



## NEWS ROUNDUP

21 MARCH 2025 [08:00 am]

---

- PH ranks 3rd in Asia for unusual heat linked to climate change
- [Opinion] Scorching Heat Wave: Can the Philippines Cope?
- 'Philippines Third Most Heat-Impacted Country In Asia'
- Switch Off and Secure Water for All: A call for judicious use of energy and water this Earth Hour 2025
- Extreme weather to hurt GDP

### CCC IN THE NEWS:

- Inside PHL's plans and strategies for a green economy

## CEBU DAILY NEWS

### [PH ranks 3rd in Asia for unusual heat linked to climate change](#)

By: Gillian Villanueva

The Philippines ranked third in Asia for experiencing the most “unusual heat” from climate change in the past three months, according to Climate Central.

## DAILY GUARDIAN

### [\[Opinion\] Scorching Heat Wave: Can the Philippines Cope?](#)

Millions of Filipinos are enduring an unprecedented heat crisis, exposing the country's vulnerability to climate change and demanding immediate, localized action. The Philippines has become a frontline victim of global warming, with Manila experiencing 69 days of climate-influenced extreme heat between December 2024 and February 2025. This prolonged period of high temperatures is not just an inconvenience—it is a public health emergency and a threat to food security.

## **ONE NEWS**

### **[‘Philippines Third Most Heat-Impacted Country In Asia’](#)**

By: Bella Cariaso

Climate change is intensifying the extreme heat exposure of people worldwide, with severe consequences to health, economies and ecosystems, nonprofit Climate Central’s report stated.

## **PHILIPPINE INFORMATION AGENCY**

### **[Switch Off and Secure Water for All: A call for judicious use of energy and water this Earth Hour 2025](#)**

In solidarity with the global observance of Earth Hour 2025 on 22 March 2025, the Department of Energy (DOE) reminds the public to adopt responsible energy and water conservation practices. With the theme “Switch Off and Secure Water for All,” this year’s Earth Hour highlights the vital connection between energy conservation and water security, emphasizing the need for sustainable practices to protect these essential resources for future generations.

## **THE MANILA TIMES**

### **[Extreme weather to hurt GDP](#)**

By: Rhaydz B. Barcia

The Philippines’ gross domestic product (GDP) in 2030 and beyond might be in serious jeopardy if the country does not adapt to the unavoidable consequences of climate change.

## **CCC IN THE NEWS:**

## **BUSINESS WORLD**

### **[Inside PHL’s plans and strategies for a green economy](#)**

By: Jomarc Angelo M. Corpuz

With natural disasters becoming more frequent, governments from around the world are actively taking measures to combat the effects of climate change. In the Philippines, one of many countries highly vulnerable to typhoons, rising sea levels, and extreme weather events, the push for a green economy has become more urgent than ever.

## **Information and Knowledge Management Division**

## CEBU DAILY NEWS

### [PH ranks 3rd in Asia for unusual heat linked to climate change](#)

By: Gillian Villanueva

The Philippines ranked third in Asia for experiencing the most “unusual heat” from climate change in the past three months, according to Climate Central.

A report released Wednesday found that the country had 74 days with temperatures at Climate Shift Index (CSI) level 2 or higher, meaning they were likely caused by climate change.

The CSI is a system developed by Climate Central that quantifies the local influence of climate change on a country’s daily temperatures. The higher the level, the greater the influence of climate change detected.

200,000 Filipinos exposed

Through this system, scientists found that “human-caused climate change increased heat-related health risks for billions and made extreme heat events more likely around the globe.”

“During the past three months (December, January and February), the effects of human-induced climate change—mainly from burning coal, oil and methane gas—were evident in most regions of the world, particularly in the form of extreme heat,” the report stated.

The study noted that 10 out of 51 countries in Asia recorded more than 30 days of temperatures reaching CSI level 2 or higher. Brunei Darussalam ranked first with 83 days, while Maldives was second with 81.

Coming in fourth below the Philippines was Indonesia (72 days), followed by Sri Lanka (72), Timor-Leste (72), Malaysia (63), Singapore (56), Yemen (46) and Myanmar (45).

“Over the last three months, nearly 554 million people across 10 countries in Asia experienced daily average temperatures that were strongly influenced by climate change (defined as CSI 2 or higher) for at least one-third of the season (30 or more days),” Climate Central said.

