



## NEWS ROUNDUP

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### ABS CBN

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By: Ariel Rojas

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## **ECO BUSINESS**

### [Taiwan rolls out urban forestry, water plans to tackle climate risks](#)

By: Taejun Kang

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## **INSIDE CLIMATE NEWS**

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## **MANILA BULLETIN**

### [Philippines calls for stronger ADB support amid climate, geopolitical shocks](#)

By: Ben Arnold de Vera

The Philippines urged the Manila-based Asian Development Bank (ADB) to ramp up assistance to its developing member countries (DMCs) amid a wave of climate and geopolitical challenges putting pressure on public finances.

## **THE NEW YORK TIMES**

### [The World Met to Talk Climate Change. The U.S. Wasn't Invited.](#)

By: David Gelles

For the past week, diplomats from nearly 60 countries gathered in Colombia to discuss one of the most urgent and confounding questions of our day: how to move beyond fossil fuels.

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The Climate Change Commission (CCC) and the Embassy of the Kingdom of the Netherlands are exploring expanded cooperation on nature-based solutions (NBS) to strengthen climate adaptation and mitigation efforts in the Philippines.

## **PALAWAN NEWS**

### **[Cebu hosts ASEAN-EU summit as Philippines faces energy emergency](#)**

Regional leaders and European business executives will gather in Cebu this week as the Philippines grapples with a declared energy emergency, putting the spotlight on how the crisis is shaping talks on economic resilience and sustainable growth.

## **PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER**

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The Asian Institute of Management (AIM), in cooperation with the Climate Change Commission and with the support of Security Bank, Pag-IBIG Fund, Landbank and SGV & Co., hosted today the Asian Conference on Climate Change and Disaster Resilience (ACCCDR), convening 300 high-level policymakers, representatives from international financial institutions, and corporate leaders at the AIM Stephen Fuller Hall, Makati City.

## **PHILIPPINE NEWS AGENCY**

### **[PH, Netherlands boost cooperation on nature-based climate solutions](#)**

By: Marita Moaje

The Climate Change Commission (CCC) and the Embassy of the Kingdom of the Netherlands are moving to deepen collaboration on nature-based solutions (NBS) as a key strategy for climate change adaptation and mitigation.

## **THE MANILA TIMES**

### **[AIM convenes leaders for Asian conference on climate change](#)**

The Asian Institute of Management (AIM), in cooperation with the Climate Change Commission and with the support of Security Bank, Pag-IBIG Fund, LandBank and SGV & Co., hosted today the Asian Conference on Climate Change and Disaster Resilience, convening 300 high-level policymakers, representatives from international financial institutions, and corporate leaders at the AIM Stephen Fuller Hall, Makati City.

**Information and Knowledge Management Division**

## **ABS CBN**

### **LPA enters PAR; tropical depression forms east of PH**

By: Ariel Rojas

A low pressure area (LPA) entered the Philippine area of responsibility (PAR) while a tropical depression formed far east of the country Tuesday afternoon, according to PAGASA.

The LPA was last spotted 910 km east of northeastern Mindanao.

It is unlikely to develop into a tropical cyclone but may bring rains over southern Philippines as it crosses Mindanao and Palawan before dissipating by weekend.

"Bukas ng gabi, yung trough o outer portion ng low pressure area magdadala ng mga pag-ulan dito sa may silangang bahagi ng Visayas, Caraga, at Davao Region," forecaster Benison Estareja said in the weather bureau's afternoon weather broadcast.

(From Wednesday evening, the trough of the LPA will bring scattered rains over Eastern Visayas, Caraga, and Davao Region.)

Meanwhile, the tropical depression was located 2,560 km east of northeastern Mindanao.

It has maximum sustained winds of 55 kilometers per hour (kph), with gustiness up to 70 kph. It is moving north northwestward slowly.

The weather disturbance is forecast to move westward or northwestward in the next few days and may enter the PAR by Saturday or Sunday.

It will be assigned the local name Caloy, the third storm in the country this year.

"Isa sa mga nakikita nating scenario regarding pre-Caloy, pagpasok [nito] sa may north Philippine Sea ay lilihis po [ito] ng direksyon. Lalapit lamang nang bahagya dito sa may Northern Luzon at kikilos palayo ng ating kalupaan at unti-unting hihina," Estareja said.

