



## NEWS ROUNDUP

01 MAY 2023 [ 08:00 am]

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#### [Marcos 'determined to forge even closer' ties with US during 5-day visit](#)

By: Katrina Domingo

President Ferdinand Marcos Jr. on Sunday departed for the United States for a 5-day official visit, calling the trip as part of the Philippines' "efforts to further reinforce our bonds with the United States."

## **BUSINESS MIRROR**

### **[For better response to natural disasters and climate change: PHL, EU partner in €10-M Copernicus space program](#)**

By: Rizal Raoul Reyes

The Philippines is in an unenviable status of being a disaster-prone country and in a problematic environmental situation as highlighted by being the world's third largest plastics polluter. There is no doubt the country needs all the help that it can get to address these challenging issues.

## **BUSINESS WORLD**

### **[PHL banks still funding coal power projects](#)**

By: Ashley Erika O. Jose

THE PHILIPPINES is falling short of its Paris climate commitments, with coal-fired plants still attracting financing from major banks, the sustainability think-tank Center for Energy, Ecology, and Development (CEED) said.

## **MANILA BULLETIN**

### **[Clarita Carlos tells Pinoys what the real enemy is](#)**

By: Ellson Quismoro

Professor Clarita Carlos' recent Facebook post reads like a message for Filipinos to set their petty differences aside as she reminded everyone what the real "enemy" is. According to the former national security adviser, the enemy is climate change and its the bane of Mother Earth.

### **[ELEVENTH HOUR — Filipino food threatened by climate change](#)**

By: Climate Reality Project Philippines

Being aware and involved in projects and initiatives tackling the state of the Filipino food industry opened my eyes to the imminent danger of losing delicious Filipino dishes because of the climate crisis.

## **Legarda pushes for immediate enactment of Zero Food Waste Act**

By: Mario Casayuran

Senate President Pro Tempore Loren Legarda has reiterated the importance and urgency of passing Senate Bill 240, or the Zero Food Waste Act of 2022 following a recent report of the Philippine Rice Research Institute's (PhilRice) recent report on the alarming P7.2 billion worth of rice wasted in the Philippines.

### **PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER**

## **Climate (in)justice (2)**

By: Rufa Cagoco-Guiam

Many problems associated with the rapacious exploitation of natural resources have had adverse effects not only on the environment but, more importantly, on marginalized and impoverished peoples. Several studies on climate fragility risks that I have already cited in my previous columns have pointed out that climate change, or extreme weather events like drought and flooding, have shown to be “threat multipliers” (Ruttinger, 2017), as they exacerbate the vulnerabilities of already fragile communities in terms of weak security and inadequate livelihoods.

### **PHILIPPINE INFORMATION AGENCY**

## **President Marcos to advance socioeconomic agendas in US, ASEAN Summit**

By: Kate Shiene Austria

President Ferdinand R. Marcos Jr. will travel to Washington D.C. from April 30 to May 4 on an official visit to reaffirm the special relationship between the Philippines and the United States.

## **Senate promotes zero food waste in PH**

By: OSLL

Senate President Pro Tempore Loren Legarda reiterates the importance and urgency of passing Senate Bill No. 240 or the Zero Food Waste Act of 2022 following the recent report of the Philippine Rice Research Institute (PhilRice) of wasted rice in the Philippines amounting to P7.2 billion.

## **PHILIPPINE NEWS AGENCY**

### **[PH urged to roll out carbon pricing to cut emissions](#)**

By: Kris Crismundo

The Philippines is encouraged to follow the initiatives of Southeast Asian neighbors Indonesia, Malaysia, Singapore, and Thailand, on the rollout of any form of carbon pricing.

## **PTV**

### **[Marcos bound for US to reaffirm ties, boost defense and socioeconomic bonds](#)**

By: Alec Go

President Ferdinand R. Marcos Jr. will be flying to the United States (US) next week to meet President Joe Biden and business leaders, a move seen to reaffirm socioeconomic and defense relations between the two nations.

## **RAPPLER**

### **[EU, Philippines launch P610-M space cooperation program](#)**

By: James Patrick Cruz

The European Union (EU) and the Philippines launched the first space cooperation program in Asia that seeks to harness data for environmental monitoring and disaster risk reduction.

## **THE MANILA TIMES**

### **[Climate change planning for Isabela PGI](#)**

By: Leander C. Domingo

The Isabela State University (ISU) Climate Change Center conducted an orientation workshop on enhanced Local Climate Change Action Plan (LCCAP) formulation to reinforce the Isabela provincial government's (PGI) capabilities in climate change strategic planning.

### [Legarda pushes 'green growth' for survival](#)

By: Javier Joe Ismael

SENATE President Pro Tempore Lorna Regina "Loren" Legarda is urging her fellow public servants to achieve "green growth" for the country as the nation commemorates Earth Day this month.

### **THE PHILIPPINE STAR**

### [Citizen-led initiative to monitor Oriental Mindoro oil spill](#)

By: Gaea Katreena Cabico

An initiative from civil society groups and affected communities to assist in monitoring and improving the availability of information on the Oriental Mindoro oil spill was launched on Friday, two months since a vessel carrying 800,000 liters of industrial oil sank.

### ['Threat of El Niño real; conserve, recycle water'](#)

By: Bella Cariaso

National Water Resources Board (NWRB) executive director Sevillo David Jr. yesterday said the threat of El Niño is real, as he urged the public to conserve and practice recycling of water.

### [New Water Resources Management Office created: What will it do?](#)

By: Gaea Katreena Cabico

As the Philippines braces for the return of El Niño and the dry spells and droughts it could bring, President Ferdinand "Bongbong" Marcos Jr. signed an executive order creating an office that will ensure the availability and sustainable management of water resources in the country.

## CCC IN THE NEWS:

### THE MANILA TIMES

#### [Climate Talks PH spotlights energy, climate action](#)

The German Embassy Manila, in cooperation with the Clean, Affordable and Secure Energy (CASE) for Southeast Asia project, on April 18 hosted the first edition of Climate Talks Philippines Manila at Yspace at the Yuchengco Museum, Makati City with the theme "Responsible climate action and enabling decarbonization in the Philippine energy sector: Pathways for a sustainable future."

#### [\[Opinion\] Climate change as a deadly threat to mankind](#)

By: Herminia Jacinto

"Buhay, kabuhayan at kinabukasan ng bawat Pilipino ang nakataya sa hamon ng nagbabagong klima." The quote is taken from the paper presented by Assistant Secretary Rommel Cuenca of the Climate Change Commission at the 16th Philippine Insurance Summit held last April 26, 2023 at the Dusit Thani Hotel. This summit was hosted by the Insurance Philippines, the Philippine insurance publication, and the Insurance Institute for Asia and the Pacific.

