



NEWS ROUNDUP

24 APRIL 2023 [08:00 am]

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By: Maya M. Padillo

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MANILA BULLETIN

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By: Joseph Pedrajas

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MANILA STANDARD

[A continuing duty to 'Invest in Our Planet'](#)

By: Patricia Bianca Taculao

Every April 22, the world celebrates Earth Day to show its unwavering support for environmental protection. It also marks the anniversary of the birth of the modern environmental movement, which began in 1970.

[Belmonte underscores QC's 'huge responsibility' on climate change](#)

By: Rio N. Araja

Quezon City, as a highly urbanized and highly competitive city, has “a very huge responsibility in addressing climate change,” Mayor Joy Belmonte said during her recent State-of the-Environment Address via her official Facebook page.

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It is heartening to see how a beauty pageant has become a driving force in raising awareness about environmental issues that affect us all.

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

[DBM chief enjoins gov't agencies to bolster climate change programs](#)

By: Sofia Abrogar

Department of Budget and Management (DBM) Secretary Amenah Pangandaman on Saturday called on colleagues in government service to “intensify climate change planning and programming” as the nation marked Earth Day.

Pro-environment groups call for responsible use, production of chemicals

By: Faith Argosino

Environmental and health groups are pushing for initiatives to ensure that chemicals are “produced, used and managed” to prevent harmful impacts on human health, nature, and climate as the Philippines joins the rest of the world in celebrating Earth Month.

RAPPLER

Activists gather for Earth Day, urge action to avoid ‘dystopian’ future

By: Reuters

Climate change campaigners gathered outside Britain’s parliament building ahead of Earth Day to urge action on global warming, while volunteers worldwide geared up to plant trees and clear trash to mark the 54th annual celebration of the environment.

[Opinion] Environmental defenders, our heroes

By: Tony La Viña and Dinah Faye Balleco

The Philippines is one of the most dangerous places for environmental defenders. Previous authoritarian policies have led to business capture and environmental plunder that have put the lives of environmental defenders at risk. However, in the existing sociopolitical milieu, not much attention is given to them. The issues related to the environment are not heavily emphasized compared to other political issues such as foreign affairs, international relations, and interstate conflicts, whose consequences appear to be more direct and immediate to the national interest.

SOUTH CHINA MORNING POST

Climate change: how the new global quality assessment framework can boost carbon markets’ integrity, transparency

By: Eric Ng

Global efforts like the quality assessment framework launched last month to enhance voluntary carbon markets’ integrity will improve transparency and boost credit buyers’ confidence, according to analysts.

THE PHILIPPINE STAR

[On Earth Day, groups renew call to stop reclamation, dredging projects](#)

By: Gaea Katreena Cabico

Fishers, scientists and environmentalists on Earth Day renewed their call to stop reclamation and dredging activities that would disrupt vital ecosystems and livelihood of coastal communities, and could worsen the impacts of climate change.

THE PHILIPPINE STAR

[UN report: Last 8 years warmest on record](#)

By: Pia Lee-Brago

The last eight years were the warmest on record, and sea level rise and ocean warming hit new highs, according to the United Nations weather agency's report.

CCC IN THE NEWS:

CNN PHILIPPINES

[Earth Day: CCC calls for investment vs. climate change](#)

The Climate Change Commission (CCC) on Saturday urged the public to make an investment in the environment to fight climate change.

[Pinoys urged to join fight vs climate change](#)

By: Bella Cariaso

President Marcos has called on Filipinos to unite in the fight against the negative effects of climate change as the world celebrated Earth Day yesterday.

Information and Knowledge Management Division

ABS CBN

Most of PH to experience sunny, hot weather; localized thunderstorms possible: PAGASA

Sunny and hot weather, with "radiating heat" may be expected this week in most parts of the Philippines, state weather bureau PAGASA said Sunday.

In its weather outlook for April 24 to 30, PAGASA said there is no weather disturbance expected to enter the Philippine area of responsibility this week.

Warm and humid easterlies will also prevail this week, it added.

Metro Manila will experience sunny and hot weather this week with occasions of cloudiness. Thunderstorms are also possible on Monday, Thursday and the weekend.

Severe thunderstorms, on the other hand, may be experienced in parts of central Luzon and Mindanao on Monday, and in Ilocos region and the Zamboanga peninsula by Wednesday.

Visayas and Mindanao may also experience scattered rains over the weekend due to the easterlies, PAGASA said.

PAGASA may issue an El Niño alert by next month, an official earlier said, as chances of the dry spell continue to increase.

At present, the Philippines is under "El Niño watch" status.

El Niño is a weather phenomenon characterized by below-normal rainfall that can lead to dry spells and drought.

ARAB NEWS

[Extreme weather is nearly universal experience, new poll shows](#)

An overwhelming majority of people in the US say they have recently experienced an extreme weather event, a new poll shows, and most of them attribute that to climate change.

But even as many across the country marked Earth Day on Saturday, the poll shows relatively few say they feel motivated when they talk about the issue.

The findings from The Associated Press-NORC Center for Public Affairs Research poll echo growing evidence that many individuals question their own role in combating climate change. Still, the poll suggests people are paying attention.

About half of US adults say they have grown more concerned about the changing climate in the past year, and a growing number say they are talking about it.

Adriana Moreno said she feels like she's been talking about climate change for years, but it's only recently that the 22-year-old high school teacher has noticed her older family members bringing up the issue more and more – “almost every time I see them,” said Moreno, a Democrat in New York.

Her family on the East Coast talks about how the seasons have changed while her family in El Salvador talks about how poorly some crops on their farm are faring. After years of hearing about Moreno's own interest in the issue, her parents have themselves become more interested.

It's not that they didn't believe in climate change before, Moreno said, but it was “out of sight, out of mind.”

Overall, about 8 in 10 US adults say that in the past five years they have personally felt the effects of extreme weather, such as extreme heat or drought, according to the poll. Most of them — 54 percent of the public overall — say what they experienced was at least partly a result of climate change.

They're not wrong, said the head of the federal agency overseeing weather and climate issues.

“It is a reality that regardless of where you are in the country, where you call home, you've likely experienced a high impact weather event firsthand,” National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration chief Rick Spinrad said at a meteorological conference this

year, noting that the US has the most weather disasters that cost \$1 billion of any nation in the world.

NOAA uses weather disasters that cost \$1 billion as a measure of climate change and how it affects people. Last year there were 18 of those events, costing more than \$165 billion in total and killing 474 people. That included Hurricane Ian and an ongoing drought in the West.

These types of weather events hit the nation on average once every 82 days in the 1980s, but are now smacking the country at a rate of slightly more than once every two weeks, Spinrad said.

“With a changing climate, buckle up,” Spinrad warned. “More extreme events are expected.”

The poll shows about three-quarters of US adults say recent extreme weather events have had at least some influence on their beliefs about climate change.

After 2 1/2 years living in Agoura Hills, California, Rick Hoeft has noticed extreme weather events that make him concerned about climate change now more than ever before.

He had not been face to face with the same weather whiplash when he lived for decades in Hawaii and Michigan, where he’s moving back to this month.

“Hearing about the things like the fires and seeing the hills around here being brown and not getting any rain for three, four, five months in a row ... it’s not something I’d ever thought of anywhere else because I’ve never been in such extreme drought,” the 65-year-old Republican retiree said. Then, “when we finally do get rain, it’s extreme.”

He says his girlfriend, who had lived in California for 45 years, tells him “this isn’t normal.”

