



NEWS ROUNDUP

12 APRIL 2023 [08:00 am]

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By: Jhesset O. Enano

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THE PHILIPPINE STAR

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By: Sophie Makris

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MANILA BULLETIN

[PH, UK to forge stronger alliance in combatting climate change](#)

By: Jel Santos

The Philippines and the United Kingdom (UK) will conduct another round of discussion on April 13 that will help them advance their collaboration on key environmental and climate change issues, including reducing greenhouse gas emissions, water security, biodiversity preservation, marine pollution, and sustainable and green climate finance.

Information and Knowledge Management Division

ABS CBN

Amang nears PH, Signal no. 1 up in 3 areas

Tropical Cyclone Wind Signal no. 1 has been raised in parts of the Philippines as the low pressure area east of Catanduanes has developed into tropical depression Amang.

In its latest tropical cyclone bulletin, state weather bureau PAGASA said Amang was last seen 475 km east of Virac, Catanduanes.

It has maximum sustained winds of 45 kph near the center and gustiness of up to 55 kph. It is moving west northwestward at 20 kph.

TCWS #1 has been raised over the following areas:

-Catanduanes

-the northern portion of Eastern Samar (Taft, Can-Avid, Sulat, Dolores, Oras, Arteche, San Policarpo, Jipapad, Maslog, San Julian)

-the eastern portion of Northern Samar (Catubig, Lapinig, Gamay, Mapanas, Palapag, Laoang, San Roque, Pambujan, Mondragon)

These areas may experience strong winds which may pose minimal to minor threat to life and property.

According to PAGASA, Signal no. 1 may be raised other localities in Eastern Visayas and Bicol Region in succeeding bulletins.

The state weather bureau said Amang is expected to pass westward towards Bicol Region before turning northwestward.

While the current track forecast shows that Amang will remain offshore over the waters east of Luzon for the next 3 days, a landfall over the Bicol Peninsula area or the northern portion of Samar Island is still possible.

Amang is expected remain as a tropical depression with the possibility of weakening into a low pressure area by late Thursday or early Friday, according to state meteorologists.

BBC

[Climate change: Fossil fuel emissions from electricity set to fall - report](#)

By: Matt McGrath

The world will likely use less fossil fuels to produce electricity this year in a "turning point" for planet-friendly energy, a new report says.

It would be the first ever annual drop in the use of coal, oil and gas to generate electricity, outside of a global recession or pandemic.

As a result, less warming gases would be released during energy production.

The authors attribute the expected change to a boom in renewable energy led mainly by China.

Wind and solar now produce 12% of global electricity with enough wind turbines added in 2022 to power almost all of the UK.

Renewables are set to meet all growth in demand this year, the study from energy analysts Ember says.

Making electricity is the single biggest contributor to global warming, responsible for over a third of energy-related carbon emissions in 2021.

So phasing out coal, oil and gas in this sector is seen as critical in helping the world avoid dangerous levels of climate change.

This new study looks at data from countries representing 93% of global electricity demand.

This, the fourth edition of Ember's Global Electricity Review, indicates that significant progress is now being made in reducing the role of fossil fuels in power production.

The major developments are the continuing rise of solar and wind as economically viable sources of electricity. Around the world, solar grew by 24% last year, enough to meet the annual demands of a country as big as South Africa.

Taken together with nuclear and hydropower, clean sources produced 39% of global electricity in 2022. The report finds that electricity produced last year was, in effect, the cleanest ever made.

But despite this, carbon emissions from the sector also continued to rise, as coal use edged up.

According to the report's authors this is because overall demand for electricity rose, and not all of it was met from clean sources.

There were also problems with nuclear and hydro electricity in 2022, with many French reactors offline, and Europe's rivers too low in many places for hydro generation.

However the report says that in 2023, the growth of wind and solar will be greater than the rise in demand - and this will start to turn the tide on warming gases.

"When you stop adding more fossil fuels to generate your electricity, you start seeing a fall in emissions," said Malgorzata Wiatros-Motyka, the report's lead author.

"This is extremely important in the context of rising electrification, as we have more electric vehicles, more heat pumps, so cleaning the power sector will drive emissions down in other sectors as well."

