



NEWS ROUNDUP

07 APRIL 2025 [08:00 am]

- Senatorial bets urged: Champion disaster-resilient housing
- Aboitiz Foundation graces climate forum
- Together for 10M trees: Letting the future take root
- Health amid air pollution and climate change
- Fair weather to prevail over Metro Manila, rest of PH
- FFP with Canada support approves P25M climate adaptation grants

CCC IN THE NEWS:

- Energy-efficient MSMEs, climate-smart industry roadmap pushed
- UK, PhI eye coordination group, adaptation capital

ABS CBN

[Senatorial bets urged: Champion disaster-resilient housing](#)

Several civil society organizations on Friday urged senatorial candidates to address the heightening vulnerability of poor and disaster-affected communities due to climate change, during a forum at the University of the Philippines Diliman.

DAILY TRIBUNE

[Aboitiz Foundation graces climate forum](#)

Participants to the State of Climate Change 2025 Forum explored how sustainable business practices can be aligned with national climate policies under the Paris Agreement, including the country's Nationally Determined Contributions.

[Together for 10M trees: Letting the future take root](#)

By: Ginggay Hontiveros-Malvar

April is Earth Month, a time for reflection and renewed commitment to the only home we've ever known. Today, the planet is running a fever. Our forests are shrinking, biodiversity is threatened and communities are increasingly vulnerable to climate-related disasters. The science is undeniable: trees are one of the most powerful tools we have to reverse the tide of climate change, restore ecological balance, and safeguard the future of our people.

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

[Health amid air pollution and climate change](#)

By: Ronald Law

Colombia is home to Nobel Prize-winning novelist Gabriel Garcia Marquez, who authored such literary masterpieces as "One Hundred Years of Solitude," "Chronicle of a Death Foretold," and "Love in the Time of Cholera."

THE MANILA TIMES

[Fair weather to prevail over Metro Manila, rest of PH](#)

By: Arlie O. Calalo

Except for isolated rain showers or drizzles, most parts of the country including Metro Manila would be experiencing generally fair weather conditions due to the easterlies, the state weather bureau said on Monday.

[FFP with Canada support approves P25M climate adaptation grants](#)

In strengthening the Philippines' climate resilience, Forest Foundation Philippines (FFP), through the support of the Government of Canada, awarded over P25 million in grants for nature-based solutions (NbS) for climate adaptation in Negros Occidental, Maguindanao del Sur and Palawan.

CCC IN THE NEWS:

DAILY TRIBUNE

[Energy-efficient MSMEs, climate-smart industry roadmap pushed](#)

Two initiatives to help micro, small, and medium enterprises (MSMEs) become climate-smart and resilient will be supported under the government's TRANSCEND Project, which aims to strengthen climate finance in the Philippines.

[UK, Phl eye coordination group, adaptation capital](#)

Representatives from the Philippines and the United Kingdom agreed to establish a UK-led development partners coordination group for the localization of climate analytics in provinces identified with high exposure to climate risks in the National Adaptation Plan (NAP), and the government's Risk Resiliency Program, during the 5th UK-PH Climate Change and Environment Dialogue last 26 March.

Information and Knowledge Management Division

ABS CBN

Senatorial bets urged: Champion disaster-resilient housing

Several civil society organizations on Friday urged senatorial candidates to address the heightening vulnerability of poor and disaster-affected communities due to climate change, during a forum at the University of the Philippines Diliman.

The Philippine Legislators' Committee on Population and Development (PLCPD) hosted the dialogue between climate resilience organizations and senatorial candidates Raffy Alunan, Lorna Kapunan and Francis Tolentino.

In a statement, PLCPD executive director Romeo Dongeto, called on the candidates to champion policies and programs that promote adequate housing amid the growing threat of climate change.

Adequate housing, Dongeto said, is a basic human right enshrined in the Universal Declaration on Human Rights and the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights.

It requires shelter safe from all forms of harm, sensitive to special needs of its inhabitants and with access to basic utilities, social services and livelihood opportunities.

