"Growing cocoa is a vital livelihood for many of the poorest people around the world and human caused climate change is putting that under serious threat," said Osai Ojigho, director of Christian Aid's policy and public campaigns.

'EXISTENTIAL THREAT'

Failed harvests helped drive a meteoric rise in cocoa prices since late 2023 on the London and New York markets where this commodity is traded.

New York cocoa prices were above $10,000 a tonne on Wednesday, below a peak of over $12,500 in mid-December.

New York prices have largely hovered between $2,000 and $3,000 a tonne for decades.

In January, Swiss chocolate maker Lindt & Spruengli said it would raise prices again this year to offset rising cocoa costs.

Narcisa Pricope, a professor at Mississippi State University, said the crop faces an "existential threat" largely because of increasingly dry conditions in cacao-producing regions.

Pricope was part of recent research from the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification that found more than three-quarters of the Earth's landmass has become drier over the past 30 years.

The emissions of planet-heating greenhouse gases are the biggest driver of this aridity, she said in a commentary on the Conversation on Monday, but practices that degrade soils and nature also play an important role.

"Collective action against aridity isn't just about saving chocolate -- it's about preserving the planet's capacity to sustain life," she said.

DAILY TRIBUNE

British Council backs 10 UK-Philippines collaborations in 2024 grant program

The British Council has announced the recipients of its 2024 Connections Through Culture (CTC) Grant Program, backing 10 collaborative projects between the United Kingdom and the Philippines. The program, which fosters partnerships between artists in the UK and the Asia-Pacific region, will provide over £741,000 (P53 million) in funding for 84 projects across the region.

This year's grant cycle marks the program's expansion to include South Asia, with artists and cultural organizations from Bangladesh and Sri Lanka now joining participants from Australia, New Zealand, China, Indonesia, Thailand, Malaysia, Myanmar, the Philippines, and Vietnam.

The CTC grants support a variety of artistic fields, including film, literature, theater, music, creative technology, visual arts, design, and more. The selected projects aim to tackle global challenges such as climate change, diversity, and inclusion through cross-cultural collaborations.

"We are thrilled to announce our 2024 grantees, whose projects highlight the incredible power of cross-cultural collaboration and the rich diversity of artistic expression in the Philippines. This year's CTC projects span across the archipelago — from Quezon, Leyte, Siquijor, and Siargao — reflecting the wide range of creative practices in the country. This year's collaborations reaffirm the British Council's commitment to supporting diverse voices, fostering inclusivity, and expanding opportunities for artists," said Andrei Nikolai Pamintuan, Head of Arts at the British Council in the Philippines.

The 10 UK-Philippines collaborations include:

1. Bridging Communities in Music: String Ensembles in Manila and Leyte

- UK: Carmen Flores, Nottingham Chamber Music Festival
- Philippines: UP Arco, Joselle Cayatano

2. Coastal Connections

- UK: Pilot Theatre
- Philippines: Philippine Educational Theater Association (PETA)

3. Dancing to Music You Hate: The Philippine Remix

- UK: Jasmine Gardosi
- Philippines: Leandro Reyes, Babaylanes

4. Forage Friction

- UK: Freya Edmondes aka Elvin Brandhi
- Philippines: Tengal Drilon

5. Growing a Field

- UK: Reneta Minoldo
- Philippines: Katherine Nuñez

6. Hapag Ugnayan Potlucks: An International Exchange with Women Creatives and Land Workers

- UK: Malaika Cunningham (The Bare Project)
- Philippines: Jen Horn (Good Food Community)

7. Nature KwenTour: Co-creating Solarpunk Futures

- UK: ESEA Green Lions
- Philippines: Lokal Lab

8. Shame Parade

- UK: Angel Cohn Castle
- Philippines: Ken Santos

9. Swallowed by Water

- UK: Atlantic Institute-XR Lab
- Philippines: Rappler

10. The Net

- UK: Lorna Nickson Brown (Copper Thread Productions)
- Philippines: Anjeline de Dios

The British Council's Connections Through Culture Grant Program supports artistic collaborations aimed at fostering cultural exchange, innovation, and mutual understanding across borders.