**Information and Knowledge Management Division**

**ABS CBN**

**Marcos 'determined to forge even closer' ties with US during 5-day visit**

By: Katrina Domingo

President Ferdinand Marcos Jr. on Sunday departed for the United States for a 5-day official visit, calling the trip as part of the Philippines' "efforts to further reinforce our bonds with the United States."

While meeting US President Joe Biden "is essential to advancing our national interest and strengthening that very important alliance," the trip will also include meetings with key industries and sectors," Marcos Jr. said in his pre-departure speech.

"During this visit, we will reaffirm our commitment to fostering our long-standing alliance as an instrument of peace and as a catalyst of development in the Asia-Pacific region and for that matter, the rest of the world," he said.

Marcos Jr. said he would convey to his US counterpart that "the President is determined to forge an even closer relationship with the United States in a wide range of areas that does not only address concerns of our times, but also those that are critical to advancing our core interests."

Among the issues Marcos Jr. expects to raise with Biden and other US officials are food security, agricultural production, digital economy, energy, climate change, cyber security, threats to economy, and global supply chain disruptions.

"One of my priorities for this visit is to push for greater economic investment, science and technology and innovation cooperation between the US and the Philippines," the Philippine President said.

Marcos Jr. said he is keen to "find opportunities" in the semiconductors, critical minerals, renewable and clean energy—including nuclear—and infrastructure projects that will improve our digital and telecommunication systems.

"I expect to meet with American business leaders to further promote trade and investment in the Philippines... that would serve to grow our economy even more," he said.

Also included in the President's US itinerary is a meeting with the Filipino-American community.

The Department of Foreign Affairs earlier said that there are some 4.21 million Filipinos in the US, making Filipinos the third largest Asian group in the world's biggest economy.

Marcos Jr. is expected to leave Washington DC on May 5, and proceed to London to attend the coronation of King Charles III on May 6.



## **BUSINESS MIRROR**

### **[For better response to natural disasters and climate change: PHL, EU partner in €10-M Copernicus space program](#)**

By: Rizal Raoul Reyes

The Philippines is in an unenviable status of being a disaster-prone country and in a problematic environmental situation as highlighted by being the world's third largest plastics polluter. There is no doubt the country needs all the help that it can get to address these challenging issues.

Fortunately, the country is now on the road to level-up its space program to be able to help address these current challenges.

Officials from the Department of Science and Technology (DOST), Philippine Space Agency (PhilSA) and the European Union (EU) launched the Copernicus Capacity Support Action Programme for the Philippines (CopPhil) at a hotel in Pasay City on April 24.

Worth approximately P610 million, or €10 million, the first space cooperation program in Southeast Asia is expected to help Philippine authorities develop national systems to make use of EU's earth observation's satellites data in the country's disaster mitigation, climate change adaptation and food security strategies.

Copernicus, the EU's earth observation flagship program, provides free environment and climate obtained data from a constellation of satellites called Sentinels, which monitor the Earth and its several ecosystems on a 24-hour daily basis.

Moreover, the free information aims to assist the government, the private sector and the international organizations manage climate change impacts and build a sustainable future for all.

During the launch, Science Secretary Renato U. Solidum Jr. welcomed Copernicus and the Copernicus program in the Philippines as "a long-awaited cooperation on an innovative system that will provide the [country's] new opportunities to develop earth observation applications for disaster risk reduction and management, environmental protection and climate change adaptation".

PhilSA Director General Joel Marciano Jr. said, "The agency welcomes this partnership with the European Union, saying that it will strengthen the domestic space value chain, particularly the ability to process and use satellite images and space-borne data to

better manage, and protect our environment and natural resources, and be better prepared in the face of disasters and climate change”.

European Union Ambassador to the Philippines Luc Véron said the Philippines is an obvious candidate for the program because of its various experiences in climate change mitigation.

“The Copernicus program for the Philippines is a pioneer initiative in Asia and Asia Pacific and a starting point for a larger program on Digital Connectivity. The program will enhance capacities for a stronger and more shock-resilient Filipino economy and society,” Veron said.

“In the long term the European Union is exploring the possibility to create a network of Copernicus partners in the Asean region aside from other parts of the world,” Veron explained.

“The uptake of innovative technologies, such as Copernicus, will trigger growth, jobs and modernization of digital infrastructures that can be used in many sectors in the Philippines,” he added.

Dr. Benjamin Koetz, head of sustainable initiatives office of the European Space Agency, said the Philippines will benefit from CopPhil as Copernicus is the largest producer of earth observation data in the world.

Through its Sentinel satellites, Copernicus produces 25 terabytes of data production daily, Koetz said.

“It will enhance the capabilities of the DOST and the PhilSA in responding to the challenges of climate change and disaster risk and recovery management,” he said.

“Copernicus will also provide connectivity between the Philippines and the Association of Southeast Nations to study climate change and other issues,” Koetz added.

Copernicus’s satellite images have already helped the Philippines monitor the situation of remote communities in the aftermath of typhoons, such as “Odette” in December 2021, or accidents like an oil spill to help authorities plan their disaster preparedness plans and mitigation programmes.

Solidum acknowledged the need for such “one-of-a-kind” technology, as the Philippines has been constantly confronted with climate and disaster risks, which create natural, environmental and biological hazards.

Being frequently exposed and vulnerable to the impact of these risks, he said the country has implemented a resilience and adaptation agenda to handle these challenges.

At the same time, the DOST chief pointed out that space technology could be harnessed to future-proof the country's economic and development gains.

"CopPhil will develop and leverage our own space and science technology applications to strengthen the nation's resilience to disasters, climate change and manage our environment better," he said.

Solidum said the administration of President Marcos Jr has given its all-out support and generosity to the partnership with the European Union for the development of space and technology in the country by providing sufficient funds to undertake research and development in activities to manage and mitigate the risks that threaten the country.

"We are one with him [Marcos] in appreciating and recognizing this partnership with the European Union which will help and continue to help us in developing and applying space innovations to enhance the country's resilience," the DOST leader said..

"This high-level statement from our president reaffirms the Philippines and European Union's strong bilateral cooperation not only in the field of disaster risk reduction and climate change adaptation but also with other countries' desire through enhanced cooperation and international stability in order to attain social and economic development," Solidum pointed out.

PhilSA's Marciano said value creation is one of the main tasks of the organization as it will help play a huge role in mapping the potential wealth that can be extracted from the country's natural resources.

