



NEWS ROUNDUP

12 MARCH 2025 [08:00 am]

- Climate-resilient PHL schools sought amid heatwave
- [Opinion] Climate crisis = educational crisis
- Villar: Climate change adaptation measures needed for food security
- COP30 president cites limits of global climate summits
- Women and climate change

CCC IN THE NEWS:

- Women leading the way in disaster resilience in NWMC 2025
- At the 2025 National Women's Month Kick-Off: Philippine Resilience Awards Champion Inspires Women Leaders
- CCC lauds Japan's pledge to strengthen climate-resilient livelihoods in BARMM
- PH scores landmark achievements in quest to build greener, more sustainable communities

BUSINESS WORLD

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By: Adrian Halili

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MANILA STANDARD

[\[Opinion\] Climate crisis = educational crisis](#)

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PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

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By: Jan Escosio

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REUTERS

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By: Manuela Andreoni and Lisandra Paraguassu

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THE MANILA TIMES

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DAILY TRIBUNE

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PHILIPPINE INFORMATION AGENCY

[At the 2025 National Women's Month Kick-Off: Philippine Resilience Awards Champion Inspires Women Leaders](#)

Philippine Resilience Awards (PRA) 2024 Champion for Women, Senior Fire Officer 3 (SFO3) Daisy Leal-Cabauatan, talked about the leadership role of women in building disaster-resilient communities at the 2025 National Women's Month Celebration (NWMC) Kick-Off Activity.

[CCC lauds Japan's pledge to strengthen climate-resilient livelihoods in BARMM](#)

The Climate Change Commission (CCC) lauded the Government of Japan's commitment of JPY 757 million (approximately USD 5 million or PHP 290 million) to bolster climate resilience and sustainable livelihoods in the Bangsamoro Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (BARMM).

[PH scores landmark achievements in quest to build greener, more sustainable communities](#)

The Philippines, under the administration of President Ferdinand R. Marcos, scored a landmark achievement in the fight against climate change with the creation of the country's first-ever National Adaptation Plan (NAP), a roadmap for enhancing climate resilience.

Information and Knowledge Management Division

BUSINESS WORLD

Climate-resilient PHL schools sought amid heatwave

By: Adrian Halili

A Philippine senator on Tuesday urged the Department of Education and local governments to increase investments in climate-resilient infrastructure amid the suspension of classes due to high heat.

“I am reiterating the need to make our basic education sector more resilient,” Senator Sherwin T. Gatchalian said in a statement. “This requires investing in climate-resilient infrastructure, accelerating digital transformation, and ensuring the readiness of our teachers and learners to utilize alternative delivery modes.”

Last week, local government units in the National Capital Region and surrounding provinces suspended classes at all levels due to an expected heatwave.

The Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration (PAGASA) in an advisory issued on March 3 said Metro Manila was set to experience heat of up to 46°C, within the state weather bureau’s “danger level.”

“I recognize the concerns of our teachers on how the suspension of in-person classes due to extreme heat could further aggravate learning loss,” Mr. Gatchalian said. “While we should uphold the safety of learners, we should also make sure that learning outcomes are being achieved.”

He said local governments and schools should be proactive and agile in changing schedules or transitioning to the use of alternative teaching modes.

He also called on schools to have proper ventilation, cooling systems and water or hydration stations in place in cases of extreme heat.

“Suspending in-person classes due to extreme heat will be a recurring problem every year,” the lawmaker said. “We cannot just be business as usual in ensuring that education continues amidst increasing heat and disasters.”

Meanwhile, the Second Congressional Commission on Education (EDCOM-2) and Teacher Education Council are seeking better training for teachers to produce “highly qualified educators” and promote “continuous professional development and learning.”

“This involves providing initial training that equips teachers with the necessary knowledge and skills, as well as ongoing professional development opportunities that allow them to stay up to date on the latest research and best practices,” Jennie Jocson, executive director of the council, said in a statement posted on the Senate website.

