



NEWS ROUNDUP

25 APRIL 2025 [08:00 am]

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THE STAR

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THE PHILIPPINE STAR

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CCC IN THE NEWS:

MANILA BULLETIN

[Climate Reality PH inducts new leaders into global network for climate action](#)

By: Climate Reality Project Philippines

“The global sustainability revolution is unstoppable, and it’s unstoppable because of advocates like you and the millions of people around the world demanding stronger, more ambitious climate action,” said former US Vice President and The Climate Reality Project (TCRP) Founder Al Gore, welcoming the participants of TCRP Leadership Corps Training in Bacolod City.

Information and Knowledge Management Division

AL JAZEERA

[Family in Indonesia turns to mangrove trees to tackle climate change](#)

Pasijah, a 55-year-old housewife in Indonesia's Central Java province, wakes up every morning to the sound of the sea. If that sounds idyllic, it is anything but.

Her home is the only one remaining in this part of Rejosari Senik, a small village on Java's northern coast that was once on dry land but is now submerged in water.

Over the past few years, Pasijah's neighbours have abandoned their homes, vegetable plots and rice fields to the advancing sea, but she and her family have no plans to leave.

"I do have every intention to stay here and my feelings for this house remain," she said.

Water laps around the walls of Pasijah's house, where she has lived for 35 years, soaking her feet when she steps outside.

The nearest land is two kilometres (1.24 miles) away, and the closest city, Demak, is further still at 19 kilometres (11.8 miles). The only way to get there is by boat.

Indonesia, an archipelago of thousands of islands, has about 81,000 kilometres of coastline, making it particularly vulnerable to rising seas and erosion.

Sea levels on the country's coasts rose an average of 4.25 millimetres (0.16 inches) annually from 1992 to 2024, but the rate has accelerated in recent years, according to Kadarsah, a climate change official at Indonesia's Meteorology, Climatology, and Geophysical Agency.

"One of the signs of climate change is the rising sea levels," he said, adding that some small islands had disappeared.

Kadarsah also pointed to the increased pumping of groundwater that has exacerbated land subsidence along Java's northern coast. The problem is particularly bad in Jakarta, Indonesia's capital, which is home to some 10 million people.

Megaprojects

Indonesian authorities have turned to megaprojects for a solution, including a 700-kilometre (434-mile) sea wall that would run along the northern coast between Banten and East Java provinces.

Pasijah and her family, meanwhile, have turned to nature.

She has planted about 15,000 mangrove trees a year over the past 20 years.

Every day, she paddles out in a boat made from a blue plastic barrel to tend to the bushes and plant new saplings, lowering herself into the blue-grey water, which can be as high as her chest.

“The floodwaters come in waves, gradually, not all at once,” Pasijah said. “I realised that after the waters began rising, I needed to plant mangrove trees so that they could spread and protect the house from the wind and the waves.”

She and her family survive by selling the fish caught by her sons in the nearest market. They say they will stay as long as they can hold back the tides.

“I’m no longer concerned about how I feel about the isolation here since I decided to stay, so we’ll take it one hurdle at a time,” Pasijah said.

BUSINESS MIRROR

[ADB ramps up support to climate action, infrastructure](#)

By: Bless Aubrey Ogerio

The Asian Development Bank (ADB) ramped up support for Southeast Asia last year, focusing on climate action, infrastructure and inclusive development.

In its latest annual report, ADB committed \$6.2 billion to Southeast Asia. Of the total, \$4.8 billion went to sovereign financing, \$1.4 billion to nonsovereign investments and \$2.5 billion to climate-related initiatives.

Across Asia and the Pacific, total commitments reached \$39.2 billion, with \$24.3 billion sourced from ADB's own funds. These included \$19.2 billion in sovereign projects, \$4.8 billion in nonsovereign operations, and \$298 million in technical assistance. Meanwhile, an additional \$14.9 billion came through cofinancing with partners.

