



## NEWS ROUNDUP

04 MAY 2026 | 08:00 am

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- Severe heat, isolated storms to hit Manila throughout the week
- Philippines, Singapore sign carbon trading deal to boost emission cuts, climate investment
- Turning a national energy emergency into a collective movement for change
- ASEAN seeks review of climate change plan
- 200 Pangasinan residents build farm, reservoir

### CCC IN THE NEWS:

- 2026 Asian Conference on Climate Change Disaster Resilience: Pushing for anticipatory climate finance for AsPac
- CCC leads transparency project to strengthen PHL climate action
- ASEAN urged to adopt whole-of-system climate action
- CCC holds orientation on climate spending for FY 2027 budget
- CCC pushes coordinated climate action for ASEAN 2026
- ASEAN needs to treat climate damage as fiscal risk — PH officials
- Legarda pushes anticipatory laws to protect communities in time of disasters
- Legarda backs anticipatory finance for climate resilience, youth leadership
- Institutionalized climate budget tagging systems crucial – CCC
- Stronger Asean climate crisis collaboration sought

### DAILY TRIBUNE

#### [Severe heat, isolated storms to hit Manila throughout the week](#)

By: Theo Anthony Cabantac

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## **INTERAKSYON**

### [Philippines, Singapore sign carbon trading deal to boost emission cuts, climate investment](#)

The Philippines and Singapore on Thursday signed a carbon-trading deal that allows them to share emissions reductions, an agreement which Manila said is expected to lead to more investment into climate projects in the Philippines.

## **MANILA BULLETIN**

### [Turning a national energy emergency into a collective movement for change](#)

The Philippines became the first country in the world in March 2026 to declare a national energy emergency, triggered by geopolitical conflicts happening more than four time zones away. Diesel and gasoline prices doubled and even tripled almost overnight. Every jeepney driver absorbing higher fuel costs, every trucking company passing price increases down the supply chain, and every household paying more for goods that had to travel farther to get there felt the same crisis, but not in the same way. Those with the least buffer felt it the most.

## **MANILA STANDARD**

### [ASEAN seeks review of climate change plan](#)

By: Rio N. Araja

ASEAN finance and environment officials have called for a fundamental review of climate change roadmap to include reconsideration of impacts as not just environmental challenges but fiscal shocks that demand whole-of-economy responses, smarter data systems, and bankable pipelines to unlock private capital.

## **PHILIPPINE NEWS AGENCY**

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### BUSINESS WORLD

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#### [ASEAN urged to adopt whole-of-system climate action](#)

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The Climate Change Commission (CCC) held its Annual Climate Change Expenditure Tagging (CCET) Orientation to support Fiscal Year 2027 national budget preparations, bringing together officials from government agencies, state universities, and government-owned corporations.

#### [CCC pushes coordinated climate action for ASEAN 2026](#)

Climate Change Commission stressed the need for stronger coordination and policy coherence in advancing a just and inclusive climate transition in Southeast Asia, as the Philippines prepares to chair ASEAN in 2026.

## **MALAYA BUSINESS INSIGHT**

### **[ASEAN needs to treat climate damage as fiscal risk — PH officials](#)**

By Jed Macapagal

ASEAN governments must treat climate damage not merely as an environmental concern but as a fiscal risk that can weaken productivity, raise public debt, and strain national budgets, Philippine officials said. Emerging market index

## **MANILA BULLETIN**

### **[Legarda pushes anticipatory laws to protect communities in time of disasters](#)**

By: Dhel Nazario

Senator Loren Legarda is urging the Philippine government to adopt anticipatory legislation to better protect communities before disasters strike.

## **PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER**

### **[Legarda backs anticipatory finance for climate resilience, youth leadership](#)**

By: Jan Escosio

Senator Loren Legarda on Thursday called for a decisive shift from the cycle of “trauma and repair” toward proactive climate readiness, urging the Philippines to legislate for anticipation to safeguard communities before disasters strike.

## **PHILIPPINE NEWS AGENCY**

### **[Institutionalized climate budget tagging systems crucial – CCC](#)**

As the ASEAN Climate Week ended Friday, the Climate Change Commission (CCC) emphasized the importance of institutionalizing climate budget tagging systems to strengthen transparency, accountability, and evidence-based decision-making for climate action.

## **THE PHILIPPINE STAR**

### **[Stronger Asean climate crisis collaboration sought](#)**

By: Josiah Antonio

President Marcos, along with the Climate Change Commission (CCC), is pushing for stronger collaborations and a whole-of-system approach with the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) to address the climate crisis.

**Information and Knowledge Management Division**

## DAILY TRIBUNE

### [Severe heat, isolated storms to hit Manila throughout the week](#)

By: Theo Anthony Cabantac

Metro Manila is expected to face a week of dangerous heat levels and localized thunderstorms as Easterlies from the Pacific Ocean dominate the region, state weather forecasters said Sunday.

As the Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration (PAGASA) projected, the heat index in Pasay City reach a "danger level" of 42 degrees Celsius on Sunday. Ambient temperatures across the National Capital Region are forecast to range between 25 and 36 degrees Celsius through 9 May, but high humidity will likely keep the perceived heat at hazardous levels.