“Additionally, we need to create a culture of learning within the teaching profession, where teachers are encouraged to reflect on their practice and continuously improve their skills,” she said.

EDCOM-2 Executive Director Karol Mark Yee said the commission had provided a roadmap for reforming teacher education and ensuring that it is aligned with student needs.

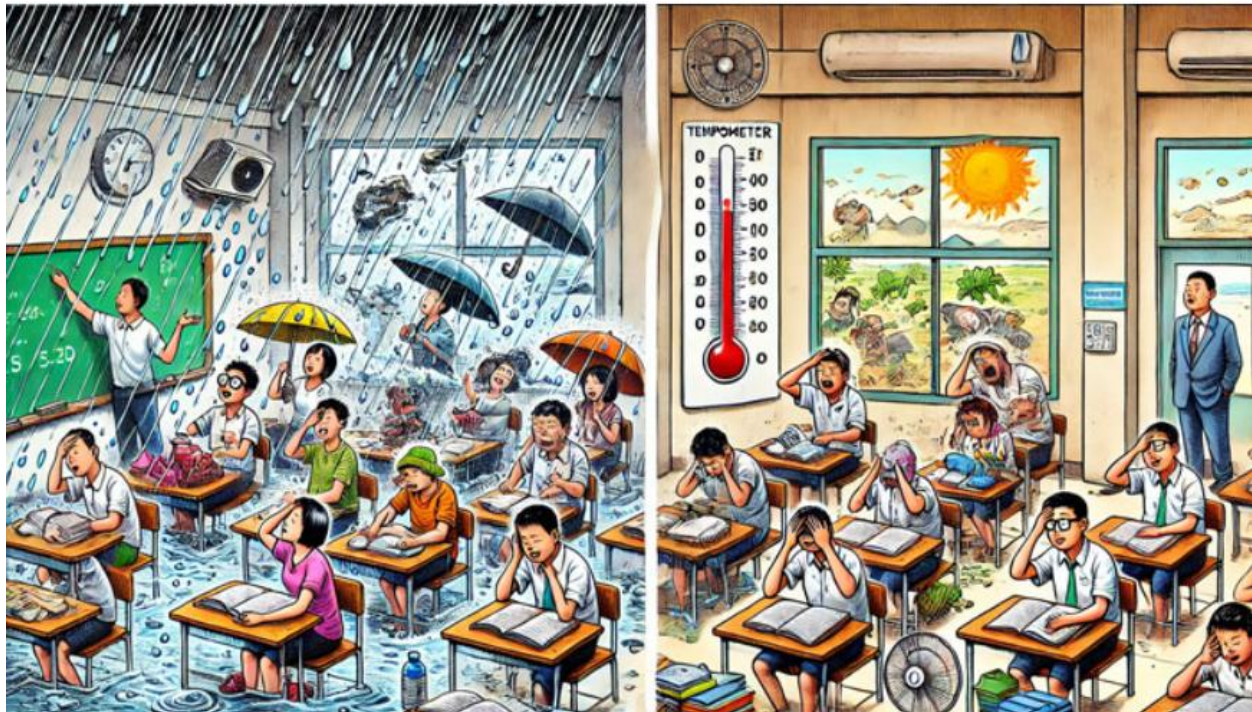
“With the Teacher Education Council operationalized, we are positioned better than ever to make significant changes to the preservice and in-service training of our teachers,” she added.

EDCOM-2 and the council are among the various education agencies crafting the national education plan, which seeks to tackle the Philippines’ learning crisis.

MANILA STANDARD

[Opinion] Climate crisis = educational crisis

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PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

Villar: Climate change adaptation measures needed for food security

By: Jan Escosio

Senatorial candidate and Las Piñas City Rep. Camille Villar has called for the full implementation of laws to mitigate the adverse effects of climate change on agriculture and the environment to ensure food security in the country.

