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BUSINESS MIRROR

[PHL to lose 8% of GDP due to climate change in 2030](#)

By: Malou Talosig-Bartolome

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GMA NEWS

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By: Ted Cordero

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By: Sundry Locus

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MANILA STANDARD

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By: Vito Barcelo

At least 87 percent of adult Filipinos believe they had “personally experienced” the effects of climate change for the past three years, according to the latest survey conducted by the Social Weather Stations (SWS). The SWS study found 19 percent of respondents said they have experienced severe impact of climate change, 43 percent felt it at moderate level, 24 percent noted little effect, while 13 percent are not affected by climate change at all.

NIKKEI ASIA

[China, India may miss emission goals despite green energy push: report](#)

By: Dylan Loh

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PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

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By: Miguel Gil

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By: Anna Leah Gonzales

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THE PHILIPPINE STAR

[DENR: Philippines still third largest source of marine litter](#)

By: Bella Cariaso

The Philippines remains the world's third-largest source of marine litter, according to the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR).

[For most Filipinos, climate change threatens human health, mental well-being](#)

By: Gaea Katreena Cabico

Eight in 10 Filipinos believe that climate change poses dangers to their physical and mental health, according to a survey by the Social Weather Stations (SWS) released Thursday.

Information and Knowledge Management Division

BUSINESS MIRROR

PHL to lose 8% of GDP due to climate change in 2030

By: Malou Talosig-Bartolome

The Philippines stands to lose around Php1.4 trillion or equivalent to 8 percent of its gross domestic product in 2030 if the world will not act now to stop the effects of climate change, Environment Secretary Maria Antonia “Toni” Yulo-Loyzaga said.

Yulo-Loyzaga said climate scientists and economists computed this figure as they drew up the National Assessment Plan (NAP) which they presented and used as reference during negotiations at the United Nations Climate Change Conference (COP 28) in Dubai, UAE last December.

“The plan estimates that the cost of inaction within the 2030 decade to the expected the increases in temperature, rainfall changes that are projected to intensity flooding in Luzon and Mindanao, sea level rise that may be over twice the current average by 2050 and typhoons that may be less frequent but more intense is estimated could be as much as P1.4 Trillion or around 8% of 2020 GDP,” she said during a forum hosted by the Ayala-led Philippine Disaster Resilience Foundation (PDRF) Thursday.

Earlier, the World Bank estimated that the Philippines was losing up to 1.2 percent of GDP due to the impact of rapid onset of typhoons alone.

Because the Philippines lack the capacity to process and repurpose plastic wastes, the WB estimated that over US\$800-900 Million is lost to the Philippine economy each year. The Philippines consumes 143 million sachets of plastics every day, the biggest in the world.

“This (WB figure) did not include the impacts of prolonged periods of drought, which we considered slow onset disasters especially during El Nino years, and the impacts of extreme rainfall events on lives, livelihoods and infrastructure,” she added.

The new assumptions by the DENR are based on climate scenarios that include socio-economic factors such as food security, water resources, health, ecosystem, biodiversity, population migration and cultural heritage as identified by the experts from the UN’s Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change.

“Our goal is to build transformative climate resilience , minimize losses and damages, and achieve sustainable socio-economic development by 2050,” she said.

The DENR plan include “evidence-informed” climate- and future-proofing of land use and human settlements, livelihoods and industries, energy, transport and communications.

“The President’s instructions on adaptation were clear: Be sure the plan benefits our local communities directly,” she said.

