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#### [PAGASA monitoring 2 LPAs outside PAR](#)

By: Ariel Rojas

MANILA — Weather bureau PAGASA is monitoring two low pressure areas (LPA) outside the Philippine area of responsibility (PAR) that formed from cloud clusters east of Mindanao Monday morning.

#### [Twin LPAs: one enters PAR Tuesday, another nears storm formation](#)

By: Ariel Rojas

Weather bureau PAGASA is closely monitoring two low pressure areas (LPA) east of the country, with one expected to enter the Philippine area of responsibility (PAR) this Tuesday and the other likely to develop into a tropical cyclone in the next 24 hours.

### AL JAZEERA

#### [Tackling methane emissions key for climate change and energy security: IEA](#)

Dealing with emissions could help alleviate effects of Iran crisis on global energy supply, says report.

## **EUREKALERT**

### **[Sharks may help improve climate forecasts, study finds](#)**

Research demonstrates how animal-borne sensors can work in tandem with traditional tools to improve ocean predictions

## **GMA NEWS**

### **[15 areas to hit 'danger' heat index on May 5 — PAGASA](#)**

By: Vince Angelo Ferreras

Fifteen areas are expected to experience “danger” level heat index on Tuesday, May 5, 2026, the state weather bureau, the Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration (PAGASA) said.

### **[PAGASA: LPA outside PAR high chance to develop into tropical depression](#)**

A Low Pressure Area (LPA 05b) outside the Philippine Area of Responsibility (PAR) has a high chance of developing into a tropical depression within the next 24 hours, PAGASA reported.

## **INSIDE CLIMATE NEWS**

### **[War Harms the Environment. Can a Peace Treaty Repair the Damage?](#)**

By: Jaylan Sims

Experts at a U.N. institute see opportunities for ecological improvement in the peace talks between Kurdish fighters and Turkey.

## **CCC IN THE NEWS:**

### **PTV**

### **[ASEAN, EU leaders meet in Cebu to push sustainable growth](#)**

By Darryl John Esguerra

Government leaders from Southeast Asia and European business executives will gather in Cebu on May 7 for the ASEAN-EU Sustainability Summit, ahead of the 48th ASEAN Leaders’ Summit, to address economic resilience and sustainable growth amid ongoing regional challenges.

## **SUNSTAR**

### **[Asean pushes fiscal overhaul as climate risks hit economies](#)**

By: Katlene O. Cacho-Laurejas

FINANCE and environment officials across the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (Asean) are calling for a sweeping rethink of how governments treat climate risks, warning that intensifying climate shocks are increasingly translating into fiscal strain, public debt pressures and slower economic growth.

## **THE CHRONICLE**

### **[ASEAN, EU leaders to focus on sustainable growth amid global energy crisis](#)**

By: Tracy Cabrera

Aiming to move beyond dialogue and generate actionable partnerships that can support long-term resilience and a sustainable development agenda, the upcoming Association of Southeast Asian Nations-European Union (ASEAN–EU Sustainability Summit will highlight regional cooperation, energy transition and sustainable growth in the region amid the prevailing energy crisis across the globe.

## **THE MANILA TIMES**

### **[Asean, EU Leaders to tackle energy crisis, sustainable growth at Cebu summit](#)**

GOVERNMENT leaders from Southeast Asia and European business executives will gather in Cebu on May 5, Tuesday, for the inaugural Asean-EU Sustainability Summit, where discussions will center on economic resilience, sustainable growth, and the region's worsening energy crisis.

**Information and Knowledge Management Division**

## **ABS CBN**

### **PAGASA monitoring 2 LPAs outside PAR**

By: Ariel Rojas

MANILA — Weather bureau PAGASA is monitoring two low pressure areas (LPA) outside the Philippine area of responsibility (PAR) that formed from cloud clusters east of Mindanao Monday morning.

The first LPA, located 1,350 kilometers east of northeastern Mindanao at 8 a.m., may enter the PAR on Tuesday.

While it is unlikely to develop into a tropical cyclone, it may bring rains over parts of Visayas and Mindanao and Palawan on Thursday and Friday.

The second LPA, last spotted 2,870 km east of northeastern Mindanao, has medium potential for tropical cyclone formation in the next 24 hours.

It may enter the PAR as a tropical depression on Saturday or Sunday and will be assigned the local name Caloy.

This potential storm is unlikely to make landfall nor affect the country as it may weaken and dissipate offshore.

