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By: Hannah Alcosoba Fernandez

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GMA NEWS

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LOS ANGELES TIMES

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MAVEN'S NOTEBOOK

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Winter in the Sierra Nevada this year was defined by unusually warm temperatures, bringing storms with increased rainfall and less snow. As climate change continues to affect snowpacks in the Sierra Nevada mountains, researchers at the University of Nevada, Reno are working to answer how change is experienced at different elevations. Adrian Harpold, director of the Nevada Mountain Eco-Hydrology Lab, professor in the Department of Natural Resources & Environmental Science in the University's College of Agriculture, Biotechnology & Natural Resources, and faculty at the Tahoe Institute for Global Sustainability, is part of the team of mountain ecologists studying the flow of water in the Sierra Nevada.

CCC IN THE NEWS:

DAILY TRIBUNE

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The Climate Change Commission (CCC) has backed a Department of Health initiative to track greenhouse gas emissions in the healthcare sector, highlighting the link between climate change and public health.

PHILIPPINE INFORMATION AGENCY

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PASIG CITY — The Climate Change Commission (CCC) supports the initiative of the Department of Health (DOH) on health sector emissions accounting, which underscores the critical link between climate change and public health, during the launch of the Philippine Health System Integrated National Accounting of Greenhouse Gases (PH-SINAG).

Information and Knowledge Management Division

ECO BUSINESS

[Andy Yap to lead advisory firm Climate Smart Ventures](#)

By: Hannah Alcosoba Fernandez

Energy transition advisory firm Climate Smart Ventures (CSV) has appointed Andy Yap as chief executive officer, effective 1 March 2026. The Singapore-based executive is set to lead the firm's strategy and deal execution across energy transition and climate finance.

Yap, who previously served as managing director at CSV, assumes the role as the organisation enters a new phase of growth focused on accelerating coal-to-clean transactions and mobilising capital for Asia's low-carbon shift.

Yap brings nearly two decades of experience at the intersection of banking and sustainable finance. In his most recent role as partner for the finance sector at sustainability consultancy ERM, he advised listed and private companies on environmental, social and governance (ESG) strategies, supported sponsors and lenders on project finance due diligence, and guided buyers and sellers on risk mitigation in mergers and acquisitions.

He has worked closely with banks across Southeast Asia to design sustainable investment and finance frameworks, led major green, social and sustainability-linked second-party opinion mandates, delivered senior-level executive training and headed the firm's carbon markets practice in the region.

"While we have been at the forefront of the energy transition, the urgency is growing and momentum can easily stall amidst shifting geopolitics," Yap said. "I view our advisory arm and our capital deployment as deeply symbiotic. By translating our knowledge into practice, we validate our strategies in the real world. This, in turn, allows us to guide our clients' sustainability journeys with sharper insights and the right risk guardrails.

CSV meets with PSJ

Climate Smart Ventures (CSV) officials, including chief executive Andy Yap (centre), meet with energy lawyers to develop plans for early coal plant retirement in the Philippines on 9 March 2026. Image: CSV

Yap's earlier career includes senior roles at Bank of America Merrill Lynch and other global financial institutions. He holds a Master's in Sustainable Development and an MBA in Data Analytics with distinction, credentials that underpin CSV's ambition to harness capital markets for a just, orderly and competitive energy transition in Asia.

Yap will be replacing Lawrence Ang, CSV's co-founder and founding CEO, who will be stepping into the role of chairman and will be taking on the role of co-Head at Reviva Transition Partners, a joint venture of CSV.

GMA NEWS

Cotabato City logs 'danger level' heat index of 45°C on April 14

By: Vince Angelo Ferreras

Cotabato City recorded a “danger level” heat index of between 42°C to 51°C, on April 14, the state weather bureau said.

Based on PAGASA's five-day computed heat index, the heat index in Cotabato City on Tuesday was 45°C. It is the only place in the Philippines to have logged a “danger level” heat index that day.

Cotabato City's danger level heat index was at 42°C on Sunday, April 12 and 46°C on Monday, April 13.

It is also the only place in the country that is forecast to experience a danger level heat index of 45°C on Wednesday, April 15.

Heat index is defined as how hot it actually feels to the human body by combining air temperature and relative humidity. High humidity slows the evaporation of sweat, making it more difficult for the body to cool itself.