Speaking at a campaign sortie in the Bicol region, Villar underscored that the Philippines was among the early adopters of climate change policies, integrating environmental concerns into legislation as early as the 1990s.

“Actually, the Philippines, surprisingly enough, was one of the pioneers in integrating climate change into our laws. So, as early as 1991 or 1997, there were laws that already mandated the Department of Agriculture and other departments to input and consider climate change and weather disturbances in agriculture programs,” Villar said.

However, she pointed out that while legislation has been in place for decades, the challenge remains in the proper implementation and relevance to the evolving climate landscape.

“One of the things that we should ensure is the proper implementation of laws and perhaps review some of the laws to make sure that they are relevant to the times,” she added.

During her media interview, Villar also emphasized the need to integrate national government policies with localized climate adaptation measures. She stressed that efforts should align with the capacities and needs of local government units to enhance the country’s resilience to climate-related challenges.

She cited the Agri-Agrarian Reform Credit Law, which mandates banks to allocate 25 percent of their lending portfolio to agribusinesses or agricultural beneficiaries. Villar said such policies must be fully enforced to support farmers and agricultural stakeholders.

Adopting innovations for resilience

Villar also highlighted the importance of adopting innovative agricultural practices to improve food security and climate resilience.

“There is a lot of legislation on this that we need to make sure is properly implemented. There are also a lot of trends and innovations around the world right now that we can probably apply to our local agricultural industry, like intercropping and predictive technologies to determine which crops should be planted depending on the season or temperature,” she explained.

She stressed that staying up to date with technology and advancements in agriculture is crucial in mitigating climate risks.

“By applying these innovations, we can become more prepared and resilient to climate change and the natural disasters that come with it,” Villar said.

The issue of climate change adaptation in agriculture continues to be a key topic among candidates in the upcoming elections, particularly in regions like Bicol, which is frequently affected by typhoons and extreme weather conditions.

REUTERS

[COP30 president cites limits of global climate summits](#)

By: Manuela Andreoni and Lisandra Paraguassu

After decades of United Nations climate summits, the model of gathering world leaders to negotiate agreements under complex rules is starting to show its limits, said the president of the next such summit, Brazilian diplomat Andre Correa do Lago.

"The Paris Agreement is working, but there is much more to do," he wrote in a letter released on Monday outlining his presidency's vision for the COP30 summit in the Amazon city of Belem in November.

Climate negotiators, he said, should be self-critical and address the "outside perception of talks having lingered for over three decades with meagre results."

"We need a new era beyond negotiating talks: we must help put into practice what we have agreed," he wrote.

At a press conference, Correa do Lago said the summits held by the UNFCCC, the UN body monitoring compliance with the 2015 Paris Agreement, are the best existing venue for climate negotiations but there are limits to what they can achieve.

He said despite its recommendations, the body has no authority over the entities meant to carry them out.

Global setbacks have further hampered climate change action.

U. S. President Donald Trump has withdrawn from the Paris Agreement and blocked funds to aid Ukraine in its war against Russia, forcing Europe to boost defense spending with resources that might otherwise have been invested in climate solutions.

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Correa do Lago said Brazil will encourage countries to use other gatherings of world leaders, such as the G20 and the International Monetary Fund meetings, to push for action on global warming.

Brazil also aims to give more voice to other actors, such as civil society groups and Indigenous communities, he said.

Correa do Lago told reporters he would call two international meetings with global leaders prior to COP30 to discuss countries' pledges to lower emissions of greenhouse gases. The deadline to file new pledges was in February, but only 13 countries presented their contributions.

THE MANILA TIMES

Women and climate change

By: Ambassador Carlos Salinas

It's International Women's Month, and we would like to draw attention to the women who persistently work to make our planet safer and our lives better.

Concerned that climate action has continued to be slow and uneven, the UN Environment Program (UNEP) recently called for urgent action to combat climate change, biodiversity loss, and pollution.

