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07 MAY 2025 [08:00 am]

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By: Kyle Aristophere T. Atienza

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PHILIPPINE NEWS AGENCY

[CCC prods private sector to lead climate resilience efforts](#)

By: Marita Moaje

The Climate Change Commission (CCC) has called on the private sector to play a leading role in strengthening the country's climate resilience at the State of Climate Change 2025 Forum recently held in Makati City.

Information and Knowledge Management Division

ABS CBN

PAGASA spots 2 LPAs; easterlies to bring rain in various parts of PH

By: Ariel Rojas and Marilyn Cahatol

A few days before the election day, state weather bureau PAGASA is monitoring two low pressure areas inside the Philippine area of responsibility.

As of 3:00 p.m. on Tuesday, May 6, the bureau said one LPA is located 415 km west of Abucay, Bataan, and is expected to leave the Philippine area of responsibility (PAR) within 24 hours.

Another LPA was found 190 km east northeast of Borongan City, Eastern Samar.

Both LPAs will not form into a tropical cyclone but will bring scattered rains and thunderstorms in the Caraga and Eastern Visayas regions, said the bureau.

Meanwhile, the easterlies will also bring scattered rains and thunderstorms in Davao region and rain showers in Metro Manila and other parts of the country today.

BUSINESS WORLD

Green investments in Philippines slide in 2024

By: S.J.Talavera

THE PHILIPPINES' private investments in green projects declined in 2024 as higher investments in solar and wind energy projects were offset by the drop in waste management and green cement projects.

Private green investments in the Philippines went down by 12% to \$1.28 billion in 2024 from \$1.46 billion in the previous year, according to the 2025 Southeast Asia's Green Economy report by Bain & Company, GenZero, Standard Chartered and Temasek.

Investments in solar and wind energy projects surged 1.5 times and six times, respectively, the report showed.

However, these were offset by the reductions in investments in the waste management and green cement sectors.

The Philippines accounted for 16% of the total investments in SEA-6 (Southeast Asia-6), which is composed of Thailand, Malaysia, Singapore, Indonesia, the Philippines, and Vietnam.

Green investments in SEA-6 surged by 43% year on year to \$8 billion in 2024, with Malaysia and Singapore contributing over 60% of deals, according to the report.

Power accounted for two-thirds of green investments in the region as the size of deals increased.

Investments in solar surged by 100% while waste management deals jumped by 60% year on year.

According to the report, a systems-based approach and wider collaboration in the region could drive growth in Southeast Asia's green economy.

“(This) could drive significant regional economic impact – with SEA-6 economies potentially reaping up to \$120 billion in GDP (gross domestic product) growth, 900,000 new jobs, and closing up to 50% of the emissions gap by 2030,” it said.

The report defined system-level solutions as “high-impact interventions that address systemic barriers across multiple systems to deliver transformative and amplified impact.”

It said that this approach could address cross-cutting barriers; maximize return on investment, and co-benefits; and prevent “negative, unintended spillovers” across systems.

Dale Hardcastle, co-director of Bain & Company's Global Sustainability Innovation Center, said Southeast Asia may see an acceleration in the development of the green economy as governments and companies pivot priorities.

"By focusing on scalable, high impact systems-level solutions, Southeast Asia can rewrite the green economy playbook and turn current challenges into opportunities. The need now is to drive two key outcomes in parallel — significant emissions reduction and sustained economic growth — ensuring that the region not only meets its climate goals but also builds long-term resilience and prosperity," he said.

While corporations in most of the six Southeast Asian countries show progress in setting targets and establishing roadmaps, there is a significant gap in green investments.

"With just five years to 2030, our window for action to avoid the worst effects of climate change is rapidly closing. We need to increase the momentum and focus on pragmatic solutions with near-term impact," said Franziska Zimmermann, managing director for sustainability at Temasek.

"Stakeholders in this region have an opportunity to drive transformative, systems-level change that can balance energy security, sustainability, and economic growth," she added.

The report noted the progress made in the Philippines in terms of infrastructure and technology brought by improved grid interconnectedness and electric vehicle (EV) charging stations.

There are 912 publicly accessible charging stations operational as of March 31, according to the Department of Energy.

