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PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

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By: Charie Abarca

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By: Wilnard Bacelonia

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SUNSTAR

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By: Third Anne Peralta-Malonzo

PRESIDENT Ferdinand Marcos Jr. welcomed on Monday, February 26, 2024, the assistance of the Global Green Growth Institute (GGGI) to aid the country's responsive efforts to climate resilience and promote green growth strategy through the Host Country Agreement (HCA).

Stronger sustainable trade, dev't initiatives for climate change urged

Acknowledging the need for a collaborative approach in addressing global challenges, Department of Trade and Industry (DTI) Secretary Fred Pascual stressed the critical role of the Philippines in shaping a transparent, sustainable, and inclusive global trade environment on the sidelines of the 13th World Trade Organization (WTO) Ministerial Conference (MC13).

THE MANILA TIMES

Climate partnership with GGGI hailed

By: Kristina Maralit and Bernadette E. Tamayo

President Ferdinand Marcos Jr. said that the commitment of the Global Green Growth Institute (GGGI) to help the Philippines strengthen its climate resilience efforts was a welcome development.

THE PHILIPPINE STAR

Marcos to take part in ASEAN-Australia special summit

By: Gaea Katreena Cabico

President Ferdinand Marcos Jr. is set to hold bilateral meetings with Cambodian and New Zealand leaders during the ASEAN-Australia Special Summit in Melbourne held from March 4 to 6.

CCC IN THE NEWS:

PHILIPPINE NEWS AGENCY

Weathering El Niño

By: Joe Zaldarriaga

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Information and Knowledge Management Division

BUSINESS WORLD

UN: Climate change and food insecurity threaten global peace

By: Kenneth Christiane L. Basilio

A Congressman has filed a bill that seeks to establish a framework for climate-resilient and sustainable housing in the Philippines amid risks attached to global warming and climatic changes.

Filed as House Bill 9911, the measure proposes the establishment of the National Comprehensive Framework on Resilient Housing and Human Settlements.

In the bill's explanatory note, Party-list Rep. Marissa P. Magsino said it pushes for "a national framework that will lay-out a clear and concrete plan whenever the country is adversely affected by national disasters and effects of climate change."

"It will serve as the basis for mechanisms for post-disaster housing and settlements rehabilitation and resiliency planning and response at all levels," she added.

The proposed law seeks to complement the mandate of the Department of Human Settlements and Urban Development (DHSUD) by formulating a resiliency plan for sustainable housing and post-disaster settlements that include the provision of basic services and livelihood.

The proposed measure's climate-resilient housing framework will partner with the National Economic and Development Authority (NEDA), Office of Civil Defense (OCD), and Department of Environment and National Resources (DENR), among others.

"Due to our country's geo-climatic conditions, we are often faced with the loss of life and damage to property as typhoons, earthquakes and similar phenomena ravage the country," Ms. Magsino said. "While we cannot outlaw these occurrences, we can direct our concerted efforts in ensuring proper preparation, mitigation and response in housing and human settlements."

The proposed law is a counterpart to Senate Bill 1972 filed in the 19th Congress by Senator Joseph Victor G. Ejercito.

MALAYA BUSINESS INSIGHT

Marcos welcomes GGGI help on climate change

By: Jocelyn Montemayor

President Marcos Jr. yesterday welcomed the offer of the Global Green Growth Institute (GGGI) to help the Philippines in climate resilience programs and in promoting a green growth strategy.

The President made the statement when he received in Malacanang former United Nations Secretary-General Ban Ki-Moon, the current president and council chairman of GGGI.

GGGI and the Philippines, through the Host Country Agreement (HCA) signed in December, had agreed to set up the former's office in the country. The agreement is still waiting for the Senate's ratification.

Ban told Marcos of his organization's support of the efforts of the administration to address climate change. The Presidential Communications Office (PCO), however, did not elaborate on the type of aid offered.

It said that Ban said the GGGI also looks forward to working with the Marcos administration for the country to adapt to the changing climate situation and is ready to work with the Philippines' foreign, environmental, and economy ministers.

The PCO said the President expressed his appreciation for GGGI's offer and expressed hope that the Senate would ratify the HCA soon.