GOVERNMENT ACCOUNTABILITY

Alunan, former Interior and Local Government Secretary, said that government should provide people their basic needs such as food, water, jobs and housing. He underscored the importance of good governance to achieve this.

Kapunan added that accountability and transparency through freedom of information is crucial in ensuring disaster victims are fully rehabilitated.

Asked about how she will hold the authorities accountable for the deaths linked to super typhoon Yolanda, Kapunan said she wants to bring "death penalty to all of them", drawing cheers from the audience.

Tolentino, for his part said responsibility for disaster rests on all stakeholders.

He stressed the importance of multisectoral participation and consultation in addressing disasters and climate change.

Tolentino also said that the interest of the people should always be considered in resettling communities. On-site socialized housing, he said, should have access to transportation and economic opportunities.

He added that indigenous peoples should be protected against mining.

STEPS VS CLIMATE CHANGE

Kapunan also believes that investment in green technology and renewable energy will also contribute in battling climate change.

She proposed giving tax incentives and research grants to businesses developing and using clean energy, a point echoed by Tolentino.

Kapunan also said that resources should be allocated outside Metro Manila to address the vulnerability of poor communities in urban centers.

"Opportunities should be present in other regions for businesses to grow and provide local employment," she said.

Local government units should also be trained to respond to disaster response and promote sustainable development, Tolentino said.

He also said that the national government should refund the 5% calamity fund of LGUs to replenish resources for disaster preparedness and rehabilitation.

Alunan also urged the protection of natural lifelines through reforestation, mangrove planting, and cleaning of rivers to provide ecological security and environment justice.

To achieve security from disasters, Kapunan said a separate department on climate change should be created.

On the other hand, Tolentino urged the establishment of a department on disaster management and reconstruction that will synchronize disaster relief and recovery efforts in local and national levels.

PLCPD organized the dialogue in coordination with DRRNet Philippines, Aksyon Klima, the University of the Philippines Student Council, and various civil society and youth organizations.

"Our next set of leaders must not only enact responsive policies to the demands of changing climate but also ensure that sufficient funding are allocated for their full implementation," Dongeto concluded.

DAILY TRIBUNE

[Aboitiz Foundation graces climate forum](#)

Participants to the State of Climate Change 2025 Forum explored how sustainable business practices can be aligned with national climate policies under the Paris Agreement, including the country's Nationally Determined Contributions.

Experts also underscored at the forum organized by the Philippine Disaster Resilience Foundation the importance of harnessing technological solutions and private capital to scale up climate adaptation.

"Achieving climate adaptation requires a unified effort," said Ginggay Hontiveros-Malvar, Aboitiz Foundation Inc. president. "The private sector must be a driving force in climate adaptation, spearheading innovative solutions and collaborating with government and international partners to build resilient and sustainable communities."

Acknowledging the role of the private sector and other stakeholders in driving climate action, New Zealand's Climate Change Ambassador H.E. Stuart Horne said, "Through cooperation and innovation, we can create solutions that not only protect communities but also drive economic growth and investment."

[Together for 10M trees: Letting the future take root](#)

By: Ginggay Hontiveros-Malvar

April is Earth Month, a time for reflection and renewed commitment to the only home we've ever known. Today, the planet is running a fever. Our forests are shrinking, biodiversity is threatened and communities are increasingly vulnerable to climate-related disasters. The science is undeniable: trees are one of the most powerful tools we have to reverse the tide of climate change, restore ecological balance, and safeguard the future of our people.

Trees do more than make landscapes beautiful. They absorb carbon dioxide, stabilize soil, regulate water cycles and serve as natural habitats for countless species. Their benefits are especially critical for a nation like the Philippines, an archipelago frequently visited by typhoons, plagued by deforestation and ranked among the most vulnerable countries to climate change. Reforestation is not a choice, it is necessary for our survival.

That's why I am incredibly proud to share that the Aboitiz Group, through the Aboitiz Foundation, has formalized a transformative partnership with the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) and other like-minded private sector partners. Initially launched as a commitment to plant five million trees by 2028, the Forests for Life initiative has now doubled its ambition: 10 million trees in just three years. This bold move underscores the urgent need for collective action — and our shared belief that change is only possible when all sectors of society work together.

