



## NEWS ROUNDUP

29 March 2023 [ 08:00am]

---

- Climate change: Trees grow differently as planet warms
- Carbon credit rule-makers must engage Indigenous People
- Corporate Interests 'Watered Down' the Latest IPCC Climate Report, Investigations Find
- Survey says most Filipinos experienced impacts of climate change
- Davao City registers above normal heat index
- First Gen joins global shift to net zero emissions
- DENR: PH gov't addressing water crisis amid climate change
- PH addressing looming water crisis, DENR chief assures UN
- UN officials call for holistic health approach amid crises
- Energy dep't: 62.69 MW saved during Earth Hour
- Incentivizing Filipinos for using electric

### CCC IN THE NEWS

- Tunay nga bang kaakibat ng pagbabago ng klima ang nararanasan nating mga sakuna at kalamidad?
- Sa opisyal na pagpasok ng panahon ng tag-init, muli na naman nating mararamdaman ang maalinsangang panahon

### BBC NEWS

#### [Climate change: Trees grow differently as planet warms](#)

Over the last 200 years the temperature of our planet has warmed by 1.1C. Scientists already have concerns about how this will affect our health, but what about other parts of nature?

### INSIDE CLIMATE NEWS

#### [Corporate Interests 'Watered Down' the Latest IPCC Climate Report, Investigations Find](#)

By Kristoffer Tigue

Fierce negotiations between countries working to protect their financial and political interests ultimately "watered down" a landmark climate report released last week by the United Nations' Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, according to a series of recent reports and investigations.

## **LICAS NEWS PHILIPPINES**

### **[Survey says most Filipinos experienced impacts of climate change](#)**

Most Filipino adults have experienced the impacts of climate change in the past three years.

## **MANILA BULLETIN**

### **[Davao City registers above normal heat index](#)**

By: Antonio Colina IV

DAVAO CITY – The urban heat index here is already above normal, Davao City-based environmental group Interfacing Development Interventions for Sustainability (IDIS) Inc. said.

## **MANILA STANDARD**

### **[First Gen joins global shift to net zero emissions](#)**

The call to mitigate climate change has been greatly amplified in recent years and the Philippines is joining the global energy transition to net zero emissions.

## **PHILIPPINE NEWS AGENCY**

### **[DENR: PH gov't addressing water crisis amid climate change](#)**

By: Marita Moaje

MANILA – Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) Secretary Ma. Antonia Yulo-Loyzaga has assured the United Nations (UN) that the Philippine government is proactively addressing the looming water crisis brought about by climate change.

## **THE MANILA TIMES**

### **[PH addressing looming water crisis, DENR chief assures UN](#)**

By: Catherine S. Valentemar

THE Philippines is proactively addressing the looming water crisis brought about by climate change, Environment Secretary Ma. Antonia Yulo-Loyzaga assured the United Nations during the UN 2023 Water Conference held in New York from March 22 to 24.

### **[UN officials call for holistic health approach amid crises](#)**

By: UN NEWS

FOUR United Nations agencies on Monday called for global action to balance and optimize the health of people, animals and the environment as part of a new "One Health" approach.

## [Energy dep't: 62.69 MW saved during Earth Hour](#)

By Francis Earl Cueto

THE Department of Energy (DoE) said the Philippines was able to conserve a total of 62.69 megawatts (MW) during the Earth Hour 2023 held last Saturday.

### **THE PHILIPPINE STAR**

#### [Incentivizing Filipinos for using electric](#)

MANILA, Philippines – A clean air advocate and university general science instructress has backed the move to incentivize the use of electric vehicles to help mainstream their use among Filipinos.

### **CCC IN THE NEWS:**

#### **IBC-13 NEWS**

#### [Tunay nga bang kaakibat ng pagbabago ng klima ang nararanasan nating mga sakuna at kalamidad](#)

PANOORIN: Tunay nga bang kaakibat ng pagbabago ng klima ang nararanasan nating mga sakuna at kalamidad tulad na lamang ng mapinsalang flashflood sa iba't ibang bahagi ng mundo?