(One scenario shows that the weather disturbance will recurve over the northern part of the Philippine Sea. It may approach Northern Luzon before moving away from land while gradually weakening.)

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

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:

## DAILY TRIBUNE

### [NIA says El Niño may 'benefit' some farms](#)

By: Anita Villanueva

Despite concerns over water shortages, National Irrigation Administration (NIA) Administrator Engr. Eduardo Guillen said Tuesday that El Niño could be “beneficial” for certain agricultural areas, particularly those supported by high dams.

“When it comes to high dams, we actually prefer El Niño,” Guillen said in an interview with DZRH.

“Sunlight is what rice plants need, along with carbon dioxide and water, to produce food.” He added that major dams still have sufficient water.

Guillen noted that some farmers in southern regions face limited water supply, especially at the far ends of irrigation systems, but measures are underway to address the gaps through solar-powered pumps.

“Not only there—almost all irrigation systems have those conditions at the tail end,” he said, citing declining water sources due to climate change. About 2,500 small solar pumps have been installed nationwide, along with larger units recently inaugurated in Camarines Sur, some tapping underground water.

“In some areas like Palawan and Bulacan, the water is deep, so we need to reach it, but that’s not a problem because we have water-detecting equipment,” he said, adding that surface water remains preferred where available.

Guillen also emphasized maintenance. “We always remind them, if it’s in front of you, you should clean it,” he said, referring to irrigators’ associations that manage canals and receive subsidies.

The government is accelerating construction of impounding dams, including newly inaugurated projects in Leyte, and adjusting planting calendars to conserve water.

“Instead of planting in December, we moved it to October when there’s still rain so that we can save on water from the dams,” Guillen said.

## ECO BUSINESS

### [Taiwan rolls out urban forestry, water plans to tackle climate risks](#)

By: Taejun Kang

Taiwan President Lai Ching-te last week warned that intensifying heat is a clear sign of climate change in action, as the government unveiled new urban greening and water management plans aimed at strengthening resilience against extreme weather.

Speaking at the seventh meeting of the National Climate Change Response Committee at the Presidential Office, Lai said April now feels more like summer, underscoring the urgency of adaptation measures.

“Facing hotter summers year after year, we cannot remain on the defensive — we must act proactively,” he said, announcing a push to develop urban forests as a national-level climate adaptation strategy.

The island’s Ministry of Environment outlined a “green canopy expansion” plan that aims to plant more than 10 million trees across cities, with a goal of ensuring residents can reach shaded green space within a six-minute walk.

Officials estimate the programme could reduce perceived temperatures by 2-8°C, while also improving air quality, enhancing flood resilience and supporting biodiversity.

Environment Minister Peng Chi-ming said the initiative would use drones and LiDAR remote sensing to map urban heat hotspots, alongside 3D modelling to simulate cooling effects. The government also plans to partner with businesses via environmental, social and governance (ESG) platforms and encourage public participation through a mobile app for tree adoption.

Initial pilot projects will focus on high-temperature zones in Taiwan’s six major municipalities, though Peng acknowledged significant challenges, including limited spatial data, a lack of regulatory standards, and constraints on tree planting and maintenance.

The ministry aims to submit a comprehensive six-year urban forestry plan by October, potentially accompanied by new legislation governing parks and green spaces.

Taiwan’s push reflects deeper structural vulnerabilities. Despite receiving far above-average rainfall, the island can only utilise around one-fifth of its water due to steep terrain and rapid runoff, leaving it prone to droughts even in wet years. Climate change is intensifying the imbalance, with fewer typhoons replenishing reservoirs while more extreme rainfall events increase flood risks.

Densely populated cities are also experiencing stronger urban heat island effects, amplifying rising temperatures linked to global warming, while agriculture has faced mounting pressure from water shortages and extreme weather.

Separately, the Ministry of Economic Affairs proposed a six-year water and watershed management plan with a budget of NT\$553.1 billion (US\$17 billion), targeting improvements in supply, flood control and water quality.

Vice economic affairs minister Lai Chien-hsin said the initiative seeks to deliver a vision of “ample water without disasters, clean rivers with fish, and sustainable use”.

