



## NEWS ROUNDUP

25 March 2024 [ 08:00 am]

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- Security, climate change drive a return to nuke power; 30 nations sign pact
- Marcos on Earth Hour: Energy efficiency crucial in addressing climate change
- Global sea level jumped due to El Niño and climate change—NASA
- Earth Hour: Lights off, climate action on
- 'Practice Energy efficiency'
- 'We broke it, we fix it': DENR urges Filipinos to join Earth Hour 2024

### CCC IN THE NEWS (MENTIONED):

- PHL to ICJ: Polluting states accountable for climate woes
- Meralco forges ahead in powering a sustainable energy future
- PH urges Hague Court to exercise jurisdiction over climate issues
- PH underscores NAP as critical enabler to enhance adaptation action & support in developing nations
- CCC: Cooperate for quick climate change action

## BUSINESS MIRROR

### [Security, climate change drive a return to nuke power; 30 nations sign pact](#)

BRUSSELS—In the shadow of a massive monument glorifying nuclear power, over 30 nations from around the world pledged to use the controversial energy source to help achieve a climate-neutral globe while providing countries with an added sense of strategic security.

## DAILY TRIBUNE

### [Marcos on Earth Hour: Energy efficiency crucial in addressing climate change](#)

By: Lade Jean Kabagani

President Ferdinand Marcos Jr. on Saturday urged Filipinos to participate in the observance of Earth Hour as he highlighted the “crucial role of energy efficiency” in addressing climate change.

## **MANILA STANDARD**

### **[Global sea level jumped due to El Niño and climate change—NASA](#)**

By: AFP

Washington, United States—Global average sea level rose by about 0.3 inches (0.76 centimeters) from 2022 to 2023—nearly four times the increase of the previous year—NASA said Thursday, attributing the “significant jump” to a strong El Niño and a warming climate.

## **MANILA TIMES**

### **[Earth Hour: Lights off, climate action on](#)**

The largest global environment movement is happening on Saturday, when the UN invites people around the world to shut the lights to remember the planetary crisis during Earth Hour as young partners find new ways to drive climate action.

## **PHILIPPINE STAR**

### **[‘Practice Energy efficiency’](#)**

By: Alexis Romero

MANILA, Philippines — In a message in observance of Earth Hour yesterday, President Marcos called on Filipinos to practice energy efficiency as the Philippines grapples with the challenges posed by climate change and El Niño.

### **[‘We broke it, we fix it’: DENR urges Filipinos to join Earth Hour 2024](#)**

By: James Relativo

MANILA, Philippines — The Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) enjoined Filipinos to do their part in reversing damages brought by humans upon Mother Nature in the last 300,000 years.

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### BUSINESS MIRROR

#### [PHL to ICJ: Polluting states accountable for climate woes](#)

By: Malou Talosig-Bartolome

THE Philippines, one of the world's most vulnerable countries from climate change risks, has asked the United Nations' principal judicial organ to make polluting countries accountable for climate change.

### DAILY TRIBUNE

#### [Meralco forges ahead in powering a sustainable energy future](#)

Climate change has been a long-standing global issue.

Across the world, overt symptoms of climate change can be seen through rising global temperatures, melting glaciers, warming of the ocean, and frequent occurrence of catastrophic events, such as changes in rainfall patterns and distribution, food security and threats to biodiversity, public health risks, rising sea levels and annual losses in gross domestic product (GDP).

### MANILA BULLETIN

#### [PH urges Hague Court to exercise jurisdiction over climate issues](#)

By: Argyll Cyrus Geducos

The Philippines urged the ICJ to exercise its jurisdiction, arguing that "the enormity of the effects of climate change and its calamitous impact on all States and peoples are doubtless confirmed by scientific consensus."

### PHILIPPINE INFORMATION AGENCY

#### [PH underscores NAP as critical enabler to enhance adaptation action & support in developing nations](#)

MANILA -- The Philippines underscored that National Adaptation Plans (NAPs) are critical enablers to enhance adaptation action and support, emphasizing further the need to strengthen collaboration and accelerate delivery of support for developing nations' adaptation planning and implementation.

## **THE MANILA TIMES**

### **[CCC: Cooperate for quick climate change action](#)**

By The Manila Times

With only 51 National Adaptation Plan (NAP) submissions by developing countries as of the 2023 UN Climate Change Conference, increased support for adaptation planning and implementation is a critical priority.

