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By: Erin Hale

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By: Alak Desai

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MSN

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Information and Knowledge Management Division

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[China's missed emissions target poses challenge to global climate efforts](#)

By: Erin Hale

China's failure to meet a key carbon emissions target has raised concerns about its ability to achieve carbon neutrality, a potentially decisive factor in global efforts to avert the worst effects of climate change.

China's carbon intensity – a measurement of carbon emissions per unit of gross domestic product (GDP) – fell 3.4 percent in 2024, missing Beijing's official target of 3.9 percent, according to the National Bureau of Statistics.

China is also behind its longer-term goal of slashing carbon intensity by 18 percent between 2020 and 2025, as set by the Chinese Communist Party (CCP) in its most recent five-year plan.

Under China's "dual targets", President Xi Jinping has pledged to reach peak emissions before the end of the decade and carbon neutrality by 2060.

China's progress is being closely watched around the world due to its paradoxical position as the world's top polluter – responsible for about 30 percent of global emissions – and the world's leader in renewable energy investment.

The country's success or failure to meet its emissions targets will have major implications for the international community's efforts to keep average temperatures from rising more than 1.5 degrees Celsius (2.7 degrees Fahrenheit) above pre-industrial levels, a benchmark set by the United Nations to avert "catastrophic" effects of climate change.

The chances of the planet being able to keep below the 1.5C threshold over the long-term are already in doubt, after 2024 became the first calendar year in history where temperatures breached the limit.

Although carbon intensity is just one of the benchmarks used by Beijing, it provides important insights into how decarbonisation is playing out across the economy, said Muiyi Yang, a senior energy analyst at Ember, a global energy think tank based in the United Kingdom.

"Even though the economy continued to grow, the reduction in emissions relative to that growth wasn't as rapid as intended," Muiyi told Al Jazeera.

The world's second-largest economy relied heavily on industrial growth to power itself out of the economic slump caused by the COVID-19 pandemic, but this in turn has led to a recent surge in energy demand, Mui said.

While China's economy officially grew 5 percent in 2024, electricity demand grew 6.8 percent year-on-year, according to government data.

Carbon emissions grew 0.8 percent year-on-year.

Record heatwaves have posed a further challenge to emission reduction efforts by disrupting energy production at hydropower dams, forcing authorities to make up the shortfall with coal power.

Despite the setbacks, Beijing has made remarkable achievements in renewable energy, according to Eric Fishman, a senior manager at the Lantau Group, an energy consultancy firm in Hong Kong.

China last year met 14.5 percent of its total energy demand with wind and solar power and another 13.4 percent with hydropower, according to government data.

The country also met about 75 percent of its incremental growth in energy demand – 500 out of 610 terawatt hours – with renewable energy, Fishman said, based on an analysis of government data.

The figure represents “massive amounts of clean energy” roughly equivalent to Germany's annual energy consumption, Fishman told Al Jazeera.

Much of this growth has been driven by government support, including from the highest levels of the CCP.

Xi Jinping Thought, Xi's governing ideology enshrined in the Chinese constitution, states that China must strive towards an “ecological civilisation”.

In 2021, Xi announced that “high energy consumption and high-emission projects that don't meet requirements should be resolutely taken down”.

The same year, China launched its Emissions Trading Scheme, the world's largest carbon trading market, under which firms that produce less emissions than their designated allowance can sell their unused allowances to polluters exceeding their limits.

More recently, Xi has called for China to focus on “new quality productive forces” and transition to more high-end and innovation-driven manufacturing, said Anika Patel, a China analyst at Carbon Brief.

“[China] has historically been seen as the ‘factory of the world’ but with a focus on the so-called ‘old three’, which are all lower-value products – appliances, clothing and toys. Now it wants to shift towards green growth and the ‘new three’, which is solar panels, electric vehicles and lithium-ion batteries,” Patel told Al Jazeera.

The CCP will release its newest round of carbon emissions targets for 2026 to 2030 alongside its next five-year plan later this year, Patel said, which will impact the direction of both public and private sectors.

Yao Zhe, a global policy adviser for Greenpeace East Asia, said while China is on track to reach peak carbon before 2030, whether it can leave coal fully behind in the long term is less certain.