While the fall in fossil fuel emissions in electricity this year is expected to be small, around 0.3%, the authors believe the drop will continue and accelerate in subsequent years. Key to this is a fall off in the use of gas, which fell slightly last year, although some countries like Brazil reduced their use by 46% in 2022.

"We now have reached this next turning point of starting to see a new era of falling fossil fuel power sector emissions. We know that wind and solar are the answer and we've just got to get on with a roadmap for building them as quickly as possible," said Dave Jones, from Ember, one of the report's authors.

One significant player impacting the overall trend is China. Around 50% of the global addition of wind power came from China and about 40% of the world's new solar came from from the country that's also the world's biggest use of coal power.

"There is a chance that at the rate that China is building wind and solar and all types of clean generation, that they achieve that peak in coal generation earlier than 2025, which would be significant," said Mr Jones.

Energy experts acknowledge that curbing fossil fuels in power generation could well be a "turning point", but much more remains to be done.

"The earliest peak of coal power generation was in the UK in 1979," said Prof Jessica Jewell from the University of Bergen, who was not involved with the study.

"Nevertheless, it took decades to fully phase out coal power, for example the UK still used a bit of coal in 2022, 43 years past the peak. In order to reach clean energy goals we don't have 40 or even 30 years, we need to fully decarbonize electricity in a much shorter time."

CEBU DAILY NEWS

[Bohol governor probes cutting of century-old acacia trees in capital city](#)

By: Leo Udothan

Top government officials in Bohol province have ordered thorough investigations into the cutting of acacia trees, which were over a hundred years old, to make way for a gasoline station in this provincial capital.

Gov. Aris Aumentado on Monday directed the Bohol Environment Management Office (Bemo) and the Provincial Legal Office (PLO) headed by lawyer Handel Lagunay to immediately start the probe to find out who was responsible for the cutting of trees.

Vice Gov. Victor Balite, the presiding officer of the provincial board, also ordered an investigation on the matter in aid of legislation.

He said he would call to a meeting the concerned persons and agencies, such as the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR), the owner of the establishment to be constructed, and those who chopped the trees.

The provincial officials were responding to a social media post of Bishop Alberto “Abet” Uy of the Diocese of Tagbilaran who exposed the cutting of century-old acacia trees in the city.

The prelate said at least four of these trees were cut down to pave way for a construction of a gasoline station along CPG North Avenue corner Zamora Street in Barangay Taloto, Tagbilaran City.

Residents living near the area believed the presence of numerous old acacia trees in their community have contributed to the cold weather in the place they called “Baguio Drive,” alluding to Baguio City, which is known as the “summer capital of the Philippines” owing to its cool climate.

Uy expressed dismay over the cutting of acacia trees which he said would affect the environment.

“We have more than enough gas stations in Bohol. More than enough. But, we are badly needing huge trees (like acacia trees) because of the damaging effects of global warming and climate change. The cutting of four huge acacia trees is a big loss, not only for this generation, but for many generations to come,” Uy said in a post on his Facebook account on April 2.

People in the community, including professionals and youth leaders, also took to social media their dismay over the cutting of the old acacia trees in Tagbilaran.

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

Abuse, threats proliferate online vs climate scientists

By: Cristina Eloisa Baclig

Amid accelerating and worsening impacts of climate change, scientists have a duty to share study findings to boost climate action. However, rampant online abuse and harassment imperil climate scientists' work and participation in public discourse.

"Imagine that you've spent years studying glacial retreat in the Arctic. You believe you have a duty to share your findings that reveal how our world is changing with a wider public," international non-governmental organization Global Witness said.

"But you remember having trouble sleeping after getting hateful messages on Twitter the last time you published your work there, and the death threat your colleague received after talking about her work online. Do you hold off from posting?"

Those statements gave a glimpse of the extent of online abuse and harassment faced by climate scientists across the globe—and how these experiences dangerously impact their work, wellbeing, and safety.

A survey by Global Witness found that scientists around the world working on climate topics commonly experience online abuse, "and for many, takes a mental and physical toll that inhibits climate discourse."

Out of 468 respondents, 39 percent—or 183 scientists—said they had experienced online harassment or abuse, which was attributed to their climate work.

