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DAILY TRIBUNE

[QC, DENR partner for Project TRANSFORM](#)

By: Jing Villamente

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FINANCIAL TIMES

[Asian region reels from heat and floods as WMO warns of climate change effects](#)

By: Attracta Mooney

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PHILLIPINE DAILY INQUIRER

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By: Adrian Parungao

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CCC IN THE NEWS:

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By: Reine Juvierre Alberto

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DEPARTMENT OF FINANCE

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The Inter-Agency Task Force on Sustainable Finance (ITSF) has doubled its efforts to mobilize various sources of public and private financing with the issuance of the Sustainable Finance Taxonomy Guidelines (SFTG) and the enactment of the Public-Private Partnership (PPP) Code to catalyze green investments and drive sustainable growth.

MANILA BULLETIN

[FIND OUT MORE: What the 9 new deals between the Philippines and Qatar are about](#)

By: Argyll Cyrus Geducos

The Philippines and Qatar signed nine agreements on Monday, April 22, covering cooperation on combating human trafficking, seafarers' welfare, tourism, sports, and climate change during the State Visit of Qatar's Emir Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al Thani to Manila.

MANILA STANDARD

[Qatar, PH ink deals on trade, tourism, sports](#)

By: Jocelyn Montemayor

The Philippines and Qatar yesterday signed nine agreements aimed at strengthening trade and investment flows, deepening collaboration in various fields, and addressing global challenges such as climate change and human trafficking.

PHILIPPINE INFORMATION AGENCY

[CCC calls for strengthened collaboration with private sector to drive climate action](#)

The Climate Change Commission (CCC) urged for enhanced collaboration and partnership between the government and the private sector to unlock investment potential and accelerate collective progress on climate action.

[CCC launches #PledgeforPlanetEarth Campaign](#)

The Climate Change Commission has launched the #PledgeForPlanetEarth social media campaign this April in commemoration of Earth Month.

PHILIPPINE NEWS AGENCY

[PH eyes hosting loss, damage fund board to access climate finance](#)

By: Anna Leah Gonzales

The Philippines is eyeing to host the Loss and Damage Fund (LDF) Board which will allow the country to access more climate financing.

Information and Knowledge Management Division

DAILY TRIBUNE

[QC, DENR partner for Project TRANSFORM](#)

By: Jing Villamente

The Quezon City Government and the Department of the Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) have expressed their commitment to ensure an integrated and whole-of-society approach in tackling the effects of climate change, through Project TRANSFORM.

Project TRANSFORM, with the help of implementing partners, strengthens local government units' existing climate actions in aspects including biodiversity, greenhouse gas (GHG) accounting, financial literacy, disaster management, and nature-based solutions.

"We welcome the Quezon City Government's 14-point agenda in which environmental protection and climate action are at the core of the city's interventions. We extend our appreciation for your commitment to sustainable environmental conservation efforts and in building a liveable, green, and sustainable city for present and future generations. The DENR stands ready to engage in a dialogue and possibly collaborate with you on the city's notable, successful programs," DENR Secretary Maria Antonia Yulo Loyzaga said in her message, as delivered by Usec. Leones.

DENR's Project TRANSFORM (Transdisciplinary Approach towards Resilience and Environmental Sustainability through Multi Stakeholder Engagement) brings together local government units, organizations, and groups to ensure inclusive and participative programs that are responsive to the needs of the community.

Mayor Joy Belmonte and DENR Undersecretaries Marilou Erni and Atty. Jonas Leones led the signing of the pledge of commitment for the program, during the flag-raising ceremony in Quezon City Hall.

Representatives from the National Resilience Council, Peace and Equity Foundation, Zuellig Family Foundation, Philippine Business for Social Progress, and First Philippine Holdings Corporation also joined the pledge as implementing partners.

"We are very grateful to the national government, through the DENR, for recognizing the city's environmental action. Through the implementation of Project TRANSFORM in QC, we look forward to developing and enacting more green, sustainable, and inclusive climate initiatives for QCitizens," Mayor Joy Belmonte said.

Aligned with the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction, Paris Agreement, Sustainable Development Goals, and the Philippine Development Plan 2023-2028, Project TRANSFORM enhances LGU's disaster preparedness through proactive actions, and helps communities mitigate and adapt to the impacts of climate change.

It also helps achieve Sustainable Development Goals set by the United Nations, and supports the PDP Plan 2023-2028 to accelerate poverty reduction and stimulate job creation to steer the country's economy.

Quezon City has been implementing various initiatives aligned with the City's Enhanced Climate Change Action Plan for 2021-2050 to provide a sustainable, liveable, and quality community for all.