Under the Comprehensive Roadmap for the Electric Vehicle Industry, the Philippines targets to deploy 7,300 EV charging stations by 2028.

The report said national energy plans such as the National Renewable Energy Program (NREP) and Clean Energy Finance and Investment Roadmap offer clearer direction for renewables and financing.

Under the NREP, the Philippines seeks to significantly increase the share of renewable energy in the country's power generation mix to 35% by 2030 and 50% by 2040.

Senate frontrunners' climate silence scored

By: Kyle Aristophere T. Atienza

FRONTRUNNERS in the 2025 senatorial race were silent on pressing environmental issues despite the climate crisis's growing impact on the economy, according to a coalition of "green" groups.

In a statement, the coalition said 88% or 56 of 64 senatorial bets did not respond to its pre-election survey that sought to capture candidates' position on crucial environmental issues facing the country.

"When climate justice is absent from platforms, it shows a dangerous disregard for the crises deepening hunger, worsening health, and driving poverty," Lea B. Guerrero, country director at Greenpeace Philippines, said in the statement.

"We need leaders who will stand with people, hold polluters accountable and put climate at the top of the agenda," she added.

The candidates who responded to the survey were Leodegerio "Ka Leody" De Guzman, Renecio "Luke" S. Espiritu, Jr., Teodoro "Teddy" A. Casiño, Jocelyn S. Andamo, Modesto "Mody" T. Floranda, David Delano D'Angelo, Norman C. Marquez and Arnel Bondilles Escobal.

But Greenpeace cited "previous positive efforts and track records" by nonrespondents like former Senators Francis Pancratius "Kiko" N. Pangilinan, who is cited for the Sagip Saka Act and legislative efforts to address single-use plastics, and Gringo N. Honasan for authoring the Clean Air Act and Solid Waste Management Act.

The Sagip Saka Act empowered local governments to buy rice, vegetable and poultry for their feeding and relief programs directly from farmers' groups without the need for bidding.

"While Filipinos grapple with climate disasters, plastic pollution and biodiversity collapse, our politicians cling and aspire to power through dynastic politics, smear campaigns and empty theatrics," said Von Hernandez, Global Coordinator of the Break Free from Plastic movement.

Greenpeace said the state of the Philippine environment is "regressing," citing the push for nuclear energy and waste-to-energy facilities.

It also cited the proliferation of single-use plastics, which the government had planned to tax, and attempts to open municipal fishing waters to commercial fishing interests.

The group urged policymakers to support a proposed ban on single-use plastics and institutionalize reuse and zero-waste solutions.

They should also reject “false fixes” like waste-to-energy incineration and nuclear energy, and push measures that would protect and rehabilitate the country’s terrestrial, coastal and marine resources, it added.

“Our communities are drowning in plastic, our coastlines are eroding, and our children are growing up in a world where clean water and safe food are no longer guaranteed,” said Wes Lipana, marine litter management officer at Ecowaste Coalition.

“Our environment is in a state of emergency, and that demands leadership,” he said. “Voters must demand bold environmental leadership and scrutinize candidate track records, not slogans.”

A World Bank report in 2022 showed that climate change could cut the Philippines’ gross domestic product by as much as 13.6% by 2040.

It said “adapting to the risks of climate change, including extreme events and slow-onset problems, is critical for the Philippines.” “It cannot wholly eliminate the costs of climate change, but it can greatly reduce them.”

ECO BUSINESS

[Opinion] [Why India may suffer longer heatwaves and floods this year](#)

By: Chirag Dhara and Ayantika DC

In May 2024, Churu in India's Rajasthan state scorched at 50.5°C, as large parts of India were gripped by an intense heatwave.

At least 37 cities across the country endured temperatures above 45°C, affecting life, livelihoods, and water resources across the country. Parts of Maharashtra were compelled to ban public gatherings due to the extreme heat.

In 2025, the India Meteorological Department (IMD) has once again forecast above-normal maximum and minimum temperatures over April to June, with longer heatwaves across the country.

Parts of western India are projected to experience 7-8 additional days under heatwave conditions this summer.

Yet, in what may appear paradoxical at first glance, the IMD's Long Range Forecast (LRF) has predicted an above-average Southwest Monsoon, anticipating around 5 per cent more rainfall than the (long-period) average.

