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AL JAZEERA

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BBC NEWS

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By: Matt McGrath and Georgina Rannard

UN chief Antonio Guterres says a major new report on climate change is a "survival guide for humanity".

BUSINESS WORLD

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By: Raymond Abrea

The fashion industry is notorious for its adverse impact not only on the environment, but also on human rights and animal welfare. Studies show that the fashion industry contributed at least 4% of global greenhouse gas emissions, while others peg the figures as high as 10%. On human rights, studies also note that the fashion industry was "plagued by poor wages and excessive overtime to fatally unsafe conditions, child labor and modern slavery." Animals are not spared either, as the animals used in the textile industry are usually subject to inadequate living conditions, painful mutilations, long-term mental stress, poor breeding choices, and more.

CNN

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By: Laura Paddison

The world is rapidly approaching catastrophic levels of heating with international climate goals set to slip out of reach unless immediate and radical action is taken, according to a new UN-backed report.

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By: Rosie Frost

Governments gave their blessing on Sunday to a major new UN 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.

INSURANCE BUSINESS ASIA

[Philippines now most vulnerable nation to nat cat events – insurance boss](#)

By: Kenneth Araullo

The Philippines is now the most vulnerable nation to catastrophic events, according to a local insurer president. This standing, according to his insights, is one of the effects of the suspension of a Philippine Insurance Commission (IC) circular that was supposed to correct minimum catastrophe rates for insurers in the country.

MONGABAY

[IPCC warns of ‘last chance’ to limit climate change via drastic emissions cuts](#)

By: John Cannon

Humans must make “deep, rapid, and sustained” cuts to greenhouse gas emissions to avoid the worst effects of climate change, according to the United Nations’ Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC).

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

[DOE to bid out 11,000-MW renewable energy capacity](#)

By: Meg J. Adonis

MANILA, Philippines – The Department of Energy (DOE) eyes to auction off more than 11,000 megawatts (MW) of renewable energy capacity for the next three years under its second Green Energy Auction Program, an official said on Monday.

[Legarda underlines digital revolution’s impact on gender equality and climate crisis](#)

By: Dennis Gutierrez

As the world celebrates International Women’s Day, Senate President Pro Tempore Loren Legarda underscored the impact of digital innovation in promoting gender equality and women empowerment, as she also recognizes the women’s role in the global fight against the climate crisis.

PHILIPPINE NEWS AGENCY

[3 DPWH projects to protect Aurora coastal villagers from flood](#)

By: Zorayda Tecson

The Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH) has completed the construction of three flood mitigation projects in coastal communities of Aurora province that will protect residents during typhoon season.

RAPPLER

[‘Climate time bomb ticking,’ emissions must urgently be cut – UN chief](#)

By: Reuters

United Nations Secretary General Antonio Guterres warned that the “climate time bomb is ticking” as he urged rich nations on Monday, March 20, to slash emissions sooner after a new assessment from scientists said there was little time to lose in tackling climate change.

SUNSTAR

[Interconnection of climate change, human mobility in Barmm discussed in MPC regional dialogue](#)

The Mindanao Peoples Caucus (MPC) in partnership with the International Organization for Migration (IOM) Philippines organized a two-day Regional Dialogue and Training Workshop in Exploring the Nexus of Climate Change, and Human Mobility and the Lived Experiences of the Bangsamoro last March 17 and 18 at the Eden Nature Park and Resort in Davao City.

THE NEW YORK TIMES

[World Has Less Than a Decade to Stop Catastrophic Warming, U.N. Panel Says](#)

By: Brad Plummer

Earth is likely to cross a critical threshold for global warming within the next decade, and nations will need to make an immediate and drastic shift away from fossil fuels to prevent the planet from overheating dangerously beyond that level, according to a major new report released on Monday.

THE PHILIPPINE STAR

[Clean air advocate pushes for policy-oriented methods to reduce carbon emission](#)

Non-governmental organization and climate advocate Clean Air Asia is urging the implementation of policy-oriented methods to help elevate the air quality in the Asia-Pacific region, pointing out that the Philippines' air quality does not meet the standards of the World Health Organization (WHO).

[Lawyers, environmentalists demand transparency from gov't, firms behind oil spill](#)

By: Gaea Katreena Cabico

The government and the companies responsible for the oil spill in Oriental Mindoro should be completely transparent about the incident's impacts and the actions being done to mitigate the disaster, lawyers and environment advocates said.

[UN 'survival guide' report a stark warning on climate](#)

By: Kelly Macnamara

Devastating climate impacts are hitting faster than expected as the world teeters on reaching the 1.5 degree Celsius warming limit in a little over a decade, the UN said Monday.

CCC IN THE NEWS:

MANILA BULLETIN

[PH gets \\$26.3-M grant for climate resilient agri project](#)

By: Argyll Cyrus Geducos

The Philippines has secured approval for a grant of US\$26.3 million from the Green Climate Fund (GCF) to increase the resilience of rural agriculture in climate-vulnerable areas and to transform the country's agriculture sector towards climate resilience.

Information and Knowledge Management Division

AL JAZEERA

[UN calls for rapid, ambitious action to tackle climate crisis](#)

The world has the tools to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and to secure a sustainable future if more ambitious actions are taken, a United Nations report has said, noting that actions taken so far are not enough to tackle the growing threats posed by climate change.

A UN panel of scientists stressed in a synthesis report on Monday that there are multiple, feasible and effective options to adapt to climate change.

“Mainstreaming effective and equitable climate action will not only reduce losses and damages for nature and people, it will also provide wider benefits,” said Hoesung Lee, chair of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), in a statement.

The report “underscores the urgency of taking more ambitious action and shows that, if we act now, we can still secure a liveable sustainable future for all”, he added.

The IPCC is a UN body that brings together leading scientists to assess the evidence related to climate change and inform political leaders with periodic scientific assessments. The IPCC’s first main scientific input was delivered in 2014, which paved the way a year later for the Paris Agreement – a landmark international treaty on climate change.

Monday’s so-called synthesis report summarises the findings of several previous IPCC assessments and comes after a week of deliberations in Interlaken, Switzerland.

The report said that carbon emissions need to be cut by almost half by 2030 if global warming is to be limited to 1.5 degrees Celsius.

Effective and equitable conservation of about 30-50 percent of the world’s land, freshwater and ocean will help ensure a healthy world, it added.

It is also key to prioritise risk reduction for low-income and marginalised communities, read the report, highlighting the need to finance poorer nations that are the most vulnerable to climate change despite producing less greenhouse gas emissions compared with industrialised countries.

It said that from 2010-2020, human mortality from floods, droughts and storms was 15 times higher in regions that were highly vulnerable to climate change, compared with regions with very low vulnerability.