#### [Sa opisyal na pagpasok ng panahon ng tag-init, muli nanaman nating mararamdaman ang maalinsangang panahon](#)

PANOORIN: Sa opisyal na pagpasok ng panahon ng tag-init, muli nanaman nating mararamdaman ang maalinsangang panahon. Alam mo bang ang tinatawag na greenhouse effect ay normal lamang na proseso sa ating atmospera at hindi ito ang puno't dulo ng malubhang pagbabago ng klima?

**Information and Knowledge Management Division**

## **BBC NEWS**

### **Climate change: Trees grow differently as planet warms**

Over the last 200 years the temperature of our planet has warmed by 1.1C. Scientists already have concerns about how this will affect our health, but what about other parts of nature?

Thanks to detailed notes left by a farmer in Ohio over 100 years ago, researchers suggest a warmer climate has led to changes in how trees grow.

It's not yet known what sort of impact this could have for trees or the planet in the future.

The study showed that leaves stayed on trees about 15% longer than they did a century ago

Between 1883 and 1912, a farmer called Thomas Mikesell made detailed notes on his local trees and how they grew each season.

He also noted down how much it rained and what the temperature was in his home town on Wauseon, Ohio, each day.

Scientists from Ohio State University compared these notes with more recent observations between 2010 and 2014.

Seven different species of hardwood tree were monitored by Professor Kellen Calinger-Yoak who noticed leaves stayed on the trees for around 15% longer than back in the 19th century.

She said: "Things are not the way they used to be - they are profoundly different."

"An entire month of growing season extension is huge when we're talking about a pretty short period of time for those changes to be expressed."

Some species kept their leaf colour longer into the Autumn whereas other species budded early in the spring.

## CLIMATE CHANGE NEWS

### [Carbon credit rule-makers must engage Indigenous People](#)

By Joe Lo

Many have heard the expression that tropical rainforests are ‘the lungs of the Earth’. But for Indigenous Peoples, the rainforest is more like our beating heart. Forests are the center and soul of our communities, our culture, and our health.

Sixty million Indigenous Peoples almost wholly depend on forests for our livelihoods. In the Amazon basin, Indigenous People manage more than 30% of forested territories. Likewise, in Mesoamerica, Indigenous People and local communities steward half of the region’s forests.

Satellite imagery shows that deforestation rates in our territories are roughly half of rates found in surrounding lands.

Despite centuries of history and clear evidence that Indigenous Peoples and local communities are the most knowledgeable and experienced stewards of our rainforests, we are not consulted in key decisions about how to conserve them.

When it comes to using carbon credits as a tool to halt deforestation and stop climate change, it is critical that we are included in decision-making and consultation processes. This is especially true with regards to the Integrity Council for the Voluntary Carbon Market (IC-VCM), which will soon release new criteria for high-quality carbon credits called the Core Carbon Principles (CCP). However, their process to define carbon credit “integrity” was developed without input from Indigenous Peoples and local communities.

The Integrity Council is nearing the end of their process to develop this guidance, and has not adequately consulted us on important issues that directly impact our communities, our livelihoods, and our ability to conserve our rainforests. Consultation with Indigenous Peoples and local communities has been limited to one disappointing webinar plagued by technical problems, and one lunch at Cop27 in Egypt—which, despite featuring a promising and robust discussion, has seen no follow-up.

One urgent issue for our communities that we have not been able to weigh in on is the treatment of high-integrity jurisdictional REDD+ crediting in the Integrity Council’s guidance. Jurisdictional REDD+ credits are designed to incentivise the conservation of large regions of forests that span Indigenous territories, states, and whole countries. For our communities, these credits can unlock the finance needed to support our work to safeguard forests.

With jurisdictional approaches to forest conservation, Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities can generate high-integrity credits based on improvements in emissions and removals across wide regions or territories of forests, preventing deforestation from simply shifting to nearby plots of land.

Because of our efforts, Indigenous territories are often home to High Forest, Low Deforestation (HFLD) regions—meaning that we have high forest cover, yet low rates of deforestation. However, HFLD territories face increasing threats of deforestation. It is Indigenous Peoples who can best defend these territories in circumstances of high vulnerability. However, our only pathway to leverage carbon markets is through HFLD approaches.