"[Besides] saving lives, science will also help in creating wealth for the country," Marciano said.

Space capabilities are recognized in the Philippine Development Plan from 2022 to 2028, Marciano pointed out.

He added that PhilSA can share the information to government departments like in agriculture, and environment and natural resources.

Meanwhile, Solidum recognized that CopPhil will boost the country's hazard assessment and information capabilities to monitor certain places in the country.

He said the partnership with the EU can help assess the country's food security by helping monitor the production of crops and monitor the hazards during typhoons, floods, strong winds and El Niño.

"We can also see now the important relationship between the economy and the environment," Solidum pointed out.

## **BUSINESS WORLD**

### **[PHL banks still funding coal power projects](#)**

By: Ashley Erika O. Jose

THE PHILIPPINES is falling short of its Paris climate commitments, with coal-fired plants still attracting financing from major banks, the sustainability think-tank Center for Energy, Ecology, and Development (CEED) said.

“There is a convergence of climate, energy security and affordability, and environmental imperatives that point to the urgency of ending our use of this dirty fuel — warnings of the rapidly closing window to keep the 1.5°C global warming goal alive, in particular, should have already been a wakeup call,” Gerry C. Arances, executive director of CEED, said in a message.

According to a report from Withdraw from Coal: End Fossil Fuels (WFC-ECC) Philippine banks funded coal and gas-fired power plants. The financing amounted to \$867.08 million for the period April 2022 to March 2023.

The report identified the banks as Bank of the Philippine Islands, BDO Unibank, Inc., Metropolitan Bank & Trust Co., Security Bank Corp., Philippine National Bank, and China Bank Corp.

“Philippine banks that are still fueling coal with financing policies that sound good only on paper are making a game out of Filipinos’ climate survival,” Mr. Arances said.

“To date, the Philippines’ biggest banks are contributing to the unalignment of finance to climate initiatives by continuing to finance the coal industry. Worse, they have even begun to divert financing into the expansion of another fossil fuel — natural gas, better referred to as fossil gas,” the report said.

Coal-fired power plants still dominate the power generation mix at 57.5%, with natural gas accounting for 17.7% and renewable energy 23.4%.

According to a Climate Analytics report, a German non-profit, the Philippines must have an 80% share of renewable energy in its power mix by 2030 to become compliant with the Paris climate agreement.

The Paris Agreement binds signatories to take action in holding the increase of warming of global temperatures to well below 2°C compared to pre-industrial levels. Signatories have committed to action plans keeping warming at 1.5°C.

To limit global warming to about 1.5°C, greenhouse gas emissions must peak before 2025 and decline by around 43% by 2030.

## MANILA BULLETIN

### Clarita Carlos tells Pinoys what the real enemy is

By: Ellson Quismoro

Professor Clarita Carlos' recent Facebook post reads like a message for Filipinos to set their petty differences aside as she reminded everyone what the real "enemy" is. According to the former national security adviser, the enemy is climate change and its the bane of Mother Earth.

"Who is the ENEMY? The enemy is climate change...," Carlos wrote.

"The goal? The survival of our planet!" she added, as if trying to instill urgency to those who read the message.

Greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions--mostly resulting from human activity--warns the planet, causing climate change. This has triggered alterations in global weather patterns.

For a climate change-vulnerable country like the Philippines--which sits in the middle of the pacific--the effects could be devastating.

Carlos currently serves as House Speaker Martin Romualdez's chief policy adviser on security and defense concerns.

## [ELEVENTH HOUR — Filipino food threatened by climate change](#)

By: Climate Reality Project Philippines

Being aware and involved in projects and initiatives tackling the state of the Filipino food industry opened my eyes to the imminent danger of losing delicious Filipino dishes because of the climate crisis.

In celebration of the Filipino Food Month last April, I attended the KAIN Conference (KainCon), a three-day event hosted by Jose Rizal University last April 3 to 5, 2023.

This year's conference, with the theme "Shaping the Future of Philippine Culinary Heritage and Gastronomy," brought together Filipino farmers, culinary historians, chefs, researchers from the academe, students, and gastronomic experts to discuss the need for more local food cultivation and food preservation initiatives.

Prior to attending this conference, I contributed to the development of the paper entitled "Making Creativity Count: Operationalizing Statistical Mapping of Four Creative and Cultural Sectors under the Philippine Cultural Statistics Framework" as part of the research team on Philippine gastronomy for Iloilo.

This research project was implemented by De La Salle University Center for Business Research and Development in collaboration with the Creative Economy Council of the Philippines and with kind support from the National Commission for Culture and the Arts.

Back in 2020, I also served as a panelist in the forum "Food for Heroes" hosted by Palm Grass at The Cebu Heritage Hotel, which delved into the food our heroes and pre-colonial ancestors planted, nurtured, and consumed. During the forum, it was revealed that their diet protected them from diseases brought by colonizers.

There is a growing importance to preserve our culinary heritage and the Philippine gastronomy industry, which is closely linked to the state and challenges of our agricultural sector.

But despite its growing popularity as an essential component of our economy, together with tourism, the impacts of the climate crisis in our culinary heritage and food industry, at the same time the food industry's role in addressing the climate crisis, they all remain at the backburner of national consciousness.

Land and water are essential components of a thriving food industry

Undeniably, climate change can significantly impact soil quality and potable water supply.



During the interviews I conducted with fisherfolk and farmers, they mentioned that the changing climate significantly contributed to and affected their fisheries and agricultural output.

Soil quality is affected by climate change and can lead to changes in temperature, precipitation, and other environmental factors. We are currently experiencing extreme and intolerable heat. This increase in temperature can cause soil to dry out, reducing its fertility and consequently making it vulnerable to erosion, affecting the health of our crops.

Water availability is critical for agriculture to thrive, and climate change can significantly impact the water supply. The loss of water supply affects human consumption and our ecosystems. Like its impact on soil fertility, temperature changes and precipitation patterns threaten our water security.

With some regions in the Philippines now experiencing frequent and severe droughts while others experiencing intense rainfall and flooding, crop yields are affected because water for irrigation is undermined.

The availability of fertile soil and water in our agricultural lands is crucial in harvesting the crops we need to cook our most cherished Filipino dishes.

#### Economic viability and sustainability of Filipino food

The Philippine food industry is a significant contributor to our local economy. However, climate change is threatening the economic viability and sustainability of the country's food production system, which may lead to economic losses and productivity disruptions in our farms.