**Information and Knowledge Management Division**

## **BUSINESS MIRROR**

### **[Security, climate change drive a return to nuke power; 30 nations sign pact](#)**

BRUSSELS—In the shadow of a massive monument glorifying nuclear power, over 30 nations from around the world pledged to use the controversial energy source to help achieve a climate-neutral globe while providing countries with an added sense of strategic security.

The idea of a Nuclear Energy Summit would have been unthinkable a dozen years ago after the 2011 Fukushima nuclear accident in Japan, but the tide has turned in recent years.

A warming planet has made it necessary to phase out fossil fuels, while the war in Ukraine has laid bare Europe's dependence on Russian energy.

"We have to do everything possible to facilitate the contribution of nuclear energy," said Rafael Grossi, the head of the International Atomic Energy Agency. "It is clear: Nuclear is there. It has an important role to play," he said.

In a solemn pledge, 34 nations—including the United States, China, France, Britain and Saudi Arabia—committed "to work to fully unlock the potential of nuclear energy by taking measures, such as enabling conditions to support and competitively finance the lifetime extension of existing nuclear reactors, the construction of new nuclear power plants and the early deployment of advanced reactors."

"We commit to support all countries, especially emerging nuclear ones, in their capacities and efforts to add nuclear energy to their energy mixes," the statement said.

The one-day meeting was held in Brussels next to the 1958 Atomium, the 102-meter-tall construction of the nine iron atoms, which sought to promote the peaceful use of nuclear energy in the wake of the nuclear bomb explosions at the end of World War II and their use as a geopolitical deterrent ever since.

Fatih Birol, executive director of the International Energy Agency, tried to reinvigorate that peaceful mission.

"Without the support of nuclear power, we have no chance to reach our climate targets on time. Renewables will play the major role in terms of electricity, especially solar supported by wind and hydropower," Birol said. "But we also need nuclear power, especially in those countries where we don't have major renewable potential."

"We have to do whatever we can to increase the current nuclear capacity, which is currently only less than 10 percent of global electricity generation," he said.

In Europe, France is the leader in nuclear energy and accounts for about two-thirds of its overall provisions.

French President Emmanuel Macron said that “thanks to the nuclear model, France is one of the few countries that exports its electricity, which is an opportunity.”

“We should be much more concerned about, for example, CO<sub>2</sub> [carbon dioxide] emissions, which have a direct impact on you and me and on our health every day,” he said. “Our priority must be to get out of coal and gas and move towards nuclear power and renewable energy.”

The devastating impact of a nuclear accident, like the one in 1986 in Chernobyl, Ukraine, was barely a talking point.

Outside the meeting, environmental groups sought to highlight the dangers of the technology and convince leaders that renewable energy sources like wind and solar were much more practical and worthwhile.

Building nuclear plants takes many years and projects are often marred by cost and deadline overruns, and environmentalists stressed that point with demonstrations outside the summit center.

“Nuclear, all the evidence shows, is too slow to build. It’s too expensive. Much more expensive than renewables,” said Lorelei Limousin of Greenpeace.

“The government must focus on developing renewable energy, energy savings, the real solutions that work for people like home insulation, public transport—not nuclear energy fairy tales,” she said.

## DAILY TRIBUNE

### [Marcos on Earth Hour: Energy efficiency crucial in addressing climate change](#)

By: Lade Jean Kabagani

President Ferdinand Marcos Jr. on Saturday urged Filipinos to participate in the observance of Earth Hour as he highlighted the “crucial role of energy efficiency” in addressing climate change.

“By embracing energy efficient practices, we can reduce our carbon footprint and create a sustainable future,” Marcos said in a statement.

Marcos said the Philippines is committed to promoting energy efficiency to “pave the way for a cleaner, more climate resilient nation.”

Amid challenges brought about by the El Niño phenomenon, Marcos said “efficient resource management becomes absolutely important.”

“Let’s adhere to energy efficiency directives not only to preserve the environment but also to foster a robust adaptive nation for the New Philippines that we envision,” he called on the Filipinos.

Marcos also urged the public to join the “You Have The Power” campaign as the “Philippine government takes steps towards energy security and sustainable systems.”

“Let’s make this Earth Hour count towards a greener future,” he added.