It is critical that the Integrity Council does not exclude jurisdictional REDD+ credits, HFLD territories, or Indigenous wisdom from carbon markets. The Integrity Council can get this right by creating guidance for high-quality carbon credits that includes jurisdictional REDD+ programs, including those in HFLD territories, and that reflects Indigenous and local communities' perspectives and priorities.

The Council should look closely at the Tropical Forest Credit Integrity (TFCI) guide, published by Indigenous Peoples organizations and environmental groups last month. Working together, these groups created guidance to distinguish high-integrity credits that have the greatest forest conservation impact and respect the rights and livelihoods of Indigenous Peoples. The guide shows that jurisdictional REDD+ crediting can be done with high integrity, with Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities at the decision-making table, and with great impact for forests and climate.

Without the inclusion of Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities in the development process, the Council's Core Carbon Principles will not be effective in the long term. We need to be represented in governing bodies and spaces like the IC-VCM board with a real, legitimate representation to contribute to the design and oversight of both the market and individual projects, and have effective channels to address grievances.

The Integrity Council has an opportunity to embody 'integrity' by including Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities as partners and honoring our power in the voluntary carbon market. Working together, we can enable finance to flow to one of the most impactful climate solutions—our forests—and Indigenous Peoples and local communities who can best safeguard them.

The ICVM responded that it is "deeply committed to working in partnership with indigenous people and local communities to ensure the voluntary carbon market protects and promote their rights and livelihoods".

It said it has three seats on its board for indigenous people and local communities, one member of its "distinguished advisory group" is from the Shuar people and two members of its expert panel have "significant expertise of working with indigenous people and local communities".

The ICVM said it is recruiting two experts on indigenous people and local communities and has "engaged extensively" with them during its standards development process and offered them an extended deadline to submit responses "in consideration of technical issues on one of the webinars".

## INSIDE CLIMATE NEWS

### [Corporate Interests ‘Watered Down’ the Latest IPCC Climate Report, Investigations Find](#)

By Kristoffer Tigue

Fierce negotiations between countries working to protect their financial and political interests ultimately “watered down” a landmark climate report released last week by the United Nations’ Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, according to a series of recent reports and investigations.

The findings highlight what activists have long warned is hampering meaningful global action to curb rising temperatures—namely, that vested interests are preventing nations from cooperating when it comes to how, exactly, they plan to reduce their emissions and fund efforts to adapt.

The IPCC’s 6th Assessment Report, which was released on March 20, synthesizes years of peer-reviewed research on the causes and consequences of the climate crisis and is arguably the final update by the international body of climate experts before it becomes impossible to prevent the world from warming more than 1.5 degrees Celsius above pre-industrial levels. Once that threshold is crossed, scientists say, entire ecosystems could collapse and millions of lives would likely be lost to intensifying heat waves, storms and famines by the end of the century.

But while scientists broadly agreed over their portion of the synthesis report, which consisted of boiling down seven years of complex scientific findings into 85 pages, a far more volatile negotiation process was happening behind closed doors over the shorter summary of the report intended for policymakers. The approval process for that report summary, which took place earlier this month in Switzerland, requires unanimous buy-in from delegates of all 195 nations involved, making it a particularly fraught and arduous undertaking.

During those talks, several nations lobbied to water down or remove references to the environmental costs of burning fossil fuels and consuming meat, as well as add language that bolsters support for controversial technologies that capture carbon dioxide from smokestacks or remove it from the air, according to a series of news reports published late last week. In many cases, the reports said, delegates from fossil fuel and meat producing countries successfully made changes to the policymaker summary that directly contradict scientific evidence.

“Governments come to the IPCC approval session with legitimate concerns—but also with vested interests,” Lili Fuhr, deputy director of climate and energy at the Center for International Environmental Law, one of the nonprofits allowed to observe the confidential negotiations, told Heatmap News. “That is especially true for countries that have state-owned fossil fuel companies and representatives of those companies in their delegations to international climate meetings.”

Saudi Arabia, China and India, for example, made repeated attempts to water down references to fossil fuels as the main cause of global warming, according to the nonprofit Earth Negotiations Bulletin, which was the only media allowed to observe

the talks. That report also revealed efforts by several oil and gas-producing nations to include language in the final text that cast a better light on carbon capture and removal technologies. Environmentalists have long argued that those technologies are difficult to scale and pull resources away from more proven climate solutions, like renewable energy.