FINANCIAL TIMES

[Asian region reels from heat and floods as WMO warns of climate change effects](#)

By: Attracta Mooney

Intense heatwaves in India, Thailand and Bangladesh and fatal floods in China and Pakistan this week have coincided with the latest UN weather agency warning that climate change is causing major repercussions across Asia.

More than 100,000 people have been evacuated from Guangdong province in China in recent days as heavy rainfall led to flooding. Pakistan has also experienced heavier rainfall than usual in recent weeks, with officials warning of a heavy loss of life.

At the same time, in India temperatures are forecast to exceed 40C in many parts, while temperatures were already more than 40C in areas of Bangladesh, Thailand, Laos, Philippines, Myanmar and Indonesia. High humidity also causes the effect of the heat on the human body to be magnified.

The April heatwave comes after many countries in Asia also experienced their hottest year on record in 2023, a report from the World Meteorological Organization showed.

The combination of climate change and the naturally occurring El Niño weather pattern that warms the Pacific Ocean drove up temperatures and meant Asian countries were hit with a “barrage of extreme conditions, from droughts and heatwaves to floods and storms” in the past year.

“Climate change exacerbated the frequency and severity of such events, profoundly impacting societies, economies, and, most importantly, human lives and the environment that we live in,” said WMO secretary-general Celeste Saulo.

The government ordered some schools to be closed in Bangladesh this week because of the “severe heatwave” sweeping over the country, while in parts of India the school holidays have been brought forward because of the heat and expectations of temperatures reaching as high as 45C.

The Bangladesh Meteorological Department issued a notice on Tuesday to its population that an “increasing moisture incursion” — with humidity hitting 73 per cent in the capital of Dhaka — during the “prevailing heatwave” would make conditions highly uncomfortable.

The Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration has forecast that temperatures could reach as high as 52C over the country's hot and dry season.

Asia was the world's most disaster-hit region from weather, climate and water-related hazards last year, the WMO said. A total of 79 disasters caused more than 2,000 lost lives and a further 9mn were affected, mostly linked to flooding and storms.

The WMO report found the annual mean near-surface temperature over Asia in 2023 was the second highest on record, with particularly high temperatures from western Siberia to central Asia and from eastern China to Japan.

The report said the impact of heatwaves in the region was becoming more severe, although floods and storms continued to cause the highest number of reported casualties and economic losses in Asia.

Harjeet Singh, a New Delhi-based climate activist, said countries in Asia rapidly needed finance to adapt their economies and deal with damages caused by climate change.

"Developing countries in Asia bear the brunt of climate-related adversities without the adequate means to combat foreseeable disasters and the worsening impacts of climate change," he added.

The WMO report found that in many parts of Asia, seas are warming three times faster than the globally averaged sea surface temperature.

PHILLIPINE DAILY INQUIRER

[QC partners with DENR for climate change mitigation project](#)

By:Adrian Parungao

Quezon City partnered with the Department of the Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) on a project to mitigate the effects of climate change.

According to the city government, the Transdisciplinary Approach towards Resilience and Environmental Sustainability through Multi Stakeholder Engagement (Transform) project will have multiple goals, such as minimizing the emission of greenhouse gases, encouraging biodiversity, and other means such as financial literacy and disaster management, among others.

“We extend our appreciation for your commitment to sustainable environmental conservation efforts and in building a liveable, green, and sustainable city for present and future generations,” Environment and Natural Resources Secretary Maria Antonia Yulo-Loyzaga said in a message delivered by DENR Undersecretary Jonas Leones on Monday.

Quezon City, DENR, and other non-governmental organizations signed a pledge of commitment to the program.

Meanwhile, Quezon City Mayor Ma. Josefina “Joy” Belmonte said that the implementation of the project in the city will give more avenues for other environmental initiatives for its citizens.

“We are very grateful to the national government, through the DENR, for recognizing the city’s environmental action. Through the implementation of Project TRANSFORM in QC, we look forward to developing and enacting more green, sustainable, and inclusive climate initiatives for QCitizens,” Belmonte said.

The DENR has also launched Project Transform in other provinces nationwide, such as in Ormoc City, Leyte,; Malimono, San Francisco, and Burgos Surigao del Norte; as well as in Limay, Mariveles, and Orion, Bataan.

CCC IN THE NEWS:

BUSINESS MIRROR

[Panel preps for PHL bid to host Loss & Damage Fund](#)

By:Reine Juvierre Alberto

As Manila bids to host the Loss and Damage Fund (LDF) Board to enable the Philippines to access more climate financing, an interagency technical working group was created by President Ferdinand R. Marcos Jr.

