



NEWS ROUNDUP

14 MARCH 2024 [08:00 am]

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FINANCIAL TIMES

[World in ‘unknown territory’ after heat records, says head of UN’s climate body](#)

By: Lee Harris

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GMA

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PCO

[Leading wind and solar energy developer set to invest P392M in PH to support PBBM's renewable energy push](#)

President Ferdinand R. Marcos Jr. expects leading German wind and solar farms developer and operator WPD GmbH to bring modern technology to the Philippines as it plans to invest PhP392.4 billion in the Philippines by setting up offshore wind farms.

THE MANILA TIMES

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By: Catherine S. Valente

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THE PHILIPPINE STAR

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By: Keisha Ta-Asan

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CCC IN THE NEWS:

DAILY TRIBUNE

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By: Lade Jean Kabagani

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DOH, CCC partners to address climate change, health woes

By: Gabriela Baron

The Department of Health (DOH) will strengthen its partnership with the Climate Change Commission to address climate change and health woes in the country.

PHILIPPINE INFORMATION AGENCY

CCC, DBM ramp up climate mainstreaming into nat'l budget

In a concerted effort to strengthen the systematic incorporation of climate considerations within the government's budget, the Climate Change Commission (CCC) and the Department of Budget and Management (DBM) recently convened National Government Instrumentalities (NGIs) for the Annual Climate Change Expenditure Tagging (CCET) Orientation.

CCC, DOH to strengthen collaboration on climate change and health

The Climate Change Commission (CCC) and the Department of Health (DOH) are set to enhance their collaboration to address the challenges arising from climate change's impact on public health.

PHILIPPINE NEWS AGENCY

CCC, DBM lead push for climate-responsive budgeting

By: Darryl John Esguerra

The Climate Change Commission (CCC) and the Department of Budget and Management (DBM) recently convened national government instrumentalities (NGIs) for the annual Climate Change Expenditure Tagging (CCET) Orientation, in a bid to effectively mainstream climate action in the government's plans and programs.

Information and Knowledge Management Division

FINANCIAL TIMES

[World in 'unknown territory' after heat records, says head of UN's climate body](#)

By: Lee Harris

Record temperatures over the past year have thrust the world into “unknown territory”, the head of the UN’s climate science body said, after the critical benchmark of 1.5C above pre-industrial levels was breached in the past year.

Jim Skea, who took over last July as chair of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, said that he was “surprised, in one sense”, that the average global temperature last year exceeded the 1.5C threshold set out in the Paris agreement.

“Last year really was much quicker than we all anticipated,” Skea told the audience at the FT Climate Capital Live conference in London. “Some of it can be explained with the start of an El Niño cycle, which will push temperatures up a bit. But it was still unexpected . . . there’s more science needed to actually understand why 2023 was such a distinctive year.”

El Niño, a cyclical warming effect in the Pacific Ocean, is associated with higher temperatures and wetter conditions that can wreak havoc on commodities and supply chains. Last year, the weather phenomenon disrupted crop yields in agricultural powerhouses such as Brazil.

It is believed to have contributed to the rise in average global temperatures by more than 1.5C above pre-industrial levels over a 12-month period for the first time.

However, Skea noted that the one-year breach did not signal a failure to uphold the 1.5C threshold set out in the Paris accord, which refers by convention to the average temperature increase over two decades.

Skea reiterated his view that the likelihood of keeping to 1.5C had shrunk.

Under his leadership, he said, the IPCC would aim to produce tighter reports, which are used by governments to shape policy, including a special report that is under way on the effects on cities of climate change.

GMA

[GMA Integrated News wins grant from Earth Journalism Network for climate initiatives](#)

GMA Integrated News' Digital Strategy and Innovation Lab has won a grant from the Internews's Earth Journalism Network (EJN).

According to the EJN website, the grant supports "innovative media coverage that combats news fatigue and promotes greater public engagement in environmental and climate issues."

The Digital Strategy and Innovation Lab are the teams behind the award-winning documentary program, "DigiDokyu," formerly titled "Stand for Truth," and the online series "Need to Know."

With the EJN funding, the lab will produce at least six digital episodes for each program, further cementing GMA's dedication to creating a positive societal impact through journalism, especially to the youth.