For one, climate change is posing a significant threat to rice production across the country. Rising temperatures and changes in precipitation patterns will reduce crop yield and diminish food quality. Increased frequency of extreme weather events like typhoons, floods, and droughts due to climate change can lead to crop losses and agriculture-related infrastructure damages.

It is now timely and urgent to develop climate-resilient food systems that can adapt to the various impacts of changing weather patterns with the crucial participation of affected communities. The promotion of sustainable agriculture practices and agroforestry, as well as alternative food sources which are more resilient to the impacts of climate change, is critical now more than ever.

#### Food culture of indigenous people

Filipino indigenous food culture is also vital in protecting Filipino food against the threat of climate change. It has an irreplaceable role in the knowledge of local and traditional food sources, including the traditional food preservation methods that can help sustainably manage our food.

We can learn so much from their existing century-old traditional knowledge and practices on food production. Only by engaging with indigenous communities and valuing their vast knowledge and practices can we live up to this year's Filipino Food Month theme "Pagkaing Sariling Atin, Mahalin at Pagyamanin."

## Legarda pushes for immediate enactment of Zero Food Waste Act

By: Mario Casayuran

Senate President Pro Tempore Loren Legarda has reiterated the importance and urgency of passing Senate Bill 240, or the Zero Food Waste Act of 2022 following a recent report of the Philippine Rice Research Institute's (PhilRice) recent report on the alarming P7.2 billion worth of rice wasted in the Philippines.

"Our country is rich in food resources, yet millions of Filipinos cannot afford three meals daily. The excess edible food supply must be highlighted and utilized to feed the millions of hungry Filipinos," she said.

Legarda emphasized that the Zero Food Waste Act of 2022 is a timely response to the country's pressing issue of food waste. She filed this measure last year.

The measure aims to implement a system that will encourage food waste reduction in the Philippines through recycling and redistribution.

In doing so, the bill will mandate a specific government agency to launch the National Zero Food Waste Campaign, raise awareness on this issue, and develop a Food-related Business Waste Reduction Strategy and a Household and Local Government Unit Waste Reduction Strategy.

The Department of Agriculture (DA) said that a shortage of 80,000 metric tons of rice from July to September is expected.

Legarda said she firmly believes that with the food recovery and redistribution network that would be established once the bill is passed, this concern about rice production could also be addressed.

"The Zero Food Waste Act of 2022 is not just about reducing food waste; it is also about promoting sustainability and reducing the environmental impact of food waste. When food is wasted, we not only lose the resources and energy that went into producing it, but we also contribute to producing methane gas that contributes to climate change," she explained.

"The issue of food waste will continue to be a problem unless we act on it now," she added.

## PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

### Climate (in)justice (2)

By: Rufa Cagoco-Guiam

Many problems associated with the rapacious exploitation of natural resources have had adverse effects not only on the environment but, more importantly, on marginalized and impoverished peoples. Several studies on climate fragility risks that I have already cited in my previous columns have pointed out that climate change, or extreme weather events like drought and flooding, have shown to be “threat multipliers” (Ruttinger, 2017), as they exacerbate the vulnerabilities of already fragile communities in terms of weak security and inadequate livelihoods.

These populations are among the least capable of bouncing back quickly after storms, earthquakes, and other calamities strike. Consequently, because of their lack of capacity to recover after such climate change phenomena, members of these communities are among the first fatalities and for whom massive external humanitarian assistance is required.

Among pastoralists in the African continent that experience long droughts, community members become agitated due to the lack of food and water, making them easy targets for recruitment to cattle rustling gangs and other groups that use violence to earn some money for their families. This also found resonance in the exploratory study I took part in where we asked how climate change phenomena have pushed impoverished communities in some rural areas in the Ligawasan wetlands in the heart of the two Maguindanao provinces to resort to some criminal activities, as I have written before.

The adverse consequences of environmental degradation—deforestation, mining, drilling for natural gas, land conversion to monocrop plantations, or any kind of disturbance on the earth’s finite resources—have caused the overall warming of our planet, oceans, and seas. All these actions leading to environmental degradation have been made possible largely because of avaricious capitalistic interests rationalizing these as part of human development.

Such development has been unkind to already impoverished people. Long dry seasons have made poor families move to places where they have access to water, both for subsistence and for their overall health and well-being. Many of them die due to dehydration, as what happened to more than 40,000 people who died largely to the debilitating effects of a prolonged dry season in Somalia just recently.

Ironically, the victims of the drought in Somalia were not those who caused the rapid desertification of their lands. But the impoverished among them suffered first. The

drought's death toll did not include the owners of capitalist business companies and their government enablers.

This is an example of how climate change can be a source of injustice for the world's poor, marginalized, and largely excluded populations.

In the devastating Lake Maughan-Mount Parker tragedy in 1995, a local politician was hauled into court because he and his group were allegedly behind the drilling of the mountain that caused Mount Parker to collapse. The mountain's collapse inundated Lake Maughan that sat on top of it, causing the flooding of the low-lying communities in three provinces: South Cotabato, Sultan Kudarat, and Maguindanao, including the city of Cotabato. The majority of those who died were poor and largely marginalized, economically and politically.

After more than 20 years, the victims of such a tragic climate-related incident have not received reparations to pay for the loss of lives of their family members. And it is not clear whether the local politician has indeed been convicted for this case.

Last Oct. 29, 2022, more than 60 people, mainly from the indigenous group, the Teduray, were buried alive near Mount Minandar, in a barangay in Datu Odin Sinsuat municipality in Maguindanao del Norte. This happened after floodwaters and stones carried by the flood submerged their houses at the foot of Mount Minandar in the aftermath of Typhoon "Paeng" (international name: Nalgae) last year. Like Mount Parker, Mount Minandar has been heavily drilled for gravel and deforested over time, not by the indigenous communities, but by businessmen and women who are also local political leaders.

The long-term human exploitation of Mount Minandar's resources exacerbated the vulnerability of the Teduray, who had largely been socially and politically excluded in their province. Their deaths are the consequences of injustice, via an extreme climate event like flooding.

## **PHILIPPINE INFORMATION AGENCY**

### **President Marcos to advance socioeconomic agendas in US, ASEAN Summit**

By: Kate Shiene Austria

President Ferdinand R. Marcos Jr. will travel to Washington D.C. from April 30 to May 4 on an official visit to reaffirm the special relationship between the Philippines and the United States.

The Philippines recognizes the United States as major bilateral trade and official development assistance partner. The two countries maintain a shared commitment to continually evolve for a dynamic economic relation.