"We welcome any assistance or any advice on the subject (climate change). I'm certain that after you meet with the Senate President and you will speak with the senators, the ratification of the agreement will follow very quickly. I think it is something we are all, all of us in government or out of government have really put a great deal of emphasis on simply because it has been... it has affected us greatly. I hope that we can come up with some strategies that will help us," Marcos said as he emphasized the world can no longer avoid the bad effects of the changing weather pattern, particularly with the continuous warming of the Earth's atmosphere.

The Seoul-based GGGI was established as an international intergovernmental treaty-based organization in 2012 at the Rio+20 United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, dedicated to supporting and promoting strong, inclusive, and sustainable economic growth in developing countries and emerging economies.

While in the Philippines, Ban is also set to meet with the members of the Philippine Senate and give a speech on climate change and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) at the Asian Development Bank (ADB).

MANILA BULLETIN

Marcos eyes Senate approval of green growth strategy

By: Joseph Pedrajas

President Marcos is optimistic that the Senate would immediately ratify an agreement that would host an office for the Global Green Growth Institute (GGGI), which will help the country in climate resilience and promote green growth strategy.

Marcos expressed his confidence when he met on Monday with former United Nations Secretary General and GGGI chairman Ban Ki-moon, who paid him a courtesy visit at the Malacañang Palace.

The President first approved the signing by the Philippine government of the Host Country Agreement (HCA), which will greenlight GGGI's establishment of office in the Philippines.

The agreement needs to be ratified by senators.

"We welcome any assistance or any advice on the subject (climate change). I'm certain that after you meet with the Senate President and you will speak with the senators, the ratification of the agreement will follow very quickly," Marcos told Ban.

"I think it is something we are all, all of us in government or out of government have really put a great deal of emphasis on simply because it has been... it has affected us greatly. I hope that we can come with some strategies that will help us," he added.

Meanwhile, Ban told Marcos of the institution's support to the efforts of his administration to address climate change, Malacañang said.

During their meeting, Marcos also said the world can no longer avoid the bad effects of the changing weather pattern, particularly with the continuous warming of the Earth's atmosphere.

He lauded the Asia Development Bank's (ADB) mitigation strategy, which he said plays an important role in the Philippine's climate mitigation and adaption efforts.

Marcos stressed the significance of anticipating future needs in the face of this new situation.

According to Malacañang, Ban noted that the Philippines is one of the most vulnerable countries in terms of natural disasters caused by climate change.

"Ban said the GGGI looks forward to working with the Marcos administration for the country to adapt to changing climate situation. He added that they are ready to work with the Philippines' foreign, environment, and economy ministers. "

Aside from meeting the senators, Ban is scheduled to give a speech on climate change and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) at the Asian Development Bank (ADB).

With headquarters in Seoul, South Korea, the GGGI was established as an international intergovernmental treaty-based organization in 2012 at the Rio+20 United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, dedicated to supporting and promoting strong, inclusive, and sustainable economic growth in developing countries and emerging economies.

Since the Philippines' membership in 2012, GGGI has been providing the country technical assistance and capacity building programs, amounting to more than US\$13 million, to help the country attain its sustainable development goals, particularly in promoting climate resilience and green growth development strategy.

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

Former UN chief calls for prioritized global climate action

By: Charie Abarca

Former United Nations Secretary General Ban Ki-moon on Tuesday enjoined global communities to work together to achieve sustainable development goals (SDGs) and implement the legally binding international treaty on climate change.

In his speech delivered during the Senate's Tuesday plenary session, Ban emphasized that "our walk is not over yet," noting that progress in achieving the 17 SDGs has long stagnated.

"Indeed, climate crisis, pandemics, regional conflicts as well as economic crises disrupt human societies; our progress on achieving the 17 SDGs ahead of their 2030 target date has stagnated. In some sectors it has reversed," he said.

He likewise noted that climate action on the road to net zero emissions by 2050 lacks the requisite urgency.

"This is why there has never been a more vital time in history to come together in cooperation, partnership, and solidarity to redouble our efforts to achieve the SDGs and implement the Paris Climate Agreement," she pointed out

For Ban, there is a pressing need to "prioritize global action at all levels."

Senators earlier branded Ban's visit in the Senate as "historic."

