



NEWS ROUNDUP

25 APRIL 2024 [07:30 am]

- ADB Operations Reach \$23.6 Billion in 2023, Achieve Record Climate Finance
- Scientists say Oman, UAE deluge ‘most likely’ linked to climate change
- Deadly Dubai floods made worse by climate change
- Youth participation key to addressing climate change issues – ChildFund PHL
- COP29 host says deal on climate aid essential but offers few details
- UN launches fund to shield displaced people from climate shocks
- The UN calls for increased support for climate resilience in the Philippines as drought wreaks havoc
- [Opinion] Build Initiative motivates personal climate action
- DOTr Aims For Net-Zero Emission In Philippine Aviation By 2050
- UN chief mobilizes global leaders for climate action by 2025

CCC IN THE NEWS:

- Climate Change Commission Calls On Public To Take Tangible Action Vs. Plastic Waste

ADB NEWS

[ADB Operations Reach \\$23.6 Billion in 2023, Achieve Record Climate Finance](#)

The Asian Development Bank (ADB) committed \$23.6 billion from its own resources in 2023, including \$9.8 billion for climate action, to help Asia and the Pacific progress on sustainable development.

AL JAZEERA

[Scientists say Oman, UAE deluge ‘most likely’ linked to climate change](#)

Global warming caused by fossil fuel emissions “most likely” exacerbated the intense rains that lashed the UAE and Oman last week, causing deaths and widespread flooding, an expert group of scientists has found.

BBC

[Deadly Dubai floods made worse by climate change](#)

By: Georgina Rannard

Deadly storms that left Dubai under water and killed more than 20 people in Oman were likely made worse by climate change, scientists say.

DAILY GUARDIAN

[Youth participation key to addressing climate change issues – ChildFund PHL](#)

Project GREENLIGHT, in partnership with the municipal government of Infanta and ReIna Federations of Parents Associations, Inc., integrates Ecosystem-Based Adaptation (EbA) and Nature-Based Solutions (NbS) into the Disaster Risk Reduction and Management (DRRM) program of Infanta, Quezon.

DAILY TRIBUNE

[COP29 host says deal on climate aid essential but offers few details](#)

The world must agree this year on how to raise billions of dollars to help poorer countries adapt to global warming, the president of the UN climate talks said Thursday.

[UN launches fund to shield displaced people from climate shocks](#)

The United Nations said Wednesday it was launching a new Climate Resilience Fund aimed at boosting protections for "refugees and displaced communities" threatened by climate change.

JOURNAL ONLINE

[The UN calls for increased support for climate resilience in the Philippines as drought wreaks havoc](#)

The international community is behind the Philippine Government as it faces a serious drought induced by El Niño. The Climate Crisis Coordinator for the El Niño / La Niña Response, UN Assistant Secretary-General Reena Ghelani and the UN Resident and Humanitarian coordinator in the Philippines, Gustavo Gonzalez urged for increased support to the Government response. This call was made at the end of the visit of the Climate Crisis Coordinator for the El Niño / La Niña Response in the Philippines.

MANILA BULLETIN

[\[Opinion\] Build Initiative motivates personal climate action](#)

By: Anna Mae Lamentillo

Here in the Philippines, classes are usually suspended in the event of typhoons or heavy rains and flooding. But in recent weeks, classes had to shift to asynchronous mode as the scorching heat — which has reached 40 degrees Celsius and above — has become unbearable, especially to young students.

PAGEONE

[DOTr Aims For Net-Zero Emission In Philippine Aviation By 2050](#)

The Department of Transportation (DOTr) is working with stakeholders in the country's aviation sector to implement aviation projects and initiatives to achieve net-zero emissions by 2050.

PHILIPPINE NEWS AGENCY

[UN chief mobilizes global leaders for climate action by 2025](#)

The United Nations unveiled the Climate Promise 2025 initiative on Tuesday, a concerted global effort to prevent temperatures from rising beyond 1.5 degrees Celsius as stipulated in the Paris Agreement.

CCC IN THE NEWS:

PAGEONE

[Climate Change Commission Calls On Public To Take Tangible Action Vs. Plastic Waste](#)

The Climate Change Commission (CCC) has urged the public to take action and commit to tangible changes in their everyday lives by reducing the use of single-use plastics and promoting a circular economy by reusing, recycling, and repurposing them.