PAGASA also issued a thunderstorm watch for the metropolis and surrounding provinces, warning that severe localized thunderstorms are more likely to develop within a 12-hour window. This pattern of intense morning heat followed by isolated afternoon or evening rain is expected to persist throughout the week.

Nationally, the heat index is forecast to peak at 43 degrees Celsius in areas such as Laoag City and Tuguegarao City, while the southern regions may experience scattered rains and potential flash floods.

In response to the forecast, the City of Manila has implemented several mitigation measures. Mayor Francisco "Isko Moreno" Domagoso directed the Manila City Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Department (MCDRRMD) to launch "Oplan Misty," which uses water trucks to spray a fine mist along Taft Avenue to cool public spaces. Additionally, the city has shifted municipal employees to a four-day workweek and mandated strict hydration protocols for outdoor frontliners, including traffic enforcers and police officers.

Authorities advise citizens to remain hydrated and limit outdoor activities to avoid heat-caused illnesses during the day. Taking necessary precautions to avoid heat and sun exposure was also encouraged as the "Agua de Mayo" (May rain showers) remains to arrive, according to Domagoso.

## INTERASKSYON

### [Philippines, Singapore sign carbon trading deal to boost emission cuts, climate investment](#)

The Philippines and Singapore on Thursday signed a carbon-trading deal that allows them to share emissions reductions, an agreement which Manila said is expected to lead to more investment into climate projects in the Philippines.

Singapore's Environment Minister, Grace Fu, said in a statement the deal would deepen collaboration between the two countries, "channeling climate finance towards impactful projects in the Philippines and unlocking new opportunities in carbon markets for businesses and local communities."

- The deal, signed during ASEAN's Climate Week, establishes a framework under the Paris Agreement for transferring verified emission reductions, or carbon credits, between Manila and Singapore.
- A joint committee will oversee the approval and implementation of projects, and tracking of emission reductions.
- Philippine Environment Secretary Juan Miguel Cuna said the deal would help Manila to attract investments in renewable energy, waste management, methane reduction, nature-based solutions, and climate-smart agriculture.
- He added that revenues from the projects could support reforestation, forest protection, renewable energy deployment, and community-based climate resilience projects in the Philippines.
- The Philippines is the third Southeast Asian country to sign such a deal with Singapore after Thailand and Vietnam.

## MANILA BULLETIN

### [Turning a national energy emergency into a collective movement for change](#)

The Philippines became the first country in the world in March 2026 to declare a national energy emergency, triggered by geopolitical conflicts happening more than four time zones away. Diesel and gasoline prices doubled and even tripled almost overnight. Every jeepney driver absorbing higher fuel costs, every trucking company passing price increases down the supply chain, and every household paying more for goods that had to travel farther to get there felt the same crisis, but not in the same way. Those with the least buffer felt it the most.

The irony is that the Philippines is transitioning, but not everyone feels it.

The story of how the Philippines went from a renewable energy leader to fossil fuel dependence has been told before. What is less often discussed is what that shift created beyond the power sector.

While the grid has slowly been moving toward renewables, the transport sector tells a different story. Millions of jeepneys, trucks, buses and motorcycles continue to run almost entirely on imported fuel. Oil deregulation in the late 1990s removed the price cushions that once protected consumers from global fuel market swings. Unlike some of our Southeast Asian neighbors that kept initiatives to soften pump price increases, Filipino consumers absorb the full force of every global oil price movement.

When fuel prices spike, it is not only electricity bills that rise but also the cost of moving food from farms and fisheries to palengkes and supermarkets across the country. It is the fare a commuter pays and the price of every good that has to be transported to reach our doorsteps. Oil dependence in transport is not just an environmental problem but also a cost-of-living issue. It falls hardest on those who have no alternative.

The exposure does not stop at geopolitics. The Philippines sits at the intersection of two compounding crises, and the incompleteness of our energy transition makes us more vulnerable to both.

On the grid side, the renewable sources Filipinos are increasingly depending on are themselves vulnerable to climate variability. El Niño events, which are projected to become more frequent and intense in 2026 and early 2027, are lowering water levels in reservoirs, reducing hydroelectric output, and forcing the grid to compensate with traditional power generation sources at precisely the moment when imported fuel is most expensive.

Prolonged rainy days and cloud cover reduce solar output, while rapidly shifting wind patterns affected by climate change influence wind energy reliability. The RE sources we are betting on require storage, grid flexibility and diversified generation to be truly resilient, and we are not yet where we need to be.

On the transport side, the climate impacts are equally distinct. Extreme heat raises fuel consumption and operating costs for drivers already running on imported diesel and gasoline with no price buffer. Flooding from stronger typhoons and prolonged rainfall damages roads, bridges, and port infrastructure, disrupting supply chains and raising logistics costs that again fall hardest on those with the least ability to absorb them. The electric vehicle (EV) transition that would free the transport sector from such exposure becomes less reliable if the grid underperforms due to lower variable RE output during El Niño and insufficient storage.