According to the ADB, policy-based loans and other support were used to advance action in the regions.

"This included financing and knowledge services to help build climate resilience and bolster food security in rural communities; improve the management of marine environments; and construct sustainable infrastructure for renewable energy, transport, and water and sanitation," read a statement issued by the ADB.

The Manila-based lender approved 151 new projects, programs, and financing facilities in Southeast Asia, up from 133 in 2023.

"This higher number of approvals was made possible by updates in 2023 to ADB's Capital Adequacy Framework (CAF), which significantly increased lending capacity for the bank," the ADB said.

Philippines

THE ADB maintained its supportive role to the Philippines last year, focusing on housing, climate action, infrastructure, and peacebuilding.

It backed a revolving credit facility to deliver up to 8,000 homes annually for middle-income families and supported the peace process in Mindanao by promoting fiscal autonomy and accountability.

The multilateral development bank also mobilized \$2.1 billion for a public–private partnership to modernize the Ninoy Aquino International Airport. In addition, it provided advisory services for 19 other private-public partnership projects across the region.

To boost the country’s climate resilience, the bank extended a \$474.6 million policy-based loan. The funding will support renewable energy, energy efficiency, climate-smart agriculture, and nature-based solutions.

The ADB also committed \$1.19 billion for a 30-kilometer expressway southeast of Metro Manila, an area more than three-times smaller than Metropolitan Tokyo, Japan.

The project includes bridges and viaducts across waterways leading to Laguna Lake, and is expected to cut travel time between Taguig and Calamba by 25 percent. It will benefit 3.47 million residents and help avoid over 245,000 tons of greenhouse gas emissions annually.

As of end-2024, the Philippines accounted for \$22.5 billion or 10.88 percent of ADB’s total lending portfolio.

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

[\\$39.2-M FAO-backed project to help farmers cope with climate change](#)

By: Jordeene B. Lagare

A \$39.2-million project will help 100 towns nationwide reduce carbon emissions through an initiative that aims to strengthen farmers' resilience to climate change, according to the United Nations' Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO).

In a statement on Tuesday, the FAO said priority areas include towns in Apayao, Ifugao, Kalinga, Cagayan, Isabela, Camarines Norte, Camarines Sur, Bukidnon, Cotabato, Northern Mindanao and Soccsksargen.

This forms part of the Adapting Philippine Agriculture to Climate Change (APA) Project of the Department of Agriculture (DA), the Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration under the Department of Science and Technology and the FAO.

This seven-year initiative is supported by the \$26-million grant from the Green Climate Fund while \$12.9 million is co-financed by the Philippine government.

Tailored advisories

One of the components is the adoption of Climate Resilient Agriculture (CRA) practices, in which farmers, especially those from marginalized sectors, will be given timely climate information to support inclusive agri-enterprises and empower communities to lead climate adaptation efforts.

The project intends to deliver more localized and tailored climate and weather advisories by enhancing the Climate Information Service platform hosted by the DA's Agro-Climatic Advisory Portal.

The platform will also help farmers manage climate risks, improve productivity and transition toward more resilient farming systems.

"By doing this, target communities will also have better access to climate-resilient technologies, financing, and markets," it added.

High impact

The FAO said incorporating CRA practices will directly support 205,000 farmers. Additionally, at least 45,000 farmers are expected to engage in agri-enterprise development, applying various CRA interventions to identified priority crops.

Once these interventions are implemented, they are expected to reduce the country's total carbon emissions by approximately 218,875 tons of carbon dioxide per year.

The FAO estimated that the APA project would contribute about 0.033 percent to the Philippines' Nationally Determined Contribution commitment currently set at 3,340.3 million tons of carbon dioxide emissions from 2020 to 2030.

About 5 million farmers are expected to indirectly benefit from the climate advisories, while 1.25 million members of vulnerable farming households are seen to directly gain from applying CRA practices and developing agri-enterprises.