In some spots, straightforward language regarding the benefits of renewable energy was replaced with far more confusing technical lingo, Axios reporters Ben Geman and Andrew Freedman noted in their quick analysis of the Earth Negotiations Bulletin account. “A sentence saying that ‘electricity from photovoltaics and wind is now cheaper than energy from fossil fuels in many regions’ became: ‘maintaining emission-intensive systems may, in some regions and sectors, be more expensive than transitioning to low emission systems,’ after strong objections by Saudi Arabia,” the reporters wrote.

Michael Thomas, who writes the climate newsletter Distilled, looked at the changes made between a copy of the IPCC report summary that was leaked by scientists in 2021 and the final version published last week. He found that delegates from Brazil and Argentina had successfully removed any mention of the negative impacts of meat on the environment, as well as recommendations that people in wealthy countries reduce their meat consumption and shift their diets to include more plant-based foods.

For example, a sentence that said “plant-based diets can reduce (greenhouse gas) emissions by up to 50% compared to the average emission intensive Western diet” was included in the leaked report but not in the final report, Thomas wrote.

Ajit Niranjani, who wrote the Heatmap News story, confirmed many of those same findings with four sources who attended the negotiations but spoke on the condition of remaining anonymous. That report also found that the United States tried to cut references to international finance gaps to pay for climate adaptation and mitigation efforts, and China tried to cut a sentence that noted the world has 12 years to cut carbon pollution by two-thirds—eventually settling on including the information in a table instead.

The findings appear to support past warnings from some of the most prominent climate activists and scientists, who say the undue influence of money on national and global politics has made addressing climate change nearly impossible. Last year, James Hansen, the prominent climate scientist who elevated the issue of global warming when he famously testified in front of Congress in 1988, warned young people “that they cannot solve the energy and climate problem without addressing the special interest problem.”

Several prominent climate activists, including Greta Thunberg, reiterated that same warning earlier this year after it was announced that the top fossil fuel executive in one of the world’s leading oil producing countries, the United Arab Emirates, would host the U.N.’s flagship climate summit this year.

In fact, corporate influence over global climate efforts is so well documented at this point that the IPCC authors wanted to include references to it in the final report



summary released last week, Thomas wrote in his report for Distilled. “In a leaked draft, scientists cited studies showing the impact of lobbying. They included ‘vested interests’ as one of the ‘factors limiting ambitious transformation,’” he said. “But it appears that those very vested interests deleted this text too. The final report makes no mention of the role that lobbying plays in preventing climate action.”

## LICAS NEWS PHILIPPINES

### [Survey says most Filipinos experienced impacts of climate change](#)

Survey results showed that 93 percent of adult Filipinos have “personally experienced” the impacts of climate change

Most Filipino adults have experienced the impacts of climate change in the past three years.

This was the finding of a survey done by the Social Weather Stations from December 10 to 14 last year.

Survey results showed that 93 percent of adult Filipinos have “personally experienced” the impacts of climate change.

The survey found that 17 percent have experienced “severe impact of climate change” in the past three years, 52 percent said they experienced “moderate impact,” and 24 said “little impact.” Six percent did not experience any impact.

Those personally experiencing the impacts increased by six percentage points from March 2017 and eight points from March 2013. Those who experienced severe impact of climate change decreased by three points but was offset by an increase of 10 points among those who experienced moderate impact.

Up to 88 percent of the respondents agreed that they can do something to reduce climate risk while ten percent undecided, and three percent disagreeing.

The survey also found that four out of five Filipinos previously knew of climate change while 19 percent knew of it only at the time of the interview.

President Ferdinand Marcos Jr. last week urged Filipinos to be part of the solution to climate change and to join efforts to protect the environment.

In a video message for the annual Earth Hour observance, Marcos said Filipinos should learn more about climate change, which he described as the world’s biggest environmental challenge.

“Let us become part of the solution and embark on advocacies, programs and initiatives that will help us protect and preserve the earth – our only home,” said the president.

In a video posted on Instagram, Marcos noted that the Philippines is hit with an average of 20 typhoons annually, making it one of the most vulnerable countries to climate change.

