



## NEWS ROUNDUP

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- CCC to form group to design curriculum on climate change lessons
- CCC, San Francisco LGU strengthen local capacity through climate project assessment

## ABS CBN

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## EUROKALERT

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## **INDIA TODAY**

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By: Aryan Rai

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"Such changes to plant reproductive behaviors can have wide-ranging ecological consequences, particularly for pollinators and herbivores.

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## **UNDP**

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By: **GUILIO FABRIS AND KARANRAJ CHAUDRI**

The transition from global climate commitments to actual financial mobilization remains the defining challenge for the 2030 Agenda. Following the Sevilla Commitment at the Fourth International Conference on Financing for Development (FfD4) in June 2025, the global community reiterated that bridging the financing gap is the primary requirement for success. Translating this global mandate into regional reality is now the priority for forums like the 13th Asia-Pacific Forum on Sustainable Development (APFSD), which serve to inform the regional and global discourse on sustainable investment.

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The Climate Change Commission (CCC) is organizing a group composed of experts and university presidents tasked to design a climate change curriculum as part of the law mandating the integration of environmental education in schools.

“Ang isang bagong tayo namin ngayon ay yung itatayo namin na Climate Change Training and Education Command, na kung saan ang mamumuno dito ay mga doktor, mga PhD ho, mga presidente ng state colleges, para sila yung mag-design ng training module or program,” said CCC Climate Change Task Force commandant Ret. Brigadier General Gerardo Zamudio in “Bagong Pilipinas Ngayon.”

### PHILIPPINE INFORMATION AGENCY

#### [CCC, San Francisco LGU strengthen local capacity through climate project assessment](#)

By: Climate Change Commission

Strengthening local climate capacity through science-based assessment. Led by Vice Chairperson and Executive Director Robert E.A. Borje, the Climate Change Commission (CCC) met with San Francisco, Cebu Mayor Alfredo A. Arquillano Jr. and local government officials to assess the implementation and impact of the People’s Survival Fund (PSF) of the LGU.

CAMOTES ISLAND, CEBU – The Climate Change Commission (CCC) met with the Local Government of San Francisco, Cebu to further strengthen the municipality’s climate resilience initiatives and assess the implementation of its People’s Survival Fund (PSF)-supported project.

The engagement formed part of the Commission’s coordination mission in Cebu aimed at enhancing local capacities for climate action through integrated, risk-informed planning and whole-of-government collaboration.

**Information and Knowledge Management Division**

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Ensuring a stable and responsible food supply requires more than efficient operations; it calls for energy choices that support long-term sustainability, reduce environmental impact, and strengthen resilience across the value chain. As food systems face increasing pressure from climate change and resource constraints, integrating renewable energy into production and distribution facilities has become a strategic step toward safeguarding both communities and future generations.

In response to this imperative, one of the country's leading food companies has taken a step toward transforming how its core facilities are powered.

The Jollibee Group has switched on 99% renewable electricity to power its commissaries in the Philippines, marking a significant step in strengthening the company's renewable energy use and operational resilience. The transition to geothermal energy—enabled through renewable electricity from First Gen—forms part of the company's broad renewable energy program and builds on early initiatives, including the integration of solar power in its facilities.

First Gen, one of the leading renewable energy companies in the country, currently supplies the Jollibee Group with 11 megawatts (MW) of electricity from its geothermal power plants. By sourcing geothermal electricity, the Jollibee Group expects to reduce greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions by over 70% across its covered sites, delivering a material reduction in emissions in line with the Company's Joy for Tomorrow sustainability agenda.

To mark the milestone, the Jollibee Group and First Gen held a ceremonial switch-on on January 29 at the Jollibee Group's commissary in Laguna, bringing together company leaders and local stakeholders to formally commence the use of renewable electricity at the facility.

Back in 2023, the Jollibee Group tapped First Gen to install 17,000 solar panels with more than 9 MW of capacity at its commissaries and distribution sites in Paranaque and Laguna, as well as a Remote Energy Monitoring System to optimize electricity usage at the logistics hub. These projects were completed in 2024.

Supporting global growth with renewable energy

Michael Ong, President for Manufacturing and Logistics of the Jollibee Group, emphasized the importance of the milestone in strengthening operational resilience.

"Switching our commissaries to 99% renewable electricity enables us to build a sustainable and reliable energy foundation for our growing operations. This transition reduces our environmental footprint whilst ensuring energy stability - benefits that are meaningful not only today but well into the future."

The transition also strengthens the energy foundation supporting the group's global expansion, ensuring growth is underpinned by stable, renewable power.

