



NEWS ROUNDUP

20 MARCH 2023 [08:00 am]

- Nations approve key UN science report on climate change
- PAGASA: Expect warm, humid weather over most of PH until March 26
- Cyclone Gabrielle: The New Zealand flood victims too scared to go home
- PHL battling to increase World Bank recovery funding to \$750M
- Reclamation damage to fishing areas to offset benefits of more cold storage, fisherfolk say
- SEC readies rules, lists projects for blue finance
- What is the IPCC report? Here's what to expect from the latest UN climate change assessment
- Envi-business org demands review of tax breaks for EVs
- NASA Uses 30-Year Satellite Record to Track and Project Rising Seas
- 35% of PH energy supply to come from renewable sources by 2030, says ERC
- PH agri climate resilience project gets P2.2B in UN funding
- [Opinion] Less food waste means more food security
- [Opinion] Natural catastrophe insurance rates
- US boosts women involvement in clean energy programs
- Circular economy revolution: Paving the way to sustainable business practices in PH

CCC IN THE NEWS:

- Regional Dialogue Promotes Actions to Address Climate-Security Risks in the BARMM, Philippines
- CCC, French embassy to boost dev't cooperation on climate action
- CCC welcomes \$26.3-M grant to make transform PH agri sector
- CCC calls for urgent delivery of global pledge on climate action
- Climate Change Commission opens nomination for PSF sectoral reps
- Climate Change Commission lauds P1.4B grant to APA project
- CCC calls for urgent delivery of climate commitments
- CCC seeks funding for climate-related damage

ABC

[Nations approve key UN science report on climate change](#)

By: Frank Jordans

Governments gave their blessing on Sunday to a major new U.N. report on climate change, after approval was held up by a battle between rich and developing countries over emissions targets and financial aid to vulnerable nations.

ABS CBN

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By:

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BBC

[Cyclone Gabrielle: The New Zealand flood victims too scared to go home](#)

By: Briony Sowden

Last month, Cyclone Gabrielle smashed into New Zealand's North Island - killing 11 people and displacing at least 10,000 more. It's triggered a national debate about climate change and whether vulnerable homes should be rebuilt or written off.

BUSINESS WORLD

[PHL battling to increase World Bank recovery funding to \\$750M](#)

By: Luisa Maria Jacinta C. Jocson

THE PHILIPPINES is seeking to increase the size of its first sustainable recovery development policy loan (DPL) from the World Bank to \$750 million, the World Bank said.

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By: Sheldeen Joy Talavera

THE government's program of building more cold storage near fish landings will ultimately be futile if it allows reclamation activities to continue damaging the fishing grounds, an association of fisherfolk said.

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EURO NEWS

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By: Rosie Frost

On Monday, the United Nations Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) will release its latest climate report.

MALAYA BUSINESS INSIGHT

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The average global sea level rose by 0.11 inches (0.27 centimeters) from 2021 to 2022, according to a NASA analysis of satellite data. That’s the equivalent of adding water from a million Olympic-size swimming pools to the ocean every day for a year and is part of a multidecade trend of rising seas.

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

[35% of PH energy supply to come from renewable sources by 2030, says ERC](#)

By: Zacarian Sarao

The Energy Regulatory Commission on Thursday said the country is planning to make renewable energy one of its leading sources of power supply in less than 10 years, to

account for at least 35 percent of the energy mix by 2030 and more than 50 percent by 2040.

[PH agri climate resilience project gets P2.2B in UN funding](#)

By: Cristina Eloisa Baclig

The Philippines—named the most disaster-prone country in the world—has been recently granted a P2.2 billion investment to help adapt agricultural systems to climate change.

THE MANILA TIMES

[\[Opinion\] Less food waste means more food security](#)

Filipino households do not consume all the food on their dining tables, and the resulting wastage has grown into a problem that requires serious attention.

[\[Opinion\] Natural catastrophe insurance rates](#)

By: Michael Rellosa

People may not be aware that there is an ongoing issue on the recent decision of the Insurance Commission to temporarily shelve the implementation of IC Circular 2022-34, dated July 14, 2022, correcting the minimum catastrophe insurance rates from 0.15 percent to 0.2 percent, supposedly to take effect from January 2023. This has been in turn spurred by a congressional inquiry into the reasons behind it.

[US boosts women involvement in clean energy programs](#)

On International Women's Day March 8, the United States government, through the United States Agency for International Development (USAid), announced two new grant projects valued at P37.9 million to boost women's participation in energy resilience, innovation, and security in the Philippines.

THE PHILIPPINE STAR

[Circular economy revolution: Paving the way to sustainable business practices in PH](#)

By: Felix Vitangcol

The global economy is facing unprecedented environmental challenges, and the Philippines is no exception. With mounting evidence of the negative impact of climate change and how it is exacerbated by factors such as unsustainable waste management

practices, it has become more critical than ever for the business sector to lead the shift toward a more sustainable and circular economy system.

CCC IN THE NEWS:

JOURNAL ONLINE

[Regional Dialogue Promotes Actions to Address Climate-Security Risks in the BARMM, Philippines](#)

Davao City, 17 March 2023 – The UN International Organization for Migration (IOM), together with the Government of the United Kingdom (UK), concluded a two-day regional dialogue on “Exploring the Nexus of Climate Change, Conflict and Human Mobility and the Lived Experiences of the Bangsamoro.”

PHILIPPINE NEWS AGENCY

[CCC, French embassy to boost dev't cooperation on climate action](#)

MANILA – The Climate Change Commission (CCC) and the Embassy of France to the Philippines and Micronesia have expressed commitment to strengthen partnership and development cooperation on climate action.

[CCC welcomes \\$26.3-M grant to make transform PH agri sector](#)

MANILA – The “Adapting Philippine Agriculture to Climate Change (APA)” secured approval for a grant of USD26.3 million from the Green Climate Fund (GCF) to increase the resilience of rural agriculture men and women in climate vulnerable areas and transform the country’s agriculture sector towards climate resilience.

[CCC calls for urgent delivery of global pledge on climate action](#)

MANILA – The Climate Change Commission (CCC) has called for urgent delivery of global commitment on climate action, particularly the funding for climate-related loss and damage, at the 18th Meeting of the Warsaw International Mechanism Executive Committee (WIM EXCOM-18) in Manila.

POLITIKO

[Climate Change Commission opens nomination for PSF sectoral reps](#)

By Prince Golez

The Climate Change Commission (CCC) has opened the nomination and selection process for new sectoral representatives to the People’s Survival Fund (PSF) Board.

[Climate Change Commission lauds P1.4B grant to APA project](#)

By Prince Golez

The Climate Change Commission (CCC) welcomed the decision of the Green Climate Fund (GCF) to approve the grant US\$26.3 million to the “Adapting Philippine Agriculture to Climate Change” (APA) project.

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Information and Knowledge Management Division

ABC

[Nations approve key UN science report on climate change](#)

By: Frank Jordans

Governments gave their blessing on Sunday to a major new U.N. report on climate change, after approval was held up by a battle between rich and developing countries over emissions targets and financial aid to vulnerable nations.

The report by hundreds of the world's top scientists was supposed to be approved by government delegations on Friday at the end of a weeklong meeting in the Swiss town of Interlaken.

The closing gavel was repeatedly pushed back as officials from big nations such as China, Brazil, Saudi Arabia, the United States and the European Union haggled through the weekend over the wording of key phrases in the text.

The report by the U.N. Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change caps a series that digests vast amounts of research on global warming compiled since the Paris climate accord was agreed in 2015.

A summary of the report was approved early Sunday but agreement on the main text dragged on for several more hours, with some observers fearing it might need to be postponed.

The U.N. plans to publish the report at a news conference early Monday afternoon.

The unusual process of having countries sign off on a scientific report is intended to ensure that governments accept its findings as authoritative advice on which to base their actions.

At the start of the meeting, U.N. Secretary-General António Guterres called on delegates to provide "cold, hard facts" to drive home the message that there's little time left for the world to limit global warming to 1.5 degrees Celsius (2.7 Fahrenheit) compared with preindustrial times.

While average global temperatures have already increased by 1.1 Celsius since the 19th century, Guterres insisted that the 1.5-degree target limit remains possible "with rapid and deep emissions reductions across all sectors of the global economy."

Observers said the IPCC meetings have increasingly become politicized as the stakes for curbing global warming increase, mirroring the annual U.N. climate talks that usually take place at the end of the year.