GREENPEACE

Can a better climate create better jobs?

By: Camilo Sanchez

For almost a quarter of people globally, unemployment is still a top concern. In countries like South Africa, Argentina, South Korea, Colombia, and Spain, it has even ranked as the biggest issue in recent months.

The solution? Certainly not the oil and mining industries, which have been sold for decades as generous providers of jobs, progress and prosperity. This model continues to fail dramatically. Instead of delivering decent and safe jobs, it has produced serious environmental and health problems.

What about green jobs? Can renewable energy save the day? Is the energy transition the answer to unemployment and the climate crisis?

This is what the new episode of SystemShift podcast is about, now with Rhoda Boateng, Program Coordinator of Climate Change, Just Transition & Occupational Health and Safety of the International Trade Union Confederation.

A shift to a decarbonised economy isn't just about swapping out coal for solar panels. It has to fix the bigger picture, empowering the weak and weakening the powerful. "(We need) jobs that are decent, that pay well, that are fair, green, in sectors that are not heavily polluting," said Rhoda.

Just, at the systemic level
A just transition requires putting an end to the systemic extraction of wealth from the Global South, so that these countries are not locked at the bottom of the value chain but can build up, for instance, renewable manufacturing that creates fair jobs.

The solution for this ranges from small-scale, community-owned renewable energy production and sustainable agriculture, under the principles of a wellbeing economy, to multi-sectoral policies and long-term commitments, such as reforming the global financial architecture and cancelling debts.

Just, at the workers' level
A just transition must be guided by certain principles, including delivering decent, fair and green jobs, putting people at the core of defining policies and ensuring social protection.

Solutions must address equity and inclusion of workers whose jobs and livelihoods are at direct risk from the transition, from manufacturing and production to other fields that the climate crisis is creating and the biodiversity restoration will need, such as care, recovery, disaster rebuilding, resilience, relocating, etc.

“We need to begin to train people for the jobs that are going to come up in this new economy. This is where the jobs are going to be,” Rhoda said. This includes unions, educational institutions, businesses and local communities taking ownership of the process. The voices and needs of workers and communities, especially those directly impacted, must be put at the centre. “To ensure that the populations who are already marginalised in our current system, are not disproportionately marginalised in this new system that we are creating,” she concluded.

Retraining workers from fossil fuel industries could accelerate the transition while improving safety and quality of life for millions.

What does a just transition look like?
The decarbonisation of the economy is already making a significant impact, with global jobs in the sector increasing from 13.7 million in 2022 to 16.2 million in 2023.

Green energy also offers economic benefits such as cost savings, sustainable incomes, and energy independence, as well as enabling development and infrastructure.

Despite the urgency and clear benefits, powerful stakeholders continue to push for fossil fuel subsidies and false solutions such as carbon credits.

There’s money for a just transition, but it’s just in the wrong place. Redistributing wealth through fair taxation, sustainable public investments, and redistributive policies could boost a just and green future for all.

More in the podcast, Rhoda also explained about the principles of a just transition and what needs to change in the labour market.

What’s our role as individuals? What can we do?
These are some of the things we can do to influence a just transition:

- Listen or watch the SystemShift podcast that inspired this blog post: Apple Podcasts, Spotify, or Youtube
- Join a union
- Participate in public consultations when available
- Advocate for renewable and nature-based solutions
- Speak up for transparent and inclusive processes

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

Boosting jobs, climate action, better leadership

Aboitiz Foundation, the social development arm of the Aboitiz Group, achieved milestones in 2024 that reinforced its commitment to creating positive impacts through three strategic pillars: Future Leaders, Jobs, and Climate Action. For 2025, the foundation has set up meaningful and scaled-up efforts to enhance its contributions across the country.