The Chief Executive is expected to meet with US President Joseph “Joe” Biden and will have an expanded meeting with key Cabinet officials. The two highest officials are expected to discuss matters on promoting socioeconomic agendas and harness partnerships in agriculture, energy, climate change, digital transformation and technology, humanitarian assistance, disaster relief, supply chains, and infrastructure.

On the matters of security and defense, the Philippines will be counting on the United States to support its efforts in terms of enhancing maritime cooperation, upholding international law, freedom of navigation and overflight, and promoting of sustainable development of marine resources.

On the sideline of this state visit, President Marcos will also meet with major US companies and business organizations to promote the country as a trading partner and investment market.

Moreover, the President is also expected to deliver major policy speech in the Think Tank. He is also expected to meet the Filipino community during his US visit.

Immediately following the meeting with the US President, the Philippine delegation will be traveling to Labuan Bajo, Indonesia on May 10 to 11 to attend the 42nd ASEAN Summit.

The President will be conducting interface dialogues with other ASEAN member states leaders to exchange views on key regional issues and build consensus on matters of mutual interest and provide policy directions on ASEAN community building efforts.

The ASEAN leaders will hold interfaces with:

- ASEAN Inter-Parliamentary Assembly (IPA)

- ASEAN Youth Representatives
- ASEAN Business Advisory Council (ASEAN BAC)
- High Level Task Force on the ASEAN Community Post-2025

President Marcos will also assert the demonstration of ASEAN centrality in the region amidst geopolitical rivalries. He will likewise be advancing the Philippine priorities in ASEAN through regional and multilateral cooperation in areas such as long-term food and energy security, efforts toward economic recovery, combatting transnational crimes, upgrading of technical and vocation education and training, adapting climate and disaster resilient technologies and transitioning to renewable and alternative energy technologies, and the protection of migrant workers.

ASEAN leaders are also expected to adopt a roadmap on East Timor's full membership in ASEAN.

President Marcos will also will take part in the 15th Brunei Darussalam-Indonesia-Malaysia-Philippines East Asia Growth Area (BIMPEAGA) Summit which would be convened on the May 11.

The Chief Executive will discuss developments under BIMPEAGA Vision 2025 towards promoting economic development, strengthening connectivity and sustainable management of natural resources in the subregion.

This state visit and attendance to summits are expected to bring fruit to the country as the Marcos administration move towards economic recovery while strengthening foreign relations.

## Senate promotes zero food waste in PH

By: OSLL

Senate President Pro Tempore Loren Legarda reiterates the importance and urgency of passing Senate Bill No. 240 or the Zero Food Waste Act of 2022 following the recent report of the Philippine Rice Research Institute (PhilRice) of wasted rice in the Philippines amounting to P7.2 billion.

"Our country is rich in food resources, yet millions of Filipinos cannot afford three meals daily. The excess edible food supply must be highlighted and utilized to feed the millions of hungry Filipinos," Legarda said.

Senator Legarda emphasizes that the Zero Food Waste Act of 2022 is a timely response to the country's pressing issue of food waste. The measure aims to implement a system that will encourage food waste reduction in the country through recycling and redistribution.

In doing so, the proposed legislation will mandate a specific government agency to launch the National Zero Food Waste Campaign, raise awareness on this issue, and develop a Food-related Business Waste Reduction Strategy and a Household and Local Government Unit Waste Reduction Strategy.

Meanwhile, the Department of Agriculture (DA) also said that a shortage of 80,000 metric tons of rice from July to September this year is expected.

Legarda is confident that all these concerns about rice production and food wastage can be addressed if the food recovery and redistribution network is established once the bill is passed.

"The Zero Food Waste Act of 2022 is not just about reducing food waste; it is also about promoting sustainability and reducing the environmental impact of food waste. When food is wasted, we not only lose the resources and energy that went into producing it, but we also contribute to producing methane gas that contributes to climate change," Legarda explained.

She continues to rally for support and immediate action to address this pressing issue of food waste.

"The issue of food waste will continue to be a problem unless we act on it now," she stressed.



## PHILIPPINE NEWS AGENCY

### [PH urged to roll out carbon pricing to cut emissions](#)

By: Kris Crismundo

The Philippines is encouraged to follow the initiatives of Southeast Asian neighbors Indonesia, Malaysia, Singapore, and Thailand, on the rollout of any form of carbon pricing.

The country could implement carbon taxing or a carbon trading system to accelerate the reduction of its greenhouse house gas emissions, Asian Development Bank (ADB) Economic Research and Regional Cooperation Development economist David Raitzer said on the sidelines of the launch of the ADB's Asian Development Outlook (ADO) 2023 Thematic Report in its headquarters here Thursday.

Raitzer said the newly released ADO 2023 also tackles the pros and cons of a carbon tax policy and a carbon credit mechanism that could help the country choose the best carbon pricing measure that is more effective for the market.

"Taxation is usually simpler to implement because you can impose it just as a tax on fuel. Whereas, you have to do much more monitoring in a trading system," he told the Philippine News Agency (PNA). "But in a trading scheme, you can set the emissions objective, and then the market resolves the price."

The country does not have any carbon pricing policy but there are initiatives in the legislative branch to pursue a carbon tax and a carbon credit system.

Earlier, Energy Secretary Raphael Lotilla said his department has to carefully assess taxes on the energy sector, as implementing the carbon tax might further hike the already high electricity prices in the country.

The ADB report shows that Asia is highly vulnerable to climate change.

Under a high carbon emissions scenario, climate change could incur gross domestic product losses of 24 percent in developing Asia and 30 percent in Southeast Asia in 2100.

**PTV**

**Marcos bound for US to reaffirm ties, boost defense and socioeconomic bonds**

By: Alec Go

President Ferdinand R. Marcos Jr. will be flying to the United States (US) next week to meet President Joe Biden and business leaders, a move seen to reaffirm socioeconomic and defense relations between the two nations.

The Department of Foreign Affairs (DFA) said the meeting between the two leaders will take place on May 1, followed by an expanded meeting with key Cabinet officials.

Referring to the President's visit, DFA further explained that "it will substantively progress efforts to further deepen relations and political ties, to bring about lasting socio-economic partnerships, as well as to enhance defense and security cooperation."

"The President is expected to advance the Philippines' socio-economic and development priorities and harness closer partnership in such areas as agriculture, energy, climate change, digital transformation and technology, humanitarian assistance and disaster relief, supply chains, and infrastructure."

Marcos is set to meet with legislators, as well as major US companies and business groups to promote the Philippines as a trading market and investment spot.

He is also set to speak at a think tank in Washington D.C.