Information and Knowledge Management Division

ADB NEWS

[ADB Operations Reach \\$23.6 Billion in 2023, Achieve Record Climate Finance](#)

The Asian Development Bank (ADB) committed \$23.6 billion from its own resources in 2023, including \$9.8 billion for climate action, to help Asia and the Pacific progress on sustainable development.

These figures are among the financial and operational results published today in ADB's Annual Report 2023. The report summarizes how ADB supported its developing member countries (DMCs) to address the worsening climate crisis as well as the impacts of conflicts, food insecurity, and increased debt burdens, among other challenges.

"ADB continued to step up as the climate bank for Asia and the Pacific, reaching our highest-ever annual financing for climate action," said ADB President Masatsugu Asakawa. "Our investments in adaptation and mitigation had a strong focus on climate-resilient agriculture, renewable energy, and low-carbon transport."

The \$23.6 billion comprised loans, grants, equity investments, guarantees, and technical assistance provided to governments and the private sector. Supplementing its own resources, ADB mobilized an additional \$16.4 billion in cofinancing through its strong partnerships.

ADB invested heavily in building high-quality energy, transport, and other infrastructure essential for sustainable development. It further strengthened the region's human capital through increased support for education and health.

Addressing gender inequality continued to be a cornerstone of the bank's work, with almost all its 2023 operations contributing to reduce remaining imbalances, including support to mitigate the disproportionate gender impacts of climate change.

The report explains how ADB is evolving so it can help accelerate the region's progress toward the Sustainable Development Goals. Major capital management reforms introduced in 2023 will bolster the bank's future lending operations by unlocking up to \$100 billion in new lending capacity over the next decade. ADB also began rolling out its new operating model in 2023, a generational transformation to improve the way the bank serves its clients.

"Our new operating model has enabled ADB to make the key shifts needed to deliver better, faster, and more tailored support to our DMCs," said Mr. Asakawa.

ADB is committed to achieving a prosperous, inclusive, resilient, and sustainable Asia and the Pacific, while sustaining its efforts to eradicate extreme poverty. Established in 1966, it is owned by 68 members—49 from the region.

AL JAZEERA

Scientists say Oman, UAE deluge 'most likely' linked to climate change

Global warming caused by fossil fuel emissions “most likely” exacerbated the intense rains that lashed the UAE and Oman last week, causing deaths and widespread flooding, an expert group of scientists has found.

The World Weather Attribution (WWA), an international group of scientists that investigates extreme weather events, said climate change caused by fossil fuel emissions is the probable reason but cannot be pinpointed “with certainty”.

The study compiled by 21 international researchers found extreme rainfall in El Nino years has become 10-40 percent heavier in the region affected.

“Warming, caused by burning fossil fuels, is the most likely explanation for the increasing rainfall,” WWA said in the study published on Thursday.

“There are no other known explanations” for the sharp rise in precipitation, the group added.

Twenty-one people died in Oman and four in the United Arab Emirates, which was battered by the heaviest rainfall since records began for the desert Gulf state 75 years ago.

The oil-producing states have been experiencing extreme heat brought on by global warming. But last week’s floods revealed the additional risk of exceptional weather events as the planet heats up.

“The UAE and Oman floods have shown that even dry regions can be strongly affected by precipitation events, a threat that is increasing with increasing global warming due to fossil fuel burning,” said Sonia Seneviratne, a WWA member and professor at Zurich’s ETH university.

Extreme rains

The WWA study analysed historic weather data and climate models to determine changes in rainfall patterns in the area, including in the years affected by El Nino, a climate pattern that describes the unusual warming of surface waters in the eastern tropical Pacific Ocean.

It found extreme rains were significantly less intense in the years before 1.2 degrees Celsius (2.2F) of warming above pre-industrial levels.

“Extreme rainfall events have become at least 10 percent heavier in the UAE and Oman,” said Mariam Zachariah, a WWA member and researcher at London’s Imperial College.

“This finding ... agrees with the basic physics that a warmer atmosphere can hold more moisture.”

The storm first landed in Oman on April 14, killing at least 21 people in flash floods and other incidents, according to the official Oman News Agency.

It hit the UAE on April 16, dumping nearly two years’ worth of rain that flooded homes, roads, malls and offices and left four people dead.

