



NEWS ROUNDUP

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ABS CBN

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Information and Knowledge Management Division

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By: Ariel Rojas

MANILA — A strong surge of the northeast monsoon blowing across the entire Philippines this Saturday resulted in some of the lowest temperatures recorded this 2025-2026 Amihan season, data from PAGASA showed.

In La Trinidad, Benguet, the mercury dropped to a stinging 7.5°C – officially the coldest temperature recorded this season.

Neighboring Baguio City also logged its coldest temperature this season at 9.0°C.

Abucay, Bataan and Tanay, Rizal both observed 16.2°C, while San Ildefonso, Bulacan posted 17.0°C – all season lows for the stations.

Metro Manila also felt the Amihan chill, with Science Garden in Quezon City recording 19.7°C. This was the fourth time the station dipped below 20°C this Amihan season.

Other localities which measured temperatures below 20°C this Saturday include:

17.2°C	Basco, Batanes	
17.2°C	Tuguegarao City, Cagayan	
17.8°C	Malaybalay City, Bukidnon	
18.0°C	Mabalacat City, Pampanga	
18.4°C	Casiguran, Aurora	
18.5°C	Science City of Muñoz, Nueva Ecija	
19.0°C	Aparri, Cagayan	
19.0°C	Baler, Aurora	19.2°C Sinit, Ilocos Sur
19.6°C	Laoag City, Ilocos Norte	
19.6°C	Subic, Zambales	

The country's all-time lowest temperature remains 6.3°C, observed in Baguio City on January 18, 1961.

Apart from nippy conditions, Amihan is also bringing light to occasionally moderate rains over eastern Cordillera, Cagayan Valley, Aurora, CALABARZON, Bicol, Oriental Mindoro, Samar, Caraga, Northern Mindanao, Zamboanga del Norte, and Davao Region.

More PH areas enjoy cool weather as amihan prevails

On the other hand, generally fair weather with occasional cloudiness and passing or isolated light rains will be experienced in Metro Manila and the rest of Luzon, Visayas, and Mindanao.

A gale warning is also in effect due to the strong Amihan surge, PAGASA said.

Waves of up to 4.5 meters are possible over the coastal waters of Ilocos Region, Cagayan Valley, Aurora, Quezon, Bicol Region, Samar provinces, Dinagat Islands, and Siargao and Bucas Grande islands.

The current cold surge may start weakening from Sunday but the brisk weather may persist through early next week.

The warm and humid Easterlies may begin to dominate the country by midweek next week.

The Amihan season is nearing its end. Since 2010, the warm and dry season has typically started during the second half of March.

DISCOVER MAGAZINE

[Climate Change May Be Making Our Days A Little Longer — Here's How We Know](#)

By: Rosie McCall

Climate change appears to be making our days a little longer. According to a study published in the *Journal of Geophysical Research: Solid Earth*, rising sea levels are slowing the Earth's spin.

At a rate of 1.33 milliseconds per century, it is not enough to squeeze in a quick workout or watch another episode of *Bridgerton*, but the new paper shows just how unusual it is. Lead author Mostafa Kiani Shahvandi told *Discover* the rate we see today is “almost unprecedented” — a fact that “shows this anomalous rate is anthropogenic.”

The Impact Of Rising Sea Levels On Earth's Spin

While the 24-hour day has become a fixture of the calendar, the Earth's rotation is open to variation. Factors such as the moon's gravitational pull and geophysical processes can influence the planet's rotational speed, and even without human intervention, it can vary by approximately 30 milliseconds. Crucially, however, these fluctuations occur on time scales lasting hundreds of thousands of years.

A 2024 study in *PNAS* highlighted another factor that can affect the speed of Earth's rotation — rising sea levels caused by glacial melt, itself a result of climate change. According to the researchers' calculations, from 2000 to 2020, the length of the day has increased at a rate of 1.33 milliseconds per 100 years.

“The fact that since the outset of [the] 21st century, the length of day is increasing so rapidly is astounding,” said Kiani Shahvandi of the Meteorology and Geophysics Department at the University of Vienna.

This change is due to the redistribution of mass that occurs when glaciers melt, and sea levels rise. In a press release, Kiani Shahvandi compared the Earth to a figure skater “who spins more slowly once they stretch their arms, and more rapidly when they keep their hands close to the body.”

An “Unprecedented” Trend

In this new paper, Kiani Shahvandi and co-author Benedikt Soja, Professor of Space Geodesy at ETH Zurich, set out to determine whether there were any other periods in history when day length increased at a similar pace.