Extreme downpours, like the series of winter storms that flooded California, and large droughts are happening more frequently and with more intensity because of climate change, studies show.

Tornadoes are moving further east and the supercells that spawn them are expected to get more frequent and move even further east as the world warms. Wildfires have been devastating for years, worsened by warming.

Half of US adults say they have spoken with friends and family about climate change in the past year, compared with about 4 in 10 who said the same last June. Still, many say they rarely or never talk about the issue.

John Laubacker, a 36-year-old truck driver from Lockport, New York, says climate is an important issue to him personally. But he doesn't find himself talking about it much. Laubacker, a moderate Republican, says he finds the conversation on climate, like other issues, is dominated by those with extreme views on both sides of the aisle.

The poll finds people don't tend to talk about climate change with people they outright disagree with on the issue. Among those who talk with family and friends, about half say they mostly agree with those they talk to, while most of the remainder say they tend to equally agree and disagree.

A clear majority say they have learned new information in a conversation on the subject, but only 19 percent of US adults say their minds have been changed because of a conversation about climate change.

The poll also finds few feel very hopeful or motivated when they talk about climate change; roughly half feel those at least somewhat. That's true of anxiety and sadness as well.

Anthony Thompson, a 74-year-old retiree and a Democrat, thinks climate change has accelerated, but he picks and chooses who he talks to about it in "ruby red" Jackson, Tennessee. But if it comes up when tornadoes or hailstorms tear through their area, he offers what he's learned as "food for thought."

To Thompson, changes in weather have become more severe – as has his concern.

"I'm more concerned now because I think people kind of take everything for granted and I don't think they really care, to be quite honest," he said. "Hopefully if we concentrate on some of this stuff we can at least slow it down."

BUSINESS WORLD

Companies to invest in more ESG, 'green' projects – ICCP

By: Adrian H. Halili

SEVERAL companies are expected to invest in more “green” projects and environmental, social and governance (ESG) programs, according to financial services entity Investment & Capital Corporation of the Philippines (ICCP).

“There is a desire for banks and funds to support projects that are ESG responsive and slowly a premium on these kinds of projects is emerging as the correlation between sustainable governance and risk mitigation becomes evident,” ICCP President and Chief Executive Officer Valentino S. Bagatsing said in a statement.

ESG practices have become more prevalent in recent years due to their medium- to long-term payoffs and risk management.

“The aspiration is for ESG practices to eventually be embedded into the corporate and societal DNA,” Mr. Bagatsing said.

“That way it evolves into the default standard of behavior where the stewardship aspect of any endeavor is considered,” he added.

ICCP expects more investments into these programs as it saw a large number of institutions wishing to invest in ESG projects as the country is vulnerable to impacts of climate change and “sub-optimal governance.”

The company has previously delved into green projects. It served as the sole issue coordinator, joint issue manager, and lead underwriter for the P1.61-billion initial public offering of Alternergy Holdings Corp.

It was also a participating underwriter for Citicore Energy REIT’s P6.4-billion offering and sole underwriter for Haus Talk, Inc.’s P750-million listing on the small, medium, and emerging board of the Philippine Stock Exchange.

“ICCP is focused on remaining responsive to the times and on gearing its financial expertise towards projects with a deeper development footprint,” the company said.

BUSINESS WORLD

Companies to invest in more ESG, 'green' projects – ICCP

By: Adrian H. Halili

SEVERAL companies are expected to invest in more “green” projects and environmental, social and governance (ESG) programs, according to financial services entity Investment & Capital Corporation of the Philippines (ICCP).

“This has been a big dream from the start because we have to consider the dynamics of Mindanao,” UP Los Baños (UPLB) Chancellor Jose V. Camacho, Jr. said during the groundbreaking ceremony Friday.

Mindanao, the southernmost of the main Philippine islands, is a major source of agricultural products and fisheries, producing high-value export commodities.

PSAE, a unit of UPLB, was established in 2016, offering graduate courses on agriculture and environmental science through online and physical classes at the Damosa complex in Davao City.

The Damosa complex and Agriya township are owned by Anflo Management and Investment Corp., one of the country’s biggest banana producers.

The PSAE’s postgraduate programs include entomology, soil science, rural sociology, animal nutrition, food engineering, and environmental planning.

Mr. Camacho said the upcoming campus complements that of UP Mindanao in Davao City.

“Essentially (the objective is) to bring quality education, not just graduate-quality education but to make education more inclusive,” he said.

UP has a network of 17 campuses.

UP President Angelo A. Jimenez, who was also at Friday’s event for the deed of land donation signing with the Anflo group, said the university wants to bring the latest technology and practices for a sustainable agriculture industry.

“We are happy to be here and we are going to cooperate and are committed to making this a very successful partnership with Anflo and Damosa,” he said.

Damosa Land, Inc. President Ricardo F. Lagdameo said the campus, which is part of the Agriya township masterplan, will benefit the agriculture industry and add to the dynamism of the city and the province.

“It creates an ecosystem whenever a school is put up,” he said, citing the “vibrant lively community” in and around UPLB.

The 88-hectare Agriya complex is a mixed-use development with residential, commercial, and tourism clusters, including an agri-tourism area.

INTERAKSYON

[Church groups lead call for Marcos to declare 'climate emergency'](#)

By: CBCP News

Several Catholic organizations submitted a petition urging President Ferdinand Marcos Jr to recognize the country's urgent situation and declare a climate emergency.

Various climate activists marched in Manila on Thursday to hand over to Malacañang their petition to place the nation under such a state of emergency.

The march, however, failed to reach Mendiola after they were blocked by riot police at corner of Legarda and Figueras streets.

Some of their leaders were instead allowed to enter the Palace compound to formally submit their petition to the government.

Fr. Tony Labiao, Caritas Philippines executive secretary, said they want "a swift transition to a low-carbon economy, the protection of natural habitats and ecosystems, and the adoption of just, pro-people, and sustainable economic development practices across all sectors".

"We invite everyone to join us calling-out our leaders and to raise our voices for the dignity of our common home and for our future generations," Labiao said.

According to them, the declaration of a climate emergency would signal that the government acknowledges the gravity of the situation and is willing to take bold action to mitigate its effects.

Among those who attended the rally were Bishop Jose Colin Bagaforo, president of Caritas Philippines, a number of religious missionaries, and representatives of various civil society organizations.

Saying that climate change is becoming an existential issue globally, Columban lay missionary John Din stressed that all citizens should take action.

"Immediate actions to address the climate emergency should be our utmost concern," said Din, who is also the national coordinator of Laudato Si Movement–Philippines.

Over 160 institutions — dioceses, schools, parishes, non-government organizations, and people's organizations have already declared a climate emergency.

They have committed to take concrete steps to address it and challenge the government to do the same at this most critical time.

They also called on Marcos to urgently implement policies and programs that will address the root causes of climate change.

“We are declaring that we are now in a state of climate emergency and we commit to do sustained and bold actions to help slow down environmental deterioration, with sustained regenerative actions to restore ecological balance,” said Yolanda Esguerra, national coordinator of Philippine Misereor Partnership Inc.

“Likewise, we shall challenge the government to declare a climate emergency and take the lead in fulfilling its mandate to protect the well-being of both nature and people, ensuring that a clear and comprehensive plan containing strategic and urgent actions are put in place to address climate change impacts,” she added.

The declaration of climate emergency is a campaign initiated by the “Rights of Nature PH” with other civil society groups to mobilize Filipinos to an “all of nation approach” in addressing the climate crisis.