In the Future Leaders pillar, the foundation welcomed 50 scholars into the Aboitiz Future Leaders Scholarship Program, supporting their education with comprehensive scholarships. For 2025, the foundation plans to expand the program to 100 scholars.

The AuroraPH Project also connected 11 last-mile schools to the internet via solar power, and the foundation aims to reach 100 schools in 2025, while through the Elevate AIDA Program, 1,135 women were trained in technology-driven skills for virtual jobs.

Looking ahead, the foundation aims to train 10,000 more women starting in 2025 and to engage 200 additional local government units, strengthening its inclusive employment efforts under its Jobs pillar.

Under the Climate Action pillar, Aboitiz Foundation secured a 40-year partnership with the province of Cebu for the CarbonPH Project, focusing on reforestation and watershed management across 22,000 hectares. By 2025, the foundation targets the approval of the project design, funding, and start of project implementation.

The foundation also collected a total of 58,000 kilograms of waste through materials recovery facilities and Project Rake, both in Batangas; and the Tapon-To-Ipon partnership with Coca-Cola during the 24th Aboitiz Football Cup, where football players actively gathered PET bottle waste for recycling and repurposing.

In 2025, the foundation aims to collect 100,000 kilograms of waste, promoting recycling, repurposing, and proper disposal while educating communities on sustainable waste management.

“These accomplishments reflect the power of collaboration and innovation in meeting the needs of our communities,” said Ginggay Hontiveros-Malvar, president of Aboitiz Foundation. “As we look to 2025, we remain committed to empowering future leaders, creating more jobs, and taking bold climate actions for a sustainable and resilient future.”

Aboitiz Foundation’s 2025 roadmap includes scaling current programs, strengthening partnerships, and exploring new initiatives to continue making a lasting impact for generations to come.

PHILIPPINE INFORMATION AGENCY

PBBM calls for new strategies to cope with climate change

Local chief executives should assess their disaster preparedness and mitigation strategies to handle increasingly severe weather disturbances caused by climate change.

“Kailangan ay gagawin natin ang lahat upang mabigyan ng proteksyon ang ating mga constituent dito sa mga bagong pangyayari,” President Marcos said during the 2025 League of Municipalities of the Philippines (LMP) General Assembly Wednesday at the Manila Hotel.

“Hindi naman natin masasabi na iyong nakaraan na anim na bagyo na dumaan sa Pilipinas sa 23 araw ay hindi natin masasabi na hindi mauulit ‘yan kaya’t kailangan na natin paghandaan,” he said.

The President stated that everyone must analyze the problem, learn from the country’s past disaster experiences, and adjust the response and mitigation measures.

He noted that typhoons are now more frequent and devastating, making areas that previously did not experience flooding and landslides vulnerable.

“Kailangan na natin tingnan ano ang naging problema sa mga nakaraan dahil ang mga nangyayari, ang panahon ngayon, ang weather ngayon ay hindi na natin maasahan ‘yung mga dating ginagawa natin,” the President said.

“Kailangan natin tanggapin na ang weather ngayon ay hindi kagaya ng panahon (noon) – ang mga bagyo ngayon hindi kagaya ng bagyo noon. Sila ay mas malakas at mas madalas.”

The President encouraged mayors to engage the public as they cannot address challenges alone. That is why the national government has adopted a whole-of-government approach, he said.

The government later expanded the strategy into a whole-of-society approach that involved the private sector, businesses, non-governmental organizations (NGOs), and civil society.

The President also highlighted the efforts under the Kalinga at Inisyatiba Para sa Malinis na Bayan, or KALINISAN sa Bagong Pilipinas Program.

Last year, 22,200 barangays participated in regular cleanup activities, demonstrating a collaborative effort to create a healthier and more dignified nation.

THE MANILA TIMES

[Opinion] Are the climate scientists wrong?