The result is a gap in the overall idea of a just energy transition. Renewable energy (RE) is growing in the power sector, but its benefits are not reaching the jeepney driver, the market vendor or the logistics worker whose daily costs remain dependent on events outside our shores. Every climate event that reduces RE output on the grid forces a return to traditional fuels, and every event that damages transport infrastructure raises costs for people already without price protection. These two vulnerabilities reinforce each other, and both are made worse by the fact that we have only made advances in one half of the transition.

Climate advocates and energy sustainability practitioners have long argued that the transition we need is a fiscal and economic opportunity, not just an environmental necessity. The evidence is already visible through billions in stranded energy assets, hundreds of millions in annual diesel subsidies for island grids, and now a national energy emergency that exposed how thin our buffers were. Beyond the grid, every peso not invested in transport electrification, grid storage, and climate-resilient infrastructure is a peso keeping Filipinos exposed to the next shock, whether it comes from a contested strait or stronger and more frequent typhoons.

The energy transition delivers value across multiple dimensions by lowering operating costs, reducing pollution-related health risks, building consumer trust and strengthening talent attraction, particularly among younger generations. Programs from tax incentives in RE and EV infrastructure buildup to larger initiatives such as the Green Energy Option Program and the Retail Aggregation Program position RE adoption as a supply chain advantage in Southeast Asia. Electrifying transport, from e-jeepneys and e-tricycles to last-mile delivery vehicles, extends that same logic to the road. However, these programs can only fulfill their promise if pursued as part of a complete, holistic transition.

The energy transition we need is not only a moral commitment, but also a practical one. Leaving transport behind will keep producing energy crises. Ignoring climate variability in RE planning will continue to produce grid vulnerabilities. A transition that does not bring workers, drivers and communities along will continue to leave people behind. Getting it right, therefore, means doing all of it together.

Transforming the energy conversation does not require a government position or a technical degree. It starts in our own circles, at the dinner table, in group chats, and in the communities that we are already part of. When energy is in the news, recall that this is not a one-time event but a weakness we inherited, formed by decades of incomplete decisions that affect how we power our homes, move goods, commute to work and keep food affordable.

Ask more of elected officials, from both local and national levels, not just for fuel subsidies or tax suspensions but for long-term investments in grid infrastructure, storage, local renewable capacity, and policies that accelerate the shift to electric and alternative fuel vehicles in public transport. Hold the business community to the same standard by asking whether the companies you work for or support have begun planning for a low-carbon future that covers both their energy consumption and their logistics and transport operations.

In today's digital world, use every platform available. A TikTok or Instagram post about your rooftop solar experience or your switch to an e-bike connects global data to local reality in ways that a policy brief cannot. These stories get shared, leading to more conversations and eventually to collective action.

Now that we know how this story ends when we stop paying attention, we also know how it can end when we do. What it takes is a collective commitment, sustained across households, boardrooms, and barangay halls, to finish the transition we started for every Filipino. This energy transition should belong to all of us. Let's make sure it gets there.

## MANILA STANDARD

### [ASEAN seeks review of climate change plan](#)

By: Rio N. Araja

ASEAN finance and environment officials have called for a fundamental review of climate change roadmap to include reconsideration of impacts as not just environmental challenges but fiscal shocks that demand whole-of-economy responses, smarter data systems, and bankable pipelines to unlock private capital.

“Climate shocks are fiscal shocks,” said Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) Undersecretary Analiza Rebuelta-Teh said

Finance Undersecretary Joven Balbosa reinforced the point, saying; “If climate impacts erode productivity and balloon public debt, fiscal resilience becomes synonymous with climate resilience and finance ministries must lead.”

A one-day discussion on “Climate Finance Priorities, Adaptation Finance Strategies and Tracking Tools” organized by United Nations Development Programme in coordination with the DENR and the Department of Finance, presented national examples and regional lessons on how to move from short-term grants to large-scale, long-term investments that protect people and economies.

## **PHILIPPINE NEWS AGENCY**

### **200 Pangasinan residents build farm, reservoir**

By: Hilda Austria

A total of 200 residents of Balungao, Pangasinan have begun building a small farm reservoir, a nursery, and a vegetable garden.

It is part of Phase 2 of Project LAWA (Local Adaptation to Water Access) at BINHI (Breaking Insufficiency through Nutritious Harvest for the Impoverished) of the Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD).

The program helps communities adapt to climate change through Cash-for-Training (CFT) and Cash-for-Work (CFW), according to a DSWD 1 (Ilocos Region) briefer for the Philippine News Agency on Thursday.

The beneficiaries undergo a five-day training for CFT, and 15 days for CFW, intended to provide a source of water or food, especially during the dry season, it said.

It also provides temporary income to the beneficiaries with a daily wage of PHP468 for 20 days, or a total of PHP9,360.

This year, the number of beneficiaries is 7,350 from 30 localities across the region.

Beneficiaries are those in target localities that have exposure to climate impacts, with high socio-economic needs, and a high incidence of poverty.

The beneficiaries, identified by the Local Social Welfare and Development Office, are fisherfolk, farmers, indigenous people, and indigents, as well as persons with disabilities and other individuals in informal sectors.