PAGASA noted that there were over 70 areas that experienced an “extreme caution level” heat index of between 33°C to 41°C last Monday.

On the other hand, Tanay, Rizal is the only area to experience a “caution level” heat index of 31°C.

Meanwhile, the following areas experienced a “not hazardous” heat index of less than 27 °C:

Baguio City, Benguet: 25°C

BSU, La Trinidad, Benguet: 23°C

Benguet Radar, Tuba, Benguet: 20°C

— JMA, GMA News

Isolated rain showers expected throughout PH

Isolated rains will occur across the country in the next 24 hours due to localized thunderstorms, PAGASA said Thursday afternoon as it continues to monitor Typhoon Sinlaku outside the Philippine Area of Responsibility.

According to its 4 p.m. weather forecast, partly cloudy to cloudy skies with isolated rain showers or thunderstorms will be observed in Metro Manila and the rest of the country.

PAGASA warned that severe thunderstorms may trigger flash floods or landslides.

Meanwhile, Northern Luzon will experience the ridge of a high pressure area.

At 3 p.m., Sinlaku was located 2,420 km east of Northern Luzon in PAGASA's Tropical Cyclone Information Domain (TCID).

It is carrying maximum sustained winds of 155 km/h near the center and gustiness of up to 190 km/h and moving northward at 10 km/h.

According to the PAGASA website, TCID is the agency's largest and outermost monitoring domain.

"Tropical cyclones present inside the TCID are of least concern for the forecasters but are necessary enough for monitoring and public awareness purposes," PAGASA said.

Winds will be moderate to strong, while coastal waters will be moderate to rough in the eastern sections of Southern Luzon, Visayas, and Mindanao.

The rest of the country will experience light to moderate winds and slight to moderate coastal waters.

Sunrise in Metro Manila will be at 5:41 a.m. on Friday. —Mariel Celine Serquiña/VBL, GMA News

[PAGASA: Isolated rains over parts of PH. HPA ridge extends over Northern Luzon](#)

The ridge of the High Pressure Area (HPA) will be extending over Northern Luzon as localized thunderstorms bring cloudy skies with isolated rains over the rest of the country on Friday, PAGASA reported.

The weather continue to monitor Typhoon Sinlaku, which is outside the Philippine Area of Responsibility (PAR) or 2,485 kilometers east of extreme Northern Luzon packing maximum sustained winds of 140 kilometers per hour with gustiness of up to 170 km/h and moving north northeastward at 15 km/h.

Forecast Weather Conditions

Metro Manila and the rest of the country will have partly cloudy to cloudy skies with isolated rain showers or thunderstorms due to localized thunderstorms. Flash floods or landslides may occur during severe thunderstorms.

Forecast Wind and Coastal Water Conditions

The wind speed forecast for the eastern sections of Southern Luzon, Visayas, and Mindanao is moderate to strong and moving in the northeast to east direction with moderate to rough coastal waters.

The eastern sections of Northern and Central Luzon will experience moderate to strong wind speed moving in the east to southeast direction and moderate to rough coastal waters.

The wind speed forecast for the rest of Luzon is light to moderate moving in the east to southeast direction while coastal waters will be slight to moderate.

The rest of the country will experience light to moderate wind speed moving in the northeast to north direction with slight to moderate coastal waters.

Sunrise will be at 5:41a.m., sunset at 6:10 p.m. — BAP, GMA News

LOS ANGELES TIMES

[Mayor Bass has a new plan for addressing climate change in Los Angeles](#)

By: Ian James and Melissa Gomez

L.A. Mayor Karen Bass has released a new plan setting goals for the city to combat climate change and adapt to a warmer future.

Bass' Climate Action Plan calls for doubling local solar power in Los Angeles by 2030 and reducing the use of fossil fuels in buildings and city buses.

It outlines how the city intends to reduce emissions of greenhouse gases at the Port of Los Angeles and L.A. International Airport. And it sets targets for reducing water use, addressing risks from extreme heat, and expanding parks and green spaces to cool neighborhoods and restore natural habitat.

"It's about meeting the moment to protect our city, our people and of course, our planet, our contribution," Bass said. "The decisions that we make today will shape this city for generations to come."