The last time he was in the country was in December 2013, when he visited the Super Typhoon Yolanda-hit Tacloban City.

PHILIPPINE NEWS AGENCY

Vital time in history to achieve SDG targets – Ban Ki-moon

By: Wilnard Bacelonia

Visiting former United Nations Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon has reminded Filipinos that the target to achieving the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and the Paris Climate Change Agreement is getting closer, set on 2030 and 2050, respectively.

"This is why there has never been a more vital time in history to come together in cooperation, partnership, and solidarity to redouble our efforts to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals and implement the Paris Climate Change Agreement," Ban said in his speech before the Senate plenary Tuesday.

Ban served as the UN's Secretary-General from Jan. 1, 2007 to Dec. 31, 2016.

Among his first major initiatives was the 2007 Climate Change Summit, which put the issue on the global agenda.

Ban, who is in the country from Feb. 26-28, also thanked the government for Senate Resolution 929 and for being the first visiting foreign dignitary to speak before the body.

"This is indeed a profound and unforgettable honor for me personally as well," Ban said.

On behalf of the Korean people, Ban reiterated the recognition to Filipino troops who were sent to help in the Korean war in the 1950s under the banner of the UN.

The eighth UN secretary-general also noted that the Philippines and South Korea will celebrate their 75th anniversary of diplomatic relations on March 3.

"I sincerely hope that our bilateral relations will continue to be deepened and expanded for the mutual benefit of our two peoples," Ban said.

Senate President Juan Miguel Zubiri led the welcome honors along with Senate President Pro Tempore Loren Legarda, who filed Senate Resolution No. 929, honoring the South Korean diplomat.

"We are very honored to be welcoming former Secretary General Ban Ki-moon for this historic visit to the Senate," Zubiri said in a statement.

Ban, who currently chairs the Ban Ki-moon Foundation for a Better Future, the Boao Forum for Asia, the Global Center on Adaptation, and the Global Green Growth Institute, among others, is in the country to deliver a speech on climate change and SDGs at the Asian Development Bank's Eminent Speakers' Forum.

Meanwhile, Legarda said Ban's visit to the Philippines serves as "an unyielding testament to his continuous efforts to address current challenges and uncertainties in the world today."

"Our country looks up to his leadership and wisdom as we confront the adverse effects of climate change and implement solutions to safeguard the life and future of every Filipino," she added.

SUNSTAR

[PH to get aid from international organization to address climate change](#)

By: Third Anne Peralta-Malonzo

PRESIDENT Ferdinand Marcos Jr. welcomed on Monday, February 26, 2024, the assistance of the Global Green Growth Institute (GGGI) to aid the country's responsive efforts to climate resilience and promote green growth strategy through the Host Country Agreement (HCA).

As he paid a courtesy visit to Marcos in Malacañang, GGGI president and council chairman, former United Nations Secretary General Ban Ki-Moon, expressed the organization's support to the efforts of the administration to address climate change.

Marcos expressed his appreciation for the assistance being offered by GGGI with hopes that the Senate will already ratify the HCA signed by the Philippine government with the GGGI in December 2023 for the establishment of its office in the country.

He noted that the world can no longer avoid the bad effects of the changing weather pattern, particularly with the continuous warming of the Earth's atmosphere.

"We welcome any assistance or any advice on the subject (climate change). I'm certain that after you meet with the Senate President and you will speak with the senators, the ratification of the agreement will follow very quickly," he said.

"I think it is something we are all, all of us in government or out of government have really put a great deal of emphasis on simply because it has been... it has affected us greatly. I hope that we can come with some strategies that will help us," the President added.

Ban recognized that the Philippines is one of the most vulnerable countries in terms of natural disasters caused by climate change as he looked forward to working with the Philippines' foreign, environment, and economy ministers.

The GGGI, with headquarters in Seoul, South Korea, was established as an international intergovernmental treaty-based organization in 2012 at the Rio+20 United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, dedicated to supporting and promoting strong, inclusive, and sustainable economic growth in developing countries and emerging economies.

The Philippines has been a member of GGGI since 2012.

The organization has provided the Philippines with technical assistance and capacity building programs, amounting to more than US\$13 million, to help the country attain its sustainable development goals, particularly in promoting climate resilience and green growth development strategy.