In a statement on Wednesday, the Department of Finance (DOF) said it will lead the technical working group as the country has begun preparations to support its bid to host the LDF Board after securing a board seat for the years 2024 to 2026.

“The DOF will lead the country’s bid to host the Loss and Damage Fund. We have already begun thorough preparations on this matter, and we believe that the Philippines is more than ready to take on this important role,” Finance Secretary Ralph G. Recto said.

According to the DOF, the LDF is a global financial mechanism created to provide assistance to countries that are mostly affected by climate change.

The Philippines will stand to gain “significant traction” by hosting the LDF Board, as developed countries and development partners can pledge voluntary contributions to finance the fund, the DOF added.

Furthermore, the DOF said the Philippines’ active participation in the LDF will allow countries in the world to collaborate with the Philippine government in addressing climate-related challenges.

The LDF can also serve as an avenue for the Philippines to highlight its “game-changing initiatives” in the adaptation and mitigation front, the DOF added.

The DOF asserted that the Philippine government pushed forward “strategic” investment and financing frameworks for climate and development positive actions during the Marcos Jr. administration.

It also enabled the National Adaptation Plan (NAP) and Nationally Determined Contributions Implementation Plan (NDC IP) and its Financial Strategy among the

policies and measures to be implemented for the Philippines to become a destination for sustainable investments.

The Philippines has active access to the global fund Green Climate Fund (GCF), which supports developing countries in responding to the challenges of climate change.

The country also has access to the Global Environment Fund (GEF), a global fund dedicated to tackling biodiversity loss, climate change, and pollution, and supporting land and ocean health. The DOF is also actively pursuing access to the Adaptation Fund.

To discuss the strategies for the country's hosting bid, the DOF convened member agencies in a series of meetings of the newly created LDF Technical Working Group (LDF TWG), namely, the Department of Foreign Affairs (DFA); the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR); the Department of Budget and Management (DBM); and the Climate Change Commission (CCC).

BUSINESS WORLD

[Opinion] A layman's version of climate change adaptation

By: Chit U. Juan

I am so happy to have met an enlightened civil servant who shared his insights about climate change. After all, he is a Commissioner of the Climate Change Commission. Albert dela Cruz, Sr. is so interested in sharing his sci-entific explanations for climate adaptation.

He also said that many climate change issues also are related to health issues which are related to waste management and soil, water, and air pollution. Oh my, are all these seemingly common Third World problems now global issues? Are they no longer just for developing countries? Yes, and we need to explain it better for lay people to understand how their everyday choices lead to climate change.

First, he said that the increasing incidence of prostate cancer could be traced to contaminated water, or water pollution and air pollution. How is that? Our water systems have been infiltrated by microplastics because of all the plastics that have been ground down in landfills and water systems. This is why we now have to use bottled or mineral water. We never had to buy drinking water before. But now, we have to.

Second, the incidence of breast cancer in women has also increased because of these same reasons — pollution. The polluted water we drink, the bad food we eat, and our exposure to bad air all contribute to health issues, like cancer. For women, it seems breast cancer is always the most popular kind, although men can also have cancer of the breast area.

To illustrate pollution, he asked the crowd in our sustainability forum to check their electric fans, airconditioners, and window curtains and see the grime that collects from ordinary household air. Take this gunk, put it in water and have it examined. It contains BPA (Bisphenol A) and other plastic derivatives.

The crowd nodded in agreement that all our actions lead to these developments — our use of single-use plastics and their effect on everyday life. Just like trash which comes back to us during floods, these dirty air particles are inhaled by all of us every day.

So, what's the relation to climate change? We have to think of what we eat, drink, and what our lifestyle is to help reverse climate change.

Greenhouse gases which increase global temperatures come from:

1. Meat consumption. Meat and dairy herds are directly related to the increase in production of methane. And the increase in this greenhouse gas causes warmer temperatures.
2. Exhaust of vehicles. Even the popular Euro 4 vehicles, which are dumped on us by First World countries, still use fossil fuels. Unless we go electric, all kinds of fuel cause climate change.
3. Air pollution. The smoke from factories also releases greenhouse gases (GHG) into the atmosphere.
4. Use of single-use plastics. These plastics are not recycled, and they do not degrade.

We also discussed landfills and how they affect our water systems and soil health. So, the Climate Change Commission is in touch with Local Government Units (LGUs) to let them recycle their waste into methane gas, for example, which can be used as a fuel instead of LPG or other fossil-fuel-derived choices, like diesel and gasoline.