Most importantly, in recent years, surplus rainfall has often been accompanied by extreme rain events that cause floods.

How do we understand this forecast of above-normal summer heat followed by above-average rainfall?

Several interconnected meteorological and climatic phenomena underpin these predictions.

A warming world – setting the global context

The World Meteorological Organization has confirmed 2024 as not just the warmest year on record, but also the first calendar year that saw a global mean temperature of more than 1.5°C above the 1850-1900 average.

This is, of course, the manifestation of human-caused global warming. That warmth has rolled into early 2025, manifesting in India in the occurrence of heat waves and warm nights as early as February/March over several parts of the country.

The early warmth in 2025 is a continuation of India's long-term warming trend, with the land temperature averaged over the country having risen by nearly 0.8°C since the beginning of the 20th century. Surface and atmospheric warming doesn't just elevate

baseline summer temperatures. It also increases the atmosphere's moisture-carrying capacity.

The additional moisture in the atmosphere, together with changing circulation patterns, primes the monsoon for intense and erratic downpours.

The current ocean-atmosphere state

The El Niño–Southern Oscillation (ENSO) is a climate pattern involving temperature changes in the equatorial Pacific Ocean that affects global weather.

The year began with a weak La Niña (cooler ocean temperatures over central and eastern Pacific), but ocean-surface temperatures have since normalised. Although the atmosphere still shows a residual La Niña-type convection in the western Pacific, ENSO -neutral conditions are favoured over the next few months, and are expected to persist through to October.

The absence of El Niño conditions in the tropical Pacific is expected to facilitate normal moisture inflow and convection during the monsoon season.

Additionally, the “Indian Ocean Dipole” (IOD) - a measure of temperature differences across the Indian Ocean – is also neutral this year, therefore neither suppressing nor enhancing monsoon activity.

The neutral state of both these major climate drivers creates conditions where other factors can exert a greater influence on the monsoon system.

Lower Eurasian snow cover in winter 2024 / spring 2025

Snow cover across Eurasia from January to March 2025 was markedly below normal, with serious deficits in the Hindu Kush Himalayas and the Tibetan Plateau. Arctic sea ice extent in March 2025 has ranked lowest on record (for the month of March) since satellite observations started in 1979.

Snowpack plays an important role in planetary energy balance by influencing land surface reflectivity. Lower snow cover leads to reduced land reflectivity, which increases its absorption of solar energy.

Reduced winter–spring snow cover over western and central Eurasia leaves a darker, drier land surface in April–May.

Since less incoming solar radiation is diverted to snowmelt and evaporation, the Eurasian landmass warms more rapidly.

The resulting stronger continental–ocean and meridional tropospheric temperature gradients intensify the low-level south-westerlies, raising the odds of above-normal Indian summer monsoon rainfall, especially when ENSO and the IOD remain neutral, such as 2025.

A cautionary note is warranted. It has been recently suggested that the inverse relationship between central Eurasian spring snow cover with the Indian summer monsoon is weakening due to global warming.

The forecast explained

India's 2025 outlook is a textbook study in how short-term drivers of weather stack atop long-term warming:

Baseline warming sets the global average context by loading the dice for a warmer summer and a moister monsoon.

Lower winter/spring snow cover in western Eurasia, the Himalayas and the Tibetan plateau is expected to promote higher land surface warming, which could strengthen the monsoon circulation and, in turn, lead to increased rainfall during the monsoon season.

It is important to keep in mind that long-range weather forecasts express probable outcomes, not certainties.

Other large-scale phenomena and weather systems such as the Madden–Julian Oscillation (a wave-like movement of rain clouds around the tropics, particularly the Indian and Pacific Oceans), North Atlantic Oscillation (a shifting pattern of atmospheric pressure over the North Atlantic), depressions, and cyclones can exert significant influence on the date of onset and the wet-dry pattern of the monsoon season.

Moreover, above-normal rainfall on paper may still arrive as alternating deluge and lull; the benefits and impacts of the monsoon will be shaped by these patterns.

Preparedness, therefore, hinges on real-time monitoring.