## Driving the company's purpose

Joseph Tanbuntiong, Jollibee Group Philippines CEO and Global Head of the Jollibee Brand, said the shift reflects how operational decisions support the company's purpose as it continues to scale.

"At the Jollibee Group, our purpose is to spread joy through superior taste and for me, that purpose has always gone beyond what's on the plate. Behind every meal we serve is a long chain of work that begins in our commissaries. How we power these facilities matters. By shifting to renewable energy, we are ensuring our operations remain reliable and consistent as we grow."

## Enabling clean, reliable power

First Gen Chief Customer Engagement Officer Carlo Vega welcomed the renewed partnership, noting the company's journey with the Jollibee Group to help achieve its goal of shifting to clean, dependable energy.

"The shift to geothermal and solar electricity reflects the Jollibee Group's disciplined approach to growth—investing in reliable energy systems that strengthen operations today and support expansion across its Philippine and global footprint. We are proud to support the Jollibee Group as it progresses in its sustainability journey. We look forward to our continued partnership as the group moves from sustainability and decarbonization to a regenerative future."

The milestone is consistent with relevant United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (UN SDGs), particularly those related to clean energy and climate action.

In the Philippine context, geothermal energy is the only renewable energy source with baseload capability, providing a stable supply suited for industrial operations.

As Jollibee Group further harnesses the power of renewable energy, it reinforces its commitment to building a resilient, responsible, and future-ready food system that supports operational stability while contributing to environmental stewardship and long-term sustainability.

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Fokkema studied sediments that were recovered from the ocean floor 200 kilometres south of Ghana in the 1990s. These sediments are around 54 to 52 million years old, dating back to a period when the continents were more or less in their current positions. "So I knew I was looking at tropical material," the researcher explains. "Just like today, the tropics warmed less rapidly than the poles during various periods of global warming. But in the tropics, organisms are very sensitive to warming because they often already live close to their optimal temperature. So even a small amount of warming could have a huge effect." Just as on land, this so-called "heat stress" caused by climate change poses a major risk to life.

#### Jacuzzi

During an earlier period of five degrees of global warming, the PETM or Paleocene-Eocene Thermal Maximum, 56 million years ago, it became too hot in the tropics for many unicellular organisms. "The sea water temperature became almost as high as in a jacuzzi. Species diversity declined significantly at that time, and in some locations algae disappeared completely." However, Fokkema's research shows that a specific group of algae, the dinoflagellates, were able to cope well with a warming of 1.5 degrees during phases of rapid warming between 54 and 52 million years ago. He concludes that the amount of warming determined how strong the influence of climate change was on the algae.

#### Hopeful result

These initial signs of resilience to warming provide a valuable addition to our knowledge about the consequences of climate change. They may give an indication of what is yet to come. "Our findings support the political goal of limiting global warming to no more than 1.5 degrees and offer hope that the consequences of such warming will indeed remain somewhat limited."

#### Case studies

Chris Fokkema is particularly interested in the early Eocene (56-48 million years ago), a period when the Earth was about 15 °C warmer than today and CO<sub>2</sub> concentrations were three to five times higher than they are now. On top of that, there were regular periods of additional warming similar to today's climate change. For earth scientists, these are small but interesting case studies that provide highly relevant insights for the future.

## Repository

The sediment cores were taken by the Ocean Drilling Program, the predecessor of the current International Ocean Drilling Program (IODP) (<https://iodp3.org>), which is co-funded by the Dutch Research Council (NWO). They are stored in the IODP Core Repository (<https://www.marum.de/Bremer-Kernlager.html>) in Bremen, Germany. The research conducted by PhD student Chris Fokkema was funded by a grant from the European Research Council awarded to his supervisor, Appy Sluijs.

## INDIA TODAY

### [Over 3 lakh lives saved: Asia emerges as a leader against climate disasters](#)

By: Aryan Rai

Every year, floods and cyclones batter vast stretches of Asia; from India's coastlines to Bangladesh's river deltas to the Philippines' storm corridors. And yet, a remarkable trend buried in decades of disaster data has been discovered and tells a rather optimistic story.

Asia is getting better at surviving its worst climate disasters. Far better, in fact, than almost any other region in the world.

A new study published in Geophysical Research Letters by researcher B B Cael of the University of Chicago analysed nearly 2,000 of the deadliest climate events worldwide since 1988, including floods, storms, and extreme temperature events. The study drew from EM-DAT, the world's largest public database of disaster-related deaths.

The major finding is that improved infrastructure and early warning systems across Asia have conservatively saved around 3.5 lakh lives, with estimates ranging between 2.2 lakh and 5.6 lakh.

