



NEWS ROUNDUP

09 MARCH 2023 [07:40 am]

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AL JAZEERA

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BUSINESS WORLD

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By: Luisa Maria Jacinta C. Jocson

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CNN PHILIPPINES

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EIN NEWSWIRES

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As the world celebrates International Women's Day today, Senate President Pro Tempore Loren Legarda underscored the impact of digital innovation in promoting gender equality and women empowerment, as she also recognizes the women's role in the global fight against the climate crisis.

JOURNAL ONLINE

[Philippines comes back with biggest delegation to ITB Berlin, bags sustainable tourism recognitions](#)

Returning to the global scene with the biggest delegation of tourism stakeholders to date, the Philippines made a big comeback at the Internationale Tourismus-Börse (ITB) 2023 Convention in Messe Berlin, Germany on 07 to 09 March 2023, spearheaded by the Department of Tourism (DOT) and its marketing and promotion arm, the Tourism Promotions Board (TPB) Philippines.

MANILA BULLETIN

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By: Czarina Nicole Ong Ki

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PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

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LIGAO CITY, Albay, Philippines — Some 550 narra seedlings were planted in Camalig town in Albay by local government employees and volunteers from other agencies as part of the celebration of International Women’s Day on Wednesday, March 8.

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[2 ‘green’ Negros cities receive awards in Berlin](#)

By: Nanette Guadalquiver

BACOLOD CITY – The cities of Sagay and Bago in Negros Occidental have been recognized for their sustainable tourism initiatives during the Green Destinations Story Awards at the Internationale Tourismus-Börse (ITB) in Berlin, Germany Tuesday night.

RELIEF WEB

[Celebrating women’s leadership in climate action](#)

“Empower women and girls. Empowering women is the single most important way to ensure effective climate action. Women not only have the right to participate in decision-making processes that affect everybody’s lives but have their own specific knowledge of biodiversity and indispensable expertise.” These are the inspiring words of Michelle Bachelet, the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights.

THE MANILA TIMES

[MMSU partners with USAid, GRF for sustainable fisheries in Ilocos Norte](#)

By: Leander C. Domingo

THE United States government through the US Agency for International Development (USAid), Gerry Roxas Foundation (GRF), and the IMPL Project Philippines Foundation (PPF) have partnered with Mariano Marcos State University (MMSU) for West Philippine Seascape (WPS) project.

THE VISAYAN DAILY STAR

[\[Opinion\] Organic agriculture addresses hunger amidst worsening climate change \(1\)](#)

By: Ariel B. Guides

“When tillage begins other arts follow. The farmers, therefore, are the founders of civilization”. – Daniel Webster. This is my inaugural article for this prestigious local daily and I could not be more thankful for this opportunity. I devote this column to where I am directly involved considering my work in an NGO which is all about sustainable agriculture and organic farming practices with marginal farmers and small agrarian reform beneficiaries in Negros.

UNITED NATIONS CLIMATE CHANGE

[Five Reasons Why Climate Action Needs Women](#)

UN Climate Change News, 8 March 2023 – As we celebrate International Women's Day today, it's important to recognize the vital role that women play in tackling climate change.

Information and Knowledge Management Division

AL JAZEERA

Carbon capture projects tackling climate change

A groundbreaking offshore carbon capture and storage site will be launched in the Danish part of the North Sea on Wednesday.

Carbon dioxide captured in Belgium and transported by ship is to be injected into a depleted oil field 200km (120 miles) from the North Sea coast as part of what is called the Greensand project.

A consortium of companies centred around Germany's Wintershall Dea and Britain's INEOS are jointly working on Greensand.

According to Wintershall, the project is the world's first cross-border offshore CO2 storage with the explicit purpose of mitigating climate change.

The International Energy Agency and United Nations climate scientists say carbon capture and storage (CCS) technology is a vital tool in meeting climate targets.

Below is a look at Greensand and other CCS projects under way throughout Europe:

NORTH SEA

NORWAY

Northern Lights, a joint venture project by Equinor, TotalEnergies and Shell. It plans to start injecting up to 1.5 million tonnes per annum (mtpa) of CO2 into saline aquifer near the Troll gas field from the middle of 2024. There are plans to increase storage capacity to 5-6 mtpa from 2026, pending demand.

Smeaheia, a project by Equinor to develop a storage site in the North Sea with a potential to inject up to 20 mtpa from 2027/2028. Equinor, which was awarded the exploration licence in 2022, said it is looking at injecting the CO2 captured from its own hydrogen production, as well as some industrial customers in Europe. The company aims to make the final investment decision in 2025.

Luna is a project led by German Wintershall Dea, to store up to 5 mtpa of CO2 at a site some 120km west of Bergen. Wintershall Dea and its Norwegian partner Cape Omega

were awarded an exploration licence in October. Wintershall Dea has a 60 percent stake and Norway's Cape Omega has the remaining 40 percent in the licence.

Errai is a joint project by Britain's Neptune Energy and Norway's Horisont Energi to develop a storage site in the North Sea with 4-8 mtpa capacity and a receiving terminal onshore. Germany's E.ON plans to join the project if Norway approves the application for the licence to store CO2.

Trudvang is a joint project by Sval Energi, Storegga and Neptune Energy to develop a storage site east of the Sleipner gas field in the North Sea with a capacity to inject about 9 mtpa of CO2 from 2029. Sval is the proposed operator of Trudvang with a 40 percent ownership, while Storegga and Neptune each have 30 percent.