Key targets include increasing daily water supply capacity by 1.2 million tonnes by 2031, reducing leakage rates to below 10 per cent, and raising river management coverage to 51 per cent across municipalities. The plan also aims to eliminate severe pollution in rivers nationwide.

Authorities will expand early warning systems for landslides and debris flows to cover 96 per cent of high-risk areas, while applying data-driven approaches such as geographic information systems (GIS) and nature-based solutions to improve watershed management.

A long-term “Pearl Chain” infrastructure project to connect water resources across northern, central and southern Taiwan is expected to be completed by 2039, boosting backup supply capacity to 60 per cent.

Ahead of the meeting, five civil society members issued a joint statement calling for greater transparency on nuclear energy policy, citing a global energy crisis and urging the government to strengthen public communication on its energy transition strategy.

## INSIDE CLIMATE NEWS

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

By: Jaylan Sims

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.

## MANILA BULLETIN

### [Philippines calls for stronger ADB support amid climate, geopolitical shocks](#)

By: Ben Arnold de Vera

The Philippines urged the Manila-based Asian Development Bank (ADB) to ramp up assistance to its developing member countries (DMCs) amid a wave of climate and geopolitical challenges putting pressure on public finances.

Speaking at the Governors' Business Session of the ADB's 59th Annual Meeting here on Monday, May 4, Department of Finance (DOF) Undersecretary Joven Z. Balbosa, who is serving as the Philippines' temporary alternate governor to the ADB, emphasized the need for stronger support from the multilateral lender as its DMCs grapple with overlapping external shocks.

"We call on the bank to further deepen its commitment to our development agenda and to address global challenges, such as ensuring the availability of climate financing and expanding blended financing for infrastructure, digitalization, and human capital initiatives," Balbosa said.

"Even as the Philippines continues to make steady progress, we remain vulnerable to compounding external shocks. We urgently require sustained support from our development partners for a comprehensive response to these challenges that disproportionately affect emerging markets (EMs) and developing economies," he added.

Balbosa said the Philippines and other ADB DMCs are navigating a more complex global environment marked by disruptions in supply chains, energy markets, and logistics amid the prolonged war in the Middle East.

"We gather today at a critical crossroad. Recent global shocks have exposed significant vulnerabilities in supply chains, highlighting the fragility of developing economies amid geopolitical and climate-related instability," he said.

"For the Philippines, recent external volatilities have led to energy market fluctuations and logistical disruptions, which continue to drive up domestic prices. These pressures force us to confront the difficult balance of responding to emergencies today while investing in public services and infrastructure," Balbosa added.

The government reported on Tuesday, May 5, that headline inflation soared to a 37-month high of 7.2 percent in April, with the poorest Filipinos suffering more from faster price hikes, as their consumption mostly consists of food and transport expenses.

Amid these challenges, Balbosa stressed the importance of deeper regional cooperation and sustained engagement with multilateral development banks (MDBs) like the ADB.

"The complexity of today's challenges reminds us that no nation can act in isolation. With this, the Philippines remains committed to working closely with the ADB to strengthen resilience,

adapt to emerging technologies, and ensure that investments are sustainable and future-ready,” he said.

Balbosa said the Philippines is pushing forward with structural reforms to modernize its investment climate, improve the ease of doing business, and support long-term growth.

For one, the DOF official said a key priority is bridging the digital divide and leveraging digital innovation to drive economic expansion.

“We are continuously working to improve the digital delivery of services to businesses to enable them to perform within a more transparent, predictable, and efficient environment,” he said.

He added that the government’s digital transformation efforts are anchored on the recently enacted e-Governance Act, which seeks to establish a whole-of-government approach to digitalization. At end-2025, the Philippines has launched 25 e-government platforms, facilitating more than 650 million transactions as of November last year, Balbosa noted.

The DOF official explained that these platforms aim to address bureaucratic inefficiencies, redundant processes, and accessibility gaps, while supporting a more seamless business environment.

He also noted that the country has rolled out its National Artificial Intelligence (AI) Strategy Roadmap, which focuses on expanding data infrastructure, increasing cloud capacity, and upskilling the workforce to support an AI-enabled economy.

On the investment front, Balbosa highlighted the implementation of the Corporate Recovery and Tax Incentives for Enterprises to Maximize Opportunities for Reinvigorating the Economy (CREATE MORE) Act, which took effect in 2025 to provide a more competitive and predictable tax incentive regime.