The report also stated that “more than 45 million people across the continent were exposed to at least 30 risky heat days that were added by climate change.”

In the Philippines, almost 200,000 Filipinos were said to have been exposed out of the 116 million total population.

#### Hot Manila

Scientists also found that among the world's 38 "megacities"—those with population over 10 million—Manila was included in the 11 areas reported to have "endured heat that was strongly influenced by climate change."

The country's capital experienced 69 days of temperatures that reached CSI level 2 or higher, placing third below Lagos in Nigeria, with 89 days, and Tamil Nadu in India (81).

The Philippines also ranked eighth among Asian countries with the most number of "risky heat" days caused by climate change with two days in the last three months.

Risky heat refers to temperatures hotter than 90 percent of that observed in a local area from 1991 to 2020. "Heat-related health risks rise when temperatures climb above this local threshold," Climate Central pointed out.

Timor-Leste ranked first in Asia with the most number of risky heat days added by climate change at 22 days, while Indonesia placed second with 16.

Other countries in the list included Sri Lanka (6), Singapore (6), Malaysia (5), Brunei Darussalam (4), Maldives (4), and below the Philippines in ninth place was Cambodia (1).

In calculating the CSI, the study used data from the European Centre for Medium-Range Weather Forecasts.

In total, it analyzed 220 countries and territories, as well as 940 cities around the world. Population estimates were drawn from Encyclopedia Britannica and the Gridded Population of the World collection by the National Aeronautics and Space Administration of the United States.

## DAILY GUARDIAN

### [\[Opinion\] Scorching Heat Wave: Can the Philippines Cope?](#)

Millions of Filipinos are enduring an unprecedented heat crisis, exposing the country's vulnerability to climate change and demanding immediate, localized action. The Philippines has become a frontline victim of global warming, with Manila experiencing 69 days of climate-influenced extreme heat between December 2024 and February 2025. This prolonged period of high temperatures is not just an inconvenience—it is a public health emergency and a threat to food security.

The Climate Central analysis confirms what Filipinos already feel: human-caused climate change has doubled the likelihood of extreme temperatures, making dangerous heat events more frequent. When temperatures remain abnormally high for over two-thirds of a season, it signals a fundamental shift in what constitutes “normal” weather.

Urban centers like Manila suffer disproportionately due to the urban heat island effect, where concrete structures, high population density, and limited green spaces trap and amplify heat. The consequences are severe, particularly for the elderly, children, and those with pre-existing conditions. Heat-related illnesses, dehydration, and cardiovascular diseases are rising, overwhelming an already strained healthcare system.

Extreme heat is worsening food insecurity by reducing agricultural productivity. Farmers report diminished crop yields and increased pest activity, both of which drive up food prices and threaten local food availability. Rice, the staple food of Filipinos, is highly sensitive to heat stress, with prolonged high temperatures lowering grain quality and output.

Fisheries, another key sector, are also at risk as rising ocean temperatures disrupt marine ecosystems and fish populations. Without immediate intervention, the country will see worsening food shortages, further inflation, and greater dependence on imports.

While reducing global carbon emissions is critical in the long run, the Philippines must implement immediate adaptive solutions to minimize the impact of extreme heat:

- Expand urban green spaces: Increasing tree cover, rooftop gardens, and public parks can reduce temperatures in dense city neighborhoods.
- Enforce heat-resistant infrastructure: Retrofitting buildings with heat-reflective materials and updating building codes for passive cooling must become standard.
- Establish public cooling centers: Vulnerable communities need designated spaces for relief during heatwaves.

- Strengthen early warning systems: Community-based heat alerts can help mitigate health risks before temperatures reach dangerous levels.
- Prioritize water security initiatives: Rising heat increases demand while reducing supply, making water conservation and distribution improvements essential.
- Integrate indigenous knowledge: Traditional Filipino strategies for coping with heat should be incorporated into modern urban planning and adaptation efforts.

The economic cost of failing to act far outweighs the investment required for adaptation measures. Without proactive solutions, Manila and other Philippine cities risk becoming uninhabitable for significant portions of the year. Climate change is no longer a distant concern—it is a present crisis.

## ONE NEWS

### 'Philippines Third Most Heat-Impacted Country In Asia'

By: Bella Cariaso

Climate change is intensifying the extreme heat exposure of people worldwide, with severe consequences to health, economies and ecosystems, nonprofit Climate Central's report stated.

The Philippines is the third most heat-impacted country in Asia, based on nonprofit Climate Central's report.