BRITAIN

Acorn CCS is a project off the coast of Scotland to develop a storage site with an annual capacity of 5-10 mtpa of CO2 by 2030. Storegga, Shell and Harbour Energy each hold 30 percent stakes and North Sea Midstream Partners (NSMP) the remaining 10 percent in the project.

Viking CCS, led by independent oil and gas firm Harbour Energy, aims to store up to 10 mtpa of CO2 by 2030 at the depleted Viking gas field in the southern North Sea. It plans to start injecting CO2 in 2027, initially at a rate of 2 mtpa of CO2, ramping up to 10 mtpa by 2030 and 15 mtpa by 2035. RWE, Phillips 66, VPI and West Burton Energy are looking at storing CO2 emissions at the Viking site.

Northern Endurance, a BP-led partnership, aims to develop infrastructure to transport and store about 20 mtpa of CO2 under the seabed in the southern North Sea from 2030. The project, which also includes National Grid, Equinor, Shell and TotalEnergies, aims to store CO2 emissions captured at industrial clusters in Teesside and Humberside.

THE NETHERLANDS

Porthos, a project by the port of Rotterdam, Gasunie and EBN, aims to store 2.5 mtpa of CO2 in depleted Dutch gas fields in the North Sea. All storage capacity has been already contracted by four industrial partners: Air Liquide, Air Products, ExxonMobil and Shell. The project planned to start CO2 injections in 2024-2025, but the startup is now delayed until 2026 because of a legal dispute.

L10, a project led by Neptune Energy, to store 4-5 mtpa of CO₂ in depleted gas fields in the Dutch North Sea. Other partners in the project are ExxonMobil, Rosewood Exploration and state-owned EBN. The partners plan to submit a storage licence application in March with first CO₂ injections seen in 2027-2028, later than previously planned in 2026.

DENMARK

Greensand is a pilot project led by INEOS Energy and Wintershall Dea to demonstrate that CO₂ can be stored underground in the Danish part of the North Sea. The project aims to inject initially up to 1.5 mtpa of CO₂ from 2025-2026, increasing capacity to 8 mtpa by 2030.

Bifrost, a project led by TotalEnergies, aims to inject up to 3 mtpa of CO₂ into depleted Harald gas fields in the Danish North Sea from 2027, and aims to increase capacity to more than 10 mtpa by 2030. The project also involves Orsted, which operates offshore pipelines, and the Technical University of Denmark. In February, Denmark awarded TotalEnergies two CO₂ storage licences including the Harald area.

GERMANY

Wilhelmshaven CO₂ export terminal is a project led by Wintershall Dea to build a CO₂ liquefaction and temporary storage facility at Wilhelmshaven, Germany's only deep-water port, and then the CO₂ could be shipped or piped to permanent storage sites under the North Sea. It aims to initially handle about 1 mtpa of CO₂ from 2026.

OTHER STORAGE POINTS

BRITAIN

The HyNet North West project aims to convert gas and fuel gas from the Stanlow refinery in Cheshire into low-carbon hydrogen, capturing and transferring the CO₂ produced during the process by pipelines to offshore storage in Liverpool Bay. Pre-existing salt caverns in Cheshire will also be used as storage. Operations are expected to start in 2025 and will store about 4.5 mtpa of CO₂, rising to 10 mtpa by 2030.

BULGARIA

ANRAV, a project led by private Irish energy company Petroceltic, will link CO₂ capture facilities at HeidelbergCement's Devnya Cement plant in northeastern Bulgaria with

offshore permanent storage in the depleted Black Sea gas field of Galata. Expected to start operations in 2028, it will have a capacity of 800,000 tonnes of CO₂ per year.

FRANCE

PYCASSO is a project capturing carbon from industries in the southwest of France and in the north of Spain and storing it in a depleted gas field in Aquitaine. The project is planned to transport about 1 mtpa of CO₂ by 2030.

ICELAND

The Coda Terminal will be a cross-border carbon transport and storage hub in Straumsvík, operated by Icelandic carbon storage firm Carbfix. CO₂ captured from industrial firms will be shipped to the terminal to be dissolved in water before being injected into basalt bedrock. The operations, scaled up in steps, are set to reach up to 3 mtpa of CO₂ from 2031.

The Silverstone project, coordinated by Carbfix, will deploy commercial-scale CO₂ capture, dissolve CO₂ in water and inject it into underground basalt rock for mineral storage into the Hellisheidi geothermal power plant near Mount Hengill. Silverstone will capture and store about 25,000 tonnes of CO₂ a year. It is expected to start in the first quarter of 2025.

ITALY

CCS Ravenna Hub, led by energy company ENI, is a project to capture CO₂ and transport it to offshore depleted gas reservoirs off the coast of Ravenna in the Adriatic Sea. The first phase of the project is scheduled in 2023. The full capture, transport and storage chain will handle up to 100,000 mtpa of CO₂.

IRELAND

The Cork CCS project aims to store carbon captured from Irish industrial facilities in a depleted gas field in the Celtic Sea, potentially reusing an existing pipeline for transport. The project is led by utility Ervia.

SWEDEN

Slite CCS is a CCS project led by HeidelbergCement and its Swedish subsidiary Cementsa, at its Slite cement plant on the Swedish island of Gotland in the Baltic Sea. It

aims to capture up to 1.8 mtpa of CO₂, about 3 percent of the country's total emissions, and store those at several sites under development in the North Sea.

ARAB NEWS

[Saudi Cabinet approves regional center for climate change](#)

RIYADH: A Regional Center for Climate Change will be established in Saudi Arabia after the Kingdom's cabinet signed off on the plan as part of its initiatives to protect the environment.