MANILA BULLETIN

[PH vows to fight for Indigenous People's issues, interests](#)

By: Joseph Pedrajas

The Philippine government has expressed its commitment to continue advocating for the issues and interests of its Indigenous Peoples (IPs), including in the areas of environment and climate change, disaster risk reduction and gender development.

Allen Capuyan, head of the country's National Commission on Indigenous Peoples, led the Philippine delegation in a dialogue with other countries at the United Nations that tackled racial discrimination.

The discussion was conducted from April 19 to 20.

In the talks, the Philippine delegation also highlighted the efforts it undertook in the promotion and protection of IP's rights pursuant to the 1997 Indigenous Peoples' Rights Act (IPRA) and other relevant laws during the period under review (2009-2018).

These include the enactment of 215 laws, including the landmark Bangsamoro Organic Law, covering a wide range of rights, the issuance of 260 Certificates of Ancestral Domains Titles and 252 Certificates of Ancestral Land Titles, awareness programs on cultural practices and ancestral domains, and expanded access to health services and educational assistance, among others.

The delegation also took pride in the government's effort to enforce the Free, Prior, and Informed Consent process especially as regards development projects involving mining and energy infrastructure.

Currently, the Philippines is also working with the World Bank to strengthen its institutional capacity to collect comprehensive data on Indigenous Peoples that will be accessible to policy-makers and stakeholders through a single digital portal, Capuyan added.

While Capuyan found the Philippine accomplishments significant, he said more has to be done by the government amid various challenges, including the weaponization of human rights by leftist extremists that supposedly radicalize IPs, and misrepresent them in the UN to allegedly advance their violent agenda of overthrowing the duly constituted government of the Philippines.

He said the government is now embracing a whole-of- nation and whole-of-government approach to protect the Filipino people from the efforts of the Communist Party of the Philippines supposedly "to divide the Filipino people and propagate violence."

MANILA STANDARD

[A continuing duty to 'Invest in Our Planet'](#)

By: Patricia Bianca Taculao

Every April 22, the world celebrates Earth Day to show its unwavering support for environmental protection. It also marks the anniversary of the birth of the modern environmental movement, which began in 1970.

This year's theme, "Invest in Our Planet," continues the efforts from last year's Earth Day, which follows a similar campaign due to its previous success. According to EARTHDAY.ORG (EDO), the global organizer of Earth Day and the most extensive recruiter of environmental movements worldwide, the theme focuses on engaging governments, institutions, businesses, and the more than 1 billion citizens who participate annually in Earth Day to do their part.

Although human activity has contributed to environmental challenges and degradation, it's not too late to set things straight. Hence, investing in a green economy in various industries boosts the chances of a healthy, prosperous, and equitable future.

In recent years, governments across the globe enacted relevant green initiatives, like switching to renewable energy, to lessen greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions and mitigate the impact of climate change. Further efforts include building green economies to incite a green revolution to meet the goal of environmental preservation.

However, the objective is only possible through an action-based collaboration between governments, businesses, and private citizens since climate change affects everyone, thus benefiting everyone should its effects minimize.

Once again, Earth Day calls upon businesses, inventors, and investors to drive value for their target markets and communities using green innovations and practices to encourage the private sector to embrace similar ideas. Economic revolutions often recognize how the private sector brings significant progress with speed and scale.

For instance, governments can begin incentivizing citizens, businesses, and institutions to apply innovations to advance the public's interest in creating the framework for an equitable and sustainable global economic system. As a result, citizens and customers can follow a similar lifestyle and spark change.

Numerous brands, organizations, and local and national governments in the Philippines progressed efficiently in applying and implementing green practices. Some of their

efforts include using sustainable materials for various products, offering renewable energy, and minimizing single-use plastics, among other initiatives.

These became relevant steps that allowed Filipinos nationwide to join the campaign for environmental protection and recognize its relevance, thus coming closer to the goal of creating a green future that offers opportunities for all.

A quick background on Earth Day

Before Earth Day became the global event it is now, it began as an idea in 1970 when Wisconsin Senator Gaylord grew alarmed about the deteriorating environment in the United States. As a result, he wanted to promote environmental policies on a national scale.

He drew inspiration from the student anti-war movement. The senator wanted to infuse the energy of student anti-war protests with an emerging public consciousness about air and water pollution.

Following the first Earth Day, Congress authorized the creation of the Environmental Protection Agency to further the movement and see efficient progress.

The first Earth Day has also paved the way for the passage of the Clean Water and Endangered Species Acts in the United States.

By 1990, the celebration became global and mobilized 141 countries in participation to protect the environment. April 22 became the chosen date to maximize the number of students joining the celebration.

Earth Day has since become the most extensive secular observance in the world, with more than a people annually doing what they can to change human behavior and create global, national, and local policy changes.

How to celebrate Earth Day

While Earth Day calls for relevant action on a global scale, there are several everyday tasks that individuals, governments, and businesses can engage in to maximize the event.

One standard initiative is to clean the surroundings. While it's possible individually in their immediate or select areas, others organize a clean-up drive to encourage more people to participate and cover more ground. Besides raising awareness about waste

management, it also brings together members from different communities to share a common goal.

Collaborate with local government units (LGUs), brands, and organizations to create a more cohesive clean-up drive that brings results while keeping everyone safe and satisfied. Moreover, the area doesn't have to be in a prominent location. Efforts within neighborhoods and communities are well-appreciated.

Those who prefer doing it alone can pick up trash during their time outside to contribute to the global celebration. Everyone can also take the initiative to calculate their carbon footprint and waste in their households or workplaces. It can give them a clear idea of embracing greener initiatives, like opting for plant-based meal options, supporting organic ingredients, or pushing for reusable or biodegradable products.

Another activity everyone can join in is learning more about the climate and the environment. Since Earth Day became possible with the help of student movements, allowing people from modern society to understand its relevance can help them embrace investing in the earth and continuing the decades-long environmental revolution.

In the summer of 2020, EDO launched a formal campaign on Climate Literacy to bring students from across the globe high-quality education to develop into informed and engaged environmental stewards. Meanwhile, other organizations and institutions also offer classes on Climate and Environment Literacy, online and face-to-face, to empower their local communities.

Yet learning more about the climate is one way to take action during Earth Day. Students can create demand from schools, universities, and educational departments to offer lessons on the topic.

On the other hand, educators and those in the academe can advocate for climate education likewise. They can play a hand in creating related topics that are interesting and educational for students from various grade levels.

Many, if not all, of these activities are available on EDO. Those who want to launch their campaigns coinciding with Earth Day 2023 and its theme are more than welcome since it takes a collective effort to achieve significant results.

To quote Wendell Berry, an American poet, writer, and farmer, "The Earth is what we all have in common."

Learn more about Earth Day at www.earthday.org/earth-day-2023/.

[Belmonte underscores QC's 'huge responsibility' on climate change](#)

By: Rio N. Araja

Quezon City, as a highly urbanized and highly competitive city, has “a very huge responsibility in addressing climate change,” Mayor Joy Belmonte said during her recent State-of the-Environment Address via her official Facebook page.

“As we continue to grow, our need for resources, such as energy and water, also increases. The result of this is to have more greenhouses that contribute to climate change,” she said.

“Since my assumption as (mayor) in 2019, I have already included climate change and environmental protection in my 14-point agenda — to build a livable, green and sustainable city,” Belmonte stressed.