“Achieving carbon neutrality will require many more structural changes in China’s energy sector and economy as a whole. And those changes need to start soon after peak,” Yao told Al Jazeera.

“While Chinese policymakers are good at supporting the cleantech industry, they tend to defer these structural reforms to a later timeframe – possibly later than 2035 – and this is a real concern.”

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Sa pahayag ng ahensya sinabi nito na katuwang nila ang iba pang concerned agencies ng pamahalaan maging ang ilang pribadong sektor na bumubuo sa Climate Finance Strategy.

Nilalayon ng naturang estratehiya na mabigyan ng kaukulang pondo ang climate priorities ng Pilipinas.

Sa ganitong paraan ay masusuportahan ang membership pagdating sa global multilateral funds.

Makakatulong din ito para mapataas ang sustainable finance effort.

Upang makamit ang climate-resilient Philippines, ito ang magsisilbing blueprint sa usapin ng climate related activities ng bansa.

BUSINESS WORLD

What's Next For Global Climate Action With Trump's Return

By: Alak Desai

Within hours of taking office, President Donald Trump announced that the United States would once again, withdraw from the Paris Agreement, effectively nullifying U.S.' international climate commitments. His re-election, at a time when the world battles record-breaking heatwaves, raging wildfires, erratic and sudden monsoons, and rising sea levels, carries significant implications for collective climate action.

For a nation that significantly contributes to the disproportionate impact of climate change on the world with 11 per cent of the world's total GHG emissions in 2023, President Trump's policy outlook has already dealt a severe blow to global climate cooperation.

The administration's collective scepticism toward climate science poses a significant risk and their attempts to undermine scientific consensus on climate change are creating a dangerous culture of denial. Recent reactions to the California wildfires and blame games with local authorities indicate what the next few years will look like.

These actions have raised concerns globally, including in India. As the world's third largest emitter but also a climate-vulnerable nation, India relies heavily on principles of CBDR – global cooperation, and financial support to meet its ambitious climate goals. President Trump's actions will disrupt these efforts, with profound consequences not only for India but for the entire Global South.

President Trump's Climate Record

During his first term, there was a categorical deviation in US' leadership in global climate diplomacy, with an aggressive rollback of environmental policies, prioritisation of a pro-fossil fuel agenda, and withdrawal from key multilateral agreements – most notably from the Paris Agreement.

Additionally, the US withdrawal from various financial obligations left dependent countries struggling to address the funding gap for their climate initiatives. A combination of these policies, not only stalled global climate action progress but also created a competitive imbalance for nations working to meet their climate targets, further damaging international cooperation on climate action.

It is fair to say that his second term is likely to follow a similar trajectory, with specific actions such as declaring a National Energy Emergency, dismantling the U.S. International Climate Finance Plan, effectively ending financial support for global climate

mitigation efforts, and promoting slogans like "Drill, baby, drill!" to reinforce his commitment to expanding domestic fossil fuel production, inevitably leading to an unmitigated spike in carbon emissions from the US.

Implications For India And The Global South Perspective

US disengagement from the Paris Agreement in 2016 created a leadership vacuum that other nations attempted and struggled to fill. For climate-vulnerable countries – despite contributing minimally to global emissions, this vacuum has been particularly damaging. Additionally, this complicated global efforts by undermining the principles of climate equity, which have been the conditional foundation of climate targets for developing and least developed countries.

Developing nations have long argued that the Global North, must shoulder a greater share of the burden in addressing climate change. President Trump's outlook, which prioritizes inward-looking policies, and economic gains over environmental sustainability, completely disregards the foundational principle of CBDR with his America First ideology.

India, positioned as a leader in the Global South, has a critical role to play in bridging the gap created by US' withdrawal. India's initiatives in renewable energy and climate diplomacy have positioned it as an important player in the global fight against climate change. However, it is considered that President Trump's policies could potentially pressure India to prioritize economic growth over environmental sustainability. With global cooperation weakened, and international trade threatened, India might be forced to limit its climate action goals to prioritize the country's economy.

Most importantly, this re-instated policy outlook is likely to further erode global climate diplomacy, making it harder for countries to negotiate favourable agreements or pressure high-emitting countries to take responsibility for their actions. India, as a developing nation with a growing economy, faces the dual challenge of pursuing sustainable development while addressing the urgent need to cut emissions, and the same juxtaposition stands true for other countries in the Global South.