During the meeting, chaired by Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman at Irqah Palace in Riyadh, the cabinet announced that the focus of the center will be to build the knowledge base required to encourage adaptation to climate change, reduce its effects and achieve sustainability in line with the goals of the Saudi Vision 2030, the Saudi Press Agency reported.

The cabinet also endorsed the first wave of projects supported by the Private Sector Partnership Reinforcement Program, also known as Shareek.

It said the program, worth over SR192 billion (\$51.14 billion), affirmed economic growth by fostering private-sector investment, boosting domestic content and raising the Kingdom's gross domestic product.

The cabinet's recommendations also included launching the Saudi Program for Attracting International Companies Headquarters under the supervision of the Royal Commission for Riyadh City.

The council of ministers touched on the Kingdom's participation at the recent G20 Foreign Ministers' meeting in New Delhi, emphasizing the importance of taking collective action to address global challenges and foster dialogue and peace to make the world safer.

Among other decisions, the cabinet approved a memorandum of understanding for cooperation in the field of tourism between the Saudi Ministry of Tourism and the Kuwaiti Ministry of Information and Culture.

It reviewed several regional and international issues, reiterating the commitment made by the Kingdom during the 40th meeting of the Council of Arab Interior Ministers to strengthen security cooperation, step up efforts to combat drug use, and address any issues that pose a threat to pan-Arab security.

Meanwhile, the Cabinet ratified a memorandum of cooperation between the Saudi Ministry of Education and the Ministry of Education of China to teach Chinese in the Kingdom.

It also consented to a memorandum of understanding between Saudi Arabia's Oversight and Anti-Corruption Authority and the National Anti-Corruption Commission of Thailand in preventing and combating corruption.

BUSINESS WORLD

[World Bank backs safety nets to build climate resilience](#)

By: Luisa Maria Jacinta C. Jocson

SOCIAL protection measures like cash support programs are needed to build climate resilience, especially in at-risk countries like the Philippines, the World Bank said in a blog post.

“Adapting cash support programs after a disaster requires careful targeting and understanding of disaster-affected population needs. Making social protection programs more flexible while incorporating reliable mechanisms for identifying and targeting vulnerable populations contributes to an inclusive recovery,” it said.

“Natural hazards, health and climate-related shocks, are increasingly and disproportionately affecting the poor and the most vulnerable populations. Interventions are required to strengthen resilience and protect these populations against disaster impacts,” it added.

The World Bank cited the Philippines, one of the countries most affected by natural and climate-related disasters.

“The experiences of ad hoc emergency cash support programs in the Philippines have shown that the needs of disaster-affected families include food and nonfood items, including urgent requirements for medicines and healthcare not delivered as part of government-provided relief,” it added.

The bank noted the “unusual number of natural hazards (earthquakes, typhoons, volcanic eruptions)” in late 2019 and early 2020.

The Global Facility for Disaster Reduction and Recovery provided grants for training and technical assistance to aid the Department of Social Welfare and Development in designing an emergency cash transfer program to deliver the World Bank’s \$500-million policy loan to the Philippines.

“The design of the emergency cash transfer program built on these experiences to empower disaster-affected populations to determine how to address their needs using local resources,” it said.

The World Bank said that the program “built household resilience and recovery to quickly resume day-to-day activities after disasters.”

“By reforming the cash support available in case of an emergency, the project ensured that cash assistance reached disaster-affected households immediately after disasters to facilitate their recovery,” it added.

The World Bank said that social protection systems can make vulnerable households more resilient; however, they must be enhanced and adapted to respond to disaster shocks.

“Incorporating risk data into social protection information systems is critical to design programs, inform contingency planning, and scale-up interventions to adapt systems to respond to disasters more efficiently,” the bank added.

It also cited the need to adjust existing social protection programs to support disaster-affected populations and promote financial protection and inclusion for resilience to disaster risks.

CNN PHILIPPINES

[Oriental Mindoro to conduct massive cleanup on Friday](#)

Metro Manila (CNN Philippines, March 8) — Oriental Mindoro will conduct a massive coastal cleanup on Friday as more people have fallen ill because of the oil spill.

Latest data from the provincial government showed an additional 25 oil spill related cases — bringing the total to 43.

"We cannot afford na madagdagan nang madagdagan (ang may sakit). Every day na lumilipas is calamitous," Oriental Mindoro Gov. Bonz Dolor told a briefing Thursday.

[Translation: We cannot afford a further increase in cases. Every day that passes is calamitous.]

Dolor said he wanted to start immediately the massive cleanup on Friday, instead of Monday. It will be a concerted effort with various agencies, including the Health, Social Welfare, and Environment departments, he said.

This would also start temporary livelihood programs for affected families, especially in the 78 coastal barangays from nine Oriental Mindoro towns that have declared a state of calamity: Naujan, Pola, Pinamalayan, Gloria, Bansud, Bongabong, Roxas, Mansalay, and Bulalacao.

The slick was caused by the sunken MT Princess Empress, which was carrying 800,000 liters of industrial fuel oil.

The Philippine Coast Guard (PCG) will hire residents for the cleanup efforts. They are from the list of representatives from the affected families. Others will be employed for the cash-for-work program.

The PCG also reported it has positioned oil spill booms in waters near Naujan and the Calima River in Pola for the first time as waves calmed down.

President Ferdinand Marcos Jr. said he hopes the the cleanup efforts will be over in less than four months.