The mayor spoke about the plan on Thursday at the Donald C. Tillman Water Reclamation Plant in Van Nuys, where construction is underway on a new water recycling project. Under Bass, city officials decided to double the capacity of the project, which will transform wastewater into 45 million gallons of pure drinking water a day, enough for 500,000 people.

Bass' strategy expands on a previous plan called the "Green New Deal" that then-Mayor Eric Garcetti adopted in 2019.

City Controller Kenneth Mejia in 2023 called for a reboot of that earlier plan, saying it lacked clear metrics for tracking progress toward goals.

Bass' plan includes 14 objectives and more than 50 targets and actions, which it says are "designed to deliver concrete, measurable climate outcomes." The goals include:

Increasing renewable energy to 80% by 2030 and 100% by 2035.

Converting all of the L.A. Department of Transportation buses to electric by 2028.

Working with airlines and fuel suppliers at LAX and Van Nuys Airport to increase the use of sustainable fuel by 28% by 2030.

Passing an ordinance this year to prohibit new oil and gas drilling, and creating a process to end current oil and gas extraction in the city.

Installing 120,000 new electric vehicle chargers by 2030.

Increasing L.A.'s use of local water so the city is 70% locally reliant by 2035, and reducing average per-person water use 25% by 2035.

Establishing five new parks by 2030 and 10 by 2035, and substantially increasing the city's tree canopy by 2035.

The plan recognizes a need for urgent, nature-based solutions to address climate change, Cassie Rauser, chief executive of the nonprofit group TreePeople. "We believe the future of Los Angeles depends on designing our neighborhood with the principle of right tree, right place, thoughtfully integrating the green infrastructure where it can deliver the greatest benefit to people and planet alike," she said.

The city is also working toward a goal of becoming carbon neutral by 2045.

One of the most important parts of the effort is moving toward 100% carbon-free energy at the L.A. Department of Water and Power, said Deputy Mayor Nancy Sutley, who oversees energy and sustainability.

"If you drive an electric vehicle, you want the electricity that powers the car to be clean," Sutley said. "And then our buildings are big users of energy. ... So as we both electrify buildings and improve the efficiency of buildings, we'll be able to meet those targets."

Bass, a Democrat, is running for reelection this year. Some of her spending plans over the last year have been limited by a budget shortfall, which led to cuts at the bureaus of engineering, transportation, street lighting and street services, among others.

The mayor's budget proposal this year will include \$841 million in climate-related spending that will support the efforts, Sutley said.

Other goals in the plan call for reducing trash, phasing out single-use plastic by 2032 and increasing composting of organic waste.

The plan says the city will work to make the 2028 Olympics and other major upcoming public events "models of sustainability." That includes working with Olympic organizers to ensure all concession containers are reusable, recyclable or compostable, and taking steps such as planting more trees and installing shade structures to help cool areas around venues.

Bass wrote in a letter announcing the plan that Angelenos are already experiencing global warming in the form of more intense wildfires and heat waves.

“Cities are on the front line of the climate crisis,” Bass said during her visit to the wastewater treatment plant. “The impacts of climate change are felt right here in our neighborhoods, and we know that the most vulnerable residents, low-income families, communities of color, our unhoused neighbors, are often hit the hardest. The impact of this crisis is local, but thankfully, so too are the solutions.”

The mayor toured the construction site of the water recycling project, called the L.A. Groundwater Replenishment Project, which she called “a huge win for sustainability.”

Orange County has been treating and purifying sewage into clean drinking water for years. L.A. has also recycled wastewater for decades but has previously used it outdoors on golf courses and parks. With this \$1-billion project — financed with help from state and federal loans and grants, and with funds from the Metropolitan Water District of Southern California — Los Angeles will for the first time transform wastewater into purified drinking water.

The facility is scheduled to be operating before the 2028 Olympics.

Bass’ climate strategy provides the city direction in addressing climate change. But like its predecessor, the Green New Deal, the plan won’t be legally binding.

City departments will be tasked with meeting many of the goals, and the City Council could adopt some of them as binding policy, Sutley said.

City Administrative Officer Matthew Szabo is also working on a separate Climate Action and Adaptation Plan, as the City Council directed following a motion by City Councilmember Katy Yaroslavsky in 2023. This plan is meant to align with a state requirement that local governments maintain climate adaptation and resiliency strategies in their general plans.