In 2018, the IPCC underscored unprecedented difficulties in keeping the temperature rise below 1.5 degrees Celsius. But five years later, that “challenge has become even greater due to a continued increase in greenhouse gas emissions”, the report said.

“The pace and scale of what has been done so far, and current plans, are insufficient to tackle climate change,” it added.

‘Not all bad news’

Peter Newman – professor of sustainability at Curtin University in Perth, Australia, and a coordinating author of past UN climate reports – noted, however, that it is not all bad news, as some real changes are taking place.

“The net-zero funding from the finance world is reaching through into cities and regions in ways I have not seen before,” Newman told Al Jazeera, adding that in his 10 years with the IPCC, he has never seen such an uptake of sustainable solutions such as renewable batteries and electric vehicles.

“We should be celebrating the fact that the opportunities are now there [for getting away from fossil fuels], but at the same time [we should be] recognising that is going to be a very big exercise to move the whole world down this trail,” he said.

Helping countries in the developing world to tackle climate catastrophes was the focus of another key summit on climate change held in the Egyptian city of Sharm el-Sheikh in November of last year.

After two weeks of talks, nearly 200 nations agreed at the COP27 conference to establish a fund for “loss and damage” for developing countries to bear the costs of climate-related events. However, Newman noted, the countries failed to take any commitments to reduce dependency on fossil fuels – the main driver of global warming.

“This world needs to change rapidly, from the developed world getting rid of that greenhouse gas and the developing world preparing for more disasters because there will be more,” Newman said.

UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres urged rich countries to speed up their effort and try to reach carbon neutrality by 2040 instead of 2050 to “defuse the climate time bomb”.

“Humanity is on thin ice – and that ice is melting fast,” Guterres said in a video message after the release of the IPCC report.

BBC NEWS

[UN climate report: Scientists release 'survival guide' to avert climate disaster](#)

By: Matt McGrath and Georgina Rannard

UN chief Antonio Guterres says a major new report on climate change is a "survival guide for humanity".

Clean energy and technology can be exploited to avoid the growing climate disaster, the report says.

But at a meeting in Switzerland to agree their findings, climate scientists warned a key global temperature goal will likely be missed.

Their report lays out how rapid cuts to fossil fuels can avert the worst effects of climate change.

In response to the findings, UN secretary general Antonio Guterres says that all countries should bring forward their net zero plans by a decade. These targets are supposed to rapidly cut the greenhouse gas emissions that warm our planet's atmosphere.

"There is a rapidly closing window of opportunity to secure a liveable and sustainable future for all," the report states.

Governments had previously agreed to act to avoid global temperature rise going above 1.5C. But the world has already warmed by 1.1C and now experts say that it is likely to breach 1.5C in the 2030s.

The UK government responded that the report makes it clear that countries must "work towards far more ambitious climate commitments" ahead of the UN climate summit COP28 in November.

"The UK is a world leader in working towards net zero, but we need to go further and faster," a spokesperson said.

Small islands in the Pacific are some of the countries expected to be worst hit by climate change.

Responding to the report, the chair of the Alliance of Small Island States Fatumanava-o-Upolu III Dr. Pa'olelei Luteru said: "While our people are being displaced

from their homes and climate commitments go unmet, the fossil fuel industry is enjoying billions in profits. There can be no excuses for this continued lack of action."

The report from the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change - the scientific body that advises the UN on rising temperatures - is agreed on by all governments involved.

Their new study aims to boil down to one slim volume several landmark findings on the causes, impacts and solutions to climate change that have been released since 2018.

It outlines the significant impacts that climate change is having on the world already, and explains that these will get much worse.

By 2100 extreme coastal flooding that used to happen once-a-century is expected to occur at least annually in half of the world's tidal gauge locations - places where sea level recordings are made.

Concentrations of the warming gas CO₂ in the atmosphere are at their highest in 2 million years. The world is now warmer than at any time in the past 125,000 years - and will likely get warmer still over the next decade.

"Even in the near term, global warming is more likely than not to reach 1.5C even under the very low greenhouse gas scenario," the report states.

"If we aim for 1.5C and achieve 1.6C, that is still much much better than saying, it's too late, and we are doomed and I'm not even trying," Dr Friederike Otto, from Imperial College, a member of the core writing team for this report, told BBC News.

"And I think what this report shows very, very clearly is there is so much to win by trying."

The synthesis shows that projected emissions of CO₂ from existing fossil fuel infrastructure, such as oil wells and gas pipelines, would bust the remaining carbon budget - the amount of CO₂ that can still be emitted - for staying under this key temperature threshold.

And while not explicitly mentioning new projects like Willow oil in the US or the Cumbria coal mine in the UK, the scientists involved have few doubts about their impact.

"There's not a cut-off day (for fossil fuels), but it's clear that the fossil fuel infrastructure we already have will blow through that carbon budget," Dr Oliver Geden, from the

German Institute for International and Security Affairs and a member of the report's core writing team, told BBC News.

"The remaining carbon budget in opening new fossil fuel infrastructure is certainly not compatible with the 1.5C target."

The document argues strongly that going past 1.5C will not be the end of the world as this may only be a "temporary overshoot".

The authors say that they are optimistic that dramatic changes can be achieved rapidly, pointing to the massive falls in the price of energy made from solar and wind.

They also argue that changes driven by consumers in terms of diet, food waste and switching to low carbon transport can achieve significant cuts in emissions from many sectors.

But the report also acknowledges that in addition to getting to net zero emissions as soon as possible, large scale use of carbon dioxide removal technology will be needed.

Some observers have their doubts. "We know what needs to happen, but the carbon removal part and carbon capture and storage ideas are a massive distraction," said Lili Fuhr, from the Centre for International Environmental Law, who attended the approval session.

Responding to the report's call for more urgent action, the UN secretary general is calling for countries to bring forward their plans for net zero by a decade.

"Leaders of developed countries must commit to reaching net zero as close as possible to 2040, the limit they should all aim to respect," he said in a statement. He also calls on the likes of India and China who have announced net zero plans for beyond 2050 to try and bring them forward by a decade as well.

BUSINESS WORLD

[Opinion] Tax incentives for sustainable and ethical fashion

By: Raymond Abrea

The fashion industry is notorious for its adverse impact not only on the environment, but also on human rights and animal welfare. Studies show that the fashion industry contributed at least 4% of global greenhouse gas emissions, while others peg the figures as high as 10%. On human rights, studies also note that the fashion industry was “plagued by poor wages and excessive overtime to fatally unsafe conditions, child labor and modern slavery.” Animals are not spared either, as the animals used in the textile industry are usually subject to inadequate living conditions, painful mutilations, long-term mental stress, poor breeding choices, and more.