Thirty-seven of 51 Asian countries experienced abnormal warming, averaging 0.6 degrees Celsius above historical norms, researchers noted.

"The Philippines is ranked as the third highest country in Asia with the most unusual heat added by climate change," the report said.

"The Philippines is ranked as the eighth highest country in Asia with risky heat days added by climate change, with two additional days," it added.

Risky heat days occur when temperatures become hotter than 90 percent of local temperatures recorded from 1991 to 2020, as defined in the study.

Almost 394 million people experienced over 30 extra days of life-threatening heat due to climate change, the study conducted from December 2024 to February this year showed.

Climate change is intensifying the extreme heat exposure of people worldwide, with severe consequences to health, economies and ecosystems, the report noted.

At least one in five people globally were exposed to higher temperatures influenced by climate change every day, it added.

"The increasing frequency and severity of heat events reveal a dangerous pattern of exposure that will only worsen if fossil fuel burning continues," said Climate Central vice president of science Kristina Dahl.

Meanwhile, the World Meteorological Organization's State of the Climate Report has confirmed that 2024 was the hottest year on record and first to exceed 1.5 percent above pre-industrial levels.



The average annual global temperature in 2024 was 1.55 degrees Celsius above the 1850 to 1900 average, the hottest year in recorded history, the report noted.

“This beats the previous record set just a year before in 2023 of 1.45 degrees Celsius above the 1850 to 1900 average,” it said.

All of the hottest 10 years on record occurred in the past ten years, from 2015 to 2024, the report stated.

“The oceans were hotter in 2024 than in any year on record. Over the past eight years, each year has set a new record for ocean heat content,” it said.

“Sea levels reached a record high in 2024. In the last three years – 2022 to 2024 – there was the largest glacier loss on record. Extreme weather events in 2024 led to the highest number of new displaced people since 2008 with 824,500 people,” it added.

At least 151 unprecedented extreme weather events were recorded in 2024, the report noted.

## PHILIPPINE INFORMATION AGENCY

### [Switch Off and Secure Water for All: A call for judicious use of energy and water this Earth Hour 2025](#)

In solidarity with the global observance of Earth Hour 2025 on 22 March 2025, the Department of Energy (DOE) reminds the public to adopt responsible energy and water conservation practices. With the theme “Switch Off and Secure Water for All,” this year’s Earth Hour highlights the vital connection between energy conservation and water security, emphasizing the need for sustainable practices to protect these essential resources for future generations.

Energy Secretary Raphael P.M. Lotilla underscored the interdependence of energy and water, stressing that every kilowatt-hour of electricity consumed requires water — whether for cooling processes in thermal power plants, hydropower systems, or the energy needed to pump, treat, and distribute water.

“Using energy judiciously is not just about reducing consumption — it is about preserving life itself. Every watt saved is a drop of water protected, reinforcing the delicate balance of our environment. By embracing energy efficiency and conservation, we do more than cutting emissions, we secure the future of our most vital resources for generations to come,” Secretary Lotilla said.

Earth Hour is more than a symbolic event — it is a global movement for change. “Through small but consistent actions, individuals, businesses, and communities can make a lasting impact on energy and water conservation, strengthening climate resilience and promoting a more sustainable way of life,” the Secretary added.

The Department of Energy (DOE) has been consistently encouraging the public to adopt practical and effective demand-side management strategies without compromising productivity. These include switching off non-essential lights and appliances when not in use, using energy-efficient technologies such as LED bulbs and inverter appliances and rescheduling high-energy-consuming activities during peak hours, which are typically from 11:00 AM to 3:00 PM on weekdays and 6:00 PM to 9:00 PM on weekends.

On 22 March 2025, from 8:30 PM to 9:30 PM, Secretary Lotilla urges the public to come together and take part in this global movement. By switching off non-essential lights, committing to energy and water conservation, and engaging in meaningful actions —

such as reducing water waste, planting trees, or supporting sustainable policies — everyone can contribute to a more sustainable future.

The government remains committed to building a more sustainable and resilient energy system, recognizing its critical role in ensuring the country's energy security and advancing climate action. Through progressive policies, strategic programs, and innovative measures, the DOE continues to drive energy efficiency, conservation, and the integration of renewable energy into the country's power landscape. These efforts not only support the transition to a low-carbon economy but also foster greater public awareness of the urgent need to address environmental challenges.