PCG Commandant Adm. Artemio Abu told a briefing that the country's coast guard eyes to finish it in three months.

"Sa [oil spill sa] Guimaras, experience natin, three months...Let's hope for the best and earliest that we can. 'Yun po ang effort natin," Abu said.

[Translation: During the oil spill in Guimaras, our experience was three months...Let's hope for the best and earliest that we can. That's our effort.]

Japan also said it is sending a disaster relief expert team to support response efforts.

Effects on health

The additional two dozen oil spill related cases prompted Gov. Dolor to push for an immediate massive coastal cleanup.

Authorities have evacuated some residents, especially the elderly and those with underlying illnesses.

"We will be forced to order forced evacuation only for those areas na may oil spill sa tabing shore [with oil spill near the shore]," the governor said, if the situation worsens.

He added that they are waiting for the test results of the Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources to determine the safety of marine products for consumption, as well as the results from the Environment Department to determine if the air can affect the health of residents.

The governor reminded locals to wear the N-95 masks for those near the oil spill, and reiterated instructions for local authorities to control residents not to go near affected waters.

EIN NEWSWIRES

[Legarda stresses impact of digital revolution in raising gender equality, women empowerment; recognizes role of women in addressing climate crisis](#)

As the world celebrates International Women's Day today, Senate President Pro Tempore Loren Legarda underscored the impact of digital innovation in promoting gender equality and women empowerment, as she also recognizes the women's role in the global fight against the climate crisis.

"This year, the UN (United Nations) decided that the theme will be something rather fresh. DigitALL: Innovation and technology for gender equality was chosen for 2023. I believe it will be women, whose shackles have been cut, that will innovate to carry us through the climate crisis. They will be the ones inventing the mechanisms and the means to keep the homes humming in the midst of the calamities and challenges and they will find a way," she stated.

As an advocate of innovation, Legarda urged the use of technology in better policy making to address various global issues, acknowledging how it has increased connectivity among people in many ways possible. However, she pointed out that the world has changed so much that solutions that worked just a few years ago might no longer be on point.

"The lesson to be learned here is from Albert Einstein -- "We can't solve problems by using the same kind of thinking we used when we created them." Climate change and the pandemic have afforded us the opportunity to look for new solutions, innovate, frame our issues differently and perhaps find the tipping point where we have not been looking before," Legarda said.

Legarda, a long-time advocate of women empowerment, has likewise emphasized giving value to the hard work of unpaid and underpaid women - the mothers and grandmothers who nobly raised their children and grandchildren - and urged valuing unpaid work and giving voice to the sector.

"It is difficult to imagine the true monetary value of the hands that patted your bottom as a child to put you to sleep, the ones that scoured gardens and markets for what to put on the table, the feet that trudged kilometers to fetch water, the grandmother that raised her grandkids. I suppose monetizing this has not been foremost on the agenda, partly because it is priceless," Legarda remarked.

She said such labor must be recognized and helped by making the work easier, redistribute the burden, rewarding such work, and finally representing the sector and giving them a voice.

"Simple lang po ang ibig sabihin niyan. Ang mga hamon ng ating panahon ay dugtong-dugtong at ang paglampas natin dito ay nangangailangan ng lakas ng lahat ng bisig, at ng kolektibang kaisipan. Kapag naiwan ang kababaihan sa tahaking ito ay hindi tayo makakarating sa kabila," said Legarda.

JOURNAL ONLINE

[Philippines comes back with biggest delegation to ITB Berlin, bags sustainable tourism recognitions](#)

Returning to the global scene with the biggest delegation of tourism stakeholders to date, the Philippines made a big comeback at the Internationale Tourismus-Börse (ITB) 2023 Convention in Messe Berlin, Germany on 07 to 09 March 2023, spearheaded by the Department of Tourism (DOT) and its marketing and promotion arm, the Tourism Promotions Board (TPB) Philippines.

DOT Secretary Christina Garcia Frasco led the combined group of 26 co-exhibitors from the public and private sector consisting of 40 delegates attending the event. TPB Chief Operating Officer Margarita Nogales and other DOT officials also joined the Secretary. The Philippines is expected to highlight the country's tourism developments and product offerings to over 160,000 visitors expected to attend the world's largest travel and tourism trade fair.

The Philippines' participation at the ITB Berlin aims to strengthen the country's global tourism campaign through partnership opportunities with various tourism private sectors including tour operators, online travel agencies, new online distribution platforms, travel websites and communities, journalists, and influencers, among others.

"The ITB Berlin holds great opportunities for the Philippines to showcase to the world its award-winning destinations such as Boracay, Cebu, Siargao, and Palawan, and also to include Banaue, Intramuros, and South Cotabato, among others. We also look forward to giving the world a view into our distinct and diverse culture, as well as the country's best asset: the warmth and hospitality of the Filipino people," said Secretary Frasco.

"Our participation is pursuant to further positioning the Philippines as a tourism powerhouse in Asia, and hopefully the world in the years ahead," she added, citing also that the ITB attendance will help fastrack the recovery efforts by the DOT of the pandemic-hit industry.

The Philippines booth at the ITB Berlin featured the country's rich culture and sustainable tourism through the artistic works of T'nalak weaver Myrna Pula of South Cotabato and Yakan Weaver and Entrepreneur Angelita Pichay Ilul of Zamboanga. Moreover, visitors got a taste of Philippine coffee and chocolates through Kape de Filipina, a brand offering products meticulously grown by farmers and communities in the Philippines.