Around 81 percent of them said they have had their credibility attacked, while 91 percent shared they have had their work attacked.

"I think there is also a cost to having to explain yourself like you are responsible for the issues of the world—there is a lot of pressure to not only do the work, but to do it under pressure and to explain it to all audiences and it isn't a part of your identity you can leave behind on social media," said a climate scientist who participated in the survey.

More public presence, more attacks

Survey results also suggest that the frequency of abuse and harassment could be related to both academic output and media exposure of climate scientists.

Scientists with over 10 academic publications were found to be more likely to have suffered a great deal of online abuse, compared to fellow climate scientists with fewer academic outputs.

Climate scientists who appeared in media at least once a month prior to the survey also said they have experienced a great deal (1.59 percent) or a fair amount (26.73 percent) of online abuse.

Global Witness also stressed that even among scientists who have never made any media appearances, 12 percent still reported that they have experienced online abuse.

Women suffer greater harassment, abuse

Alarmingly, climate scientists who identified as female, said that the level of harassment they receive does not only attack their work and credibility but also their personal characteristics.

“Their sex or gender was targeted a great deal or a fair amount for 34% of affected women and only 3% of affected men,” said Global Witness.

Female climate scientists were also found to be three times more likely to receive a great deal or a fair amount of harassment on the basis of their age (17 percent). Compared to their male counterparts, they have also received more threats of sexual violence (13 percent of affected women), and physical violence (19 percent).

Moreover, the survey discovered that at least 8 percent of women in the field have received death threats.

As a result, nearly a third (32 percent) of female climate scientists who have experienced online abuse reported sleep problems. More than a fifth (21 percent) of them have also been diagnosed with depression.

‘Chilling effect’ on scientists, everyone

The string of online attacks and abuse had caused a wide-range effect on climate scientists.

According to Global Witness, the particularly worrying impact of the harassment is the fear of damage to professional reputation—which has been reported by over half of the survey respondents.

The survey also detailed other distressing impacts of online abuse and harassment among climate scientists, including:

- anxiety caused by the abuse (51 percent);
- physical illness among women due to stress (21 percent);
- dreading work (more than a fifth of harassed scientists who finished the survey);
- loss of productivity (48 percent).

“These trends present concerns for the global ability to act on climate change. If scientists are unable to do their work because of stress and fear caused by harassment, the critical evidence that undergirds climate action and solutions is put at risk,” the organization stressed.

Online abuse that are directed at scientists also brings a possible “chilling effect” on public discourse related to the world’s current climate conditions.

Around 41 percent of the scientists who received online abuse said their experience has made them less likely to share their views on climate issues on social media. Still, 23 percent felt the opposite, saying that their experience had made them more likely to engage in public discourse online.

Global Witness said this suggests that “many scientists are determined to communicate climate topics on social media in spite of the risk they may receive harmful content.”

However, the organization emphasized: “It shouldn’t be like this: all climate scientists should feel able to share their work online, not just those prepared to deal with ensuing abuse.”

PHILIPPINE NEWS AGENCY

[P500-M insulation panel factory to rise in Pampanga](#)

By: Kris Crismundo

Phinma Corporation's construction unit, Phinma Construction Materials Group (CMG), is investing some PHP500 million to put up an insulation panel factory in Pampanga.

In a press conference following Phinma's annual stockholders' meeting in Makati City Tuesday, Phinma CMG president and chief executive officer Eduardo Sahagun said the insulation panel factory will have a capacity of producing 1 million square meter of insulation panels annually.

Sahagun said this project of Phinma CMG could be the biggest insulation panel factory in the country.

He added the output of the insulation panel manufacturing facility will primarily cater to cold storage facilities with the increasing demand from this sector, as well as other sectors such as housing, hospitals and data centers, among others.

Phinma CMG vice president for insulated panels division Danielle del Rosario said the new business will be named as Union Insulated Panel Corp.

"We look at it a certain way to protect businesses and people from the extreme effects of climate change. We will be providing effective thermal insulation and structurally efficient building materials that can reduce energy consumption and construction timelines through single component sandwich panels," she said.