To do so, the researchers used benthic foraminifera fossils, a single-celled marine organism. Analyzing the chemical composition of these fossils enabled the pair to detect sea-level changes. Using a probabilistic deep learning algorithm, they were then able to reconstruct 3.6 million years of day-length variations.

They note just one period, approximately 2 million years ago, when the rate of change in the length of day was nearly comparable — a shift caused by the waxing and waning of ice sheets.

“This rapid increase in day length implies that the rate of modern climate change has been unprecedented at least since the late Pliocene,” Soja said in a press release.

If current trends continue, the researchers predict climate change will have a greater effect on day length than the moon by the end of this century. Under a high-emission scenario, where emissions continue to rise unmitigated, estimates suggest the length of the day could increase at a rate of up to 2.62 milliseconds per century as we approach the year 2100, according to the 2024 PNAS study.

What Increased Day Lengths Could Mean

When the 24-hour day contains 86,400 seconds, a few milliseconds may not seem like a lot. But there are certain instances where even slight variations in time could cause problems

“Precise timekeeping will be in trouble, because there would be leap seconds, which cause problems in computer networks,” Kiani Shavandi told Discover. (Not too dissimilar to a leap day in a leap year, leap seconds are used to ensure atomic clocks align with the Earth’s rotation.)

This, in turn, could impact space and satellite navigation, which rely on highly accurate data about Earth’s rotation.

Moving forward, the team hopes to continue digging into the paleoclimate archives to better understand past changes in Earth’s rotation.

ECO BUSINESS

[China's new climate standard: a global signal at the right time](#)

By: Peiyuan Guo

Many markets and regulators worldwide are recognising that robust climate change reporting is a prerequisite for credible decision-making by companies, investors and other stakeholders.

At the end of 2025, China's Ministry of Finance sent a clear signal that they are serious about achieving meaningful reporting on climate change, with the launch of their first climate disclosure standard. At a time when disclosure regulations are progressing unevenly across regions, this is a welcome development – not only for China's domestic market, but for global value chains.

The structure of China's Corporate Disclosure Standard No. 1 - reflects a high degree of alignment with international reporting approaches, including the Global Reporting Initiative (GRI) 102 Climate Change Standard. In particular, what really makes China's approach stand out is its explicit application of double materiality.

China's standard encompasses and differentiates between financial and impact materiality. This is significant because data on impacts show how corporate activity affects the climate and society, not only the financial risks on the business. Without impacts, reporting becomes detached from real-world outcomes and long-term accountability.

That broader context matters. Across several jurisdictions globally, climate reporting requirements are facing delays, legal uncertainty or political pushback – as implementation timelines slide and the scope of disclosure is increasingly contested. Against this backdrop, China's clarity of commitment and intent is welcome.

For companies operating in China, or seeking access to the Chinese market, the implications are immediate. Climate disclosure expectations will increasingly influence regulatory engagement, financing conditions and participation in value chains. For multinational companies headquartered elsewhere, the effects will still be felt through suppliers, partners and customers.

Impact reporting gains momentum

GRI in-house analysis of 3,200 listed companies in mainland China with revenues over US\$250 million confirms that 31 per cent already refer to the GRI Standards in their 2024 reports. Meanwhile, Hong Kong Stock Exchange (HKEX) analysis in 2025 points to 80 per cent of large-cap firms being GRI reporters. Such companies are well prepared for the incoming regulation – evidence that the adoption of GRI pays dividends for leading companies.

The GRI Standards are built around a clear premise. Organisations should report on their most significant impacts on the economy, environment and people.

GRI 3: Material Topics provides a structured process for identifying those impacts. This is not an abstract exercise. It enables companies to focus their attention, and their reporting, on the most material issues, which includes climate-related impacts.

Understanding impacts is also a foundational stage in clarifying risks and opportunities. Climate-related financial risks rarely emerge in isolation. They often originate in impacts on emissions, ecosystems, workers or communities. Companies that start with an effective impact assessment are better equipped to make these connections explicit and credible.

Beyond setting standards, the Global Reporting Initiative increasingly provides guidance to support this process – particularly where impacts, risks and opportunities intersect.

Climate reporting cannot be separated from nature. The links between climate change, biodiversity loss and ecosystem degradation are now well established, but they are not always reflected clearly in corporate disclosure.

This is why GRI has collaborated closely with the Taskforce on Nature-related Financial Disclosures (TNFD) to develop practical guidance and case studies, on how to use the GRI Standards and TNFD Recommendations together. These resources show how organisations can assess impacts on nature and translate them into decision-useful information about risks and opportunities.

Following the 2025 launch of GRI's Climate Change Standard, GRI is working to add more practical support that will help companies respond to evolving regulatory expectations on climate, with GRI 102 case studies to be made available in the coming months.