By: Ben Kritz

Lest our resident climate denier gets excited and again misinterprets my questioning of the science as an indication that I have accepted the notion that political ideology can control the weather, let me clarify that I am asking the question not because I think climate scientists have been alarmist, but because they may have been entirely too conservative.

As has been widely reported, 2024 was the first full calendar year in which global average temperatures exceeded 1.5 degrees Celsius above the pre-industrial average. 1.5 C is the threshold beyond which very bad things will begin to happen, including profoundly changed weather patterns, accelerating sea level rise, and a positive feedback loop of increasing greenhouse gas concentrations in the atmosphere due to melting permafrost and more wildfires. In reality, by December 2024 Earth had experienced 18 consecutive months above the 1.5 C threshold; the full calendar year indicator is just a hook for news stories to make the rather frightening circumstances a bit more relatable.

Just as in June 2024, when global temperatures registered their first 12 consecutive months over 1.5 C, and recently when the reports that all of 2024 was over the limit, experts have stressed that the news does not necessarily mean that the world has breached the limit according to the 2015 Paris Agreement since that is based on an average across several decades. One thing that has been interesting has been the slight change in that assertion between the middle of last year and now. Back in mid-2024, it was "several decades"; in the latest news, that has changed to "20 or 30 years."

That shift in messaging certainly does make it sound as though the climate scientists and the climate policymakers who take their cues from the science are making it up as they go along. The fact that the 1.5◦ C threshold was based on an average across a number of years (the basic unit of measurement in climate science is usually a decade) hasn't changed since 2015, but because the vast majority of Earth's population are not climate scientists, and are collectively actually quite dull, it was decided at some point that it would be better if the message were simplified.

Thus, in 2015 and for the years after, the red line was simply 1.5 C until we had a year, and then a year-and-a-half and counting, when 1.5 C was surpassed. All of a sudden, the original message was invalid, so now the qualification of "1.5 C average for some extended period of time," two or three or several decades, has been added.

The reason for this is that having identified a limit in the 1.5 C figure, exceeding that limit very likely could ruin any appetite for continuing climate change mitigation efforts. If those efforts have failed, according to the benchmark established by science, then what

is the point of continuing them? The point, of course, is to prevent things from becoming so much worse than they are or could be, but most people would not see it that way.

In the news reports on Tuesday about the 2024 temperature record, it was mentioned almost in passing that a team of German and Austrian researchers may have just blown up the whole "1.5 C average over some number of years" assertion. While I have yet to read the actual study (I expect a link to it will arrive in my email inbox in the next few days through one of my various subscriptions), the basic explanation reported was that the research team was trying to determine whether one year of crossing the 1.5 C line indicated that temperatures would stay above that threshold for a longer period of time.

The answer to that question is basically 'yes'; dividing up the historical record into 20-year increments, the scientists found that the first single year that crosses a given temperature threshold falls "within the longer-term 20-year period where that global warming level is reached." In other words, the average for the subsequent 20-year period will be at or above that first year's temperature level; thus, as the researchers concluded, "The calendar year of 2024 was announced as the first above 1.5 C warming and, therefore, it signals that most probably Earth has already entered a 20-year period at 1.5 C warming."

Put another way, we do not need to wait for another 10 or 20 years to reliably say that we have gone past the 1.5 C limit. Any rhetoric to the contrary is probably wrong, and we will need to rethink our approach to combating climate change because what we are doing so far is not working.

It makes sense if you think about it; the whole point of measuring 1.5 C over an extended period of time was to even out the expected year-to-year temperature fluctuations. However, what the scientists may not have taken into consideration is that if the primary cause of the warming, greenhouse gas emissions, were constantly increasing — as it has been steadily year after year — then there would be no fluctuations. Each year could be expected to be hotter than the previous one, and if there is any variability at all, it might be that the increase may be larger or smaller in different years, but it would be an increase nonetheless and never a decrease.