The mayor said the government declared a climate emergency in Quezon City, giving way for the allocation of 11 to 13 percent of the city’s yearly budget in programs related to climate change, reduction of carbon emissions, and other environmental concerns.

According to Belmonte, several of the city’s climate change measures were the implementation of the trash- to-cashback program; deployment of 100 electric buses in eight routes and more than 200 electric tricycles; creation of the Climate Change and Environmental Sustainability Department; provision of a livable community for the residents; ban of plastic use, and use of solar energy in the city hall buildings.

She disclosed the city would extend the 90-kilometer bike network along major thoroughfares to 350 kilometers by 2030, and to field more electric buses and tricycles.

The local government renovated pathways to become pedestrian-friendly and add more green spaces; adopted the vote-to-tote to program wherein election tarpaulins used in 2022 were converted into bags by persons derived of liberty at the Quezon City Jail Female Dormitory and other communities, and planted trees in open parks, she cited.

Quezon City was a recipient of assistance from the United Kingdom government and the C40 Cities, a network of mayors in different counties collaborating to deliver urgent action to climate crisis.

A four-story evacuation center in Barangay Bagong Silangan is being constructed for families affected by flood, while a rainwater collection system is being harvested.

“Under my administration, we will intensively protect the environment to address the challenges of climate change,” she said.

“Above all, the success we achieve is the result of the support of our QCitizens,” Belmonte emphasized.

Globe pursues energy actions in response to climate change

Leading digital solutions platform Globe has maintained its score of B in the 2022 CDP (formerly Carbon Disclosure Project) assessment, demonstrating its steadfast commitment to climate action and sustainable business practices.

Achieving a score of B indicates that a company is able to provide evidence of its environmental management processes in addressing relevant risks in its operations, and in reducing the company's impact to the environment. Globe regularly discloses its environmental impact and mitigation strategies through CDP, bringing in tangible business benefits.

"We are committed to driving energy efficiency in our operations and reducing our carbon footprint through various programs and initiatives. The implementation of intelligent monitoring systems is an important part of this effort, and we are pleased to see the positive impact that they bring to our business and the planet," said Gerard Ortines, Head of Network Solutions and CAPEX Management at Globe.

Environment, Social and Corporate Governance (ESG) ratings have become a standard assessment tool used by investors to measure a company's sustainability performance, on top of its financial performance. Acquiring good ESG ratings indicates that ESG-linked risks of the company are being managed, which improves investor confidence and overall brand value for customers.

One key aspect of Globe's climate action strategy is the implementation of intelligent monitoring systems to support energy efficiency efforts. By increasing energy efficiency and optimizing the network's capabilities, energy requirements are reduced, which means a reduction in carbon emissions from electricity consumption.

Aligned with its ISO 50001-certified Energy Management System and energy efficiency programs, Globe has deployed a range of advanced technologies across its facilities, including a Remote Monitoring System (RMS) for its cell sites and a Computerized Maintenance Management System (CMMS) in its core facilities.

The RMS allows for the remote monitoring and control of on-site equipment and energy usage on a 24/7 basis, enabling Globe to drive operational energy efficiency. The system also reduces the need for manual on-site monitoring, effectively reducing emissions from vehicle fuel consumption.

The CMMS, meanwhile, is an online digital hub converging the company's core network operations and processes into one central platform—a shared yet single source of truth (SSOT). It provides synergies of the relevant inventories, reports, and analytics

necessary to gain better and more conclusive operational performance and service insights.

Globe also implements Data Center Infrastructure Management (DCIM) to automate the monitoring of energy consumption and improve data center design. The system provides real-time monitoring of temperature and humidity conditions, as well as AC and DC power readings, allowing for efficient and automated monitoring of facility data.

Globe continues to look for innovative technology and solutions to support its climate action goals. It is a signatory to the United Nations Global Compact and has made several global commitments, including a pledge to reduce its greenhouse gas emissions by 50 percent by 2030 and achieve net zero by 2050.

PANAY NEWS

[Beauty and purpose in perfect harmony; Legarda leads Miss Philippines Earth delegates discover Antique's hidden gems](#)

It is heartening to see how a beauty pageant has become a driving force in raising awareness about environmental issues that affect us all.

Through the initiative of the Philippines' foremost environmentalist Sen. Loren Legarda, Miss Philippines Earth 2023 delegates visited the beautiful Antique for two amazing days (April 22 and 23) promoting environmental preservation and protection while at the same time discovering the province's rich historical and cultural landmarks.

"I am thrilled to align myself with Miss Philippines Earth's commitment to environmental conservation," said Legarda, the Senate President Pro Tempore, as she led Antiqueños give the visiting beauties a warm welcome.

Miss Philippines Earth is the country's premier beauty pageant with environmental advocacy – perfectly aligned with the Antiqueña senator's purposeful campaign for sustainable practices to protect and preserve Mother Earth for the benefit of all.

The lovely eco-warriors explored Antique's Old Capitol and the Balay nga Bato, which showcase the traditional architecture and culture of the proud province. Both were restored through the initiatives of Senator Legarda, a true champion of sustainability.

They also visited various local industries, such as the University of Antique's Bamboo Processing Center and Brickmaking facility and Tindahang Lokal located at the Old Capitol building, where they found authentic and locally-made products, like Antique's famous patadyong clothing and accessories. Also at the Tindahang Lokal, MSME (micro, small and medium enterprise) products showcased there were assisted by Senator Legarda when she was Antique's congresswoman.

To cap off the day, these crusaders for a greener future witnessed the stunning sunset at the Antique Esplanade, a project close to Senator Legarda's heart as she also loves chasing sunsets.

Antique is one of the environmental partners for the Miss Philippines Earth 2020Tree, and will serve as a fitting venue for a segment of this year's pageant on April 29, 2023 with the theme "ME loves 2020TREE".

Trees play a crucial role in mitigating climate change, and Miss Philippines Earth seeks to remind everyone of the power and value of trees in the fight against environmental

degradation. Truly, this is a timely reminder of our responsibility to care for and protect the environment.

The two-day visit of the delegates – which was realized in coordination with Antique’s Cong. AA Legarda – surely inspired Antiqueños and Filipinos to take action towards environmental conservation. The goal, according to Senator Legarda, is to bring positive change to the environment toward creating a resilient nation for a better, healthier and sustainable future.

Indeed, let us work hand in hand toward a more beautiful and greener future.

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

[DBM chief enjoins gov't agencies to bolster climate change programs](#)

By: Sofia Abrogar

Department of Budget and Management (DBM) Secretary Amenah Pangandaman on Saturday called on colleagues in government service to “intensify climate change planning and programming” as the nation marked Earth Day.

“In our goal of achieving the Marcos administration’s Agenda for Prosperity, I would like to reiterate my call to every national government agency and all stakeholders to intensify our climate change planning and programming,” Pangandaman said in a statement.

“Let us ensure that we identify environment-related programs and projects in our preparation of the national budget in line with the Philippine Development Plan 2023-2028,” she added.

As part of its response to climate change in the country, Pangandaman reported that the DBM has allocated P2.39 billion for the implementation of the National Greening Program.

The program under the Forest Management Bureau (FMB) of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) aims to reforest “unproductive, denuded and degraded forestlands” in the country.

DENR announced in November plans to intensify the program, targeting to plant on over 2 million hectares of land by 2028.

The greening initiative also includes provisions for the Protected Areas Development and Management Program, Manila Bay Rehabilitation, and Coastal and Marine Ecosystems Management Program.

“The serious implications that climate change poses are not just a problem for the next generation but also a present danger that is undeniably felt in our time,” said the state budget secretary.