Regulatory clarity to reporting quality

China's climate disclosure standard is an important step forward. It affirms the role of impact information, aligns with global developments, and provides companies with flexibility where implementation challenges are most acute.

GRI stands ready to support the next phase. With extensive experience across regions and sectors, we are keen to work with regulators and companies in China, sharing our experience, in both climate and impact reporting more widely.

For companies, the message is clear. Strengthening impact assessment is the most effective place to start. The GRI Standards provide a blueprint for how to assess impacts effectively. And with standards on climate, energy, biodiversity and other interconnected topics, are a springboard for high-quality reporting that can be utilised to respond to the needs of regulators, investors and other stakeholders.

China has provided a clear regulatory signal. The opportunity now lies in translating that ambition into reporting that genuinely informs sustainable outcomes and drives climate action, in China and across global markets.

GMA NEWS

Tanay, Rizal draws visitors with its cool climate

Tanay, Rizal has been getting more and more visitors because of the cool Amihan weather.

According to Mark Salazar's report on "24 Oras," some areas recorded around 19 degrees Celsius on March 16, Monday.

"Hindi ho kami nakakatikim ng init dito, ang sakit sa buto, nangangawit na 'yung buto mo sa lamig. Masaya naman po kaya lang s'yempre nahihirapan kapag may edad ka na, mahirap na," said Lourdes, a 68-year-old local.

"Pero pag sa Metro Manila ka pumunta, ang lakad maayos pero pag dito, talagang nahihirapan ka," she added.

Tanay, although not that far from Metro Manila, is colder for two reasons. The first is because Tanay is a higher area, a few hundred meters above sea level. Secondly, Tanay has Sierra Madre, which blocks the hot weather from the Pacific, and traps cold weather during Amihan season.

Recently, many riders have been traveling to Tanay not just to visit Marilaque Highway, but to drink coffee at the roadside facing Sierra Madre.

"Dumayo lang po kami dito para magpahangin kasi day off naman po ngayon. Mas malamig po dito, ang init sa Taguig," said Edcel, one of the riders.

"Parang pantanggal stress 'pag sa trabaho, hinahabol lang namin 'yung lamig kasi mag-su-summer na," said Jeremy, another rider. —Nika Roque/MGP, GMA Integrated News

INDIA TODAY

[Earth's days are getting longer as climate change slows the planet's spin](#)

By: Aryan Rai

Rising sea levels caused by melting glaciers and polar ice sheets are slowing Earth's rotation, adding approximately 1.33 milliseconds to the length of a day every century, according to a new study.

The researchers from the University of Vienna and ETH Zurich also found that this rate of change has not occurred in the last 3.6 million years.

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They also used a deep-learning model to handle the large uncertainties in ancient climate data.

DOES IT MATTER?

The changes are tiny in human terms, but their consequences are real.

Even small shifts in Earth's rotation can cause problems in areas like space navigation, GPS systems, atomic clock synchronisation, and satellite tracking.

By the end of this century, climate change is expected to have more influence over the length of day than the Moon itself, according to Benedikt Soja, the study's senior author and a geophysicist at ETH Zurich.

"The current rapid rise in day length can thus be attributed primarily to human influences," Soja said.

The findings add yet another dimension to the cascading effects of climate change.

The same melting ice that is raising the sea levels across the planet, putting millions at risk, and changing the weather systems, is now also altering the planet's spin.

It is a stark reminder of how deeply interconnected our climate crisis truly is.

USA TODAY

[A flower's fight against extinction could be big climate change news](#)

By: Doyle Rice and Dinah Voyles Pulver

While biologists have worried about how rare species of plants and animals will cope with a rapidly warming climate, one West Coast flower is giving them hope after showing a remarkable ability to evolve with its surroundings.

In a new study in the journal *Science* published March 12, researchers tracked scarlet monkeyflower populations in Oregon and California for more than a decade and found that some of the flowers rapidly evolved in response to prolonged extreme drought.

"This study shows, for the first time in the wild, that some plant populations were able to evolve quickly enough to rebound from extreme drought," explained study senior author Amy Angert, a botany and zoology professor at the University of British Columbia in an email to USA TODAY.

"These populations were on extinction trajectories because of the drought, but they were able to rescue themselves through rapid adaptation," she said.

What is the scarlet monkeyflower?

The scarlet monkeyflower is part of a broader general group of monkeyflowers, many of which are found in California.

The perennial plant is named for its distinctive bloom that some thought resembled a monkey's face. The scarlet flowers are a special boon for hummingbirds, because bees generally avoid red flowers, according to the San Diego Zoo Wildlife Alliance.