Titled the "Climate+" project, it will center on climate and environmental topics. It will include explainer videos and digital documentaries that explain complex stories, highlight diverse voices, and most importantly, raise awareness and solutions to the climate crisis.

The "+" symbolizes a comprehensive and inclusive approach to environmental journalism, with a special focus on the solutions, innovations, and positive initiatives that address climate issues.

"Need To Know" will produce 10- to 15-minute video explainers focusing on the environmental and climate change issues, threats, and emergencies that the world is currently experiencing. The online series aims to explain and simplify complex news topics and also include interviews from experts.

Meanwhile, "DigiDokyu," will have 10- to 20-minute digital documentaries focusing on environmental solutions and constructive journalism. It is a home for thought-provoking and eye-opening stories from across the Philippines. The show aims to highlight solutions that can serve as an example to inspire viewers.

The series will present stories from varied and marginalized communities to share relatable and sustainable solutions.

Each video will be published on GMA Network's streaming and social media platforms.

PCO

[Leading wind and solar energy developer set to invest P392M in PH to support PBBM's renewable energy push](#)

President Ferdinand R. Marcos Jr. expects leading German wind and solar farms developer and operator WPD GmbH to bring modern technology to the Philippines as it plans to invest PhP392.4 billion in the Philippines by setting up offshore wind farms.

“Thank you for coming in and to continue having an interest in the Philippines. I think that it is a very fertile investment especially for your industry, and business. And we are of course, like everybody else, working very hard to move the share of energy production and fossil fuels to renewable and wind, solar, hydro, and nuclear,” President Marcos said during a meeting with WPD GmbH officials led by Björn Nullmeyer, the company’s Chief Finance Officer.

“So, I hope we can avail these new technologies now in terms—because—all our wind farms now are land-based, we haven’t done anything offshore. So, there’s much—we have much to learn from organizations like yours on how to handle it. What would be the capital requirements? What would be technical requirements?” President Marcos remarked.

All of these investments in the energy sector are important because of the administration’s industrialization thrust with sufficient supply of energy becoming a critical part of its plans in the future, the President said, hoping that the Philippines can take advantage of the new technologies in wind power.

The country already has a good number of wind farms and there is still much potential, he pointed out. He said the country needs more expertise in determining where the suitable areas are.

The President set up the first commercially operated wind farm in Southeast Asia located in his hometown in Ilocos Norte when he was Governor of the province.

The WPD GmbH plans to invest PhP392.4 billion in the Philippines to set up offshore wind farms in Cavite, Negros Occidental, and Guimaras, the biggest undertaking registered with the Board of Investments (BOI) in February last year.

The President met the wpd GmbH officials in Berlin to discuss status updates on the BOI-registered OSW projects (Cavite and Negros (1 & 2) Projects with a combined capacity of 3,260 MW valued at P400 billion).

The meeting was also an opportunity to share updates on the new solar, onshore, and offshore wind projects with a combined rated capacity of 1,662 MW, located in Aklan, Ilocos Norte, Ilocos Sur, Abra, Iloilo, Bulacan, Mindoro, and Antique with investments valued at P137 billion.

The WPD GmbH develops and operates onshore wind and solar photovoltaic (PV) projects in Europe, Asia, and on the American continent.

Headquartered in Bremen, Germany, the wpd GmbH is actively engaged in 29 countries worldwide.

THE MANILA TIMES

[Marcos secures \\$4.2B investment deals in Germany visit](#)

By:Catherine S. Valente

The Philippines has secured \$4.2 billion worth of investments during President Ferdinand Marcos Jr.'s visit to Germany.

Seven agreements between German firms and Filipino companies were signed during the German-Philippine Business Forum here.

In his speech, Marcos said the Philippines was looking at Germany to further foster strong business partnerships and collaboration particularly in renewable energy being the European Union's biggest economy both in gross domestic product and population and a global force in technology and innovation.

The President said the Philippines was grateful for the interest of German companies to support the country's commitment to sustainability and climate resiliency through the renewable energy investments it received in 2023.

"To further support these investments, we have put in place several energy transition policies including investment enablers designed to incentivize energy efficiency," Marcos said.

"We are also working on developing programs that will support and facilitate the efforts to decarbonize our economy. I have high hopes that we can welcome the opportunity for greater cooperation on climate change and energy transition," he added.