The Earth Hour is an annual event organized by the World Wildlife Fund (WWF) that encourages individuals, communities, and businesses to turn off their non-essential lights for one hour.

## MANILA STANDARD

### [Global sea level jumped due to El Niño and climate change—NASA](#)

By: AFP

Washington, United States—Global average sea level rose by about 0.3 inches (0.76 centimeters) from 2022 to 2023—nearly four times the increase of the previous year—NASA said Thursday, attributing the “significant jump” to a strong El Niño and a warming climate.

The NASA-led analysis is based on more than 30 years of satellite observations, with the initial satellite launching in 1992 and the latest in 2020.

Overall, sea levels have risen by around four inches since 1993. The rate of increase has also accelerated, more than doubling from 0.07 inches per year in 1993, to the current rate of 0.17 inches per year.

“Current rates of acceleration mean that we are on track to add another 20 centimeters of global mean sea level by 2050,” said Nadya Vinogradova Shiffer, director for the NASA sea level change team and the ocean physics program in Washington.

That would be double the amount of change in the next three decades compared to the previous century, she said, creating a future where flooding is far more frequent and catastrophic than today.

The immediate cause of the spike is the El Niño weather effect, which replaced the La Niña from 2021 to 2022, when the sea level rose around 0.08 inches.

El Niño involves warmer-than-average ocean temperatures in the equatorial Pacific.

“In El Niño years, a lot of the rain that normally falls on land ends up in the ocean, which raises sea levels temporarily,” said Josh Willis, a sea level researcher at NASA’s Jet Propulsion Laboratory (JPL).

But there is also a clear human footprint evident in the underlying trend of acceleration.

“Long-term datasets like this 30-year satellite record allow us to differentiate between short-term effects on sea level, like El Niño, and trends that let us know where sea level is heading,” said Ben Hamlington, lead for NASA’s sea level change team at JPL.

Technological innovations have brought greater accuracy of measurements over the years. For example, radar altimeters bounce microwaves off the sea surface, then record the time the signal takes to travel back to the satellite, as well as the strength of the return signal.

They also cross-check their data with other sources like tide gauges and satellite measurements of atmospheric water vapor and Earth's gravity field.

## PHILIPPINE STAR

### 'Practice Energy efficiency'

By: Alexis Romero

MANILA, Philippines — In a message in observance of Earth Hour yesterday, President Marcos called on Filipinos to practice energy efficiency as the Philippines grapples with the challenges posed by climate change and El Niño.

“Let us highlight the crucial role of energy efficiency in addressing climate change. By embracing energy efficient practices, we can reduce our carbon footprint and create a sustainable future,” the President said in a video posted on Facebook.

Marcos urged the public to participate in the “You Have The Power” campaign and be one with the government in taking steps towards energy security and sustainable systems.

“Let’s make this Earth Hour count towards a greener future,” he said.

Meanwhile, Environment Secretary Maria Antonia Yulo-Loyzaga pointed out the urgency of our planetary crisis as the country joined the global observance of Earth Hour.

“Our responses to this complex challenge must not only be bottom-up but also top-down, cutting across all sectors. Industry, government and academia must lead the change lest our Earth choke in the hands of the most intelligent species that ever lived. We broke this planet. We may still have a chance to fix it – but we must act today,” Loyzaga said.

She added the country renews its commitment this year as it stands with the World-Wide Fund for Nature-Philippines in the observance of Earth Hour with the local theme, “Switch Off Plastic Pollution, Switch On Nature.”

She urged knowledge and innovation leaders across all sectors to confront the socio-economic realities of plastic use and develop and design alternative materials that are as functional and affordable as petroleum-based plastic.

“Our Earth was formed 4.5 billion years ago and our earliest ancestors emerged roughly in the last 300,000. Evidence shows that humans, as we know them in Asia, may have emerged genetically less than 15,000 years ago,” she noted.

“And in that blink of an eye, we stand today in the Anthropocene, being the only species able to alter what took billions of years to form. Scientists say we have crossed six of the nine planetary boundaries – leading our earth to the precipice of irreversible change,” Loyzaga added. — Bella Cariaso

## 'We broke it, we fix it': DENR urges Filipinos to join Earth Hour 2024

By: James Relativo

MANILA, Philippines — The Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) enjoined Filipinos to do their part in reversing damages brought by humans upon Mother Nature in the last 300,000 years.