PAGASA is forecasting one or two tropical cyclones to form within or enter the PAR this month of May.

Previous May storms either recurved before hitting land or crossed central Philippines and took a turn while over the Philippine Sea.

The Philippines had two storms so far this year: tropical storm Ada, which approached Eastern Visayas and Bicol in January, and tropical storm Basyang, which crossed Caraga and parts of Visayas in early February.

The country is already at the peak of the warm and dry season, expected to last through the second week of May.

The warm Easterlies from the Pacific dominate the archipelago, bringing moisture that contributes to the increase in heat index and formation of afternoon and/or evening showers and thunderstorms.

### **Twin LPAs: one enters PAR Tuesday, another nears storm formation**

By: Ariel Rojas

Weather bureau PAGASA is closely monitoring two low pressure areas (LPA) east of the country, with one expected to enter the Philippine area of responsibility (PAR) this Tuesday and the other likely to develop into a tropical cyclone in the next 24 hours.

The closer weather disturbance was located 1,085 kilometers east of northeastern Mindanao at 3 a.m. and is unlikely to develop into a tropical cyclone.

However, it may bring rains over parts of Visayas and Mindanao and Palawan on Thursday and Friday.

The farther LPA, last spotted 2,585 km east of northeastern Mindanao, now has high chance for tropical cyclone formation within the next 24 hours.

It may enter the PAR this weekend and will be assigned the local name Caloy. This potential storm is unlikely to make landfall nor directly affect the country, based on current projections.

“Itong [pangalawang] low pressure area na ito, mababa ang tsansa na magkaroon ng direktang epekto sa atin in the next three to five days,” weather forecast Veronica Torres said during the agency’s morning broadcast.

(The farther weather system has low chance of directly affecting the country in the next three to five days.)

PAGASA is forecasting up to two tropical cyclones forming within or entering the PAR this month.

Previous May storms have either recurved before hitting land or crossed central Philippines before making a turn over the West Philippine Sea.

The country had seen two storms earlier this year: tropical storm Ada, which approached Eastern Visayas and Bicol in January, and tropical storm Basyang, which crossed Caraga and parts of Visayas in early February.

#### PEAK OF WARM AND DRY SEASON

While the weather disturbances are not yet affecting the country, the warm and humid Easterlies continue to prevail across the archipelago this Tuesday.

Scattered rains are expected in Zamboanga Peninsula and Palawan.

Metro Manila and the rest of the country will be warm and humid, with a chance of isolated afternoon shower or localized thunderstorm.

Fifteen areas may experience danger level heat index this Tuesday:

44°C

Dagupan City

Mambusao, Capiz

43°C

Aborlan, Palawan

Borongon City

Dumangas, Iloilo

Iloilo City

Virac, Catanduanes

42°C

Bacnotan, La Union

Baybay City

Butuan City

Hinatuan, Surigao del Sur

Iba, Zambales

Laoag City

Surigao City

Tuguegarao City

Under danger level heat index, heat cramps and heat exhaustion are already possible, with prolonged exposure likely to result in heat stroke.

Meanwhile, 36 other locations, more than half of which are in Luzon, may have heat index of 40-41°C.

Metro Manila may experience heat indices of 38°C in Quezon City and 39°C in Pasay City.

Heat index, or “feels-like” temperature, estimates how hot the air temperature is for the body when factoring humidity.

The country is currently at the peak of the warm and dry season, which may last until the second week of May.

<https://www.facebook.com/photo?fbid=1433072968864352&set=a.365711365600523>

Temperatures in Northern Luzon continue to rise.

On May 3, Echague, Isabela recorded the highest temperature so far this year of 39.4°C. Tuguegarao City, registered 39.3°C on the same day.

PAGASA earlier said temperatures may reach as high as 40.8°C in Northern Luzon and 40.0°C in Central Luzon this May.

## AL JAZEERA

### [Tackling methane emissions key for climate change and energy security: IEA](#)

Dealing with emissions could help alleviate effects of Iran crisis on global energy supply, says report.

Tackling methane emissions in the fossil fuel sector would help efforts to hold back climate change and increase energy security, especially as the Iran crisis threatens global supplies, according to a report by the International Energy Agency (IEA).

The oil, gas and coal industries account for about 35 percent of all methane emissions from human activity, notes the IEA's Global Methane Tracker 2026, released on Monday. However, there is little progress in reducing them, the report points out.