“We need to act now by protecting our planet and its natural resources before it’s too late.”

Pro-environment groups call for responsible use, production of chemicals

By: Faith Argosino

MANILA, Philippines — Environmental and health groups are pushing for initiatives to ensure that chemicals are “produced, used and managed” to prevent harmful impacts on human health, nature, and climate as the Philippines joins the rest of the world in celebrating Earth Month.

On Earth Day last Saturday, the EcoWaste Coalition, Interfacing Development Interventions for Sustainability (IDIS), Taiwan Watch Institute (TWI), Wonjin Institute for Occupational and Environmental Health (WIOEH), and the International Pollutants Elimination Network – Southeast and East Asia (IPEN-SEA) shared ideas on reforming chemical industry amid the current global chemical and plastic pollution crisis, which contributes to the worsening effects of climate change.

“The petrochemical sector is a key blind spot in the climate crisis, yet it will drive half the oil demand between now and 2050. Much of this will go into a doubling of plastic production in the next 20 years,” said Beverley Thorpe from the Clean Production Action in a statement.

Thorpe, who also authored the Safer Solutions plank of the Louisville Charter for Safer Chemicals, noted that global chemical pollution is at “code red,” meaning the “safer planetary boundary for pollutants has been exceeded.”

To combat this, Thorpe pointed out the need to cap chemical production.

“We need to decarbonize, detoxify and democratize the way chemicals are produced. Change is possible, and the Louisville Charter provides a solutions path forward. The chemical sector transformation requires sustainable chemical design based on green chemistry and engineering principles,” she said.

This transformation, she added, will bring benefits, renewable and low-hazard feedstock chemicals, community-friendly processes, and safe material re-use in a circular economy.

‘Transparency in chemical information’

For his part, WIOEH Senior Researcher Dr. Junhee Cho highlighted the importance of transparency in chemical information.

“Many people, including children, are exposed to toxic chemicals because they don’t know what’s inside the products they use,” he said, citing South Korea with over 1,000 deaths due to toxic chemical exposure in humidifier disinfectants.

Following this incident, Cho said his country demanded chemical transparency, resulting in a household product safety agreement between the South Korean government and its industries.

‘Toxic chemical-free future’

Meanwhile, Atty. Mark Peñalver, Executive Director of IDIS, stressed that much work must be done to protect human health and the environment and their rights’ advancement.

“The goal should be to build a toxic chemical-free future for the environment, for ourselves and our children, and for the generations to come,” Peñalver said.

On the other hand, Mother Earth Foundation chairman Sonia Mendoza welcomed the 10 policies of the Louisville Charter, which provides for “the principles and practices towards a reformed chemical sector, as well as the proposed global green fund addressing chemical and waste pollution.”

The Louisville Charter serves as a shared roadmap for transforming the chemical industry globally so that it is no longer a source of greenhouse emissions and toxic harm.

RAPPLER

[Activists gather for Earth Day, urge action to avoid 'dystopian' future](#)

By: Reuters

Climate change campaigners gathered outside Britain's parliament building ahead of Earth Day to urge action on global warming, while volunteers worldwide geared up to plant trees and clear trash to mark the 54th annual celebration of the environment.

Earth Day this year, officially on Saturday, April 22, follows weeks of extreme weather with temperatures soaring to record highs in Thailand and a punishing heatwave in India, where at least 13 people died of heatstroke at a ceremony last weekend.

Average global temperatures could hit all-time highs in 2023 or 2024, climate scientists have warned.

"Climate impacts are here," Areeba Hamid, co-executive director of Greenpeace UK, said on Friday, April 21, as climate change activists walked down the street outside parliament, some dressed in green costumes and green paint.

Hamid said when she now visits her hometown of Delhi, it feels like "putting your head in the oven" and that London's 2022 heatwave was like "a dystopian film."

"We can't afford that anymore."

Activists led by the Extinction Rebellion group have gathered in London to kick off a four-day action, billed "The Big One," to coincide with Earth Day.

About 30,000 people have signed up for family-friendly rallies and marches, marking a change in strategy for a group known for its disruptive tactics, including blocking roads, throwing paint and smashing windows.

Globally, there has been a flurry of activity in the run-up to Earth Day, with events being planned in Rome and Boston and major clean-up campaigns at Lake Dal in India's Srinagar and Florida's hurricane-hit Cape Coral.

In Peru, shamans on Friday made an offering to the "Pachamama" or Mother Earth. Holding yellow flowers and rattles, the shamans walked around a papier-mache globe as they performed a cleansing ritual.

The ancestral rituals – whose origins lie in the Indigenous cultures of Peru – are done to thank the Earth and build awareness of the planet, said Walter Alarcon, the president of the Healing Shamans of Peru International Organization.

Earlier in the week, US President Joe Biden pledged to increase funding to help developing countries fight climate change and curb deforestation in Brazil's Amazon rainforest during a meeting with top world leaders.

Governments have fallen far short of pledges in the 2015 Paris Agreement to limit heating of the climate by shifting off fossil fuels, amid crises including COVID-19, Russia's invasion of Ukraine, food shortages and strained ties between China and the US, the top two greenhouse gas emitters.

A report by the UN's Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) says the planet is on track to warm beyond 1.5 degrees Celsius above pre-industrial times – a key threshold for even more damaging impacts – between 2030 and 2035.

“There is a rapidly closing window of opportunity to secure a livable and sustainable future for all,” the IPCC has said. “The choices and actions implemented in this decade will have impacts now and for thousands of years.”

[Opinion] Environmental defenders, our heroes

By: Tony La Viña and Dinah Faye Balleco

The Philippines is one of the most dangerous places for environmental defenders. Previous authoritarian policies have led to business capture and environmental plunder that have put the lives of environmental defenders at risk. However, in the existing sociopolitical milieu, not much attention is given to them. The issues related to the environment are not heavily emphasized compared to other political issues such as foreign affairs, international relations, and interstate conflicts, whose consequences appear to be more direct and immediate to the national interest.

Moreover, even though environmental issues are included in formal institutional discussions, there is little to no mention and recognition of the condition of the people who continuously fight for environmental protection, even if it means facing threats and receiving baseless accusations. However, it is important for every Filipino to know the names and stories of their environmental defenders. After all, albeit less popular in the general public sphere, environmental concerns affect every facet of our life, thereby making the experiences of the environmental defenders relevant.

Last December 28, 2022, the Center for Environmental Concerns (CEC) and its partners recognized and honored the environmental defenders of the country by launching its 7th Gawad Bayani ng Kalikasan (GBK). It is a unique initiative that focuses on the work and experiences of ordinary people, grassroots organizations, and communities to spread awareness and encourage people to become environmental advocates. It biennially gives honor to a roster of seven awardees composed of three individuals, three organizations, and one most distinguished individual or organization. The dedication and passion of these heroes can serve as an inspiration in recognizing the urgency of the climate crisis. But beyond being a model for inspiration, their stories reveal the state of the environment in our country and the serious urgency of defending the defenders.

This Earth Day, the 53th, we remember these heroes.

Individual awardees

The individual awardees for the seventh Gawad Bayani ng Kalikasan are Dr. Kelvin Rodolfo, Daniel Jason Maches, and Vertudez “Daisy” Macapanpan.