Among the thorniest issues at the current meeting were how to define which nations count as vulnerable developing countries, making them eligible for cash from a “loss and damage” fund agreed on at the last U.N. climate talks in Egypt. Delegates have also battled over figures stating how much greenhouse gas emissions need to be cut by over the coming years, and how to include artificial or natural carbon removal efforts in the equations.

As the country that has released the biggest amount of carbon dioxide into the atmosphere since industrialization, the United States has pushed back strongly against the notion of historic responsibility for climate change.

ABS CBN

PAGASA: Expect warm, humid weather over most of PH until March 26

MANILA -- The country is set to experience high temperatures from March 20 until 26, according to PAGASA's forecast.

Temperatures as high as 33 to 34 degrees Celsius might be felt in areas in Metro Manila, with only low chances of raining.

Meanwhile, localized thunderstorms are expected in the afternoon, especially in the Visayas and Mindanao region of the country.

The chances of experiencing severe thunderstorms in Mindanao also remain on Friday until the weekend.

According to PAGASA, the said chances of experiencing the aforementioned forecast was because of Easterlies prevailing over Southern Luzon, Visayas, and Mindanao throughout the week.

However, weak Amihan or Northeasterlies may still affect the the extreme Northern Luzon by Saturday and Sunday.

No weather disturbances will also be felt in the duration of the forecast period.

BBC

[Cyclone Gabrielle: The New Zealand flood victims too scared to go home](#)

By: Briony Sowden

Last month, Cyclone Gabrielle smashed into New Zealand's North Island - killing 11 people and displacing at least 10,000 more. It's triggered a national debate about climate change and whether vulnerable homes should be rebuilt or written off.

"I don't want to go back there," said Amy Bowkett.

The mother of two lived in the Hawkes Bay area, one of the regions worst hit by Cyclone Gabrielle. When the Category 3 storm hit with wind speeds of up to 159km/h (99mph), her home was completely destroyed.

Along with 50 of her neighbours she spent a terrifying 48 hours trapped without power, water or phone signal.

Eventually she was able to make a call and a friend organised a helicopter rescue from a neighbour's backyard.

"I feel like if we get flooded a third time, it would be our fault," she told the BBC from her mother's home in the nearby city of Napier. "Unless we put our house on stilts, I'd be terrified every time it rained."

She's not alone in fearing to return. Many of the victims of New Zealand's recent floods lost all of their possessions in the disaster and believe the area their homes are built on has become too dangerous for them to go back.

The damage caused by the cyclone is forecast to cost NZD\$13.5bn (\$8.4bn; £6.9bn), similar to the financial impact of the Christchurch earthquake in 2011 - the costliest natural disaster in New Zealand's history. Last month's event prompted a nationwide state of emergency that only ended on Tuesday.

Cyclone Gabrielle also struck within weeks of unprecedented flooding in New Zealand's biggest city, Auckland, when an entire summer's worth of rain fell in a single day.

New Zealand's climate change minister, James Shaw, attributed the scale of the disaster to climate change, exacerbated by global temperature increases.

"There will be people who say it's too soon to talk about these things... but we are standing in it right now. This is a climate change-related event," he said in a speech to parliament last month.

Speaking to the BBC, Mr Shaw said that while many homeowners have taken out a "total replacement" insurance policy, which compensates them if their house is destroyed or made uninhabitable, it only covers the cost of the property - not the value of the land it's built on.

This means people feel "they have to rebuild on the current land and of course, they're really frightened", he added.

The country is likely to experience more extreme rainfall events and regional cyclones are likely to become more frequent by 2100, according to New Zealand's National Institute of Water and Atmospheric Research. During warm months days are already hotter, drier and windier, increasing the risk of bushfires.

Some 55,000 homes in Auckland are prone to flooding, according to government data. Another 76,000 homes across the country are in coastal areas, vulnerable to erosion and sea level rise.

"[When] people are sleeping with lifejackets by the door, you know it's bad," said displaced West Auckland resident Morgan Allen. "The anxiety has reached peak levels."

Alongside a group of dozens of Auckland flood victims, Morgan has launched a campaign calling on the government to buy out their homes and turn the high-risk areas into parks or nature reserves. The audio engineer says some of his neighbours spent a year rebuilding their homes only to lose everything again in January.

Morgan blames climate change for recent events, but also tightly packed housing developments - where rows of homes have been built on concrete, replacing single homes on grass areas.

"Our city has lost a huge amount of capacity to sponge up all of this water." He said this had increased the flood risk for homes built near valleys and wetlands.

Consequently, in the days after the cyclone and the Auckland floods, the government announced a NZD\$300m (\$185m) package for affected regions.

It also introduced new Severe Weather Emergency legislation, designed to help rural landowners fix their properties and rebuild, without the usual red tape.

The impact for the food-growing regions of New Zealand has also been significant. In just one sector, half of the Kumara crop, a type of sweet potato found in New Zealand, was wiped out.

Just down the road from Amy Bowkett in the small rural community of Puketapu were two orchards owned by Brydon Nisbet, blooming with apple trees ready to harvest.

When the cyclone hit, the infrastructure designed to stop the main rivers from flooding collapsed, completely burying his orchard in mud and potentially toxic silt.

"It was just a disaster zone and pretty shocking really," said Brydon, who couldn't reach his property until three days after the disaster. "Everything was ruined. The water went up around three to four metres in the house."

Brydon, who represents fruit growers in Hawkes Bay, estimates up to half of the region's fruit orchards have been hit, some of them totally wiped out. Farmers are desperate to salvage what they can.

"We're all pretty resilient. I've still had plenty of cries and hugs with my wife and different people. But we need to remain positive and have hope.

"When we made the decision to try and save this orchard, that actually brought hope," he said.

"We thought, we want these trees to bloom again, we don't want them to die."

BUSINESS WORLD

[PHL battling to increase World Bank recovery funding to \\$750M](#)

By: Luisa Maria Jacinta C. Jocson

THE PHILIPPINES is seeking to increase the size of its first sustainable recovery development policy loan (DPL) from the World Bank to \$750 million, the World Bank said.

“The DPL series aims to support the government of the Philippines’ reforms to accelerate the economic recovery and boost long-term growth; and protect the environment and improve climate resilience,” according to a document uploaded on the World Bank website.

In December, the loan was initially pegged at \$600 million. The loan is expected to be approved by the World Bank board on May 16.

The loan series aims to increase public investment in services and private investment in renewable energy and public infrastructure.

It also seeks to raise the share of renewable energy in the energy mix, the reduction of plastic waste while increasing recovery and recycling, greater use of green transport, and increased production and consumption of green goods and services through public procurement.

“Climate change poses major risks to development in the Philippines and will affect the country’s ability to meet its development goals and pursue green, resilient, and inclusive development,” the World Bank said.

“The country is exposed to frequent natural disasters and thus prone to the impacts of climate change, which cause severe economic and fiscal shocks and threaten socioeconomic development. Without mitigation action, climate change will impose substantial economic and human costs, affecting the poorest households the most,” it added.

The project will be monitored and evaluated by the Department of Finance and the World Bank.

The implementing agencies will include the Anti-Red Tape Authority, the Bureau of Internal Revenue, the departments of Budget and Management, Energy, Environment and Natural Resources, and Trade and Industry, and the National Economic and Development Authority.

The bank is currently supporting 15 ongoing Philippine programs and projects worth \$4.96 billion.

In January, the World Bank approved the Philippines' second financial sector reform policy loan worth \$600 million.

As of March 2022, the World Bank was the Philippines' third-largest official development assistance (ODA) partner, with loans and grants amounting to around 23.38% of total ODA.

This year, the National Government expects to obtain around \$19.1 billion worth of ODA.

[Reclamation damage to fishing areas to offset benefits of more cold storage, fisherfolk say](#)

By: Sheldeen Joy Talavera

THE government's program of building more cold storage near fish landings will ultimately be futile if it allows reclamation activities to continue damaging the fishing grounds, an association of fisherfolk said.

Fernando L. Hicap, chairman of Pambansang Lakas ng Kilusang Mamamalakaya ng Pilipinas, said that while post-harvest activities are necessary, more attention needs to be paid to activities that depress the productivity of fisherfolk.

"(Post-harvest facilities) will not be beneficial to us if we have nothing to catch," he told BusinessWorld by phone.

"Our call is to stop the damaging (projects) that the government has allowed such as reclamation and mining within our fishery. What we need is rehabilitation," he said.

He added that rehabilitating fishing grounds via measures like planting mangroves, will help reduce the impact of climate change on coastal communities.