These adverse impacts can be stopped if only these businesses adopt more sustainable initiatives. The problem, however, is becoming sustainable comes with several costs.

COSTS OF SUSTAINABILITY

The first step in arriving at a strategic investment package is to identify the several costs involved in the production and selling of a fashion brand. There are concepts that are common to all businesses, such as direct costs and indirect costs, but there are certain concepts that have a certain meaning when discussing sustainability. For example, the concept of return on investment (ROI) when talking sustainability means the additional profit that a company would generate from going green over the total investment and expenses which they will incur in making their products more sustainable and ethical.

Another example would be an opportunity cost which, in this particular context, would mean the foregone benefits or revenues in choosing to invest in sustainability as opposed to not doing so. This may include the cost of investment that would have been used to produce more products, the additional costs or expenses that would have been part of the profit margin, and in case it would result in an increase in selling price, the lost revenue from customers who opted to buy cheaper brands or stocks.

Given the cost consideration that a business in the fashion industry incurs, one can arrive at a more strategic option to address the issue of sustainability. The goal here would be to show that the incremental benefits of discontinuing these unethical practices (e.g., labor exploitation, animal cruelty, etc.) far outweigh the benefits of choosing the status quo.

WHY SHOULD THE FASHION INDUSTRY BE SUSTAINABLE?

The main, altruistic reason would be that becoming more sustainable would address climate change as a whole. Presently, the goal of the international community is to lower global warming to no more than 1.5 degrees Celsius, and the fashion industry must play its part to achieve that goal as well. Studies have shown that failing to achieve that target would lead to long-lasting and irreversible effects, such as the loss of some ecosystems.

The same reasoning could be extended to why the fashion industry should end its human and animal rights violations.

Of course, even outside the common goal of addressing global warming, businesses in the fashion industry will have to face financial or fiscal constraints for embracing sustainable change.

For one, it is more expensive to stay “not sustainable” as countries have begun to implement carbon taxes, which hurt businesses that do not go green. A carbon tax is essentially a tax paid by businesses for each ton of greenhouse gas emissions they emit.

Another reason for adopting sustainability initiatives is consumer behavior. Studies show that millennials and Gen-Z consumers are willing to spend more on products that would be less harmful to the environment. Likewise, people are more likely to choose fashion brands that prioritize animal welfare or animal protection.

CREATING THE INVESTMENT PACKAGE

As is clear from the foregoing discussion, there are benefits and drawbacks to becoming more sustainable, at least on the part of businesses with a view on their profitability. The goal, then, is to tilt the balance more in favor of sustainability. To achieve this, one solution is to create an investment package for the fashion industry — a combination of fiscal and non-fiscal incentives that would encourage luxury and non-luxury brands across the world to be more responsible and sustainable. This can also extend to their celebrity ambassadors or influencers, and their consumers.

For fiscal incentives, the incentive package could include a Green or Sustainable Tax (GST) Refund, a Tax Relief for Non-Luxury Brands, and Tax Holidays for a certain period. These fiscal incentives are straightforward in that they reduce the taxes that businesses or consumers who go green would have to pay.

The GST Refund could be a benefit offered to consumers of sustainable products. By purchasing from sustainable and ethical fashion brands, consumers could be given a tax refund of a certain amount.

Another fiscal incentive is the grant of tax reliefs to non-luxury brands and smaller businesses. The costs of going green would be more impactful to smaller businesses as they may not have the resources to shoulder these expenses. This incentive solves that problem by allowing companies under a certain threshold of income to be exempted from tax.

For bigger businesses, a tax holiday could be granted for a certain period during their transition to becoming more sustainable. It is hoped that this measure would be sufficient to entice bigger fashion brands to prioritize making their products more sustainable so that they would be able to avail of the tax holiday.

The investment package could also include non-fiscal incentives which would involve direct infusions into these businesses. Examples include financial grants or loans, technical assistance, green pass or lane, research and development support, health programs for laborers, and awards and recognitions, especially for celebrity ambassadors and influencers, among others.

Overall, instead of putting the burden on governments to enforce sustainability initiatives, this investment package seeks to give the choice to the businesses themselves, and the consumers as well. The pros and cons of going green is an essential consideration for businesses but, more importantly, for the global community as it is the planet that we live on that is at stake.

CNN

['The climate time-bomb is ticking': The world is running out of time to avoid catastrophe, new UN report warns](#)

By: Laura Paddison

The world is rapidly approaching catastrophic levels of heating with international climate goals set to slip out of reach unless immediate and radical action is taken, according to a new UN-backed report.

“The climate time-bomb is ticking,” said António Guterres, Secretary-General of the United Nations, in a statement to mark the launch of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change’s synthesis report on Monday. “Humanity is on thin ice – and that ice is melting fast,” he added.

The report draws on the findings of hundreds of scientists to provide a comprehensive assessment of how the climate crisis is unfolding.

The science is not new – the report pulls together what the IPCC has already set out in a cluster of other reports over the last few years – but it paints a very stark picture of where the world is heading.

“This report is the most dire and troubling assessment yet of the spiraling climate impacts we all face if systemic changes are not made now,” Sara Shaw, program coordinator at Friends of the Earth International, said in a statement.

The impacts of planet-warming pollution are already more severe than expected and we are hurtling towards increasingly dangerous and irreversible consequences, the report says.

While the goal of limiting global warming to 1.5 degrees Celsius (2.7 degrees Fahrenheit) above preindustrial levels is still possible, the report noted, the pathway to achieving it is rapidly closing as global production of planet-heating pollution continues to increase – emissions grew by nearly 1% last year.

Concentrations of carbon pollution in the atmosphere are at their highest level for more than two million years and the rate of temperature rise over the last half a century is the highest in 2,000 years.

The impacts of the climate crisis continue to fall hardest on poorer, vulnerable countries that have done least to cause it.

Floods in Jaffarabad district, Balochistan province, on August 26, 2022. Scientists found devastating floods across the country were made worse by climate change.

“Our planet is already reeling from severe climate impacts, from scorching heat waves and destructive storms to severe droughts and water shortages,” said Ani Dasgupta, president and CEO of World Resources Institute, in a statement.

The biggest threat to climate change action is the world’s continued addiction to burning fossil fuels, which still make up more than 80% of the world’s energy and 75% of human-caused planet-heating pollution.

Despite the International Energy Agency saying in 2021 that there can now be no new fossil fuel developments if the world is to meet climate commitments, governments are continuing to approve oil, gas and coal projects.