Earth talk

With rising greenhouse gas emissions, climate change is occurring at rates much faster than anticipated, causing intense and devastating global temperatures, severe storms and droughts, loss of species, rise in hunger, health risks, and poverty and displacement, among others.

Climate change affects all. A wide range of groups, organizations, and individuals throughout the decades from all over the world have talked about climate change and its adverse impacts in the hopes of spreading awareness, initiating discussions, and inspiring action to address it.

PLANET IN PERIL A detailed true-color image of Earth produced using a collection of satellite-based observations and stitching of the land surface, oceans, sea ice, and clouds into a seamless, true-color mosaic. Climate change is occurring at rates much faster than anticipated, causing intense and devastating disruptions on a planetary scale.

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READ: Overpopulation as main culprit for climate change

Communicating about climate change is about educating and mobilizing audiences to take action to confront the climate crisis. While much is happening around the world in this regard, more needs to be done. Continuing the discourse about climate change and

the environment is always a good first step. Here are just a few of the most common terms used when talking about climate change:

Anthropogenic: Refers to something caused by humans, or human-made. In the context of greenhouse gases, emissions that are produced as the result of human activities.

Biomass: Materials that are biological in origin, including organic material (both living and dead) from above and below ground, like trees and animal wastes.

Biofuel: gas or liquid fuel made from plant material (biomass).

Carbon footprint: The total amount of greenhouse gases emitted into the atmosphere each year by a person, family, building, organization, or company. This includes greenhouse gas emissions from fuel that an individual burns directly, such as by heating a home or riding a car, and those that come from producing the goods or services the individual uses.

Carbon sequestration: The process by which trees and plants absorb carbon dioxide, release the oxygen, and store the carbon.

Climate change: Refers to any significant change in the measures of climate lasting for an extended period of time, including major changes in temperature, precipitation, or wind patterns, among others, that occur over several decades or longer.

Deforestation: Practices or processes that result in the conversion of forested lands for non-forest uses. Deforestation contributes to increasing carbon dioxide concentrations through the burning or decomposition of the wood, which releases carbon dioxide; and when trees that once removed carbon dioxide from the atmosphere in the process of photosynthesis are no longer present.

El Niño: A natural phenomenon that, in addition to contributing to higher temperatures in many parts of the world, also drives tropical cyclones in the Pacific and boosts rainfall and flood risk in parts of the Americas, Asia, and elsewhere.

Fossil fuel: A general term for buried combustible geologic deposits of organic materials, formed from decayed plants and animals that have been converted to crude oil, coal, natural gas, or heavy oils by exposure to heat and pressure in the earth's crust over hundreds of millions of years.

Global warming: The recent and ongoing global average increase in temperature near the Earth's surface. Warmer temperatures over time change weather patterns and disrupt the usual balance of nature, posing many risks to human beings and all other forms of life on Earth through dangerous heat levels, more severe storms and drought, wildfires, famine, loss of species, and depletion of resources leading to widespread poverty, hunger and displacement.

Greenhouse effect: The trapping and buildup of heat in the atmosphere near the Earth's surface. Some of the heat flowing back toward space from the Earth's surface is absorbed by water vapor, carbon dioxide, ozone, and several other gases in the atmosphere and then reradiated back toward the Earth's surface. If the atmospheric concentrations of these greenhouse gases rise, the average temperature of the lower atmosphere will gradually increase.

Greenhouse gas (GHG): Any gas that absorbs infrared radiation in the atmosphere. Greenhouse gases include, but are not limited to, water vapor, carbon dioxide, methane, nitrous oxide, hydrochlorofluorocarbons, ozone, hydrofluorocarbons, perfluorocarbons, and sulfur hexafluoride. Greenhouse gases absorb heat and help warm the earth to habitable levels, but increased levels of GHGs lead to faster global warming, which drives climate change.

Recycling: Converting waste materials into new materials and objects, to promote environmental sustainability and reduce the impact of waste on the planet.