"The deadliness of climate hazards reflects more than just the weather," said Cael. "By looking across decades of data, we can see how improvements in development, early warning systems, and effective emergency response are measurably shaping risk."

#### WHY IS ASIA'S CLIMATE RESILIENCE SIGNIFICANT?

What makes this both impressive and unignorable is the context.

Asia's population has grown substantially since 1988, meaning more people are exposed to floods and storms than ever before. Rainfall extremes have also intensified as climate change is making Asia's monsoons and cyclones more powerful, not less.

Despite both of these factors working against it, the continent saw fewer deaths from these disasters, not more. Researchers attribute this to better weather forecasting, stronger flood control infrastructure, and faster emergency responses.

The study estimates this amounts to roughly a 40 per cent reduction in flood and storm deaths compared to a scenario where Asia's disaster preparedness had remained frozen at its 1988 levels.

The picture elsewhere is more troubling.

In Europe, deaths from extreme temperature events like heatwaves are rising sharply as climate change makes blistering summers more frequent and deadly cold snaps increasingly rare.

In Africa, deadly floods are becoming more common, though the study concludes this is primarily driven by population growth pushing more people into flood-prone areas, rather than worsening storms.

The study also spotlights Libya's Storm Daniel in 2023, which killed over 13,000 people, largely due to dam collapses. The study deemed the storm a once-in-200-years outlier in terms of deadliness for the African continent.

#### WHY IS CLIMATE RESILIENCE IMPORTANT FOR INDIA?

India, though not mentioned in the study, is among the regions that still remain acutely vulnerable to the extreme impacts of climate change.

While cyclone preparedness and early warning systems have improved dramatically, as seen in India's near-zero fatality outcomes during several recent major cyclones, extreme heat is an emerging and underreported threat.

The study's findings on European heatwave deaths serve as a warning for India, where rising temperatures and urban heat islands are already pushing heat mortality higher.

The data highlights the fact that the work isn't done. Another fact it highlights is that investment in preparedness saves lives, in numbers large enough to matter.

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Study co-author Dr. Erin Manzitto-Tripp said: "Among the documented impacts of recent climate change are the shifting flowering times of some plant species.

"Such changes to plant reproductive behaviors can have wide-ranging ecological consequences, particularly for pollinators and herbivores.

"This issue has generally been considered to be less of a concern in tropical regions where temperatures fluctuate less over the course of a year so may not be key drivers of flowering timing, but this hypothesis has not been rigorously tested."

For the new study, published in the journal PLOS One, Dr. Manzitto-Tripp and her colleagues from the University of Colorado-Boulder compiled data from museums of more than 8,000 flowers collected between 1794 and 2024.

The blooms studied represented 33 tropical species with distinct annual flowering periods.

Comparing the collection dates for each flower revealed that the flowering periods of the species have shifted over time by an average of two days per decade.

The most extreme examples include Ghanan rattlepod shrubs whose flowering period shifted 17 days earlier between the 1950s and 1990s.

Brazilian amaranth trees now flower 80 days later than they did in the 1950s.

The research team said changes of a similar magnitude have been reported for temperate and boreal species of flowers, contradicting the hypothesis that tropical flowers are less susceptible to climate-induced changes to their reproductive habits.

The ecological impacts are not fully clear, but the researchers believe the changes to flowering times may threaten the dependent relationships between plants, pollinators, and fruit-eating seed-dispersing animals, raising the likelihood that shifts to flowering periods impact the wider tropical ecosystems.

Study co-author Skylar Graves, a University of Colorado PhD student, said: "We have found tropical plants are not insulated from the impacts of climate change.

"I hope our work can support conservation initiatives by providing more data on the impacts of climate change on these ecosystems."

"Tropical latitudes are the most biodiverse ecosystems on earth, and yet they are the most understudied."

She added: "This work highlights herbarium specimens as more than taxonomic tools.

"Herbarium specimens make up a massive source of data, far greater in both geographic and temporal scale than any one researcher can hope to achieve in their lifetime.

"I hope studies like mine can be persuasive for increased funding of herbaria and their digitisation worldwide."

## UNDP

### [How to make climate action the best investment in Asia-Pacific](#)

By: **GUILIO FABRIS AND KARANRAJ CHAUDRI**

The transition from global climate commitments to actual financial mobilization remains the defining challenge for the 2030 Agenda. Following the Sevilla Commitment at the Fourth International Conference on Financing for Development (FfD4) in June 2025, the global community reiterated that bridging the financing gap is the primary requirement for success. Translating this global mandate into regional reality is now the priority for forums like the 13th Asia-Pacific Forum on Sustainable Development (APFSD), which serve to inform the regional and global discourse on sustainable investment.