This also may go a long way toward explaining why the weather manifestations of climate change — stronger storms, heat waves and droughts, unseasonal temperature extremes, and the like — seem to be happening much more intensely, much sooner than climate scientists originally forecast. We are seeing conditions now that, as recently as two or three years ago, were not predicted to be experienced frequently until mid-century. In a perverse way, however, the extreme weather may help climate messaging if scientists can bring themselves to characterize our circumstances as the immediate mortal threat they actually are rather than as a possible dire future.

CCC IN THE NEWS:

DW

Climate reporting in the Philippines

The "Covering Climate" project in the Philippines strengthens the skills of climate journalists. They put constructive journalism techniques into practice on a visit to Manila's Baseco neighborhoods.

"People in the Philippines are already convinced there is no way to escape the effects of the climate crisis. This becomes a problem and shows the urgency for newsrooms to train their journalists to write constructive stories." (Rey Anthony Ostria, freelance journalist in the Philippines)

Effectively reporting on climate and disaster prevention can be a challenge and is one that Rainielle Kyle Guison, Rey Anthony Ostria and Aljohn Torreta regularly face. The three journalists work for various media outlets in the Philippines, and climate reporting is among their focuses. The climate change in their country affects everyone's lives there.

According to the World Risk Index 2024, the Philippines is the country most at risk from natural disasters, with an index value of 46.91 percent. People here experience the direct impact almost daily, with periods of drought alternating with tropical storms, heavy rain and flooding. This is why those affected need reliable information about the causes and impact of climate change.

Media just focus on the disasters

"Unlike in many Western countries, we don't need to convince people here that the climate crisis exists," Rey Anthony Ostria explains, "but we do need to show them how their lives are linked to climate change. We need to explain the science to them but in a simple way so that people understand there's room for action and that they can hold those responsible to account."

His colleague Rainielle Kyle Guison agrees, adding, "Here in the Philippines, we often have extreme weather events due to the climate. In our reporting, we focus on facts, such as the number of victims, but less on people's personal stories. As a result," she says, "many people lose interest in the news and no longer want to read these negative headlines."

Training that focuses on climate reporting is also missing, says Aljohn Torreta, a radio journalist and lecturer in radio and journalism at the University of the Philippines Visayas. "If we look at the industry or at us as climate journalists it's a challenge – there is no specific training or something that really helps you. You just go into the field, gather information, and do it on your own."

Resources are a fundamental problem for climate journalism: travel for doing research on the widely dispersed islands, the need for equipment and the time required for in-depth reporting – these costs all add up but journalists are rarely adequately compensated for their efforts. Important local climate stories are usually not covered because media outlets are either unwilling or unable to cover the costs.

Climate reporting in practice

To learn how to report constructively on climate issues, Ostria, Guison and Torreta applied to DW Akademie's "Covering Climate" program, which is funded by the German Embassy in Manila and conducted in cooperation with the Climate Change Commission of the Philippines.

"Our training helps media professionals approach the complex issue of climate reporting. While it's important to relay to the public the direct effects of climate change, it's also essential to convey to them the economic, political and social implications. These are complex correlations, and good reporting needs to take them into account," explains trainer and project manager Deborah Urban.

The three journalists were among the 10 media professionals taking part in the program and were trained in research, storytelling and constructive journalism. They also looked at the causes and effects of climate change and at measures for adapting to and mitigating challenges. In addition, they visited Manila's Baseco neighborhoods and put what they had learned into practice.

Projects on resilience and crisis prevention

The Baseco neighborhoods comprise approximately 23,000 households and are located in an area where the Pasig River flows into Manila Bay. As a result, the area is frequently affected by flooding, typhoons and extreme heat. People there live in simple shacks and many are fishers, harbor workers, drivers or construction workers. Others make a living peeling garlic. The impoverished neighborhoods were specifically chosen for the program because they show how the climate crisis is affecting vulnerable groups and driving them to find creative solutions.