Among the climate change strategies that the DENR secretary enumerated during the forum are:

- Reducing by 75 percent the greenhouse emissions from energy, transport, waste and industrial processes by 2030. The mix entails 72.29 percent support coming from developed countries, and 2.71 percent using Philippine government resources although the estimated cost are still being refined;
- Mapping all the surface water resources in the country and together with the and the National Irrigation Authority, unlocked the unused water rights and offered 247 potential projects to government and private investors.
- Completing the geospatial database for biodiversity and our green and blue forests.
- By second quarter of this year, DENR to share information on around 1.2 million hectares of terrestrial forests for investment in growth and protection for carbon sequestration, timber use and agroforestry opportunities;
- Joined regional NASA scientific mission to understand the air quality using satellite and ground-based data
- 900 enterprises registered to join the Extended Producers Responsibility Law to minimize the use of plastics and promote circular economy. She is asking the private sector to regard waste management as an industry, by investing in transitional technologies and social inclusion.
- Supported the departments of Interior and Local Government and Public Works and Highways in identifying viable surface water projects and opportunities for multi-purpose infrastructure investments for safe domestic supply, manage flooding, irrigation for agriculture and power at local and regional scales
- Together with Department of Energy, updating guidelines for offshore wind and floating solar projects

GMA NEWS

[DOE, DENR ink pact to streamline permitting process for offshore wind projects](#)

By: Ted Cordero

The Department of Energy (DOE) and the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) on Thursday signed an accord that would ease permitting processes for offshore wind (OSW) projects.

During the business matching event, hosted by the DOE, in Taguig City, Energy Secretary Raphael Lotilla and Environment Secretary Maria Antonio Yulo-Loyzaga signed a memorandum of understanding that would streamline the process in securing environmental compliance certificates for OSW service contracts.

The accord, in particular, covers the authority to grant access to offshore areas covered by OSW energy service contracts for the conduct of predevelopment or exploration activities to ensure it follows environmental laws, rules and regulations, and good international industry practice.

“...Because each of this service contract, the developers would need at least two years of wind data so that's part of the pre-development stage and that's what DENR is trying to facilitate by clearly indicating what would be needed in the pre-development stage,” Lotilla said.

The Energy chief added that the proper facilitation of pre-development of OSW project would be key for the actual “development stage will have a greater impact on the marine environment and they will also be requiring more in the development stage the requirements for that are not in place yet.”

Yulo-Loyzaga said that exploration development due to the station of wind resources, “may have significant unintended impact on the environment given that the installation, operation, and decommissioning, can potentially, cause some disruption and threaten marine, terrestrial, and socio-economic environments.”

“And this is why it is essential that we work together and support each other in this endeavor. With this MOA, we hope, that our continued partnership with the DOE will provide guidance to the developers, and assist them, and ensure that their predevelopment exploration activities, and the eventual operation are within our environmental laws, rules, and regulations, and within the best international practice,” the Environment chief said.

The Philippines has an estimated potential of 178 gigawatts (GW) for offshore wind power.

The DOE so far has awarded a total of 82 offshore wind projects, with a contracted capacity of 63.359 GW located north of Luzon, west of Metro Manila, north and south of Mindoro, Panay and Guimaras Strait.

The OSW service contracts are still in pre-development stages.

SWS: 87% of Pinoys experienced climate change impact in last 3 years

By: Sundy Locus

A large majority of adult Filipinos have felt the effects of climate change, with 87% saying they personally experienced its impact within the last three years, survey firm Social Weather Stations (SWS) reported Thursday.

This was among the key findings of the SWS survey conducted from Dec. 8 to 13 last year. A total of 1,200 Filipino adult respondents participated in the study through face-to-face interviews.

In terms of magnitude, SWS found that 19% of respondents said they experienced the severe impact of climate change, 43% felt moderate impact, while 24% reported little impact. About 13% said they did not experience the impact of climate change.

Despite the high overall percentage, SWS reported decreasing figures over the past months.

"The December 2023 percentage of those who have personally experienced the impacts of climate change fell by 7 points from October 2023 and 6 points from December 2022, but it was similar to March 2017 and March 2013," the SWS said.

"Compared to October 2023, those who experienced the severe impact of climate change fell by 4 points, while those who experienced the moderate impact similarly decreased by 4 points," SWS said.

Among the powerful typhoons that hit the Philippines over the last three years include: Super Typhoon Odette (international name: Rai) in 2021, Typhoon Henry (international name: Hinnamnor) in 2022, and Typhoon Jenny (international name: Koinu) that affected northern Philippines in October 2023 or about two months before the SWS poll was conducted.