The solution is a good circular look at Solid Waste Management. This is another topic under the Environment Committee of the Management Association of the Philippines (map.org.ph) where we belong. In our own homes, we must be trying to have zero waste or at least reduce the waste that goes to the landfills. I can give you an example: My household used to fill a huge trash bag until I started to segregate biodegradable waste, like fruit peels, vegetable discards and other organic waste. Now, I have very little to throw to the landfill, mostly non-biodegradable plastic and bleached paper. I bring my compostable waste to the farm almost twice a week and we make our own compost.

For bigger industries and companies, waste segregation is the first step in helping address climate change. For quick service restaurants, we have, as an example, a Davao fast food company that has their waste treated at a biothermic facility to convert it to bio fertilizer. That is circularity and our objective in addressing climate change. Everything is related to reducing waste to lessen landfills, to lessen water pollution, and take back our cleaner environment. Commissioner Albert also shared many examples of circularity as I shared my own example in coffee.

A STUDY ON COFFEE WASTE

At present, we at the Philippine Coffee Board, Inc. (philcoffeeboard.com) are working hand in hand with Department of Science and Technology (DoST) to convert coffee discards (coffee hulls, chaff, and spent grounds) into charcoal briquettes. But we can also carbonize these and add them to compost. I was concerned with the smoke the process makes, but Commissioner Albert gave me tips on how to “scrub” the smoke and convert it to liquid smoke. They have a process called “air scrubbing” to capture smoke and put it to good use.

All industries must think of their solid waste and look for ways to convert it to useful materials and products. Ground plastic can be used for hollow blocks, pavers and other construction materials. Please, do not put them in landfills anymore as they will leach into our soil and water.

LAYMAN'S ADAPTATION

What else can a layman do to address this palpable change in temperatures? Think about your lifestyle — how you dress, what you use, what you eat and drink. Do they contribute to the landfill?

I pulled out all my linen and cotton clothes to wear now, to help me adapt to hotter temperatures. I make sure I always hydrate and lessen my exposure to direct sunlight.

But adapting is just learning to live with climate change. What we must do is try to change things so we can reverse it or stop it from getting any worse.

DAILY TRIBUNE

[#PledgeforPlanetEarth campaign launched](#)

The Climate Change Commission has launched the #PledgeForPlanetEarth social media campaign this April in commemoration of Earth Month.

#PledgeForPlanetEarth calls upon individuals to pledge to take action, committing to tangible changes in their daily lives to protect the Earth from the threats of plastic pollution and climate change.

As this year's Earth Day theme focuses on "Planet vs. Plastics," the campaign aims to raise awareness, drive action, and foster community engagement around these critical issues.

"The #PledgeForPlanetEarth is a call to action, a commitment to our shared responsibility towards our planet. Let's continue to protect and preserve our planet from climate change and plastic pollution," said CCC vice chairperson and executive director Robert E.A. Borje.

According to the United Nations, over 400 million tons of plastic are produced globally every year, with 17 million barrels of petroleum used for plastic production.

Around 13 million tons of plastic end up in the ocean annually, killing up to 1 million seabirds, 100,000 sea mammals, marine turtles and countless fish each year.

In the Philippines, approximately 2.7 million tons of plastics are produced annually, according to the UN Development Program and World Bank statistics.

In response to this crisis, the #PledgeforPlanetEarth campaign encourages the public to share their actions aligned with their pledges through post sharing and story/my day highlights.

The CCC is dedicated to lead initiatives and campaigns that advocate for the reduction of single-use plastics and the promotion of a circular economy, as aligned with UN Sustainable Development Goals 13: (Climate Action) and 14 (Life Below Water).

Recently, the CCC partnered with the World Wide Fund to participate in Earth Hour with the theme "Switch Off Plastic Pollution, Give an Hour for Earth," amplifying the call for climate action.

DEPARTMENT OF FINANCE

[Inter-Agency Task Force on Sustainable Finance doubles efforts to mobilize financing to catalyze green investments and drive sustainable growth](#)

The Inter-Agency Task Force on Sustainable Finance (ITSF) has doubled its efforts to mobilize various sources of public and private financing with the issuance of the Sustainable Finance Taxonomy Guidelines (SFTG) and the enactment of the Public-Private Partnership (PPP) Code to catalyze green investments and drive sustainable growth.

The ITSF is co-chaired by the Department of Finance (DOF) and the Climate Change Commission (CCC).

It was established with support from the Government of the United Kingdom (UK) under the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) Low Carbon Energy Programme (ALCEP) to aid in the development of a green and sustainable economy in the Philippines.

“The Department of Finance has been working hard to come up with innovative financing strategies for the Philippines to position itself as a global leader in the climate adaption and mitigation front. We will set an example for other countries to follow—showing them that real and lasting change is possible through strong commitment and leadership,” Finance Secretary Ralph G. Recto said.