Renewable energy: Energy obtained from sources that are essentially inexhaustible—unlike, for example, fossil fuels, of which there is a finite supply. Renewable sources of energy include wood, waste, geothermal, wind, photovoltaic, and solar thermal energy.

Tipping point: A threshold after which certain changes caused by global warming and climate change become irreversible, even if future interventions are successful in driving down average global temperatures.

PHILIPPINE INFORMATION AGENCY

7th National Youth Environmental Summit targets green ambassadors

More than 270 youths leaders across the Philippines gathered for the 7th National Youth Environmental Summit 2025 at Teacher's Camp in Baguio City from April 21–23, 2025.

With the theme “Enhancing Collaboration in Helping Vulnerable Communities Adapt to Climate Change,” the summit brought together participants from the sectors of youth leaders, Sangguniang Kabataan, as well as representatives from local government units and national agencies, Local Youth Development Offices, youth-serving and environmental organizations.

The event aims to empower youth as environmental leaders, as modern challenges demand modern solutions that require the initiative of young leaders to take relevant action for the community and the country.

This was an initiative of the Alliance for Green Philippines, in partnership with the National Youth Commission and the Technical Education and Skills Development Authority-Cordillera State Institute of Technical Education.

Clifford Espinosa, Alliance for Green Philippines Inc. president, emphasized that there is a need for mindset change especially in addressing sectors affected by climate change.

“Sa loob ng ilang araw, hindi na kami mag-iisip—sa inyo na ito, papel ninyo na po, buhay ninyo na ito. Sana matapos ang pananaliksik, pagsisikap, at paggawa ng mga inobasyon. Sana maging green ambassadors kayo. Tandaan ninyo, lahat tayo ay Pilipino at meron tayong Pilipinas,” Espinosa said.

Department of the Interior and Local Government-Cordillera Regional Director Araceli San Jose said that the young generation holds significant hope and opportunity to change what's been happening to the community.

“Remember, this is no longer just about the future generation. This is about you. Do it for yourself. Do it for the youth, especially those in the most vulnerable communities. Do it for your families. Do it for your loved ones. Never take for granted the privilege and opportunities you have right now. Speak for those who cannot. Stand up for them. Serve them, as much as you would serve yourself. I hope you rise as the environmental heroes and champions this country needs,” San Jose stated.

This initiative hopes that all young leaders will become advocates for climate change action and contribute to achieving an adaptive and disaster-resilient Philippines.

THE STAR

[Philippines, Indonesia to strengthen climate and defence cooperation](#)

The Philippines is seeking to deepen its cooperation with Indonesia in responding to climate change and enhancing defence ties, Defence Secretary Gilberto Teodoro Jr said following a bilateral meeting with his Indonesian counterpart, Defence Minister Sjafrie Sjamsoeddin.

The meeting took place at the EDSA Shangri-La Hotel in Mandaluyong City on Wednesday (April 23), forming part of Sjamsoeddin's introductory visit to the region, according to the Philippines News Agency (PNA).

"Most important of all, since we face similar challenges in climate change, we must enhance joint response efforts," Teodoro said in an interview.

He cited Indonesia's deployment of helicopters to assist flood victims in the Bicol region last year as an example of cooperation in action.

Teodoro underscored the significance of Sjamsoeddin's visit, describing Indonesia as one of the Philippines' closest allies in Asean.

In a separate statement, the Department of National Defence (DND) noted that the meeting builds on previous engagements, including the courtesy call between President Ferdinand R Marcos Jr and Indonesian President Prabowo Subianto at Malacacang Palace on Sept 20 last year.

During their talks, the two defence chiefs exchanged views on regional security, maritime cooperation, and bilateral defence initiatives.

THE PHILIPPINE STAR

[84% of world's corals impacted by heat stress – scientists](#)

By: Bella Cariaso

Bleaching-level heat stress has impacted 84 percent of the world's coral reefs, with scientists noting that the Philippines is among 82 countries and economies severely affected.