In Asia-Pacific, the stakes are uniquely high. The region is the engine of global growth, accounting for 60% of the world's economic growth. Yet, it is also the most disaster-exposed region on earth. Climate change is a recurrent fiscal drain, with climate-induced losses already eating into national GDPs. At the same time, regional wealth is growing faster than anywhere else. The real challenge isn't a shortage of money, but rather moving the available capital toward adaptation projects that can prevent these escalating climate losses.

#### The role of the private sector

In the current landscape, where the finance reaching climate projects in the region is just 1/10th of what is needed, the private sector represents the driver of the innovation and efficiency needed to scale adaptation. Private capital only flows where there is clarity, stability, and a path to financial returns. This requires a robust enabling environment—the 'rules of the game' that ensure transparency through clear taxonomies, strategies and frameworks. By anchoring initiatives like the Pacific Climate Taxonomy in the Pacific and the National Climate Finance Strategy in Sri Lanka, UNDP provides the stability investors need to commit capital at scale.

But in addition to the enabling environment, how do we make climate adaptation an attractive reality for investors?

#### 1. Turning resilience into revenue

Adaptation is often framed as "preventing a disaster"—a preventive cost. To attract private capital, we must shift the narrative from avoiding damage to creating value. Through SDG Investor Maps, UNDP provides private equity firms, institutional investors, and local banks with a clear look at sectors—like climate-smart agriculture and water tech—where resilience isn't just a cost, but a growth market.

In the Maldives, for example, the Climate Finance Network, together with the INFF Facility, is anchoring a project preparation facility that turns resilience ideas into investment-ready business models. Across Malaysia, Laos and Cambodia, the Climate Venture Scaler is working directly with growth-stage businesses, helping pioneers working on climate solutions refine their impact and business models. This is further supported by the Climate Finance Innovation Lab (CFIL) in Malaysia, which has already seen requests for RM 4 billion in financing for its first cohort of venture-ready climate solutions.

#### 2. Empowering local financial institutions

Most climate action happens at the local level, but the institutions providing the capital needed—local banks, insurance companies, and cooperatives—often view adaptation projects as too high-risk. For

finance to reach communities, these local institutions need to have the right tools and guarantees (risk-sharing) so they feel safe moving money to the ground.

In Laos, Sri Lanka and Malaysia, UNDP is helping countries build blended finance facilities that lower the barrier for local lenders. In India, guarantee facilities tailored for women-led farmer-producer organisations are being developed, demonstrating how targeted risk-sharing mechanisms can unlock capital for climate-resilient livelihoods. Similarly, in Bangladesh, UNDP is advancing de-risking mechanisms through an insurance innovation challenge specifically designed to protect and unlock investment for small climate-smart enterprises, in partnership with the SME Foundation.

### 3. Scaling up innovative capitals

Many adaptation projects involve high upfront costs and longer payback periods. In agriculture, for example, transitioning to climate-smart practices requires not only technological innovation but also behavioural shifts among farmers, which can increase perceived risk for lenders. As a result, many of these opportunities are not well-suited to conventional financing instruments and struggle to attract purely commercial capital.

To solve this, UNDP is using Blended Finance and instruments like Thematic Corporate Bonds (such as the Sustainability-Linked bonds in Thailand which mobilized USD 900 million) to bridge the gap. These instruments allow big capital to invest in climate projects by using public money to absorb the initial risks. In addition, by using public resources to absorb initial risks in the Pacific, Indonesia, and the Philippines, we make it safe for big investors to step in.

UNDP as a system-level enabler of climate finance

UNDP's Sustainable Finance focuses on systemic change. Rather than financing projects directly, the focus of work is to align fiscal policy, financial regulation, and capital market development so that climate action becomes investable. By reducing fragmentation and lowering perceived risks, we help open markets and crowd in development finance institutions, domestic banks, and institutional investors.

The bottom line

The APFSD is about more than just taking stock of our progress; it is the chance to build the systems that make sustainable development investable.

In Asia-Pacific, the objective is to stop viewing adaptation as an "added cost" and start seeing it as the foundation of our future economy. At the Climate Finance Network, the focus remains on making that foundation solid, investable, and inclusive.

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“Ang isang bagong tayo namin ngayon ay yung itatayo namin na Climate Change Training and Education Command, na kung saan ang mamumuno dito ay mga doktor, mga PhD ho, mga presidente ng state colleges, para sila yung mag-design ng training module or program,” said CCC Climate Change Task Force commandant Ret. Brigadier General Gerardo Zamudio in “Bagong Pilipinas Ngayon.”