The Biden administration has just greenlit the hugely controversial Willow oil drilling project in Alaska. Once operational, it is projected to produce enough oil to release 9.2 million metric tons of planet-warming carbon pollution a year – equivalent to adding 2 million gas-powered cars to the roads.

Arati Prabhakar, the director of the White House Office of Science and Technology Policy, said in a statement that the new UN report shows “the Earth’s future is not predetermined.”

“It underscores the urgent need for leaders in every sector and every country to step up and take bold climate action,” Prabhakar said.

China is planning a huge expansion of coal – the dirtiest of fossil fuels. In 2022, it granted permits for coal production across 82 sites, equal to starting two large coal power plants each week, according to a report last month.

But Monday’s report also set out pathways to keep the world on track to limit warming to within 1.5 degrees. “This IPCC report is both a blistering condemnation of major emitters’ inaction and a sound blueprint for a much safer and more equitable world,” Dasgupta said.

Staving off the worst impacts of the climate crisis will require radical shifts across every sector of the economy and society, according to the report.

It called for deep cuts to planet-heating pollution by moving away from fossil fuels and investing in renewable energy. To limit warming to 1.5 degrees, global levels of planet-heating pollution must fall by 60% by 2035 compared with 2019, according to the report.

It emphasized the need for greater investment to build resilience to climate impacts, and increased support for people struggling with climate-related losses, especially in the most vulnerable countries.

The report also said we need to remove carbon from the air, including potentially through technology such as “direct air capture” – removing carbon directly from the air and storing it, possibly by injecting it underground.

This technology does remain divisive, however, as some believe it distracts from policies to cut planet-heating pollution.

“In my country, Sri Lanka, the impacts of climate change are being felt now. We have no time to chase fairy tales like carbon removal technologies to suck carbon out of the air,” Hemantha Withanage, chair of Friends of the Earth International, said in a statement.

Guterres called on all countries to “massively fast-track climate efforts” and, specifically, for rich countries to hit “the fast-forward button” on commitments to reach net-zero – which means removing as much planet-heating pollution from the atmosphere as they emit.

For the first time, he said developed countries must reach net-zero as close to 2040 as possible, far earlier than the 2050 deadline a lot of countries – including the US and the UK – have pledged to meet.

“Today’s IPCC report is a how-to guide to defuse the climate time-bomb,” Guterres said. “But it will take a quantum leap in climate action,” he added.

The report, which was signed off over the weekend by representatives from the UN’s nearly 200 countries, will feed into the next UN climate conference, COP28, in Dubai at the end of the year. The conference will include the first “global stocktake” from the Paris Climate Agreement, an assessment of progress toward addressing the climate crisis and averting climate catastrophe.

EURO NEWS

'Make no mistake, inaction and delays are not options': Latest IPCC report has been approved

By: Rosie Frost

Governments gave their blessing on Sunday to a major new UN 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 UN Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) 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 UN plans to publish the report at a news conference this 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.

What is the IPCC 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, today'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.

Today'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. Today'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.

INSURANCE BUSINESS ASIA

Philippines now most vulnerable nation to nat cat events – insurance boss

By: Kenneth Araullo

The Philippines is now the most vulnerable nation to catastrophic events, according to a local insurer president. This standing, according to his insights, is one of the effects of the suspension of a Philippine Insurance Commission (IC) circular that was supposed to correct minimum catastrophe rates for insurers in the country.

Fortune General Insurance president Michael Rellosa raised awareness on an ongoing issue relevant to the insurance sector within the country, saying that the shelving of IC Circular 2022-34 has thrown the industry into an unprecedented crisis relevant to the renewal of reinsurance treaties for the year. The circular, dated July 14, 2022, would correct the minimum catastrophe insurance rates from 0.15% to 0.2%, and was supposed to take effect from January 2023.

Detrimental effects

In his column for The Manila Times, Rellosa said that the further delay in the correction of the rates is detrimental to making the natural catastrophe insurance class more sustainable. He noted that as the world at large faces adverse effects from the continued effects of climate change, the Philippines is now considered the most vulnerable to events such as typhoons, floods, and earthquakes, all disasters that are covered by nat cat insurance.

He noted the possibility of local insurers being unable to get their own backing from reinsurance, which in turn could force them to not offer protection in the form of sustainable natural catastrophe insurance products. Rellosa urged the government to look more closely into the matter, noting that the state is the “ultimate risk takers and insurers post-calamity.”

Rellosa, who has been president of an insurance company for 20 years, also said that the shelving of the circular sends a wrong signal to the international reinsurance market on which the Philippine insurance industry is heavily reliant on. While major reinsurers are correcting their own rates, the local sector is unable to do so, with the effect being that the reinsurance market now views the Philippines as an unsustainable risk. Because of this, reinsurers may impose higher reinsurance protection costs, or even pull out their facility from the country altogether.

He also brought up the Philippine Catastrophe Insurance Facility as one of those at risk from the effects of the situation, noting that the efforts by regulators and industry over several years have been jeopardized as a result of the circular's delay.

Rellosa appealed for the congressional inquiry dedicated to looking into the circular to end soon, and that it results in both branches of government reaching an understanding on the need to have coverage for natural catastrophe events.

"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," he said.

AIA Philippines president Kelvin Ang also recently revealed the insurer's suggestion of tax rebates for insurers in order to grow the sector within the country.

MONGABAY

[IPCC warns of 'last chance' to limit climate change via drastic emissions cuts](#)

By: John Cannon

Humans must make “deep, rapid, and sustained” cuts to greenhouse gas emissions to avoid the worst effects of climate change, according to the United Nations’ Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC).

The IPCC’s March 20 assessment warns that the 2020s will be perhaps the last chance to keep the global rise in temperature within 1.5° Celsius (2.7° Fahrenheit) above preindustrial levels. (The current global temperature is 1.1° C, or 2° F, warmer than in the mid-19th century.)

Researchers say halting global warming at this level provides the best chance for staving off its worst potential impacts, including extreme storms, droughts and sea-level rise. And yet greenhouse gas emissions have continued to tick upward.

The report — and many observers — highlights the conclusion that fossil fuel use must end as soon as possible.

“Fossil fuel producers and their financiers must understand one simple truth: Pursuing mega-profits when so many people are losing their lives and rights, now and in the future, is totally unacceptable,” U.N. Secretary-General António Guterres told the Human Rights Council in February. “Unless humanity kicks its addiction to fossil fuels now, critical climate tipping points will crush the human rights of generations to come.”

This publication is the sixth “synthesis” report, which IPCC produces every six to seven years. The authors aim to bring together the conclusions of a series of IPCC publications from the body’s different working groups focused on climate science, impacts and vulnerability and mitigation.