The DOT and TPB will then host a cocktail reception for international buyers, Philippine sellers and industry partners on the second day of the convention where they were treated with traditional Filipino cuisine by Ayan, a Filipino street food restaurant based in Berlin and live performances from Lapu Lapu Arnis de Abanico, Songwriter and Singer David Mercado and Princess Virtudazo.

“What we have showcased in this year’s ITB is just a glimpse of our country’s rich culture and wide range of tourism offerings, curated to bring more ideas and inspiration to promote the Philippines as a meaningful and purposeful destination. We are more than ready to welcome you to our home. Come visit to witness, firsthand, the Philippine Experience,” enthused TPB COO Nograles.

This year, more tourism stakeholders joined the Philippine delegation to reintroduce the country as a world-class tourism destination such as Airtrav Philippines, Araw Hospitality Inc., Amorita Resort, Annset Holidays, Inc., Baron Travel Corporation, Blue Horizons Travel & Tours Inc., Bohol Beach Club, Chroma Hospitality Inc. (Crimson Hotels & Resorts), Club Agutaya Inc., CTPH lifestyle & Travel Services, Divaishnavi International Inc., El Nido Resorts, Evasion Tropicale Travel and Tours, GI Philippines Corp., Intas Destination Management Inc., Marsman Drysdale Travel Inc., MyTRIPS Travel and Tours, Plantation Bay Resort and Spa, Rajah Tour Philippines, Sharp Travel Service, Sarah Lea Travel and Tours, The Funny Lion, Total Exhibit & Expo Solutions, Inc., Travelexperts, Inc., Travelite Travel and Tours Co., and the Philippine Retirement Authority.

Negros Occidental bags Green Story Destination Awards

Two Negros Occidental cities brought honor to the country during the Green Destinations Awards at the ITB Berlin 2023 after being recognized for their inspirational sustainable tourism practices and efforts.

Sagay City bagged the People’s Choice Award and ranked 2nd under Nature and Scenery Category with its entry, “Mangrove Forest Protection through Community-based EcoTourism Project”. The city’s Suyac Island Mangrove Ecopark, located inside the Sagay Marine Reserve, is the first fully community-based ecotourism site in Sagay, that offers an unparalleled experience and allows travelers to connect with nature and local culture.

Another pride of Negros Occidental, Bago City’s entry “Reviving the Majestic Diversity of Bago Watershed” was awarded 3rd among the finalists under Environment and Climate Category. Bago City’s Watershed plays a vital role in steering the wheel of the

economy of Negros Occidental by supplying water to about 19,000 hectares of agricultural areas. To protect, conserve and rehabilitate the watershed, the city government mobilized its resources and strengthened community involvement through Integrated Ecosystem Management Approach (Ridge to Reef Environmental Management).

The prestigious Green Destinations Story Awards at the ITB Berlin showcases the most inspirational initiatives for sustainable tourism development from stories submitted to the yearly Green Destinations Top 100 Stories competition.

With the long-term goal of securing increased arrivals, receipts, and investments for the country, TPB annually participates in the ITB Berlin, which provides the Philippine travel trade an opportunity to network with relevant decision-makers from new and existing tourism markets across Europe, America, and Asia.

MANILA BULLETIN

['Swift gov't response to Mindoro oil spill laudable' — CHR](#)

By: Czarina Nicole Ong Ki

The Commission on Human Rights (CHR) has lauded the government's "swift humanitarian response" in addressing the Feb. 28 oil spill that has been affecting communities in Oriental Mindoro and may even reach Boracay Island.

MT Princess Empress capsized and caused 800,000 liters of industrial oil to spill that spread fast and threatened over 36,000 hectares of coral reefs, mangroves, and seagrass.

Estimates stated that more than 10,000 families have so far been affected.

Several government agencies immediately took action after the spill. The Department of Environment and Natural Resource (DENR) monitored and developed a potential impact map to assess the overall damage caused by the oil spill, while the Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD) led the distribution of cash aid and cash-for-work programs for fishermen, vendors and families in Oriental Mindoro. The Department of Health (DOH) provided urgent medical assistance to residents and hazmat suits for frontline responders.

In a statement, the CHR said that an oil spill of that magnitude should be addressed through a "whole-of-government approach with a human rights lens" since the most vulnerable sectors face the most compounding risks. It stressed that they should be prioritized in aid and recovery to ensure that no one is left behind.

"The right to a healthy environment is crucial in the enjoyment of all other human rights. Environmental degradation, climate change, and pollution have all been proven to have significant negative impacts on human health, well-being, livelihood, mobility, as well as cultural identity," the CHR said.

"The Commission also underscores that impacted communities must be encouraged to exercise their right to participation, information, and consultation relative to the spill and its aftermath," it said.

"This not only enables citizens to take on a more active role in shaping recovery efforts relative to their economic, social and cultural rights, it also allows for the exchange of knowledge and building of trust between them and the government," it added.

It urged authorities to conduct a thorough investigation into the cause of the oil spill and hold accountable parties responsible for any negligence or misconduct that led to this hazardous incident.

It pointed out the importance of businesses to do their part in addressing climate change to avoid similar incidents from taking place in the future.

It recommended the use of fossil fuels and the strengthened promotion of alternative sources of energy.

At the same time, the CHR said the government should support businesses that plan to move forward with environmental sustainability by making the economy “equitable and inclusive” and guaranteeing decent work for all.

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

[Narra seedlings planted in Albay on Women's Day](#)

LIGAO CITY, Albay, Philippines — Some 550 narra seedlings were planted in Camalig town in Albay by local government employees and volunteers from other agencies as part of the celebration of International Women's Day on Wednesday, March 8.