DFA Spokesperson Ma. Teresita Daza said there will be a "heavy emphasis in terms of the economic agenda" during this trip.

Similar to his previous overseas activities, the chief executive will also meet with the Filipino community in the US capital.

'Sea of peace'

As for the situation in the West Philippine Sea, Daza said Marcos will count on the US in terms of maritime ties, as well as in upholding international law and freedom of navigation and overflight and in promoting sustainable development of marine resources.

"[The] President has always been consistent in saying that we will uphold our sovereignty and safeguard our sovereign rights and interest in the South China [Sea]

and we will do this through diplomacy, military's law enforcement, and public diplomacy action," said the official.

On April 23, Chinese coast guard ships "exhibited aggressive tactics" towards BRP Malapascua and BRP Malabrigo in Ayungin Shoal based on the Philippine Coast Guard's report.

The PCG also reported the sighting of Chinese maritime militia vessels in the West Philippine Sea.

Daza said the President may also mention in his visit that they are "looking at great partners including the United States to calm the waters."

"Because as I earlier said, we want the waters to be a sea of peace. We are also very wary of possible miscalculations or further escalation of tensions in the region," Daza said.

## **RAPPLER**

### **[EU, Philippines launch P610-M space cooperation program](#)**

By: James Patrick Cruz

The European Union (EU) and the Philippines launched the first space cooperation program in Asia that seeks to harness data for environmental monitoring and disaster risk reduction.

The P610-million Copernicus Capacity Support Action Programme for the Philippines (CopPhil), which was launched on Monday, April 24, will allow Filipino scientists to access the vast satellite data from EU.

With the Philippines as one of the countries most vulnerable to natural hazards and climate change, Department of Science and Technology Secretary Renato Solidum Jr. said the satellite data from the EU could help “strengthen the nation’s resilience to disasters and climate change.”

“We want to make use of the data from EU Copernicus Observation satellites and ground-based data collection systems to support the Philippine government’s capacities for decision-making and monitoring of policy implementation based on timely and accurate data,” he said.

On average, 20 tropical cyclones hit the Philippines every year. The most disastrous of these have caused billions worth of damage to agriculture and have severely damaged communities.

#### Network of partners

Aside from helping in disaster response, the Philippine Space Agency said the satellite data from Copernicus will aid other government agencies in better decision-making.

“We will bring this CopPhil programme and its output into the venue, not just to create awareness but traction across government agencies on the utilization of data and subsequently distributing this capacity not to be concentrated within PhilSA or the DOST but to be pervasive across the Philippine society,” PhilSA Director General Joel Marciano Jr. said.

Prior to the launch of the program, Copernicus’ satellite images have already helped local authorities monitor calamities such as the aftermath of typhoon Odette and more recently the Oriental Mindoro oil spill.

The EU also shared its interest to expand partnerships with other countries in Southeast Asia.

“In the long term the European Union is exploring the possibility to create a network of Copernicus partners in the ASEAN region aside from other parts of the world,” EU Ambassador to the Philippines Luc Véron said.

Apart from data sharing, the three-year CopPhil program includes skills development and data infrastructure support.

In 2021, Philippines and Japan inked an agreement to promote space cooperation between the two countries.

## **THE MANILA TIMES**

### **Climate change planning for Isabela PGI**

By: Leander C. Domingo

The Isabela State University (ISU) Climate Change Center conducted an orientation workshop on enhanced Local Climate Change Action Plan (LCCAP) formulation to reinforce the Isabela provincial government's (PGI) capabilities in climate change strategic planning.

Through the university's partnership with the University of the Philippines Los Baños, ISU-Climate Change Center propels regional climate change initiatives and has been recently identified as the host of the model concept of a subnational competence center focused on Climate Information Services.

Its Iligan-City-based workshop, held in partnership with the Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG), introduced science-based innovations on climate change management based on ISU's existing knowledge models.

Participating PGI offices included planning and development, health, environment, engineering, agriculture, social welfare and development, budget, and disaster risk reduction and management.

Myrna Kaye Ramos and April Tarun of ISU-Cabagan tackled enhanced LCCAP formulation processes such as the technical components of climate information and disaster risk assessment and the greenhouse gas inventory.

A LCCAP is part of the institutional mandate of local government units (LGUs) in the country pursuant to DILG Memorandum Circular 2014-135, which comes with the directives to consider climate change adaptation as one of their regular functions.

LGUs are required to furnish the Climate Change Commission (CCC) with copies of their action plans and all their subsequent amendments, modifications and revisions, within one month of their adoption.

According to ISU, Region 2 (Cagayan Valley) has 87.76 percent of submission compliance to the CCC as of the November 2022 data by the National Integrated Climate Change Database and Information Exchange System.

## Legarda pushes 'green growth' for survival

By: Javier Joe Ismael

SENATE President Pro Tempore Lorna Regina "Loren" Legarda is urging her fellow public servants to achieve "green growth" for the country as the nation commemorates Earth Day this month.

As the Philippines continues to be included on the top list of countries most affected by climate change in recent years, Legarda, a long-time advocate of the environment, underscored the importance of climate action as "a matter of survival."

She said there was no other recourse but to usher in green growth and transform the economy toward a low-carbon and climate-resilient path, as she stated during the 5th Singapore Dialogue on Sustainable World Resources in Singapore in 2018.

"We pursue this path only because we know it is the best way to protect our people and climate, but also because we know it will spur economic growth," Legarda said.

## THE PHILIPPINE STAR

### Citizen-led initiative to monitor Oriental Mindoro oil spill

By: Gaea Katreena Cabico

An initiative from civil society groups and affected communities to assist in monitoring and improving the availability of information on the Oriental Mindoro oil spill was launched on Friday, two months since a vessel carrying 800,000 liters of industrial oil sank.

“Bantay Oil Spill” aims to provide communities and groups a space to report updates, images, stories, and information on the oil spill.

Fr. Edwin Gariguez, lead convenor of Protect Verde Island Passage, said the citizen-led initiative highlights the need to amplify the voices of communities seeking justice.

“Sixty long days have passed and with no end in sight still, we aim to let the government and responsible parties know that our communities are active, aware, and united in their fight to seek accountability and action,” Gariguez said.

Nearly two months after MT Princess Empress sank in rough seas, the tanker is still leaking.

The oil spill is disrupting the livelihoods of fishers and tourism workers, and is threatening an area because of its rich marine life.

#### Tracking data

In its first oil spill bulletin, the groups highlight satellite data from SkyTruth, a nonprofit watchdog that uses satellite imagery and remote sensing data to identify and monitor environmental threats.