World leaders approved a summary of the report at a mid-March meeting in Interlaken, Switzerland. The full report has been approved but is awaiting edits.

Evidence from the changes already brought about by climate warming suggests that even modest increases in temperature can have more dangerous impacts than previously thought, the authors write.

“Current climate impacts are already far worse than the last major IPCC synthesis report predicted just nine years ago,” Teresa Anderson, the climate justice lead with the

international NGO ActionAid International, said in a statement from the Climate Land Ambition and Rights Alliance (CLARA). “This new IPCC report needs to be the trigger that moves the world from grudging acknowledgment to rapid action on climate change.”

To meet the goal of staying below a 1.5° C rise in global temperatures, the report’s authors conclude that a 60% reduction in the greenhouse gases emitted by industry, agriculture and burning fossil fuels for transportation by 2035 is necessary. Emissions of CO₂, the primary greenhouse gas human activity releases, must be cut by 65% in that same time frame.

Addressing both the changes wrought by global warming and continuing to work to slow, halt and reverse the rise requires money invested in mitigation and adaptation strategies, the authors write — many times more than what’s currently being invested.

But many climate scientists are quick to note that these funds must be invested wisely. In particular, they should not be allowed to support the continued use of fossil fuels. The IPCC found that the cost of renewable energy has dropped precipitously. Many experts see weaning the world off its dependence on carbon-emitting coal, oil and natural gas as among the most important steps necessary to substantively hold back climate change.

Kelly Stone, an ActionAID policy analyst and CLARA coordinator, called carbon offsetting and similar measures “dangerous distractions” that mask the need to slash the continued release of carbon immediately.

“Anything that allows continued emissions, and extending the fossil fuel era, is not a solution,” Stone said in a statement from CLARA. “We need ambitious reductions in emissions right now.”

Scientists, human rights advocates and other observers are also calling for greater equity in the distribution of mitigation and adaptation funds.

“Poor and vulnerable communities in the Global South are suffering the worst consequences of this warmer world, even though greenhouse gas pollution from rich nations is to blame,” Ani Dasgupta, CEO of the World Resources Institute, said in a statement.

IPCC chair Hoesung Lee noted in a press conference launching the report that people living in areas vulnerable to the effects of climate change were “15 times more likely to die in floods, droughts and storms.”

Dasgupta said this IPCC report sends a strong signal for the 2023 U.N. climate conference (COP28) beginning Nov. 30 in Dubai, United Arab Emirates. The evidence points to the need to help “emerging economies” such as India and Indonesia grow using energy that doesn’t emit carbon, he added. The countries that already emit lots of carbon need to speed up their plans for transitioning away from emissions-producing energy, and industrialized nations need to invest in boosting resilience and the protection of ecosystems, Dasgupta said.

“Real climate leadership means signaling at the COP28 summit that the fossil fuel era is over,” he said.

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

[DOE to bid out 11,000-MW renewable energy capacity](#)

By: Meg J. Adonis

MANILA, Philippines – The Department of Energy (DOE) eyes to auction off more than 11,000 megawatts (MW) of renewable energy capacity for the next three years under its second Green Energy Auction Program, an official said on Monday.

Energy Undersecretary Rowena Guevara told reporters on the sidelines of the Philippine Electric Power Industry Forum that they were looking for renewable energy developers with a ready capacity of 3,590 MW by next year, 3,630 MW by 2025 and 4,390 MW by 2026.

This totals 11,610 MW of clean energy—enough to power at least 4.64 million homes a year.

“We will include in the terms of reference the list of areas and corresponding capacity of transmission that is already available. This will be provided by the National Grid Corp. of the Philippines. This way, we are guaranteed that the generated renewable energy can be transmitted at the projected timelines of 2024 to 2026,” Guevara said.

The DOE will bid out renewable capacity of 7,715 MW in Luzon, 2,705 MW in the Visayas and 1,190 MW in Mindanao.

[Legarda underlines digital revolution's impact on gender equality and climate crisis](#)

By: Dennis Gutierrez

As the world celebrates International Women's Day, Senate President Pro Tempore Loren Legarda underscored the impact of digital innovation in promoting gender equality and women empowerment, as she also recognizes the women's role in the global fight against the climate crisis.

"This year, the UN (United Nations) decided that the theme will be something rather fresh: 'DigitALL: Innovation and technology for gender equality was chosen for 2023.' I believe it will be women, whose shackles have been cut, that will innovate to carry us through the climate crisis. They will be the ones inventing the mechanisms and the means to keep the homes humming in the midst of the calamities and challenges and they will find a way," she stated.

As an advocate of innovation, Legarda urged technology in better policymaking to address various global issues, acknowledging how it has increased connectivity among people in many ways possible. However, she pointed out that the world has changed so much that solutions that worked just a few years ago might no longer be on point.

"The lesson to be learned here is from Albert Einstein — 'We can't solve problems by using the same kind of thinking we used when we created them.' Climate change and the pandemic have afforded us the opportunity to look for new solutions, innovate, frame our issues differently and perhaps find the tipping point where we have not been looking before," Legarda said.

Legarda, a long-time advocate of women empowerment, has likewise emphasized giving value to the hard work of unpaid and underpaid women – the mothers and grandmothers who nobly raised their children and grandchildren – and urged valuing unpaid work and giving voice to the sector.

"It is difficult to imagine the true monetary value of the hands that patted your bottom as a child to put you to sleep, the ones that scoured gardens and markets for what to put on the table, the feet that trudged kilometers to fetch water, the grandmother that raised her grandkids. I suppose monetizing this has not been foremost on the agenda, partly because it is priceless," Legarda remarked.

She said such labor must be recognized and helped by making the work easier, redistributing the burden, rewarding such work, and finally representing the sector and giving them a voice.

“Simple lang po ang ibig sabihin niyan. Ang mga hamon ng ating panahon ay dugtong-dugtong at ang paglampas natin dito ay nangangailangan ng lakas ng lahat ng bisig, at ng kolektibang kaisipan. Kapag naiwan ang kababaihan sa tahaking ito ay hindi tayo makakarating sa kabila [The meaning of that is simple. Challenges in our lives are connected, and hurdling them needs the strength of linked arms and collected minds. If women are left behind in this issue, we will never get to the other side],” said Legarda.

PHILIPPINE NEWS AGENCY

3 DPWH projects to protect Aurora coastal villagers from flood

By: Zorayda Tecson

The Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH) has completed the construction of three flood mitigation projects in coastal communities of Aurora province that will protect residents during typhoon season.