“As the Earth’s temperature gets warmer, with the world’s carbon footprint reaching a new all-time high of 36.8 gigatons in 2022, the world braces for the irreversible impact of climate change,” said the president.

The Philippines submitted its national determined contribution to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change in April 2021, pledging a projected reduction and avoidance of greenhouse gas emissions of 75 percent for the period of 2020 to 2030, of which 2.71 percent is unconditional and 72.29 percent is conditional.

The Cabinet Cluster on Climate Change Adaptation, Mitigation and Disaster Risk Reduction, chaired by the Environment department, also adopted a resolution in January 2021 on the phaseout of single-use plastics.

The World Risk Index 2022, developed by the UN University Institute for Environment and Human Security, ranked the Philippines first among 193 countries in terms of exposure to natural hazards.

## MANILA BULLETIN

### [Davao City registers above normal heat index](#)

By: Antonio Colina IV

DAVAO CITY – The urban heat index here is already above normal, Davao City-based environmental group Interfacing Development Interventions for Sustainability (IDIS) Inc. said.

Lemuel Lloyd Manalo, IDIS program coordinator, said that the recent heat index over 40 degrees Celsius was already above normal based on the Universal Thermal Climate Index (UTCI) heat scale.

This is a significant increase from the reported average temperatures of 26 degrees Celsius in 2016, 27.5 in 2018, and 32.5 in 2019 based on the record of the Weather Monitoring Station at the Davao International Airport.

Based on the UTCI heat scale, he said the 40 degrees Celsius indicates a very strong heat stress and above 50 degrees Celsius, an extreme heat stress, noting that the city's ambient temperature has been increasing since 2014, especially during the dry season.

According to Climate Change Service, the UTCI is a bioclimatic index for describing the physiological comfort of the human body under specific meteorological conditions. It takes into account not just the ambient temperature but also other variables like humidity, wind, and radiation, all factors significantly affecting our physiological reaction to the surrounding environment.

Manalo said the increasing heat index is attributed to the global warming crisis.

He added that rising local temperature is also associated with the influx of population and rapid development of more urbanized areas.

Manalo said the city's fully urbanized areas are projected to increase from 4,031 hectares in 2015 to 16,398 hectares in 2045.

He said the key in addressing the rise of urban heat index includes nature-based solutions and low-impact development.

"Several government plans and policies have already been put in place, such as the protection of urban trees and remaining forest patches and tree-line canopy avenues, increase of parks, green spaces, landscaping, and permeable surfaces," he said.

With the temperature rise, he said the implementation of these programs is urgently needed.

He said more public covered walkways and waiting sheds must be incorporated into the infrastructure development plans.

“Davao City's green building ordinance should also incorporate and require sufficient ventilation and natural airflow use in building designs,” he said.

## MANILA STANDARD

### [First Gen joins global shift to net zero emissions](#)

The call to mitigate climate change has been greatly amplified in recent years and the Philippines is joining the global energy transition to net zero emissions.

First Gen Corp. of the Lopez Group is one of the first conglomerates to sound the call for sustainability and decarbonization.

First Gen chairman Federico Lopez's battle cry is to not to ignore the worsening climate crisis. First Gen has been leading the way with clean energy through its portfolio of solar, hydro, wind, geothermal and natural gas power plants.

"If we're not prepared and conveniently ignore it, we'll be overwhelmed and not recognize the world around us in the coming thirty years," Lopez said.

He said decarbonizing and scaling up a green electricity grid over the next three decades is the greatest energy transition in the history of mankind.

Lopez said government should craft a decarbonization and adaptation plan to address the growing impact of climate change,

"We need a comprehensive, integrated, and well-studied national decarbonization and adaptation plan of our own, backed by constant feedback from what science is telling us," he said.

The decarbonization and adaptation plan should cut across all affected sectors such as agriculture and energy, he said.

Lopez said almost every major developed city has climate change action plans and the Philippines' climate vulnerability necessitates that cities, communities and infrastructure prepare for resilience in a climate-changed world.

First Gen has helped companies in its decarbonization efforts. it recently forged a renewable energy supply agreement with Japanese waste management and recycling company GUUN Co. Ltd.

The move would help GUNN achieve its 42-percent target carbon dioxide reduction by 2030.