Also in during the month of the SWS survey period, provinces across the country were already reeling from the sweltering heat of the El Niño phenomenon. Although the El Niño is a natural climate condition, its reduced rainfall and dry spell may double down on the separate effects of climate change, according to a Reuters report.

The SWS poll had a sampling error margin of $\pm 2.8\%$ for national percentages, and $\pm 5.7\%$ each for Metro Manila, Balance Luzon (areas outside of the National Capital Region), the Visayas, and Mindanao.

Mental, physical toll

The SWS study also found that majority of Filipinos believe climate change poses danger to both physical and mental health.

Some 88% of respondents felt that climate change impact may cause danger to their physical health; 47% perceived it as very dangerous; 42% said it was somewhat dangerous; while 12% answered that it was not dangerous.

Meanwhile, 81% of respondents believed climate change was dangerous to mental health. Among these people, 37% saw it as very dangerous, 44% somewhat dangerous, while the rest felt it was not dangerous.

"The proportion of those who said the impact of climate change is dangerous to their mental health was higher among those who experienced severe impact of climate change in the past three years than among those who experienced moderate impact and little impact and those who did not experience the impact of climate change," the SWS added.

Among the 93% who felt at least one emotion to climate change, most of them said they have felt negative emotions such as depression, anger, hopelessness, being responsible, and guilt.

Humanity and climate change

Asked if humanity can do something to stop or slow down the effects of climate change, only 57% of the respondents agreed.

However, SWS said this was a decline of 12 points from 69% in October 2023, and 19 points from 76% in December 2022. Those who thought that climate change was beyond humanity's control rose by 10 points to 39% from 29% in October 2023, and 16 points from 23% in December 2023.

Personal efficacy to do something to reduce climate risk likewise fell over the past year, with respondents agreeing that they can do something to reduce climate risks decreasing to 74% in December 2023 from 88% in December 2022.

As for personal efforts to mitigate climate risks, 39% of respondents said they participated in such initiatives.

Rising sea levels

Meanwhile, the Philippine Disaster Resilience Foundation (PDRF) warned of rising sea levels as a result of climate change.

“While sea level rise may seem like an invisible almost imperceptible phenomenon to most of us, the Lopez Center reports that the Philippine rate of rise is double that of the global average looking back to 1993,” PDRF Chairperson Jaime Augusto Zobel de Ayala told Dano Tingcungco’s 24 Oras report.

Citing data from the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA), the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) showed the rise in sea levels globally has increased by 99.88 millimeters, four times higher than the global average in 1993.

The DENR warned that stronger effects of climate change may be felt in the Philippines should the government fail to address it.

“The plan estimates that the cost of inaction within the 2030 decade to the expected increases in temperature, rainfall changes, and sea-level rise, and typhoons, are in fact, amounting to about P1.4 trillion or 8% of 2020’s GDP,” DENR Secretary Maria Antonio Yulo-Loyazaga said.

With this, the DENR has outlined a national adaptation plan which contains the hazards and exposure of climate change in each province.

Yulo-Loyazaga also said they crafted a plan to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and are eyeing to establish a marine research station in Sta. Ana, Cagayan, which can help the government maintain the country’s coastal and marine environment.

MANILA STANDARD

[SWS: Many Filipinos bothered by climate change](#)

By: Vito Barcelo

At least 87 percent of adult Filipinos believe they had “personally experienced” the effects of climate change for the past three years, according to the latest survey conducted by the Social Weather Stations (SWS). The SWS study found 19 percent of respondents said they have experienced severe impact of climate change, 43 percent felt it at moderate level, 24 percent noted little effect, while 13 percent are not affected by climate change at all.