GGGI also provided interventions towards building green finance portfolios for the Philippines and unlocking access to international climate finance.

Among its notable projects and local actions in the country are the Provincial Agriculture Center (PAC) and four agri-MSME production facilities in Oriental Mindoro for incubation, facility rentals, and aggregator services linking local farmers to market and green job creation, off-grid solar home systems deployment in disaster vulnerable low-income communities in the Surigao Islands, and upscaling the Bataan Electric Public Transport Program.

GGGI's current projects and activities in the Philippines amount to US\$130.3 million.

Stronger sustainable trade, dev't initiatives for climate change urged

Acknowledging the need for a collaborative approach in addressing global challenges, Department of Trade and Industry (DTI) Secretary Fred Pascual stressed the critical role of the Philippines in shaping a transparent, sustainable, and inclusive global trade environment on the sidelines of the 13th World Trade Organization (WTO) Ministerial Conference (MC13).

During the second ministerial meeting with the Coalition of Trade Ministers on Climate, Secretary Pascual underscored the Philippines' commitment to support trade and climate strategies for developing and least-developed countries.

In his statement during the Coalition's meeting, Secretary Pascual said, "We believe that the work of the Coalition complements the existing work at the WTO on trade and sustainable development. Thus, we welcome discussions and thematic sessions on the transfer of goods and technologies that support climate adaptation and mitigation. In line with this, we must also ensure a fair and just transition towards achieving our climate goals so that no one will be left behind."

Further, Secretary Pascual expressed the Philippine's support for the endorsement of the Coalition's Framework of Voluntary Actions. He emphasized that the joint dialogues on trade, climate, and sustainable development will pave the way for the creation of innovative solutions supporting climate adaptation and mitigation.

Ministers also acknowledged the nexus between trade and climate and

emphasized the need to utilize all available trade policy tools to address the effects of climate change.

The Second Ministerial Meeting gathered its members to discuss their respective countries' collective efforts, achievements, and priorities to address climate change.

The Philippines is a founding member of the Trade Ministers on Climate, which was established in 2023.

THE MANILA TIMES

Climate partnership with GGGI hailed

By: Kristina Maralit and Bernadette E. Tamayo

President Ferdinand Marcos Jr. said that the commitment of the Global Green Growth Institute (GGGI) to help the Philippines strengthen its climate resilience efforts was a welcome development.

"We welcome any assistance or any advice on the subject [of climate change]. I'm certain that after you meet with the Senate President and you speak with the senators, the ratification of the agreement will follow very quickly," Marcos said during the courtesy visit of former United Nations secretary general Ban Ki-Moon to Malacañang on Monday.

Ban now serves as president of the assembly and chairman of the council of GGGI.

"This is indeed a profound and unforgettable honor for me personally as well. I believe all of you are also recognizing the guiding ideals and achievements of the United Nations," Ban said.

"The United Nations and its pursuit of peace and security, human rights, and development exemplify the values and principles that I feel we should all espouse to replicate," he said.

In December last year, Marcos approved the host country agreement between the Philippines and the GGGI.

GGGI was established as an international intergovernmental treaty-based organization in 2012 at the Rio+20 United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development to support and promote strong, inclusive, and sustainable economic growth in developing countries and emerging economies.

Meanwhile, the Senate on Tuesday unanimously adopted a resolution honoring the contributions of Ban to the world.

Senate Resolution 929 was introduced by Senate President Pro-Tempore Lorna Regina "Loren" Legarda.

"The Philippine Senate, with deep respect and administration, acknowledges the exceptional contributions of Mr. Ban Ki-moon in shaping the global landscape," it read.

His (Ban) leadership in founding and guiding the Global Commission on Adaptation exemplified his proactive stance on tackling climate change. I had the privilege of witnessing his visionary leadership firsthand when I served alongside him as one of the GCA's commissioners in 2018," Legarda said.

THE PHILIPPINE STAR

[Marcos to take part in ASEAN-Australia special summit](#)

By: Gaea Katreena Cabico

President Ferdinand Marcos Jr. is set to hold bilateral meetings with Cambodian and New Zealand leaders during the ASEAN-Australia Special Summit in Melbourne held from March 4 to 6.