Councilmember Adrin Nazarian said he supports the mayor’s effort to prioritize climate investments that can serve as a leading example for the country.

“If we continue on this track, we can hit our goals,” he said. “It’s continuing to put us at the forefront of not just innovation and progress, but also on being able to monetize and benefit from that as well.”

MANILA BULLETIN

[Gov't gives ₱127 million to help 4 cities fight climate change](#)

The Department of Finance (DOF)-led People's Survival Fund (PSF) has expanded its commitment to local climate action, approving a combined ₱127.3 million in grants for four major adaptation projects across the Philippines.

These initiatives, approved during the recent PSF board meeting, represent a shift toward integrating nature-based solutions with advanced technology to mitigate the economic and human costs of climate change.

To date, the PSF supports 28 projects, with total financing commitments of ₱1.5 billion.

In Kidapawan City, a ₱27.7 million grant will fund the 'Canopy '25' Ecosystem Restoration Program, which targets the reforestation of 700 hectares near Mt. Apo Natural Park. This project aims to reverse the damage caused by human-induced pressures like slash-and-burn practices while installing seven Early Warning Systems (EWS).

"This initiative highlights how nature-based solutions and technology can work together to protect communities, strengthen resilience, and secure a more sustainable future," said PSF Chair and Finance Secretary Frederick D. Go.

In Iriga City, the Fund allocated ₱32.5 million for the Securing Water as Adaptive Mechanisms for Survival and Sustainability (SWAMSS) project, focusing on restoring the Mt. Iriga watershed. This initiative blends environmental protection with agricultural viability by establishing organic vegetable demonstration farms and training over 2,000 farmers.

"By strengthening watershed systems and empowering communities, we are investing in long-term resilience that safeguards lives, supports livelihoods, and ensures sustainable development," Go said.

Ormoc City received the largest single grant of ₱42.4 million for its 'Green Riverscaping' project. This initiative addresses the city's extreme vulnerability to typhoons by combining 180 hectares of upland reforestation with a 10.39-kilometer bamboo and fruit tree buffer along the Pagsangaan River to curb soil erosion.

"By combining nature-based solutions with community-led initiatives, we are helping residents manage climate risks more confidently while promoting sustainable livelihoods that protect lives, livelihoods, and the future of Ormoc's communities," said Go.

Technological modernization is the focus in Goa, Camarines Sur, with a ₱24.7 million grant for the e-SITIO Emergency Operations Center. The project replaces manual monitoring with real-time weather data and automated public address systems.

Go said that “strengthening early warning systems and emergency response capabilities is key to protecting lives and ensuring that communities are better prepared for the increasing risks posed by climate change.”

Further, the PSF board announced sweeping policy reforms to enhance the fund’s responsiveness. These include streamlining processes to reduce processing time and updating prioritization criteria to align with national adaptation plans. (Derco Rosal)

MANILA STANDARD

[Asian leaders to discuss funding ahead of climate disasters](#)

Climate science can now forecast disasters days or weeks in advance, but across Asia, funding still arrives largely after damage has been done, highlighting a gap leaders aim to address at a regional conference later this month.

The Asian Conference on Climate Change and Disaster Resilience (ACCCDR), set for April 30 at the Asian Institute of Management in Makati, will gather policymakers, development finance institutions, private sector leaders, and local officials to discuss anticipatory climate finance.

The approach focuses on releasing funds based on forecasts and risk data before disasters strike, rather than after, as climate risks intensify across the region.

Carrying the theme “From Risk to Readiness: Investing in Climate Futures in Asia,” the conference seeks to shift climate finance from reactive to proactive systems, ensuring resources reach vulnerable communities in time to reduce impact.

“Climate change is one of the greatest threats of our time, demanding urgent and coordinated action,” AIM president and Dean Jikyeong Kang said. She added that academic institutions must equip leaders with the strategic vision to strengthen systems against rising risks, with climate finance playing a key role in both mitigation and adaptation.

Discussions will cover global funding mechanisms, national investment strategies, private sector risk management, and local implementation, with a focus on “last-mile” delivery where financing reaches communities. Organizers said the conference will also examine barriers that continue to limit access to funds.