As an active partner of WWF Philippines in the annual observance of Earth Hour, the DOE reaffirms the shared responsibility of individuals, communities, and institutions in mitigating climate change and promoting environmental sustainability.

## THE MANILA TIMES

### Extreme weather to hurt GDP

By: Rhaydz B. Barcia

The Philippines' gross domestic product (GDP) in 2030 and beyond might be in serious jeopardy if the country does not adapt to the unavoidable consequences of climate change.

The assumption was made by British Ambassador to the Philippines Laure Beaufilet who noted the country has been facing adaptation challenges in the face of shifts in extreme weather conditions.

"(The) Philippines if it doesn't work to adapt to the unavoidable consequences of the climate change, significant loss is the loss of the GDP, loss in livelihood, loss in crops and affect across different sectors," Beaufilet told The Manila Times during the UK-Philippine Climate and Environment Networking Reception held at the Manila Peninsula Hotel, Makati City on March 12, 2025.

"So, the challenge is how do we adapt, how do we invest in culture, agriculture, and for irrigation. How do we adjust from crops to make sure that they are going to smoothly grow in the context of climate change?" added the British envoy.

"It was about how we have the data to know what we have to do, at the national level. This is UK-Philippines climate change and environmental talk about today," she said.

Beaufilet said that in the next 20 years, various regions in the country will be affected by flooding and drought.

"Different regions will be affected differently. Some will have flooding in the next 20 years, some will have suffered from drought. We talk about localization. We talk about local level analytic data to improve concrete plans," she said.

Beaufilet cited the case of Negros which she said needs to adapt to climate change if it is to maintain its crops, notably rice and sugarcane.

"How do these crops adapt? That is the big question and that is why the governments of the Philippines and UK are working together to protect livelihoods and the people from climate change," the ambassador said.

The British government through the British Embassy conducted the fifth UK-Philippines Climate and Environment Dialogue to discuss concrete actions and plans for the year ahead in the areas of climate science and innovation, localization and resilience, and mobilizing finance.

She said that the UK-Philippine climate and environment partnership represents more than just a shared commitment to addressing climate change. She said it symbolizes the power of collaboration across sectors and borders to drive meaningful action, strengthen resilience, and protect the planet for generations to come.

"Earlier, we agreed on a concrete next step to promote and increase access of local organizations and state universities across the Philippines to the UK's biodiversity challenge funds and nature grant facilities," the ambassador said.

Beaufils stressed the need to ensure a coordinated approach to replicate and scale-up our ongoing support to operationalize the Philippines National Adaptation Plan, with the goal of catalyzing private capital for climate-smart and resilient food and water sectors.

"We are committed to support the Philippines, address intersecting vulnerabilities and maximize economic opportunities in a sustainable way," said Beaufils, adding that the potential cost of inaction can reach 7.6 percent of the Philippines GDP in 2030 and can further increase to 18-25 percent in 2050.

According to the British official, UK Foreign Secretary Rt. Hon. David Lammy visited the Philippines a few days ago and reaffirmed the UK's commitment to the climate and nature agenda and its desire to be a genuine partner to the Philippines in this space.

"In a very special event on Blue Horizons: Accelerating UK-Philippines Blue Economy Partnership, he championed the conservation and sustainable use of blue biodiversity — a shared heritage of the UK and the Philippines as island nations," said Beaufils.

## CCC IN THE NEWS:

### BUSINESS WORLD

#### Inside PHL's plans and strategies for a green economy

By: Jomarc Angelo M. Corpuz

With natural disasters becoming more frequent, governments from around the world are actively taking measures to combat the effects of climate change. In the Philippines, one of many countries highly vulnerable to typhoons, rising sea levels, and extreme weather events, the push for a green economy has become more urgent than ever.

The United Nations Environment Program (UNEP) defines a green economy as “one that improves human well-being and builds social equity while reducing environmental risks and scarcities.” This vision addresses environmental concerns and advances sustainable development, where public and private investments in low-carbon initiatives, resource efficiency, and ecosystem preservation drive growth in employment and income.

Last year, the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) and the European Union (EU) launched a P3.67-billion program that aims to kick-start the country's transition to a more eco-friendly economy. The Green Economy Programme in the Philippines (GEPP) looks to improve waste management and support the country's transition to a circular economy — a sustainable model that minimizes waste and maximizes resource use.