Engineer Roderick Andal, head of the DPWH-Aurora District Engineering Office, said on Friday the completed projects are worth PHP205.88 million. These are the 1,968-lineal meter concrete flood wall on steel sheet pile foundation along the Maria Aurora Main Creek, of which 1,055 lineal meters are situated in Maria Aurora town; 720 lineal meters in Barangay Umiray, Dingalan town; and 193 lineal meters in Dipaculao town.

“These structures will help reduce flooding in these coastal and river areas to a bare minimum. Above all, these projects will lessen the worries of residents who live near said bodies of water which tend to overflow or cause tidal flooding, especially during the typhoon season,” Andal said in a statement.

The project, he said also includes a six-meter-wide embankment, ramp and concrete stairs that residents and farmers can use as an access road.

The DPWH official said they are eyeing the implementation of more flood control projects in the province as “Aurora is a coastal province and there are flood-prone areas especially those in low-lying villages along its major rivers.”

In August last year, the DPWH completed three flood control projects worth PHP34.3 million in the villages of Sapangkawayan, Ditale and Borlongan, all in Dipaculao town.

RAPPLER

['Climate time bomb ticking,' emissions must urgently be cut – UN chief](#)

By: Reuters

United Nations Secretary General Antonio Guterres warned that the “climate time bomb is ticking” as he urged rich nations on Monday, March 20, to slash emissions sooner after a new assessment from scientists said there was little time to lose in tackling climate change.

“The rate of temperature rise in the last half century is the highest in 2,000 years,” he said. “Concentrations of carbon dioxide are at their highest in at least 2 million years. The climate time-bomb is ticking.”

In a recorded address, Guterres described the sixth “synthesis report” from the U.N.’s Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) as “a survival guide for humanity” and urged developed countries to commit to reaching net zero emissions by the earlier date of around 2040.

The synthesis report summarised findings from three expert assessments published between 2021 and 2022 that looked at the physical science, impacts, and mitigation of climate change. The summary report is designed to provide clarity for policymakers as they consider further action to slash emissions.

“We have the tools to stave off and reduce the risks of the worst impacts of the climate crisis, but we must take advantage of this moment to act now,” said US climate envoy John Kerry.

The 37-page report was distilled from thousands of pages of previous assessments after a week of deliberations in Interlaken, Switzerland.

The document will also serve as a guide for a global climate change “stocktake” set to take place this year, in which countries will assess progress. Under the 2015 Paris Agreement, nations are also expected to update climate pledges by 2025.

According to the IPCC, emissions must be halved by the mid-2030s if the world is to have any chance of limiting temperature rise to 1.5 degrees Celsius (2.7 Fahrenheit) above pre-industrial levels – a key target enshrined in the Paris accord.

“If we act now, we can still secure a liveable sustainable future for all,” said IPCC Chair Hoesung Lee.

On current trajectories, the planet is on track to warm by 3.2C by century's end, and temperatures could still rise by at least 2.2C even if existing pledges are met.

Average temperatures are already 1.1C higher than 1850-1900 levels, driving more extreme weather events worldwide.

"In the words of very senior colleagues in the IPCC, we're up the proverbial creek – that's really the key message from the report," said synthesis report co-author Frank Jotzo of Australian National University.

Observers said the major areas of contention included the language around finance and the projected impacts of climate change, as well as the issue of "equity" and climate justice for poorer countries.

Some governments also wanted to give more prominence to their own favoured climate solutions, including solar power or carbon capture.

The IPCC says the world needs to accelerate the transition to green energy and transform agriculture and eating habits if it has any chance of making the necessary cuts in emissions.

It also warned of more extreme weather, rapidly rising sea levels, melting Arctic ice and the growing likelihood of catastrophic and irreversible "tipping points". They also said nearly half the world's population was already vulnerable to climate impacts.

"In short, our world needs climate action on all fronts – everything, everywhere, all at once," said Guterres.

SUNSTAR

[Interconnection of climate change, human mobility in Barmm discussed in MPC regional dialogue](#)

The Mindanao Peoples Caucus (MPC) in partnership with the International Organization for Migration (IOM) Philippines organized a two-day Regional Dialogue and Training Workshop in Exploring the Nexus of Climate Change, and Human Mobility and the Lived Experiences of the Bangsamoro last March 17 and 18 at the Eden Nature Park and Resort in Davao City.

This regional dialogue has convened policymakers, environmental advocates, climate change advocates, officials, and representatives from different local government units (LGUs) to discuss the alarming state of climate change in the Bangsamoro Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (Barmm).

MPC research team member Cyrell Alingasa said climate change risks further incidents of displacement, poor crop yields, destruction of livestock, and food insecurity in the geography combined with long-running and bloody conflicts.

"While climate change cause or exacerbate conflict, conflict, in turn, prevents people from successfully coping with climate change- a double bind, preempting cooperation," she added.

Climate change, however, is often relegated to the background as authorities are more focused on conflict prevention and conflict resolution and the ongoing transition period to implement the peace agreement.

"The extended transition period cannot anymore limit itself to the political reforms and decommissioning and normalization of combatants but should be able to respond to the pressing demand for climate change adaptation and response mechanisms," Alingasa added.

Resource speakers and Members of the Parliament (MPs) Atty. Mary Ann Arnado and Baileng Mantawil lauded this project as they believe that there is no sense of urgency in addressing the problem of climate change, especially in the Barmm.

"There is very little information going around on what is really our situation, and yung communities have very little information and very low ang level ng awareness on climate change," Arnado said.

Mantawil said the issue of climate change is a global concern, and part of it is the Barmm communities.

"While we are busy addressing peace, let's not forget the great danger that we are now facing," Mantawil, who first hand experienced the effects of this natural phenomenon during the recent onslaught of Typhoon Paeng in Maguindanao.

MPC, together with IOM, will conduct a series of study group sessions.

The result of which will, later on, be used as the basis for crafting relevant policies and mechanisms that will address the conflict, climate change, and human mobility problems in Barmm.

THE NEW YORK TIMES

[World Has Less Than a Decade to Stop Catastrophic Warming, U.N. Panel Says](#)

By: Brad Plummer

Earth is likely to cross a critical threshold for global warming within the next decade, and nations will need to make an immediate and drastic shift away from fossil fuels to prevent the planet from overheating dangerously beyond that level, according to a major new report released on Monday.

The report, by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, a body of experts convened by the United Nations, offers the most comprehensive understanding to date of ways in which the planet is changing. It says that global average temperatures are estimated to rise 1.5 degrees Celsius (2.7 degrees Fahrenheit) above preindustrial levels sometime around “the first half of the 2030s,” as humans continue to burn coal, oil and natural gas.

That number holds a special significance in global climate politics: Under the 2015 Paris climate agreement, virtually every nation agreed to “pursue efforts” to hold global warming to 1.5 degrees Celsius. Beyond that point, scientists say, the impacts of catastrophic heat waves, flooding, drought, crop failures and species extinction become significantly harder for humanity to handle.