To mitigate the immediate effects of climate change, residents have been working with several local non-governmental organizations, and particularly with the Urban Poor Associates (UPA) that founded the community organization, Kabalikat. Together they have developed a mangrove plantation with some 3,000 trees to protect the area from flooding and rising sea levels, and have also developed an urban gardening project to grow crops and thus improve local food security. Kabalikat is firmly integrated into local structures for disaster prevention, and conducts regular training sessions and organizes evacuations in the event of extreme weather. A collective savings system also strengthens the community's resilience.

Participants of the "Covering Climate" program produced articles, reports and social media posts about the various initiatives, and conducted research and talked to organization members and residents on site.

"The idea of constructive journalism is to show that people are capable of taking action to address a problem," says Kyle James, one of the project's trainers and mentors. "Constructive reporting presents examples of agency and positive action. The residents of Baseco, of course, can do little about the extreme weather, but they can prepare and work with other members of the community to improve a difficult situation. They see that they're not helpless, and that can motivate others."

This part of the training was crucial, says Guison: "I really think it's the people you feature in the story. People often don’t see how it affects them if they don’t see a person who has the same struggles or benefits that they do. So a good aspect of a climate story is to put a face to the story, then it becomes more relatable. If there are solutions, to also include them and whether they are effective and working."

Covering climate change is intense says Torreta: "It takes a lot of creativity and critical thinking to do climate reporting. It's a challenge because you need to have a grasp of everything and connect the different aspects. The mentors in the training told me that it’s a matter of ensuring that the story will speak for itself. You need to give technical information but at the same time, readers need to relate to it. We have to make an effort to create an impactful story."

His colleague, Ostria, points to the insights he gained "My main takeaways were to really look for the constructive side of the story, when there is one, and to be really patient and look for that solution. You also need to provide evidence that the solution works in case someone wants to copy it."

He also stresses the importance of making people aware of the climate issue: "2025 is a midterm election year for us. When polls are released, people's priority is about the rising prices. Filipinos prioritize getting food on the table, getting decent jobs. They don’t really see the climate crisis or climate resilience as their priority. That’s the challenge for us, to show people proof that their problems are not exclusive to this, but that the climate crisis could even worsen them."

Checklist: 10 steps for successful climate reporting
1. Solutions instead of problems

Highlighting solutions adds depth and relevance to a report and is important for countering so-called news fatigue. A solution-oriented approach includes concrete recommendations for action or references to people or organizations working on a solution to the problem described. Recommendations, though, should not be presented as the only possible solutions and should be critically reviewed, as well.

2. Focus on people

People like to read stories about other people, and ideally those who have something to do with the reality of their own lives. Stories told from the perspective of individuals or communities affected give credibility and authenticity to the reporting. Reports should also include the voices of experts, decision-makers and civil society organizations. The perspectives of women, indigenous people and other social minorities also play a central role here because they are often the most affected by the impact of climate change.

3. Know the facts

Climate policy and climate science are complex and dynamic. Political frameworks shift, and new scientific findings expand our knowledge of climate change. This means that well-founded climate reporting not only requires knowledge of current political developments, but also an understanding of the latest research findings. This is the only way to connect relevant aspects and convey a comprehensive and accurate picture of the situation.

4. Report beyond headlines and disasters

There’s more than just event-driven reporting on disasters or extreme weather conditions: there are also opportunities for relevant background reporting on climate and environmental issues. In times of news fatigue, many people do want to know more than just the headlines, especially when it comes to differentiated, solution-oriented reporting.

5. Inform, don't overwhelm

Language plays an important role in environmental and scientific-related communication. It’s an art to use simple language and present complex scientific facts in a way that’s easy to understand. It’s also important not to over-simplify or omit relevant details. Interesting narratives cleverly weave in facts and data, concrete examples from everyday life and give a local context.