He likewise cited the operationalization of the new Public-Private Partnership (PPP) Code, which has expanded the country’s infrastructure pipeline to more than 250 projects as of January 2026.

Alongside economic reforms, the Philippines is strengthening its climate resilience framework, Balbosa said.

The DOF official cited that the government completed the second operation of its Climate Change Action Program last year, supporting key reforms such as the institutionalization of the National Adaptation Plan 2023-2050 as well as the rollout of the Philippine Energy Plan and National Total Electrification Roadmap 2023-2032.

He said these initiatives aim to expand access to clean energy, incentivize electric vehicle (EV) adoption, and enhance climate risk protection, including expanded insurance coverage for high-value crops (HVCs) and the introduction of index-based insurance for rice production.

“Through these cross-sectoral reforms, our goal extends beyond withstanding shocks but building better forward,” Balbosa said.

## THE NEW YORK TIMES

### [The World Met to Talk Climate Change. The U.S. Wasn't Invited.](#)

By: David Gelles

For the past week, diplomats from nearly 60 countries gathered in Colombia to discuss one of the most urgent and confounding questions of our day: how to move beyond fossil fuels.

The issue is urgent because emissions from the burning of coal, oil and gas are rapidly warming the planet, leading to increasingly dire consequences.

And it's confounding because fossil fuels are the backbone of the modern economy, and alternatives don't yet exist at nearly the scale needed. (Another factor: The U.S. was not invited, given the Trump administration's refusal to engage with international climate talks, and several other big countries are not attending.)

The stark reality of the problem is reflected in the data and the headlines. Coal, oil and gas still make up an overwhelming majority of energy supply in the world, according to the International Energy Agency.

And with the Strait of Hormuz closed, shutting off some of the world's oil and gas supplies, the global economy is reeling. Oil prices have hit a four-year high in the U.S. (Coal, the dirtiest fossil fuel, has had a resurgence in parts of Asia since the war in Iran began.)

Against that backdrop, ministers, activists and scientists gathered this week in Santa Marta, Colombia, for what was billed as the first global conference on phasing out fossil fuels.

"A global energy system built on fossil fuels is inherently unstable, volatile and unreliable," Selwin Hart, special adviser to the U.N. secretary general on climate action, said on Tuesday at the event.

#### Not a COP

The gathering took place outside the formal U.N. process that organizes the annual Conference of the Parties climate summits, known as COPs.

That was intentional, and exposed what critics say are failings with the annual U.N. climate events. After decades of talks, critics say the U.N. process has not delivered a clear plan to halt climate change and is instead perpetuating the status quo.

"Existing multilateral processes are not delivering," said Candy Ofime, Amnesty International's researcher and legal adviser on climate justice. "For 30 years, COPs have failed to confront the root causes of the climate crisis head on."

The Santa Marta meetings gave participants a forum to focus on the need to transition away from heavily polluting energy sources. This doesn't always happen at COP, where myriad other issues are also discussed. After years of rancor, it was only in 2023 that a final COP agreement addressed the issue directly.

"Finally, finally, finally, we have a focus on 86 percent of what drives the climate crisis, which is fossil fuels," said Kumi Naidoo, a South African human rights activist and former executive director of Greenpeace International, who was at the conference.

The self-selecting group in Santa Marta also meant that some of the countries that have worked to downplay the need to move away from fossil fuels, including Saudi Arabia and the U.S., could not meddle with process.

"We think it will be harder at the COP at the end of the year to pretend that fossil fuels don't exist and not even mention it in the outcome document," Naidoo said.

What next?

So can a conference like this have an impact?

Some skepticism is certainly understandable. As Lisa Friedman reported: "China, India and Russia are not attending. Nor are Saudi Arabia or other Gulf nations whose economies depend on oil and gas."

Taylor Rogers, a White House spokeswoman, said in a statement that "the reality is that moving away from reliable, affordable and secure energy to rely on intermittent and costly energy sources is destructive, and the president has been clear that the United States will not participate in the bogus climate agenda."

Moreover, the U.N. has been holding COPs for more than 30 years, and fossil fuel emissions have only continued to rise.