Del Rosario said these panels will be made with a flame-resistant rigid foam interior encased between exterior skins made of steel.

She added the new factory will be a highly automated manufacturing facility.

Sahagun said the budget for the insulation panel factory is part of Phinma's capital expenditure (capex) for the year of PHP3 billion.

He said the listed firm has also earmarked its capex in expanding its school footprint in the Philippines and Indonesia, while also growing its property and hospitality ventures.

Phinma Education Philippines country chief Christopher Tan said the business unit is in talks with prospective partners in Surabaya and Bogor in Indonesia to operate Phinma schools in these areas.

Tan said the Phinma Education in Indonesia currently has 2,000 students following its acquisition of two colleges in Kerala, south of Jakarta.

He said the company sees enormous opportunities in education sector in the neighboring country with its population more than double than the Philippines.

“We’re at least looking at around 200,000 (students) over 10 years in Indonesia,” he added.

Meanwhile, both property and hospitality units of the conglomerate will also push for expansion this year.

Sahagun said the company did not cease to expand in the past years despite the challenging business climate brought by the coronavirus disease 2019 pandemic.

RAPPLER

[Better infra, int'l cooperation needed to ramp up PH energy transition – experts](#)

By: Jhesset O. Enano

To ramp up the transition to renewable energy (RE) sources, the Philippines must invest in building better infrastructure and ensure a legal environment that would allow for better access to and investments in clean energy, according to international renewables experts.

Francesco La Camera, director general of the International Renewable Energy Agency (IRENA), said overcoming these barriers and working with other nations would allow the country to better tap into its clean energy sources, including solar, wind, and hydropower.

“Physical infrastructure, a legal environment that can provide access for foreign investment, institutional capacity, and all the cooperation is needed to make this happen,” he said in an interview on the sidelines of the Berlin Energy Transition Dialogue held in March.

“International cooperation has to work for the Philippines,” he added. “Countries cannot do everything alone, especially in the developing world.”

As the world powers up to transition away from fossil fuels, the lack of reliable infrastructure, such as grid systems suitable for renewables, remains a barrier for many regions, including Southeast Asia and Africa, IRENA said in a preview of its latest World Energy Transition Outlook.

La Camera said a policy of development in these countries should go hand in hand with the building of RE systems to ensure its success.

“The energy system is not sustained if there is no structure that will sustain it,” he said. “This system that worked for the old energy system is not yet in place for renewables.”

The Philippines passed its RE law way back in December 2008, but renewables remain lagging in powering up the nation. Coal – a bulk of which is imported – continues to dominate the energy mix, while renewables account for 22%. The country has set its RE targets in the power generation mix to 35% by 2030 and 50% by 2040.

A recent report by the Philippine Center for Investigative Journalism that tracked the development of clean energy in the country highlighted the slow implementation of the

RE law. It also pointed to the National Grid Corporation of the Philippines, a monopoly in the transmission industry, as a bottleneck in the shift to renewables.

Since taking office in 2022, Philippine President Ferdinand Marcos Jr. has publicly pushed for diversified energy options and the use of renewables in the country.

In November 2022, the Department of Energy amended the RE law and allowed full foreign ownership of RE projects in the country. The law previously limited foreign ownership to 40%.

Southeast Asia's RE potential

With their population increase and rapid economic growth, countries in Southeast Asia are pivotal in the global energy transition. Energy decisions in the region, particularly related to emissions from coal use, could also impact whether the world would remain on track to meet its climate targets.

In a report released in September 2022, IRENA, an intergovernmental organization that advances and promotes the use of RE, said that the Southeast Asian region stands at “a crossroads” – between continuing its reliance on fossil fuels or choosing to tap its indigenous RE sources.

The region is home to the youngest coal power plants in the world, but figures also show that the region is slowly increasing its share in renewables. Between 2015 and 2021, the total installed capacity from renewables jumped from 55 gigawatts to 97 gigawatts, with Vietnam, Thailand, and Indonesia leading the pack.

But with the region's rising energy demands, much more needs to be done to fast-track its shift away from dirty energy.

Aside from increasing the share of renewables and focusing on improving energy efficiency, IRENA said transmission and distribution grids must also be expanded and reinforced to meet the growing power demand and ensure a more efficient and reliable system operation.