Dubai faced severe disruption for days with major roads blocked by floods, power outages and some residents trapped in their homes. Dubai Airport, the world’s busiest by international travellers, cancelled 2,155 flights, diverted 115 and did not return to full capacity until Tuesday.

“The situation was unprecedented in its severity but we are a country that learns from every experience,” Dubai ruler and UAE Prime Minister Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum said on Wednesday, announcing a \$544m package to repair homes.

Friederike Otto, a climatologist and WWA member, said the world agreed at COP28 in Dubai to “transition away” from fossil fuels, but nearly half a year later countries are still opening new oil and gas fields.

“If the world keeps burning fossil fuels, rainfall in many regions of the world will get heavier and heavier, resulting in deadlier and more destructive floods,” Otto said.

BBC

[Deadly Dubai floods made worse by climate change](#)

By: Georgina Rannard

Deadly storms that left Dubai under water and killed more than 20 people in Oman were likely made worse by climate change, scientists say.

Heat pumped into the atmosphere by humans made the record rainfall 10-40% heavier, they say.

But the natural weather pattern El Niño also drove the intense storms.

Scientists warn the link to climate change is not fully certain because the rarity of rainfall in the region gives them little data to work with.

The study was carried out by scientists with the World Weather Attribution group. The experts also said the way that cities have been built made the impacts of the storm worse.

In Dubai some areas recorded more than 250mm of rain in less than 24 hours, exceeding all records in daily rainfall in the 75 years since records began.

The country averages 140-200 mm of rainfall per year, while Dubai typically receives only 97mm. The monthly average for April is only about 8mm.

At least 20 people died in Oman and four in the United Arab Emirates when the storm hit on 15 April. Dubai International Airport, the second busiest in the world, was forced to cancel hundreds of flights.

It happened after months of hotter-than-average sea surface temperatures partly caused by El Niño - which is when warm waters rise to the surface of parts of the Pacific Ocean.

The higher ocean temperatures added more moisture to the atmosphere, making heavy rainfall more likely.

The scientists also concluded that cloud seeding - the manipulation of clouds to create more rain - did not have "significant influence" on the flooding.

Scientists internationally agree that climate change from burning coal, oil and gas is driving up global temperatures and causing more extreme weather including storms.

But it can be harder to say specific events, like a single storm, are caused by climate change because of variability in weather patterns.

To find out the answer, scientists look at years of information about weather in a place to identify trends. They also use computer models to compare a world without global warming to the world we live in now with 1.2C of warming since pre-industrial times.

Without lots of data, like rainfall information, it can be harder to see patterns and come to strong conclusions.

But the basic physics of global warming remain the same and indicate that a hotter atmosphere will create more powerful storms and rainfall, explains Professor Friederike Otto from Imperial College London.

"We are quite confident about the link to climate change. Studies by the IPCC (Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change) show future increases in rainfall intensity in the region," she explained.

Prof Otto also said that this study was among the hardest done by the World Weather Attribution group because of gaps in data.

The way that cities have been built in the Gulf also made the impacts of the storm on humans more powerful, says Roop Singh from the Red Cross Red Crescent Climate Centre.

Cities built without adequate storm management combined with very dry soils in the region that struggle to absorb excess water means that 85% of people in UAE live in flood-prone areas.

DAILY GUARDIAN

[Youth participation key to addressing climate change issues – ChildFund PHL](#)

Project GREENLIGHT, in partnership with the municipal government of Infanta and ReIna Federations of Parents Associations, Inc., integrates Ecosystem-Based Adaptation (EbA) and Nature-Based Solutions (NbS) into the Disaster Risk Reduction and Management (DRRM) program of Infanta, Quezon.

Project GREENLIGHT represents a comprehensive approach to climate action, acknowledging that climate change is a complex and interconnected issue.

“It integrates education, community engagement, and sustainable livelihood development to help the next generation of local eco-leaders combat climate change, especially since the Philippines is prone to various climate hazards and risks due to its geographical location and human activities,” said Erwin Peter Galido, Program Specialist – Disaster Risk Management of ChildFund Philippines.

“Our ultimate goal for this project is to eventually make this a national program and support more Filipino youth taking action to mitigate climate change impacts,” he added.

The initiative employs a classroom-to-forest approach to support the youth in taking an active role in environmental protection and conservation, efficient energy consumption, waste management, awareness raising, local policy advocacy, and climate action.