The research firm also reported that 88 percent of Filipinos believe that climate change poses a serious threat to their physical health, 47 percent find it very dangerous, 42 percent said it is somewhat dangerous, and only 12 percent said it is not that dangerous. Respondents also said climate change is not good for their mental health: 81 percent said the impact is dangerous (37 percent very dangerous, 44 percent somewhat dangerous) and 19 percent said it is not dangerous (14 percent somewhat dangerous, 5 percent not dangerous at all). Meanwhile, 93 percent of Filipinos felt at least one kind of emotion when climate change was discussed; 87 percent felt negative emotions and 37 percent felt positive emotions. The remaining 7 percent said they did not feel anything about it.

The top three negative emotions were sadness (56 percent), anxiety and fear (tied at 43 percent). These were followed by depression (16 percent), anger and hopelessness (tied at 11 percent), being responsible and guilt (tied at 4 percent). Patience (22 percent) topped the list of positive emotions followed by hope and calmness (tied at 7 percent), happiness (6 percent), being irresponsible (2 percent), excitement and innocence (tied at 1 percent). The fourth quarter 2023 SWS survey on climate change was conducted through face-to-face interviews with 1,200 adult respondents nationwide between Dec. 8 to 11 last year. The sampling error margins are ± 2.8 percent for national percentages and ± 5.7 percent each for Metro Manila, Balance Luzon, the Visayas, and Mindanao.

NIKKEI ASIA

[China, India may miss emission goals despite green energy push: report](#)

By: Dylan Loh

China and India may miss their national greenhouse gas emission goals by the end of the current decade, even as both are set to contribute heavily to Asia's green energy push in areas like hydrogen, a report released on Wednesday said.

The report by Wood Mackenzie, an energy and natural resources consultancy, projected that China's emission intensity is on track to fall 63% between 2005 and 2030, below the government target of 65%, while India's will drop 30% in this period -- lower than its target of 45%.

Emissions intensity tracks the total amount of greenhouse gasses like carbon dioxide, which contribute to global warming and climate change, released per unit of economic output activity.

"Every country in the Asia-Pacific region is vastly different in terms of population growth, economic development, policy landscape, what natural resources they have," said Prakash Sharma, vice president for scenarios and technologies research at Wood Mackenzie. "More importantly, what they don't have will determine how they transition to a low-emissions pathway."

The consultancy pointed out that renewable technologies that help mitigate the negative effects of climate change are capital intensive, but the financial landscape is less favorable for this, with high interest rates, global cost inflation and supply chain issues slowing the pace of change.

Wood Mackenzie said only the European Union and the U.K. come close to meeting their 2030 emissions reduction targets, while Asia is struggling to meet the milestones set to curb the release of greenhouse gasses.

The Paris Agreement reached at the 2015 United Nations Climate Change Conference set a goal of reducing global greenhouse gas emissions to hold global temperature increase to less than 2 C above pre-industrial levels, and pursue efforts to limit it to 1.5 C above pre-industrial levels.

Wood Mackenzie's report on Wednesday warned that global emissions remain far from the 1.5 C pathway, and that "emissions must fall rapidly across all sectors to meet the long-term climate targets."

To work towards the goal of reaching climate targets, it recommended initiatives such as expanding the charging network for electric vehicles, emerging technologies such as low-carbon hydrogen, and long duration energy storage as part of the solution.

In the Asia-Pacific, the consultancy noted bright prospects for EV adoption. The number of EVs in the region is projected to rise from 24 million cars today to 635 million units by 2050, with this exponential growth driven by the affordability of the vehicles and the availability of resources in the region.

Wood Mackenzie has tipped the Asia-Pacific to be a hub for new energy technologies, with low-carbon sources of power projected to rise to 75% by 2050, from the supply of 35% of power generated today, while the share of wind and solar energy increases to over 54%.

The rapid growth in renewables that the consultancy expects will be accompanied by the adoption of energy storage, hydrogen, small modular nuclear reactors and geothermal technologies to aid in the transition to cleaner power, it said, with nearly 50% of the world's new technology opportunities for low-carbon emission to be found in the Asia-Pacific by 2050.