At Aboitiz, sustainability is not a tagline; it is embedded in our DNA. Through our A-Park program, we planted 12 million trees in just four years. We are now leveraging this experience to contribute at least five million trees under the Forests for Life initiative, focusing efforts in Central Cebu through our green Carbon Project. This region is not just ecologically vital — it is also the only water source for the province, making our work here crucial for both the environment and the communities who depend on it.

Private sector participation adds tremendous value to this national effort. Companies bring not only financial resources but also management expertise, innovation and data-driven systems that can optimize tree survival rates and improve monitoring. We also have the capacity to integrate reforestation into broader sustainability strategies, including carbon offsetting, watershed rehabilitation and inclusive community development.

Equally important, businesses can scale impact through partnerships with civil society and local communities. Our networks help mobilize volunteers, raise awareness, and align efforts with corporate social responsibility programs. By bridging gaps in public

sector capacity, the private sector becomes a force multiplier — amplifying the reach, efficiency and effectiveness of government-led initiatives like Forests for Life.

But tree growing is just the beginning. What sets this initiative apart is our commitment to nurturing what we plant. We're working hand-in-hand with communities, indigenous peoples, local governments and even law enforcement to ensure these trees survive and thrive. This initiative also builds on our long-standing partnership with DENR, from protecting the Verde Island Passage — one of the world's most important marine ecosystems — to conserving marine turtle habitats.

In the end, our greatest impact will not be what we build, but what we grow. Each seed sown today represents a promise to future generations: that we chose to act, to care, and to heal. In time, these trees will stand as living testaments to a nation that valued resilience, embraced responsibility and dared to hope.

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

Health amid air pollution and climate change

By: Ronald Law

Colombia is home to Nobel Prize-winning novelist Gabriel Garcia Marquez, who authored such literary masterpieces as “One Hundred Years of Solitude,” “Chronicle of a Death Foretold,” and “Love in the Time of Cholera.”

It was also the venue of the recently concluded Second Global Conference on Air Pollution and Health, organized by the World Health Organization (WHO). Viewed as disparate issues, air pollution and health are recognized as being intertwined.

History shows that the London Smog in 1952, when air pollutants from coal and a weather phenomenon formed a thick layer of smog over the city, caused some 12,000 deaths mainly due to respiratory tract infections.

With rapid industrialization, the earth became a huge gas chamber, choking us with harmful pollutants. Epidemiological studies and toxicologic investigations have since nailed down the strong association between air quality and health, leading to clean air mandates the world over. But air pollution remains a major preventable cause of death worldwide, especially in vulnerable low- and middle-income countries.

In 2023, according to the WHO, 99.9 percent of the world’s population were exposed to unhealthy air and every year, seven million deaths are linked to exposure to outdoor and household air pollution. Two-thirds of outdoor air pollution emissions are generated by fossil fuel combustion, the same culprit behind climate change.

As a leading risk factor for both mortality and morbidity, air pollution can cause chronic respiratory diseases, cardiovascular diseases, cancer, diabetes, and mental health conditions. More worrisome is that air pollution unevenly affects low and middle-income countries, where 90 percent of related deaths occur. It also puts vulnerable groups—babies and children, pregnant women, the elderly, chronic disease patients, people with lower socioeconomic status—at higher risk.

Aside from numbers, stories about children missing school, young parents dying of lung cancer, the elderly needing oxygen support to live, and poor people falling into catastrophic debts to pay hospital bills should bring enough attention to air pollution.

More than just a local environmental issue, air pollution is a global public health concern that is hyped even more in the era of climate change. Climate change is caused by human-induced greenhouse gas emissions which are common air pollutants. Climate

change-related increase in temperature worsens air pollution and exacerbates its health impacts. Extreme heat and wildfires can also lead to severe air pollution events.

