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Information and Knowledge Management Division

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Fisherman Helgi Áargil no longer knows what to expect on Greenland's fjords, where he spends up to five days at a time on his boat with his dog, Molly, and the ever-changing northern lights in the sky as company.

Last year, his boat got stuck in ice that broke off the nearby glacier. This year, it's been very wet instead. His income is just as unpredictable. An outing could bring him around 100,000 Danish kroner (about \$15,700), or nothing at all.

The Arctic's rapidly changing climate is bringing more questions for Greenland, the semiautonomous territory of Denmark that's been shaken by US President Donald Trump's interest in owning it.

While Trump's approach to Greenland has shifted, the world has been unable to slow the effects of climate change. The Arctic is warming faster than any other region in the world, driven by the burning of oil, gas and coal.

What that means for the fishing industry that largely drives Greenland's economy is unknown. Fishing accounts for up to 95 percent of exports, many to the territory's biggest market, China, along with the United States, Japan and Europe.

Disappearing sea ice

Wrapped in a wool sweater against the freezing wind, Áargil explained how he fishes for halibut and cod. Other top catches are shrimp and snow crab, which including legs can reach more than a meter (3 feet) in length.

Traditional ice fishermen who make up half the local industry are seeing the most dramatic changes to the way they fish.

"My father was fishing from the sea ice" one and a half meters (almost 5 feet) thick, recalled Karl Sandgreen, head of the Icefjord Center that documents climate change in the region and is based in the town of Ilulissat.

That sea ice started disappearing around 1997, Sandgreen said, and fishermen who drilled through the ice to fish increasingly started to fish by boat instead. The use of boats allows fishermen to reach larger areas, but that can come with extra costs and pollution that accelerates warming.

Fishing has shaped Greenland's communities. The harbor where fishermen return to sell their catch is at the heart of every town or village. Before heading out, some fishermen pick up boxes

from the island's fishing companies to pack their catch which, in the capital of Nuuk, is winched from the boat to the fish factory.

Toke Binzer, the chief executive of the island's single biggest employer, Royal Greenland, said he is increasingly worried about a future with greatly diminished sea ice.

That could push traditional fishermen toward larger communities and into the ranks of commercial fishing.

The challenge now is how to support traditional fishermen when there is sometimes "too much ice to sail, too little to go out on," Binzer said. Already, that unpredictability has caused a "huge" problem.

Royal Greenland already loans fishermen money to buy a boat, which they repay from selling their catch, Binzer said.

If everyone turns to fishing from boats, that could help economically but lead to overfishing, said Boris Worm, an expert in marine biodiversity at Dalhousie University in Canada.

In Greenland, there are already signs of too much fishing close to shore as halibut are getting smaller, Binzer said. Worm agreed, calling it a classic sign of overfishing as the bigger fish are caught and the smaller, younger ones are left.

That problem could worsen as the retreating ice makes fish more accessible. Fish stocks could rise as the warmer weather causes increased rain and melting ice to bring more nutrients for plankton, which the fish feed on, Worm said.

He warned, however, that the fish may not behave as "predictably," as in the past, perhaps by seeking new food sources if they can no longer feed on the algae which grows under the sea ice.

Few options beyond fishing

On his boat near Nuuk, Áargil considered another challenge: Warm weather is making some fish harder to catch as they go deeper in search of colder waters.

"It's too warm," he said, looking at the hills around the fjord. "I don't know where the fish is going, but there's not so much."

Options beyond fishing remain few in Greenland. Tourism is increasing but far from making up a significant part of the economy.

Tradition, too, is at the heart of worries about climate change. Already, dog sleds have been confined to land when there is no sea ice.

“It’s really important for many Greenlanders to have the ability to go out and sail,” said Ken Jakobsen, the manager at Royal Greenland’s factory in Nuuk. Fishing is the “most important” thing.

In the capital alone, he said, there are more than 1,000 boats in the harbor during summer—in a territory where the total population is little over 50,000.

PHILIPPINE NEWS AGENCY

[Marcos to raise global conflicts, climate concerns at special UN meet](#)

By Ruth Abbey Gita-Carlos

President Ferdinand R. Marcos Jr. is expected to highlight the growing challenges posed by armed conflicts and climate-related crises when he addresses a special forum at the United Nations (UN) here.

The special session, convened by the president of the UN General Assembly, would allow the Philippines to present its views on pressing global concerns, Marcos said on Sunday (New York time).

He said the Philippines would call for greater respect for international law as countries confront geopolitical tensions and environmental challenges.

“As I speak now, various armed conflicts across the globe are unfolding, and climate-related crises grow greater,” Marcos said.