"Several markets have established goals of achieving net zero emissions, few countries are currently on track to meet them," said Roshna Nazar, a research analyst for energy transition at Wood Mackenzie. "Robust carbon pricing, tax incentives, and supportive regulatory regimes are needed to incentivise the transition and close the emissions gap."

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

[SWS: 87% of Filipinos experienced effects of climate change](#)

By: Adrian Parungao

A survey of the Social Weather Stations (SWS) on Thursday found that 87 percent of Filipino adults have personally experienced the effects of climate change.

The survey was done in December 2023.

According to the SWS, 43 percent said that they experienced a moderate impact, 24 percent said that they experienced a little impact, 19 percent said that they experienced a moderate impact, and 13 percent said that they did not experience any impact of climate change.

On the other hand, 88 percent of Filipinos said that climate change is dangerous to their physical health, while 12 percent said that it was not dangerous to their physical health.

Meanwhile, 81 percent said that climate change is dangerous to their mental health, and 19 percent said that it was not dangerous to their mental health.

Furthermore, the negative emotions felt by the respondents ranked from highest to lowest are sadness, 56 percent; anxiety, 43 percent; fear, 43 percent; depression, 16 percent; anger, 11 percent; hopelessness, 11 percent; responsibility and guilt also at four percent.

For positive emotions, 22 percent of respondents felt patience, seven percent felt hope, seven percent felt calmness, six percent felt courage and happiness, two percent felt being irresponsible, and one percent felt excitement and innocence.

SWS added that 57 percent of respondents thought that humanity as a whole could solve climate change, 39 percent said that climate change could not be solved by humanity, and three percent were unsure.

The SWS said that 74 percent of respondents thought that they could do something to solve climate change, 17 percent were undecided, and nine percent disagreed.

The survey revealed that 73 percent of respondents were aware of climate change, while 27 percent said that they first heard of it during the survey.

However, 61 percent of respondents admitted that they did not do anything to directly or indirectly reduce climate risks or risks resulting from climate change, and 39 percent said that they made efforts otherwise.

The SWS added that 1,200 adults nationwide were surveyed, while the margin of error was at ± 2.8 percent for national percentages, and ± 5.7 percent for Metro Manila, Luzon outside Metro Manila, the Visayas, and Mindanao.

PHILIPPINE INFORMATION AGENCY

[BARMM's anti-deforestation efforts yield positive result](#)

The Bangsamoro Government's resolute effort to combat deforestation and restore the local ecosystem has yielded successful results through reforestation and forest rehabilitation initiatives.

The Ministry of Environment, Natural Resources, and Energy (MENRE) reported on February 16 that 2,600.66 hectares of land had been reforested and rehabilitated. Additionally, they have rehabilitated 606.98 hectares of forestland through various tree-planting programs.

"We have been protecting and conserving the environment. We are thrilled to see the positive impact of our reforestation efforts, and we are even more dedicated to spending more years doing the same and even better," said MENRE Minister Akmad Brahim.

Accordingly, Bangsamoro Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao's (BARMM) environmentalists are responsible for forest restoration, which plays a crucial role in mitigating climate change, increasing biodiversity, and improving the quality of the natural environment.

"It is our moral and social responsibility to protect and nurture our planet," the Minister remarked.

Brahim also shared that 448,335.70 hectares of forest area was protected from fires, pests, and diseases and helped restore its ecological balance.

"It has always been my advocacy to promote collective environmental action. By restoring the forest landscape and promoting biodiversity, we are contributing to the long-term health and sustainability of our environment," he added.

The Ministry continues to conduct environmental projects such as planting native tree species, implementing sustainable forestry practices, and working closely with local communities to ensure the long-term health and sustainability of the forest ecosystem.

The commitment to sustainable forestry practices is in line with BARMM Chief Minister Ahod Ebrahim's 8th priority in the Enhanced 12-Point Priority Agenda, highlighting the region's determination to strengthen environmental protection, conservation, and rehabilitation initiatives.