This follows his first state visit to Australia this month.

Foreign Affairs Assistant Secretary Daniel Espiritu said Tuesday that Marcos may highlight the cooperation of the Philippines and Australia on maritime issues, climate change, clean energy, and people-to-people exchange in the summit.

He added that the president may also encourage Australia to remain committed to peaceful resolution of disputes as well as maintain respect for rules-based order and multilateralism.

The chief executive will also meet with the Filipino community in Australia while in Melbourne.

This will be Marcos' second trip to Australia in a span of one week. From February 28 to 29, Marcos will be in Canberra for his first state visit to Australia.

During this time, Marcos will address a joint sitting of the Parliament of Australia and meet with Prime Minister Anthony Albanese to discuss cooperation on defense and maritime security, governance, trade and investment.

"Our nations are deeply connected through our shared regional, trade and investment links, but most importantly through our people, including more than 400,000 people of Filipino heritage who call Australia home," Albanese said.

His trips to Australia mark Marcos' third and fourth international travels this year, following his attendance at a royal wedding in Brunei and state visit to Vietnam.

CCC IN THE NEWS:

PHILIPPINE NEWS AGENCY

[Weathering El Niño](#)

By: Joe Zaldarriaga

As the El Niño phenomenon persists in the Philippines, the need to take more proactive measures is further highlighted to help the country weather its impact, especially with the looming dry season.

The Department of Agriculture in its most recent report said the damage of El Niño on the country's crops has reached PHP357.4 million with over 8,000 farmers in various regions affected. Rice—our staple grain—took the worst hit followed by corn and other high-value crops, according to the government.

In light of this, the Climate Change Commission has urged Filipinos to take proactive measures to help mitigate the impact of El Niño. Weather bureau Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration had said its impact could soon be felt in more provinces which means that the damage to the agriculture sector is expected to worsen in the coming months.

The heightened vulnerability of the agricultural sector has made it imperative for us to recognize the need to collaborate on efficiently adopting a multi-faceted approach to improve our country's resilience in the face of this challenge.

Dry spells and reduced rainfall are major threats not only to the livelihoods of our farmers but also endanger food security. It also puts pressure on the government's campaign to promote the growth of the agricultural sector.

While the government has long implemented large-scale measures to prepare for and address the effect of El Niño, the cooperation of ordinary Filipinos will play a big role in mitigating its impact.

A vital yet simple way for addressing El Niño is by practicing energy efficiency to mitigate power demand—which historically increases during the dry season. Simple measures such as unplugging appliances when not in use, ironing clothes in large batches, and using LED lights and inverter appliances can already help promote resilience to extreme weather patterns and yield savings for Filipino consumers as well.

As responsible citizens, we must do our part in preserving our resources through mindful consumption.

The private sector on the other hand can do so much more in terms of energy efficiency—an area where our collective action can result in significant contributions to addressing extreme weather phenomena.

For example, companies as an immediate action can harness solar energy to help power their operations—a greener option that results in a multitude of benefits. In the long-term, businesses can heavily integrate sustainability in their business operations to reduce energy costs and enhance their own resilience to climate risks.

On the part of the government, active support to sectors—such as agriculture—that are heavily affected by climate-related risks are much needed. For example, water management interventions will greatly benefit farmers whose crops are at high risk of damage due to El Niño.

By investing in energy-efficient technologies today, we collectively improve our country's resiliency to future climate-related challenges. Beyond its immediate impact, embracing energy efficiency as a way of life empowers our communities to adopt sustainability for a cleaner and greener future which benefits all of us.

The realization of this vision however requires concerted actions from all levels of society. It is no secret that the Philippines is among the most vulnerable to the impact of climate change and therefore it is incumbent upon us to continuously enhance our disaster preparedness and resiliency measures.

Beyond the environmental impact, embracing energy efficiency aligns with our government's goals of sustainable economic development for better job creation and improved opportunities for Filipinos.

As we confront the challenge posed by El Niño, let us continue to advocate for energy efficiency, and active collaboration between the public and private sector to weather this obstacle. With proactive measures, our communities can become more resilient and sustainable to face future climate-related risks.

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