Aligned with the efforts on decarbonization, the President said the Philippines was positioning itself as a regional hub for smart and sustainable manufacturing by attracting sustainability-driven strategic investments powered by renewable energy.

He said the country also recognizes that there were complementarities to be explored in critical minerals, and it was open to having a dedicated dialogue with German companies on the sustainable processing of green metals to be supported by strong adherence to high labor and environmental standards.

The Philippines also takes pride in being an ideal destination for complementation in both manufacturing and services, he said.

With the recent global challenges, the President underscored the dangers of limited sourcing, or concentrating supplies in a single country, as he urged for the urgent need

to diversify production locations and explore alternative materials to de-risk and minimize disruptions in supply chains.

"Moreover, the transition to a low-carbon or net-zero scenario has further propelled the de-risking trend," Marcos said.

"The Philippines and Germany both have aspirations for de-risked and diversified production and market value chains, which future-proofs our economies from the geopolitical vagaries of our times," he added.

THE PHILIPPINE STAR

Climate shocks on inflation can last up to 4 years – BSP

By: Keisha Ta-Asan

Climate-related inflation shocks may be felt for up to four years, causing a pronounced hike in headline inflation, a study by the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas (BSP) Research Academy showed.

The BSP paper quantified the long-term impact of climate shocks on economic activity and inflation, which are the BSP's main considerations in assessing monetary policy.

"We find that temperature shocks generate inflationary pressures and remain persistent up to four years, with a cumulative increase of 0.77-percentage-point in headline inflation (in the medium term)," the study said.

In the short-term, inflationary pressures due to climate shocks can add 0.46 percentage point to headline inflation. It can also add 0.81 percentage point in the long term.

Meanwhile, food prices can increase by 0.56 percentage point in the short-term, 0.66 percentage point in the medium-term and 0.79 percentage point in the long-term due to temperature shocks. This is deeper and long-lasting in magnitude compared to its effect on non-food prices.

The effects of temperature shocks on non-food prices might only add 0.32 percentage point in the short term, 0.13 percentage point in the medium-term and 0.19 percentage point in the long-term.

The study defined temperature shocks as an increase in temperature by one-degree Celsius. It investigated specific sectors which are mostly affected by climate shocks such as crop production, livestock, fishing, manufacturing, services, real investment and labor productivity in heat-exposed industries.

The BSP research paper also tested the impact of temperature shocks on economic growth by controlling the occurrence of floods, storms and El Niño weather events.

"We find that, on the average, the short-run marginal impact of a one-degree Celsius increase in the country's annual mean temperature reduces aggregate output growth by 0.37 percentage point," it said.

According to the study, the results underscore the importance of coordinated government measures from monetary and fiscal authorities.

“The inflationary effects of temperature shocks in the short-run are best addressed by the timely implementation of non-monetary policy interventions since monetary policy adjustment typically works with a lag,” it said.

The study noted that supply-side shocks such as lower-than-expected crop harvests due to drought can be best addressed by fiscal authorities. This is by import substitution and by providing irrigation.

“The timely implementation of these measures should prevent inflation from becoming more entrenched and permanent,” it said.

Electric vehicle stakeholders still awaiting talks on tax breaks

Key personalities from the electric vehicle (EV) industry have expressed concern as the waiting game continues for the National Economic Development Authority (NEDA) to hold talks on an executive order concerning tax breaks on certain EV types.

This developed despite the announcement by NEDA chief Arsenio Balisacan that the Tariff Commission (TC) would be asked to conduct public hearings to carefully consider the views of all stakeholders on Executive Order No. 12. The EO's provisions is expected to be reviewed one year after its implementation on February 20, 2023.

The agency previously said that public hearings would be important to consider views and comments from stakeholders while taking into account current market conditions.

As of posting time, however, EV industry players reportedly remain clueless as to the conduct of public discussions.

Electric Vehicle Association of the Philippines (EVAP) president Edmund Araga stated that NEDA has not yet contacted the organization for feedback or to extend an invitation to participate in a public hearing. They were initially invited in 2022, when EO12 was still being developed.

"Unfortunately, we were not invited to be part of the review," Araga said in a text message.