And while the event in Santa Marta resulted in some strongly worded statements, there were no enforceable outcomes. Instead, the group said it would work on regional plans to phase out fossil fuels, and it plans to meet in the Pacific Island nation of Tuvalu next year.

But Naidoo said there was precedent for a quasi-official event like this to have a real impact. He pointed to the 1997 Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Treaty, which was negotiated by 44 countries outside the traditional U.N. process. With similar momentum, Naidoo said, this week's event could be the beginning of a movement that leads to a broader global agreement.

"Bottom line is we should not be where we are now," he said. "The science has been telling us for a long time that we need to act."

The E.P.A. is blaming Asia for smog in some U.S. cities

For decades, Phoenix has struggled with smog that gets trapped in its bowl-shaped topography and is detrimental to human health. In 2024, when the city failed to meet a federal air-pollution standard, it risked being hit with stricter rules designed to force more aggressive pollution limits.

Then, President Trump returned to the White House. And now the Phoenix-Mesa region has gotten off the hook for an unusual reason: The Trump administration is blaming foreign countries for the pollution.

Without contaminants blowing in from Mexico and Asia, the administration's reasoning goes, Phoenix would have been in compliance with federal pollution limits. Other regions are now taking up that strategy. But some environmental groups and experts say the argument is preposterous.

## CCC IN THE NEWS:

### DAILY TRIBUNE

#### [Philippines, Netherlands boost climate cooperation](#)

The Climate Change Commission (CCC) and the Embassy of the Kingdom of the Netherlands are exploring expanded cooperation on nature-based solutions (NBS) to strengthen climate adaptation and mitigation efforts in the Philippines.

The discussions were led by CCC Vice Chairperson and Executive Director Robert E.A. Borje and Dutch Ambassador Marielle Geraedts during a recent meeting in Manila, where both sides identified opportunities to deepen bilateral collaboration on climate action.

Officials emphasized the role of ecosystems-based approaches—such as forest protection, wetland restoration and coastal rehabilitation—in reducing climate risks while supporting sustainable development.

“Nature-based solutions are among the most powerful and practical responses to the climate crisis. By working with ecosystems-based approaches such as protecting forests, restoring wetlands, and rehabilitating coastal areas, we not only reduce greenhouse gas emissions but also strengthen our natural defenses against climate impacts,” Borje said.

Both parties also discussed participation in ASEAN–Netherlands cross-learning initiatives aimed at sharing technical expertise and best practices on climate adaptation across the region.

The engagement aligns with the Philippines’ National Adaptation Plan (NAP) 2023–2050 and its Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC), which outline strategies for enhancing climate resilience and reducing greenhouse gas emissions. PhilippinesNews

The Netherlands, known for its expertise in water management and climate adaptation, expressed support for strengthening cooperation with the Philippines through knowledge sharing, capacity-building and innovative solutions.

The CCC underscored the importance of partnerships with development partners in advancing climate initiatives, particularly in mobilizing climate finance, facilitating technology transfer and enhancing institutional capacity.

The meeting reflects ongoing efforts to accelerate the implementation of nature-based solutions as part of the country’s broader climate resilience and sustainable development agenda.

## PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

### [Asian Institute of Management convened Regional Leaders for 2026 Asian Conference](#)

The Asian Institute of Management (AIM), in cooperation with the Climate Change Commission and with the support of Security Bank, Pag-IBIG Fund, Landbank and SGV & Co., hosted today the Asian Conference on Climate Change and Disaster Resilience (ACCCDR), convening 300 high-level policymakers, representatives from international financial institutions, and corporate leaders at the AIM Stephen Fuller Hall, Makati City.

Held under the theme “From Risk to Readiness: Investing in Climate Futures in Asia,” the conference addressed the urgent need for anticipatory climate financing and adaptive strategies in one of the world’s most climate-vulnerable regions.

AIM President and Dean Dr. Jikyeong Kang emphasized the broader institutional responsibility in addressing the crisis. “For too long, climate change has been treated as a localized hazard,” she said. “Today, it is a global reality reshaping economies and testing the very foundations of our institutions.”

The event featured keynote and policy addresses from Senator Loren Legarda, Senator Camille Villar, and Department of the Interior and Local Government Assistant Secretary Lilian de Leon, alongside a distinguished roster of global and local experts participating in four thematic panels.