Last week, President Ferdinand R. Marcos, Jr. announced a plan to build 11 cold storage facilities to address post-harvest losses caused by spoilage.

According to the Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources, the current fish spoilage rate is between 20% and 40% due to lack of post-harvest equipment and cold storage warehouses.

In its fisheries report, the Philippine Statistics Authority estimated that fish output grew 2.2% to 4,339.89 thousand metric tons in 2022.

Small fishermen only have access to styrofoam coolers filled with ice to preserve their catch, Mr. Hicap said.

Anthony S. Dizon, president of the Cold Chain Association of the Philippines, said that subjecting the harvest intended for direct consumption to brine cooling before delivery to market has been the traditional practice.

Fish varieties such as tuna and sardines that are used for further processing are best kept, he said.

“Our advocacy is centered on converting this traditional practice to acceptance of the benefits of frozen fish which is the generally accepted practice in aquaculture,” he said in an e-mail sent to BusinessWorld.

“Similar to other food categories, freezing is the most effective way of preserving food quality and creating supply and demand balance by extending product shelf lives,” he added.

According to Mr. Dizon, several cold storage facilities in the National Capital Region have sufficient operating flexibility to store imported fisheries products.

The Philippines has 30,000 tons of storage capacity mostly used for tuna and sardines in Mindanao.

He said that the constructing a cold storage facility would cost around P60,000-P80,000 per ton of capacity, which also vary with the technology utilized. This cost estimate covers the building, plant and equipment, but excludes the real estate cost.

Fisheries products can be kept for three months under proper storage conditions. Storage temperature is required to be at least minus 18 degrees Celsius.

[SEC readies rules, lists projects for blue finance](#)

By: Adrian H. Halili

THE Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) has provided a list of projects that are eligible for “blue” finance, including wastewater management and offshore renewable energy, under draft guidelines that it asked would-be issuers to comment on before month’s end.

In an advisory, it said the guidelines “are intended as a reference on eligible blue projects and activities which blue bonds can finance.” The raised funds are meant to support the sustainability and conservation of ocean-based resources.

The SEC has enumerated six eligible activities, namely water supply; water sanitation; ocean-friendly and water-friendly products; ocean-friendly chemicals and plastic-related sectors; sustainable shipping and port logistics sectors; and fisheries, aquaculture, and seafood value chain.

Eligible blue project categories include ecosystem management and natural resources restoration of coastal, marine, and river ecosystems; sustainable fisheries management; sustainable tourism in the vicinity of marine conservation areas; wastewater management; and marine and offshore renewable energy.

Under the proposed guidelines, eligible issuers must provide the clear benefits to ocean health that their project or activities can supply.

Issuers must also contribute to the United Nations (UN) Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) no. 6 and/or 14, which they need to assess and quantify, where feasible.

UN SDG nos. 6 and 14 pertain to the goal of availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation, and the conservation and sustainability of oceans, seas, and marine resources. Eligible blue activities must contribute to the two goals.

Additionally, the commission said that the issuer must prepare a framework that clearly distinguishes the use of proceeds toward green, social, and blue activities.

According to the SEC eligible blue projects must aim to address sustainable water management and ocean protection, and must also seek to contribute to the development of the “blue economy.”

Meanwhile, harmful activities such as fossil fuel power generation are ineligible for blue bond issuance, as well as projects that pose significant harm to ocean health and resources.

“Issuers are also encouraged to develop a list of additional ineligible projects and/or activities for the issuance of their blue Bonds,” the SEC said.

The proposed blue bond guidelines are applied in conjunction with SEC Memorandum Circular No. 12 of 2018 or the “Guidelines for the Issuance of ASEAN Green Bonds Under the ASEAN Green Bonds Standards in the Philippines.”

EURO NEWS

[What is the IPCC report? Here's what to expect from the latest UN climate change assessment](#)

By: Rosie Frost

On Monday, the United Nations Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) will release its latest climate report.

Since it was founded in 1988, the IPCC has published six sets of these assessments so far. They are the most comprehensive and authoritative evidence about human-caused climate change.

And, as the consequences of climate change become ever more pressing, Monday's publication is shaping up to be a "fundamental" document for the future of climate action.

What can we expect from the latest IPCC report?

Every five to seven years, the IPCC publishes a series of reports that summarise the latest information about climate change. The reports come from the work of three different working groups that focus on the science of climate change, its impacts and potential solutions.

It has also published 14 'special reports' which focus on specific areas including aviation, emissions and oceans.

Monday's Synthesis Report from the IPCC is the final one of the cycle and draws on information from the six reports published so far, highlighting the key points from the three working groups.

Each of these reports featured strong statements on the reality of climate change from the "unequivocal" consensus that human activity is causing it to the risks faced by half of humanity. Monday's is likely to feature similarly bold headlines.

Who writes the IPCC report?

The IPCC is made up of 195 member countries.

Hundreds of scientists work together to gather evidence about climate change from all over the world. They review it all and come to a consensus, identifying the key messages in the thousands of studies that are published every year.

It is a collaborative effort between governments and scientists with each line in a report negotiated and approved by all IPCC members. This process ensures that the information included is not only scientifically accurate but also relevant for the governments involved.

An analysis by UK news outlet Carbon Brief shows that over the last 30 years, women and experts from the Global South have gained greater representation within the IPCC. They are still underrepresented, however.

In 1990, fewer than 10 per cent of the 100 authors were women and less than 20 per cent came from the Global South. The current assessment cycle has 700 authors with 30 per cent women and more than 40 per cent from the Global South.

Why do we need these IPCC reports?

The conclusions the IPCC comes up with are used by governments, businesses, and communities - everyone looking to understand the cause and effect of climate change - to make choices in the future.

They show what the reality of climate change is and give a blueprint for the urgent action the world needs to take.

IPCC Chair Hoesung Lee told a panel meeting that the Synthesis Report will become a “fundamental policy document for shaping climate action in the remainder of this pivotal decade.”

It also provides a framework for scientists to coordinate their efforts. Reporting cycles are synched up with an international scientific effort and experiments are carried out to test the reliability of our current climate change models.

MALAYA BUSINESS INSIGHT

[Envi-business org demands review of tax breaks for EVs](#)

PHILIPPINE Business for Environmental Stewardship Secretary General Felix Jose Vitangcol urged the government to amend the tax incentives for electric vehicles as it 'lacks inclusivity.'

This after Malacañang released Executive Order No. 12 series of 2023 which modifies the tariff rates for EVs to help mainstream its use among Filipinos. EO12 lowered the tariff rate for certain types of EVs ranging from five to 30 percent to zero percent import duty. Under the EO, EVs such as kick scooters, pocket motorcycles, and self-balancing cycles are included in the tax breaks.

Two-wheeled electric motorcycles, on the other hand, are still subject to 30 percent import duty. In a statement posted on their Facebook page, Vitangcol pointed out that under the EO, only a limited portion of the population can afford to buy four-wheeled vehicles.

"Only more affluent Filipinos – indeed a limited segment of the population – can afford to buy four-wheel vehicles, and hence enjoy these incentives," Vitangcol said.

The organization reiterated that the majority of motorists in the country are using two or three-wheeled vehicles including public utility jeepneys. The Land Transportation Office has documented that almost 8 million units of motorcycles are registered in their office in 2021.

"It is also they who are already perennially burdened by the soaring prices of basic goods and hampered by their limited income to provide for their families," he added. PBEST asserts that more Filipinos should be encouraged to shift to alternative energy regardless of their socio-economic status and the types of their vehicles.

"This is why the government must make these tax incentives more inclusive," the Secretary General addressed. Vitangcol also said that it is the government's role to spearhead the country's shift to electric vehicles as it will lessen the nation's dependence on fossil fuels.

According to the Statista Research Department, the power production in the Philippines is still dominated by coal at 47.6 percent, followed by other fossils at 18 percent, and gas at 10.7 percent, which totals 76.3 percent. Various types of renewable energy

generation like wind, solar, bioenergy, hydro, and other renewables share at 23.7 percent of the country's total power source.

The EO12 aims to help Filipinos to adapt to the usage of e-vehicles while decarbonizing and reducing the carbon emissions caused by fueled-run vehicles. Due to the fact that the Philippines is one of the most vulnerable countries to climate change, shifting to EVs is one of the country's solutions to help weaken its effects and go full electric by 2040.

To help mainstream the use of EVs and the development of infrastructures that can cater the industry, Republic Act No. 11697 commonly known as the Electric Vehicle Industry Development Act was passed along with other landmark policies.