"There is still no sign that methane emissions from fossil fuel operations are falling, despite well-known and proven mitigation pathways," the IEA said.

Methane, the second-biggest contributor to climate change, stays in the atmosphere for far less time than carbon dioxide, but its warming effect is roughly 80 times more potent over a 20-year period.

The IEA estimates that methane emissions from oil, gas and coal total 124 million tonnes a year. Oil is the largest source at 45 million tonnes (Mt), followed by coal at 43 Mt, and natural gas at 36 Mt.

"A further 20 Mt comes from bioenergy production and consumption, largely from the incomplete combustion of traditional biomass used for cooking and heating in developing economies," the report added.

Oil prices have soared since the United States and Israel launched their war against Iran in late February and Tehran closed the Strait of Hormuz in response. An April ceasefire between the sides is currently holding, but global energy supplies remain limited.

The ongoing crisis is reshaping the global energy system and disrupting about 20 percent of global liquefied natural gas (LNG) trade flows.

Nearly 100 billion cubic metres of natural gas could be made available annually through a global effort to cut methane from oil and gas operations, the IEA said, estimating that nearly 15 billion cubic metres could be made available in a sufficiently short period of time to provide some relief to gas markets.

A further 100 billion cubic metres would be unlocked through the elimination of non-emergency flaring worldwide, it added.

## Paris initiative

France, using its role as rotating chair of the Group of Seven (G7) bloc of industrialised powers, convened government officials, industry leaders and experts on Monday to build momentum on cutting methane emissions.

The conference aimed at reducing methane emissions ahead of the United Nations' November COP31 summit.

"I sincerely hope that the discussions we will have today will enable us to join our forces to accelerate the implementation of effective solutions to reduce methane emissions," French Ecological Transition Minister Monique Barbut said in a speech.

"Of course, action on methane is not a fight of any single actor and nobody can win it alone," she added, noting that the world remains "very far" from meeting a pledge to cut methane emissions by 30 percent by 2030 compared with 2020 levels.

"Reducing methane emissions remains one of the best things we can do to slow global warming while cleaning up our air, improving public health, and increasing our energy security," British Secretary of State for Energy Security Ed Miliband said in a video message.

## EUREKALERT

### [Sharks may help improve climate forecasts, study finds](#)

Research demonstrates how animal-borne sensors can work in tandem with traditional tools to improve ocean predictions

MIAMI— A new study published in the journal *npj Climate and Atmospheric Science*, shows that electronically tagged sharks can serve as mobile sensors, collecting ocean climate data in regions that are difficult to observe using conventional methods.

The study is led by Laura H. McDonnell, Ph.D., who conducted the research as a doctoral student at the University of Miami Rosenstiel School of Marine, Atmospheric, and Earth Science and the Abess Center for Ecosystem Science and Policy. Its findings demonstrate that temperature and depth data gathered by tagged sharks can enhance ocean forecast accuracy in dynamic regions of the Northwest Atlantic.

By incorporating shark-collected data into a seasonal climate model, McDonnell and her team found that forecast errors at the ocean surface decreased substantially in certain regions, with improvements reaching as much as 40 percent in specific cases.

This is the first study to experimentally integrate animal-borne sensor data into a seasonal climate model and quantify its impact on forecast performance, suggesting potential for future operational use.

“Sharks are already moving through parts of the ocean that are challenging for us to observe,” said McDonnell, now a postdoctoral investigator at the Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution (WHOI). “This research shows that data they collect can help fill important gaps and, when used carefully, can improve how we predict ocean conditions.”

#### Interdisciplinary collaboration fuels innovation

The study originated from an interdisciplinary collaboration between former Rosenstiel School shark scientist Neil Hammerschlag, Ph.D. and atmospheric scientist Ben Kirtman, Ph.D., now dean of the Rosenstiel School. In 2018, they recognized that the data from shark-tagging studies used by Hammerschlag’s lab to study shark ecology could also benefit climate modeling.

Satellite tags attached to sharks record depth and temperature as they travel through the ocean, collecting and transmitting this data in near real time. While these tags have long helped scientists track shark movements, the collaboration opened a new application and a chance to create a novel proof of concept: using the same data to improve climate forecasts.

“Marine predators like sharks naturally seek out dynamic ocean features such as fronts and eddies,” said Kirtman. “These are areas where models often lack sufficient observations.”