Over \$5 trillion in investment must be made for RE capacity, power grids and infrastructure, and enabling technologies in Southeast Asia by 2050, the report said.

To meet these energy transition goals, cooperation and collaboration between the Southeast Asian nations are key, said Mika Ohbayashi of the Tokyo-based Renewable Energy Institute.

She also stressed the need for policies that would particularly respond to the RE situation in the respective countries.

“If you start the increase in renewables and there is a favorable market condition, [the progress] is very fast,” she said in an interview. “So, it’s not a dream that you can increase your renewable energy portion.... It would depend on the policy.”

Should Southeast Asia miss out on the shifting tide to clean energy, it risks losing huge economic opportunities, Ohbayashi said.

“It’s the creation of new jobs, new momentum, new investment,” she said. “We need this...but we are protecting the old-fashioned type of renewable energy industry.”

“You will lose the momentum and you will lose the whole planet...so you have to join [in] that direction,” she added.

IMF's Georgieva says 44 countries interested in new resilience trust loans

International Monetary Fund (IMF) Managing Director Kristalina Georgieva said on Monday, April 10, that 44 countries have expressed interest in borrowing from its \$40-billion Resilience and Sustainability Trust after an initial five had arranged loans.

The facility was created last year to help channel excess IMF Special Drawing Rights reserves from wealthier countries to poor and vulnerable middle-income countries to provide long-term concessional financing for needs such as climate change adaptation and transitioning to cleaner energy sources.

Georgieva told a Bretton Woods Committee event at the start of IMF and World Bank spring meeting week that the “healthy queue” of countries was a sign that the resilience facility resources needed to be scaled up to much higher levels.

Georgieva said the facility’s current resources of around \$40 billion were “modest in size.” Rwanda, Barbados, Costa Rica, Bangladesh, and Jamaica have reached agreements for loan programs from the facility, which come with certain economic policy requirements such as meeting fiscal targets.

Her comments come as IMF and World Bank member countries will discuss this week ways to dramatically scale up climate-related lending and private sector investment to meet needs estimated in the trillions of dollars a year to meet emissions reduction targets.

“So \$40 billion is not a solution on its own, but it is a contribution to a solution, if it helps remove barriers for massively scaling investment, especially private investment, in emerging markets and developing economies,” Georgieva said.

THE PHILIPPINE STAR

[Germany to switch off last remaining nuclear plants](#)

By: Sophie Makris

Germany will shut down its three remaining nuclear plants on Saturday, betting that it can fulfil its green ambitions without atomic power despite the energy crisis caused by the Ukraine war.

The cloud of white steam that has risen since 1989 over the river in Neckarwestheim, near Stuttgart, will soon be a distant memory, as will the Isar 2 complex in Bavaria and the Emsland plant in the north.

At a time when many Western countries are ramping up nuclear power in their transition to greener energy sources, Europe's biggest economy is resolutely sticking to its plans—though not everyone is in agreement.

Germany has been looking to phase out nuclear power since 2002, but the decision was accelerated by former chancellor Angela Merkel in 2011 after the Fukushima disaster in Japan.

Fukushima showed that "even in a high-tech country like Japan, the risks of nuclear energy cannot be safely controlled", Merkel said at the time.

The exit decision was popular in a country with a powerful anti-nuclear movement fuelled by fears of Cold War conflict and disasters such as Chernobyl.

But Russia's invasion of Ukraine in February 2022 threatened to upend the plans, putting an end to cheap Russian gas and throwing the country into an unprecedented energy crisis.

'Turned too far'

Just a few months before Germany's last three remaining plants were due to be turned off on December 31, 2022, the tide of public opinion began to turn.

"With high energy prices and the hot topic of climate change, there have of course been calls to extend the power plants," said Jochen Winkler, the mayor of Neckarwestheim.

The government of Chancellor Olaf Scholz, which includes the fiercely anti-nuclear Greens, agreed to extend the life of the plants to April 15.

"There might have been a new discussion if the winter had been more difficult, if there had been power cuts and gas shortages. But we had a winter without too many problems" thanks to accelerated liquefied natural gas (LNG) imports, Winkler said.