PHILIPPINE NEWS AGENCY

[Angat, La Mesa water levels remain high](#)

By: Miguel Gil

Water levels in the two primary reservoirs supplying Metro Manila and surrounding areas remain safely above critical levels despite shortage concerns due to El Niño, according to the East Zone concessionaire.

The statement came as a reaction to a Malacañang official's appeal for water conservation amid the ongoing weather phenomenon that limits the amount of rainfall.

In an interview, Raymond Maymay, corporate communications manager at Manila Water (MW), said that as of Wednesday morning, the water level at Angat Dam in Norzagaray, Bulacan was recorded at 207.61 meters, giving it ample allowance over its 160-meter critical level.

Over at La Mesa Dam in Quezon City, the water level stood at 77.04 meters, also safely above its 69-meter critical level, he added.

For comparison, the spilling levels at Angat and La Mesa are placed at 217 meters and 80.15 meters, respectively.

“Based on our forecast, we expect to supply customers with water 24/7 for the duration of summer. Just the same, we are reminding consumers to use water responsibly. The best time to save water is when there is water,” Maymay said in Filipino.

He pointed out, however, that a modest decline has been observed in La Mesa Dam’s level in recent days owing to the sparsity of precipitation.

MW's concession area covers 1,400 square kilometers, encompassing 23 cities and municipalities in Metro Manila and Rizal province.

Meanwhile, Jefferson Chua, a campaigner at Greenpeace Philippines, appealed to the government to further strengthen the protection of the country’s water resources amid the new reality of climate change.

He said that the environmental watchdog is also seeking more clarity on how domestic policymakers intend to mitigate the impacts of El Niño on the water supply, food production, and power generation.

In a statement on Wednesday, Amsterdam-headquartered Greenpeace said there is a need to “shift the Philippine food and agriculture system to an environment-friendly and climate-resilient system that would ensure food and nutrition security and uplift the lives of Filipino farmers, especially as we continue to fend off the effects of El Niño and prepare for La Niña.”

The group also called for “improved investments in ecological agriculture to boost the resiliency of the nation’s farming such as well-funded programs that will enhance the capacity of farmers, empowering them to become self-sufficient and respond to crisis.”

Recto: G-24 states must double efforts for sustainable dev't goals

By: Anna Leah Gonzales

Finance Secretary Ralph Recto on Wednesday urged member states of the Intergovernmental Group of Twenty-Four (G-24) to reclaim their lost momentum through heightened cooperation and scaled-up support from international financial institutions.

In his opening remarks for the G-24 Technical Group Meeting, Recto, who is chair of the G-24 Board of Governors, urged G-24 members and international partners to focus discussions on crafting fiscal frameworks that promote fiscal consolidation, widen trade and financial flows, and cultivate a more favorable investment environment for the private sector.

“We must keep in mind that 2030 marks a universal deadline for all nations to make substantial progress in eradicating poverty, ending hunger, and protecting the environment,” Recto said.

“With over half a decade remaining until 2030, there is enough opportunity for developing economies to reclaim lost momentum and make a powerful comeback if we unite in concerted action and adhere to fiscal discipline,” he added.

The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development is a universal action plan that balances economic, social, and environmental goals.

The G-24 helps coordinate the positions of developing countries on international monetary and development finance issues, as well as to ensure that their interests are adequately represented in negotiations on international monetary matters.

This year, the Philippines is hosting a two-day G-24 Technical Group meeting to discuss strategies to efficiently address ongoing economic challenges including climate financing, changes in the global trade regime, resource mobilization, and sovereign debt resolution, among others.

Recto said the pandemic affected the global economy, leaving middle- and low-income countries with constrained fiscal resources and mounting debt burdens.

He said developing nations have little to no fiscal buffer amid tighter credit conditions and higher costs of borrowing.

Recto added that aside from these, the worsening impacts of climate change affect vulnerable countries as efforts for mitigation and adaptation continue to lag behind.

Global trade also faces continued strain due to geopolitical tensions, resulting in increased imbalanced trade deficits and a rising inflationary environment, he added.