“Everyone was excited and so far we were able to plant 550 pieces of narra seedling in Barangay Sua, particularly in the old dumpsite,” Mayor Carlos Irwin Baldo Jr. told Inquirer in a chat message.

He said the activity is one of the priority concerns of the local government. The project aims to proactively incorporate the role of women in taking care of the environment and to instill in the community the importance of trees in diminishing the effects of climate change.

In Ligao City, former Mayor Linda Gonzalez, who is the president of the Ligao Woman's Club, led the unity walk and wellness dance at the city pavilion. Hundreds of women also participated in the blood-letting activity.

Free services like haircuts, foot spas, and nail cleaning were also offered to the public.

PHILIPPINE NEWS AGENCY

[2 'green' Negros cities receive awards in Berlin](#)

By: Nanette Guadalquiver

BACOLOD CITY – The cities of Sagay and Bago in Negros Occidental have been recognized for their sustainable tourism initiatives during the Green Destinations Story Awards at the Internationale Tourismus-Börse (ITB) in Berlin, Germany Tuesday night.

With its entry “Mangrove Forest Protection through Community-based EcoTourism Project,” Sagay, located in northern Negros, placed second in the Nature and Scenery Category and also received the People’s Choice Award, one of the two special awards in the competition.

From southern Negros, Bago’s “Reviving the Majestic Diversity of Bago Watershed” took the third spot in the Environment and Climate Category.

Both the Tourism Promotions Board and the Department of Tourism lauded the two cities for international recognition, calling their achievements “big wins” for the Philippines and Western Visayas.

In a statement, Bago City Mayor Nicholas Yulo, who received the award together with his wife Jeanne Louise, said it is such an honor for the city and “an affirmation of the strong efforts and collaboration of the local government, its stakeholders and constituents in environmental conservation.”

“This is the sum of all the efforts put in by the men and women of the local government, the trust and support of Bagonhons, and the internal and external environmental and tourism stakeholders,” he added.

For Sagay, the awards were received by Negros Occidental 2nd District Rep. Alfredo Marañon III and Vice Mayor Leo Rafael Cueva.

Last September, the stories of both cities have been included in the Green Destinations Top 100 Stories list and were awarded during the Green Destinations and Future of Tourism Summit held in Athens, Greece.

The Green Destinations Story Awards at ITB Berlin showcase and celebrate the most inspirational initiatives for sustainable tourism development from stories submitted to the yearly Green Destinations Top 100 Stories competition.

ITB is the world's leading travel trade fair, where leaders and key stakeholders of the global tourism industry gather to conduct business meetings.

Each year, the ITB Berlin annually gathers the participation of over 160,000 visitors, including 113,500 trade visitors and 10,000 exhibitors from over 180 countries.

RELIEF WEB

[Celebrating women's leadership in climate action](#)

“Empower women and girls. Empowering women is the single most important way to ensure effective climate action. Women not only have the right to participate in decision-making processes that affect everybody’s lives but have their own specific knowledge of biodiversity and indispensable expertise.” These are the inspiring words of Michelle Bachelet, the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights.

Actively engaging women in decision-making processes on climate action is as important today as it will be 50 years from now. Building this groundwork started ten years ago, at the UNFCCC COP18, where nations agreed that additional efforts were needed to improve women’s participation in international climate policymaking. Recognizing that climate policy is more effective when it addresses the needs of women and men equally, they set a goal for achieving gender balance in the decision-making structures of the UNFCCC and Kyoto Protocol.

There has been positive progress toward meeting these goals, as shown in a report discussed at the most recent climate conference, COP27, held in Sharm El-Sheikh, Egypt in November 2022. Since reporting began in 2013, female representation has increased in 11 out of 17 bodies. In 2022, the representation of women stood at 40 percent or more in 7 of the 17 constituted bodies.

Improvement at the international level is complemented by national, regional, and local efforts to enhance women's leadership and participation in the design and implementation of climate policies, particularly in the agriculture and land use sectors. Women are a vital force in agricultural production, making up approximately 43 percent of the global agricultural labour force, and this percentage varies widely by region and country.

However, women often face significant gender-based barriers to accessing the resources necessary for successful agricultural production, such as land, credit, information, and training. Due to institutionalized discrimination, their leadership skills and knowledge often go untapped in the response to climate change in agriculture. On International Women’s Day 2023, we highlight and celebrate three countries that are working to overcome these barriers with concrete activities at their national, district, and farm levels.

In Thailand, the Ministry of Agriculture and Cooperatives (MoAC) has been updating the Climate Change Action Plan on Agriculture (CCAPA 2023-2027), which supports and accelerates mitigation and adaptation actions. There has been a concerted effort to integrate gender and social inclusion into the CCSA. In the implementation phase, MoAC departments will develop gender mainstreaming and social inclusion responsiveness plans for climate actions in agriculture and land use sectors at national and local levels. These plans will help improve the inclusion of women's representatives in climate-smart agriculture initiatives.

In Uganda, efforts are underway to support women's participation and leadership in the response to climate change. The national climate action plans, including the updated NDC, Ag-NAP, and Ag-LTS integrate gender and social inclusion issues. Their implementation plans advance an inclusive and gender-responsive approach. District-level planners have received training to study gender dynamics within vulnerable agriculture households in the cattle corridor and are now developing district-level climate plans and indicators that specifically address the diverse needs and priorities of women and men.