Neckarwestheim has around 4,000 inhabitants, more than 150 of whom work at the plant—but Winkler is philosophical about the decision.

"The wheel has already been turned too far" and there is no point "going backwards" and reversing the process, he said.

Sixteen reactors have been closed in Germany since 2003.

The three final plants provided six percent of Germany's energy last year, compared with 30.8 percent from all nuclear plants in 1997.

Meanwhile, Germany produced 46 percent of its energy from renewables in 2022, up from less than 25 percent a decade ago.

Ambitious energy targets

But the current rate of progress on renewables will not be enough for Germany to meet its own targets, much to the ire of environmental campaigners.

These targets "are already ambitious without the nuclear phase-out—and every time we deprive ourselves of a technological option, we make things more difficult," said Georg Zachmann, an energy specialist at the Brussels-based Bruegel think tank.

The equation is even more complex given the goal of shutting down all coal-fired power plants in the country by 2038, with a first wave of closures in 2030.

Coal still accounts for a third of German electricity production, with an eight percent increase last year to compensate for the loss of Russian gas after Moscow cut supplies in response to Western sanctions over its Ukraine invasion.

The country would need to install "four to five wind turbines a day" over the next few years to meet its needs, Scholz has warned—a tall order given that just 551 were installed last year.

Germany also needs to more than double the rate at which it is installing photovoltaic equipment, according to the Agora Energiewende think tank.

A series of regulatory relaxations have been adopted in recent months in a bid to help speed up planning processes.

Planning and approval for a wind power project currently takes an average of four to five years, according to industry association BWE.

Even shortening this by one or two years would be "a considerable step forward", it said.

[Philippines, UK to hold third dialogue on climate change, environment partnership](#)

By: Gaea Katreena Cabico

The Philippines and the United Kingdom will hold another round of dialogue to strengthen their cooperation on measures to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, halt and reverse biodiversity loss, ensure water security, and address marine pollution.

In a release, the Department of Environment and Natural Resources said its chief Maria Antonia Yulo-Loyzaga and UK Ambassador to the Philippines Laure Beaufiglioli will lead on April 13 the third PH-UK Climate Change and Environment Dialogue.

According to the DENR, the third dialogue is "expected to take the partnership of the two nations to new heights by building on the gains from two important agreements forged in 2020 and 2022."

The first partnership deal signed in 2020 served as a platform to facilitate discussion on shared priorities on climate change and environment between the two nations, with a joint focus on energy transition, nature-based solutions and green economic recovery.

In 2022, the Philippines and the UK agreement on a joint work plan that served as a guide in identifying priority areas of collaboration such as:

- Building resilience of the economy, ecosystems and communities in the context of climate change
- Establishing policies and regulatory frameworks toward clean energy and net zero pathways by 2050
- Greening the financial system
- Building stronger collaboration and increasing awareness of institutions and communities in tackling climate change

Beaufiglioli earlier said the UK is looking to "significantly" increase green investments in the Philippines, one of the countries most at risk from the impacts of climate change.

A survey released last month showed that nine in 10 Filipinos experienced the impacts of climate change in the past three years. Poor and rural communities in the country are bearing the brunt of strong cyclones, droughts, and sea level rise.

In 2021, the UK hosted the COP26 climate talks in Glasgow, Scotland. The Glasgow Climate Pact called on countries to reduce the use of coal and boost their plans to curb planet-warming greenhouse gas emissions sooner.

The Philippines is among the world's megadiverse — those with great biodiversity — nations. It, however, is tagged as a biodiversity hotspot with at least 700 threatened species.

TD Amang to bring heavy rain over eastern Philippines

By: Romina Cabrera

Tropical Depression Amang, the first cyclone of the year, will bring heavy to intense rains over the eastern parts of Luzon and the Visayas, according to state weather forecasters.

The Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration (PAGASA) said tropical cyclone wind signal no. 1 has been hoisted over parts of the country as Amang heads westward toward the coast of Catanduanes.

Amang was located 270 kilometers east of Virac, Catanduanes in its 5 p.m. advisory.

It is expected to remain offshore over the waters east of Luzon until the end of the week. However, a landfall scenario over the Bicol Peninsula is not being ruled out.