UNEP's Emissions Gap Report 2024 reminded that countries must reduce emissions by 42 percent by 2030 to limit global warming to 1.5°C as agreed in the landmark Paris Agreement. Failure to do so will have alarming consequences.

UNEP Executive Director Inger Andersen has pointed out that "Temperatures are rising, ecosystems are disappearing, and pollution remains a deadly threat. These are global problems that require global solutions. The world must pull together to build a fairer, more sustainable planet."

Andersen is one of this year's Reuters Events Trailblazing Women in Climate List. This is the third year that Reuters Events has come up with such a list, drawn from the fields of policy, finance, business and activism.

Andersen is joined by 11 other Trailblazing Women in Climate this year: Mafalda Duarte, executive director of the Green Climate Fund; Eliane Ubalijoro, chief executive officer of the Center for International Forestry Research and World Agroforestry (Cifor-Icraf); Mary Robinson, former president of Ireland and this year's recipient of the 2025 ESG Leader Award for her advocacy for climate change and human rights during her many years in the public eye; Rhian-Mari Thomas, CEO of the UK's Green Finance Institute; Inna Braverman, CEO and founder of Israeli renewable energy company Eco Wave Power; Ayesha Choudhury, chief commercial officer at Infinium, low-carbon aviation fuel company; Vaishali Nigam Sinha, co-founder and CSO at Indian renewable energy company ReNew; Abigail Ross Hopper, president and CEO of the Solar Energy Industries Association; Melina Laboucan-Massimo, another proponent of solar energy and founder of the nonprofit Sacred Earth which works with Indigenous communities across Canada; Anna Turrell, former chief sustainability officer of French sporting goods company Decathlon; and Elaize Farias, content editor at Brazil's Amazonia Real, an investigative, non-profit journalism agency based in Manaus, in the north of Brazil.

Commenting on the Reuters Events Trailblazing Women in Climate List, Andersen says "There is no debating that women — along with many other vulnerable groups — bear the brunt of climate change impacts across the world. Just as there is no debating that women are at the forefront of action, innovative solutions and a movement pushing to fight the inequalities that the climate crisis is exacerbating. Yet the gender inequality gap continues to slow progress when we have no time to waste."

These women are continuing the legacy of environmental activists like the late Wangari Maathai, whose Green Belt Movement focused on planting trees, environmental conservation, and women's rights. Their efforts are being augmented by emerging climate activists. Among them are Sophia Kianni, an Iranian American environmental entrepreneur and activist who founded Climate Cardinals, an organization addressing the lack of accessible climate information in languages other than English; Greta Thunberg of Sweden, who drew the world's attention to climate emergency by initiating an international youth movement protesting the escalating effects of global warming, and who in 2019 gave a rousing speech at the UN's Climate Action Summit in New York City; Vanessa Nakate of Uganda, who gained worldwide attention in 2019 when she began the Fridays for Future movement by protesting outside Uganda Parliament solo, and founded the Rise Up Movement, which seeks to elevate the voices of African climate activists, and has spoken before the United Nations Climate Change Conference and World Economic Forum; and 17-year-old Leila Mcleod of South Africa, who at 13 participated in a school strike for climate change, marched to Parliament in Cape Town demanding that the government improve its actions to mitigate climate change.

Closer to home, we are grateful for the efforts of young women like Javea Estavillo, who at 17, was the Philippines' youth delegate to COP28 in Dubai, to speak about pressing issues such as the need for climate financing to enable vulnerable countries to respond adequately to climate change. We have activist sisters Ann and Billie Dumaliang, who co-founded Masungi Georeserve, a non-profit organization to defend the land on which the Masungi Georeserve conservation area exists. "Defend" is an apt word, because of the area's history of land-grabbing and illegal logging.

We commend these outstanding women for their relentless efforts to defend the environment and strive to help them in every way we can. They need all the help they can get, because they are working for our future, for the place that our children and grandchildren will inherit and inhabit. As Andersen has pointed out, especially in the face of geopolitical tensions, "collaboration across borders and across our differences is the only option to protect the foundation of humanity's existence — Planet Earth."