Environment Secretary Maria Antonia Yulo Loyzaga had this to say Saturday as the World-Wide Fund for Nature — Philippines (WWF Philippines) encourages everyone to switch off non-essential lights from 8:30 p.m. to 9:30 p.m. in the face of global warming and climate change.

"While global discourse on climate resilience continues, we must face the urgency of our planetary crisis," said Loyzaga.

"The Earth Hour reminds us both the promise and the perils of our current trajectories," she added.

While humans have managed to generate artificial intelligence, send men to the moon and search for signs of life on other planets, the DENR official lamented how mankind still cannot control its fossil-fueled consumption, nor prevent plastics from reaching oceans.

The said movement aims this year's Earth Hour to be the biggest yet. Last 2023, over 410,000 hours were given to the planet by supporters in over 190 countries and territories.

In line with this, the DENR has renewed its commitment as it stands with the WWF Philippines in the global observance of Earth Hour 2023 with the local theme, "Switch Off Plastic Pollution, Switch On Nature."

"Our responses to this complex challenge must not only be bottom-up but also top-down, cutting across all sectors, industry, government and academia must lead the CHANGE lest our Earth choke in the hands of the most intelligent species that ever lived," continued Loyzaga.

"We broke this planet. We may still have a chance to fix it — but we must ACT TODAY."

### **Manila as main partner**

The Department of Health last Friday voiced its support in making this year's observance the #BiggestHourForEarth, emphasizing how WWF — Philippines has chosen Manila City as the "main partner" and venue for this year's Earth hour event launch.

Iconic landmarks in the city, including the City Hall Clock Tower and Rizal Monument, will switch off non-essential lights for an hour to show their commitment and solidarity with energy consumption.

Besides the country's capital, other local government units like Makati, Baguio, Catbalogan, Ormoc, San Carlos, San Fernando, Santa Rosa, Tagum, Zamboanga City and Pilar Siargao have earlier expressed their commitment to take part in their own respective switch-off programs and activities.

"Promoting a healthy environment through sustainable practices can improve the health and well-being of every Filipino. Let's take care of our environment and nature," said health Secretary Teodoro Herbosa in a mix of Filipino and English.

"Participating in Earth Hour by turning off non-essential lights even in the comfort of our homes will bring significant benefits in achieving safe and quality health for everyone, Because in a New Philippines, Every Life is Important."

## CCC IN THE NEWS:

### BUSINESS MIRROR

#### [PHL to ICJ: Polluting states accountable for climate woes](#)

By: Malou Talosig-Bartolome

THE Philippines, one of the world's most vulnerable countries from climate change risks, has asked the United Nations' principal judicial organ to make polluting countries accountable for climate change.

In its Written Statement, the Philippine government also asked the International Court of Justice based in The Hague, The Netherlands to heed the call of the UN General Assembly to issue an advisory opinion on climate change.

#### **Can ICJ rule on climate change?**

In March 2023, the UN General Assembly requested that the ICJ issue an advisory opinion on the obligations of states with respect to climate change.

The ICJ has two major mandates: settle legal issues including territorial disputes submitted by states, and issue advisory opinions on legal questions referred by UN agencies.

Vanuatu lobbied before the UN member states to support its initiatives to bring the question of climate justice before the ICJ.

#### **The UNGA asked the ICJ to answer the questions:**

- What are the obligations of States under international law to ensure the protection of the climate system and other parts of the environment from anthropogenic emissions of greenhouse gasses (GHG) for States and for present and future generations?
- What are the legal consequences under these obligations for States where they, by their acts and omissions, have caused significant harm to the climate system and other parts of the environment, with respect to: (i) States, including, in particular, small island developing States, which due to their geographical circumstances and level of development, are injured or specially affected by or are particularly vulnerable to the adverse effects of climate change? (ii) Peoples and individuals of the present and future generations affected by the adverse effects of climate change?

#### **Philippine submission to ICJ**

The Philippines urged the ICJ to exercise its jurisdiction on rendering an advisory opinion on the liability of states leading to climate change.

“The enormity of the effects of climate change and its calamitous impact on all States and peoples are doubtless confirmed by scientific consensus...This paramount concern, therefore, impels and warrants the exercise of this Court’s advisory jurisdiction,” it said.