What's Next

Withdrawal of a superpower and the 2nd largest emitter of greenhouse gases from the Paris Agreement, adds needless pressure to the climate crisis by increasing uncertainty in mitigating carbon emissions, and collaborative global climate action, with a direct impact on continuing the financing negotiations undertaken at COP29.

Despite the challenges posed by this, there are a few reasons for cautious optimism, the main one being an opportunity to strengthen regional alliances in response to the leadership vacuum, and collaborations with other geo-political blocs and developing nations, to maintain momentum on climate action.

India, as a pivotal leader in climate action and the Global South, has a unique opportunity to amplify its climate action ambitions. India must double down on its climate ambitions—amplifying renewable energy initiatives, fostering regional collaboration, and advocating for equitable global frameworks, particularly for climate financing and technology transfer.

Most specifically, with a growing focus on energy security across the Global South, continued efforts for enabling foreign private investments in the renewable energy sector and towards industrial green transition are critical to filling the gaps created by the potential lack of bilateral commitments. Further, there is an opportunity for India to be the source of best practices, which it has showcased by reasonably decoupling economic growth from increasing emissions. COP30 will form an important platform for India to focus on strengthening alliances with like-minded nations and boost its leadership position.

MANILA STANDARD

[Global warming: PH, other nations struggling vs. triple planetary crisis](#)

The world is facing a triple planetary crisis with catastrophic consequences. The UN Environment Program (UNEP) has called for urgent action to combat climate change, biodiversity loss and pollution, warning that progress on all fronts remains slow and uneven.

“Last year brought both successes and disappointments in global efforts to tackle the triple planetary crisis,” said UNEP executive director Inger Andersen, introducing the agency’s latest Annual Report.

She also pointed to ongoing geopolitical tensions that are hindering environmental cooperation.

“Environmental multilateralism is sometimes messy and arduous. But even in complex geopolitical times, collaboration across borders and across our differences is the only option to protect the foundation of humanity’s existence—Planet Earth.”

UNEP’s Emissions Gap Report 2024 warned that countries must cut emissions by 42 percent by 2030 to keep global warming within the 1.5°C target agreed in the landmark Paris Agreement.

Without drastic action, temperatures could rise between 2.6°C and 3.1°C this century, climate models warn, with catastrophic consequences.

UNEP is actively working with over 60 low- and middle-income countries to accelerate their transition to electric vehicles, part of a larger push to cut emissions from the transport sector.

UN scientists highlight the kind of national projects making a difference, including Antigua and Barbuda procuring fleets of electric buses, and Kenya introducing legislation for major investments in electric motorcycles and public transit.

Ending plastic pollution

Plastic pollution, one of the most pressing global environmental threats, is another major focus, as international efforts continue to negotiate a legally binding ban.

In Busan, South Korea last year, 29 out of 32 articles of a new global plastic treaty were agreed. However, negotiations are continuing on a final text.

UNEP is calling on countries to bridge their differences before the next round of negotiations.

“Nations must work towards agreeing on a strong instrument to end plastic pollution before the seventh UN Environment Assembly (UNEA-7) in December,” Ms. Andersen said.

A call for greater action

The UNEP head called for bolder commitments, particularly as countries prepare to submit their next round of Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) to limit global warming later in February.

“Humanity is not out of the woods,” Ms. Andersen warned.

“Temperatures are rising, ecosystems are disappearing, and pollution remains a deadly threat. These are global problems that require global solutions. The world must pull together to build a fairer, more sustainable planet.”

PHILIPPINE INFORMATION AGENCY

[Recto secures financing for big-ticket infra projects, budget support for health and climate change initiatives during PH-Japan high-level meeting](#)

Finance Secretary Ralph G. Recto secured financing from Japan for big-ticket infrastructure projects as well as program budget support for health and climate change initiatives during a high-level meeting between the Philippine and Japanese governments in Manila on March 24, 2025.

“We are deeply grateful to the government of Japan for its confidence in our ability to turn these projects into realities. On the part of the Philippine government, we will honor this trust by ensuring that every peso, every yen, and every commitment made today translates into real improvements to the people we serve,” Secretary Recto said.