## CCC IN THE NEWS:

### BUSINESS MIRROR

#### [2026 Asian Conference on Climate Change Disaster Resilience: Pushing for anticipatory climate finance for AsPac](#)

Jonathan L. Mayuga

Climate change is reshaping how economies in Asia and the Pacific function, which calls for a proactive approach in terms of financing, planning, and execution of how institutions must respond, said Dr. Jikyeong Kang, president and dean of Asian Institute of Management (AIM).

In her opening remarks at the 2026 Asian Conference on Climate Change Disaster Resilience at AIM on April 30, Kang said that for many years, climate change has been something monitored from afar, affecting other people or other places.

However, she said it is not simply the case, as it is now disrupting systems and testing resilience.

“We must actively manage and urgently rethink,” she said.

According to Kang, “The risk is becoming more complex, more severe; luckily, our understanding is evolving as well. We begin to see more clearly, and more importantly, know what needs to change.”

Kang raised the questions of how capital actually moves, who it reaches, and whether it arrives in time to make a difference.

Funding exists but...

While funding exists, there is a need to ensure that the funds are accessible to the most vulnerable.

“The reality is this. Billions in climate finance technically exist, yet when it strikes, people on the ground often lack resources and skills on how to act,” she said.

Anchored on the theme “From Risk to Readiness: Investing in Climate Futures in Asia,” the conference reframed climate preparedness as more than a humanitarian issue. It positioned resilience as an urgent economic, governance, and national security priority.

Sen. Loren Legarda, in her keynote address, called for stronger climate adaptation measures, more robust disaster risk reduction frameworks, and data-driven solutions to build a forward-looking resilience strategy.

Extending the discussion into the national security sphere, Gen. Romeo S. Brawner Jr., chief of staff of the Armed Forces of the Philippines, emphasized the importance of climate readiness in strengthening national security and long-term governance.

### Complex realities

Assistant Secretary Lilian M. de Leon, for International Relations at the Local Government department, who spoke on behalf of Secretary Juanito Victor Remulla, said that driven by climate change, rapid urbanization, and increasing vulnerabilities are becoming more complex and interconnected.

In the Philippines, she said current responses are no longer sufficient to keep pace with such realities.

“Given the country’s location along the Pacific Ring of Fire and so-called typhoon belt, the Philippines is at the receiving end of various natural threats,” de Leon said.

Because of its vulnerabilities, enhancing the country’s resilience against disasters and climate change is a priority thrust of the government.

She said that various policies have been institutionalized and through local government units, from the provinces down to the barangays, fund allocation is based on plans that identify the capacities of all LGUs in addressing vulnerabilities toward community resilience.

She underscored the importance of building the capacity of stakeholders to effectively address the impact of disasters and that the DILG’s thrusts aim to ensure that “every Filipino in every barangay, including the most vulnerable, are safe and resilient.”

### Delayed funding

Across the sessions, a consistent message emerged: delayed climate funding compounds losses, inflates recovery costs, and leaves the region’s most vulnerable communities without the protection they need.

The conference featured panel discussions covering anticipatory climate financing, risk-layered investment strategies, climate insurance and corporate asset protection, and last-mile delivery mechanisms—offering a systems-level view of how financial architecture must evolve to meet the region’s escalating climate risks.

Among the distinguished speakers were Kathryn Milliken, senior climate change specialist at the Asian Development Bank; Radu Tatucu, senior financial sector specialist and financial sector lead at the World Bank; Secretary Robert E.A. Borje, vice chairperson and executive director of the Climate Change Commission of the Philippines, and AIM Prof. Chad Briggs.

Their insights highlighted the importance of aligning global capital flows with local resilience needs.

### Financial perspectives

During the conference, additional perspectives from the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas, the Department of Finance, WWF Philippines, and LGUs ensured that the conversation reflected every level of the financing chain, from international funders to community implementers.

A defining concern of the climate change disaster resilience conference was the “first-mile to last-mile disconnect”—the persistent failure of global climate funds to reach local governments and frontline communities in time to reduce disaster impact.

Discussions centered on the need to redesign financing systems so that resources flow directly to local government units and vulnerable communities before crises escalate, rather than in the aftermath.

### Anticipatory systems

Organizers believe the era in which post-disaster funding serves as the primary response model is no longer viable.

In its place, anticipatory systems—powered by data, strengthened by interagency collaboration, and enabled by agile financing mechanisms—must become the new regional standard.

The conference reinforced the Institute’s role as a convening force for transformative dialogue where leadership, policy, and sustainable development meet.

By bringing together voices from government, multilateral finance, and the private sector, AIM continues to advance its mission of developing principled leaders shaping solutions to Asia’s most pressing challenges.

### What’s missing?

Asked to weigh in, international biodiversity expert Theresa Mundita S. Lim underscored the inextricable link between climate change and disaster resilience to biodiversity.

“For a biodiversity-rich country like the Philippines, and a biodiversity-rich region like Asean we cannot speak meaningfully about climate resilience without recognizing the central role of nature-based solutions,” Lim, a former Environment department’s Biodiversity Management Bureau director and Asean Centre for Biodiversity executive director, told the Business Mirror via Messenger on April 30.