“ACCCDR strengthens leaders’ capacity to address interconnected risks—from climate change to economic crises—through coordinated governance,” said Erin Downey, head of the Stephen Zuellig Graduate School of Development Management.

Chad Briggs, academic program director of AIM’s Executive Master in Disaster Risk and Crisis Management, said the forum aims to connect global funding and expertise to local governments to improve preparedness before disasters occur.

Organizers said sustained dialogue, stronger leadership, and closer coordination across sectors are needed to bridge the gap between policy and implementation.

As climate risks rise, the cost of delayed action is expected to increase, adding urgency to efforts to move from disaster response to preparedness.

MAVEN'S NOTEBOOK

[NEVADA TODAY: How does elevation influence climate change impacts in mountains?](#)

Winter in the Sierra Nevada this year was defined by unusually warm temperatures, bringing storms with increased rainfall and less snow. As climate change continues to affect snowpacks in the Sierra Nevada mountains, researchers at the University of Nevada, Reno are working to answer how change is experienced at different elevations. Adrian Harpold, director of the Nevada Mountain Eco-Hydrology Lab, professor in the Department of Natural Resources & Environmental Science in the University's College of Agriculture, Biotechnology & Natural Resources, and faculty at the Tahoe Institute for Global Sustainability, is part of the team of mountain ecohydrologists studying the flow of water in the Sierra Nevada.

In an interview with the Hitchcock Project for Visualizing Science, Harpold answers questions to help better understand the effects of elevation-dependent climate change in the mountains.

What is mountain ecohydrology?

Mountain ecohydrology is the study of what happens to water in the mountains, in particular, how vegetation and living things use water. A lot of that water comes from winter snowpacks, so we consider variables including where snow falls, how it melts, how water filters into the ground, how vegetation uses water, and how water flows into streams and rivers and ultimately to our taps.

How does elevation affect mountain climates?

The mountains that we live in around here are at the front lines of climate change. We have relatively low mountains: the tops of them are only 10,000 or 12,000 feet. In a changing climate, we're concerned about more rain, less snow, earlier snowmelt and snow disappearing off the landscape before it's ready to be used by vegetation. We are also investigating how early snowmelt stresses our forests, our reservoirs and the things that we depend on for our nice quality of life here in Reno.

What have been the effects of climate change on mountain ecosystems?

What we see globally is that mountains are warming about 20% faster than the lowlands that surround them. It's difficult to assess exactly what the effects of climate change are on a day-to-day basis, but we can look back 30 years and see really clear trends where snow is coming later in the fall. That's limiting our access to some winter recreation opportunities. When the snow melts earlier in the spring, it is causing our rivers to also rise earlier. It's stressing the vegetation because the vegetation is trying to access that water earlier in the year. Additionally, early melt-off leads to longer, drier summers where we have to sustain our water supplies from early snowmelt all the way into September and October, when we get replenished by typical fall rains.

What do warmer winters mean for wildfire risk?

We're seeing that warmer winters are leading to drier summers, which are making mountain regions more at risk of wildfire. Wildfires create feedback loops with local water supplies: the moment that surface snowmelt ceases in March, April and May, is often when trees have to start relying on water that's stored in the ground, which is causing stress to trees and vegetation. When vegetation is stressed, it grows less and is a drier fuel, making it more at risk of forest fire.

What are some current projects you are working on in your Nevada Mountain Eco-Hydrology Lab at the University?

In the Lake Tahoe Basin and Sierra Mountain Range, I'm interested in looking at consequences of forest management decisions on the watershed. I've done a couple of projects, one related to a large forest restoration called the Tahoe Central Sierra Initiative, where we projected 100 years into the future and tried to answer questions, including how forestry and wildfire management practices change our reservoirs and our stream flows, and how they impact fire severity. What we have concluded is that there are many potential benefits from managing our forests through fuel reduction practices. Our forests are the largest user of water: these trees use a lot of water throughout the year, and if we reduce their biomass, then more of that water will make it down into our streams and rivers.

CCC IN THE NEWS:

DAILY TRIBUNE

[CCC backs DOH project on health sector emissions](#)

The Climate Change Commission (CCC) has backed a Department of Health initiative to track greenhouse gas emissions in the healthcare sector, highlighting the link between climate change and public health.