Dr. Kelvin Rodolfo supports local communities and helps them in their environmental struggles by providing technical expertise such as analysis and explanation of the effects of various profit-driven projects on the environment. For example, he exposed

the possible effects of the reclamation undertakings in Manila Bay and the Bataan Nuclear Power Plant. He is also known for promoting the inclusion of Filipino scientists in the drafting of policies for critical projects with the aim of removing the reliance on foreign consultants in the assessment of such projects. His effort in defending the environment is recognized by various People's Organizations such as the National Federation of Small Fisherfolks Organizations in the Philippines or PAMALAKAYA, Alliance for Stewardship and Authentic Progress, the People's Network for the Integrity of Coastal Habitats and Ecosystems (People's NICHE), and the No to BNPP Revival Alliance.

Daniel Joson Maches is a young environmentalist whose advocacy centers on the conservation of the forest and the culture of his Liab tribe in Barlig, Mountain Province. He also started an agroecology coffee farm that is environmentally sustainable. In pursuing these advocacies, Maches faced challenges as his active opposition to the suspension of a road project that would make Barlig forests vulnerable to exploitation gained accusations as he was red-tagged and called a "communist."

Vertudez "Daisy" Macapanpan is a leader in protecting the mountains of Southern Tagalog from projects that harm the environment such as the 1400 MW Ahunan Pumped-Storage Hydropower Plant Project which threatens the fragile ecosystems of the Pakil, Laguna Portion of the Sierra Madre Mountain Range. When she was an educator in the 1980s at the University of the Philippines (UP) Baguio, she joined the national campaign for the opposition to the Chico River Dam Projects. She also co-founded and worked with organizations such as the Timpuyong (worker's union in UP Los Banos, Protect Sierra Madre for the People, No to Kaliwa, Kanan, Laiban Dam (KKLD Network), and No to Dam Movement. Macapanpan is also not exempt from the danger of being a critic of business interests. In June 2022, she was arrested a few days after she delivered a speech on the dangerous impacts of the Ahunan project on the local ecosystems and culture. She was charged with rebellion which was related to an incident that happened in 2008. Eventually, she was released on bail.

Organizational awardees

The Award for Organizations was given to Samahan ng mga Mangingisda at Mamamayan sa Latian ng Bulakan (SMB), Masungi Georeserve Foundation, and Tumanduk nga Mangunguma nga Nagapangapin sa Duta kag Kabuhi (TUMANDUK).

The Samahan ng mga Mangingisda at Mamamayan sa Latian ng Bulacan (SMB) is a local people's organization of fisherfolk and urban poor communities in Taliptip and Obando, Bulacan that actively fights against the New Manila International "aetropolis"

project of the San Miguel Corporation which is pointed out to displace more than 700 fishing and urban poor families in Bulacan and can destroy the marine and aquatic resources in the Manila Bay.

The Masungi Georeserve Foundation takes the lead in the reforestation and defense of the watershed around the Masungi site in Baras, Rizal. The area was deforested by illegal mining and large-scale quarrying in the late 1990s. It is also a dangerous place for forest rangers as goons who defile the protected area status of the watersheds resort to violence. The foundation's restoration of the degraded forestland started under the landmark agreement with the late former DENR Secretary Gina Lopez. It is active in creating campaigns and calls to address environmental issues and uphold climate justice. It won the global model for conservation innovation and excellence at the inaugural Pathfinder Awards 2021 presented by the United Nations Development Program (UNDP), the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN), the World Commission on Protected Areas (WCPA), and WildArk. In 2018, it was also nominated as a global finalist for the UNWTO Awards for Enterprises.

Tumandok nga Mangunguma nga Nagapangapin sa Duta kag Kinabuhi (TUMANDUK) is an organization that leads the indigenous Tumandok people in their fight for ancestral rights and the right to self-determination. Specifically, they led the resistance campaign against the Jalaur River Multipurpose Project which had threats to local habitats, ecosystems, and the culture of the Tumandok people. In December 2020, nine Tumandoks were killed and 16 were arrested in a police operation because of their opposition to the Jalaur mega-dam. Their communities also remain to be under militarization.

Most distinguished awardee

The most distinguished award for the 7th Gawad Bayani ng Kalikasan was given to Chad Errol Booc, an activist, teacher, and advocate for the Lumad's right to education, ancestral lands, and self-determination. His activism and intellectual contributions were well-known during his college days at the University of the Philippines, Diliman. After his graduation, he volunteered as a Mathematics teacher at the Alternative Learning Center for Agricultural and Livelihood Development (ALCADEV) which is an alternative learning school for Lumad children in Surigao del Sur. For decades, ALCADEV and other Lumad schools were wrongfully tagged by the military as NPA fronts, and the communities hosting these schools were militarized, attacked, and bombed. Despite these challenges, Booc continued to fight for ancestral and indigenous rights.

The forcible closure of Lumad schools made Booc return to Manila to help in organizing the Lakbayan, an annual march/rally/camp-out of various national minority groups. It was followed by the establishment of the Save Our Schools Network which advocates for Lumad rights. He also helped in organizing the Lumad Bakwit School, where he continued to teach. Amidst the pandemic, Booc spearheaded the volunteer teaching program for the Lumad Bakwit School in Cebu. Despite these efforts, he was continuously red-tagged and harassed. But the threats did not stop him from persistently working for the people and the environment. He even created a map revealing the scale of mining plunder in the region and brought the Lumad stories through offline and online realms.

In 2021, Booc and six other teachers were arrested in Cebu during a police raid and were slapped with trumped-up charges of training minors to become “terrorists.” The charges were dismissed three months later for lack of evidence so Booc and the teachers were released. They returned to their work in the Lumad schools. After less than a year, on February 24, Booc, together with fellow Lumad school volunteer Jurain Ngujo, community health worker Elegyn Balong, and drivers Tirso Añar and Robert Aragon were murdered in cold blood by government troops. The killing was claimed by the soldiers as an “encounter” but the reports and autopsy disprove the said claim. Their deaths were widely denounced by rights advocates and Booc was called a “hero” by the College of Engineering of the University of the Philippines, Diliman.

SOUTH CHINA MORNING POST

[Climate change: how the new global quality assessment framework can boost carbon markets' integrity, transparency](#)

By: Eric Ng

Global efforts like the quality assessment framework launched last month to enhance voluntary carbon markets' integrity will improve transparency and boost credit buyers' confidence, according to analysts.

However, since market integrity is complicated and multifaceted and the international quality assessment framework is new, the road to transforming carbon markets into a mature green finance system is arduous and long, they added.

As a key stakeholder, these developments are crucial for Hong Kong, which in October launched an international carbon-trading marketplace.

"The core carbon principles is a big step forward but many issues remain [as] integrity can mean different things to different people," Tristan Loffler, head of carbon credit integrity at London-based carbon markets data and advisory firm Trove Research, told a webinar on Tuesday.

The core principles define high-integrity carbon credits, and the assessment framework were launched in March by the Integrity Council for the Voluntary Carbon Market (ICVCM) following a consultation with stakeholders and input from a panel of scientists and technical experts.

Set up in 2021, the Council is an independent governance body and standards setter that aims to ensure high-integrity generation and usage of credits, so that climate benefits from emissions-reduction and removal projects can be priced efficiently to mobilise green finance.

There are two broad types of carbon credits – compulsory and voluntary. Compulsory ones are generated by government regimes that impose caps on emissions. Voluntary ones are typically earned and traded through non-profit crediting and standard-setting bodies.

Earlier this year, European media reports cast doubt on the accuracy of the carbon-mitigation benefits claimed by a key type of credited voluntary projects – deforestation prevention – highlighting the need for integrity in the voluntary carbon market.