NASA

[NASA Uses 30-Year Satellite Record to Track and Project Rising Seas](#)

The average global sea level rose by 0.11 inches (0.27 centimeters) from 2021 to 2022, according to a NASA analysis of satellite data. That's the equivalent of adding water from a million Olympic-size swimming pools to the ocean every day for a year and is part of a multidecade trend of rising seas.

Since satellites began observing sea surface height in 1993 with the U.S.-French TOPEX/Poseidon mission, the average global sea level has increased by 3.6 inches (9.1 centimeters), according to NASA's Sea Level Change science team. The annual rate of rise – or how quickly sea level rise is happening – that researchers expect to see has also increased from 0.08 inches (0.20 centimeters) per year in 1993 to 0.17 inches (0.44 centimeters) per year in 2022. Based on the long-term satellite measurements, the projected rate of sea level rise will hit 0.26 inches (0.66 centimeters) per year by 2050.

“We have this clear view of recent sea level rise – and can better project how much and how quickly the oceans will continue to rise – because NASA and Centre National d'Études Spatiales (CNES) have gathered decades of ocean observations. By combining that data with measurements from the rest of the NASA fleet, we can also understand why the ocean is rising,” said Karen St. Germain, director of NASA's Earth Science Division in Washington. “These fundamental climate observations help shape the operational services of many other federal and international agencies who are working with coastal communities to mitigate and respond to rising waters.”

The 2022 increase was less than the expected annual rate because of a mild La Niña. During years with an especially strong La Niña climate pattern, average global sea level can even temporarily drop because weather patterns shift in a way that leads to more rainfall over land instead of the ocean.

“With an increasing demand for accurate and timely climate information, NASA is committed to providing annual sea level observations and future projections in order to help vulnerable communities around the world better understand the risks they face in a new climate,” said Nadya Vinogradova Shiffer, a NASA program scientist for ocean science. “Timely updates are key to showing which climate trajectory we are on.”

Despite natural influences like La Niña, sea levels continue to rise because of human-caused climate change driven by the excess amounts of greenhouse gases like carbon dioxide that society pumps into the atmosphere. Climate change is melting

Earth's ice sheets and glaciers, adding more fresh water to the ocean, while warming causes the expansion of seawater. Both of these effects contribute to rising seas, overriding many natural effects on sea surface height.

“Tracking the greenhouse gases that we add to the atmosphere tells us how hard we’re pushing the climate, but sea levels show us how much it’s responding,” said Josh Willis, an oceanographer at NASA’s Jet Propulsion Laboratory in Southern California. “These measurements are a critical yardstick for how much humans are reshaping the climate.”

A Long-Term Record

The measurements of sea surface height that began 30 years ago with TOPEX/Poseidon have continued through four subsequent missions led by NASA and partners, including the French space agency CNES, ESA (European Space Agency), and the U.S. National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration. The most recent mission in the series, Sentinel-6/Jason-CS (Continuity of Service), consists of two satellites that will extend these measurements through 2030. The first of these two satellites, Sentinel-6 Michael Freilich, launched in 2020, with the second slated to head to orbit in 2025.

“The 30-year satellite record allows us to see through the shorter-term shifts that happen naturally in the ocean and helps us identify the trends that tell us where sea level is headed,” said JPL’s Ben Hamlington, a sea level researcher who leads NASA’s Sea Level Change science team.

Scientific and technical innovations by NASA and other space agencies have given researchers a better understanding of the current state of the ocean on a global scale. Specifically, radar altimeters have helped produce ever-more precise measurements of sea level around the world. To calculate sea level height, they bounce microwave signals off the ocean’s surface and record the time the signal takes to travel from a satellite to Earth and back, as well as the strength of the return signal.

When altimetry data from all ocean basins is combined with more than a century of observations from coastal surface-based sources, together they dramatically expand and improve our understanding of how sea surface height is changing on a global scale. And when those measurements of sea level are combined with other NASA data sets on ice mass, land motion, and other Earth changes, scientists can decipher why and how seas are rising.

Learn more about sea level and climate change: <https://sealevel.nasa.gov/>

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

[35% of PH energy supply to come from renewable sources by 2030, says ERC](#)

By: Zacarian Sarao

The Energy Regulatory Commission on Thursday said the country is planning to make renewable energy one of its leading sources of power supply in less than 10 years, to account for at least 35 percent of the energy mix by 2030 and more than 50 percent by 2040.

“We already have a target for 2030, 2040 target. By 2030, 35 percent of our mix should already be coming from renewables; in 2040, 50 percent,” said ERC chair Monalisa Dimalanta in a press forum.

To achieve this target, Dimalanta said the ERC had increased its renewable portfolio standard (RPS) to 2.52 percent from 1 percent.

The RPS, as defined by Philippine Electricity Market Corp, refers to a market-based policy which mandates electricity suppliers to source a portion of their energy supply from renewable energy resources to further contribute to the growth of the renewable industry in the country.

However, Dimalanta said the country has no target date yet for a full (or 100 percent) transition to renewable energy.

Currently, she said coal remained the country’s main source of energy, followed by petroleum, and lastly, renewable energy.

[PH agri climate resilience project gets P2.2B in UN funding](#)

By: Cristina Eloisa Baclig

The Philippines—named the most disaster-prone country in the world—has been recently granted a P2.2 billion investment to help adapt agricultural systems to climate change.

The World Risk Report 2022 ranked the Philippines as the most disaster-prone among 193 countries, with a very high vulnerability score of 54.81. This is based on the susceptibility of populations to damage from extreme natural disasters events or the negative impacts of climate change.

In the Philippines, which is expected to experience increasingly more frequent and catastrophic extreme weather events, nearly 10 million people work in the agriculture sector.

Previous studies revealed that the impact of climate change on Philippine agriculture is devastating. The country incurred P290B in agricultural damages in the past decade due to extreme weather events.

To help the government “shift the country towards a climate-resilient agricultural system and increase climate resilience in rural areas,” the Green Climate Fund (GCF) has approved a \$39.2M (₱2.2B) funding proposal for an initiative called Adapting Philippine Agriculture to Climate Change.

Boosting farmers’ climate resilience

The 7-year initiative will be supported by a \$26.2M (₱1.4B) GCF grant and \$12.9M (₱710M) in co-financing from the Department of Agriculture (DA), and the Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical, and Astronomical Services Administration (PAGASA) to boost the resilience of climate-vulnerable rural smallholder farmers.

“The initiative will directly benefit 1.25 million rural men and women Filipino farmers by raising their awareness of climate risks and risk-reduction measures, building their capacity to develop enterprises and to access finance and related technologies, and adopting climate-resilient agriculture (CRA) practices,” the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) explained.

According to FAO, innovative CRA practices offer options to help the country respond to the challenges of a changing climate.

“Crop- and system-specific practices, incorporating indigenous food production systems, present viable solutions that increase climate-resilience of and improve food security,” the UN organization said.

“Investments in more integrated farm systems can also reduce farmers’ vulnerability to the climate crisis and incentivize the uptake of CRA,” it added.

The project will help the most vulnerable communities by strengthening the capacities of the government and the private sectors to develop and provide climate information (CIS) effectively.

Aside from aiding rural Filipino farmers to respond to the impacts of the climate crisis, the project also aims to enhance their income-generation capabilities and livelihoods.

It is expected to improve the natural resources and agricultural land that farmers work on based on improved CRA practices and natural resources management, including water management.

More beneficiaries, environmental impact

Aside from supporting the most vulnerable farmers, over 5 million people living in the area that are highly sensitive to climate risk in nine provinces will also benefit indirectly from the collaborative initiative.

The target provinces include Cagayan, Isabela, Apayao, Ifugao, Kalinga, Camarines Norte, Camarines Sure, Bukidnon, and North Cotabato—which experience either increasing or decreasing precipitation, intensified cyclones, and rising temperatures due to climate change.

The project will also focus on women and marginalized indigenous communities’ participation in the widespread adoption of CRA in the country—and that they benefit from it—by providing them access to targeted climate information and technical services for CRA.

“This will be achieved through the complementary bundling of agriculture practices with value chain linkages, appropriate finance and risk transfer, and where possible, the use of innovative emerging mobile technologies,” FAO stated.

“Socially speaking, livelihoods are expected to improve based on increased adaptive capacities within the target communities. This is also expected in the instances of IP

groups, with expected impacts of increased resiliency and adaptive capacities which are sensitive to the traditional and cultural preferences of those communities,” it added.

The initiative will also cut 4.38 metric tons of carbon emissions over 20 years through better land use and climate-friendly agriculture practices.