TIME MAGAZINE

[Cutting Emissions Could Prevent Thousands of Deaths Linked to Polluted Air](#)

By: Simmone Shah

From vehicle exhaust to manufacturing plumes, nearly every person in the world breathes in unhealthy air on a daily basis. The impact is deadly: air pollution is responsible for 7 million premature deaths around the world per year according to the World Health Organization (WHO), making it the second leading risk factor for death behind high blood pressure.

But that number could be significantly cut, researchers say, if we reduce greenhouse gases and air pollutants.

A new study published in the journal *Earth's Future* on May 6 found that up to 250,000 deaths from poor air quality in central and western Europe alone could be prevented by 2050 if greenhouse gas emissions are drastically reduced.

The researchers, from the University of Leeds in England, looked at the health impacts in Europe in 2014 and 2050 from exposure to two types of pollution. The first is fine particulate matter, which can penetrate deep into the lungs and pose the greatest health risks. This pollution comes from sources such as wildfires or construction sites. The other is surface level ozone, which forms when sunlight interacts with certain pollutants like nitrogen oxides, and is the result of things like vehicle exhaust and factory emissions. Exposure to these air pollutants can lead to long-term health complications, including stroke, heart disease, and pneumonia.

The team examined three scenarios in which policymakers took low, medium, and high levels of action to combat climate change, and created an atmospheric chemistry model to simulate the possible air quality in 2050.

The researchers defined a high level of action as being one where emissions from the housing, industry, transport, and agricultural sectors are cut for 70% of the population of Western and Central Europe to below the WHO's air quality guideline for annual fine particulate matter. Doing so, they found, would improve air quality across the continent and lead to large reductions in mortality overall.

And it could help tackle health inequities. Globally, poorer communities are more likely to be exposed to unhealthy air quality when compared with higher-income areas. Researchers found that disadvantaged regions of Europe currently have proportionally higher death rates compared to higher-income regions. Their findings show that a significant reduction in emissions—seen in the high action scenario—would help reduce that inequality. But under the medium and low impact scenarios health impacts would worsen, highlighting the necessity of aggressive climate mitigation practices.

Air pollution in Europe has been on the decline for the last two decades, as the E.U. has adopted more comprehensive clean air policies, however more work remains to be done. There are still regions across the E.U. that have pollutant concentrations that exceed the bloc's current standards. The researchers hope that their findings might encourage policymakers to consider not just the health impacts of air pollution, but also how emissions reduction solutions can help marginalized communities who are disproportionately impacted.

“The strategies that policymakers take to mitigate climate change will have considerable implications for human exposure to air quality, not least of which are the number of deaths,” lead author Connor Clayton, a PhD student in the School of Earth and Environment and the Priestley Centre for Climate Futures at Leeds University, said in a press release.

“But they also urgently need to consider the persistent inequity of exposure between wealthier and more deprived populations which continues to be an issue even though air pollution has reduced across Europe.”

CCC IN THE NEWS:

DAILY TRIBUNE

[CCC urges private sector support](#)

Climate Change Commission Secretary Robert E.A. Borje delivers the keynote address at the recent State of Climate Change 2025 Forum, emphasizing the National Adaptation Plan (NAP) and the integral role of businesses in driving climate resilience.

The Climate Change Commission (CCC) joined key stakeholders at the State of Climate Change 2025 Forum, organized by the Philippine Disaster Resilience Foundation (PDRF) in partnership with the New Zealand Embassy. Held at Makati Diamond Residences, the forum provided a crucial avenue for the CCC to rally the private sector toward proactive climate action.

This year's forum, themed "Advancing Private Sector Engagement and the National Adaptation Plan," focused on strengthening partnerships between the private sector, government, and civil society to build climate resilience in the Philippines.

In his keynote address, Secretary Robert E.A. Borje, CCC vice chairperson and executive director, highlighted the pivotal role of the private sector in advancing climate resilience. Noting that the private sector contributes 93 percent of the country's Gross Domestic Product, he emphasized its capacity to drive innovation and mobilize investments.

"The private sector holds the power to drive innovation, unlock investments, and create scalable solutions for a climate-resilient future," Borje said. "By aligning private sector innovation with national strategies, we can accelerate climate action and build a climate-secure future where businesses and communities thrive together."

GMA NEWS

[At the National Museum of Natural History, an exhibit on climate action opens](#)

If you want to know what exactly the government is doing about climate change, then head on over to the National Museum of Natural History, where a modest exhibit on multi-stakeholder climate action opened in late April.