To align with the core principles, crediting bodies must operate or make use of a registry to identify and track climate mitigation activities and carbon credits issued, the Council

said. Such information should be accessible to the public and subjected to third-party verification and free from double-counting, it added.

The principles also stipulate that the emission-reduction or removal activities on which credits are granted should bring “additional” climate benefits compared with the business-as-usual “baseline scenario”.

This means the activities would not have occurred if there was no financial support from revenues generated from the credits’ sale. Besides, the activities should not “lock in” emissions over many years, which would make them incompatible with the global ambition to achieve net zero emissions by 2050.

The emission-mitigation benefits should also be quantified scientifically. They should ideally be permanent, failing which measures should be put in place by the project developers to compensate for any reversal, according to the Council. Factors affecting the level of the permanence also need to be disclosed, it added.

Whenever the crediting period is renewed, the “baseline scenario” should be reviewed, including whether the barriers for the mitigation activities when the credits were first granted still prevail. If they have changed, the calculation of climate benefits and hence approved credits should reflect that.

The Council expects to announce the first batch of crediting programmes that are eligible to claim alignment with the core principles and a list of approved project categories in the year’s third quarter. The assessment framework will be reviewed in 2025.

“The CCP and programme-level criteria will provide clarity around what a high-quality carbon credit looks like, and help programmes [and] projects strive for high-integrity,” said Pablo Fernandez, CEO of Switzerland-based carbon mitigation projects developer Ecorescurities.

As an international marketplace for carbon trading, Hong Kong should consider regulating mislabelling of core principle credits, and promoting pricing transparency of such credits, said Grace Hui, an adjunct environment and sustainability professor at Hong Kong University of Science and Technology and former green finance head at Hong Kong Exchanges and Clearing.

“Buyers should know how much of the price they paid actually goes to project owners to finance the climate action,” she said.

Appropriate transparency can increase market liquidity and improve price discovery, said a spokesman at the Securities and Futures Commission, Hong Kong's market regulator.

The SFC is a member of the International Organization of Securities Commissions' carbon markets workstream, which is evaluating feedback from a consultation on the role of financial regulators in carbon markets, he added.

THE PHILIPPINE STAR

[On Earth Day, groups renew call to stop reclamation, dredging projects](#)

By: Gaea Katreena Cabico

Fishers, scientists and environmentalists on Earth Day renewed their call to stop reclamation and dredging activities that would disrupt vital ecosystems and livelihood of coastal communities, and could worsen the impacts of climate change.

In release Saturday, Advocates of Science and Technology for the People (AGHAM) warned that reclamation, dump-and-fill, dredging and seabed quarrying would lead to habitat destruction and biodiversity loss.

These would also result in decline in fisheries production and loss of livelihood among fishers, and would threaten the country's food security.

AGHAM added that building infrastructure in reclaimed areas would expose coastal communities to storm surge, land subsidence and liquefaction.

Jerwin Baure, AGHAM's public information officer and marine scientists, stressed the negative impacts of reclamation "far outweigh" the promised economic development that these dump-and-fill projects would bring.

"As we celebrate Earth Day today, we continue to remind the Marcos administration, and the DENR, that protecting the environment is first and foremost about protecting the people and securing their future," Baure said.

"We demand the government to show its commitment in mitigating the impacts of the climate crisis through ecologically destructive projects such as reclamation," he added.

Earth Day protest

There are 50 reclamation projects at various stages of development across the country as of September 2022, according to AGHAM. Of these, 24 projects have been approved, while 26 projects are still in the application stage.

Citing records of the Philippine Reclamation Authority, AGHAM said the estimated total area of reclamation projects nationwide is at least 11,800 hectares.

Baure, however, said the figure is an "underestimation" because other dump-and-fill projects such as the 2,500-hectare Bulacan aerotropolis and the Manila Bay Integrated

Flood Control, Coastal Defense and Expressway are not listed. Both are projects of San Miguel Corp. (SMC).

Fisherfolk under the Pambansang Lakas ng Kilusang Mamamalakaya ng Pilipinas (PAMALAKAYA) and environmentalists from the Kalikasan People's Network for the Environment held a protest outside SMC's head office in Mandaluyong, demanding an end to the conglomerate's reclamation and dredging activities in Manila Bay.

PAMALAKAYA said the reclamation and dredging activities of SMC are not only affecting the bay's ecosystem, but also the livelihood of fishers—who are among the country's poorest sectors.

“In Rosario and other nearby towns in Cavite, fishermen have been complaining for two years that they barely catch fish because of the noise and pollution created by dredging,” said PAMALAKAYA national spokesperson Ronnel Arambulo.

Arambulo added that the conglomerate should be held accountable for the disruption it has caused to the environment and coastal communities.

Reclamation forum

Environment Secretary Antonia Yulo met with groups opposing reclamation such as AGHAM, Kalikasan PNE and PAMALAKAYA last week as part of the department's review of its policies and processes. The DENR has been criticized for issuing environmental compliance certificates to ecologically-destructive projects.

“We are reviewing everything—policies, processes and the immediate actions that need to be taken in order to address this environmental issue,” Loyzaga was quoted in a release as saying.

The DENR will conduct an experts' forum on reclamation in May that will tackle governance and technical issues.

THE PHILIPPINE STAR

[UN report: Last 8 years warmest on record](#)

By: Pia Lee-Brago

The last eight years were the warmest on record, and sea level rise and ocean warming hit new highs, according to the United Nations weather agency's report.

The World Meteorological Organization (WMO) said the relentless advance of climate change brought more drought, flooding and heatwaves to communities around the world last year, compounding threats to people's lives and livelihoods.

The WMO's latest State of the Global Climate report showed that record levels of greenhouse gases caused "planetary scale changes on land, in the ocean and in the atmosphere."

The State of the Global Climate report, released ahead of this year's Mother Earth Day, complements the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change Sixth Assessment report released a month ago, which includes data up to 2020.

WMO's new figures showed that global temperatures have continued to rise, making the years 2015 to 2022 the eight warmest ever since regular tracking started in 1850. The organization noted that this was despite three consecutive years of a cooling La Niña climate pattern.

WMO said concentrations of the three main greenhouse gases, which trap heat in the atmosphere – carbon dioxide, methane, and nitrous oxide – reached record highs in 2021, which is the latest year for which consolidated data is available, and that there are indications of a continued increase in 2022.

In its report, WMO echoed UN Secretary-General António Guterres' call for "deeper, faster emissions cuts to limit global temperature rise to 1.5 degrees Celsius," as well as "massively scaled-up investments in adaptation and resilience, particularly for the most vulnerable countries and communities who have done the least to cause the crisis."

WMO secretary general, professor Petteri Taalas said that amid rising greenhouse gas emissions and a changing climate, "populations worldwide continue to be gravely impacted by extreme weather and climate events."

He stressed that last year, "continuous drought in East Africa, record breaking rainfall in Pakistan and record-breaking heatwaves in China and Europe affected tens of millions,

drove food insecurity, boosted mass migration, and cost billions of dollars in loss and damage.”

The organization highlighted the importance of investing in climate monitoring and early warning systems to help mitigate the humanitarian impacts of extreme weather. The report also pointed out that today, improved technology makes the transition to renewable energy “cheaper and more accessible than ever.”

Call for renewable energy by 2040

The Sangguniang Laiko ng Pilipinas (SLP) is asking government agencies to transition to 100 percent renewable energy by 2040.