“Mobilizing climate finance and ensuring that resources reach frontline communities and local governments is vital, especially for disaster preparedness. But how these funds are used is just as important,” she said.

### Financing biodiversity

According to Lim, there is no one-size-fits-all approach to resilience-building.

“Financing decisions must be informed by the ecological realities of each area, including the protective functions already provided by existing natural ecosystems,” Lim said.

She explained that concrete or hard infrastructure may be necessary in some cases, but it should not automatically be treated as the default solution.

The global biodiversity financing gap, experts agree, is the massive shortfall between the current global investment in nature and the amount needed to halt and reverse biodiversity loss by 2030.

They estimate that there’s an annual gap of approximately \$700 billion, given that the total annual need is between \$722 billion and \$967 billion, while the current spending range from \$124 billion to \$143 billion per year.

In the Philippines, BIOFIN Philippines reported that the biodiversity financing gap is estimated at 80 percent, given that approximately P24 billion, or roughly \$530 million, is needed each year to effectively implement the Philippine biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan, as against the current annual spending of roughly P4.9 billion.

### Nature-based solutions

Fortunately, Lim said there are many ways to effectively combat climate change and natural disasters through nature-based solutions.

“In many areas, mangroves, forests, wetlands, coral reefs, seagrass beds, and other ecosystems already provide natural protection against floods, storm surges, erosion, landslides, and other climate-related hazards,” she explained.

“Where these ecosystems remain intact or can still be restored, climate finance should support their protection, restoration, and sustainable management. This may include incentives for local communities that serve as stewards of these ecosystems, as well as complementary infrastructure that strengthens recovery without undermining natural resilience,” she pointed out.

She said there has already been a lot of scientific information on how healthy mangroves provide buffer from storm surges and sea level rise.

“Also, intact forests prevent soil erosion and function to recharge groundwater, ensuring a sustainable water supply,” she added.

“Coral reefs [including deep-sea corals] provide another layer of protection—reducing the height of waves during storm surges and tsunamis. Wetlands are also natural water reservoirs that can absorb rising water levels. All of these ecosystems are also living habitats that can support food security when disasters create scarcity,” she further said.

## **BUSINESS WORLD**

### **[CCC leads transparency project to strengthen PHL climate action](#)**

By: Jonathan L. Mayuga

THE Climate Change Commission, along with several national government agencies, recently launched a transparency project aimed at strengthening the country's capacity to comply with the transparency requirements under Article 13 of the Paris Agreement.

Implemented by the CCC as executing agency, in partnership with the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) as co-leader, the Capacity-Building Initiative for Transparency in the Philippines (Cbit PH) is funded by the Global Environment Facility through Conservation International—Global Environment Facility (CI-GEF), with the Manila Observatory serving as executing agency support partner and project management unit.

The project is co-led with the DENR, with support from the Global Environment Facility through Conservation International – Global Environment Facility (CI-GEF).

In a statement, CCC Vice Chairperson and Executive Director Robert E.A. Borje emphasized the need to integrate existing policies, data systems, and platforms into a cohesive and functional whole.

“We have policies that set direction. We have sectoral systems that generate data. We have platforms that are meant to bring these together. And under the Paris Agreement, particularly through the Enhanced Transparency Framework, we are expected to connect all of these to track progress, to understand impact, and to inform decisions,” he said.

“These are not separate requirements. In practice, they have to work as one system that links science, policy, and investment and allows us to act with clarity and consistency. The Cbit Philippines Project is meant to operationalize that,” Borje added.

An inception workshop followed the launch, which convened key government agencies, including the Department of Agriculture (DA), Department of Science and Technology (DOST), and Department of Transportation (DOTr), development partners, and stakeholders to align strategies for enhancing the country's climate transparency systems, particularly on Measurement, Reporting, and Verification (MRV) of greenhouse gas emissions.

Environment Undersecretary Analiza Rebuelta-Teh underscored the importance of transparency in driving global climate ambition, noting that investments in transparency serve as the backbone of the global transition toward a low-carbon and climate-resilient future.

“A strong transparency system allows us to demonstrate progress of our Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC), unlock greater access to climate finance, and design policies that are grounded in real and reliable data,” Teh said.

Meanwhile, Aki Marcelino of CI-GEF highlighted that transparency remains central to the Paris Agreement, enabling countries to track progress and strengthen accountability.

Fr. Ramon Villarin SJ of the Manila Observatory also emphasized that transparency lies at the heart of climate action, stressing the need for stronger institutional capacity and data systems.

The two-day workshop featured presentations from key sectoral agencies, including the Department of Energy, DOTr, and DENR, on their ongoing transparency initiatives for greenhouse gas emissions. Discussions also surfaced challenges in reporting and identified capacity needs to support the country's Enhanced Transparency Framework.

A ceremonial signing of commitment among partner institutions was also conducted, reaffirming support for the project.

## DAILY TRIBUNE

### [ASEAN urged to adopt whole-of-system climate action](#)

During the inaugural session of ASEAN Climate Week on Monday, President Ferdinand R. Marcos Jr. said the Association of Southeast Asian Nations must adopt a whole-of-system approach and strengthen collaboration to confront the global climate crisis.