“All these headwinds persist while countries like ours face the dilemma of achieving fiscal consolidation to restore pre-[coronavirus disease 2019] levels of growth and address widening inequality and food insecurity,” Recto said.

Amid the projected global economic slowdown which is expected to hit developing countries, Recto called on international financial institutions such as the Asian Development Bank, the World Bank, and the International Monetary Fund to redouble their efforts in helping developing countries mitigate and reverse the factors that threaten growth prospects.

“Traditional interventions are no longer sufficient. We need bold and innovative solutions to help developing economies sustain productivity, boost long-term growth prospects, and increase resilience to economic shocks,” he said.

Recto said the Philippines seeks to facilitate open dialogue and stronger collaboration with international financial institutions and member countries to build up respective capacities to weather global challenges.

G-24 member-states include Algeria, Argentina, Brazil, China, Colombia, Congo, Côte d’Ivoire, Ecuador, Egypt, Ethiopia, Gabon, Ghana, Guatemala, Haiti, India, Iran, Kenya, Lebanon, Mexico, Morocco, Nigeria, Pakistan, Peru, Philippines, South Africa, Sri Lanka, Syria, Trinidad and Tobago, and Venezuela.

THE PHILIPPINE STAR

[DENR: Philippines still third largest source of marine litter](#)

By: Bella Cariaso

The Philippines remains the world's third-largest source of marine litter, according to the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR).

Citing a 2021 World Bank study, DENR Undersecretary Jonas Leones said the country's ranking did not improve.

He, however, disagrees with the findings.

"Personally, I do not agree with the findings considering that in terms of population, we are only 130 million compared to the big countries," Leones said during the National Recycling Conference at Marriott Hotel Manila in Pasay City yesterday.

"How come the Philippines is the biggest contributor compared to bigger countries in terms of plastic generation?" he asked.

Leones noted that 61,000 metric tons of waste are generated daily, 12 to 24 percent of which are plastic waste.

At least 163 million MT of sachet packets, 48 million shopping bags and 45 million thin-film bags are produced every day, he added.

"At least 33 percent of this waste is disposed of in landfills and dumpsites and 35 percent leaked into the open environment and oceans," he said.

He added that 70 percent of plastics' material value is lost to the Philippine economy each year, equivalent to a value loss of \$790 and \$80 million per year.

Recycling facilities in the country are not enough to address plastic waste, Leones said.

"What we really need is recycling of plastics. We need infrastructure for recycling, upcycling and repurposing," he noted.

The DENR, with the private sector's help, aims to identify possible technologies that can be implemented or proposed to industries.

The National Recycling Conference serves as a forum for potential investors in building more recycling facilities, Leones said.

He also mentioned the Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) Act of 2022, which mandates large companies to manage their plastic waste.

“Last June, only 500 enterprises were able to comply but because of the comprehensive partnership with private sectors, with Nestlé and other sectors, we have increased it to 876 and we are expecting that the number of registrants will increase as we implement our online registration,” he said.

Under the EPR Act, companies with total assets of P100 million and above are required to submit EPR plans, designed to effectively manage plastic waste by eliminating unnecessary packaging of products and using more environmentally friendly and recyclable materials.

Based on Department of Trade and Industry data, he said there are an estimated 4,000 large enterprises in the Philippines.

Leones reiterated the DENR’s call for all covered companies to register under the EPR.

Enterprises are mandated to recover 20 percent of their generated plastic product footprint by the end of 2023 with incremental targets for fulfillment each year until 80 percent is reached by 2028.

Brand owners, product manufacturers or importers of consumer goods who implement EPR initiatives will be eligible for tax incentives.

[For most Filipinos, climate change threatens human health, mental well-being](#)

By: Gaea Katreena Cabico

Eight in 10 Filipinos believe that climate change poses dangers to their physical and mental health, according to a survey by the Social Weather Stations (SWS) released Thursday.

The December poll showed that 88% of the 1,200 people surveyed by the SWS perceived the impacts of climate change as dangerous to their physical health, while only 12% disagreed.