## PHILIPPINE NEWS AGENCY

### [DENR: PH gov't addressing water crisis amid climate change](#)

By: Marita Moaje

MANILA – Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) Secretary Ma. Antonia Yulo-Loyzaga has assured the United Nations (UN) that the Philippine government is proactively addressing the looming water crisis brought about by climate change.

At the United Nations 2023 Water Conference held in New York on March 22 to 24, Loyzaga cited the measures being implemented by President Ferdinand R. Marcos Jr., together with the legislative branch and concerned government agencies, in meeting challenges, specifically the dwindling water supply, according to a press release issued on Tuesday.

“Today, more than ever, there is a critical need for nexus governance, climate and disaster resilience, one that pursues a strategic balance between supply and consumption of water for health, food, energy, and environmental security,” Loyzaga said.

She noted that among the directions being taken is the creation of a Water Resource Management Office (WRMO) under the DENR, a first in the country’s history, “to achieve water security by integrating the functions of all agencies with water-related mandates.”

The WRMO is aligned with new legislation, creating an apex body for comprehensive water resource management that will adopt an all-hazards and risk-informed integrated water resource management approach.

Loyzaga said achieving adequate and equitable access to safe drinking water and sanitation services is at the core of sustainable development.

“All the plans and programs of the government to provide universal access to safe, sufficient, affordable, and sustainable water supply, sanitation, and hygiene will be completed by 2030,” she said.

She added that an integrated water management approach also ensures that local government units’ water-related policies and actions are all aligned with the Philippine Development Plan.

“We are establishing the national geospatial database for natural resources, including water, in order to achieve cross-cutting development goals, de-risked investments, and improve the water resource management down to the community level. It underpins our natural capital accounting programs and establishes the physical bases of the design of water-related social and infrastructure programs, which aim to ensure that no ecosystem or community is left behind,” Loyzaga explained.

With an average of 20 typhoons entering the country each year, bringing torrential rains and flooding that cause waterborne diseases, the Philippines currently ranks fourth among the countries in the world most affected by water-related disasters.

“Extreme rainfall events and prolonged periods of drought have impacted our food and energy supply. Between 2010 and 2019, damages incurred due to floods, droughts, and storms have amounted to USD10 billion,” Loyzaga said. “Water stress and insecurity remain and disasters do move people into poverty. We are not alone. Climate-vulnerable developing countries are faced with similar crises.”

The DENR chief also shared the country’s best practices that stem from the government commitments to address the urgency of the link between climate change and water, health, food, energy, and environmental security, as embodied in the Philippine Development Plan.

The Marcos administration, she said, is geared towards three major policy directions: the establishment of the WRMO under the DENR and related legislative initiatives; the building of the National Natural Geospatial Database, with water as a layer, in support of the natural capital accounting system; and advancing the Philippine Health Facility Development Plan 2020-2040, especially giving priority access to water, sanitation, and hygiene or WASH in public health care facilities.

Citing the Philippines as an example of good practice, a side event on WASH was also held, co-organized by Hungary and the Philippines, and moderated by the World Health Organization.

The Philippines’ participation in the UN 2023 Water Conference is critical because it was the first time that the UN member states expressed that water, climate change, biodiversity, disaster risk, and human development are inextricably linked.

It was also the first time since 1977 that this conference was held.

Aside from the DENR, the Philippine delegation consisted of members of the Permanent Mission to the UN, the National Economic and Development Authority, the Department of Health, the Department of Budget and Management, the Department of Finance, Manila Waterworks and Sewerage System, and Local Water Utilities Administration.

In a related statement, Senate President Pro-Tempore Loren Legarda urged the government and private sector to help reduce greenhouse gas (GHG) emission.

"The science is clear that we have to act with much more urgency than before. I urge all leaders in government and the private sector: We have to ensure that our vulnerable communities and natural ecosystems are able to adapt to the climate crisis, and we have to stop relying on fossil fuels. Let's heed the call for rapid emissions reduction and enable a resilient future for all," Legarda said on Tuesday, following the release of the latest Synthesis Report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC).



The IPCC reports are reviewed by climate experts from 195 member-states and provide political leaders with periodic scientific assessments about climate change.