It involves taking students out of traditional classroom settings and into natural environments, such as forests, wetlands, or parks, to learn about environmental concepts, ecological systems, and conservation practices firsthand.

“We believe in the power of these young individuals to make a meaningful difference in their communities and beyond. With Project GREENLIGHT, we aim to work hand-in-hand with them to actively contribute as catalysts for climate action, particularly in communities vulnerable to the impacts of disasters, and for a more sustainable and eco-friendly world,” said Anand Vishwakarma, CEO & Country Director of ChildFund Philippines.

Youth leaders and advocates in the program, called Eco-scouts, highlight the importance of youth engagement in creating sustainable solutions to address climate change.

“This immersive approach gives us a better understanding of why we need to combat climate change now more than ever,” said Ramiline Resplanador, one of the Eco-scouts. “Throughout the implementation, we are learning the impacts of deforestation and degradation on our community, and so we encourage other children to become better stewards of our planet,” she added.

Lu By Ron Broto, another Eco-Scout, shared, “I apply what I learn from the project by encouraging my family to switch to more sustainable ways of living, including waste segregation, plant growing, and efficient energy consumption.” He added that the project also enhanced his leadership skills to educate more members of the community about climate change, helping them make conscious choices that have a positive impact on the environment.

The project’s approaches and tools will enable individuals and communities to adapt to the challenges of climate change while simultaneously promoting sustainable development. This includes the promotion of climate-smart agricultural practices, green jobs and livelihoods (e.g., zero waste stores), and renewable energy, among others.

ReiNa Federation and the government of Infanta, Quezon have been integral partners in the pilot implementation of the program, demonstrating a commitment to building climate resilience in Infanta, Quezon which is prone to natural disasters because of its diverse landscape.

The government of Infanta emphasizes that climate awareness should lead to action. “It is imperative to get commitments on the ground and to act with more urgency. By thinking globally and acting locally to adapt to our community’s needs, we can effectively utilize our resources to mitigate climate change impacts,” said Ron Pallugna Crisostomo, Municipal Government Department Head I – Local Disaster Risk Reduction Management Officer of Infanta, Quezon.

ChildFund Philippines encourages more multi-sectoral collaborations with corporate institutions, non-government organizations, and other stakeholders to expand Project GREENLIGHT’s implementation to other communities across other parts of the country.

DAILY TRIBUNE

[COP29 host says deal on climate aid essential but offers few details](#)

The world must agree this year on how to raise billions of dollars to help poorer countries adapt to global warming, the president of the UN climate talks said Thursday.

Mukhtar Babayev of Azerbaijan offered little detail about how to broker this deal but said climate finance would be a "pillar" of the COP29 summit in the petro-state in November.

"We know that the world needs to increase the overall flow of climate finance by several multiples... At COP29, we need to agree a new climate financial goal," he told ministers and diplomats at the Petersberg Climate Dialogue in Berlin.

Just a small fraction of the money needed to fund clean energy and build resilience to extreme weather in less developed countries is raised each year, eroding much-needed trust in climate negotiations.

The issue has dogged past COPs, with wealthier nations most responsible for planet-heating emissions criticised for not paying their fair share.

An earlier promise to raise \$100 billion a year in climate finance was only likely met for the first time in 2022 — two years behind schedule, according to the OECD.

But this is far from the estimated \$2.4 trillion annually that developing countries — excluding China — will need to meet their climate and development needs.

Short on detail

Babayev, a former executive of Azerbaijan's national oil giant SOCAR, acknowledged the issue had been one of the thorniest in climate negotiations and "there are strong and well-founded views on all sides".

He assured they were listening to the concerns of all parties but stressed there was "no single initiative that will unlock climate finance and deliver the multiples we need".

But he did not outline a detailed timeline, financial targets, or other concrete steps that might help overcome the long-running deadlock in the months before COP29.

The push for a new pact on finance comes as nations are being urged to make deeper cuts to greenhouse gas emissions, with the world off track to meet the goals of the 2015 Paris agreement.

By early 2025, countries are to explain what steps they are taking in line with the agreement to limit global warming to 1.5 degrees Celsius above the pre-industrial level.

More money could allow for more ambitious climate action, and some developing nations want their pledges to be contingent on receiving financial aid.

India has proposed that developed countries provide \$1 trillion in climate finance every year from 2025 — 10 times the current target.