“ASEAN stands at the frontlines of the global climate crisis, as stronger storms, rising seas, prolonged droughts, and devastating floods have become realities for millions across the Southeast Asian region,” Marcos said.

Marcos added, “Confronting these challenges is our shared responsibility and ASEAN has shown that through cooperation, we can overcome common problems with our collective purpose and resolve.”

Reiterating the President’s message, the Climate Change Commission underscored the need for an integrated, whole-of-system approach to ensure long-term resilience and economic stability.

The CCC said ASEAN serves as a key platform for strengthening coordination and partnerships to address the global climate crisis.

CCC Vice Chairperson and Executive Director Robert E.A. Borje said addressing climate risks requires a shift from fragmented responses toward more integrated and coordinated systems across the region.

“The Philippines approaches this challenge with the recognition that climate risks, economic stability, and energy systems across ASEAN are increasingly interconnected. At the same time, responses remain largely national in scope. This gap—between shared exposure and fragmented control—underscores the need for more integrated and coordinated approaches,” Borje said. FilipinoCultural Content

He added that maintaining climate ambition while ensuring resilience and stability requires aligning priorities within a coherent system that supports long-term development.

The ASEAN Climate Week, held from 27 April to 1 May 2026, aims to advance Nationally Determined Contributions and strengthen climate action through high-level dialogues, technical exchanges and targeted training across ASEAN.

Hosted for the first time by the Philippines, the event highlights the country’s role in advancing regional climate leadership and deepening collaboration among ASEAN member states in addressing interconnected climate, energy and development challenges.

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## [CCC holds orientation on climate spending for FY 2027 budget](#)

The Climate Change Commission (CCC) held its Annual Climate Change Expenditure Tagging (CCET) Orientation to support Fiscal Year 2027 national budget preparations, bringing together officials from government agencies, state universities, and government-owned corporations.

The CCET helps agencies track, monitor, and report climate-related spending, ensuring public funds support resilience and low-carbon development while promoting transparency.

In his opening remarks, CCC Vice Chairperson and Executive Director Robert E. A. Borje stressed its significance.

“This [CCET] is not merely a compliance requirement; these are public funds, and we have a responsibility to ensure they are managed with the highest level of integrity,” Borje said.

“Now, this leads to a crucial point: the effectiveness of CCET depends entirely on the active participation of all agencies. It is a whole-of-government effort,” he added.

CCC Commissioner Rachel Anne Herrera noted the importance of accurate tagging for informed decisions.

“When climate expenditures are tagged properly, we get a clear picture of where the support from taxpayers’ money is going, where the gaps remain, and where public resources may not yet be aligned with climate risk. We are in a better position to make decisions, to design programs, and improve on them, so that we can better explain our choices to the public who we serve,” Herrera said.

DBM Undersecretary Goddess Hope Libiran, representing Secretary Rolando U. Toledo, highlighted CCET’s role in aligning climate spending.

“CCET is what allows us to see clearly: where our climate funds are going, how effective they are, and whether they are truly addressing the risks faced by our communities. Without it, climate spending becomes fragmented. With it, we gain direction, discipline, and accountability,” Libiran said.

The two-day hybrid orientation gathered 1,381 participants and included updates on policies, CCET methodologies, and focus group discussions with UP NCPAG GRIT Labs to assess implementation challenges and best practices.

Through CCET, the CCC aims to embed climate considerations into public budgets, supporting long-term resilience and sustainable development goals.

## [CCC pushes coordinated climate action for ASEAN 2026](#)

Climate Change Commission stressed the need for stronger coordination and policy coherence in advancing a just and inclusive climate transition in Southeast Asia, as the Philippines prepares to chair ASEAN in 2026.

Speaking at the Regional CSO Dialogue for an Inclusive and Just Transition, CCC Vice Chairperson and Executive Director Robert E. A. Borje said climate ambition must translate into outcomes that work across diverse systems and capacities in the region.

He noted that climate risks in ASEAN are increasingly interconnected, requiring whole-of-society approaches that go beyond sustainability to address resilience, energy security, and long-term competitiveness.

“A just transition cannot remain a principle, it has to become a discipline,” Borje said.

He added that while ASEAN has multiple platforms on climate change, disaster resilience, and energy cooperation, the challenge lies in delivering better data, improved access to financing, and stronger on-the-ground implementation.

Borje emphasized the role of civil society organizations in shaping inclusive policies, noting that community experiences are key to effective climate action.

The dialogue, organized by the ASEAN-UK Green Transition Fund through the ALAM Project, gathered more than 30 civil society and women’s groups across the region to share knowledge on climate finance and transition strategies.

As ASEAN chair in 2026, the Philippines is advancing a climate agenda that is science-based, people-centered, and action-oriented, with a focus on aligning data, finance, and systems across sectors. PhilippinesNews

The CCC, under the guidance of Ferdinand Marcos Jr., reaffirmed the importance of partnerships among governments, civil society, and the private sector to translate commitments into concrete outcomes, particularly for vulnerable communities.