CCC IN THE NEWS:

DAILY TRIBUNE

[Women leading the way in disaster resilience in NWMC 2025](#)

Senior Fire Officer 3 (SFO3) Daisy Leal-Cabauatan, recognized as the 2024 Philippine Resilience Awards (PRA) Champion for Women, underscored the critical role of women in disaster resilience during the kick-off of the 2025 National Women's Month Celebration (NWMC).

Cabauatan, Provincial Chief and Operations Program Director of the Nueva Vizcaya Bureau of Fire Protection, was among the inspiring figures highlighted by the Climate Change Commission (CCC) at the event. Her work in disaster response and community safety showcases how women's leadership strengthens resilience efforts in the country.

She emphasized that women are often at the forefront of disaster response, leveraging their knowledge of local resources and community networks to protect lives during emergencies. She also stressed the need for equal participation in disaster management, calling for more leadership opportunities and mentorship programs for women in the field.

"When Juana is always prepared, the whole community is safer," she said, encouraging women to take active roles in disaster preparedness and response.

The NWMC Kick-Off, organized by the Philippine Commission on Women (PCW) and SM Cares at SM Mall of Asia, gathered women leaders from various sectors. The event promoted gender equality and empowerment through service booths, livelihood support, and discussions on key issues, including climate resilience.

PCW Chairperson Ermelita Valdeavilla, in her presentation of the "State of the Filipino Women" report, highlighted the importance of integrating gender perspectives in resilience efforts.

"Climate change disasters do not sit down and negotiate; they do not choose who you are. They can strike whenever they want," she said. "We cannot win against them, so our fight is about resilience. Let us teach our women and our communities how to strengthen resilience."

The celebration aligns with this year's National Women's Month theme, "Babae sa Lahat ng Sektor, Aangat ang Bukas sa Bagong Pilipinas," which envisions a future shaped by women's leadership in various fields.

CCC Vice Chairperson and Executive Director Robert E.A. Borje emphasized the invaluable contributions of women in building climate resilience.

"Women have always played a key role in shaping the resilience of our communities. Their insights and actions in disaster response and climate adaptation are indispensable in building a better, more prepared nation," Borje said.

CCC Commissioner Rachel Anne Herrera echoed this sentiment, noting that women are not just first responders but also leaders in climate resilience initiatives.

"By organizing the PRA as a kind of space where women can lead and innovate, we are helping build stronger, more adaptive communities capable of withstanding the challenges posed by climate change," she said.

The Philippine Resilience Awards recognizes exceptional leadership in disaster resilience and climate action. It is convened by the Climate Change Commission, the Office of Senator Loren Legarda, the National Resilience Council, SM Prime, the Philippine Commission on Women, and the Women's International Network on Disaster Risk Reduction.

For more information on the Philippine Resilience Awards, visit the PRA website and Facebook page.

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Cabauatan's experience as Provincial Chief and Operations Program Director of the Nueva Vizcaya Bureau of Fire Protection was among the inspiring stories of PRA champions showcased by the Climate Change Commission (CCC) at the NWMC, part of the agency's ongoing efforts to recognize and support partners in building a more resilient Philippines.

She highlighted how women are often at the forefront of disaster response, using their knowledge of local resources and community networks to ensure safety during emergencies. She emphasized the importance of equal participation and leadership in disaster resilience efforts as part of adapting to climate change.

Cabauatan underscored the importance of mentorship and networking for women. She called for more leadership opportunities in the disaster management sector and encouraged women to continue leading the way in building resilient communities. "When Juana is always prepared, the whole community is safer," she said.

The NWMC Kick-Off Activity, led by the Philippine Commission on Women (PCW) and SM Cares, was attended by women leaders from various sectors, including government, business, and civil society. Held at the SM Mall of Asia, the event served as a platform for promoting gender equality and women empowerment through service booths, livelihood support, and lectures on various topics, including disaster resilience.