Approved by the Monetary Board on February 14, 2024, the SFTG is a classification tool for micro, small, and medium enterprises (MSMEs) and larger businesses to determine whether an economic activity is environmentally and socially sustainable.

The Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas (BSP) will have an observation period until the end of 2024 to allow banks time to understand and operationalize the SFTG principles.

The PPP Code, on the other hand, establishes a stable and predictable environment for collaboration of both public and private sectors and addresses the gaps in infrastructure financing.

The implementing rules and regulations (IRR) for the PPP Code was signed on March 21, 2024, ensuring that investor concerns were addressed and that the country’s PPP framework is aligned with the best practices globally.

The declaration of policy under Section 2 of the PPP Code provides that the government must ensure the integration of climate resilience, and sustainability policies, among others, in the implementation of PPP projects.

The PPP Governing Board has previously issued Resolution No. 2018-12-02 as a safeguard against the negative impacts of the implementation of PPP projects on the people and environment.

The guideline takes into account the following issues: safeguards from environmental impacts; resilience to climate change; considerations for indigenous peoples; protection and consideration of vulnerable groups such as persons with disability; and gender equality and women empowerment, among others.

Apart from the SFTG and the PPP framework, the CCC shared that the National Adaptation Plan (NAP) and Nationally Determined Contribution Implementation Plan (NDC IP) are expected to be published in April 2024, and localized for implementation in June 2024.

The NAP aims to facilitate effective medium and long-term adaptation planning and enable the integration of adaptation into relevant policies and programs across sectors.

Meanwhile, the NDC IP will detail the necessary actions, costs, phasing, and implementation arrangements for the Philippines to deliver its NDC, with constant consideration of its adaptation co-benefits.

“We are currently preparing the ITSF roadmap for climate finance to focus on adaptation efforts with mitigation co-benefits, which entails developing a sustainable pipeline of projects and policies for project design, implementation, and monitoring for 2025 onwards,” said Chief-of-Staff and Undersecretary Maria Luwalhati C. Dorotan Tiuseco, who presided over the ITSF meeting on March 15, 2024.

The Undersecretary invited member agencies to share their inputs and to identify areas for future collaboration for the climate finance roadmap to incorporate each agency’s perspective and expertise.

The DOF also provided updates on carbon pricing instruments and access to climate finance.

Given the significant developments, member agencies have expressed high hopes that these complementary policies will catalyze public and private investment in economic activities that are consistent with the country's climate commitments.

Representatives from the Bases Conversion and Development Authority (BCDA), Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas (BSP), CCC, Department of Agriculture (DA), Department of Budget and Management (DBM), Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR), Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG), Department of Energy (DOE), Department of Science and Technology (DOST), Department of Transportation (DOTr), Insurance Commission (IC), National Economic and Development Authority (NEDA), Mindanao Development Authority (MinDA), and PPP Center took part in the meeting.

MANILA BULLETIN

[FIND OUT MORE: What the 9 new deals between the Philippines and Qatar are about](#)

By: Argyll Cyrus Geducos

The Philippines and Qatar signed nine agreements on Monday, April 22, covering cooperation on combating human trafficking, seafarers' welfare, tourism, sports, and climate change during the State Visit of Qatar's Emir Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al Thani to Manila.

Among those signed included a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the governments of the Philippines and Qatar to strengthen ties and enhance bilateral cooperation in combating human trafficking.

In the said MOU, both countries agreed "to work together to combat human trafficking, including advancing labor protection in both countries, through exchange of expertise in the field of legislation and exchange of studies and research."

The Philippines and Qatar will work to identify and implement joint projects, exchange legislations and regulations related to combating human trafficking, promote public awareness, and exchange studies and research on the issue.

Recognition of seafarers

Another MOU signed was the agreement on mutual recognition of seafarers' certificates to implement the provisions stipulated in the International Convention on Standards of Training, Certification and Watchkeeping for Seafarers (STCW Convention) of 1978, and the amendments, in which Qatar acceded by Decree No. (14) of 2003.

This refers to Circular No. 1450 issued by the Maritime Safety Committee on Jan. 24, 2013, on the Mutual Recognition of Certificates according to Regulation I/10 of the STCW Convention.

The MOU agreed between the Philippines' Maritime Industry Authority, (Marina) and Qatar's Ministry of Transport, "shall apply to the certificates of seafarers who serve on registered merchant ships of any of the participants and sail under its flag except for those who serve on the ships mentioned in Article 3 of the STCW Convention."