The reports showed that climate change is causing widespread and rapid changes, leading to deadly floods, destructive storms, and raging fires and undermining public health, food security, and water supply

She noted that the IPCC report, while alarming, also said that keeping global warming to the agreed threshold of 1.5 degrees Celsius in the Paris Agreement, the treaty on climate change adopted in 2015, is still entirely possible and that the solution lies in climate resilient development.

Legarda suggested the deployment of renewable energy, low-emission technologies, and clean transport solutions -- all of which reduce or avoid GHG emissions and provide benefits for people's health, such as better air quality.

## UN officials call for holistic health approach amid crises

BY: UN NEWS

FOUR United Nations agencies on Monday called for global action to balance and optimize the health of people, animals and the environment as part of a new "One Health" approach.

This, after the heads of the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), the UN Environment Program (UNEP), the World Health Organization (WHO) and the UN-backed World Organization for Animal Health (WOAH) came together in the face of multiple global emergencies — from the coronavirus to Ebola — continued threats of disease spillover between animals and humans, loss of biodiversity, and climate change.

In a statement, WHO Director-General Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus, FAO Director-General Qu Dongyu, UNEP Executive Director Inger Andersen and WOAH chief Monique Eloit stressed the need to prioritize the One Health approach, invest in building workforces with cross-sectoral skills, and prevent health threats at the source, with close attention paid to zoonotic diseases.

A guide on how to best implement these approaches will be published later this year.

Stressing the need for enhanced collaboration and commitment to translate the One Health approach into policy action in all countries, the four agency leaders urged countries and key stakeholders to embrace seven priorities for action:

- Prioritize One Health in terms of the international political agenda, making it a guiding principle in global mechanisms; including the new global pandemic accord being negotiated now.
- Strengthen national One Health policies, strategies and plans, costed and prioritized in line with the Quadripartite One Health Joint Plan of Action (OHJPA).
- Accelerate the implementation of One Health plans, including supporting national One Health development agendas.
- Build intersectoral One Health workforces that have the skills, capacities and capabilities to prevent, detect, control and respond to health threats quickly and effectively.
- Strengthen and sustain prevention of pandemics and health threats at source, targeting activities and places that increase the risk of zoonotic spillover from animals to humans.
- Encourage and strengthen One Health scientific knowledge and evidence creation and exchange, research and development, technology transfer and sharing new tools and data.

— Increase investment and financing of One Health strategies and plans ensuring scaled up implementation at all levels, including funding for prevention of health threats at source.

"To build one healthier planet we need urgent action to galvanize vital political commitments, greater investment and multisectoral collaboration at every level," the agency chiefs said.

All four have been playing a central role in promoting and coordinating a global One Health approach, in line with the OHJPA, which was launched last October.

## Energy dep't: 62.69 MW saved during Earth Hour

By Francis Earl Cueto

THE Department of Energy (DoE) said the Philippines was able to conserve a total of 62.69 megawatts (MW) during the Earth Hour 2023 held last Saturday.

According to the DoE, Luzon tallied the most energy savings with 33.29 MW during the one-hour switch-off.

Mindanao came in next with 20.5 MW and Visayas with 8.9 MW.

However, this year's Earth Hour energy savings slightly declined from 65.32 MW in 2022.

During the annual Earth Hour, Filipino households and companies are asked to turn their nonessential lights off between 8:30 p.m. and 9:30 p.m.

This is being done annually to mitigate the effects of climate change.

According to the DoE, the electricity demand reduction was "a testament that collectively, we could generate a great impact on our daily energy consumption."

Energy Secretary Raphael Lotilla, for his part, said the public should consistently practice energy conservation measures.

"This also illustrates how purposeful behavior could achieve something big and worthy. Imagine when individuals, businesses, government and communities unite not only during Earth Hour but in making energy conservation their everyday way of life, the overall impact would be even much bigger," said Lotilla in a statement.

He also urged Filipinos to continue energy efficiency and conservation efforts to help in managing energy demand, especially during dry season when power supply often becomes critical.

"Let us help sustain the momentum by simply consistently practicing energy conservation measures at home, offices, communities and businesses from switching off nonessential lights to choosing more energy efficient appliances, equipment and machines. These are simple yet valuable actions that we can do easily not only for our planet, but more especially during periods of high demand such as this summer season," he added.