'The world has changed'

But there is also a vigorous debate around who should pay, with some parties calling for China and other major emerging economies to chip in.

Under a UN climate treaty signed in 1992, only a small handful of high-income countries that dominated the global economy at the time were required to pay climate finance.

China was not among them, but today it is not only far wealthier but also the world's largest polluter.

"The world has changed, obviously, since 1992," German Foreign Minister Annalena Baerbock said Thursday.

"This is why I strongly urge those who can to join our effort, and particularly the strongest polluters of today, particularly looking also at the G20," she said.

Later she said that China, India and Saudi Arabia could be added to the list of donors.

But this expansion "risks diluting the historical responsibilities of developed nations", said Harjeet Singh from the Fossil Fuel Non-Proliferation Treaty Initiative.

"Climate finance should fundamentally aim to address and rectify past and present inequalities caused by disproportionate emissions from rich countries," he told AFP.

Babayev is expected to join G7 environment and energy ministers at a meeting in Turin, Italy, from 28 to 30 April.

UN launches fund to shield displaced people from climate shocks

The United Nations said Wednesday it was launching a new Climate Resilience Fund aimed at boosting protections for "refugees and displaced communities" threatened by climate change.

The UN refugee agency said it aimed to raise \$100 million for the new fund by the end of next year to support refugees, their host communities and countries of origin hardest hit by climate emergencies.

The agency highlighted in a statement that climate risks were "strongly correlated with conflict and poverty", experienced by many refugees.

In 2022, more than 70 percent of refugees and asylum seekers fled from highly climate-vulnerable countries, it pointed out.

"The impacts of climate change are only becoming more devastating, increasingly exacerbating conflict, destroying livelihoods and, ultimately, triggering displacement," UN refugee chief Filippo Grandi said in the statement.

"Many of the countries that have been the most generous in accepting refugees are also the most impacted by the climate crisis," he added.

But, he warned, "funding available to address the impacts of climate change is not reaching those forcibly displaced, nor the communities hosting them".

UNHCR said its new fund would work to ensure that refugees were included in climate-related measures taken nationally and locally.

It would also aim to increase the availability of environmentally sustainable resources in refugee camps and other displacement settings. This would include providing more clean energy to for instance power water, schools and health infrastructure.

It will also support environmental restoration, building climate-resilient shelters and supporting climate-smart livelihoods, it said.

The UN refugee agency said the climate fund would prioritise projects which involve affected communities in their design and implementation, and which promise effects felt locally.

"By reducing exposure to climate-related hazards, securing access to sustainable resources, and promoting inclusion, these projects will deliver tangible improvements in the living conditions, safety, and well-being of refugees and their hosts," Grandi said.

The UNHCR works to protect more than 114 million people forced to flee their homes globally.

JOURNAL ONLINE

[The UN calls for increased support for climate resilience in the Philippines as drought wreaks havoc](#)

The international community is behind the Philippine Government as it faces a serious drought induced by El Niño. The Climate Crisis Coordinator for the El Niño / La Niña Response, UN Assistant Secretary-General Reena Ghelani and the UN Resident and Humanitarian coordinator in the Philippines, Gustavo Gonzalez urged for increased support to the Government response. This call was made at the end of the visit of the Climate Crisis Coordinator for the El Niño / La Niña Response in the Philippines.

The current El Niño episode, one of the strongest in history, is causing dry conditions and high temperatures across South-East Asia. In the Philippines, 41 provinces are experiencing drought and nearly 31 others are facing dry spells or dry conditions. More than 1,400,000 people have been affected and the upcoming harvest will likely be below average. The Government, with support from partners, has put in place a national Task Force, headed by the National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council, to prepare for and mitigate the worst impacts of the crisis on water, food security, health and energy.

The UN and humanitarian and development partners have been actively preparing for and responding to El Niño in the Philippines in support of the Government's El Niño relief efforts. In 2024, the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) and Oxfam Pilipinas activated their Anticipatory Action programs in the north, Isabela, and the south of the country, the Bangsamoro Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao, to provide immediate support to affected communities before the effects of drought are most felt. Early last year, the World Food Programme (WFP) worked with the Government and communities to build ponds and small reservoirs to ensure water sufficiency and food security in pre-identified areas affected by El Niño. Likewise, private sector's collective action is being monitored by the Philippine Disaster Resilience Foundation (PDRF). The majority of the sector's support is aligned with food and water security.