Climate change cooperation

Under the MOU on technical cooperation on capacity building on climate change, the Climate Change Commission (CCC) and Qatar's Ministry of Environment and Climate Change will enhance collaboration to pursue technical cooperation, capacity-building, enhance knowledge sharing, and promote transformative climate action, aligned with the shared goals on climate action under the Paris Agreement of 2016.

"The Parties will enhance technical cooperation and capacity building on climate change in mitigation, adaptation, technology transfer and development, education and awareness," the MOU read.

"Other areas of cooperation may be added as agreed upon in writing by the Parties through diplomatic channels," it added.

Sports cooperation

The Philippines and Qatar agreed to promote cooperation and facilitate communication between their respective sports federations and to set the framework for the programs of cooperation, which are to be based on the principle of reciprocity.

Under the MOU, the participants shall strengthen their cooperation in the field of sports by exchanging visits of sports delegations, coaches, experts, and specialists in the field of sports and physical education, exchanging research and sharing experiences related to sports and physical activities, and participation in meetings, conferences, lectures, seminars and academic forums on topics dealing with sports held in both countries.

They also eye to explore opportunities of staging sports competitions based on the interests of the sports federations where participation and financial issues in such competitions are subject to the concerned bodies in both countries.

Tourism cooperation

Under the MOU on tourism cooperation, both countries will work to develop and strengthen the means of cooperation between them in the fields of tourism and business events.

Through the MOU, the parties will cooperate to promote tourism by encouraging tourist flows to travel to both countries and promoting cooperation between the travel and tourism agencies and other relevant establishments to increase tourist exchange.

It also aims to strengthen coordination between the participants, encourage tourism investments in coordination with the competent authorities, and promote coordination at the international level, particularly in holding meetings, conferences, and forums of international organizations regarding tourism.

Youth cooperation

The MOU on cooperation for the youth aims to promote cooperation and facilitate communication between youth organizations in both countries and set the framework for the programs of cooperation for the field of youth.

Both countries' cooperation will be enhanced through visit exchanges of youth delegations, members of youth centers, and specialists in the field of youth, as well as experiences exchanges and research related to the youth sector.

Respective participants will also join meetings, conferences, lectures, seminars, and academic forums on topics related to youth held in both countries. They will also explore opportunities to establish youth camps alternately in both countries and exchange research and studies on youth employment and entrepreneurship.

Visa requirements waiver

Both countries likewise signed an agreement that seeks to facilitate the travel of the parties' nationals who are on official missions for their respective governments, respectful of the provisions of the Vienna Convention on Diplomatic Relations of 1961, and the Vienna Convention on Consular Relations of 1963.

The agreement covers valid diplomatic and official passports for the Philippines, while those covered for Qatar will be valid diplomatic and special passports.

"Nationals of either party who are holders of valid passport types mentioned in Article 1 of this Agreement are exempted from the obligation to obtain visas for entry and stay in the territory of the other party, for a stay of 30 days," the agreement read.

"Provided, the passport presented must have a validity period of at least three months beyond the period of allowed stay in the territory of the other Party," it added.

Chambers of Commerce

Meanwhile, the two other MOUs signed were between the Philippine Chamber of Commerce and Industry and the Qatar Chamber of Commerce and Industry and between the Davao City Chamber of Commerce and Industry and the Qatar Chamber of Commerce and Industry.

The Philippines and Qatar established their diplomatic relations on May 5, 1981.

There are an estimated 242,609 Filipinos in Qatar country. In 2022, remittances to the Philippines from Qatar amounted to \$895.33 million.

MANILA STANDARD

[Qatar, PH ink deals on trade, tourism, sports](#)

By: Jocelyn Montemayor

The Philippines and Qatar yesterday signed nine agreements aimed at strengthening trade and investment flows, deepening collaboration in various fields, and addressing global challenges such as climate change and human trafficking.

President Marcos Jr. and Qatari Amir Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al-Thani witnessed the presentation of the agreements and memorandum of understanding (MOU) after their meeting in Malacañang.

The accords include cooperation on combating human trafficking, seafarers' welfare, sports, tourism, and climate change, and an agreement on the waiver of visa requirements for holders of diplomatic and special or official passports.

The MOU on technical cooperation on capacity building on climate change was signed between the Philippines' Climate Change Commission and Qatar's Ministry of Environment and Climate Change. It aims to enhance collaboration in enhancing knowledge sharing and promoting transformative climate action, aligned with the shared goals on climate action under the Paris Agreement of 2016.

Another MOU is on combating human trafficking where Manila and Doha agreed to implement projects, exchange legislation and regulations related to combating human trafficking, promote public awareness, and to advance "labor protection in both countries, through exchange of expertise in the field of legislation and exchange of studies and research."