In Costa Rica, efforts are being strengthened to reduce emissions, increase the resilience of family farms and improve women's leadership in the livestock and coffee sector. One of the key activities is the development of a new certification scheme aimed at empowering family farms to adopt sustainable practices and increase their access to markets. The initiative includes targeted trainings for women ranchers, sensitization programs for men, and other support activities to ensure at least 50 women are able to participate and take on leadership roles in their communities, as well as influencing future initiatives with a gender perspective in these sectors.

Taken together these concrete actions and the advancements within the UNFCCC signal a significant shift away from past gender-blind approaches. It shows there is widespread recognition that meeting our climate change goals is only possible with the full, equal, and meaningful participation and leadership of women and girls at all levels of action.

THE MANILA TIMES

[MMSU partners with USAid, GRF for sustainable fisheries in Ilocos Norte](#)

By: Leander C. Domingo

THE United States government through the US Agency for International Development (USAid), Gerry Roxas Foundation (GRF), and the IMPL Project Philippines Foundation (PPF) have partnered with Mariano Marcos State University (MMSU) for West Philippine Seascape (WPS) project.

According to MMSU information officer Daniel Tapaoan Jr., university President Shirley Agrupis has affirmed the support and commitment of the university to the WPS project in Ilocos Norte for sustainable fisheries in the province.

Agrupis emphasized MMSU's status as a national university for fisheries and the university's creative and relevant fisheries research programs that can surely contribute to the implementation of the seascape project.

Spearheaded by the USAid, GRF, and the IMPL-PPF, the WPS project aims to establish programs for inclusive resource governance, security, resilience, and sustainability within the WPS.

Ryan Young, IMPL global executive director, said the project intends to create a scalable, data-driven, and outcome-focused platform to have efficient planning, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of initiatives.

The project covers the 13 coastal municipalities of Pagudpud, Bangui, Burgos, and Pasuquin in Ilocos Norte; Narvacan in Ilocos Sur; Agno and Infanta in Pangasinan; Santa Cruz in Zambales; and Taytay, El Nido, Aborlan, Balabac, and Puerto Princesa City in Palawan.

It is part of the Investing in Sustainability and Partnerships for Inclusive Growth and Regenerative Ecosystems program focused on improving natural resource resilience and security through the increased participation of civil society organizations, media, academe and local communities.

THE VISAYAN DAILY STAR

[\[Opinion\] Organic agriculture addresses hunger amidst worsening climate change \(1\)](#)

By: Ariel B. Guides

“When tillage begins other arts follow. The farmers, therefore, are the founders of civilization”. – Daniel Webster. This is my inaugural article for this prestigious local daily and I could not be more thankful for this opportunity. I devote this column to where I am directly involved considering my work in an NGO which is all about sustainable agriculture and organic farming practices with marginal farmers and small agrarian reform beneficiaries in Negros.

In any community development work, they are the major actors and stakeholders. Thus, I devote this column to agriculture to organic agriculture and how it can contribute to climate change adaptation, resiliency and mitigation and ensuring food security.

THE MILLENIUM DEVELOPMENT GOALS AND AGRICULTURE

But, first, it is important to look at the bigger scale on how agriculture plays an important role in the existence of mankind. In context, it is important how organic agriculture takes place in the realization of the millennium development goals (MDG) set by the United Nations. In 2009, the United Nations set major development goals and, on top of them is the eradication of hunger and poverty by 2030. Quite an ambitious goal and, addressing this can only be done by ensuring food security. And, that is agriculture.

The question that comes to mind though is, how can agriculture address hunger when, in the past century according to the 2015 Food and Agriculture Office report of the UN, states that, “there is rapid change in the climate and ecosystems translating to more severe weather events such as heat waves, droughts and rising sea levels pose major risks to agriculture and food security.” It also added, that, “both climate change and agriculture are closely linked and interdependent since agriculture is both affecting and being affected by climate change.”

But, the same report emphasizes the importance of organic agriculture as a mitigation practice and a climate resilient process in the pursuit of food security, at the same time, helps in the mitigation against its worsening impact. It furthered that, “management of nutrients and pests in organic agriculture can play a major role in climate mitigation. Under organic regulations synthetic inputs such as minerals and chemical pesticides which require vast amounts of fossil fuel are prohibited.” In this light, the Inter-

governmental Panel on Climate Change and numerous scientists strongly advocate the “so-called” resilient agro-ecosystems.

EFFECTS OF CLIMATE CHANGE ON ECONOMY AND AGRICULTURE

Climate change costs the Philippine an estimated 26B loss to the economy annually. This loss primarily comes from the reduction of private consumption and, total investment, mainly influenced by higher commodity prices and lower household income levels. Just the same, this is caused by high exposure to natural hazards (typhoons, landslides, floods, droughts), the dependence on climate-sensitive natural resources, and vast coastlines where all of its major cities and the majority of the population reside. We are an archipelago that is naturally rich but, now has an increasingly depleted natural and marine resources base that support livelihoods.

Equally, natural resources play a critical role in the Philippine economy, as agriculture, fisheries, and forestry represent about 10 percent of gross domestic product and account for almost 30 percent of employment. Moreover, more than half of our greenhouse gas emissions come from the energy sector, followed by agriculture, industrial waste and land-use shifts and forestry. Clearly agriculture comes in second as the most affected but, at the same, a major factor in the worsening climate change.