The Philippines also urged the Court to “view [the issue] within the context of all people’s fundamental Right to Life” as well as the “Right to a Clean, Healthy and Sustainable Environment.”

Manila wants countries which emit the most human-caused greenhouse emissions (GHG) to be held accountable for the loss of lives and properties brought forth by climate change-induced disasters.

“Any act or omission that harms or tends to harm the environment ...that may be attributable to a State which results in anthropogenic GHG emissions over time causing climate change is a breach of a State obligation under international law,” the Written Statement signed by Solicitor General Menardo Guevarra and other solicitors and counsels.

Philippine Ambassador to the Netherlands J. Eduardo Malaya submitted the Written Statement last Thursday. State Solicitor Rowena F. Mutia and Associate Solicitor Mary Rose Beley-Arnesto of the Office of the Solicitor General accompanied him at the Peace Palace.

Various agencies of the Philippine Government contributed to the Written Statement, led by the Office of the Solicitor General and the Department of Foreign Affairs, in consultations with the Department of Justice, the Department of Environment and Natural Resources, the Climate Change Commission, the National Economic and Development Authority, and the University of the Philippines Law Center, among others.

### **‘Game changer’ in climate law and diplomacy**

An ICJ advisory opinion on climate justice is a “game changer in the field of climate law and diplomacy,” Ambassador Malaya said.

Earlier, the Philippines also supported the small island states in asking the International Tribunal on the Law of the Sea (Itlos) to issue an advisory opinion on climate change, with focus on the obligation of states to protect the marine resources.

In the case of the ICJ, the questions include the specific obligations of states, and whether states can be held responsible for increase in GHG emissions.

“The participation of the Philippines in the advisory opinion proceedings is significant as it addresses the issue of climate change, which is perhaps the greatest existential threat facing the world today,” Ambassador Malaya said.

“It also marks the welcomed return of the country in the proceedings of the ICJ, the last one having been decades ago.”

## **DAILY TRIBUNE**

### **Meralco forges ahead in powering a sustainable energy future**

Climate change has been a long-standing global issue.

Across the world, overt symptoms of climate change can be seen through rising global temperatures, melting glaciers, warming of the ocean, and frequent occurrence of catastrophic events, such as changes in rainfall patterns and distribution, food security and threats to biodiversity, public health risks, rising sea levels and annual losses in gross domestic product (GDP).

A study published in the Annual Review of Environment and Resources Journal titled “Climate Change Mitigation in the Energy and Forestry Sectors of Developing Countries” noted that implementing energy efficiency practices and strict forest management would reduce greenhouse gas emissions while promoting economic growth.

Here in the Philippines, climate change has significantly impacted the country’s weather systems, with prolonged droughts ruining crops and stronger and more destructive typhoons causing millions in damages.

The serious threat of climate change has made it imperative for the Philippines to adopt measures and implement programs to address the problem. The unabated accumulation of greenhouse gases in the atmosphere will severely impact global natural resources.

Responding to the heightened risks brought about by climate change, power distributor Manila Electric Company (Meralco) launched its overarching sustainability agenda “Powering the Good Life” in 2019 which is heavily anchored on the United Nations’ Sustainable Development Goals (UN SDGs) and is supported by four pillars: Power, Planet, People, and Prosperity.

As the largest electricity distributor in the Philippines, Meralco recognizes the critical role that it plays in the country’s pursuit of a sustainable energy future which is why it is firmly committed to a just, orderly, and affordable transition to cleaner energy sources.

Just recently, Meralco announced a landmark investment of over P100 billion through 2030 to accelerate the implementation of its sustainability agenda.

Under its long-term sustainability strategy (LTSS), Meralco is pouring in significant capital investments to undertake critical projects designed to strengthen the company’s distribution network to improve its resiliency in the face of the growing risks and challenges posed by climate change.

Primary initiatives under this are enhancing grid reliability, reducing system loss, transitioning to natural ester oil for distribution transformers, implementing energy efficiency solutions, and expanding electric vehicle (EV) fleets and infrastructure.

“With sustainability deeply embedded in Meralco’s operations and long-term plans, we are proud to commit over P100 billion in capital expenditures to initiatives that not only enhance our infrastructure but also align with the government’s vision for a sustainable future,” said Meralco executive vice president and chief operating officer Ronnie L. Aperocho.