The Philippines has one of the richest coral reef systems on Earth, according to experts.

The study showed that since last January, bleaching events have been rapidly getting worse due to human-induced climate change, which threatens the existence of live coral reefs.

According to the latest report, the first bleaching event in 1998 saw 21 percent of reef areas affected. In 2010 this rose to 37 percent and went up to 68 percent from 2014 to 2017.

Scientists said corals bleach when water temperatures are too high, but if water temperatures return to normal, they can recover. If water temperatures stay too hot for too long, corals will die.

In 2023, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration added three new levels to their bleaching alert scale to indicate the heightened risk of mass coral mortality.

University of the Philippines Diliman Marine Science Institute assistant professor and physical oceanographer Charina Lyn Amedo-Repollo reinforced the significance of the global bleaching event.

“The most intense global coral bleaching event ever recorded underscores the urgent need for both global and local action to protect vulnerable reef ecosystems, including those in the Philippines,” Repollo said.

Repollo added that while the country contributes only about 0.5 percent of global greenhouse gas emissions, its proactive commitment to climate resilience and emission reduction is crucial, not just for national sustainability, but as a meaningful part of the global effort to combat climate change.

“Locally, expanding and effectively managing marine protected areas can significantly enhance reef resilience by reducing stressors such as overfishing and land-based pollution, while also supporting natural recovery processes. When these efforts are integrated with community-led conservation, innovative restoration approaches, and international collaboration, they offer the best hope for Philippine reefs to survive and recover in the face of accelerating ocean warming,” she said.

Scientists said last year was the hottest on record and the first to reach over 1.5°C warmer than pre-industrial times, due to human-induced climate change.

Experts added that this contributed to record-breaking ocean temperatures, and triple the previous record number of marine heatwaves around the world.

Reefs provide \$10 trillion in benefits like food, jobs and coastal protection.

Scientists said losing coral reefs undermines efforts to achieve sustainable development, alleviate poverty, and ensure food security, adding that climate-change induced coral loss could cost \$500 billion annually by 2100.

Experts said that although corals are in danger, a combination of local conservation measures and rapid emissions cuts can still help them to survive the 21st century.

The International Coral Reef Initiative has developed eight key policies to guide the urgent action needed, and experts estimate that spending on corals needs to increase sevenfold.

Additionally, limiting global warming to as little above 1.5 degrees Celsius as possible is necessary to give these coral conservation measures a chance to work. Current climate plans put the world on track for approximately 2.7 degrees Celsius of warming.

CCC IN THE NEWS:

MANILA BULLETIN

[Climate Reality PH inducts new leaders into global network for climate action](#)

By: Climate Reality Project Philippines

“The global sustainability revolution is unstoppable, and it’s unstoppable because of advocates like you and the millions of people around the world demanding stronger, more ambitious climate action,” said former US Vice President and The Climate Reality Project (TCRP) Founder Al Gore, welcoming the participants of TCRP Leadership Corps Training in Bacolod City.

This event is part of The Reality Tour, TCRP’s global initiative to build momentum for bold climate ambition ahead of the United Nations’ climate summit in Brazil in November 2025.

Designed as a training to build foundational knowledge, skills, and network to generate collective action to support effective and urgent climate action, the event trained over 90 new Climate Reality leaders poised to drive climate action in their communities.

Building movements from the grassroots

The newly minted leaders are now part of a 3.5 million-strong global network of supporters and catalysts for change spanning 190 countries. Over 2,000 members of this global community belong in the Philippines, driving meaningful change across various sectors.

Fresh from a record-breaking typhoon season and now facing the rising temperatures of summer, the Philippines is no stranger to the impacts of climate change. Training Filipinos for climate action, therefore, makes perfect sense. Who else should lead the charge against the climate crisis, but the ones most deeply affected by it?