Micromobility advocate and Electric Kick Scooter Philippines co-founder Tim Vargas also said that NEDA has yet to reach out to his group. His camp has also filed a position paper to the agency regarding their proposed amendments for EO12 but has yet to receive a formal reply.

EO12 was enacted to complement the Electric Vehicle Industry Development Act (EVIDA) to create an industry for EVs in the country and help reduce carbon emissions, in compliance with the Philippines' commitment to the Paris Agreement. It modifies the tariff rates for EVs to help mainstream its use among Filipinos.

Under the EO, EVs such as kick scooters, pocket motorcycles, and self-balancing cycles are included in the tax breaks. Two-wheeled electric vehicles, on the other hand, are still subject to 30% import duty even while motorcycles are the nation's most preferred means of transportation, as evidenced by the Land Transportation Office's record of nearly 8 million motorcycles inside its organization, which drew the ire of different stakeholders.

Albay 2nd District Rep. Joey Salceda also filed House Bill No. 9573 to apply modifications to EO12, as the lawmaker noted that 60% of the nation's electric vehicles are classified as two-wheeled, which makes it unfair for them to be excluded from tax breaks.

The transportation sector in the country is reportedly responsible for emitting 31.54 million tons of carbon dioxide, which contributes to climate change.

The Department of Trade and Industry plans to phase out internal engine combustion cars as part of a comprehensive plan to transition the nation to what environmentalists refer to as "green traffic," or a decarbonized road network.

CCC IN THE NEWS:

DAILY TRIBUNE

[CCC eyes climate-health-related policies with DOH](#)

By: Lade Jean Kabagani

The Climate Change Commission (CCC) is eyeing to craft a policy with the Department of Health addressing the arising impacts of changing weather on public health.

In a meeting earlier this week, CCC Vice Chairperson and Executive Director Robert E.A. Borje along with Health Secretary Teodoro “Ted” Herbosa discussed possible impacts of climate change on people’s health.

They also tackled opportunities to further align and ensure the coherence of policies, programs, and other measures implemented by the CCC and the DOH.

Among the identified key partnership areas are developing and implementing climate-health-related policies; promoting public awareness and community education,—as aligned with existing policies and frameworks—such as the Philippine Development Plan 2023-2028, CCC’s ongoing development of the National Adaptation Plan, and the ongoing implementation of the Universal Healthcare Act.

Borje stressed the need for the government to have a proactive and adaptive healthcare system amid the continuing changing climate, which is also being experienced globally.

He then highlighted the urgency of integrating climate considerations into health policies and practices.

Borje likewise underscored the importance of incorporating both health and climate change in the country’s priority agenda.

“The lessons drawn from the global COVID-19 pandemic have vividly demonstrated the inseparable connection between climate change and health, thus, the nexus between climate change and health is not just a choice; it’s an imperative,” he noted.

Borje added that “our experiences have shown us that our well-being is intricately linked to the health of our planet.”

He said recognizing this connection is “key to building a resilient and sustainable future for all.”

Herbosa, for his part, said the DoH is committed to incorporating climate considerations into its strategies to create a more holistic approach to healthcare that addresses evolving challenges from a changing climate.

"The DOH is taking significant steps towards a sustainable and resilient healthcare system," he noted.

Herbosa bared the DOH's plans to construct environmentally friendly hospitals as well as incorporate climate change adaptation into the agency's disaster risk reduction initiatives.

"As the DOH is actively reforming to prioritize Universal Health Care and primary care, we believe this presents a prime opportunity to foster partnerships for a healthier and greener future," he said.

The CCC said climate change impacts on health include increased risks of heat-related illnesses, vector-borne and waterborne diseases, malnutrition, and mental health issues.

In its ongoing development of the Philippines' first National Action Plan (NAP), the CCC identified health "as one of the sectors to focus on, towards increasing national and local climate resilience."

President Ferdinand R. Marcos, Jr. earlier vowed to fulfill the NAP, as part of his commitment to a broader national effort to achieve a climate-smart and climate-resilient Philippines status.

[DOH, CCC partners to address climate change, health woes](#)

By: Gabriela Baron

The Department of Health (DOH) will strengthen its partnership with the Climate Change Commission to address climate change and health woes in the country.

DOH Secretary Ted Herbosa expressed commitment to incorporating climate considerations into its strategies, creating a more holistic approach to healthcare that addresses evolving challenges from a changing climate.