“Indeed, Japan is not just a friend in words but in action. And today is just one of the many proofs that our friendship is growing stronger each day through concrete efforts,” he added.

Senior Japanese government officials led by Dr. Mori Masafumi, Special Advisor to the Japanese Prime Minister, visited the Philippines to convene the 15th Philippines-Japan High-Level Joint Committee Meeting (HLJCM) on Infrastructure Development and Economic Cooperation in order to accelerate the roll-out of Japan-supported projects in the country.

Secretary Recto headed the Philippine delegation along with his co-chair, National Economic and Development Authority (NEDA) Secretary Arsenio M. Balisacan.

Among the key highlights of the meeting were the signing of supplement financing agreements for a bypass road project in Mindanao and two major flood control projects in Luzon.

The Davao City Bypass Construction Project (III), with a financing worth JPY 46.34 billion (about PHP 17.67 billion), will improve mobility for Davaoeños, facilitate trade, and accelerate economic growth in Mindanao through the construction of a four-lane bypass road with a total length of 45.5 kilometers.

Meanwhile, the financing worth JPY 45.76 billion (about PHP 17.45 billion) for the Pasig-Marikina River Channel Improvement Project, Phase IV (II), will help strengthen the flood management infrastructure in Metro Manila through the establishment of dikes

and revetments, installation of flood gates, and channel dredging, among other measures.

The Cavite Industrial Area Flood Risk Management Project (II) also received financing worth JPY 14.48 billion (about PHP 5.52 billion) to help mitigate flood damage in the lower reach of the San Juan River Basin and its adjacent Maalimango Creek Drainage Area.

Also inked were the agreements for two program budget-support financing to assist the Philippines in advancing health and climate change initiatives.

The financing for the Climate Change Action Program, Subprogram 2 worth JPY 35.0 billion (about PHP 13.35 billion) will equip the government with the financial capability to implement more climate adaptation, mitigation, and disaster preparedness initiatives.

Meanwhile, the JPY 30.0 billion (about PHP 11.44 billion) financing for the Build Universal Health Care, Subprogram 2 will help improve equitable access to quality health services that are also responsive to gender-specific health concerns and the health impacts of climate change.

The five financing agreements were signed by Secretary Recto and Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) Country Chief Representative Baba Takashi.

During the high-level meeting, the Japanese government reaffirmed its commitment to supporting the Marcos, Jr. administration's Build Better More program and other key priority areas.

With this, both sides discussed the status, implementation issues, and ways forward to fast-track the roll-out of the big-ticket projects funded by Japan.

These include the Metro Manila Subway Project (Phase I), the North-South Commuter Railway Projects, the Metro Rail Transit Line 3 Rehabilitation Project, the Dalton Pass East Alignment Road Project, and the Metro Manila Priority Bridges Seismic Improvement Project.

Japan is also in talks with the Philippines to support the Central Mindanao High Standard Highway, the second San Juanico Bridge Construction Project, the Flood Control and Drainage Project in Davao City, the Paranaque Spillway Project, the National Public Broadcasting Digital Terrestrial Broadcasting Network Development Project, and the Magat Dam Reconstruction Project, among others.

Updates on the Mindanao peace process were also tackled, along with progress on the sectoral cooperation in disaster risk reduction, maritime safety, regional development, Information and Communications Technology (ICT), and energy transition.

The Philippine government likewise presented prospects for future infrastructure development with a specific focus on Public-Private Partnership (PPP) integration and Official Development Assistance (ODA) financing as the country makes its ascent to Upper Middle-Income status.

The rest of the Philippine delegation was composed of Department of Budget and Management (DBM) Secretary Amenah Pangandaman; Department of Transportation (DOTr) Secretary Vivencio Dizon; Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH) Secretary Manuel Bonoan; Department of Energy (DOE) Secretary Raphael Perpetuo M. Lotilla; and Philippine Ambassador to Japan Mylene J. Garcia-Albano.

Senior officials from the Department of Information and Communications Technology (DICT); Presidential Communications Office (PCO); the Bases Conversion and Development Authority (BCDA); the Mindanao Development Authority (MinDA); the Office of the Presidential Adviser on Peace, Reconciliation, and Unity (OPAPRU); and the Bangsamoro Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (BARMM) were also present.