Meralco is also accelerating its renewable energy buildout through MGen Renewable Energy, Inc. (MGreen), a wholly owned subsidiary of Meralco PowerGen Corporation. This is to ramp up the development of RE projects primarily from solar and wind sources.

“Core to our long-term sustainability strategy are twin commitments to secure 1,500 MW of renewable energy supply contracts and to develop 1,500 MW of attributable green energy generation capacity. This underscores our dedication to our low-carbon transition and to serving the country’s growing energy demand with clean power,” said Raymond Ravelo, Meralco’s first vice president and chief sustainability officer.

Meralco has also allotted funds to push solar energy solutions for businesses and homes through its subsidiary MSpectrum, as well as social amelioration programs through its corporate social development arm One Meralco Foundation (OMF).

Through its solar electrification initiatives, OMF brings solar energy solutions to rural health centers, water access projects, and livelihood programs.

These strategic investments are crucial in driving Meralco’s sustainability strategy, which aims to reduce total emissions by 20% by 2030.



Seen in the photo (from L-R) are CCC Vice Chairperson and Executive Director Director Robert E.A. Borje, Meralco Executive Vice President and Chief Operating Officer Ronnie L. Aperoch, Meralco First Vice President and Chief Sustainability Officer Raymond B. Ravelo, Meralco Vice President and Head of Facilities, Safety, and Safety Management Jerry B. Lao, and CCC Executive Assistant Raul Villegas. Support to the government

Recently, Meralco discussed its in-progress sustainability initiatives with the Climate Change Commission Philippines to bolster the country's transition towards a greener future.

“As one of the largest players in the power industry here in the country, we are conscious of our business’s impact on the environment, and we are one with the government in mitigating the risk of global warming attributed to carbon emissions and other chemicals produced during power generation and distribution,” said Aperoch.

During the engagement, Meralco executives showcased the distribution utility’s EVs and charging stations, along with its digital laboratory — the Powertech Innovation and eXperience Lab (PIXL), which reflects the company’s dedication to leveraging innovative technologies for improved customer service and more sustainable business operations.

### **Championing a green environment**

Along with pushing for sustainable energy, Meralco also shares in the responsibility to protect and nurture the environment.

Through the One for Trees program of OMF, Meralco implements reforestation and agroforestry initiatives to protect and preserve Philippine forests.

Just last year, OMF spearheaded the planting of 100,000 native trees in the Laguna-Quezon Land Grant (LQLG), a 6,765-hectare forest land that forms part of the Sierra Madre mountain range that stretches from Siniloan, Laguna, to Real, Quezon. The LQLG has long been threatened by activities like illegal tree cutting, slash-and-burn farming (kaingin), fuel wood collection, and mining, which result in forest degradation.

To further its reforestation efforts, OMF last month led the planting of 125,000 native mangroves in Del Carmen, Siargao Islands, in Surigao del Norte. The activity, conducted in celebration of World Wetlands Day, was in partnership with the local government of Del Carmen and the people's organization Kaanib ng mga Mangingisda at Magsasaka ng Numancia or KAMAMANA.

As of end-2023, OMF has already nurtured 2.3 million trees across 35 reforestation sites in the country. This has directly benefited 2,359 tree farmers and their families who nurture and maintain the trees.

“Reversing the losses in our environment takes more than just tree-planting activities; it takes conscientious efforts — from volunteers, to the local government partners, to the community — to grow, nurture and protect these trees so that the community can also reap economic and social benefits from them and over the long term, help mitigate the extreme effects of global warming and climate change. Ultimately, it is an investment for a more sustainable world for the future generation as well,” OMF President and Meralco Chief Corporate Social Responsibility Officer Jeffrey O. Tarayao said.

Aligned with its efforts to promote a greener future, Meralco is also an active supporter of the country's important shift to eco-friendly transportation. Over the years, Meralco has been at the forefront of adopting alternative and sustainable transportation solutions through EVs.

Meralco's Green Mobility program aims to electrify at least a quarter of its fleet by 2030. Last year, the company also incorporated Movem Electric, Inc. to help drive solutions to achieve cleaner and greener transportation.

### **Making an impact**

In recognition of its encompassing sustainability agenda, Meralco has been consistently recognized for its efforts and programs.