THE MANILA TIMES

[\[Opinion\] Less food waste means more food security](#)

Filipino households do not consume all the food on their dining tables, and the resulting wastage has grown into a problem that requires serious attention.

This finding is highlighted in the 2018 Expanded National Nutrition Survey conducted by the Department of Science and Technology's Food and Nutrition Research Institute (FNRI).

According to the study, rice, vegetables and meat are the three most wasted foods in Filipino households. The bigger the household, the higher the waste. And rural households squander more food than their urban counterparts.

In terms of income class, households in the highest one-fifth or quintile had a bigger wastage than the poorest quintile.

"This implies that households incur more wastes when higher quantities are purchased, which most probably are not consumed and end up being thrown away due to spoilage," the FNRI noted.

The study reflects a glaring disconnect: millions of Filipinos go hungry every year, but the average Filipino wastes 86 kilograms of food annually. The vast amounts of food that go uneaten and thrown away would have been enough to feed hungry stomachs.

Food waste is a global malaise. By one estimate, as much as 40 percent of food, or 2.5 billion tons, around the world is wasted every year. The wastage is enough to feed 3 billion people.

Food waste impacts the environment as well, and is already recognized as one of the drivers of climate change. Estimates suggest that 8 to 10 percent of greenhouse gas emissions are associated with food that is not consumed.

"The increasing and persistent global demand for food is also driving fertile land useless while contributing to more land degradation and deforestation, which as a result, destroys our precious natural habitats and biodiversity, limiting the services that they provide and disrupting entire ecosystems," according to one study.

The Philippines is struggling with its own food security woes. We ranked 69th among the 119 countries in the Global Hunger Index of 2018, indicating a "serious level of hunger incidence."

Fifteen percent of the population experience "severe food anxiety," the highest rate among five Southeast Asian countries.

Based on monitoring by the World Food Program last year, one out of 10 Philippine households is food insecure. The problem is most acute in the Bangsamoro Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao, Eastern Visayas and Soccsksargen, three of the country's poorest regions.

Addressing food waste must be a multisectoral effort if it is to be effective. The United Nations has made curbing food waste a Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) target. SDG 12.3 aims to cut by half per capita global food waste at the retail and consumer levels, and reduce food losses along production and supply chains by 2030.

In its 2022 State of Food Security and Nutrition in the World report, the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) suggested increasing efforts "to measure food and inedible parts wasted at retail and consumer level and track food waste generation in kilograms per capita at country level."

The World Food Program noted that Filipino households with heads who only had a primary or elementary education "are more likely to be food insecure." That could be a cue for the government to include food security in school curriculums to raise family awareness on managing food needs.

Food manufacturers and dining establishments can do their share by donating surplus food to charitable and social work institutions instead of throwing it out as garbage.

FNRI Director Imelda Angeles-Agdeppa stressed the need for new strategies to focus on reducing plate waste, which is beneficial from a nutritional, economic and environmental point of view.

Training people to prepare and choose less food in terms of portion and meal size reduction and formulating policies on waste reduction could be an effective strategy in preventing additional food waste, Angeles-Agdeppa said.

The FAO is urging governments to rethink how to reallocate their budgets "to make them more cost-effective and efficient in reducing the cost of nutritious foods and

increasing the availability and affordability of healthy diets, sustainably and leaving no one behind."

It will be in the Philippines' best interest to heed FAO's suggestion.

[Opinion] Natural catastrophe insurance rates

By: Michael Rellosa

People may not be aware that there is an ongoing issue on the recent decision of the Insurance Commission to temporarily shelve the implementation of IC Circular 2022-34, dated July 14, 2022, correcting the minimum catastrophe insurance rates from 0.15 percent to 0.2 percent, supposedly to take effect from January 2023. This has been in turn spurred by a congressional inquiry into the reasons behind it.

This threw the industry into an unprecedented crisis relative to the renewal of their reinsurance treaties for the year. The detrimental effects of this temporary suspension, include but are not limited to:

1. The further delay in the technical correction of a rate that has not been reviewed and updated in over a decade. Such a correction will make this class of insurance more sustainable. Scientists and experts the world over have been sounding alarm bells on climate change and the resultant exacerbation of "nat cat" (natural catastrophe) events such as typhoons and floods. Even ordinary weather occurrences such as thunderstorms and monsoon rains can have catastrophic results due to the inordinate quantity of moisture that it can carry and thus the huge amount of rain that it unleashes.

The Philippines is now considered the most vulnerable nation to catastrophic events such as typhoons, floods and earthquakes, the very coverages that nat cat insurance protects against. It may happen that if local insurers are unable to get the protection it needs via reinsurance, then they may be forced not to offer the very protection that the country needs at this point. The government should closely look into this as they are the ultimate risk takers and insurers post-calamity. The government should realize that the insurance industry helps cushion the blow and are its partners if it is allowed to sustainably write this kind of business.

2. It sends a wrong signal to the international reinsurance market on whom the Philippine insurance industry is heavily reliant on. Major reinsurers are correcting their own rates, while we are unable to adjust our own due to the temporary stay of the Insurance Commission. They now view the Philippines as an unsustainable risk, resulting in their imposing higher reinsurance protection costs, or pulling out their facility altogether. As a matter of fact, even the Philippine Catastrophe Insurance Facility so painstakingly cobbled together by the regulators and the industry over several years has been jeopardized. Again, the protection it expects to be able to obtain from the global reinsurance market at prices already using the new adjusted rates are not attracting any takers.

We hope and pray that the congressional inquiry ends soon and that both branches of government, legislative and executive, are on the same page on the need to have ready coverage for nat cat events. A coverage that our populace badly needs in the face of climate change and the exacerbation of the strength and frequency of typhoons and floods, as well as protection against the loss or damage that a major earthquake can bring, bearing in mind our being situated within the Pacific Ring of Fire. We should take notice of such events happening around the world and even in the Philippines. Statistics do not lie and the trends are there for all to see. Such events are increasing, and we must prepare for them. Anything that prolongs the availability of this type of protection puts all our efforts in helping create a resilient Philippines in jeopardy.

I end with an appeal for an all-of-society approach to addressing this issue. Let us ferret out the truth and see the bigger picture. Let science and the accumulated knowledge of actuaries, mathematicians, underwriters, geologists, hydrologists, climatologists and other experts involved in this, guide us and our decisions. In the end we only have one country, and we all share the desire to protect it and its people going forward.

[US boosts women involvement in clean energy programs](#)

On International Women's Day March 8, the United States government, through the United States Agency for International Development (USAid), announced two new grant projects valued at P37.9 million to boost women's participation in energy resilience, innovation, and security in the Philippines.

USAid Philippines Deputy Mission Director Rebekah Eubanks formally awarded the Women in Energy Leadership, Innovation, and Resilience grant to the Diwata-Women in Resource Development, Inc. and the Women Engineers Network of the Philippine Technological Council, Inc. (PTC) during the Women Champions in Sustainable Climate Solutions Forum held on March 8 and 9. More than 100 women leaders, entrepreneurs, and innovators attended the event to exchange ideas and propose solutions that address climate risks.

"Women empowerment and climate change are two pressing issues of our time. They are inextricably intertwined," USAid Philippines Deputy Mission Director Eubanks said. "Climate change exacerbates gender inequalities and developmental gaps. Women have a unique perspective on these issues as they often bear the brunt of climate shocks and stresses."

Diwata-Women in Resource Development, Inc. received P29 million to expand "Tanging Tanglaw: Turning IP Women into Solar Engineers," a program that trains elderly women from indigenous communities to build and maintain solar-powered pump systems to electrify their neighborhoods.

PTC received P8.9 million to implement the "Women Engineers as Instruments for Sustainable Engineering in Renewable Energies (WISER) Project" which will increase the enrollment of girls in renewable energy engineering programs through mentoring, technical seminars, competitions, and renewable energy campaigns in eight cities under the USAid Cities Development Initiative.

"When we talk about sustainable operations, it is not just about transitioning to cleaner energy. It also means opening management positions to women and giving them a voice in the energy transition," ENGIE Services Philippines General Manager Louella Caridad said during the Women Champions in Sustainable Climate Solutions panel discussion.

Through the Energy Secure Philippines Activity, USAid positions women at the forefront of climate action and sustainable energy development in line with its 2022-2030 Climate Strategy.