According to SkyTruth data, MT Princess Empress did not appear to broadcast an automatic identification system (AIS) signal when it sank on February 28.

SkyTruth also noted the lack of an AIS signal could be a violation of the SOLAS Convention, an international maritime treaty that sets minimum safety standards in the construction, equipment, and operation of merchant ships.



“Had the AIS signal from MT Princess Empress been complete and reliable, it would have been easier to identify the location of the sunken vessel earlier on and helped prevent worse repercussions,” said Gerry Arances, executive director of the Center for Energy, Ecology, and Development and co-convenor of Protect VIP.

Initial estimates put the environmental damage caused by the Oriental Mindoro oil spill at P7 billion, Environment Secretary Antonia Loyzaga said.

The National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council (NDRRMC) reported that damage to fisheries, including income loss, has reached P3.8 billion.

## 'Threat of El Niño real; conserve, recycle water'

By: Bella Cariaso

National Water Resources Board (NWRB) executive director Seville David Jr. yesterday said the threat of El Niño is real, as he urged the public to conserve and practice recycling of water.

“That is real. According to PAGASA (Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration), there is now 80 percent chance for the El Niño to be felt before the end of the year and it is possible that we will experience El Niño until next year, especially during the first quarter,” David said.

David echoed the call of Metropolitan Waterworks and Sewerage System (MWSS) Deputy Administrator Jose Dorado Jr. to Metro Manila mayors to pass ordinances to regulate the use of water in golf courses, car wash and swimming pools to address the dwindling water level at Angat Dam.

“In the event we need to manage the supply of water, these are the industries that we will recommend to limit the use of water,” David said.

Dorado has said that a golf course uses at least 700 to 1,400 cubic meters of water per month, while each carwash spends 60 to 100 cubic meters per month, enough to supply the water requirement of 2,000 household customers.

“With or without El Niño, we need to conserve water every day as the water supply is not unlimited. Our water requirement also increases because of population development,” David said.

According to David, residents should recycle to help conserve water from Angat Dam.

“Our first suggestion is to check whether there are leaks in the households. Let’s stop wasting water while brushing our teeth, use a glass, when washing our hands, make sure the water from the faucet is not being wasted,” David said.

David noted that the water level of Angat Dam decreases daily by at least 0.3 meters or 30 centimeters.

“Because of the high temperature, the evaporation of water also contributes to the decline of the level of Angat Dam.”

As of 6 a.m. on Saturday, the water level of Angat Dam was at 195.51 meters, compared to its previous measure of 195.81 meters. The dam's water level is still 8.98 meters before it reaches its rule curve elevation of 186.53 meters or the level of the dam to be able to fulfill its functions.

David said the government prohibits the use of deep wells.

"We do not allow the use of deep wells as it threatens the environment. At present, we only allow the MWSS to tap deep wells for standby supply," he explained.

David said President Marcos has issued a directive to various agencies to address the threat of El Niño.

PAGASA said the El Niño phenomenon could start in the next two to three months.

According to the weather bureau, the severe effect of the drought will start in December 2023 until April 2024.

The state agency said it only expects one tropical cyclone in April; one to two each in May and June and two to three each in July, August and September 2023.

"[Marcos] ordered the creation of an El Niño team led by the DILG (Department of the Interior and Local Government) to underscore the importance of the role of the local government units to prepare for the threats of the El Niño. Based on the projection, the rainfall in June, July, August is still normal. We hope that our dams can recover, but we are monitoring the last quarter and early part of 2024 as it's again a summer season. We need to have enough stocks of water," David said.

Angat Dam supplies more than 90 percent of Metro Manila's potable water needs and provides for the irrigation needs of 25,000 hectares of farmlands in Bulacan and Pampanga.

## [New Water Resources Management Office created: What will it do?](#)

By: Gaea Katreena Cabico

As the Philippines braces for the return of El Niño and the dry spells and droughts it could bring, President Ferdinand "Bongbong" Marcos Jr. signed an executive order creating an office that will ensure the availability and sustainable management of water resources in the country.

Marcos on Thursday signed Executive Order 22 creating the Water Resources Management Office (WRMO) in the Department of Environment and Natural Resources.

WRMO was created to address the challenges affecting the management of water resources in the country such as the fragmented water and sanitation sector, increasing demand for water due to population and economic growth, impacts of climate change and the COVID-19 pandemic, lack of infrastructure, and inconsistent government regulations.

The office will serve as a transitory body pending the creation of the Department of Water—among the pieces of legislation that Marcos has identified as a priority.

### Mandate

WRMO is mandated to ensure the immediate implementation of the Integrated Water Resources Management in line with the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals, and formulate a corresponding Water Resources Master Plan, the Presidential Communications Office said in a statement.

The office is directed to integrate into the IWMP the development plans of other agencies, including the following:

- Philippine Development Plan
- Philippine Water Supply and Sanitation Master Plan
- National Water Resources Board Security Master Plan

WRMO is also tasked to generate and maintain credible and timely water and sanitation data to aid in evidence-based policy-making, regulations, planning, and implementation.

It will also "shepherd and champion" the passage of the proposed Department of Water as well as a regulatory commission on water.

WRMO will be headed by an undersecretary to be appointed by the president upon the recommendation of Environment Secretary Antonia Loyzaga.

Loyzaga told media in February that the yet to be named undersecretary will be "an expert [who] has a scientific background in terms of water resource management" and who understands climate change and its implications on water security.

The DENR also has an attached agency that coordinates and regulates water resource development activities of the country—the National Water Resources Board. It issues water permits for the appropriation and use of water resources, and reviews water resource development plans of other agencies.

State weather bureau PAGASA earlier said there was a good chance El Niño would develop in July to September. It may persist until 2024.

## CCC IN THE NEWS:

### THE MANILA TIMES

#### [Climate Talks PH spotlights energy, climate action](#)

The German Embassy Manila, in cooperation with the Clean, Affordable and Secure Energy (CASE) for Southeast Asia project, on April 18 hosted the first edition of Climate Talks Philippines Manila at Yspace at the Yuchengco Museum, Makati City with the theme "Responsible climate action and enabling decarbonization in the Philippine energy sector: Pathways for a sustainable future."

Following the Climate Talks in Tacloban City, the event served as a platform for members of government, the business community, and the private sector, to come together and discuss the necessary steps, roles, and possible contributions in relation to responsible climate action. Climate Talks are an instrument of Germany's diplomacy to bring together, experts, stakeholders and civil society to exchange and find solutions to the current climate crisis.