## MALAYA BUSINESS INSIGHT

### [ASEAN needs to treat climate damage as fiscal risk — PH officials](#)

By Jed Macapagal

ASEAN governments must treat climate damage not merely as an environmental concern but as a fiscal risk that can weaken productivity, raise public debt, and strain national budgets, Philippine officials said.

The Department of Environment and Natural Resources said finance and environment officials from the region raised the issue during a United Nations Development Program panel discussion last week, where participants called for climate risks to be integrated into fiscal planning.

The DENR said the discussion focused on the need for whole-of-economy responses, stronger data systems, and bankable project pipelines that can attract private capital for climate adaptation.

“If climate impacts erode productivity and balloon public debt, fiscal resilience becomes synonymous with climate resilience, and finance ministries must lead,” Finance Undersecretary Joven Balbosa said.

The DENR said participants argued that ASEAN governments should stop treating climate action as a sectoral program and instead embed it in budget planning, investment policy, and financing frameworks that combine public, private, and philanthropic capital.

Finance gap

Officials said closing the adaptation finance gap would require turning local climate projects into bankable investments.

The DENR said small-scale adaptation

projects may be bundled into larger portfolios that can draw private investors while also tapping public mechanisms such as the Philippines’ People’s Survival Fund.

The fund provides climate adaptation financing for local governments and communities vulnerable to climate risks.

“Local access and de-risking are essential if we want funds to reach communities,” Finance Director John Adrian Narag said.

Panelists also said Nationally Determined Contributions, or NDCs, should move beyond policy pledges and become investment signals that can attract global capital.

NDCs are the climate action plans submitted by countries under the Paris Agreement.

The DENR said stronger public finance management would give investors more certainty, particularly in projects tied to resilience, adaptation, and emissions reduction.

#### Tracking funds

The Philippines' Climate Change Expenditure Tagging system was cited during the discussion as a model for tracking climate-related public spending.

Robert Borje, executive director of the Climate Change Commission, called the system a "bright spot" for transparency in domestic climate spending but said more data analysis was needed to make the information useful for policy and investment decisions.

Participants also called for better monitoring and verification of climate spending, including the digitization and automation of tracking systems.

The DENR said the Philippines and Indonesia were cited for efforts to reduce information gaps and improve the visibility of climate-related budget outcomes.

The session did not produce binding commitments, but the DENR said it set a roadmap for ASEAN to integrate climate financing across government, turn NDCs into investment-ready portfolios, expand direct access for local governments, and use digital tools to improve transparency.

"ASEAN cannot leave this to fragments. No country moves forward alone," Borje said.

He said more frequent and costly climate shocks make it urgent for governments to align policies, data systems, and financing flows so resilience becomes part of national budgets rather than a separate line item.

## MANILA BULLETIN

### [Legarda pushes anticipatory laws to protect communities in time of disasters](#)

By: Dhel Nazario

Senator Loren Legarda is urging the Philippine government to adopt anticipatory legislation to better protect communities before disasters strike.

Legarda said this on Thursday, April 30, as she called for a decisive shift from the cycle of “trauma and repair” toward proactive climate readiness,

Legarda delivered her keynote address at the Asia Conference on Climate Change and Disaster Resilience (ACCCDR) on April 30, 2026 at the Asian Institute of Management in Makati City before representatives from the World Bank, Asian Development Bank, Climate Change Commission, Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas, and leaders from climate-vulnerable cities.

She recalled warning three years ago of an “existential threat” and cited UN Secretary General António Guterres’ description of “global boiling,” noting that intensifying typhoons, rising seas, and the global unavailability of fertilizers after fossil fuel facility destruction now accelerate food crises.

“We have become experts in counting the dead and repairing the broken, but we have not yet mastered the art of anticipating the blow,” Legarda said, pointing to what she described as the dangerous “First Mile/Last Mile disconnect” where funds and policies exist but arrive too late.

“This disconnect is critical. It is the space where dreams are shattered and lives are lost. We must legislate for anticipation,” she added.

Legarda outlined three urgent priorities in her keynote. She said legislative innovation is needed to break the divide between relief and readiness, stressing that disaster funds must be released based on forecasts rather than waiting for a calamity declaration.

“We must tear down the firewall between relief and readiness,” she stated.

The four-term senator added that protecting vulnerable families must be central to fiscal policy, pushing for automatic cash transfers tied to PAGASA forecasts and embedding anticipatory action into conditional cash transfer programs for women, indigenous peoples, the elderly, PWDs, and geographically isolated communities.

Legarda further called on mayors and development partners to stop financing projects that merely restore risk and instead invest in measures that reduce it.

“If we are serious about resilience, then our financing, both the loans and the GAA, must stop restoring risk and finally start reducing it,” she said.

Legarda emphasized the financial dimension of resilience. “Resilience is also financial. It is about liquidity. It is about the speed of the peso moving from the national treasury to a local barangay before the storm makes landfall,” she said. “Anticipatory action is an exercise in risk management; it protects macroeconomic stability, reduces financial shocks, safeguards long-term growth, and is a step towards genuine climate justice.”

The senator highlighted the role of young Filipinos in building resilience, urging that they be given priority access to the People’s Survival Fund and the opportunities created by the Philippine Ecosystem and Natural Capital Accounting System (PENCAS) law, which she authored.