Supported by a grant from Cisco Systems, the team conducted fieldwork and tested the concept.

### Testing sharks as ocean observers

McDonnell and Hammerschlag tagged 18 blue sharks (*Prionace glauca*) and one shortfin mako shark (*Isurus oxyrinchus*) in the Northwest Atlantic. The sharks transmitted more than 8,200 temperature-depth profiles across a wide range of locations and depths—down to nearly 2,000 meters. WHOI oceanographer and study co-author Camrin Braun, Ph.D., helped facilitate this field work off Cape Cod, MA by connecting McDonnell and Hammerschlag with a local fisherman and co-led the forecast data analysis.

“Key to this study was repurposing a more advanced tag capable of transmitting location data along with temperature and depth information,” said Hammerschlag, co-author of the study and executive director of the Shark Research Foundation. “This allowed us to link subsurface ocean conditions directly to specific locations with known accuracy.”

Kirtman integrated a subset of these data into the Community Climate System Model, a coupled ocean–atmosphere–ice–land model used in seasonal forecasting applications that forms part of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration’s operational North American Multi-Model Ensemble (NMME) system, of which Kirtman is the lead scientist.

The team compared the actual resulting climate conditions with the forecasted predictions from traditional models as well as the ones that integrated the shark collected data.

The results showed measurable improvements in forecast performance, particularly in dynamic coastal and shelf regions that are important for marine ecosystems and fisheries.

The researchers emphasize that animal-borne sensors are not a replacement for traditional observing systems but a complementary tool.

“Tagged sharks won’t replace conventional observing systems,” added McDonnell. “What the preliminary results do show is that tagged marine predators can provide complementary in-situ observations at the surface and at depth.”

### Why it matters

Accurate ocean forecasts are critical for fisheries management, marine operations, and understanding how climate variability affects coastal communities. However, forecasts are often least reliable in regions where conditions change rapidly and observational data are lacking.

Animal-borne sensors could enhance predictions that support decision-making across multiple sectors, ranging from seafood supply chains to climate adaptation planning.

“Marine animals are already being tracked to understand their behavior in relation to environmental conditions, but this study reveals how these data can also be leveraged for forecasting and climate applications,” said Hammerschlag.

“For fisheries and coastal communities, small improvements in ocean forecasts can make a big difference,” said Braun. “Reducing uncertainty helps people plan, whether that’s where to fish, how to manage resources, or how to respond to changing conditions.”

The study, titled “Improved seasonal climate forecasting using shark-borne sensor data in a dynamic ocean,” was published on April 28, 2026 in the journal *npj Climate and Atmospheric Science*.

Funding for the research was provided by Cisco Systems (AWP-014524) and the University of Miami Abess Center.

The authors and their affiliations for this study are as follows: Laura H. McDonnell & Neil Hammerschlag, Rosenstiel School of Marine, Atmospheric and Earth Science, and the Leonard and Jayne Abess Center for Ecosystem Science and Policy at the University of Miami. Ben P. Kirtman, Rosenstiel School and the Cooperative Institute for Marine and Atmospheric Studies, and the Frost Institute for Data Science and Computing, all at the University of Miami, and Camrin D. Braun, Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution.

About the University of Miami and Rosenstiel School of Marine, Atmospheric and Earth Science

The University of Miami is a private research university and academic health system with a distinct geographic capacity to connect institutions, individuals, and ideas across the hemisphere and around the world. The University’s vibrant academic community comprises 12 schools and colleges serving more than 19,000 undergraduate and graduate students in more than 180 majors and programs. Located within one of the most dynamic and multicultural cities in the world, the University is building new bridges across geographic, cultural, and intellectual borders, bringing a passion for scholarly excellence, a spirit of innovation, and a commitment to tackling the challenges facing our world. The University of Miami is a member of the prestigious Association of American Universities (AAU).

Founded in 1943, the Rosenstiel School of Marine, Atmospheric, and Earth Science is one of the world’s premier research institutions in the continental United States. The School’s basic and applied research programs seek to improve understanding and prediction of Earth’s geological, oceanic, and atmospheric systems by focusing on four key pillars:

\*Saving lives through better forecasting of extreme weather and seismic events.

\*Feeding the world by developing sustainable wild fisheries and aquaculture programs.

\*Unlocking ocean secrets through research on climate, weather, energy and medicine.