But Earth has already warmed an average of 1.1 degrees Celsius since the industrial age, and, with global fossil-fuel emissions setting records last year, that goal is quickly slipping out of reach.

There is still one last chance to shift course, the new report says. But it would require industrialized nations to join together immediately to slash greenhouse gases roughly in half by 2030 and then stop adding carbon dioxide to the atmosphere altogether by the early 2050s. If those two steps were taken, the world would have about a 50 percent chance of limiting warming to 1.5 degrees Celsius.

Delays of even a few years would most likely make that goal unattainable, guaranteeing a hotter, more perilous future.

“The pace and scale of what has been done so far and current plans are insufficient to tackle climate change,” said Hoesung Lee, the chair of the climate panel. “We are walking when we should be sprinting.”

The report comes as the world's two biggest polluters, China and the United States, continue to approve new fossil fuel projects. Last year, China issued permits for 168 coal-fired power plants of various sizes, according to the Centre for Research on Energy and Clean Air in Finland. Last week, the Biden administration approved an enormous oil drilling project known as Willow that will take place on pristine federal land in Alaska.

The report, which was approved by 195 governments, says that existing and currently planned fossil fuel infrastructure — coal-fired power plants, oil wells, factories, cars and trucks across the globe — will already produce enough carbon dioxide to warm the planet roughly 2 degrees Celsius this century. To keep warming below that level, many of those projects would need to be canceled, retired early or otherwise cleaned up.

“The 1.5 degree limit is achievable, but it will take a quantum leap in climate action,” António Guterres, the United Nations secretary general, said. In response to the report, Mr. Guterres called on countries to stop building new coal plants and to stop approving new oil and gas projects.

Many scientists have pointed out that surpassing the 1.5 degree threshold will not mean humanity is doomed. But every fraction of a degree of additional warming is expected to increase the severity of dangers that people around the world face, such as water scarcity, malnutrition and deadly heat waves.

The difference between 1.5 degrees of warming and 2 degrees might mean that tens of millions more people worldwide experience life-threatening heat waves, water shortages and coastal flooding. A 1.5-degree world might still have coral reefs and summer Arctic sea ice, while a 2-degree world most likely would not.

THE PHILIPPINE STAR

[Clean air advocate pushes for policy-oriented methods to reduce carbon emission](#)

Non-governmental organization and climate advocate Clean Air Asia is urging the implementation of policy-oriented methods to help elevate the air quality in the Asia-Pacific region, pointing out that the Philippines' air quality does not meet the standards of the World Health Organization (WHO).

During an international forum arranged by the United Nations earlier this month, the organization said that different actors should collaborate to enforce air quality standards and consolidate clean air and climate action plans.

"In this day and age, it's important that we recognize policy and technology solutions are key to ensuring significant and efficient emission reduction in our cities and in national governments," Dang Espita-Casanova, program manager at Clean Air Asia, said.

"This process we believe should be participatory [and] inclusive and highlights the co-benefits of actions so that we are able to engage and enlist support from all actors in the space," she added.

Several environmental groups have also been suggesting the shift to electric vehicles to help cut down carbon emissions in the country, which is being promoted under the Republic Act 11697 or the Electric Vehicle Industry Act.

In other Southeast Asia countries like Indonesia, Brunei, Burma, Myanmar, Laos and Thailand, governments are also ramping up their shift to EVs by introducing policies to promote it.

In Laos, the government imposed a 0% tariff for the importation of EVs, which also has an excise tax of only 3%, a value-added tax of seven percent lower, and vowed to not impose restrictions on EVs.

Indonesia, on the other hand, exempted e-vehicles from sales and luxury sales tax and is set to allot \$320 million to incentivize the purchase of EVs.

In the Philippines, the Department of Energy aims to limit the sale of gas-powered vehicles by 2040 where EVs shall account for half of all vehicles plying the roads.

Different types of EVs were also given tax breaks and removal for the first five years under Executive Order No. 12 series of 2023, with the exception of electric motorcycles, which drew the ire of several groups and think tanks.

According to the Land Transportation Office, motorcycles consist of the majority of motorists in the country, with around eight million units registered to the body.

Data from WHO states that 25% of the Philippines' population is exposed to unhealthy air of about PM2.5 concentration, which is at least five times more than a global recommendation.

This is mainly due to the emission of greenhouse gasses, primarily from the transport sector, which contributes over 80% of the country's total emissions.

[Lawyers, environmentalists demand transparency from gov't, firms behind oil spill](#)

By: Gaea Katreena Cabico

The government and the companies responsible for the oil spill in Oriental Mindoro should be completely transparent about the incident's impacts and the actions being done to mitigate the disaster, lawyers and environment advocates said.

In a statement released on Monday, concerned lawyers called for transparency and accountability in the conduct of investigation into the oil spill, and for full disclosure of parties involved in the incident.

They said that critical details only finally came to light during a Senate panel inquiry conducted more than two weeks after the MT Princess Empress sank off Naujan town in Oriental Mindoro and leaked oil into the sea.

The lawyers also noted the inconsistent statements from government agencies and vessel owner RDC Reield Marine Services on operations of MT Princess Empress and its state as well as the incomplete information on the owner of the oil and the kind of oils present in the tanker.

Only at the Senate hearing

At the Senate hearing last week, the Maritime Industry Authority (MARINA) said that MT Princess Empress had no permit to operate, but hours later, the Philippine Coast Guard posted on social media a document showing the vessel had an approved certificate of public convenience (CPC).

The Coast Guard, the following day, however said it is investigating the authenticity of the permit presented to its personnel to allow MT Princess Empress to sail at least four times before it sank off the waters of Oriental Mindoro.

On Monday, MARINA said its National Capital Region office has yet to issue an amended CPC.

“The public has the right to know what happened, who is responsible, what measures are being taken to address the extensive damage caused by the oil spill, including the posting of a bond on the part of the polluters to cover containment and clean-up costs and damages estimates thus far, and what punitive actions will be pursued to deter tragic and avoidable instances like this in the future,” the lawyers said.

"To date, relevant government agencies have still not confirmed the report that it is a San Miguel Corporation subsidiary, SL Harbor Bulk Terminal Corporation, that [chartered] the sunken vessel," they added.

Among the signatories of the statement were lawyers Gloria Estenzo-Ramos and Rose-Liza Eisma-Osorio of Oceana, Antonio La Viña of Manila Observatory, Chel Diokno, Grizelda Mayo-Anda of Environmental Legal Assistance Center and Efenita Taqueban of the Legal Rights and Natural Resources Center-Friends of the Earth Philippines.