He affirmed the Philippines’ commitment to fostering consensus and strengthening cooperation among nations to tackle complex global challenges.

He said the country’s experience in diplomacy and peacebuilding can contribute to ongoing international efforts to sustain peace and stability.

“And I cannot help but think that this is precisely the time where our brand of principled, consensus-building leadership is needed in the world,” he said.

[PH pushes 'RISE' agenda for more people-centered ASEAN](#)

By: Marita Moaje

The Philippines, as this year's chair of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN), is leading efforts to put people and families at the center of regional development through its "RISE" framework at the 35th ASEAN Socio-Cultural Community (ASCC) Council Meeting in Makati City on Thursday.

In his opening remarks, Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD) Secretary and ASCC chair Rex Gatchalian emphasized the need to bolster regional cooperation as the region faces rapidly evolving challenges, technological changes, climate-related disasters, economic volatility, and social inequalities.

"At the heart of our work lies the empowerment, ensuring that our efforts translate into tangible improvements across the ASEAN community," Gatchalian said. "This year, we focus on RISE ASEAN framework, which consists of four strategic priorities."

He said the four priorities are Resilient and empowered families, focusing on child welfare and family support; Inclusive development, promoting equitable opportunities for vulnerable sectors; Smart youth and innovation, empowering young people with digital skills and ethical technology use; and Environmentally sustainable and food-secure future, strengthening climate resilience, disaster preparedness, and sustainable food systems across the region.

Gatchalian said that with the clear mandate from President Ferdinand R. Marcos Jr., the Philippines is committed to advancing the goal of the People Pillar of ASEAN, ensuring that ASEAN cooperation translates into meaningful improvements in the region.

Families and child welfare

Under the Resilient Families pillar, Gatchalian cited the urgent child-welfare needs in the Philippines.

He emphasized the need to establish alternative child care policies to ensure that every child grows up in a safe, nurturing, and supportive environment.

Citing data, Gatchalian noted that in the Philippines alone, more than 4,000 children are waiting to have a family, adding that these children, often victim survivors of abuse, neglect, abandonment, and exploitation, are housed in residential care facilities.

"Our goal is to advance and strengthen our adoption and alternative child care system so that no child would grow up without the love, care, and security of a family, or much worse, spend the rest of their childhood in an institution," he said.

Aging ASEAN

Gatchalian highlighted the region's demographic shift, noting that Southeast Asia must prepare for a rapidly aging population.

"In 2023, roughly 8.1 percent of ASEAN's population, or 55.9 million individuals, were aged 65 and above, and this number is expected to rise in the years ahead. The emergence of an aging society is here and a key priority in advancing the silver economy," he said.

He encourages the creation of a regional framework, with the participation of the private sector, to support active aging and protect dignity in later life.

Inclusive development, youth innovation

The Inclusive development and Smart youth and innovation priorities, Gatchalian said, aim to ensure equitable opportunities for all, while enabling the youth to lead ASEAN into a technological future.

"Investing in their participation, digital literacy, creative and ethical use of emerging innovations enable ASEAN to adapt to technological change and global shifts," Gatchalian said.

Climate and disaster reform

Meanwhile, on environmental security, Gatchalian said the Philippines introduced the Manila-ASEAN Strategic Protocol for Emergency and Comprehensive Transformation to strengthen cross-border disaster response and coordination.

"This is a strategic initiative to strengthen ASEAN's disaster response and enhance regional coordination. It will also signal our commitment to one ASEAN, one response, to leaving no one behind, especially sectors in the vulnerable situations," he said.

ASEAN perspective

ASEAN Deputy Secretary General for Socio-Cultural Community San Lwin, meanwhile, described 2026 as "a landmark year" for ASEAN, which he said marks the start of a new chapter that is aligned with ASEAN 2045.

"ASEAN 2045, our shared futures, sets before us a forward-looking agenda that calls for a more integrated, cohesive, inclusive, innovative, and resilient ASEAN," he said.

He emphasized the need for a people-centered region, adding that empowering the people is the cornerstone of ASEAN's community-building efforts and a catalyst for regional integration.

Highlighting the increasing and evolving challenges the region faces, he noted that the people must be well-positioned to adapt to innovation and ultimately drive human-centered, inclusive,

sustainable development across the region, equipping them with opportunities and resources to maximize their potential while investing in their holistic development.

“A people-centered ASEAN community should go beyond mere aspirations. It must be a core to ASEAN that shapes every policy, program, and decision we make. The measures of our progress and success lie not only on the volumes of documents we produce or the numbers of meetings and forums we convene, but in building safer, healthier, more resilient, and sustainable communities where our people can truly thrive,” San Lwin said.