Presented by Aksyon Klima Philippines in partnership with the National Museum "Katumbalikwasan: Linking Climate, Nature, and People" showcases the best practices of civil society groups, communities, and the government in responding to climate impacts.

The government actually has a lot of plans in place in addressing the climate crisis, which the exhibit especially aims bring closer to the public. These include the National Climate Change Action Plan, the National Adaptation Plan, and the Nationally Determined Contribution, which is currently being updated.

At the exhibit opening, Sec. Robert Borje, Vice-Chairperson of the Climate Change Commission said "Katumbalikwasan" represents "a call to reclaim our narratives."

"We have the science, the plans, and the policies, but without a shared language, they remain seeds on barren soil," he said.

Meanwhile, National Museum Philippines Deputy-Director General Joel Legaspi called 2025 as a critical year for climate action and said "Katumbalikwasan" represents "a call to action."

The exhibit is made up of 12 panels that inform and educate visitors on various intersections of climate change including with plastic and with air pollution, as well as illuminate on issues like greenhouse gas emissions.

"Katumbalikwasan" also has interactive elements, including being able to sample the "Animal Town," a simulation game that informs users about the important of biodiversity conservation; as well as the Household Greenhouse Gas Calculator owned by Green Convergence, which determines how many trees each household will need to plant to offset their contribution to climate pollution.

At the very end is a piece by artist A.G. Saño.

In his speech at the opening, National Coordinator of AKP John Leo Algo said "It is time for Filipinos to become initiators instead of reactors, and it starts wit showing them that their actions can make a difference."

In case you didn't know: Katumbalikwasan is a new Filipino translation for "resilience." An amalgamation of different Filipino words like "katumbas" "tumba," "balik,""balikwas"

and "kalikasan," Katumbalikwasan was first coined by the late environmentalist and historian Miguel Magalang of Marinduque one year after Yolanda made landfall in the Philippines.

According to AKP, the exhibit aims to redefine resilience and communication of the urgency of climate. It runs until April 2026.

PHILIPPINE NEWS AGENCY

[CCC prods private sector to lead climate resilience efforts](#)

By: Marita Moaje

The Climate Change Commission (CCC) has called on the private sector to play a leading role in strengthening the country's climate resilience at the State of Climate Change 2025 Forum recently held in Makati City.

In a news release on Tuesday, CCC Vice Chairperson and Executive Director Secretary Robert E.A. Borje underscored the critical role of the business sector in the country's national development and sustainable progress.

"The private sector holds the power to drive innovation, unlock investments, and create scalable solutions for a climate-resilient future," Borje said during the event organized by the Philippine Disaster Resilience Foundation (PDRF) in partnership with the New Zealand Embassy.

"By aligning private sector innovation with national strategies, we can accelerate climate action and build a climate-secure future where businesses and communities thrive together."

The forum focused on strengthening partnerships between the private sector, government, and the civil society to build climate resilience in the Philippines, under the theme "Advancing Private Sector Engagement and the National Adaptation Plan".

Borje said 93 percent of the country's gross domestic product (GDP) comes from the private sector, with its capacity to drive innovation and mobilize investments.

He also reiterated the significance of the National Adaptation Plan (NAP) and the updating of the Philippines' Nationally Determined Contributions (NDC) as core frameworks to achieve a resilient, low-carbon future.

Borje said the NAP is the country's collective roadmap to climate resilience.

"Preventing losses and damage starts with turning our adaptation plans into tangible solutions, with the private sector stepping up as a driving force in building a climate-resilient future," he said.

The CCC said the State of Climate Change 2025 Forum also marked the continued strengthening of climate cooperation between the Philippines and New Zealand.

New Zealand Climate Change Ambassador Stuart Horne reaffirmed his country's support, highlighting the progress made since the signing of the Joint Declaration on Climate Change Cooperation in November 2024.

The agreement outlines an 18-month plan for collaboration in innovation, sustainable development, and economic growth.

In his remark, Borje cited President Ferdinand R. Marcos Jr.'s call for a whole-of-government and whole-of-society approach to climate action, with a stress on the importance of inclusive, science-based, and locally-led strategies to ensure long-term climate resilience for both businesses and communities.

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