"The Philippines demonstrates the importance of acting early before a disaster strikes. With more frequent and severe climate shocks, it is crucial we strengthen our support to community resilience", said Reena Ghelani.

One of the most disaster-prone countries in the world, the Philippines is highly exposed and vulnerable to the impact of climate change. Recent estimates showed that climate

change could cost the Philippines over 7% of GDP by 2030. Disasters have already cost US\$ 23 billion in damages to the country since 1990.

“Building resilience to address shocks like El Niño/ La Niña is at the heart of the new UN Cooperation Framework signed with the Government last year. The UN Country Team is presently recalibrating such technical assistance as part of the Enhancing Resilient Communities flagship initiative. The visit of the UN Coordinator is very timely as climate-related investments are needed more than ever,” underscored Gustavo Gonzalez.

During her week-long mission to the Philippines, Reena Ghelani met with the Government’s National Task Force on El Niño, the Humanitarian Country Team, the Philippine Red Cross and other partners. She interacted with communities affected by El Niño and women’s groups engaged in strengthening community resilience. She also visited a climate-resilience housing project and spoke with local authorities and civil society organizations.

MANILA BULLETIN

[\[Opinion\] Build Initiative motivates personal climate action](#)

By: Anna Mae Lamentillo

Here in the Philippines, classes are usually suspended in the event of typhoons or heavy rains and flooding. But in recent weeks, classes had to shift to asynchronous mode as the scorching heat — which has reached 40 degrees Celsius and above — has become unbearable, especially to young students.

Yet again, we witness the devastating impacts of climate change literally unfold before our very eyes.

According to the World Meteorological Organization (WMO), the tandem of El Niño and climate change have fueled record temperatures and extreme events; while the Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration (PAGASA) has already warned of hotter days and nights in the coming month.

In a Social Weather Station (SWS) survey in December 2023, 57 percent of Filipino respondents thought that humanity as a whole could solve the climate crisis. Moreover, a good 74 percent thought that they could do something to solve climate change.

One of the main advocacies of Build Initiative is to help address the climate crisis by utilizing technology. Along with our objective to accelerate digital inclusion, we believe our collective actions will make a great impact.

We advocate for climate policies that are designed to be accessible to all individuals, ensuring that adaptive measures and resources are available to people of all abilities and backgrounds. This ensures that vulnerable populations, often the most affected by climate change, have equitable access to solutions and support.

One of our pioneer programs, the Carbon Compass, will help Filipinos contribute to solving the climate crisis by being conscious of how their actions impact the environment.

Carbon Compass is Build Initiative's cutting-edge app designed to help users worldwide, particularly in the Philippines, manage their carbon footprint. Leveraging artificial intelligence (AI), it tracks daily activities, travel, consumption, and energy usage, offering personalized insights and enabling effective carbon offsetting through global, verified projects.

Among the features of the app is the Personal Carbon Footprint Measurement, which calculates a person's specific carbon emissions based on daily behavior. Armed with this information alone, we can already make informed choices in terms of identifying the areas in our lifestyle that can kick off our journey to reducing our personal carbon footprint.

The app also allows users to compare their carbon footprint with the average annual footprint in the Philippines and with those of 195 countries worldwide. The data on the worldwide carbon footprint will help users to contextualize their contributions.

The app also leverages data from Google Maps to allow users to navigate through the Philippines, providing real-time carbon footprint data for various routes and transportation modes.

But Carbon Compass goes beyond encouraging individuals to embrace a sustainable lifestyle. It also enables users to offset their carbon emissions by funding science-backed environmental projects. These projects can be submitted by users from anywhere in the world and are rigorously verified by Build Initiative's independent team to ensure their effectiveness and credibility.

Like most Filipinos, Build Initiative believes that humanity can solve the climate crisis. While governments create and implement effective green policies and programs, individually, we can make an impact through a lifestyle change that favors sustainability, and allowing such change to infect other people and communities so that, together, we can build a world that will be safe and healthy to live in for centuries to come.

PAGEONE

DOTr Aims For Net-Zero Emission In Philippine Aviation By 2050

The Department of Transportation (DOTr) is working with stakeholders in the country's aviation sector to implement aviation projects and initiatives to achieve net-zero emissions by 2050.