“We gather today with a shared purpose: to empower you, passionate Filipino climate advocates, equipping you with the essential tools and strategies to drive real and lasting change in your communities,” said Aimee P. Oliveros, deputy branch manager of Climate Reality PH.

Among hundreds of applicants, only a handful were chosen to participate in the leadership training. That final roster of trainees came from a wide demographic, ensuring that Filipinos’ diverse experience of the climate crisis was well-represented.

“Being part of a global movement [like TCRP Leadership Corps] provides an opportunity for a new perspective, listening to other people’s experiences, and deepening understanding of emerging climate-related issues,” said Theresa Mae Auman, one of the new leaders.

Auman is one of the many government workers in attendance who chose to expand their service to the Filipino people through climate action. Among her co-trainees were fellow government workers, as well as students, teachers, researchers, and journalists.

More than a discussion of inclusivity, trainees were selected based on their potential as movement builders and leaders in their communities, especially those bearing the highest susceptibility to climate impacts.

This led to rich, engaging discussions at every table, grounded by Climate Reality leaders serving as mentors to the participants.

“One of the highlights of being a mentor in TCRP Leadership Corps Training was witnessing people from diverse backgrounds come together in pursuit of a common goal: a better reality for us all. The climate crisis is an intersectional and cross-cutting issue that goes beyond the environment. It impacts various aspects of society, requiring a holistic approach to address it effectively,” said Stefanie Chan, the group’s mentor and youth cluster coordinator.

As established Climate Reality leaders from varying fields, the mentors helped guide the trainees in connecting local realities to global issues. Mentors shared their own journey in climate work, drawing from their experience as climate leaders across different sectors.

Grounding global realities to local capacities

In his signature presentation, Gore shared the latest updates on the worsening climate impacts across the planet via a pre-recorded video from the Paris leg of The Reality Tour.

More than the impacts, he also gave hope in his presentation, showcasing innovative solutions to global warming, and highlighting the urgent need for action and the pathways toward a just, sustainable future.

“Use your voice, use your vote, use your choices. Speak truth to power like your world depends upon it — because your world does depend upon it,” he said in his "Truth in 10" presentation.

Overwhelming as it may seem at first, a global look at climate change gave participants a sense of not being alone. The pivotal point of the presentation was that despite the scale of the crisis, there is a growing collective effort to address it; part of this initiative is TCRP Leadership Corps itself.

Gore’s presentation was then supplemented by powerful panel discussions led by established climate experts in the country. Connecting science with arts, policy, and justice, the discussions showcase the many ways climate change affects Filipinos. Climate justice was often mentioned in these conversations, which highlight how the climate crisis disproportionately impacts communities with the least contribution to it.

One of the speakers in the panel discussions was Atty. Rachel Anne Herrera, commissioner of the Climate Change Commission (CCC). Representing the government initiative in curbing global warming, she underpinned the need to integrate justice in climate policy.

“For the [CCC], climate justice is really the heart of climate action because it’s about fairness and equity. It’s about sharing the benefits and burdens. When we have climate initiatives, they should have benefits for the community and the environment, and the burdens must be paid by the ones driving climate change,” the attorney said.

Passing the torch lights the way

The day ended with a ceremonial pinning of the green ring, a symbol of the newly admitted Climate Reality leaders' commitment to empower a global cultural movement demanding immediate action on the climate crisis for a sustainable future for all.

The trainees, now Climate Reality leaders, were overjoyed when they received their pins. Their pins mark a new chapter in their climate work — their horizons expanding to a global scale.

This moment was made even more meaningful as it coincided with Climate Reality PH's transition in leadership. Then Branch Manager Nazrin Camille D. Castro delivered her final message in the role, leaving behind a legacy of people-centered climate leadership.

“Climate Reality Philippines is already much stronger than it was yesterday because of all of you today. I trust and believe that you will all help in making this community continue to grow, thrive, and create a lasting impact in the years to come,” said Castro, addressing the new leaders in her last remarks.

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