(We will establish the Climate Change Training and Education Command. This will be led by doctors or PhD holders, and presidents of state colleges — who will be responsible for designing the training modules and programs.)

Under the “National Environmental Awareness and Education Act of 2008,” the Commission on Higher Education (CHED) and the Technical Education and Skills Development Authority (TESDA) are required to include environment education, and awareness programs and activities in the National Service Training Program (NSTP).

“So ang uunahin namin is magawa yung curriculum na ito para yung lahat ng mga NSTP implementers or coordinators ay malaman nila yung mga batas...para mai-communicate nila ito sa mga estudyante natin,” said Zamudio.

(Our priority is to finish this curriculum so that all NSTP implementers and coordinators will be knowledgeable of the laws... this will enable them to effectively communicate these concepts to our students.)

The law also provides that environmental education “shall encompass environmental concepts and principles, environmental laws, the state of international and local environment, local environmental best practices, the threats of environmental degradation and its impact on human well-being.”

“It shall cover both theoretical and practicum modules comprising activities, projects, programs including, but not limited to, tree planting; waste minimization, segregation, recycling and composting; freshwater and marine conservation; forest management and conservation; relevant livelihood opportunities and economic benefits and other such programs and undertakings to aid the implementation of the different environmental protection law,” the law states. — BAP, GMA Integrated News

## PHILIPPINE INFORMATION AGENCY

### [CCC, San Francisco LGU strengthen local capacity through climate project assessment](#)

By: Climate Change Commission

Strengthening local climate capacity through science-based assessment. Led by Vice Chairperson and Executive Director Robert E.A. Borje, the Climate Change Commission (CCC) met with San Francisco, Cebu Mayor Alfredo A. Arquillano Jr. and local government officials to assess the implementation and impact of the People's Survival Fund (PSF) of the LGU.

CAMOTES ISLAND, CEBU – The Climate Change Commission (CCC) met with the Local Government of San Francisco, Cebu to further strengthen the municipality's climate resilience initiatives and assess the implementation of its People's Survival Fund (PSF)-supported project.

The engagement formed part of the Commission's coordination mission in Cebu aimed at enhancing local capacities for climate action through integrated, risk-informed planning and whole-of-government collaboration.

A key activity during the visit was the initiation of the impact assessment of the PSF-funded project, "Building Resilience through Community-Based Ecological Farming (Build ReEF)," which supports water resource development and promotes sustainable agricultural practices in the municipality. The assessment will review implementation progress, institutional arrangements, and early outcomes in improving community adaptive capacity.

In the multistakeholder discussion, CCC Vice Chairperson and Executive Director Robert E.A. Borje emphasized the importance of assessing and evaluating projects to ensure sustainability and long-term impact. "Just because the project is done, does not mean that the support of the government is over," he stressed.

Borje underscored that post-implementation evaluation is critical to determining whether adaptation measures are delivering measurable resilience outcomes, strengthening institutional capacity, and providing sustained benefits to communities. He added that continuous monitoring, technical guidance, and coordination between national and local governments are essential to ensure that climate initiatives remain responsive, effective, and aligned with broader development goals.

Reaffirming the same view, San Francisco Mayor Alfredo A. Arquillano, Jr., emphasized that the project's completion should not be viewed as the end of engagement but as a stepping stone toward broader and more sustained climate action.

"The completion of Build ReEF is not the finish line," Arquillano said. "It is a strong foundation that allows us to deepen our climate resilience initiatives and sustain gains made by our farming communities."

Project planners, technical staff, and farmer-beneficiaries participated in the discussions, reinforcing a whole-of-society approach to climate resilience. The dialogue also provided a venue to identify operational challenges, sustainability measures, and opportunities for scaling up ecosystem-based and community-driven adaptation strategies.

As part of the engagement, the CCC handed over copies of the National Adaptation Plan (NAP) 2023–2050 to the local government of San Francisco to support the enhancement of its Local Climate Change Action Plan (LCCAP) and ongoing adaptation initiatives.

Developed under the leadership of President Ferdinand R. Marcos Jr., the NAP serves as the Philippines' blueprint for climate adaptation, guiding national and local governments in strengthening climate resilience through science-based and risk-informed strategies.

The Commission underscored that beyond compliance and reporting requirements, PSF-supported initiatives must contribute to long-term institutional strengthening, improved climate governance, and measurable resilience outcomes for vulnerable communities.

The engagement attests to the CCC's commitment to support local governments in strengthening climate governance and accelerating inclusive, science-based, and people-centered climate action.

**=END=**