"The DOH is taking significant steps towards a sustainable and resilient healthcare system," Herbosa said.

"Our plans include constructing environmentally friendly hospitals, incorporating climate change adaptation into our disaster risk reduction initiatives," he added.

Herbosa noted that the DOH is "actively reforming to prioritize Universal Health Care and primary care."

Meanwhile, CCC Executive Director Robert EA Borje emphasized the need for proactive and adaptive healthcare system, and highlighted the urgency of integrating climate considerations into health policies and practices.

He stressed the importance of both the health and climate change agenda as well as lessons drawn from the global COVID-19 pandemic.

"The nexus between climate change and health is not just a choice; it's an imperative," Borje said.

"Our experiences have shown us that our well-being is intricately linked to the health of our planet. Recognizing this connection is key to building a resilient and sustainable future for all," he added.

Possible areas of collaboration include formulation of climate-health policies and campaigns, as well as increase of public awareness activities.

To date, the CCC is working on its National Adaptation Plan, with health included among the focus sectors for climate resilience.

PHILIPPINE INFORMATION AGENCY

[CCC, DBM ramp up climate mainstreaming into nat'l budget](#)

In a concerted effort to strengthen the systematic incorporation of climate considerations within the government's budget, the Climate Change Commission (CCC) and the Department of Budget and Management (DBM) recently convened National Government Instrumentalities (NGIs) for the Annual Climate Change Expenditure Tagging (CCET) Orientation.

Aligned with the National Budget Call for FY2025, this year's CCET Orientation provided up-to-date information on NGIs' climate budget programming, supporting President Ferdinand R. Marcos Jr.'s vision for sustainable development and climate resilience.

The orientation was held in four batches, catering to budget officers, planning officers, and climate change focals of National Government Agencies (NGAs), agency members of the Program Convergence Budgeting (PCB) Risk Resiliency Program (RRP), State Universities and Colleges (SUCs), and Government Owned- or Controlled-Corporations (GOCCs).

Highlighting the significance of their roles, CCC Vice Chairperson and Executive Director Robert E.A. Borje emphasized, "As stewards of public funds, your roles extend beyond routine budgeting and programming. You help build the architecture of our nation's climate resilience. Your meticulous planning, programming, and budgeting activities are the building blocks that contribute to the success of CCET and our nation's adaptation and mitigation strategies."

"We are reminded of our duty as public servants to be at the forefront of the national government's transformative climate agenda", DBM Undersecretary Joselito R. Basilio added.

In December 2023, the DBM issued National Budget Memorandum No. 149 to guide agencies in coordinating their resources toward achieving banner government programs such as climate change and risk resiliency.

"Let us remember that the delivery of climate actions within our respective mandates is a necessity", said CCC Commissioner Albert P. Dela Cruz Sr.

The event was attended by 356 NGIs to enhance their capacity to tag, identify, and advance public resources for climate action.

The orientation marks the beginning of the CCET Quality Assurance and Review (QAR) approval process where the CCC reviews the climate-related programs identified by NGIs.

Pursuant to the CCC Memorandum Circular 2024-01, NGIs are expected to submit their climate budget proposals to CCC from 13 March 2024 until 12 April 2024 for issuance of an approval letter, as part of the DBM's requirement for climate budget tagging.

In the 2024 National Budget Call, 260 out of 364 NGAs participated in the CCET process, making a significant advancement from the previous fiscal year, where 210 out of 326 NGAs participated in CCET.

The CCET serves as the government's tool to track, monitor, and report public climate expenditures within its annual appropriations.

For more information about the CCET, visit <https://climate.gov.ph/> and <https://niccdies.climate.gov.ph/climate-finance/ccet>.

[CCC, DOH to strengthen collaboration on climate change and health](#)

The Climate Change Commission (CCC) and the Department of Health (DOH) are set to enhance their collaboration to address the challenges arising from climate change's impact on public health.

Recognizing the important nexus of climate change and health, CCC Vice Chairperson and Executive Director Robert E.A. Borje and DOH Secretary Teodoro "Ted" Herbosa discussed impacts of climate change on health, and opportunities to further align and ensure coherence of policies, programs, and other measures implemented by both agencies.