\*Preserving marine species, including endangered sharks and other fish, as well as protecting and restoring threatened coral reefs. [www.earth.miami.edu](http://www.earth.miami.edu).

## **GMA NEWS**

### **[15 areas to hit 'danger' heat index on May 5 — PAGASA](#)**

By: Vince Angelo Ferreras

Fifteen areas are expected to experience “danger” level heat index on Tuesday, May 5, 2026, the state weather bureau, the Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration (PAGASA) said.

Based on its five-day heat index forecast, the following areas may record heat index levels ranging from 42°C to 44°C:

Laoag City, Ilocos Norte – 42°C

Dagupan City, Pangasinan – 44°C

Bacnotan, La Union – 42°C

Tuguegarao City, Cagayan – 42°C

Iba, Zambales – 42°C

Aborlan, Palawan – 43°C

Virac (Synop), Catanduanes – 43°C

Mambusao, Capiz – 44°C

Iloilo City, Iloilo – 43°C

Dumangas, Iloilo – 43°C

VSU-Baybay, Leyte – 42°C

Borongan, Eastern Samar – 43°C

Surigao City, Surigao del Norte – 42°C

Hinatuan, Surigao del Sur – 42°C

Butuan City, Agusan del Norte – 42°C

On Monday, 20 areas nationwide reached “danger” level heat index, higher than the 13 areas initially forecast.

Meanwhile, more than 50 areas—including two in Metro Manila—are expected to experience “extreme caution” levels, or heat index values between 33°C and 41°C.

Tanay, Rizal is the only area expected to fall under the “caution” level, with a heat index of 32°C.

The following areas are also expected to record “not hazardous” heat index levels, or below 27°C, on Tuesday:

Baguio City, Benguet – 26°C

BSU, La Trinidad, Benguet – 26°C

Benguet Radar, Tuba, Benguet – 21°C

The heat index reflects how hot it feels to the human body by combining air temperature and humidity. High humidity reduces the evaporation of sweat, making it harder for the body to cool down.—MCG, GMA News

## PAGASA: LPA outside PAR high chance to develop into tropical depression

A Low Pressure Area (LPA 05b) outside the Philippine Area of Responsibility (PAR) has a high chance of developing into a tropical depression within the next 24 hours, PAGASA reported.

As of 2 a.m. LPA 05a is also being monitored outside the PAR and is unlikely to develop into a tropical depression.

Meanwhile, easterlies will bring cloudy skies with scattered rains over the country on Tuesday.

### Forecast Weather Conditions

Zamboanga Peninsula and Palawan will have cloudy skies with scattered rains and thunderstorms due to the easterlies with flash floods or landslides possibly occurring due to moderate to at times heavy rains.

Metro Manila and the rest of the country will have partly cloudy to cloudy skies with isolated rain showers or thunderstorms due to the easterlies. Flash floods or landslides may occur during severe thunderstorms, the weather bureau reported.

### Forecast Wind and Coastal Water Conditions

The wind speed forecast for extreme Northern Luzon is moderate to strong moving in the east to northeast with moderate to rough coastal waters.

The rest of the country will experience light to moderate wind speed moving in the east to northeast direction while coastal waters will be slight to moderate.

Sunrise will be at 5:32 a.m., sunset will be at 6:14 p.m. — BAP, GMA News

## INSIDE CLIMATE NEWS

### [War Harms the Environment. Can a Peace Treaty Repair the Damage?](#)

By: Jaylan Sims

Experts at a U.N. institute see opportunities for ecological improvement in the peace talks between Kurdish fighters and Turkey.

On a sweltering July day, 30 Kurdistan Workers' Party fighters stripped the rifles from their backs and tossed them into a blazing fire.

The symbolic ceremony last year marked the end of a decades-long conflict with Turkey. Now, one of the big lingering questions is how to repair the grim toll on the environment.

Fighting in the Kurdish region, which stretches across several countries besides Turkey, left scorched forests, water contamination and declining biodiversity.

Munitions from World War I and World War II still lurk in oceans, posing toxic risks and other hazards. Dangerous dioxins from Agent Orange linger in Vietnam, half a century after the U.S. pulled out of that war. And experts have warned that the environmental-health consequences from the conflicts in Ukraine, Gaza and Iran will be long-lived.

But researchers at the United Nations University's Institute for Water, Environment and Health say the Kurdistan Workers' Party (PKK) and Turkey have a chance to do something historic: Make environmental restoration part of the peace plan.