In her presentation of the "State of the Filipino Women" report, PCW Chairperson Ermelita Valdeavilla emphasized the importance of gender equality in resilience efforts.

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This year's theme for National Women's Month, "Babae sa Lahat ng Sektor, Aangat ang Bukas sa Bagong Pilipinas," encapsulates the vision of a brighter future through women's leadership and participation in nation-building.

CCC Vice Chairperson and Executive Director Robert E.A. Borje praised the active leadership of women in building climate resilience.

"Women have always played a key role in shaping the resilience of our communities. Their insights and actions in disaster response and climate adaptation are indispensable in building a better, more prepared nation," Borje emphasized.

Meanwhile, CCC Commissioner Rachel Anne Herrera said that women are not only the first responders in times of crisis, they are also at the forefront of climate resilience efforts.

"By organizing the PRA as a kind of space where women can lead and innovate, we are helping build stronger, more adaptive communities capable of withstanding the challenges posed by climate change," she said.

The Philippine Resilience Awards, which recognizes outstanding leadership in disaster resilience and climate action, is convened by the Climate Change Commission, the Office of Senator Loren Legarda, the National Resilience Council, SM Prime, the Philippine Commission on Women, and the Women's International Network on Disaster Risk Reduction.

CCC lauds Japan's pledge to strengthen climate-resilient livelihoods in BARMM

The Climate Change Commission (CCC) lauded the Government of Japan's commitment of JPY 757 million (approximately USD 5 million or PHP 290 million) to bolster climate resilience and sustainable livelihoods in the Bangsamoro Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (BARMM).

This initiative, which will be implemented by the World Food Programme (WFP) Philippines for the next three years, will benefit around 36,000 decommissioned combatants and vulnerable communities through community-based climate adaptation activities.

In a signing ceremony held recently, Japanese Ambassador to the Philippines Endo Kazuya formalized the agreement with WFP Philippines Representative and Country Director Regis Chapman. The project, Enhancing Climate-Resilient Livelihoods in Vulnerable Communities in BARMM, aims to strengthen disaster risk management and agricultural resilience in the region.

Endo reaffirmed Japan's steadfast support for peace and development in Mindanao, emphasizing the importance of sustainable livelihoods in fostering long-term stability. "Through more accessible livelihood opportunities, we aim to ensure that affected communities feel included in the peace process and are given hope for a better future through peaceful economic participation," he stated.

Meanwhile, Chapman underscored the role of collaboration in achieving meaningful impact, noting that the project will work closely with the Bangsamoro Food Security Task Force to improve the livelihoods of smallholder farmers and fisherfolk while enhancing their access to markets. In addition, fortified rice will be provided to communities engaged in capacity-strengthening activities to address food security challenges.

A key component of the initiative is the establishment of localized early warning systems and disaster risk management protocols to help communities prepare for extreme weather events. The project aims to support up to 36,000 individuals by enhancing access to climate services and equipping farmers and fisherfolk with critical information to safeguard their assets and optimize cropping schedules.

Following the signing, WFP Programme Policy Officer for Smallholder Agricultural Market Support Toshio Murakami highlighted the next steps, which include identifying priority areas within BARMM, particularly those most susceptible to flooding and drought.

Among the guests at the ceremony were Deputy Presidential Adviser on Peace, Reconciliation and Unity Isidro Purisima, BARMM Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries, and Agrarian Reform Minister Mohammad Shuaib Yacob, and Bangsamoro Planning and Development Authority Chief Hasna Abubakar-Adam.

Secretary Robert E.A. Borje, CCC Vice Chairperson and Executive Director, welcomed the initiative as a significant step in strengthening climate resilience in BARMM. “The impacts of climate change continue to challenge our most vulnerable communities, making climate-resilient development a necessity. This collaboration between Japan, WFP, and the BARMM government exemplifies how international cooperation can drive meaningful action,” he said.