Similarly, 81% considered climate change a threat to their mental well-being. Only 19% said it is not a danger to their mental health.

Beyond its well-documented environmental impacts, climate change carries far-reaching implications for human health, with the World Health Organization calling it the single biggest threat facing humanity.

The climate crisis drives extreme weather events such as cyclones and intense heat waves, claiming lives, and fueling the spread of infectious and food-, water- and vector-borne diseases.

These disasters, coupled with uncertainty surrounding the future of the planet, also exacerbate mental health issues like anxiety and depression.

“Our fellow Filipinos have now spoken—climate change is a public health issue,” Dr. Renzo Guinto, chair of the Philippine Medical Association’s committee on environmental health and ecology, told Philstar.com.

“The Philippine health sector must now come up with a long-term adaptation and resilience plan to ensure we are able to protect Filipinos from the health impacts of climate change—both physical and mental,” he added.

Guinto also urged the government to demand major polluters to rapidly decarbonize in order to prevent dangerous levels of global warming.

Negative emotions dominate

According to the SWS, those who reported severe climate impacts in the past three years were more likely to perceive the impacts of climate change as dangerous to their physical and mental health.

The polling firm revealed that 87% of Filipinos have personally experienced climate impacts in the past three years, with 17% experiencing severe impacts, 42% moderate, and 24% little. Only 13% of Filipinos did not feel any effects of the climate crisis.

The percentage of those who reported personally experiencing climate change fell by seven points from October 2023 and six points from December 2022. But the figure remained similar to levels observed in March 2013 and 2017.

A significant majority (73%) of Filipinos were already aware of climate change before the SWS survey, while 27% learned of it only during the interview.

The Philippines is among the countries most vulnerable to climate change's devastating impacts, including strong typhoons and rising sea levels, which disproportionately affect marginalized and vulnerable communities.

The SWS survey also showed that 93% of Filipinos felt at least one kind of emotion due to climate change, mostly negative (87%) and some positive (37%). The remaining 7% said they did not feel anything.

Sadness (56%), anxiety (43%), and fear (43%) were the most prevalent emotions associated with climate change. They were followed by depression (16%), anger (11%), hopelessness (11%), feeling of being responsible (4%), and guilt (4%).

On the other hand, patience (22%) emerged as the most positive emotion, followed by hope (7%), calmness (7%), courage (6%), happiness (6%), feeling of being irresponsible (2%), excitement (1%), and innocence (1%).

Climate action

The poll also found a decline in optimism on humanity's ability to combat climate change. While 57% of Filipinos think humans can still stop or slow down the crisis if they really tried, 39% see it as already beyond their control.

The percentage of respondents expressing confidence in humanity's ability to control climate change dropped by 12 points from October 2023 and 19 points from December 2022.

Seventy-four percent of the respondents agreed with the statement: "People like me can do something to reduce climate risks." Only 17% were undecided, and 9% disagreed with the statement.

This yielded a net agreement score of +65 (very strong). The SWS said this "indicates a very strong personal efficacy to do something to reduce climate risk."

“Net agreement on personal efficacy to do something to reduce climate risk also fell over the past year, but not enough to be considered a downgrade,” the pollster said.

The SWS poll also showed that 39% of the respondents reported taking action to mitigate climate risks in the past three years, while 61% remained inactive.

Among those who participated, 18% contacted local government employees, 12% engaged with community leaders, 8% reached out to political party officials, 8% got in touch with civil society organizations, 7% provided financial or material donations, and 7% communicated with national government employees.

Of those who participated, 18% said they contacted a local government employee, 12% contacted community leaders, 8% contacted officials of political parties, 8% contacted civil society organizations, 7% gave donations in cash and in kind, and 7% contacted a national government employee.

The survey, conducted from December 8 to 11, interviewed 1,200 adults face-to-face nationwide. The sampling error margin was $\pm 2.8\%$ for national percentages and $\pm 5.7\%$ for regional breakdowns.

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