"You've got to think about this element if you want to establish a lasting peace," said Kaveh Madani, the institute's director. "It is a necessity."

The PKK and Turkey are negotiating over a peace treaty, talks that have stalled this year amid disagreements over disarmament.

Michael Gunter, a political science professor at Tennessee Technological University, has written multiple books on the Kurdish region. Earlier peace efforts by the PKK and Turkey collapsed in 2015, and he said this outcome could be similar.

"They're not even in the same universe," he said of the two parties. "Turkey considers the PKK a terrorist organization that should surrender now. The PKK considers Turkey to have an ultra-nationalist constitution, which should be changed to make room for the ethnic Kurds."

Pinar Dinc, a research fellow at the United Nations University institute and lead author of a report about addressing the conflict's ecological damage, still sees this moment as an opening to push for "green transitional justice" in the negotiations.

Conventional treaties focus on security, she said, but “if we go beyond this security perspective and think more around holistic peace approach, then we might actually manage to create something new.”

“Human life and environmental health are so interconnected with each other that if one isn’t holding, the other one will also collapse,” said Dinc. “And then we just see a continuation of all sorts of damage and suffering.”

The institute’s report describes the first step of the framework as strengthening environmental protection and accountability. A healthy environment, including clean air, safe water and fertile soil, should be recognized as a fundamental human right, the report says, and people defending those rights should also be protected. Around the world, environmental defenders are often targets for violence and harassment.

Dinc hopes that environmental repair initiatives in the Kurdish region will be spearheaded by those most affected. After the war began in 1984, more than 3,000 Kurdish villages were razed or evacuated, displacing up to 378,000 people. Nearly 40,000 died.

If local communities oversee environmental restoration, that would bring new jobs to the region and also allow these communities to continue their unique cultural practices. Madani sees it as a potential point of unification.

“Environment can also be a uniting factor in the process where peace building is happening, where people have a sense of belonging to where they are. The environment can also be a cause, a contributor to the peace-building process and building trust,” Madani said.

The report says local communities working on restoration efforts should be guaranteed equitable access to natural resources, such as water. Cross-border environmental cooperation is vital for joint watershed management.

One way to secure funding for restoration efforts is through the Global Environment Facility, the world’s largest multilateral fund for the environment, and the Green Climate Fund, which aims to address the climate crisis. The report also suggests turning to public-private partnerships and “peace bonds.”

Nazan Üstündağ, an independent researcher and former instructor of exclusionary regimes, autocratization and democracy at the Alice Salomon Hochschule Berlin, is a native of Turkey who was not involved in the study. She thinks implementing the report’s recommendations will be an uphill battle.

“We don’t expect, really, that there will be some ... clauses in an agreement that are directed towards any kind of restoration, but that the peace process or this process opens up the space for non-armed struggles,” said Üstündağ.

In February, a Turkish parliamentary commission voted overwhelmingly to advance a “terror-free Türkiye” initiative proposing stronger legal reforms and fast-tracking the peace negotiations.

Green transitional justice wasn’t part of that plan. But Dinc and Madani hope it can play a role in the Kurdish region’s future.

“We live in a dynamic world where things are continuously changing; we learn from the past,” said Madani.

## CCC IN THE NEWS:

PTV

### [ASEAN, EU leaders meet in Cebu to push sustainable growth](#)

By Darryl John Esguerra

Government leaders from Southeast Asia and European business executives will gather in Cebu on May 7 for the ASEAN-EU Sustainability Summit, ahead of the 48th ASEAN Leaders' Summit, to address economic resilience and sustainable growth amid ongoing regional challenges.

The inaugural summit comes as the region faces mounting pressures, including an energy crisis and broader economic strain.

More than 200 representatives from government, business, development institutions, and civil society are expected to attend the event organized by the European Union (EU)-ASEAN Business Council (ABC) and the European Chamber of Commerce of the Philippines (ECCP).

The summit will feature discussions on sustainability priorities under the Philippines' ASEAN chairmanship, including energy transition, green finance, circular economy development, sustainable trade, and climate-resilient agriculture.

Among the participants are Finance Secretary Frederick Go, Indonesia Deputy Minister Leonardo A. A. Teguh Sambodo, EU Ambassador to the Philippines Massimo Santoro, and Climate Change Commission Vice Chairperson Robert E.A. Borje.