Among the identified key partnership areas are developing and implementing climate-health-related policies and initiatives, and promoting public awareness and community education, as aligned with existing policies and frameworks such as the Philippine Development Plan 2023-2028, CCC's ongoing development of the National Adaptation Plan, and the ongoing implementation of the Universal Healthcare Act.

Borje emphasized the need for a proactive and adaptive healthcare system, and highlighted the urgency of integrating climate considerations into health policies and practices.

He underscored the importance of both the health and climate change agenda. The lessons drawn from the global COVID-19 pandemic have vividly demonstrated the inseparable connection between climate change and health.

"The nexus between climate change and health is not just a choice; it's an imperative," Borje said. "Our experiences have shown us that our well-being is intricately linked to the health of our planet. Recognizing this connection is key to building a resilient and sustainable future for all."

Herbosa expressed commitment to incorporating climate considerations into its strategies, creating a more holistic approach to healthcare that addresses evolving challenges from a changing climate.

"The DOH is taking significant steps towards a sustainable and resilient healthcare system," said Herbosa. "Our plans include constructing environmentally friendly hospitals, incorporating climate change adaptation into our disaster risk reduction initiatives. As the DOH is actively reforming to prioritize Universal Health Care and primary care, we believe this presents a prime opportunity to foster partnerships for a healthier and greener future," he added.

Climate change impacts on health include increased risks of heat-related illnesses, vector-borne and waterborne diseases, malnutrition, and mental health issues.

In the CCC's ongoing development of the Philippines' first NAP, health is identified as one of the sectors to focus on, towards increasing national and local climate resilience.

In the recent inter-agency meeting, President Ferdinand R. Marcos, Jr., expressed his commitment to fulfill the NAP, as part of the commitment to broader national effort to achieve a climate-smart and climate-resilient Philippines.

The CCC and DOH's commitment to closely working together on climate change-related issues represents a whole-of-government approach to addressing climate-related challenges.

As the lead policy-making body of the government on climate change, the CCC will continue to further strengthen collaboration with agencies and other stakeholders in developing, updating, and implementing climate action towards achievement of national climate objectives.

For more information about the CCC's climate mainstreaming activities, visit <https://climate.gov.ph> and <https://facebook.com/cccpnl>

PHILIPPINE NEWS AGENCY

[CCC, DBM lead push for climate-responsive budgeting](#)

By: Darryl John Esguerra

The Climate Change Commission (CCC) and the Department of Budget and Management (DBM) recently convened national government instrumentalities (NGIs) for the annual Climate Change Expenditure Tagging (CCET) Orientation, in a bid to effectively mainstream climate action in the government's plans and programs.

The workshop is in support of President Ferdinand R. Marcos Jr.'s 8-point socioeconomic agenda and the implementation of climate change provisions in the Philippine Development Plan 2023-2028.

Aligned with the National Budget Call for FY2025, this year's CCET Orientation provided up-to-date information on NGIs' climate budget programming.

It was attended by 351 NGIs, comprised of budget officers, planning officers, and climate change focals of National Government Agencies (NGAs), agency members of the Program Convergence Budgeting (PCB) Risk Resiliency Program (RRP), state universities and colleges (SUCs), and government-owned or -controlled corporations (GOCCs).

CCC Vice Chairperson and Executive Director Robert Borje emphasized the importance of efficient and effective climate change expenditure tracking.

"As stewards of public funds, your roles extend beyond routine budgeting and programming. You help build the architecture of our nation's climate resilience," Borje said.

"Your meticulous planning, programming, and budgeting activities are the building blocks that contribute to the success of CCET and our nation's adaptation and mitigation strategies," he added.

For his part, DBM Undersecretary Joselito Basilio asked planning and budget officers and climate change technical representatives "to be at the forefront of the national government's transformative climate agenda."

The orientation marks the beginning of the CCET Quality Assurance and Review (QAR) approval process where the CCC reviews the climate-related programs identified.

NGIs are expected to submit their climate budget proposals to CCC from March 13 to April 12, 2024 for issuance of an approval letter, as part of the DBM's requirement for climate budget tagging.

The CCET serves as the government's tool to track, monitor, and report public climate expenditures within its annual appropriations.

For 2024, the government has allotted P457.41 billion for climate change in the General Appropriations Act (GAA).

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