Meanwhile, the Japanese delegation was also comprised of high-level officials in the Cabinet Secretariat; the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MOFA); the Ministry of Internal Affairs and Communications (MIC); Ministry of Finance (MOF); the Ministry of Economy, Trade And Industry (METI); Agency for Natural Resources and Energy (ANRE); and Ministry of Land, Infrastructure and Tourism (MLIT).

Also present were high-level officials from JICA, Japan Bank for International Cooperation (JBIC), Japan Overseas Infrastructure Investment Corporation for Transport & Urban Development (JOIN), the Embassy of Japan (EOJ), and JICA Philippines.

PHILIPPINE NEWS AGENCY

[Japan to finance PH infra projects, health, climate change programs](#)

By: Anna Leah Gonzales

Finance Secretary Ralph Recto secured financing for big-ticket infrastructure projects and budget support for health and climate change initiatives during the Philippines-Japan high-level meeting.

In a statement, the Department of Finance (DOF) said the high-level discussion took place Monday at the Bureau of the Treasury office.

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Recto headed the Philippine delegation along with his co-chair, National Economic and Development Authority Secretary Arsenio Balisacan.

During the meeting, Recto and Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) Country Chief Representative Baba Takashi signed five financing agreements.

The DOF said Japan would finance the JPY46.34 billion (PHP17.67 billion) Davao City Bypass Construction Project which will improve mobility for Davaoeños, facilitate trade, and accelerate economic growth in Mindanao through the construction of a four-lane bypass road with a total length of 45.5 kilometers.

Japan will also provide JPY45.76 billion (PHP17.45 billion) for the Pasig-Marikina River Channel Improvement Project, Phase IV to strengthen the flood management infrastructure in Metro Manila through the establishment of dikes and revetments, installation of flood gates, and channel dredging, among other measures.

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Another JPY30 billion (PHP11.44 billion) financing for the Build Universal Health Care, Subprogram 2 will help improve equitable access to quality health services that are also responsive to gender-specific health concerns and the health impacts of climate change.

During the high-level meeting, the DOF said the Japanese government committed to continue supporting the Marcos administration's Build Better More program and other key priority areas.

Both sides also discussed the status, implementation issues, and ways forward to fast-track the rollout of the big-ticket projects funded by Tokyo.

These include the first phase of the Metro Manila Subway Project, the North-South Commuter Railway Projects, the Metro Rail Transit Line 3 Rehabilitation Project, the Dalton Pass East Alignment Road Project, and the Metro Manila Priority Bridges Seismic Improvement Project.

The DOF said Tokyo is also in talks with Manila to support the Central Mindanao High Standard Highway, the second San Juanico Bridge Construction Project, the Flood Control and Drainage Project in Davao City, the Parañaque Spillway Project, the National Public Broadcasting Digital Terrestrial Broadcasting Network Development Project, and the Magat Dam Reconstruction Project, among others.

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The Philippine government likewise presented prospects for future infrastructure development, focusing on Public-Private Partnership integration and Official Development Assistance financing.

CCC IN THE NEWS:

DAILY GUARDIAN

[Iloilo Seeks Private Investment for Rice Resilience](#)

By: Mariela Angella Oladive

The Iloilo provincial government is calling for private sector partnerships to boost rice production and climate resilience amid declining yields and growing environmental threats.

Speaking on behalf of Gov. Arthur Defensor Jr., Provincial Administrator Raul Bantias underscored the urgency of action during the National Adaptation Plan Investment Forum on March 21 at the SMX Convention Center in Taguig.

Bantias cited data from the Provincial Agriculture Office showing that Iloilo's rice yield declined from 3.79 metric tons per hectare in 2023 to 3.64 metric tons in 2024.

He warned that without adaptation efforts, the province could lose up to 7% of total rice output by 2030, with worst-case scenarios projecting a 25% drop.

Such losses, Bantias said, could lead to economic damages reaching as much as PHP11 billion across the rice value chain.

As the fifth-largest rice-producing province in the country and the top producer in Western Visayas, Iloilo's shrinking output raises significant food security concerns.

To address this, Bantias unveiled the SERBISYO Program, or System Enhancement for Rice to Boost, Increase, and Sustain Yield Onwards.

The program aims to raise provincial rice productivity to six metric tons per hectare while improving climate resilience through science-based interventions.