"We're facing multiple crises at once—energy, economic and supply chain challenges that no party can address alone. ASEAN and the EU should look to each other for a reliable, long-term partnership built on shared ambitions for sustainable economic growth," Chris Humphrey, executive director of EU-ABC, said.

"The Council has emphasized the same message in our recent meetings with the European Commission in Brussels, and this Summit serves as an important platform to deepen that conversation."

The summit is also seen to drive the EU and Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) cooperation towards practical outcomes for the region's sustainable development.

Paulo Duarte, president of ECCP and a member of the EU-ABC's Executive Board, said the ASEAN-EU partnership has grown significantly, but the "priority now is to turn that momentum into practical collaboration."

“The EU has channelled significant resources towards sustainable development through the Global Gateway and other initiatives—the Summit will explore how these can support that next phase of cooperation,” he said.

Private sector participation will also be highlighted, particularly in strengthening supply chains and sustainability practices.

## SUNSTAR

### [Asean pushes fiscal overhaul as climate risks hit economies](#)

By: Katlene O. Cacho-Laurejas

FINANCE and environment officials across the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (Asean) are calling for a sweeping rethink of how governments treat climate risks, warning that intensifying climate shocks are increasingly translating into fiscal strain, public debt pressures and slower economic growth.

At a regional policy session organized by the United Nations Development Program with the Philippines' Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) and Department of Finance (DOF), policymakers underscored that climate impacts must be treated not as isolated environmental concerns but as economy-wide financial risks requiring coordinated fiscal strategies.

"Climate shocks are fiscal shocks," DENR Undersecretary Analiza Rebuelta-The, said in a statement, highlighting how extreme weather events and environmental degradation can disrupt productivity and strain government budgets.

DOF Undersecretary Joven Balbosa added that climate resilience is now inseparable from fiscal resilience, warning that unchecked climate impacts could erode economic output and inflate borrowing requirements.

#### Shift to investment-driven climate finance

Officials emphasized the need to move beyond fragmented, grant-based climate programs toward large-scale, long-term investments capable of protecting economies and attracting private capital.

Speakers pushed for a "whole-of-economy" approach that integrates public spending with private and philanthropic financing. Without this shift, they said, governments risk falling short of the massive funding requirements needed for climate adaptation and mitigation.

A key recommendation was to reposition countries' nationally determined contributions as investment portfolios rather than policy documents—effectively turning climate targets into pipelines of bankable projects that can draw in global investors.

#### Data systems seen as critical to unlocking capital

The Philippines' climate change expenditure tagging system was highlighted as a model for improving transparency in climate-related spending, helping track how public funds are allocated and used.

Officials said stronger data systems can reduce information gaps that often deter private investors. Indonesia's automated "Connect Dashboard" was cited as an example of how digitized tracking tools can improve reporting accuracy, support transparency requirements and accelerate climate financing decisions.

Regional institutions are also stepping in. The Asian Development Bank is rolling out the Asean Climate Finance Policy Platform (2025–2027), designed to help finance ministries build frameworks for assessing and mobilizing climate funds.

#### Closing the adaptation finance gap

A persistent challenge remains the lack of funding for climate adaptation, particularly at the local level. Policymakers stressed the need to package smaller, community-level projects into larger, "bankable" portfolios that can attract institutional investors.

They also pointed to mechanisms such as the Philippines' People's Survival Fund as critical channels for directing grants to vulnerable communities, while highlighting the importance of de-risking investments to crowd in private capital.

#### Roadmap: integrate climate into national budgets

While the session did not produce binding agreements, it laid out a clear direction for Asean economies: embed climate considerations into fiscal planning, expand access to financing for local governments, and scale up digital tools to track spending and outcomes.

The broader implication is clear—climate policy is rapidly becoming core economic policy. As climate-related disasters grow more frequent and costly across Southeast Asia, governments face mounting pressure to align budgets, financial systems and investment strategies with long-term resilience goals.

Officials warned that failure to act could deepen fiscal vulnerabilities across the region, while coordinated reforms could unlock significant capital flows and strengthen economic stability.

## THE CHRONICLE

### [ASEAN, EU leaders to focus on sustainable growth amid global energy crisis](#)

By: Tracy Cabrera

Aiming to move beyond dialogue and generate actionable partnerships that can support long-term resilience and a sustainable development agenda, the upcoming Association of Southeast Asian Nations-European Union (ASEAN–EU Sustainability Summit will highlight regional cooperation, energy transition and sustainable growth in the region amid the prevailing energy crisis across the globe.