6. Understand climate as an overarching topic

Climate change afffects many areas, so reporting should not only be done by outlets’ environmental desk. Establish a global perspective and keep an eye on its effects on other areas such as the economy, education, society and nutrition.

7. Make it visual!

Using data and data visualization helps reinforce statements and highlight trends and dynamics. Think of how to present the topic visually. Photos, videos, tables, infographics or maps are a good way to visually present a story and illustrate complex relationships.

8. Be careful choosing the format

Although people are often put off by scientific or technical topics, exciting formats exist that make apparently complicated topics more accessible. Short, audiovisual social media posts can spark interest in a topic and then offer a more in-depth background article.

9. Know your networks

It’s not always easy to retrieve data and find reliable sources, especially when it comes to environmental reporting and science communication. Networking with local organizations, NGOs and experts can help you gain long-term access to reliable data.

10. Stay critical

Climate and environmental protection have become a trendy topic, and numerous campaigns and measures claim to be climate or environmentally friendly. Always take a second look to see if it’s just superficial greenwashing.

The project "Covering Climate. Qualification of environmental journalists in the Philippines" was conducted by DW Akademie with the support of the German Embassy in Manila. The project was also supported by the Climate Change Commission of the Philippines (CCC) and funded by the German Federal Foreign Office (AA).

PAGEONE

Philippines Pushes For Transparency, Collaboration In Climate Governance

The Philippines highlighted the importance of transparency, accountability, and collaboration in addressing climate challenges across social and national boundaries during a high-level meeting in Manila.

In a news release on Tuesday, Climate Change Commission Vice Chairperson and Executive Director Robert E.A. Borje reiterated the country's commitment to open and inclusive climate governance, emphasizing its role in strengthening climate resilience and sustainable development at the Open Government Partnership Asia-Pacific Regional Meeting held on Feb. 7.

"Governments must not work in silos. Meaningful participation leads to stronger policies, better implementation, and greater public trust," he said.

"Our commitment to open governance means breaking down barriers and equipping communities with the knowledge and tools to take action so we can build a culture of appreciation for open climate governance mechanisms that drive real, lasting resilience across the Asia-Pacific."

Underscoring the need for a strong governance framework to effectively address climate challenges, Borje cited the Philippines National Adaptation Plan (NAP) and the Nationally Determined Contribution Implementation Plan (NDCIP) as prime examples of collaborative policymaking under President Ferdinand R. Marcos Jr.'s administration.

He said that under the current leadership, climate action has been prioritized through clear governance structures that encourage broad stakeholder participation.

"The NAP was completed in under 10 months, and the NDCIP in just five months, demonstrating that when governance frameworks are in place and stakeholders are actively engaged, we can achieve both strong outputs and impactful outcomes," Borje said.

A key focus of the discussion at the meeting was climate finance transparency, as Borje highlighted the Climate Change Expenditure Tagging (CCET) mechanism.

He explained that the CCET system tracks the allocation of climate-related funds, allowing the public to monitor financial flows and ensuring that investments translate into meaningful and measurable outcomes.

Meanwhile, Borje also proposed the creation of an ASEAN-wide open governance framework for climate finance and carbon markets to foster regional cooperation.

He also emphasized the need to balance high-quality deliberation with high-quality investment, citing the Philippine Energy Plan (PEP) 2020-2040, which outlines the country's transition to renewable energy while ensuring financial transparency and public trust.

Borje also called on civil society organizations, research institutions, and advocacy groups to play an active role in monitoring climate finance and shaping policies.

The event brought together government officials, civil society leaders, and policy experts to explore how open governance can accelerate sustainable development in the region.

Experts from Australia, Indonesia, Mongolia, and Sri Lanka tackled pressing issues, such as artificial intelligence governance, anti-corruption efforts, misinformation, and public finance reforms.

The CCC, meanwhile, affirmed its commitment to integrating open governance principles into climate policies, ensuring that adaptation and mitigation efforts align with national and global goals while fostering transparency and public engagement.

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