“At its core, the Green Economy heralds a new era where economic growth aligns harmoniously with environmental stewardship and social inclusivity. By prioritizing sustainable practices and being mindful of the utilization of natural resources throughout their life cycles, we can co-generate prosperity and resilience that benefits both present and future generations,” DENR Secretary Maria Antonia Y. Loyzaga said during the program launch in March 2024.

Designed to be executed until 2028, the GEPP encompasses four distinct key areas of intervention: building partnerships, enhancing policy frameworks and establishing a multi-stakeholder dialogue platform; local government action and stakeholder engagement; private sector engagement and financial innovation; and renewable energy and energy-efficiency deployment. These initiatives aim to create a more sustainable economic system in the country through collaboration between the government, private sector, and local communities.

“The successful launch of the Green Economy Programme for the Philippines is part of the EU’s new Global Gateway Strategy and shows our commitment worldwide to combating climate change while promoting inclusive economic development. By working hand in hand with DENR and other key stakeholders, we aim to foster a more resilient and prosperous future for the people of the Philippines,” EU Ambassador Luc Véron emphasized in a statement.

The program will be piloted in several key locations, including Baguio City, Caloocan City, Quezon City, Pasig City, Puerto Princesa City in Palawan, Metro Manila, Ormoc City in Leyte, Davao City, the Island Garden City of Samal in Davao del Norte, and Siargao Islands. Its implementation is led by Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH, in collaboration with the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), Expertise France, the Global Green Growth Institute (GGGI), and the International Finance Corp. (IFC).

By the end of the GEPP, the Philippines is expected to have an estimated 25,000 tons of plastic recycled and reintegrated into the productive chains; at least 30 local government units who have introduced sources of separate collection systems for plastic waste for recycling in their jurisdiction; at least 6,000 micro, small, and medium enterprises that have applied sustainable production practices through circular supply chain management; and created at least 2,500 new “green” jobs in businesses linked to the circular economy model.

The program will also assist the Philippine government in fulfilling the objectives of various international climate commitments and national environmental policies such as the Philippines’ Nationally Determined Contributions (NDC). In 2017, the Senate approved the ratification of the Paris Agreement on Climate Change, pledging to cut greenhouse gas emissions by 70% from projected business-as-usual levels by 2030. Four years later, the Climate Change Commission raised the target, aiming for a 75% reduction within the same timeframe.

“I believe that GEPP represents a comprehensive effort towards inclusive growth through climate and disaster risk management but also can unlock the full potential of the circular economy and its contribution to resilience and reducing risk,” Ms. Loyzaga concluded.

Building on these efforts, the European Union-Philippines Partnership for Green Economy has gained momentum as collective action and partnerships at the local level take center stage. Last year, the United Nations Development Program (UNDP) together with the Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG) co-organized

an Inception Workshop with partners and stakeholders under the Green Local Government Units (LGUs) Project in Quezon City.

The workshop began the GEPP's 4.5-year initiative for partner LGUs to develop circular economy projects, supporting a sustainable transition. It also aligned with the DENR-led Earth Day 2024 theme, Planet VS Plastics, highlighting circular solutions to plastic waste in municipalities. The event also showcased the valuable yet underutilized expertise of non-LGU stakeholders — youth, women's groups, CSOs, MSMEs, and more — fostering collaboration with LGUs and among themselves.

Several laws dating back to before the ratification of the Paris Agreement in 2017 have also been passed to fast-track the country's transition to a green economy. Chief among these is Republic Act No. 10771 or the Philippine Green Jobs Act of 2016 which incentivized businesses that use green technologies to produce environmental goods and render services. This, in turn, creates a competitive, low-carbon, and environmentally sustainable economy, through the promotion of green jobs.

Other laws passed since 2016 that advance the green economy include: the Energy Efficiency and Conservation Act of 2019, which intends to secure the sufficiency and stability of the country's energy resources through renewable energy; the Green Building Code of 2016, which promotes resource efficiency in buildings; and the Climate Change Act of 2009 that created a framework for climate change action and the establishment of the Climate Change Commission.

As the Philippines continues to adapt to a greener economy, partnerships, policies, and initiatives can serve as a solid foundation for a more resilient and sustainable future. However, realizing this vision requires sustained collaboration, investments in green infrastructure, and strengthened climate policies. Ultimately, the success of these efforts will determine how well the Philippines adapts to climate challenges while ensuring inclusive and sustainable growth for generations to come.

**=END=**