During the 2023 International Business Awards held in Rome, Italy, Meralco took the spotlight after clinching eight awards—four gold and four bronze.

The four gold hauls consisted of a Gold Stevie under the “Sustainability Leadership Award in Asia, Australia, and New Zealand” category; a Gold Stevie for “Sustainability Hero of the Year in Asia, Australia, and New Zealand”; a Gold Stevie for “Thought Leader of the Year,” and a Gold Stevie for “Meralco's Spectrum on Solar Rooftop Installation.

The awards highlighted Meralco's commitment "to place sustainability at its heart" by empowering the public while protecting the environment and fostering the nation's economic growth.

From the grid to the consumers, Meralco will continue to light up our homes and offices, power industries, and energize a prosperous Philippines.

"This year, we expect to move forward with our long-term goal of achieving sustainable energy security through our investments in utility scale power generation projects, including exploring the possible adoption of nuclear energy in the country," Meralco chairman and chief executive officer Manuel V. Pangilinan said in a recent statement.

"Our mission in Meralco goes beyond delivering innovative products and quality services to Filipino consumers. Our strategic expansion and social development initiatives have always been anchored on our firm commitment to create additional and transformative value to our stakeholders, power the country's economic progress, and contribute further to the advancement of the Government's socio-economic agenda," he added.

## MANILA BULLETIN

### [PH urges Hague Court to exercise jurisdiction over climate issues](#)

By: Argyll Cyrus Geducos

The Philippines urged the ICJ to exercise its jurisdiction, arguing that "the enormity of the effects of climate change and its calamitous impact on all States and peoples are doubtless confirmed by scientific consensus."

The Philippines filed its Written Statement with the ICJ in the Hague on Thursday, March 21. It was submitted by Philippine Ambassador to the Netherlands J. Eduardo Malaya, accompanied by State Solicitor Rowena Mutia and Associate Solicitor Mary Rose Beley-Arnesto of the Office of the Solicitor General.

In its submission, signed by Solicitor General Menardo Guevarra and other solicitors and counsels, the Philippines urged the ICJ to exercise its jurisdiction, arguing that "the enormity of the effects of climate change and its calamitous impact on all States and peoples are doubtless confirmed by scientific consensus."

"This paramount concern, therefore, impels and warrants the exercise of this Court's advisory jurisdiction," the letter read.

The Philippines urged the Court to "view (the issue) within the context of all people's fundamental Right to Life from whence the Right to a Clean, Healthy, and Sustainable Environment flows."

"Any act or omission that harms or tends to harm the environment that may be attributable to a State which results in anthropogenic GHG emissions over time causing climate change is a breach of a State obligation under international law," it added.

The submission was a concerted effort by various agencies of the Philippine Government, spearheaded by the Office of the Solicitor General (OSG) and the Department of Foreign Affairs (DFA), in consultations with the Department of Justice (DOJ), the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR), the Climate Change Commission, the National Economic and Development Authority (NEDA), and the University of the Philippines Law Center, among others.

In March 2023, the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) unanimously adopted Resolution 77/276 requesting the ICJ to render an advisory opinion on the obligations of States in respect of climate change to establish specific obligations among States, and the legal consequences to ensure the protection of the climate system from anthropogenic emissions of greenhouse gases.

The resolution was initiated by Vanuatu and a Core Group of like-minded countries.

According to Ambassador Malaya, the Philippines' participation in the advisory opinion proceedings is significant as it addresses the issue of climate change.

## PHILIPPINE INFORMATION AGENCY

### [PH underscores NAP as critical enabler to enhance adaptation action & support in developing nations](#)

**MANILA** -- The Philippines underscored that National Adaptation Plans (NAPs) are critical enablers to enhance adaptation action and support, emphasizing further the need to strengthen collaboration and accelerate delivery of support for developing nations' adaptation planning and implementation.

Following its 25th meeting, the Adaptation Committee of the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) brought together countries and stakeholders in the Adaptation Forum 2024 to address opportunities for action and collaboration across the NAP process, promoting solutions towards achieving the global goal on adaptation.

Secretary Robert E.A. Borje of the Philippines' Climate Change Commission, as a member of the Adaptation Committee, served as facilitator and rapporteur on the sessions regarding impact, vulnerability and risk assessment for NAPs, and adaptation planning.