THE PHILIPPINE STAR

[Circular economy revolution: Paving the way to sustainable business practices in PH](#)

By: Felix Vitangcol

The global economy is facing unprecedented environmental challenges, and the Philippines is no exception. With mounting evidence of the negative impact of climate change and how it is exacerbated by factors such as unsustainable waste management practices, it has become more critical than ever for the business sector to lead the shift toward a more sustainable and circular economy system.

The far-reaching negative consequences of the solid and plastic waste pollution crisis in the Philippines are a severe environmental problem that requires immediate action.

Our waste management system is designed with assumptions of future material demand and consumption much the same as decades ago, where material waste often ends up in landfills. This linear and outdated model forces landfills to function beyond their tolerance levels, eventually polluting the waterways and degrading the soil. In the process, methane gas is emitted in these areas.

This causes severe ecological imbalance, threatening our ecosystems and affecting our daily lives.

Addressing today's plastic and solid waste pollution crisis requires a concerted effort and a systemic thinking approach.

We need to understand that the waste problem is not just an environmental issue, but an economic and social issue as well. The alarming rate of material waste generated, whether or not the waste is plastic, and its inefficient management poses significant threats to the health and well-being of our people and our environment, and the loss of potential revenue streams for industries and the economy.

We need to create a culture of sustainability and circularity in the Philippines.

Our economy needs to shift away from the traditional linear model and toward a more circular system that by design promotes regenerative and restorative practices—keeping resources with potential economic value in use to minimize waste and conserve available resources.

We need to recognize material waste through a lens where they are not just viewed as waste but as a resource that is essential in product manufacturing and other economic and industrial processes.

Integrating a circular economy is not the end-all and be-all solution to plastic waste. It is, however, one of the most feasible and adaptable strategies now. And our country has made a significant stride toward this end, through the passage of the Extended Producers Responsibility (EPR) Act of 2022.

The circular economy is a promising solution, offering a framework for businesses to transform their operations into closed-loop systems that prioritize waste reduction and resource conservation. As a developing country with a vibrant entrepreneurial spirit, the Philippines is uniquely positioned to leverage the opportunities presented by the circular economy and become a leader in sustainable business practices.

Moreover, the Philippines has a chance to become a role model for the world -- a global leader in addressing unsustainable practices in material waste management.

The private sector plays a critical role in implementing circular economy initiatives in the long term. They must understand that they are responsible for reducing their environmental impact and contributing to the well-being of the communities in which they operate. By adopting circular economy principles, companies can save money, reduce waste, and create new opportunities for economic development and job creation, especially in the waste management and recycling sectors.

A nationwide change in waste management has yet to be witnessed, but the private sector has already reinvented itself to better address its operations' waste generation and environmental footprint. Companies have even gone beyond mere corporate social responsibility (CSR) to address our communities' waste problems.

For example, Coca-Cola Philippines, with its World Without Waste Program and PETValue facility, a state-of-the-art end-to-end bottle recycling facility in Cavite, aims to collect PET bottles from various cities and recycle them for reuse in their bottle production.

Mondelez Philippines has partnered with civil society organizations to collect post-consumer plastic packaging and recycle them in disaster relief shelters which they will donate to various local communities. Other collected post-consumer plastic wastes are also used as co-fueling ingredients for cement manufacturing.

Unilever Philippines has teamed up with various local governments to collect flexible plastic waste for recycling. The company also conducts an information and education campaign to help households build the habit of segregating their waste.

Similarly, e-waste heavy telecommunication companies such as Globe Telecom, Inc. collect discarded electronic devices which are then processed by their recycling partner. Proceeds from this program are used to help public schools with their communication needs.

Embedding a culture of recycling and responsible waste management has been the thrust of PLDT and SMART along with its decarbonization roadmap aimed at reducing greenhouse gas emissions by around 40% by 2030.

Although private sector participation is imperative, strategically integrating and adopting circular systems in the Philippines will require government support and implementation of data-driven and science-based policies and agendas. The national government must play a leading role in harmonizing often disjointed national and local policies that serve as barriers to enabling a circular and business-conducive environment.

The primary responsibility of addressing our communities' waste management lies with the government. However, with the competing national and local concerns and priorities, the government encounters difficulty in providing adequate systems and mechanisms to control waste generation and possible alternative streams of waste management. Similarly, households' and individuals' indifferent behavior toward managing waste poses an even bigger problem for the government.

The transition to a circular economy is not easy and requires a long-term vision and commitment from all stakeholders. It requires a change in mindset, behavior, and systems. However, the potential benefits of the circular economy are enormous, and they go beyond waste reduction and environmental protection.

The Philippines, with its rich biodiversity, growing economy, and enterprising spirit, has a unique opportunity to lead the way in adopting circular economy principles and frameworks. By integrating these concepts into business models, policy-making agendas, and stakeholder initiatives, we can address the unsustainable and inefficient solid and plastic waste pollution that threatens our environment and communities.

CCC IN THE NEWS:

JOURNAL ONLINE

[Regional Dialogue Promotes Actions to Address Climate-Security Risks in the BARMM, Philippines](#)

The UN International Organization for Migration (IOM), together with the Government of the United Kingdom (UK), concluded a two-day regional dialogue on “Exploring the Nexus of Climate Change, Conflict and Human Mobility and the Lived Experiences of the Bangsamoro.”

The event marked a key milestone of the project that, for the very first time in the Bangsamoro Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (BARMM), sought to establish evidence on the interlinkages between climate change, conflict and human mobility, and aimed to strengthen socioeconomic resilience of Bangsamoro communities to climate-related security risks.

During the event, key findings were presented from the participatory action research conducted through the project and commissioned through the Mindanao Peoples Caucus (MPC), to better understand the effects of climate change to people’s lives in conflict-prone communities and their coping capacity to its impacts.

“Climate change and its impact on security, human mobility, displacement, job insecurity and many other pressing issues should, just as other vital matters, be given the required attention and resources,” said Alistair White, the Deputy Head of Mission of the British Embassy in the Philippines, highlighting the importance of the research in raising awareness and driving collective efforts to address climate-related security risks.

“While climate change exacerbates conflict, conflict in turn prevents people from successfully coping with climate change — that’s why slow onset climate change is difficult to quantify and therefore address. It is our role to fill in that gap in understanding how conflict affects people’s social and economic vulnerability to the impact of climate change,” said Narciso Jover Jr, research team leader of MPC. “It is exceedingly necessary for government and humanitarian actors to keep at pace with the steady and multi-faceted ramifications of climate change and its consequential impacts on the economic and sociocultural life in the Bangsamoro region.”

The event brought together various stakeholders from key BARMM Ministries, Bangsamoro Parliament, local governments, and civil society organizations at an opportune time as the BARMM underscored climate change action as a priority agenda

in the 2nd Bangsamoro Development Plan 2023-2028 and steps up its efforts to tackle relevant challenges.

The event provided an opportunity for participants to discuss the research recommendations and formulate action points to address climate-related security risks, including the impact of climatic changes and ongoing conflict on agriculture and fisheries — one of BARMM’s largest industries — which threaten the climate-sensitive livelihoods of farmers and fishers. The discussion led to the climate’s role in worsening food insecurity in the region which in turn exacerbates protracted poverty, forcing families to consider migration as a last resort. This displacement from their communities and cultural roots increases their risk of human trafficking in their search for better jobs outside their places of origin.

The dialogue highlighted the need for a concerted and comprehensive effort from all sectors to respond to these interlinked issues. Mary Ann Arnado, a member of the BARMM Parliament, said that we need to “acknowledge and wake up to the new reality that we are in a climate emergency” without which we will remain in “a vicious cycle and all our interventions will not be cost effective. We need to retool, we need to study, we need to read more and look at other experiences in other areas so that we will be more equipped in dealing with this.” Parliament member Tawakal Midtimbang also affirmed the commitment of the BARMM Parliament to craft legislation through the Committee on Environment. “To my fellow Members of Parliament, I challenge us to develop an environmental code and file bills to solve climate change,” he said.

Carol Kay Paquera of the Climate Change Commission discussed the Philippines’ Republic Act 10174 which established the People’s Survival Fund “to finance adaptation projects aimed at increasing resiliency of communities and ecosystems to climate change,” a critical step in addressing the climate crisis.

Rasid Sabpa, Assistant Municipal Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Officer of the Municipality of Shariff Aguak, shared their appreciation of the dialogue event. “We are able to identify additional possible interventions that we can add to our local climate change action plans, which will help mitigate the effects of climate change and conflict in our community. This requires the support of our local chief executive and active participation and involvement of the constituents to ensure that it is implemented at the local level,” he said.