Accountability

In a separate statement, environmental groups Greenpeace Philippines, Oceana, and Center for Energy, Ecology and Development called for a sustained investigation into the cause and accountabilities of companies responsible for the oil spill, and the measures being taken by responsible government agencies.

They said that the owner and the charterer should be "fully held accountable and immediately called to issue a cash bond that can already cover costs for containment, mechanical removal of the oil, damages to communities, and commitments for long-term rehabilitation for affected communities and ecosystems."

The organizations also called on the government to implement long-term solutions to protect critical marine and coastal biodiversity and prevent more instances of oil spills in the future.

These include imposing strict liability to charterers for instances of pollution under the Oil Pollution Compensation Act. Under the law, charterers are exempted from claims for compensation for pollution damage.

The groups also urged the government to integrate the Verde Island Passage into the Expanded National Integrated Protected Areas System (NIPAS).

The Coast Guard on Monday reported that the oil spilled by the sunken tanker has reached the shores of Isla Verde along the marine biodiversity-rich Verde Island Passage (VIP), which is considered by scientists as the center of the world's marine biodiversity.

The marine corridor is home to 1,700 fish species, 300 coral species and 36 marine protected areas. Two million people, including fishermen and tourism workers, also depend on VIP.

Violation of people's rights

“The continuing pollution of our waters and destruction of critical marine habitats are clear violations of the people's constitutional right to a clean, healthy and balanced ecology, and those responsible must be held accountable for their actions, omissions and negligence,” the lawyers said.

The 1987 Constitution holds that “the State shall protect and advance the right of people to a balanced and healthful ecology in accord with the rhythm and harmony of nature.”

In 2022, the United Nations General Assembly recognized that a clean, healthy and sustainable environment is a human right.

“We urge the government to take swift and decisive action to ensure that the right to a clean, healthy and balanced ecology is upheld and protected for the benefit of present and future generations of Filipinos,” the lawyers said.

Authorities have yet to recover the sunken tanker and contain the oil spill that has affected more than 143,000 people so far. The incident has also severely disrupted the livelihood of over 13,000 fishers.

[UN 'survival guide' report a stark warning on climate](#)

By: Kelly Macnamara

Devastating climate impacts are hitting faster than expected as the world teeters on reaching the 1.5 degree Celsius warming limit in a little over a decade, the UN said Monday.

Temperatures seen in recent years have stoked destructive storms and flooding, crop-wilting heatwaves and deadly droughts.

But generations to come will look back on the hottest years of the 2020s as relatively cool, even if planet-warming fossil fuel emissions drop quickly, the UN's climate advisory panel said in a key report.

The 36-page "summary for policymakers" —a synthesis of six major reports since 2018 from the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC)—is a brutal reminder that while humanity has the tools to prevent climate catastrophe, it is still not putting them to use.

The world is currently set to reach 1.5C above pre-industrial levels—considered a safer limit to warming—in the early 2030s, which will ratchet up the severity of impacts in the near future.

But it's not too late to turn things around, the head of the IPCC told AFP, describing the report as a "message of hope".

"We have know-how, technology, tools, financial resources—everything needed to overcome the climate problems we have known about for so long," Hoesung Lee said in a video interview.

"What's lacking at this point is a strong political will to resolve this issues once and for all."

'Humanity on thin ice'

In response to the report, UN Secretary General Antonio Guterres said wealthy countries aiming for carbon neutrality in 2050 or beyond should speed up their goal to as close as possible to 2040 in order to "defuse the climate time bomb."

"Humanity is on thin ice —and that ice is melting fast," the United Nations chief said in a video message as the IPCC experts group issued its latest report, which he likened to "a survival guide for humanity."

The IPCC made clear that the benefits to society and the world economy of capping global warming under two degrees Celsius outweigh economic costs.

This is true even without accounting for all the rewards of avoiding climate damages, which range from the health impacts of air pollution to reduced crop yields.

Week-long negotiations in Interlaken, Switzerland—which went two full days into overtime—were bogged down by fights over language about fossil fuels, by far the main driver of warming.

The report comes as the world has scrambled to shore up energy security following Russia's invasion of Ukraine, with countries in Europe and Asia turning to heavily polluting coal.

Greenhouse gas emissions from existing fossil fuel infrastructure will be enough to push the world beyond 1.5C, without the use of emerging technology to capture and store the carbon pollution, the IPCC said.

The level of greenhouse gas emission reductions this decade will "largely determine" whether humanity can limit global warming to two degrees Celsius since preindustrial times, or the safer 1.5C, the UN expert report said.

But estimates of future carbon dioxide pollution from existing oil, gas and coal infrastructure—if no new technology is added to capture the emissions—"already exceed the remaining carbon budget for limiting warming to 1.5C".

Among the starkest warnings is on the looming threat of deadly heat.

Even if warming is capped at 1.8C—an optimistic scenario, according to some scientists—half of humanity could, by 2100, be exposed to periods of life-threatening climate conditions arising from the coupled impacts of extreme heat and humidity, according to research.

In the synthesis report, these findings are reflected in a world map of projected deadly impacts of humid heat across the tropics, especially in Southeast Asia, parts of Brazil and West Africa.

There are similarly dire projections for health, the global food system and economic productivity.

CCC IN THE NEWS:

MANILA BULLETIN

[PH gets \\$26.3-M grant for climate resilient agri project](#)

By: Argyll Cyrus Geducos

The Philippines has secured approval for a grant of US\$26.3 million from the Green Climate Fund (GCF) to increase the resilience of rural agriculture in climate-vulnerable areas and to transform the country's agriculture sector towards climate resilience.

In a statement, Climate Change Commission (CCC) PH Vice Chair and Executive Director Robert Borje welcomed the decision of the GCF Board to approve the project titled "Adapting Philippine Agriculture to Climate Change (APA)."

The GCF Board approved the project at its 35th Meeting in Songdo, South Korea, from March 13 to 16.

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

According to Borje, the approval is "instrumental in building the capacity of our farming communities, the government, and private sector" and in understanding and managing climate risks and adopting climate resilient agriculture practices.

Domestic resources amounting to US\$12.98 million will be used to co-finance the project, putting the total project value at US\$39.3 million. The project will cater to at least nine provinces in Regions II, V, X, and XII; and the Cordillera Administrative Region (CAR).

The project will have three primary outcomes:

Outcome 1: Increased institutional capacities for the development and provision of climate information and CRA services

Outcome 2: Farmers adopt CRA through CRA enterprises

Outcome 3: 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.

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 the potential to significantly contribute to 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 over 20 years due to CRA practices and better land use.

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