Borje further emphasized the CCC’s commitment to ensuring that climate adaptation initiatives reach the most at-risk communities. “We recognize that climate resilience is integral to sustainable peace and development. The CCC stands ready to support and work with our partners in advancing climate-responsive solutions that empower communities and promote a low-carbon, climate-resilient future,” he added.

Under the leadership of President Ferdinand R. Marcos Jr., the Philippine government continues to prioritize climate resilience and sustainable development as key pillars of national progress. This initiative aligns with the National Adaptation Plan (NAP) and the Philippine Development Plan (PDP) 2023-2028, both of which emphasize the need for localized, inclusive, and science-based adaptation strategies to protect communities against the risk of climate disasters.

As the lead policymaking body on climate change, the CCC remains committed to advancing climate adaptation efforts across the Philippines, ensuring that no community is left behind in the pursuit of a resilient and sustainable future.

[PH scores landmark achievements in quest to build greener, more sustainable communities](#)

The Philippines, under the administration of President Ferdinand R. Marcos, scored a landmark achievement in the fight against climate change with the creation of the country's first-ever National Adaptation Plan (NAP), a roadmap for enhancing climate resilience.

The Philippines is the third ASEAN country and the 56th in the world to submit a NAP to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC).

The NAP is both a document and a process covering 2023-2025, and specifically aims to identify priority high-risk climate change vulnerable areas in the country, provide guidance on integrating adaptation considerations, and harmonize national strategies with international commitments.

In 2023, Philippines' NAP was launched at the Conference of the Parties of the UNFCCC, more commonly known as COP28, through the leadership of the CCC and Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR).

According to the Climate Change Commission (CCC), the lead policy-making body tasked to coordinate, monitor and evaluate programs and action plans tackling the impacts of climate change in the Philippines, the NAP is among three landmark policy frameworks created to combat climate change.

CCC vice chairperson and executive director Robert E.A. Borje said the two other frameworks are the Philippine Development Plan (PDP) 2023-2030 which has a dedicated chapter on climate resilience and disaster preparedness, and the Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC) Implementation Plan 2020-2030, that outlines the policies and measures to reduce or avoid greenhouse gas emissions in five sectors, namely agriculture, waste, industry, transport and energy.

“Itong tatlong dokumento na ito ay naglalayong mapaingting ang ginagawa ng ating pamahalaan para tayo maging climate resilient pagdating sa adaptation o pagtugon sa epekto ng climate change, sa mitigation o pagtugon sa root cause ng climate change which is greenhouse gas emissions, at pangatlo, ang PDP is an overarching plan para siguraduhin na ang ating ekonomiya ay maliksi, malakas at matatag habang tayo ay nag-ta-transition sa low carbon and climate smart economy,” Borje said.

Inclusive, dynamic document

Various sectors lauded the creation of the NAP, especially amid the Philippines' retention of its ranking as the most disaster-prone country in the world for the 16th straight year, further exacerbated by climate change.

Environment Secretary Maria Antonia Yulo Loyzaga said the NAP is a dynamic document that will change as the nature and complexity of climate and related hazards shift and human, sectoral and infrastructure exposure and vulnerability varies.

This is particularly vital as the cost of inaction on adaptation in the 2030 decade is estimated to be PhP645 billion per year across the eight (8) sectors identified for the adaptation actions.

The development of the NAP pursued the National Climate Risk Management Framework: to undertake risk profiling, assessment and management needed to increase the adaptive capacities of communities.

At the same time, a multi-stakeholder consultation and a series of consultation meetings with NAP-National Steering Committee and the Consultative Group of Experts were held to ensure a comprehensive and effective NAP.

The CCC pointed out that indigenous peoples' knowledge systems, including their long practiced sustainable farming, forest conservation, and biodiversity protection, are key components of the NAP's nature-based solutions.