“The active participation of the stakeholders not only facilitated the crucial exchange of knowledge and skills but also helped shape the way forward to guide BARMM governments and communities in instituting climate mitigation and adaptation strategies in the context of conflict,” said Michael Dumamba, Head of the Emergency and Post-Crisis Unit of IOM Philippines. “I hope that the event inspired everyone to take

further action that can transcend to achieving sustainable peace and development in the BARMM,” continued Dumamba.

PHILIPPINE NEWS AGENCY

[CCC, French embassy to boost dev't cooperation on climate action](#)

MANILA – The Climate Change Commission (CCC) and the Embassy of France to the Philippines and Micronesia have expressed commitment to strengthen partnership and development cooperation on climate action.

CCC Vice Chair and Executive Director (VCED) Robert E.A. Borje received French Ambassador to the Philippines, H.E. Michele Boccoz, and exchanged priorities and strategies for implementing local climate action.

“We express our gratitude to the government of France and the French Development Agency (AFD) for supporting the Philippines in implementing policy initiatives and sustainable solutions to address major climate and environmental challenges in the country,” Borje said in a news release on Thursday.

Among the priorities of CCC and French Embassy is the development and updating of risk-informed Local Climate Change Action Plans (LCCAPs) by local government units.

Through AFD’s ongoing technical support, LGUs will be provided with capacity development and enhancement activities, as well as tools which are useful in the formulation and updating of LCCAPs.

“AFD will continuously provide necessary assistance to the CCC in policy formulation and updating, as well as in enhancing local capacities on LCCAP development towards improved climate resilience,” Boccoz said.

As of March 2, 1,399 or 81.57 percent of the 1,715 LGUs had submitted their LCCAPs to the CCC. Currently, the LCCAP Quality Assurance Mechanism is being developed based on guidelines set by CCC and DILG.

Following the Philippines Country Climate and Development Report (CCDR) by the World Bank Group, both officials explored other possible areas of collaboration aligned with the priorities specified in Chapter 15 of the Philippine Development Plan 2023-2028, such as the updating of the National Framework Strategy on Climate Change (NFSCC) and the Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC).

The NFSCC and the NDC are policies and frameworks which serve as basis of local climate action plans.

Consistent with the pronouncements of President Ferdinand R. Marcos, Jr. on strengthening cooperation with allied countries and development partners, the CCC institutionalized a contact group called “ENACT: Empowering Nurtured Alliance for Climate Action and Transformation.”

ENACT will serve as a platform among CCC, embassies and development partners to discuss, collaborate, and collectively implement investment-led transformative climate action. (PNA)

CCC welcomes \$26.3-M grant to make transform PH agri sector

MANILA – The “Adapting Philippine Agriculture to Climate Change (APA)” secured approval for a grant of USD26.3 million from the Green Climate Fund (GCF) to increase the resilience of rural agriculture men and women in climate vulnerable areas and transform the country’s agriculture sector towards climate resilience.

The APA project is a submission by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), with the Department of Agriculture (DA) and the Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration (PAGASA) as executing entities.

“We welcome the decision of the GCF Board to approve the APA Project, which will be instrumental in building the capacity of our farming communities, as well as of the government and private sector, to understand and manage climate risks and adopt climate resilient agriculture (CRA) practices,” CCC Vice Chair and Executive Director Robert E.A. Borje said in a news release on Thursday.

Domestic resources amounting to USD12.98 million will be used to co-finance the project, putting the total project value at USD39.3 million. The project will cater to at least nine provinces in five regions namely Cagayan Valley, Bicol, Northern Mindanao, Soccksargen, and Cordillera).

The project will have three main outcomes: increased institutional capacities for the development and provision of climate information and CRA services; farmers (female/male) adopt CRA through CRA enterprises; and enabling environment for mainstreaming and scaling up CRA.

At least 1.25 million poor farming household members (half of whom are women) are expected to directly benefit as farmers improve awareness of risks and risk reduction measures and incorporate climate-resilient and low emission technologies into agricultural practices. Over 5 million people living in the area will also benefit indirectly from enhanced information systems and strengthened institutional capacity that will create an enabling environment to promote the widespread adoption of CRA.

“High impact, climate-resilient agriculture initiatives such as the APA, have potential to significantly contribute in the country’s socio-economic development, while enhancing adaptive capacities of our agricultural systems to climate change,” Borje said.

APA will be implemented this year until 2030 and is expected to reduce 1.86 metric tons of carbon dioxide equivalent (MtCO₂e) over 20 years as a result of application of CRA practices and better land use.

“We look forward to the implementation of the APA Project, which will certainly benefit Filipino farming communities living in vulnerable areas in the country. This is one critical project that can further enable our agriculture sector's transformation towards

sustainability and resilience,” CCC Commissioner Rachel Anne Herrera, who was former GCF Board Member, said.

The project was approved by the GCF Board at its 35th Meeting in Songdo, Korea from 13 March 2023 and scheduled to end today, 16 March 2023.

The Philippines is currently part of the GCF Board, represented by the Department of Finance (DOF).

“We thank the DOF for pushing our national and global climate agenda forward through its representation and work in the GCF Board,” Borje said.

For more information on Green Climate Fund, visit the CCC website at <https://www.climate.gov.ph>. (PNA)

[CCC calls for urgent delivery of global pledge on climate action](#)

MANILA – The Climate Change Commission (CCC) has called for urgent delivery of global commitment on climate action, particularly the funding for climate-related loss and damage, at the 18th Meeting of the Warsaw International Mechanism Executive Committee (WIM EXCOM-18) in Manila.

Following the 27th Meeting of the Conference of Parties (COP-27) to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), the WIM EXCOM convened on Feb. 28 to discuss the milestone decision on funding arrangements for loss and damage, the enabling mechanisms to fully operationalize the Santiago Network and the EXCOM's second five-year rolling workplan.

CCC vice chair and executive director Robert Borje recognized the effort of the WIM based on the mandates from the UNFCCC and COP, and encouraged the EXCOM and observers to further fast-track the work on loss and damage agenda.

“There is still a lot of work ahead of us. We need to deliver on our mandates and our roles more urgently and collectively to transform developing countries’ vulnerabilities and loss and damage to greater climate resilience,” Borje said in a news release on Sunday.

He said it is important that the WIM EXCOM should further advance the gains achieved in Sharm el-Sheikh, Egypt in terms of separate funding facility for loss and damage.

“The EXCOM is expected to provide input to the work of the Transitional Committee. This, to us, provides the Committee with the singular opportunity and the great responsibility to ensure the mainstreaming of action of support strategies under the second five-year rolling work plan adopted by the parties at COP27,” he added.

The WIM EXCOM welcomed the participation of observers in the meeting, in which the Philippines engaged actively.

Among the Philippines’ observations were on the work of the WIM with other UNFCCC constituted bodies and operating entities of the financial mechanisms, the EXCOM's workplan, the comprehensive risk management approaches, and the facilitation and cooperation on action and support for developing countries.

In particular, the CCC highlighted the need for the best available science and best available technology to guide the work on averting, minimizing and addressing loss and damage.

“It is through the best available science and technology, governance, and investments that we can advance our transformation towards becoming climate-smart and climate-resilient nations,” Borje said.

CCC emphasized that state-of-the-art methodologies for comprehensive risk assessments is crucial as these will ensure that climate actions are science- and evidence-based and fit-for-purpose.

In this case, the Santiago Network for Loss and Damage must be immediately and fully operationalized.

Santiago Network aims to catalyze the provision of technical assistance, knowledge, and resources for developing countries, in addition to developed countries' commitments to action and support.

The Philippines, through the DENR, co-hosted the WIM EXCOM with the UNFCCC Secretariat.

DENR Secretary Ma. Antonia Yulo-Loyzaga welcomed the members of the WIM EXCOM.

“We thank the UNFCCC Secretariat for holding the WIM EXCOM-18 in the Philippines, the first Executive Meeting outside Bonn (in Germany), and first meeting to discuss the COP27 breakthrough decision relating to funding arrangements responding to loss and damage,” Loyzaga said.

The Philippines has been actively engaged in the international discussion on loss and damage.

From informal consultations, negotiations, Pre-COP events, to the COP27 proper, the Philippines, with the Group of 77 and China, pushed for dedicated space to discuss funding arrangements for loss and damage -- now the COP27 breakthrough agreement.

In the lead up to COP28, the CCC is working on the formulation and updating of national positions on critical issues, including loss and damage, in coordination with Department of Foreign Affairs, DENR, Department of Energy, Department of Agriculture, Department of Finance, National Economic Development Authority, and relevant government agencies and stakeholders.