Hearing from country representatives and stakeholders, Borje recognized the urgent need for accelerated support in terms of finance, capacity, and technology, and emphasized enhanced collaboration and cooperation to enable developing countries and particularly vulnerable nations to formulate and implement their NAPs.

“National Adaptation Plans are critical baselines for individual and collective efforts of Parties. Towards the achievement of the global goal on adaptation and the new global climate resilience objectives, we must drive developing nations towards NAP formulation and implementation. In this case, support for the whole NAP process must be provided, with least to no conditionalities, and in the most urgent manner,” Borje said.

The NAP process includes risk assessment, planning and development, implementation, and monitoring, evaluation, accountability and learning.

According to the NAP Central, 53 developing countries have submitted their NAPs, which accounts for only 25 percent of all developing country Parties under the UNFCCC and the Paris Agreement.

Currently, the Philippines is in the course of finalizing its first NAP, developed based on a whole-of-nation and whole-of-society approach, in collaboration with bilateral partners, government agencies and institutions, civil society and non-government organizations, private sector, and other stakeholders.

Primary challenges in NAP formulation are data availability and accessibility, data quality and quantity, and local capacity to analyze these towards determination of national priorities and strategies.

“We must make data and information more available and accessible, and ensure that developing nations are provided with the capacity to analyze data to determine fit-for-purpose adaptation measures. Support must be provided to enable developing nations to formulate NAPs with least domestic budget and resource implication as possible,” Borje said.

Developed states must exert more and ramp up cooperation with and assistance for developing states to address key data challenges. In this regard, Annex 1 Parties must ensure that Means of Implementation are provided urgently.” he added.

While there are support windows such as through the Green Climate Fund (GCF), Adaptation Fund, and UN4NAPs, among others, participants stated that accessing these remains a challenge due to stringent procedures.

Consistent with the directives of President Ferdinand R. Marcos, Jr., the Philippines actively participates in international climate change negotiation process, and has been calling for simplified and streamlined processes in accessing means of implementation and support, and need to further strengthen collaboration, such as through south-south, north-south, and triangular cooperation for both climate change adaptation and mitigation.

Under the leadership of the President, and consistent with the Philippine Development Plan, the Climate Change Commission (CCC), in coordination with relevant agencies and stakeholders, is finalizing the Philippines’ first NAP, outlining country’s priorities and strategies towards national climate resilience.

The Adaptation Forum 2024 was held in Bonn, Germany. This will be followed by the NAP Expo in Dhaka, Bangladesh where a series of knowledge-sharing activities and experts training on adaptation planning and implementation will take place.

**THE MANILA TIMES**

[CCC: Cooperate for quick climate change action](#)

By The Manila Times

With only 51 National Adaptation Plan (NAP) submissions by developing countries as of the 2023 UN Climate Change Conference, increased support for adaptation planning and implementation is a critical priority.

Secretary Robert Borje of the Philippines' Climate Change Commission (CCC) pointed out the need for close cooperation on global, subnational and national levels at the 25th meeting of the Adaptation Committee of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) in Bonn, Germany.

Serving as committee member representing non-Annex I countries, he shared their firsthand experiences in climate change adaptation. Borje is the first Filipino who has sat on the Adaptation Committee in the latter's 14-year history. The CCC is the government's lead policymaking body tasked to coordinate, monitor and evaluate government programs.

Immediate adaptation strategies include strengthening collaboration with UN and UNFCCC bodies, countries and other stakeholders; providing support in NAP formulation and implementation; offering technical assistance in adaptation reporting and monitoring, evaluation, accountability and learning; and advancing strategic communications on adaptation.

He added that the need to double adaptation finance from 2019 levels and the gaps in adaptation financing, which need \$387 billion in investments according to a UN Environment Program report, must be immediately addressed to support developing nations' actions toward global climate resilience.

He said that strategic communications can "enhance our ways of communicating climate change and climate change adaptation ... that would result in more holistic and inclusive climate action on the ground."

Anchored on the recently adopted outcomes of the first global stocktake and the conclusion of the Glasgow-Sharm el-Sheikh Work Program on the Global Goal on Adaptation, the Adaptation Committee is a UNFCCC-constituted body that charts paths to enhance climate action and support, with a focus on particularly vulnerable and developing nations.

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