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[The Philippines at the carbon crossroads](#)

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AS Southeast Asia speeds toward an energy and development boom, the Philippines faces a defining policy moment: pass the Low Carbon Economy Investment Act (LCEIA) to anchor the country's readiness for Article 6.2 of the Paris Agreement and secure a seat at emerging regional carbon markets.

That was the consensus at the recent Asean Climate Action Dialogue, organized by the Race to Zero Philippines, the European Chamber of Commerce of the Philippines and the Global Compact Network Philippines, where Rep. Jose Manuel Alba framed the legal gap as an economic and strategic vulnerability. "We need something as soon as possible. Amendments and adjustments can be done in the future," he said, underscoring the need for a formal national framework now rather than perfection later. Alba's presentation and the panel discussion made two things clear: Article 6.2 international transfers of mitigation outcomes are not merely environmental instruments but are financial infrastructure. Without law and institutions, market opportunities will pass by.

What Article 6.2 requires in practice is straightforward in theory but complex in implementation: a clear host country authorization process, robust registries and tracking systems, transparent corresponding adjustments to national inventories and integrity safeguards to prevent double-counting.

Alba lays this out visually: a "high integrity bridge" connecting host countries with global buyers; and six critical readiness-building blocks like authorization policies, registries, corresponding adjustment capability, United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change reporting infrastructure, integrity safeguards and demand side signals. The presentation flags several of these as partial or developing in Asean, with authorization and corresponding adjustments among the weakest links.

That weakness shows up in the room. Panelists from registries, finance and national governments stressed fragmentation across standards, and the practical challenges facing project developers and communities on the ground. "The critical thing is the agreements that we have with the players in the space," said market expert Uynghiem Ngo, describing how multiple, inconsistent contracts have left landowners and Indigenous communities vulnerable to overlapping claims. Panelist Dr. Nam Nguyen warned that without clear authorization and benefit sharing rules, the state and project developers can end up at odds over who owns carbon rights, a problem the LCEIA and a companion Carbon Rights Bill aim to resolve.

Panelist and finance expert Paulo Burro was blunt about sequencing: "Once you secure an authorization risk, you can then proceed to find a buyer and off taker." Legal clarity unlocks offtake agreements, which in turn allow mitigation outcomes to serve as collateral or attract

green loans. Countries like Vietnam were cited as examples: centralized clearinghouses, separate registry authorities, and speed and trust have raised transaction volumes and investor confidence. The Philippines cannot afford to remain a patchwork of voluntary initiatives when bilateral and regional carbon corridors are forming.

An economic strategy

If the LCEIA is passed, what would change? Alba positions the bill as an economic strategy as much as a climate policy: mobilize private capital, offer fiscal and regulatory incentives to decarbonize, and create a cap and invest loop that channels mandated investments into renewables, efficiency and nature based solutions. Carbon markets should be designed with financial infrastructure that mobilizes transformation rather than speculation. In this framing, the LCEIA is a “serious signal” to global investors that the Philippines intends to be an active architect of a low carbon future.

The political calculus is pressing. Alba admitted his earlier bill in the 19th Congress failed to gain Senate traction; he urged stakeholders to “join hands” and influence upper chamber priorities. Push for the LCEIA and complementary laws (carbon rights, green infrastructure) while launching pilot Article 6.2 transactions to build capacity and demonstrate integrity. Pilots, combined with clear legislation, could produce a pipeline of projects from rice paddy methane reductions, blue carbon to renewable corridors that are attractive to buyers in Europe, Japan and Singapore.

For policymakers and investors, three realities should drive the narrative. First, Article 6.2 is not a technicality but a structural change in how climate finance flows. Second, law and institutions come before large scale transactions: authorization, registries and clear carbon rights reduce investment risk. Third, integrity and community safeguards are required ethically and pragmatically: markets collapse without trust.

Representative Alba’s plea captured the urgency: “If we really want this, then all the parties involved should join hands.” The policy question is less about whether the Philippines should participate in Article 6.2 markets than what kind of participant it will be. With the right law, designed for integrity and inclusion, Manila can turn a policy gap into a competitive advantage, attracting capital, driving decarbonization and giving Filipino communities a seat at the table as their landscapes become part of a global climate solution. Without it, the region’s emerging carbon economy may simply pass the Philippines by.

THE PHILIPPINE STAR

[DENR chief vows responsible environment management](#)

By: Josiah Antonio

Acting Department of Environment and Natural Resources chief Juan Miguel Cuna has vowed responsible management of the environment as he takes over the leadership of the agency.

“In a time of global uncertainties and evolving environmental challenges, particularly the growing impacts of climate change and the uncertainties arising from current developments in the Middle East, the mandate of the DENR becomes even more critical,” Cuna said during the turnover ceremony yesterday.