The two countries also signed an MOU on the recognition of seafarers' certificate to implement provisions under the International Convention on Standards of Training, Certification and Watchkeeping for Seafarers (STCW Convention) of 1978, and amendments, in which Qatar acceded by Decree No. (14) of 2003. This refers to Circular No. 1450 issued by the Maritime Safety Committee on the Jan. 24, 2013 on the Mutual Recognition of Certificates according to Regulation I/10 of the STCW Convention.

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on registered merchant ships of any of the participants and sail under its flag except for those who serve on the ships mentioned in Article 3 of the STCW Convention.”

TOURISM

Under the MOU on tourism and business events, both countries “will cooperate to encourage tourist flows to travel to both countries, promote cooperation between the travel and tourism agencies and other relevant establishments to increase tourist exchange and promote tourism for both countries.”

The MOU on sports aims to promote cooperation and facilitate communication between sports federations of both countries and to set the framework for programs of cooperation in the field of sports, which are to be based on the principle of reciprocity.

This will involve an exchange of visits of sports delegations, coaches, experts and specialists in the field of sports and physical education. among others.

The MOU on the youth states that participants will work to enhance their cooperation through visit exchanges of youth delegations, members of youth centers and specialists in the field of youth, as well as experiences exchanges and research related to the youth sector.

The Amir, who arrived in the Philippines on Sunday, is on a two-day state visit to the Philippines, on the invitation of the President. It is the first state visit of the Amir to the Philippines.

The Qatari leader was accorded military honors yesterday in Malacañang, which was also attended by Executive Secretary Lucas Bersamin, Foreign Affairs Enrique Manalo, Trade Secretary Alfred Pascual, Transportation Secretary Jaime Bautista, Energy Secretary Rafael Lotilla, Tourism Secretary Cristina Frasco, Environment Secretary Maria Antonia Yulo-Loyzaga and presidential adviser Frederick Go.

Marcos said he expects his discussions with the Qatari leader “will open opportunities to improve and strengthen our bilateral relations at every level, at the commercial level, at the government-to-government level, at the people-to-people level.”

The Amir said he expects the agreements to enhance relations between Doha and Manila as well as improve communications between the two counties.

“I just had a fruitful discussion with his excellency, the president, and we had numerous discussions on common interests that would contribute to developing our relations in different fields. The Philippines is an important partner for us in many fields especially in trade and economic cooperation. And we aspire to improve these relations through increased communications between the private sector of both countries,” he said.

The Qatari leader also acknowledged contributions of the Filipino community in Qatar to the country’s development and progress.

The Presidential Communications Office (PCO) said there are around 242,600 Filipinos working and living in Qatar.

In 2022, remittances to the Philippines from Qatar amounted to \$895.33 million.

PHILIPPINE INFORMATION AGENCY

[CCC calls for strengthened collaboration with private sector to drive climate action](#)

The Climate Change Commission (CCC) urged for enhanced collaboration and partnership between the government and the private sector to unlock investment potential and accelerate collective progress on climate action.

Addressing the private sector attendees of the CarbonPH Education Series, CCC Vice Chairperson and Executive Director Robert E.A. Borje underscored the country's vulnerability to climate change and its impacts to the economy, highlighting the urgent need for transformative climate actions.

“Addressing climate change requires a holistic approach that considers its interconnectedness with broader economic development goals and sustainability objectives,” VCED Borje said.

Borje called for strengthened partnerships and collective efforts with the private sector to take proactive leadership in climate action, leveraging innovative financing mechanisms and policy incentives to drive transformation.

He emphasized investments in critical areas including nature-based solutions, renewable energy, sustainable mobility, among others.

According to a 2019 Global Commission on Adaptation report, investing USD 1.8 trillion (or P39.3 trillion) in just five areas - early warning systems, climate-resilient infrastructure, improved dryland agriculture crop production, global mangrove protection, and water security - could result in USD 7.1 trillion (or P311.1 trillion) in total net benefits.

“The cost of adaptation is much smaller than the cost of recovery. And so we pivot from our business-as-usual strategies to ‘science and evidence-based,’ ‘investment-led’ and ‘transformative.’ With this strategy, we can better achieve our desired level of resilience, for our communities, our nation, and the planet,” Borje said.

The CCC invites the private sector to continue fostering a dynamic and collaborative partnership with the government in crafting policies and mechanisms that will unlock climate investments.

He also urged the private sector to be more actively involved in processes, including the formulation of the National Adaptation Plan (NAP) and Nationally Determined Contribution Implementation Plan (NDCIP).