89.85% LGUs submit climate action plans

To achieve the objectives of the NAP, the CCC is training local government units to fast-track the development and implementation of Local Climate Change Action Plans (LCCAPs).

As of December 2024, 89.85 percent of LGUs have submitted their LCCAPs.

The CCC is aiming for a 100 percent compliance by 2025 in alignment with the Philippine Development Plan.

In addition, the CCC said LGUs should have primary access to the NAP data, climate projections and recommendations, because the integration of these resources into the climate policies of LGUs will boost the country's capacity to address vulnerabilities to climate change impacts.

Tracking, reporting of climate-related budgets

The CCC, together with the Department of Budget and Management, and the Department of the Interior and Local Government, has institutionalized Climate Change Expenditure Tagging (CCET) in national and sub-national budget programming and expenditure processes.

The CCET lays down the guidelines for the tracking and reporting of the climate-related budgets of government agencies.

It is also a tool for local government units (LGUs) to plan their respective climate-and-disaster responsive budgets, and align their development priorities to the National Climate Change Action Plan.

“Ang CCET ay isa sa mga instrumento na ginagawa ng ating pamahalaan upang ma-monitor ang takbo ng ating mga ahensya and to make sure na ito ay aligned sa ating overall climate resilience objectives. Pinapakita nito ang investments na ginagawa natin sa public sector pagdating sa adaptation at mitigation at pinapakita din nito kung gaano nag-improve o na-scale up ang mga proyekto na naayon din sa ating overall vision of climate resilience and climate adaptation,” Borje said.

This as the People’s Survival Fund also continues to support various adaptation activities such as water, land, agriculture, health and early warning systems.

“Mahalaga ang People’s Survival Fund dahil ito ay nagbibigay ng pagkakataon sa ating LGUs na magkaroon ng supplementary fund o karagdagang pondo para sa climate adaptation. Alam naman natin na ang resources ay limitado pero dahil sa prayoridad ng ating pamahalaan ang climate resilience through adaptation, merong pondo na inilaan. Dahil dito, mabibigyan ngayon ng pagkakataon ang ating LGUs na magsulong ng kanilang mga proyekto para siguraduhin ang kanilang pamayanan ay protektado sa epekto ng climate change,” Borje said.

Carbon sink

Meanwhile, the CCC continues to pursue its Net Zero Challenge in line with its carbon neutrality program.

The commission has a project at the Caliraya-Lumot watershed in Paete, Laguna to offset carbon emissions through nature-based solutions.

Borje emphasized the need to plant more trees to sink carbon, and to collaborate with other national agencies, LGUs and civil society organizations to achieve resiliency.

“Twenty-five hectares dito ay dapat pupunuin ng puno. Gusto natin sa aktibidad na ito ay hindi lamang mapalago ang mga puno dito, kundi maging magandang ehemplo sa iba’t ibang mga sangay ng pamahalaan at ahensya ng pamahalaan na pwede pala tayong maging net zero emitter. And more than that, mapababa pa talaga natin ang ating greenhouse gas emissions,” Borje said.

Whole-of-nation approach

At the recent Global Warming and Climate Change Consciousness Week, President Marcos, who also sits as chair of the CCC, urged all sectors of society – government offices, educational institutions, civil society, the business community, and LGUs— to do their part in building a more sustainable and resilient Philippines.

“Together with deeds both big and small, let us stay on our mission for a safer, greener, brighter future for all,” he said.

CCC’s Borje echoed the call of the President, as he underscored the need for a change in mindset.

“Importante ang tinatawag natin na magkaroon ng mind shift pagdating sa climate change. Dapat hindi lang tayo nag-re-respond sa epekto at impact ng climate change. Bagkus ay dapat palakasin natin ang ating kakayanan for preventive adaptation,” he said.

The CCC official said it is the people’s lives, livelihood and future that are at stake in climate change. Thus, “bayanihan is not just a buzzword but rather, it is an object and an instrument of policy.”

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