“We must invest in the energies and capacities of our youth. While we rightly discuss the transition to renewable energy sources, we must also recognize the human energy of our youth as our most potent renewable resource,” Legarda said.

Legarda ended by stressing that preparedness should be measured by what is prevented rather than what is rebuilt, underscoring collective resolve to confront the climate crisis in defense of life, livelihood, and the future of Filipinos.

The conference, themed “From Risk to Readiness: Investing in Climate Futures in Asia,” showcased programs such as AIM’s graduate scholarships in disaster risk and data science, building a pipeline of skilled leaders nationwide.

## PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

### [Legarda backs anticipatory finance for climate resilience, youth leadership](#)

By: Jan Escosio

Senator Loren Legarda on Thursday called for a decisive shift from the cycle of “trauma and repair” toward proactive climate readiness, urging the Philippines to legislate for anticipation to safeguard communities before disasters strike.

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## PHILIPPINE NEWS AGENCY

### [Institutionalized climate budget tagging systems crucial – CCC](#)

As the ASEAN Climate Week ended Friday, the Climate Change Commission (CCC) emphasized the importance of institutionalizing climate budget tagging systems to strengthen transparency, accountability, and evidence-based decision-making for climate action.

During the virtual Parallel Session on Climate Finance and Climate–Economy Modelling of the five-day ASEAN Climate Week, CCC vice chairperson and Executive Director Robert E.A. Borje said climate action must be treated not only as an ecological concern but also as a fiscal and economic discipline, requiring robust systems that guide public investment and planning.

He highlighted the Philippines' Climate Change Expenditure Tagging (CCET) system as an essential tool for governments to identify, classify, and track climate-related expenditures, bringing structure and transparency into how governments account for climate action and align with the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) and the Sustainable Development Goals.

“At its core, CCET is about transparency and accountability. It allows our government to clearly report how public funds are utilized for climate action not only for compliance under the Enhanced Transparency Framework and the Biennial Transparency Reports, but to ensure that spending leads to measurable outcomes,” he said.

Borje said no country could build effective climate finance systems in isolation, pointing to the need for strong whole-of-government coordination among environment, finance, and planning institutions.

Such coordination, he said, is essential to ensure coherence in climate policies and optimize the use of limited resources.

At the regional level, the CCC recognized ASEAN as a vital platform for knowledge exchange and capacity building, enabling Member States to share experiences, align approaches, and collectively strengthen climate finance frameworks.

The session, organized by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) in partnership with the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) and the Department of Finance (DOF) as part of the Philippines' ASEAN chairship in 2026, brought together senior officials and technical experts from across ASEAN to discuss climate finance tracking, fiscal planning, and climate–economy modeling.

The CCC reiterated that strengthening climate finance systems requires sustained collaboration, continuous improvement of data systems, and a shared commitment across institutions and countries to advance transparency and accountability in climate action.

The ASEAN Climate Week, held from April 27 to May 1, aims to advance Nationally Determined Contributions, strengthen climate action through high-level dialogues, technical exchanges, and targeted training across ASEAN.

Held for the first time and hosted by the Philippines, ASEAN Climate Week underscores the country's role in advancing regional climate leadership and deepening collaboration among ASEAN Member States to address interconnected climate, energy, and development challenges.

As the Philippines continues to champion climate governance and finance innovations, the CCC reaffirmed its commitment to working with ASEAN partners to scale up effective tools such as CCET and support the region's transition toward resilient, inclusive, and climate-smart development.

## THE PHILIPPINE STAR

### [Stronger Asean climate crisis collaboration sought](#)

By: Josiah Antonio

President Marcos, along with the Climate Change Commission (CCC), is pushing for stronger collaborations and a whole-of-system approach with the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) to address the climate crisis.

“ASEAN stands at the frontlines of the global climate crisis, as stronger storms, rising seas, prolonged droughts and devastating floods have become realities for millions across the Southeast Asian region,” Marcos said at the inaugural session of the ASEAN Climate Week held virtually. The event concludes tomorrow.

“Confronting these challenges is our shared responsibility and ASEAN has shown that through cooperation, we can overcome common problems with our collective purpose and resolve,” he added.

Robert Borje, CCC executive director, stressed that addressing climate risks requires a shift from “fragmented responses toward more integrated and coordinated systems across the region.”

Eight areas in the country, meanwhile, reached “danger” level heat index, the state weather bureau said yesterday.

#### Task Force El Niño

The Department of Agriculture revealed yesterday the reactivation of Task Force El Niño to help align actions of agencies involved in water management and agricultural support.

In coordination with the National Irrigation Administration, the DA is assessing major irrigation systems, including Magat, the Upper Pampanga River Integrated Irrigation System and other national systems, to identify areas that may require water allocation adjustments, scheduling measures or supplemental water management interventions.

The DA is also strengthening its climate-risk mapping to help assess the matter.

The Philippine Rice Research Institute, together with the Bureau of Soils and Water Management, is updating maps of rain-fed and seasonal farming areas to support planning for planting calendars, crop choices and water management under varying rainfall conditions.

**=END=**