In his speech during the 3rd International Civil Aviation Organization–European Union Aviation Safety Agency (ICAO-EASA) Forum on Tuesday, DOTr Secretary Jaime Bautista said these are projects such as the promotion of biofuels or sustainable aviation fuels and nature-based carbon sink projects.

“We partnered with a top local university to create opportunities for local carbon sink projects that would become a source of local air carriers’ emission offsetting requirements,” Bautista said.

He said the regulatory function of the Civil Aviation Authority of the Philippines (CAAP) over the development, expansion, and modernization of commercial airports would be strengthened.

“We hope to discover practical and sustainable solutions on safety regulations, inspector training as well as tools for safety oversight,” he added.

Civil aviation regulatory agencies in Europe and Southeast Asia, he said, must agree on a course of action towards safe and sustained connectivity to achieve the net-zero emission goal.

“This enhanced cooperation among civil aviation regulatory agencies in Europe and Southeast Asia would hopefully lead to improved aviation safety and environmental sustainability while strengthening our resilience to shocks and disruptions in the region,” Bautista said.

He emphasized that the forum helps by setting clear steps to achieve the net-zero emission goal of the global aviation industry by 2050.

“Philippine aviation is brimming with hope that today’s collaborations will not only synergize our respective endeavors towards sustained connectivity but also inspire to achieve regional inter-operability, a single aviation market, a seamless ASEAN sky and full-throttle industry digitalization,” he said.

To date, air traffic in 2023 rose 36.9 percent compared to 2022, and was at 94.1 percent of pre-pandemic levels.

By 2041, global air traffic is expected to reach 19.3 billion passengers, 200 million tons of cargo, and 153.8 million aircraft movements.

PHILIPPINE NEWS AGENCY

[UN chief mobilizes global leaders for climate action by 2025](#)

The United Nations unveiled the Climate Promise 2025 initiative on Tuesday, a concerted global effort to prevent temperatures from rising beyond 1.5 degrees Celsius as stipulated in the Paris Agreement.

Led by UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres and the UN Development Programme, the campaign mobilizes a diverse group of participants including social media influencers, indigenous leaders, and major corporations.

This wide-reaching initiative underscores a key message that, according to Guterres, "it is not all doom and gloom."

"Many countries have the will to take more ambitious steps on climate action, but the world needs to mobilize to ensure there is a way," Guterres said during the launch event dubbed Below 1.5 by 2025: The Plan.

Underlining the urgency, Guterres cited recent extreme weather events and scientific reports, warning that "what we are seeing is just a preview of the disaster that awaits unless we limit the long-term rise in global temperature to 1.5 degrees Celsius."

The "1.5 degrees Celsius limit is still possible, but not for long," said the UN chief, urging all nations, especially the Group of 20 (G20), to intensify their efforts.

"We need concrete steps this year to get finance flowing and enable a surge in climate ambition," he insisted. "The United Nations is rallying to support you. Please, seize the opportunity. Together, let's make the next round of climate action plans count."

CCC IN THE NEWS:

PAGEONE

[Climate Change Commission Calls On Public To Take Tangible Action Vs. Plastic Waste](#)

The Climate Change Commission (CCC) has urged the public to take action and commit to tangible changes in their everyday lives by reducing the use of single-use plastics and promoting a circular economy by reusing, recycling, and repurposing them.

In commemoration of Earth Month this April and celebration of Earth Day, CCC Vice Chairperson and Executive Director Robert E.A. Borje said this year's theme, which focuses on "Planet vs Plastics", aims to raise public awareness, drive action, and promote community engagement on the critical issue of plastic waste.

The CCC's social media campaign #PledgeForPlanetEarth encourages the public to share their actions aligned with their pledges by posting them in their social media accounts "stories" and "my day highlight".

It also urges social media users to use the #PledgeforPlanetEarth templates at <https://tinyurl.com/PledgeForPlanetEarth> to show support.

A study by the United Nations reveals that 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 making up 85 percent of total marine wastes, 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 Programme (UNDP) and World Bank Statistics.

The CCC said the impact of plastic waste goes beyond pollution as it contributes to greenhouse gas emissions at every stage of its lifecycle.

If this continues, plastics production could account for 15 percent of greenhouse gas emissions by 2050.

The CCC urged everyone to embrace the 5Rs: Reduce, Reuse, Recycle, Refuse, and Repurpose to help cut down on plastic waste and reduce carbon footprint.

=END=