Climate change impact on agriculture is considerably devastating. Past studies have shown that the Philippines incurred PhP 463 billion in damages due to extreme weather events over the past decade and, – 62.7 percent of which or PhP 290 billion were damages to agriculture sector. The National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council estimates that typhoon Odette caused PhP47 billion in total to both infrastructure and agriculture. And, typhoon Paeng has wiped out at least P1.3 billion worth of agricultural goods according to the Department of Agriculture in October 2022.

Obviously, climate change is altering production systems and compromising food security and nutrition for millions of Filipinos. The 112 million Filipinos has a growth rate of 1.5 per cent and is the 13th biggest population in the world which means bigger threat to food security. The FAO noted that, “due to climate change, crop yields are expected to decline by 25 per cent in tropical countries such as the Philippines”. It reminds us that “globally, the total production should increase by about 60 per cent by 2050 to produce enough food for the world’s growing population”. Ironically, Filipino farmers who labor in the fields to produce food bear the greatest brunt of food insecurity and malnutrition. Climate change causes greater food insecurity and reduces nutrition, income, and market access.

Conversely, agriculture is also a big contributor to emission due to excessive use of fertilizers, methane released by production farms and livestock, over-tilling soil leads to soil carbon and moisture loss. Above all, is the phenomenon of forest conversions and other ecosystems mainly to industrial use. The scaling up and expansion of agricultural commodities—including livestock and mono-cropping of major products such as rice, banana, sugarcane and coffee—to meet global demands has led to substantial greenhouse gas emissions from deforestation.

UNITED NATIONS CLIMATE CHANGE

Five Reasons Why Climate Action Needs Women

UN Climate Change News, 8 March 2023 – As we celebrate International Women's Day today, it's important to recognize the vital role that women play in tackling climate change.

While climate change affects everyone, it does not affect everyone equally. Vulnerability to climate change is exacerbated by inequity and marginalization linked to gender, ethnicity, low income, and other social and economic factors.

When solutions to climate change address these realities, they are more effective.

This is where women come in. Here are five compelling reasons why women are essential for climate action.

Reason 1: Climate action requires 100 percent of the population

Half of the world's population is comprised of women and girls, yet they are often left out of the conversation when it comes to climate change. But if we want to achieve the Paris Agreement goal of limiting global temperature rise to 1.5 degrees Celsius, we need everyone on board. That means more women and girls need to be empowered and involved.

We need women, in all their diversity, involved at all levels – from climate negotiations to boardrooms to forests and fields, especially in sectors and regions hit hard by the ravages of climate change.

Indigenous women, in particular, have been at the forefront of environmental conservation and have invaluable knowledge and expertise that can help build resilience and reduce greenhouse gas emissions. By including more women in climate action, we can create a more sustainable and equitable future for all.

Reason 2: Empowering women means better climate solutions

Women make up nearly half of the agricultural labor force in developing countries. When provided with the same access to resources as men, women can increase their agricultural yields by 20 to 30 percent. This boost in productivity not only improves total

agricultural output by 2.5 to 4 percent, but it can also help reduce world hunger by 12 to 17 percent, according to the UN.

Empowering women in agriculture can also have a positive impact on climate adaptation. By providing appropriate technology and resources, we can promote more sustainable farming and conservation practices. And by reducing poverty, we can help individuals better adapt to the effects of climate change.

Investing in women and girls has far-reaching benefits for communities and countries. In fact, research shows that countries with high representation of women in parliament are more likely to ratify international environmental treaties.

Reason 3: Women are key to building climate resilience in communities

When it comes to building climate resilience in communities, involving women is crucial. In fact, the UN reports that communities are more successful in resilience and capacity-building strategies when women are part of the planning process.

Additionally, women are usually first responders in community responses to natural disasters, leaders in disaster risk-reduction, and contribute to post recovery by addressing the early recovery needs of their families and strengthening community building.

By involving women in community planning and disaster response efforts, we can build stronger, more resilient communities that are better equipped to face the challenges of climate change.

Reason 4: Climate change affects us all, but not equally

Climate change affects everyone, but it doesn't impact everyone equally. It is well-established that climate change has a greater impact on the world's most vulnerable people, whether in developed or developing countries, and exacerbates existing inequalities. Women often face higher risks and greater burdens from the impacts of climate change in situations of poverty and due to existing roles, responsibilities and cultural norms.

For example, in many societies, women are responsible for household energy, food, water and care for the young and elderly. Particularly in developing countries, the consequences of climate change can increase the burden for women and girls, for

example, causing them to travel further to obtain daily supplies, leaving less time for paid work and potentially exposing them to greater risk to their personal safety.

But here's the good news: investing in gender equality and women's empowerment has far-reaching benefits, including environmental conservation, poverty reduction, and achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). And by tackling climate change with a gender lens, we can also address women's rights and promote greater gender equality.

Reason 5: Countries recognize the importance of gender in climate planning

The good news is that women and girls are becoming increasingly empowered to contribute to, and benefit from, climate action.

Within the UN Climate Change process, many countries have shared how they are integrating gender across different priority sectors within their national climate action plans (Nationally Determined Contributions) and National Adaptation Plans.

The Gender Action Plan agreed by governments under the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) calls for women's full, equal, and meaningful participation in the international climate process and to ensure a prominent role for women in decision-making and in climate action.

Governments meeting under the UNFCCC adopted a goal of gender balance in national delegations and in national climate policy and action in 2012. Since then, the UN Climate Change secretariat has reported annually on the gender composition of national delegations and policy and decision-making bodies under the UNFCCC and the Paris Agreement.

What is needed now is for countries to be deliberate in how they seek to achieve gender parity in local, national and international climate policy and decision-making roles.

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