“We have already laid down the path. Let us ensure that everyone progresses together, in unison, moving forward with the same scale, speed, and momentum. This is to ensure that the country’s economic prosperity and sustainability are not just mutually exclusive, but rather, dual engines propelling us toward a thriving and resilient future,” Borje affirmed.

The CarbonPH Initiative/Coalition, comprising 17 private sector corporations, presents private sector convergence to support the country’s transitional aspirations for a low carbon economy through investments in nature-based solutions, capacity building, and inputs for policy development.

The CarbonPH Education Series, led by Aboitiz Equity Ventures and SM Investments Corporation, brings together diverse stakeholders to generate momentum for collective action towards a more sustainable and resilient future for the Philippines.

For more information on the CCC’s climate mainstreaming activities, visit www.climate.gov.ph and www.facebook.com/CCCPhl.

[CCC launches #PledgeforPlanetEarth Campaign](#)

The Climate Change Commission has launched the #PledgeForPlanetEarth social media campaign this April in commemoration of Earth Month.

#PledgeForPlanetEarth calls upon individuals to pledge to take action, committing to tangible changes in their daily lives to protect the Earth from the threats of plastic pollution and climate change.

As this year's Earth Day theme focuses on "Planet vs. Plastics," the campaign aims to raise awareness, drive action, and foster community engagement around these critical issues.

"The #PledgeForPlanetEarth is a call to action, a commitment to our shared responsibility towards our planet. Let's continue to protect and preserve our planet from climate change and plastic pollution," said CCC Vice Chairperson and Executive Director Robert E.A. Borje.

According to the United Nations, over 400 million tonnes of plastic are produced globally every year, with 17 million barrels of petroleum used for plastic production.

Around 13 million tonnes of plastic end up in the ocean annually, killing up to 1 million seabirds, 100,000 sea mammals, marine turtles and countless fish each year.

In the Philippines, approximately 2.7 million tonnes of plastics are produced annually, according to the UN Development Programme (UNDP) and World Bank Statistics.

In response to this crisis, the #PledgeforPlanetEarth campaign encourages the public to share their actions aligned with their pledges through post sharing and story/my day highlights.

The CCC is dedicated to lead initiatives and campaigns that advocate for the reduction of single-use plastics and the promotion of a circular economy, as aligned with Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 13: Climate Action and SDG 14: Life Below Water.

Recently, the CCC partnered with the World Wide Fund to participate in Earth Hour with the theme "Switch Off Plastic Pollution, Give an Hour for Earth," amplifying the call for climate action.

For more information, follow us on our social media: @cccphl and join the conversation using #PledgeForPlanetEarth.

PHILIPPINE NEWS AGENCY

[PH eyes hosting loss, damage fund board to access climate finance](#)

By: Anna Leah Gonzales

The Philippines is eyeing to host the Loss and Damage Fund (LDF) Board which will allow the country to access more climate financing.

In a statement on Tuesday, the Department of Finance (DOF) said President Ferdinand R. Marcos Jr. created an interagency technical working group to lead the Philippines in its bid to host the LDF Board.

The LDF is a global financial mechanism designed to provide support to countries that are mostly impacted by climate change.

President Marcos earlier expressed the Philippines' intent to host the LDF Board and called for the LDF's immediate operationalization to assist developing countries.

By hosting the LDF Board, the Philippines will gain significant traction from developed countries and development partners that can pledge voluntary contributions to finance the fund.

The Philippines' active engagement in the LDF will also allow countries all over the world to collaborate with the Philippine government in tackling climate-related challenges.

It can also serve as an avenue for the Philippines to showcase its game-changing initiatives in the adaptation and mitigation front.

Under the Marcos administration, the Philippine government pushed forward strategic investment and financing frameworks for climate and development positive actions.

It also enabled policies and measures to make the Philippines a destination for sustainable investments such as the initiatives under the National Adaptation Plan and Nationally Determined Contributions Implementation Plan and its Financial Strategy.

"The DOF will lead the country's bid to host the Loss and Damage Fund. We have already begun thorough preparations on this matter, and we believe that the Philippines is more than ready to take on this important role," Finance Secretary Ralph Recto said.

The DOF convened member agencies in a series of meetings of the newly created LDF Technical Working Group (TWG) which include the Department of Foreign Affairs, the Department of Environment and Natural Resources, the Department of Budget and Management, and the Climate Change Commission to discuss the strategies to be undertaken for the country's hosting bid.

The DOF also led the discussion on the proposed roles and responsibilities of each TWG member, highlighting the members' expected contributions to developing the country's hosting bid.

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