But human emissions leading to air pollution may be controlled, as shown by pandemic restrictions, like lockdowns, which resulted in clean air and blue skies, albeit temporarily. Air pollution is also an economic, social, and legal issue that comes with a huge moral imperative for action. The right to clean air is a fundamental human right that must be upheld by everyone. Guaranteeing social justice in terms of promoting the health of those most vulnerable to air pollution and climate change must be a slogan for collective action.

The call for action from the conference is very clear—reduce global air pollution by 50 percent by year 2040. This will significantly improve life expectancy and reduce premature deaths. If the target is met, the economic benefit of integrated pollution management can reach around \$2.4 trillion.

For this to happen, the health sector should do this four-pronged approach:

1. Strengthen its health system to address air pollution by conducting health impact and vulnerability assessment as guide in strengthening its health-care delivery infrastructure, enabling it to manage air pollution-related diseases;
2. Enhance its data collection and monitoring of health impacts to form part of an early warning system that will serve as basis for communicating the health risks of air pollution. Also, improve cross-sectoral (with environment, transport, energy) and transboundary collaboration to mitigate and respond to health impacts of air pollution;
3. Ensure community-oriented and people-centered approaches in promoting better awareness of air pollution as a health issue and in driving health policies that highlight local and innovative solutions for clean air and universal health care, and
4. Secure a healthier future through clean air, something that's pure logic founded on science.

THE MANILA TIMES

Fair weather to prevail over Metro Manila, rest of PH

By: Arlie O. Calalo

Except for isolated rain showers or drizzles, most parts of the country including Metro Manila would be experiencing generally fair weather conditions due to the easterlies, the state weather bureau said on Monday.

The easterlies, according to the Philippine Atmospheric Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration (Pagasa), are winds from the east that pass through the Pacific Ocean, carrying humid, warm weather.

The entire archipelago would also be storm-free in the coming days as the agency has not spotted any developing weather disturbance within the Philippine area of responsibility, weather specialist Rhea Torres said.

In its 5 a.m. advisory, Pagasa said another weather system, the intertropical convergence zone (ITCZ) – an imaginary line where winds from the northern and southern hemispheres meet – has been affecting Palawan and the southern portion of Mindanao.

In particular, the ITCZ is bringing overcast skies with scattered rains and thunderstorms over Davao Region, SOCCSKSARGEN (South Cotabato, Cotabato, Sultan Kudarat, Sarangani and General Santos City), BARMM (Bangsamoro Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao) and the Zamboanga Peninsula.

FFP with Canada support approves P25M climate adaptation grants

In strengthening the Philippines' climate resilience, Forest Foundation Philippines (FFP), through the support of the Government of Canada, awarded over P25 million in grants for nature-based solutions (NbS) for climate adaptation in Negros Occidental, Maguindanao del Sur and Palawan.

The approved grants, amounting to a total of P25,281,707.06, comprise the first set of projects under the Philippines-Canada Partnership on Nature-based Solutions for Climate Adaptation (PCP4NbS).

These projects will demonstrate the effectiveness of NbS in responding to climate change and their impacts on vulnerable Filipino communities and ecosystems.

This milestone marks a significant step in mainstreaming NbS as a climate adaptation approach while empowering local communities and promoting gender-responsive approaches.

These grants directly benefit 600 people and indirectly benefit over 100,000 individuals to adapt to climate impacts across 119 hectares of forests and riverbanks through participatory and community-based forest restoration, agroforestry, riverbank rehabilitation, supporting key pollinators and restoration of indigenous food systems.

The grants will support innovative, community-led NbS projects aimed at reducing vulnerability and enhancing resilience in biodiversity-rich areas most affected by climate change.

With an emphasis on inclusivity and participation, the program highlights the critical role of gender-responsive approaches in fostering sustainable solutions that address the unique challenges faced by diverse communities.

Canada has committed CA\$8 million or P332 million for program implementation from 2024 to 2028.

Managed by FFP, this fund supports local organizations in implementing holistic, community-based and gender-responsive initiatives based on NbS principles.