The project, called the Philippine Health System Integrated National Accounting of Greenhouse Gases (PH-SINAG), was launched to establish a baseline for emissions and support climate-informed planning in the health sector. Philippine health system

The Department of Health said the initiative integrates emissions reduction and climate adaptation into healthcare delivery while strengthening overall service systems.

CCC Vice Chairperson and Executive Director Robert E.A. Borje said the healthcare sector accounts for about 5.6 percent of the country's emissions and plays a key role in climate action.

"The health system may not always sit in the foreground of mitigation discussions, but it is a major cross-sector implementation platform," Borje said.

He added that climate-informed health systems are needed to reduce vulnerabilities and ensure continuity of care amid risks such as extreme heat, flooding, and stronger typhoons.

The CCC said PH-SINAG provides a measurable baseline that will help institutions integrate climate strategies into planning, budgeting, procurement, and operations.

"It is not simply to acknowledge emissions, but to institutionalize the response," Borje said.

Health Secretary Teodoro J. Herbosa said the initiative will help identify emission sources and guide investments in sustainable and resilient healthcare systems.

"This initiative supports the broader goal of integrating health into national climate commitments," Herbosa said.

PH-SINAG is the first comprehensive emissions baseline for the Philippine health system and is expected to strengthen monitoring and reporting frameworks while supporting long-term climate resilience in the sector.

PHILIPPINE INFORMATION AGENCY

[CCC supports DOH project on accounting health sector emissions](#)

PASIG CITY — The Climate Change Commission (CCC) supports the initiative of the Department of Health (DOH) on health sector emissions accounting, which underscores the critical link between climate change and public health, during the launch of the Philippine Health System Integrated National Accounting of Greenhouse Gases (PH-SINAG).

The DOH PH-SINAG emphasizes the importance of integrating emissions reduction and adaptation with the health sector while strengthening service delivery.

In his message, CCC Vice Chairperson and Executive Director Robert E.A. Borje noted that the healthcare sector, which accounts for around 5.6 percent of national emissions, is both a contributor to and a frontline responder to climate change impacts and a critical platform for the country's climate action.

“The health system may not always sit in the foreground of mitigation discussions. But it is clearly a major cross-sector implementation platform, with relevance to energy, transport, waste, buildings, procurement, and public expenditure,” Borje said.

The Commission underscored that climate-informed health systems are essential to reduce vulnerabilities, minimize asset loss, and ensure continuity of care amid increasing climate risks such as extreme heat, flooding, and stronger typhoons, referring to the National Adaptation Plan (NAP).

The CCC emphasized that PH-SINAG provides a specific and decision-useful baseline, enabling the emissions within the sector to be more visible and measurable while also enabling institutions to better integrate climate plans into core health system functions.

“The task now is not simply to acknowledge emissions. It is to institutionalize the response into planning and budgeting, procurement and infrastructure decisions, facility operations and performance management,” Borje emphasized.

PH-SINAG is the first comprehensive, system-wide greenhouse gas emissions baseline for the Philippine health system. Its report addresses the critical gap by providing the evidence base needed to formally anchor the health sector into the Philippines' climate commitments.

Department of Health Secretary Teodoro J. Herbosa acknowledged the growing strain of climate risks on health systems, citing the impacts of extreme weather events, flooding, extreme heat, and pollution on both health outcomes and service delivery.

He also underscored PH-SINAG as a critical foundation for identifying emission sources and guiding strategic investments in sustainable and resilient healthcare systems.

“This initiative supports the broader goal of integrating health into the national climate commitments and strengthening interagency collaboration for sustainable development. More importantly, this event builds a shared commitment across sectors, promising sustainable health facilities and initiating a roadmap for decarbonization through energy transition, digital solutions, and green procurement,” Herbosa said.

The PH-SINAG aims to institutionalize a climate-informed approach to the country’s healthcare system that translates data into action, strengthens resilience, and delivers wider public value.

The CCC further highlighted that the initiative strengthens the country’s broader climate architecture by improving measurement, reporting, and verification (MRV) systems, and reinforcing monitoring, evaluation, accountability, and learning (MEAL) across the sector.

The Commission reaffirmed its commitment to working with partners to ensure that PH-SINAG evolves from an analytical milestone into a durable instrument for evidence-based planning and accountable implementation, supporting a climate-resilient and people-centered health system.

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