The COP28 will be hosted by Dubai, United Arab Emirates on Nov. 30 to Dec. 12.

For more information on the CCC's climate mainstreaming activities, visit www.climate.gov.ph and www.facebook.com/CCCPhl. (PNA)

POLITIKO

Climate Change Commission opens nomination for PSF sectoral reps

By Prince Golez

The Climate Change Commission (CCC) has opened the nomination and selection process for new sectoral representatives to the People's Survival Fund (PSF) Board.

The new sectoral representatives will be coming from the academic and scientific community, business sector, and non-government organization (NGO), the CCC said in a press statement.

The PSF Board manages and administers the PSF, which is established to provide long-stream finance for climate change adaptation projects of local government units.

The nominees must:

- be a citizen and resident of the Philippines for at least two years immediately prior to their nomination;
- have at least seven years of proven experience, exposure, and participation in research and development, climate change adaptation and mitigation, and other climate change-related activities;
- have at least three years of experience in program/project development and evaluation;
- not been selected as a sectoral representative to the PSF Board, pursuant to Section 4 of the Implementing Rules and Regulations of the Climate Change Act; and
- be a person with known probity, integrity, and good moral character.

The nominees will be chosen based on their competence, experience, and integrity.

Upon selection, the representatives shall serve for a term of three years starting from the date of the first PSF Board Meeting they attended, without reappointment.

Representatives are also barred from accessing the Fund both during and after their term.

The deadline of submission of nominations is on April 19, 2023.

The PSF Board is chaired by the Secretary of the Department of Finance with the Vice Chairperson of the CCC, Secretary of the Department of Budget and Management, Director-General of the National Economic and Development Authority, Secretary of the Department of the Interior and Local Government, Chairperson of the Philippine

Commission on Women, and sectoral representatives from the academic and scientific community, the business sector, and non-governmental organizations, as members.

Nominations and inquiries should be directed to the CCC's PSF Unit via psf@climate.gov.ph.

[Climate Change Commission lauds P1.4B grant to APA project](#)

By Prince Golez

The Climate Change Commission (CCC) welcomed the decision of the Green Climate Fund (GCF) to approve the grant US\$26.3 million to the “Adapting Philippine Agriculture to Climate Change” (APA) project.

The APA aims to improve the resilience of rural agriculture men and women in climate-vulnerable areas and transform the country’s agriculture sector to be more climate resilient.

In a press release, CCC Vice Chair and Executive Director Robert Borje said the project will help farming communities, as well as the government and private sector, understand and manage climate risks and adopt climate resilient agriculture (CRA) practices.

Domestic resources totaling US\$12.98 million will be used to co-finance the project, bringing the total project value to US\$39.3 million.

The project will serve at least nine provinces in five regions, namely Regions II, V, X, and XII and Cordillera.

The project will have three (3) main outcomes:

- * Increased institutional capacities for the development and provision of climate information and CRA services
- * Farmers (female/male) adopt CRA through CRA enterprises; and
- * Enabling Environment for mainstreaming and scaling up CRA.

“At least 1.25 million poor farming household members are expected to directly benefit as farmers improve awareness of risks and risk reduction measures and incorporate climate-resilient and low emission technologies into agricultural practices,” the CCC said.

“Over five million people living in the area will also benefit indirectly from enhanced information systems and strengthened institutional capacity that will create an enabling environment to promote the widespread adoption of CRA,” it added.

According to Borje, high impact, climate-resilient agriculture initiatives like the APA may significantly contribute to the country’s socioeconomic development while also improving agricultural systems’ adaptive capacities to climate change.

APA will be implemented this year until 2030 and will reduce 1.86 metric tons of carbon dioxide equivalent over a 20-year period as a result of CRA practices and better land use.

The APA project, a submission by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, with the Department of Agriculture and the Department of Science and Technology-PAGASA as executing entities, was approved by the GCF Board during its 35th Meeting in Songdo, Korea on March 13, 2023.

The Philippines is currently part of the GCF Board, represented by the Department of Finance.

[CCC calls for urgent delivery of climate commitments](#)

By Prince Golez

The Climate Change Commission (CCC) called for urgent delivery of global commitment on climate action, particularly the funding for climate-related loss and damage.

“There is still a lot of work ahead of us; we need to deliver on our mandates and our roles more urgently and collectively to transform developing countries’ vulnerabilities and loss and damage to greater climate resilience,” said Vice Chair and Executive Director Robert Borje at the 18th meeting of the Warsaw International Mechanism Executive Committee (WIM EXCOM-18) in Manila.

The WIM EXCOM recently met to discuss the decision on funding arrangements for loss and damage, the enabling mechanisms to fully operationalize the Santiago Network, and the EXCOM’s second five-year rolling workplan.

Borje recognized the WIM’s efforts based on the mandates from the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and Conference of the Parties (COP), and encouraged the EXCOM and observers to expedite the work on loss and damage agenda.

“It is important that this WIM EXCOM should further advance the gains achieved in Sharm el-Sheikh in terms of separate funding facility for loss and damage. The EXCOM is expected to provide input to the work of the Transitional Committee,” the CCC chief said.

“This, to us, provides the Committee with the singular opportunity and the great responsibility to ensure the mainstreaming of action of support strategies under the second 5-year rolling work plan adopted by the parties at COP27,” he added.

The WIM EXCOM welcomed observers to the meeting, in which the Philippines actively participated.

Among the observation made by the Philippines were those on the work of the WIM with other UNFCCC constituted bodies and operating entities of the financial mechanisms, the EXCOM’s workplan, comprehensive risk management approaches, and facilitation and cooperation on action and support for developing countries.

The CCC also highlighted the need for best available science and technology to guide efforts to prevent, minimize, and address loss and damage.

“It is through the best available science and technology, governance, and investments that we can advance our transformation towards becoming climate-smart and climate-resilient nations,” said Borje.

The use of state-of-the-art methodologies for comprehensive risk assessments, he added, is crucial as these assessments will ensure that climate actions are scientifically sound and functional.

“In this case, the Santiago Network for Loss and Damage must be immediately and fully operationalized,” according to the CCC.

The Santiago Network aims to catalyze the provision of technical assistance, knowledge, and resources to developing countries, in addition to developed countries’ commitments to action and support.

THE MANILA TIMES

[CCC seeks funding for climate-related damage](#)

By Philippine News Agency

THE Climate Change Commission (CCC) has called for the urgent delivery of global commitment on climate action, particularly the funding for climate-related loss and damage, at the 18th Meeting of the Warsaw International Mechanism Executive Committee (WIM Excom-18) in Manila.

Following the 27th Meeting of the Conference of Parties (COP27) to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), the WIM Excom convened on February 28 to discuss the milestone decision on funding arrangements for loss and damage, the enabling mechanisms to fully operationalize the Santiago Network and the Excom's second five-year rolling workplan.

CCC Vice Chairman and Executive Director Robert Borje recognized the effort of the WIM based on the mandates from the UNFCCC and COP, and encouraged the Excom and observers to further fast-track the work on the loss and damage agenda.

"There is still a lot of work ahead of us. We need to deliver on our mandates and our roles more urgently and collectively to transform developing countries' vulnerabilities and loss and damage to greater climate resilience," Borje said in a statement on Sunday.

He said it is important that the WIM Excom should further advance the gains achieved in Sharm el-Sheikh, Egypt in terms of a separate funding facility for loss and damage.

"The Excom is expected to provide input to the work of the Transitional Committee. This, to us, provides the committee with the singular opportunity and the great responsibility to ensure the mainstreaming of action of support strategies under the second five-year rolling work plan adopted by the parties at COP27," he added.

The WIM Excom welcomed the participation of observers in the meeting, in which the Philippines engaged actively.

Among the Philippines' observations were on the work of the WIM with other UNFCCC constituted bodies and operating entities of the financial mechanisms, the Excom's work plan, the comprehensive risk management approaches, and the facilitation and cooperation on action and support for developing countries.

In particular, the CCC highlighted the need for the best available science and best available technology to guide the work on averting, minimizing and addressing loss and damage.

"It is through the best available science and technology, governance, and investments that we can advance our transformation towards becoming climate-smart and climate-resilient nations," Borje said.

CCC emphasized that state-of-the-art methodologies for comprehensive risk assessments are crucial, as these will ensure that climate actions are science- and evidence-based and fit-for-purpose.

The Philippines has been actively engaged in the international discussion on loss and damage.

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