Looking back on his experience as part of the department, Cuna admitted that the challenges faced by DENR often place them in the public lens, especially during disasters.

Cuna noted how their next steps should lead to economic development.

Cuna, a lawyer, served as DENR director from 2010 to 2015 and later as assistant secretary and undersecretary in 2017. He was also Provincial Environment and Natural Resources Officer from 2008 to 2010.

Meanwhile, President Marcos has reappointed Sabuddin Abdurahim as secretary of the National Commission on Muslim Filipinos (NCMF), the government agency mandated to promote the rights, welfare and culture of Filipino Muslims.

Abdurahim will serve as NCMF head for two years.

CCC IN THE NEWS:

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Climate Change Commission (CCC) vice chairperson and executive director Robert E.A. Borje commended the youth from the municipality of Magdiwang, Romblon for their awareness and proactive approach to ecological protection during his visit to the town.

Borje, who joined a tree-growing activity by the locals, emphasized the vital role of trees and mountains as natural defenses against climate risks.

“Mountains such as Mount Guiting-Guiting are powerful natural resources in the fight against climate change, serving a dual purpose in both mitigation and adaptation,” he said, referring to the 2,058-meter-high mountain in the province’s Sibuyan Island, where Magdiwang is located.

The Romblon visit form part of CCC’s campaign to promote nature-based solutions to climate change vulnerability.

Borje and his team also joined youth leaders, students, farmers and fisherfolk of Santa Fe, Cebu in planting 33 molave saplings.

“Beyond planting trees, we are planting the seeds of education and values formation that are building a generation of Filipinos with a keen sense of respect, responsibility, and stewardship for nature and ecology,” he said.

MANILA BULLETIN

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By Merlina Hernando-Malipot

The Philippine Red Cross (PRC), together with partners from the Zurich Climate Resilience Alliance (ZCRA), conducted a series of engagements in Metro Manila to strengthen collaboration and advance climate resilience initiatives for vulnerable communities across the Philippines.

A key highlight of the week-long activities, from March 2 to 6, was the Climate Resilience Multi-Stakeholder Forum held on March 4 at Crowne Plaza Manila Galleria in Quezon City.

During the forum, the ZCRA Philippines Country Coordination Mechanism was reinforced through the signing of a Terms of Reference among the PRC, Plan International Pilipinas, and the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) Philippine Country Office.

PRC said the forum gathered representatives from national government agencies, local government units, development partners, and community leaders to discuss strategies aimed at strengthening climate resilience in vulnerable communities.

Pasig City Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Office Chief Bryant Meryll Ruiz Wong presented the city's roadmap for urban resilience, while youth representatives Kim Harold Dela Cruz and Bea Marie Vicente from Navotas City highlighted the role of young people in promoting climate-resilient communities.

Breakout sessions facilitated by Plan International, IFRC, and the Z Zurich Foundation explored topics such as inclusive development, community participation in local adaptation planning, and strategies to address extreme urban heat.

Experts from the Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical, and Astronomical Services Administration (PAGASA) also shared insights on climate risks and weather trends.

The discussions also opened opportunities for collaboration with the Department of the Interior and Local Government–National Capital Region and the Climate Change Commission.

The forum concluded with a Stakeholders' Signing of Commitment, where participating leaders pledged support for inclusive climate action to help ensure that resilience becomes a standard across Filipino communities.

PRC Chairman and CEO Richard J. Gordon underscored the importance of sustained partnerships in strengthening climate resilience.

“Through the Zurich Climate Resilience Alliance and the REACH Project, the Philippine Red Cross is able to contribute to stronger, climate-resilient communities,” Gordon said.

“By working closely with partners and local stakeholders, we can help communities better anticipate, prepare for, and adapt to the increasing risks brought about by climate change,” he added.

PRC Secretary General Dr. Gwendolyn T. Pang also expressed appreciation for the collaboration among partners and stakeholders.

“We extend our sincere gratitude to our partners, government agencies, local leaders, and community members who contributed to the success of this initiative. Your shared commitment and collaboration are vital in advancing climate resilience and ensuring that no community is left behind in the face of climate challenges,” Pang said.

On March 5, the REsilience and Adaptation to Climate Hazards (REACH) Project Resilience Caravan was held at the Kaalinsabay Covered Court in Barangay Manggahan, Pasig City, reaching around 500 residents through sessions on disaster preparedness, first aid and health, blood services, welfare programs, and volunteerism, with support from Red Cross 143 volunteers.

The activities form part of ongoing efforts by the PRC and its partners to strengthen community-based climate adaptation initiatives and promote disaster preparedness among communities facing increasing climate-related risks.

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