“We have become experts in counting the dead and repairing the broken, but we have not yet mastered the art of anticipating the blow,” said Sen. Legarda, 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.

The conference featured four key panels:

1. **Scaling Anticipatory Climate Financing (International View)** Focused on improving “first-mile” access to global climate capital, with insights from representatives of the World Bank, Asian Development Bank, diplomatic corps, and the Philippine Department of Finance.
2. **Risk-Layered Climate Investment Strategies (National View)** Exploring domestic instruments and regulatory frameworks, with speakers from the Climate Change Commission, Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas, and the Philippine House of Representatives.
3. **Cascading Crises and Corporate Asset Protection** Addressing the intersection of climate risks with geopolitical instability and supply chain disruptions, featuring experts from the private sector, research institutions, and national security.
4. **Last-Mile Delivery and Local Successes** Highlighting community-level solutions and local government leadership, with representatives from Siargao, Romblon, indigenous organizations, and environmental groups.

5. A central theme of the discussions was the urgent need to transition from traditional post-disaster response models to anticipatory climate finance. Traditional models, based on post-event damage assessment and delayed funding, are increasingly incompatible with the speed and complexity of today's risks.

Instead, anticipatory climate finance triggered by forecasts and pre-agreed scientific thresholds offers a pathway to act before disasters strike, protecting lives, livelihoods, and economic stability.

“Anticipatory finance treats scenarios or forecasts as actionable events,” said Dr. Chad Briggs, conference convenor and academic program director of AIM’s Executive Master in Disaster Risk and Crisis Management (EMDRCM) program. “It moves capital before the typhoon makes landfall or before drought disrupts harvests, transforming climate finance from a recovery tool into a strategic shield.”

In this context, the conference emphasized that climate adaptation is no longer separate from economic policy or national security; it is now fundamentally intertwined with both.

“In the Senate, we are pushing for policies beyond reactive responses toward long-term resilience. This includes strengthening our climate adaptation frameworks, investing in clean and renewable energy, and ensuring local communities are empowered with the resources and capacity to respond effectively,” said Senator Camille Villar.

Dr. Kang reinforced the conference’s call to action: “Billions in climate finance exist, yet too often fail to reach frontline communities in time. Our mandate is clear: to bridge the distance between risk and readiness, and ensure that resources reach those who need them most, when they need them most.”

## **PALAWAN NEWS**

### **[Cebu hosts ASEAN-EU summit as Philippines faces energy emergency](#)**

Regional leaders and European business executives will gather in Cebu this week as the Philippines grapples with a declared energy emergency, putting the spotlight on how the crisis is shaping talks on economic resilience and sustainable growth.

The ASEAN-EU Sustainability Summit is set for May 7, a day before the 48th ASEAN Leaders' Summit.

It will bring more than 200 representatives from government, business, and civil society to discuss energy, trade, and supply chain disruptions affecting Southeast Asia.

The meeting comes at a time when recent shocks have exposed gaps in the region's energy and economic systems, with the Philippines at the center of the strain.

Organizers said the summit will focus on strengthening ASEAN's resilience through closer cooperation with the European Union and stronger public-private partnerships.

"We're facing multiple crises at once — energy, economic and supply chain challenges that no party can address alone," said Chris Humphrey, executive director of the EU-ASEAN Business Council.

"ASEAN and the EU should look to each other for a reliable, long-term partnership built on shared ambitions for sustainable economic growth," Humphrey added.

Key discussions will align with the Philippines' priorities as ASEAN chair in 2026, including energy transition, green finance, circular economy development, sustainable trade, and climate-resilient agriculture.

A ministerial panel will include Finance Secretary Frederick D. Go and Indonesia's Deputy Minister of National Development Planning Leonardo A. A. Teguh Sambodo. EU Ambassador to the Philippines Massimo Santoro is also expected to join talks alongside Climate Change Commission official Robert E.A. Borje.

Senior regional and European officials, including ASEAN Secretary-General Dr. Kao Kim Hourn and EU Ambassador to ASEAN Sujiro Seam, will participate virtually.

Business leaders are also expected to play a central role, with companies such as Boehringer Ingelheim, Coca-Cola, and Philip Morris International taking part in discussions on supply chains, sustainability, and food systems.

Paulo Duarte, president of the European Chamber of Commerce of the Philippines, said the summit aims to move beyond dialogue and push for concrete outcomes.