Amang is forecast to remain a tropical depression and may possibly weaken into a low-pressure area by late tomorrow or early Friday.

Amang was moving westward at 30km/h and was carrying maximum sustained winds of 55 km/h near the center and gustiness of up to 70 km/h.

Signal No. 1 was raised over Catanduanes, Sorsogon, Albay, Camarines Sur, Camarines Norte, parts of Quezon, Marinduque, Masbate, Eastern Samar, Northern Samar, Samar and Biliran.

Strong winds may pose minimal to minor threat to life and property.

Signal no. 1 may be hoisted in other localities in Eastern Visayas and Bicol Region as Amang moves westward.

PAGASA said that intense rains, between 100-200mm of rainfall, are expected until Thursday in the Bicol Region, Northern Samar and the northern portions of Samar and Eastern Samar.

Preparedness

The National Disaster Risk Reduction Management Council (NDRRMC) is now taking necessary preparedness measures in anticipation of the effects of Tropical Depression Amang.

Rescue and relief items are being readied in case there would be a need to send them to areas where help would be needed as the Luzon and Visayas provinces brace for the first typhoon of the year.

Office of Civil Defense (OCD) spokesman, Assistant Secretary Raffy Alejandro, said the NDRRMC and its regional counterparts have been placed on alert.

He said pre-disaster risk assessment that will determine the alert status and its corresponding preparedness measures of affected regions and provinces are being carried out.

Alejandro said the OCD-NDRRMC is also in close coordination with all concerned member-agencies to ensure the availability and pre-positioning of response assets and relief items for immediate deployment and distribution.

CCC IN THE NEWS:

MANILA BULLETIN

[PH, UK to forge stronger alliance in combatting climate change](#)

By: Jel Santos

The Philippines and the United Kingdom (UK) will conduct another round of discussion on April 13 that will help them advance their collaboration on key environmental and climate change issues, including reducing greenhouse gas emissions, water security, biodiversity preservation, marine pollution, and sustainable and green climate finance.

In a statement, the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) said the third PH-UK Climate Change and Environment (CCE) Dialogue will be led by Environment Sec. Maria Antonia “Toni” Yulo-Loyzaga and UK Ambassador to the Philippines Laure Beaufile.

“[This] is anticipated to elevate the two countries' partnership by building on the achievements of two significant agreements reached in 2020 and 2022,” the agency said.

The third PH-UK Dialogue, according to the DENR, aims to build on the successes of previous agreements and will strive to create an updated PH-UK CCE Action Strive Plan 2023–2024 that will be signed by Secretary Loyzaga and Ambassador Beaufile on behalf of the governments of the Philippines and the UK, respectively.

Loyzaga will sign the updated cooperation agreement as President Ferdinand Marcos Jr.'s representative to the Climate Change Commission (CCC) and as the head of the Cabinet Cluster on Climate Change Adaptation, Mitigation, and Disaster Risk Reduction.

Representatives from concerned national government agencies, including the CCC, the Department of Foreign Affairs, the Department of Science and Technology, the Department of Agriculture, the Department of Interior and Local Government, the Department of Finance, the Department of Human Settlements and Urban Development, and the Department of Energy, are anticipated to participate in the dialogue.

The representatives of the National Economic and Development Authority, the Department of Budget and Management, the Securities and Exchange Commission, the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas, the Department of Budget and Management, and the Public-Private Partnership Center are also invited.

The first PH-UK CCE partnership deal, which was signed on Nov. 27, 2020, served as a forum for discussion on shared priorities on climate change and the environment between the two governments, with a focus on the energy transition, nature-based solutions, and green economic recovery.

The Philippines and the UK decided on a shared work plan that served as a framework for defining key areas of collaboration in the second partnership agreement, which was signed at the conclusion of the discussion held on Feb. 10, 2022.

“Specifically, these priority areas revolved around building resilience of the economy, ecosystems and communities in the context of climate change; establishing policies and regulatory frameworks towards clean energy and net zero pathways by 2050; sustainable finance and greening the financial system; and stronger collaboration and increase awareness of institutions and communities in tackling climate change,” the DENR said.

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