CCC IN THE NEWS:

DAILY TRIBUNE

[Energy-efficient MSMEs, climate-smart industry roadmap pushed](#)

Two initiatives to help micro, small, and medium enterprises (MSMEs) become climate-smart and resilient will be supported under the government's TRANSCEND Project, which aims to strengthen climate finance in the Philippines.

"With livelihoods and infrastructure as key focus areas of NAP, MSMEs, which comprise 99 percent of businesses in the Philippines, need to be equipped with the capacity to invest in climate-resilient infrastructure, technology and adaptation measures," Climate Change Commission (CCC) commissioner Rachel Anne S. Herrera said at a multisectoral workshop with the theme "Kababaihan, Kalikasan, Kabuhayan — Building Climate-Resilient Livelihoods for Women," held on 25 March at the Meralco Lighthouse by the Department of Trade and Industry, WomenBizPH and UN Women.

Herrera said the development of a Climate-Smart Industry Roadmap that will guide MSMEs in enhancing energy efficiency and climate resilience will be supported under the TRANSCEND Project being implemented by the CCC and the Department of Environment and Natural Resources, with support from the German government.

Also to be supported under the TRANSCEND is direct support to small-scale manufacturing and food processing enterprises in building their capacity for energy-efficient operations, alongside policy support at the national level, Herrera added.

TRANSCEND, short for "Transforming Climate Finance in the Philippines through Climate Budget Tagging and Institutionalization of Climate Public Expenditure and Institutional Review," is about making climate spending more transparent, accountable and impact-driven.

The key objectives of TRANSCEND are the institutionalization of climate budget tagging (CBT) by embedding CBT into the national and local budgeting systems to track and report climate-related expenditures.

Other objectives are to enhance and improve the methodology and regular conduct of Climate Public Expenditure and Institutional Reviews by assessing how public funds are used for climate-related programs; capacity building by training government agencies, especially at the local level, to better plan, budget and monitor climate actions; and

policy integration by supporting policies and institutional frameworks that mainstream climate change in planning and budgeting processes.

Meanwhile, Herrera highlighted the Nationally Determined Contribution Gender Action Plan (NDC GAP) as a framework to support gender-responsive and inclusive approaches in achieving the country's NDC targets — which aims to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by 75 percent by 2030.

She emphasized that the agricultural, waste, industry, transport and energy sectors are traditionally considered male-dominated in terms of labor composition especially for those in senior-level management, yet when given the opportunity, women can thrive not just as skilled workers but as industry leaders.

“Strengthening partnerships creates opportunities to put women at the center of climate action. This not only empowers women but also fosters a unified and collaborative approach to building a climate-resilient business sector,” said Secretary Robert E.A. Borje, CCC vice chairperson and executive director.

UK, Phl eye coordination group, adaptation capital

Representatives from the Philippines and the United Kingdom agreed to establish a UK-led development partners coordination group for the localization of climate analytics in provinces identified with high exposure to climate risks in the National Adaptation Plan (NAP), and the government's Risk Resiliency Program, during the 5th UK-PH Climate Change and Environment Dialogue last 26 March.

Using findings from pilot site of Negros Occidental, an investment platform will be developed to mobilize private capital for adaptation and resilience with a focus on climate-smart agriculture, innovative water management solutions and agroforestry projects.

The dialogue also saw UK support for the operationalization of the Philippines' NAP, mobilization of institutional capital into renewable energy in the country through the Philippines Stock Exchange, funding to civil society across projects on biodiversity and coastal livelihoods, launching of key multi-stakeholder platforms tackling plastic pollution and blue carbon, and ramp up support for the blue economy through the UK's Blue Planet Fund.

The new Climate and Ocean Adaptation and Sustainable Transition program will be rolled out in the Philippines this year, which seeks to deliver interventions that will strengthen marine protected areas, operationalize sustainable fisheries management, and promote blue carbon initiatives.

UK Ambassador to the Philippines Laure Beaufile and Environment Secretary and official representative of the President to the Climate Change Commission, Maria Antonia Yulo Loyzaga graced the dialogue.

=END=