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

Supply chain disruptions and rising costs are already affecting key sectors, including agriculture, where fertilizer shortages and higher production expenses are putting pressure on food security across the region.

Rodney van Dooren of Philip Morris International said strengthening supply chains has become urgent amid the economic strain.

“Ensuring sustainability and protecting legitimate trade during periods of disruption requires systems that balance efficiency with safeguards,” he said.

The summit will also tackle how to build more resilient food systems, including investments in animal health, farmer support, and veterinary services.

“When we invest in prevention, we protect animal health, farmer livelihoods, and trade confidence at the same time,” said Cynderella Galimpin of Boehringer Ingelheim.

Organizers said the Cebu meeting is designed to push joint action at a time when vulnerabilities in energy, trade, and food systems have become more visible.

“Recent disruptions have exposed just how vulnerable our systems can be,” Duarte said.

“Building resilience is a necessity, and it will require stronger cooperation to achieve it. This summit is about moving from conversation to action,” he added.

## PHILIPPINE NEWS AGENCY

### [PH, Netherlands boost cooperation on nature-based climate solutions](#)

By: Marita Moaje

The Climate Change Commission (CCC) and the Embassy of the Kingdom of the Netherlands are moving to deepen collaboration on nature-based solutions (NBS) as a key strategy for climate change adaptation and mitigation.

In a news release on Tuesday, the CCC said that both Vice Chairperson and Executive Director Robert Borje and Dutch Ambassador Marielle Geraedts have emphasized the role of ecosystems-based approaches in strengthening climate resilience.

Borje underscored that nature-based solutions are among the most effective responses to the climate crisis.

“Nature-based solutions are among the most powerful and practical responses to the climate crisis. By working with ecosystems-based approaches, such as protecting forests, restoring wetlands, and rehabilitating coastal areas, we not only reduce greenhouse gas emissions but also strengthen our natural defenses against climate impacts,” he said.

Both the CCC and the Dutch Embassy identified possible areas of cooperation, including participation in ASEAN-Netherlands cross-learning initiatives on climate adaptation and nature-based solutions to promote the exchange of technical expertise, policy approaches, and best practices across Southeast Asia.

The discussions are aligned with the Philippines’ National Adaptation Plan 2023-2050 and its Nationally Determined Contribution, both of which highlight the scaling up of nature-based solutions as a priority strategy for building climate resilience and meeting emissions reduction targets.

The CCC said that the Netherlands, known globally for its leadership in water management, climate adaptation, and integrated flood risk reduction, expressed strong support for expanding cooperation with the Philippines through knowledge sharing, capacity-building, and innovation in ecosystem-based approaches.

The agency underscored that partnerships with development partners like the Netherlands are critical in mobilizing climate finance, enabling technology transfer, and strengthening national and local capacity for climate action.

“This engagement reflects the CCC’s continuing commitment to continued collaboration among governments, development partners, and local stakeholders to accelerate the implementation of nature-based solutions in support of the country’s climate resilience and sustainable development agenda,” the CCC said.

## THE MANILA TIMES

### [AIM convenes leaders for Asian conference on climate change](#)

The Asian Institute of Management (AIM), in cooperation with the Climate Change Commission and with the support of Security Bank, Pag-IBIG Fund, LandBank and SGV & Co., hosted today the Asian Conference on Climate Change and Disaster Resilience, convening 300 high-level policymakers, representatives from international financial institutions, and corporate leaders at the AIM Stephen Fuller Hall, Makati City.

The event featured keynote and policy addresses from Sen. Loren Legarda, Sen. Camille Villar, and Interior Assistant Secretary Lilian de Leon, alongside a distinguished roster of global and local experts participating in four thematic panels.

A central theme of the discussions was the urgent need to transition from traditional post-disaster response models to anticipatory climate finance. Traditional models, based on post-event damage assessment and delayed funding, are increasingly incompatible with the speed and complexity of today's risks.

Instead, anticipatory climate finance triggered by forecasts and pre-agreed scientific thresholds offers a pathway to act before disasters strike, protecting lives, livelihoods, and economic stability.

In this context, the conference emphasized that climate adaptation is no longer separate from economic policy or national security; it is now fundamentally intertwined with both.

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