How was the study conducted?

Angert's team began monitoring scarlet monkeyflower populations in 2010, before the most extreme drought in more than 10,000 years would begin in California in 2012. As the numbers dwindled, they realized that they had a time capsule, in the form of stored leaves and seeds collected pre-drought, according to a statement from the University of British Columbia.

When the drought hit, populations shrank and some went locally extinct, but others recovered. "Essentially what we found is that the populations that recovered are also the populations that evolved the fastest," said study lead author Daniel Anstett, assistant professor of plant biology at Cornell University, in a statement.

"This is one species, but it's a really good indicator for drought adaptation," he said.

According to Anstett, previous studies had shown evolutionary rescue was possible in lab settings and in theoretical work, but this is the first study of natural populations to show decline due to climate change, evolution of climate adaptations across whole genomes and subsequent recovery.

A scarlet monkeyflower plant in its natural habitat in California.

Evolution to the rescue

The findings document what scientists call “evolutionary rescue” — when genetic adaptation allows populations to avoid extinction under severe environmental stress.

"The concern has been that climate change is happening too fast and its changes are too big for populations to be able to keep up through evolution, like running on a treadmill that continues to speed up even as you increase your pace," Angert said. "This shows that at least some populations have the capacity to run fast enough through evolution to stay on the treadmill."

CCC IN THE NEWS:

DAILY TRIBUNE

[Investing in women for stronger families, communities](#)

The Climate Change Commission (CCC) joins the nation in celebrating National Women's Month by declaring that empowering Filipino women is a strategic national investment.

"When we invest in Filipino women, we invest in stronger families, more resilient communities, and a more climate-secure Philippines," CCC vice chair and executive director Robert E.A. Borje said.

"We recognize women not only for their resilience in enduring storms but for their ingenuity in building the systems and strategies that allow our communities to thrive despite them," he added

CCC Commissioner Rachel Anne S. Herrera, chair of the agency's Gender Focal Point System, said it is everyone's duty to address climate change and ensuring that all sectors, especially women, girls, indigenous peoples and persons with disability are not left behind.

The Commission's commitment to gender-responsive action is reflected in its own structure, where women occupy more than half of all positions in the CCC and they are actively shaping the strategies and policies that guide climate governance.

PHILIPPINE INFORMATION AGENCY

Romblon youth underscore role of Mount Guiting-Guiting in Climate Action

MAGDIWANG, ROMBLON — Young local leaders from the Municipality of Magdiwang, Romblon emphasized the vital role of trees and mountains as natural defenses against climate risks during the visit of the Climate Change Commission (CCC) at Mount Guiting-Guiting.

During the discussion, the youth highlighted Mount Guiting-Guiting as a crucial natural buffer, protecting communities from stronger storms and extreme weather events.

“Ang Mount Guiting-Guiting ay hindi lamang bundok na hinahangaan; ito ay buhay na panangga ng Sibuyan Island, tahimik ngunit matatag ang tindig na lumalaban sa nagbabagong klima para sa kinabukasan ng susunod na henerasyon,” said Ann Mari Roda, a youth leader from Magdiwang, Romblon.

“Tumutulong itong mag-regulate ng tubig-ulan at pumipigil sa matinding pagbaha at pagguho ng lupa. Nagsisilbi rin itong harang laban sa malalakas na hangin ng bagyo. ” she added.

The engagement also focused on empowering the youth to take an active role in shaping community-driven and climate-resilient initiatives. As part of the visit, participants joined a tree-growing activity to reinforce nature-based solutions and strengthen the protection of local ecosystems.

CCC Vice Chairperson and Executive Director Robert E.A. Borje commended the youth for their awareness and proactive approach to ecological protection.

“We’re glad that the youth are very proactive and understand the importance of mountains and trees in the fight against climate change,” Borje said. “This level of awareness among young leaders strengthens our capacity to cultivate a culture of preparedness and ecological stewardship at the community level.”

Borje further highlighted the strategic value of mountains in reducing and adapting to the impacts of climate change.

“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.

He explained that healthy forest ecosystems act as carbon sinks, absorb and store greenhouse gases, regulate temperature, and reduce heat. These ecosystems also protect communities by weakening strong winds, stabilizing soil, and absorbing rainwater, helping to reduce the risks of flooding, landslides, and extreme weather events.

These activities form part of the support of the Climate Change Commission in the provinces to mainstream climate change, strengthen stewardship education, and build leadership across generations.

The CCC continues to strengthen partnerships with local governments and communities to advance inclusive, science-based, and ecosystem-driven climate action across the Philippines.

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