## THE PHILIPPINE STAR

### Incentivizing Filipinos for using electric

MANILA, Philippines – A clean air advocate and university general science instructress has backed the move to incentivize the use of electric vehicles to help mainstream their use among Filipinos.

Chemist and university professor Abigail Arillaga said that while the adoption of EVs has pros and cons, its introduction to the country can help reduce the emissions of greenhouse gasses which are harmful to the environment.

"In the Philippines, sad to say kung hindi natin mai-incentivize, it will be difficult to persuade others to patronize this product over the traditional one or over the other," Arilaga said in a recent interview.

The government in January released Executive Order No. 12 series of 2023, which aims to lower the tariff rates for electric vehicles and their components to help mainstream EV usage in the country and help reduce carbon emissions.

While the move was earlier praised for promoting sustainable environment, different stakeholders have expressed their dismay and criticized the said EO because it does not cover electric motorcycles and other two-wheeled electric vehicles.

One of them is Stratbase ADR Institute President Victor Andres Manhit, who has pushed for inclusivity in the tax relief and has since urged for the EO's revision.

Motorcycles hold the majority of numbers among motorists in the country as the Land Transportation Office recorded around eight million registered motorcycles to the agency.

EO12 aims to complement the Republic Act No. 11697 or the law Providing for the Development of the Electric Vehicle Industry in the country.

To date, e-motorcycles and other two-wheel electric vehicles are still subject to a 30% import duty.

#### **Support for tax breaks**

Arillaga said that it will be harder to shift to EVs unless the government rolls out monetary incentives for its use along with an awareness campaign of its benefits and comprehensive research on its effectiveness.

She noted that while EVs are being explored, the shift to the new mode of transport should be gradual as the country still relies on non-renewable energy sources.

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

Various types of renewable energy like wind, solar, bioenergy, hydro and other renewables share 23.7% of the country's total power source.

"Mahirap din kasi mag-shift sa bago. Halimbawa, may motorcycle ka na so ngayon implement ito so first of all, doon po kasi monetary reasons di ba ang hirap unless may incentives, monetary incentives or kailangan may big sector or nasa government yung policy or control with regards to that," Arillaga said.

Different groups have been pushing for the shift to electric vehicles to help reduce carbon emissions in the country as transport is the main source of air pollution and other issues relating to global warming.

The transportation sector, alone, in the country, is responsible for emitting 31.54 million tons of carbon dioxide which contributes to climate change.

As stated by IQAir, the rate of PM2.5 pollutants in Manila is twice the World Health Organization's (WHO) annual air quality guideline value.

The WHO stated that achieving the right air quality guideline value is vital to minimize the health risk from pollutant exposure.

The Philippines aims to go full-on electric vehicles by 2040. It is set to limit the sale of internal engine combustion cars as part of its comprehensive plan to transition to what environmentalists foresee as "green traffic," or a decarbonized road network in the country.

## CCC IN THE NEWS:

### IBC-13 NEWS

#### [Tunay nga bang kaakibat ng pagbabago ng klima ang nararanasan nating mga sakuna at kalamidad](#)

PANOORIN: Tunay nga bang kaakibat ng pagbabago ng klima ang nararanasan nating mga sakuna at kalamidad tulad na lamang ng mapinsalang flashflood sa iba't ibang bahagi ng mundo?

Sa patuloy na pag-init ng temperatura ng ating planeta, alamin ang interpretasyon at babala ng mga eksperto dito mula sa Climate Change Commission PH na magbubukas ng ating kamalayan sa lagay ng mundo.

#### [Sa opisyal na pagpasok ng panahon ng tag-init, muli nanaman nating mararamdaman](#)

PANOORIN: Sa opisyal na pagpasok ng panahon ng tag-init, muli nanaman nating mararamdaman ang maalinsangang panahon. Alam mo bang ang tinatawag na greenhouse effect ay normal lamang na proseso sa ating atmospera at hindi ito ang puno't dulo ng malubhang pagbabago ng klima?

Muling matuto sa mga eksperto ng Climate Change Commission PH kaugnay sa totoong pinagmumulan ng mataas na temperatura sa mundo at ang ambag nating mga tao sa balanse ng greenhouse gases.

- END -