"In scaling climate-resilient seeds, we aim to partner with private input suppliers and innovative agricultural companies to distribute the optimal climate-resilient varieties across the province together with the right crop-scale solutions," Bantias said.

He explained that resilient rice varieties could enhance water use efficiency by 29% and improve yield stability under changing climate conditions.

Banias added that the province also seeks to collaborate with water service providers to construct small-scale reservoirs across 30,000 hectares of rain-fed farmland.

The SERBISYO Program includes developing small-scale water impounding systems and rehabilitating irrigation facilities to improve access for farmers, especially during dry months.

Its five-year phased rollout aims to offset climate-related losses and increase rice production by at least 240,000 metric tons by 2040 through private sector co-investments.

The investment forum, titled “Adaptation in Action: Mobilizing Finance for Climate-Resilient Food and Water Systems,” was co-presented by the United Kingdom Government through the British Embassy Manila.

Other key organizers included the Department of Environment and Natural Resources, Climate Change Commission, Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas, Department of Finance, and Boston Consulting Group.

The forum brought together policymakers, climate finance experts, and development partners to align financing with the Philippine National Adaptation Plan 2030–2050.

UK Ambassador to the Philippines Laure Beaufigli, DENR Secretary Maria Antonia Yulo Loyzaga, BSP Assistant Governor Lyn Javier, and Climate Change Commission Vice Chairperson Robert Borje were among the dignitaries present.

During breakout sessions, several private companies and banking institutions expressed interest in investing in Iloilo’s rice sector.

Iloilo’s delegation to the forum included officials from the Provincial Planning and Development Office, Provincial Agriculture Office, Provincial Environment and Natural Resources Office, and Local Economic Development and Investment Promotions Office under the MoRProGRes Team.

Banias emphasized that public-private partnerships are essential to securing Iloilo’s future food supply in the face of climate risks.

MSN

[CCC strengthens climate journalism partnership, lauds GMA Integrated News](#)

The Climate Change Commission (CCC) and GMA Integrated News (GMAIN) have reinforced their commitment to climate storytelling in a collaborative meeting focused on expanding media engagement and amplifying climate action initiatives.

During the meeting, CCC Vice Chairperson and Executive Director Robert E.A. Borje presented a Plaque of Appreciation to GMAIN in recognition of its outstanding contributions to climate reporting. The recognition highlights the GMAIN's impactful programs such as "Banta ng Nagbabagong Klima," which have played a crucial role in informing the public about climate change.

GMAIN, one of the longest-running news organizations in the Philippines, has been at the forefront of climate journalism, leveraging its TV, digital, radio, and regional platforms to deliver in-depth and impactful stories.

The meeting served as a platform to explore potential collaborations, including creating dedicated spaces for climate information exchange, hosting discussions on critical but underreported issues, and launching joint initiatives to raise awareness and drive action.

"We share a common mission to address the challenges of climate change through informed storytelling and impactful journalism," Borje said. "GMA Integrated News has consistently demonstrated excellence in climate reporting, ensuring that climate information reaches a wider audience and inspires action."

As part of its broader engagement strategy, the CCC is strengthening collaboration with journalists through initiatives such as media interface sessions and training programs. These efforts aim to enhance climate reporting, encourage informed public discourse, and mainstream climate action in news coverage.

Queenie Santos-Dimapawi, Assistant Vice President and Deputy Head for Integrated News Operations, stated, "We believe awareness is the first step towards action. We have made climate change reporting a core part of our mission. Through this, we aim to turn information into inspiration and inspire Filipinos into action."

Discussions also delved on potential collaborations in producing compelling climate stories that highlight the realities of climate change and resilience efforts. Additionally, the CCC is exploring innovative platforms and strategic partnerships to expand the

reach of its advocacy and ensure that climate awareness translates into concrete action at all levels of society.

“High-quality journalism is essential in driving climate awareness and accountability,” Borje emphasized. “GMA Integrated News has set a high standard in climate reporting, producing stories that not only inform but also empower communities to take action. Our partnership is a powerful step toward a more climate-informed and resilient Philippines.”

Through strengthened partnership with stakeholders including the media, the CCC is committed to their mission to elevate the conversation on climate change, drive public engagement, and inspire meaningful action toward a more resilient and sustainable future.

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