In a one-page statement, the SLP asked the government to make four commitments in line with their appeal for the declaration of a climate emergency, in observance of Earth Day last Saturday.

First, SLP asked the government to declare a national state of climate emergency that should be reflected in all of its plans, policies and programs.

It should also “produce a clear roadmap, secure the requirements and mobilize government institutions for a rapid, equitable, people-centered, and just transition to 100 percent renewable energy by 2014 or earlier.”

The government should also commit not to allow the use of fossil fuels to peak beyond 2025. There should also be a planned and managed phase out of coal, gas, and all other fossil fuels. “Stop the funding of fossil fuel expansion now!” it added.

SLP said, “We strongly remind the Philippine government of its duty to protect the Filipino people and the beautiful land we live in from (a) worse climate catastrophe and ensure a sustainable life for present and future generations.”

It should also represent and “be the voice of the Filipino people in international organizations and demand for the global phase out of fossil fuels and secure loss and damage reparation of technology, climate finance, and capacity building efforts owed by historically polluting nations and corporations.”

Lastly, it should hear both the cry of the earth and the poor by mainstreaming an integral and holistic approach to climate change adaptation and mitigation.

CCC IN THE NEWS:

CNN PHILIPPINES

[Earth Day: CCC calls for investment vs. climate change](#)

The Climate Change Commission (CCC) on Saturday urged the public to make an investment in the environment to fight climate change.

"A healthy ecosystem helps to protect us from diseases," the CCC said in a statement as the world commemorates Earth Day.

"By investing in our planet, we can take concrete steps toward mitigating the effects of climate change. This includes implementing sustainable practices, reducing our carbon footprint, and promoting conservation efforts," the agency added.

In line with this, environmental group Greenpeace called on the public to reduce the use of plastic, noting that plastic production could triple by 2050.

"This year's Earth Day theme, 'Invest in our Planet,' couldn't be more timely. It's indeed time for countries, especially corporations, to invest in genuine zero-waste solutions that will safeguard people and give the youth a plastic-free future they deserve. Young people have the most to gain if we act on the plastics issue—and the most to lose if we don't," said Greenpeace Philippines campaigner Marian Ledesma.

"We need a strong and ambitious Global Plastics Treaty that won't just drastically reduce plastic production and turn off the plastic tap, but also drive industries and nations to invest in sustainable and socially equitable solutions to protect future generations from plastic pollution," she added.

According to the latest Plastic Waste Makers Index, the world generated 139 million metric tons of single-use plastic waste in 2021, which was 6 million metric tons more than in 2019.

In the Philippines, the House of Representatives has already approved the bill imposing a tax on single-use plastics while the Senate has a bill banning the use of such materials.

Several local government units have also already imposed ordinances that ban single-use plastics.

[Pinoys urged to join fight vs climate change](#)

By: Bella Cariaso

President Marcos has called on Filipinos to unite in the fight against the negative effects of climate change as the world celebrated Earth Day yesterday.

“This Earth Day, we urge the public and our fellow public servants to join the global action against climate change,” Marcos said in a post on Twitter.

Each year on April 22, people around the world celebrate Earth Day to demonstrate support for environmental protection.

Citing the Philippines as one of the most vulnerable countries to climate change with an average of 20 typhoons visiting it annually, Marcos stressed: “Our administration remains fully supportive of environmental programs and policies.”

To learn more about the government’s initiatives to combat climate change, the Chief Executive urged the public to visit the social media sites of the Climate Change Commission (CCC), the lead policy-making body which he chairs.

Marcos said the CCC ensures the mainstreaming of climate change in national, local and sectoral development plans towards a climate-resilient and climate-smart Philippines.

Speaking at the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation CEO Summit in Bangkok, Thailand in November last year, Marcos highlighted that climate change is “the most pressing existential challenge of our time” that indelibly impacts the global economy.

He underscored how Philippines is at great risk from the climate crisis, as it stands to lose more than six percent of gross domestic product GDP annually by 2100, citing a study by the Asian Development Bank.

Despite global agreements seeking multilateral solutions, such as the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and the Paris Agreement, the President noted that “not enough” progress has been made as greenhouse gas emissions continue to rise.

The Marcos administration is pushing for renewable energy options such as hydropower, geothermal power, solar and other low-emission energy sources.

It set a target for a higher share of renewable energy in the power generation mix of 35 percent by 2030 and 50 percent by 2040.

'Sachet capital'

One thing for Filipinos to ponder on is how the Philippines has been tagged as the "sachet capital of the world" for being the top contributor to ocean plastic pollution.

In a radio interview, CCC Commissioner Albert dela Cruz underscored the need to eliminate the use of single use plastic in the country.

"During his (Marcos') SONA (State of the Nation Address), he said that the Philippines is the top three contributor to ocean plastic pollution. This was last year; but in January this year, an international magazine said that the Philippines is now the No. 1 ocean plastic contributor," Dela Cruz said.

Environment Secretary Maria Antonia Yulo-Loyzaga has said the country generates at least 2.7 million metric tons of plastic wastes and that 20 percent of these end up in the oceans.

Despite various efforts to ban single use plastics in industries, the country produces 7,000 metric tons of plastic waste daily, she said.

Dela Cruz said authorities have failed to implement Republic Act 9003, the Solid Waste Management Act.

Posing his question to the nation, he said: "When we go to the beach, we bring a sachet of shampoo, a sachet of toothpaste, a sachet of soap, we also have food from the fast food chain. While we enjoy these blessings, do we give back to our Mother Earth in disposing our garbage?"

Whether the Philippines is No. 1 or No. 3 among the top plastic polluters of oceans is no longer the issue, said Dela Cruz, but the fact that plastic wastes end up in these great bodies of water and get eaten by fish is what is of concern.

"These plastics will be eaten by fish and cause lead content in the food we eat," he said. The CCC official cited a World Bank (WB) study stating that by 2050, there will be more plastics than fish in the oceans. "By that time, fish in the ocean will no longer be safe for human consumption," he said.

Dela Cruz explained how plastics produce micro plastics that invade the food chain.

"That is the reason we have carcinogenic chemical compounds and, according to a study in the US, eight out of 10 of males with prostate problems and females with breast cancer were positive of Bisphenol A (BPA). It is a compound that causes prostate and

mammary gland cancer and eight out of 10 children with attention deficiency syndrome also have traces of Bisphenol,” he said.

The CCC is enjoining all concerned government agencies to ensure the compliance of manufacturers with Republic Act 11898 (Extended Producer Responsibility Act of 2022) making firms responsible for plastic packaging.

RA 11898, which lapsed into law last July 30, amended RA 9003 (the Ecological Solid Waste Management Act of 2000), mandating companies to establish Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) programs for plastic waste reduction, recovery and diversion.

Through EPR, enterprises are obliged to recover or offset their generated plastic product footprint by 20 percent in 2023 and 80 percent by 2028.

Among the plastic packaging covered by the EPR Law include single or multi-layered plastics such as sachets, rigid plastic packaging products like food and drink containers, single-use plastic bags and polystyrene.

Penalties for non-compliance of EPR duties range from P5 million to P20 million, or twice the cost of recovery and diversion of the footprint or its shortfall, whichever is higher.

Dela Cruz called on the nation to celebrate Earth Day, knowing full well that “we only have one planet” and there is “no Plan B” should we destroy it.

“By 2050, if we fail to implement carbon mitigation, the temperature will increase by more than 1.5 degrees Celsius. This will cause a big problem in the climate that we call climate abnormalities,” he said.

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