The event's opening ceremony began with a speech by German Ambassador to the Philippines Anke Reiffenstuel, and welcoming remarks by Department of Energy Undersecretary Felix William Fuentebella. German State Secretary and Special Envoy for International Climate Action Jennifer Lee Morgan delivered the event's keynote speech, highlighting her visit to Tacloban and the city's experiences of Typhoon Haiyan back in 2013. She underscored that Germany has a lead role in climate action and called for solidarity with vulnerable communities through new funding arrangements for Loss and Damage as decided at COP27.

The subsequent discussion was held among a distinguished panel with Morgan and Fuentebella who were joined on stage by Atty. Angela Gia Ibay, Climate Change and Energy Program Head of the WWF Philippines, Dr. Faye Abigail Cruz, Laboratory Head of the Manila Observatory, and Caldwell Gregory Hoey, Renewable Energy Director of the MATEC Maschinen & Technik Inc. The panel was moderated by Ruth Yu-Owen, President of Upgrade Energy Philippines, Inc.

The panel gave initial reactions to the speeches by Morgan and Fuentebella, agreeing that the implementation of the Loss and Damage approach can contribute to support the Philippines' own energy transition. Morgan explained Germany's path to a comprehensive renewable energy supply, including the experience of phasing out coal, saying, "The German government pulled together various stakeholders, scientists,

business, local authorities, from the states that had the coal, NGOs, and they negotiated actually a coal phase out date of 2038 that they recommended to the government."

She said this kind of work across different sectors could be an opportunity for dialogue about financing the accelerated decommission of coal between the Philippines, banks such as the Asian Development Bank (ADB), and countries like Germany. Germany also shut down its last nuclear plant last April 15.

When asked for the stance of the Philippine government, Fuentebella pointed out that the Philippines, as an archipelago, is confronted with challenges different to Germany. He also underlined that the Philippines is exploring how to combine its excess of offshore wind with generation of green hydrogen or ammonia.

Responding to how external factors affect the private sector's role in the renewable energy development, Hoey said "I believe that's [economics] usually the biggest driver of how we want to implement renewable energy projects right now and because fuel price is up, it means all our energy costs are as well. Inquiries and corporate requirements for implementing renewable energy have probably risen double in the last three years alone."

Dr. Cruz highlighted the relations of climate action and energy use, stating, "In the recent Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) 6th Assessment Report, it was highlighted that it's not just through supply but also in the demand that you can reduce your emissions. And so this is actually a good opportunity to tell people that they do have a role." This then poses the question of how to mainstream mass behavioral change.

In terms of public policy, the Philippines' Energy Efficiency and Conservation Act enables development planning of local government units (LGU) to integrate energy and involve different actors in the process. Speaking about her experience working with LGUs, Atty. Ibay said, "You can track that, you can make a pathway for clean energy to come in as part of your development, and then fully understand how to work with the electric cooperatives, how to work with businesses, promote solar energy in certain areas."

The event was concluded with closing remarks by the Vice Chairperson and Executive Director of the Philippine Climate Change Commission, Robert E.A. Borje, who commended Germany for hosting the Climate Talks Philippines.

Borje explained that the Philippine's transition to a low carbon economy relies on 4 Ps: clear policies, programs that matter, partnerships and progress. In order to achieve this progress, measures needed to be coherent and coordinated, encouraging stakeholders' compliance.

To conclude, Borje reinforced that, "We all can contribute and galvanize our work. Climate justice needs to be the bedrock of all our actions."



## [Opinion] Climate change as a deadly threat to mankind

By: Herminia Jacinto

"Buhay, kabuhayan at kinabukasan ng bawat Pilipino ang nakataya sa hamon ng nagbabagong klima." The quote is taken from the paper presented by Assistant Secretary Rommel Cuenca of the Climate Change Commission at the 16th Philippine Insurance Summit held last April 26, 2023 at the Dusit Thani Hotel. This summit was hosted by the Insurance Philippines, the Philippine insurance publication, and the Insurance Institute for Asia and the Pacific.

The topic of climate change has become even more relevant and timely after a series of natural catastrophic events which occurred last year. The unusual weather conditions we are experiencing now are just one of the signs that the effect may be more serious than originally thought of. The summit was graced by the presence of our newly appointed Insurance commissioner, Reynaldo Regalado, and deputy commissioner Erickson Balmes. The keynote speaker was the one and only Dean Tony la Viña of the Manila Observatory and a popular TV personality.

Various speakers and presenters both from government and the private sector described the various threats that our people and properties can be exposed to because of the worsening climate changes. Typhoons are super strong, flooding cover wider areas and take a long time to recede destroying plants and vegetation that are the source of income of the greater part of our population. There are many initiatives that have been undertaken by both the government and private sector to provide education and funding to places where these are needed most. My colleague in insurance has written extensively about Arise Philippines, the organization whose mission is aligned with the Sendai Framework Disaster and Risk Reduction. Risk management and disaster resilience in all sectors of society should be promoted in all sectors of society and this can be achieved through dissemination of the information by educational institutions.

The Climate Change Commission, an agency under the Office of the President, is tasked with developing the country's strategies, positions and plans on climate change among relevant stakeholders by establishing and strengthening partnerships with important sectors of society. They are ready to guide the pertinent government agency/agencies and the communities in adopting the sustainable practices needed to mitigate severe climate change conditions. Dr. Renato Solidum, the head of the Department of Science and Technology (DoST), correctly said in his presentation that we should be resilient — "reduce various losses before the occurrence of the hazards and insure effective and efficient disaster response, rehabilitation and recovery programs"

The insurance industry has programs and projects which provide protection and mitigate the risks even before they happen. Speakers from the global reinsurance players like the Munich Re and Swiss Re as well as the Howden Brokers and Milliman Consultants have designed solutions and products that can ensure protection just in case these events happen. Solutions like parametric insurance are now being introduced in the global market. The local insurance industry can do an intensive study on how this product can be an alternative to the traditional insurance solutions.

A very interesting part of the Insurance Summit was the panel discussion on the role of each stakeholder in countering the effects of climate change in which various speakers/presenters participated, including veteran media practitioner Ted Torres and a representative from the agricultural sector, Mr. Michael Caballes of the Bukid Amara. We wish we had the whole afternoon to discuss the various issues and solutions presented by the participants.

Listening to all the discussions during the summit clearly gave me the impression that we know what to do and how to do them with regard to the impact of climate change in our country. But the question begging to be asked is how do we put together these ideas. Who will cascade them to the communities, to the people who are the most affected by these harsh conditions? The Climate Change Commission? The DENR? The DILG?

**=END=**