Scheduled on May 7 in Cebu, a day before the 48th ASEAN Leaders' Summit, the pre-conference event joins together ASEAN government leaders and European business executives will tackle the worsening crisis which has impacted several economies that include the Philippines.

The high-level gathering comes as the country faces supply chain disruptions and broader economic strain that underscore the need for stronger regional cooperation and sustainable growth strategies. Organizers said discussions will focus on how ASEAN can strengthen resilience through deeper ASEAN-EU ties and stronger public-private sector collaboration.

Among the program highlights will be a ministerial panel that features finance secretary Frederick Go and Indonesian Deputy Minister of National Development Planning Leonardo A.A. Teguh Sambodo. EU Ambassador to the Philippines Massimo Santoro will join the dialogue on ASEAN-EU cooperation with Climate Change Commission (CCC) vice chair and executive director Robert E.A. Borje.

ASEAN Secretary-General Dr. Kao Kim Hourn EU Ambassador to ASEAN Sujiro Seam, and European Commission representatives are also expected to participate through virtual mode.

Key discussions will center on sustainability priorities under the Philippines' 2026 ASEAN chairmanship, including energy transition, green finance, circular economy development, sustainable trade and supply chains and climate-resilient agriculture.

## THE MANILA TIMES

### [Asean, EU Leaders to tackle energy crisis, sustainable growth at Cebu summit](#)

GOVERNMENT leaders from Southeast Asia and European business executives will gather in Cebu on May 5, Tuesday, for the inaugural Asean-EU Sustainability Summit, where discussions will center on economic resilience, sustainable growth, and the region's worsening energy crisis.

The summit will take place a day before the 48th Asean Leaders' Summit and comes as Southeast Asia faces mounting economic strain caused by disruptions in energy supply chains, rising production costs, and broader geopolitical uncertainties.

Hosted in Cebu, where a national energy emergency has reportedly been declared, the meeting is expected to examine how stronger Asean-EU cooperation and public-private partnerships can help the region navigate current challenges while sustaining long-term growth.

More than 200 representatives from government, business, development institutions, and civil society are expected to attend the event, which is jointly organized by the EU-Asean Business Council (EU-ABC) and the European Chamber of Commerce of the Philippines (ECCP).

Among the featured speakers are Finance Secretary Frederick Go and Indonesia Deputy Minister of National Development Planning Leonardo A.A. Teguh Sambodo, who will join a ministerial panel on regional resilience and growth strategies.

EU Ambassador to the Philippines Massimo Santoro is also set to participate in a dialogue on Asean-EU cooperation alongside Climate Change Commission Vice Chairman and Executive Director Robert Borje.

Asean Secretary-General Kao Kim Hourn, EU Ambassador to Asean Sujiro Seam, and representatives from the European Commission are expected to join virtually.

Organizers said discussions will align with the Philippines' 2026 Asean Chairmanship priorities, particularly in the areas of energy transition, green finance, circular economy development, sustainable trade, resilient supply chains, and climate-smart agriculture.

European and multinational companies — including Boehringer Ingelheim, Coca-Cola, and Philip Morris International — are expected to take part in sectoral discussions.

Chris Humphrey, executive director of the EU-Asean Business Council, said the summit comes at a critical time for both regions.

"We're facing multiple crises at once — energy, economic, and supply chain challenges that no party can address alone. Asean and the EU should look to each other for a reliable, long-term partnership built on shared ambitions for sustainable economic growth," he said.

Business leaders also emphasized the importance of private sector participation in translating policy priorities into concrete outcomes.

Paulo Duarte, President of ECCP, said the Asean-EU relationship must now move toward practical collaboration.

“The Asean-EU partnership has grown significantly, but the priority now is to turn that momentum into practical cooperation,” Duarte said.

He noted that European sustainability initiatives such as the Global Gateway could support ASEAN’s next phase of green and inclusive development.

Beyond energy concerns, organizers said the summit will also address growing pressure on food systems due to fertilizer shortages and higher production costs.

Cynderella Galimpin of Boehringer Ingelheim said preventive investments in agriculture and animal health are critical.

“When we invest in prevention, we protect animal health, farmer livelihoods, and trade confidence at the same time,” she said.

The summit is endorsed by the Philippine Department of Trade and Industry under the country’s 2026 Asean Chairmanship and is fully funded by private sector partners.

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